



## ORANGE COUNTY IMMIGRANTS IN 2000: AN OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

With each successive census since 1970, Orange County's foreign-born population has grown larger in both absolute and relative size. The 1970 Census foreign-born population of 84,745 represented 6 percent of the county's population. It grew each successive year reaching 849,899 by the time of the 2000 Census, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the county's population (Table 1). Because these figures focus only on persons born in a foreign country, they do not reveal the broader impacts and implications of immigration on Orange County's demographics. Since coming to this country, many of these persons have formed families and households, had children and grandchildren, and formed relationships involving non-immigrants. Thus, there are many non-immigrants who are, in one form or another, directly tied to an immigrant.

Immigrants are defined as those persons who answered the Census question: "Is this person a citizen of the United States?" by selecting one of the two following answers: "Yes, a U.S. citizen by naturalization" or "No, not a citizen of the United States." The legal immigration status of these persons is not reported to the Census, thus, these data reflect persons who may or may not have arrived in U.S. through legal processes.

To get a sense of the broader magnitude of immigration in Orange County, the population in households headed by a foreign-born person was tabulated from the 2000 Census. This yielded an estimate of approximately 1.16 million persons or 40.8 percent of the county population. As a second way of measuring the broader scope of immigration, all households that had at least one foreign-born person were identified. Approximately 1.33 million persons, or 47 percent of Orange County's population, live in a household with a foreign-born person. This is to say that, in the year 2000, nearly one in every two persons in Orange County is or resides with a foreign-born person.

Recognizing the importance immigration has on Orange County's demographics, this Profile will focus on the county's immigrant population. It will explore such topics as when they immigrated, where they immigrated from, and their socio-economic standing. This issue utilizes data from the Public Use Microdata 5 Percent Sample (PUMS). Therefore, the estimates based on the PUMS data may differ from the counts reported in the comprehensive Summary File 1 survey data.

**Table 1**  
**Number and Percent of Immigrants in Orange County**  
**1970-2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
<b>Population</b>	1,420,386	1,932,709	2,410,556	2,846,289
<b>Immigrants</b>	84,745	257,243	575,108	849,899
<b>Percent</b>	6.0%	13.3%	23.9%	29.9%

Source: U.S. Census, Summary File 3, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000.

### YEAR OF ENTRY

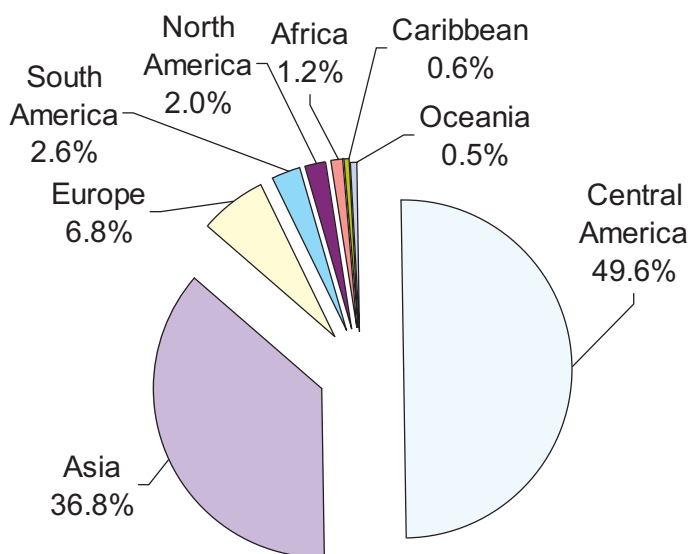
The decade of the 1990s was active for immigration in Orange County. As of April 1, 2000, just over 330,000 foreign-born persons (who entered the U.S. between 1990 and 2000) made Orange County their home, accounting for almost 40 percent of Orange County's immigrant

**Table 2**  
**Orange County Immigrants by Year of Entry, Censuses 1980-2000**

Year of Entry	1980 Census		1990 Census		2000 Census	
1990 to 2000	NA		NA		330,006	38.9%
1980 to 1989	NA		323,100	54.4%	286,725	33.8%
1970 to 1979	138,600	53.6%	157,527	26.5%	135,031	15.9%
Before 1970	119,960	46.4%	113,530	19.1%	96,506	11.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,560</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>594,157</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>848,268</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

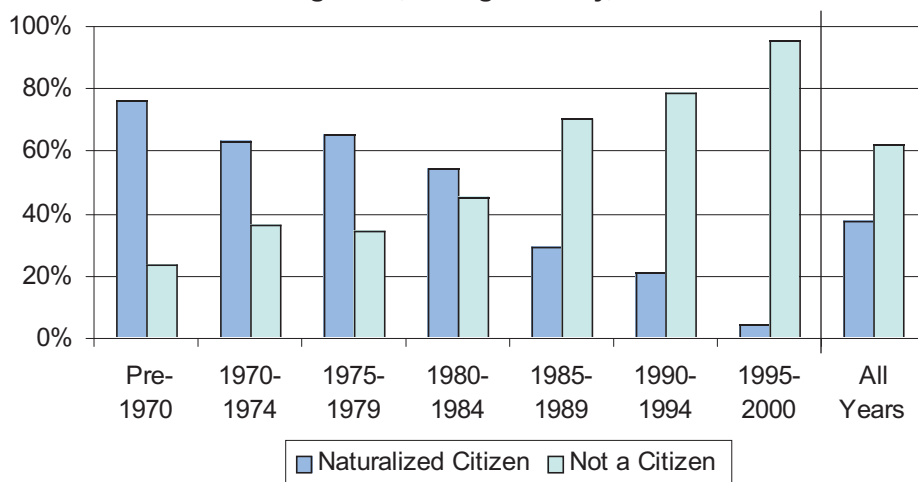
NA: Data not available.  
Source: U.S. Census 1980, 1990, 2000 PUMS.

**Figure 1**  
**Birthplace of Orange County Immigrants, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

**Figure 2**  
**Percent Naturalized of the Foreign-born Population by Year of Immigration, Orange County, Census 2000**



Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

population (Table 2). The 286,725 immigrants, who entered the U.S. between 1980 and 1990, account for 33.8% of the foreign-born population. The data in Table 2 suggests that there was a considerable level of out-migration between 1990 and 2000. Orange County's 1990 foreign-born population declined between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census. According to the 1990 Census, there were 594,157 foreign-born persons in Orange County. In 2000, there were 518,262 persons that had entered the county prior to 1990, a net decrease of 75,895 persons.

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

Half of Orange County's immigrants were born in a Central American country (Figure 1). Parenthetically, most of these persons were born in Mexico. The next largest group of immigrants was born in an Asian country. They represented 36.8 percent of Orange County's foreign-born population in 2000. Most of the Asian born immigrants are from Vietnam, but large numbers were born in China, Korea, and the Philippines. Less than ten percent of Orange County's immigrants were born in each Europe, South America, North America, Africa, the Caribbean and Oceania.

**CITIZENSHIP**

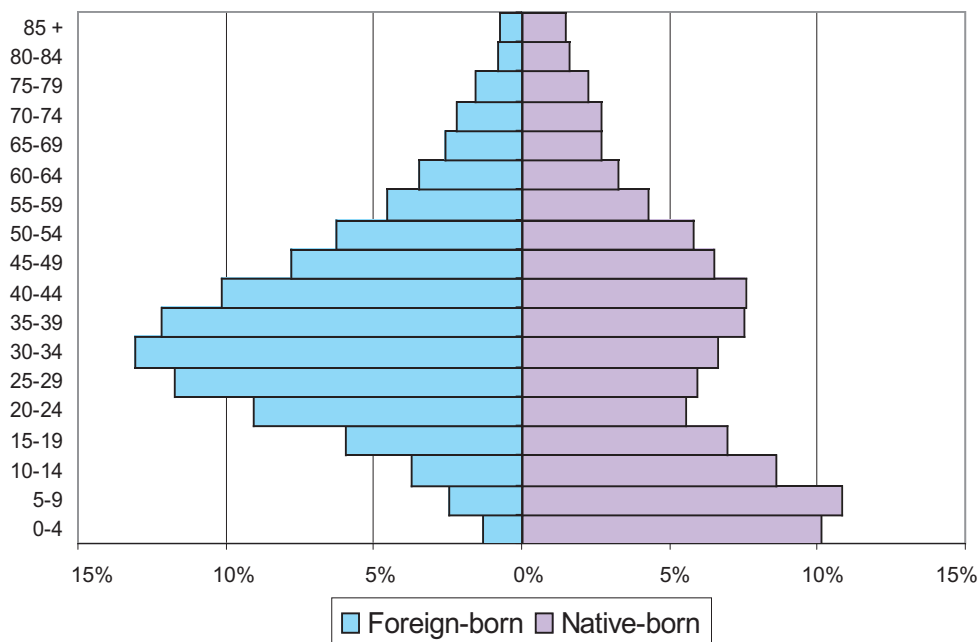
The longer immigrants are in the U.S., the more likely they are to become citizens. Of those that arrived over 30 years ago, over three-quarters have naturalized (76.5%, Figure 2). This percentage declines as tenure declines. For

those that arrived in the 1970s, almost two-thirds have naturalized (64.9%). There is a sharp increase in naturalization rates after fifteen years of residency in the United States. Immigrants who arrived between 1980 and 1984 have naturalized at a rate of 55 percent and those that arrived between 1984 and 1989 have naturalized at a rate of 29 percent. This later figure is somewhat higher than those who arrived between 1990 and 1994 with a rate of 21 percent. With a five-year waiting period before one can naturalize, the 5 percent naturalization rate for those entering after 1995 is expected. In all, 38 percent of Orange County's immigrants have naturalized and become U.S. citizens. This is lower than the rate for both California (39.2%) and the U.S. as a whole (40.3%).

**AGE**

Figure 3 displays the age distribution of the foreign-born and native-born populations in Orange County. As a general rule, persons who migrate tend to be younger. The largest adult age cohort for the foreign-born population is the 30-34 years of age, followed by the 35-39 years of age and 25-29 years of age. For the native born population, the cohorts aged 40-44 years and 35-39 years are the largest adult cohorts. The largest difference between the foreign-born and native-born

**Figure 3**  
**Age Distribution of the Foreign-born and Native-born Populations**  
**Orange County, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

population is in youths ages 0-14. Only 7.5 percent of the foreign-born population is between 0 and 14 years of age; the native-born youth population is four times that size at 29.5 percent. The raw numbers show that the native-born youth population is nine times larger than the immigrant population (588,445 and 63,965 respectively). However, with higher fertility rates among immigrants, larger numbers of these youth are born to foreign-born parents. Consistent with this fact, 34 percent of the population in households headed by a foreign-born person is under 18 .

**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND SIZE**

There is an equal split of homeownership status among the foreign-born population. About half own their home and half rent their home (Table 3). Two-thirds of native-born households are owner-occupied and only a third (33.7%) are renter-occupied. Native-born households account

**Table 3**  
**Homeownership Status for the Foreign-born and Native-born**  
**Populations, Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Owner-Occupied</b>	141,250	49.9%	433,153	66.3%
<b>Renter-Occupied</b>	141,930	50.1%	220,225	33.7%
<b>Total County</b>	<b>283,180</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>653,378</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

for three-quarters (75.4%) of Orange County's owner-occupied households and foreign-born households account for one quarter (24.6%) of owner-occupied households. Foreign-born households represent 39.2 percent of Orange County's renter-occupied households; the native-born population represents 60.8 percent. For all of Orange County, about 60 percent of households are owner-occupied and 40 percent are renter-occupied.

Household size for households with a foreign-born householder ranged from 1 person up to 24 people. Households with a native-born householder ranged from 1 person up to 13 people. The average size of households with a foreign-born householder was 4.1 persons, while the average household size for those with a native-born householder was 2.5.

Two-thirds (66.8%) of foreign-born households are married couple families (Table 4). In contrast, about half (52.0%) of native-born households are married couple families. Native-born nonfamily households outnumber foreign-born nonfamily households by five to one. About 34 percent of native-born households are nonfamily households and only 14.8 percent of foreign-born households are nonfamily

**Table 4**  
**Household and Family Type for Foreign-born and Native-born Populations, Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Married Couple Family</b>	189,080	66.8%	339,904	52.0%
<b>Family with Female Householder</b>	32,826	11.6%	64,502	9.9%
<b>Family with Male Householder</b>	19,565	6.9%	26,129	4.0%
<b>Nonfamily with Female Householder</b>	21,448	7.6%	123,324	18.9%
<b>Nonfamily with Male Householder</b>	20,261	7.2%	99,519	15.2%
<b>Total Orange County</b>	<b>283,180</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>653,378</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

households. Nonfamily households in the U.S. are typically comprised of persons living alone. Fifteen percent of all Orange County households are headed by a single parent. Single females head 10 percent of native-born family households; single males head 4 percent. Single females head almost 12 percent of foreign-born family households and single males head 7 percent.

Table 5 is a summary of the presence of subfamilies within a household. The Census Bureau defines a subfamily as: "A married couple (with or without children) or a single parent with one or more never-married children under the age of 18, residing with and related to the householder, but not including the householder or the householder's spouse." The other Census Bureau definition of a subfamily is "when grown children move back to the parental home with their own children or spouse, they are considered a subfamily." The number of foreign-born households with one or more subfamilies outnumbers the number of native-born households (24,893 and 15,778 respectively). The majority of both foreign-born and native-born households do not have a subfamily present (91.2% and 97.6%). An average of 4.3 percent of all Orange County households contain subfamilies.

## EDUCATION

Forty-two percent (41.7%) of immigrants ages 25 and older have not completed high school (Table 6). In contrast, only 8.5 percent of Orange County's native-born population reported not completing high school. About 3 out of every 4 Orange County residents who have not completed a high school education are immigrants. Over one-third (37.6%) of native-born

**Table 5**  
**Households by Presence of Subfamily for Foreign-born and Native-born Populations, Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>One or More Subfamily in Household</b>	24,893	8.8%	15,778	2.4%
<b>No Subfamily in Household</b>	258,287	91.2%	637,600	97.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>283,180</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>653,378</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

residents over the age of 24 completed high school compared to 15 percent of foreign-born residents. Almost one-quarter (23.6%) of native-born residents and 15.0 percent of foreign-born residents earned a college degree. Another 11.6 percent of native-born residents and 8.0 percent of foreign-born residents earned a graduate degree.

**INCOME**

The median income for foreign-born households is \$40,091, while for native-born residents it is \$65,231. The median income for the County is \$58,820. Roughly, an equal percentage of households (20.6%) have incomes that are between \$50,000 and \$75,000; this is the most common income category for both groups. A total of 28.4 percent of foreign-born households and 41.9 percent of native-born households make over \$75,000 (Figure 4).

**OCCUPATIONS**

The top three industries for foreign-born workers are manufacturing (24.0%); education, health, and social services (14.2%); and professional services (11.6%, Table 7). For native-born workers, the top industries are education, health, and social services (20.1%); manufacturing (13.2%); and professional services (13.1%). Although these three industries account for nearly half of the foreign- and native-born workers, there are some very large differences shown within the detailed data. Nearly 1 out of 4 foreign-born workers (24.0%) are

**Table 6**  
**Highest Level of Education for Population 25 Years and Above**  
**Orange County, 2000**

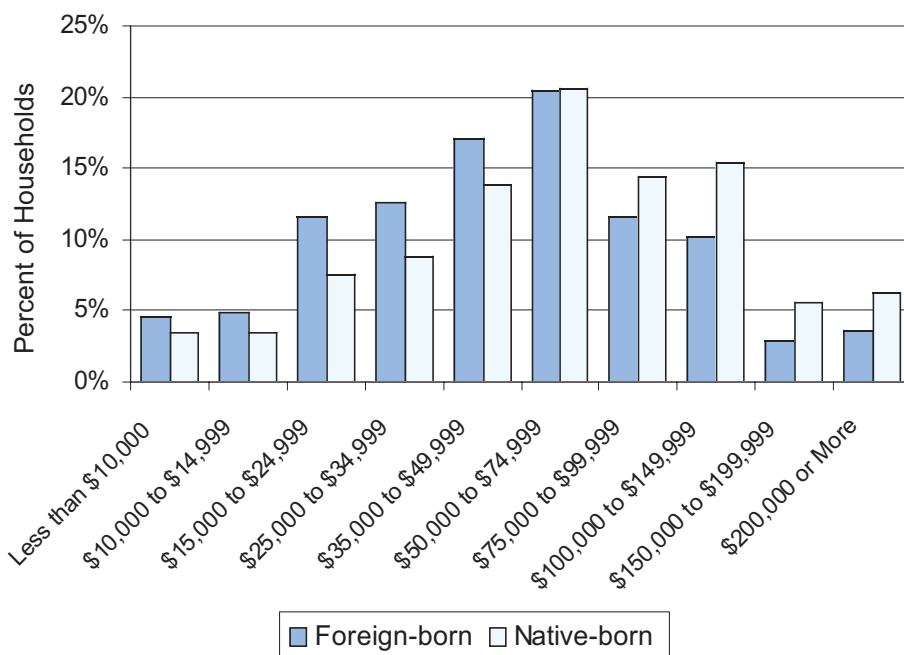
	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Elementary School or Less</b>	140,190	21.3%	12,380	1.1%
<b>Some High School</b>	133,775	20.4%	85,643	7.4%
<b>High School Diploma</b>	101,375	15.4%	215,622	18.6%
<b>Some College</b>	129,988	19.8%	435,088	37.6%
<b>College Degree</b>	98,774	15.0%	275,138	23.8%
<b>Graduate Degree</b>	52,541	8.0%	134,219	11.6%
<b>Total</b>	656,643	100.0%	1,158,090	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

employed in manufacturing, compared to 1 in 8 native-born workers (13.2%). About 1 in 5 (20.1%) of the persons working in education, health and social services are native-born, compared to 1 in 7 for foreign-born workers (14.2%). In addition, about 1 in 10 (9.4%) foreign-born workers are employed in accommodations and food services, compared to 1 in 20 native-born workers (5.2%). The largest differences between the two populations are found in manufacturing; education, health and social services; and finance, insurance and real estate. The smallest differences are found in mining, wholesale trade and construction.

The native-born population accounts for nearly 78 percent of

**Figure 4**  
**Household Income for the Foreign-born and Native-born Populations**  
**Orange County, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

**Table 7**  
**Employment Sector for the Resident Employed Population Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Manufacturing</b>	144,932	24.0%	145,388	13.2%
<b>Education, Health &amp; Social Services</b>	85,386	14.2%	222,231	20.1%
<b>Professional Services</b>	69,912	11.6%	144,077	13.1%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	63,010	10.5%	137,941	12.5%
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Service</b>	56,860	9.4%	57,186	5.2%
<b>Other Services</b>	42,763	7.1%	45,522	4.1%
<b>Construction</b>	38,563	6.4%	65,258	5.9%
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	31,571	5.2%	110,689	10.0%
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	27,680	4.6%	53,700	4.9%
<b>Transportation and Utilities</b>	16,915	2.8%	42,557	3.9%
<b>Information Technology</b>	11,507	1.9%	35,786	3.2%
<b>Government</b>	8,327	1.4%	39,718	3.6%
<b>Agriculture and Mining</b>	4,929	0.8%	2,119	0.2%
<b>Mining</b>	323	0.1%	1,015	0.1%
<b>Total Employed Population</b>	602,678	100.0%	1,103,187	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

**Table 8**  
**Orange County's Foreign-born and Native-born Populations by Occupational Class, 2000**

Occupational Class	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Management and Professional</b>	146,646	24.3%	450,021	40.8%
<b>Production, Transportation and Material Movement</b>	141,511	23.5%	85,141	7.7%
<b>Sales and Office Occupation</b>	129,709	21.5%	371,631	33.7%
<b>Service Occupations</b>	125,165	20.8%	122,327	11.1%
<b>Construction, Extraction and Maintenance Workers</b>	54,323	9.0%	71,953	6.5%
<b>Farming, Fishing and Forestry Workers</b>	4,878	0.8%	1,304	0.1%
<b>Military</b>	123	0.0%	810	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	602,355	100.0%	1,103,187	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

**Table 9**  
**Means of Transportation to Work, Foreign-born and Native-born Populations, Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Car, Truck, Van</b>	375,545	86.5%	806,561	91.2%
<b>Motorcycle</b>	365	0.1%	2,231	0.3%
<b>Public Transportation</b>	25,333	5.8%	12,343	1.4%
<b>Bicycle</b>	5,763	1.3%	4,784	0.5%
<b>Walked</b>	11,717	2.7%	13,975	1.6%
<b>Worked at Home</b>	10,136	2.3%	39,887	4.5%
<b>Other</b>	5,430	1.3%	4,262	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	434,289	100.0%	884,043	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

all the employed residents in the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate sector. Foreign-born residents account for 69.9 percent of employed resident workers in Orange County's agriculture and mining industries. The most similar distribution is in the accommodation and food industries where 49.9 percent of employed residents are foreign-born and 50.1 percent are native-born.

Table 8 shows Orange County's population by occupational class. Forty percent of native-born workers hold a management or professional job. About 24 percent of foreign-born workers hold the same type of job. One-third of the native-born and one-fifth of the foreign-born workers are employed in a sales or office occupation. Service occupations show the most similar distribution with 50.6 percent of resident workers being foreign-born and 49.4 percent being native-born.

**TRANSPORATION**

The most common form of transportation to work for Orange County residents is by car, truck or van (Table 9). Almost 87 percent of the foreign-born and 91 percent of the native-born populations drive a car, truck or van to work. However, nearly two-thirds of the public transportation users are foreign-born. Of the 38,000 workers using public transportation to get to work, 25,000 are foreign-born. It is interesting to note that working at home is the second most used form for native-born workers.

Since using a car, truck or van is the most popular form of

transportation to work, it is not surprising that over 90 percent of native-born and foreign-born households have 1 or more vehicles (Table 10). However, about 9 percent of foreign-born households reported having no vehicles available for use, compared to about 5 percent of native-born households. One vehicle is available to 30 percent of foreign-born households and 31.9 percent of native-born households. Forty-four percent of native-born households have two vehicles available and 38.2 percent of foreign-born households. A larger percent of the foreign-born population has three or more vehicles available, 23.9 percent and 19.2 percent for the native-born population. This difference can perhaps be explained by the larger number of sub-families in households with a foreign-born householder. The average number of vehicles per household is 1.86.

**Table 10**  
**Number of Vehicles Available for Foreign-born and Native-born Households, Orange County, 2000**

	Foreign-born		Native-born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>No Vehicles</b>	24,743	8.7%	30,608	4.7%
<b>One Vehicles</b>	82,667	29.2%	208,140	31.9%
<b>Two Vehicles</b>	108,192	38.2%	289,261	44.3%
<b>Three or More Vehicles</b>	67,578	23.9%	125,369	19.2%
<b>Total Households</b>	283,180	100.0%	653,378	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 5% PUMS.

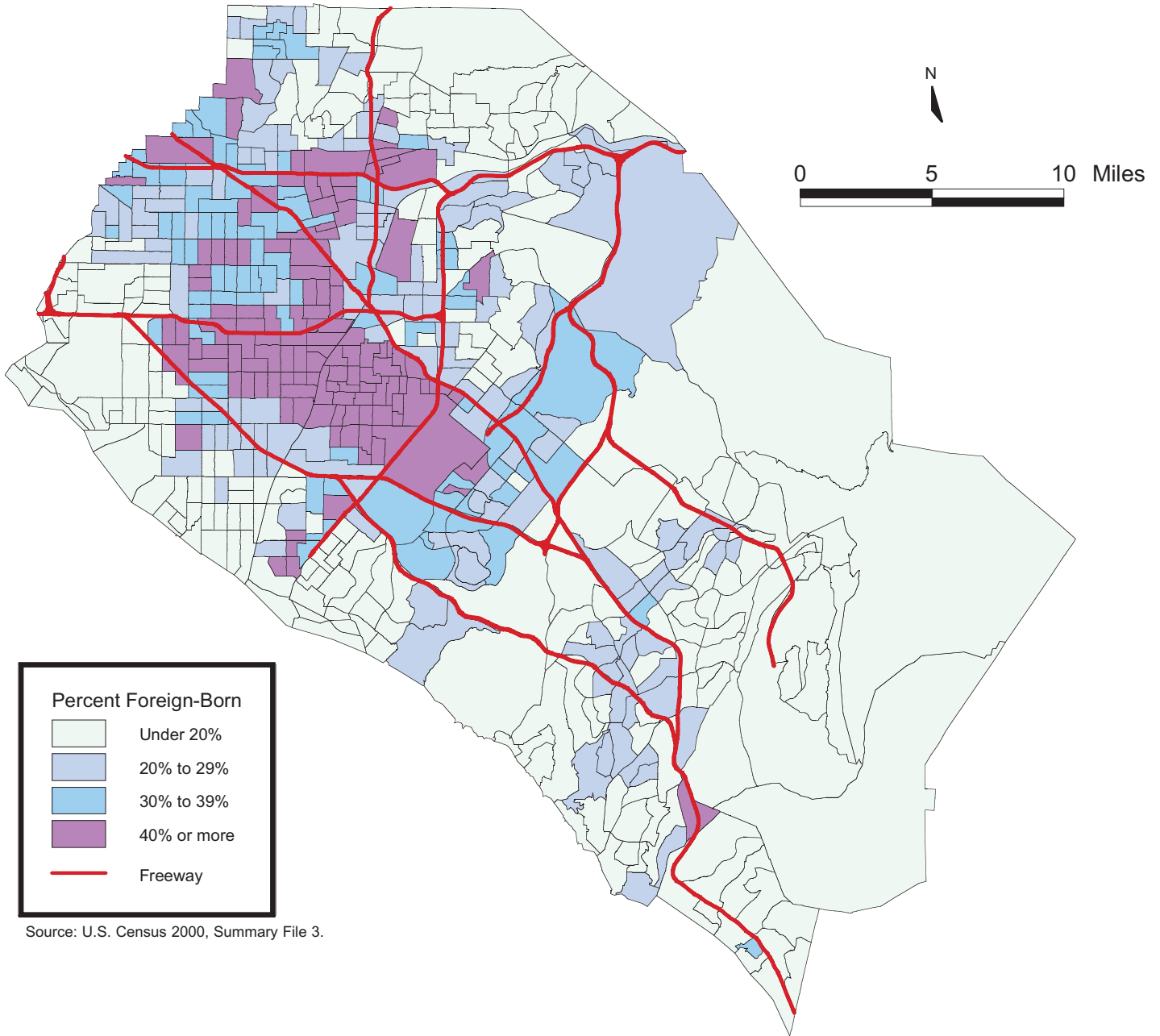
**MAP**

The map on page 8 displays the percent foreign-born population by 2000 census tract. There are three census tracts with no immigrant population. One of these includes the Irvine Spectrum and reported a population of two persons. Eleven percent, or 66 tracts, of the 577 tracts in the county contain a majority (50.1% or more) of foreign-born persons. A total of 40 percent (231 tracts) contain less than 20 percent foreign-born.

**CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this profile was to provide an overview of and some comparisons between the foreign- and native-born populations. Significant differences were noted between these two groups, most notably in age composition, household size, number of subfamilies, home ownership, education, income, occupation, and means of travel to work. Other studies have shown significant differences within the foreign-born population when country of origin and length of residency are taken into consideration. In an upcoming issue of *Profiles*, we will examine these within group differences more closely.

# Foreign-born Population by 2000 Census Tract



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