ASIAN-AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHICS

Asians are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States, and the reason is immigration. They are a diverse lot—with varied backgrounds and native tongues, and sharply different current socioeconomic statuses.

Asian-American Population

Growth of selected U.S. populations during the 1980s

Asians as a percentage of all immigrants to the United States

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Source: Population Reference Bureau.

Note: Latin Americans equal 42% of incoming immigrants.
Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Ethnic origins of Asian-Americans

Vital Statistics on Asian-Americans

Average for all Asian-Americans = 100

Rate of college completion

Unemployment rate

Median family income

Family poverty rate

Professional or managerial job-holding

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 data

Where Asian-Americans Live

Not surprisingly, Asian-Americans reside largely in our western states, particularly California, and they live almost exclusively in metropolitan areas. Their population has grown over the last decade or so to the point where they now outnumber blacks and Hispanics in a number of states.

Region of residence

Asian-American Geography

Percentage of all Asian-Americans living in California 40%
Percentage of all Asian-Americans living in metropolitan areas 94%
Top 10 Asian-American metro areas

Los Angeles-Long Beach 955,000
New York City 556,000
Honolulu 526,000
San Francisco 330,000
Oakland 270,000
San Jose 261,000
Anaheim-Santa Ana 249,000
Chicago 230,000
Washington, D.C. 202,000
San Diego 195,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 data
As a group, Asians are notable for their economic successes: their median family income exceeds that of whites by a slight margin. Many Asians came to the United States with high levels of training and they vigorously pursue education here.

### States where Asians now equal or outnumber blacks

- California
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Maine
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming

### States where Asians now equal or outnumber Hispanics

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Maine
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 data

### Economic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Median Family Income</th>
<th>Average number of earners per family</th>
<th>Unemployment rate</th>
<th>Poverty rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian-Americans</td>
<td>$35,900</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>26,200</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All U.S.</td>
<td>34,200</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Educational Attainment

- Percentage of persons 25 and over with four or more years of college, 1990
  - Asian-Americans: 40%
  - Non-Hispanic whites: 23%
  - Blacks: 12%
  - Hispanics: 10%
  - All U.S.: 21%

- Percentage of 1980 high school seniors who earned a bachelor's degree by February 1986
  - Asian-Americans: 29%
  - Non-Hispanic whites: 21%
  - Blacks: 10%
  - Hispanics: 7%
  - All U.S.: 19%


### Occupations

- Percentage holding professional or managerial jobs
  - Indians: 47%
  - Chinese: 30%
  - Japanese: 28%
  - Koreans: 22%
  - Whites: 24%

There are several other distinctive patterns behind the impressive accomplishments of Asian-Americans. They tend to have strong, intact traditional families. And they have emphasized business and entrepreneurialism while generally avoiding politics.

### Family characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage living in married-couple families</th>
<th>Percentage of persons aged 15 years and older who are divorced</th>
<th>Teen births as a percentage of all births within group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian-Americans</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Whites</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All U.S. = 69%</td>
<td></td>
<td>All U.S. = 7%</td>
<td>All U.S. = 13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Asian-Americans holding political jobs

- **U.S. Congress**: 6 out of 535 seats
- **Los Angeles City Council**: 1 out of 15 seats
- **New York City Council**: 0 out of 51 seats


### Percentage of entrepreneurs among Asian-Americans

- **Koreans**: 10%
- **Indians**: 8%
- **Japanese**: 7%
- **Chinese**: 6%
- **Vietnamese**: 5%
- **Filipino**: 3%

*Source: Estimates by Professor William O’Hare, University of Louisville, from U.S. Bureau of the Census data for 1987.*

### Businesses owned by Asian-Americans

**1977**
- Japanese: 27,000
- Chinese: 23,000
- Other: 83,000

**1987**
- Chinese: 50,000
- Korean: 54,000
- Japanese: 52,000
- Indian: 52,000
- Filipino: 40,000
- Vietnamese: 26,000
- Other: 25,000
- Total: 355,000

*Note: In 1987, black Americans (who were four times as numerous as Asians) owned 424,000 businesses, while Hispanics (three times as numerous) owned 422,000.*

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.*