

The European Migrant Experience

By Neli Esipova, Magali Rheault, Anita Pugliese and Kirti Kanitkar
Gallup

Working Paper

In the last three decades, migration has been a key component of European demographic patterns. Between 2004 and 2009, population growth in the 27 European-Union member states was primarily due to net migration¹. The movement of people across borders and their settlement in other countries present many challenges and opportunities for both migrants and their receiving communities. While migrants must acquire certain competencies to function well in their adopted countries, migrant-receiving communities must also listen to the needs of their new residents. As such, integration is a dual process, delineating the rights and responsibilities of both groups for productive interaction.

National governments and local jurisdictions have implemented different integration models with various degrees of success and failure. Depending on the situation, the Anglo-American multiculturalist, the French assimilationist or the German exclusionist model has been praised or vilified.² British Prime Minister David Cameron commented in Munich earlier this year that his country's model "failed to provide a vision of society to which they [ethnic groups] feel they want to belong."³ Across the Channel, the new law banning the face veil ignited a debate over personal freedoms⁴ while in the German state of Baden-Wurttemberg, morality questions included in a naturalization test in 2006 drew much criticism as they applied to Muslim applicants only.⁵ Although integration is a pan-European issue where core themes need to be

¹ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Population_change_at_regional_level

² <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2006/22/en/1/ef0622en.pdf> see page 21

³ <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/02/pms-speech-at-munich-security-conference-60293>

⁴ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/apr/10/france-burqa-law-kenza-drider>

⁵ <http://www.turkishweekly.net/columnist/3049/naturalization-in-germany-not-easy-to-become-german.html> and <http://www.goethe.de/lhr/prj/daz/mag/mip/en3721957.htm>

addressed, national governments will need to develop policies that meet their specific challenges based on their own societal dynamic. Additionally, immigration and migrants' integration are likely to be salient issues in the weeks leading to national elections in Denmark, France and Spain over the next several months.⁶

To help inform integration policies, research tools are needed. Currently, there is a dearth of quantitative instruments that can be used for cross-country comparisons to understand policy effectiveness and develop best practices. The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), a partnership between the British Council and the Migration Policy Group, provides a tool to assess integration policy in 31 European and North American countries. MIPEX focuses on measuring several aspects of national legislation, including labor-market access, family reunification, education, political participation, residency, naturalization and anti-discrimination, to determine whether an enabling or disabling integration environment exists in a given country.⁷

Although the quantitative assessment of rules and regulations is an important step to gauge obstacles and opportunities for migrants in receiving countries, the missing piece is the voices of migrants themselves. Gallup's approach to measuring and assessing core themes of the migrant experience seeks to articulate the opinions and attitudes of those on the journey to integration. As such, Gallup's research underscores the importance of considering migrants to be important stakeholders in their new communities encapsulating one of the great themes of the 21st century: the large movement of people across international borders.

Data for this paper are drawn from the Gallup World Poll, an ongoing research project that surveys residents in more than 150 countries on a variety of topics. Gallup migrants' voices collected across 15 EU-member states provide impact-oriented metrics to inform integration policies and initiatives. Between 2009 and 2010, we contacted 25,380 individuals aged 15 and older via telephone in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as in face-to-face interviews in Greece.

⁶ <http://electionguide.org/calendar.php>

⁷ <http://www.mipex.eu/>

We classified migrants as either “newcomers,” those who moved to their current country of residence less than five years ago, and “seasoned” defined as migrants who have been living in their current country of residence for at least five years. Both newcomers and seasoned are “first-generation” migrants. We created a third category, the “native born” against which to gauge newcomers’ and seasoned migrants’ situation and attitudes. In each country, Gallup conducts interviews in the official language. As a result, individuals who do not speak the official language in their country of residence may be under-represented. Of the total sample across 15 countries, 3% of individuals contacted were unable to participate due to a language barrier.

Increasingly, European governments seek to incorporate quality of life measures to provide a more accurate picture of national prosperity.⁸ As a result, migrants’ assessments of their own wellbeing provide important, complementary measures to gauge their situation in their countries of residence.

Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman, makes note of the distinction between two forms of subjective wellbeing: experiential and evaluative.⁹ As described by Kahneman, experiential wellbeing is concerned with momentary affective states and the way people feel about experiences in real-time, while evaluative wellbeing is the way they remember their experiences after they are over. Evaluative wellbeing may include individual assessments of life domains such as standard of living, housing, job, marriage, and personal health. Experiential wellbeing seeks to bypass the effects of judgment and memory and capture feeling and emotions as close to the subject’s immediate experience as possible. Deaton et al., have shown that, at the national level, evaluative wellbeing is correlated to income, education and health,¹⁰ suggesting that this form of wellbeing is an important construct to analyze in the migrant experience.

⁸ Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. 2009. http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/documents/rapport_anglais.pdf

⁹ Kahneman, Daniel and Riis, Jason. 2005. [Living, and thinking about it: Two perspectives on life](#). In F.A. Huppert, N. Baylis & B. Keverne (Eds.), *The science of well-being* (pp. 285-304). Oxford : Oxford University Press.

¹⁰ Deaton, Angus. 2008. Income, health, and well-being around the world: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22 (2): 53-72; Deaton, Angus, Fortson, Jane and Tortora, Robert. 2010. *International Differences in Wellbeing*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

In *The Five Essential Elements of Wellbeing*, Gallup scientists have identified career, social connections, personal economics, health and community as main contributors to a person's overall wellbeing. Using this as a useful structure for analysis, this paper describes the migrant experience in the following domains:

- subjective wellbeing,
- physical,
- financial,
- career,
- social,
- religion,
- community, and
- national institutions.

This multidimensional, comparative analysis helps to shed light on two key integration-related issues: 1) better understand migrants' dynamic experience as they become progressively more familiar with their countries' and communities' environments and 2) gauge the potential gap between the two migrant classifications and the native-born category in terms of fundamental domains of life.

MIGRANT PROFILES

Across the 15 countries surveyed, newcomer, seasoned-migrant and native-born residents exhibit different demographic characteristics (Table 1). Newcomers are more likely to be young, as one-half are under the age of 30, and slightly more likely to be male. Seasoned migrants are more likely than newcomers and the native born to have a university degree. Religious affiliation underlines the preponderance of native born and migrants who identify with Christianity while about one in six migrants identify with Islam.

Migrants, especially newcomers, are more likely than the native born to be in the workforce, but they are also more likely to be unemployed (not working and actively looking for work) or

underemployed (unemployed or working part-time but wanting full-time work).¹¹ These findings underscore the potential economic challenges many migrants still face after several years in their countries of residence.

Migrants' main countries of origin are other European nations. Although migrants who do not speak their current countries' official language may be under-represented in the survey, there is a large group of migrants from countries with main languages that are different from those typically used in their countries of residence. Looking ahead, larger sample sizes would provide greater granularity to compare different migrant populations with the native born. One key distinguishing characteristic between the two migrant groups is the relatively large proportion of newcomers who say they originally come from Latin America. While Europe has always been a magnet for Latin-American migrants, economic woes across Central and South America as well as changes in visa requirements to enter the United States have contributed to shifting migrants' flows to European destinations, especially Spain.¹²

Seasoned migrants are far more likely than newcomers to come from very-high development countries. Newcomers are more likely than seasoned migrants to hail from high- and medium-human development nations, of which many Latin American countries fall¹³.

¹¹ Clifton, Jon and Marlar, Jenny. 2011 <http://www.gallup.com/poll/146639/Worldwide-Good-Jobs-Linked-Higher-Wellbeing.aspx>

¹² <http://www.oas.org/atip/migration/iom%20report%20migration%20lac%20to%20eu.pdf>

¹³ http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Table1.pdf

Table 1: Demographic profile

	Native Born	Seasoned Migrants	Newcomer Migrants
15-29 years old	21%	23%	50%
30-44 years old	25%	31%	38%
45-59 years old	25%	25%	10%
60 years old and over	29%	21%	2%
Up to 8 years of education	22%	17%	22%
9 to 16 years of education	64%	61%	63%
Completed university	15%	22%	16%
Men	47%	46%	55%
Women	53%	54%	45%
Christian	75%	59%	68%
Muslim	1%	16%	17%
Secular	20%	15%	9%
In the workforce	55%	63%	74%
Unemployed	8%	13%	20%
Underemployed	19%	28%	42%
Born in the European Union	100%	40%	32%
Born in the rest of Europe		10%	10%
Born in Latin America		12%	34%
Born in Developing Asia		5%	3%
Born in CIS		10%	3%
Born in MENA		13%	7%
Born in other regions		2%	2%
Very High Human		41%	24%
High Human Development		38%	47%
Medium Human Development		14%	24%
Low Human Development		8%	5%

Wellbeing and attitudes can vary with age, gender and education. In order to ensure comparability of the three groups, demographic variables of age, gender and education were used

as covariates in the analysis. The results following in this report represent means and percentages which have been adjusted for age, gender and education differences between the groups. Not adjusting for age, gender, and education would leave the analysis open to the confounding influences of these demographic characteristics on wellbeing and domains of life.

KEY LEARNINGS

- While migrants' financial wellbeing improves over time, their evaluative wellbeing does not. Further, neither financial nor evaluative wellbeing among migrants reaches the level of the native born.
- Regardless of their length of residence, migrants are more likely than the native born to report feeling negative experiences, and they are less likely to report positive experiences.
- Among those who work, migrants are far less likely than the native born to say their job is the ideal one for them.
- Migrants are more likely than the native born to say they have ever thought of starting a business and to plan to start one in the next 12 months.
- Social connections in their countries of residence are less prevalent among migrant populations, especially among seasoned migrants.
- Newcomers are the most positive toward many aspects of their communities, while seasoned migrants' attitudes are less positive and more similar to those of the native born.
- At the national level, institutional confidence is, in general, highest among newcomers.
- Seasoned migrants are the most likely to express the desire to migrate to another country; approximately one-third would like to go back to their country of birth.

DOMAINS OF LIFE

Subjective Wellbeing – This domain addresses the two main types of subjective well-being: evaluative and experiential.

Globally, Gallup measures evaluative wellbeing using the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, which asks individuals to rate their current and future lives on a ladder scale from 0 to 10¹⁴.

Questions were asked as follows:

Please imagine a ladder with steps numbered from zero at the bottom to 10 at the top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you.

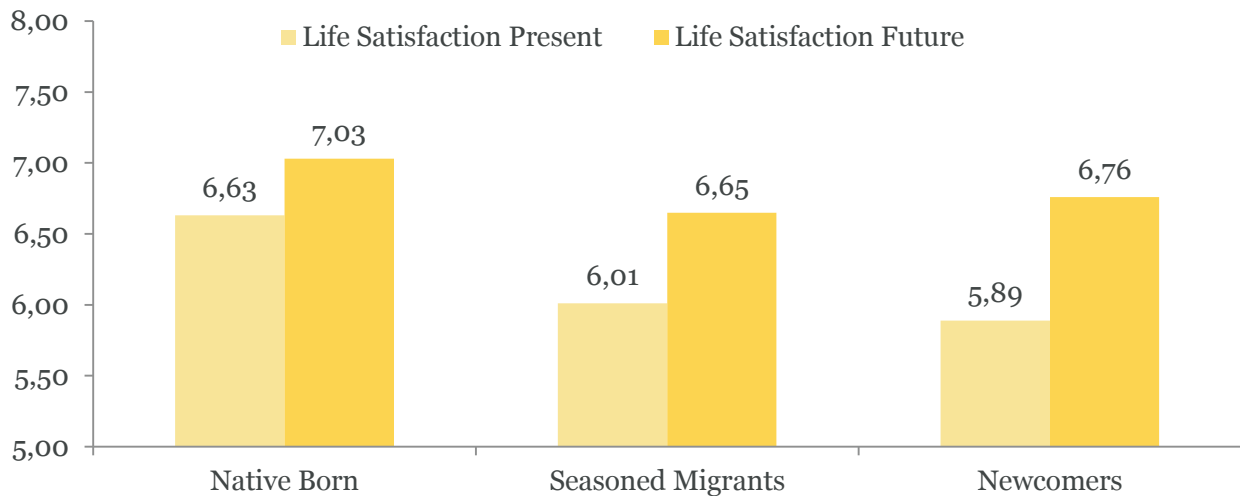
On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time? (present life evaluation)

On which step do you think you will stand about five years from now? (future life evaluation)

Migrants provide significantly lower ratings of their present and future lives than the native born. Newcomers' and seasoned migrants' mean scores *of their present lives* are significantly lower than the native born. Seasoned migrants and newcomers do not differ on their assessment of evaluative wellbeing, suggesting it does not improve with length of residence in the country. Similar results emerge on expectations of their lives in five years as both migrant groups give lower ratings to their future lives than the native born. However, migrants exhibit a large gap between their ratings of present and future lives, suggesting a sense of hope or optimism.

¹⁴ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/122453/Understanding-Gallup-Uses-Cantril-Scale.aspx>

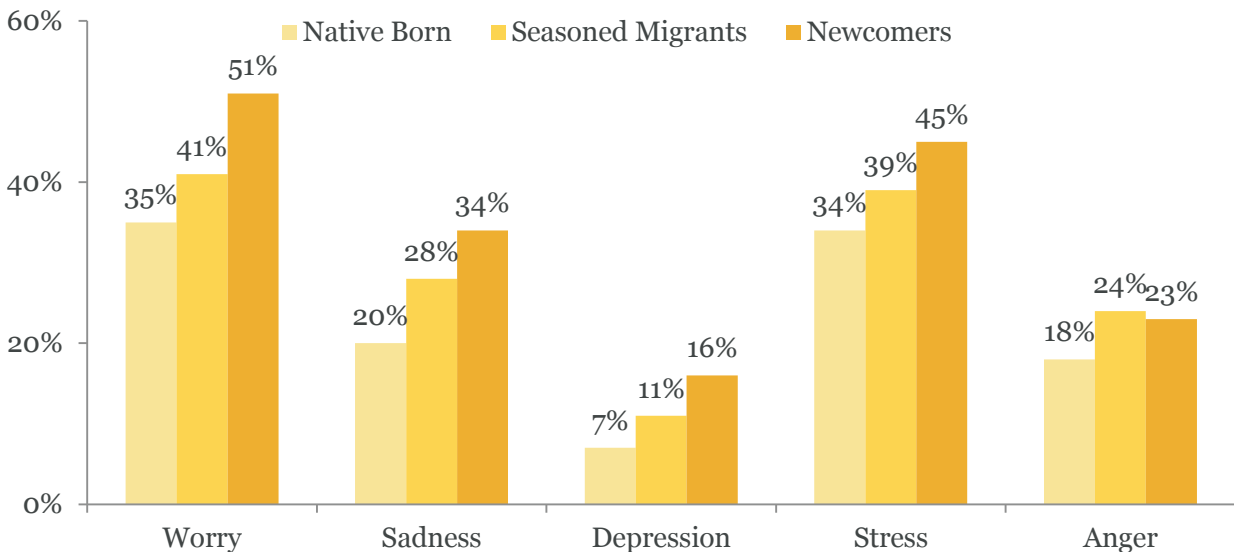
Figure 1. Migrants' evaluative wellbeing is lower than native born



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Measures of experiential wellbeing also reveal that the migrants' picture is less positive than that of the native born. Newcomers are the most likely to report feeling a lot of worry, sadness, and depression while anger and stress are equally shared by both migrant groups.

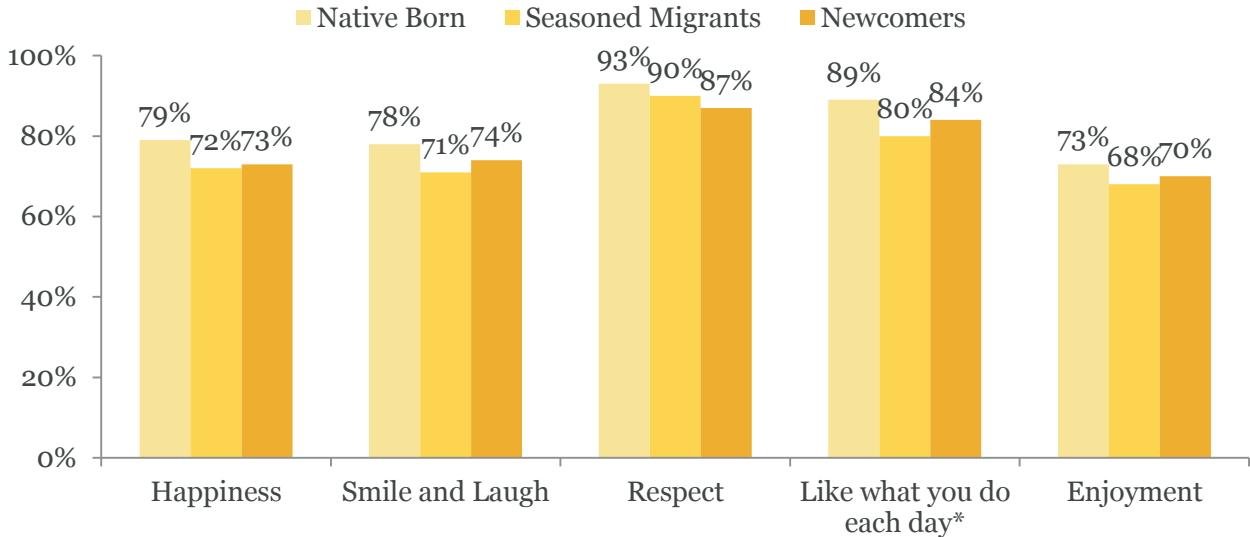
Figure 2. Migrants are more likely than the native born to report negative experiences



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

When asked about positive experiences, migrants are, overall, less likely than the native born to report feeling a lot of such emotions the day before the survey. Migrants are less likely than the native born to say they felt a lot of happiness, smiled or laughed, felt respected and liked what they did the day before the survey. Further, seasoned migrants are less likely than the native born to report feeling a lot of enjoyment.

Figure 3. Migrants are less likely the than native born to report positive experiences



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

*Data collected in 2010 only

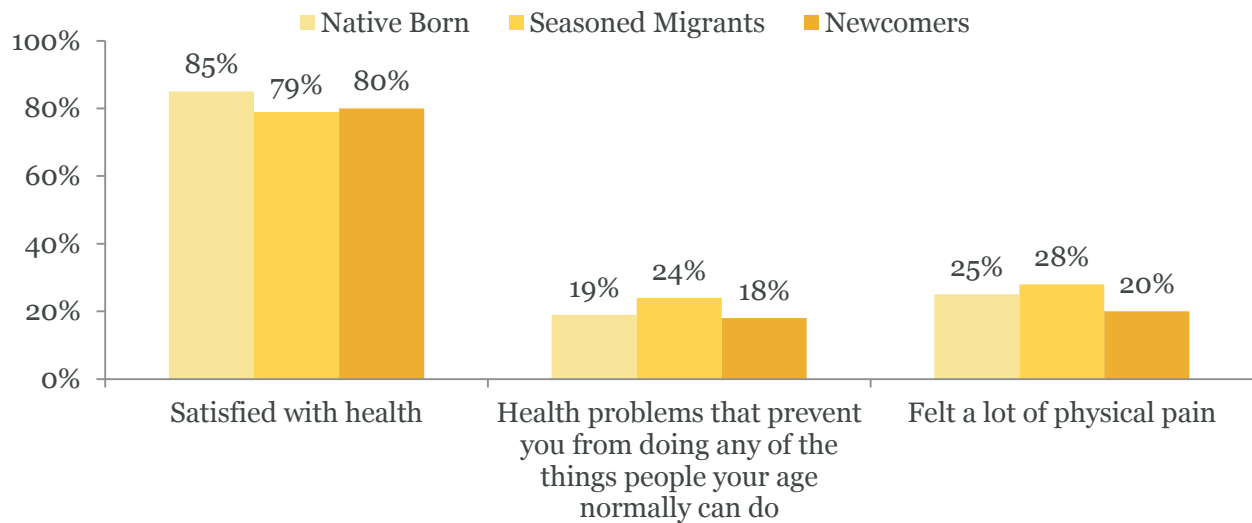
Physical Domain – It addresses aspects of individuals’ subjective health: satisfaction with one’s health, experiencing a lot of physical pain and whether people have any health problems that prevent them from doing things people their age can normally do.

While health is a fundamental component of the human experience, it encompasses not only objective clinical assessments, but also subjective reports of disability, function and sensory symptoms. For example, some researchers indicate that while the objective health measures gauge the “patient’s degree of health,” subjective measures “translate that objective assessment

into the actual quality of life experienced”¹⁵. As a result, subjective quality of life and health measures are increasingly incorporated into clinical research studies.

Results show no differences in health satisfaction between migrant groups while the native born are slightly more likely to be satisfied with their personal health. Reports of feeling a lot of physical pain and of having health problems that prevent them from doing things people their age can normally do are slightly higher among seasoned migrants than the other two groups. Healthy individuals as the most likely candidates to leave their countries may explain such a lack of difference in subjective-health perceptions. But more research is needed to better understand migrants’ health perceptions as well as their actual health outcomes.

Figure 4. Seasoned migrants more likely to report health problems and physical pain



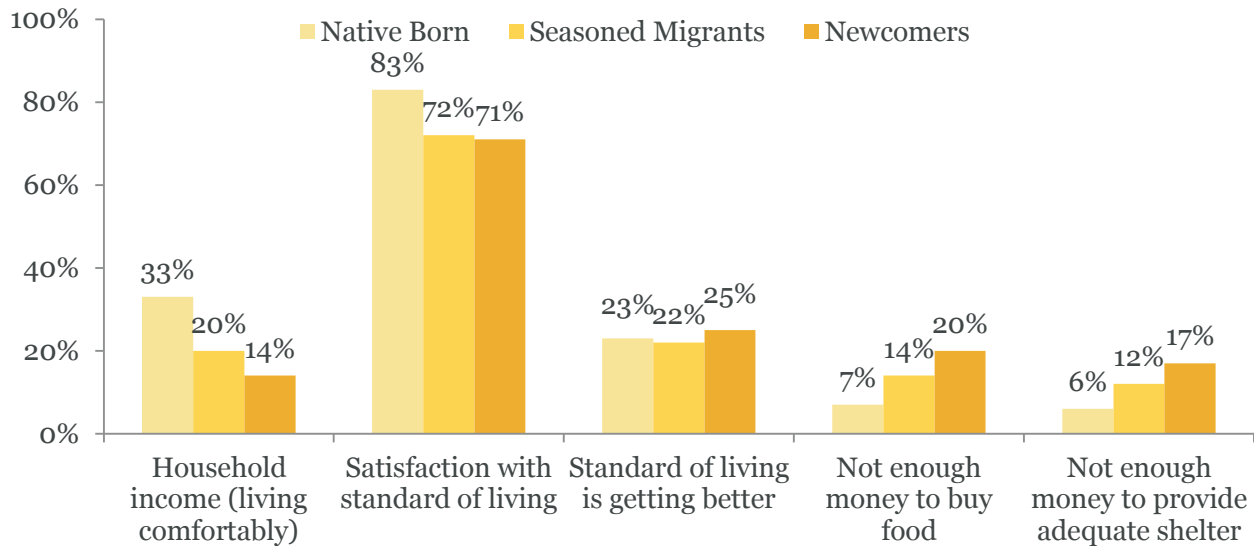
Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

¹⁵ Testa, Marcia. A., and Simonson, Donald C. 1996. Assessments of Quality-of-Life Outcomes. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 334 (13): 835-840

Financial Domain – It addresses individuals’ financial situation. It focuses on migrants’ perceptions of household income, standard of living and basic needs such as their ability to buy food and provide shelter for themselves and their families.

Seasoned migrants are significantly more positive than newcomers about their financial situation, suggesting that it improves progressively as migrants spend more time in their countries of residence. Further, seasoned migrants are more likely than newcomers to report living comfortably on their current household income, although the former still trail the native born by a large margin.

Figure 5. Migrants’ financial wellbeing improves over time, but not their satisfaction with their standard of living



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

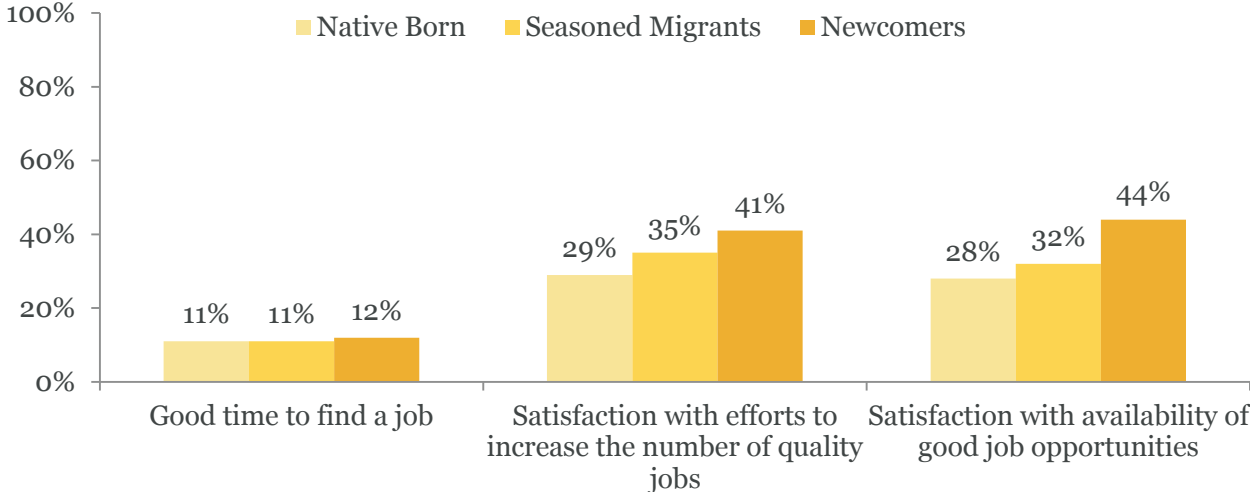
Satisfaction with one’s standard of living is widespread across both migrant groups, although they are less likely to express such satisfaction than the native born. There are, however, no differences in perceptions that their standard of living is getting better across both migrant groups and the native born, even though seasoned migrants’ financial wellbeing is higher than that of newcomers.

Reports of lacking money for food and shelter are relatively large for both migrant groups, although newcomers are in the most difficult position. These results about personal economics suggest that migrants’ financial wellbeing may improve with length of residence in their new countries. These findings counter traditional thinking about migrants’ perpetual financial dependence and alleged burden on receiving communities. However, further research, such as longitudinal studies, to monitor migrants’ financial situation over time is necessary to determine the extent of their economic mobility.

Career Domain - It addresses several aspects of the job climate as well employed individuals’ views about their own job situation. In addition, this domain focuses of perceptions of entrepreneurship, including potential obstacles to business creation.

Overall, few say that now is a good time to find a job—about 1 in 10 across all three groups. But newcomers and seasoned migrants are far more likely than the native born to express satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs and be satisfied with the availability of good job opportunities.

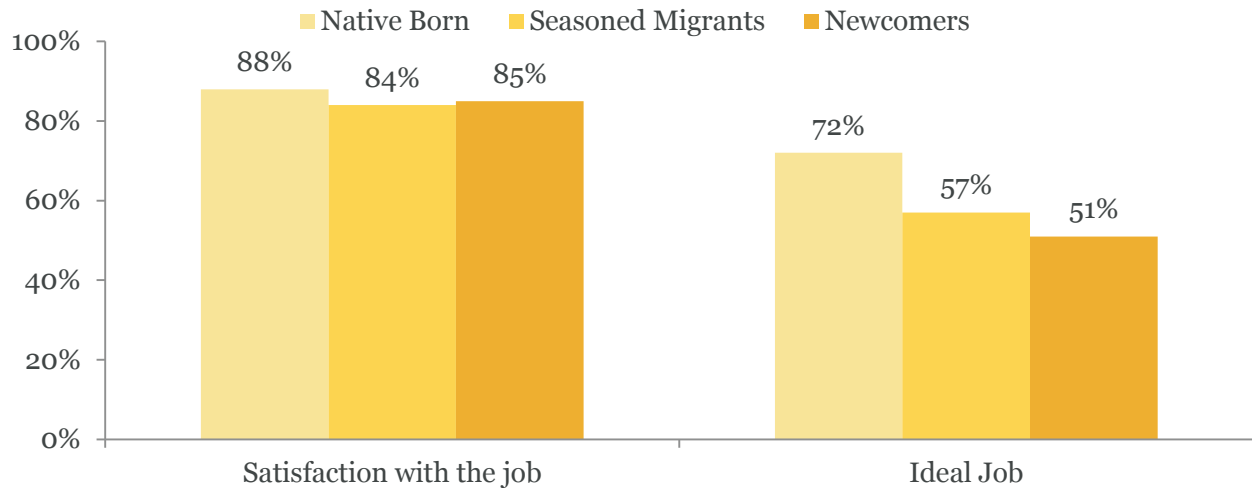
Figure 6. Migrants are more likely to be satisfied with efforts to increase jobs



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Among those who say they work, strong majorities across all three groups say they are satisfied with the work they do. But when asked if their job is the ideal one for them, migrants are far less likely than the native born to say it is the case.

Figure 7. While job satisfaction is high for all groups, migrants are far less likely to say their job is ideal



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education. Data collected in 2010 only, among those who are working.

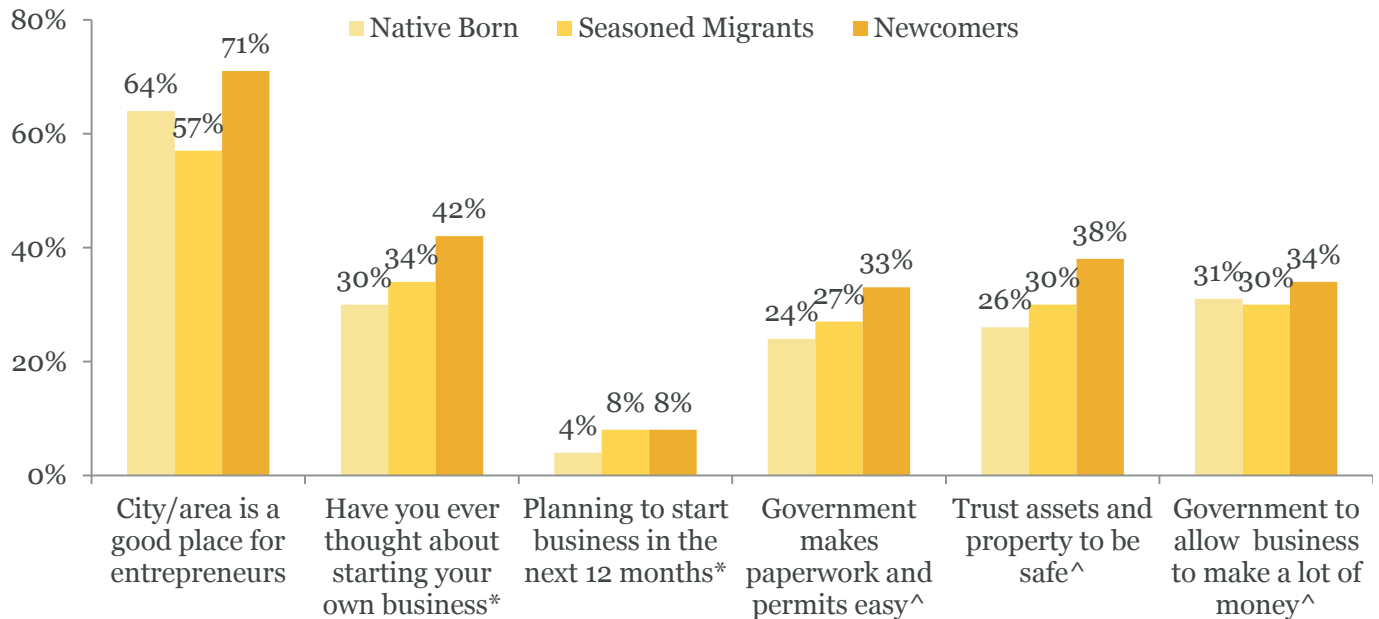
Self-employment and business ownership are often presented as part of the successful migrant experience, especially in North America. Indeed, business creation may be an important path to socio-economic integration, but there are many obstacles to overcome.¹⁶ Overall, our findings show relatively similar, albeit low, proportions of self-employed individuals across all three groups. In other words, self-employment and entrepreneurship are niche avenues to earn a living, even among migrant groups in the countries surveyed.

Newcomers are the most likely to say their communities are good places for entrepreneurs forming new businesses while seasoned migrants are the least likely to say the same. When asked about their interest in entrepreneurship, migrants are more likely than the native born to

¹⁶ <ftp://zappa.ubvu.vu.nl/20070014.pdf>

say they have thought about starting their own business and to plan to launch one in the next 12 months.

Figure 8. Migrants are the most likely to plan starting a business



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

*Data collected in 2010 only

^Data collected in 2009 only; excludes Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands

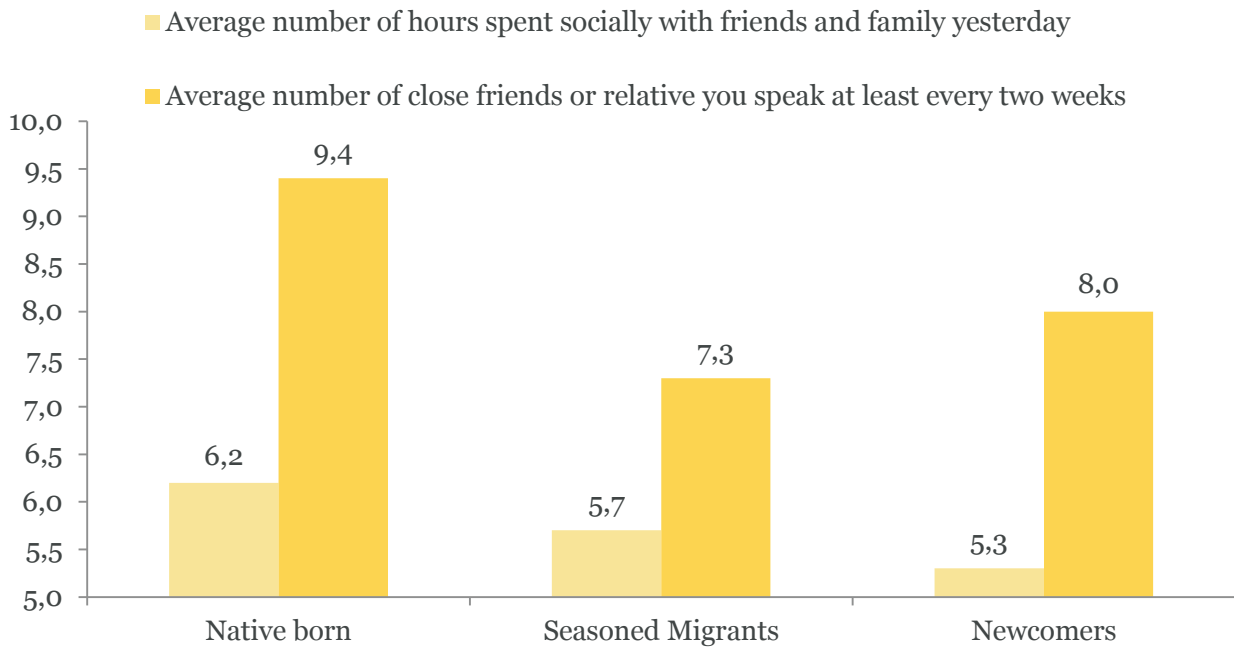
However, perceptions of entrepreneurship reveal some important differences. While there are no differences across all three groups in terms of belief the government would let businesses be profitable, newcomers are the most positive about the ease of government paperwork and the safety of assets and property. In fact, seasoned migrants’ views are closer to those of the native born on these two issues. These results suggest that while newcomers may be relatively enthusiastic about critical aspects of entrepreneurship, such enthusiasm wears out with time, perhaps with experience, either personal or through connections of trying to start a business.

Social Domain – It addresses several aspects of individuals’ social connections and relationships.

Migrants’ social and family connections are less widespread, even among seasoned migrants, than those of the native born. On average, migrants report fewer close friends and relatives they

speaking with at least every two weeks. Migrants' social time, measured as the average number of hours individuals spend with friends or relatives the day before the survey, also trails that of the native born. This is particularly true for newcomers who report an average of 5.3 hours of social time during the previous day compared with 6.2 hours for the native born.

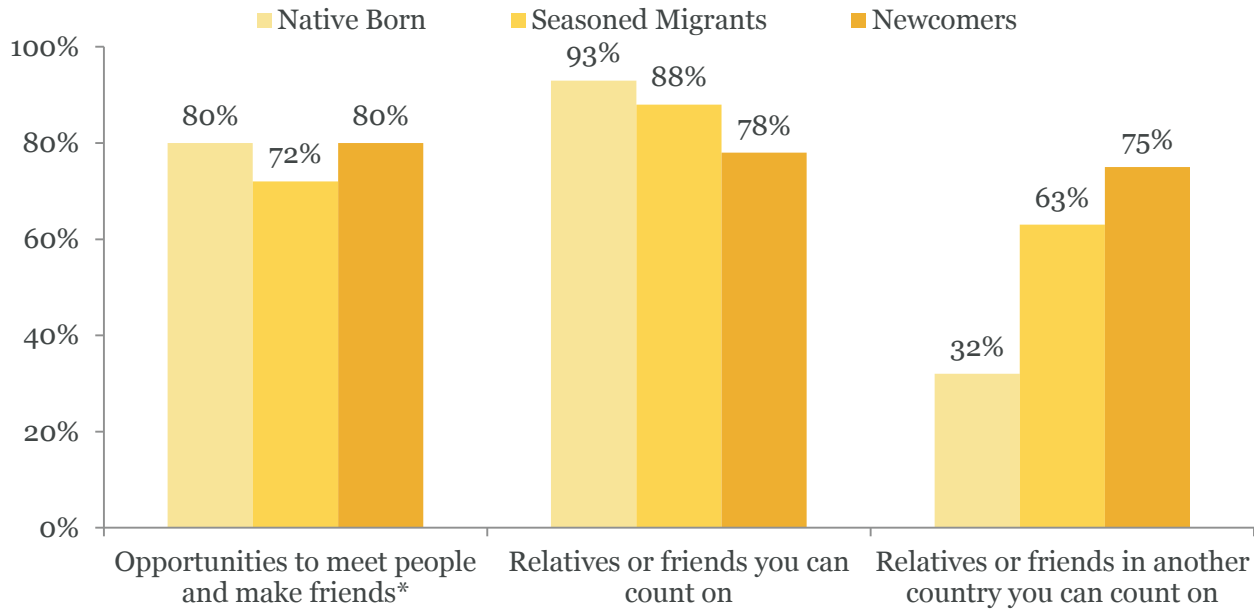
Figure 9. Migrants report fewer social connections than the native born



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education
 Data collected in 2010 only

Interestingly, seasoned migrants are the least likely to report satisfaction with the opportunity to meet people and make friends in their communities. While strong majorities of migrants say they can count on relatives or friends to help them if they were in trouble, they are far less likely than the native born to report having such a network. At the same time, migrants' social networks extend to other countries. The existence of an overseas network is particularly prevalent among newcomers compared with seasoned migrants. These findings suggest that with time, migrants rely less on their connections in their home countries while they have yet to establish a well-developed social network in their countries of residence.

Figure 10. Seasoned migrants’ international social network wanes over time



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

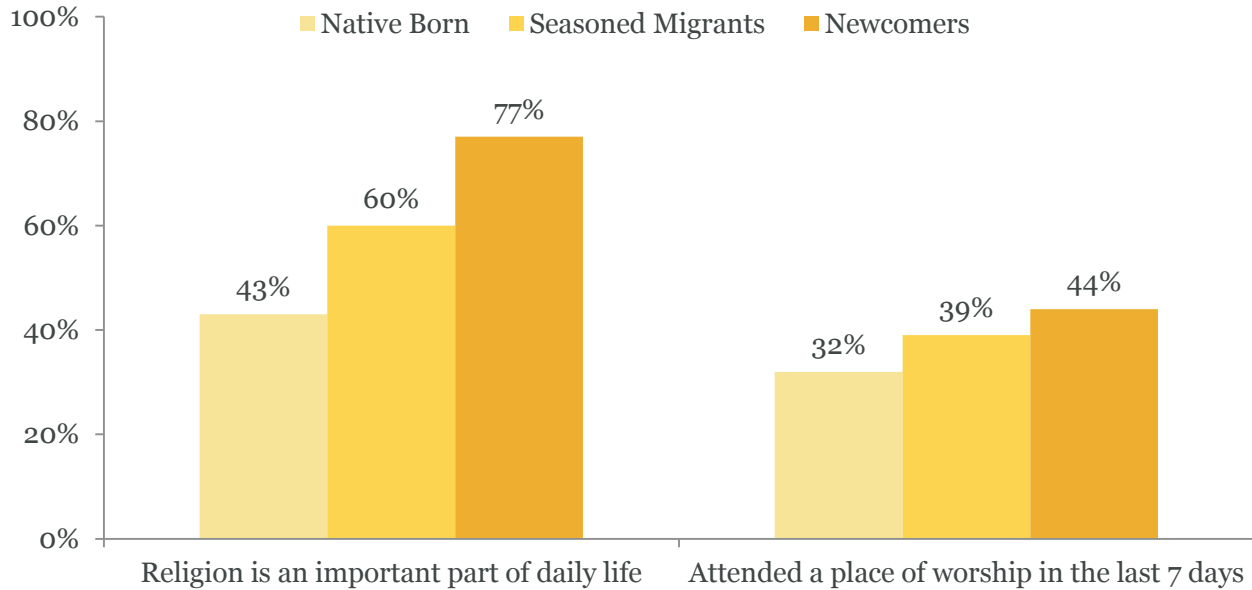
*Data collected in 2010 only

Religion Domain – It seeks to gauge the role of religion in the lives of individuals.

For many, religion plays important social and community functions, in addition to the guidance that religious teachings can provide. Religious celebrations and religious-service attendance brings people together and can serve as the occasion when people establish their first social connections in a community.

The importance of religion in the lives of migrants is much higher than for the native born. Newcomers are far more likely than seasoned migrants and the native born to say religion is an important part of their daily lives. Newcomers are also the most likely to report attending a religious service in the past seven days. However, more research is needed to ascertain whether the importance of religion was higher at the time seasoned migrants left their countries of origin and it became progressively less important as they lived in a less religious environment in their new communities or whether religion always played a lesser role in their lives.

Figure 11. Religiosity is highest among newcomers

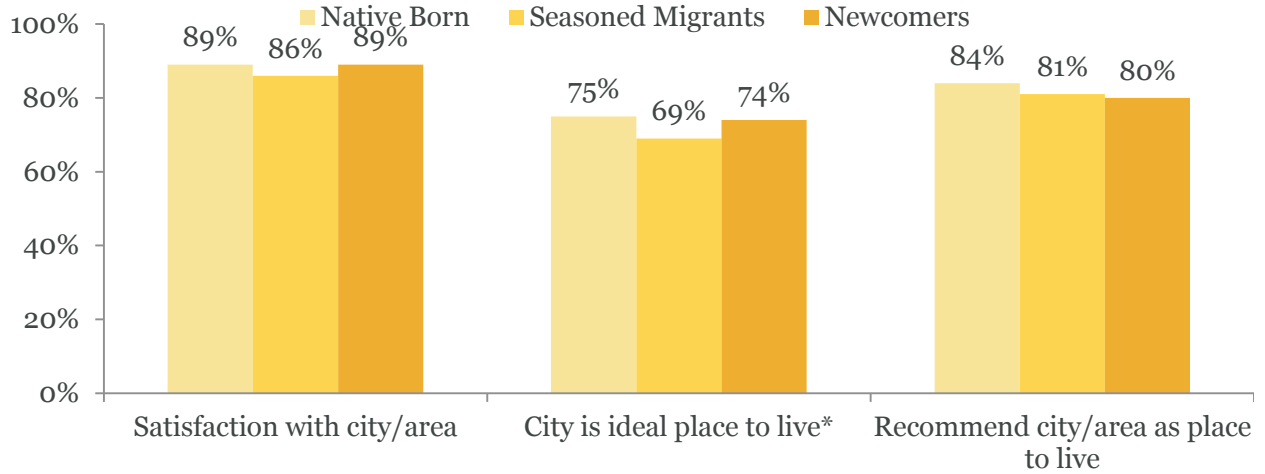


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Community Domain – It seeks to measure attitudes toward one’s community and includes individuals’ perceptions of safety, communities’ openness to various social groups, and civic participation.

Seasoned migrants are the least likely to express satisfaction with their communities and to report that their cities or local areas are ideal places to live for them. In fact, newcomers’ and the native born are both more positive than seasoned migrants on their attitudes toward their communities. Further, seasoned migrants are less likely than the native born to say they would recommend their communities as places to live to friends.

Figure 12. Migrants slightly trail the native born on community attachment

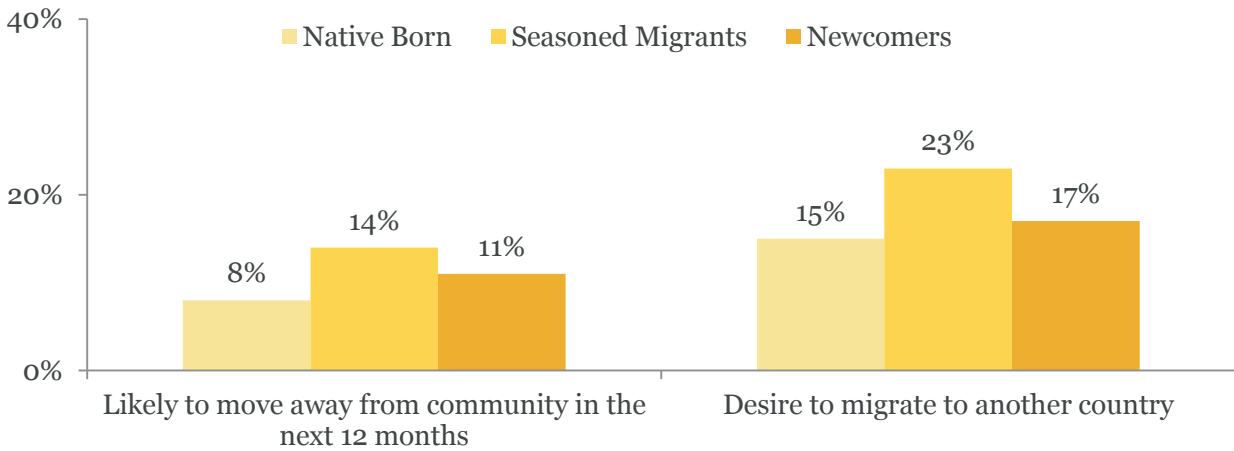


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

*Data collected in 2010 only

Related to an overall assessment of one's community is the desire or likelihood to leave it. Migrants are more likely to say they plan to move away from their community in the next 12 months. In addition, seasoned migrants are the most likely to say they would like to migrate to another country. These findings suggest that at least some seasoned migrants may not feel at home in their countries of residence or view opportunities to lie elsewhere. In fact, one-third of seasoned migrants who desire to emigrate say they would like to move back to their home countries.

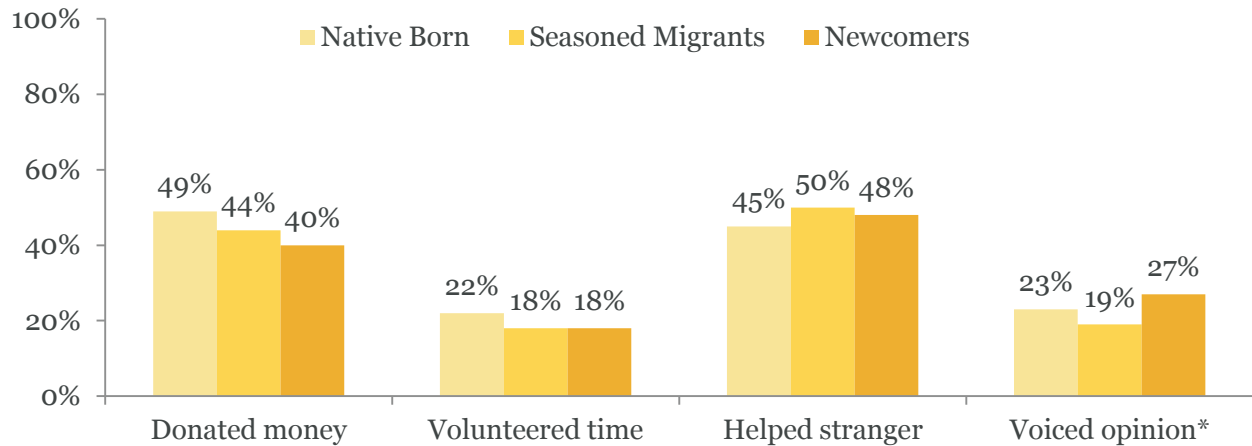
Figure 13. Seasoned migrants more likely to want to leave their current community



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Participation in one’s community can be another important catalyst of the positive migrant experience. Except for charitable giving and volunteering, migrants are at least as likely as the native born to report having helped a stranger or having voiced their opinion to an official. Reports of having given money to a charity are lowest among newcomers, which is unsurprising in light of their difficult financial situation.

Figure 14. Except for charitable giving and volunteering, migrants’ community participation is similar to the native born

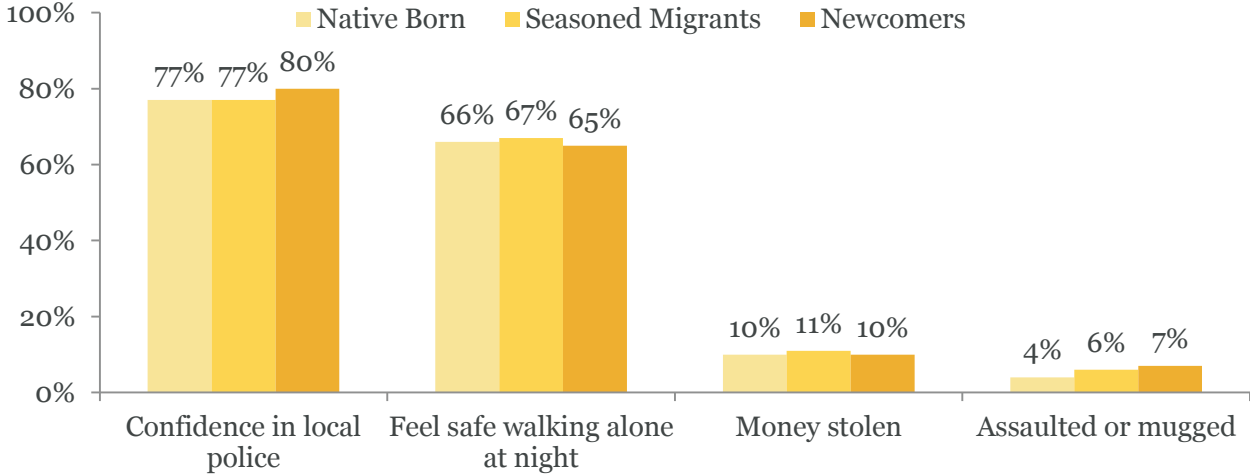


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

*Data collected in 2010 only

One of the key aspects of a community is safety, not only in terms of objective measures of crime, but also with respect to residents’ personal sense of security. Overall, strong majorities in all three groups say they have confidence in their local police and report feeling safe walking alone at night in their communities. While few across all three groups report having been crime victims, newcomers are slightly more likely than the native born to report having been assaulted in the past 12 months.

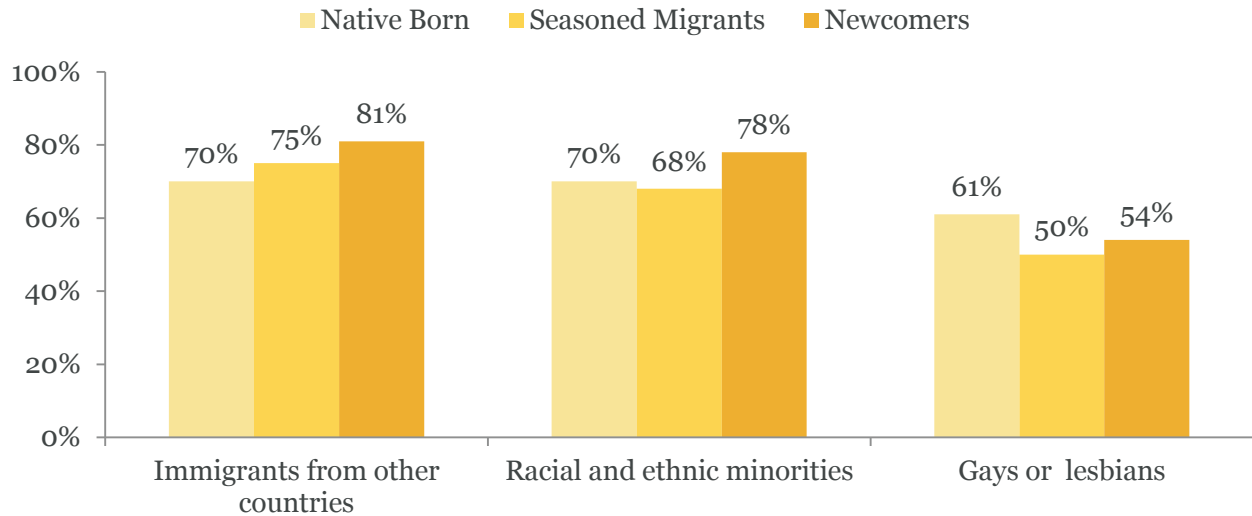
Figure 15. Perceptions of personal safety are high for all groups



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Attitudes toward communities’ openness to various social groups, based on race, ethnicity or any other attribute is another important measure to better under the migrant experience. Migrants, especially newcomers, are more likely than the native born to say their communities are good places to live for immigrants and for racial and ethnic minorities. At the same time, migrants, especially seasoned ones, are less likely than the native born to say their communities are good places for gays and lesbians.

Figure 16. Seasoned migrants less likely than newcomers to say their communities are good places to live for diverse groups

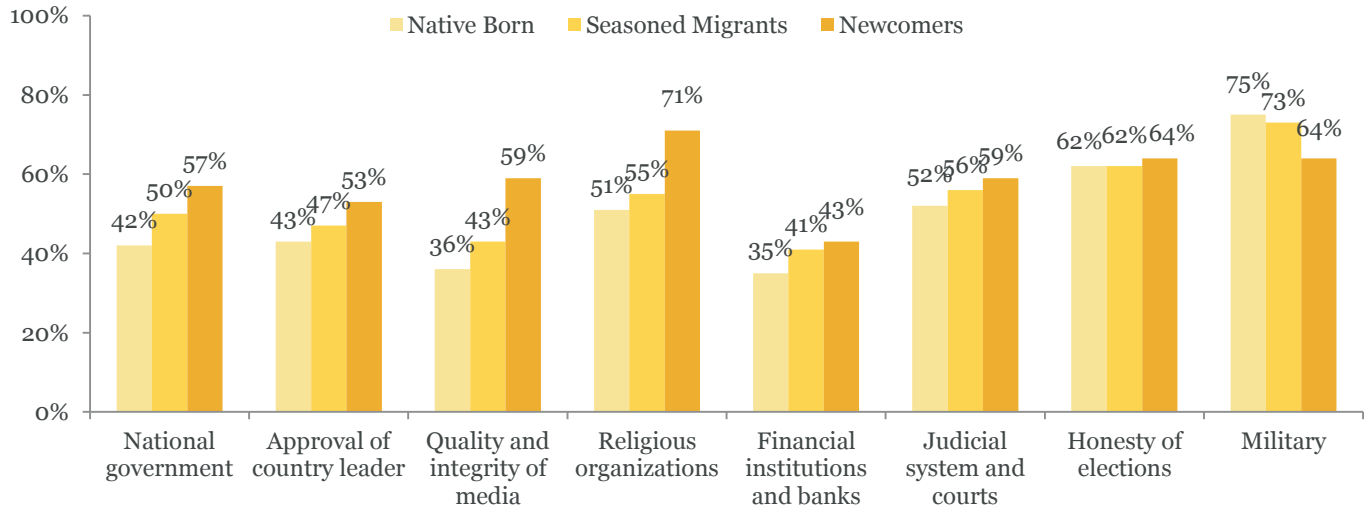


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

National Institutions Domain – It seeks to measure individuals’ attitudes toward the various aspects of their countries of residence, including institutional confidence, corruption and potential for personal growth.

One of the issues at the core of the integration debate is about migrants’ relationship to their adopted countries’ national institutions, such as the national government, the judicial system and the military. Such institutions provide the national framework in which all residents live, work and grow. One of the common themes in this debate emphasizes migrants’ alleged rejection of their new countries’ institutions. Our results show that migrants, especially newcomers, are more likely than the native born to say they have confidence in the national government, the media and religious organizations in their countries of residence. In addition, migrants are more likely to approve of the country’s leader than are the native born. But such confidence appears to wane with seasoned migrants and falls even lower among the native born for some institutions, such as the media.

Figure 17. In general, institutional confidence is highest among migrants, especially newcomers

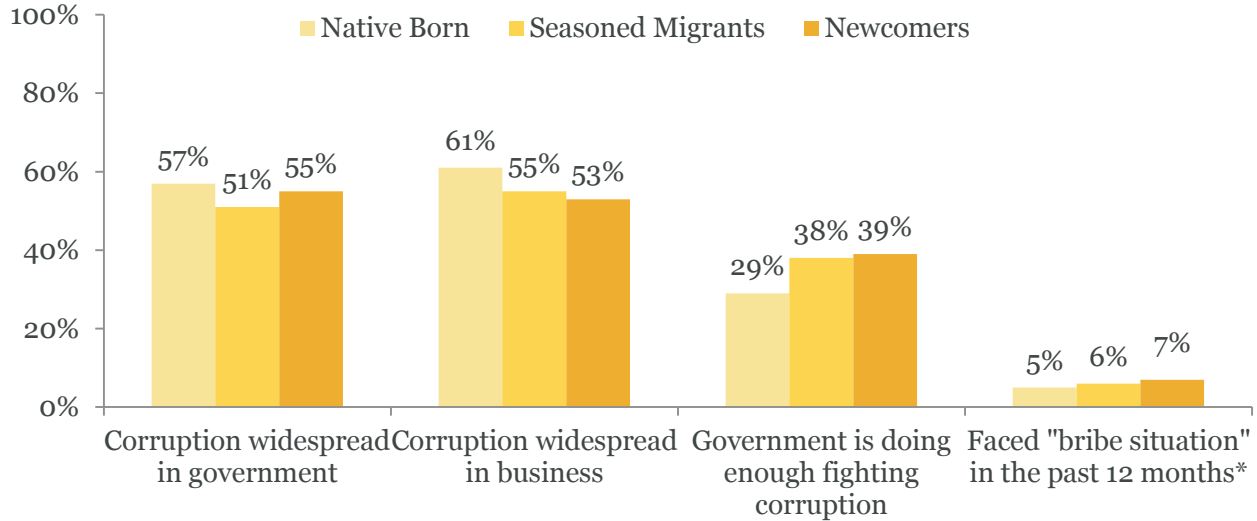


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Seasoned migrants and the native born express similar levels of confidence in the military, or well above what newcomers say. The judicial system and banks are the two institutions where both groups of migrants express similar levels of confidence compared with the native born. With respect to confidence in the honesty of elections, there are, however, no differences across all three groups.

Perceptions of corruption in their countries of residence reveal several differences. Seasoned migrants are slightly less likely than the other two groups to say government corruption is widespread. However, seasoned migrants’ views of business corruption fall in between those of newcomers’ who are the least likely to say it is widespread and those of the native born, who are the most likely. Migrants are also more likely than the native born to say the government is doing enough to fight corruption in their countries of residence. And while few among all three groups report facing a “bribe” situation in the past 12 months (they had to give a bribe or present to solve a problem), it is the native born who the most critical of corruption in their countries.

Figure 18. While reports of facing a “bribe situation” is similar across groups, the native born are the most critical about corruption

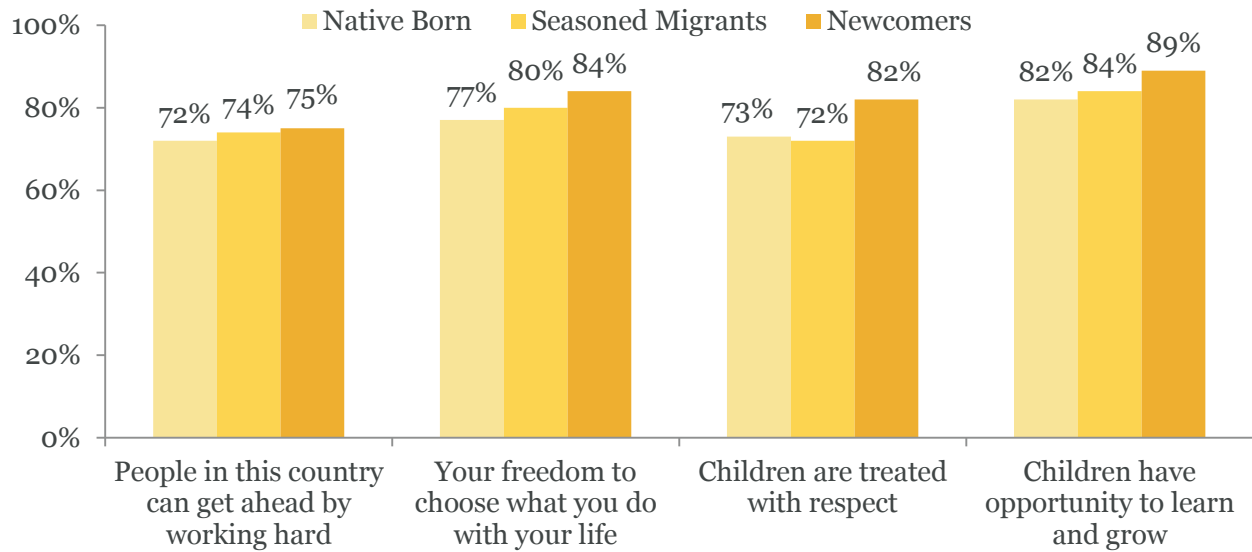


Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

*Data collected in 2009 only; excludes Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands

Other attitudes about youth development and individuals’ sense of personal freedoms and development provide insightful information about the migrant experience. Overall, strong majorities of all three groups say they have the freedom to choose what they do with their life. Migrants are slightly more likely than the native born to say it is the case. But there are no differences across all three groups in terms of perceptions that hard work can pay off in their countries.

Figure 19. Strong majorities in all three groups are positive about personal freedoms, meritocracy and children’s development



Note: Data are adjusted by age, gender, and education

Migrants’ attitudes toward youth development show more differences. Newcomers are far more likely than seasoned migrants to say children have the opportunity to learn and grow every day and to believe that children in their countries of residence are treated with respect. In fact, seasoned migrants’ attitudes on youth development are roughly on par with those of the native born. These findings suggest that newcomers believe their new countries will be a better environment in which their children can grow, whether they currently have any or not. However, such high expectations become more moderate after several years of residence in the country.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Measuring wellbeing of migrants helps to assess success of integration from the migrant perspective. What can be done to improve subjective wellbeing of migrants in the European context?

Migrants may benefit from help to adjust more quickly to their new environment, to find new social networks, and to engage in their local community.

Society may also capitalize on migrants' already positive attitudes toward national institutions.

Migrants demonstrate strong belief that they can achieve something if they work hard in their new country of residence. Migrants are also more likely than native born residents to seek work and to have entrepreneurial spirit. Countries have the opportunity to build on these desires, as it will benefit the country economy as well as the personal prosperity of migrants.

This analysis would be most useful when conducted at the country level.

LOOKING AHEAD

In an upcoming paper, we will seek to better understand the calculus of migration. The migrant experience involves both benefits and costs. Regardless of the reasons why individuals leave their countries of origin, be it for political, economic or other reasons, the quest of a better life in a foreign land also means a loss in other personal ways. Such costs can translate into negative emotional experiences and sense of isolation as individuals miss relatives and friends or even a way of life. As such, we will attempt to provide a measure of what migrants “gain” and lose” as compared to those who stay in their home countries.

SURVEY METHODS

Results are based on 25,380 interviews conducted in 2009 and 2010, as part of the larger Gallup World Poll. Between 1,000 and 2,000 interviews were conducted among adults aged 15 and older in each of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Telephone interviews (landline phone or landline/mobile) were conducted in 14 countries; face-to-face interviews were conducted in Greece.

Survey questions were used to categorize respondents into three groups:

- Native born (those born in their country of residence, n=23,032)
- Newcomers (migrants who have moved to their country of residence within the last five years, n=420)
- Seasoned Migrants (migrants who have resided in their country of residence for more than five years, n=1,928)

Were you born in this country, or not?

(If not born in country, ask:) In which country were you born? (Open ended)

(If not born in country, ask:) Did you move to this country within the last five years?

This document contains proprietary research, copyrighted materials, and literary property of Gallup, Inc. It is for the guidance of your company only and is not to be copied, quoted, published, or divulged to others outside of your organization. Gallup® is the trademark of Gallup, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

This document is of great value to both your organization and Gallup. Accordingly, international and domestic laws and penalties guaranteeing patent, copyright, trademark, and trade secret protection protect the ideas, concepts, and recommendations related within this document.

No changes may be made to this document without the express written permission of Gallup, Inc.