WHITE PAPER

The States With the Highest Demand for Spare Keys

A geographic analysis of 16.4 million key duplication transactions, revealing where — and why — Americans make spare keys most.

KeyMe Locksmiths Research

Nationwide Kiosk Duplication Data | 2-Year Volume Analysis

Executive Summary

KeyMe Locksmiths analyzed more than 16.4 million key duplication transactions recorded over a two-year period across kiosks installed at retail partners nationwide, including Walmart, Menards, and Kroger locations. The goal: identify which states show the highest demand for spare keys, and understand what's driving the differences between them.

The data points to a consistent story. Demand is highest in states with sprawling suburban housing, long car-dependent commutes, and high rates of multi-vehicle ownership — concentrated heavily in the Southeast and Midwest. Dense, transit-oriented Northeastern states consistently underperform their population size, while newer-build Sun Belt and West Coast markets show early signs of softening demand tied to keyless entry adoption.

16.4M	67.8%	1.6M	5
Total duplication transactions analyzed	Share of national volume from the Southeast + Midwest combined	Florida's 2-year duplication volume — the national high	U.S. regions analyzed for demand drivers and trends

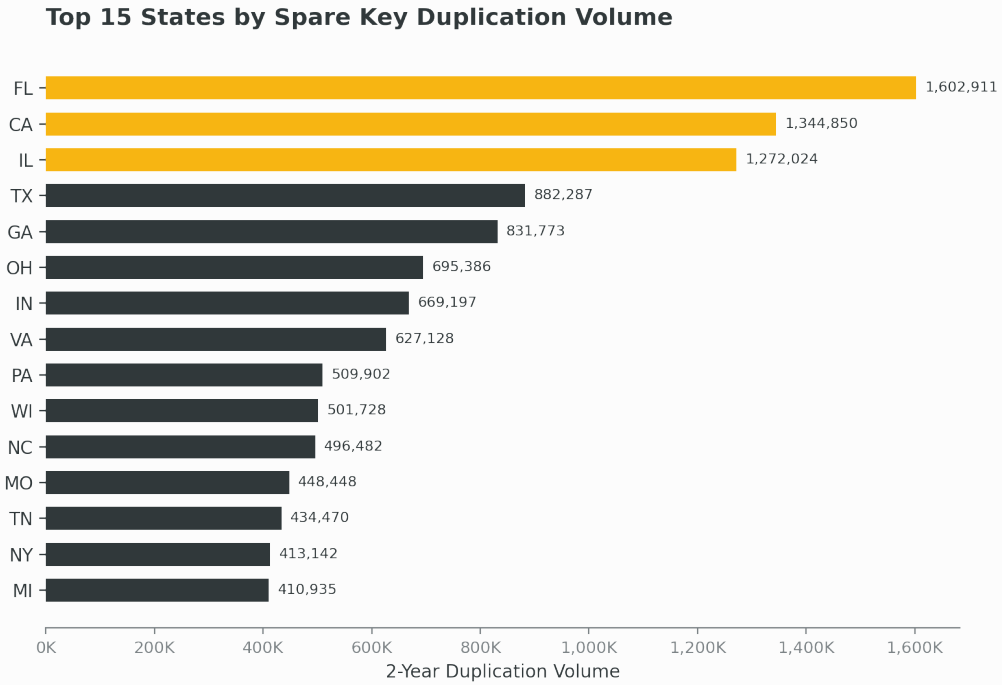
Key Findings

- **Florida leads the nation** in total spare key duplication volume, with over 1.6 million transactions in the two-year period — driven by a large, spread-out population, high car dependency, and a significant seasonal or second-home resident base.
- **The Southeast and Midwest dominate nationwide demand**, together representing 67.8% of all duplication volume, despite holding a smaller share of the total U.S. population than the coasts.
- **Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin punch far above their population weight**, suggesting suburban and exurban household structure — not just population size — is a major demand driver.
- **The Northeast consistently underperforms its population size**, with New York and New Jersey generating far fewer duplications per resident than Midwestern or Southeastern states of similar size.
- **Car-dependent Sun Belt states (FL, GA, TX, NC, TN)** show strong, steady demand tied to commuting distance and vehicle volume rather than any single seasonal spike.

> *“People tend to think of a spare key as an emergency backup, but the data tells a different story — most duplication is proactive. It's a new driver in the household, a lockbox for a rental, a key left with a neighbor. The states with the most going on in terms of household complexity are the states generating the most volume.”*
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> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS PRODUCT LEAD**

Top States by Duplication Volume

Florida, California, and Illinois top the list for total spare key duplication volume, together accounting for roughly a quarter of all transactions nationwide.



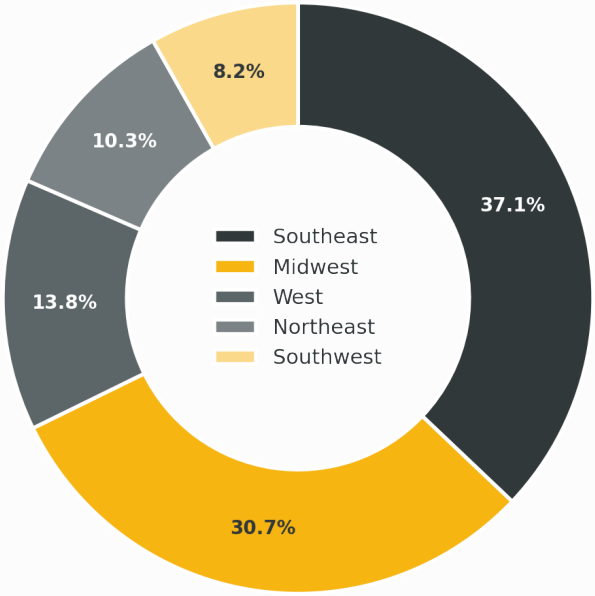
Rank	State	2-Year Volume	Share of Total
1	Florida	1,602,911	9.8%
2	California	1,344,850	8.2%
3	Illinois	1,272,024	7.8%
4	Texas	882,287	5.4%
5	Georgia	831,773	5.1%
6	Ohio	695,386	4.2%
7	Indiana	669,197	4.1%
8	Virginia	627,128	3.8%
9	Pennsylvania	509,902	3.1%
10	Wisconsin	501,728	3.1%
11	North Carolina	496,482	3.0%
12	Missouri	448,448	2.7%
13	Tennessee	434,470	2.6%
14	New York	413,142	2.5%
15	Michigan	410,935	2.5%

Rankings reflect total transaction volume, which is shaped both by consumer demand and by kiosk availability in a given state. See Methodology for details.

Regional Analysis

When grouped by region, the Southeast and Midwest together account for two-thirds of all key duplications nationwide — far outpacing the Northeast, West, and Southwest.

Share of National Duplication Volume by Region



Southeast — 37.1% of national volume

AL · AR · DC · FL · GA · KY · LA · MD · MS · NC · SC · TN · VA · WV

The Southeast is the single largest contributor to nationwide demand. Florida, Georgia, and Virginia anchor the region, with Tennessee, North Carolina, and Kentucky close behind. This region combines rapid suburban growth, heavy car dependency, and, in Florida especially, a large seasonal or part-time resident population that drives extra spare-key activity for house sitters and property managers.

> *"Florida is a great example of how seasonal living patterns show up in duplication data. When you've got snowbirds, property managers, and house sitters all needing access to the same home for part of the year, that's naturally going to drive more spare key activity than a market with a more stable, year-round population."*
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> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS ANALYST**

Midwest — 30.7% of national volume

IL · IN · IA · KS · MI · MN · MO · NE · ND · OH · SD · WI

The Midwest generates nearly a third of national volume — a remarkable share given the region's smaller population relative to the coasts. Illinois and Indiana are national outliers on a per-resident basis. The likely explanation: a high share of single-family homes, larger average household sizes, and a car-centric suburban and small-town layout where multiple household members each need their own keys.

> *"The states that show up at the top of this list aren't necessarily the biggest — they're the ones where a household is most likely to be managing multiple sets of keys for multiple cars and multiple family members. That's a suburban and exurban story more than an urban one."*
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> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS PRODUCT LEAD**

West — 13.8% of national volume

AK · CA · CO · HI · ID · MT · NV · OR · UT · WA · WY

California drives the bulk of this region's volume and ranks second nationally in raw terms, but its per-resident rate sits below the national average — likely reflecting more multi-unit housing and some of the country's highest EV and newer-vehicle adoption, which increasingly favor keyless access.

> *"We're starting to see the early edges of keyless entry and smart locks softening demand in some newer-build Sun Belt and West Coast markets. It's not a dramatic shift yet, but it's part of why states like Arizona and parts of California show up lower than their population size would predict."*
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> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS ANALYST**

Northeast — 10.3% of national volume

CT · DE · MA · ME · NH · NJ · NY · PA · RI · VT

The Northeast shows the clearest underperformance relative to its population size. Dense urban housing, high transit ridership, and low car ownership per household all point toward fewer household keys needing duplication compared to more car-dependent, suburban regions.

Southwest — 8.2% of national volume

AZ · NM · OK · TX

Texas drives the vast majority of this region's volume, with Oklahoma showing a comparatively strong per-resident rate. Arizona and New Mexico trail well behind what population size alone would predict — potentially reflecting newer housing stock with smart-lock adoption in fast-growing Sun Belt metros.

Behavioral Analysis: What's Driving the Differences

Commuting Patterns

Long, car-dependent commutes correlate strongly with higher duplication demand. States where a large share of workers commute 30+ minutes by car — much of the Southeast and Midwest — show consistently higher volume than states with shorter commutes or higher transit and walk-to-work rates.

Suburban vs. Urban Living

Suburban and exurban households tend to generate more key duplication activity than dense urban ones. Single-family homes have more entry points (front door, back door, garage, shed) and more household members who each need independent access, while urban apartment dwellers more often share a single building entry system managed by a landlord or property manager.

Multi-Car Households

Regions with higher rates of two- and three-car households show a corresponding lift in duplication volume, since each additional vehicle typically means an additional key or key fob that eventually needs a spare — a meaningful part of the Midwest's outsized showing.

Climate Influences (Correlational, Not Causal)

Climate shows some correlation with duplication patterns, though it's a secondary factor. Warmer, humid Southeastern states may see modestly elevated key wear over time, and Florida's seasonal population swings add a climate-adjacent demand layer. Household structure and commuting patterns, however, explain far more of the state-to-state variation than weather alone.

Vehicle Ownership Patterns

States with higher per-capita vehicle registration — common across much of the Midwest and Southeast — track closely with higher duplication volume. States with above-average EV adoption and newer vehicle fleets, concentrated on the West Coast, show comparatively softer growth, reflecting a gradual shift toward keyless entry and app-based vehicle access.

Consumer Insights

- **If you own multiple vehicles or have a larger household, budget for more spares than you think you need.** Households with more people and more vehicles are proactively managing multiple keys rather than waiting for one to break or go missing.
- **Renters and homeowners managing a property remotely should plan ahead for key logistics.** Florida's outsized volume suggests seasonal occupancy is a real driver — arranging spares with a property manager or trusted neighbor before you need them can save a lockout headache later.
- **Long commuters should keep a spare car key accessible, not just at home.** A spare stored at work, with a family member, or in a secure lockbox can prevent a single lost key from turning into a missed workday.
- **If you're in a newer vehicle with keyless entry, your spare-key math is changing.** EV and newer-vehicle owners are duplicating traditional keys less often, but a mechanical backup key (hidden in most keyless fobs) is still worth having and testing, since a dead fob battery can leave you stranded.
- **Suburban homeowners should count all their entry points, not just the front door.** Garages, sheds, and back doors are all additional places where a spare makes practical sense, especially for households with people coming and going on different schedules.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this data mean people in Florida and Illinois lose their keys more often?

Not necessarily. Duplication volume includes proactive spare-making — new drivers, new roommates, backup sets — in addition to replacement of lost keys, so high volume reflects overall household key activity rather than just how often people misplace them.

Why do Midwestern states rank so high relative to their population?

Suburban and rural housing patterns in the Midwest tend to involve more single-family homes, larger households, and higher rates of vehicle ownership — all factors associated with more overall key duplication activity per resident.

Is climate really a factor in key duplication demand?

It's a minor, secondary correlation at most. Warmer states and states with high seasonal occupancy (like Florida) show some elevated demand, but household structure and commuting patterns are much stronger predictors than climate alone.

Why does the Northeast lag behind in duplication volume?

Higher rates of apartment living, greater transit use, and lower car ownership per household in the Northeast all point toward fewer keys per household needing to be duplicated, compared to more car-dependent, suburban regions.

Will smart locks and keyless car entry reduce demand for traditional key duplication over time?

Some early signs point that direction in newer-build markets and states with high EV adoption, but the vast majority of U.S. homes and vehicles still rely on traditional mechanical keys, so this remains a gradual shift rather than a disruption.

Methodology

This analysis is based on two years of aggregated key duplication transaction data from KeyMe Locksmiths kiosks located at retail partners nationwide, including Walmart, Menards, and Kroger locations, covering more than 16.4 million total transactions across 50 states plus Washington, D.C.

State-level totals reflect raw transaction counts recorded at the kiosk's store location. Because KeyMe Locksmiths' kiosk footprint is not evenly distributed across all states — retail partner density varies by region and by chain — raw volume is influenced by both underlying consumer demand and the number of kiosks available in a given state. To account for this, we also calculated a population-adjusted duplication rate (transactions per 1,000 residents, using recent U.S. Census population estimates) as a secondary lens for identifying states where duplication activity is disproportionately high or low relative to population size. States with unusually high per-capita rates in this dataset (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska) also tend to have strong Menards and Kroger kiosk density, so those figures should be read as directional rather than a pure measure of underlying consumer demand.

Regional groupings follow standard U.S. Census-style regional definitions, with minor adjustments for analytical clarity: Northeast (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT), Southeast (AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV), Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI), Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX), and West (AK, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY).

Interpretive claims regarding commuting behavior, suburban housing, multi-vehicle ownership, and climate are presented as correlational observations drawn from general, publicly available demographic and commuting trends, not as causal findings derived from individual-level KeyMe Locksmiths transaction data.