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Latinos in Massachusetts

Selected Areas:

Pittsfield

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THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

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Pittsfield Overview

Pittsfield has a population of 43,927, of whom 3,539 identify as Hispanic or Latino, according to the 2020 Decennial Census. The majority of the city identifies as non-Latino White, while Latinos are the second largest population, comprising 8.1% of the population. Latinos are a lower proportion of Pittsfield's population than the statewide population, which is 12.6% Latino. The Black population has a similar share (6.5%), while Asian and "other" populations make up 7.6% of the city's population (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield

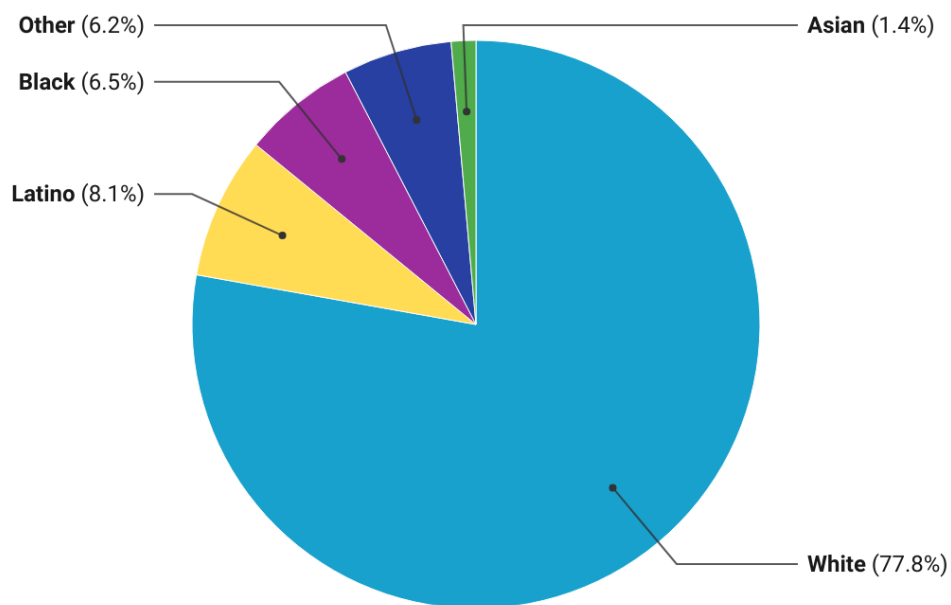


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2020 Decennial Census · Created with Datawrapper

Pittsfield underwent significant population shifts between 2010 and 2020, somewhat due to its population decline of 1.8%. Massachusetts experienced a population increase of 7.4% during the decade. The Latino population increase of 59.1% kept the city from having a greater population decline. Statewide, the Latino population grew by 41.4% during this same time. The larger White population declined by 11.1%, the smaller Black population grew faster at 28.7%, and the Asian population by a rate of 12.7% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Population Growth by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield from 2010 to 2020



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census · Created with Datawrapper

The remainder of this profile uses 2017–2021 American Community Survey data to analyze the demographic and economic characteristics presented in this profile.

Much like the entire state, the Latino population in Pittsfield has a large Puerto Rican population. Smaller Latino populations in the city include Salvadorans, Ecuadorians, Mexicans, and Dominicans (Figure 3). Statewide, the five largest Latino populations in Massachusetts in order of size are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Mexicans.

Pittsfield has a smaller foreign-born population, who make up only 8.9% of the city’s population. In addition, 21.3% of Latinos in Pittsfield are foreign-born, compared to 32.1% for the entire state. By comparison, foreign-born make up 17.3% of the statewide population.

Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino Populations in Pittsfield

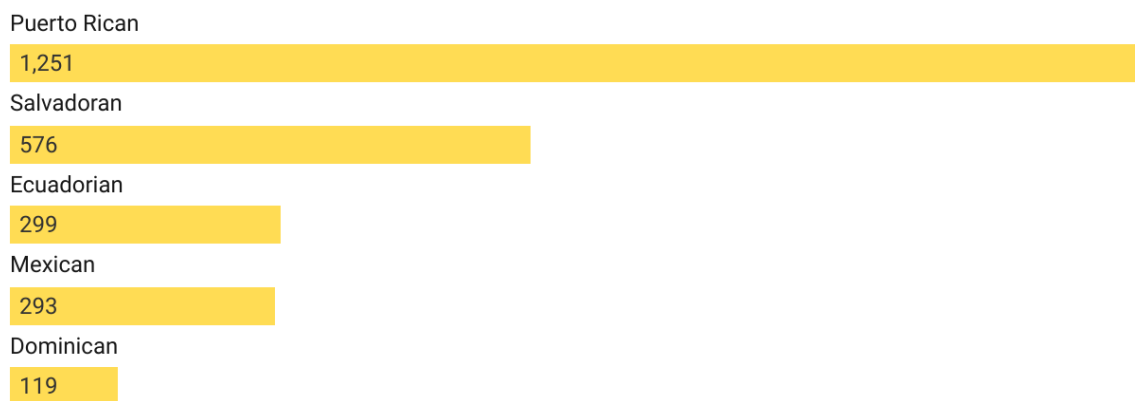


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Median Age and Marital Status

Pittsfield has a median age of 44.6 years compared to the Massachusetts median age of 39.6 years. As in many other cities and towns across the state, the Latino population is the youngest of all major ethnic-racial groups, with a median age of

24.8 years. Latinos in Pittsfield are even younger than statewide, where the median Latino age is 28.9 years. Blacks and Asians in Pittsfield also have a younger median age than Whites, whose median age is 49.4 years (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The marriage rate in Pittsfield is 43.9% compared to 48.4% statewide. Marriage rates in Pittsfield are highest among Asians (54.9%) and lowest among Blacks (28.3%). The White residents of Pittsfield have a marriage rate of 43.6% (Figure 5). Latinos have a marriage rate of 40.5%, higher than their statewide 36.4% marriage rate.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield (Ages 15+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Educational Attainment

Overall, Pittsfield has relatively low educational attainment, with 33.0% of residents aged 25 and older having at least a Bachelor’s degree compared to 46.6% statewide. However, Latino educational attainment in Pittsfield is higher than for Latinos statewide. In Pittsfield, 23.6% of Latinos have at least a Bachelor’s degree (Figure 6), while the Latino share is 21.6% statewide. Whites and Asians have a higher share of their adult population with at least a Bachelor’s degree in the city. On the opposite end of the educational spectrum, Latinos have the highest share of residents who did not complete high school (17.0%).

Figure 6: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield (Ages 25+)

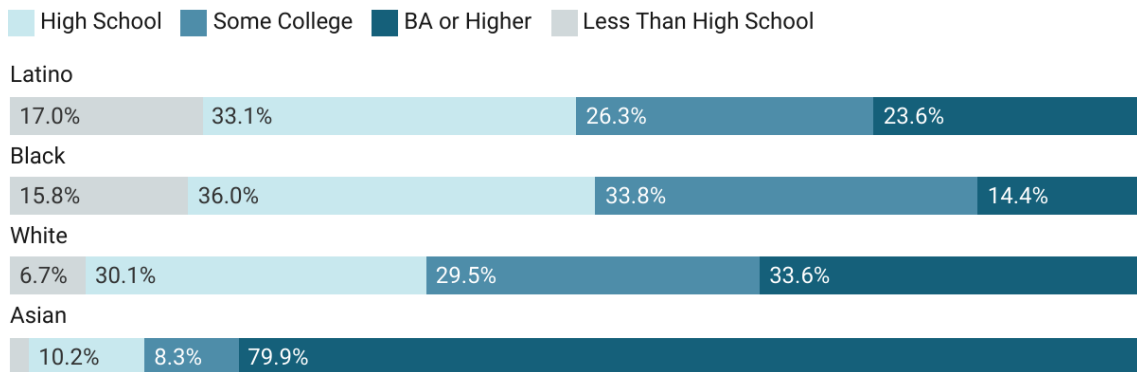


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Labor Force Participation

Pittsfield's labor force participation rate is 62.7%, lower than Massachusetts's 67.1% rate. However, Latinos have a higher labor force participation rate in Pittsfield (71.2%) than statewide (68.7%). The Latino rate in Pittsfield is also much higher than that of other ethnic-racial groups: 61.6% for Whites and 63.2% for Blacks (Figure 7). The Asian population is too small to report a labor force participation rate.

Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield (Ages 16+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The unemployment rate in Pittsfield is 7.2%, higher than the state's 5.3% during this period. Latinos with an 8.6% unemployment rate have the highest in the city (Figure 8), while Whites have the lowest at 7.2% and Blacks are in between at 8.2%. The Latino rate in Pittsfield is slightly lower than the statewide Latino rate of 8.9%.

Figure 8: Unemployment Rate by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield (Ages 16+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

White workers in Pittsfield have the highest share of white-collar workers (43.0%). Latino residents have the lowest share working these jobs (26.8%), with Blacks having a slightly higher share (Figure 9). On the other hand, due to the large tourist industry in Berkshire County, Latinos are more likely to work in service occupations (60.3%) and less likely to work in blue-collar occupations (12.9%). For Latinos across the state, this distribution is 28.8% white-collar, 45.4% service, and 25.7% blue-collar.

Figure 9: Occupational Categories by Employed Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield (Ages 16+)

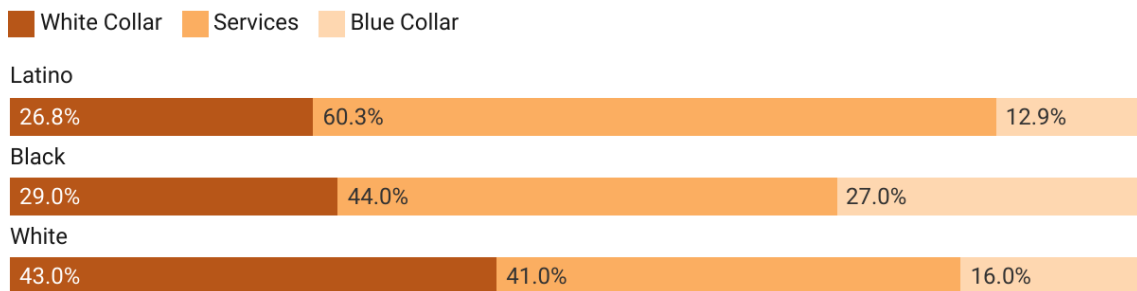


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Income

Pittsfield residents have a median household income of \$59,522, far below the statewide median of \$89,026. However, the median household income of Latinos in the city of \$61,536 (Figure 10) is significantly higher than the statewide Latino median household income of \$52,106. Within Pittsfield, Asians have the highest median household income (\$93,269), and the larger White population has a median household income similar to that of Latinos (\$60,970).

Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

The final measures of Latino participation in Pittsfield are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political contributions.

Pittsfield's homeownership rate of 62.7% is similar to the overall Massachusetts rate of 62.4%. However, the homeownership rate of 42.9% among Latinos is significantly higher than the statewide Latino rate of 29.7%. Blacks in Pittsfield have a lower homeownership rate (24.0%), while the rates for Asians (68.0%) and Whites (66.5%) are much higher (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The share of city residents who lack medical insurance in Pittsfield (2.6%) is almost the same as the statewide rate (2.5%). In Pittsfield, uninsured rates (Figure 12) are highest for Blacks (9.2%), followed by Latinos (6.3%), Asians (6.1%), and Whites (1.7%). The Latino statewide rate of medical uninsurance is 5.5%.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Pittsfield



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

About the Institute

Established in 1989, the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in response to a need for an improved understanding of the Latino experience in the commonwealth. Now in its 34th year, the Gastón Institute continues its mission of informing the public and policymakers about issues vital to the state's growing Latino community and providing information and analysis necessary for effective Latino participation in public policy development. To learn more about the Gastón Institute, visit www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute.

About the Authors

Phillip Granberry worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy from UMass Boston. He has published several articles on the accumulation and use of social capital among Latinos and the sexual health communication of Puerto Rican mothers with their children. In addition to his research and teaching at the Gastón Institute and Economics Department at UMass Boston, he is Senior Researcher in demography for the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Victor Luis Martins holds an M.A. in Applied Economics from the University of Massachusetts Boston, specializing in Financial Economics and Macroeconomics. With a strong background in statistical analysis and data manipulation, he applies quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to analyze economic and social policy issues. Victor's current research focuses on the financialization and interest burden of non-financial corporations in the United States, as well as related economic and demographic conditions in Latinx communities in Massachusetts. His expertise

includes programming skills for data analysis, statistical modeling, and the interpretation of empirical data.

Michelle Borges is an economist from Brazil. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Applied Economics at the University of Massachusetts Boston and working as a research assistant at the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. Her research interests span the areas of Labor Economics, Development Economics, Immigration, and Feminist Economics.

