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## Characteristics of the Unemployed in Pittsburgh in 2012

■ *By Christopher Briem*

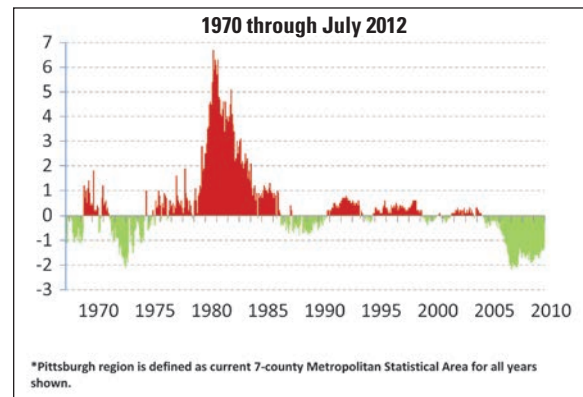
The unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remained significantly below the national unemployment rate through the middle of this year. As of July 2012, the region's unemployment rate has been below the comparable rate for the United States for over 68 continuous months, through the recession period and early recovery (see Figure 1). Despite this relatively strong position, the unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh region remains above the long term average over the decade before the current recession began (see Figure 2).

The official definition of the unemployment rate is the proportion of the labor force that is not employed. The civilian labor force includes those people age 16 and over who are either employed or, if not working, able to work and actively seeking employment.

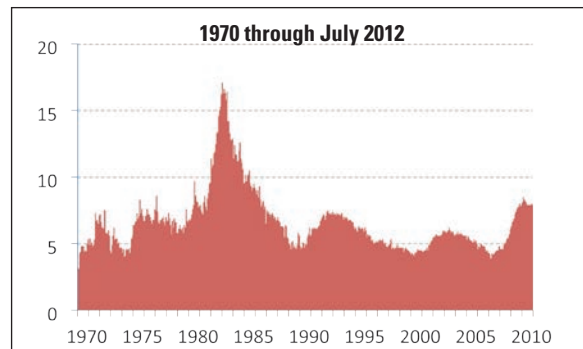
Those not seeking employment, including discouraged workers who would be available to work but have stopped looking for work, are not counted in the most commonly used calculation of the unemployment rate (see PEQ December 2010). The labor force also does not include students, retirees, the disabled, and those not seeking employment for other reasons.

For this review, UCSUR has compiled current labor force conditions from individual responses to the Current Population Survey (CPS), a program jointly sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The CPS is the primary source of labor force statistics for the population of the United States. Here, data for the first six months of 2012 were combined, and the results are used to provide an overview of the

**Figure 1. Difference between Pittsburgh Region and U.S. Unemployment Rates\***



**Figure 2. Pittsburgh Region Unemployment Rate**



■ ■ ■ continued on page 2

## Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the Pittsburgh Region

■ *By Christopher Briem*

The growth in the foreign-born population continued in the United States into the first decade of the 21st century. Between 2000 and 2010, the percent of the American population that was foreign born increased from 11.1 percent to 12.3 percent. What have been the changes in the foreign-born population in the Pittsburgh region in the 2000s?

Compared to other large metropolitan areas, the greater

Pittsburgh region experienced some of the lowest rates of international immigration in recent decades. Even before the spike in job destruction of the early 1980s, the region was not a major generator of new jobs, and thus did not attract workers from elsewhere in the nation or from overseas. By the end of the 1980s and through the 1990s, the Pittsburgh metropolitan area would consistently rank at or near the

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### Characteristics of the Unemployed in Pittsburgh in 2012

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labor market conditions in the region and the characteristics of those currently unemployed.

Labor force participation for the population age 16 and over was estimated to be 65.7 percent during the first half of 2012. For the remainder of the 16 and over population not in the labor force in the Pittsburgh region, the major reason for not being in the labor force was retirement. Over half of the population age 16 and over—54 percent—was retired and 15 percent was disabled.

Who is unemployed in the Pittsburgh region generally matches trends of the unemployed for the country as a whole, with a few key differences.

As in the United States, the unemployment rate is lowest for those with higher levels of educational attainment (see Figure 3). In the Pittsburgh region, for those with a graduate or professional degree, the unemployment rate was estimated at 4.4 percent for the first half of 2012, the lowest level among educational groups. For workers with a bachelor's degree only, the rate was higher, at 5.4 percent.

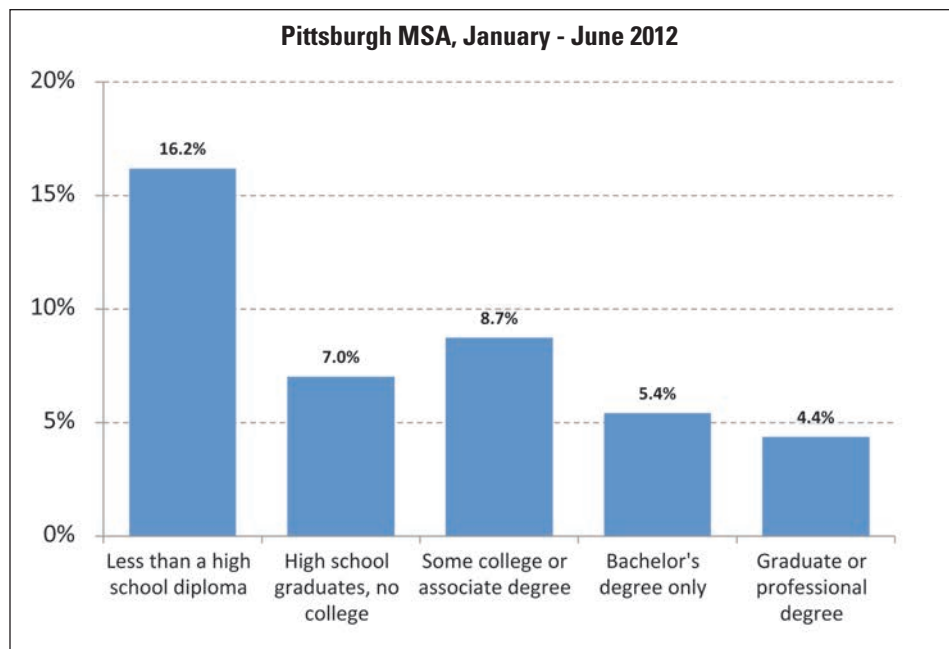
The highest unemployment rates in the first half of 2012 were for those with less than a high school degree or its equivalent and stood well above all other rates at 16.2 percent.

Unemployment rates also varied significantly by age (see Figure 4). Overall, during the first half of 2012, over half of the region's unemployed were under the age of 35. Workers under age 25 had by far the highest unemployment rates by age group in the region, at 12.7 percent, followed by the 25-34 age group. The lowest unemployment rates were for those aged 45-54.

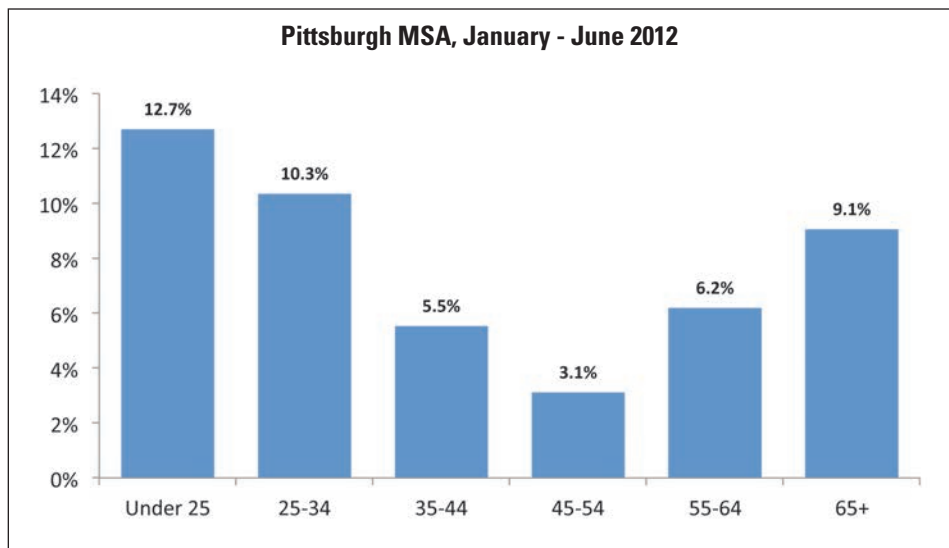
Unemployment for older workers in the region was estimated to be higher, 9.1 percent, than the region's average. The number of workers age 65 and over has been growing in the recent years in both the nation and the region, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming years. (PEQ last looked at older workers in the Pittsburgh region in March 2005, before national or regional recession impacts on the labor force.)

Some of the reasons for unemployment in the Pittsburgh region are similar to the national

**Figure 3. Average Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment**



**Figure 4. Average Unemployment Rates by Age**



labor force (see Table 1). For both the region and the nation, 59 percent of the unemployed experienced involuntary job loss, either by being laid off, fired, or having a temporary job end. In both the United States and the Pittsburgh region, similar shares of the unemployed were reentrants to the labor force, 24.7 percent and 22.1 percent, respectively. Reentrants are those who left the labor force for a time and are now returning and seeking employment, such as parents or those who left to pursue

additional education.

The share of the unemployed who were voluntary job leavers, however, differed between the region and nation. For the United States, seven percent of the unemployed left their jobs voluntarily, while in the Pittsburgh region, the estimated share was double at 14 percent of the unemployed estimated to have left their last job voluntarily.

The Pittsburgh region also had a lower share of those unemployed made up of new

entrants to the labor market. New entrants are people seeking employment for the first time. Potential reasons for the differences could be, perhaps, fewer numbers of this group or that new entrants locally secured employment more rapidly than new entrants in the nation as a whole, on average.

The size and composition of the region's labor force is constantly changing. In 2012, the labor force in the Pittsburgh region reached its all-time peak. As of July 2012, an estimated 1.26 million people were either employed or looking for work in the 7-county Pittsburgh metropolitan statistical area. Changes in the demographic composition of the working age population, labor force participation, and population migration are all major factors in both current and future characteristics of the local workforce.

**Table 1. Unemployed Persons by Reason for Unemployment**

	Pittsburgh	U.S.
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	59.4%	59.0%
Job leavers	14.0%	7.0%
Reentrants	22.2%	24.7%
New entrants	4.4%	9.3%

\* Pittsburgh data is for January-June 2012, U.S. data is for 2011.

## PittsburghTODAY Update

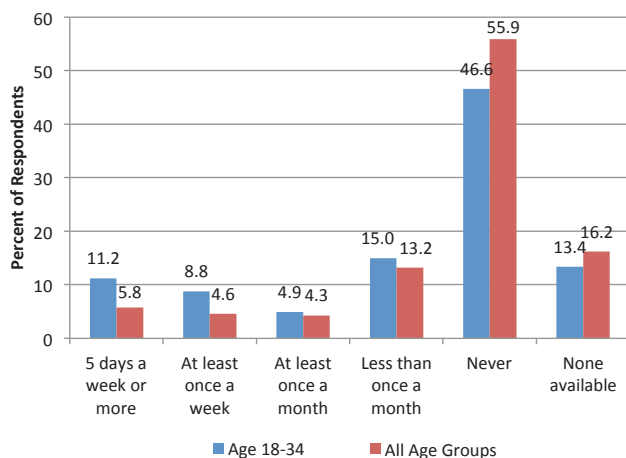
The Regional Indicators Project at PittsburghTODAY.org will be releasing a report on young adults in the Pittsburgh region just ahead of the One Young World Summit that will take place in Pittsburgh, October 18–22. The report will include articles on migration trends, workforce issues, and Pittsburgh's changing neighborhoods, as well as results from the Quality of Life survey and focus groups of young adults.

Pittsburgh's image as a region bleeding young people hasn't been accurate recently. The report will look at the migration turn-around that has occurred and provide a brief overview of the issues, including those around workforce development and education. The report will look at population projections for the 18-34 age group, education levels of the young workforce, and the jobs that are attracting young people to the region.

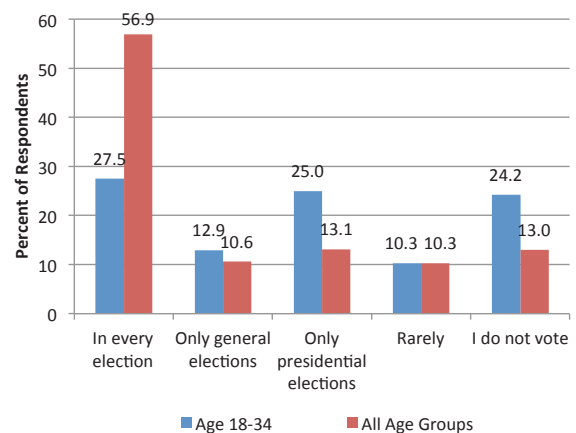
The Quality of Life survey, which was conducted in 2011 by the University Center for Social and Urban Research and PittsburghTODAY, provided some insight into behaviors and perceptions of young adults in a 32-county region. Highlights of the survey results for young adults age 18–34 will be included in the report. In addition, four focus groups were conducted of young adults, including some young adults who are already leaders in the region, and one group of young adults who are not from the Pittsburgh region originally.

An event will be held on October 16 at the University Club at the University of Pittsburgh to discuss the topics and issues addressed in the report. For more information, see [www.pittsburghtoday.org](http://www.pittsburghtoday.org).

**Responses to Quality of Life Survey Question:  
How often do you use public transit?**



**Responses to Quality of Life Survey Question:  
How often do you vote?**



## Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the Pittsburgh Region

■ continued from page 1

bottom for the size of immigrant flows into the region.

Here we update figures from 2000 on the Pittsburgh region's foreign-born population (see PEQ, June 2006). Earlier figures and data on the foreign-born population were available from the 2000 Census, which included the detailed "long form," providing extensive socio-demographic data on the American population, which has been discontinued.

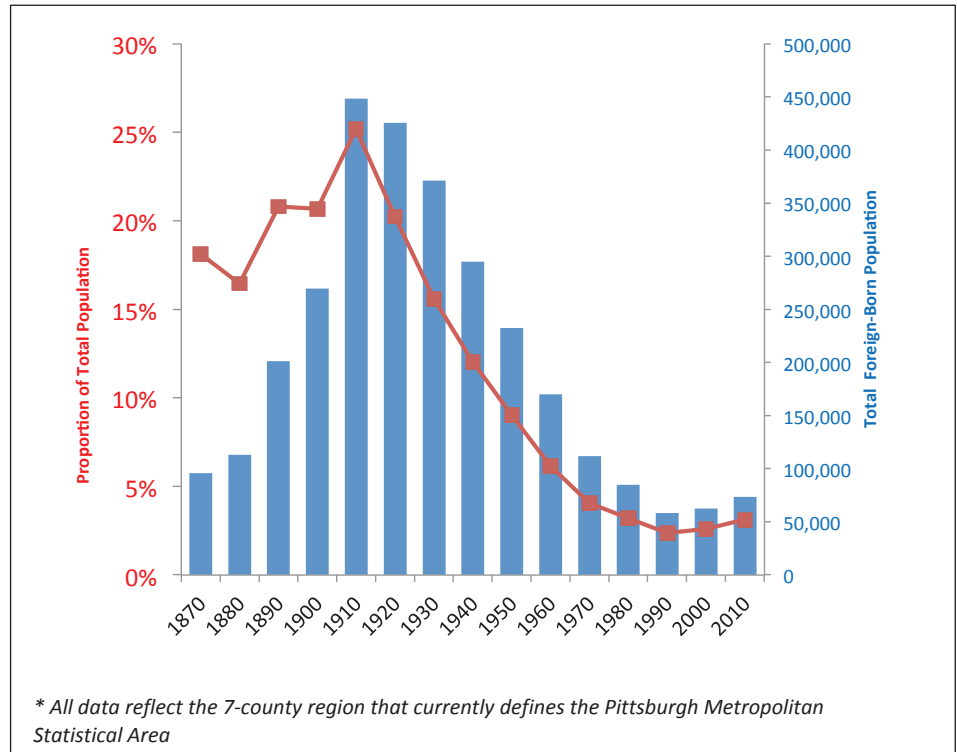
The 2010 Decennial Census did not collect data on nativity—or place of birth—of the population. Most new data on detailed demographic characteristics of the population derives from the American Community Survey, a Census Bureau survey program that makes new data available every year (see PEQ, December 2009 and December 2010 for further discussion of Census changes).

The Pittsburgh region's foreign-born population peaked in both total numbers and share of the population a century ago, when Pittsburgh experienced its rapid economic expansion and population growth, with foreign immigrants streaming in for jobs (see Figure 1). Between 1880 and 1920, the population of what today we call the seven county region grew over 200 percent, reaching over 2.1 million by 1920. In 1910, the region had more than 448,000 foreign-born residents, comprising over 25 percent of the region's total population.

Over the rest of the 20th century, the share of foreign-born residents in the Pittsburgh region steadily declined, despite changes in immigration laws in the 1960s that prompted rapid expansion of new immigrants in many parts of the country. By 1990, the region's foreign-born population had fallen to just over 58,000 people, or roughly 2.4 percent of the region's total population.

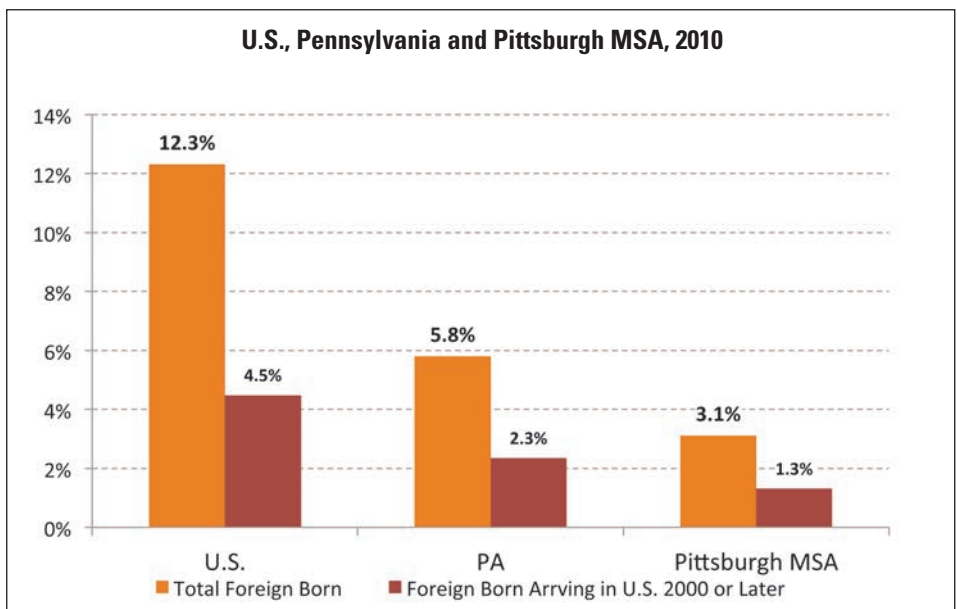
In the two decades since 1990, the foreign-born population in the Pittsburgh region has exhibited low growth. American Community Survey estimates show that the foreign-born population in the Pittsburgh region increased to 73,000 by 2010, or roughly 3.1 percent of the total population. The size of the region's foreign-born population falls below the comparable shares

**Figure 1. Foreign-Born Population in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Region, 1870 - 2010\***



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010; Census Bureau decennial census various years, 1870-1940; Social Explorer

**Figure 2. Foreign-Born Population as Percentage of Total Population**



Source: Compiled from American Community Survey 2010 1-year Estimates

for Pennsylvania (5.8 percent) and the nation (12.3 percent) (see Figure 2).

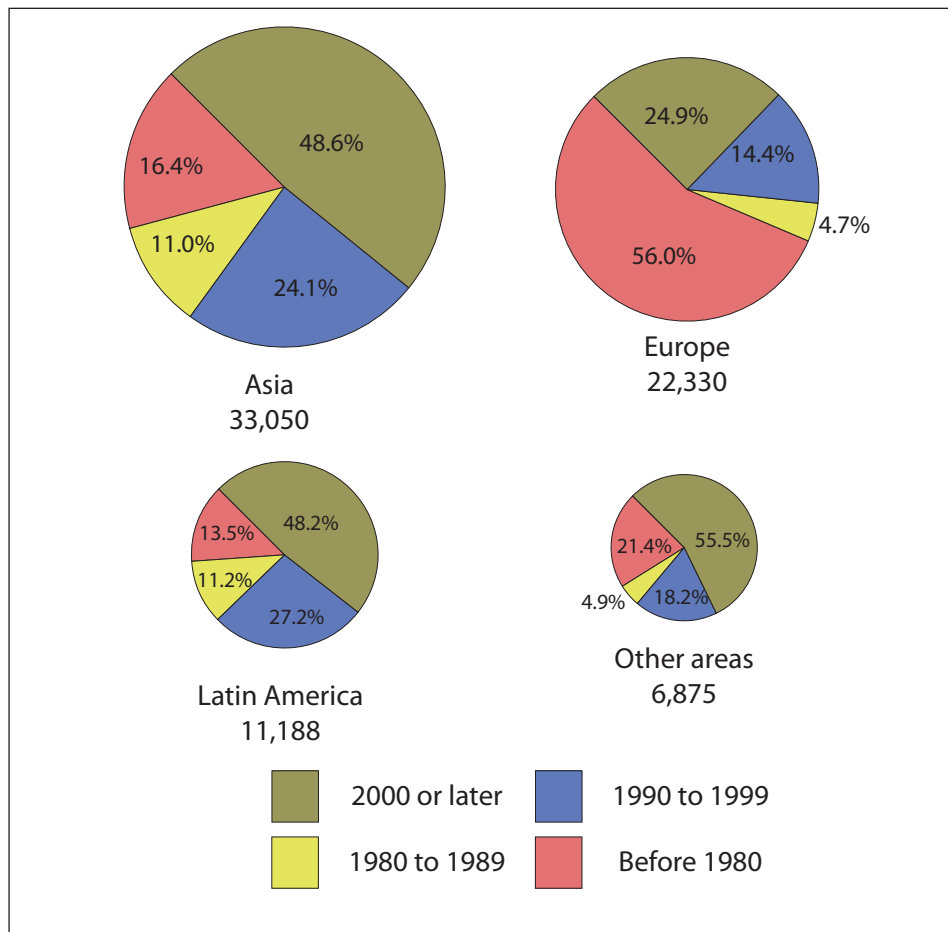
Even with recent modest growth, the most recent immigration flows for the region fell significantly below national rates. For the nation as a whole in 2010, 4.5 percent of the population was estimated to be foreign-born and to have arrived in the United States since 2000, compared to just 1.3 percent of the population in the Pittsburgh region.

The origins of recent immigrants to the Pittsburgh region, however modest in number, have changed. While Pittsburgh's historic immigration flows came primarily from Europe, the origins of migration flows in recent decades have shifted, as they have nationally, to Asia and Latin America (see Figure 3). Between 2000 and 2010, the proportion of the region's foreign-born population born in Asia topped the proportion born in Europe (see Figure 4).

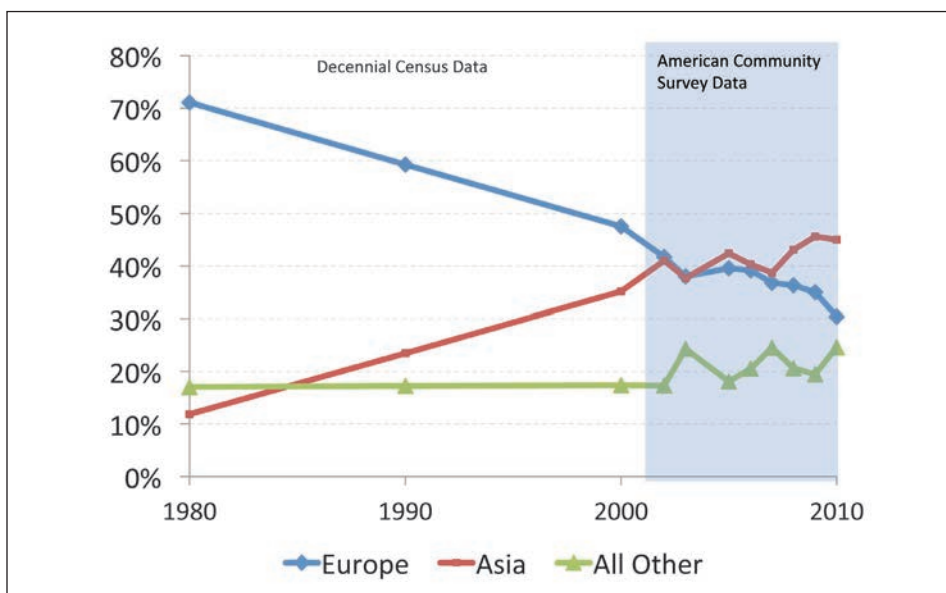
When these immigrants arrived in the United States has also changed. For the region's European born population, 56 percent arrived before 1980, while 84 percent of the region's Asian-born population arrived after 1980. Many of the region's Asian-born residents are even more recent arrivals. Nearly half of the region's Asian-born population—48.6 percent—arrived in the United States since 2000.

The foreign-born population in the region is made up of both permanent and transient

**Figure 3. Pittsburgh MSA Foreign-Born Population by Place of Birth and Year of Entry in the United States, 2010**



**Figure 4. Nativity of the Foreign-Born Population in the Pittsburgh Region 1970-2010**



groups. Notably the region's higher education institutions attract a significant number of international students while others come to the region for professional training. While many of these students are itinerant residents here, many do settle in the region and become permanent residents.

During fiscal year 2011, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service reported that 2,732 persons obtained legal permanent resident status in the Pittsburgh region, an increase of 413 persons from the previous year. Much of this increase in new permanent residents for the Pittsburgh region comes from 407 immigrants from Bhutan in 2011, an increase from just 102 individuals in the previous year (see Table 1).

Other flows of immigrants into the region result from secondary migration. Immigrants arriving in the United States typically arrive

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## Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the Pittsburgh Region

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in a small set of gateway regions which have historically been the port of arrival for new immigrants. Later migration away from these gateway regions to other regions is called secondary migration, which can have significant impacts on regional population changes beyond the gateways.

International immigration is a factor in population growth not only for the broad Pittsburgh region, but for specific municipalities and counties. Across the 7-county Pittsburgh MSA, the municipalities with the highest concentrations of the foreign-born population include Scott Township in Allegheny County (13.4 percent), Laurel Mountain in Westmoreland County (11.1 percent) and Marshall Township in Allegheny County (10.7 percent).

Over the recent decades, the foreign-born population of the Pittsburgh region has remained small and well below national and state figures. Nonetheless, the size of the region's foreign-born population has grown slightly in the past two decades. With the most recent estimates from the American Community Survey, evidence of expanded immigration flows has generated new residents coming into the region.

Additional data on the Pittsburgh region's foreign-born population in 2010 is available on UCSUR's Pittsburgh Urban Blog at [www.ucsur.pitt.edu/thepub.php](http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu/thepub.php)

**Table 1. Leading Countries of Birth for New Permanent Residents in the Pittsburgh MSA Fiscal Year 2011**

Bhutan	407
China	272
India	233
Nepal	162
Iraq	92
Korea, South	75
Philippines	66
United Kingdom	63
Burma	60
Canada	57

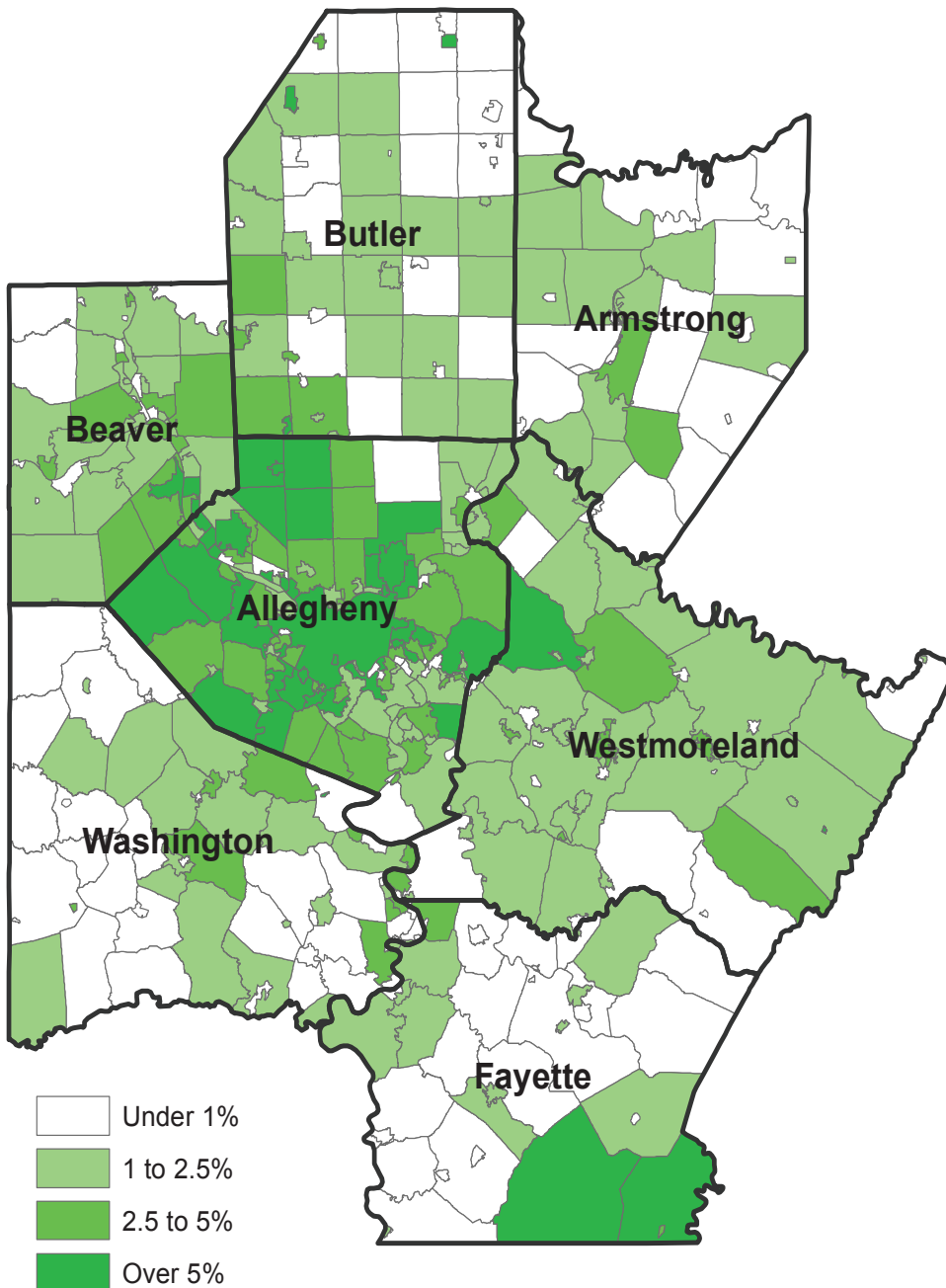
Source: US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)

**Table 2. Pittsburgh Region Municipalities with Highest Concentrations of Foreign-Born Population**

Municipality	Total	Foreign-Born	
Scott Township, Allegheny County	16,945	2,267	13.4%
Laurel Mountain, Westmoreland County	234	26	11.1%
Marshall Township, Allegheny County	6,699	715	10.7%
Fox Chapel, Allegheny County	5,400	543	10.1%
Whitehall, Allegheny County	13,921	1,264	9.1%
Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County	19,188	1,731	9.0%
Franklin Park, Allegheny County	12,985	1,169	9.0%
Glen Osborne, Allegheny County	460	40	8.7%
Monroeville, Allegheny County	28,308	2,395	8.5%
Sewickley Heights, Allegheny County	761	63	8.3%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010 Estimates

**Foreign Born Population as Percentage of Total Population  
Municipalities in the Pittsburgh MSA**



## Fall 2012 Urban and Regional Brown Bag Seminar Series

The Urban and Regional Analysis program continues its Brown Bag Seminar series in October. The seminar series focuses on issues of importance to urban and regional scholars and practitioners. All seminars are held at UCSUR at 3343 Forbes Avenue (across from Magee Womens Hospital) from noon–1:30 p.m. The public is invited.

**Friday, October 5: W. Dennis Keating, PhD**  
Professor and Director of the Master of Urban Planning, Design and Development Program  
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs  
Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

**Title: "Re-Thinking the Future of Community Development Corporations"**

Cleveland is considered a national model of community development with several very successful community development corporations (a) and two local intermediaries. Over the past three decades, the emphasis in neighborhood revitalization has been on affordable housing. With the mortgage foreclosure crisis hitting Cleveland hard, beginning around 1999, the housing market crashed with many of the city's neighborhoods flooded with foreclosed abandoned housing. As of February, there were about 16,000 vacant housing units in Cleveland with hundreds being condemned and awaiting demolition and thousands more destined to suffer this fate, leaving thousands of vacant lots. These changes and crisis have led to a process of rethinking the future role of CDCs beyond providing affordable housing.



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Migration Trends in the Pittsburgh Region, 2000–06 (7/07)

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