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Immigrant Communities of Philadelphia: Spatial Patterns and Revitalization

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In the chart to the left, I plotted the growth and loss of the Philadelphia’s foreign-born population between 1980 and 2010 across the same 294 census tracts. Now they are arranged by net growth of the foreign-born population. From this we can see a very different pattern. In this case, the net growth for the foreign born population is happening in nearly three times as many tracts than the native born population (194 instead of 71). The number of tracts that have lost foreign born residents is only 100 tracts, where it had been 223 for the native born. In other words, the foreign-born population is growing in two-thirds of Philadelphia’s census tracts.

There are also more tracts that are close to having no net change. This indicates that many tracts have only seen minor changes in terms of growth. The low level of loss and many showing only moderate change might be indicative of limitations immigrants have in choosing where to live.