

The State of Foreign-Born Workers New York State • Long Island

422,506

76,564

50.19% 49.81% Women Men

Foreign-Born Population Limited English Proficient Foreign-Born by Gender

Place of Birth Africa

Asia

26.37%

Europe

10.79%

Latin America

60.31%

North America

0.67%

Highlights

- Long Island moved from 6th place in 2012 to 3rd place in 2021. Conditions for Foreign-born New Yorkers in this region improved significantly with lower poverty and unemployment rates than in 2012.
- Conditions improved for all foreign-born with lower and higher educational attainment. Poverty level fell for segments of the population who are English proficient. One exception to this trend is observed in poverty rates for non-English proficient who have college degrees and who experienced six percentage points higher poverty rates in 2021 than in 2012.
- Despite cutting their unemployment rates by almost half, non-English proficient foreign-born residents who are college degree holders experienced higher poverty rates in 2021.
- Higher poverty rates and lower unemployment rates for college degree holders may signal underemployment due to limited English proficiency.
- Limited English proficient residents who are at the low rung of the educational attainment ladder experienced lower poverty rates in 2021 which may signal that this group is more skilled in jobs that do not require English proficiency than their counterparts who are college degree holders

Ranking

Regional Score Card¹

Regional Rank²

Poverty Rate

Unemployment Rate

2	0	1	2

-0.07

6th Place

Foreign-Born	Native Born
19.19%	9.40%
5.41%	5.93%

2021

0.41

3rd Place

Foreign-Born	Native-Born
6.06%	9.07%
4.44%	4.92%



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Effects of Low Educational Attainment & English Proficiency: Outcomes of Foreign-Born New Yorkers Who Are Holders of High School Diploma or Less

Total Population 184,649	English Proficient 127,407	Non-English Proficient 57,242	
		2012	2021
Poverty Rates for All		27.22%	16.23%
Poverty Rates for English Proficient		23.89%	14.80%
Poverty Rates for Non-English Proficient		32.59%	20.02%
Unemployment Rates for All		5.85%	3.73%
Unemployment Rates for English Proficient		5.86%	3.66%
Unemployment Rates for Non-English Proficient		5.82%	3.93%

Effects of High Educational Attainment & English Proficiency: Outcomes of Foreign-Born New Yorkers Who Are Holders of College Degrees

Total Population 152,775	English Proficient 142,880	Non-E	English Proficient 9,895
		2012	2021
Poverty Rates for All		8.21%	5.00%
Poverty Rates for English Proficient		7.67%	4.11%
Poverty Rates for Non-English Proficient		14.83%	20.90%
Unemployment Rates for All		3.60%	3.02%
Unemployment Rates for English Proficient		3.53%	3.06%
Unemployment Rates for Non-English Proficient		4.45%	2.37%

Long Island includes the counties: Nassau and Suffolk.

The source of data is the American Community Survey, 2021, one-year data. The data includes all foreign-born individuals who are 16-64 years of age.

¹ Scorecard is calculated based on the performance of the region against seven economic indicators; income, poverty, unemployment, working poor, full-time work, homeownership, and rent burden. The region's performance is calculated based on the differences in the seven economic outcomes between foreign-born and native-born New Yorkers. We calculate a standardized score for seven outcomes using the mean and standard deviation of each outcome across the state. Then, we average these scores for seven scores to compose one general index score indicating the overall disparity between foreign-born and native-born New Yorkers in each region. Higher index scores can be interpreted as positive and lower scores can be interpreted as negative.

² Rank represents the performance of the region when compared to the other nine regions of New York State. 1 = best performer; 10 = worst performer.