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NEWS RELEASE

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Boston – The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston released today an analysis of New England’s immigrant population, comparing its demographic and socioeconomic characteristics to immigrants nationwide. The summary report entitled “Who Are New England’s Immigrants?” appears in the Fall 2004 edition of *Communities & Banking*, a quarterly publication focused on community and economic development and fair access to credit in New England.

The study revealed that the region’s largest foreign-born groups are from Portugal, Canada, China, the Dominican Republic, and Italy. This composition differs markedly from rest of the country where immigration is dominated by flows from Mexico, a group that has relatively little presence here in New England. Overall, the region has a large fraction of European immigrants, most of whom emigrated prior to 1980, while the fastest growing groups are those from the Dominican Republic, China, Brazil, India, and Vietnam.

The analysis also examined settlement patterns and found that most immigrants live in the region’s urban areas and many groups tend to cluster. For example, many Portuguese immigrants live in and around Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts, while Jamaicans are concentrated in Hartford and other Connecticut cities. Along socioeconomic lines, New England’s immigrants tend to have been in this country longer, have higher incomes, and more education than their U.S. counterparts. However, the income gap between immigrants and natives is more pronounced in New England than in the rest of the country.

The publication and a more detailed on-line profile of the immigrant community with maps are available on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s web site at <http://www.bos.frb.org/commdev/>