

Immigration to the Heartland: A Profile of Immigrants in the Kansas City Region

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Executive Summary

The Kansas City metropolitan area was home to an estimated 135,000 immigrants as of 2015, representing 7 percent of the region's total population. The immigrant population in the region grew more than 300 percent between 1990 and 2015, while the total metropolitan area population grew by 40 percent. Immigration accounted for approximately one-sixth of the area's total population growth (100,000 out of 600,000 people) since 1990. Still, the immigrant share of the regional population is only about half of the national average of 13 percent.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), this fact sheet describes in detail the foreign-born population of the five main counties that comprise the Kansas City region: Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas; and Jackson, Clay, and Platte in Missouri.¹ The key findings include:

- ***The immigrant population in the Kansas City region is concentrated in its two most populous counties.*** Seventy percent of immigrants in the region (95,000) lived in the counties of Jackson and Johnson, 18 resided in Wyandotte County, and 12 percent lived north of the Missouri River in Clay or Platte counties, analysis of 2010-14 ACS data reveals. (Several years of data were used to increase the precision of the estimates.)
- ***The majority of the immigrant population is lawfully present in the United States.*** Seventy percent of immigrants in the region (95,000) were naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), or other legal immigrants. Unauthorized immigrants accounted for the remaining 30 percent of the region's immigrant population (versus 24 percent nationally).
- ***A small share of unauthorized immigrants may qualify for the DACA program.*** Between 10 percent and 20 percent of the unauthorized immigrant population in the region (4,000 to 8,000 people) may qualify for a two-year deportation reprieve and work authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, similar to the national pattern.
- ***A significant number of children have immigrant parents.*** An estimated 63,000 children of immigrants resided in the region, with 83 percent of them (52,000) born in the United States (similar to the nationwide share of 79 percent).
- ***The immigrant population is diverse.*** Thirty-three percent of immigrants (42,000) in the Kansas City area were born in Mexico. After Mexico, the four larg-

est source countries were China, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines. As with the U.S. immigrant population overall, Latin America is the most common sending region.

- **Educational attainment varies by immigrants' country of birth.** Immigrants from China, India, Kenya, Korea, and the Philippines had high levels of formal education, with more than 40 percent having at least a four-year college degree. They also tended to have higher incomes and lower poverty rates.
- **Poverty rates for immigrants also vary by country of birth.** More than 20 percent of immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico were poor. They also had lower levels of formal education compared to other immigrants in the region.
- **More than half of immigrants own their homes.** In the Kansas City region, 54 percent of immigrants and 70 percent of the U.S. born owned

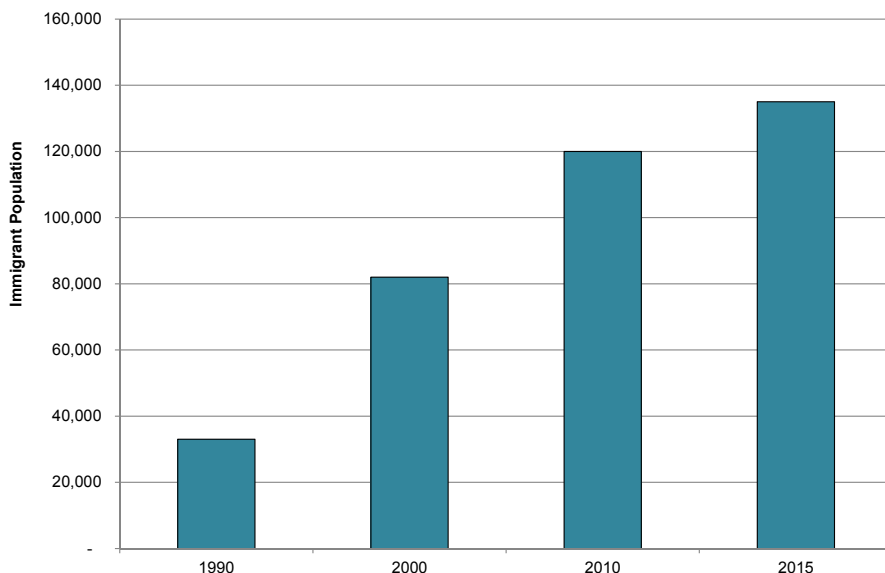
their homes, nearly the same rates as nationally. Asian immigrants had higher homeownership rates than other immigrants.

Immigrants from all backgrounds contribute highly to the Kansas City region's economy, regardless of their skill levels. They work in a variety of industries, and many have strong roots in the community as long-term residents, homeowners, and parents of U.S.-citizen children, as this fact sheet will outline.

I. Introduction

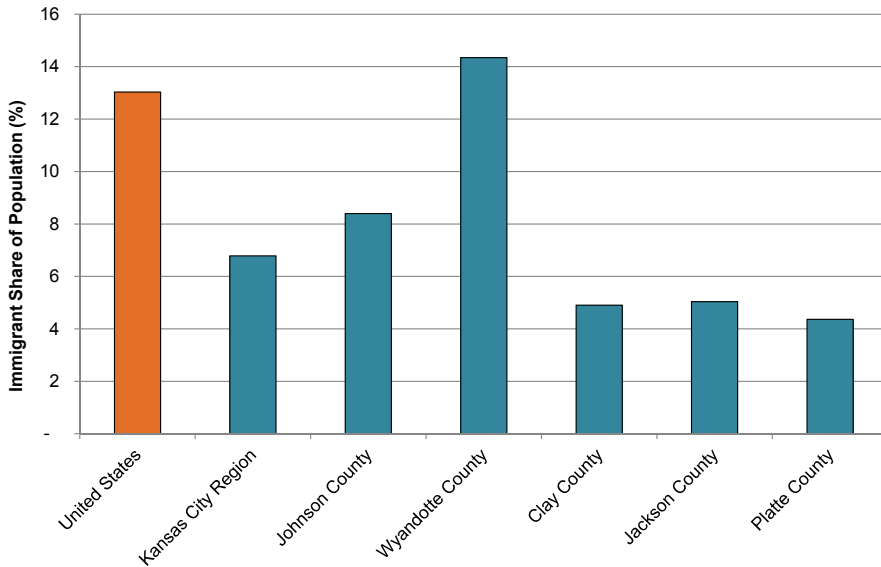
The Kansas City metropolitan area spans the border between Kansas and Missouri. Located near the center of the United States, on a major river, Kansas City is a long-time crossroads. During the early 19th century, the area was a transit point for the westward movement of European settlers. It then became an important hub for transcontinental railroads and, later, the airline industry. All this strengthened its position as one of the major manufacturing and services centers in the Midwest.²

Figure 1. Foreign-Born Population of the Kansas City Region, 1990-2015



Sources: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census, and 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Figure 2. Foreign-Born Share of the Population of the Kansas City Region, Its Counties, and the United States (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

Economic and population growth slowed during the second half of the 20th century, but the arrival of new immigrants to the region has since helped the population rebound. In 2015, the Kansas City metropolitan area was home to an estimated 135,000 immigrants, representing 7 percent of its total population of 2.1 million. The area’s immigrant population was comparable to that of other midsized metropolitan areas such as Indianapolis (124,000), Jacksonville (125,000), St. Louis (130,000), Tucson (133,000), and Salt Lake City (137,000). Kansas City’s foreign-born population has grown rapidly over the past quarter century: from 33,000 in 1990, to 82,000 in 2000, 120,000 in 2010, and 135,000 in 2015 (see Figure 1). All told, the number of immigrants grew more than 300 percent during the period, at a time when the total population in the metropolitan area grew by 40 percent.³ Put another way, immigrants contributed approximately one-sixth of the area’s total population growth (100,000 out of 600,000).

This fact sheet uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) to describe the foreign-born population of the Kansas City region and the five main counties that comprise it: Johnson and Wyandotte in

Kansas; and Jackson, Clay, and Platte in Missouri. The five most recent years of ACS data (2010 through 2014) are combined to make the estimates as precise as possible.

II. Location and Status of Immigrants in the Kansas City Region

During the 2010-14 period, 70 percent of immigrants in the region lived in Jackson and Johnson—the two most populous counties—and an additional 18 percent lived in Wyandotte County. Just 12 percent lived north of the Missouri River in Clay or Platte counties. Immigrants composed the largest share of the total population in Wyandotte County: 14 percent, just above their share of immigrants nationwide (13 percent). The foreign-born share of the population was substantially smaller in the other four counties, and generally smaller in Missouri than in Kansas (see Figure 2). Kansas City, Missouri, is located in Jackson County, while Kansas City, Kansas, is located in Wyandotte County. The other three counties are pri

Table 1. Foreign-Born Population of the Kansas City Region and Its Counties, by Immigration Status, 2010-14

	All Immigrants	Naturalized U.S. Citizens	Legal Immigrants	Unauthorized Immigrants
Kansas City Region	136,000	50,000	45,000	41,000
Jackson County, MO	45,000	16,000	14,000	15,000
Clay County, MO	10,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Platte County, MO	6,000	3,000	2,000	1,000
Johnson County, KS	50,000	21,000	17,000	12,000
Wyandotte County, KS	25,000	5,000	9,000	11,000

Notes: The total number of immigrants in the region estimated here (136,000) is higher than that of the official Census Bureau estimate for the years 2010-14 combined (126,000) because the estimate here includes immigrants that MPI researchers assume were not counted in the Census Bureau data. This estimate also differs from estimates for other years (e.g., 2015) or those from the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which does not have the same boundaries as the five-county region in the table. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data (pooled) and 2008 Survey of Income Program Participation (SIPP) data, with legal status assignments by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University Population Research Institute.

marily suburban, and also include some rural communities.

In the same period, 70 percent of immigrants in the Kansas City region (95,000 out of 136,000) were naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), or other legal immigrants (see Table 1).⁴ Johnson County had the largest population (38,000) of naturalized citizens and legal immigrants in the region, followed by Jackson County (30,000). Jackson, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties all had unauthorized immigrant populations in excess of 10,000. Wyandotte’s share, at 44 percent of all immigrants in the county, was the largest. Across the region, 30 percent of all immigrants were unauthorized; nationwide this figure was 24 percent.

Refugees represent a small share of immigrants to the Kansas City region, and were resettled with assistance from the U.S. government and local community-based organizations. From October 2002 through March 2016, about 14,000 refugees were resettled to the region. Most came from Burma (30 percent), Somalia (22 percent), Bhutan (10 percent), Iraq (9 percent), and Cuba (7 percent).⁵

III. Children of Immigrants

Immigrants are well established in the Kansas City region, and many are part of families with children. During 2010-14, an estimated 63,000 children of immigrants resided in the area; of these, 52,000 (or 83 percent) were U.S. born and therefore citizens at birth (see Table 2).⁶

The share of U.S. citizens was largest among children under age 5 (94 percent) and smallest among those ages 12 to 17 (68 percent). This is consistent with nationwide trends. For example, most of the unaccompanied children from Central America who crossed the U.S. border in record numbers during 2014-16 were ages 15-17.

About two-thirds of children with immigrant parents (43,000 children) had legal immigrant or naturalized U.S.-citizen parents; the other 20,000 had at least one parent who was an unauthorized immigrant. Most children with unauthorized immigrant parents were U.S. citizens (see Table 2). Just 4,000 children were themselves unauthorized. Even when their parents are unauthorized, U.S.-citizen children are full members of society and eligible for all benefits of citizenship.

IV. Unauthorized Immigrants Eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program

In August 2016, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program marked its fourth anniversary. The program offers a two-year reprieve from deportation and grants work authorization to unauthorized immigrant young adults ages 15-30 who arrived in the United States before age 16, have lived in the United States since 2007, and who are either high school graduates or currently enrolled in school. The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) has estimated that 1.3 million unauthorized immigrants nationally were eligible for the program as of August 2016, while 845,000 had applied and 742,000 had their applications approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).⁷ The Obama administration proposed a similar deferred action program for up to 4 million parents of U.S.-citizen and legal

immigrant children; following a lawsuit by 26 states (including Kansas), the federal courts blocked implementation of that program.⁸

In the Kansas City region, MPI estimates approximately 4,000 unauthorized immigrants are eligible for DACA, with about half (2,000) living in Jackson County, and most of the rest in Johnson and Wyandotte counties (about 1,000 each). Across the region, an additional 2,000 unauthorized immigrants meet all DACA qualifications except for high-school attainment or school enrollment; they could qualify by participating in an adult education program that leads to a high school diploma or equivalent. Another 2,000 are under age 15 but otherwise meet the requirements, and will likely become eligible when they turn 15. Thus, DACA has the potential to reach 10 percent to 20 percent of the region's unauthorized immigrants (4,000 to 8,000 out of 41,000). The MPI analysis suggests that Mexican and Central American immigrants are the most likely to apply for DACA nationwide; the participation rates of unauthorized

Table 2. Children of Immigrants in the Kansas City Region, by Age and Legal Status, 2010-14

	Total	Ages		
		0-4	5-11	12-17
Children of immigrants	63,000	18,000	26,000	19,000
U.S.-born children	52,000	17,000	22,000	13,000
Foreign-born children	11,000	1,000	4,000	6,000
Children of legal immigrants	43,000	11,000	18,000	14,000
U.S.-citizen children	39,000	11,000	16,000	11,000
Legal permanent resident children	4,000	<1,000	1,000	2,000
Children of unauthorized immigrants	20,000	6,000	9,000	6,000
Legal immigrant children (USCs + LPRs + other legal)	16,000	6,000	7,000	3,000
Unauthorized immigrant children	4,000	<1,000	2,000	2,000

USC = U.S. citizens; LPRs = lawful permanent residents.

Notes: The estimates here include immigrants assumed not counted in the Census Bureau data. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data (pooled) and 2008 SIPP data, with legal status assignments by Hammar and Bachmeier of Temple University and Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University Population Research Institute.

Table 3. Top Ten Birth Countries of Immigrants in the Kansas City Region, Total Number and as Share in Each County, 2010-14

Top Countries of Birth	Kansas City Region (Number)	Johnson County (%)	Wyandotte County (%)	Clay County (%)	Jackson County (%)	Platte County (%)
All Countries	126,000	37	18	8	32	5
Mexico	42,000	27	35	4	33	1
India	8,000	73	1	5	19	2
China	6,000	43	7	7	35	8
Vietnam	5,000	30	2	17	39	12
El Salvador	4,000	15	29	3	53	1
Philippines	4,000	35	6	11	39	9
Korea	3,000	52	5	14	18	11
Guatemala	3,000	35	13	3	48	0
Kenya	3,000	51	16	2	32	0
Honduras	2,000	28	39	0	30	2

Notes: Counties in which immigrant-origin groups have a significantly higher concentration than regionwide are highlighted in orange. Totals are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
 Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

immigrants from other world regions are much lower.⁹

V. An Overview of the Region’s Immigrants

This section offers a profile of area immigrants’ top countries of birth, industries of employment, English proficiency, educational attainment, rates of income and poverty, and homeownership.

A. Top Countries of Birth

During the 2010-14 period, 33 percent of immigrants in the region (42,000) were born in Mexico, and another 7 percent (9,000) were born in the countries of Central America’s Northern Triangle: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (see Table 3). Other common birth countries were concentrated in Asia and included China, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines—the four largest sources of immigrants nationally after Mexico. Kenya was the source of another significant share in the Kansas City

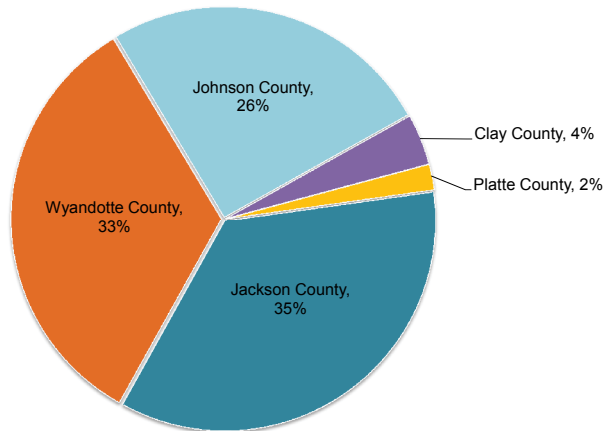
region, and the region had proportionately more immigrants from Africa (10 percent) than did the United States as a whole (4 percent).

Different origin groups were more likely to live in different counties. For instance, immigrants from Mexico and the Northern Triangle were concentrated in Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas: 68 percent lived in Jackson or Wyandotte counties (see Figure 3). The shares of immigrants from Mexico (35 percent), El Salvador (29 percent), and Guatemala (39 percent) in Wyandotte County were larger than the share of all immigrants residing there (18 percent). Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants were concentrated in Jackson County; more than half of Indian, Korean, and Kenyan immigrants lived in suburban Johnson County.

B. Industries of Employment

Consistent with the diversity of the regional labor market, immigrants were nearly equally likely to be employed in any one of five major industries (see Figure 4): education, health, and social services (17 percent); arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services (16 percent); professional, scien-

Figure 3. Foreign-Born Population from Mexico and the Northern Triangle in the Kansas City Region and Its Counties (%), 2010-14



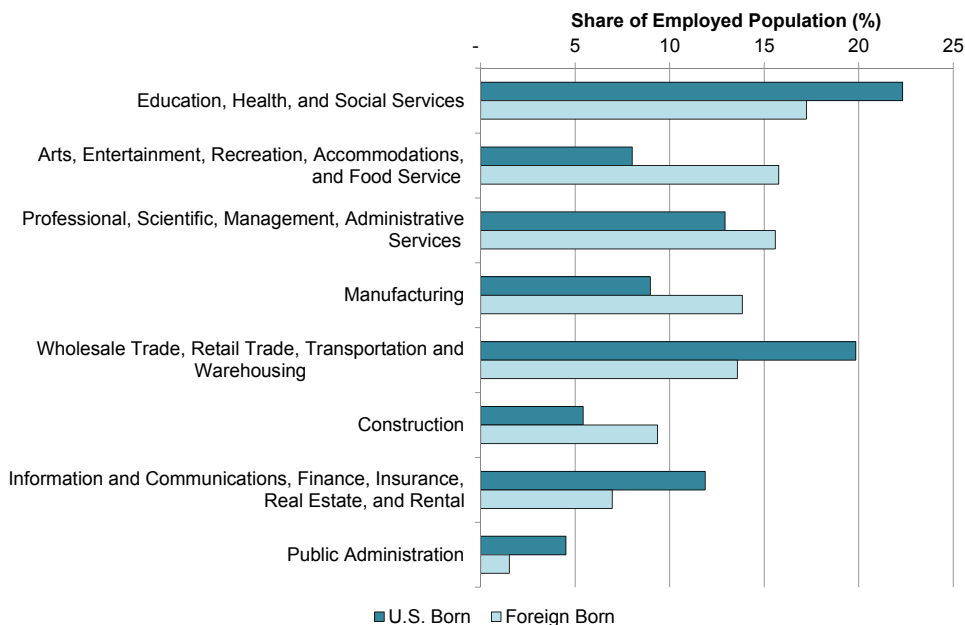
Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

tific, management, and administrative services (16 percent); manufacturing (14 percent); and wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation, and warehousing (14 percent).

Compared with the U.S. born, immigrants were nearly twice as likely to be employed in manu-

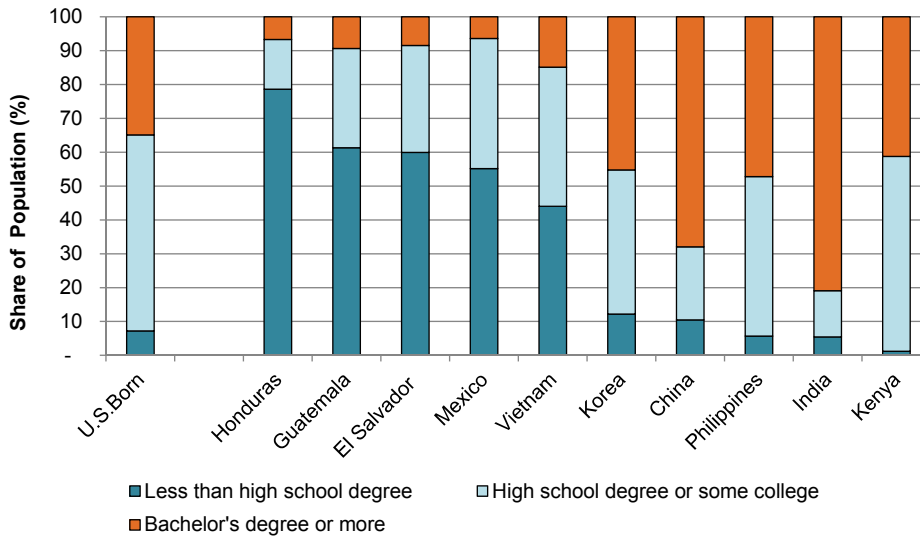
facturing; construction; or arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services. As in the nation as a whole, the immigrants working in these industries were likely to have relatively low levels of formal education and limited English skills.

Figure 4. Employed Population (ages 16 and older) in the Kansas City Region, by Industry of Employment and Nativity (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

Figure 5. Educational Attainment of the Foreign Born (ages 25 and older) in the Kansas City Region, by Top Ten Birth Countries (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

Immigrants were less likely than U.S.-born workers to be employed in the other major industry categories listed in Figure 4 (such as education; health and social services; and professional, scientific, management, and administrative services), which require relatively high levels of formal education and English language skills. These categories may also require licenses (e.g., driver’s licenses, professional licenses) that may be difficult for some immigrants, particularly the unauthorized, to obtain. Public administration jobs often require permanent residency and in some cases U.S. citizenship.

C. English Proficiency and Educational Attainment

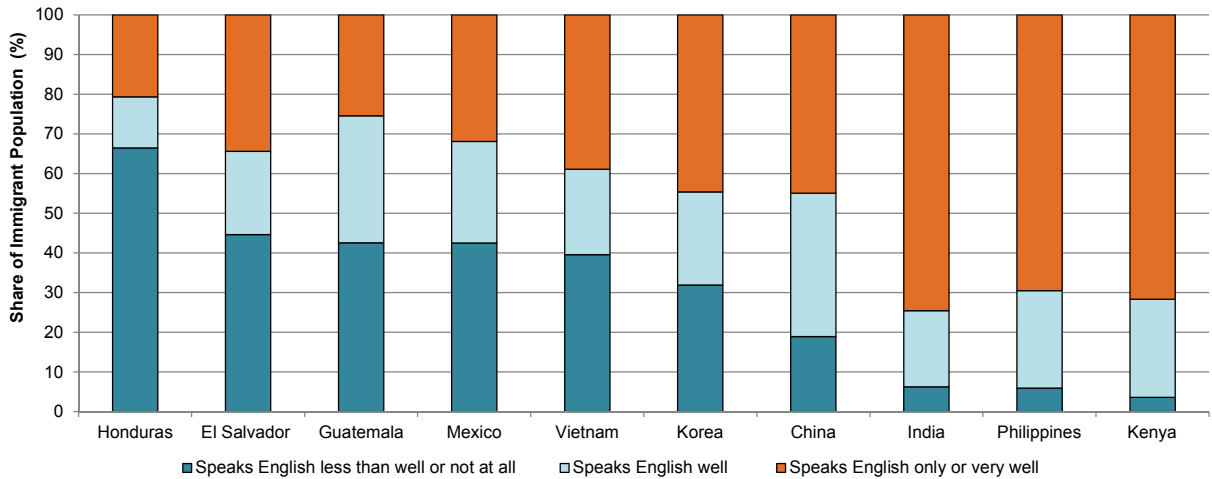
In the Kansas City region, 40 percent or more of adult immigrants born in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Vietnam lacked a high school education, limiting their job prospects in industries requiring higher skill levels (see Figure 5).¹⁰ Immigrants from the next most common birth countries (Korea, China, the Philippines, India, and Kenya) had higher

levels of formal education: more than 40 percent had a four-year college degree or higher, while smaller shares (12 percent or less) lacked a high school diploma. By comparison, 35 percent of U.S.-born adults in the region had a college education and 7 percent lacked a high school education.

The immigrant groups with the least formal education also tended to have the most limited English skills. During the 2010-14 period, 79 percent of Honduran immigrants, 75 percent of Guatemalan immigrants, and more than 60 percent of those from El Salvador, Mexico, and Vietnam had limited English proficiency (i.e., they reported speaking English well, not well, or not at all; see Figure 6).¹¹ Moreover, 66 percent of Honduran immigrants and more than 40 percent of those from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Vietnam did not speak English well or did not speak the language at all.

More than half of the immigrants from India, the Philippines, and Kenya spoke another language at home, but also spoke English very well, reflecting the high degree of bilingualism in these communities. (All three are countries where English is commonly, though not

Figure 6. English Proficiency of the Foreign Born (ages 5 and older) in the Kansas City Region, by Top Ten Birth Countries (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

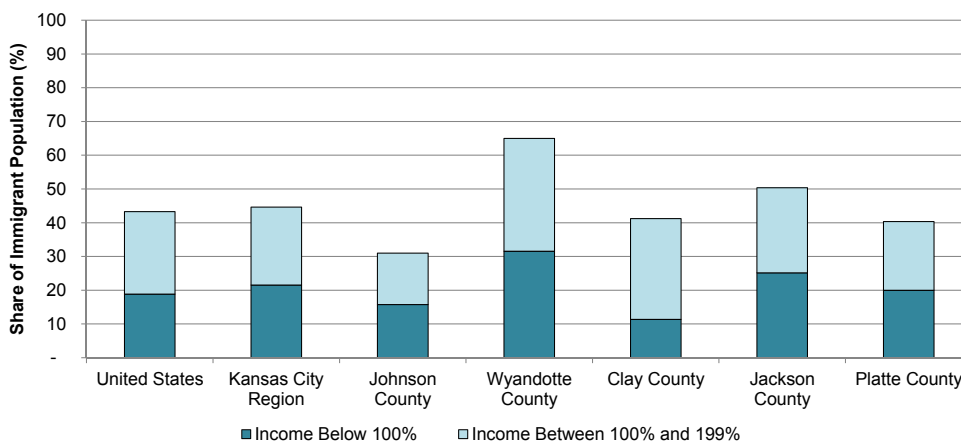
primarily, spoken.) Immigrants from Korea and China were exceptions to the pattern, in that they had very high levels of formal education but limited English skills.

D. Rates of Low Income and Poverty

Immigrants in the Kansas City region had similar rates of poverty and low incomes as

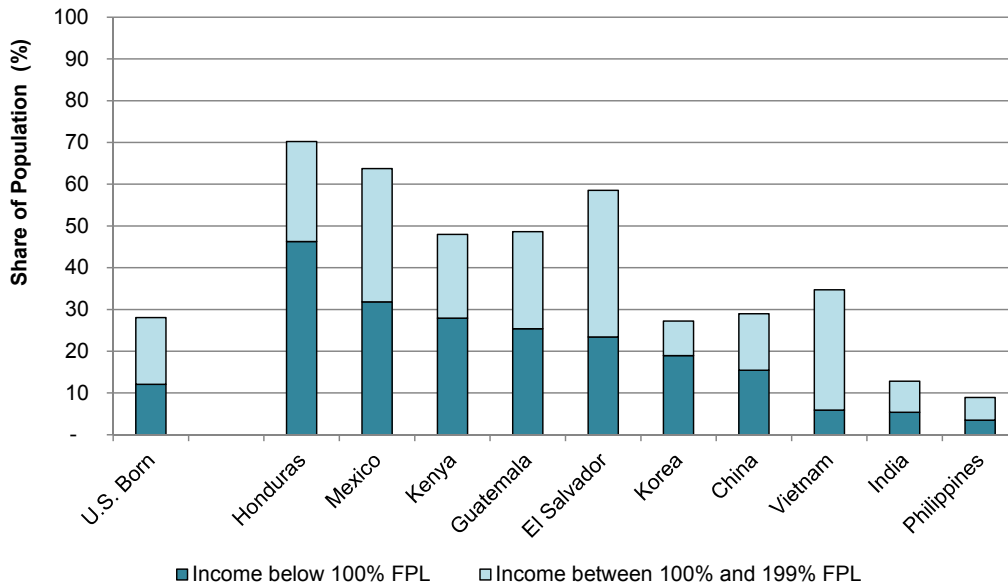
the foreign born nationally (see Figure 7). (The poverty rate is 100 percent of the federal poverty level, while the low-income rate is 200 percent of the poverty level; income thresholds for most federal benefit programs fall in between these two levels.) Immigrants in Wyandotte and Jackson counties were more likely to be poor or low-income than those in the region or the nation overall, while poverty and low-income rates were lower in Johnson County. Income patterns were similar for the U.S.-born

Figure 7. Share of Foreign-Born Population with Family Incomes Below 100% or 200% Federal Poverty Level in the Kansas City Region, Its Counties, and the United States (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

Figure 8. Share of Population with Family Incomes Below 100% or 200% Federal Poverty Level in the Kansas City Region, by Country of Birth (%), 2010-14



FPL = Federal poverty level

Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

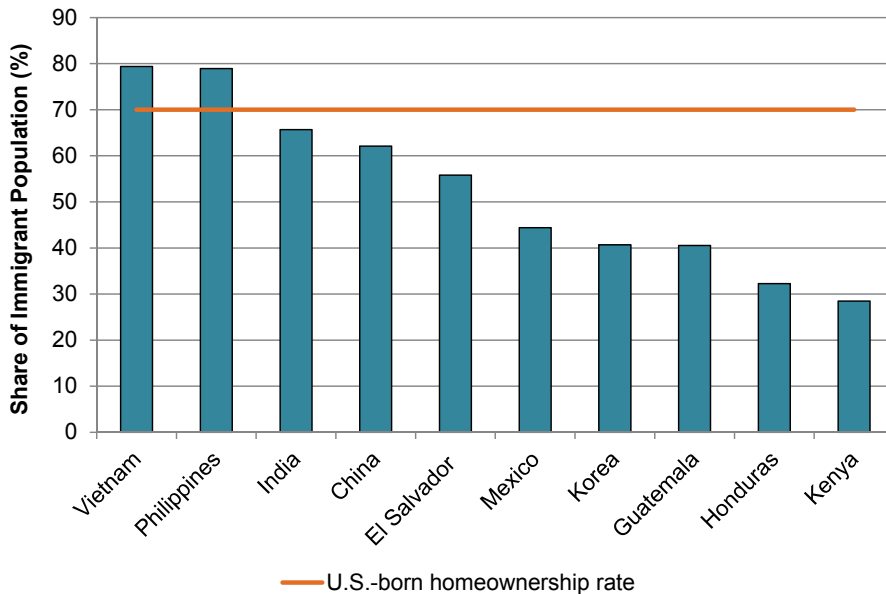
population, with poverty most concentrated in Wyandotte County, followed by Jackson County (U.S.-born poverty and low-income rates are not shown in the figure).

The relatively high poverty rates of immigrants in Wyandotte and Jackson counties may be associated with the concentration of Mexican and Central American immigrants (see Table 3). More than 40 percent of Honduran immigrants in the Kansas City region were poor, compared with 22 percent of all immigrants and 12 percent of the U.S. born in the 2010-14 period (see Figure 8). Immigrants born in Mexico, Kenya, Guatemala, and El Salvador also had poverty rates above the immigrant average. Except for Kenyan immigrants (who had the highest educational attainment and English proficiency of any group), these other immigrant-origin groups had relatively low levels of formal education and English skills (see Figures 5 and 6). Prior research suggests that African immigrants may be underemployed (i.e., highly

educated but working in unskilled jobs), especially those who recently arrived in the United States.¹² It may be that Kenyan immigrants in Kansas City arrived relatively recently, have faced labor market discrimination, or have academic or professional credentials from their home country that are not recognized in the United States. Also, some may have been born in Kenyan refugee camps to parents from Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, or other war-torn African nations; refugees from these nationalities do not tend to be as well educated as Kenyans and as other refugees, and may have disabilities or other barriers to employment.¹³

Immigrants from the Asian countries most represented in the Kansas City region, meanwhile, all had below-average poverty and low-income rates. Korean and Chinese immigrants were less likely to be poor than immigrants overall, though slightly more likely than the U.S. born. Those from Vietnam, India, and the Philippines had poverty rates well below those of the U.S. born.

Figure 9. Foreign-Born Homeownership Rates in the Kansas City Region, by Top Ten Birth Countries (%), 2010-14



Source: MPI analysis of 2010-14 ACS data, pooled.

E. Homeownership Rates

In the Kansas City region, 54 percent of immigrants and 70 percent of the U.S. born owned their homes as of 2010-14. These rates were close to both groups' national homeownership rates of 53 percent and 68 percent, respectively. The homeownership rate of naturalized U.S. citizens in the region (75 percent) was higher than the U.S.-born rate; the rate of noncitizens was significantly lower (40 percent).

Asian immigrants—particularly those from Vietnam, the Philippines, India, and China—were most likely to own their homes, with rates close to those of the U.S. born. Fewer than half of immigrants from Mexico, Korea, Guatemala, Honduras, and Kenya owned their homes (see Figure 9).

The cost of housing in the Kansas City metropolitan area is relatively low. In 2014, the median value of occupied homes was \$160,400, compared with the U.S. average of \$181,200.¹⁴

VI. Conclusion

The immigrant population in the Kansas City region has grown rapidly over the past 25 years, contributing to overall population growth in the area. Even so, the foreign-born share of the regional population is only about half the national average of 13 percent. Though a large share of immigrants were born in Mexico or Central America, overall the region's foreign born come from diverse ethnic backgrounds and possess various skill levels. Immigrants from several Asian countries outperform the U.S.-born population in terms of educational attainment, income, and earnings.

Unauthorized immigrants comprise a substantial share (30 percent) of the foreign-born population in the region, with most of these born in Mexico or Central America. Mexican migration to the United States has fallen in recent years.¹⁵ As long as this trend holds, increases in the unauthorized Mexican population—nationwide or in Kansas City—are unlikely. Meanwhile, the much smaller number of unauthorized

immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continues to grow.

Looking to the future, rapid increases in the numbers of Asian immigrants are likely. In 2013, more immigrants arrived in the United States from China and India than from Mexico.¹⁶ They came as students, as high-skilled workers, or to reunify with family members before applying for permanent residency. Most are highly skilled and are likely to contribute significantly to the national economy and tax base.

Meanwhile, immigrants from all backgrounds contribute to the Kansas City region's economy, regardless of skill level. Unauthorized

immigrants, who tend to be less educated, have labor force participation rates of 66 percent in Kansas and 63 percent in Missouri—about the same as the U.S. born. Significant numbers were employed in construction, manufacturing, health, education, and other service industries in both states¹⁷

Kansas City is also home to a significant number of U.S.-citizen children with immigrant parents. The prospects for these children depend to a large extent on the skills, occupations, and earnings of their parents. Investing in these children and their families can ensure a more prosperous future for the region's workforce and overall economy.

Immigrants from all backgrounds contribute to the Kansas City region's economy, regardless of skill level.

Endnotes

- 1 The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) employed Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) boundaries to construct county boundaries. Due to limitations in PUMA boundaries prior to 2012, Jackson County, MO, includes all of Cass County; and Platte County, MO, includes all of Clinton County. Note that these estimates may differ from those calculated using county boundaries established by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2 Andrew Theodore Brown and Lyle W. Dorset, *KC: A History of Kansas City, Missouri*, Vol. 2 (Kansas City: Pruett Publishing Company, 1978).
- 3 MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census and 2010 and 2014 American Community Survey (ACS); see U.S. Census Bureau, “1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics, Metropolitan Areas,” Section 1 of 3 (1990 CP-1-1B), www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1990/cp-1/cp-1-1b-1.pdf.
- 4 Other legal immigrants include students, temporary workers such as H-1B specialty occupation workers, and other temporary visitors. The total immigrant population reported for the Kansas City metropolitan area in the 2014 ACS was 135,000. The total immigrant population over the five-year period 2010-14 for the five major counties in the area was 136,000 in the MPI dataset (which includes an estimate of unauthorized immigrants not counted in the ACS), whereas the officially reported ACS data for the same period was just 126,000 (since the official ACS data do not address the undercount of unauthorized immigrants). Thus, discrepancies in the total number of immigrants in tables and figures throughout the report are due to differences in the years of data employed, the geographic area defined, and the inclusion or exclusion of undercounted immigrants. For more on the MPI method for estimating the unauthorized immigrant population, see Randy Capps, Michael Fix, Jennifer Van Hook, and James D. Bachmeier, *A Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Health Coverage Profile of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2013), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/demographic-socioeconomic-and-health-coverage-profile-unauthorized-immigrants-united-states.
- 5 MPI tabulation of data from U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Office of Admissions, Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS).
- 6 Regardless of their place of birth, children below the age of 18 with at least one immigrant parent are considered children of immigrants.
- 7 Faye Hipsman, Bárbara Gómez-Aguíñaga, and Randy Capps, *DACA at Four: Participation in the Deferred Action Program and Impacts on Recipients* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2016), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/daca-four-participation-deferred-action-program-and-impacts-recipients; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), “Data Set: Form I-821D Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Data as of June 30, 2016,” September 13, 2016, www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/immigration-forms-data/data-set-form-i-821d-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals.
- 8 The 26 states sued in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, which issued an injunction to stop the implementation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program in February 2015. The injunction was upheld by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. See Memorandum Opinion and Order in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, Judge Andrew Hanen in *Texas v. United States*, February 16, 2015, www.documentcloud.org/documents/1668197-hanen-opinion.html.
- 9 Hipsman, Gómez-Aguíñaga, and Capps, *DACA at Four*.
- 10 This analysis is limited to adults ages 25 and over.
- 11 The ACS asks respondents whether they and their household members speak English as the primary language at home. Those who do not are asked how well they speak English: “very well,” “well,” “not well,” or “not at all.” The Census Bureau classifies those speaking English as their primary language or speaking it “very well” as English proficient; the remainder is considered limited English proficient. The English proficiency questions are asked of household members ages 5 and older.
- 12 Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix with Peter A. Creticos, *Uneven Progress: The Employment Pathways of Skilled Immigrants in the United States* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2008), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/uneven-progress-employment-pathways-skilled-immigrants-united-states.

- 13 Randy Capps, Kathleen Newland, Susan Fratzke, Susanna Groves, Michael Fix, Margie McHugh, and Gregory Auclair, *The Integration Outcomes of U.S. Refugees: Successes and Challenges* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2015), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/integration-outcomes-us-refugees-successes-and-challenges.
- 14 MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2014 ACS, Table B25077, "Median Value (Dollars)," accessed September 21, 2016, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
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