

# The State of Foreign-Born Workers New York State • Capital Region

57,824

Foreign-Born Population 3,713

Limited English Proficient 55.52% 44.48%

Women Men

Foreign-Born by Gender

Place of Birth Africa 6.23% Asia

40.19%

Europe

18.50%

Latin America

31.10%

North America

3.93%

### **Highlights**

- In 2021, poverty rates for foreign-born Capital Region residents decreased by 0.86 percentage points from rates recorded in 2012.
- Foreign-born residents have higher poverty rates than their native-born counterparts. The disparity in poverty rates between foreign and native-born has narrowed slightly in 2021 when compared to the 2012 rates.
- Low educational attainment and low English proficiency hurt foreign-born New Yorkers in this region and increase their poverty rates.
- Trends over time show that poverty rates in 2021 for the foreign-born with low educational attainment decreased by 6.07% from their 2012 rates. Unemployment rates also dropped by 2.66% in 2021 compared to recorded 2012 rates.
- Compared to the 2012 rates, poverty rates in 2021 for all highly educated foreign-born residents rose by 6.56 percentage points. The rate increased by 6.93 percentage points for the English proficient and by 7.52 points for the non-English proficient.
- Limited English proficiency worsened rates of unemployment for foreign-born New Yorkers with high educational attainment.

### Ranking

Regional Score Card<sup>1</sup>

Regional Rank<sup>2</sup>

Poverty Rate

**Unemployment Rate** 

| 2012      |  |
|-----------|--|
| 0.34      |  |
| 4th Place |  |

| Fo | reign-Born | Native Born |
|----|------------|-------------|
|    | 16.62%     | 14.35%      |
|    | 5.03%      | 5.29%       |

#### 2021

0.40

2nd Place

| Foreign-Born |        | Native-Born |  |  |
|--------------|--------|-------------|--|--|
|              | 15.76% | 14.16%      |  |  |
|              | 4.35%  | 4.50%       |  |  |



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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

| <b>Total Population</b> 19,824                | English Proficient<br>17,702 | Non-English Proficient<br>2,122 |        |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
|   |                              | 2012                            | 2021   |
| Poverty Rates for All                         |                              | 28.53%                          | 22.46% |
| Poverty Rates for English Proficient          |                              | 21.67%                          | 21.44% |
| Poverty Rates for Non-English Proficient      |                              | 44.27%                          | 30.91% |
| Unemployment Rates for All                    |                              | 6.94%                           | 4.28%  |
| Unemployment Rates for English Proficient     |                              | 6.40%                           | 4.81%  |
| Unemployment Rates for Non-English Proficient |                              | 8.18%                           | 1.80%  |

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

| Total Population<br>26,124                    | English Proficient<br>293 | Non-English Proficient<br>25,831 |               |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
|   |                           | 2012                             | 2021          |
| Poverty Rates for All                         |                           | 5.49%                            | 12.05%        |
| Poverty Rates for English Proficient          |                           | 4.92%                            | 11.85%        |
| Poverty Rates for Non-English Proficient      |                           | 22.17%                           | 29.69%        |
| Unemployment Rates for All                    |                           | 2.66%                            | 2.70%         |
| Unemployment Rates for English Proficient     |                           | 2.57%                            | 2.77%         |
| Unemployment Rates for Non-English Proficient |                           | 5.52%                            | Not available |

Capital Region counties include Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, and Washington. 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Scorecard is calculated based on the performance of the region against 7 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.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Rank represents the performance of the region when compared to the other nine regions of New York State. 1 = best performer; 10 = worst performer.