

# NEW AMERICANS IN SALT LAKE COUNTY

A SNAPSHOT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE COUNTY<sup>1</sup>

## SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2014, immigrants in Salt Lake County  
contributed

**\$8 billion** to the metro  
area's GDP.<sup>3</sup>

The foreign-born population of Salt Lake County wields  
considerable economic weight. In 2014, immigrants held

**\$2.3 billion** in spending  
power

with Hispanic immigrants accounting for 46.4% of this  
amount and Asian immigrants accounting for 25.1%.<sup>4</sup>

Given their income, we estimate that the  
foreign-born population contributed

**\$236 million**  
in state and local taxes in 2014,

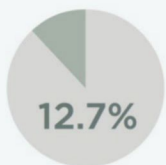
including property, income, sales, and excise  
taxes levied by either the State of Utah or by  
municipal governments.<sup>5</sup>

Foreign-born  
households also  
support federal  
social programs. In  
2014, foreign-born  
households in the  
county contributed:

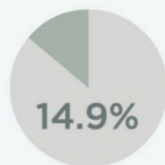
**\$357 million**  
to Social Security

**\$84 million**  
to Medicare

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP



OF COUNTY'S  
TOTAL POPULATION



OF COUNTY'S  
SELF-EMPLOYED  
POPULATION

In 2014, while 12.7% of the county's total population,  
immigrants made up 14.9% of its self-employed  
population. In the county, 6,783 foreign-born people  
worked for their own businesses, generating

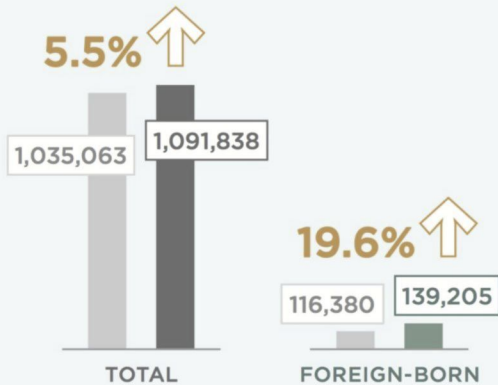
**\$145 million** in business income.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2000, 2009, and 2014, and figures refer to Salt Lake County.

<sup>2</sup> Vigdor, Jacob. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." Partnership for a New American Economy (2013).

## POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2009 and 2014, the total population of Salt Lake County grew by 5.5%, from 1,035,063 to 1,091,838. The foreign-born population, however, grew by more than triple that — 19.6%, from 116,380 to 139,205.



40.2%  
FOREIGN-BORN  
59.8%  
NATIVE-BORN

Growth in the foreign-born population accounted for **40.2% of overall population growth** during that period.

Between 2009 and 2014, the foreign-born population in the county **grew at an annual rate of 3.6%**, and its share of the total population in the county increased from 11.2% to 12.7%.

**3.6%**

As a result of the influx of immigrants from 2000 to 2014,

**12,726 U.S.-born residents** were attracted to the county.<sup>2</sup>

## HOUSING WEALTH

Between 2000-2014, the influx of immigrants **increased the total housing value in the county by more than \$2 billion**. Looking at just the period after the Great Recession, between 2009 and 2014, the influx of immigrants increased the total housing value in Salt Lake County by close to \$1 billion.<sup>6</sup>

**\$2+ billion increase** in total housing value

## FOREIGN-DIRECT INVESTMENT AND EXPORTS

From 1991 to 2011, foreign-direct investment in the metro area of Salt Lake City

**boosted the number of jobs at foreign-owned enterprises by 77%**

from 13,490 to 23,870 jobs.<sup>7</sup>

Salt Lake County's exports reached **\$8.4 billion in 2014**.

Top exports markets included:<sup>8</sup>

**Hong Kong Canada**  
**Thailand Mexico**

<sup>3</sup> These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the one-year ACS sample from 2014 and the statistics of GDP by Metropolitan Area from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>4</sup> Based on tax rates from Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (2015) "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

<sup>5</sup> Based on tax rates from Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (2015) "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

<sup>6</sup> Vigdor, Jacob. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." Partnership for a New American Economy (2013).

<sup>7</sup> Saha, D., K. Fikri, and N. Marchio. 2014. "FDI in U.S. Metro Areas: The Geography of Jobs in Foreign-Owned Establishments." Brookings Institution.

<sup>8</sup> Metropolitan Export Series from the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce



## LABOR FORCE GROWTH

Although the foreign-born made up 12.7% of the county's overall population, they made up 16.8% of its working-age population and **16.7% of its employed labor force in 2014.**

**12.7%** of the overall population are foreign-born

**16.7%** of the employed labor force are foreign-born

**Immigrants are significantly overrepresented in several key industries in the county. This includes:**

Manufacturing .....	29.2%
Construction .....	29%
Services .....	27.7%
Entertainment, recreation, & accommodation .....	19.6%
Retail trade .....	17.9%
Professional services .....	14.7%

**6,403**   
**manufacturing jobs**

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that **immigrants in Salt Lake County helped create or preserve 6,403 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

## EDUCATIONAL AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In fall 2014, 3,652 students enrolled in the county's colleges and universities held temporary resident visas.<sup>10</sup>

These students supported

**1,578 jobs**

and contributed

**\$112.5 million in spending**

to the local economy  
in that academic year.<sup>11</sup>

If Salt Lake City  
could increase  
its population of  
international graduate  
students by 10%, the  
number of  
**patents**  
created would be  
expected to  
**rise by 6%.**<sup>12,13</sup>

If the county retains one half of its  
international students after graduation  
with bachelor's degrees or higher,

**664 local jobs**

will be created within six years,<sup>14</sup>

boosting the county's  
GDP per capita by **\$154** within  
the next 30 years,<sup>15</sup>

and increasing the population  
by **4,999 people** within  
the next 50 years.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Vigdor, Jacob. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." Partnership for a New American Economy (2013).

<sup>10</sup> Data on total student enrollment in the metro area is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

<sup>11</sup> Economic data is derived from The International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.

<sup>12</sup> To derive the patent counts, we used the data on patent assignees available from Patent Full-Text and Image Database maintained by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

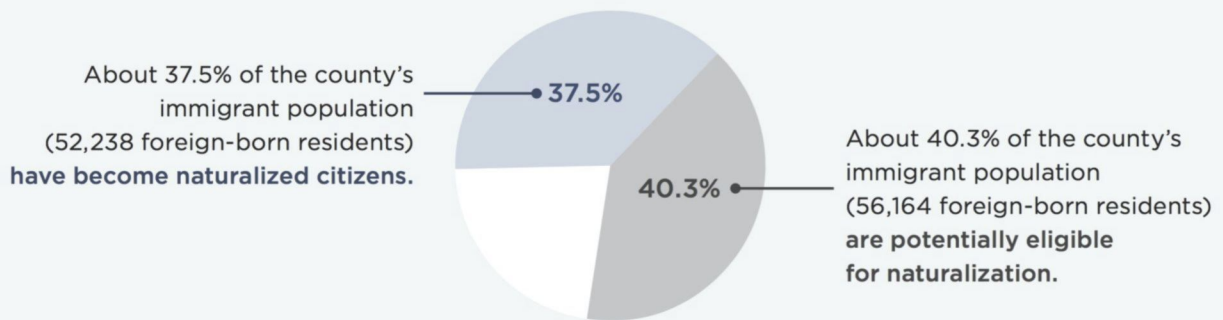
<sup>13</sup> Chellaraj, Gnanaraj, Keith E. Maskus, and Aaditya Mattoo. 2005. "The Contribution of Skilled Immigration and International Graduate Students to US Innovation." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper (3588).

<sup>14</sup> Curtis Simon, "Human Capital and Metropolitan Employment Growth," Journal of Urban Economics 43, (1998).

<sup>15</sup> Rita Ray, "Effect of Education on Gross Domestic Product: A Case Study from US 'Mid-West'," International Review of Business Research Papers, Vol. 10-1. (March, 2014).

<sup>16</sup> Edward L. Glaeser, Giacomo A. M. Ponzetto, and Kristina Tobio, "Cities, Skills and Regional Change," Regional Studies, Vol. 48-1, (January, 2014).

## NATURALIZATION



## MIGRATION

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF BIRTHPLACE FOR THE COUNTY'S IMMIGRANT POPULATION

