Immigrant Integration Index Methodology

Comparing economic integration across New York State

Institute on Immigrant Integration Research and Policy

The index examines how nativity, race and ethnicity, and gender relate to the economic security of foreign-born New Yorkers, using seven socioeconomic indicators.

01 Who is compared

Nativity	Foreign-born and native-born New Yorkers
Race and ethnicity	Foreign-born people of color and foreign-born White non-Hispanic residents
Race and nativity	Foreign-born people of color and native-born White non-Hispanic residents
Gender	Foreign-born women and foreign-born men

Matched cohorts

Each comparison uses two education cohorts: bachelor's degree or higher, and high school diploma holders. Both cohorts speak English well or very well.

Additional comparison: Foreign-born residents without a high school diploma who speak English not well or not at all are compared with the state average.

02 Seven socioeconomic indicators

INDICATOR	MEASURE • PERCENTAGE EXCEPT INCOME	AGE
Income level	Income of full-time workers during the last 12 months.	15+
Homeownership	Residents who own their homes.	25–64
Rent burden	Residents spending 50% or more of income on rent.	25–64
Full-time work	Full-time workers employed full time during the last 12 months.	25–64
Working poor	Full-time workers with income-to-poverty ratio at or below 150% of the federal poverty line.	25–64
Unemployment	Residents unemployed and actively seeking a job.	25–64
Poverty	Residents with household income below 150% of the federal poverty line.	25–64

From economic outcomes to regional grades

Ten regions • 145 Public Use Microdata Areas • Nine grades

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03 Geography and control variables

Scores rate and rank New York State regions by economic integration. The methodology is repeated for 145 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAS).

TEN NEW YORK STATE REGIONS

Capital Region • Central New York • Mohawk Valley • Western New York • New York City (five boroughs) • Southern Tier • Mid-Hudson • Long Island • North Country • Finger Lakes

Controls: Educational attainment uses the percentage of high school diploma holders ages 25–64 and the percentage with a bachelor's degree or higher. Language proficiency uses foreign-born residents who speak English well or very well.

04 How the methodology works

1 Calculate percentages

Calculate the percentage for each indicator in each region.

2 Calculate disparity ratios

Compare the groups within each region.

3 Calculate mean and spread

Find the mean and standard deviation for each variable across regions.

4 Normalize indicator values

Use the mean and standard deviation to calculate a score for each region.

5 Assign a grade

Convert each normalized score to the nine-grade scale at right.

GRADE	SCORE RANGE
A	$1.75 \leq$ score
A–	$1.25 \leq$ score < 1.75
B	$0.75 \leq$ score < 1.25
B–	$0.25 \leq$ score < 0.75
C	$-0.25 \leq$ score < 0.25
C–	$-0.75 \leq$ score < -0.25
D	$-1.25 \leq$ score < -0.75
D–	$-1.75 \leq$ score < -1.25
E	score < -1.75

Sources: ACS PUMS: 2014, 2016 and 2017 one-year samples; 2012–2016 five-year sample. Regional scorecard adapted from Pastor et al. (2012).