

Asian/Pacific Americans in Iowa: 2022

May 2022

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.

30.0

The median age of Iowa's Asian population in 2019.

The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.5

75,629

The population of who will identify themselves as Asian alone in Iowa according to the 2020 Census. This group comprises 2.4% of Iowa's total population.

106.4%

The percent change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2020. This is a 38,994 numeric increase for the period.

170,813

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.. That will be 5.0% of the total state population.

5,758

The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in the 2020 Census. This group comprises 0.2% of Iowa's total population.

470.7%

The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders alone from 2000 to 2020. This is a numeric increase of 4,749 for that period.

Coming to America

35.1%

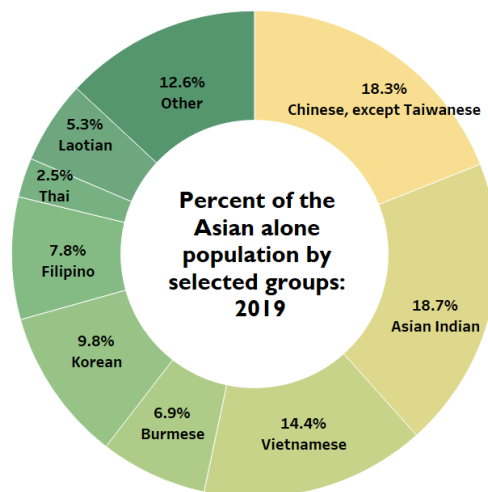
The percent of Iowa's foreign born population in 2019 who were born in Asia. The total foreign-born population in Iowa was 177,769

79.3%

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

50.0%

The percentage of Iowa's foreign-born in 2019 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the Iowa foreign-born population as a whole is 46.4 percent.



10,829

The estimated number of foreign-born people in Iowa from China according to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey. After Mexico, China is the second 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 (**10,615**), Vietnam (**7,899**), Bosnia and Herzegovina (**5,547**), Korea (**5,433**), the Philippines (**4,762**), and Burma (**4,306**).

Top 5 counties and cities of residence for all Asian alone in Iowa

County	2020	2010	Percent Change
Polk	24,510	15,220	61.0%
Johnson	8,599	6,819	26.1%
Story	5,461	5,383	1.4%
Linn	5,374	3,806	41.2%
Dallas	5,009	1,662	201.4%

City	2020	2010	Percent Change
Des Moines	14,474	8,990	61.0%
Iowa City	5,482	4,680	17.7%
Ames	5,258	5,175	1.6%
West	4,814	2,709	77.7%
Cedar Rapids	3,764	2,796	34.6%

Top 5 counties and cities of residence for all Native Hawaiians and/or other Pacific Islanders alone in Iowa

County	2020	2010	Percent Change
Black Hawk	854	201	324.9%
Dubuque	829	288	187.8%
Woodbury	661	106	523.6%
Buena Vista	620	100	520.0%
Linn	528	180	193.3%

City	2020	2010	Percent Change
Dubuque	798	268	197.8%
Waterloo	712	197	261.4%
Sioux City	641	102	528.4%
Ottumwa	504	47	972.3%
Cedar Rapids	488	147	232.0%

Counties and cities

24,510

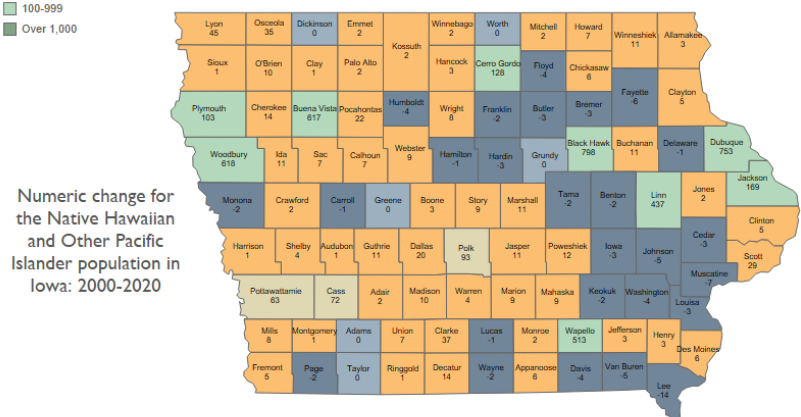
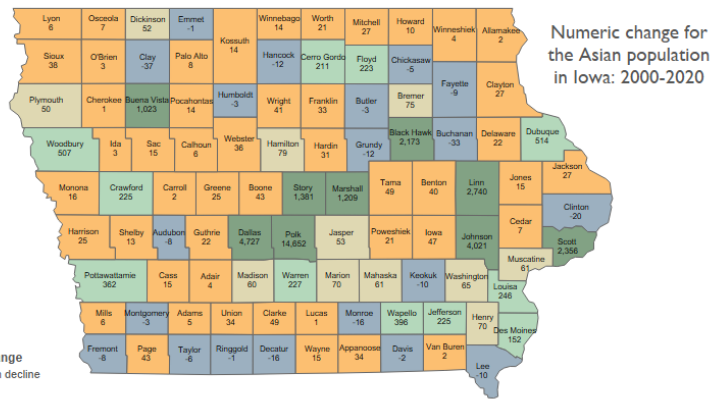
The number of Asians in Polk county in 2020, which leads all counties in Iowa. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (9,290) of people in this group between 2010 and 2020.

Jefferson county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (8.5 percent).

854

The number of native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Black Hawk county in 2020, which leads all counties in Iowa.

Buena Vista county is where native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion (3.0 percent) of the total population.



Education

16,158

The number Asian and Pacific Islanders enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2021-2022 school year.

80.6%

Percent increase in enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2021-2022.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

51.0%

The percentage of Asians in 2019, 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 **29.3 percent**.

79.8%

The percentage of Asians in 2019, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans is **92.6 percent**.

28.7%

The percentage of Asians in 2019, 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 **9.5 percent**.

21.0%

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

79.6%

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

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Languages

12,515

The number of people who speak Chinese at home in 2019. Chinese is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (9,781), Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai (4,631); Korean (4,401); and Tagalog (3,486).

Age

38.3%

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population that are under 18; 3.6 percent are 65 or over.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

22.3%

The percentage of people identifying themselves as Asian in 2019 that are under 18; 6.5 percent are 65 or over.

Serving Our Nation

829

The number of Asian-American and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander American military veterans.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Income and poverty

\$58,431

The median income of households in 2019 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is **\$61,691**.

\$63,200

The median income of households whose householders reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2019.

14.5%

The poverty rate in 2019 for those who reported their race as Asian. The corresponding rate for Iowa as a whole is **11.2 percent**.

34.1%

The poverty rate for those who reported their race native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2019.



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Employment

3.9%

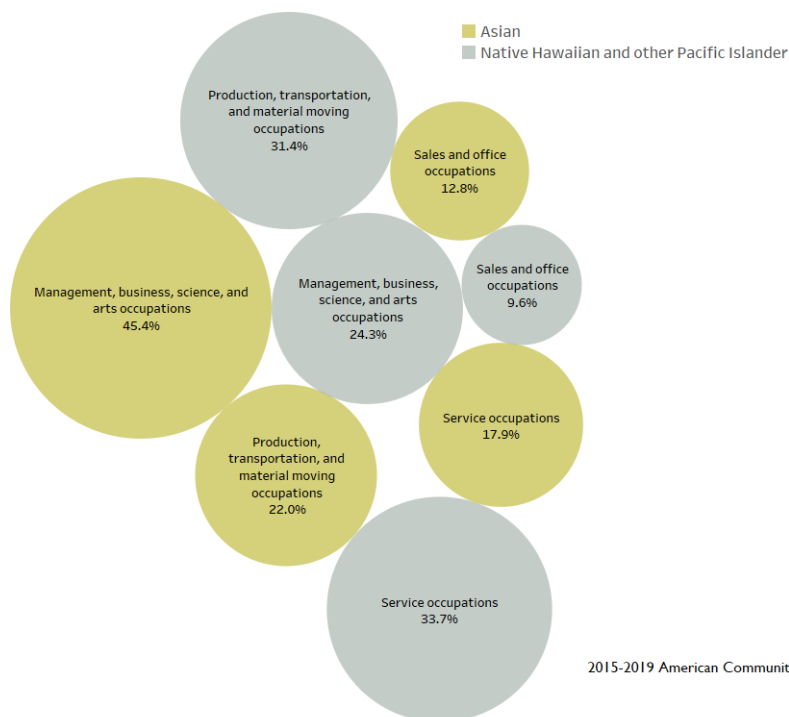
The unemployment rate in 2019 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all Iowans is **3.7**.

7.8%

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

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

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



Vital Statistics

14.2

The Asian/Pacific Islander birth rate per 1,000 population in 2020. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was **11.4**.

25.3

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2020. The rate for the state was **39.0**.

2.9

The Asian/Pacific Islander death rate per 1,000 population in 2020. The death rate per 1,000 for the state of Iowa was **11.3**.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "2020 Vital Statistics of Iowa"

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :
U.S. Census Bureau,
2019 American Community Survey
U.S. Decennial Census 2020, 2010,
and 2000

295.1

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2020. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was **366.1**.