

1.9 Language and Nativity

1.9.1 Ability to Speak English

In Kalamazoo County, 6.5% of the population spoke another language besides English at home. The majority (37.7%) of these households where another language besides English was spoken spoke Spanish and 28.6% of these households speaking other Indo-European languages.

Language Spoken at Home Among the Population Aged Five Years and Over, Kalamazoo County, 2010

Language Spoken at Home		Number of People	Percent of Population
English Only		219,894	93.5%
Language Other Than English	Total	15,405	6.5%
	Spanish	5,810	2.5%
	Other Indo-European languages	4,411	1.9%
	Asian and Pacific Islander languages	2,693	1.1%
	Other languages	2,491	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010, S1601

A greater proportion of the population in Kalamazoo County who speak another language besides English as the main language at home was able to speak English well than the population in Michigan overall or in the United States per year from 2008-2010. Only 0.5% of Kalamazoo County residents spoke another language in their home other than English and were not able to speak English well or could not speak English at all. In comparison, 1.5% of Michigan residents and 4.7% of people in the United States spoke a language besides English and could not speak English well or at all.

Among the Hispanic population in Kalamazoo County, over half of people mainly spoke Spanish at home (51.9%). Approximately 5% of the people among the Kalamazoo County Hispanic population were not able to speak English well or at all. The proportions of the Hispanic population in Michigan and the United States that did not speak English well or at all were higher (12.1% and 21.9%, respectively).

**Ability to Speak English Among the Population Aged Five Years and Over,
Kalamazoo County, Michigan and the United States, Yearly Average 2008-2010**

Group		United States		Michigan		Kalamazoo County	
		Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population
Total Population	Total population (5 years and older)	286,534,051	100%	9,305,604	100%	233,351	100%
	Speaks another language besides English	58,313,119	20.4%	827,192	8.9%	14,765	6.3%
	Speaks another language besides English and speaks English not well or not at all	13,583,950	4.7%	135,507	1.5%	1,048	0.5%
Hispanic Population	Total Hispanic population (5 years and older)	44,201,749	100%	379,593	100%	8,502	100%
	Speak Spanish**	33,350,197	75.5%	198,893	52.4%	4,412	51.9%
	Speaks Spanish, and speaks English not well or not at all	9,677,995	21.9%	46,020	12.1%	437	5.1%

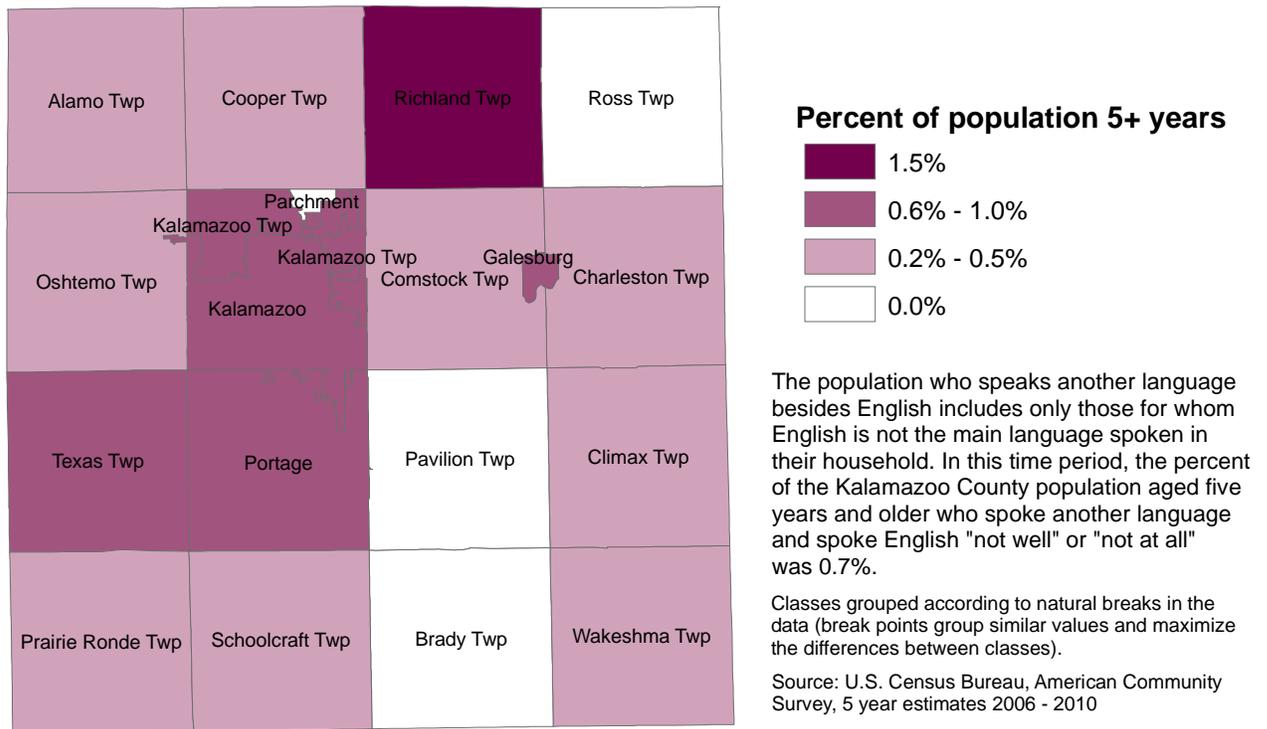
*The number and proportion of the population that speaks another language besides English includes those people for whom English is not the main language spoken in their household.

**The number and proportion of the population that speaks Spanish includes those people for whom Spanish is the main language spoken in their household.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2008-2010, B16004 and B16006

Language data for the cities and townships of Kalamazoo County was available for the 2006-2010 time period. Areas in Kalamazoo County where the highest proportion of people did not speak English well or at all were Richland Township and the City of Kalamazoo. The areas with the greatest number of people who did not speak English well were the City of Kalamazoo (684) and the City of Portage (342).

Population Five Years and Older That Speaks Another Language Besides English and Speaks English "Not Well" or "Not at All" in Kalamazoo County by City and Township, 2006 - 2010



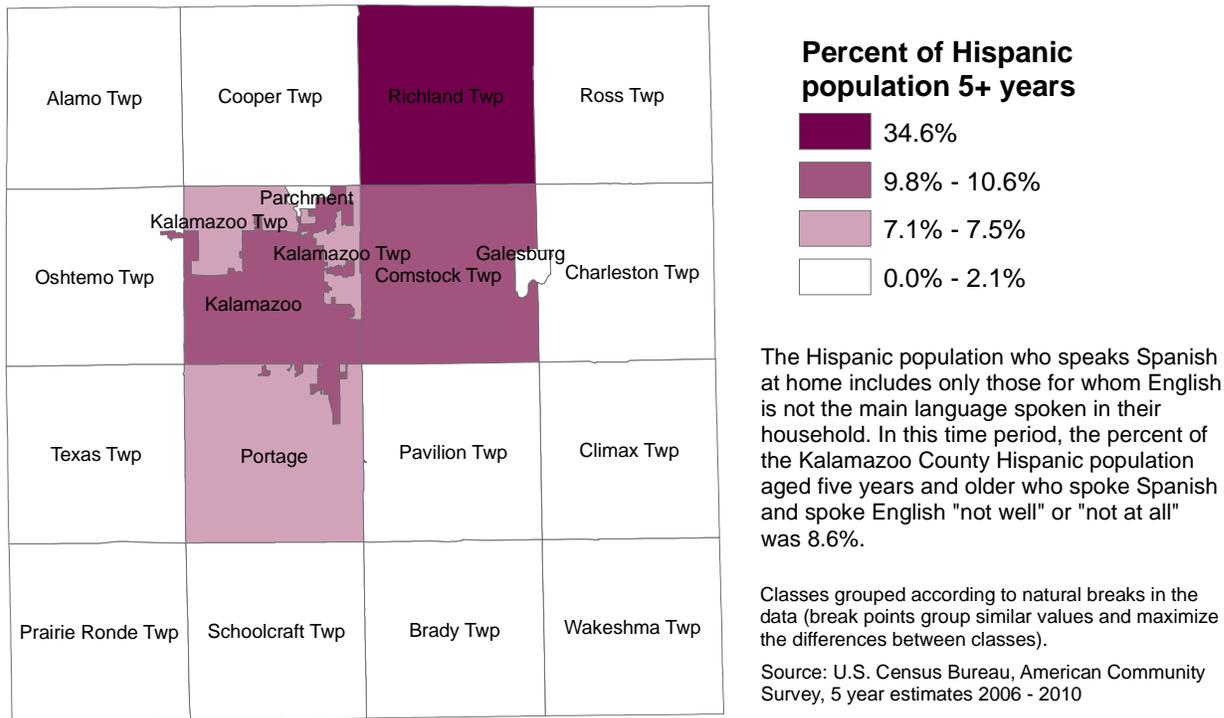
**Ability to Speak English Among the Population Aged Five Years and Older,
by City and Township in Kalamazoo County, 2006-2010**

City or Township	Number of People Who Speak English “Not Well” or “Not at All”	Proportion of City or Township Population that Speaks English “Not Well” or “Not at All”
Alamo Township	10	0.3%
Brady Township	0	0.0%
Charleston Township	4	0.2%
Climax Township	7	0.3%
Comstock Charter Township	55	0.4%
Cooper Charter Township	34	0.4%
Galesburg City	14	0.8%
Kalamazoo City	684	1.0%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	147	0.7%
Oshtemo Charter Township	67	0.3%
Parchment City	0	0.0%
Pavilion Township	0	0.0%
Portage City	342	0.8%
Prairie Ronde Township	4	0.2%
Richland Township	102	1.5%
Ross Township	4	0.01%
Schoolcraft Township	23	0.3%
Texas Charter Township	81	0.6%
Wakeshma Township	6	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010, B16004

Among the Hispanic population, areas in Kalamazoo County where the highest proportion of people did not speak English well or at all were Richland Township, Kalamazoo City, and Comstock Township. The area with the greatest number of Hispanics aged five years and older who spoke English “not well” or “not at all” lived was the City of Kalamazoo (420 people) followed by the City of Portage (100 people).

Hispanic Population Five Years and Older That Speaks Mainly Spanish at Home and Speaks English "Not Well" or "Not at All" in Kalamazoo County by City and Township, 2006 - 2010



**Ability to Speak English Among the Hispanic Population Aged Five Years and Older,
by City and Township in Kalamazoo County, 2006-2010**

City or Township	Number of People Who Speak English “Not Well” or “Not at All”	Proportion of City or Township Hispanic Population that Speaks English “Not Well” or “Not at All”
Alamo Township	0	0.0%
Brady Township	0	0.0%
Charleston Township	0	0.0%
Climax Township	0	0.0%
Comstock Charter Township	37	10.6%
Cooper Charter Township	0	0.0%
Galesburg City	0	0.0%
Kalamazoo City	420	9.8%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	44	7.1%
Oshtemo Charter Township	13	2.1%
Parchment City	0	0.0%
Pavilion Township	0	0.0%
Portage City	100	7.5%
Prairie Ronde Township	0	0.0%
Richland Township	91	34.6%
Ross Township	0	0.0%
Schoolcraft Township	0	0.0%
Texas Charter Township	0	0.0%
Wakeshma Township	0	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010, B16006

1.9.2 Foreign-Born Population

During the 2008-2010 time period, 4.4% of the Kalamazoo County population was foreign born. This is lower than the proportions for the state of Michigan (6.0%) or the nation (12.8%). Among the foreign-born population of Kalamazoo County, less than half (43.6%) were naturalized citizens; the remaining foreign-born residents (56.4%) were not citizens.

Nativity and Citizenship, Kalamazoo County, Michigan and the United States, Yearly Average 2008-2010

Nativity	United States		Michigan		Kalamazoo County	
	Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population
Total	306,738,433	100.0%	9,908,690	100.0%	248,874	100.0%
Native	267,399,163	87.2%	9,316,478	94.0%	237,849	95.6%
Foreign born	39,339,270	12.8%	592,212	6.0%	11,025	4.4%
Foreign born; Naturalized U.S. citizen	17,054,898	5.6%	289,512	2.9%	4,807	1.9%
Foreign born; Not a U.S. citizen	22,284,372	7.3%	302,700	3.1%	6,218	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2008-2010, B05002

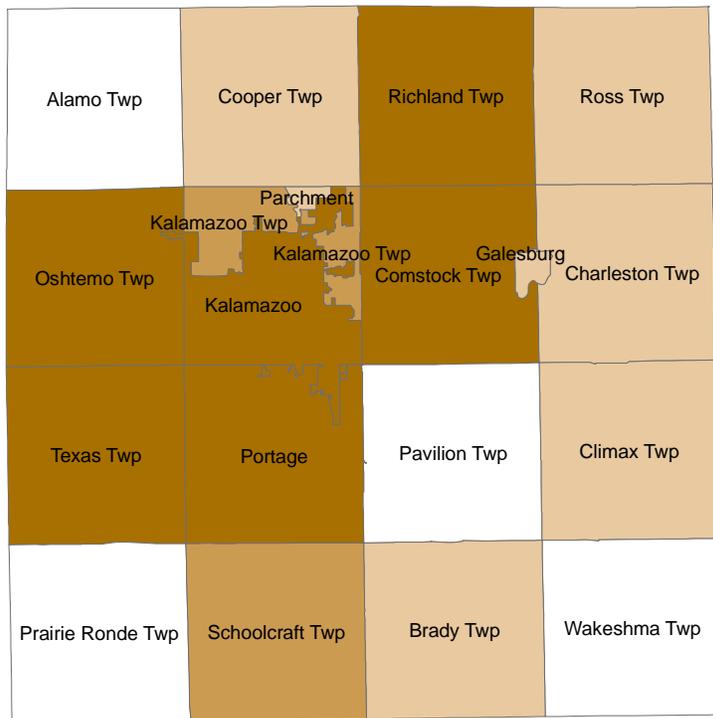
Foreign-Born Population by City and Township in Kalamazoo County, Yearly Average 2008-2010

City or Township	Number of People Who Were Foreign Born	Proportion of Population Who Were Foreign Born
Kalamazoo City	4,328	5.8%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	560	2.6%
Oshtemo Charter Township	889	4.2%
Portage City	2,426	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2008-2010, B05002

Nativity data for the cities and townships of Kalamazoo County was available for the 2006-2010 period of time. Within Kalamazoo County, the proportion of the population that was foreign-born varied by city and township. Areas with the highest proportion of foreign-born population were the City of Kalamazoo, Richland Township, Texas Charter Township, and the City of Portage.

Foreign-Born Population (Not Native to the United States) in Kalamazoo County by City and Township, 2006 - 2010



Percent of population foreign-born

- 4.7% - 6.1%
- 2.8%
- 1.2% - 1.6%
- 0.0% - 0.7%

In this time period, the percent of the Kalamazoo County population who was foreign-born was 4.4%.

Classes grouped according to natural breaks in the data (break points group similar values and maximize the differences between classes).

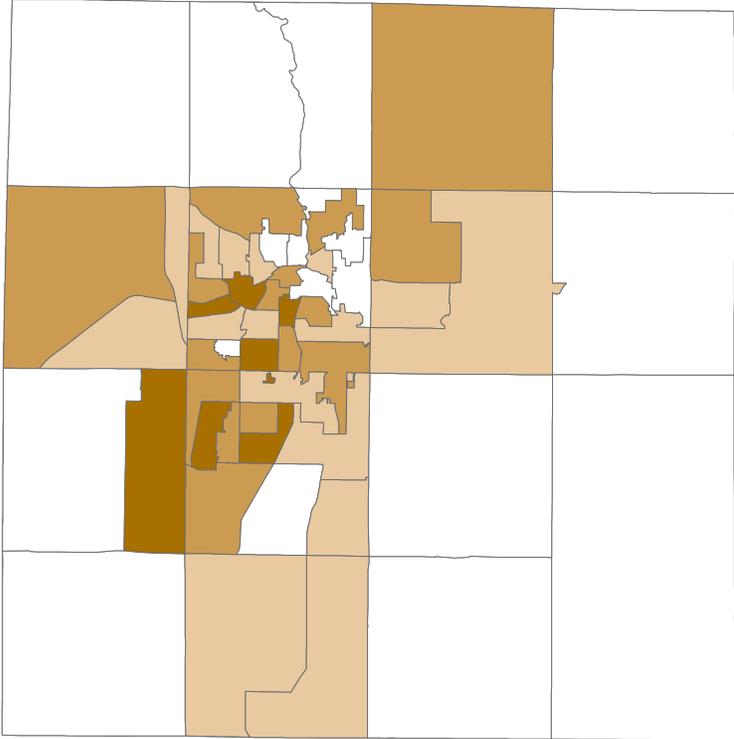
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 year estimates 2006 - 2010

Foreign-Born Population by City and Township in Kalamazoo County, 2006-2010

City or Township	Number of People Who Were Foreign-Born	Proportion of City or Township Population that was Foreign-Born
Alamo Township	23	0.6%
Brady Township	66	1.6%
Charleston Township	24	1.2%
Climax Township	35	1.6%
Comstock Charter Township	718	4.9%
Cooper Charter Township	140	1.4%
Galesburg City	28	1.5%
Kalamazoo City	4,316	5.8%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	605	2.8%
Oshtemo Charter Township	968	4.7%
Parchment City	26	1.4%
Pavilion Township	32	0.5%
Portage City	2,426	5.3%
Prairie Ronde Township	16	0.7%
Richland Township	447	6.1%
Ross Township	77	1.6%
Schoolcraft Township	224	2.8%
Texas Charter Township	808	5.8%
Wakeshma Township	0	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010, B05002

Foreign-Born Population (Not Native to the United States) in Kalamazoo County by Census Tract, 2006-2010



Percent of population

- 8.3% - 11.8%
- 4.9% - 7.5%
- 2.4% - 4.5%
- 0.0% - 2.1%

In Kalamazoo County 4.4% of the population was foreign-born in 2006-2010.

Classes grouped according to natural breaks in the data (break points group similar values and maximize the differences between classes).

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2006-2010