

# СТРАТЕГИЯ РАЗВИТИЯ РЕГИОНА



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## A Demographic and Occupational Profile of New York City

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With more than 8 million inhabitants in 2000, New York City is a vast and expansive global city with the most diverse foreign-born population than any other city in USA and in the world. In the past decade, the global city received more than 1.5 million immigrants, and by the decade's end, 55% of its residents was either foreign born or of foreign-born parentage (NY City Department of Planning, 2001; Cordero-Guzman et al, 2001).

As a pre-eminent global city, New York City is the center for transnational corporate headquarters, advanced business services, international finance, transnational institutions, top-level managers, and for telecommunications and information processing. Authors such as Knox (1995), Friedman (1992, 1995), and Sassen (1991, 1997) have basing point of global command and control networks and functions, and is the undisputed core of generating new tastes, material culture and commercial innovation. However concerns are being raised about various security threats that globalization and the growl of immigrants pose, spanning physical, cultural and political realms. Planning considerations for the rebuilding of New York City after the World Trade Center devastation must start with a teleological analysis of the global city's population.

New York City has become the harbor of many different expatriate communities, of which a miserable proportion are from the poorest developing countries. Over three quarters of e immigrants who settled in New York City during the past two decades are from less developed countries such as Haiti, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Ecuador, Colombia and Egypt. The remaining quarter of the immigrant residents who are of European descent mostly come from the former Soviet Union, former Yugoslavia and Poland - also the poorest countries of Europe.

Table 1. Top 20 Source Countries of Immigration to New York City

	Annual Average 1995-96	Annual Average 1990-94	Percent Change
Former Soviet Union	20,327	13,260	53.3

Dominican Republic	19,587	22,028	-11.1
China, Total	11,871	11,960	-.07
Jamaica	5,951	6,584	-9.6
Guyana	5,570	6,153	-9.5
Bangladesh	3,674	1,911	92.3
India	3,174	2,897	9.5
Haiti	3,048	2,991	1.9
Ecuador	2,983	2,796	6.7
Trinidad and Tobago	2,774	3,176	-12.7
Philippines	2,673	3,476	-23.1
Poland	2,669	3,907	-31.7
Pakistan	2,337	1,493	56.5
Colombia	2,275	2,262	0.6
Ghana	1,633	339	381.7
Korea	1,574	1,725	-8.8
Nigeria	1,374	430	219.5
Former Yugoslavia	1,219	478	154.9
Peru	1,113	1,255	-11.4
Egypt	1,071	578	85.2
All Immigrants	115,687	112,598	2.7

This trend reflects the economic structure of the city, which is one that is largely geared toward low skilled, low-earning service activities and which matches the skill sets and educational attainment of immigrants from the poorest countries and of native-born minorities groups. Ironically, this very economic structure reflects the growing globalization of the city. This also implies greater social costs to New York City as it needs to create a more elaborate social and intercultural infrastructure to deal with needy immigrants.

As for race composition, the profile shows that New York City is largely comprised of minority groups. The 2000 Census reveals that 65% of the resident population is non-white, of which 27% are Hispanic, 25% are black and 10% are Asian. How the city deals with this vast majority of minority population is of great significance to its social cohesion and socio-economic welfare. This latter concern also relates to gender as females outnumber males in New York City and the number of women of child-bearing age is growing. More than a quarter of the population is children under 19 years of age - many with language deficiencies, requiring the city to provide more educational and recreational facilities. The share of prime working age groups (20 to 54 year-olds) is also growing, with the foreign born comprising a larger share of this group, requiring innovative employment-generation policies that not only utilizes but simultaneously upgrades skill levels.

New York City has to make some critical decisions as it embarks on restructuring.

The need to upgrade skill and educational levels and to grow quality jobs in the global city is of utmost importance to its economic restructuring. The question remains unanswered as to what types of industries would best suit the city's population and would simultaneously maintain its global advantage. Although there has been an increase in holders of bachelor degrees over the past decade, in 2000, less than 17% of all New Yorkers had a bachelor degree. New York City will need to undertake the long and expensive process of generating highly educated residents if it is to retain and grow its global competitive advantage.

This population and occupational profile must be understood within the context of issues and proposals being raised regarding the prospects and challenges facing New York City's global future. Broadly speaking, the issues around which proposals are made regarding the city's global future may be classified into five categories. One is economic diversification versus market-share deepening. Second is the hourglass shape of the city's socio-economic structure. Third is the need for inclusion of citizens and non-citizens. Fourth is the role of federal, regional and state authorities in helping the city steer its restructuring. Fifth is the need for spatial deconcentration of the economy, away from Manhattan. Each separately and together raise particular types of security concerns: respectively, economic security, social-spatial security, cultural-value security, political security and spatial-physical security. Key across all such issues is the need to remain socio-economically sound and globally competitive.

However, the author, along with many others, suggest that the city's Future lies in gaining the nine industries that are forecasted to grow: biotechnology, computer software, high-end apparel and jewelry, film and television production, recycling, health care, non-profits and retail.

On the issue of the hourglass shape of the city's socio-economic structure, two major concerns arise. One is the impediment to middle class aspirations in the city. The other is the negative effect that the mix of high-and-low-paying occupations has on the city's overall wage growth. Freidman (1997) and Abu-Lughod (1997), among others, maintain that decline of middle-class occupations effectively blocks upward mobility of immigrant labor.

The third issue - the need for the inclusion of diverse groups- presents a more serious challenge. In addition to the built-in dangers arising from class and income polarization, tensions can also rise because of the growing number of immigrants from differing ethnic backgrounds. This problem requires a new type of public policy, one that focuses on the special needs of deprived groups, citizens and non-citizens alike. A further challenge lies in the fact that immigrants continue to have strong attachments to their national origins and religious beliefs and retain psycho-social feelings of minority-group identity (Cohen, 1997; Westwood and Phizacklea, 2000; Basch et al, 1994; Portes, 1996).

The fourth issue relates to the pressing need for cooperation and coordination of higher-level government with city government on strategic planning for restructuring. Moreover, in the face of the impact of globalization on New York City, the high social costs of global city growth, and the needs of transnational capital for economic infrastructure, the local government lacks adequate fiscal capacity and thus needs assistance from federal, state and regional authorities. Finally, on the fifth issue, it is argued that agglomeration of the city's jobs in Manhattan is not desirable and thus spatial dispersion of business centers throughout the five boroughs is warranted.

It is also clear that debates about inclusion must move toward decisive strategies social, economic, cultural and political inclusion given the ethnic and racial position of the city. This will necessitate a better understanding of the immigrants' elands, values, cultures, and ways in which immigrant life-styles, occupational differences and core competencies are articulated in the global city's socio-economic structure.