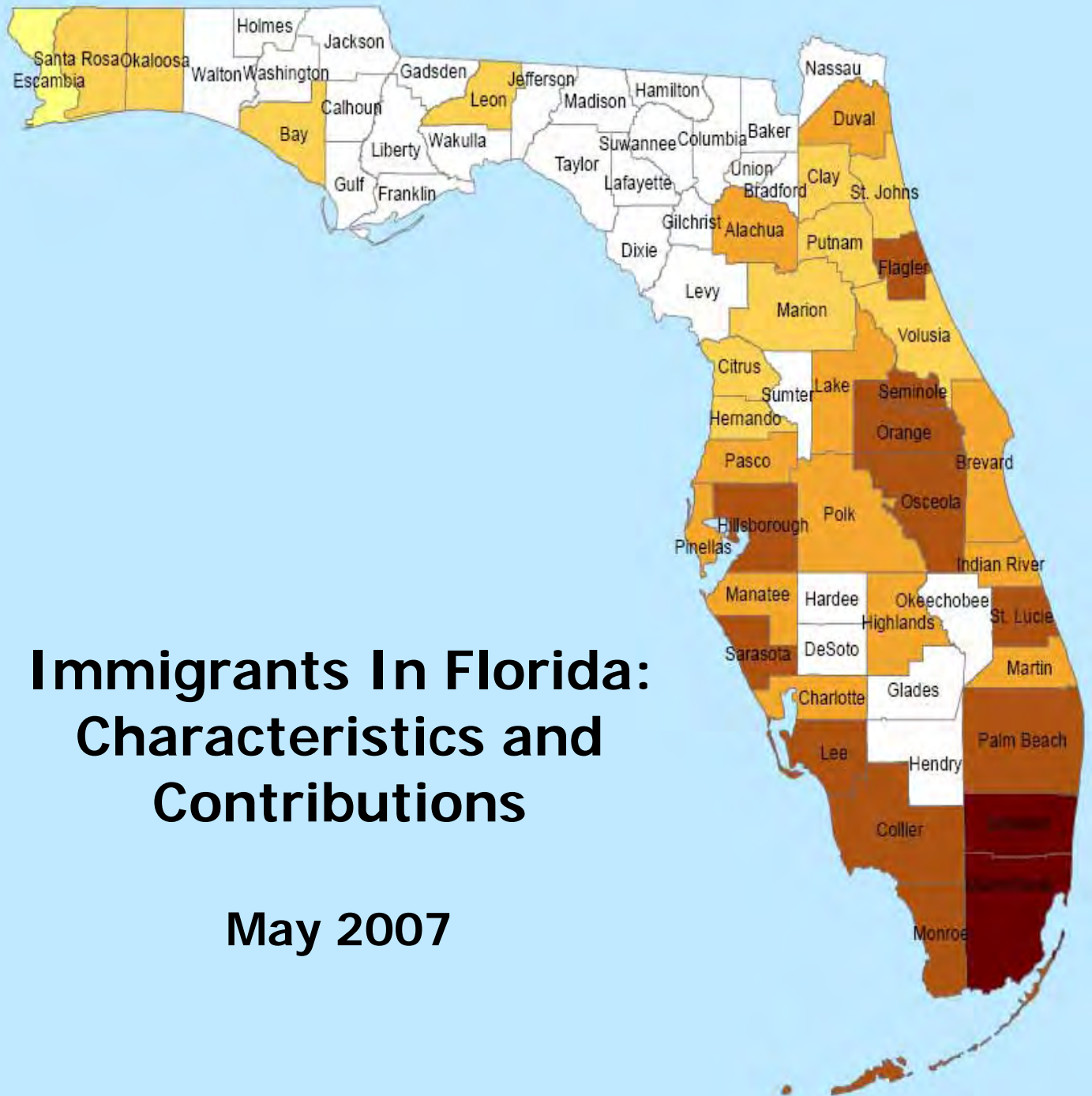


***RISEP***

***Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy, Florida International University***



***RISEP***

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# **IMMIGRANTS IN FLORIDA: CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**A Report Issued by the  
Research Institute for Social and Economic Policy (RISEP)  
of the  
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# IMMIGRANTS IN FLORIDA: CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

## Executive Summary of Findings

**Immigrants comprise almost one quarter of the entire workforce of Florida.** Their workforce participation varies greatly from industry to industry, but certain sectors of the state's economy rely very heavily on immigrant labor. This report statistically describes the state of immigrant workers in Florida for the five year time period between 2000 and 2005. It relates state migration demographics, immigrant labor force characteristics, and the role and contributions of immigrants in the state's economy.

Sections below briefly summarize some main findings in each area. From the data, a few important facts stand out. **Compared to those born in the U.S., recent immigrants to Florida:**

- **Are just as likely to have advanced degrees and nearly as likely to have Bachelor's degrees,**
- **Are more likely to be entrepreneurs, and**
- **Contribute equally or more to the economy as measured by taxes paid and assistance received.**

In short, **these data support the conclusion that immigrants contribute more to the Florida economy than they cost.** At the same time, they receive less considering their levels of education and are paid less than the native-born. It takes immigrants 20 years on average to economically catch up with the native-born. The report documents these conclusions with data on demographics, labor force characteristics, industry, health insurance, unionization, wages, self employment, and finally an assessment of immigrants' overall contributions to Florida's economy.

## **State Migration Demographics**

### *Population growth*

- While the U.S. born population of Florida in the 2000 to 2005 period grew by 8.7 percent, the state's immigrant population grew by 20.8 percent, expanding from roughly 2.5 million in 2000 to over 3.2 million in 2005.

### *Region of birth*

- The largest increase among the immigrant population comes from the Caribbean basin and from South and Central America. While the number of Caribbean immigrants increased by 13.5 percent, the number of immigrants from Central and South America grew by 34.8 percent.

### *Country of birth*

- Cubans represented the largest immigrant group. However, the largest increase occurred in the Mexican population which grew by 49.5 percent since 2000, adding approximately 94,000 individuals by 2005.

### *Age*

- The state's immigrant population is more heavily working age than is the native born population. A much smaller percentage of the immigrant population is under 16 years of age (6.3 percent) than is true of non-immigrants (23.8 percent).

## **Florida's Immigrant Labor Force Characteristics**

### *Education*

- Immigrants are more likely to have either no schooling or schooling less than a high school diploma than are native born. However, these percentages decreased appreciably in the 2000 to 2005 period, indicating that more recent immigrants hold higher education credentials than their predecessors.
- At the other end of the educational attainment scale, immigrants were equally as likely to hold a Master's degree or higher than were non-immigrants in 2005.

### *Industry and Occupation*

- Immigrant workers are most heavily concentrated in the agriculture, services, construction, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and recreation-accommodations-food services industries.
- They are underrepresented in "white collar" occupations, and overrepresented in farming and building cleaning and maintenance and similar service occupations.

### *Wages*

- Immigrants earn less than the native born; in 2005 their median wage and salary income was just over \$20,000 compared to \$23,400 for non-immigrants.
- Immigrants with lower income levels earned more than their native counterparts, while highly educated immigrants earned less than highly educated non-immigrants.
- Immigrant wages were higher than non-immigrants wages in four industries: hospitality, retail trade, public administration, and information.
- Immigrant wages were higher than non-immigrant wages in six occupations: personal care and other service occupations, food preparation and serving occupations, computer and mathematical occupations, life, physical and social science occupations, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, and building, grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.
- In Florida overall it takes immigrants over 20 years to reach the same median wage as non-immigrants. Immigrant wages reach their peak after 35 years in the U.S.

### *Health insurance and Pension Coverage*

- Immigrant workers are significantly less likely to be provided employer-sponsored health insurance or pension coverage than are their native born counterparts. This likely results from the nature of the low-wage jobs they disproportionately occupy.

### *Unionization*

- Overall, 6.9 percent of non-immigrant and 3.1 percent of immigrant workers were union members in the period from 2003 to 2006.
- Union membership for immigrants was more likely with higher levels of education, contrary to the pattern for the native born, where unionization is highest with "medium" levels of education.

### *Self-employment*

- Immigrants have higher rates of self-employment than do non-immigrants. In 2005 immigrants represented 26 percent of all self-employed workers, compared with 23 percent of the Florida labor force.
- Female immigrants represent slightly more of the self-employed workforce (27 percent) than do male immigrants (25 percent).
- Immigrants represent a significant portion of the self-employed workforce in transportation and warehousing (40.7 percent), other services (36.8 percent), and wholesale (29.7 percent) and retail (28.1 percent) trade.

### **Immigrants' Contributions to Florida's Economy**

- Florida's immigrant workers paid an estimated annual average of \$10.49 billion in federal taxes and \$4.5 billion in state and local taxes from 2002 to 2004.
- All together immigrants receive about \$1,619 per capita in public assistance such as social security, food stamps, and welfare, while non-immigrants receive \$2,217 per capita.
- When the cost of Medicare and Medicaid are figured in, non-immigrants receive \$614 more per capita in public assistance benefits than do immigrants. Immigrants received an annual average of \$3,258.95 while non-immigrants received an annual average of \$3,873.42 per capita.
- Comparing taxes paid to assistance received shows that immigrants in Florida contribute nearly \$1,500 per year more than they receive, while non-immigrants contribute about \$1,390 more than they receive



# **IMMIGRANTS IN FLORIDA: CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **Introduction**

The proportion of Florida workers who were immigrants in 2000 was just under one-fifth of all workers in the state. By 2005 the proportion of immigrant workers was approaching one-quarter of the total workforce. It is no exaggeration to state that many central areas of Florida's economy would hardly operate if immigrants were not present in the workforce. Indeed, immigrants play such a large role in the state that Florida is considered one of the nation's six "gateway states" that serve as the principal sites of entry into the United States by immigrants.

In this report we document these conclusions with data on, and finally an assessment of immigrants' overall contributions to Florida's economy. This report statistically describes the state of immigrant workers in Florida for the five year time period between 2000 and 2005. Data include demographics, labor force characteristics, industry, health insurance, unionization, wages, and self employment. As we release this report we stand midway into the second five years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Barring major changes in public policy, legislation, or social arrangements we may reasonably expect the trends we observe for this workforce in the five year time period up to 2005 to continue through the end of this decade.

How immigrants fare and what they achieve or fail to achieve has an important impact on all other residents of the state. Because immigrants represent an ever-growing percentage of the state's population, a thorough understanding of immigrant workers' position within the state's economy is imperative for policymakers, employers and consumers.

The impact of immigrants on the United States and its citizens has been a matter of heated debate in recent decades. Very strong feelings on both sides have made for a debate that often sheds more heat than light on the topic. This report does not enter into the ideological arguments or viewpoints animating the controversy. Instead, it confines itself to a factual picture of Florida's immigrant workforce, who the workers are in terms of gender, age, and education, where they come from and where they live in the state, what they earn, where they work, and their overall contributions to and use of state resources. No one can fully understand present day Florida if they do not take into account its immigrant population and workforce. The descriptive data in this report should be helpful to those attempting to gain a better understanding of the immigrant in the state of Florida.

## **State Migration Demographics**

Immigration has been the backbone of the American labor force since its founding. Nationwide the number of immigrants continues to grow, bringing a steady source of labor to the economy. As one of the nation's six "gateway states," Florida has been an important destination for immigrants for the last several decades. So close to the Caribbean and to Latin America, the state has seen its immigrant population grow substantially since the immigration reforms of the 1960s and 1980s.

People from all over the world have made the state of Florida their home; here we present some demographic information depicting their origin, migratory status, time of entry, gender, and age based on 2000 and 2005 census data. The data were accessed through the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), which consists of high-precision samples of the American population drawn from the Census and the American Community Survey.

Table 1 displays the immigrant population of Florida by world region of birth and the percent change from 2000 to 2005. The total population of the state grew by 8.6 percent in this period, from about 16 million to about 17.3 million. While the U.S.-born population of the state grew 6.2 percent, the number of immigrants grew by 20.8 percent, expanding from roughly 2.7 million in 2000 to over 3.2 million in 2005.

**Table 1.**  
**Florida Immigrant Population & Percent Change by Region of Birth, 2000 to 2005 (in thousands)**

	2000		2005		Change 2000 to 2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Numeric	Percent
<b>Total Population</b>	15,986	100.0%	17,362	100.0%	1,375	8.6%
Non-immigrant	13,320	83.3%	14,142	81.5%	821	<b>6.2%</b>
Immigrant	2,666	16.7%	3,220	18.5%	554	<b>20.8%</b>
Naturalized Citizen	1,207	7.6%	1,450	8.4%	242	20.1%
Not a Citizen	1,458	9.1%	1,769	10.2%	311	21.4%
<b>Immigrant Population</b>	2,666	100.0%	3,216 <sup>1</sup>	100.0%	550	20.6%
Born in the Caribbean Basin	1,097	41.2%	1,246	38.7%	148	13.5%
Born in Central or South America	835	31.3%	1,126	35%	290	34.8%
Born in Europe	358	13.4%	383	11.9%	24	6.9%
Born in Asia	235	8.8%	288	9.0%	52	22.5%
Born in Northern America	97	3.7%	114	3.6%	16	17.2%
Born In Africa	34	1.3%	52	1.6%	18	52.2%
Born in Oceania	6	0.2%	5	0.2%	-1	-23.2%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey  
Note: Some categories do not sum to total because of rounding

As Table 1 shows, the largest increase among the immigrant population comes from the Caribbean basin and from Mexico and South and Central America. While the number of Caribbean immigrants increased by 13.5 percent, the number of immigrants from Central and South America grew by 34.8 percent. The numbers of European, Asian, Canadian and African immigrants also increased during this time period.

Table 2 displays the immigrant population by country of birth and the percent change from 2000 to 2005. For reasons of space, only the top 20 sending countries are listed. They are ranked in descending order according to 2005 population estimates.

In the year 2005, Cuban immigrants still represented the largest immigrant group in the state: over 680,000 individuals or 21.1 percent of the total immigrant population. Their numbers increased by about 39,000, a six percent increase from 2000 to 2005. Ranking next behind Cuba, Mexico- and

<sup>1</sup> The number for the total immigrant population changes slightly because individuals who did not specify their place of birth were not included in the regional part of the analysis.

Haiti-born individuals were 8.8 and 7.1 percent of the 2005 immigrant population respectively. The Mexico-born population in Florida increased by 49.5 percent between 2000 and 2005, adding approximately 94,000 people. Florida's Haiti-born population increased by 26.5 percent, with over 48,000 more individuals than five years previously. Other notable population increases came from Venezuela, Argentina, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Each had close to or over 50 percent increases in their numbers from 2000 to 2005.

**Table 2.**  
**Total Immigrant Population & Percent Change by Country of Birth, Florida for 2000 & 2005**  
(in thousands)

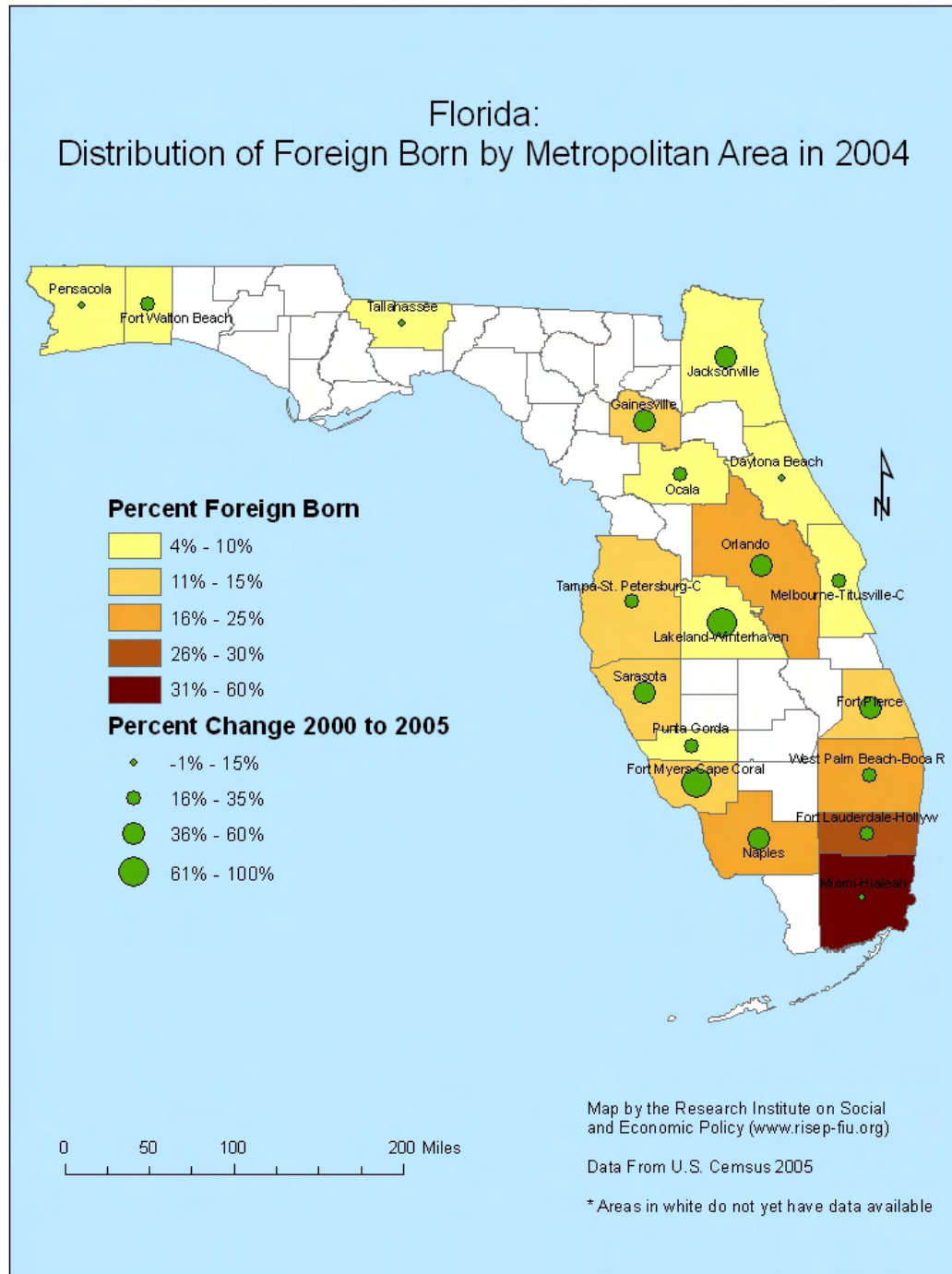
	2000		2005		Change 2000 to 2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Numeric	Percent
<b>Immigrant Population</b>	2,666	100.0%	3,220	100.0%	554	20.8%
Cuba	639	24.0%	678	21.1%	39	6.0%
Mexico	190	7.1%	284	8.8%	94	49.5%
Haiti	181	6.8%	229	7.1%	48	26.5%
Colombia	158	5.9%	188	5.9%	30	18.9%
Jamaica	142	5.4%	175	5.4%	33	22.6%
Canada	96	3.6%	112	3.5%	16	16.0%
Nicaragua	99	3.7%	95	3.0%	-4	-4.4%
Dominican Republic	63	2.4%	75	2.4%	12	18.7%
Venezuela	45	1.7%	73	2.3%	28	61.8%
Peru	52	2.0%	70	2.2%	18	34.2%
Honduras	50	1.9%	68	2.1%	18	34.2%
Germany	65	2.4%	61	1.9%	-2	-4.9%
Philippines	43	1.6%	59	1.9%	16	37.1%
Brazil	45	1.7%	57	1.8%	12	26.9%
Argentina	28	1.1%	50	1.6%	22	73.3%
Guatemala	30	1.1%	49	1.5%	19	62.5%
India	32	1.2%	47	1.5%	15	45.4%
England	46	1.7%	44	1.4%	-2	-3.7%
El Salvador	24	1.2%	39	1.2%	15	62.3%
Ecuador	28	1.1%	35	1.1%	7	22.9%
Other	599	22.4%	723	22.5%	124	20.8%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Map 1 shows the distribution of immigrant individuals by metropolitan area in Florida in 2005. Areas that are white have no data available for 2005 due to the small size of the population, but 2000 Census data showed that there are indeed immigrants in these areas as well ([www.risep-fiu.edu](http://www.risep-fiu.edu)). In 2005 Miami-Dade's population had the highest percentage of immigrants at almost 51%, followed by Broward County at almost 30%, then the Naples area, West Palm Beach, and the Orlando area (see Table 3). The largest increase over the past five years in the immigrant population was seen in the Ft. Myers area, which went from nearly 40,000 immigrants in 2000 to over 77,000 in 2005, an increase of 94%. The next largest increases were seen in Lakeland-

Winterhaven and Panama City, at 64% and 62% respectively. Orlando and Ft. Pierce also saw increases of over 50% in the immigrant population.

Map 1



**Table 3**  
**Florida Immigrant Population by Metropolitan Areas**

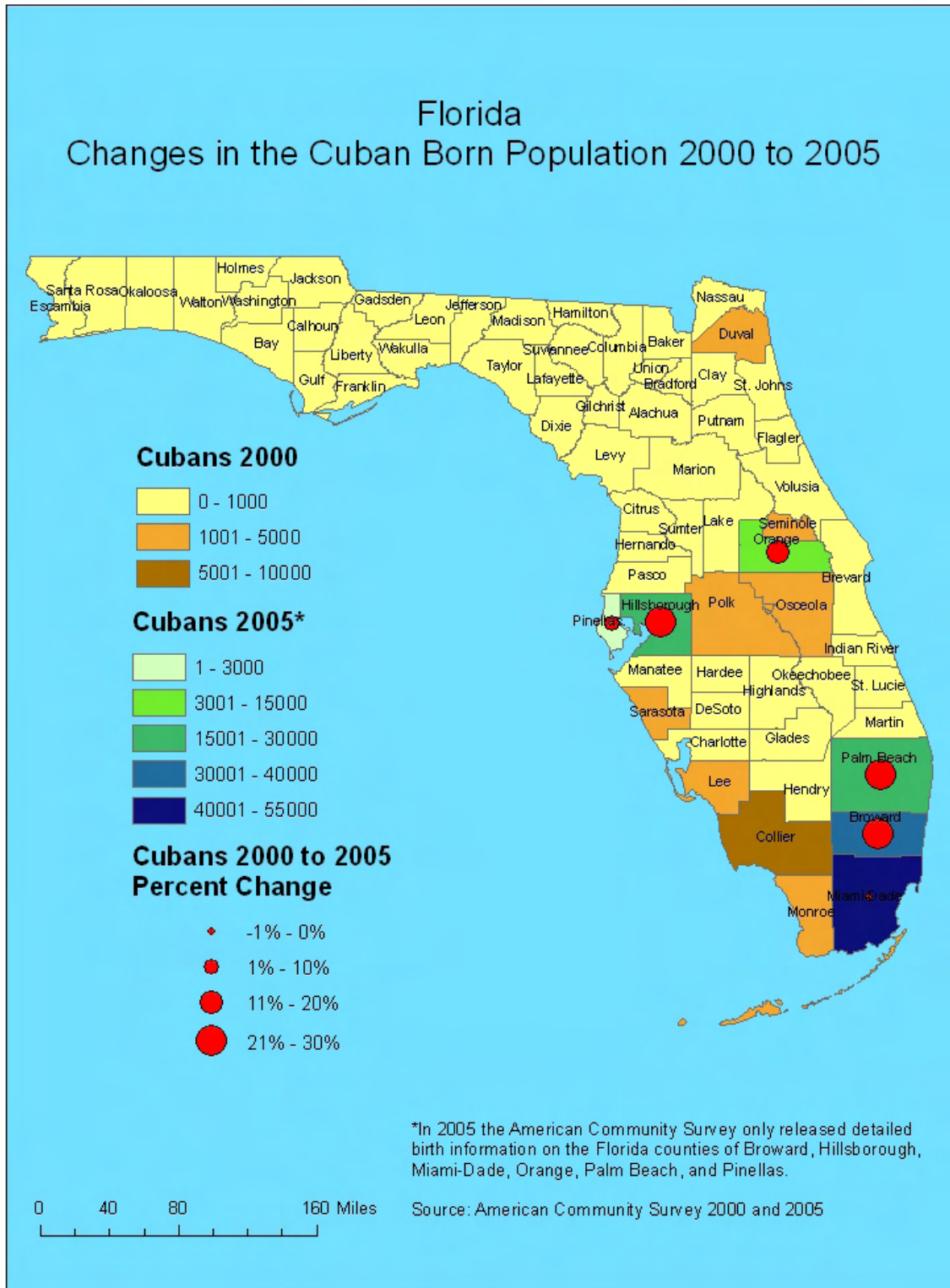
	Total Population		Immigrant Population					
			2000		2005		2000 - 2005 Change	
	2000	2005	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Daytona Beach	445,477	474,105	28,326	6.4%	32,106	6.8%	3,780	13.3%
Fort Lauderdale /Broward	1,624,272	1,757,903	409,655	25.2%	525,833	29.9%	116,178	28.4%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	440,333	538,768	39,843	9.0%	77,284	14.3%	37,441	94.0%
Fort Pierce	323,090	376,223	30,507	9.4%	46,153	12.3%	15,646	51.3%
Fort Walton Beach	171,551	177,040	8,799	5.1%	11,418	6.4%	2,619	29.8%
Gainesville	219,795	211,831	15,202	6.9%	21,331	10.1%	6,129	40.3%
Jacksonville	1,101,766	1,205,050	59,721	5.4%	83,516	6.9%	23,795	39.8%
Lakeland-Winterhaven	482,562	531,209	30,883	6.4%	50,719	9.5%	19,836	64.2%
Melbourne /Brevard	479,298	520,444	32,201	6.7%	42,472	8.2%	10,271	31.9%
Miami-Dade	2,221,632	2,287,688	1,138,868	51.3%	1,159,884	50.7%	21,016	1.8%
Naples	249,728	299,559	45,603	18.3%	65,765	22.0%	20,162	44.2%
Ocala	259,712	293,957	13,221	5.1%	16,912	5.8%	3,691	27.9%
Orlando	1,652,742	1,908,189	195,873	11.9%	305,565	16.0%	109,692	56.0%
Panama City	146,122	157,101	5,244	3.6%	8,520	5.4%	3,276	62.5%
Pensacola	411,270	413,834	14,696	3.6%	14,585	3.5%	(111)	-0.8%
Punta Gorda	141,080	154,029	11,444	8.1%	14,283	9.3%	2,839	24.8%
Sarasota	587,565	658,854	52,657	9.0%	73,440	11.1%	20,783	39.5%
Tallahassee	286,063	280,327	13,490	4.7%	15,105	5.4%	1,615	12.0%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	2,386,781	2,588,283	234,577	9.8%	295,000	11.4%	60,423	25.8%
West Palm Beach	1,133,519	1,251,755	196,719	17.4%	255,663	20.4%	58,944	30.0%
Not in a metropolitan area	1,222,532	1,277,504	88,481	7.2%	105,410	8.3%	16,929	19.1%
Total	15,986,890	17,363,653	2,666,010	16.7%	3,220,964	18.6%	554,954	20.8%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Map 2 looks specifically at how Cubans are distributed around the state and how this population has grown in most of Florida's major metropolitan counties over the five year time span. With the largest concentration of Cubans, Miami-Dade County has experienced the smallest percent growth. Broward, Palm Beach and Hillsborough Counties appear to be growth areas for Cuban born residents, while Orange and Pinellas Counties, which started with lower overall Cuban populations are seeing slightly less in-migration of Cubans.

For the reader interested in Colombian, Mexican, Haitian and Jamaican origin residents, similar maps may be viewed in Appendix A. For Colombian born individuals urban residential distribution is similar to that for Cubans, except in Pinellas County which shows a significant growth in Colombian born population. Based on data from 2000 Colombians are also distributed over more counties without major metropolitan areas specifically in Duval, Seminole, Osceola and Collier Counties. Haitian populations are most concentrated in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, but appear to be moving to Pinellas and Orange Counties, with the smallest growth of any metropolitan area in Hillsborough County. Among the non-metropolitan counties many Haitians were also living in Collier County in 2000. Jamaican residency patterns are most highly concentrated in Broward County, followed by Miami-Dade County, but showing the greatest growth in Orange and Palm Beach Counties. Based on data from 2000 there was also a high density of Jamaicans living in Brevard County. In 2000 Mexican born individuals were more widely distributed across a larger number of non-urban Florida counties, most heavily in Collier and Polk Counties. Among metropolitan areas in 2005 Mexicans were mostly concentrated in Hillsborough County, but Pinellas, Orange and Broward Counties experienced the largest influx of Mexican born individuals.

Map 2



Appendix B contains more information on the distribution of immigrants by region of birth in the different metropolitan areas of Florida. These appendices show the percent of immigrants by region of birth in Florida's different metropolitan areas for the year 2005 as well the percent of immigrants by naturalization status, gender and age with the percentage change over five years for the metropolitan areas.

Table 4 shows the numbers and percentages of immigrants according to immigration status. Naturalized citizens increased 20.1 percent from 2000 to 2005, while non-citizens increased by 21.4 percent.

**Table 4.**  
**Legal Status of Immigrant Population in Florida & Percent Change from 2000 to 2005 (in thousands)**

	2000		2005		Change 2000 to 2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Numeric	Percent
<b>Immigrant Population of Florida</b>	2,666	100.0	3,220	100.0%	554	20.8%
Naturalized Citizen	1,207	45.3%	1,450	45.0%	242	20.1%
Not a Citizen	1,458	54.7%	1,769	55.0%	311	21.4%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Florida receives a significant number of refugees every year. A large majority are from Cuba. Cubans who reach U.S. soil without prior authorization are classified as parolees and released into the community. In 2005 the U.S. admitted nearly 75,000 refugees and Florida took in 24,687 of these, or 33 percent of the total. Table 5 (on the next page) shows the number of refugees and entrants admitted per year by country of origin.



**Table 5.**  
**Refugees Resettled in Florida by Country of Origin, 2000-2005 (actual numbers)**

Country of Origin	Year					Total
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
Afghanistan	65	168	80	21	62	396
Albania			2			2
Algeria	1					1
Angola	2			1		3
Bahamas				1		1
Burma			1		44	45
Burundi	7	4	5		27	43
Central African Rep.					5	5
Colombia			3	30	93	126
Cuba	19,021	16,601	16,220	8,752	23,292	83,886
Dem. Rep. Congo	29			11	17	57
Egypt				1		1
Eritrea	1	2	2	2		7
Ethiopia	22	29	7	3	58	119
Haiti	1,616	1,475	706	847	271	4,915
Iran	65	100	37	48	42	292
Iraq	79	58	2			139
Italy					1	1
Ivory Coast					2	2
Liberia	22	6	12	53	318	411
Mauritania		25	5			30
Nepal					1	1
Pakistan-Karachi					2	2
Panama					1	1
Rwanda	15	2	1		4	22
Senegal				1		1
Sierra Leone	40	29		19	16	104
Somalia	12	4	2	6	130	154
Spain		1			1	2
Sudan	93	189	14	44	78	418
The Gambia	6					6
Togo	21	28				49
Tunisia		6				6
Uganda	1					1
former USSR	183	164	153	191	125	816
Vietnam	79	92	74	43	50	338
former Yugoslavia	1,641	1,034	376	273	47	3,371
Total	23,021	20,017	17,702	10,347	24,687	95,774

Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Table 6 shows the periods of arrival of the immigrant population in Florida according to their legal status. The Census Bureau asks about citizenship status but does not ask whether or not a person has a legal right to be in the country. Overall 45% of immigrants are naturalized citizens, and as expected, the data show that the pace of immigration has been picking up. Although 28.9 percent settled in the state in the decade between 1990 and 2000, another 22.6 percent arrived in the much shorter 5-year period between 2000 and 2005. The largest percentage of naturalized citizens arrived prior to 1990. The process of achieving citizenship is often lengthy, and the majority of those who have arrived since 1990 are not yet citizens.

**Table 6.**  
**Periods of Arrival of Immigrant Population by Legal Status, 2005 (in thousands)**

	Naturalized Citizen		Not a Citizen		Total immigrant population	Percent of Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
<b>Arrival by decade</b>	1,450	100.0%	1,769	100.0%	3,220	100.0%
2000 or Later	36	2.5%	691	39.1%	728	22.6%
1990 to 1999	263	18.2%	667	37.7%	931	28.9%
1980 to 1989	393	27.1%	279	15.8%	673	20.9%
1970 to 1979	280	19.4%	68	3.9%	349	10.9%
Before 1970	475	32.8%	61	3.5%	536	16.7%

Source: American Community Survey

Table 7 shows the percentages of the immigrant and non-immigrant populations in Florida and the percentage changes over time according to gender and age. The proportions of males to females are similar for both immigrant and non-immigrant populations. Within the immigrant population, the number of males grew somewhat faster than the number of females, a pattern that is different from the non-immigrant population during this period.

Among the immigrant population the most pronounced growth was in the working age group (16 to 59), with over 22 percent growth. In contrast, the native born population grew most rapidly in the under 16 age group (a little over 10 percent). The immigrant population over 60 also grew rapidly, growing by 19.4 percent from 2000 to 2005.

**Table 7.**  
**Profile of Total Immigrant Population in Florida According to Gender & Age, 2000 & 2005**

	2000		2005		Change 2000 to 2005	
	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	Non-immigrant	Immigrant
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	48.7%	47.9%	48.9%	48.6%	6.2%	22.7%
Female	51.3%	52.1%	51.1%	51.4%	6.1%	19.0%
<b>Age Characteristics</b>						
Under 16	23.0%	6.8%	23.8%	6.3%	10.1%	11.3%
16 to 59	54.1%	70.6%	54.6%	71.4%	5.5%	22.1%
60 and Higher	22.9%	22.6%	21.6%	22.3%	3.7%	19.4%
Average					6.2%	20.8%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

## Florida's Labor Force Characteristics

We define those in the labor force as people who are 16 years old or older and who are either working full- or part-time or are actively looking for work. Table 8 shows that immigrants are a significant and growing part of Florida's workforce. In 2005, immigrants made up 23 percent of Florida's labor force, compared with 19 percent in 2000, an increase of 4 percent or nearly 512,000 workers.

**Table 8.**  
**Florida's Labor Force, 2000 and 2005**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>
Not Immigrant	81%	77%
Immigrant	19%	23%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

### *Gender*

Table 9 shows the distribution of immigrant workers by gender. Males made up a larger portion of the labor force than females in 2005. This pattern was accentuated during this period because more males than females entered the labor force in this five year period.

**Table 9.**  
**Immigrants in Labor Force in Florida by Gender, 2000 & 2005**  
(in thousands)

	<b>2000</b>			<b>2005</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total</b>	7,473	1,439	19.3%	8,473	1,951	23.0%
Male	3,979	791	19.9%	4,556	1,110	24.4%
Female	3,494	649	18.6%	3,917	841	21.5%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

### *Education*

Table 10 displays the levels of educational attainment for Florida's labor force. In 2000 and 2005, the largest percentage of both immigrant and non-immigrant workers had high school diplomas or Associate's degrees. The immigrant population has a larger percentage with either no schooling or schooling less than a high school diploma. However, these percentages decreased appreciably in the 2000 to 2005 period, indicating that more recent immigrants hold higher education credentials than their predecessors. At the upper end of educational attainment the percentage of immigrants and non-immigrants with at least a Master's degree was equal at 8.5 percent.

**Table 10.**  
**Labor Force in Florida by Education Level, 2000 & 2005**  
(in thousands)

	2000				2005			
	Non-Immigrant	Percent	Immigrant	Percent	Non-Immigrant	Percent	Immigrant	Percent
No school completed	18	0.3%	34	2.4%	9	0.1%	23	1.2%
No HS Diploma	833	13.8%	375	26.1%	692	10.6%	408	20.9%
HS diploma or and Associate degree	3,732	61.8%	712	49.5%	4,141	63.5%	1,049	53.8%
BA/BS	968	16.0%	188	13.1%	1,128	17.3%	305	15.6%
Advanced degree	484	8.0%	129	9.0%	552	8.5%	167	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,034</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

### *Industry and Occupation*

Industry reflects the kinds of products or services produced where an individual is employed. The products of the construction industry are, for example, houses and office buildings and roads and the like. Occupation refers to the kind of work that an individual does within an industry. Within construction, for example, a person may be a supervisor classified under the occupational category of management or an unskilled worker categorized under the occupational category of ‘grounds cleaning and maintenance.’

Table 11 shows the distribution of immigrant workers across sixteen industries in Florida and the percentage growth in these particular industries between 2000 and 2005. Immigrants are most heavily concentrated in agriculture (49.1 percent of total employment in this sector), services (30.4 percent of total employment), construction (29.3 percent of total employment), wholesale trade (27.6 percent of total employment), transportation and warehousing (27.2 percent of total employment), manufacturing (25 percent of total employment), and recreation-accommodations-food services (24.5 percent of total employment). In all of these industries, the immigrant labor force participation exceeds immigrants’ overall labor force participation of 22.9 percent. In contrast, immigrants are most notably underrepresented in the public administration and utilities industries.

The industry with the fastest growth of immigrants as a share of the workforce in the 2000 to 2005 period was the construction industry (42.9 percent increase). Utilities, finance and real estate, and services also saw large growth. Clearly, industries such as agriculture, construction, and service sector industries are heavily dependent on immigrant workers and this dependency is growing over time.

**Table 11.**  
**Immigrants as a Percentage of Workforce by Industry in Florida, 2000 and 2005**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	41.0%	49.1%	19.8%
Other Services, except public administration	24.3%	30.4%	25.1%
Construction	20.5%	29.3%	42.9%
Wholesale Trade	25.8%	27.6%	7.0%
Transportation, Warehousing	22.5%	27.2%	20.9%
Manufacturing	23.7%	25.0%	5.5%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	21.1%	24.5%	16.1%
Average	19.2%	22.9%	19.3%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management Services	18.7%	22.4%	19.8%
Education, Health, Social Services	17.3%	20.5%	18.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	16.2%	20.1%	24.1%
Retail Trade	17.9%	20.1%	12.3%
Information, Communication	15.9%	18.4%	15.7%
Utilities	10.3%	14.1%	36.9%
Public Administration	9.6%	10.1%	5.2%
Active Duty Military	5.7%	6.8%	19.3%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Table 12 shows the percentage of immigrant workers in each major **occupational** category in 2000 and 2005, and the percent change between these two points in time. In 2005, the three occupations with the highest percentages of immigrant workers were: farming, fishing and forestry (62 percent), building, grounds cleaning and maintenance (42 percent), and construction and extraction (34 percent). The occupational categories that experienced the largest increase in the immigrant share of the workforce from 2000 to 2005 were construction (47%) and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (31%).

Immigrants are relatively under-represented in most of the listed occupational categories traditionally considered “white collar jobs” with the exception of healthcare practitioners. However immigrants grew as a share of every occupational category with the exception of Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media, which held even over the five years. The share of immigrants in the life and physical sciences occupations also grew faster than the average.

**Table 12.**  
**Percent of Immigrants in Occupation in Florida, 2000 & 2005**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	51.9%	62.4%	20.2%
Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	31.9%	41.8%	31.0%
Construction and Extraction	23.0%	33.8%	47.0%
Production	27.3%	30.8%	12.8%
Military	23.8%	28.6%	20.2%
Personal Care and Service	21.0%	26.2%	24.8%
Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	21.6%	25.8%	19.4%
Transportation and Material	20.2%	25.2%	24.8%
Food Prep and Serving	21.4%	23.7%	10.7%
Average	19.3%	23.0%	19.2%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	18.2%	22.2%	22.0%
Life, Physical and Social Science	17.3%	21.9%	26.6%
Computer and Mathematical	18.4%	21.2%	15.2%
Sales	18.0%	20.3%	12.8%
Architecture and Engineering	17.6%	19.7%	11.9%
Management	16.9%	18.4%	8.9%
Office, Administrative Support	16.1%	18.2%	13.0%
Business and Financial	15.2%	17.5%	15.1%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	17.0%	17.0%	0.0%
Community and Social Services	13.4%	16.8%	25.4%
Education, Training, Library	12.0%	13.9%	15.8%
Protective Service	12.5%	12.9%	3.2%
Legal	9.1%	10.4%	14.3%

Source: 2000 data are from the Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

### *Wages*

Among wage and salary earners, immigrants generally earn less than non-immigrants, with the median annual wage in 2005 for immigrants at just over \$20,000 and the median annual wage for non-immigrants at \$23,400. Earnings differentials between males and females are smaller among immigrants than non-immigrants. The gender wage gaps for both groups were smaller in 2005 than in 2000, but improved much more for immigrants than non-immigrants in this five year span.

**Table 13.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Earners in Florida, by Gender, 2000 & 2005**  
**(in 2005 dollars)**

	<b>2000</b>		<b>2005</b>	
	<b>Non-Immigrant</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Non-Immigrant</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>
Total	\$23,451	\$18,761	\$23,429	\$20,068
Male	28,141	22,748	28,523	22,411
Female	18,761	15,243	19,355	16,299
Female/Male	66.7%	67.0%	67.9%	72.7%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

As shown in Table 10, the five years between 2000 and 2005 saw the influx of more highly educated immigrants as defined by people who hold a high school level diploma, an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's or an advanced degree. At these higher education levels immigrants on average earn lower wages than non-immigrants, as demonstrated in Table 14. This reverses the pattern at lower levels of education, where immigrants earn more than their native-born counterparts.

Regarding trends between 2000 and 2005, the largest gains in earnings went to non-immigrants at the very bottom of the educational attainment ladder and to immigrants at the opposite end. Native born workers with no schooling whatsoever experienced a 24 percent increase in that period, while immigrants with a Masters degree or more achieved a 12 percent increase. However, previous patterns remained, with immigrants doing better than their native-born counterparts at the lowest levels of education and the native-born doing better at higher levels of education.

**Table 14.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Earners in Florida, by Education level,**  
**2000 & 2005 (in 2005 dollars)**

	2000		2005		Percent Change	
	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	Non-immigrant	Immigrant
No school completed	\$9,849	\$14,070	\$12,224	\$13,650	24%	-3%
No HS Diploma	8,794	14,070	7,640	14,261	-13%	1%
HS diploma and Associate degree	22,278	20,520	21,392	19,864	-4%	-3%
BA/BS	37,521	31,776	36,672	30,560	-2%	-4%
Advanced degree	46,902	36,349	47,877	40,747	2%	12%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

One reason for the higher average wages of low-educated immigrants relative to non-immigrants is that the wage difference between male and female immigrants is much smaller than that between native-born males and females. Table 15 shows that non-immigrant low-educated females earn well less than half of what non-immigrant males earn, thereby dragging down the average wages for non-immigrants with low levels of education. The wage differential by sex among immigrant workers is much less pronounced at the bottom of the ladder, and immigrant low-educated females earn more than double the wages of their native-born female counterparts. Among the more highly educated this disparity between immigrant and non-immigrant disappears.

**Table 15.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Earners in Florida, by Gender & Education level, 2005**

	Non-immigrant			Immigrant		
	Male	Female	Female /Male	Male	Female	Female /Male
No school completed	\$15,891	\$3,056	19%	\$14,669	\$8,047	55%
No HS Diploma	12,224	4,380	36%	16,299	10,187	63%
HS diploma and Associate degree	26,485	18,336	69%	23,226	15,891	68%
BA	46,859	31,579	67%	35,653	25,467	71%
MA or higher degree	61,120	40,747	67%	49,711	33,616	68%

Source: American Community Survey

Although immigrant wage and salary workers earn less than the native born overall, there are four industries in which the median wages of immigrants are higher than non-immigrants. Table 16 shows that the biggest difference is in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Food Services industry. The three other industries where immigrants do well relative to non-immigrants are Retail Trade, Public Administration and Information and Communication.

**Table 16.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Earners in Florida, by Industry, 2005**

<b>Industries</b>	<b>Non-immigrant</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	\$10,187	\$15,280	\$5,093
Retail Trade	14,771	15,891	1,120
Public Administration	34,635	35,653	1,018
Information, Communication	29,643	30,560	917
Other Services, except public administration	16,401	15,280	-1,121
Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	15,280	13,243	-2,037
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	29,541	26,485	-3,056
Active Duty Military	36,672	33,616	-3,056
Education, Health, Social Services	25,467	21,188	-4,279
Transportation, Warehousing	30,560	25,467	-5,093
Construction	25,467	20,373	-5,094
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	25,467	20,373	-5,094
Wholesale Trade	30,560	23,429	-7,131
Manufacturing	29,541	20,373	-9,168
Utilities	--	--	--

Source: American Community Survey

Turning to occupations, immigrants earn more than non-immigrants in six occupations, the same in five, and less in eleven. In general, the occupations in which immigrants are doing comparatively well are low wage service occupations and farming, although two of the occupations where they out-earn the native born are in the sciences and mathematics and computer occupations, which generally require substantial education. Table 17 gives details.



**Table 17.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Earners in Florida, by Occupation, 2005**

<b>Occupations</b>	<b>Non-immigrant</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Differences</b>
Personal Care and Service	\$10,187	\$15,280	\$5,093
Food Prep and Serving	8,455	13,243	4,788
Computer and Mathematical	48,183	51,952	3,769
Life, Physical and Social Science	35,653	38,200	2,547
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	10,594	12,224	1,630
Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	13,243	14,159	916
Business and Financial	\$35,653	\$35,653	\$0
Community and Social Services	28,523	28,523	0
Sales	17,317	17,317	0
Office, Administrative Support	20,373	20,373	0
Transportation and Material	18,336	18,336	0
Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	\$27,504	\$25,874	\$(1,630)
Management	47,877	45,840	(2,037)
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media	26,485	24,448	(2,037)
Architecture and Engineering	48,896	45,840	(3,056)
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	30,560	26,485	(4,075)
Construction and Extraction	24,448	19,864	(4,584)
Legal	45,534	40,747	(4,787)
Production	22,411	17,317	(5,094)
Military	36,672	25,467	(11,205)
Education, Training, Library	30,560	16,604	(13,956)
Protective Service	30,560	16,299	(14,261)

Source: American Community Survey

The median wages of immigrant workers increase the longer they stay in the U.S. In 2000 and 2005, the median wages of non-immigrant wage and salary workers were \$22,682 and \$23,429 respectively. Table 18 shows that it takes immigrants on average over 20 years of U.S. residency to reach the same median wage as non-immigrants.

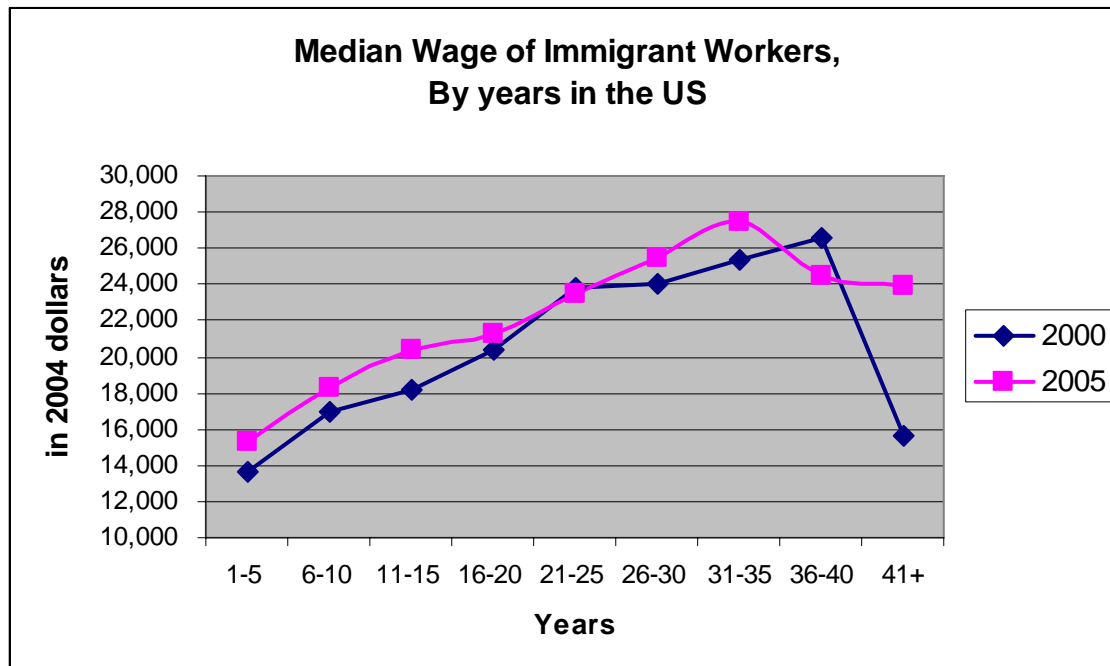
**Table 18.**  
**Median Annual Wages of Wage & Salary Immigrant earners in Florida, by Years in the US, 2000 & 2005**

<b>Years in the U.S.</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>
1-5 Years	\$13,609	\$15,280
6-10 Years	17,012	18,336
11-15 Years	18,146	20,373
16-20 Years	20,414	21,290
21-25 Years	23,816	23,429
26-30 Years	24,043	25,467
31-35 Years	25,347	27,504
36-40 Years	26,538	24,448
41+ Years	15,651	23,939

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

The median wage of immigrants reaches its peak after about 35 years in the U.S. and then drops as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.**



### Health and Pension Benefits<sup>2</sup>

Table 19 reports health insurance coverage for Florida workers averaged over the four years from 2002 to 2005. Overall an annual average of 77 percent of Florida's workers had health insurance: 81 percent for non-immigrant workers and 61 percent for immigrant workers. This discrepancy reflects the kinds of jobs that many immigrants in Florida hold, which in addition to paying low wages offer few benefits.

**Table 19.**  
**Health Insurance Coverage by Immigrant Status, Florida, 2002-2005 Average**  
(in thousands)

	Not Insured	Insured	Percent Insured
Non-immigrant	1,231	5,343	81.3%
Immigrant	728	1,157	61.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>76.9%</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

<sup>2</sup> Data availability changes time frame.

Table 20 shows percentages of employees covered by healthcare insurance from their employer. From 2002 to 2005 on average only 49.4 percent of all workers were insured through their current or former employer or union. Immigrant workers fared worse: 39.1 percent coverage, vs. 52.4% for their native born counterparts. Again, this is probably a reflection of the types of jobs many immigrants occupy.

**Table 20.**  
**Health Insurance provided by current/former employer or union by Immigrant status, Florida, 2002-2005 Average (in thousands)**

	<b>Insured</b>	<b>Not insured</b>	<b>Percent Insured</b>	<b>Total</b>
Non-immigrant	3,443	3,131	52.4%	6,574
Immigrant	736	1,148	39.1%	1,884
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,180</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>8,458</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

Table 21 shows a similar disparity in pension coverage. Nearly half of all non-immigrant workers were offered pension plans through their employers while only about a third of immigrant employees were offered an employer sponsored pension.

**Table 21.**  
**Pension Plan Offered by Employer, Florida, 2003-2006 Average**  
(in thousands)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percent of Yes</b>
Non-immigrant	3,344	3,464	49.1%
Immigrant	624	1,272	32.9%

Source: Current Population Survey

## ***Union Status***

The workforce of Florida in general has low unionization rates, reflecting its southern heritage, its generally hostile political and employer climate, its “right-to-work” provision in the constitution preventing the negotiation of union security clauses, relative absence of manufacturing, and the like. Table 22 shows that only 6.2 percent of Florida workers were union members in the period between 2003 and 2006. Non-immigrants are over twice as likely to be union members (6.9 percent vs. 3.1 percent).

**Table 22.**  
**Union Membership in Florida Labor force, 2003-2006 Average**  
(in thousands)

	<b>Percent Union Members</b>
Non-immigrant	6.9%
Immigrant	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

The percentages of workers who are covered by a union contract are higher than the union membership percentages, because many workers do not pay union dues despite being protected by

a union contract. But the broad pattern is the same: coverage is much higher for native born than for immigrants. Table 23 shows details.

**Table 23.**  
**Union membership or Covered by Union Contract in Florida Labor Force, 2003-2006 Average**

	<b>Percent of Union Member or Covered by Union Contract</b>
Non-immigrant	8.2%
Immigrant	4.5%
Total	7.5%

Source: Current Population Survey

Table 24 displays the educational attainment of those who are union members. Immigrant union members were more evenly distributed among educational attainment levels than non-immigrants, who tended to be concentrated among those with a high school diploma or some college. The immigrant group most likely to be unionized was by far the most highly educated. Almost half of Florida immigrant union members had a Bachelors degree or higher.

**Table 24.**  
**Percent of Union Member by Education Level, 2003-2006 Average**

	<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Percent Union Member</b>
Non-immigrant	No HS diploma	2.1%
	No BA/BS degree	62.2%
	BA/BS or higher degree	35.7%
Immigrant	No HS diploma	15.1%
	No BA/BS degree	35.1%
	BA/BS or higher degree	49.8%

Source: Current Population Survey

### ***Self-Employed***

In 2005 immigrants represented 26 percent of all self-employed workers, compared with 23 percent of the total Florida labor force (see Table 8). From 2000 to 2005 the percent of self-employed who are immigrants grew by 18 percent. Immigrant women are slightly more over-represented than men in self-employment: they are 21.5 percent of the female labor force but 27 percent of the female self-employed. Self-employment among immigrant females grew more slowly than for immigrant males over the last five years by a difference of 6 percent. Table 25 shows details.

**Table 25.**  
**Self-employed by Immigrant Status & Gender, 2000 & 2005 (in thousands)**

	<b>2000</b>			<b>2005</b>			<b>Percent Change</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
Male	659	140	21%	830	211	25%	19%
Female	343	81	24%	453	121	27%	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

That immigrants tend to have higher rates of entrepreneurship and self-employment has been well established by immigration scholars, notably Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut who find that many different immigrant groups from Asia, Europe, and Latin America, as well as immigrants overall, have higher rates of self-employment than the native-born in the U.S. (Portes and Rumbaut 2006). Entrepreneurship is one way of avoiding discrimination in the labor market, and immigrant entrepreneurs tend to earn more than wage and salary earners. The chief reason for certain groups' success in entrepreneurship involves the climate of reception, including three important factors: receiving government policies, host labor market conditions, and the characteristics of the receiving ethnic community (Portes and Rumbaut 2006). Immigrants who are welcomed or supported by the host government and who are able to find initial employment in their own ethnic community typically are able to garner the resources for entrepreneurship easier than those who are not welcomed by the host government, have no ethnic community to draw on or where the ethnic community does not provide support networks for entrepreneurial activity. The difference between the success of the Cuban and Mexican communities at entrepreneurship can be explained this way -- Cubans are welcomed by the U.S. and upon arrival find a strong ethnic support network especially in Florida, whereas Mexicans are not especially welcomed by national or local U.S. governments and their ethnic community has fewer resources, particularly in Florida where the majority are farm workers.

Immigrants who start small businesses create new employment opportunities and add to the diversity of products and services offered in an area. Many highly educated immigrants also fuel booming sectors of the economy, as was the case in Silicon Valley in California. Nearly one-third of Silicon Valley's technology companies were founded by Indian and Chinese immigrants, accounting for more than 72,839 jobs and \$19.5 billion in sales (Anderson 2006). In Florida, particularly in South Florida, immigrant owned firms have made an important contribution to the health services industry, and several are set to become national models for health care for the elderly (Dorschner 2007).

Self-employed immigrants are also over-represented at all education levels, but are over-represented to the greatest degree among those with a high school diploma or some college. Immigrants make up 20.2 percent of the Florida labor force at that education level, but 24 percent of the self-employed (ACS 2005). From 2000 to 2005 the largest growth of self-employed took place among immigrants with a Bachelor's degree. The share of self-employed Bachelor's degree holders who are immigrants rose 39 percent over the five year period, followed by the share who hold a high school diploma or Associate's degree (26.7 percent). Immigrants also grew as a portion of the self-employed who hold at least a Master's degree, but at a lower rate than the overall increase in self-employed who are immigrants, as reflected in Table 26.

**Table 26.**  
**Self-employed by Immigrant Status & Education Level, 2000 & 2005**  
(in thousands)

Education Attainment	2000			2005			Percent Change
	Total*	Immigrant	Percent Immigrant	Total*	Immigrant	Percent Immigrant	
No school completed	8	5	64.8%	5	4	74.4%	9.6%
No HS Diploma	159	56	35.4%	152	61	40.1%	4.7%
HS diploma or Associate's degree	550	103	18.7%	740	176	23.7%	5.0%
BA/BS	158	27	17.2%	229	55	23.9%	6.8%
Advanced degree	127	29	22.9%	158	37	23.6%	0.7%
Total	1,000	220	22.0%	1,283	332	25.9%	3.9%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

\*Total = immigrants + non-immigrants (in thousands)

Table 27 shows how self-employed immigrants congregate in different industries. In 2005 immigrants made up a significant portion of the self-employed in certain industries, most notably transportation (40.7 percent) and other services (36.8 percent). Immigrants were also over-represented, though to a lesser degree, in wholesale trade (29.7 percent), retail trade (28.1 percent), arts and entertainment (27.7 percent), and education, health and social services (27.5 percent), compared with 25.9 percent of all wage and salary earners in Florida. The greatest increases in the portion of self-employed immigrants occurred in the agriculture (58.5 percent), finance and real estate (37.6 percent), and transportation (34.3 percent) industries. Other industries where the presence of self-employed immigrants increased faster than the average were construction (24.1 percent) and other services (21.9 percent).

**Table 27.**  
**Self-employed by Immigrant Status & Industry, 2000 & 2005 (in thousands)**

	2000			2005			Percent Change
	Total	Immigrant	Percent Immigrant	Total	Immigrant	Percent Immigrant	
Transportation, Warehousing	36	11	30.3%	54	22	40.7%	34.3%
Other Services, except public administration	116	35	30.2%	97	56	36.8%	21.9%
Wholesale Trade	41	11	27.8%	51	15	29.7%	6.8%
Retail Trade	107	26	24.2%	121	34	28.1%	16.1%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	66	18	27.0%	59	23	27.7%	2.6%
Education, Health, Social Services	91	22	24.1%	101	28	27.5%	14.1%
Manufacturing	40	10	24.6%	45	11	23.8%	-3.3%
Construction	168	32	19.1%	226	54	23.7%	24.1%
Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	27	4	14.7%	24	6	23.3%	58.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	90	13	14.9%	143	29	20.5%	37.6%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	203	35	17.3%	267	52	19.6%	13.3%
Information, Communication	15	3	17.8%	16	3	18.3%	2.8%
Total	1000	220	22.0%	951	332	25.9%	17.7%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

### Immigrants' Contributions to Florida's Economy

Questions about the effect of immigration on our economy and the balance between taxes paid versus services received are the subject of much research and are frequently referenced in the debate about immigration. Nationally known scholars such as David Card and George Borjas have debated the effects of immigration on wages and unemployment, and the contentious issue at the moment seems to be the effect on low-skilled workers. Virtually all scholars agree that highly skilled immigrants benefit the U.S. economy by increasing the pool of workers particularly in science and technology, but there is strong disagreement about the effects of immigration on low-skilled native workers. Borjas claims that an influx of low-skilled workers pushes down wages for similar native workers (Borjas 2003), while Card finds in several case studies of cities, especially Miami after the 1980 Mariel boatlift, that the new immigrants were absorbed fairly easily and non-immigrant wages did not decrease (Card 1990). New research by Giovanni Peri shows that in California between 1990 and 2004 there was an increase of 4 percent in native wages due to

immigration, and he theorizes that this is because immigrant workers complement native workers, providing services and pushing natives into higher positions (Peri 2007).

In 1997 a National Research Council (NRC) panel on immigration found that new immigrant families appear to use more publicly funded services than they pay in taxes. However this analysis took households as the unit of analysis, thereby including the U.S. born children of immigrant parents as immigrants. Much of the “burden” that these immigrant families represent for U.S. systems was made up of educational costs. But, education is an investment in the future. Long-term estimates produced by the NRC panel found a positive net fiscal impact of immigration, as immigrants arrive young in their working lives and over time contribute more in taxes than they receive in services (Smith and Edmonston 1997).

In this section we focus on one aspect of the contribution of immigrants to the Florida economy: taxes paid. We also focus on what immigrants take from the Florida economy: benefits received. We focus on the taxes and benefits because they are relatively straightforward measurements of what immigrants contribute to and receive from government funding. We do not attempt to estimate the costs of government services used by immigrants because such analyses are always incomplete and raise questions like: Do we include miles driven on public roads, and number of books borrowed from the library; and it is precisely these kinds of complicated analyses that can hide subjectivity and biases. Further, we do not believe that spending on services such as public health and education for immigrants represent “costs” to society, but are instead investments in the future of U.S. society.

### *Methodology*

It is possible to compare the taxes paid by immigrants and non-immigrants by using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) which surveys some 60,000 households each month and collects detailed information on employment and wages as well as demographics. The CPS Annual Social and Economic supplement (ASEC) contains information on taxes paid by individuals, including income taxes, FICA taxes, and property taxes, though not sales taxes. However, we will estimate sales taxes paid by using the typical percent of income spent in households by income level. This methodology departs from a 2001 study of immigrants in Florida by researchers from several Florida universities (Boswell et al. 2001), which also used Current Population Survey data to estimate the average taxes paid per capita by immigrants and non-immigrants, but figured per capita sales tax paid by dividing the total sales tax receipts for Miami-Dade according to each individual’s share of total income for the area. That method does not take into account the fact that lower-income people spend a higher percentage of their incomes on daily necessities, and thus pay a larger percentage of their income in sales taxes than do wealthier individuals, who are able to save more of their earnings. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy has devised a model for estimating taxes paid based on income level, and we use this method to estimate sales taxes and property taxes paid by immigrants and non-immigrants.

Because the ASEC contains information on only about 9,000 individuals in the State of Florida each year, it is necessary to combine several years of data to get a sample large enough for analysis. These results represent an average of five years of data and are viewed as representing the average amount of taxes paid by individuals during those five years. The information on tax



liability in the CPS is not determined by direct questioning of respondents, but is computed by the census bureau from a model that simulates a tax return.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Taxes paid by immigrants in Florida<sup>4</sup>***

Florida residents pay federal income tax on all wages and salary, payroll taxes (FICA), property taxes and sales taxes. Other revenue collected by governments such as service fees and licenses cannot be estimated from the CPS data. Table 28 shows the average annual amount of federal income taxes and payroll taxes paid by immigrants in Florida from 2002-2004.<sup>5</sup> Table 29 shows the average annual taxes paid per capita by immigrants and non-immigrants in Florida.

**Table 28.**  
**Estimated Total Annual Taxes Paid by Immigrants in Florida, 2002-2004 Average**

<b>Federal income tax</b>	<b>FICA</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$6.5 billion	\$3.98 billion	\$10.49 billion

Source: Current Population Survey

**Table 29.**  
**Estimated Annual Taxes Paid per Capita, 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Federal income tax</b>	<b>FICA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Immigrant	\$2,056.27	\$1,258.19	\$3,314.46
Non-immigrant	\$2,411.90	\$1,142.18	\$3,554.08

Source: Current Population Survey

Florida immigrants contributed an average of \$6.5 billion in federal income taxes annually from 2002 to 2004, and \$3.98 billion in FICA taxes, for a total of \$10.49 billion. Per capita, immigrants in Florida contributed about \$2,056 in federal income taxes, compared with \$2,412 for non-immigrants. Immigrants contributed slightly more per capita in FICA taxes than non-immigrants, \$1,258 to \$1,142. Immigrants contributed an estimated combined federal tax plus FICA taxes of \$3,314 per capita in federal taxes compared with \$3,554 for non-immigrants.

An estimate of property taxes is also included in the CPS data. The estimate is produced by the census bureau using data from the American Household Survey, which is then statistically applied to the CPS households based on demographics, metropolitan area, and housing characteristics. From 2002 to 2004, immigrants in Florida paid an estimated total of \$9.59 billion in property taxes. Table 30 shows the estimated annual property taxes per capita for immigrants and non-immigrants in Florida. Non-immigrants on average pay \$60.14 per capita per year more than immigrants.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1992. Measuring the Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty:1992. Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P60-186RD.

<sup>4</sup> The CPS does not ask non-citizens about their legal status, and although there are methods for assigning legal status to immigrants in the CPS this is beyond the scope of this report. This data includes immigrants who are here legally and illegally, and many who are here illegally do in fact file tax returns using Individual Taxpayer Numbers, as noted in a New York Times article "Tax Returns Rise for Immigrants in U.S. Illegally," April 16, 2007. "Between 1996 and 2003, such filers reported nearly \$50 billion of tax liability."

<sup>5</sup> Beginning in 2005, the CPS began to compute federal income taxes differently from previous years, making the 2005 data not strictly comparable with pre-2005 data. Thus the necessity of using several years of data to get a sample size large enough for statistical significance precludes us from using the most recent data from 2005 and 2006.

**Table 30.**  
**Estimated Annual Property Taxes per Capita, 2002-2004 Average**

Immigrant	\$387.62
Non-immigrant	\$447.76

Source: Current Population Survey

However, this method of calculation only includes property taxes paid by homeowners, and does not account for property taxes paid by renters as part of the price of their rent. Since 34 percent of immigrants are renters, compared with 21 percent of non-immigrants, using this method underestimates the true amount of property taxes paid by immigrants (CPS 2005). A model for estimating property taxes paid based on income provides a way to include the contributions of both owners and renters. This model was developed by the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy and provides state-by-state estimates of percentages of income paid by residents in state and local income, property, and sales taxes<sup>6</sup>. Table 31 shows the tax estimates by income levels for 2002, the most recent year the analysis is available for all Florida residents.

**Table 31.**  
**State and Local Taxes as a Percentage of Income in Florida, 2002**

Income Group	Lowest 20%	Second 20%	Middle 20%	Fourth 20%	Top 20%		
					Next 15%	Next 4%	TOP 1%
Income Range	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000 – \$24,000	\$24,000 – \$38,000	\$38,000 – \$64,000	\$64,000 – \$133,000	\$133,000 – \$289,000	\$289,000 or more
Average Income in Group	\$9,200	\$19,200	\$30,000	\$49,600	\$86,900	\$187,900	\$945,500
<b>Sales &amp; Excise Taxes</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
General Sales—Individuals	4.2%	3.8%	3.3%	2.6%	2.0%	1.3%	0.6%
Other Sales & Excise—Ind.	3.1%	2.3%	1.8%	1.3%	0.9%	0.5%	0.2%
Sales & Excise on Business	3.8%	3.2%	2.6%	2.0%	1.5%	0.9%	0.5%
<b>Property Taxes</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>14.40%</b>	<b>11.30%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>8.20%</b>	<b>6.90%</b>	<b>5.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
Federal Deduction Offset	–0.0%	–0.0%	–0.1%	–0.2%	–0.4%	–0.5%	–0.3%
<b>TOTAL AFTER OFFSET</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

By applying the percentages in the table above to each income level and then dividing by the number of members in the family, we arrive at the amounts of property tax and sales tax paid by immigrants. Table 32 shows that from 2002 to 2004 immigrants in Florida contributed an annual average of \$1.3 billion in property taxes and \$3.2 billion in sales taxes.

<sup>6</sup> McIntyre, Robert S., Robert Denk, Norton Francis, Matthew Gardner, Will Gomaa, Fiona Hsu, and Richard Sims. 2003. Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Washington, D.C.: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. ITEP's Microsimulation Tax Model relies on a dataset assembled from IRS tax return data, Consumer Expenditure Survey data, and other data sources similar to the model produced by the U.S. Treasury Department. The difference is that the ITEP model is capable of estimating state level impacts of tax policy. A full description of the model is available on-line at <http://www.ctj.org/itep/modelmenu.htm>.

**Table 32.**  
**Estimated Annual Property and Sales Taxes Paid by Immigrants in Florida, 2002-2004 Average**

<b>Property tax</b>	<b>Sales tax</b>
\$1.3 billion	\$3.2 billion

Source: Current Population Survey

Table 33 compares property tax and sales tax paid per capita and reveals that non-immigrants pay slightly more in property and sales tax per capita than immigrants do in the state of Florida. Immigrants pay an average of \$421.29 per capita in property tax, while non-immigrants pay \$527.79, a difference of \$106.50. For sales tax immigrants pay an estimated \$1,019.87 while non-immigrants paid \$1,170.98, a difference of \$151.11 per person per year.

**Table 33.**  
**Estimated Annual Property and Sales Tax Paid per Capita, 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Property Tax per Capita</b>	<b>Sales Tax per Capita</b>
Immigrant	\$421.29	\$1,019.87
Non-immigrant	\$527.79	\$1,179.98

Source: Current Population Survey

To arrive at an overall comparison of taxes paid by immigrants and non-immigrants in Table 34, we combine the amounts paid in federal income tax, FICA, property tax and sales tax. From 2002 to 2004 immigrants paid an annual average total of \$4,755.62 in taxes per capita, while non-immigrants paid an average of \$5,261.84 per capita, a difference of \$506.22.

**Table 34.**  
**Estimated Average Annual Total Taxes, 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Per Capita</b>	<b>Total</b>
Immigrant	\$4,755.62	\$15 billion
Non-immigrant	\$5,261.84	\$70.5 billion

Source: Current Population Survey

### ***Public Assistance Programs***

Next, we estimate the amounts received by immigrants and non-immigrants in cash benefits and other public assistance. Included are Social Security payments, Supplemental Security Income, disability income, veterans' benefits, unemployment compensation, public assistance (welfare, specifically Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or TANF), and food stamps, as well as the estimated market value of housing subsidies, energy assistance, Medicare and Medicaid. All of these items are contained in the CPS ASEC for the purpose of estimating all the financial resources a family has to draw upon during the year. For items that apply to families or households we have divided by the number of persons in the family or household to estimate the benefits received per capita.

Table 35 shows that non-immigrants in Florida receive about \$600 more in benefits per capita than do immigrants. Non-immigrants receive more per capita in Social Security benefits, veterans'

benefits, unemployment compensation, energy assistance, and public assistance. Immigrants receive more in Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, and housing subsidies. All together immigrants receive about \$1,619 per capita in public assistance while non-immigrants receive \$2,217 per capita, a difference of \$598.

**Table 35.**  
**Average Annual Public Assistance Benefits Received Per Capita, 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Non-immigrant</b>
Supplemental Security Income	\$106.41	\$67.23
Social Security	\$1,343.62	\$1,906.37
Veterans benefits	\$60.62	\$125.30
Unemployment assistance	\$56.94	\$66.85
Food stamps	\$43.16	\$36.35
Energy assistance	\$0.10	\$0.39
Housing subsidy	\$3.07	\$2.94
Public assistance (welfare)	\$5.40	\$12.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,619.32</b>	<b>\$2,217.96</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

Adding in the estimated market value of Medicare and Medicaid coverage increases the gap slightly. As Table 36 shows, when the market value of Medicare and Medicaid are factored in non-immigrants receive \$614 more per capita in public assistance benefits than do immigrants in Florida. Immigrants received an annual average of \$3,258.95 in public assistance benefits per capita from 2002 to 2004 while non-immigrants received an annual average of \$3,873.42 per capita.

**Table 36.**  
**Average Annual Income from Public Assistance Received Per Capita, 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Immigrants</b>	<b>Non-immigrants</b>
Medicare estimated market value	\$1,254.53	\$1,331.08
Medicaid estimated market value	\$385.09	\$324.39
Total from Table 34	\$1,619.32	\$2,217.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,258.95</b>	<b>\$3,873.42</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

When we combine the results from Table 36 (total average annual income from public assistance received per capita) with the results from Table 34 (total average annual taxes paid) we find that both immigrants and non-immigrants contribute more per capita than they receive, but that the net gain from immigrants is greater. Immigrants contribute nearly \$1,500 per year more than they receive, while non-immigrants contribute about \$1,390 more than they receive.

**Table 37**  
**Difference in Taxes Paid and Income Supplements Received, Annual Average 2002-2004 Average**

	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Non-immigrant</b>
Taxes paid	\$4,755.62	\$5,261.84
Public assistance Income received	\$3,258.95	\$3,873.42
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$1,496.67</b>	<b>\$1,388.42</b>

Source: Current Population Survey

## Conclusion

The role of immigrants in our society is a highly contentious issue. Strongly ideological and “political” positions have been put forward in debates over public policy on this issue. This report hopes to inform that public debate, but it has not entered into highly ideological questions. Instead it adheres closely to questions that can be answered on a factual basis without relying heavily on ideology.

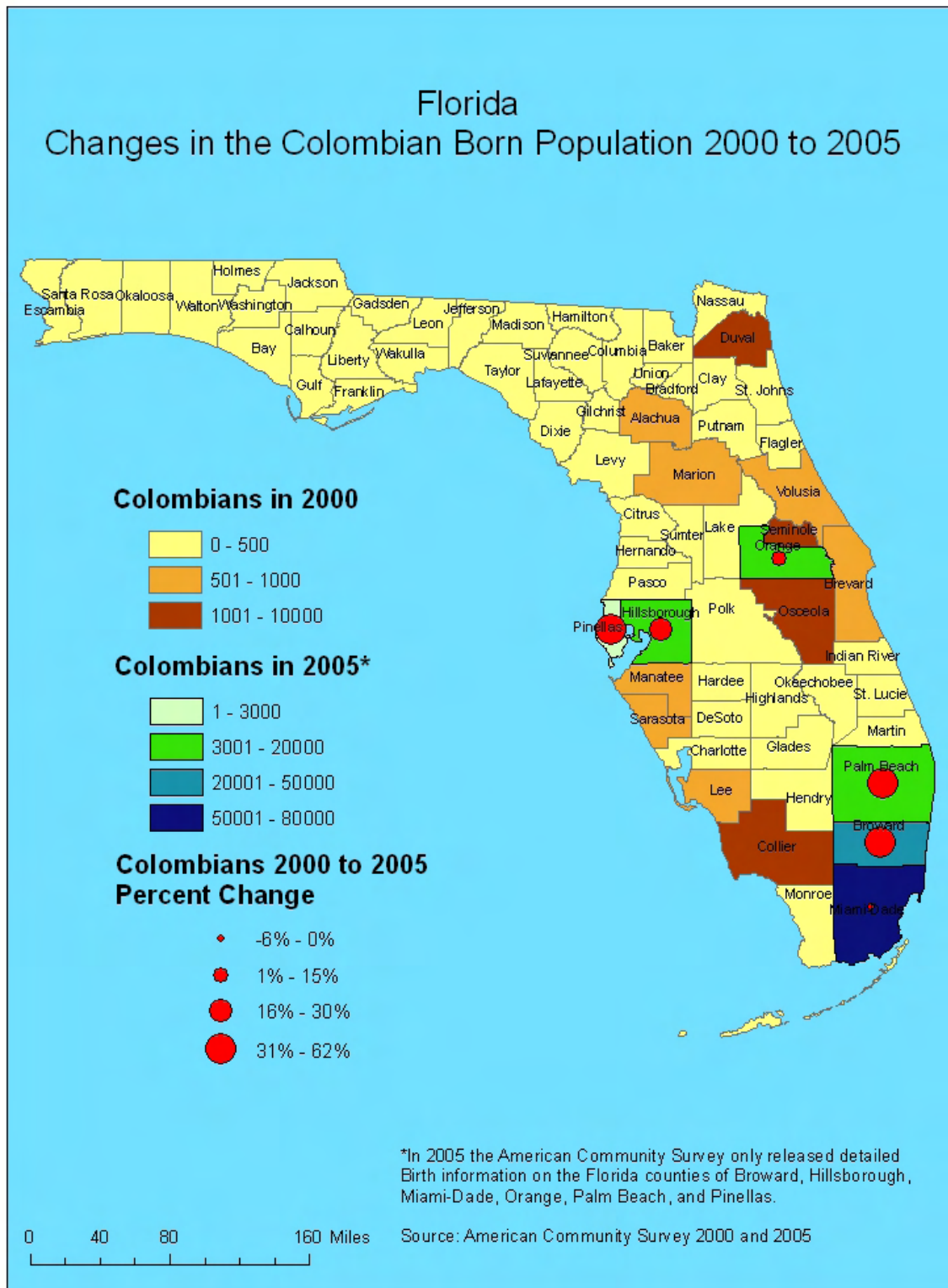
We hope that this portrait of immigrants in the state of Florida is useful to those concerned with the state’s policies and its relations with its immigrant population. It provides a wealth of data concerning this population. The statistical evidence we have been able to uncover indicates that these newer residents and neighbors contribute more than they take from the state of Florida, although our evidence is unlikely to be the last word for those with a political or ideological disposition against immigrants.

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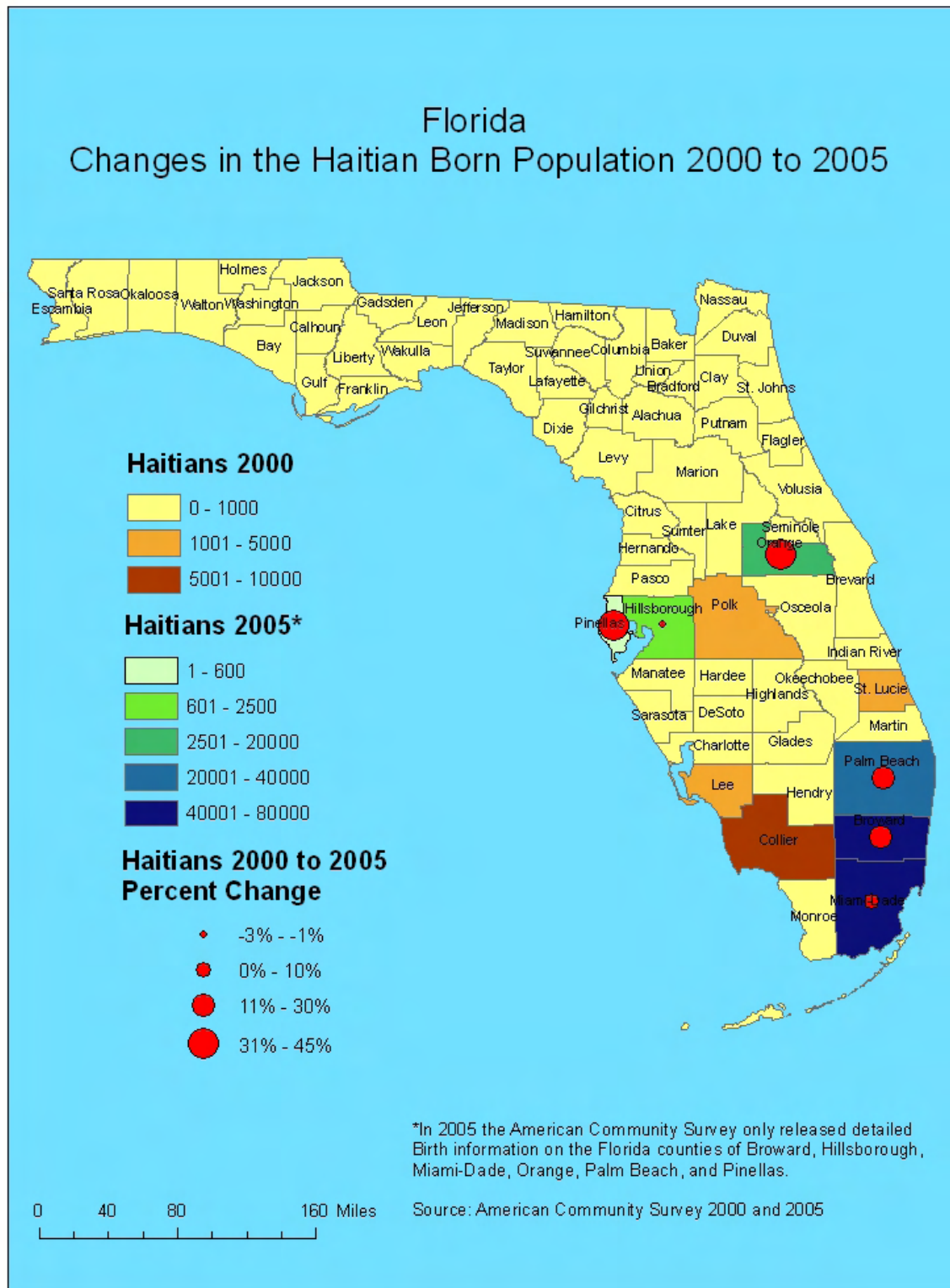
## **APPENDIX A**

**Map A-1**

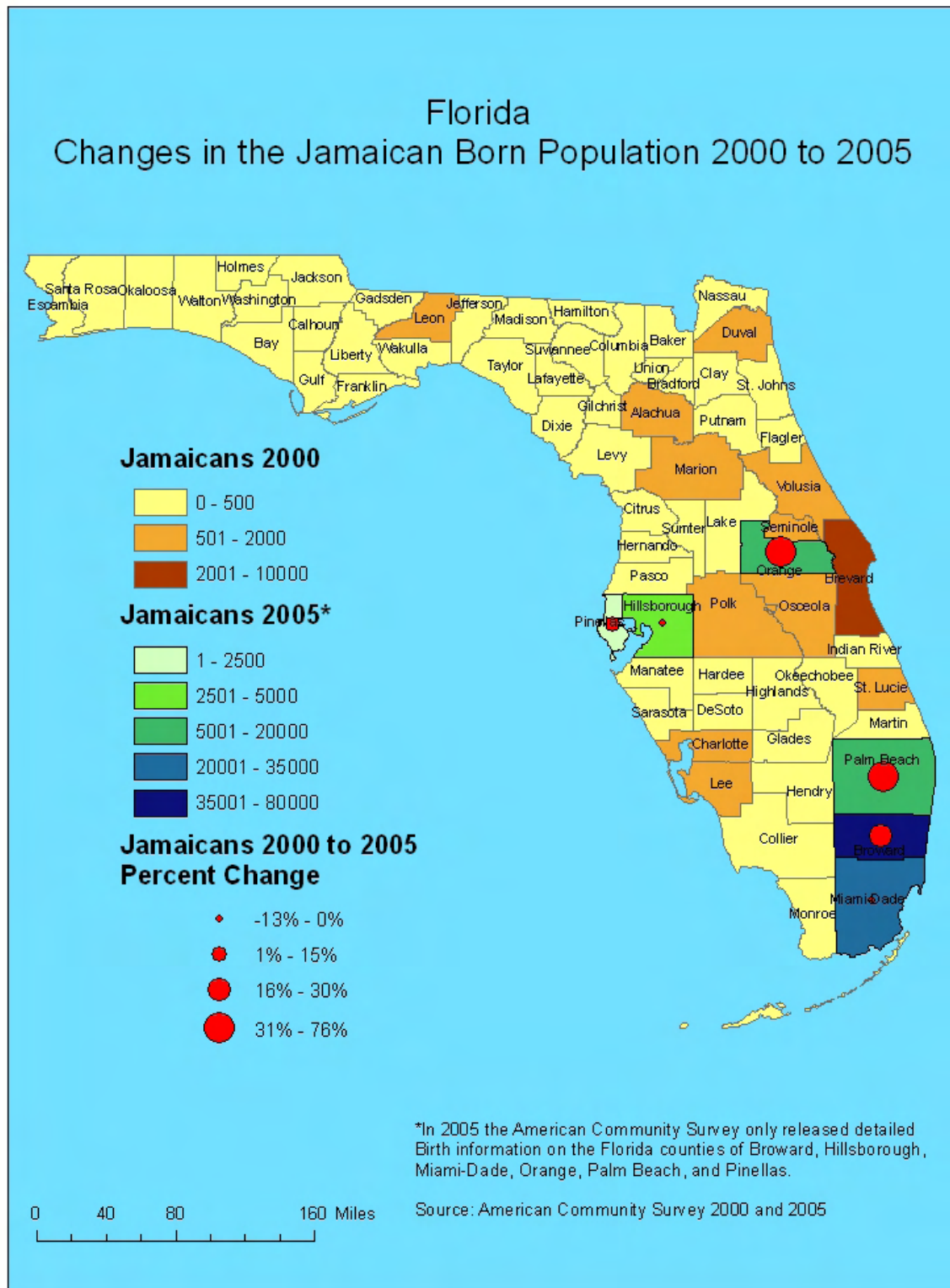




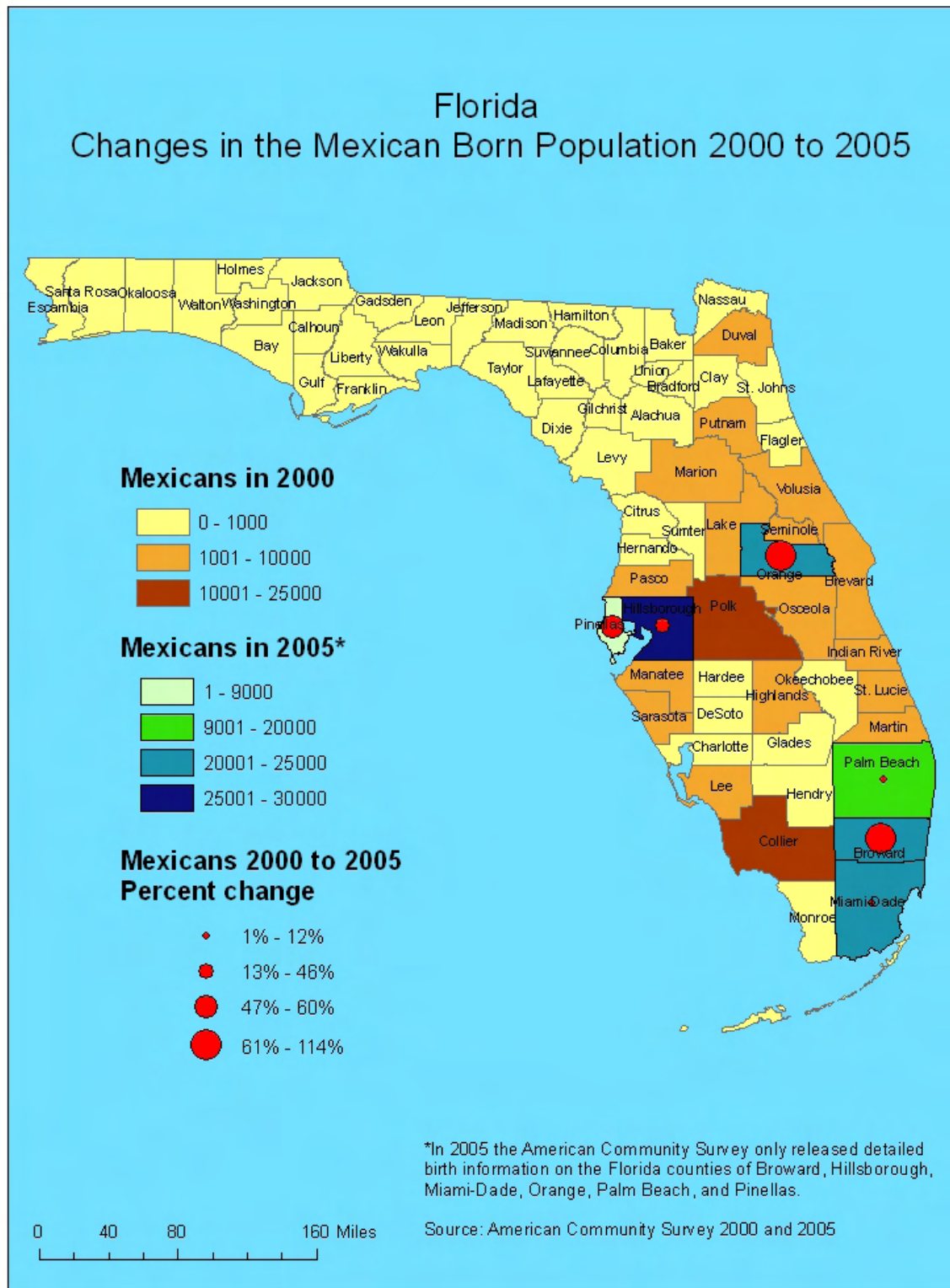
Map A-2



Map A-3



Map A-4



## Appendix B: Immigrants in Florida's Metropolitan Areas

Table B-1 shows the distribution of the immigrant population in each Florida metropolitan area by the region of birth place. There are large variations between metropolitan areas. In the metropolitan areas of Miami-Hialeah, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach, and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, Caribbean immigrants are more than a third of the total, while they are much less represented in other metropolitan areas (as low as one percent in Pensacola).

Latin America is a much more consistent region of origin across the metropolitan areas, ranging from 16 percent (Punta Gorda) to 55 percent (Naples). Thirteen of the twenty metropolitan areas have a Latin American immigrant population making up between 20 percent and 40 percent of its overall immigrant population.

In the Fort Walton Beach, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Pensacola, and Tallahassee metropolitan areas at least 30% of the foreign-born residents are from Asian countries, and except for Tallahassee these areas also have notable proportions of residents from European countries. Other areas with Europeans comprising over 30% of their foreign-born residents are Panama City, Punta Gorda, and Sarasota.

**Table B-1**  
**Percent of Foreign-Born Populations by Region of Birth, by Metropolitan Areas, 2005**

	<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>Latin America</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Canada /Mexico</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Oceania</b>
Daytona Beach	17%	31%	27%	14%	8%	3%	0%
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	41%	35%	10%	8%	5%	2%	0%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	25%	43%	17%	8%	6%	1%	0%
Fort Pierce	20%	42%	20%	7%	11%	0%	0%
Fort Walton Beach	7%	29%	25%	34%	3%	1%	1%
Gainesville	8%	21%	17%	35%	6%	10%	2%
Jacksonville	11%	20%	29%	31%	3%	5%	0%
Lakeland-Winterhaven	17%	53%	11%	12%	6%	1%	0%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay	28%	17%	21%	25%	6%	4%	0%
Miami-Hialeah	59%	34%	4%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Naples	20%	55%	16%	3%	5%	1%	0%
Ocala	12%	43%	18%	12%	12%	3%	0%
Orlando	28%	37%	12%	16%	4%	4%	0%
Panama City	2%	29%	34%	20%	13%	2%	0%
Pensacola	1%	22%	27%	44%	4%	2%	0%
Punta Gorda	23%	16%	33%	17%	10%	0%	1%
Sarasota	9%	33%	36%	10%	10%	2%	0%
Tallahassee	14%	24%	11%	42%	6%	3%	1%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	21%	30%	22%	17%	7%	3%	0%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	35%	37%	15%	7%	4%	1%	0%
Total	39%	35%	12%	9%	4%	2%	0%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Table B-2 shows the percentage of immigrants who are naturalized in each metropolitan area as well as the percentages that are male and female. Only eight of the twenty metropolitan areas showed an increase in the percentage of the immigrant population being naturalized in the 2000 to 2005 period.

Table B-2 also demonstrates the shifts in percent of males and females in these metropolitan areas over the five year time span. Although in most areas the shifts in gender balance are relatively minor, we call the reader's attention to the Fort Walton Beach, Gainesville, Panama City and Tallahassee areas, which all experienced relatively dramatic shifts in the ratio of immigrant males to immigrant females.

Table B-2  
Percent of Foreign-Born Population by Naturalization and by Gender in Florida Metropolitan Areas, 2000 and 2005

	Naturalized Citizen			Not a Citizen			Male		Female	
	2000	2005	Change	2000	2005	Change	2000	2005	2000	2005
Daytona Beach	52.2%	44.6%	-7.6%	47.8%	55.4%	7.6%	47.2%	45.0%	52.8%	55.0%
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	44.5%	44.8%	<b>0.4%</b>	55.5%	55.1%	-0.4%	46.8%	47.7%	53.2%	52.3%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	36.6%	29.7%	-6.9%	63.4%	70.3%	6.9%	52.7%	53.4%	47.3%	46.6%
Fort Pierce	44.3%	47.0%	<b>2.7%</b>	55.7%	53.0%	-2.7%	51.2%	48.1%	48.8%	51.9%
Fort Walton Beach	68.7%	44.9%	-23.8%	31.3%	55.1%	23.8%	31.3%	41.1%	68.7%	58.9%
Gainesville	38.0%	34.8%	-3.2%	62.0%	65.2%	3.2%	46.7%	54.3%	53.3%	45.7%
Jacksonville	49.5%	50.5%	<b>1.0%</b>	50.5%	49.5%	-1.0%	45.6%	47.9%	54.4%	52.1%
Lakeland-Winterhaven	36.6%	37.0%	<b>0.4%</b>	63.4%	63.0%	-0.4%	51.3%	51.6%	48.7%	48.4%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay	60.0%	54.2%	-5.8%	40.0%	45.8%	5.8%	42.9%	47.0%	57.1%	53.0%
Miami-Hialeah	46.6%	48.5%	<b>2.0%</b>	53.4%	51.5%	-2.0%	47.0%	47.4%	53.0%	52.6%
Naples	31.5%	33.3%	<b>1.8%</b>	68.5%	66.7%	-1.8%	55.0%	55.6%	45.0%	44.4%
Ocala	56.0%	53.9%	-2.2%	44.0%	46.1%	2.2%	47.4%	44.2%	52.6%	55.8%
Orlando	44.1%	41.4%	-2.6%	55.9%	58.5%	2.6%	49.7%	51.4%	50.3%	48.6%
Panama City	55.5%	41.9%	-13.6%	44.5%	58.1%	13.6%	33.5%	52.5%	66.5%	47.5%
Pensacola	55.3%	45.8%	-9.5%	44.7%	54.2%	9.5%	40.7%	37.4%	59.3%	62.6%
Punta Gorda	64.4%	68.9%	<b>4.5%</b>	35.6%	30.4%	-5.2%	41.8%	42.5%	58.2%	57.5%
Sarasota	43.9%	40.9%	-3.0%	56.1%	59.1%	3.0%	48.8%	47.8%	51.2%	52.2%
Tallahassee	39.1%	38.0%	-1.1%	60.9%	62.0%	1.1%	46.7%	54.8%	53.3%	45.2%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	45.3%	48.8%	<b>3.5%</b>	54.7%	51.1%	-3.6%	48.0%	48.4%	52.0%	51.6%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	43.1%	38.4%	-4.7%	56.9%	61.6%	4.7%	49.4%	48.1%	50.6%	51.9%
Not identifiable or not in an MSA	39.2%	38.5%	-0.7%	60.8%	61.5%	0.7%	56.2%	54.9%	43.8%	45.1%
Total	45.3%	45.0%	-0.3%	54.7%	55.0%	0.3%	47.9%	48.6%	52.1%	51.4%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Table B-3 shows the percentages of immigrant residents in each of three age groups in Florida's largest metropolitan areas. Among the 20 metropolitan areas, only seven experienced a decrease in the percent of immigrants in the working age group of 16 to 59 years from 2000 to 2005. On average for all the metropolitan areas, the percent of immigrants in this age group increased 1.1%.

Table B-3  
Percent of Foreign-Born Population by Age in Florida Metropolitan Areas, 2000 and 2005

	Under 16			16 - 59			Over 60		
	2000	2005	Change	2000	2005	Change	2000	2005	Change
Daytona Beach	6.6%	6.1%	-0.5%	59.0%	65.0%	6.0%	34.4%	28.9%	-5.5%
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	9.3%	8.5%	-0.8%	72.4%	74.6%	2.3%	18.3%	16.9%	-1.5%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	8.3%	9.0%	0.7%	64.5%	70.5%	6.0%	27.2%	20.6%	-6.6%
Fort Pierce	6.7%	5.6%	-1.2%	64.7%	72.5%	7.9%	28.6%	21.9%	-6.7%
Fort Walton Beach	6.0%	8.4%	2.4%	71.1%	74.1%	3.0%	22.9%	17.5%	-5.4%
Gainesville	7.0%	6.7%	-0.3%	82.6%	79.6%	<b>-3.0%</b>	10.3%	13.7%	3.3%
Jacksonville	9.6%	8.7%	-1.0%	74.3%	71.4%	<b>-2.9%</b>	16.0%	19.9%	3.9%
Lakeland-Winterhaven	12.4%	12.5%	0.1%	69.6%	68.8%	<b>-0.8%</b>	18.0%	18.7%	0.7%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay	5.5%	8.2%	2.7%	63.2%	64.9%	1.7%	31.3%	26.9%	-4.4%
Miami-Hialeah	8.2%	6.8%	-1.4%	68.0%	67.0%	<b>-1.0%</b>	23.8%	26.3%	2.4%
Naples	11.8%	7.0%	-4.8%	70.6%	73.0%	2.4%	17.7%	20.1%	2.4%
Ocala	5.7%	5.4%	-0.3%	54.4%	58.4%	4.0%	39.9%	36.2%	-3.8%
Orlando	9.7%	8.5%	-1.2%	75.4%	76.4%	1.1%	15.0%	15.1%	0.1%
Panama City	4.8%	3.7%	-1.2%	69.6%	77.5%	7.9%	25.5%	18.8%	-6.7%
Pensacola	6.3%	7.5%	1.2%	73.6%	69.9%	<b>-3.6%</b>	20.1%	22.6%	2.5%
Punta Gorda	4.4%	2.0%	-2.4%	42.4%	51.0%	8.6%	53.2%	47.0%	-6.2%
Sarasota	9.4%	11.3%	1.8%	56.5%	58.4%	2.0%	34.1%	30.3%	-3.8%
Tallahassee	7.7%	12.4%	4.8%	81.9%	73.6%	<b>-8.3%</b>	10.4%	13.9%	3.5%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	8.3%	7.6%	-0.7%	65.7%	68.9%	3.2%	26.1%	23.5%	-2.5%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	9.4%	9.7%	0.3%	68.2%	70.6%	2.4%	22.4%	19.7%	-2.7%
Total	8.6%	7.8%	-0.8%	68.8%	69.8%	1.1%	22.6%	22.3%	-0.3%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

## Appendix C: Immigrant Labor Force in Florida's metropolitan areas

On average in the twenty metropolitan areas the percent of the labor force that is immigrant is nearly 24 percent. In four metropolitan areas the immigrant percentage of the workforce exceeds this average (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach, Miami-Hialeah, Naples, and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach). These same four metropolitan areas also are home to the highest percent of immigrants in the labor force who are self-employed. Immigrant workers in the Panama City area have the lowest median wage, while immigrants in Jacksonville earn the highest median wage of all the metropolitan areas.

**Table C-1**  
**Florida Labor Force by Metropolitan Areas, 2005 (in thousands)**

	Labor force			Self-employed			Median Wage	
	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	% of labor force	Non-immigrant	Immigrant	% of self-employed	Non-immigrant	Immigrant
Daytona Beach	206	18	7.9%	32	4	11.6%	\$ 19,355	\$ 19,355
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	571	345	<b>37.6%</b>	85	59	<b>40.9%</b>	\$ 27,504	\$ 22,411
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	208	47	18.4%	35	8	18.0%	\$ 23,429	\$ 17,317
Fort Pierce	143	27	15.8%	29	4	13.1%	\$ 20,781	\$ 19,355
Fort Walton Beach	84	7	7.4%	10	1	9.9%	\$ 24,957	\$ 16,299
Gainesville	102	13	11.5%	11	1	5.8%	\$ 20,373	\$ 15,280
Jacksonville	565	54	8.8%	68	7	9.1%	\$ 25,467	<b>\$ 24,448</b>
Lakeland-Winterhaven	220	28	11.3%	29	4	10.9%	\$ 21,392	\$ 18,336
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay	224	22	9.0%	26	3	10.1%	\$ 22,411	\$ 18,336
Miami-Hialeah	421	689	<b>62.1%</b>	56	123	<b>68.6%</b>	\$ 24,448	\$ 20,373
Naples	92	42	<b>31.1%</b>	24	7	<b>21.7%</b>	\$ 25,467	\$ 19,864
Ocala	119	8	6.2%	22	3	11.3%	\$ 18,336	\$ 20,373
Orlando	795	200	20.1%	98	30	23.7%	\$ 24,448	\$ 18,336
Panama City	74	6	7.1%	10	1	10.9%	\$ 19,049	<b>\$ 14,261</b>
Pensacola	195	8	4.0%	28	1	4.6%	\$ 20,373	\$ 15,280
Punta Gorda	56	5	8.4%	10	2	15.0%	\$ 20,373	\$ 15,280
Sarasota	261	39	12.9%	53	9	14.0%	\$ 21,494	\$ 18,336
Tallahassee	147	9	6.0%	16	1	8.3%	\$ 23,429	\$ 15,280
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	1098	173	13.6%	147	24	14.2%	\$ 24,448	<b>\$ 20,373</b>
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	441	149	<b>25.3%</b>	75	29	<b>27.8%</b>	\$ 25,467	\$ 19,966
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>23.9%</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>\$ 23,429</b>	<b>\$ 20,068</b>

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Table C-2 shows what percent of the immigrant populations in the 20 metropolitan areas have no school experience, some school but no high school diploma, a high school diploma plus some college, a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree or more. Although the average of very poorly educated immigrants in all of the metropolitan areas is only 1.1%, over two percent of the immigrants in Naples, Fort Pierce, and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach have no school completed.

The average percent of immigrants with a Bachelor's or advanced degree is nearly 25 percent. In Gainesville and Tallahassee over 35 percent of the immigrant populations have advanced degrees. These are also the areas where over half of the immigrant residents hold a Bachelor's or higher advanced degree. In six other metropolitan areas 25 percent or more immigrants hold a Bachelor's or higher degree (Daytona Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Ocala and Tampa).

Table C-2  
Education level of immigrant labor force by metropolitan area, 2005

	No school completed	No HS Diploma	HS diploma or associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree or higher
Daytona Beach	0.1%	18.9%	43.4%	26.9%	10.6%
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	1.0%	14.2%	57.5%	18.6%	8.8%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	1.9%	35.7%	45.8%	8.6%	8.0%
Fort Pierce	<b>2.6%</b>	32.8%	42.3%	11.4%	10.9%
Fort Walton Beach	0.8%	45.9%	41.4%	5.4%	6.5%
Gainesville	0.0%	0.9%	44.5%	18.5%	<b>36.1%</b>
Jacksonville	0.8%	11.4%	55.7%	20.3%	11.9%
Lakeland-Winterhaven	1.3%	28.0%	57.9%	7.9%	4.9%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay	0.0%	17.8%	50.6%	19.5%	12.1%
Miami-Hialeah	0.7%	20.6%	54.7%	16.1%	8.0%
Naples	<b>3.1%</b>	37.5%	42.0%	11.1%	6.2%
Ocala	0.0%	17.6%	56.2%	13.0%	13.2%
Orlando	1.7%	19.8%	55.8%	15.0%	7.7%
Panama City	1.2%	22.9%	66.7%	7.0%	2.2%
Pensacola	0.8%	23.4%	47.5%	23.6%	4.7%
Punta Gorda	0.0%	16.9%	65.9%	8.3%	9.0%
Sarasota	1.2%	24.6%	50.6%	15.6%	7.9%
Tallahassee	0.8%	15.7%	26.4%	18.4%	<b>38.6%</b>
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	0.9%	21.0%	53.2%	16.1%	8.9%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	<b>2.4%</b>	21.7%	55.5%	12.3%	8.1%
<b>Average of all the metropolitan area</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey



Table C-3 shows the percentage of immigrants working in industries in which they are overrepresented for that metropolitan area. The left column shows the immigrant percentage of the area's entire labor force, while the right column shows it for overrepresented industries.

**Table C-3**  
**Immigrant Labor Force as Percent of Total Labor Force by Industry, 2005**

<b>Metropolitan Areas</b>	<b>Industries</b>	<b>Percent of Total Labor Force</b>
Daytona Beach (7.9% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	32.5%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	14.1%
	Information, Communication	10.8%
	Construction	9.6%
	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	8.6%
	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	8.6%
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach (37.6% of total labor force)	Other Services, except public administration	52.1%
	Manufacturing	42.8%
	Construction	42.3%
	Transportation, Warehousing	40.9%
	Wholesale Trade	40.5%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	38.2%
	Education, Health, Social Services	38.0%
	Retail Trade	37.9%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral (18.4% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	62.7%
	Construction	33.0%
	Manufacturing	20.2%
	Education, Health, Social Services	19.0%
Fort Pierce (15.8% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	62.0%
	Construction	24.0%
	Other Services, except public administration	20.2%
	Information, Communication	17.1%
	Wholesale Trade	15.8%
Fort Walton Beach (7.4% of total labor force)	Construction	23.5%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	14.0%
Gainesville (11.5% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	41.9%
	Construction	16.6%
	Retail Trade	14.0%
	Education, Health, Social Services	14.0%
	Wholesale Trade	12.0%
Jacksonville (8.8% of total labor force)	Manufacturing	14.1%
	Other Services, except public administration	12.9%
	Utilities	11.7%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	11.0%
	Construction	10.9%
	Active Duty Military	10.5%
	Education, Health, Social Services	9.6%
	Transportation, Warehousing	8.8%

Lakeland-Winterhaven (11.3% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	38.7%
	Construction	20.7%
	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	18.7%
	Manufacturing	15.2%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay (9% of total labor force)	Wholesale Trade	14.7%
	Education, Health, Social Services	11.9%
	Other Services, except public administration	10.5%
	Manufacturing	10.2%
	Construction	10.1%
	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	9.6%
Miami-Hialeah (62.1% of total labor force)	Other Services, except public administration	77.6%
	Manufacturing	74.0%
	Construction	73.9%
	Wholesale Trade	70.8%
	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	65.7%
	Transportation, Warehousing	65.5%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	63.4%
Naples (31.1% of total labor force)	Utilities	81.2%
	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	54.1%
	Construction	47.2%
	Other Services, except public administration	43.6%
	Wholesale Trade	35.4%
	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	33.4%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	32.9%
Ocala (6.2% of total labor force)	Construction	17.2%
	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	12.2%
	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	8.8%
	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	7.4%
Orlando (20.1% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	43.9%
	Construction	27.6%
	Transportation, Warehousing	23.9%
	Other Services, except public administration	23.5%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	23.2%
Panama City (7.1% of total labor force)	Wholesale Trade	20.2%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	16.2%
	Construction	13.4%
	Active Duty Military	10.5%
	Other Services, except public administration	10.4%
	Manufacturing	9.8%
Pensacola (4% of total labor force)	Construction	9.9%
	Retail Trade	5.7%
	Manufacturing	5.3%
Punta Gorda (8.4% of total labor force)	Education, Health, Social Services	18.3%
	Information, Communication	15.9%
	Other Services, except public administration	11.1%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	10.4%

	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	8.7%
Sarasota (12.9% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	72.3%
	Manufacturing	20.6%
	Construction	17.1%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	15.5%
Tallahassee (6% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	32.7%
	Education, Health, Social Services	11.9%
	Manufacturing	10.1%
	Information, Communication	8.1%
	Other Services, except public administration	7.6%
	Construction	7.2%
Tampa-St. Petersburg- Clearwater (13.6% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	62.7%
	Manufacturing	18.0%
	Construction	17.6%
	Transportation, Warehousing	15.9%
	Other Services, except public administration	15.2%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	14.8%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach (25.3% of total labor force)	Agriculture, Forest, Fishing, Hunting	64.3%
	Construction	38.9%
	Other Services, except public administration	38.8%
	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service	30.3%
	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	25.4%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey

Table C-4 lists the occupations where immigrants are overrepresented as a percentage of the labor force for each metropolitan area.

Table C-4  
Immigrant Labor Force as Percent of Total Labor Force by Occupation, 2005

Metropolitan Areas	Occupations	Percent of Total Labor Force
Daytona Beach (7.9% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	40.5%
	Architecture and Engineering	28.7%
	Computer and Mathematical	25.9%
	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media	16.2%
	Construction and Extraction	11.7%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	11.7%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	10.8%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	10.8%
	Management	10.7%
	Personal Care and Service	9.1%
	Food Prep and Serving	8.3%
	Business and Financial	8.3%
Fort Lauderdale- Hollywood-Pompano Beach (37.6% of total labor force)	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	66.4%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	52.7%
	Construction and Extraction	51.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	49.9%
	Production	47.9%
	Personal Care and Service	46.0%
	Food Prep and Serving	44.8%
	Transportation and Material	42.0%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	40.6%
Fort Myers-Cape Coral (18.4% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	70.8%
	Construction and Extraction	43.5%
	Military	41.3%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	33.0%
	Production	28.6%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	24.8%
	Personal Care and Service	18.5%
Fort Pierce (15.8% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	60.3%
	Military	35.9%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	32.9%
	Construction and Extraction	27.2%
	Community and Social Services	26.9%
	Production	24.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	20.7%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	19.7%
	Food Prep and Serving	16.7%
Fort Walton Beach (7.4% of total labor force)	Construction and Extraction	22.8%
	Production	21.5%
	Food Prep and Serving	18.7%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	12.5%
	Business and Financial	9.0%

Gainesville (11.5% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	80.7%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	37.2%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	23.2%
	Education, Training, Library	22.5%
	Transportation and Material	22.2%
	Computer and Mathematical	17.2%
	Construction and Extraction	13.8%
Jacksonville (8.8% of total labor force)	Life, Physical and Social Science	23.7%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	17.5%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	15.6%
	Production	13.6%
	Computer and Mathematical	12.1%
	Construction and Extraction	12.0%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	11.3%
	Food Prep and Serving	10.0%
Lakeland-Winterhaven (11.3% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	69.4%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	36.9%
	Military	26.7%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	22.4%
	Construction and Extraction	21.6%
	Production	17.4%
	Architecture and Engineering	14.2%
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa-Palm Bay (9% of total labor force)	Construction and Extraction	16.4%
	Community and Social Services	16.3%
	Production	13.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	13.0%
	Personal Care and Service	12.8%
	Education, Training, Library	11.5%
	Food Prep and Serving	10.8%
	Computer and Mathematical	10.7%
	Military	9.8%
	Sales	9.2%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	9.0%
Miami-Hialeah (62.1% of total labor force)	Production	81.6%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	81.2%
	Construction and Extraction	78.1%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	72.0%
	Transportation and Material	70.8%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	67.9%
	Personal Care and Service	66.3%
	Architecture and Engineering	65.3%
	Food Prep and Serving	64.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	63.0%
Naples (31.1% of total labor force)	Military	91.1%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	62.3%
	Construction and Extraction	58.2%
	Production	56.3%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	56.1%

	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	51.9%
	Transportation and Material	43.4%
	Food Prep and Serving	39.7%
Ocala (6.2% of total labor force)	Business and Financial	19.6%
	Construction and Extraction	17.0%
	Military	12.4%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	8.7%
	Legal	7.7%
	Personal Care and Service	7.3%
	Community and Social Services	7.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	7.2%
	Architecture and Engineering	7.1%
	Computer and Mathematical	6.8%
	Management	6.4%
Orlando (20.1% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	58.1%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	46.2%
	Construction and Extraction	31.0%
	Production	27.3%
	Personal Care and Service	26.2%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	24.4%
	Transportation and Material	24.4%
	Military	23.1%
	Food Prep and Serving	22.1%
	Computer and Mathematical	20.2%
Panama City (7.1% of total labor force)	Food Prep and Serving	22.2%
	Construction and Extraction	16.7%
	Computer and Mathematical	12.4%
	Architecture and Engineering	12.2%
	Personal Care and Service	12.1%
	Production	9.7%
	Management	8.6%
Pensacola (4% of total labor force)	Construction and Extraction	10.6%
	Production	8.0%
	Legal	7.6%
	Food Prep and Serving	5.9%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	5.5%
	Community and Social Services	5.4%
	Management	4.7%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	4.5%
Punta Gorda (8.4% of total labor force)	Production	23.9%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	22.8%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	16.5%
	Community and Social Services	16.5%
	Education, Training, Library	15.8%
	Food Prep and Serving	15.4%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	9.7%
Sarasota (12.9% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	66.8%
	Production	27.1%

force)	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	20.6%
	Construction and Extraction	20.5%
	Personal Care and Service	16.6%
	Food Prep and Serving	14.2%
	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media	13.8%
	Transportation and Material	13.0%
Tallahassee (6% of total labor force)	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	45.8%
	Education, Training, Library	17.2%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	16.6%
	Computer and Mathematical	12.4%
	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media	11.4%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	9.5%
	Construction and Extraction	8.7%
	Production	8.2%
Tampa-St. Petersburg- Clearwater (13.6% of total labor force)	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	7.0%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	73.1%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	26.5%
	Production	23.3%
	Construction and Extraction	22.2%
	Personal Care and Service	17.4%
	Transportation and Material	17.0%
	Military	17.0%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	17.0%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	14.2%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach (25.3% of total labor force)	Computer and Mathematical	14.1%
	Building, Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	60.9%
	Farming, Fishing, Forestry	59.1%
	Construction and Extraction	43.3%
	Food Prep and Serving	34.3%
	Production	33.8%
	Personal Care and Service	31.7%
	Military	29.4%
	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical and Support	28.9%
	Transportation and Material	28.1%
	Community and Social Services	27.4%
	Installation, Maintenance and Repair	26.7%
	Life, Physical and Social Science	26.3%

Source: 2000 data are from Decennial Census; 2005 data are from the American Community Survey