

Growing the Heartland: How Immigrants Offset Population Decline and an Aging Workforce in Midwest Metropolitan Areas

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Summary

The metropolitan areas of Midwestern states are experiencing slow rates of growth and even declining populations. The arrival of immigrants over the past decade has helped to reverse these trends. The number of native-born persons in Midwestern metro areas grew by only 3.3 percent between 2000 and 2010; the number of immigrants in those metro areas rose by 27 percent. As a result, immigration accounts for 38.4 percent of all metro area growth in the Midwest.

The demographic effect of immigration is especially important among persons 35 to 44 years of age. This

group is critical because they are in their prime working and taxpaying years. Among Midwestern metro areas, the number of native born in this group fell by 1.4 million between 2000 and 2010. The arrival of more than a quarter of a million immigrants aged 35 to 44 has been critical to staving off more dramatic decline.

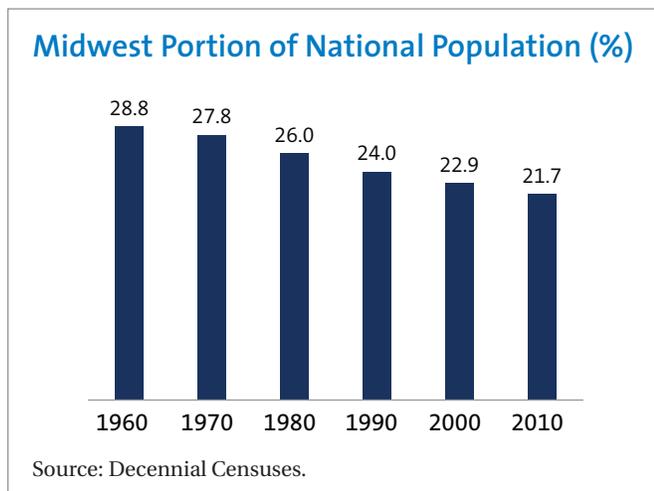
Immigrants play a key role in the Midwest economy because the Midwest's Baby Boomers are moving into retirement and the native-born population as a whole is aging. Immigrants are predominantly young adults, and they help to fill precisely the age groups that are in decline among US-born persons.

Introduction

For years the population of the Midwest has been growing more slowly than the country as a whole. Over the past 50 years, the Midwest population rose at a rate well below half the national average. As a result, the Midwest's share of the national population declined from 28.8 percent to 21.7 percent (figure 1). Population decline threatens economic competitiveness, decreases the number of taxpayers, and reduces political representation and influence at the federal level.

Yet despite the flat growth in much of the Midwest, thousands of immigrants from around the globe choose the Midwest as the place they want to live. Over the last decade alone, the region's foreign-born population rose 27.4 percent, from 3.5 million to 4.5

FIGURE 1



million. These newest Midwesterners settled not only in the traditional destinations like the Chicago or Minneapolis metropolitan areas, but have arrived in substantial numbers to metro areas like Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Wichita.

Immigration is often viewed from either the national or state level. Much has been written and said, for example, about the impact of the foreign born on California, Illinois, New York, and Texas. But American social and economic life is largely organized around metropolitan areas through health systems, economic markets, educational institutions, media markets, distribution networks, sports teams, and transportation networks, to name a few. Metro areas produce a disproportionate share of most states' economic output. Yet the impact of immigration on metropolitan areas has been under-reported and underanalyzed. Part of the reason for this is that few statistics on immigration are reported by the federal government for metro areas. Nevertheless, it is a significant oversight for the Midwest because metro areas are the primary destination for this region's immigrants over rural or semirural locations.

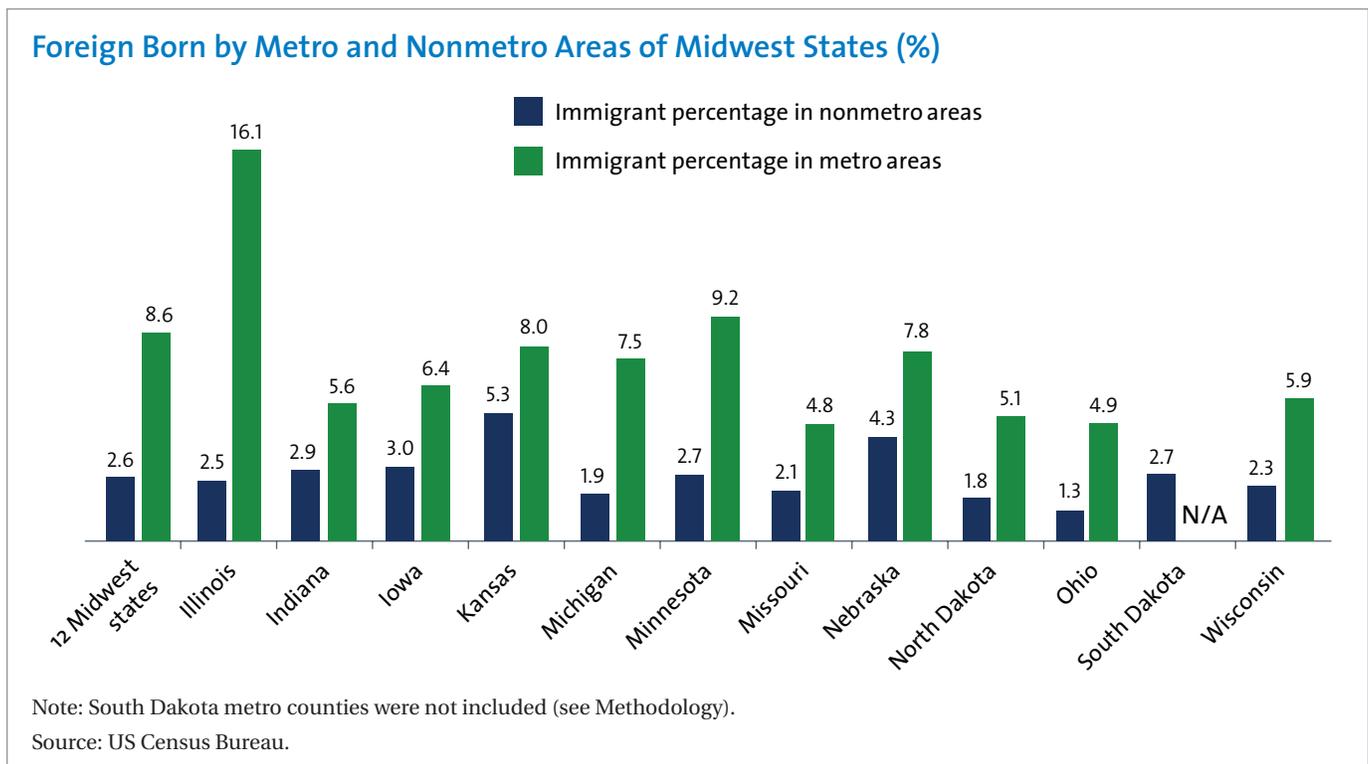
In this report data from the US Census Bureau is used to describe the demographic importance of

immigration in 71 Midwestern metropolitan areas, comparing growth in the number of immigrants and the native born between 2000 and 2010. The findings clearly reveal that immigration is a demographic lifeline for metro areas across the region, from Ohio to Kansas and from Indiana to Minnesota. This demographic lifeline includes foreign-born persons with various legal statuses, including naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, temporary visitors who are here to work or study, and the undocumented. Most undocumented immigrants, in fact, are counted by the American Community Survey and the decennial census. In a region suffering from population slowdown, slow growth, and aging, nothing compares to immigration in helping to maintain the vitality of metro areas that are home to millions of residents.

Immigrants are important to Midwest metro growth

Midwestern immigration matters primarily to metropolitan areas. Immigrants are just 2.6 percent of the nonmetro portions of the region, but 8.7 percent of the metro areas. A stark example of the rural vs. metropolitan divide is Illinois, where the nonmetro population

FIGURE 2



is only 2.5 percent foreign born, while the metro areas of Illinois are 16.1 percent foreign born (figure 2). But other states have similar contrasts. In Michigan immigrants are 1.9 percent of the nonmetro population, but 7.5 percent of metro populations. In Ohio the comparable numbers are 1.3 percent for nonmetro areas and 4.9 percent for metro areas.

Because the immigrant population base is smaller than the native-born population base, immigrant populations are growing at a much faster rate than native-born populations. The number of Midwestern metro native born grew by 3.3 percent between 2000 and 2010, while the number of immigrants grew by 27 percent (table 1).

Immigrants' impact on metro growth is especially strong because the foreign born are more likely to live in metro areas than the native born. Some 88 percent of immigrants in the Midwest live in the region's metro areas, compared to just 67 percent of the native born (figure 3). Immigrant population growth accounts for 38 percent of metro-area growth in the Midwest (table 2). In other words, well over one of every three additional persons added to the Midwestern population over the last decade was an immigrant.

TABLE 1

Growth Rates of Native Born and Immigrants in Midwest Metro Areas, 2000 to 2010			
	2000	2010	% Change
Total population	43,722,944	45,905,840	5.0%
Native born	40,617,164	41,962,781	3.3%
Immigrants	3,105,780	3,943,059	27.0%

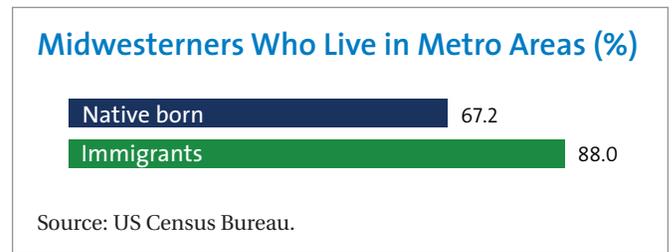
Note: 2010 is the average of the 2009-2011 period.
Source: US Census Bureau.

TABLE 2

Growth Due to Immigrants, 2000 to 2010	
Midwest	37.2%
Nonmetro areas	31.0%
Metro areas	38.4%

Note: 2010 is the average of the 2009-2011 period.
Source: US Census Bureau.

FIGURE 3



Immigration counterbalances slow-growing, aging populations

Immigration offsets slow or negative growth

The pattern of immigrant growth is found across nearly all of the 71 Midwestern metro areas. Table 3 compares the percentage foreign born in year 2000 and 2010 for the region's metro areas. The foreign-born portion of the population rose from 10.3 to 12.2 percent of metro Ann Arbor, Michigan, for example, from 5.5 to 7.4 percent in Lincoln, Nebraska, and from 1.6 to 2.7 percent in Springfield, Missouri.

Immigrant populations are growing quickly in most Midwest metro areas, while native-born growth is slow or even negative. The metro area of Anderson, Indiana, for example, lost 4.4 percent of its native-born population, while the immigrant population rose by 88.5 percent (table 4). The metro area of Janesville, Wisconsin, had growth rates of 4.5 percent for the native born and 42.6 percent for immigrants. The number of native born in Dayton, Ohio's metro area fell by 2.8 percent, while immigrants grew by 30.8 percent. In some cases immigrant population growth rose by double-digits because the metro areas were starting from a small base of immigrants. But the pattern is clear across the Midwest: immigrant numbers are moving in the right direction to support regional growth.

In a few Midwest metro areas, growth in the immigrant population makes up for the loss of growth among the native born, leading to net positive growth. In other areas immigrant growth offsets a substantial portion but not all of the native-born population decline. Still other metro areas are experiencing growth of both immigrant and native-born populations. Table 5 highlights the different roles that immigration is playing in Midwest metro areas by grouping them into areas of population gain or loss and then breaking out the role of immigration in areas of growth.

TABLE 3

Immigrants in Midwest Metro Areas, 2000 and 2010

	Total Population #		Foreign Born #		Foreign Born %	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
MIDWEST METRO AREAS	43,722,944	45,905,840	3,105,780	3,943,059	7.1%	8.6%
Akron OH	692,912	702,327	21,356	26,483	3.1%	3.8%
Anderson IN	129,923	125,272	1,169	2,204	0.9%	1.8%
Ann Arbor MI	321,575	347,306	32,968	42,464	10.3%	12.2%
Appleton-Oshkosh WI	357,928	393,132	9,645	13,773	2.7%	3.5%
Battle Creek MI	138,637	135,575	2,892	5,019	2.1%	3.7%
Bloomington IL	152,616	168,780	5,352	10,242	3.5%	6.1%
Bloomington IN	122,388	138,060	6,635	10,156	5.4%	7.4%
Canton OH	408,072	405,821	6,777	7,097	1.7%	1.7%
Cedar Rapids IA	188,914	211,901	4,591	6,059	2.4%	2.9%
Champaign IL	181,422	202,798	14,721	24,967	8.1%	12.3%
Chicago IL-IN-WI	8,952,713	9,312,817	1,463,254	1,656,970	16.3%	17.8%
Cincinnati OH	1,552,982	1,628,577	45,970	75,813	3.0%	4.7%
Cleveland OH	2,152,065	2,079,333	112,113	120,559	5.2%	5.8%
Columbia MO	136,063	163,088	6,570	9,563	4.8%	5.9%
Columbus OH	1,575,240	1,804,504	73,430	127,092	4.7%	7.0%
Davenport IA-IL	370,757	373,870	12,586	16,962	3.4%	4.5%
Dayton OH	707,055	694,123	19,557	25,583	2.8%	3.7%
Decatur IL	114,926	110,214	1,417	2,096	1.2%	1.9%
Des Moines IA	375,685	431,933	21,579	37,871	5.7%	8.8%
Detroit MI	4,443,960	4,297,970	333,263	372,985	7.5%	8.7%
Duluth MN	199,548	200,477	3,975	4,966	2.0%	2.5%
Eau Claire WI	147,758	161,653	2,416	3,610	1.6%	2.2%
Elkhart IN	182,252	197,234	15,606	15,973	8.6%	8.1%
Evansville IN	252,410	264,980	3,583	7,002	1.4%	2.6%
Fargo ND	121,173	150,039	3,348	7,720	2.8%	5.1%
Fort Wayne IN	329,329	355,172	14,234	21,520	4.3%	6.1%
Grand Rapids MI	572,369	604,236	36,852	44,036	6.4%	7.3%
Green Bay WI	227,296	249,184	10,757	14,843	4.7%	6.0%
Holland MI	241,103	263,305	13,425	15,207	5.6%	5.8%
Indianapolis IN	1,370,838	1,594,960	49,378	108,669	3.6%	6.8%
Iowa City IA	108,518	131,945	6,653	10,879	6.1%	8.2%
Jackson MI	160,391	159,564	2,862	2,857	1.8%	1.8%
Janesville WI	151,640	160,393	5,109	7,284	3.4%	4.5%
Joplin MO	155,401	175,563	3,706	7,167	2.4%	4.1%
Kalamazoo MI	312,769	325,154	11,867	13,538	3.8%	4.2%
Kankakee IL	104,042	113,725	4,010	5,641	3.9%	5.0%

TABLE 3, CONTINUED

	Total Population #		Foreign Born #		Foreign Born %	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Kansas City MO-KS	1,682,053	1,864,261	82,085	123,196	4.9%	6.6%
Kokomo IN	100,506	99,264	1,257	1,785	1.3%	1.8%
La Crosse WI	105,700	114,510	1,771	4,418	1.7%	3.9%
Lansing MI	445,925	464,829	19,645	29,892	4.4%	6.4%
Lincoln NE	246,945	286,400	13,583	21,149	5.5%	7.4%
Madison WI	429,839	489,098	27,373	38,487	6.4%	7.9%
Mansfield OH	130,084	124,037	2,055	2,305	1.6%	1.9%
Michigan City IN	112,244	111,621	3,499	3,574	3.1%	3.2%
Milwaukee WI	1,499,015	1,557,396	78,041	105,270	5.2%	6.8%
Minneapolis MN	2,856,295	3,164,852	206,301	315,041	7.2%	10.0%
Monroe MI	144,696	152,307	2,541	2,914	1.8%	1.9%
Muncie IN	119,028	117,234	1,707	2,548	1.4%	2.2%
Muskegon MI	170,635	172,947	4,084	3,475	2.4%	2.0%
Niles MI	163,682	156,000	8,522	8,382	5.2%	5.4%
Omaha NE	584,099	676,051	29,996	53,945	5.1%	8.0%
Peoria IL	346,102	361,843	7,222	10,537	2.1%	2.9%
Racine WI	185,041	195,443	6,519	9,339	3.5%	4.8%
Rochester MN	122,319	144,546	8,676	13,181	7.1%	9.1%
Rockford IL	319,846	349,847	19,757	27,919	6.2%	8.0%
Saginaw MI	208,759	200,377	4,696	4,510	2.2%	2.3%
Saint Cloud MN	168,856	189,474	4,340	7,717	2.6%	4.1%
Saint Joseph MO	101,442	105,850	1,317	3,707	1.3%	3.5%
Saint Louis MO-IL	2,602,448	2,718,985	81,631	125,777	3.1%	4.6%
Sheboygan WI	111,021	114,837	4,097	7,246	3.7%	6.3%
Sioux City IA	103,140	101,856	7,158	9,027	6.9%	8.9%
South Bend IN	266,264	266,273	11,273	12,399	4.2%	4.7%
Springfield MO	327,829	388,833	5,110	10,599	1.6%	2.7%
Springfield OH	145,290	133,050	1,716	3,438	1.2%	2.6%
Terre Haute IN	149,397	150,272	2,291	4,261	1.5%	2.8%
Toledo OH	617,883	608,941	17,520	21,226	2.8%	3.5%
Topeka KS	168,994	176,942	4,045	6,720	2.4%	3.8%
Waterloo IA	124,908	130,759	4,192	5,455	3.4%	4.2%
Wausau WI	127,099	134,631	4,576	4,682	3.6%	3.5%
Wichita KS	543,518	598,358	33,269	44,044	6.1%	7.4%
Youngstown OH	479,372	448,931	10,289	10,024	2.1%	2.2%

Note: 2010 is the average of the 2009-2011 period.

Source: US Census Bureau.

TABLE 4

Change in Native Born and Immigrant Populations in Midwest Metro Areas, 2000 to 2010

	Number Change		Percent Change	
	Native Born	Immigrants	Native Born	Immigrants
MIDWEST METRO AREAS	1,345,617	837,279	3.3%	27.0%
Akron OH	4,288	5,127	0.6%	24.0%
Anderson IN	-5,686	1,035	-4.4%	88.5%
Ann Arbor MI	16,235	9,496	5.6%	28.8%
Appleton-Oshkosh WI	31,076	4,128	8.9%	42.8%
Battle Creek MI	-5,189	2,127	-3.8%	73.5%
Bloomington IL	11,274	4,890	7.7%	91.4%
Bloomington IN	12,151	3,521	10.5%	53.1%
Canton OH	-2,571	320	-0.6%	4.7%
Cedar Rapids IA	21,519	1,468	11.7%	32.0%
Champaign IL	11,130	10,246	6.7%	69.6%
Chicago IL-IN-WI	166,388	193,716	2.2%	13.2%
Cincinnati OH	45,752	29,843	3.0%	64.9%
Cleveland OH	-81,178	8,446	-4.0%	7.5%
Columbia MO	24,032	2,993	18.6%	45.6%
Columbus OH	175,602	53,662	11.7%	73.1%
Davenport IA-IL	-1,263	4,376	-0.4%	34.8%
Dayton OH	-18,958	6,026	-2.8%	30.8%
Decatur IL	-5,391	679	-4.7%	47.9%
Des Moines IA	39,956	16,292	11.3%	75.5%
Detroit MI	-185,712	39,722	-4.5%	11.9%
Duluth MN	-62	991	0.0%	24.9%
Eau Claire WI	12,701	1,194	8.7%	49.4%
Elkhart IN	14,615	367	8.8%	2.4%
Evansville IN	9,151	3,419	3.7%	95.4%
Fargo ND	24,494	4,372	20.8%	130.6%
Fort Wayne IN	18,557	7,286	5.9%	51.2%
Grand Rapids MI	24,683	7,184	4.6%	19.5%
Green Bay WI	17,802	4,086	8.2%	38.0%
Holland MI	20,420	1,782	9.0%	13.3%
Indianapolis IN	164,831	59,291	12.5%	120.1%
Iowa City IA	19,201	4,226	18.8%	63.5%
Jackson MI	-822	-5	-0.5%	-0.2%
Janesville WI	6,578	2,175	4.5%	42.6%
Joplin MO	16,701	3,461	11.0%	93.4%
Kalamazoo MI	10,714	1,671	3.6%	14.1%
Kankakee IL	8,052	1,631	8.0%	40.7%

TABLE 4, CONTINUED

	Number Change		Percent Change	
	Native Born	Immigrants	Native Born	Immigrants
Kansas City MO-KS	141,097	41,111	8.8%	50.1%
Kokomo IN	-1,770	528	-1.8%	42.0%
La Crosse WI	6,163	2,647	5.9%	149.5%
Lansing MI	8,657	10,247	2.0%	52.2%
Lincoln NE	31,889	7,566	13.7%	55.7%
Madison WI	48,145	11,114	12.0%	40.6%
Mansfield OH	-6,297	250	-4.9%	12.2%
Michigan City IN	-698	75	-0.6%	2.1%
Milwaukee WI	31,152	27,229	2.2%	34.9%
Minneapolis MN	199,817	108,740	7.5%	52.7%
Monroe MI	7,238	373	5.1%	14.7%
Muncie IN	-2,635	841	-2.2%	49.3%
Muskegon MI	2,921	-609	1.8%	-14.9%
Niles MI	-7,542	-140	-4.9%	-1.6%
Omaha NE	68,003	23,949	12.3%	79.8%
Peoria IL	12,426	3,315	3.7%	45.9%
Racine WI	7,582	2,820	4.2%	43.3%
Rochester MN	17,722	4,505	15.6%	51.9%
Rockford IL	21,839	8,162	7.3%	41.3%
Saginaw MI	-8,196	-186	-4.0%	-4.0%
Saint Cloud MN	17,241	3,377	10.5%	77.8%
Saint Joseph MO	2,018	2,390	2.0%	181.5%
Saint Louis MO-IL	72,391	44,146	2.9%	54.1%
Sheboygan WI	667	3,149	0.6%	76.9%
Sioux City IA	-3,153	1,869	-3.3%	26.1%
South Bend IN	-1,117	1,126	-0.4%	10.0%
Springfield MO	55,515	5,489	17.2%	107.4%
Springfield OH	-13,962	1,722	-9.7%	100.3%
Terre Haute IN	-1,095	1,970	-0.7%	86.0%
Toledo OH	-12,648	3,706	-2.1%	21.2%
Topeka KS	5,273	2,675	3.2%	66.1%
Waterloo IA	4,588	1,263	3.8%	30.1%
Wausau WI	7,426	106	6.1%	2.3%
Wichita KS	44,065	10,775	8.6%	32.4%
Youngstown OH	-30,176	-265	-6.4%	-2.6%

Note: 2010 is the average of the 2009-2011 period.

Source: US Census Bureau.

TABLE 5

Role of Immigration in Midwest Metro Area Population Change, 2000 to 2010

Total # change % change due to immigration

Metro areas with population gain

Population gain completely attributable to immigration

Metro Area	Total # change	% change due to immigration
Davenport IA-IL	3,113	100%
Duluth MN	929	100%
South Bend IN	9	100%
Terre Haute IN	875	100%

Population gain mostly attributable to immigration

Metro Area	Total # change	% change due to immigration
Akron OH	9,415	54.5%
Chicago IL-IN-WI	360,104	53.8%
Lansing MI	18,904	54.2%
Saint Joseph MO	4,408	54.2%
Sheboygan WI	3,816	82.5%

Population gain partially attributable to immigration

Metro Area	Total # change	% change due to immigration
Ann Arbor MI	25,731	36.9%
Appleton-Oshkosh WI	35,204	11.7%
Bloomington IL	16,164	30.3%
Bloomington IN	15,672	22.5%
Cedar Rapids IA	22,987	6.4%
Champaign IL	21,376	47.9%
Cincinnati OH	75,595	39.5%
Columbia MO	27,025	11.1%
Columbus OH	229,264	23.4%
Des Moines IA	56,248	29.0%
Eau Claire WI	13,895	8.6%
Elkhart IN	14,982	2.4%
Evansville IN	12,570	27.2%
Fargo ND	28,866	15.1%
Fort Wayne IN	25,843	28.2%
Grand Rapids MI	31,867	22.5%
Green Bay WI	21,888	18.7%
Holland MI	22,202	8.0%
Indianapolis IN	224,122	26.5%
Iowa City IA	23,427	18.0%
Janesville WI	8,753	24.8%
Joplin MO	20,162	17.2%
Kalamazoo MI	12,385	13.5%
Kankakee IL	9,683	16.8%
Kansas City MO-KS	182,208	22.6%

La Crosse WI	8,810	30.0%
Lincoln NE	39,455	19.2%
Madison WI	59,259	18.8%
Milwaukee WI	58,381	46.6%
Minneapolis MN	308,557	35.2%
Monroe MI	7,611	4.9%
Omaha NE	91,952	26.0%
Peoria IL	15,741	21.1%
Racine WI	10,402	27.1%
Rochester MN	22,227	20.3%
Rockford IL	30,001	27.2%
Saint Cloud MN	20,618	16.4%
Saint Louis MO-IL	116,537	37.9%
Springfield MO	61,004	9.0%
Topeka KS	7,948	33.7%
Waterloo IA	5,851	21.6%
Wausau WI	7,532	1.4%
Wichita KS	54,840	19.6%

Metro areas with population loss

Population loss only partially offset by immigration

Metro Area	Total # change	% change due to immigration
Anderson IN	-4,651	n/a
Battle Creek MI	-3,062	n/a
Canton OH	-2,251	n/a
Cleveland OH	-72,732	n/a
Dayton OH	-12,932	n/a
Decatur IL	-4,712	n/a
Detroit MI	-145,990	n/a
Kokomo IN	-1,242	n/a
Mansfield OH	-6,047	n/a
Michigan City IN	-623	n/a
Muncie IN	-1,794	n/a
Sioux City IA	-1,284	n/a
Springfield OH	-12,240	n/a
Toledo OH	-8,942	n/a

Population loss of both native born and immigrants

Jackson MI	-827	n/a
Niles MI	-7,682	n/a
Saginaw MI	-8,382	n/a
Youngstown OH	-30,441	n/a

Muskegon, MI, had population growth of 2,312 persons, but none of it was attributable to immigration.

Note: Based on 2000 to 2009-2011 period.

Source: US Census Bureau.

As seen in table 5, in the four metro areas of Davenport, Duluth, South Bend, and Terre Haute, immigration completely offsets native-born population loss, and immigrants are responsible for all population growth. Without immigration, population in these areas would have declined.

In other metro areas, immigration accounts for the majority of growth. The number of immigrants coming to the area, in other words, exceeds growth among the native born. These areas include the four small-to-medium metro areas of Akron, Lansing, Saint Joseph, and Sheboygan. They also notably include the nation's third largest metro area, Chicago, where immigration represents almost 54 percent of all growth.

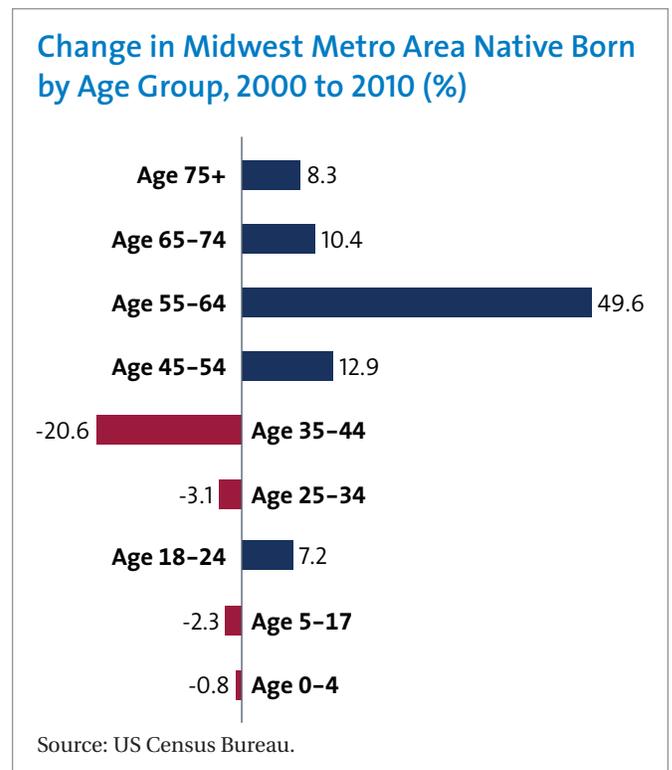
In a large number of metro areas immigration accounts for a minority of growth over the past decade, yet even in these cases the role of new arrivals from abroad is significant. Immigrants, for example, account for more than one-third of all growth in the metro areas of Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and St. Louis, all legendary epicenters of American history that substantially rely on immigration.

The Midwest is aging, and immigration helps to bring in young workers

The flat growth experienced by so many Midwestern metro areas might not be a problem if the population were not also aging at the same time. The percent of Midwesterners who are in their late working years or early retirement years is on the upswing, while the percent who are in their early and mid-working years is falling (figure 4). This leads to a declining ratio of working-age persons to children and retirees, with relatively fewer persons over time who are able to pay taxes to support schools for the youngest residents and services to retirees.

This is also a national phenomenon. Baby Boomers, a large cohort of persons born roughly between 1945 and 1965, are moving into their later years. They are being followed by the smaller Generation X, born roughly between 1965 and 1980. Because there are fewer Generation X-ers than Baby Boomers, younger age groups decline in number as the Baby Boomers age out of them. Figure 4 shows how, in the Midwest region as a whole, populations are dropping off in the younger working years and rising in the later working and retirement ages.

FIGURE 4



Native-born population loss is especially pronounced in the 35-to-44 age group. As table 6 shows, that age group is falling by double-digits in nearly every Midwest metro area, adding up to a loss of 1.4 million persons.

Immigration plays an especially important role in offsetting the Midwest population decline of younger age groups. New immigrants are disproportionately in their early working years. The largest age category of new legal immigrants to the United States in 2012, for example, was the 25-to-34-year-old group. In contrast, relatively few immigrants who arrived in 2012 were in their 40s, 50s, or 60s, categories already swelling with native growth (figure 5).

Table 6 lays out the numbers for each metro area, showing the extent to which immigrants aged 35 to 44 offset the decline of the native born in that same age group. In each metro area immigration offsets at least a portion of the native-born decline. In metro Chicago, for example, 76,968 new immigrants in the 35-to-44 age group offset well over a quarter of the loss of 261,901 native born aged 35 to 44. In Fargo, 1,022 new immigrants offset much of the loss of 1,230 native born. In Omaha, 7,943 immigrants offset a large portion of the decline of 16,482 native born.

TABLE 6

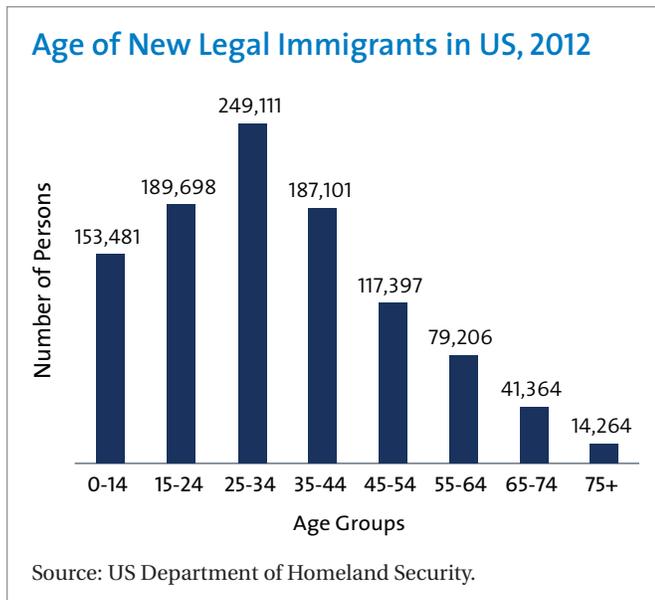
	Number Change		Percent Change	
	Native Born	Immigrants	Native Born	Immigrants
MIDWEST METRO AREAS	-1,356,394	265,976	-20.6%	44.2%
Akron OH	-23,630	2,001	-22.0%	50.3%
Anderson IN	-3,412	241	-17.4%	73.7%
Ann Arbor MI	-8,748	2,371	-19.9%	39.2%
Appleton-Oshkosh WI	-11,467	510	-18.6%	27.4%
Battle Creek MI	-5,232	203	-24.9%	32.4%
Bloomington IL	-2,937	1,676	-13.6%	151.3%
Bloomington IN	-2,669	286	-17.9%	34.8%
Canton OH	-15,304	445	-23.8%	54.1%
Cedar Rapids IA	-3,464	542	-11.8%	46.8%
Champaign IL	-5,250	1,779	-23.0%	88.8%
Chicago IL-IN-WI	-261,901	76,968	-22.1%	25.5%
Cincinnati OH	-45,923	7,363	-18.7%	76.0%
Cleveland OH	-85,317	1,933	-25.7%	10.8%
Columbia MO	-1,911	50	-10.1%	2.8%
Columbus OH	-20,713	11,806	-8.3%	75.1%
Davenport IA-IL	-12,156	2,047	-22.4%	82.4%
Dayton OH	-25,240	452	-24.1%	10.9%
Decatur IL	-4,931	80	-28.3%	24.2%
Des Moines IA	-5,321	4,074	-9.2%	95.4%
Detroit MI	-163,716	10,842	-23.8%	17.4%
Duluth MN	-10,361	-56	-33.2%	-10.9%
Eau Claire WI	-2,484	173	-11.7%	45.1%
Elkhart IN	-3,928	2,190	-15.3%	87.3%
Evansville IN	-9,553	629	-23.5%	77.2%
Fargo ND	-1,230	1,022	-6.6%	169.2%
Fort Wayne IN	-8,782	1,918	-17.5%	65.6%
Grand Rapids MI	-19,040	3,909	-21.8%	67.2%
Green Bay WI	-7,565	1,133	-20.0%	61.9%
Holland MI	-7,741	1,108	-20.8%	45.3%
Indianapolis IN	-25,973	15,502	-11.3%	151.3%
Iowa City IA	-1,035	1,134	-7.5%	97.4%
Jackson MI	-5,079	-70	-19.3%	-14.9%
Janesville WI	-4,592	608	-19.0%	76.0%
Joplin MO	-1,558	978	-7.1%	133.8%
Kalamazoo MI	-10,473	1,662	-22.7%	90.7%
Kankakee IL	-2,671	1,145	-17.0%	237.6%
Kansas City MO-KS	-45,672	13,959	-17.0%	88.8%

TABLE 6, CONTINUED

	Number Change		Percent Change	
	Native Born	Immigrants	Native Born	Immigrants
Kokomo IN	-2,638	12	-17.5%	4.8%
La Crosse WI	-1,493	141	-10.2%	46.5%
Lansing MI	-14,654	1,643	-22.9%	45.2%
Lincoln NE	-6,591	3,121	-17.9%	171.1%
Madison WI	-7,952	4,459	-12.3%	88.6%
Mansfield OH	-5,216	68	-25.8%	24.1%
Michigan City IN	-3,321	-344	-18.8%	-47.6%
Milwaukee WI	-57,062	10,011	-24.3%	79.7%
Minneapolis MN	-105,650	38,486	-22.2%	106.2%
Monroe MI	-4,302	204	-17.8%	64.2%
Muncie IN	-3,855	64	-23.7%	22.2%
Muskegon MI	-6,864	36	-24.8%	6.2%
Niles MI	-6,793	261	-28.0%	20.3%
Omaha NE	-16,482	7,943	-17.4%	157.9%
Peoria IL	-9,333	1,002	-18.0%	73.1%
Racine WI	-7,844	1,114	-25.1%	93.5%
Rochester MN	-5,312	651	-25.4%	31.6%
Rockford IL	-8,751	2,952	-17.9%	75.9%
Saginaw MI	-7,800	-63	-25.0%	-7.4%
Saint Cloud MN	-4,320	549	-17.2%	97.7%
Saint Joseph MO	-2,665	877	-17.1%	237.0%
Saint Louis MO-IL	-93,266	9,997	-22.3%	60.9%
Sheboygan WI	-5,431	473	-28.5%	54.6%
Sioux City IA	-3,656	568	-26.9%	42.4%
South Bend IN	-9,059	557	-23.5%	22.5%
Springfield MO	-1,222	605	-2.6%	61.7%
Springfield OH	-4,879	250	-23.6%	78.9%
Terre Haute IN	-2,538	45	-12.1%	12.7%
Toledo OH	-20,286	351	-22.1%	9.8%
Topeka KS	-5,874	1,261	-22.9%	240.2%
Waterloo IA	-4,105	992	-23.9%	165.6%
Wausau WI	-2,620	-96	-13.5%	-14.0%
Wichita KS	-20,010	5,216	-24.0%	87.1%
Youngstown OH	-17,571	-43	-24.8%	-2.9%

Note: 2010 is the average of the 2009-2011 period.
Source: US Census Bureau.

FIGURE 5



Conclusion

This report documents the important role that immigration plays in sustaining population in metropolitan areas across the Midwest. But the importance of immigrants goes beyond numbers and population statistics. As immigrants flow into the cities and suburbs of

the Midwest, these local areas need to be able to fully leverage the potential benefits of the migration stream. This consists of ensuring that immigrants are able to integrate as seamlessly as possible into the economies, labor markets, and civic processes of the region. It calls for encouraging the immigration of those with the skills for both high-skill and low-skill jobs where workers are needed. It calls for freeing up immigrants to function as active consumers who can purchase mortgages and invest in their new communities. It requires immigrants to eventually be able to vote and participate in other duties of engaged citizenry.

Achieving the full potential of Midwestern immigration requires strategic planning rather than the current, largely ad-hoc system of immigration in which skills are usually not recognized and a large portion of the arrivals are outside the legal system, precluding full economic and civic integration. A system that recognizes the skills of newcomers and that provides a legal means to work and live in their new communities is necessary to lift the current Midwestern stream of immigrants to a new level where the migrants can most fully contribute to the region. This requires new federal policies and, yes, immigration reform, that fully recognize immigration as an asset, not a burden, to the region.

Methodology

Sources of data

The majority of data for this report comes from the 2000 Census and the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS). The 2009-2011 data are a three-year period used to represent 2010. Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) data were the source of information for each data collection period. Some 3,228,326 census 2000 5% PUMS records were analyzed for this report, along with 2,029,415 ACS 2009-2011 PUMS records.

Figure 5 on age distributions of legal immigrants comes from the US Department of Homeland Security, specifically, the 2012 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.

Definitions of metro areas

Metropolitan areas are defined by the US Office of Management and Budget and are based on counties. Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are geographic areas defined by the US Census Bureau and are the only source for the needed information on immigrants in this report. PUMAs, unfortunately, are not always contiguous with counties, and it can be impossible to precisely fit PUMA data to metropolitan areas because, for example, a PUMA may include both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

For this report we employed a “best fit” methodology to construct metro areas from PUMAs. This required some counties to be excluded from metro areas in certain situations such as when a county is part of a PUMA whose boundaries extended outside of the metropolitan area. A description of how the 71 metro areas were constructed may be seen in the table to the right.

A table showing exactly which counties within each metro area were included in this analysis may be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1rcAjIX>.

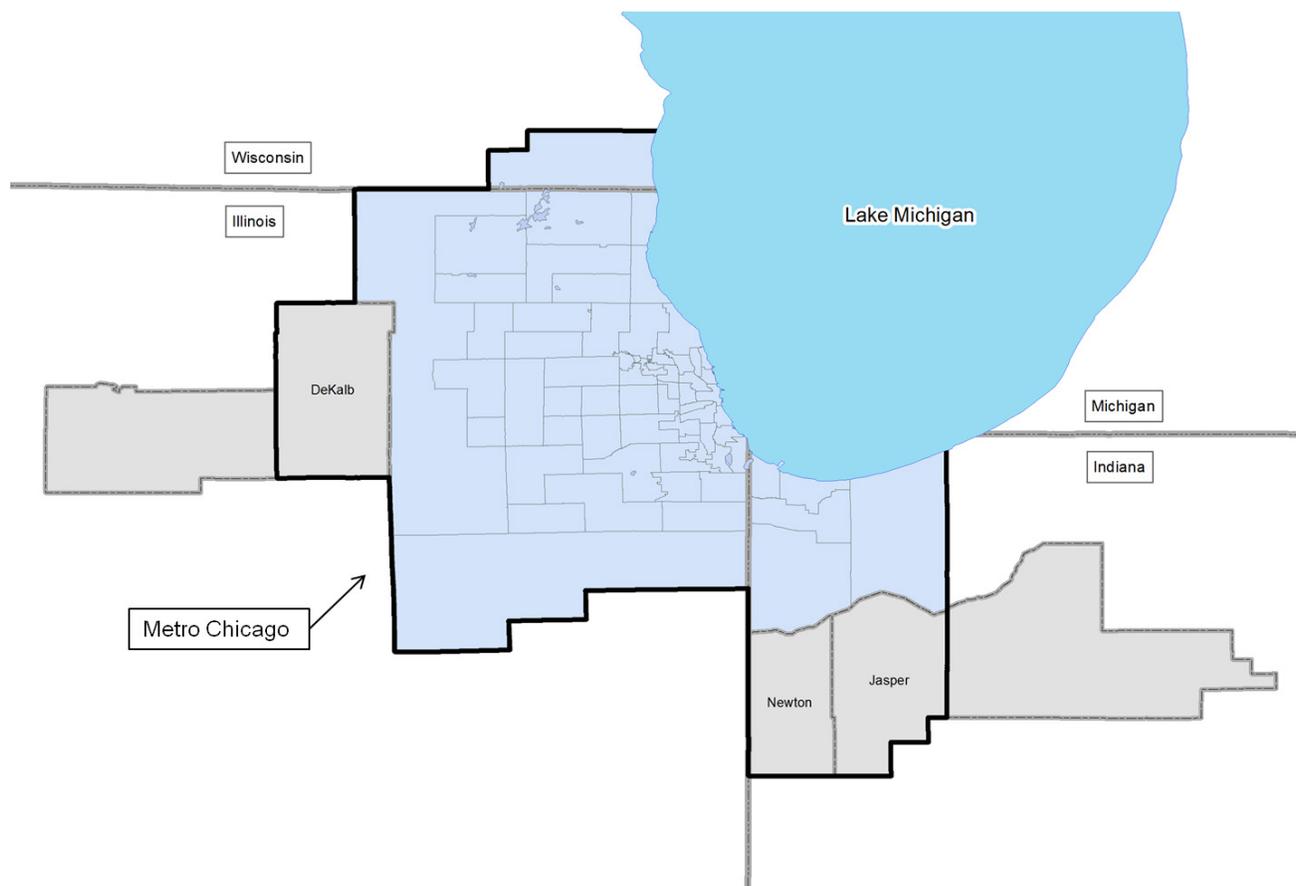
Selection and Definition of Metropolitan Areas

- 98** Metropolitan areas wholly or partially in the Midwest region as of 2009 per US Office of Management and Budget.
- 72** Number of metro areas included in this report. These include metro areas entirely in the Midwest region and the Midwest portion of metro areas found partially in the Midwest. The 168 component counties of these metro areas are constructed of PUMAs entirely within the metropolitan area and where the counties represented at least 70 percent of the 2010 metro area population.
- Oshkosh and Appleton, Wisconsin, are two metro areas as of 2009, but were one metro area in year 2000. For this report we define one Appleton-Oshkosh metro area. Thus, the 72 metro areas are represented by 71 areas in the report.
- 26** Number of metro areas excluded from this report.
- 13** Metro areas excluded because component Midwest counties were part of PUMAs that included micropolitan or nonmetropolitan areas, and counties that were entirely within the metro area had population summing to less than 70 percent of total metro area population. Areas were Bay City, MI; Bismarck, ND; Flint, MI; Fond du Lac, WI; Jefferson City, MO; Lafayette, IN; Lawrence, KS; Lima, OH; Louisville, IN; Manhattan, KS; Rapid City, SD; Sioux Falls, SD; and Springfield, IL.
- 8** Metro areas excluded because their populations were less than 100,000 in 2010. Areas were Ames, IA; Cape Girardeau, MO-IL; Columbus, IN; Danville, IL; Dubuque, IA; Grand Forks, ND-MN; Mankato, MN; and Sandusky, OH.
- 5** Metro areas whose Midwestern portion was less than 100,000 persons in 2010. Areas were Fayetteville, MO; Huntington, OH; Parkersburg, OH; Steubenville, OH; and Wheeling, OH.

The map below uses metro Chicago to illustrate why some metropolitan areas constructed with PUMAs could not include all counties within a metropolitan definition. In the map, a dark outline encompasses the formal metropolitan area. Within the metro area, a light blue collection of PUMAs may be seen. Also within the metro area, DeKalb County is shown in gray because it is part of a PUMA that extends outside of the metro area definition and into a nonmetropoli-

tan county. Thus, DeKalb had to be excluded from this report's definition of metro Chicago. Similarly, Newton and Jasper counties in Indiana are part of metro Chicago, but the PUMA they fall into is a larger PUMA that extends outside of the metropolitan Chicago area. As the map makes clear, the great majority of land mass and population of metro Chicago are included in the metro area definition used in this report.

Example of PUMA Construction: Metro Chicago



Source: Rob Paral and Associates.

About the author

Rob Paral is the principal of Rob Paral and Associates (RPA), a consulting firm specializing in assessing human service needs. RPA achieves these goals by providing new demographic, social, and economic information and by determining attitudes, experiences, and program usage among populations served by their clients. Their immigration-related work has been supported by many national and local organizations, including the American Immigration Council, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at the University of Southern California, the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and numerous others. Examples of RPA work may be seen at www.robparal.com.

About the Immigration Initiative

The Chicago Council's Immigration Initiative focuses on the important economic contributions immigrants make to Chicago, the Midwest, and the nation. Through a series of publications, events, and a network of regional leaders, the Council provides analysis and policy recommendations to inform the immigration debate and bridge the partisan divide. Generous support for the Immigration Initiative is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust. Learn more at www.MidwestImmigration.org or contact Juliana Kerr, director, Immigration Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

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