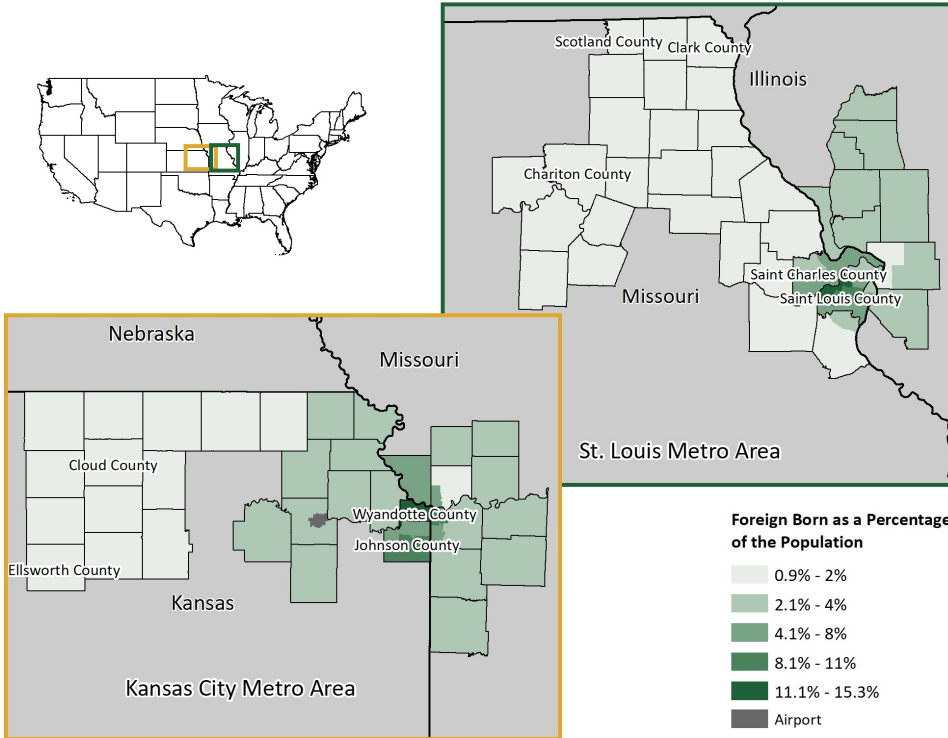


## Immigrants in St. Louis and Kansas City Metro Areas

**Figure 1. Immigrants in St. Louis and Kansas City Metro Areas**



Note: Data is displayed by Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Maps are based on the Census Bureau's Tiger/Line shape files.



### 2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants\* living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **129,300:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area (5% of the area's population)
- **136,400:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Kansas City Metropolitan Area (6% of the area's population)

### Distribution of Immigrants in the St. Louis and Kansas City Metropolitan Areas

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the St. Louis, MO-IL and Kansas City, KS-MO metropolitan areas. Within the St. Louis metro area, St. Charles County has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents. Within the Kansas City metro area, Wyandotte County has the highest share of foreign-born residents.

### Country of Birth

Foreign-born individuals living in the St. Louis metro area come from a variety of countries (Figure 2). Compared to the Kansas City metro area, there is a significantly smaller share of immigrants from Mexico living in the St. Louis metro area. Additionally, there are larger proportions of immigrants from India, China, Bosnia, and Vietnam living in the St. Louis metro area compared to the Kansas City metro area. On the whole, the immigrant population in the St. Louis metro area is more diverse compared to the immigrant population in Kansas City metro area.

**Figure 2. Top Five Countries of Birth Among Immigrants**

St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area		Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area	
Mexico	12%	Mexico	31%
India	10%	India	7%
China	8%	Vietnam	4%
Bosnia	7%	China	4%
Vietnam	5%	Philippines	3%
138 Other Countries	58%	134 Other Countries	51%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>129,315</b>	<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>136,427</b>

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

\*Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

## Immigrants in St. Louis and Kansas City Metro Areas

### Race/ Ethnicity

Most of the immigrants living in the St. Louis metro area identified as either Asian (non-Hispanic), White (non-Hispanic), or White (Hispanic) (Figure 3). There are significantly higher shares of immigrants in the St. Louis metro area who identify as Asian (non-Hispanic) or White (non-Hispanic) compared to immigrants living in the Kansas City metro area. Comparatively, there are higher shares of immigrants in the Kansas City metro area who identified as Hispanic. This is because the Kansas City metro area has higher shares of immigrants from Mexico compared to the St. Louis metro area (31% versus 12%).

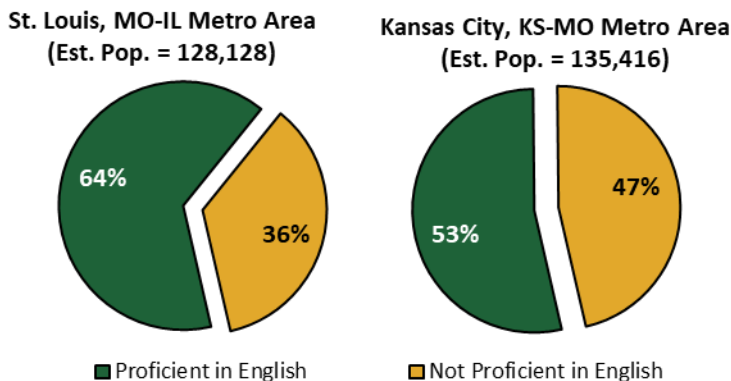
**Figure 3. Race and Ethnicity Among Immigrants**

	St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	Kansas City, KS-MO Metro Area
Asian (non-Hispanic)	37%	28%
White (non-Hispanic)	33%	17%
White (Hispanic)	12%	25%
Black (non-Hispanic)	8%	10%
Other Race (Hispanic)	5%	16%
Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	3%	2%
Two or more races (Hispanic)	1%	1%
Other Race (non-Hispanic)	1%	1%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>129,315</b>	<b>136,427</b>

### English Proficiency

Overall, immigrants living in the St. Louis metro area report higher rates of English proficiency (speaks only English or speaks English very well) compared to immigrants living in the Kansas City metro area (Figure 4). Nearly two-thirds of immigrants in the St. Louis metro area are proficient in English, compared to slightly over half of the immigrants living in the St. Louis Metro Area.

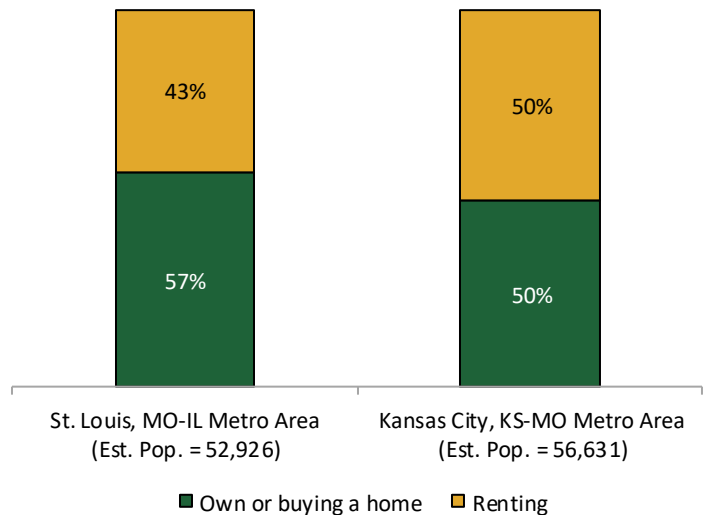
**Figure 4. English Proficiency Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+



### Homeownership

Figure 5 shows that foreign-born household heads in the St. Louis metro area report greater rates of homeownership compared to immigrant headed households in the Kansas City metro area. Over one in two (57%) immigrant household heads in the St. Louis metro area report owning or buying their home, compared to the Kansas City metro area where approximately one in two (50%) immigrant households heads own or are purchasing their household.

**Figure 5. Rate of Homeownership Among Immigrant Household Heads**



## Immigrants in St. Louis and Kansas City Metro Areas

### Employment Status

Figure 6 shows that immigrants age 16 to 65 in the St. Louis metro area report slightly lower rates of employment compared to immigrants living in the Kansas City metro area. However, this is likely due to the fact that immigrants in the St. Louis Metro Area are slightly more likely to report not being in the labor force compared to immigrant in the Kansas City metro area.

**Figure 6. Employment Status Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals in the Labor Force, Age 16–65

	St Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	Kansas City, KS-MO Metro Area
Employed	70%	72%
Unemployed	4%	5%
Not in the labor force	26%	23%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population (Age 16+)</b>	<b>105,107</b>	<b>114,506</b>

### Educational Attainment

Figure 8 shows that immigrants living in the St. Louis metro area reported higher rates of educational attainment compared to immigrants in the Kansas City metro area. For example, 45 percent of the immigrants in the St. Louis metro area earned a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to immigrants in the Kansas City metro area, where 32 percent of immigrants reported comparable rates of educational attainment. Similarly, immigrants in the Kansas City metro area were twice as likely to not have received a high school diploma compared to immigrants in the St. Louis metro area.

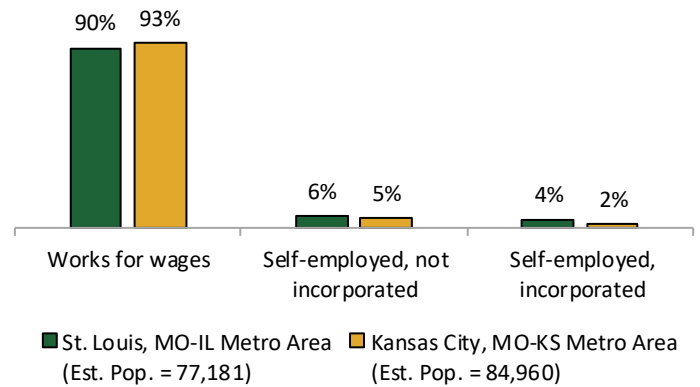
#### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

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### Self-Employment

Immigrants in the St. Louis metro area are more likely to be self-employed compared to immigrants living in the Kansas City metro area who are more likely to work for wages (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Self-Employment Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals Employed and in the Labor Force, Age 16+



**Figure 8. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 25+

