

## American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2018

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, rode horseback from state to state to get endorsements from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994, and we now refer to this celebration as “American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.” This Facts for Features presents statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives, as this is one of the six major race categories defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

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.

### Did You Know?

#### **6.8 million**

The nation’s American Indian and Alaska Native population, including those of more than one race.

Source: [Vintage 2017 Population Estimates](#)

#### **10.0 million**

The projected American Indian and Alaska Native population, including those of more than one race, on July 1, 2060. They would constitute 2.5 percent of the total population.

Source: [2017 National Population Projections, Tables 4 and 5](#)

#### **141,494**

The estimated number of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native civilian veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2017.

Source: [2017 American Community Survey](#)

#### **326**

The number of distinct federally recognized American Indian reservations in 2016, including federal reservations and off-reservation trust land.

Source: [2017 U.S. Gazetteer Files](#)

## 573

The number of federally recognized Indian tribes in 2018.

Source: [Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2018](#)

## 29,089

The estimated number of American Indian and Alaska Native-owned employer firms in 2016.

Source: [2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs](#)

### **More Stats**

See a [detailed profile](#) on the American Indian and Alaska Native population from the 2017 American Community Survey. Statistics include:

- Families
- Housing
- Languages
- Education
- Jobs
- Income and Poverty
- Health Insurance

### **Related News Products**

- [My Tribal Area Data Tool](#)
- [New Detailed Statistics on Race, Hispanic Origin, Ancestry and Tribal Groups](#)

### **Previous Facts for Features**

- [FFF: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: 2017](#)
- [FFF: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: 2016](#)

### **Stats for Stories**

- [Native American Heritage Day](#)

### **Previous Graphics**

- [AIAN Population: Percent of Total Population](#)
- [American Indian and Alaska Native-Owned Businesses in the U.S.](#)

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The following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)  
Women's History Month (March)  
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)  
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)  
The Fourth of July (July 4)

Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)  
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)  
Halloween (Oct. 31)  
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)  
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)  
Thanksgiving Day/Holiday Season (November-December)

**Editor's note:** 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. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; or e-mail: [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov).

*Profile America's [Facts for Features](#) provides statistics related to observances and holidays not covered by Stats for Stories. For observances not listed below, visit our [Stats for Stories](#) web page.*

*Profile America's [Stats for Stories](#) provides links to timely story ideas highlighting the Census Bureau's newsworthy statistics that relate to current events, observances, holidays, and anniversaries. The story ideas are intended to assist the media in story mining and producing content for their respective audiences. Dates with Presidential Proclamations are marked with (P).*

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