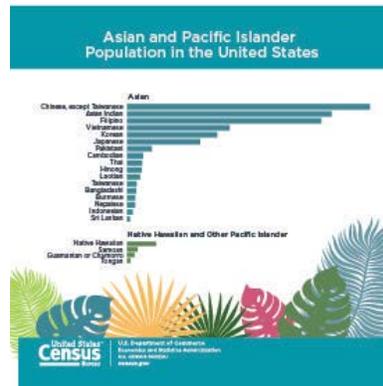


Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: May 2018



News Graphic < [pdf](#) | [jpg](#) >

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869.

In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration that is now known as Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Per a 1997 U.S. Office of Management and Budget directive, the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: one being Asian and the other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Thus, this Facts for Features contains a section for each.

The following facts are made possible by the invaluable responses to the U.S. Census Bureau's surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure America's people, places and economy.

Asian Population

Did You Know?

21.4 million

The estimated number of Asian alone or in combination residents in the United States in 2016.
Source: [2016 Population Estimates](#)

4.9 million

The estimated number of the Asian population of Chinese, except Taiwanese, descent in the United States in 2016. The Chinese (except Taiwanese) population was the largest Asian group, followed by Asian Indian (4.1 million), Filipino (3.9 million), Vietnamese (2.1 million), Korean (1.8 million) and Japanese (1.5 million). These estimates represent the number of people who reported a specific detailed Asian group alone, as well as people who reported that detailed Asian group in combination with one or more other detailed Asian groups or another race(s).

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

2.5%

The percentage of Asian alone or in combination military veterans in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

52.3%

The percentage of the Asian alone or in combination population age 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

87.2%

The percentage of the Asian alone or in combination population age 25 and older who had at least a high school diploma or equivalency in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

530,406

The estimated number of Asian-owned employer firms in the United States in 2015.

Source: [2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs](#)

Voting Rates

- [Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2016](#)
- [Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2014](#)

More Stats

See a [detailed profile](#) on the Asian population from the 2016 American Community Survey. Statistics include:

- Sex and age
- Marital status
- Employment status
- Occupation
- Commuting
- Housing
- Income

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population

Did You Know?

1.5 million

The estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination residents of the United States in 2016.

Source: [2016 Population Estimates](#)

582,477

The number of Native Hawaiian residents of the United States in 2016. The Native Hawaiian population was the largest detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) group, followed by Samoan (207,003) and Guamanian or Chamorro (150,521). These estimates represent the number of people who reported a specific detailed NHPI group alone, as well as people who reported that detailed NHPI group in combination with one or more other detailed NHPI groups or another race(s).

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

7.5%

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination military veterans in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

22.3%

The percentage of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination population age 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

88.2%

The percentage of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination population age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma or equivalency in 2016.

Source: [2016 American Community Survey](#)

4,658

The estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned employer firms in the United States in 2015.

Source: [2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs](#)

More Stats

See a [detailed profile](#) on the Pacific Islander population from the 2016 American Community Survey. Statistics include:

- Sex and age
- Marital status
- Employment status
- Occupation
- Commuting
- Housing
- Income

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Editor's note: As a matter of policy, the Census Bureau does not advocate the use of the *alone* population over the *alone-or-in-combination* population or vice versa. The use of the *alone* population in sections of this report does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The same is true for sections of this report that focus on the *alone-or-in-combination* population. Data on race can be presented and discussed in a variety of ways.

The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines.