County Facts: Union County, NJ
Population 564,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: Union County 4.8%, NJ 4.6%, United States 4.4%
Poverty rate: Union County 11.0%, NJ 10.8%, United States 10.8%
Median family income (000s): Union County $76, NJ $70, United States $57
Population growth 2000-2017: Union County 16%, NJ 8%, United States 7%
Manufacturing share of workforce: Union County 9%, NJ 8%, United States 8%
Farming share of workforce: Union County 10%, NJ 0.2%, United States 0.5%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Union County 1.7%, NJ 4.6%, United States 4.7%

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: Union County 59%, NJ 60%, United States 46%
Percent reaching upper-middle class: Union County 31%, NJ 31%, United States 20%
Percent achieving American Dream: Union County 16%, NJ 14%, United States 13%
Percent giving birth as a teen: Union County 20%, NJ 12%, United States 12%
Percent landing in jail: Union County 1.5%, NJ 1.1%, United States 1.0%
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Kean Univ. (public): 11.1%
- Low-income share of students: 9.0%
- 4-Year college average: 58.1%
- U.S. 4-year-college average: 61.4%
- Low-income student success rate: 9.3%
- New Jersey 4-year-college average: 51.3%
- Kean Univ. (public): 15.8%
- Low-income share of students: 14.1%
- 4-Year college average: 37.1%
- U.S. 4-year-college average: 32.9%
- Low-income student success rate: 15.6%

2-Year Colleges

- Union County College (public): 15.6%
- Low-income share of students: 14.1%
- 2-Year college average: 37.3%
- U.S. 2-year-college average: 32.9%
- Low-income student success rate: 15.6%

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Union County 23%, NJ 15%, United States 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Union County 30%, NJ 19%, United States 17%
- Percent over age 65: Union County 13.5%, NJ 12.6%, United States 3.0%
- Percent college grad: Union County 27%, NJ 23%, United States 21%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Union County 76, NJ 64, United States 59
- Life expectancy (years): Union County 83.8, NJ 83.7, United States 83.2
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents): Union County 19, NJ 15, United States 15
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau