

# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2017

MAY 2017

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 anniversaries: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 10, 1869). In 1992, Congress expanded the 10-day observance to a month-long celebration.

## 73,564

The number of Iowa residents in 2015 who say they are Asian  
This group comprises 2.4 percent of Iowa's total population.

## 100.8%

The percent change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2015.  
This is a 36,929 numeric increase for the period.

## 129,678

The projected number of Iowa residents who will identify themselves as either Asian or native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2050 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

## 3,209

The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more races in 2015. This group comprises 0.10 percent of Iowa's total population.

## 218%

The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders alone from 2000 to 2015. This is a numeric increase of 2,200 for the period.

## Coming to America

### 35.8%

The percent of Iowa's foreign born population in 2015 who were born in Asia.

### 79.9%

The percentage of Iowa's Asian foreign-born who entered the United States since 1990.

### 38.6%

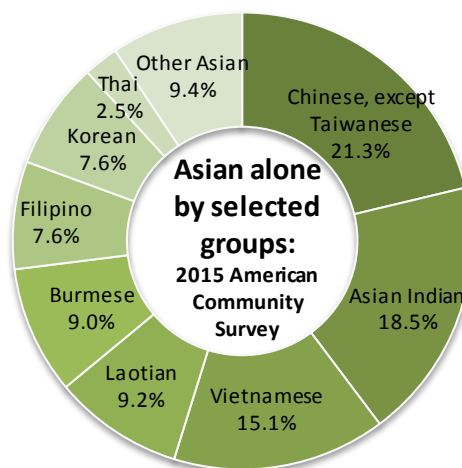
The percentage of Iowa's foreign-born in 2015 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the Iowa foreign-born population as a whole is 37.4 percent.

### 12,214

The estimated number of foreign-born people from China in 2015. After Mexico, China is the leading country of birth for the state's foreign-born. Also among the top 10 countries of birth for Iowa's foreign-born population are India (9,566), Vietnam (5,607), Korea (4,911), and the Philippines (3,709).

## 3.48

The average family size for those who reported their race as Asian. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 2.99.



# Counties and cities

## Top 5 Counties of Residence for all Asians in Iowa: 2015

Polk	20,095	27.3%
Johnson	9,174	12.5%
Story	7,489	10.2%
Linn	5,187	7.1%
Scott	4,626	6.3%

## Top 5 Counties of Residence for all Native Hawaiians and/or Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: 2015

Black Hawk	327	10.2%
Polk	319	9.9%
Dubuque	310	9.7%
Buena Vista	253	7.9%
Linn	241	7.5%

## Percentage of all Native Hawaiian /Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: Top 5 Cities of Residence: 2010

Dubuque	13.4%
Waterloo	9.8%
Des Moines	7.4%
Cedar Rapids	7.3%
Sioux City	5.1%

## Percentage of all Asians in Iowa: Top 5 Cities of Residence: 2010

Des Moines	16.9%
Ames	9.7%
Iowa City	8.8%
Cedar Rapids	5.3%
West Des Moines	5.1%

## 20,095

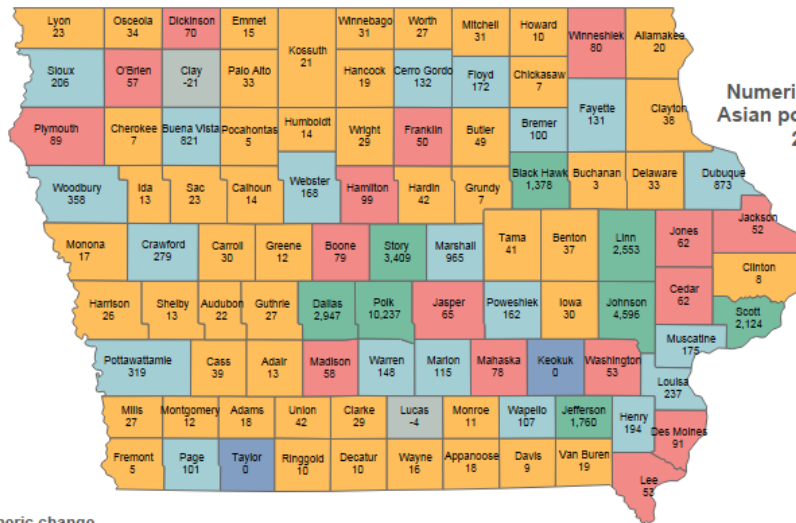
The number of Asians in Polk county in 2015, which has the largest population of this race of any Iowa county. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (10,237) of people in this group between 2000 and 2015.

Jefferson county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (11.6 percent).

## 327

The number of native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Black Hawk county in 2015, which leads all counties in Iowa.

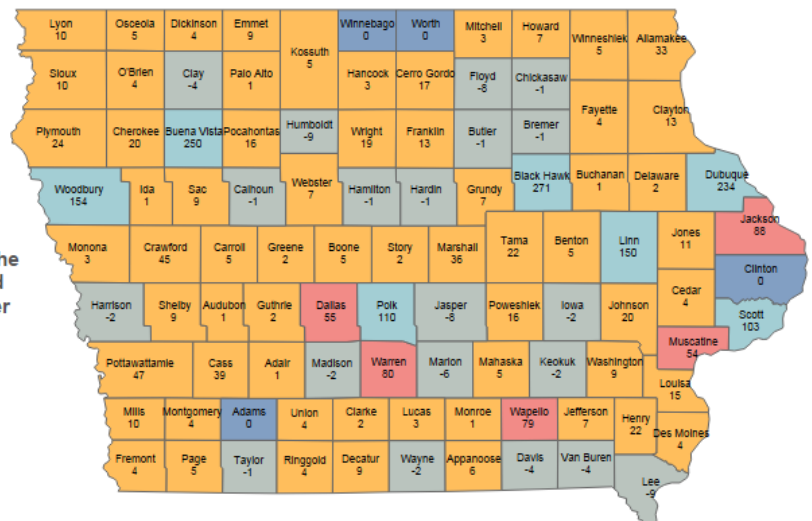
Buena Vista county is where native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion (1.2 percent) of the total population.



Numeric change for the Asian population in Iowa: 2000-2015

**Numeric change**  
 Population decline  
 No change  
 1-49  
 50-99  
 100-999  
 Over 1,000

Numeric change for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in Iowa: 2000-2015



# Education

**15,022**

The number Asian and Pacific Islanders enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2016-2017 school year.

**67.9%**

Percent increase in enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2016-2017.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**44.9%**

The percentage of Asians in 2015, age 25 and over, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education. Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the state. The corresponding rate for all lowans in this age group is 26.8 percent.

**83.8%**

The percentage of Asians in 2015, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans is 91.7 percent.

**25.8%**

The percentage of Asians in 2015, age 25 and over, who have a graduate degree (e.g., master's, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). The corresponding rate for all adults in the age group is 8.7 percent.

**80.1%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates.

**11.9%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education.

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey

## Languages

**14,037**

The number of people who speak Chinese at home in 2015. Chinese is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (8,408), Laotian (4,338); Korean (2,087); and Tagalog (2,683).

## Age

**34.0%**

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population that are under 18 in 2015; 4.0 percent are 65 or over.

**27.0**

The median age of Iowa's native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population in 2014.

**24.9%**

The percentage of people identifying themselves as Asian that are under 18; 5.4 percent are 65 or over.

**28.6**

The median age of Iowa's Asian population in 2015. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.1

Source: 2015 Population estimates

## Families

**14,595**

The number of families with householders who reported their race as Asian in 2015.

**7,467**

The numeric change in families with householders who reported their race as Asian between 2000-2015. This is a 104.8 percent increase for the period.

# Income and poverty

**\$51,202**

The median income of households in 2015 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is \$54,736.

**\$47,488**

The median income of households whose householders reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2015.

**20.7%**

The poverty rate in 2015 for those who reported their race as Asian. The corresponding rate for Iowa as a whole is 12.2 percent.

## Serving Our Nation

**441**

The number of Asian-American military veterans in 2015.



State Data  
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<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/capi>

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## Vital Statistics

**16.9**

The Asian/Pacific Islander birth rate per 1,000 population in 2015. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was 12.6.

**198.4**

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2015. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was 356.3.

# Employment

## Business

**4,310**

The number of Asian-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**101**

The number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**153.4%**

The percent increase in Asian and of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms between 1997 and 2012.

Source: 2012 & 1997 Survey of Business Owners Survey SBO is conducted every 5 years, with 2012 being the most current dataset available.

**7.0%**

The unemployment rate in 2015 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all Iowans is 4.5%.

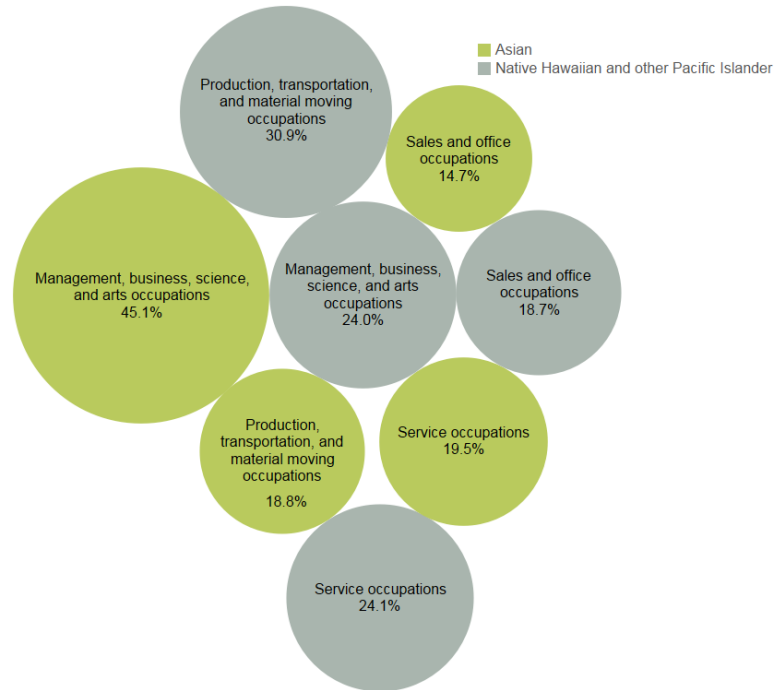
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

**13.6%**

The unemployment rate in for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Source: 2011- 2015 American Community Survey

Occupation for Asian and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders in Iowa



Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey

**27.1**

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2015. The rate for the state was 41.6.

**1.8**

The Asian/Pacific Islander death rate per 1,000 population in 2015. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was 9.4.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2015"

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2015 American Community Survey  
U.S. Decennial Census 1990,  
2000 and 2010  
Photos by the U.S. Census Bureau