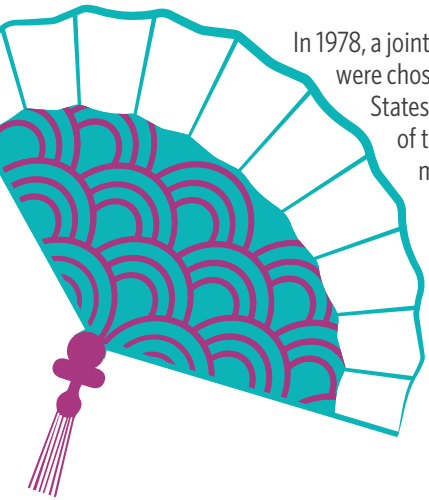


Fun Facts: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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 milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration that is now known as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



Total Asian Population

About 7% or 22 million – The number of Asians in the United States in 2019. These states have among the highest and lowest percentages of Asian residents:

17% California

had the largest Asian population.



2% Wyoming

had the lowest Asian population.



What's the Age?

Roughly 35 – Median age of the Asian population in 2019.

Asian-Owned Businesses

555,262 or (9.9%) or About 1 out of 10 – The estimated number of Asian-owned businesses in the United States. (This number only represents employer businesses.)

Birthplace Populations of Famous Asian Americans

- **Lucy Liu** – Queens, New York (Pop. – **2,253,858**)
Award winning TV and film actress of Chinese descent.
- **Bruce Lee** – San Francisco, California (Pop. – **881,549**)
Famous martial artist, actor, and producer of Chinese descent.
- **Michelle Kwan** – Torrance, California (Pop. – **143,589**)
Professional U.S. women's figure skater and two-time Olympic medalist of Chinese descent.
- **Mindy Kaling** – Cambridge, Massachusetts (Pop. – **118,925**)
Actress, comedian, writer, producer, and director of Asian Indian American descent.
- **Patsy Mink** – Paia, Hawaii (Pop. – **2,249**)
First Asian American woman of Japanese descent elected to the U.S. Congress in 1964 and to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.
- **Ellison Onizuka** – Kealahou, Kona, Hawaii (Pop. – **1,923**)
First Asian American of Japanese descent to fly in space.

Educational Attainment

Of Asians 25 years and older, approximately...

- **About 1 out of 10** (12%) have less than a high school diploma.
- **About 2 out of 10** (15%) are high school graduates. (includes equivalency)
- **About 2 out of 10** (19%) have some college or associate's degree.
- **About 3 out of 10** (23%) have a bachelor's degree.
- **About 2 out of 10** (24%) have a graduate or professional degree.



Occupations

Held by the Asian population 16 years and older:

- **About 5 out of 10** (54%) work in management, business, science, and arts occupations.
- **About 2 out of 10** (17%) work in sales and office occupations.
- **About 2 out of 10** (17%) work in service occupations.
- **About 1 out of 10** (10%) work in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- **About 1 out of 10** (3%) work in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.



Notes: All of the data on this page, except the business data and birthplace populations, is for Asian alone or in combination with other races. Data is rounded for educational attainment and occupations and may not equal 100%.
Sources: Census Bureau QuickFacts; 2019 ACS 1-Year Estimates; 2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs; <https://www.biography.com/>; <https://www.britannica.com/>; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; <https://brucelee.com/bruce-lee/>; and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Fun Facts: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) Facts

Total NHPI Population

Less than one percent or 1.4 million – The number of NHPI residents in the United States in 2019.

These states have among the highest and lowest percentages of NHPI residents:

25% Hawaii
had the largest NHPI population.



0.1% Vermont
had the lowest NHPI population.



What's the Age?

Roughly 29 – Median age of the NHPI population in 2019.

NHPI-Owned Businesses

5,157 or 0.1% or About 1 out of 100 – The estimated number of NHPI-owned businesses in the United States. (This number only represents employer businesses.)

Educational Attainment

Of NHPI 25 years and older, approximately...

- **About 1 out of 10** (11%) have less than a high school diploma.
- **About 3 out of 10** (31%) are high school graduates. (includes equivalency)
- **About 3 out of 10** (34%) have some college or associate's degree.
- **About 2 out of 10** (16%) have a bachelor's degree.
- **About 1 out of 10** (7%) have a graduate or professional degree.



Birthplace Populations of Famous NHPI Americans

- **Daniel Kahikina Akaka** – Honolulu, Hawaii (Pop. – **974,563**)
First U.S. Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry.
- **Duke Paoa Kahanamoku** – Honolulu, Hawaii (Pop. – **974,563**)
Olympic swimmer of Native Hawaiian descent.
- **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** – Hayward, California (Pop. – **159,202**)
Actor and first ever 8-time WWE World Heavyweight Champion of Samoan and African American descent.
- **Leilani Münter** – Rochester, Minnesota (Pop. – **118,924**)
Professional race car driver and environmental activist of Japanese, Hawaiian, and German descent.
- **Jordan Ta'amu** – Pearl City, Hawaii (Pop. – **45,605**)
NFL quarterback of Samoan descent.
- **Joe Duarte** – Dededo, Guam - (Pop. – **44,943**)
Retired Mixed Martial Artist of native Chamorro descent.

Occupations

Held by the NHPI population 16 years and older:

- **About 3 out of 10** (32%) work in management, business, science, and arts occupations.
- **About 2 out of 10** (23%) work in sales and office occupations.
- **About 2 out of 10** (22%) work in service occupations.
- **About 2 out of 10** (15%) work in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- **About 1 out of 10** (8%) work in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.



Note: All of the data on this page, except the business data and birthplace populations, is for NHPI alone or in combination with other races. Data is rounded for educational attainment and occupations and may not equal 100%. Sources: Census Bureau QuickFacts; 2019 ACS 1-Year Estimates; 2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs; 2010 Census Guam; www.britannica.com/; www.leilani.green/bio; www.espn.com; www.dukeswaikiki.com/duke/; and the U.S. House of Representatives.