In 2014, the population of San José reached more than **one million people** for the first time. The immigrant population also reached an all-time high — more than **38% of the population** are immigrants.

In Santa Clara County, the overall population reached close to **two million people** in 2014, with immigrant residents making up **38% of the population**.

Overall, San José’s population grew by 12.4% between 2000 and 2014, from almost 894,000 to 1 million. **Immigrants were responsible for 47.2% of this growth.** During this period, the immigrant population of San José grew by 15.8%, from just under 330,000 to almost 382,000. Meanwhile, the U.S.-born population of the city grew less, by 10.3% between 2000 and 2014.
As a result of the increase in immigrants between 2000 and 2014, we estimate that 56,896 U.S.-born people were drawn to Santa Clara County.

Between 2000 and 2014, Santa Clara County grew by 12.5%, from 1.68 million to more than 1.89 million people, with the immigrant population accounting for 65.5% of this growth. During this period, the immigrant population of Santa Clara County grew by 24.1%, from 573,000 to more than 711,000. Meanwhile, the U.S.-born population grew by only 6.6%, from 1.11 million to 1.18 million between 2000 and 2014.

Santa Clara County’s overall population increased by 6.1%, in 2009 to 1.89 million in 2014, with immigrants accounting for 62.8% of this growth.1 During this period, the immigrant population in Santa Clara County grew by more than 10%, from just under 643,000 in 2009 to more than 711,000 in 2014. This far outpaced growth in the U.S.-born population, which increased by 3.5% between 2009 and 2014.

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1 Population growth includes any new residents from outside of Santa Clara County.
MIGRATION AND COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF IMMIGRANTS IN SANTA CLARA CO.

- Mexico 139,831 (19.7% of all immigrants)
- India 110,121 (15.5%)
- Vietnam 99,691 (14%)
- China (incl. Hong Kong) 77,358 (10.9%)
- Philippines 59,758 (8.4%)
- Taiwan 27,637 (3.9%)
- Korea 17,406 (2.4%)
- Iran 14,091 (2%)
- Japan 11,256 (1.6%)
- Russia 10,188 (1.4%)

Of the almost 19,000 immigrant residents of Santa Clara County that moved to the area in the past year, more than 51% came from India (9,753 residents), 27.8% from China (incl. Hong Kong and Macau), and 7.8% from Japan. Canada (7.7%) and Mexico (5%) were also popular countries of origin for recent arrivals.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2014, immigrants in Santa Clara County contributed an estimated

$77 billion to the county’s economy

through their consumption and tax contributions.

The immigrant population in Santa Clara County wields considerable economic power. In 2014, immigrants held

$27 billion in spending power

46.4% of the county’s total spending power.²

Given their income, we estimate that the immigrant population of Santa Clara County contributed almost

$3 billion in state and local taxes

in 2014, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of California or by municipal governments.³ Immigrant households also contributed

$7 billion in federal taxes, as well as

$5 billion to Social Security and

$1 billion to Medicare.

Labor Market

While immigrants make up 37.6% of Santa Clara County’s population, they make up an even larger share of the working age population. Immigrants make up 45% of all people ages 25 to 65.

Immigrants also make up a disproportionate share of the labor force in the county: 47% of all employed people are immigrants.

Immigrants are overrepresented among the self-employed, making up 48% of all self-employed people in the county.

They are also slightly more likely than the U.S.-born to be entrepreneurs, with 8.9% of all immigrant workers running their own business, compared to 8.5% of all U.S.-born workers.

Immigrants play a critical role in some of California’s most important industries that continue to look for talented workers. In the top 5 industries in Santa Clara County by number of workers — Manufacturing, Professional and Technical Services, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Retail, and Arts and Hospitality — immigrants make up significant numbers, if not the majority share, of workers.

Manufacturing ........................................ 59.4%
Professional/Scientific/Technical Services 55.6%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation ........... 44%
Healthcare & Social Assistance ............... 43%
Retail Trade ......................................... 37.2%

In 2014, unemployment levels for workers in these key industries were around or lower than California’s overall unemployment rate of 7.1%. They were:

Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation .................. 7.4%
Retail Trade ........................................... 6.8%
Accommodation & Food Services .................. 6.8%
Manufacturing ........................................ 5.5%
Construction ......................................... 4.4%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services .... 4.1%
Healthcare and Social Assistance ................. 2.9%

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Given their distribution in the economy, immigrants in Santa Clara County are 1.68 times more likely to work in manufacturing than the U.S.-born.

Unemployment for ICT workers was very low in 2014, with only 3% of ICT workers out of work.

66%

In information and computer technology (ICT) related industries, immigrants make up a majority of all workers, two-thirds (66%) of workers are immigrants.

Similarly, immigrants are also more likely to work in several other industries, including...

Professional & Technical Services: 1.44x more likely
Construction: 1.2x more likely
Accommodation & Food Service: 1.2x more likely

In other words, while nearly 1 in 4 immigrant workers work in manufacturing...

...less than 1 in 7 U.S.-born workers do.

Looking specifically at advanced manufacturing industries, we find that immigrants also play a large role in supporting this sector of the economy. Overall, immigrants made up 60.2% of the advanced manufacturing workforce. In the 5 largest segments by number of workers, immigrant workers made up:

- Computer & Electronics Manufacturing ............... 65.2%
- Chemical Product Manufacturing ...................... 54.4%
- Fabricated Metal Products ................................ 51.7%
- Medical Equipment ........................................ 50.6%
- Motor Vehicle, Aircraft, and Ship Buildings .......... 36.8%

While Santa Clara is already one of the most well-educated counties in the United States, the county’s immigrant population has particularly high rates of educational attainment.

The share of the immigrant population aged 25 and up with at least a bachelor’s degree is 49.8%. Meanwhile, 46.1% of the U.S.-born population over the age of 25 has at least a bachelor’s degree.

More than 1 in 4 immigrant residents over the age of 25 has an advanced degree (26%). This is higher than the share of U.S.-born residents, 18.4%, or less than 1 in 5, who have an advanced degree.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As of 2014, there were more than 23,500 immigrant business owners in San José, representing 54.6% of all entrepreneurs.

Overall, immigrants in San José are slightly more likely to be self-employed than the U.S.-born, with 1 in 10 immigrants (10%) working for their own business, while less than 1 in 10 (9%) U.S.-born workers is self-employed.

Self-employed immigrants in San José have a combined annual business income over $743 million, a figure that totals more than half of all business income for self-owned businesses in the city.

Santa Clara County is home to 14 Fortune 500 companies as of 2015. Of these firms, 50% were founded either by immigrants or by the children of immigrants.

According to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners, there were 3,033 Hispanic-owned businesses in Santa Clara County. These businesses employed 24,464 people in the county and had combined total revenues of almost $4.2 billion.

Across the county, immigrant entrepreneurs are particularly represented in several industries:

- Retail Trade ......................... 72.2%
- Manufacturing ...................... 63.4%
- Accommodation & Food Services ..................... 60%
- Construction ......................... 59%
- Healthcare & Social Assistance ..................... 42.8%
LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REMAINING IN THE COUNTY AFTER GRADUATION

In Fall 2014, there were **12,375 students** at Santa Clara County area universities who were **international students**.

These international students supported an **estimated 4,702 jobs** in Santa Clara County and contributed over **$425 million** to the local economy by virtue of their spending and tuition payments.4

If Santa Clara County retains **one-half**, or 6,188, of its international students after graduation with bachelor's degrees or higher, **3,183 local jobs** will be created within six years.5

Such retention will also boost the metro area's **GDP per capita by $552** within the next 30 years,6 and increase the population by **23,863 people** within the next 50 years.7

NATURALIZATION/CITIZENSHIP

As of 2014, of the over 711,000 immigrant residents of Santa Clara County, 53.8% were naturalized citizens. Meanwhile, a further 147,000 immigrant residents, or 20.8% of the entire immigrant population, are estimated to be eligible for naturalization. More than 180,000, or about 25.4% of the immigrant population in 2014 was still ineligible for naturalization.

54% of immigrants are naturalized citizens

21% are eligible for naturalization

25% are still ineligible for naturalization

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