



## Update from the American Community Survey

### Foreign-Born Population in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area

In 2010, more than one fifth of the Washington area's population was foreign born. The Latin American born account for 40 percent of the DC area's foreign-born population, followed by the Asian born (35 percent), the African born (14 percent), and the European born (9 percent).

The foreign-born population living in the Washington metro area increased by 20 percent between 2005 and 2010; twice as fast as the total population growth (9.6 percent). The African born (30-percent increase) and the Latin American born (22-percent increase) were the fastest growing foreign-born communities. Yet, the Asian born (18 percent) and the European born (10 percent) communities have also increased considerably over the 2005-2010 period.

The Washington DC metro area has one of the fastest growing foreign born populations among the nation's 15 largest metropolitan areas. Between 2005 to 2010, the foreign-born community of Seattle,

#### Foreign Born Population in the Nation's 15 Largest Metropolitan Areas: 2010

Metropolitan Area	Proportion in Total Population	Distribution by Region of Birth:				
		Latin America	Asia	Africa	Europe	Other <sup>(1)</sup>
Miami	38.8	86.8	5.0	0.9	5.7	1.6
Los Angeles	34.3	56.4	35.6	1.6	5.1	1.4
San Francisco	30.0	31.6	53.7	1.8	9.8	3.1
New York	28.8	51.0	27.4	3.8	16.7	1.1
Houston	22.3	66.6	23.9	3.9	4.5	1.2
<b>Washington DC</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Chicago	17.6	48.6	25.5	2.3	22.6	1.0
Dallas	17.5	64.4	24.1	5.7	4.6	1.2
Boston	16.8	38.4	31.1	8.0	19.4	3.1
Seattle	16.8	20.9	49.8	6.4	16.6	6.3
Phoenix	14.4	64.2	19.3	3.3	9.1	4.2
Atlanta	13.5	51.7	27.6	9.5	9.2	2.0
Philadelphia	9.5	30.1	40.3	7.8	19.9	2.0
Minneapolis	9.5	25.6	39.0	21.4	10.8	3.3
Detroit	8.6	14.5	50.4	3.1	25.2	6.8

Washington DC, and Houston increased by about 20 percent, the greatest growth rate among the nation's largest metro areas. The proportion of foreign born population in the DC area in 2010 (21.8 percent) ranked sixth among the nation's 15 largest metropolitan areas, below Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Houston.

The social characteristics of the Washington area's foreign-born population vary considerably by region

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

(1) Northern America and Oceania

of birth. The Washington area's foreign-born population is disproportionately concentrated in the working age bracket 25-44 years (46 percent versus 26 percent for the native-born population). Within the foreign-born community, this proportion is greater for the Latin American born (about 51 percent) than for the Asian-born (43 percent) or the European-born (34 percent). The Latin American-born community has also a far greater labor force participation rate (83 percent) than any other foreign-born community and quite greater than that for the native-born population (72 percent).

The Washington area's Asian- and European-born communities tend to have an educational level above the overall population but the reverse is true for the Latin American born. In 2010, about 82 percent of the European born and 76 percent of the Asian born aged 25 years and over had at least a bachelor's degree. This figure is only 37 percent among the Latin American born living in the region and 70 percent for the metro area's overall population.

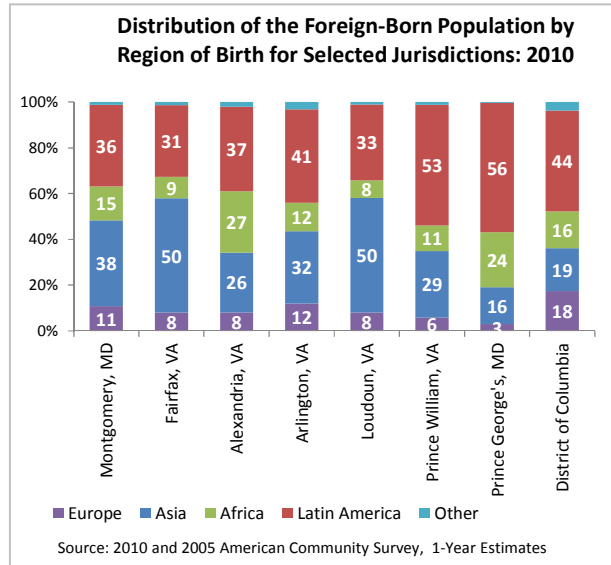
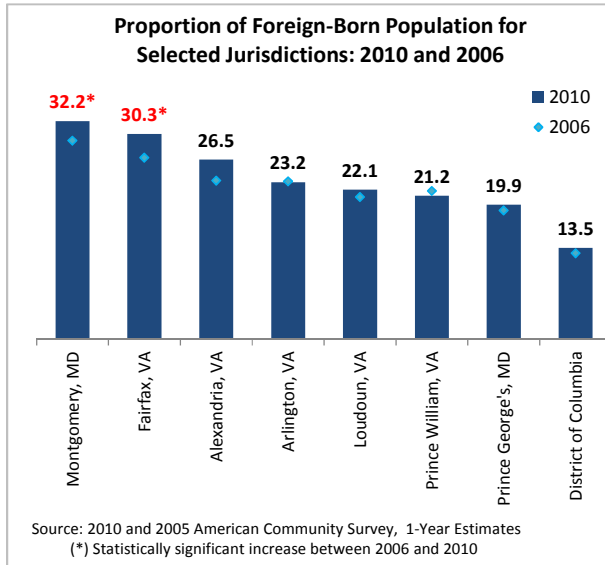
The Asian born median household income in 2010 (\$93,147) while not significantly different from that of the European born (\$85,488), was significantly above the region's overall median household income (\$84,523) and about one third higher than the median household income for the metro area's Latin American-born community (\$60,946). In 2010, the region's European-born community had a poverty rate of 6.5 percent, significantly lower than that for the Asian born (8.2%) and the area's overall poverty rate (8.4 percent). The poverty rate for the region's Latin American-born community was 11.5 percent.

### Selected Characteristics of the Washington DC Metro Area's Population, Native- and Foreign-Born: 2010

Selected Characteristics	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign-Born by Region of Birth:			
			Latin America	Asia	Europe	Africa and Other <sup>(1)</sup>
Gender						
Male	48.7%	48.9%	52.5%	46.3%	41.6%	n.a.
Female	51.3%	51.1%	47.5%	53.7%	58.4%	n.a.
Age						
Under 5 years	8.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	n.a.
5 to 17 years	20.2%	6.1%	6.2%	5.6%	6.9%	n.a.
18 to 24 years	9.7%	7.7%	10.4%	5.7%	5.2%	n.a.
25 to 44 years	26.0%	46.3%	51.3%	42.8%	34.2%	n.a.
45 to 64 years	25.7%	29.7%	25.8%	33.4%	30.2%	n.a.
65 and +	10.2%	9.5%	5.6%	11.9%	22%	n.a.
Educational Attainment (Population 25y+)						
Less than high school graduate	6.1%	21.4%	40.5%	10.8%	6.1%	n.a.
High school graduate	20.4%	18.0%	22.8%	13%	12.2%	n.a.
College or bachelor's degree	50.2%	40.9%	29.6%	47.2%	42.5%	n.a.
Graduate degree	23.3%	19.8%	7.1%	29.1%	39.1%	n.a.
Labor Force Participation (Population 16y +)	71.7%	77.6%	83%	72.4%	66.8%	n.a.
Median Household Income	\$88,385	\$72,417	\$60,946	\$93,147	\$85,488	n.a.
Poverty Rate	7.9%	9.9%	11.5%	8.2%	6.5%	n.a.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates <sup>(1)</sup>Northern America and Oceania n.a.: not available

Within the Washington DC metropolitan area, and among the jurisdictions with data available, the proportion of foreign born in the total population in 2010 ranged from about 5 percent in the Charles, Fauquier, and Calvert counties to 30 percent in Montgomery and Fairfax counties.



In 2010, the foreign born accounted for 20 to 30 percent of the total population in the jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and Prince George; and about 14 percent in the District of Columbia.

The Latin American represented more than 50 percent of the foreign-born population in Prince William and Prince George counties and more than 30 percent in every other jurisdiction. The Asian-born population accounted for half of the foreign-born community in Fairfax and Loudoun counties and more than 20 percent in any other jurisdiction. Alexandria had the largest African-born share (27 percent). The European-born share was particularly large in the District (18 percent).

The increase in the proportion of foreign-born population between 2006 and 2010 was only significant in four counties, two with very large foreign-born communities, Montgomery and Fairfax, and two with very small communities, Charles and Calvert (+3 points in the four cases).

### GMU Center for Regional Analysis

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The Center for Regional Analysis has become the “go-to” organization for economic, demographic and housing data and analysis within the Washington and Baltimore regions and is cited locally and nationally as the source of information for the media, research scholars, and investors interested in understanding the Washington area’s economy. The Center posts research reports, presentations, data and other information its website ([policy-cra.gmu.edu](http://policy-cra.gmu.edu))

### Updates from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey

The Center for Regional Analysis will issue periodic reports on demographic and economic topics based on newly released data from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides detailed data every year about states, metropolitan areas, counties and cities. More information about the 2010 Census and the ACS can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)