



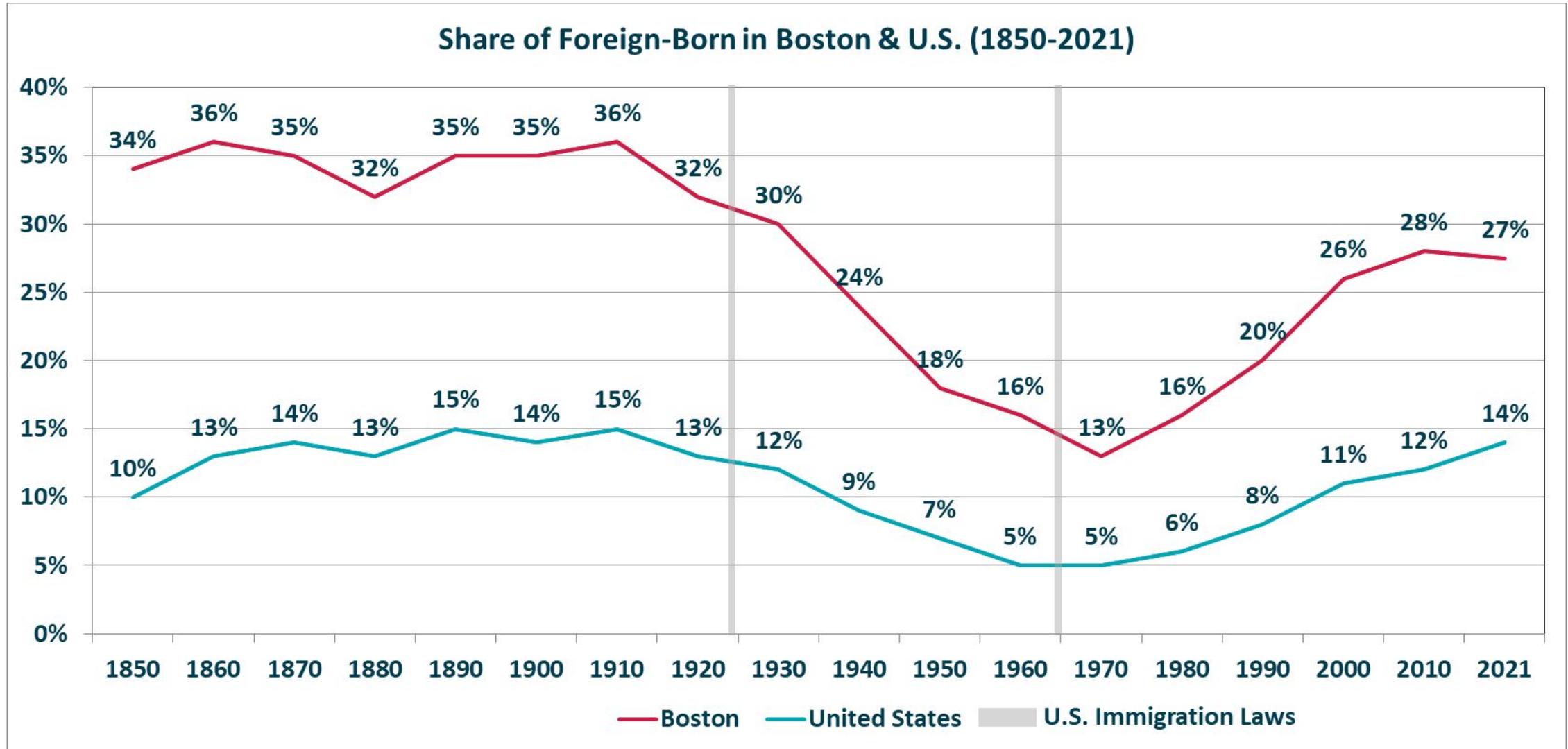
Economic Contributions of Boston's Foreign Born

BPDA Research Division - July 21, 2023

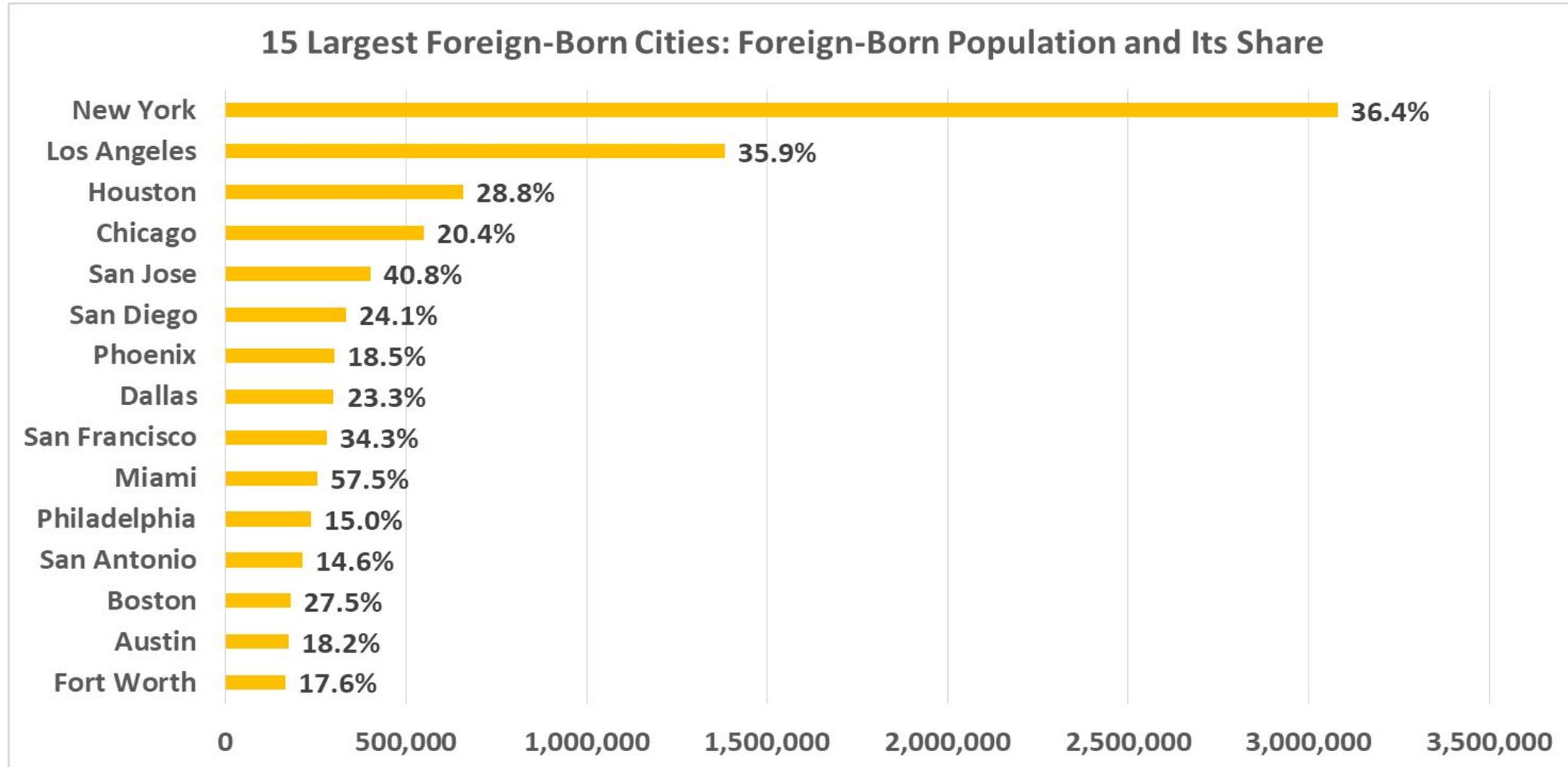


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Changes to Boston's foreign-born population mirror changes to U.S. immigration policy

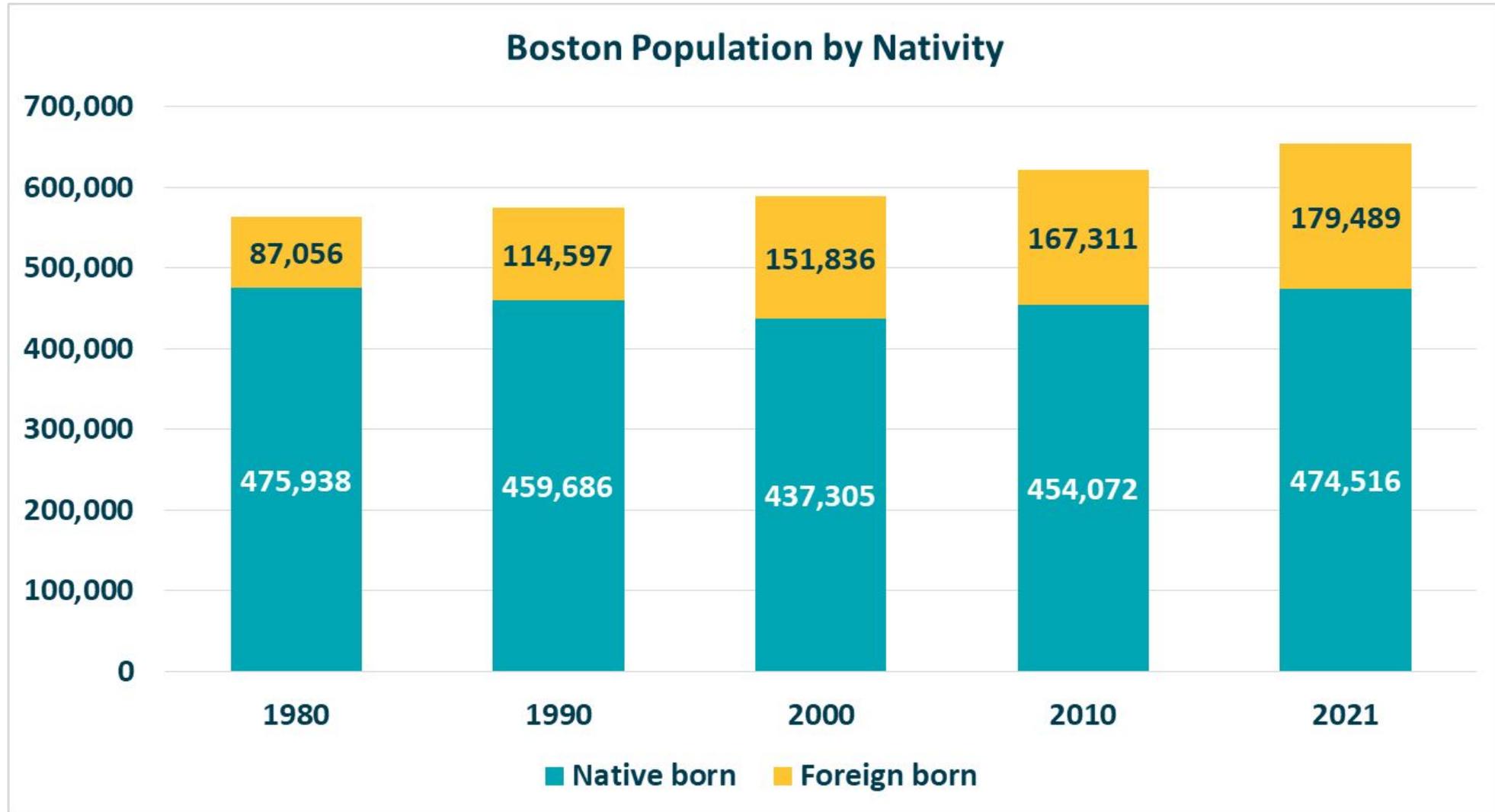


With 179,974 foreign-born residents, Boston ranks 13th in foreign-born population



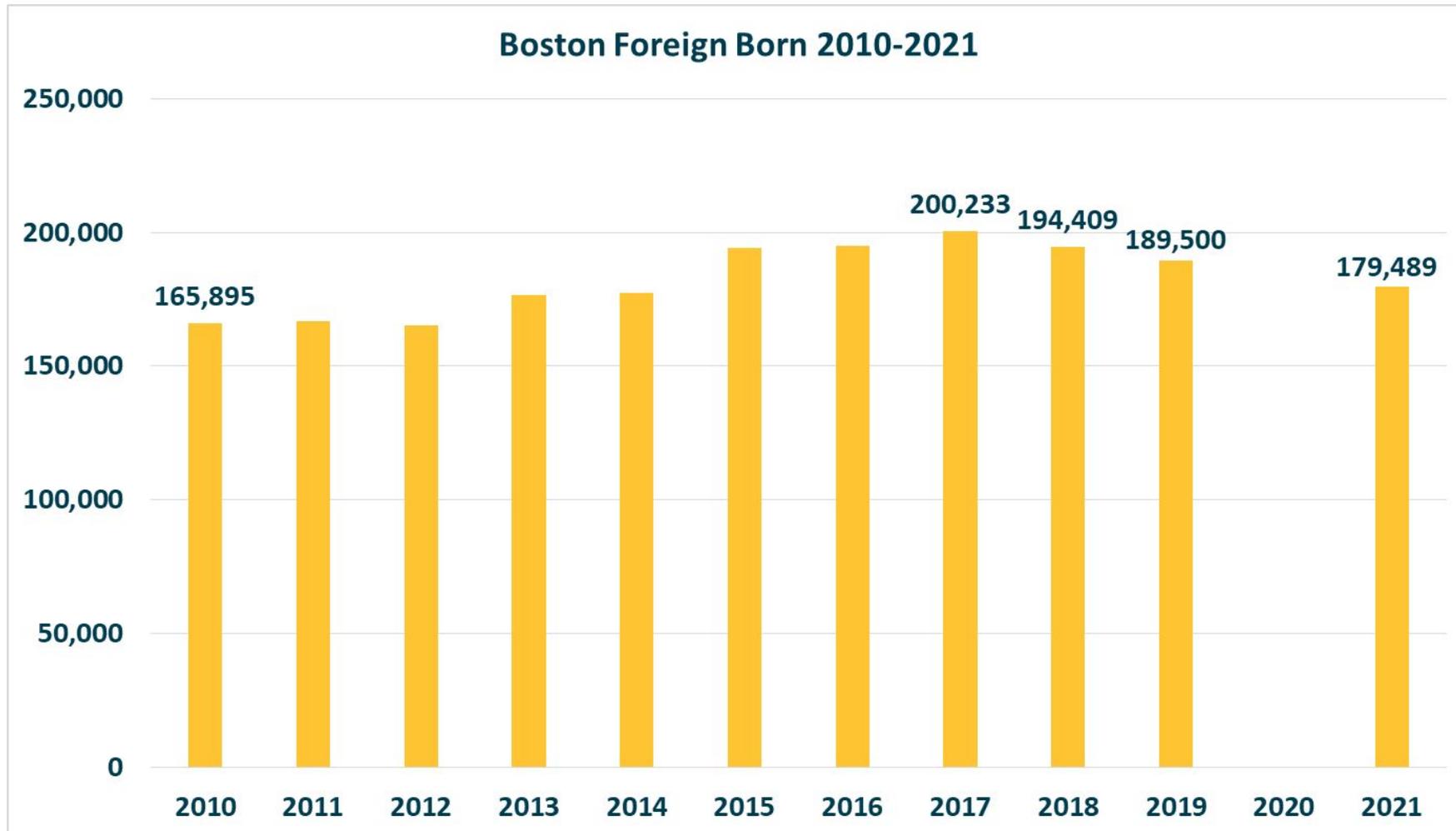
Sources: 2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Boston's population growth since 1980 has come largely from an increasing foreign-born population



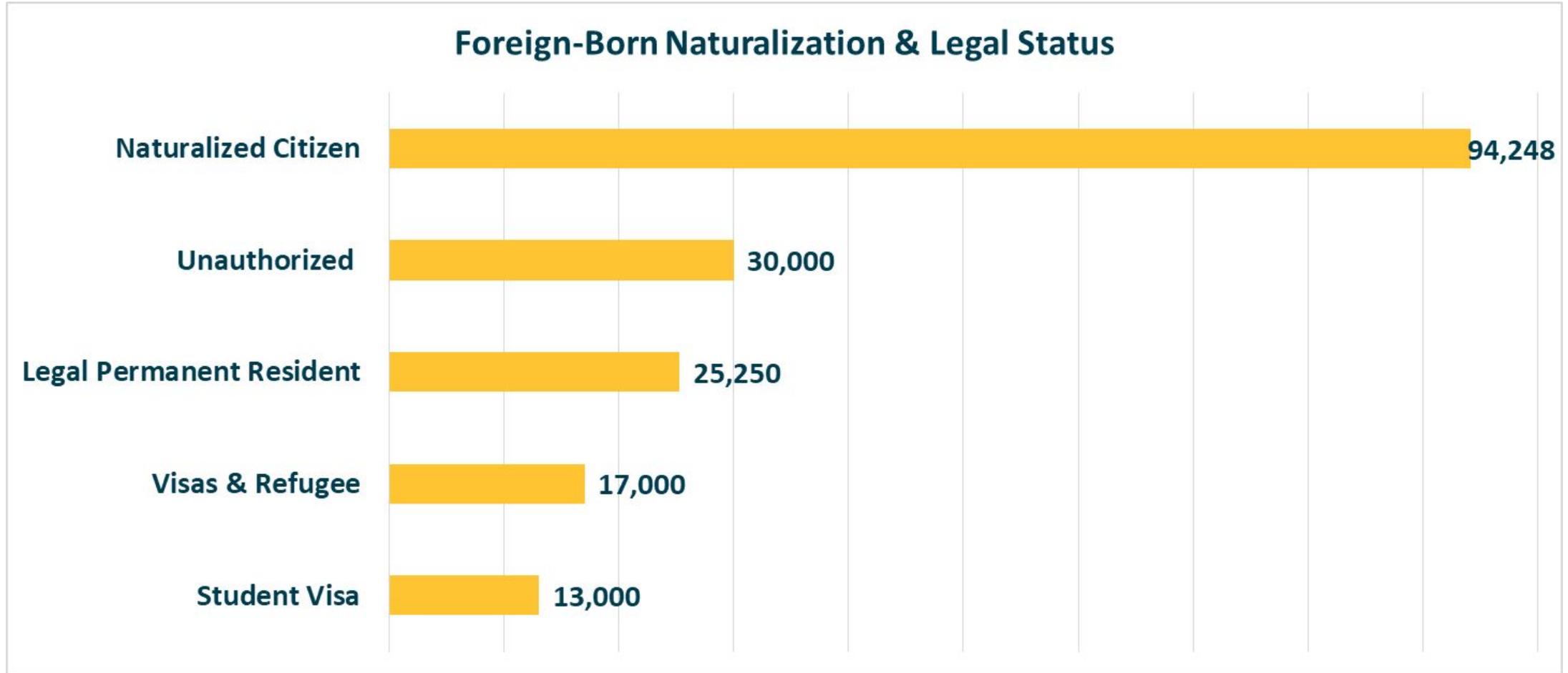
Sources: 1980 to 2000 Decennial Censuses, 2010 & 2021 American Community Surveys, BPDA Research Division Analysis

- From 2017 to 2019, Boston's foreign-born population declined by 5.4% while the native-born population grew by 4.5%
- 2021 data show a decline for both foreign- and native-born populations during pandemic disruptions



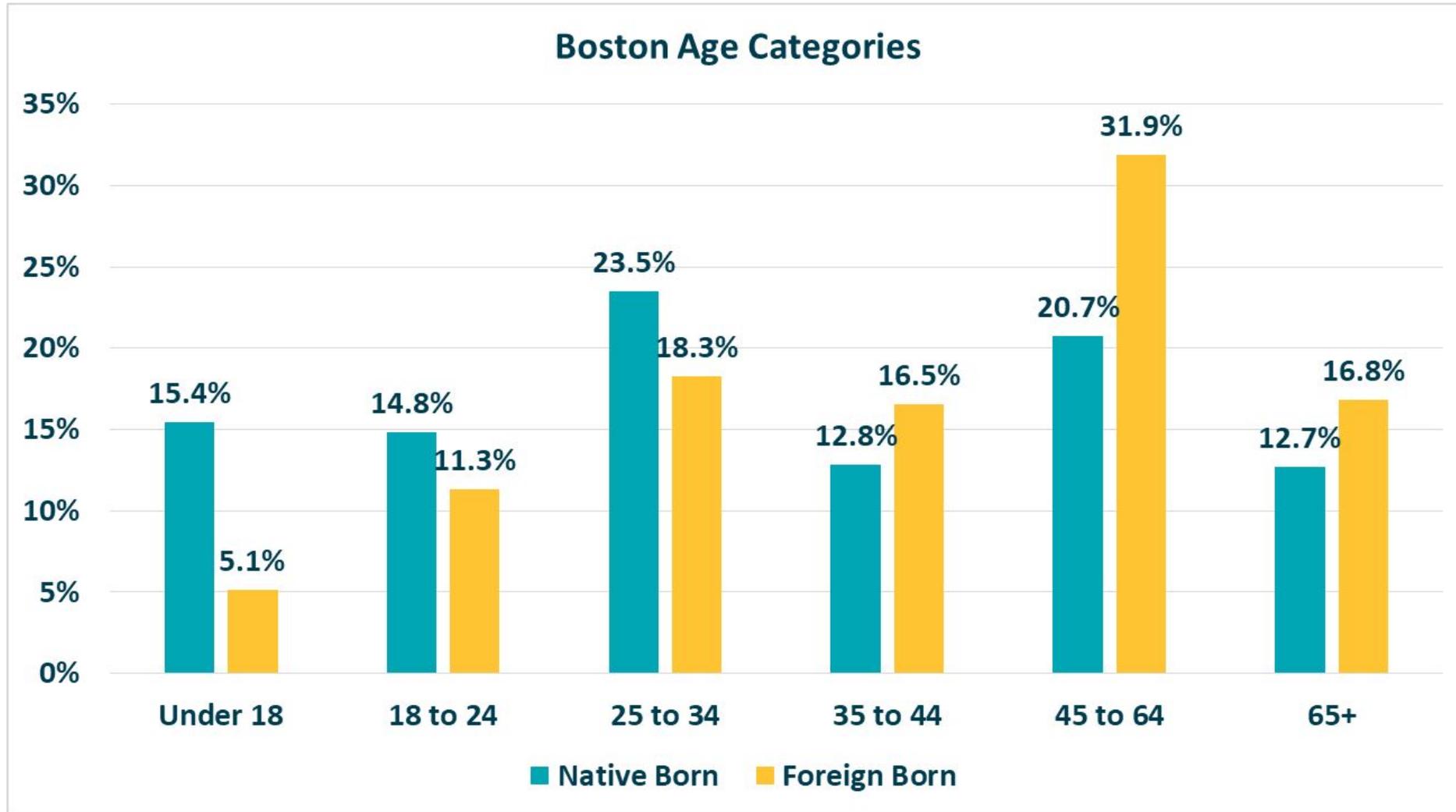
Source: 2010 to 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis. 2020 data not available.

About half of Boston's foreign-born residents are naturalized U.S. citizens



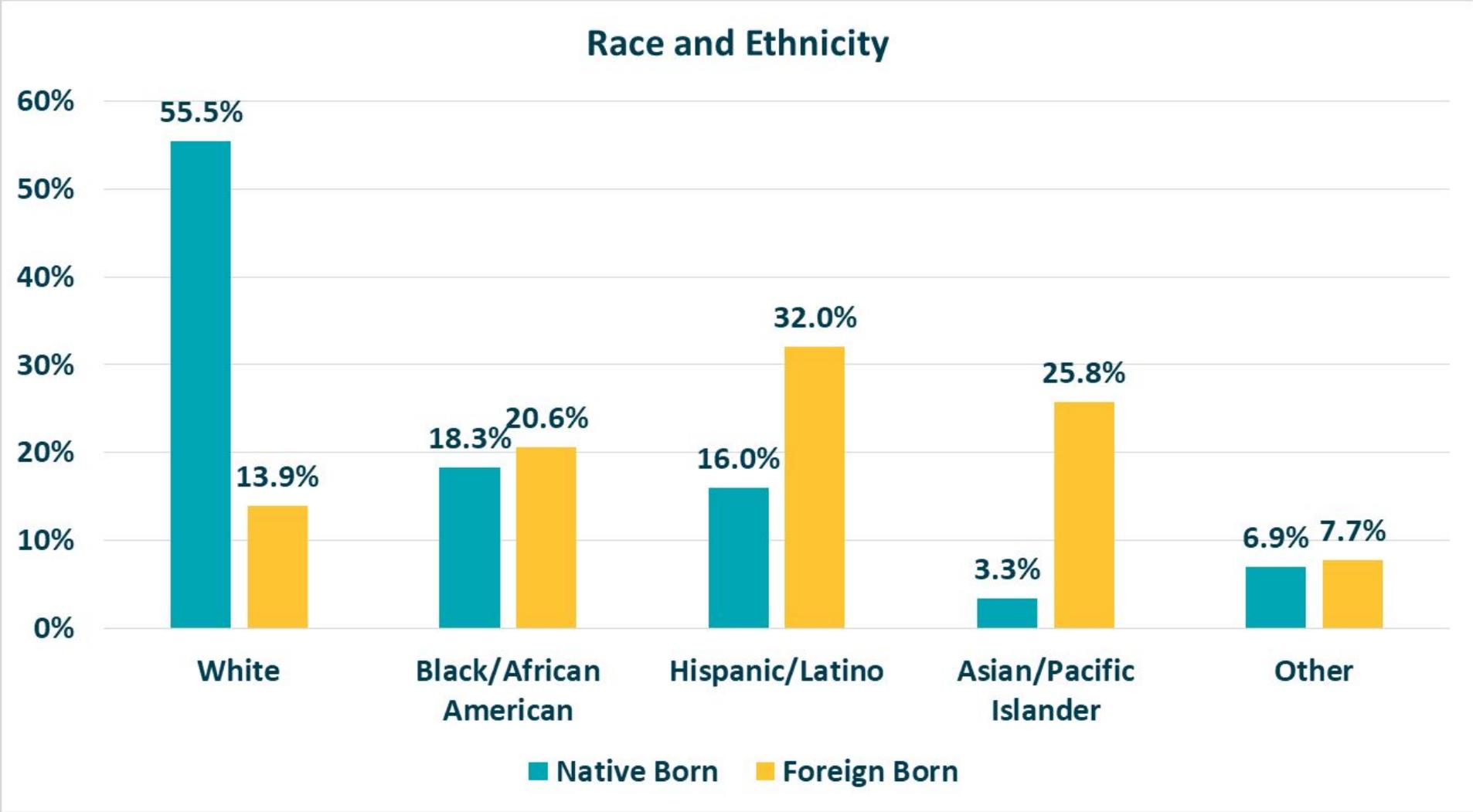
Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS) and BPDA Research Division Estimates

Boston's foreign-born population is older than its native-born population



Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

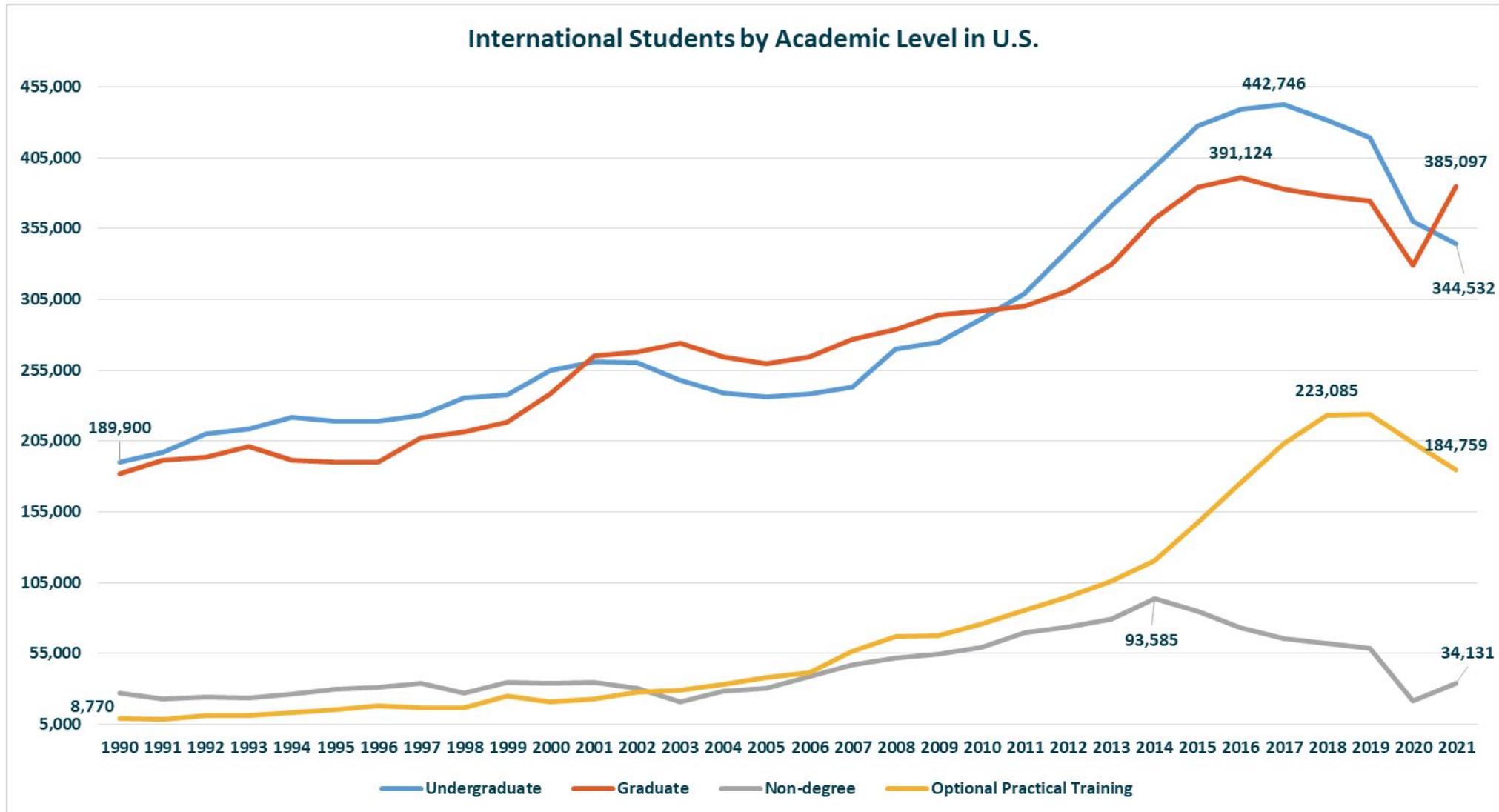
The foreign born arriving after 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act are more likely to be Asian or Hispanic



Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

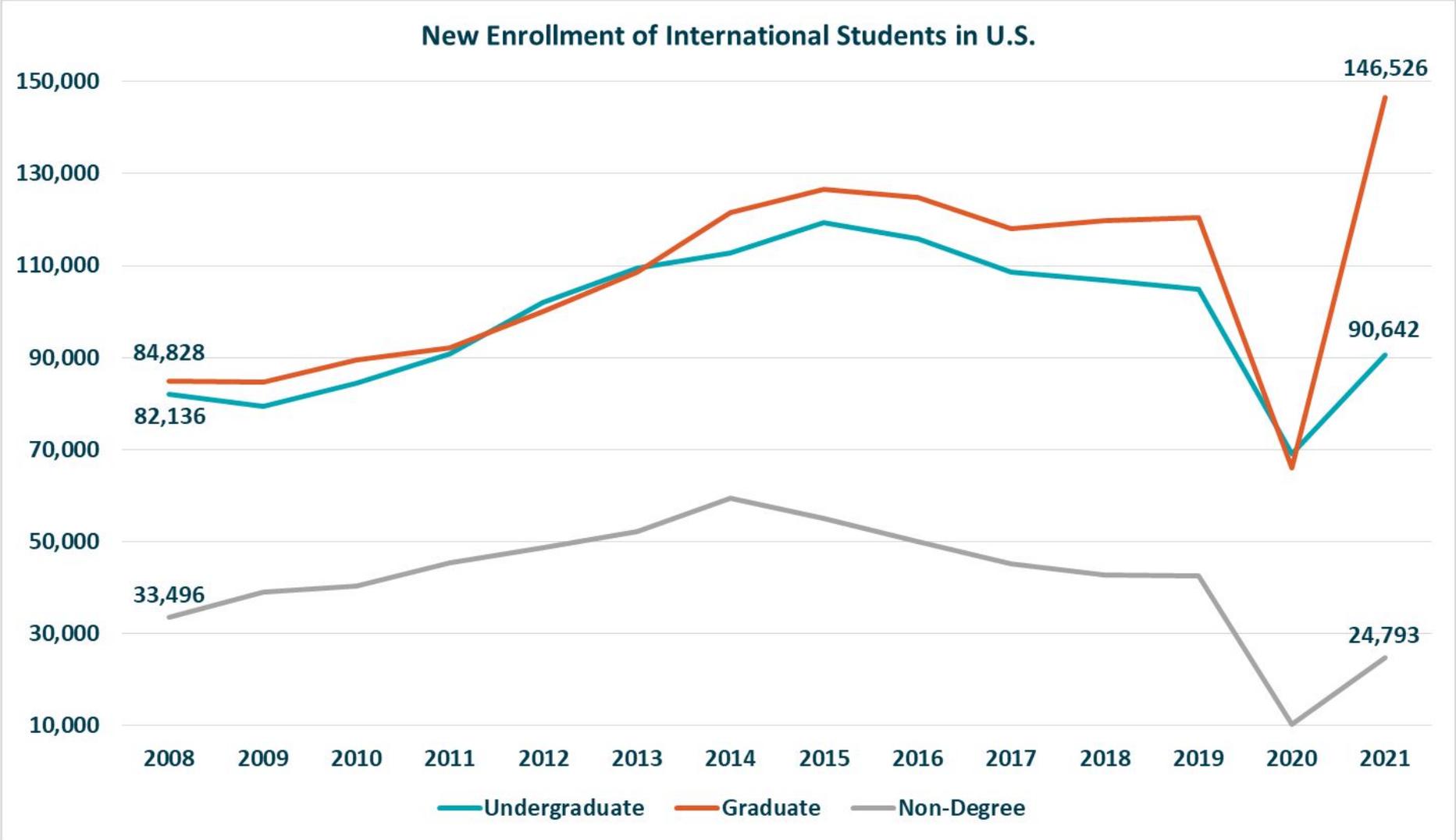
International Students

International student enrollment in U.S. universities peaked at 1.1 million in 2018



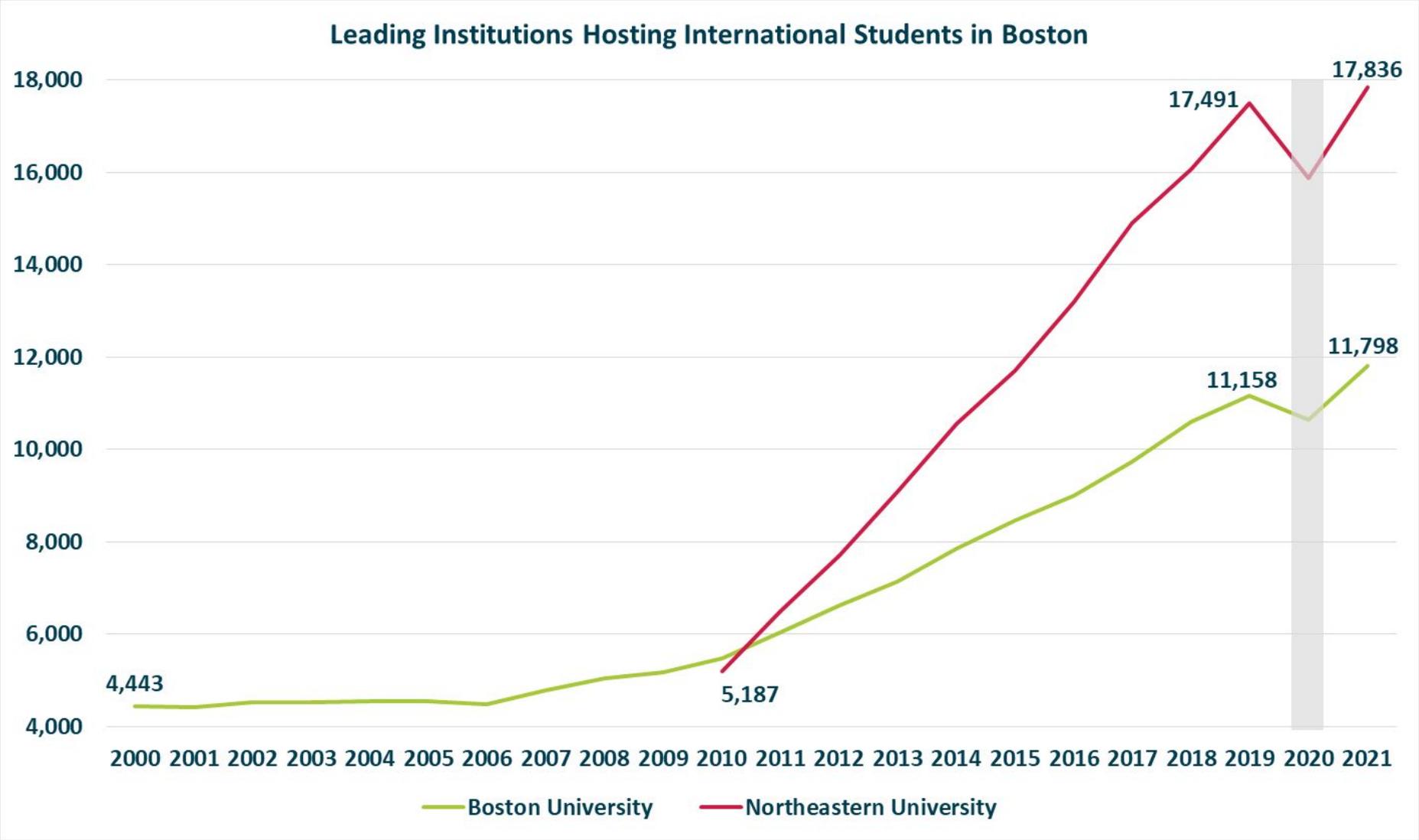
Source: Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, BPDA Research Division Analysis

In 2021, new international enrollment in U.S. colleges was mainly graduate students



Source: Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Northeastern and BU are two top schools for international students in Boston



International students fell sharply in 2020, but recovered in 2021

Source: Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Impacts of International Students on Boston's Economy

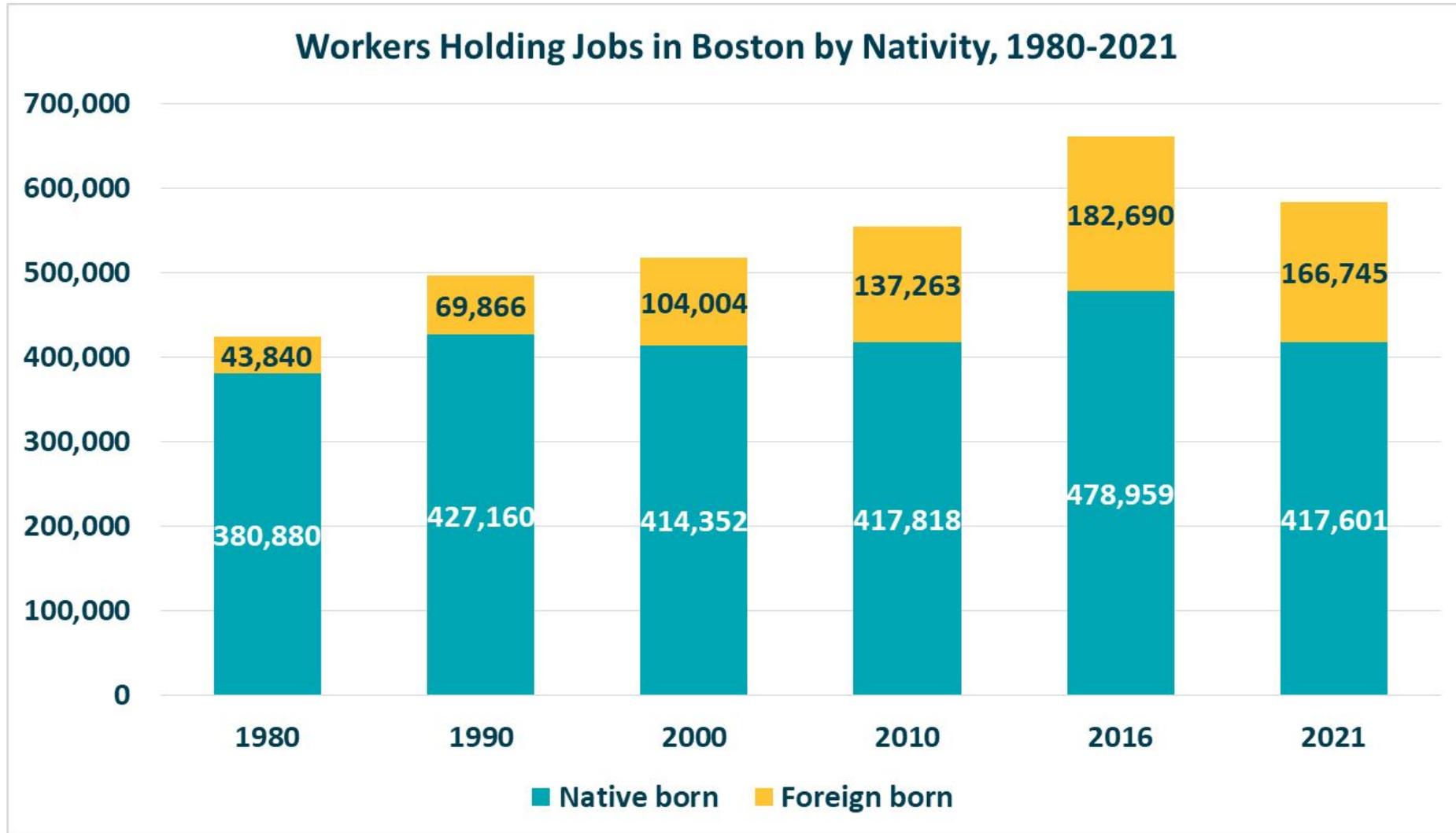
- ~13,000 international students under F1 visas live in Boston and attend college
- Annual spending by international students generates:
 - \$174.2 million in Gross City Product (GCP)
 - 1,100 jobs in Boston

Foreign-Born Workers



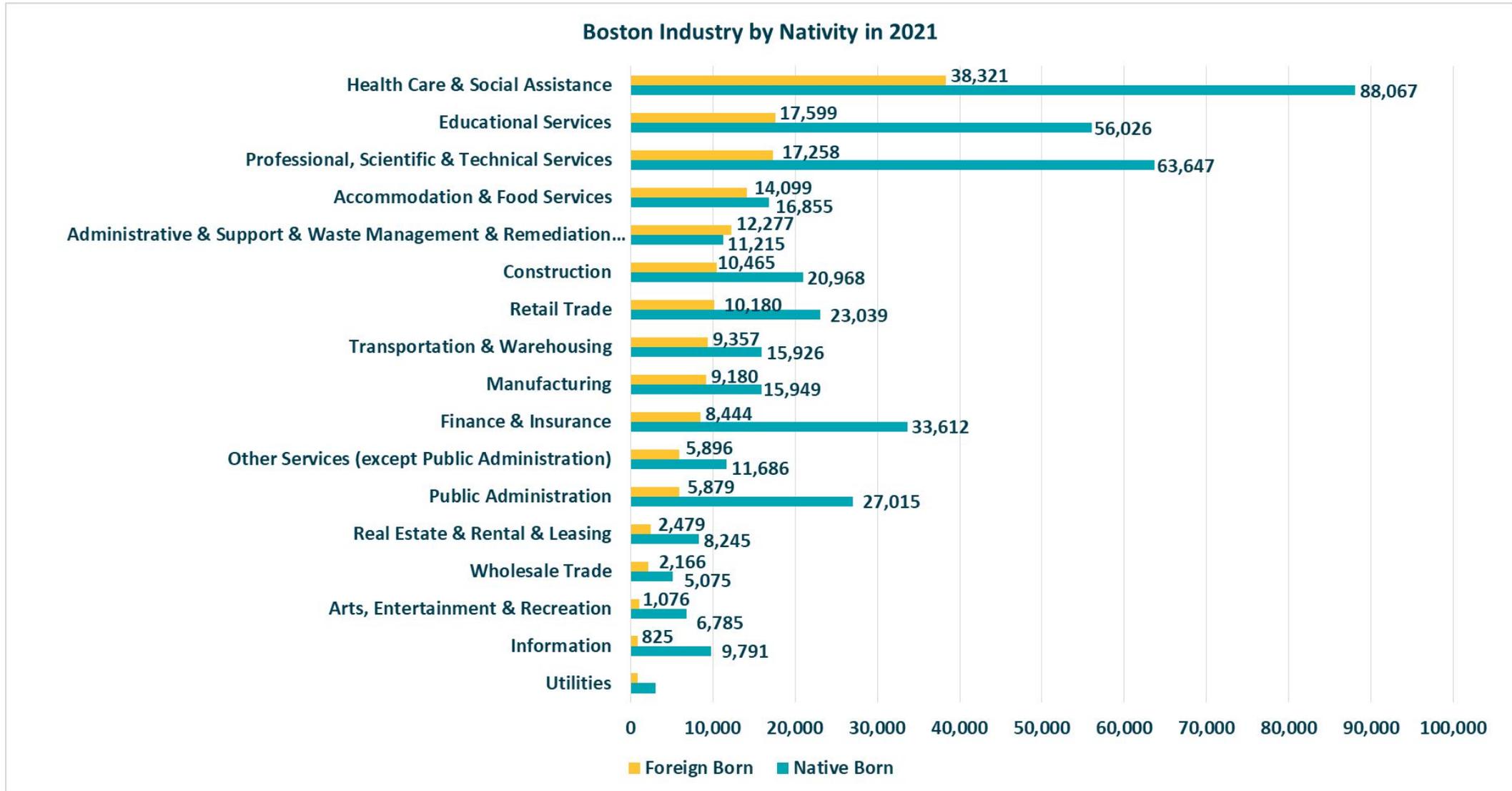
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Foreign-born workers make up 28.5% of those working in Boston



Source: 1980, 1990 & 2000 Decennial Census (IPUMS) & 2010, 2016, and 2021 American Community Survey (Workforce Geography), BPDA Research Division Analysis

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry in Boston has the most foreign-born workers - 38,000



Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), (Workforce Geography), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Highly-Educated Foreign-Born Workers

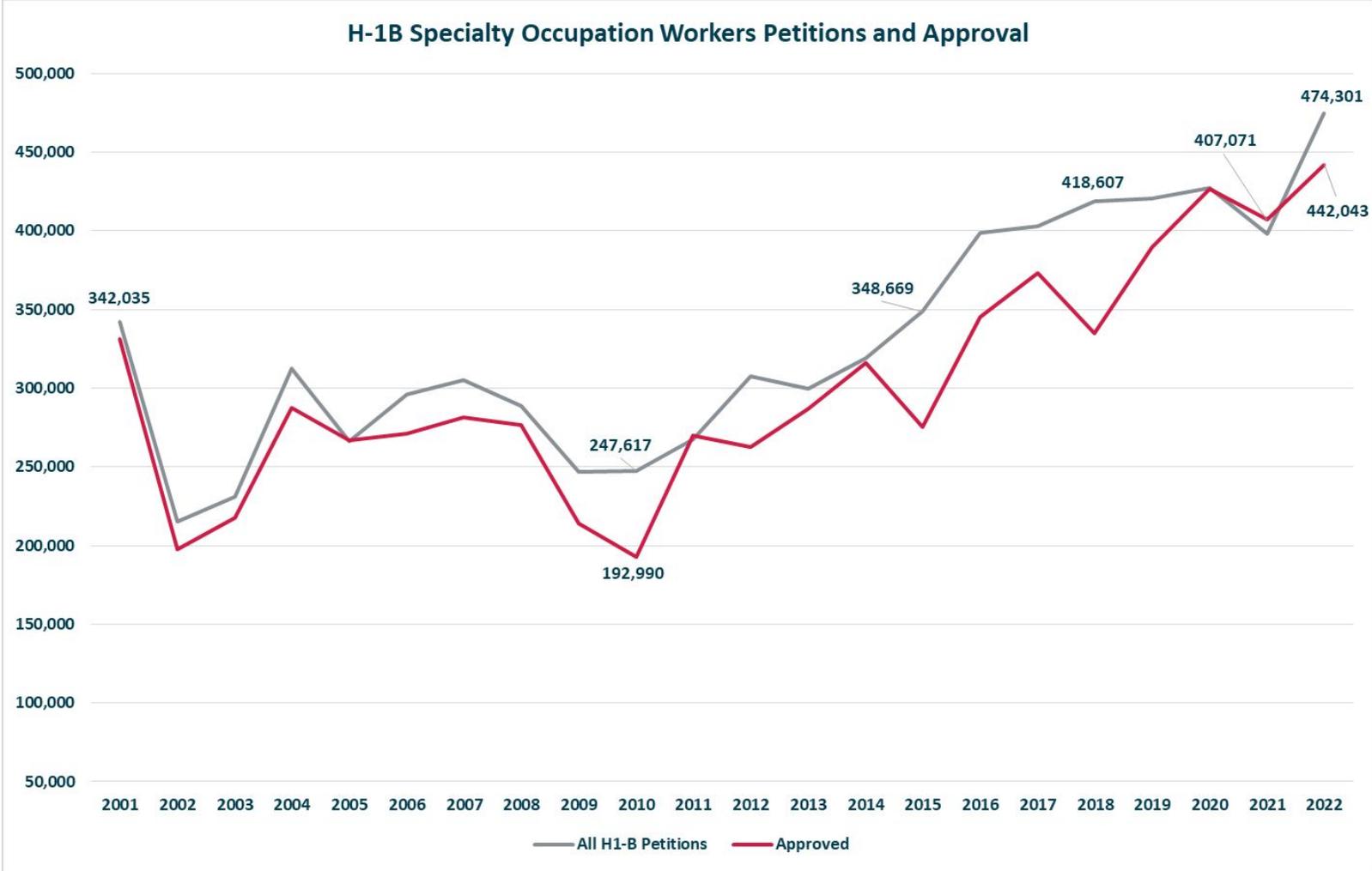


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H-1B visas allow highly-educated foreign-born temporary employment in the United States

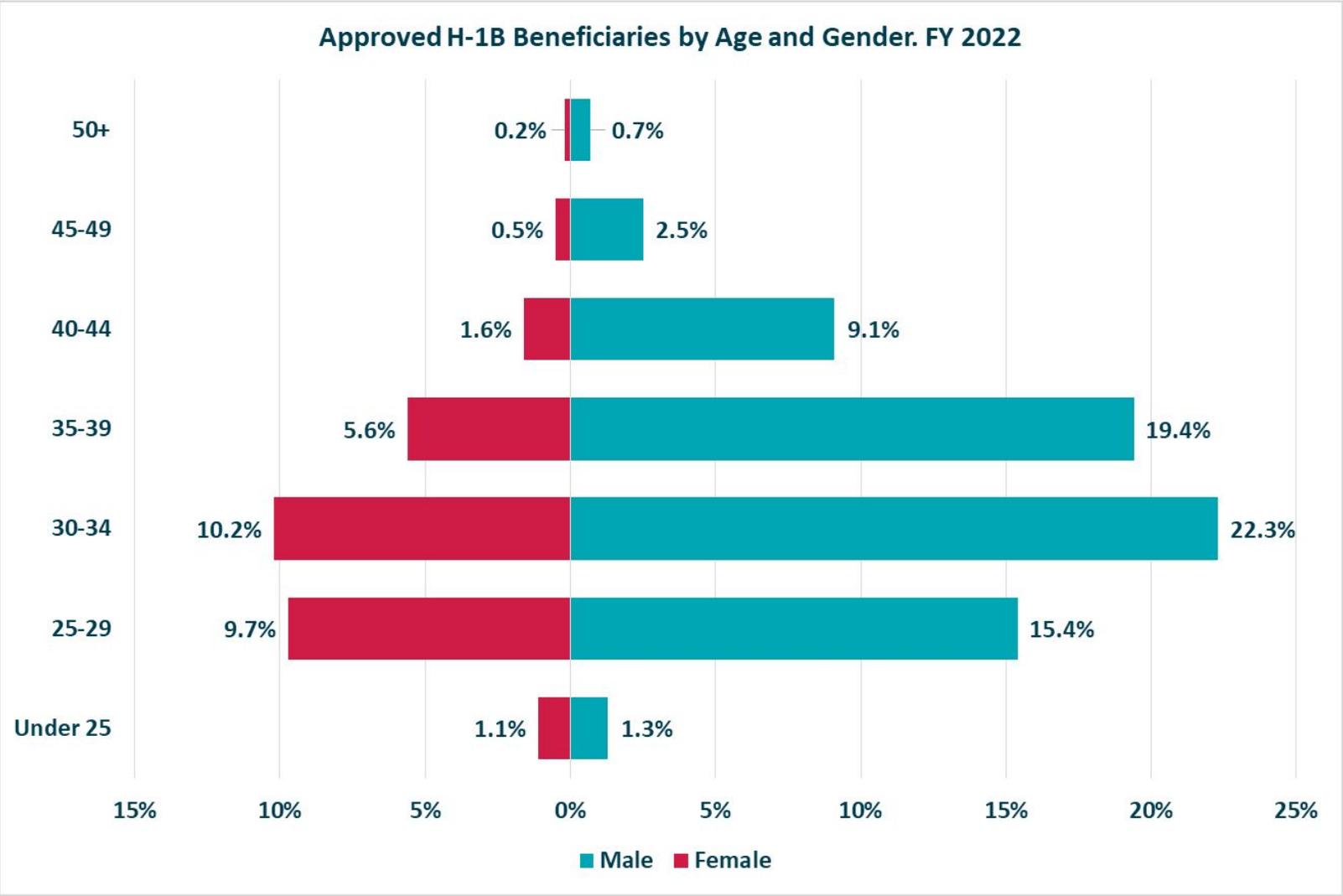
- Temporary working visas for 3 years, renewed one time = 6 years
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree or higher and work duties must be specialized and complex
- Annual cap nationally: 65,000 for BA+, extra 20,000 for graduate degree

Petitions exceed approvals for H-1B visas, but the US approved almost 450,000 H-1B visas in 2022

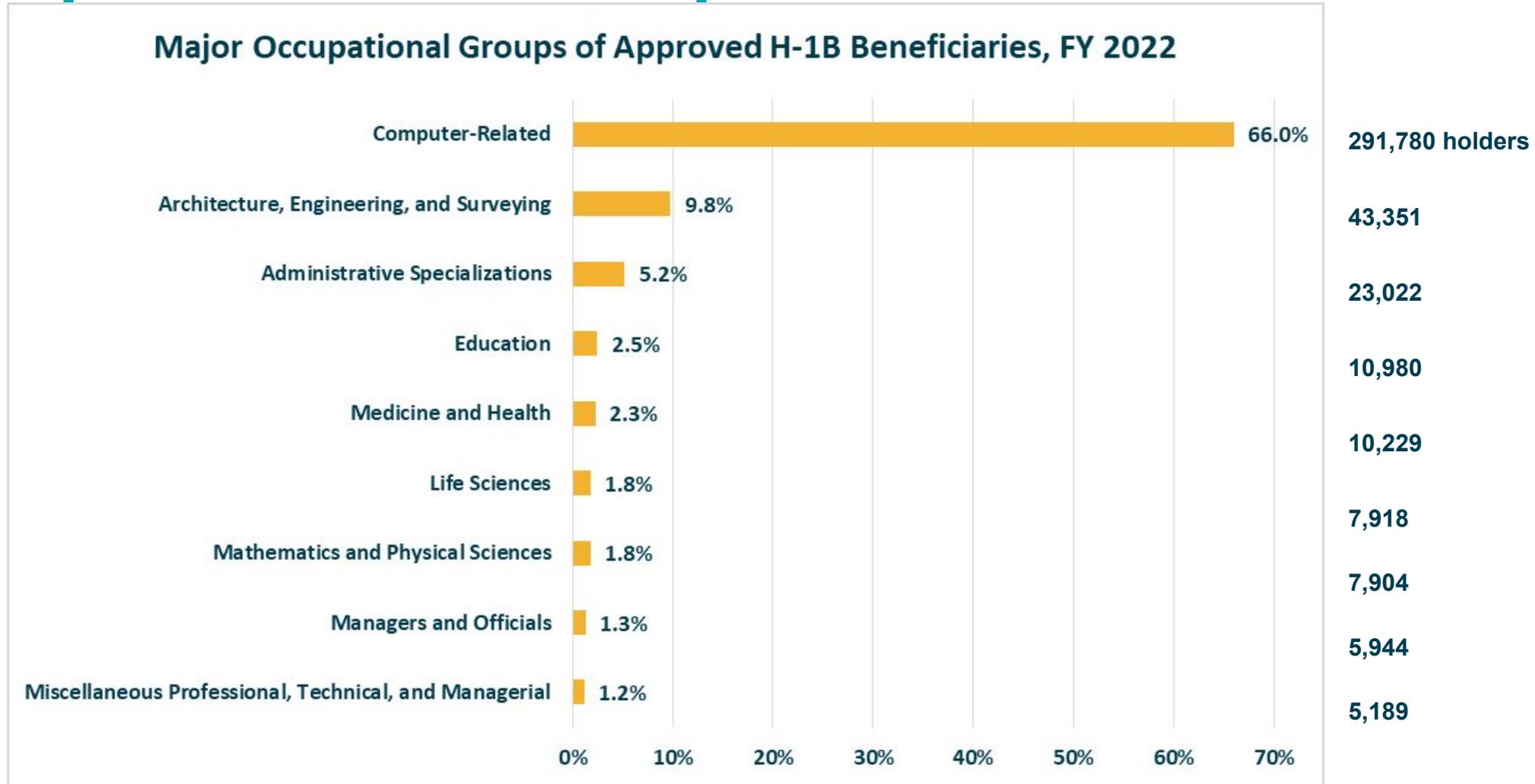


Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

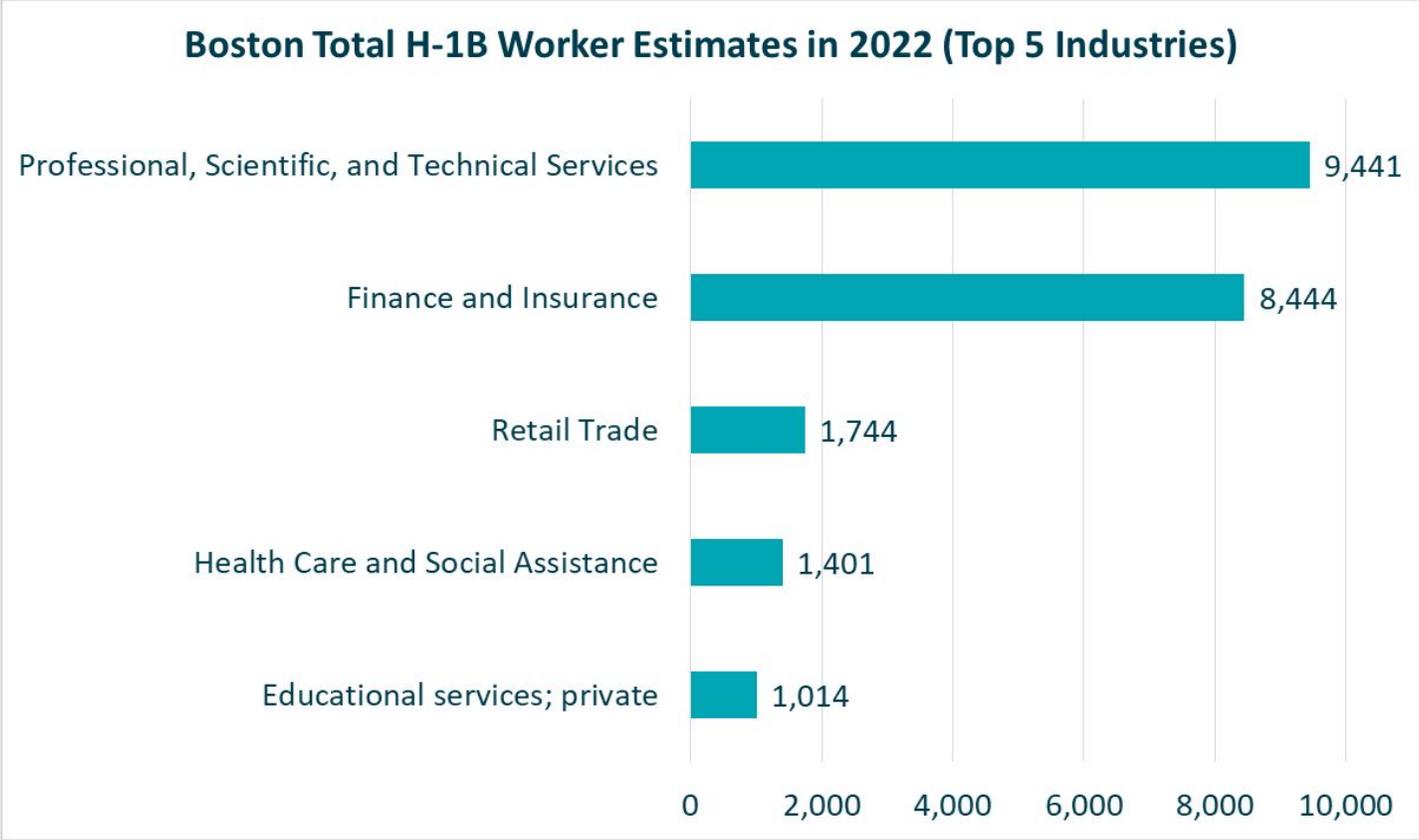
H-1B workers are mostly young adults, and the majority are male



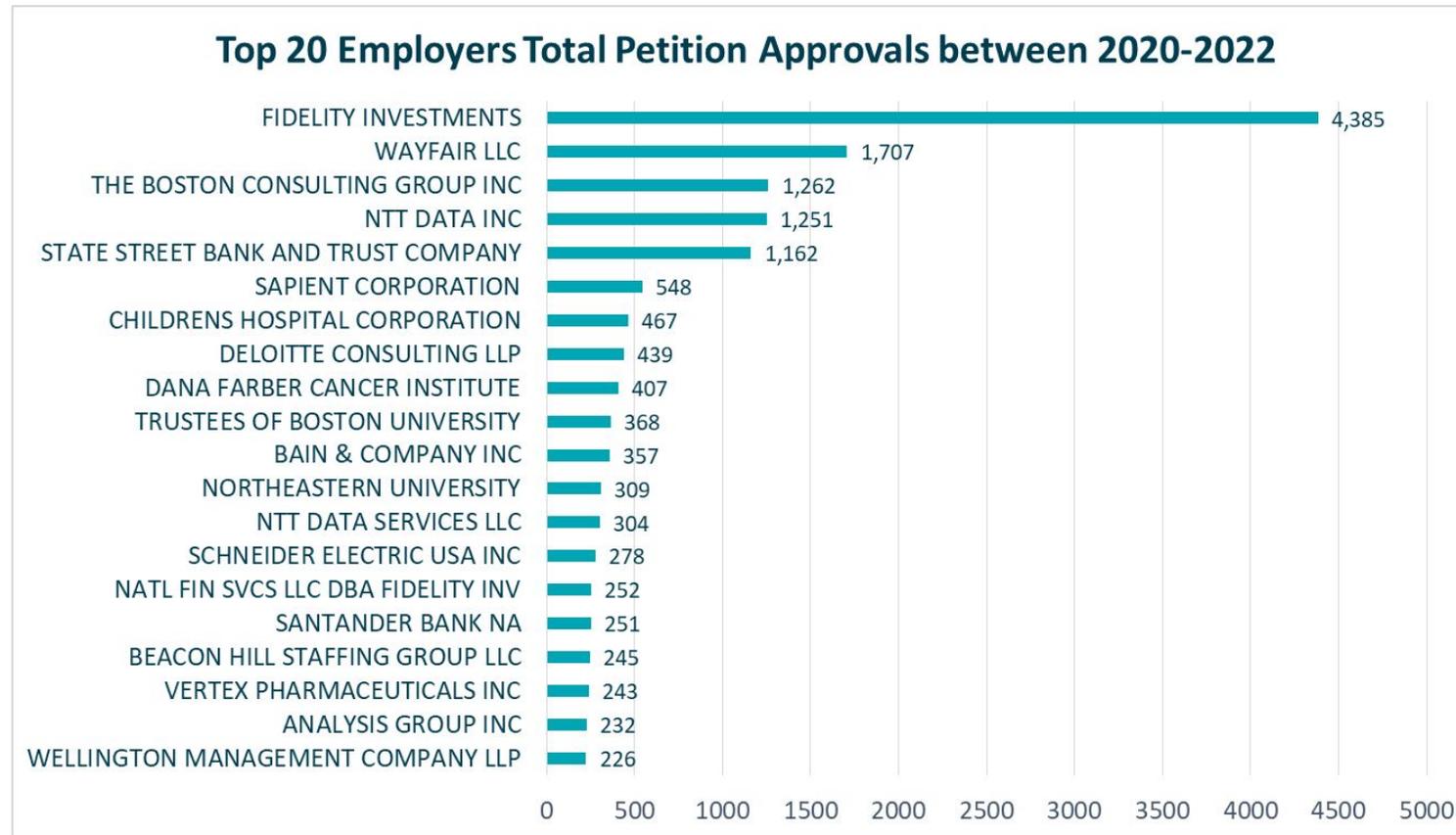
Two-thirds of H-1B holders nationally work in computer-related occupations



Boston employers sponsored petitions for ~25,000 H-1B visa workers between 2020-2022, concentrated in Finance and Insurance and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services



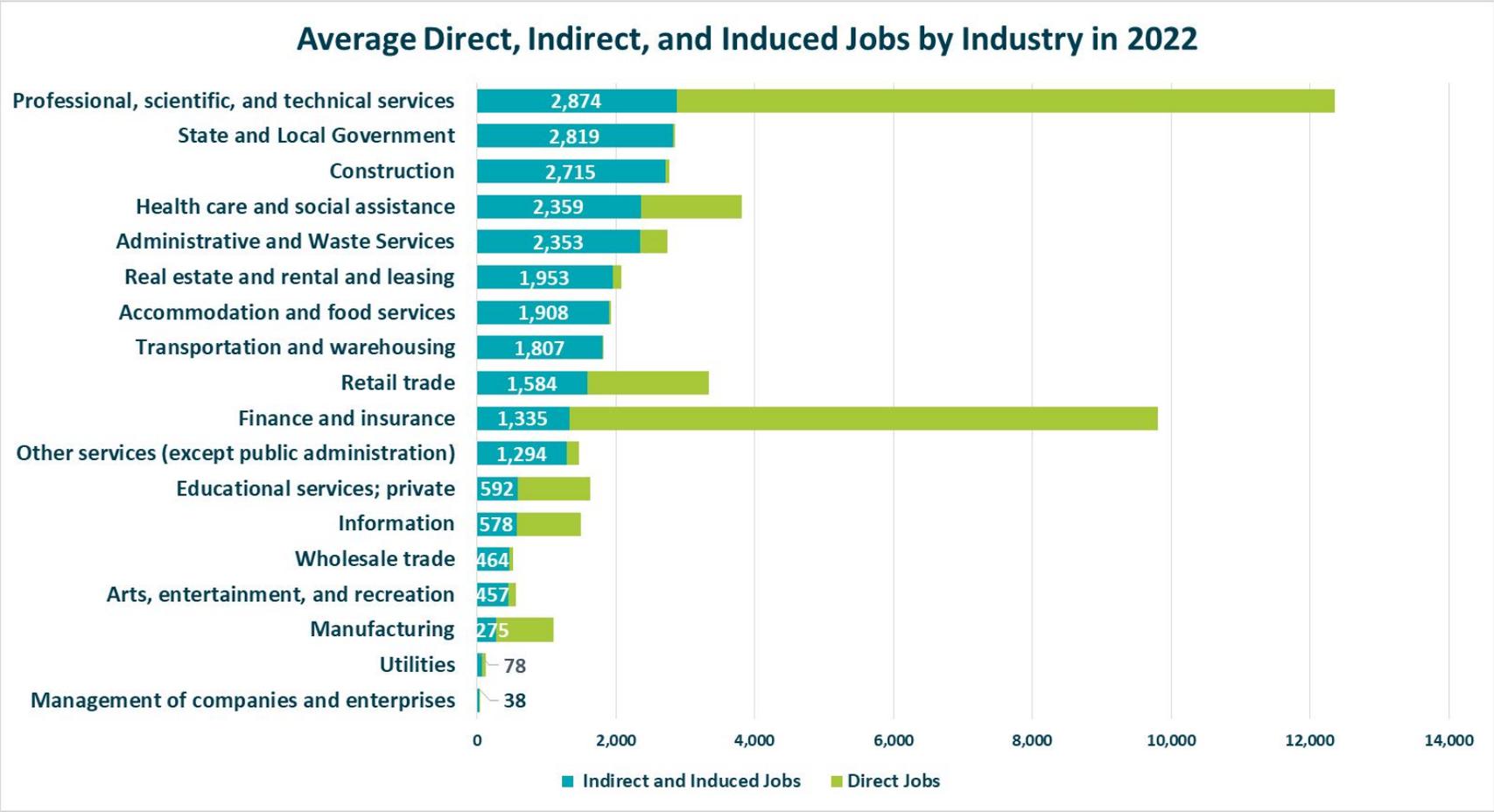
Among Boston companies, Fidelity was the largest sponsor of H-1B visas 2020-2022



Impacts of H-1B Visa Holders on Boston's Economy

- **~25,000 H-1B visa holders work in Boston**
- **Work by H-1B visa holders contributes:**
 - **\$10.2 Billion output**
 - **25,000 direct jobs and 25,500 indirect and induced jobs**
 - **the job multiplier of H-1B visa holders in Boston almost equals to 1**

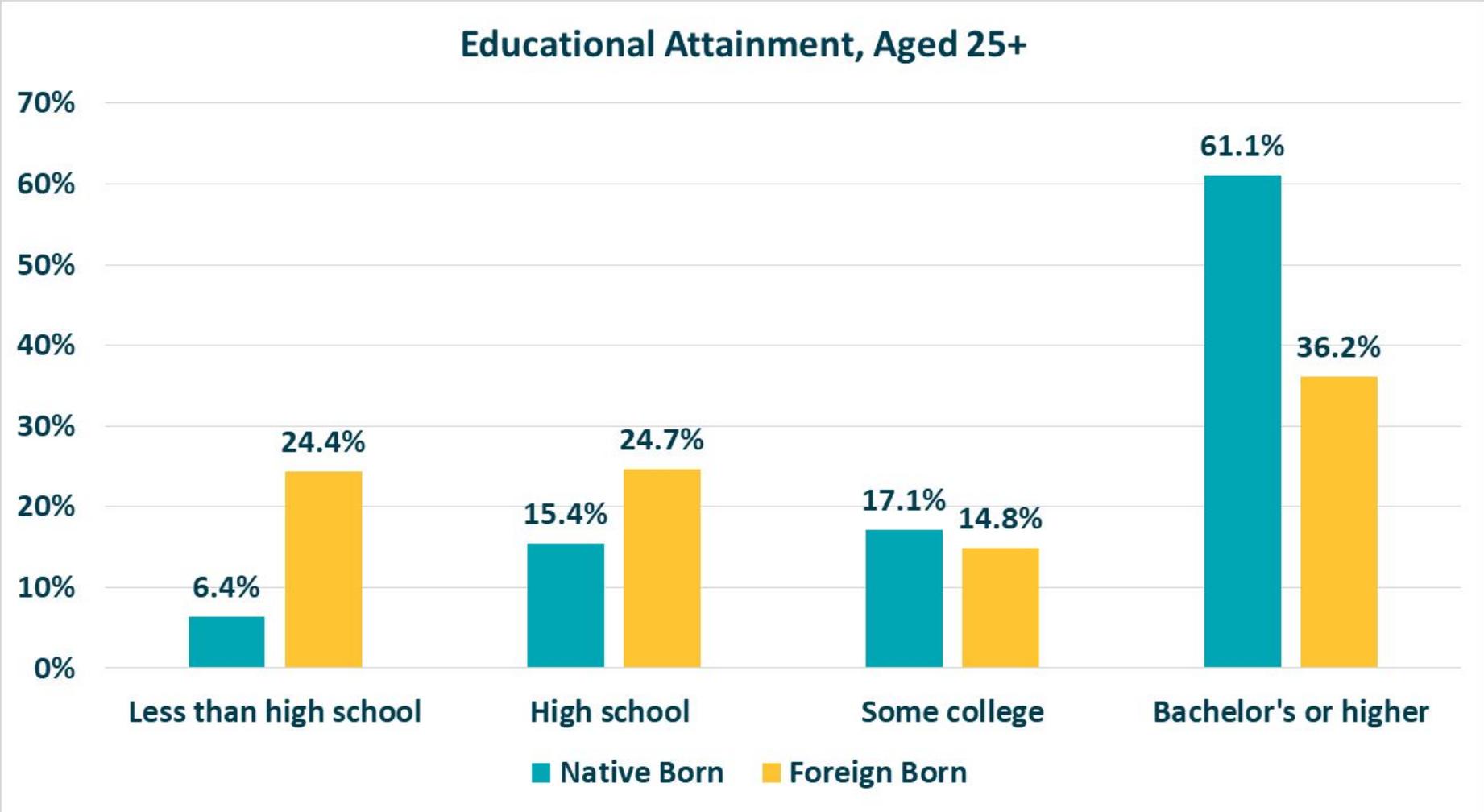
The induced jobs created by H-1B employment are primarily concentrated in construction and logistics, in-person and support services



Foreign-Born Resident Workers with Lower Levels of Educational Attainment



U.S. immigration policy favors those with higher levels of education, but nearly half of Boston's foreign-born residents aged 25+ have a high school education or less

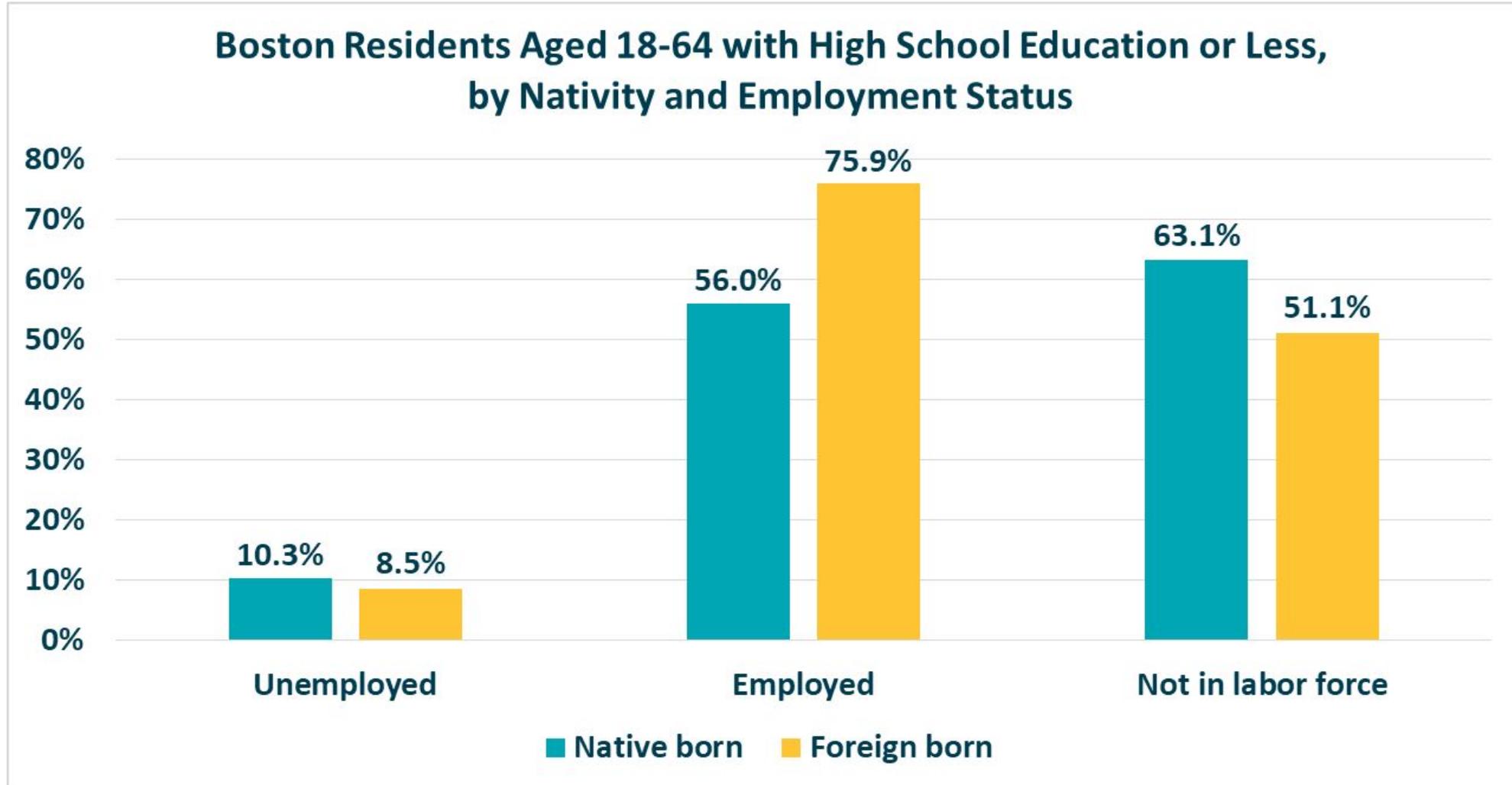


Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Immigrants with lower levels of education may gain entry to the United States in various ways

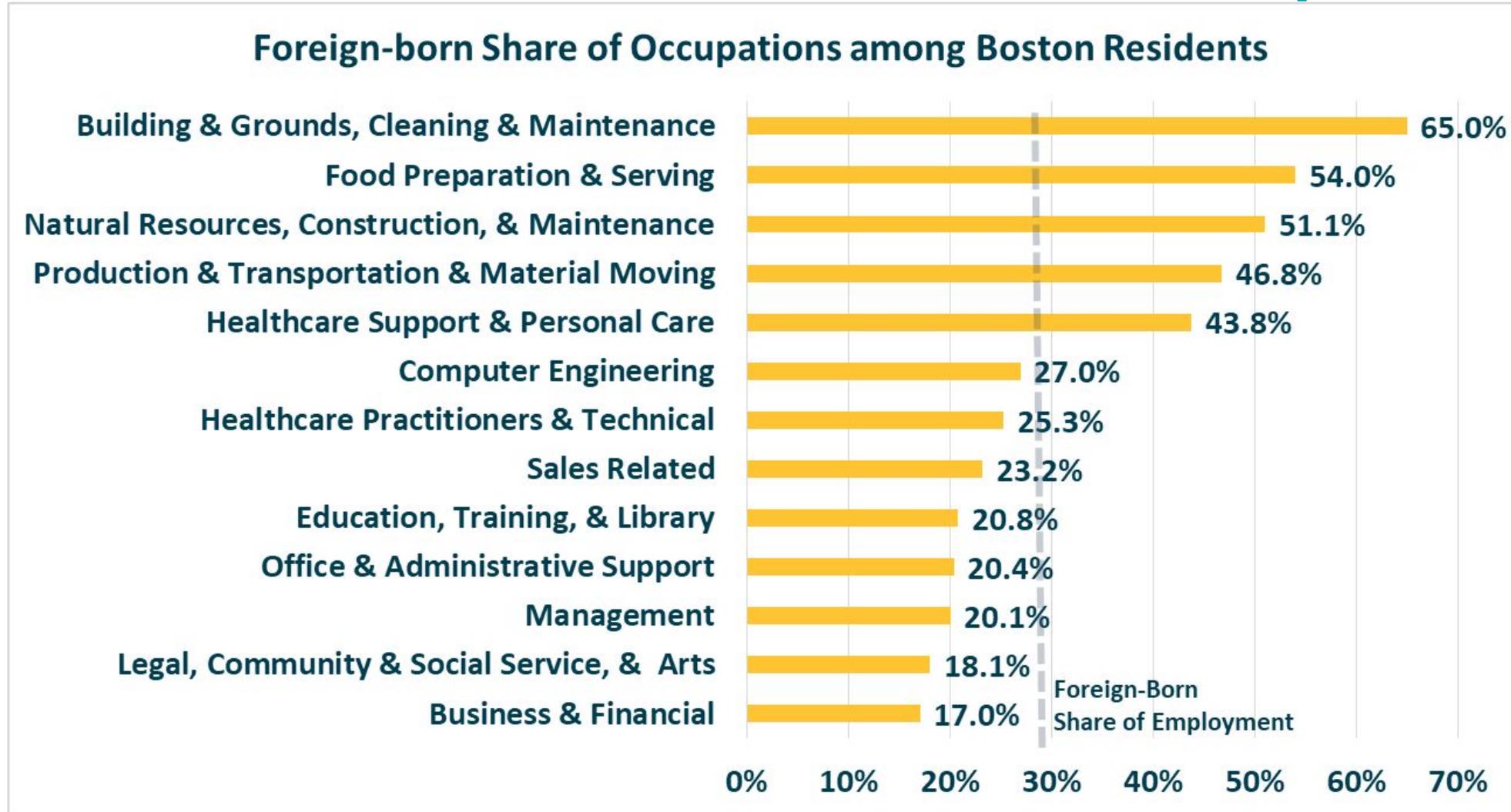
- Naturalized citizens can sponsor family members who arrive as legal permanent residents.
 - H-1B visa holders can bring dependent family members under a non-working (H-4) visa.
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows residents of countries designated by USCIS permission to work.
- Refugee or asylee have permanent permission to work
- H-2B visas give low-skilled non-agricultural workers permission to work.

Foreign-born Boston residents (aged 18-64) with high school or less are more likely employed than native-born workers



Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Foreign-born resident workers make up the majority of workers in some service and blue collar occupations



Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Foreign-Born Boston residents make up the majority of many important occupations



Source: 2021 American Community Surveys (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis. Only occupations with more than 500 total employees are included in the chart

Conclusion

- Boston has the 13th largest foreign-born population in the country
- Foreign-born workers are polarized in high- and low-skilled occupations
- Much of Boston's population and labor force growth since 1980 is due to its foreign-born population
- International students create over 1,000 additional jobs in Boston
- H-1B visa holders contribute to key industries in Boston like healthcare, education, and professional & scientific services
- Lower-skilled workers fill larger shares of jobs in food services, healthcare support, cleaning and maintenance, and production and transportation occupations