

The Brookings Institution
Metropolitan Policy Program



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Las Vegas: Global Suburb?: Migration to and from an Emerging Immigrant Gateway

Global Immigrant Gateways Workshop
George Washington University
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It is important that we have a project on the West Coast, and where better than **Las Vegas which is a destination, and Southern California where people can see it and ride it. It is expensive, but we can't continue the growth in the western part of the United States and still rely on just roads and air.**

--Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), in support of a magnetic levitation train between Anaheim and Las Vegas

Look, I've had guys from a little farm in Puebla [Mexico] who were some of the best chefs I've ever seen. Phenomenal. Anything you taught them they could learn, and do.

*Stephen Kalt, Executive Chef,
Corsa Cucina, Wynn Las Vegas*

Why has Las Vegas grown so quickly?

Las Vegas has become more like the rest of America just as the rest of America has become more like Las Vegas

Neon, entertainment, gambling, sex! All bigger part of popular culture, normative American experience

Las Vegas has become more like the rest of America: suburban growth, inner city decline, traffic congestion, sprawl, ...and more Spanish speakers

Why has Las Vegas grown so quickly?

The Last Detroit: the most unionized city in the US and the service economy

It's not California: recession in the early 1990s led to mass exodus out of California

Las Vegas has a diversified economy: major transportation, inexpensive storage space, low operation costs

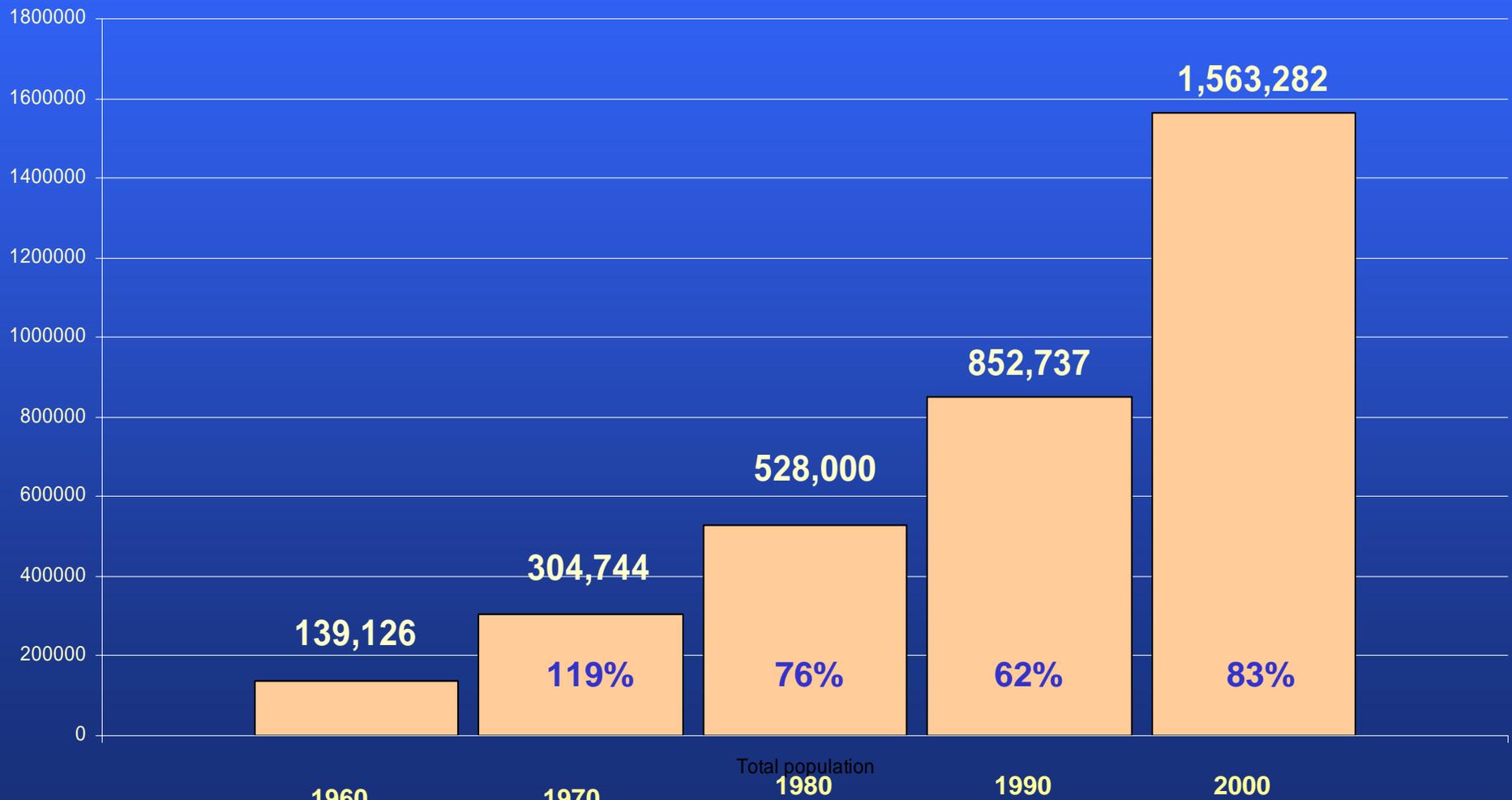
Low cost of living, new housing, endless desert space

Las Vegas in Context



Population Change in Las Vegas, 1960-2000

Total Population, Metropolitan Las Vegas, 1960-2000

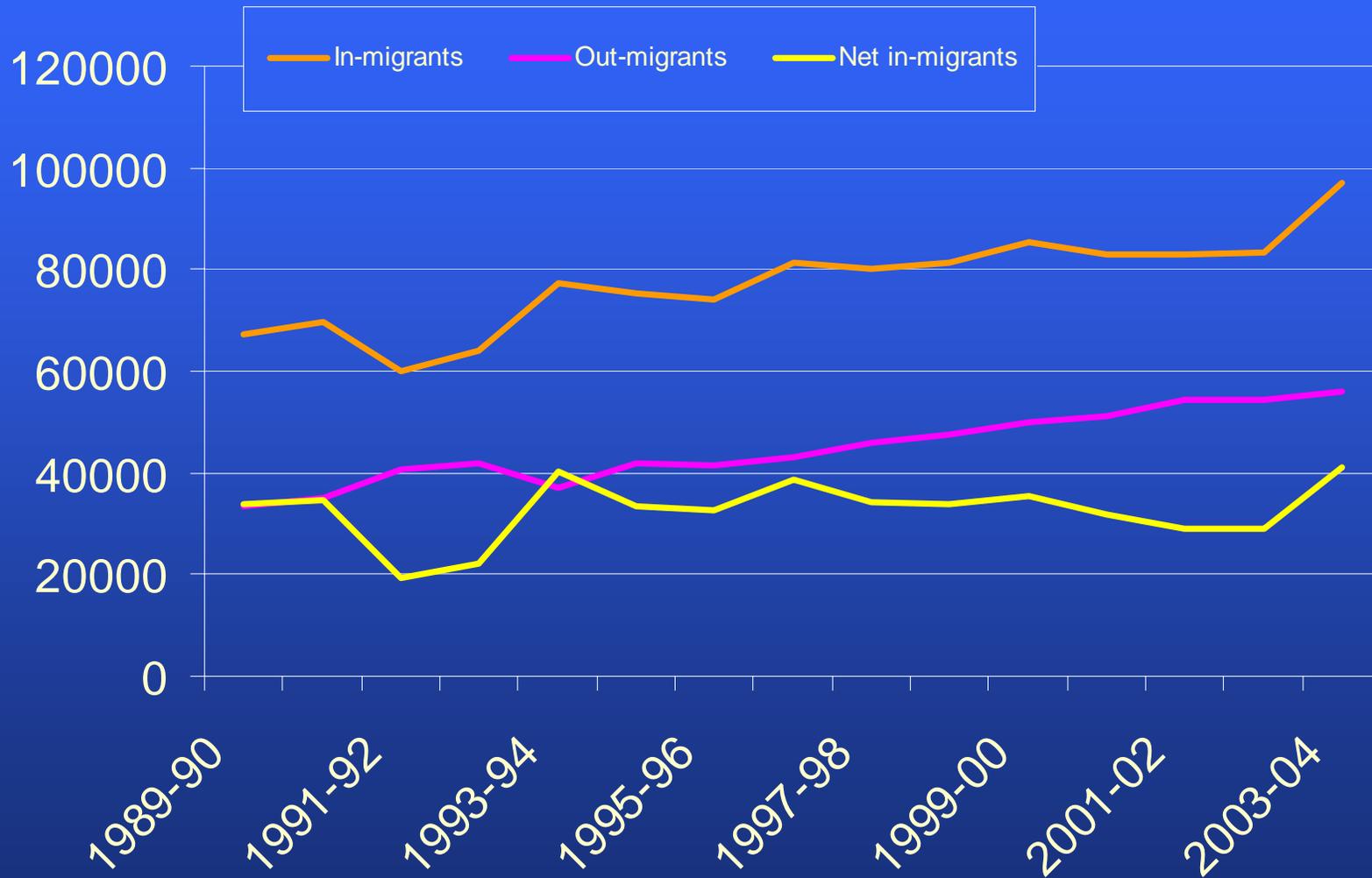


Source: Census

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Migration In and Out of Las Vegas

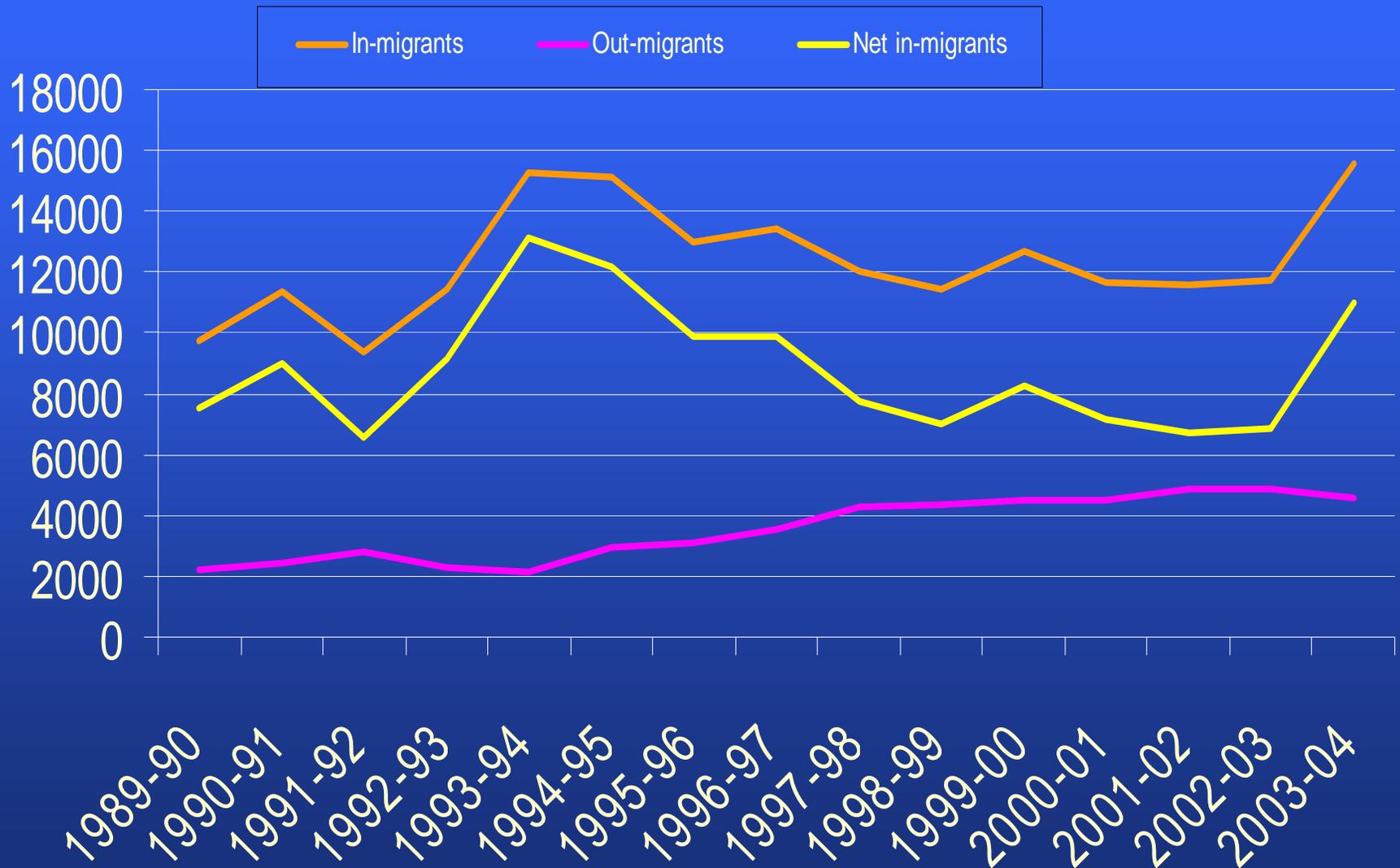
Gross and net migration, Las Vegas



Source: IRS

Migration In and Out of Las Vegas

Migration Flows between Las Vegas and Los Angeles

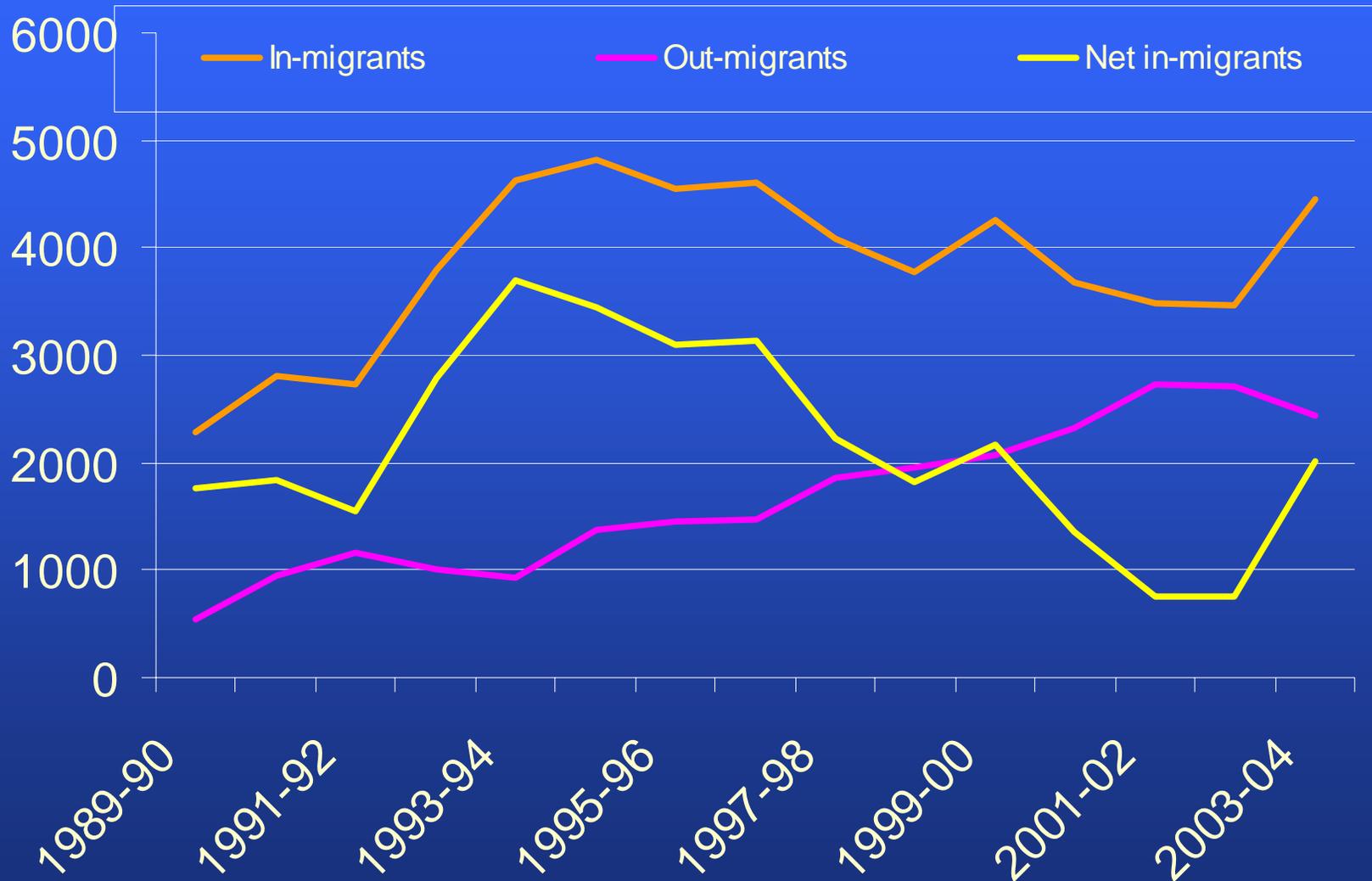


Source: IRS

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Migration In and Out of Las Vegas

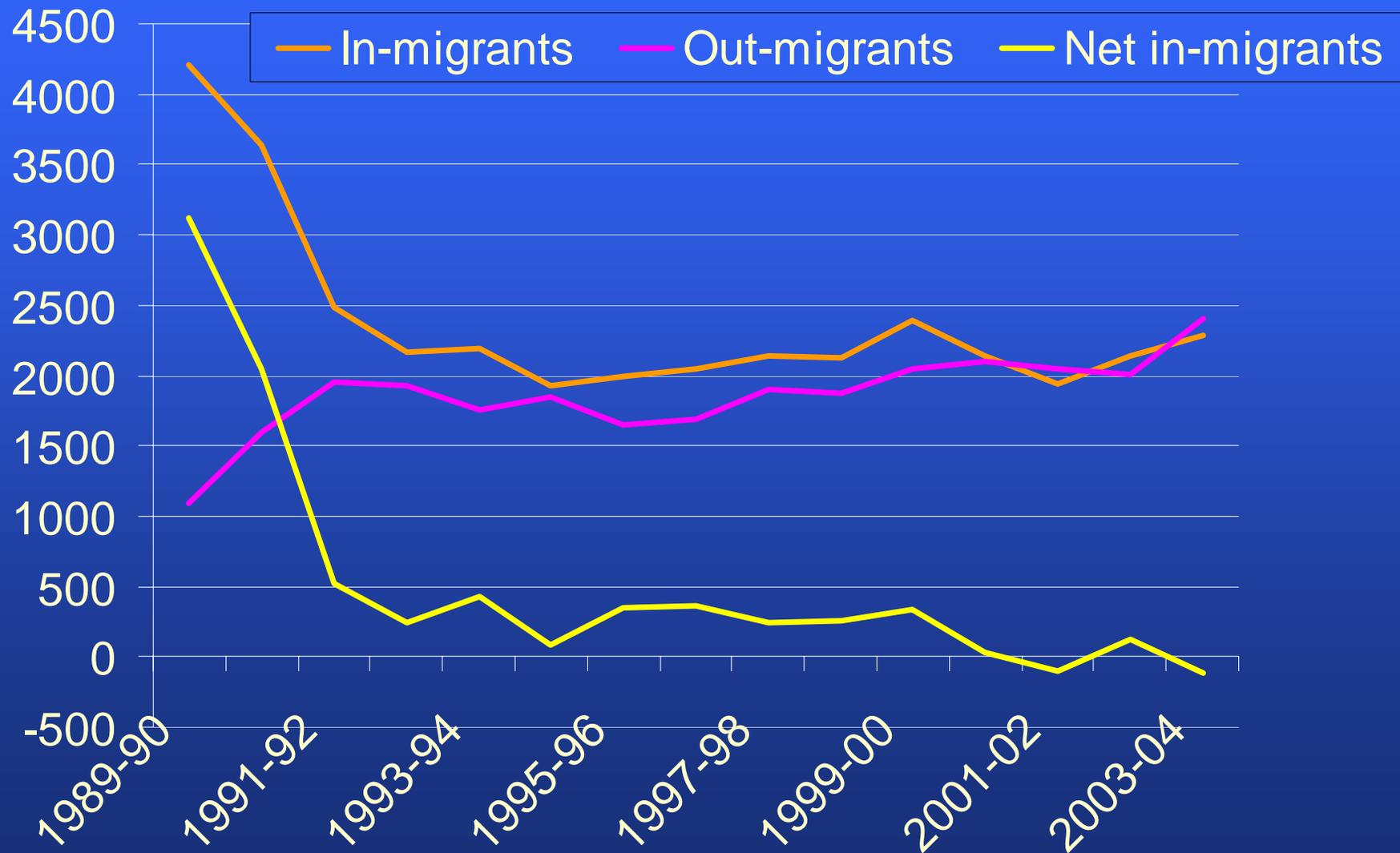
Migration Flows between Las Vegas and Riverside-San Bernardino



Source: IRS

Migration In and Out of Las Vegas

Migration Flows between Las Vegas and Phoenix



Source: IRS

Los Angeles Metropolitan area dominates inflow

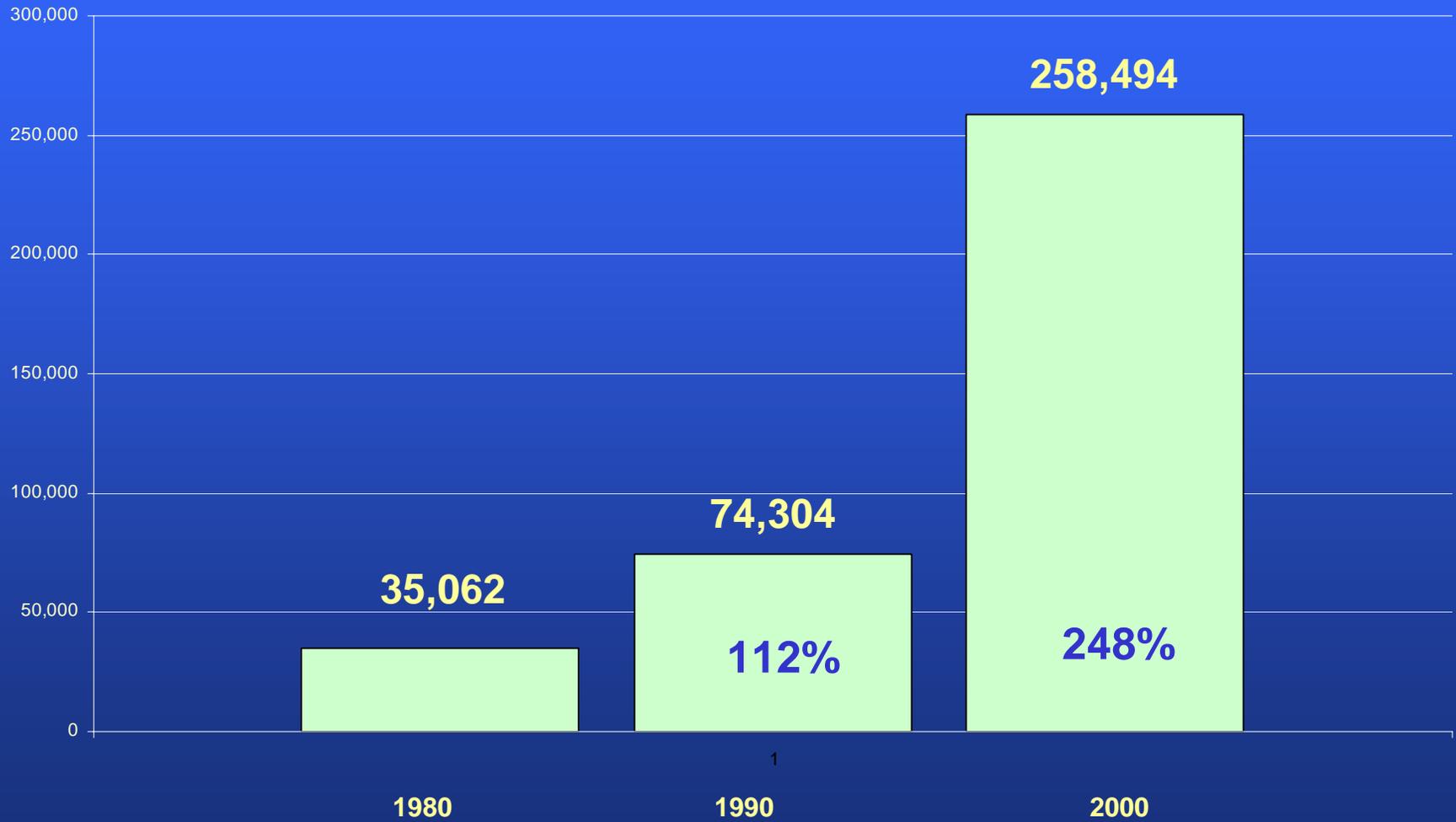
Sources of Gross In-migration to Las Vegas Metropolitan Area, Selected Years

Metropolitan Area	1990		1994		2000		2004	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Los Angeles*	9,762	14.5	15,251	<u>19.8</u>	12,695	14.9	15,566	16.0
Riverside-San Bernardino	2,286	3.4	4,632	6.0	4,251	4.9	4,451	4.6
Chicago	1,519	2.3	2,246	2.9	3,140	3.7	3,201	3.3
New York	993	1.5	2,223	2.9	2,537	3.0	3,182	<u>3.2</u>
San Diego	1,841	2.7	2,697	3.5	2,512	2.9	3,968	4.1
Phoenix	4,213	<u>6.3</u>	2,190	2.8	2,387	2.8	2,281	2.3
Reno	1,415	2.1	1,310	1.7	1,218	1.4	1,288	1.3
Total In-migration	67,222		77,171		85,300		97,147	

**includes Orange County*

Source: Internal Revenue Service

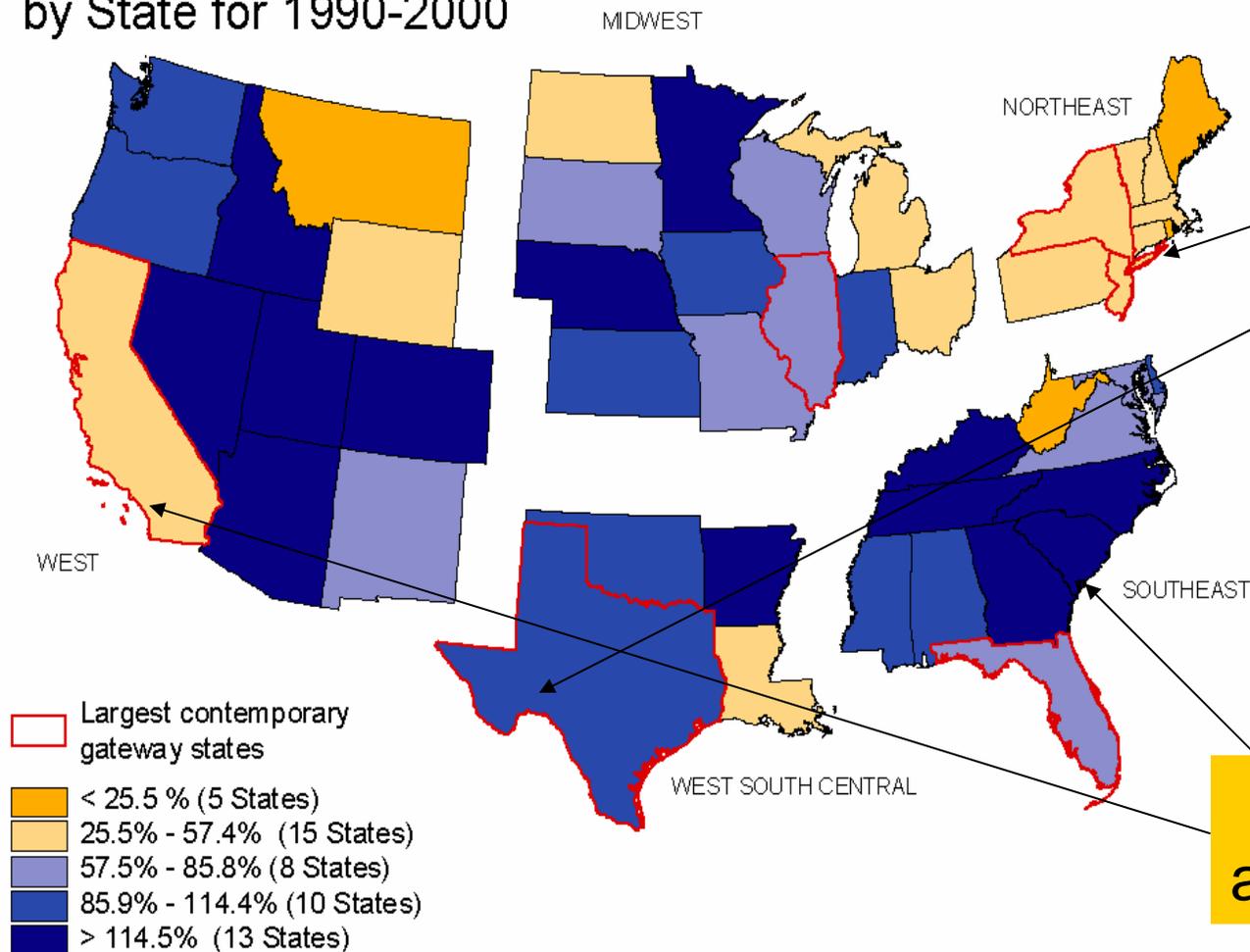
Increase in the Foreign-Born, Las Vegas, 1980-2000



Source: Census

The nation's primary Gateway States are shifting

Percent Change in the Foreign Born Population by State for 1990-2000



From Northeast and Southwest

To Southeast and Mountain West

Contemporary trends in metropolitan immigrant settlement

HIGHEST PERCENT FOREIGN-BORN, 2000

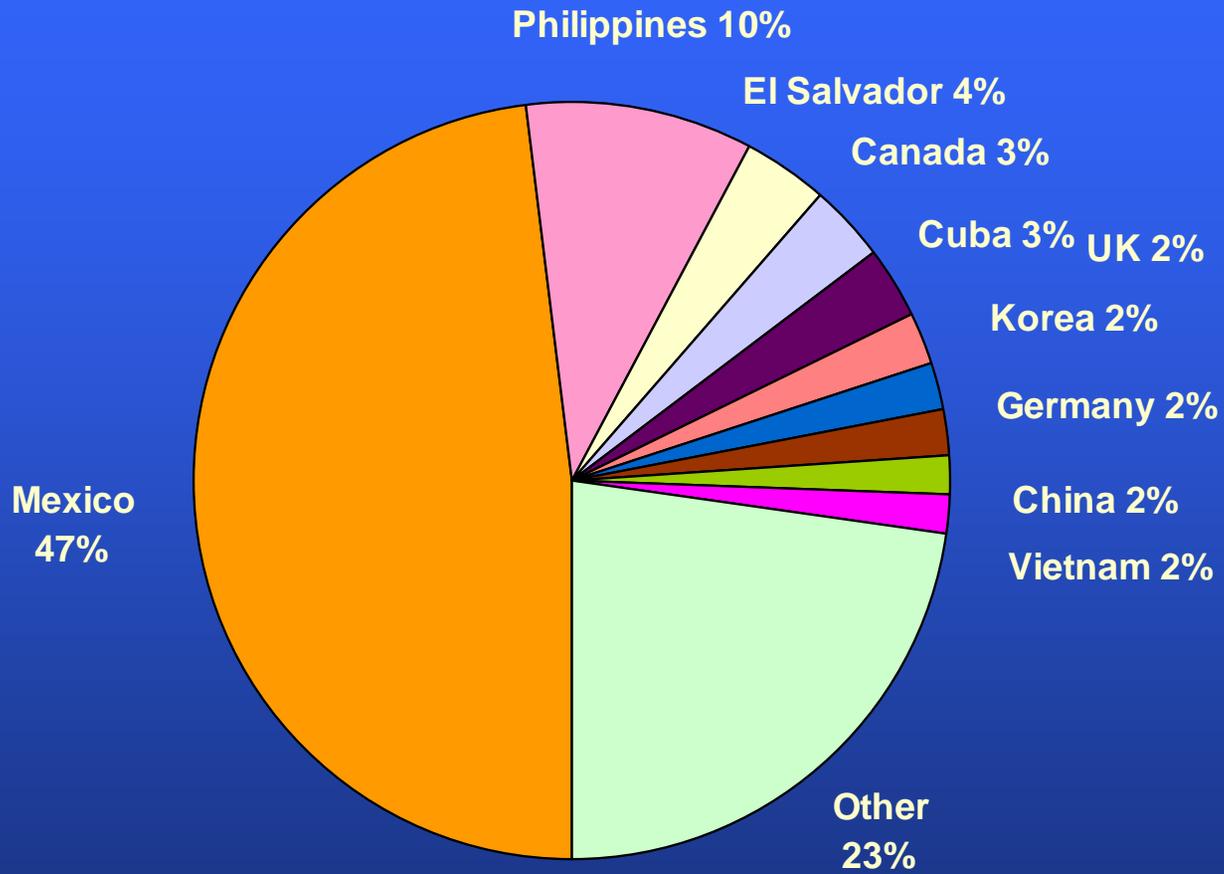
Miami, FL	50.9
Jersey City, NJ	38.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	36.2
San Jose, CA	34.1
New York, NY	33.7
San Francisco, CA	32.0
Orange County, CA	29.9
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	29.5
Laredo, TX	29.0
Salinas, CA	29.0

Contemporary trends in metropolitan immigrant settlement

PERCENT GREATEST GROWTH IN FOREIGN-BORN, 1990-2000
(Among Metros with >1M total population)

Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC	367.2
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	315.0
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	270.4
Atlanta, GA	262.8
<i>Las Vegas, NV-AZ</i>	<i>247.9</i>
Nashville, TN	219.9
Denver, CO	186.6
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	182.7
Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT	174.1
Austin-San Marcos, TX	172.2

Country of Birth, Las Vegas 2000



Where did you live 5 years ago (1995), Las Vegas residents, 2000

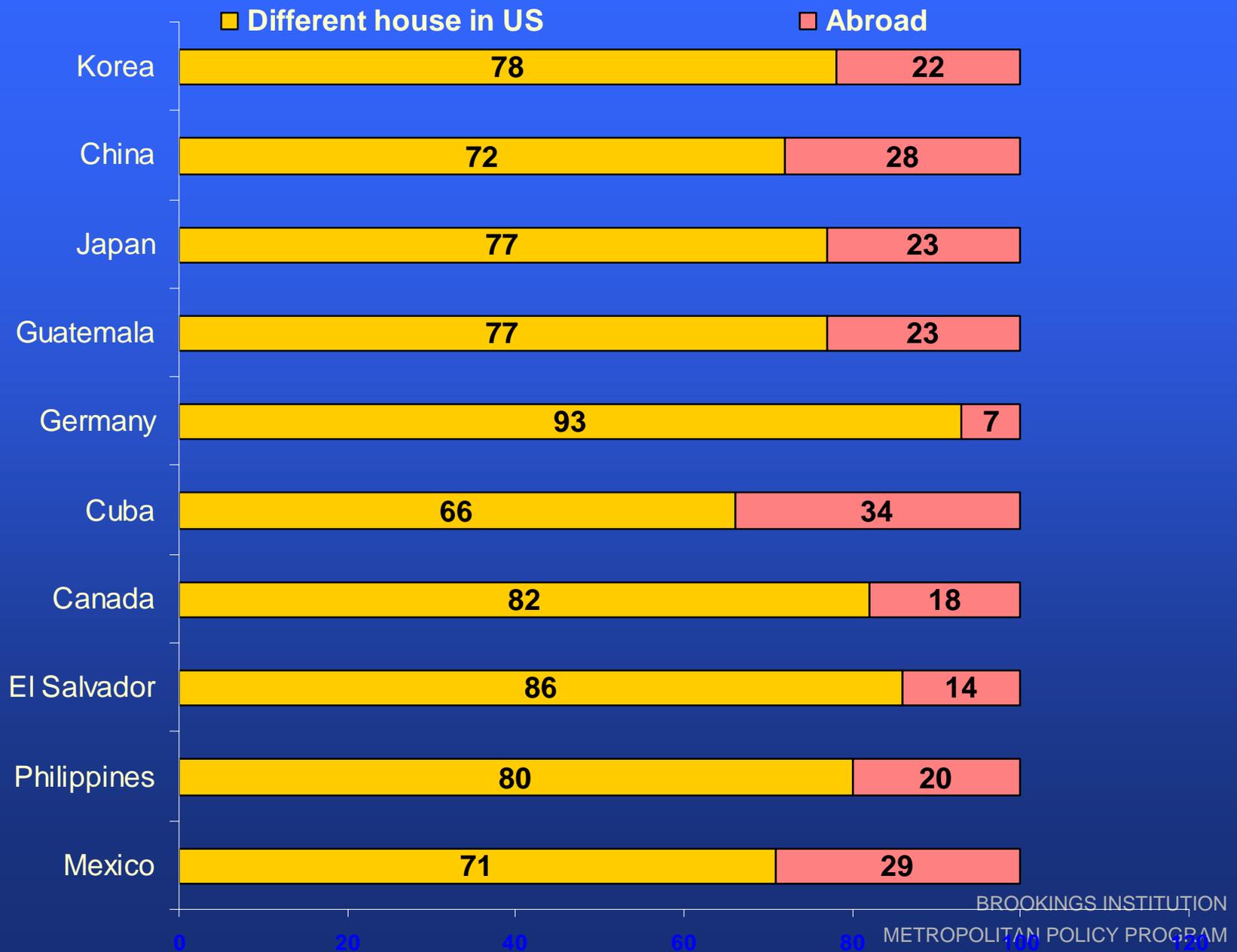
	<u>Native -Born</u>	<u>Foreign -Born</u>
Same House	38 %	26 %
Different House, US	61 %	54 %
Abroad	1%	19%

Percentage of foreign-born who moved from abroad five years ago, selected metros, 2000

RESIDING IN

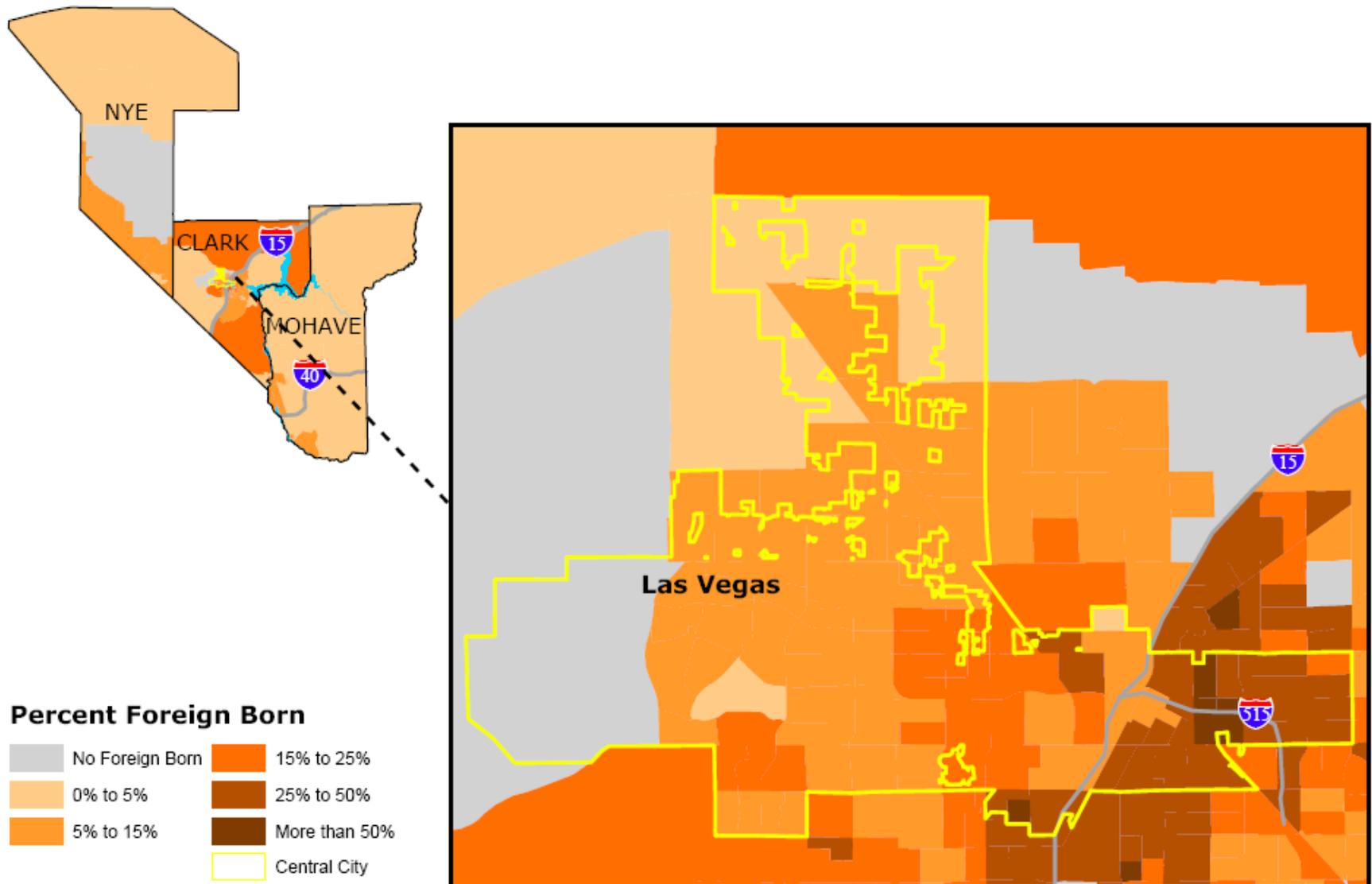
Los Angeles	23%
Las Vegas	26%
New York	33%
Chicago	33%
Phoenix	36%
Dallas	38%
Detroit	38%
Pittsburgh	41%
Atlanta	42%

Among FB movers, where did you live 5 years ago?



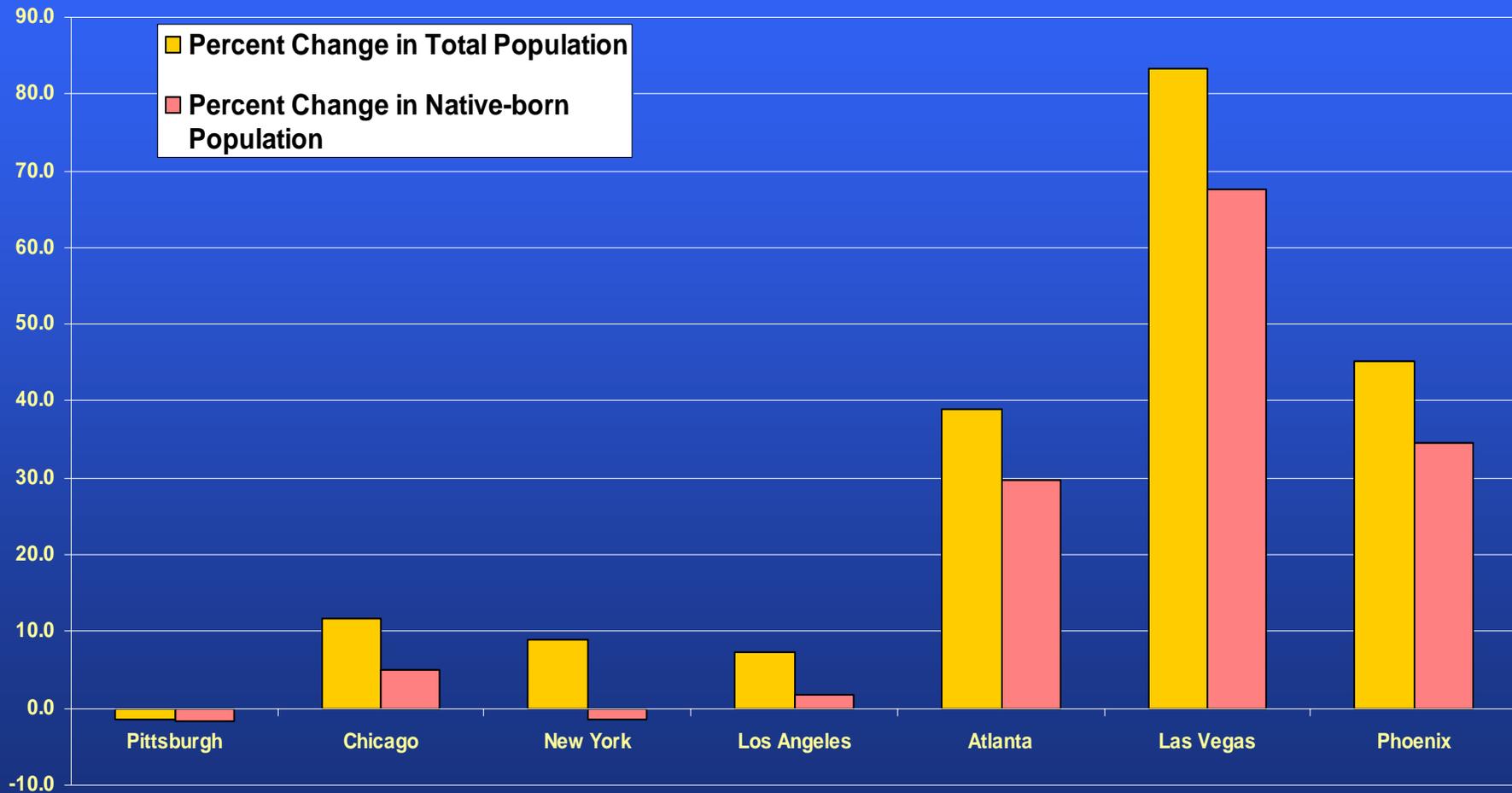
Residential concentration outside the city limits

Percent of Total Population that is Foreign Born by Census Tract
Las Vegas Metropolitan Area, 2000



Change in the population without the foreign born

Population Change in Selected Metropolitan Areas, 1990-2000



Source: Census

Las Vegas, Global Suburb?



Migration 'system' with the Southwestern region, including Mexico



More affordable middle-class lifestyle, like the 'burbs used to be?



Foreign-born population will continue to grow due to social networks