

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION INDEX

REGIONAL PORTRAITS OF ECONOMIC OUTCOMES FOR FOREIGN-BORN NEW YORKERS (2012-2021)

INSTITUTE ON IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION RESEARCH & POLICY

<http://www.nyimmigrants.org>

INTRODUCTION

Geographic location matters and so do productive assets! The interaction between geographic location and immigrants' productive assets is the focus of this presentation. This interaction has the power to shape the context of immigrants' lives in New York State. Location interacts with productive assets of immigrants to produce variations in economic outcomes. Where do immigrants fare best, and worst and which regions perform well in integrating foreign-born New Yorkers with different productive assets?

- Using American Community Survey (ACS) data, we explore how place with its economic, social and political forces influence immigrants' economic outcomes.
- We disaggregate data for immigrants who are proficient English language speakers to understand the impact of language proficiency (or lack thereof) on foreign-born New Yorkers' economic outcomes.
- We also disaggregate immigrants' outcomes by level of education to discern how productive assets interact with place to produce a portrait of economic attainment.
- We examine performance over the last 10 years (2012-2021).

Methodology

- An overall score is calculated for each region based on the difference in performance between native and foreign-born along seven indicators: Income, poverty, unemployment, full time work, working poor, homeownership and rent burden.
- The index score for each region is calculated based on the standardization process of getting a z-score for each region. 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 and then averaging 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.
- As some outcomes (e.g., personal income, full-time work, and homeownership) are positive while the rest (e.g., poverty, unemployment, working poor, and rent burden) are negative, we reverse the standard scores for positive outcomes, so that higher index scores can be interpreted as positive and lower scores can be interpreted as negative.

From the score zero, where the disparity of a region/county equates to the state average, higher scores indicate foreign-born New Yorkers are relatively faring better, and lower scores indicate they are relatively faring worse in regions in New York.

Charts show different points in time when foreign-born New Yorkers faced disparities and recorded lower than state average rates in economic integration.

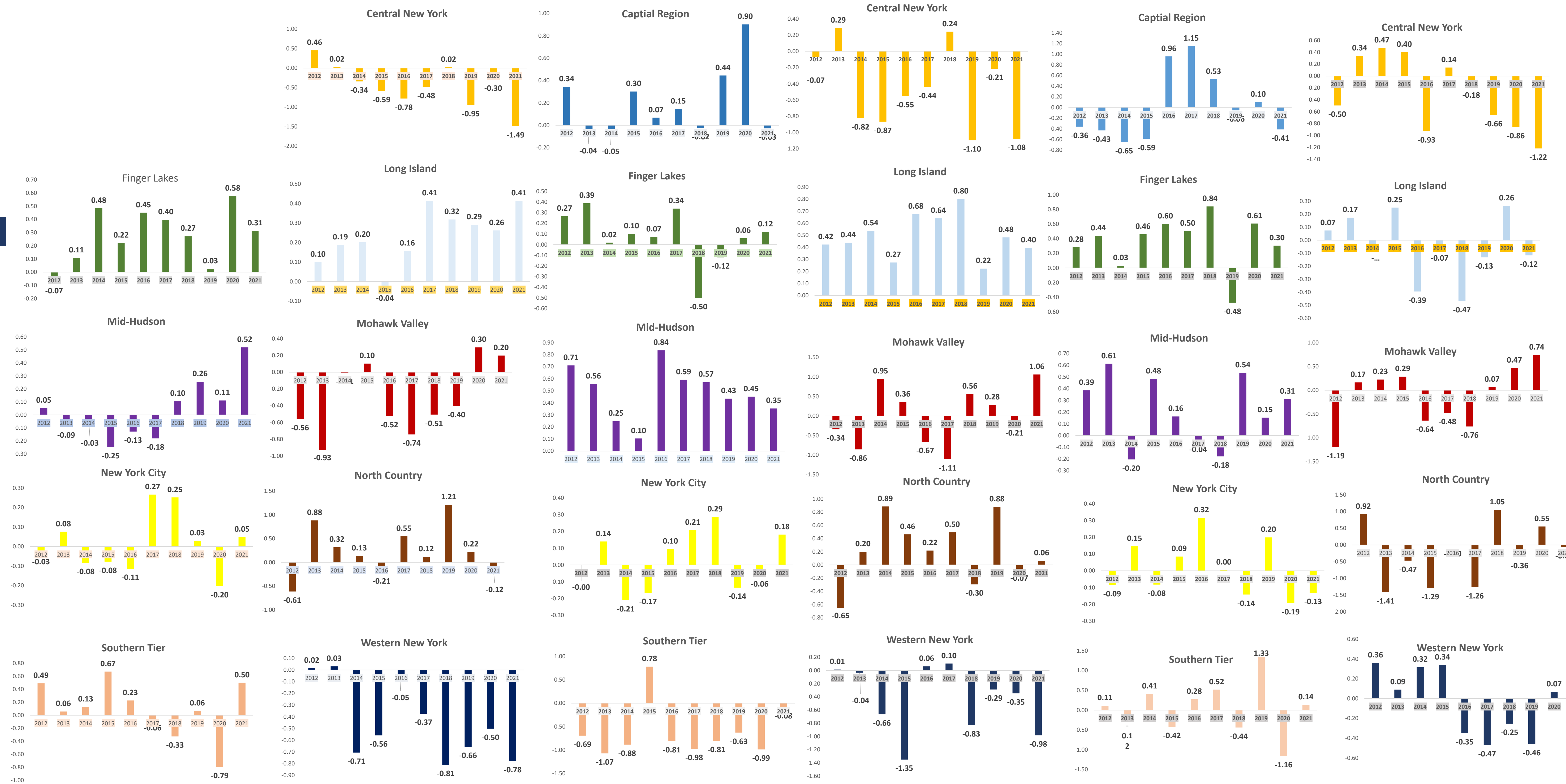
Each region receives a score, and a rank among other regions to describe its performance in integrating immigrants.

WHERE DO FOREIGN-BORN NEW YORKERS FARE BEST AND WORST? HOW DO THE INTERSECTIONS OF PLACE WITH ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SHAPE FOREIGN-BORN NEW YORKERS' ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

Regional Portrait of Immigrants' Outcomes: All English Proficiency and Educational attainment Levels

Regional Portrait of Outcomes: Immigrants who have High English Proficiency and High Educational Attainment

Regional Portrait of Immigrants' Outcomes: Immigrants who have Low English Proficiency and Low Educational Attainment



2021 Regional Rank for All Immigrants Regardless of English Proficiency or Educational Attainment

Region	Rank
Capital Region	4
Central New York	10
Finger Lakes	5
Long Island	3
Mid-Hudson	1
Mohawk Valley	6
New York City	7
North Country	8
Southern Tier	2
Western New York	9

2021 Regional Rank for Immigrants with High English Proficiency and High Educational Attainment

Region	Rank
Capital Region	7
Central New York	10
Finger Lakes	5
Long Island	2
Mid-Hudson	3
Mohawk Valley	1
New York City	4
North Country	6
Southern Tier	8
Western New York	9

2021 Regional Rank for Immigrants with Low English Proficiency and Low Educational Attainment

Region	Rank
Capital Region	9
Central New York	10
Finger Lakes	4
Long Island	7
Mid-Hudson	3
Mohawk Valley	1
New York City	8
North Country	6
Southern Tier	5
Western New York	2

NEW YORK STATE REGIONAL MAP



Source: The New York State Department of Economic Development: <https://esd.ny.gov/local-regional-film-offices-new-york-state>

HIGHLIGHTS

Findings reveal that with few exceptions (e.g., outcomes for immigrants with high English proficiency and high educational attainment in Long Island and Mid Hudson) performance has been uneven over the last 10 years. The curve dips below state average rates within the study period in many regions. This points to the difficulty in maintaining a consistent performance in integrating immigrants. Further study is recommended to understand causality. Is an inconsistent performance a reflection of inconsistent effort or are there other macro or micro level forces at play?

Central New York ranked last in 2021 for all groups examined, a phenomenon that warrants an investigation of the reasons immigrant groups on all sides of the spectrum do not fare well in the region.

Western New York emerges as a region where immigrant New Yorkers on the low end of the language and education spectrum fare well compared to their counterparts on the high end of the same spectrum. The region ranked second and second to last in integrating immigrants who are at the low and high ends of language proficiency and education, respectively.

For Further Information

For further information, please visit the Data Gateway of the Institute on Immigrant Integration Research & Policy at www.nyimmigrants.org.

The Data Gateway also measures the impacts of nativity status with other social identities, including race/ethnicity and gender on economic integration in each region and county of New York State.

For data requests, please contact the Institute on Immigrant Integration Research & Policy