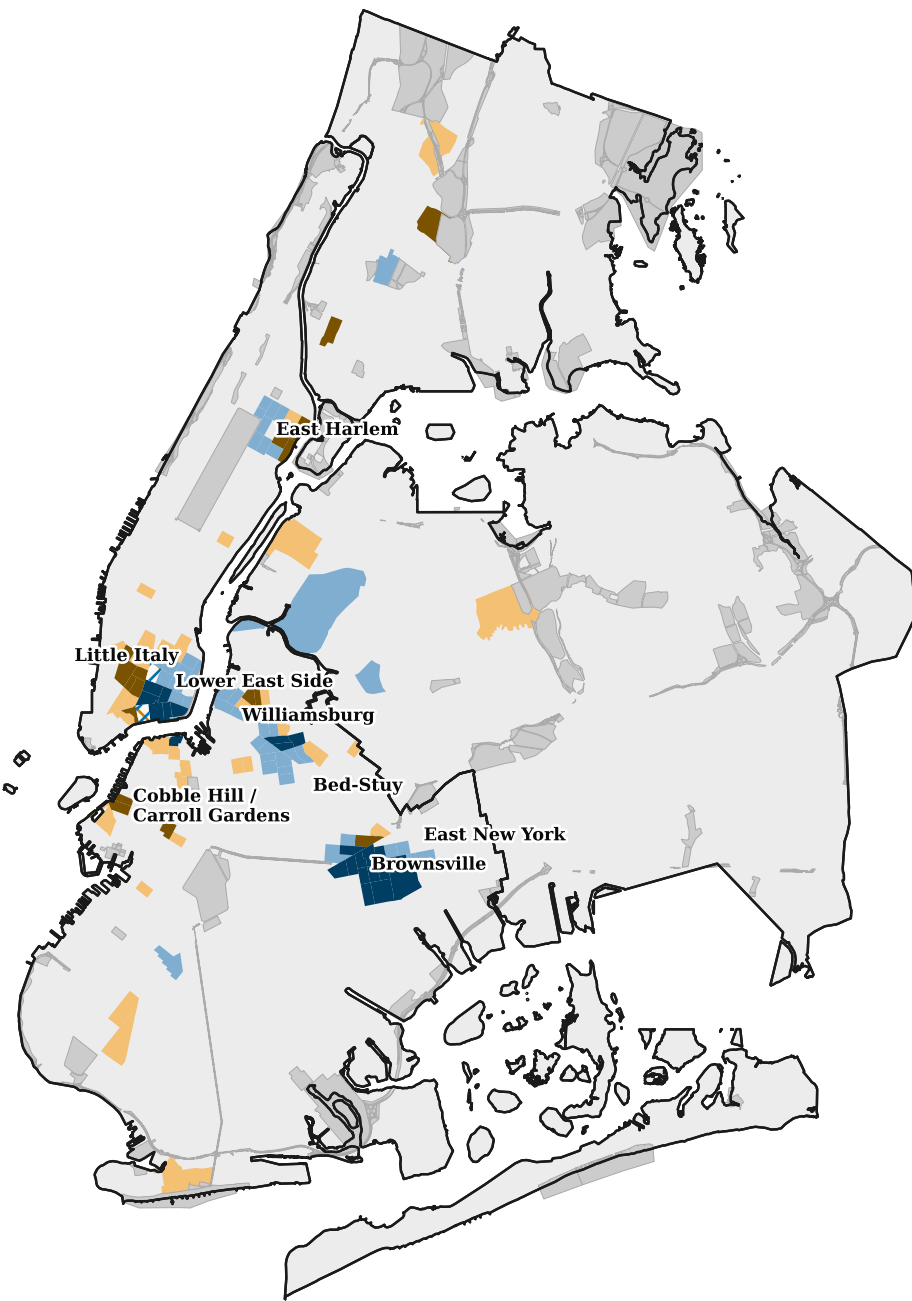
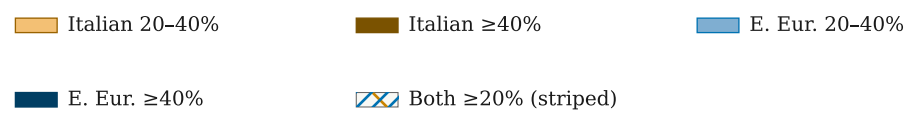


# How New York Became a City of Pizza and Bagels

## I. Italian & Eastern European strongholds, 1910



1910 FOREIGN-BORN SHARE, BY TRACT

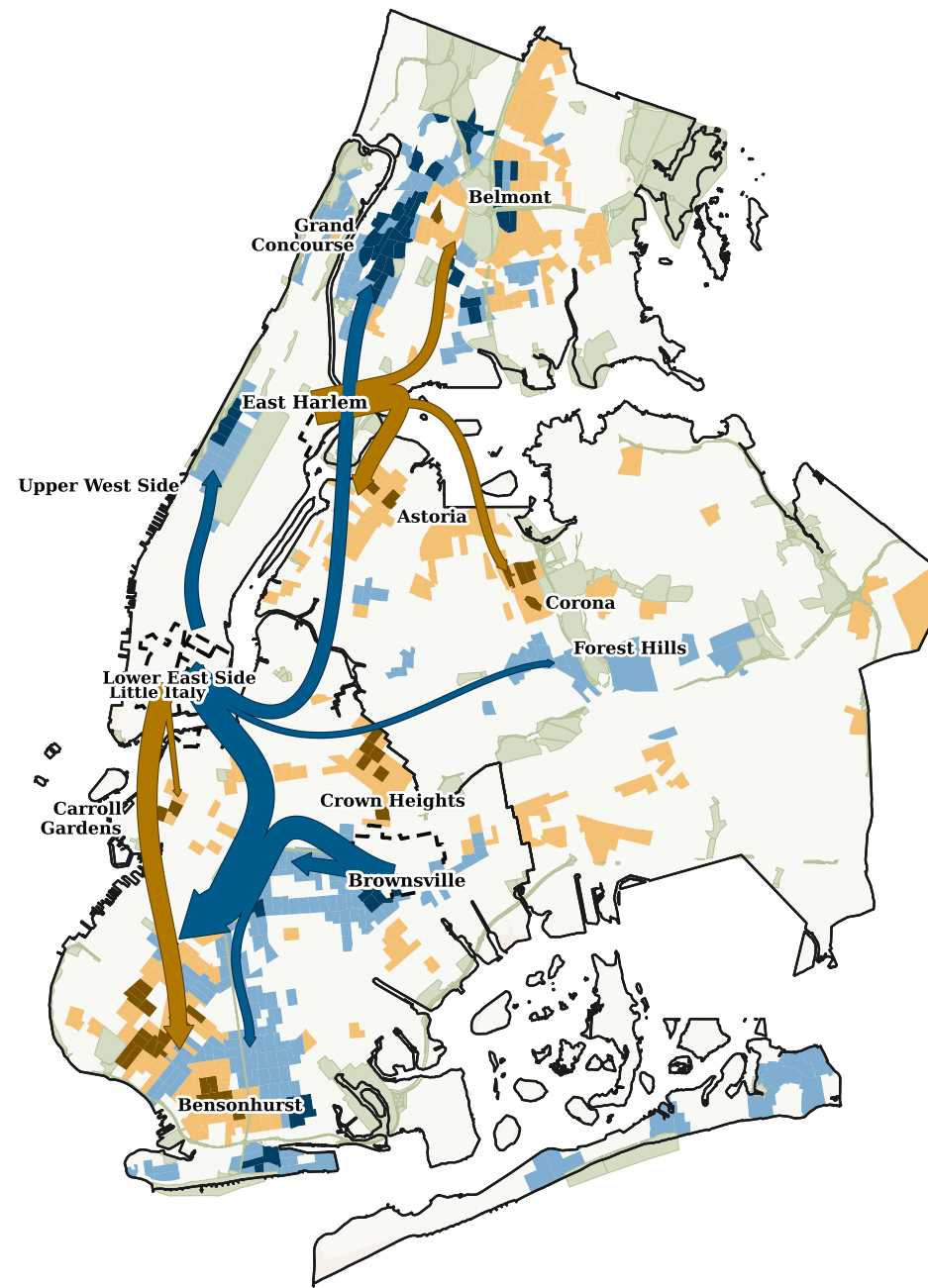


In the 1910 census, more than 1.4 million New York City residents were foreign-born, the highest share in the city's history. The Italian and Eastern European Jewish communities were concentrated in dense urban cores: the Lower East Side, Little Italy, East Harlem, and the early Brooklyn enclaves around Williamsburg and Brownsville. These neighborhoods anchored two of the largest single-origin immigrant populations in any American city.

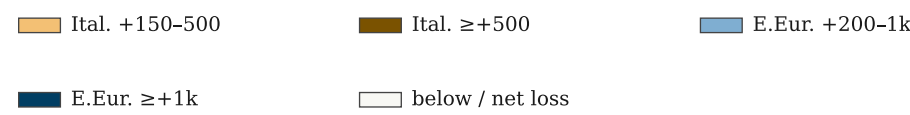
The map shows tracts where Italian or Eastern European foreign-born residents made up at least 20% of the population. The Lower East Side reached densities above 60% in places — among the most ethnically concentrated districts in the country.

*Panel I. Tracts where Italian or Eastern European foreign-born residents made up at least 20% of total tract population in the 1910 Census. Italian = born in Italy; Eastern European = born in Russia (Poland was not sovereign in 1910; Polish-born residents were classified under Russia, Austria, or Germany — this proxy captures most but not all Eastern European Jewish immigrants of the period). Lighter shade: 20-40%. Darker: ≥40%. Solid fill: Italian-dominant. Diagonal hatching: Eastern European-dominant. Crosshatch: both groups above threshold. Source: NHGIS NT9 and NT27, foreign-born white population only (second-generation residents not counted).*

## II. Borough dispersion, 1920-1950



TRACT GAIN & FLOW, 1920-1950



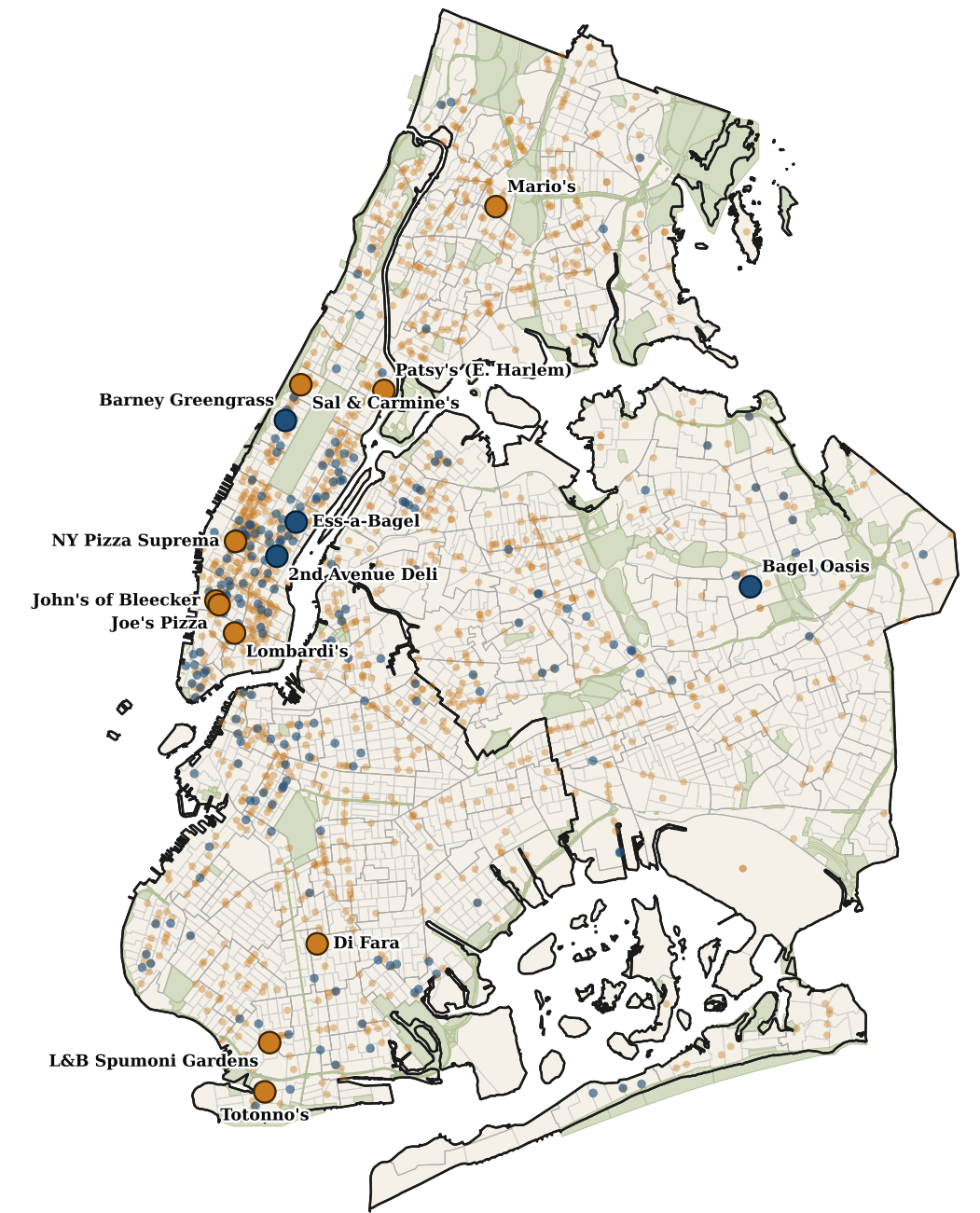
The 1924 Immigration Act effectively ended Italian and Eastern European immigration to the United States, cutting the annual quota for each nation to roughly 2% of its 1890 U.S. population. New York's established immigrant communities — already strained by overcrowding — began to disperse. Subway extensions to the outer boroughs and the construction of new housing in southern Brooklyn, the Bronx, and central Queens absorbed the outflow.

Italian communities moved south to Bensonhurst and east to Astoria; the largest single relocation was to Belmont in the Bronx. Eastern European Jewish families followed similar paths, with Borough Park, Brighton Beach, and later Forest Hills emerging as new centers. By 1950, the original core neighborhoods had been substantially emptied.

The two diasporas dispersed differently. Italian families spread thinly across many receiving tracts; Eastern European Jewish families resettled more densely into fewer, more concentrated districts. The contrast shows in the choropleth itself — Italian destinations read as broader, lighter patchworks of color, Jewish destinations as smaller, more saturated patches.

*Panel II. 1920-1950 net change in Italian (orange) and Eastern European (blue) foreign-born population on 1950 conflated tract geometry. Arrows are inferred net redistribution between source and destination neighborhoods; the Census reports stocks per decade, not measured individual migrations, so arrows show plausible flows consistent with the observed redistribution. Per-ethnicity shading thresholds (Italian +150-500 / ≥+500; Eastern European +200-1,000 / ≥+1,000) are calibrated to each group's per-tract distribution. Arrow width is proportional to magnitude; the trunk of a multi-branch flow equals the sum of its branches by construction. Wong color-blind-safe palette.*

## III. Pizza & Bagel landscape, 2026



PIZZA & BAGEL ESTABLISHMENTS, 2026



As of May 2026, around 215 establishments operate as 'Bagels/Pretzels' under the city health department's coding, against roughly 1,340 as 'Pizza.' Pizza has diffused to nearly every neighborhood in the four boroughs; bagels remain more clustered in Manhattan and inner Brooklyn. But per-tract density alone no longer separates the 1910-1950 Italian and Jewish settlement geography from the city baseline — that signal is now carried by named institutions.

The pre-1980 landmarks plotted here sit recognizably on the 1910 strongholds and the 1920-1950 dispersal destinations: Lombardi's anchors Little Italy; Patsy's stays in East Harlem; John's of Bleecker and Joe's hold the Village; Tototonno's keeps Coney Island; L&B Spumoni Gardens, Bensonhurst; Barney Greengrass, the Upper West Side. The reader's eye finds a familiar name and lands it back where Panels I and II placed the community.

*Panel III. Background dots — each operating bagel or pizza establishment as of May 2026 per NYC DOHMH inspection results, restricted to 2025+ inspections (one point per establishment; cuisine per DOHMH coding 'Pizza' or 'Bagels/Pretzels'). Named landmarks (outlined dots) are NYC pizza, bagel, or Jewish-appetizing establishments meeting all of: founded ≤ 1980 per documented public record; currently operating per DOHMH 2025+; and appearing on ≥ 2 of six public best-of compilations (Eater NY, James Beard 'America's Classics', Wikipedia, Time Out, The Infatuation; snapshot URLs and per-list methodology in data/raw/named\_landmarks/landmarks.csv) OR holding a JBF 'America's Classics' designation alone. LPC Historic-District status of the host building is reported in the source CSV as documentary metadata only — LPC designates buildings, not businesses. Russ & Daughters, Kossar's, and H&H Bagels fall out at the list-flag gate; the public-canon compilations underweight Jewish-appetizing shops relative to pizzerias, leaving the LES unrepresented in the named layer despite being the densest 1910 Eastern European stronghold per Panel I.*