

# Rhode Island State Data Center Census Data Bulletin

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## Asians and Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island

May is National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and this month's Bulletin explores the demographic profile of Asian and Pacific Islander populations in Rhode Island. While representing just 3.1% of Rhode Island residents, the Asian population is growing fast both nationally and in Rhode Island. Between the 2000 and 2010 Censuses, the percentage growth of the U.S. Asian\* population, 45.6%, was the highest among the major race groups (does not include Hispanic or Latino which are considered ethnicities). In Rhode Island, the Asian population grew 28.7% in the same period. The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander\* population comprises just 0.1% of the state, although its national growth rate is second highest at 40.1%.

The following statistics on Asian population trends come from 2010-2012 3-year American Community Survey data or 2010 Census data, while data on Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders come solely from the 2010 Census because of their smaller numbers in the state. The nature and the timeline of the two surveys differ such that their data should not be directly compared to one another.

Because these two racial groups are experiencing significant growth, it's important for planners to consider the housing, community, and economic development needs of these communities.

### Children and Adults

Taken as a whole, the Asian and Pacific Islander populations of Rhode Island are younger than the population at large. In 2010, median age was ten years younger for these populations—29.2 for the Asian population and 27.8 for the Pacific Islander population—

## BY THE NUMBERS

**32,243 & 2,803** - R.I. residents who are Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, respectively

**29.3 & 27.8 years old** - Median age of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents

**21,200** - Asian foreign-born population, of which 42.5% are naturalized U.S. citizens

**\$53,540** - Median household earnings of Rhode Island Asian residents

Source: American Community Survey 2010-2012 3-year data and U.S. Census 2010 data

compared with the median age of 39.4 for the entire state population.

The education gap among the Asian population in Rhode Island is greater than in the state overall. When compared with the general population, Asians have a greater share both of individuals with *less than a high school diploma* and individuals with a *bachelor's or graduate degree*. This is a reverse trend of the overall state population, which is most likely to have educational attainment at the high school or "some college" level. These data are for the population ages 25 and older.

| EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT                      | R.I. Asian alone | Rhode Island |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Population 25 years and over                | 19,090           | 710,902      |
| Less than high school diploma               | 23.3%            | 15.2%        |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 18.6%            | 27.1%        |
| Some college or associate's degree          | 15.3%            | 26.7%        |
| Bachelor's degree                           | 22.2%            | 18.6%        |
| Graduate or professional degree             | 20.3%            | 12.4%        |

Source: 2010-2012 3-Year American Community Survey

## ABOUT THE DATA

Data in this Bulletin are drawn from American Community Survey's 3-year dataset for 2010-2012 (which are the most current 3-year data) and the 2010 Decennial Census. The American Community Survey data are the most up-to-date, including survey data from 2010, 2011, and 2012, but ACS data tend to have high margins of error for smaller populations, such as the Pacific Islander population in Rhode Island.

\*Alone or in combination

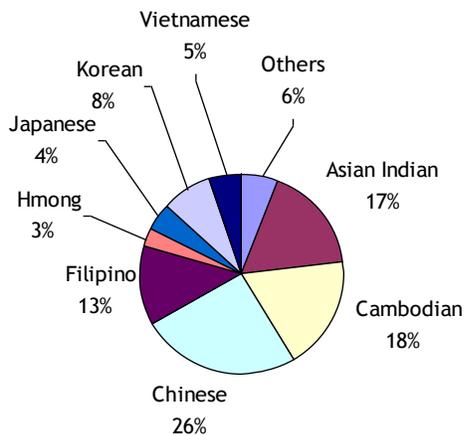
## A Variety of Backgrounds

In Rhode Island, 34.2% of the Asian population was born in the United States while 65.8% or 21,200 were born abroad, according to 2012 3-year ACS data. Of those born abroad, 42.5% or 9,015 are naturalized U.S. citizens. Additionally, more of the foreign-born are female than male (55.9% vs. 44.1%). According to the 2010 Census, the Asian population is very diverse as can be seen in the chart below. People of Chinese, Cambodian, Asian Indian and Filipino origins in Rhode Island represent the biggest Asian ethnic groups but are not a majority in themselves.

Immigrants from Asia account for 17.0% of all foreign-born residents of Rhode Island, the third largest group of immigrants by continent after Latin America and Europe. According to ACS 3-year data, about half of the Asian foreign-born population of Rhode Island entered the United States before 2000. About a third entered between 2000 and 2009 (36.2%) and 12.7% entered 2010 or later, which is a fairly high share of the population given that ACS surveys for this dataset were administered in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Turning to linguistics, 21.0% of the Asian population in Rhode Island speaks English only. Of the rest of the population who speaks language other than English at home, 39.5% speak English less than “very well.”

### Ethnicities of Asian Alone or in Combination in Rhode Island



Source: 2010 U.S. Census Data

## Employment

According to the 2010-2012 ACS, 62.8% of the Asian population is in the labor force, slightly less than the state rate of 66.0%. Of the Asian civilian employed population 16 years and over, a little less than half are employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations. The table shows the breakdown of occupations within the Asian population in Rhode Island. A very high proportion of Rhode Islanders of Asian origins, 89.9%, are employed as private wage and salary workers.

On average, Asian residents in Rhode Island make less than their counterparts. The median household income for

| OCCUPATION                                       | R.I. Asian alone | Rhode Island |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| Management, business, science, and arts          | 40.5%            | 36.2%        |
| Service occupations                              | 17.6%            | 20.2%        |
| Sales and office                                 | 18.8%            | 24.9%        |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 2.9%             | 7.1%         |
| Production, transportation, and material moving  | 20.2%            | 11.6%        |

Source: 2010-2012 3-Year American Community Survey

Asian-headed households is \$53,450 compared to the state's median household income of \$54,900 according to 2012 3-year ACS data. Median family income for Asians is \$66,595 compared to the state's median family income of \$71,316. Additionally, 19.5% of Asians live in poverty in Rhode Island, compared to the state's rate of 14.3%.

## Housing and Households

Rhode Island Asians and Pacific Islanders have larger households and families on average, which impacts housing needs. According to the 2010 Census, the average household size for Asian residents is 3.30 and the average family size is 3.87. For Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, the average household size is 3.19 and the average family size is 3.77. These figures are higher than the statewide averages, which are 2.44 and 3.04 respectively. In both Asian and Pacific Islander populations, owner-occupied households have a higher average size compared with renter-occupied households (3.6 vs. 3.0).

Median gross rent for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island is very low at \$438; median gross rent for Asian population is \$967 and for the state overall it is \$891. About half of Asians live in owner-occupied homes (48.4%), while only about a third of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders do (33.7%). In the state population overall, 60.7% of residents live in owner-occupied housing units.

## TO LEARN MORE...

To explore the more data from the American Community Survey, visit the U.S. Census website, [American FactFinder](http://www.census.gov). You can locate data from a particular dataset or year by going to Advanced Search > Topics > Year or Advanced Search > Topics > Dataset. Municipalities fewer than 20,000 residents will need to consult 5-year data, and for research on immigrant communities, the 5-year dataset is likely to give you the best data at the level of detail that you need.

For information about R.I. State Data Center resources, contact Vincent Flood at [vincent.flood@doa.ri.gov](mailto:vincent.flood@doa.ri.gov) or Amanda Martin at [amanda.martin@doa.ri.gov](mailto:amanda.martin@doa.ri.gov) and visit the website at <http://www.planning.ri.gov/geodeminfo/data/index.php>.