

# We the People of Arab Ancestry in the United States

*Census 2000 Special Reports*

Issued March 2005

CENSR-21

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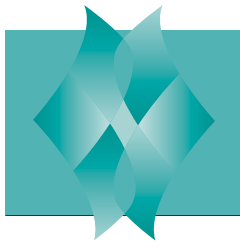
## Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by **Angela Brittingham** and **G. Patricia de la Cruz**, under the supervision of **Arthur Cresce**, Chief, Ethnicity and Ancestry Branch, and **Jorge del Pinal**, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division. **John F. Long**, Chief, Population Division, provided overall direction.

General direction was provided by **Judy G. Belton**, Chief, Race and Hispanic Origin Review Branch, Population Division. Within the Race and Hispanic Origin Review Branch, **Linda M. Chase** provided principal statistical assistance, and additional assistance was provided by **Yvonne J. Gist**, **Debra A. Niner**, and **Paula L. Vines**. The contents of the report were reviewed by **Marjorie F. Hanson**, Population Division. **Steve Smith**, Population Division, provided computer programming support.

**Paulette Lichtman-Panzer** and **Jeanne Waples** of the Decennial Management Division provided decennial policy review of this report. **Douglas Olson** and **Richard Griffin**, under the guidance of **Philip M. Gbur** and **Dawn E. Haines** of the Decennial Statistical Studies Division, conducted sampling review.

**Jan Sweeney**, **Theodora Forgione**, **Jamie Peters**, and **Barbara Blount**, of the Administrative and Customer Services Division, **Walter C. Odom**, Chief, provided publications and printing management, graphics design and composition, and editorial review for print and electronic media. General direction and production management were provided by **Susan L. Rappa**, Chief, Publications Services Branch.



# We the People of Arab Ancestry in the United States

This report provides a portrait of the Arab population in the United States, and discusses some of the largest groups within this population at the national level.<sup>1</sup> It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000.

In 1997, when the Office of Management and Budget revised the federal standard for the classification of race and ethnicity, it noted the lack of consensus about the definition of an Arab ethnic category and suggested that further research be done in order to improve data on this population group.<sup>2</sup> This report, along with the Census 2000 Brief *The Arab Population: 2000*, contributes to the ongoing research about people in the United States who identify an Arab ancestry and reflects the Census Bureau's consultation and collaboration with experts within the Arab community.<sup>3</sup>

Census 2000 data showed that of the 281.4 million people in the United States, approximately 850,000 reported Arab ancestries

<sup>1</sup> In this report, the term "Arab" is used to refer to the Arab-ancestry population in the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Office of Management and Budget, 1997, "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," *Federal Register*, Vol. 62, No. 210, p. 58787.

<sup>3</sup> See G. Patricia de la Cruz and Angela Brittingham, 2003, *The Arab Population: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR-23. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <[www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-23.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-23.pdf)>.

Table 1.  
**Population With Arab Ancestry by Detailed Group: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

Detailed group	Arab ancestry alone		Arab ancestry alone or in combination with another ancestry	
	Number	Percent of U.S. population	Number	Percent of U.S. population
<b>Total</b> .....	<b><sup>1</sup>850,027</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b><sup>2</sup>1,189,731</b>	<b>0.42</b>
Lebanese .....	244,525	0.09	440,279	0.16
Egyptian .....	123,489	0.04	142,832	0.05
Syrian .....	75,517	0.03	142,897	0.05
Palestinian .....	61,691	0.02	72,112	0.03
Jordanian .....	36,104	0.01	39,734	0.01
Moroccan .....	30,352	0.01	38,923	0.01
Iraqi .....	29,429	0.01	37,714	0.01
"Arab" or "Arabic" .....	167,166	0.06	205,822	0.07
Other Arab .....	<sup>3</sup> 81,754	0.03	<sup>4</sup> 82,337	0.03

<sup>1</sup>Includes people who reported Arab ancestry only, regardless of whether they reported one or two Arab ancestries.

<sup>2</sup>Includes people who reported one or two Arab ancestries and people who reported both an Arab and non-Arab ancestry. The total is less than the sum of the rows because most people reporting two Arab ancestries are tabulated in two categories, but only once in the total. People who reported two Arab ancestries not listed above (e.g., Algerian and Tunisian) are tabulated once in the "Other Arab" category.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 68,614 people who reported one Arab ancestry not listed above and 13,140 people who reported two Arab ancestries, whether listed above or not.

<sup>4</sup>Represents the number of people who reported one or two Arab ancestries excluding the ancestries listed above. The total of 82,337 includes 68,614 people who reported one Arab ancestry not listed above (e.g., Yemeni), 1,862 people who reported two Arab ancestries not listed above (e.g., Algerian and Tunisian), and 11,861 people who reported an Arab ancestry not listed above and a non-Arab ancestry (e.g., Kuwaiti and German).

Note: Confidence intervals are not displayed because they round to the percentages shown in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

and no others. This group represented 0.3 percent of the total population in 2000, compared with 0.2 percent in 1990.<sup>4</sup> An additional 340,000 people reported an Arab and a non-Arab ancestry, meaning that a total of 1,190,000 people

<sup>4</sup> The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

reported at least one Arab ancestry. The text and figures focus on the group who reported only Arab ancestries (850,000 people). Tables 1 and 2 provide data for both people who reported only Arab ancestries and for those who reported both Arab and non-Arab ancestries.

The data used to define the Arab population in this report were compiled from responses to the Census 2000 question that asked respondents to identify their ancestry or

ethnic origin; two write-in lines were provided. The text describes people who listed one or two Arab ancestries without a non-Arab ancestry; for example, only Egyptian or Egyptian and Lebanese. People who gave an Arab and a non-Arab ancestry; for example, Lebanese and Irish, are shown only in the tables.

In this report, Arab ancestry is generally based on responses that listed the predominantly Arabic-speaking countries or areas of the world. For example, a person is included in the Arab ancestry category if he or she reported any of the ancestries shown in Figure 1. People providing a general response to the ancestry question, such as Arab, Arabic, North African, or Middle Eastern, were also categorized as Arab. Some people classified as Arab under this approach may not consider themselves Arab, and conversely,

### UNDERSTANDING DATA ON ANCESTRY FROM CENSUS 2000

Ancestry refers to ethnic origin, descent, roots, heritage, or place of birth of the person or of the person's ancestors. The ancestry question was not intended to measure the respondent's degree of attachment to a particular group, but simply to establish that the respondent had a connection to and self-identified with a particular ethnic group. For example, a response of "Lebanese" might reflect involvement in a Lebanese community or only a memory of Lebanese ancestors several generations removed.

Although religious affiliation can be a component of identity, neither the ancestry question nor any other question on the decennial census was designed to collect information about religion. No religious information was asked in Census 2000.

some people who consider themselves Arab may not be included under this definition. Furthermore, people who provided certain ancestry responses listing countries that are considered Arab in some classifications, such as Mauritanian, Somalian, Djiboutian,

and Comoros Islander, were not classified as Arab.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> For further information on the Arab population or ancestry in general, visit <[www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html)>.

## One out of four Arabs in the United States had Lebanese ancestry.

- In 2000, one-fourth of those reporting Arab ancestry were Lebanese (245,000 or 29 percent). The next largest specific groups were Egyptian (123,000 or 14.5 percent) and Syrian (76,000 or 8.9 percent), followed by Palestinian (62,000 or 7.3 percent), Jordanian (36,000 or 4.2 percent), Moroccan (30,000 or 3.6 percent), and Iraqi (29,000 or 3.5 percent).<sup>6</sup> An additional 82,000, or 9.6 percent of the Arab population, identified with “Other Arab” groups.<sup>7</sup>
- Of the Arab population, 167,000 people, or 20 percent identified their ancestry with the general term “Arab” or “Arabic.”

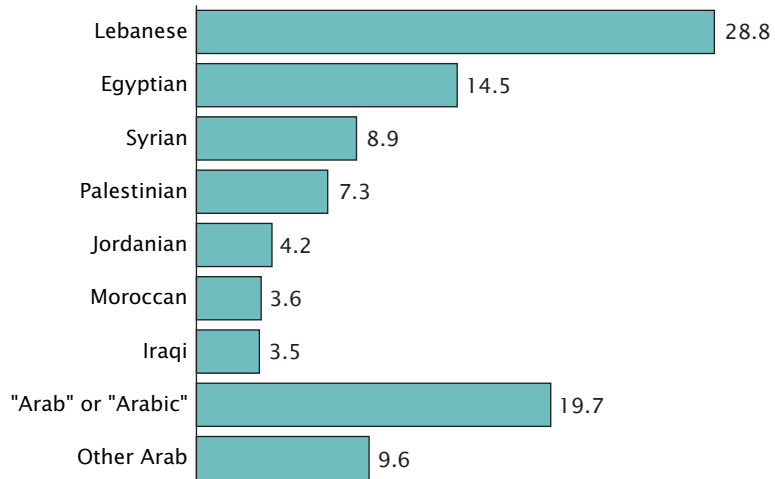
<sup>6</sup> The proportion of the Arab population that was Moroccan was not statistically different from the proportion that was Iraqi.

<sup>7</sup> The Other Arab category includes Yemeni, Kurdish, Algerian, Saudi, Tunisian, Kuwaiti, Libyan, Berber, Emirati (United Arab Emirates), Omani, Qatari, Bahraini, Alhuceman, Bedouin, Rio de Oro, and the general terms Middle Eastern and North African.

Figure 1.

### Arab Population by Ancestry: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Note: Other Arab (9.6 percent) includes Yemeni, Kurdish, Algerian, Saudi, Tunisian, Kuwaiti, Libyan, Berber, Emirati (United Arab Emirates), Omani, Qatari, Bahraini, Alhuceman, Bedouin, Rio de Oro, and the general terms Middle Eastern and North African.

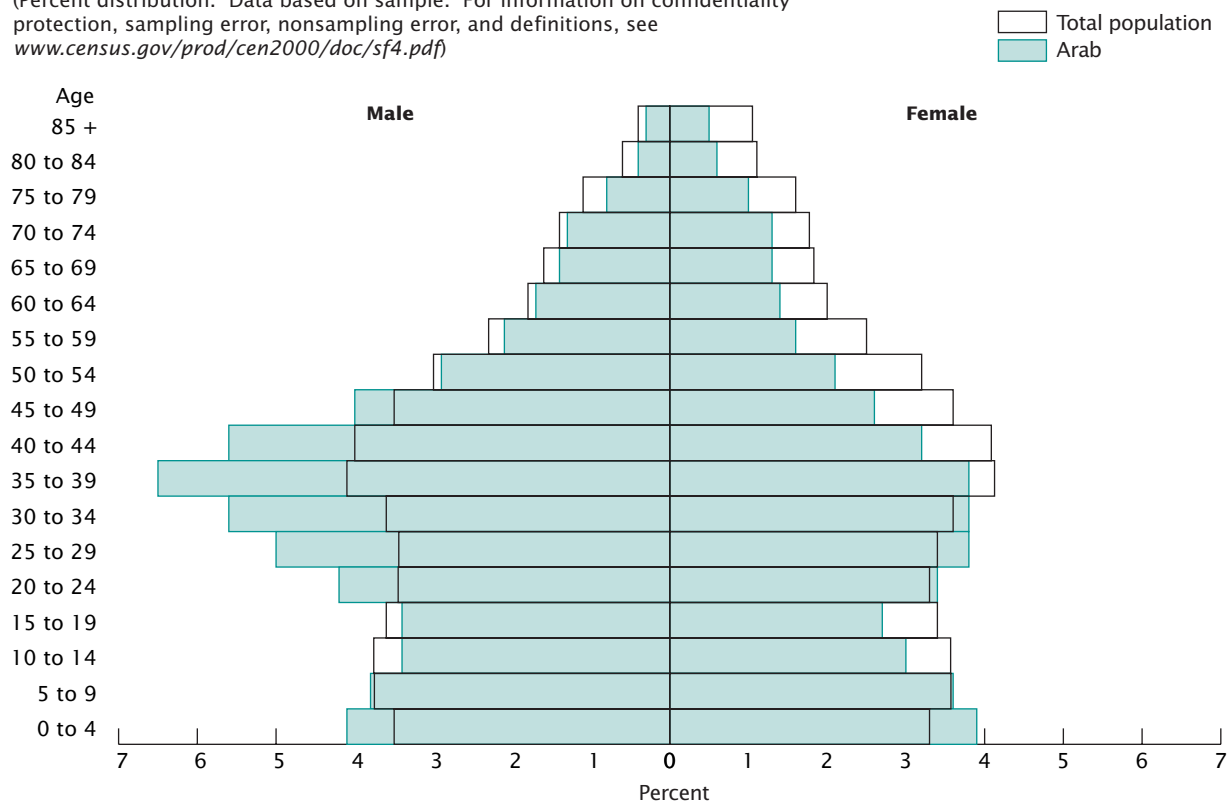
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

**The Arab population was more likely than the total population to be male and between the ages of 20 to 49 or under 5.**

- The Arab population was 57 percent male, whereas the total population was 49 percent male in 2000.
- Men in the age group 20 to 49 represented a larger proportion of the Arab population (31 percent) than they did of the total population (22 percent).
- The proportion of male Arabs was larger than that of female Arabs in all age groups through age 64.
- The female Arab population aged 10 to 19 and in every age group 35 and older represented a smaller proportion of the total Arab population (25 percent in aggregate) than the total female population represented of the U.S. population in these age groups (34 percent).

Figure 2.  
**Age and Sex: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



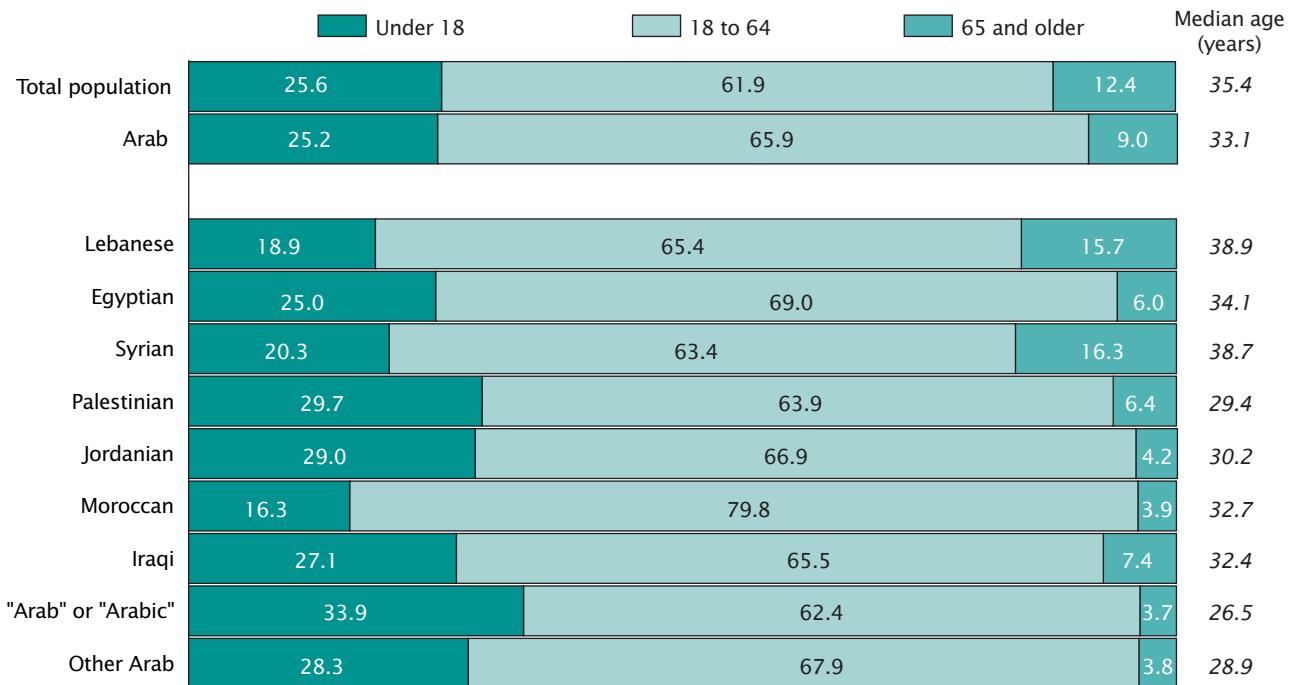
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

## The age distribution varied across specific Arab ancestries.

- In 2000, 25 percent of the Arab population was younger than 18 years old, compared with 26 percent of the general population. Approximately 9 percent of Arabs were aged 65 and older, compared with 12 percent of the general population.
- Among Arab groups, those who reported “Arab” or “Arabic” were most likely to be under 18 (34 percent), and Syrians and Lebanese were more likely than other Arab groups to be aged 65 and older (16 percent each).
- The median age of the Arab population was 33, and ranged from 27 for those who reported “Arab” or “Arabic” to 39 for Syrian and Lebanese.

Figure 3.  
**Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

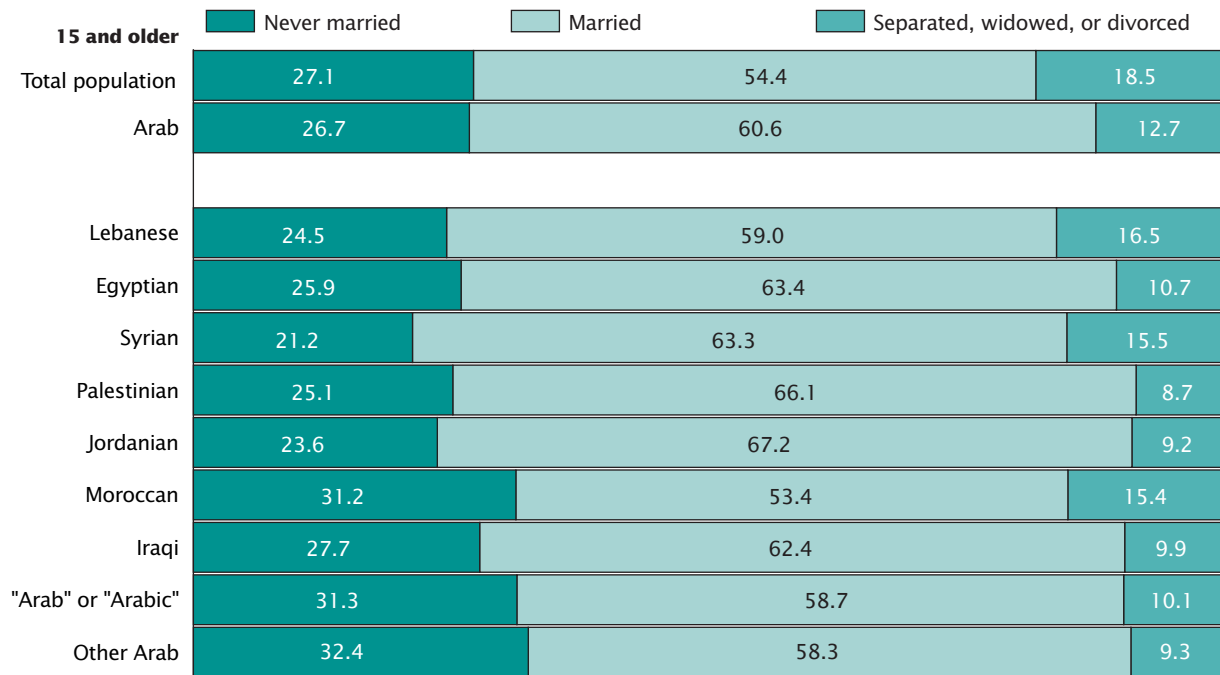
## More than half of the Arab population was married.

- The Arab population was more likely to be married (61 percent of those aged 15 and older) than the total population (54 percent), and less likely to be separated, widowed, or divorced (13 percent compared with 19 percent).
- In 2000, Moroccans were the least likely of the Arab groups to be married (53 percent).

Figure 4.

### Marital Status: 2000

(Percent distribution of population 15 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.



**In 2000, married-couple households were more common among Arabs than among the total population.<sup>8</sup>**

- Approximately 60 percent of Arab households were married-couple households, compared with 53 percent of households in the total population.

<sup>8</sup> The householder is the person (or one of the people) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the home is owned or rented jointly (for example, by a married couple), either person may be the householder; this designation is assigned to whichever of these names the respondent lists first. The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households. This report uses the characteristics of the householder to describe the household.

Palestinian and Jordanian households were especially likely to be married-couple households (about 70 percent).<sup>9</sup>

- Female family householders with no husband present were less common among Arab households than among all U.S. households (6 percent compared with 12 percent).

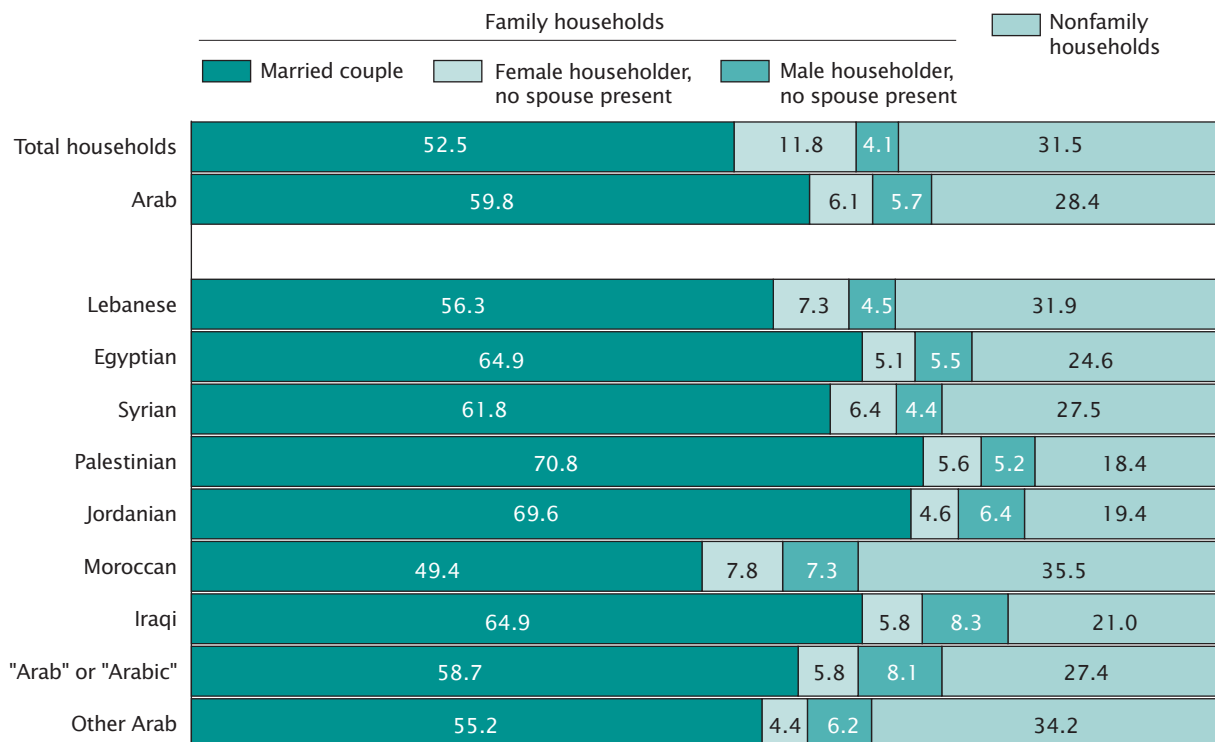
<sup>9</sup> There was no statistical difference between the percentage of Palestinian and Jordanian households that were married-couple households.

- The percentage of Arab households that were nonfamily households was lower than that of the total population, 28 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Among Arabs, Moroccans, Other Arabs, and Lebanese had the highest percentages of nonfamily households, all over 30 percent.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> There was no statistical difference between the percentage of Moroccan, "Other Arab," and Lebanese households that were nonfamily households.

**Figure 5.**  
**Household Type: 2000**

(Percent distribution based on the ancestry of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



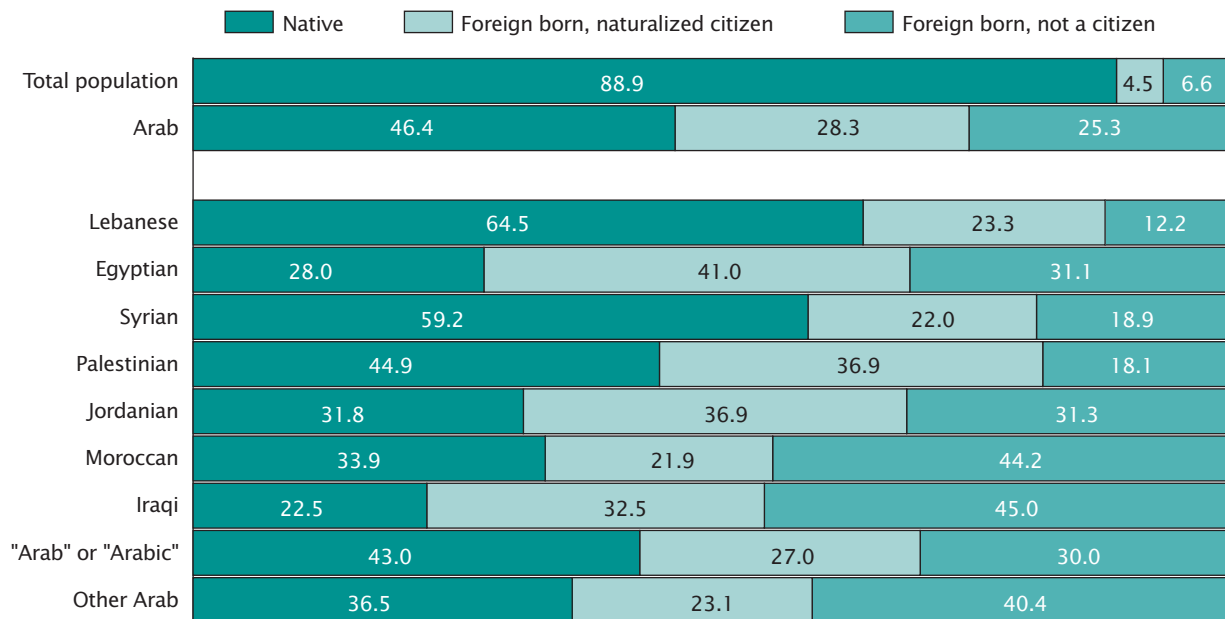
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

## Almost half of residents of Arab ancestry were born in the United States.

- In 2000, 46 percent of Arabs were native U.S. citizens (born in the United States or born abroad to parents who were U.S. citizens), compared with 89 percent of the total population. Of the 54 percent of Arabs who were foreign born, over half had become naturalized citizens by 2000, a higher proportion than in the total foreign-born population, where 40 percent were naturalized citizens.
- Around 65 percent of Lebanese and 59 percent of Syrians were natives, compared with 23 percent of Iraqis and 28 percent of Egyptians.
- Among Arabs, the proportion who were not citizens in 2000 varied from 12 percent for Lebanese to about 45 percent for Iraqis and Moroccans.

Figure 6.  
**Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



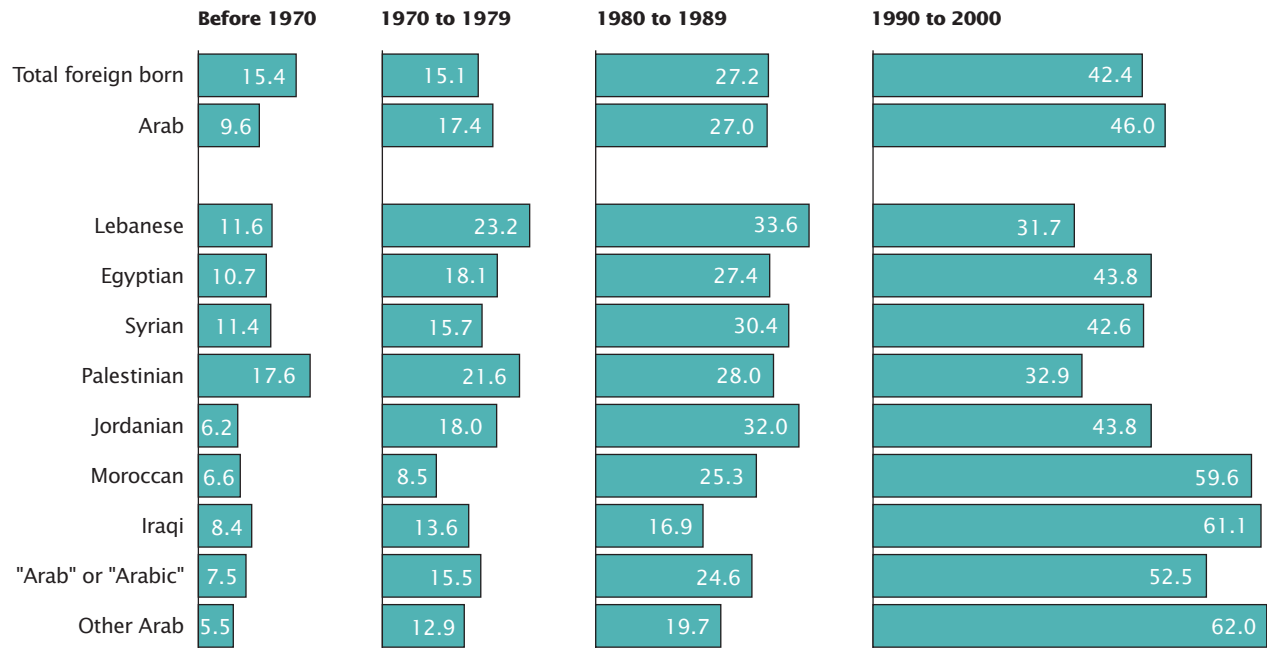
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

## Nearly half of foreign-born Arabs arrived during the 1990s.

- Of the foreign-born Arab population, around 46 percent arrived between 1990 and 2000, compared with 42 percent of the total foreign-born population. Ten percent of foreign-born Arabs arrived before 1970, compared with 15 percent of the total foreign born.
- Around 18 percent of foreign-born Palestinians arrived before 1970, a larger share than any other Arab group. More than two-thirds of the foreign-born Lebanese population had lived in the United States since before 1990 (68 percent), a proportion similar to that of foreign-born Palestinians (67 percent).
- Moroccans, Iraqis, and “Other Arabs” were the groups with the largest proportions of recent arrivals, with 60 percent or more of each group arriving from 1990 to 2000.

Figure 7.  
**Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

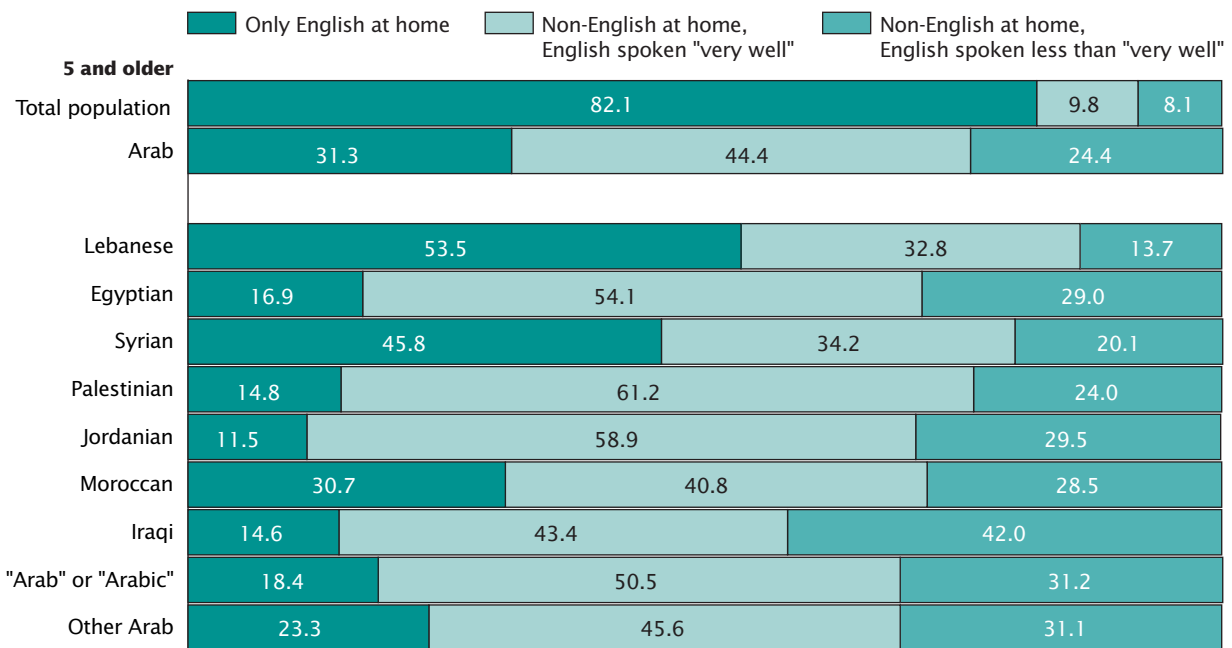
## Around 3 out of 4 people with Arab ancestry spoke only English at home or spoke English “very well.”

- In 2000, 69 percent of Arabs aged 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home, compared with 18 percent of the total population. However, of those who spoke a non-English language at home, 65 percent spoke English “very well,” representing 44 percent of Arabs aged 5 and older.
- A higher proportion of Jordanians (89 percent) than any other Arab group spoke a language other than English at home. Of these Jordanians, 66 percent spoke English “very well,” representing 59 percent of all Jordanians 5 and older.
- Among the Arab groups aged 5 and older, the Lebanese were the least likely to have difficulty speaking English (14 percent spoke English less than “very well”), and Iraqis were the most likely (42 percent spoke English less than “very well”).

Figure 8.

### Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability: 2000

(Percent distribution of population 5 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

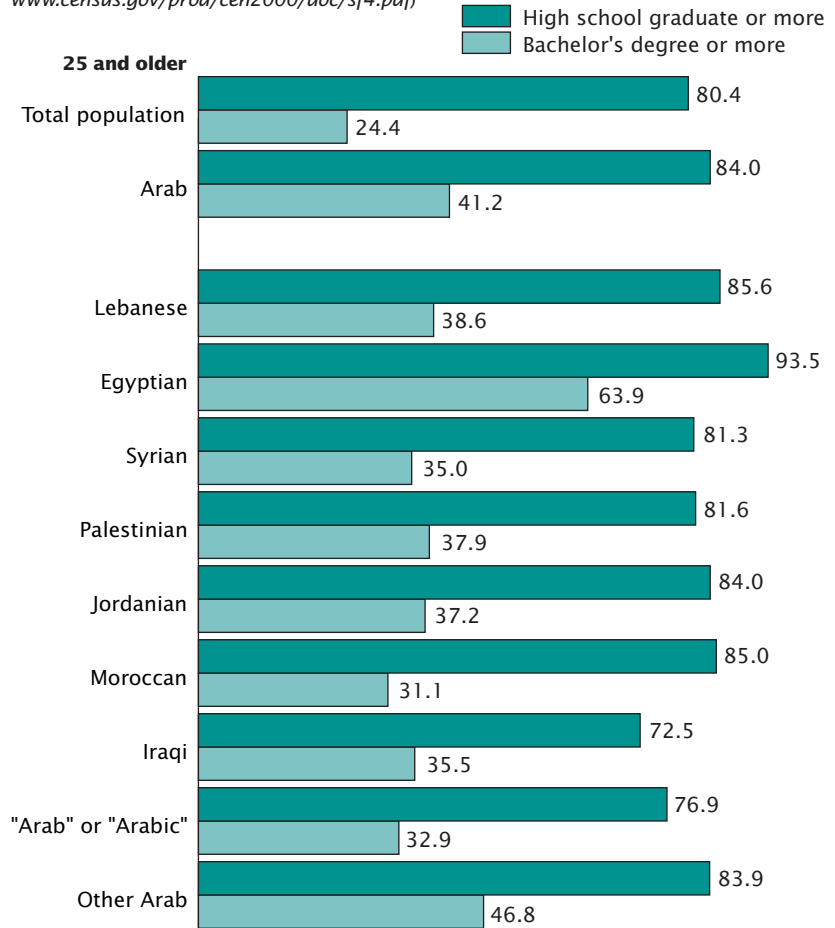
**More than 40 percent of Arabs had a bachelor's degree or more education.**

- The proportion of the Arab population 25 and older with a high school diploma or more education was higher than that of the total population, 84 percent compared with 80 percent.
- The proportion of all Arabs with at least a bachelor's degree was also higher than that of the total population (41 percent compared with 24 percent). The proportion with at least a bachelor's degree in each individual Arab group was higher than that of the total population.
- Egyptians had the highest level of educational attainment: 94 percent had a high school diploma or more and 64 percent had a bachelor's degree or more education. While Iraqis had the lowest percentage among Arab groups with at least a high school diploma (73 percent), they were more likely than the total population to have at least a bachelor's degree (36 percent).

Figure 9.

**Educational Attainment: 2000**

(Percent of population 25 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

**Men of Arab ancestry were more likely, and women of Arab ancestry less likely, to be in the labor force than their counterparts in the total population.**

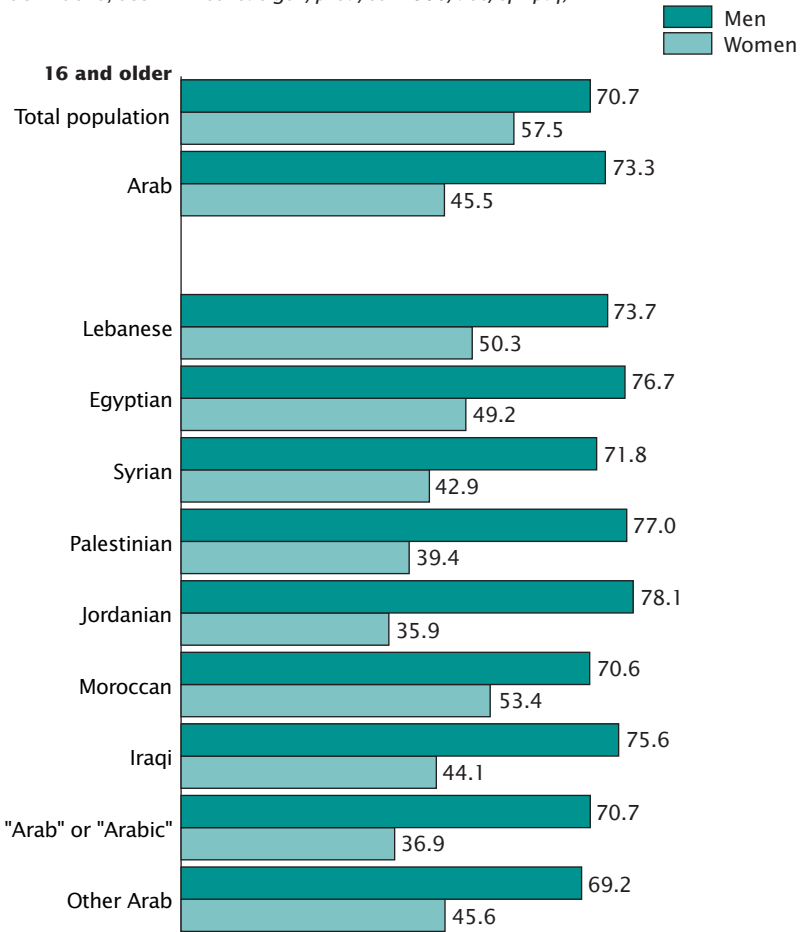
- Among men 16 and older, the labor force participation rate of Arabs was higher than that of the total population (73 percent compared with 71 percent).
- In contrast to men, the labor force participation rate among women aged 16 and older was lower for Arabs than for the total population (46 percent compared with 58 percent).
- The gender gap in labor force participation rates was larger in the Arab population than in the total population (a 28 percentage-point difference compared with a 13 percentage-point difference). In the Jordanian population, the gap was 42 percent: 78 percent of men were in the labor force compared with 36 percent of women.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> There was no statistical difference between the gender gap in the labor force participation rates of Jordanians and Palestinians.

Figure 10.

**Labor Force Participation Rate by Sex: 2000**

(Percent of population 16 and older in the labor force. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



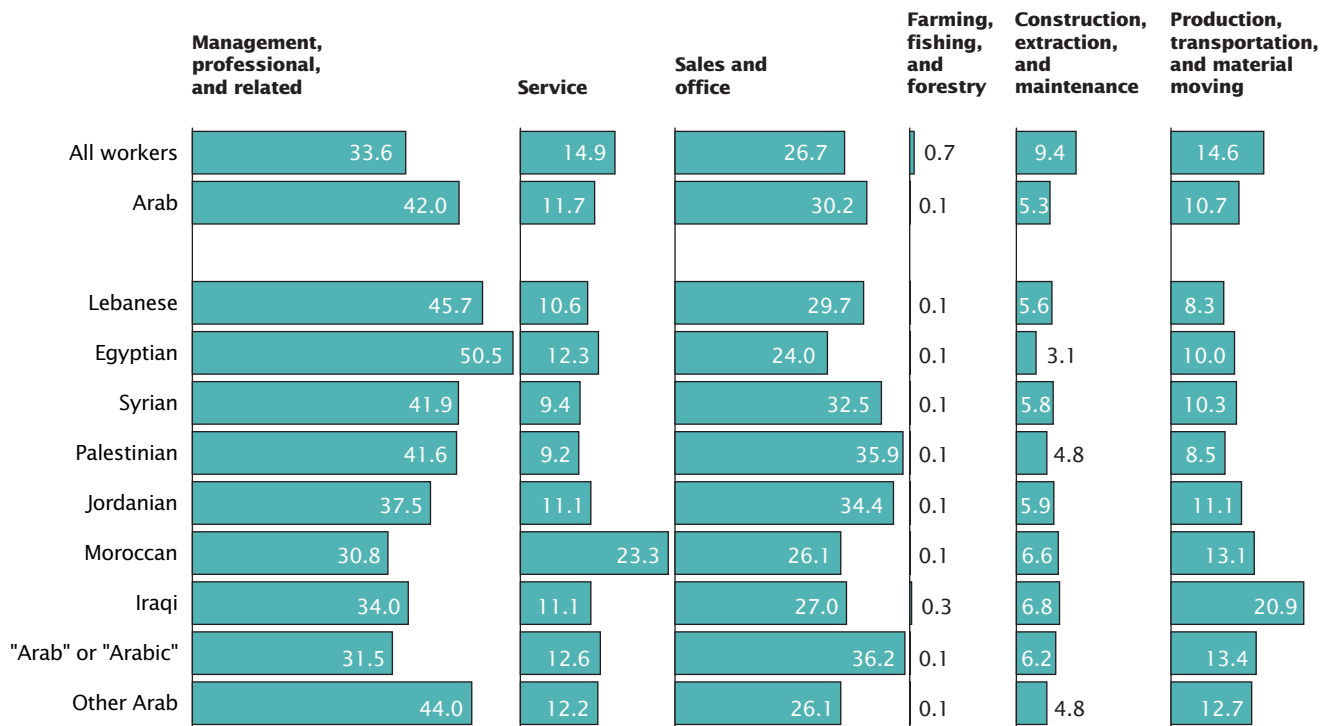
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

## Arabs had a different occupational distribution than all workers.

- In 2000, about 42 percent of employed Arabs aged 16 and older worked in management, professional, and related occupations, compared with 34 percent of their counterparts in the total population. Another large proportion of Arabs worked in sales and office occupations (30 percent compared with 27 percent of the total population). Arabs were less likely than the total population to work in construction, extraction, and maintenance (5.3 percent compared with 9.4 percent).
- Half of Egyptian workers (51 percent) were in management, professional, and related occupations. Among Moroccans, 23 percent worked in service occupations, nearly twice as high as any other Arab group.

Figure 11.  
**Occupation: 2000**

(Percent distribution of employed civilian population 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

## Arab men and women earned more than men and women in the general population.

- In 1999, the median level of earnings for Arab men working year-round and full-time was \$41,700, compared with the national median of \$37,100. Lebanese men earned \$49,100 per year, compared with \$32,800 for Moroccan men.<sup>12</sup>
- Arab women earned a median of \$31,800, compared with \$27,200 among the total female population in 1999. Egyptian women earned \$35,200 per year, compared with \$27,100 for Moroccan women.<sup>13</sup>
- The earnings gap between men and women was more than \$10,000 for both Lebanese and Syrians.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> There was no statistical difference between the median earnings of Lebanese men and Syrian men, or those of Moroccan men and three other groups: Jordanian men, Iraqi men, or men who reported "Arab" or "Arabic."

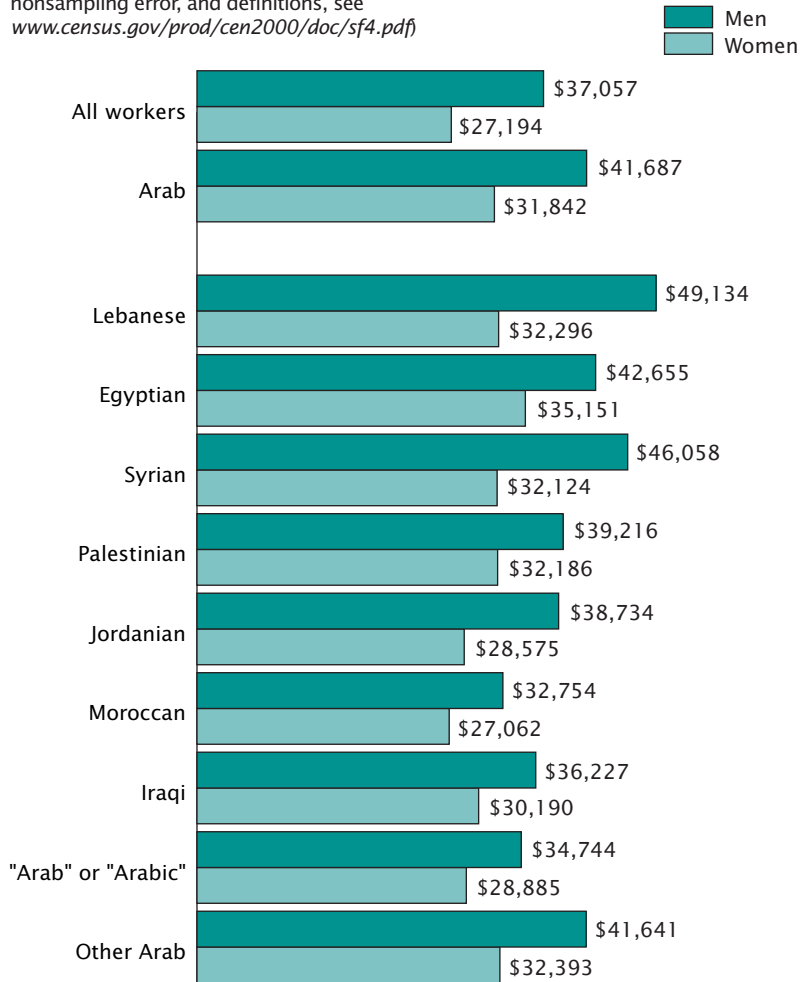
<sup>13</sup> There was no statistical difference between the median earnings of Egyptian women and Other Arab women, Palestinian women, Syrian women, Iraqi women, or Jordanian women.

<sup>14</sup> There was no statistical difference between the gender gap in median earnings of Lebanese and Jordanians, Syrians and Jordanians, or Syrians and Other Arabs.

Figure 12.

### Median Earnings by Sex: 1999

(For employed, full-time, year-round workers 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.



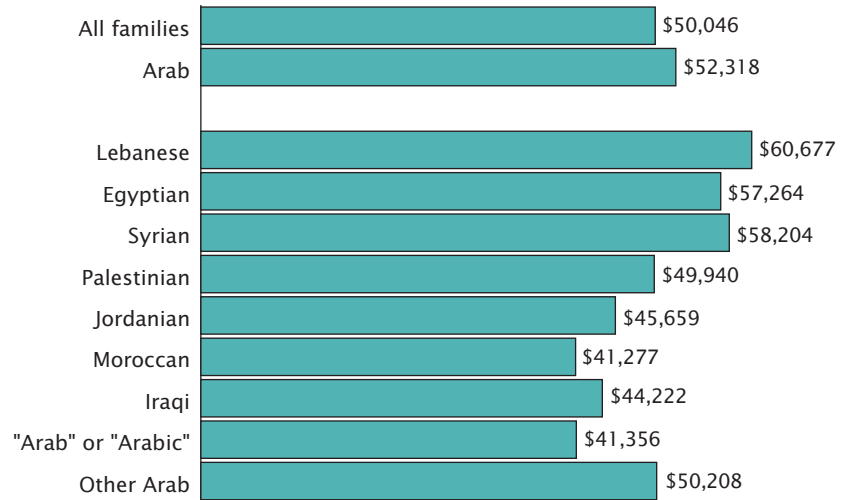
## Arab families had a higher median income than all families.

- Median family income among Arabs in 1999 was \$52,300, which was higher than the national median of \$50,000.
- Among the different Arab groups, Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian families had higher median family incomes than other Arab groups at around \$60,000 per year.

Figure 13.

### Median Family Income: 1999

(Families classified by ancestry of householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

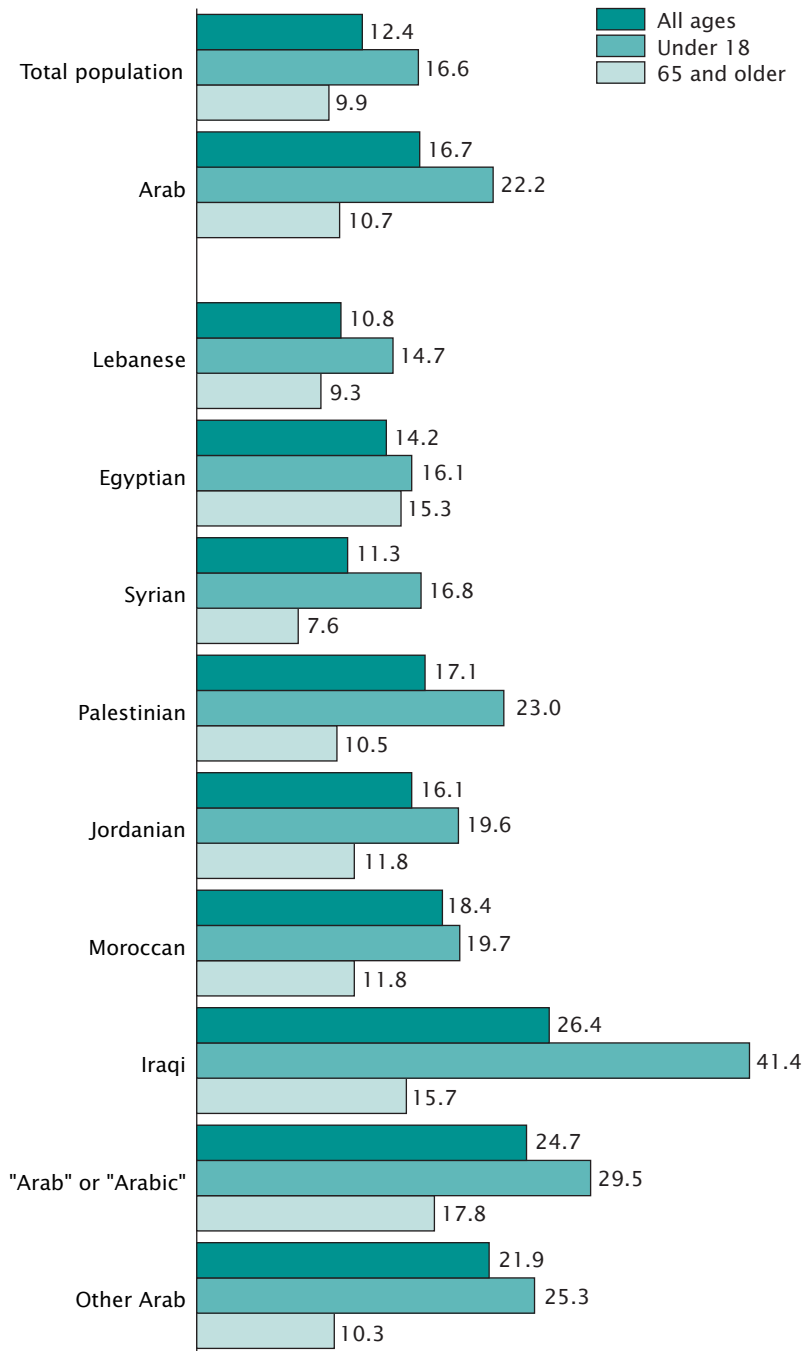
## A higher proportion of Arabs than of the general population was in poverty.

- Around 17 percent of Arabs were in poverty in 1999, compared with 12 percent of the total population. Around 25 percent of Iraqis and those who responded “Arab” or “Arabic” had incomes below the poverty thresholds, while 11 percent of Lebanese and Syrians were in poverty.
- As with the general population, poverty rates for Arabs were highest among children. Among Arabs younger than 18 years, 22 percent were in poverty, compared with 11 percent of those 65 and older. Iraqi children were the most likely to be poor, with 41 percent in poverty in 1999, compared with 15 percent of Lebanese children.

Figure 14.

### Poverty Rate by Broad Age Group: 1999

(Percent in poverty. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Note: Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, or college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

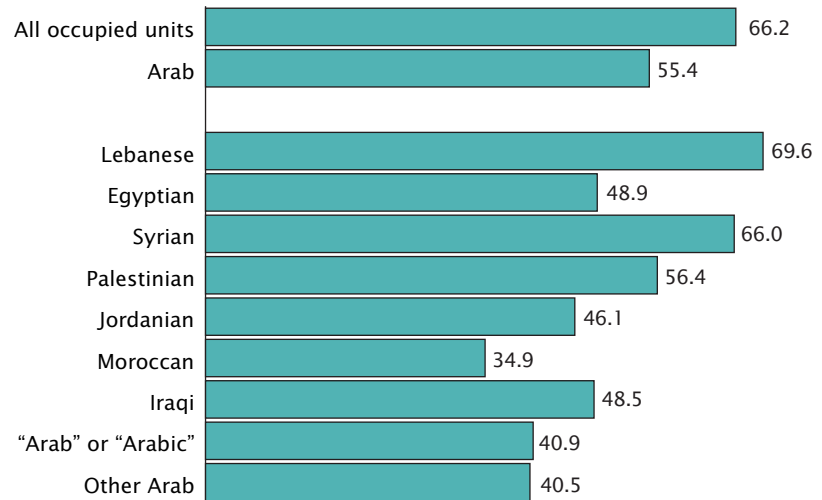
## More than half of Arab householders owned their homes.

- While more Arab householders owned their homes than rented, this proportion (55 percent) was smaller than the corresponding proportion of the general population (66 percent).
- Among the Arab groups, Lebanese had the highest homeownership rate (70 percent), while Moroccans had the lowest (35 percent).

Figure 15.

### Homeownership Rate: 2000

(Percentage of occupied housing units. Homeownership of the detailed group is shown by the ancestry of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

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## ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households that responded to the Census 2000 long form.

Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, and hence of people living in those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from sampling, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 4 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, Accuracy of the Data, located at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)>.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: first, errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and second, errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher-income categories and overstated for the lower-income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

All statements in this Census 2000 Special Report have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. The estimates in the tables and figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, the estimates used to summarize statistics for one population group may not be statistically different from estimates for another population group. Further information on

the accuracy of the data is located at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)>. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 and Summary File 4 data are available from the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site <[factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov)>. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)> or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Briefs and Census 2000 Special Reports series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html)>. These series present information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For more information on Arabs and other ancestry groups in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html)>.

To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Table 2.  
**Selected Characteristics of the Arab Population—Alone, in Combination With Non-Arab, and Total: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

Characteristic	Number			Percent		
	Alone	In combination	Total	Alone	In combination	Total
<b>Total Arab</b> .....	<b>850,027</b>	<b>339,704</b>	<b>1,189,731</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>AGE</b>						
Under 18 years .....	214,011	141,234	355,245	25.2	41.6	29.9
18 to 64 years .....	559,875	188,789	748,664	65.9	55.6	62.9
65 years and over .....	76,141	9,681	85,822	9.0	2.8	7.2
Median age (years) .....	33.1	23.2	30.8	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>						
<b>Population 15 years and over</b> .....	<b>664,703</b>	<b>218,653</b>	<b>883,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Never married .....	177,470	87,290	264,760	26.7	39.9	30.0
Married .....	403,128	105,028	508,156	60.6	48.0	57.5
Separated, widowed, or divorced .....	84,105	26,335	110,440	12.7	12.0	12.5
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>						
<b>Households with an Arab householder</b> .....	<b>330,861</b>	<b>95,931</b>	<b>426,792</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Family households .....	237,050	62,312	299,362	71.6	65.0	70.1
Married couple .....	197,883	49,530	247,413	59.8	51.6	58.0
Female householder, no spouse present .....	20,282	9,172	29,454	6.1	9.6	6.9
Male householder, no spouse present .....	18,885	3,610	22,495	5.7	3.8	5.3
Nonfamily households .....	93,811	33,619	127,430	28.4	35.0	29.9
<b>NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP</b>						
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>850,027</b>	<b>339,704</b>	<b>1,189,731</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Native .....	394,796	308,685	703,481	46.4	90.9	59.1
Foreign born .....	455,231	31,019	486,250	53.6	9.1	40.9
Naturalized .....	240,490	16,446	256,936	28.3	4.8	21.6
Not a citizen .....	214,741	14,573	229,314	25.3	4.3	19.3
<b>FOREIGN BORN BY YEAR OF ENTRY</b>						
<b>Foreign-born population</b> .....	<b>455,231</b>	<b>31,019</b>	<b>486,250</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Before 1970 .....	43,734	5,368	49,102	9.6	17.3	10.1
1970 to 1979 .....	79,084	6,257	85,341	17.4	20.2	17.6
1980 to 1989 .....	122,827	7,693	130,520	27.0	24.8	26.8
1990 to 2000 .....	209,586	11,701	221,287	46.0	37.7	45.5
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING ABILITY</b>						
<b>Population 5 years and over</b> .....	<b>782,052</b>	<b>298,661</b>	<b>1,080,713</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Only English at home .....	244,436	246,372	490,808	31.3	82.5	45.4
Non-English at home, English spoken "very well" .....	346,993	39,398	386,391	44.4	13.2	35.8
Non-English at home, English spoken less than "very well" .....	190,623	12,891	203,514	24.4	4.3	18.8
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>						
<b>Population 25 years and over</b> .....	<b>548,279</b>	<b>161,068</b>	<b>709,347</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
High school graduate or more .....	460,334	150,945	611,279	84.0	93.7	86.2
Bachelor's degree or more .....	226,138	71,704	297,842	41.2	44.5	42.0
<b>LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION</b>						
<b>Men 16 years and over</b> .....	<b>379,528</b>	<b>102,581</b>	<b>482,109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
In labor force .....	278,175	82,366	360,541	73.3	80.3	74.8
<b>Women 16 years and over</b> .....	<b>275,843</b>	<b>109,009</b>	<b>384,852</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
In labor force .....	125,485	76,010	201,495	45.5	69.7	52.4
<b>OCCUPATION</b>						
<b>Employed civilian population 16 years and over</b> .....	<b>380,893</b>	<b>150,193</b>	<b>531,086</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Management, professional, and related occupations .....	160,090	67,262	227,352	42.0	44.8	42.8
Service occupations .....	44,447	18,988	63,435	11.7	12.6	11.9
Sales and office occupations .....	114,874	44,458	159,332	30.2	29.6	30.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	424	212	636	0.1	0.1	0.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations .....	20,573	7,998	28,571	5.4	5.3	5.4
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations .....	40,909	11,487	52,396	10.7	7.6	9.9
<b>EARNINGS, INCOME, AND POVERTY (in 1999)</b>						
Median earnings (dollars) for males <sup>1</sup> .....	41,687	47,307	42,300	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median earnings (dollars) for females <sup>1</sup> .....	31,842	33,113	32,168	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median income (dollars) for families .....	52,318	66,195	55,673	(X)	(X)	(X)
Individuals below the poverty level <sup>2</sup> .....	139,746	23,293	163,039	16.7	7.0	13.9
<b>HOMEOWNERSHIP</b>						
<b>Occupied housing units</b> .....	<b>330,861</b>	<b>95,931</b>	<b>426,792</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Owner occupied .....	184,840	61,782	246,622	55.9	64.4	57.8

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Based on full-time, year-round workers.

<sup>2</sup>Poverty status was determined for everyone except individuals in institutions, military group quarters, and college dormitories, and individuals under age 15 unrelated to the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.