Immigrants in Santa Clara County, California

🖊 Figure 1. Immigrants in the State of California

Note: Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 14.0. ACS 2014-2018 dataset. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS.2019.

Foreign Born as a Percentage of Total County Population
- 0%-8%
- 8.1%-13%
- 13.1%-26%
- 26.1%-39%
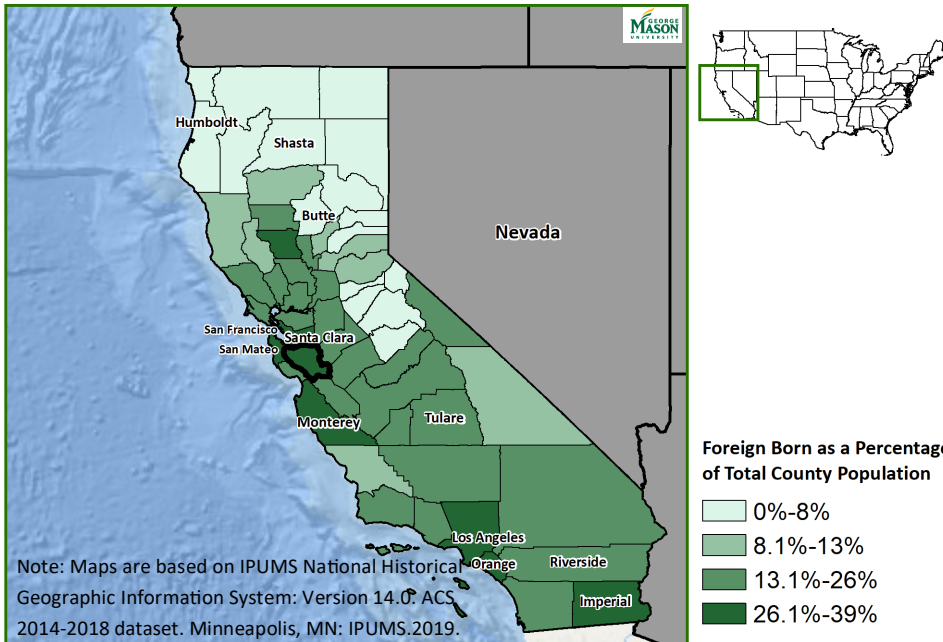
2018 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **43,567,000:** Approximate number of immigrants[1] living in the U.S. (13% of the population)

- **10,552,400:** Approximate number of immigrants living in California (27% of the total population)

- **745,600:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Santa Clara County (39% of the total population)

- **15%:** Estimated increase in the number of immigrants living in Santa Clara County over the past 10 years

- **1st:** Rank of the state of California among the 50 states and Washington, DC in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's population

Distribution of Immigrants in California

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the state of California as a percent of the total county's population. Santa Clara (39 percent), San Mateo (35 percent), and San Francisco (34 percent) Counties reported the highest percentages of immigrants in this state. Shasta, Humboldt, and Butte Counties reported the lowest percentages of immigrants in the state.

Year of Immigration

Figure 2 shows that 70 percent of immigrants in Santa Clara County arrived in the United States between 1990 and 2016 compared to 67 percent of immigrants living in the rest of the United States. The median year of arrival for foreign-born individuals in Santa Clara County is 1998 whereas for foreign born living in the rest of the United States is 1997.

🖊 Figure 2. Year of Immigration

Santa Clara County, CA (Est.Pop.=731,730): 12% | 17% | 25% | 25% | 20%

United States (Est.Pop.= 42,182,575): 14% | 16% | 23% | 27% | 17%
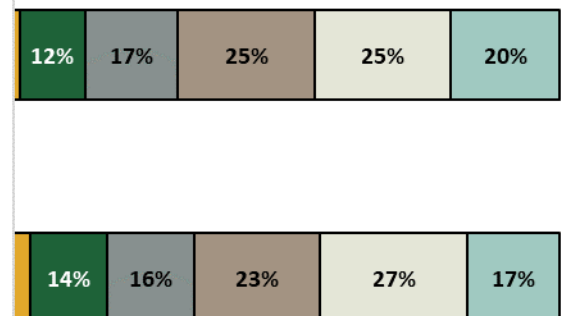
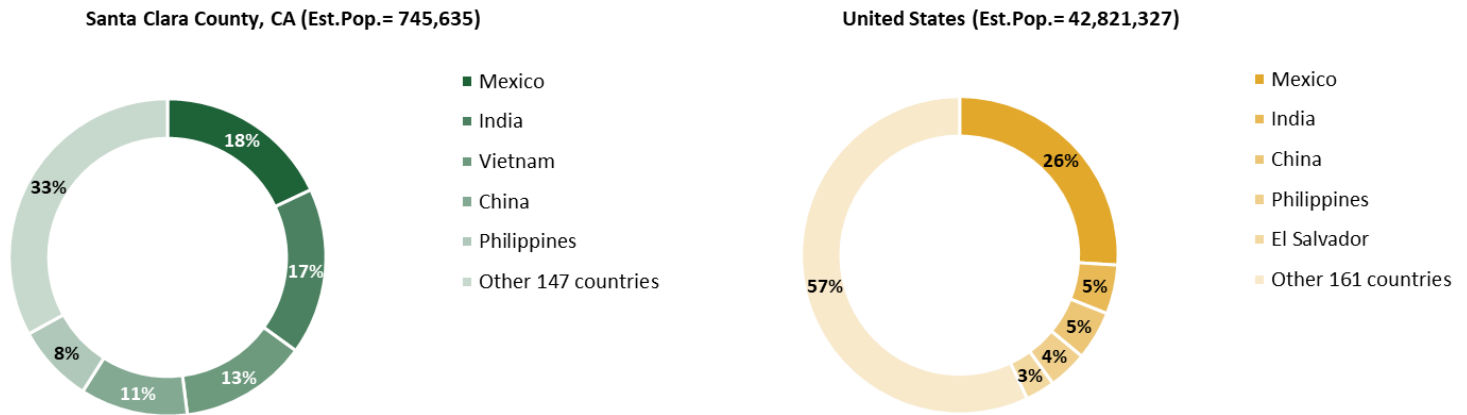■ 1920-1959 ■ 1960-1979 ■ 1980-1989 ■ 1990-1999 □ 2000-2009 □ 2010-2016

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2013-2017 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, unless otherwise noted.

[1]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.

[2]IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult https://www.census.gov/topics/ for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation.

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Figure 3. Country of Origin

Santa Clara County, CA (Est.Pop.= 745,635)

- Mexico
- India
- Vietnam
- China
- Philippines
- Other 147 countries

18%
33%
17%
8%
11%
13%

United States (Est.Pop.= 42,821,327)

- Mexico
- India
- China
- Philippines
- El Salvador
- Other 161 countries

26%
5%
5%
4%
3%
57%

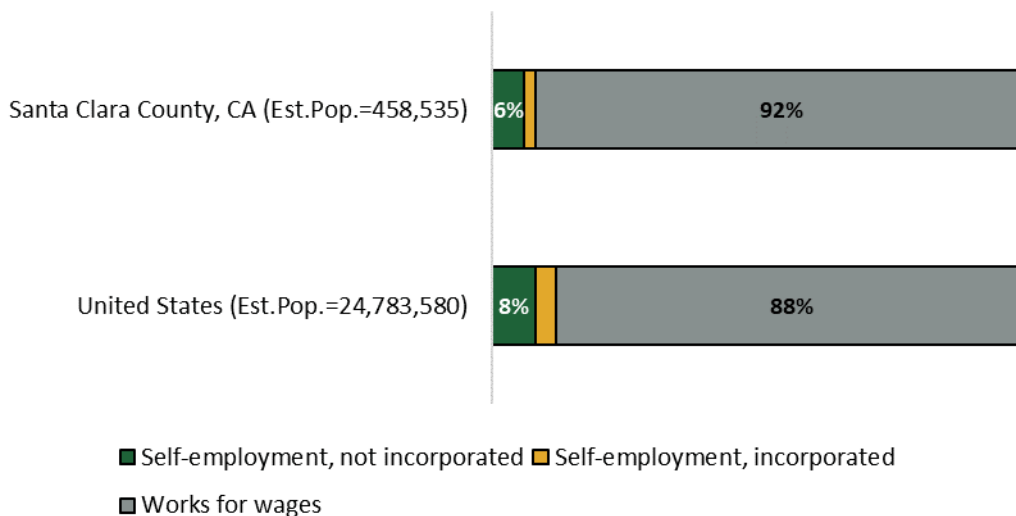### Country of Origin

Figure 3 shows that Mexico, India, Vietnam, China, and the Philippines are the top five countries of birth among immigrants living in Santa Clara County. In the rest of the United States, the largest share of foreign-born individuals come from Mexico, India, China, the Philippines, and El Salvador.

Figure 4. Self Employment

In the Labor Force, Employed, Age 16-65

Santa Clara County, CA (Est.Pop.=458,535) — 6% | 92%

United States (Est.Pop.=24,783,580) — 8% | 88%

- Self-employment, not incorporated
- Self-employment, incorporated
- Works for wages

Self Employment

The foreign born in Santa Clara County are slightly less likely to be self-employed compared to all other immigrants in the United States (Figure 4). Six percent of the foreign born living in Santa Clara County are self-employed but not incorporated, which may indicate that they are independent contractors, and 2 percent have their own business. In contrast, 8 percent of all other immigrants in the rest of the United States are self-employed but not incorporated and 4 percent have their own business.

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Occupation and Industry

Figure 5 highlights the top five occupational and industry groups[2] among immigrants in Santa Clara County and all other immigrants living in the United States. Immigrants in Santa Clara County work in slightly different occupations compared to all other immigrants in the United States. The largest share of immigrants in Santa Clara County works in computer, engineering, and science occupations (can be working in any industry) compared to all other immigrants in the United States who are more likely to work in service occupations. With regards to industries, immigrants in Santa Clara County tend to work in similar industries (workers in industries can be of any occupation) as all other immigrants in the United States, with larger share of immigrants in Santa Clara County working in manufacturing and professional, scientific, and technical services industry compared to all other immigrants in the United States.

Figure 5. Occupational and Industry Groups Among Immigrants

In the Labor Force and Employed, Age 16-65

Occupation

Top Five Occupational Groups	Santa Clara County, CA	Top Five Occupational Groups	United States
Computer, Engineering, and Science	27%	Service	24%
Management, Business, and Financial	17%	Management, Business, and Financial	12%
Service	17%	Construction and Extraction	9%
Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media	6%	Transportation and Material Moving	8%
Sales	6%	Sales	8%
8 Other Occupational Groups	27%	8 Other Occupational Groups	39%
Estimated Immigrant Population	**458,535**	**Estimated Immigrant Population**	**24,783,580**

Industry

Top Five Industry Groups	Santa Clara County, CA	Top Five Industry Groups	United States
Manufacturing	22%	Healthcare and Social Assistance	13%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	19%	Manufacturing	11%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	10%	Accommodation and Food Services	10%
Retail Trade	7%	Construction	10%
Accommodation and Food Services	7%	Retail Trade	9%
15 Other Industry Groups	35%	15 Other Industry Groups	47%
Estimated Immigrant Population	**458,535**	**Estimated Immigrant Population**	**24,783,580**

IMMIGRATION DATA ON DEMAND (iDod)

iDod
Immigration
Data on Demand

The iDod service is offered free of charge to help individuals and institutions examine the immigrant populations of their particular geography. Recipients of this data will see how immigrants provide vital contributions to the economy and society of the U.S. Ultimately, the goal of the iDod project is to create collaborations and connect people with data of interest on immigrant populations from their particular geographic region or economic sector.

Institute for Immigration Research

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, multidisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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