



## Immigrants in Kansas

Kansas has a small but growing immigrant population. While just over 7 percent of Kansas' residents are immigrants, they make up a larger percentage of the state's labor force. Manufacturing, one of the most profitable industries in the state, relies on immigrants for nearly 18 percent of its employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Kansas' diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **About 7 percent of Kansas residents are immigrants, and a similar share of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 205,720 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 7.1 percent of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>
- Kansas was home to roughly 91,909 women, 99,173 men, and 14,638 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (40.5 percent of immigrants), India (6.2 percent), Vietnam (4.7 percent), China (4.2 percent), and Guatemala (2.7 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- 211,256 people in Kansas (7.4 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).<sup>4</sup>

### **More than a third of all immigrants in Kansas are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 77,110 immigrants (37.5 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 35,555 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- Almost three-quarters of immigrants (74.1 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Kansas are concentrated at both ends of the educational spectrum.**

- One in four adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, and about one in three had less than a high school diploma.<sup>8</sup>

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	25.2	32.4
Some college	18.7	33.3
High school diploma only	21.0	27.1
Less than a high-school diploma	35.1	7.2

**Tens of thousands of U.S. citizens in Kansas live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 75,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 35 percent of the immigrant population and 2.5 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 106,933 people in Kansas, including 48,640 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, 1 in 18 children in the state was a U.S.-citizen child living with at least one undocumented family member (42,661 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**Nearly 6,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Kansas.<sup>12</sup>**

- In 2016, 87 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Kansas, or 7,301 applied for and received DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 3,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 2,000 would be eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

**One in ten workers in Kansas is an immigrant, making up an integral part of the labor force in a range of industries.**

- Over 147,000 immigrant workers comprised 9.8 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>15</sup>
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	35,834
Construction	17,389
Accommodation and Food Services	16,428
Health Care and Social Assistance	16,248
Retail Trade	15,865

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following industries:<sup>16</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Manufacturing	17.7
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	15.3
Construction	15.0
Accommodation and Food Services	13.7
Information	9.7

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

**Immigrants are an integral part of the Kansas workforce in a range of occupations.**

- In 2015, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:<sup>17</sup>

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	25,140
Construction and Extraction	18,223
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	14,923
Transportation and Material Moving	14,050
Food Preparation and Serving Related	13,848

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following occupation groups:<sup>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	21.1
Production	20.7
Construction and Extraction	18.8
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	18.6
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	18.1

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 3.4 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

### **Immigrants in Kansas have contributed more than a billion dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$960.6 million in federal taxes and \$405.8 million in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Kansas paid an estimated \$67.8 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would increase by nearly \$10 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>
- [DACA recipients](#) in Kansas paid an estimated \$14.6 million in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

### **As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Kansas's economy.**

- Kansas residents in immigrant-led households had \$3.8 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>23</sup>

### **Immigrant entrepreneurs in Kansas generate hundreds of millions of dollars in business revenue.**

- 32,198 immigrant business owners accounted for 25.1 percent of all self-employed Kansas residents in 2015 and generated \$265.4 million in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 14.5 percent of business owners in the Kansas City metropolitan area.<sup>25</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> “Foreign born” does not include people born in Puerto Rico or U.S. island areas or U.S. citizens born abroad of American parent(s). U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. The American Immigration Council elected to use data from the 2015 ACS 1-Year estimates wherever possible to provide the most current information available. Since these estimates are based on a smaller sample size than the ACS 5-year, however, they are more sensitive to fluctuations and may result in greater margins of error (compared to 5-year estimates).
- <sup>2</sup> Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
- <sup>4</sup> Analysis of data from the 2016 Current Population Survey by the American Immigration Council, using IPUMS-CPS. Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Steven Ruggles, and J. Robert Warren, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 5.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2017).
- <sup>5</sup> 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.
- <sup>6</sup> Augmented IPUMS-ACS data, as published in “State-Level Unauthorized Population and Eligible-to-Naturalize Estimates,” Center for Migration Studies data tool, accessed August 2017, [data.cmsny.org/state.html](http://data.cmsny.org/state.html).
- <sup>7</sup> Figure includes immigrants who speak only English. Data based on survey respondents age 5 and over. Analysis of 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates by the American Immigration Council.
- <sup>8</sup> Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.
- <sup>9</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” November 3, 2016, [www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/](http://www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/).
- <sup>10</sup> Silva Mathema, “State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants,” University of Southern California’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and the Center for American Progress, March 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/03/16/427868/state-state-estimates-family-members-unauthorized-immigrants/>.
- <sup>11</sup> American Immigration Council analysis of data from the 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year, using Silva Mathema’s “State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants” and IPUMS-USA. Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2017).
- <sup>12</sup> The “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) initiative began in 2012 and provides certain immigrants (those who were brought to the United States as children and meet specific requirements) with temporary relief from deportation, or deferred action. American Immigration Council, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: A Q&A Guide,” August 17, 2012, [www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-qa-guide](http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-qa-guide). The number of DACA recipients reflects USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of September 4, 2017 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services CLAIMS3 and ELIS Systems, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Population Data* (Washington, DC: Dept. of Homeland Security, September 20, 2017), Approximate Active DACA Recipients: State of Residence as of September 4, 2017 [dataset], <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>.
- <sup>13</sup> “DACA-eligible” refers to immigrants who were immediately eligible to apply for DACA as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), 2010-14 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), as cited in “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed June 2017, [www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles).
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>15</sup> Analysis of 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), [www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html](http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html).
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Analysis of 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, [www.bls.gov/soc/major\\_groups.htm](http://www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm).
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>19</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.
- <sup>20</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Kansas* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-kansas/>.
- <sup>21</sup> Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), *Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/>.
- <sup>22</sup> ITEP, *State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants* (Washington, DC: April 2017), Appendix 1, <https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants/>.
- <sup>23</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Kansas*, 5.
- <sup>24</sup> “Business owners” include people who are self-employed, at least 18 years old, and work at least 15 hours per week at their businesses. Analysis of 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
- <sup>25</sup> American Immigration Council analysis of 2016 CPS data. Flood, King, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.