

We the People: Asians in the United States

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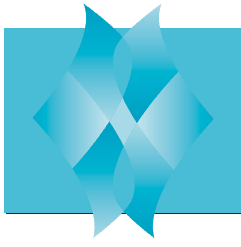
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We the People: Asians in the United States

This report provides a portrait of the Asian population in the United States and discusses the eleven largest detailed Asian groups at the national level, for example: Asian Indian, Cambodian, and Japanese.¹ It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000.

The Asian population is not homogeneous. It includes many groups who differ in language, culture, and length of residence in the United States. Some Asian groups, such as the Chinese and Japanese, have been represented in the United States for several generations. Other groups, such as the Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians, tend to be comparatively recent immigrants.

Of the total United States population, 11.9 million people, or 4.2 percent, reported they were Asian. This number included 10.2 million people, or 3.6 percent, who reported only Asian and 1.7 million people, or 0.6 percent, who reported Asian and at least one other race. Table 1 shows the number of people reporting a single race from among the detailed Asian groups and a tally of the number of times the group was reported.²

¹ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

² The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form.

Table 1.
Asian Population by Detailed Group: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)

Detailed group	Detailed Asian group alone		Detailed Asian group alone or in combination	
	Number	Percent of U.S. population	Number	Percent of U.S. population
Total	¹10,171,820	3.61	²11,859,446	4.21
Asian Indian	1,645,510	0.58	1,855,590	0.66
Cambodian	178,043	0.06	212,633	0.08
Chinese	2,422,970	0.86	2,858,291	1.02
Filipino	1,864,120	0.66	2,385,216	0.85
Hmong	170,049	0.06	184,842	0.07
Japanese	795,051	0.28	1,152,324	0.41
Korean	1,072,682	0.38	1,226,825	0.44
Laotian	167,792	0.06	196,893	0.07
Pakistani	155,909	0.06	209,273	0.07
Thai	110,851	0.04	150,093	0.05
Vietnamese	1,110,207	0.39	1,212,465	0.43
Other Asian	³ 478,636	0.17	⁴ 561,485	0.20

¹ Includes people who reported Asian only, regardless of whether they reported one or more detailed Asian groups.

² Includes people who reported one detailed Asian group, people who reported two or more detailed Asian groups, and people who reported one or more races other than Asian. The total is less than the sum of the rows because most people who reported two or more detailed Asian groups, such as Korean and Filipino, are tabulated once in each category, but only once in the total. People who reported two or more detailed Asian groups not listed above (e.g., Indonesian and Malaysian) are tabulated once in the "Other Asian" category.

³ Includes people who reported one Asian group not listed above and people who reported two or more Asian groups (and no other race), as well as people who checked only the "Other Asian" response category on the census questionnaire or wrote in a generic term such as "Asian or Asiatic."

⁴ Represents the number of people who reported one or more Asian groups excluding the groups listed above. The total of 561,465 includes 254,817 people who reported an Asian group not listed above (e.g., Bangladeshi), 32,308 people who reported two or more Asian groups not listed above (e.g., Indonesian and Malaysian), 261,237 people who reported an Asian group not listed above and one or more races other than Asian (e.g., Nepalese and White), and 13,123 people who reported two or more Asian groups not listed above and one or more races other than Asian (e.g., Indonesian and Sri Lankan and Black).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Census 2000 reported on six major race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,

and Some Other Race.³ The term

As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

³ The Census 2000 question on race included 15 separate response categories and three areas where respondents could write in a more specific race group. The response categories and write-in answers can be combined to create the five Office of Management and Budget (OMB) race categories plus Some Other Race. In addition to White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Some Other Race, seven of the 15 response categories are Asian and four are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Understanding Data On Race and Hispanic Origin From Census 2000

The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. For Census 2000, the questions on race and Hispanic origin were asked of every individual living in the United States and answers were based on self-identification.

Data on race have been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790. The question on race on Census 2000 was different from the one on the 1990 census in several ways. Most significantly, in 2000, respondents could select one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. Additionally, the 1990 "Asian or Pacific Islander" category was separated into two

categories, "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander."* Because of these changes, the Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 census or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the U.S. population over time.

Because Hispanics or Latinos may be of any race, data in this report for Asians overlap slightly with data for Hispanics. Data for

* A more detailed discussion of these changes is provided in Elizabeth M. Grieco and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>.

Asians include Hispanic Asians, who composed approximately 1.0 percent of the Asian population. The question on Hispanic origin for Census 2000 was similar to the 1990 census question, except for its placement on the questionnaire and a few wording changes. For Census 2000, the question on Hispanic origin was asked directly before the question on race. For the 1990 census, the question on race preceded questions on age and marital status, which were followed by the question on Hispanic origin. Additionally, in Census 2000, a note was included on the questionnaire asking respondents to complete both the question on Hispanic origin and the question on race.

Asian refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. Asian groups are not limited to nationalities but include ethnic terms as well, such as Hmong.

The analysis in this report pertains to the 11 Asian groups listed below and the residual category Other Asian.⁴ Each of these groups

⁴ The "Other Asian" group includes respondents who provided a specific entry that was not one of the eleven detailed groups, such as Bhutanese, Burmese, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, and so forth, as well as those respondents who checked the "Other Asian" response category on the census questionnaire or wrote in a generic term such as "Asian" or "Asiatic." This group includes multiple responses involving two or more detailed Asian groups and no other race groups.

compose at least 1 percent of the total Asian population.

Asian Indian	Korean
Cambodian	Laotian
Chinese	Pakistani
Filipino	Thai
Hmong	Vietnamese
Japanese	

The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: people who reported only one race and people who reported more than one of the six major race categories. People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the single-race population. For example, respondents who reported their race as one or more detailed Asian groups,

but no non-Asian race, would be included in the single-race Asian population, which is identified as Asian alone in tables in this report.⁵ Individuals who reported a specified race and one or more other major races are referred to as the race in-combination population. For example, respondents who reported they were Asian **and** Black or African American, or Asian **and** White **and** American Indian

⁵ Respondents reporting a single detailed Asian group, such as "Korean" or "Filipino," would be included in the Asian alone population in the tables. Respondents reporting more than one detailed Asian group, such as "Chinese and Japanese" or "Asian Indian and Chinese and Vietnamese" would also be included in the Asian alone population and tabulated here as "Other Asian." This is because all of the detailed groups in these example combinations are part of the larger Asian race category.

and Alaska Native, would be included in the Asian in-combination population.⁶

In the text and figures of this report, population characteristics are shown for Asian groups who reported only that group. However, this does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Table 2 summarizes characteristics for single-race Asians and for Asians who reported two or more

⁶ The race-in-combination categories use the conjunction ***and*** in bold and italicized print to link the race groups that compose the combination.

rac^{es}, and people who reported they were Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race. Data for the Asian single-race population, the Asian population regardless of whether they reported any other races, and the detailed Asian groups are available in Summary File 4, <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf>.

Two companion reports provide more information on these concepts and populations. The Census 2000 Brief *The Asian Population: 2000* analyzes population data collected from the short form questions in Census 2000. It shows the distribution of the Asian

population at both the national and subnational levels and of detailed Asian groups at the national level.⁷ In addition, the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* provides a complete explanation of the race categories used in Census 2000 and information on each of the six major race groups and the Hispanic-origin population at the national level.

⁷ Jessica S. Barnes and Claudette E. Bennett, 2002, *The Asian Population: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-16. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kbr01-16.pdf>.

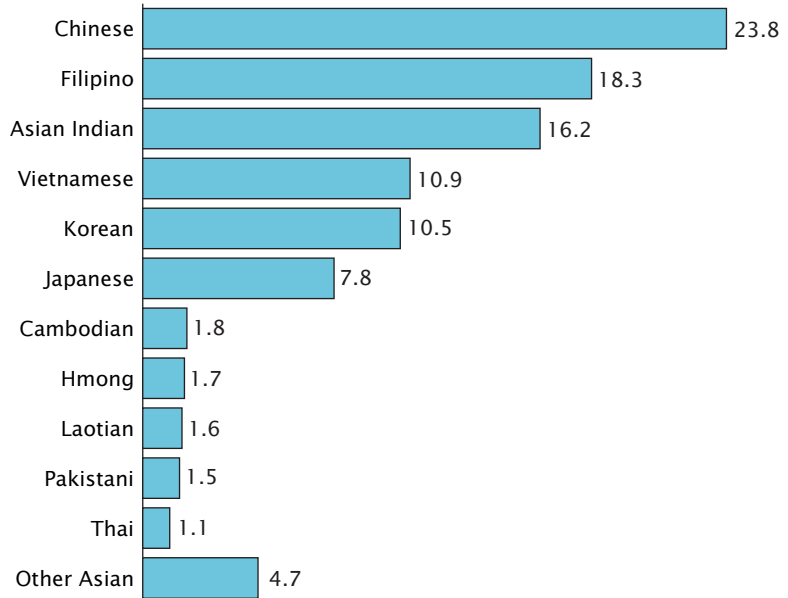
Five detailed Asian groups had over one million people.

- Census 2000 found that, among 10 million Asians in the United States, five groups numbered one million or more: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese. Together these groups made up about 80 percent of the Asian population. Chinese was the largest group and represented about 24 percent of the Asian population, followed by Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Korean.
- Six other detailed Asian groups together accounted for about 15 percent of the Asian population: Japanese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Pakistani, and Thai.
- The remaining Asian groups (categorized as Other Asian) accounted for about 5 percent of the Asian population.

Figure 1.

Asian Population by Detailed Group: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



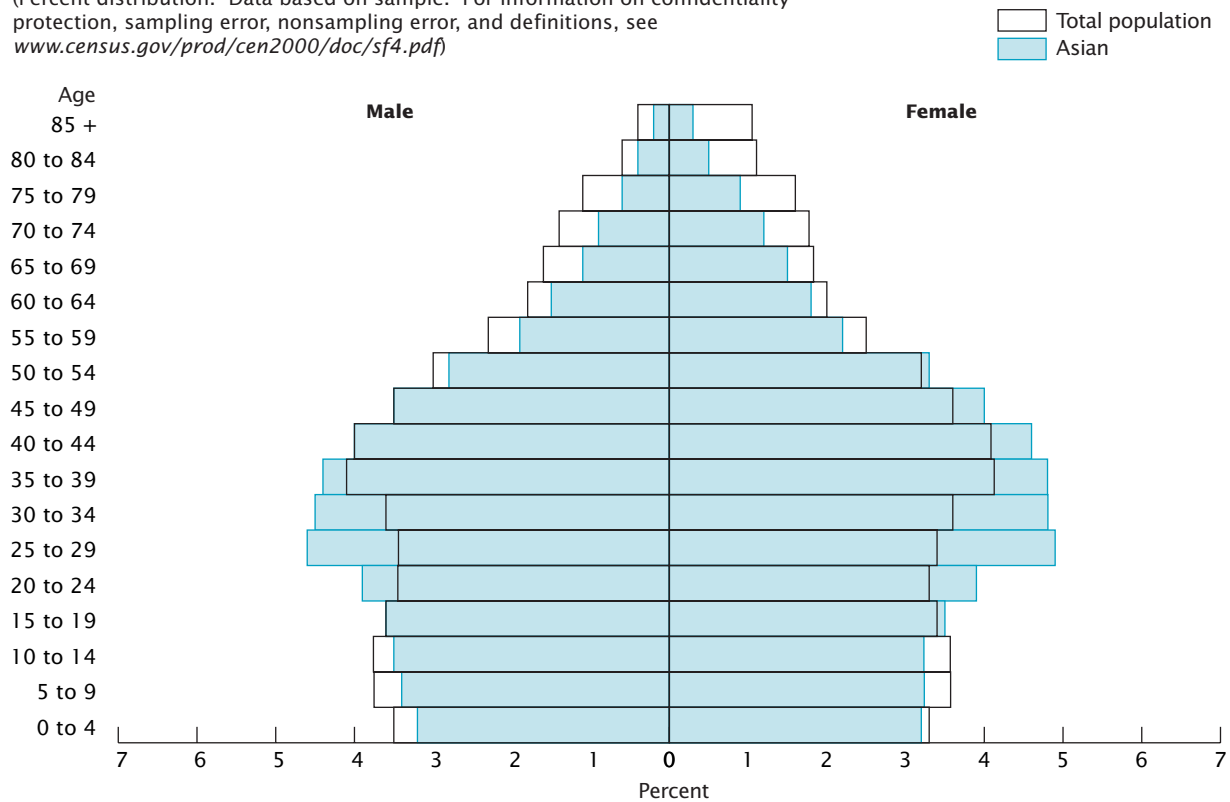
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

The Asian population had fewer people in the younger and older age groupings than did the total U.S. population.

- For each of the age groups between 0 and 14 years, higher proportions of both boys and girls were found in the total population than in the Asian population. At the older ages (55 and over), men composed 9 percent and women 12 percent of the total population, compared with 7 percent and 8 percent, respectively, of the Asian population.
- However, the Asian population had proportionally more men and women than the total population in the young adult age group (20 to 39 years).

Figure 2.
Age and Sex: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



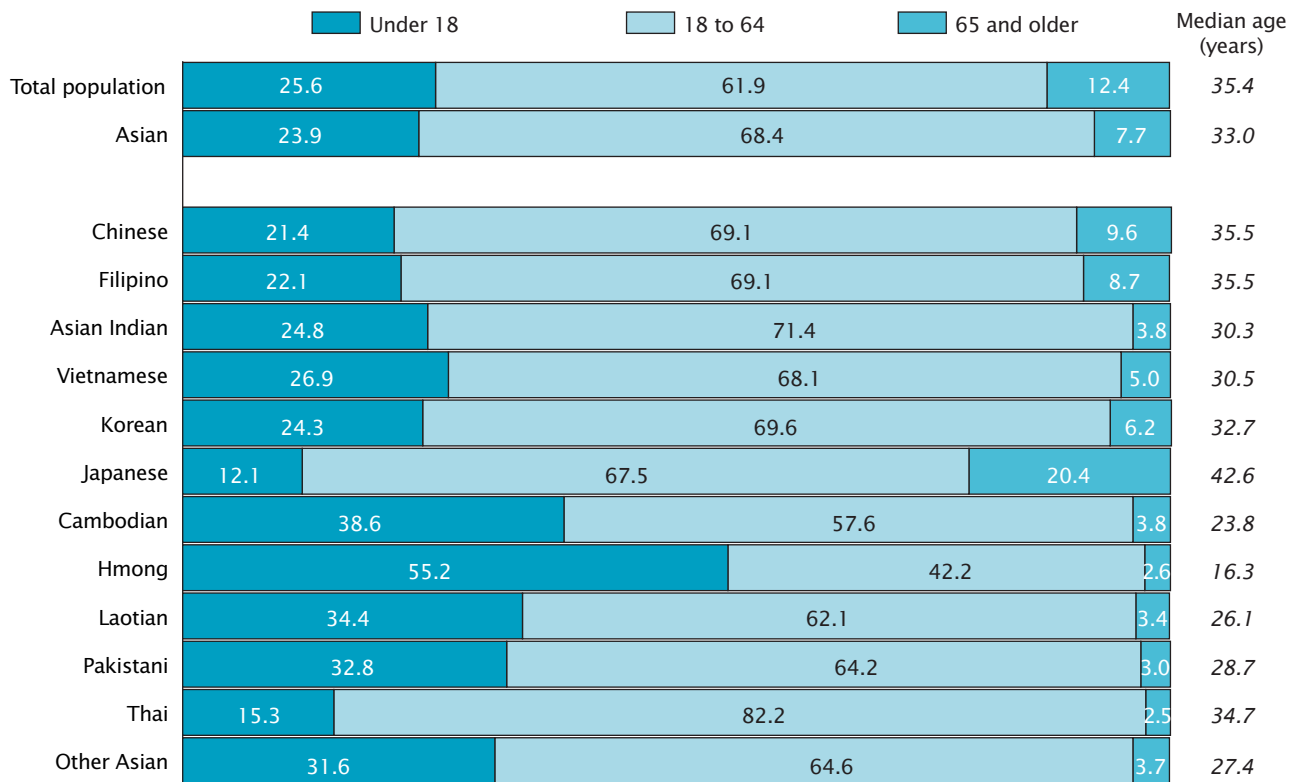
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

Asians had a lower median age than the total population.

- Asians had a median age of 33 years in 2000, 2 years younger than the national median of 35 years. By far, Japanese was the oldest of the detailed Asian groups, with a median age of nearly 43 years, and Hmong was the youngest with a median age of 16 years.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, 55 percent of the Hmong population, but less than 16 percent of the Japanese and Thai populations, were under 18. Over 80 percent of Thai were between the ages of 18 and 64, in contrast with 42 percent of Hmong.
- About 8 percent of Asians were aged 65 and over, compared with 12 percent of the total population. In each of the detailed Asian groups, except Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese, less than 8 percent of the population was 65 and older. Japanese had the highest proportion at 20 percent.

Figure 3.
Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



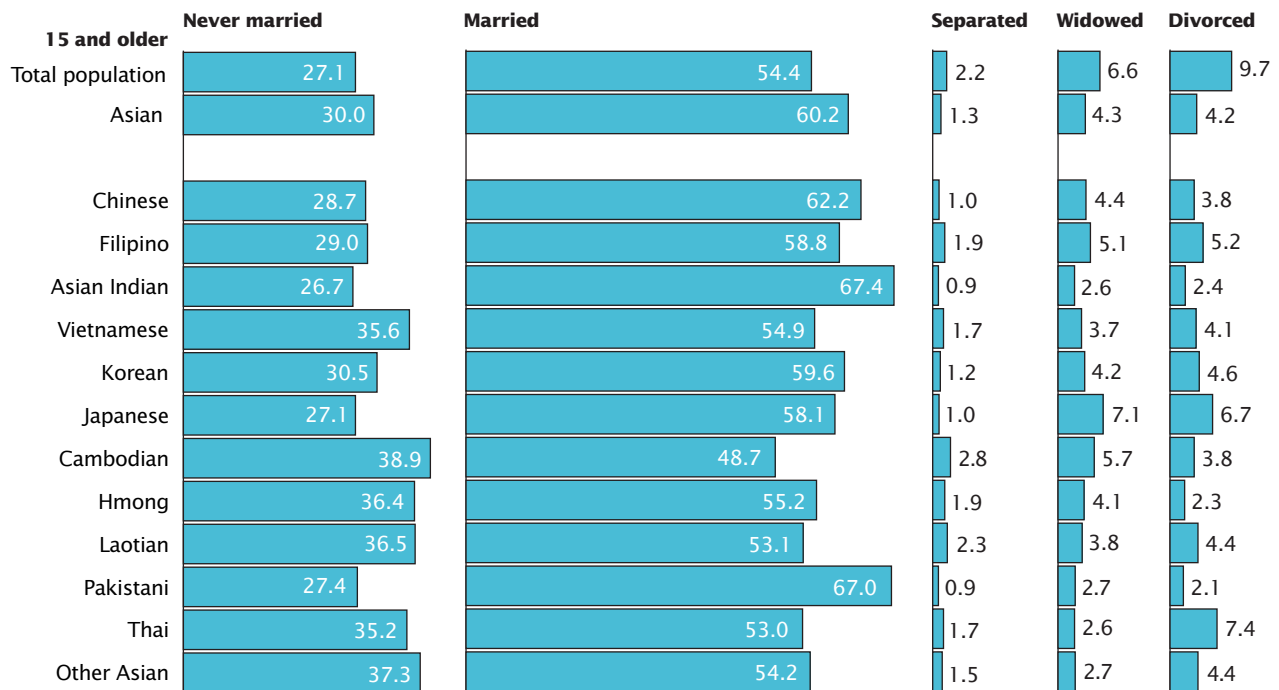
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

About 60 percent of all Asians were married, somewhat higher than the proportion for the total population.

- Sixty percent of all Asians were married, compared with 54 percent of the total population. Asians were less likely than the total population to be separated, widowed, or divorced: less than 10 percent, compared with 19 percent for the total population.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, 67 percent of Asian Indians and Pakistanis were married. Less than one-half of all Cambodians were married. Between 35 percent and 39 percent of Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, Thai, and Vietnamese had never married at the time of the census.
- Between 10 percent and 15 percent of all Cambodians, Filipinos, Koreans, Laotians, and Thai were separated, widowed, or divorced, with about 15 percent of Japanese in these categories.

Figure 4.
Marital Status: 2000

(Percent distribution of population 15 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Asians were more likely than the total population to be in married-couple families.

- In 2000, over 60 percent of Asian households were maintained by married couples, compared with 53 percent of households in the total population.⁸

⁸ The householder is the person (or one of the people) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the home is owned or rented jointly (for example, by a married couple), either person may be the householder; this designation is assigned to whichever of these names the respondent lists first. The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households. This report uses the characteristics of the householder to describe the household.

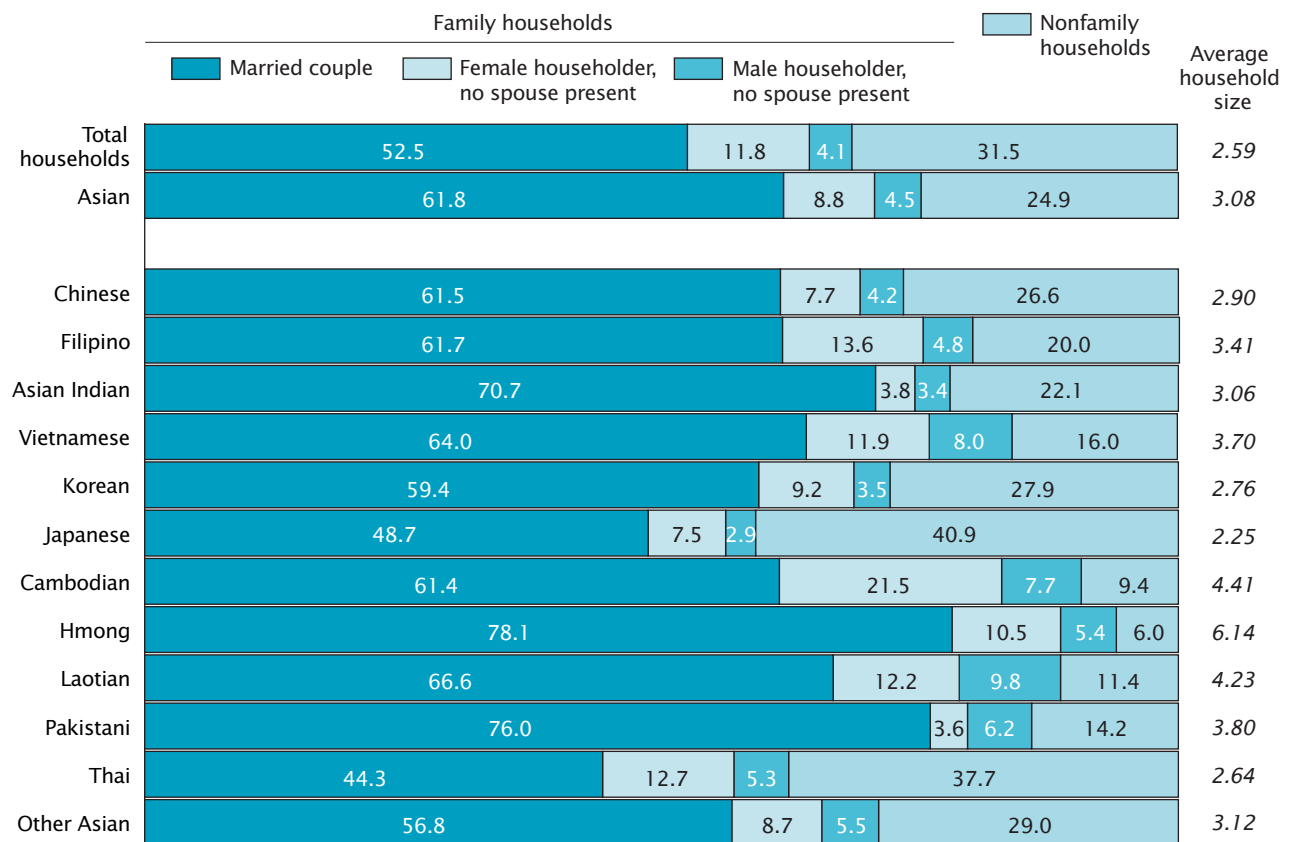
More than 70 percent of Asian Indian, Hmong, and Pakistani households were married-couple families.

- Among all detailed Asian groups, Asian Indian and Pakistani had the lowest proportions of female-householder families with no husband present (3.8 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively) and Cambodian had the highest proportion (21 percent).

- The average Asian household had about three members in 2000.
- About 90 percent of Hmong and Cambodian households were family households. The highest proportion of nonfamily households occurred for Japanese (41 percent).

Figure 5.
Household Type and Average Household Size: 2000

(Percent distribution of households. Households are classified by the race of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



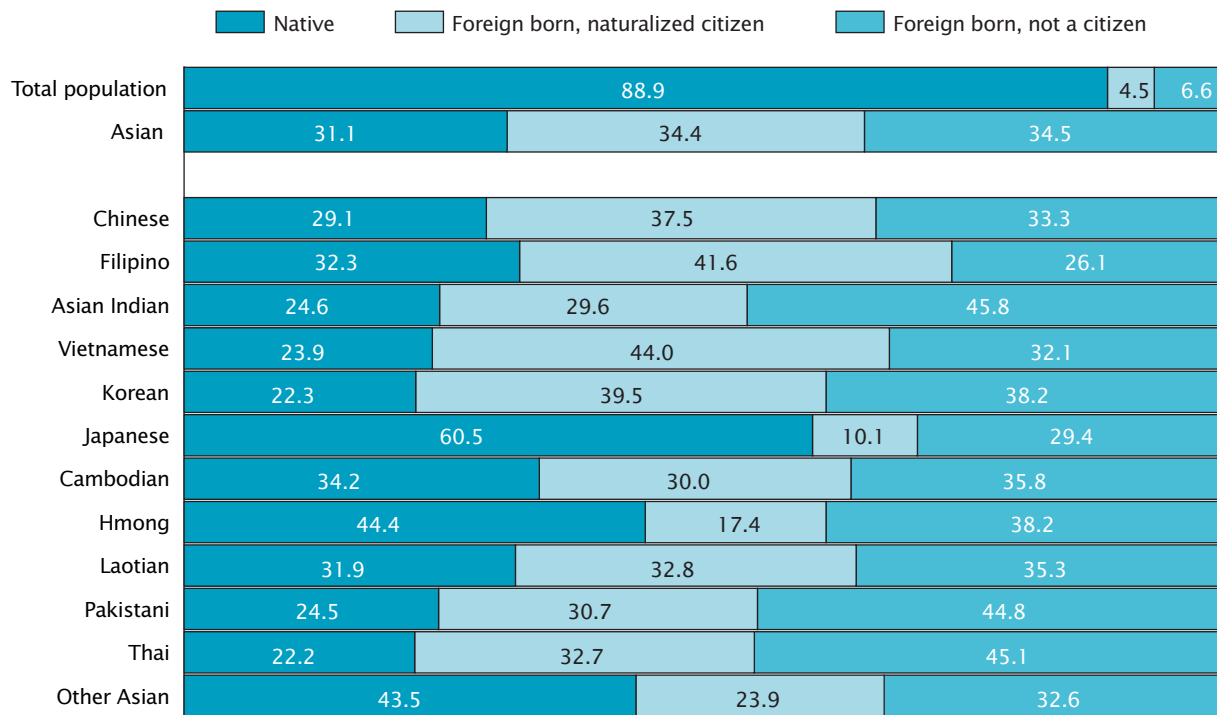
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Among the Asian population, similar proportions were natives, naturalized citizens, or noncitizens.

- Nearly 90 percent of the total population were natives, compared with about 31 percent of Asians. In 2000, similar proportions of Asians were naturalized citizens and noncitizens (34 percent each).
- Sixty-nine percent of all Asians were foreign born. However, only about 40 percent of Japanese living in this country were foreign born, compared with about 75 percent each of Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Koreans, Pakistanis, and Thai.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, Asian Indian, Pakistani, and Thai were the three groups with the highest proportions of noncitizens (about 45 percent each). Filipino had the lowest proportion (26 percent).

Figure 6.
Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



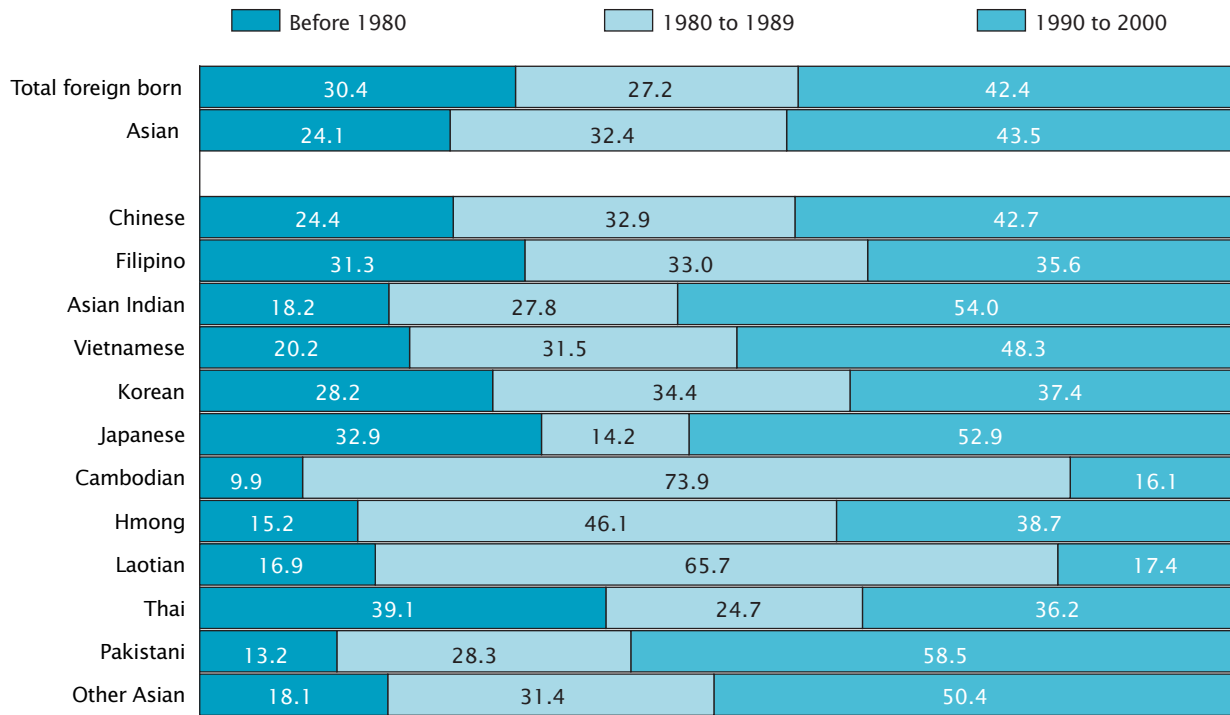
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

In 2000, the majority of the foreign-born Asian population had entered the United States in the past 20 years.

- A higher proportion (76 percent) of the foreign-born Asian population than the total foreign-born population (70 percent) came to the United States over the past two decades. Forty-three percent of the foreign-born Asian population entered from 1990 to 2000.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, 85 percent or more of foreign-born Cambodians, Pakistanis, and Hmong came to the United States in the past 20 years. In contrast, nearly 40 percent of foreign-born Thai came to the United States before 1980, more than one and one-half times the proportion for all foreign-born Asians.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, over 50 percent of foreign-born Asian Indians, Japanese, and Pakistanis entered the United States between 1990 and 2000.

Figure 7.
Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



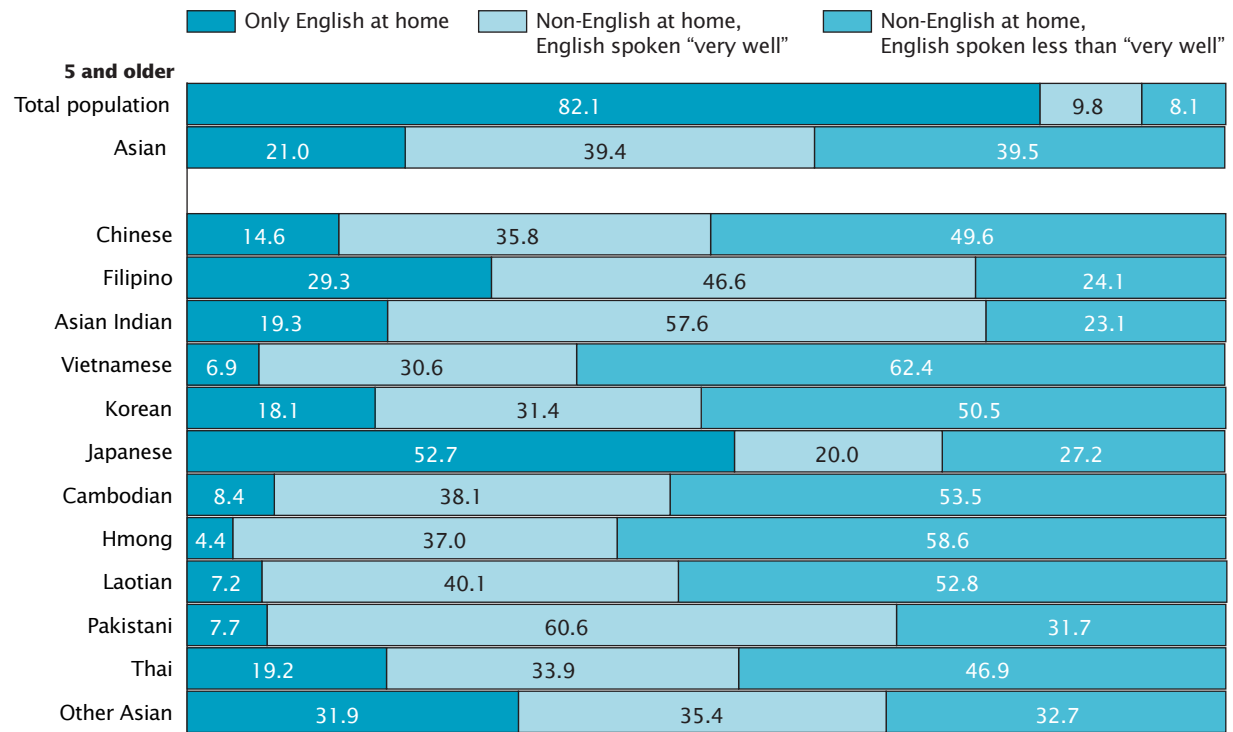
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Almost four-fifths of Asians spoke a language other than English at home, but about three-fifths spoke English “very well.”

- Of the 9.5 million Asians aged 5 and over, 79 percent spoke a language other than English at home and about 40 percent spoke English less than “very well.”
- The proportion of Asians who spoke a language other than English at home ranged from 47 percent for Japanese to 96 percent for Hmong. Over 90 percent of Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, Pakistanis, and Vietnamese spoke a language other than English at home.
- Vietnamese had the highest proportion of people who spoke English less than “very well” (62 percent).
- Among all detailed Asian groups, Japanese was the only group with over 50 percent who spoke only English at home.

Figure 8. **Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability: 2000**

(Percent distribution of population 5 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



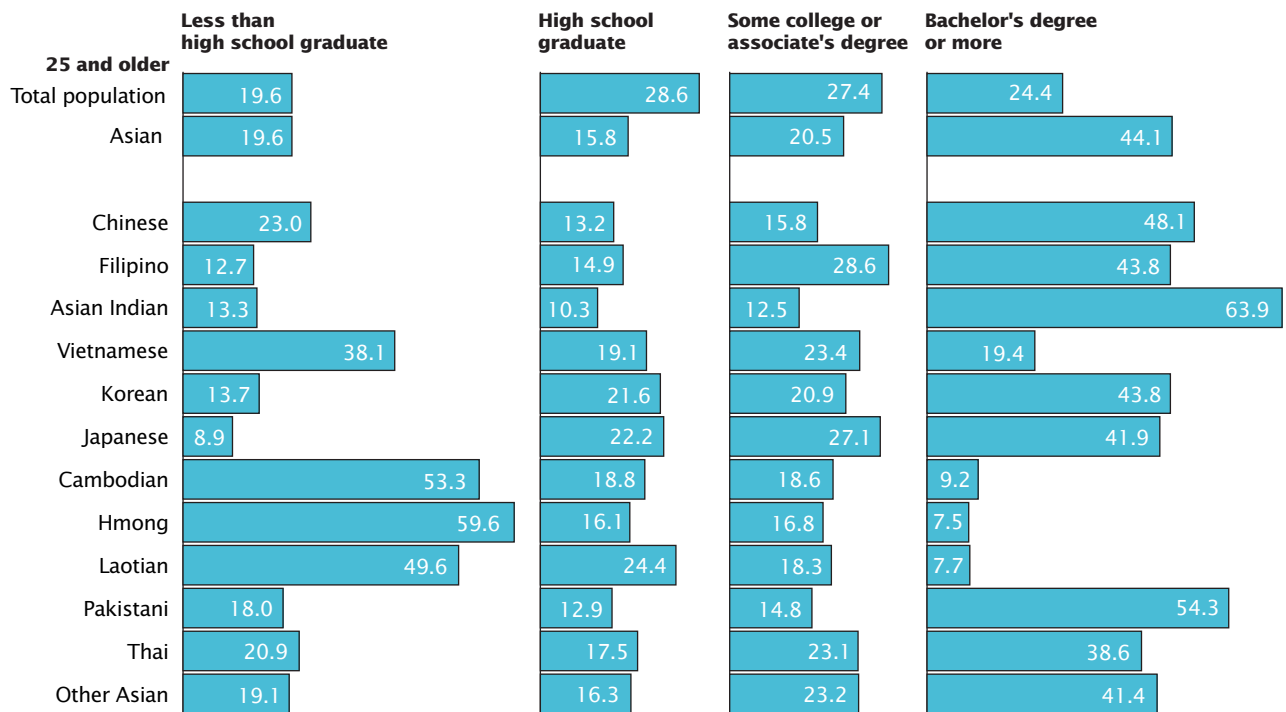
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

About 80 percent of Asians had a high school diploma or more education.

- In 2000, roughly 80 percent of both all Asians and all people in the United States 25 and older had at least a high school education. However, a higher proportion of Asians (44 percent) than of the total population (24 percent) had earned at least a bachelor's degree.
- Asian Indians had the highest percentage with a bachelor's degree, about 64 percent, whereas about 60 percent of Hmong, and about half of Cambodians and Laotians, had less than a high school education.
- Japanese had the highest proportion (91 percent) with at least a high school education.

Figure 9.
Educational Attainment: 2000

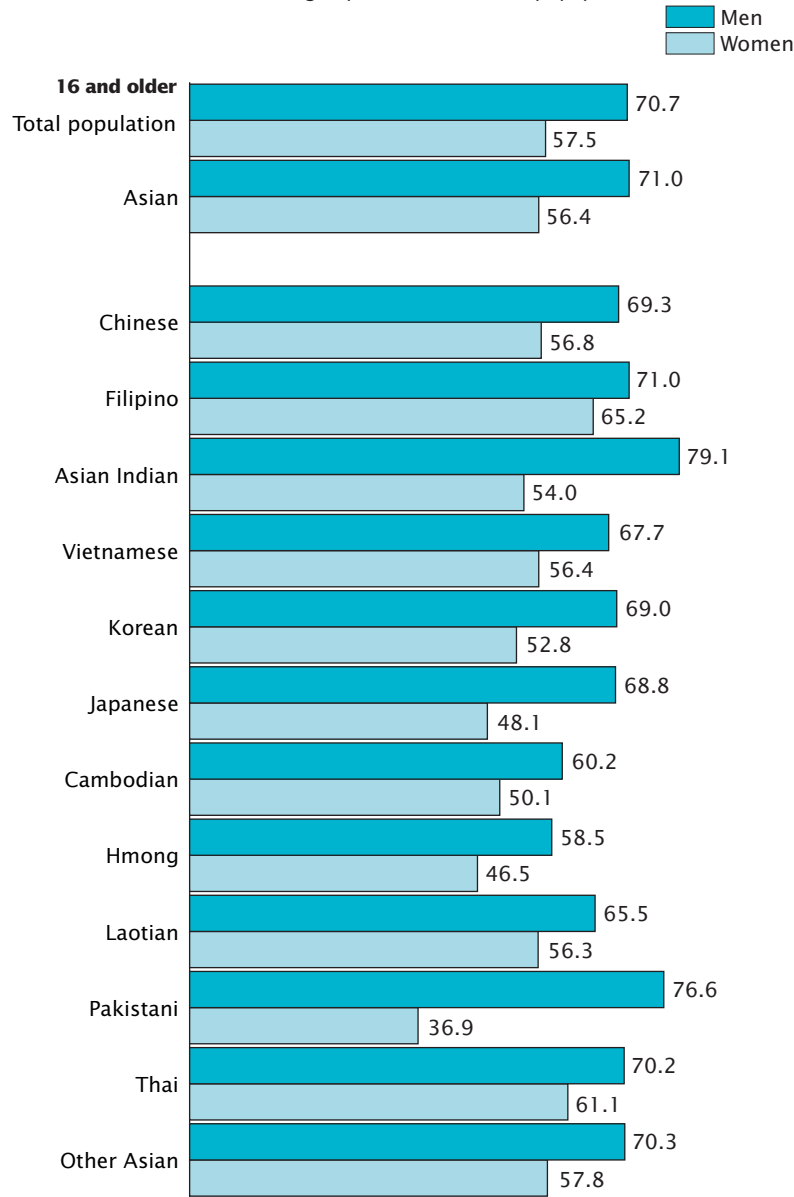
(Percent distribution of population 25 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Figure 10.
Labor Force Participation Rate by Sex: 2000

(Percent of population 16 and older in the labor force. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Among women in the detailed Asian groups, Filipino women had the highest labor force participation rate.

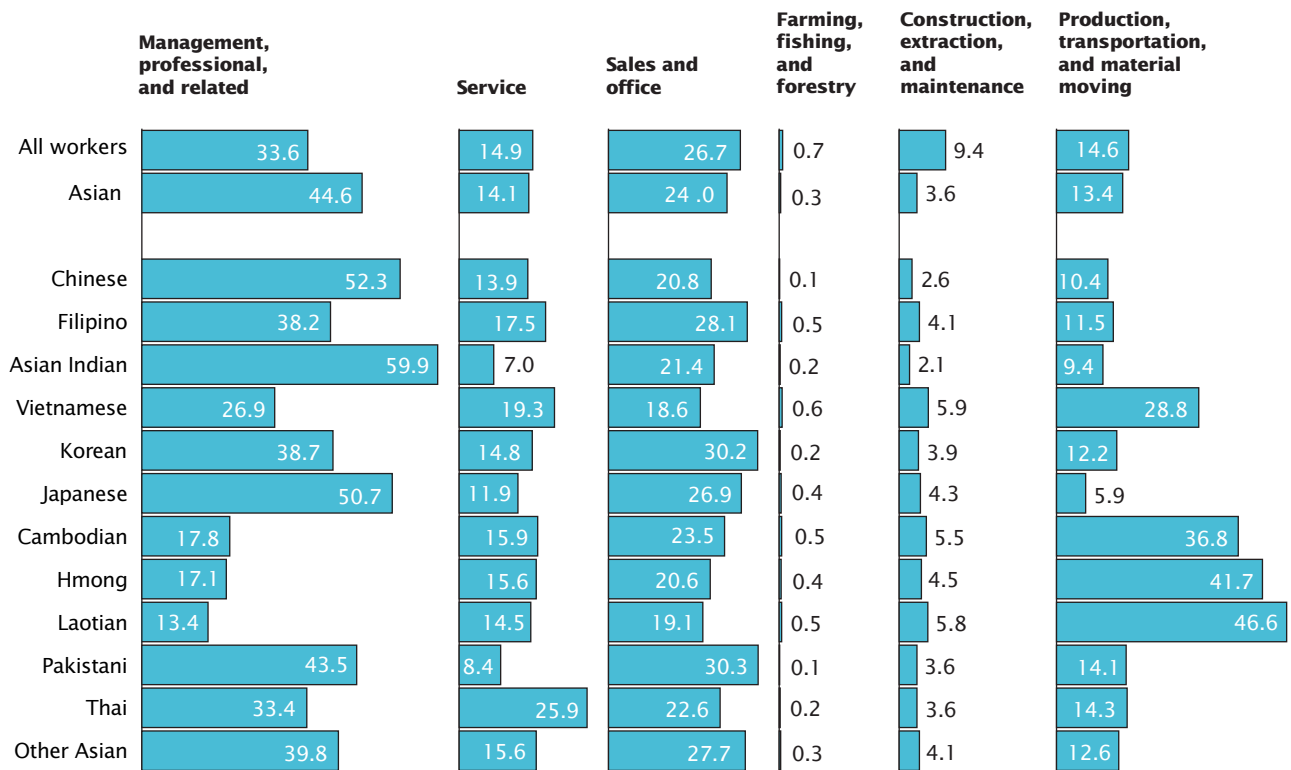
- In 2000, about 71 percent of both Asian men and all men aged 16 and over, and about 57 percent of both Asian women and all women of the same ages, were in the labor force.
- Among the detailed Asian groups, Asian Indian and Pakistani men had the highest labor force participation rates (79 percent and 77 percent, respectively). These rates were also higher than that of all Asian men. Hmong men had the lowest rate.
- At roughly 65 percent, the labor force participation rate for Filipino women exceeded that of all Asian women, and of women in the other detailed groups. It was more than 2 percentage points higher than the next highest rate (Thai). Less than 40 percent of Pakistani women were in the labor force.

Asians were more likely than the total population to be in management, professional, and related occupations.

- About 45 percent of Asians were employed in management, professional, and related occupations, compared with 34 percent of the total population. However, the proportions employed in these jobs varied from 13 percent for Laotians to 60 percent for Asian Indians.
- Less than 20 percent of Cambodians, Hmong, and Laotians were employed in management, professional, and related occupations, and more than 35 percent were employed in production, transportation, and material moving jobs.
- Twenty-six percent of all Thai, compared with less than 15 percent of Asian Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Pakistanis, were employed in service jobs.

Figure 11.
Occupation: 2000

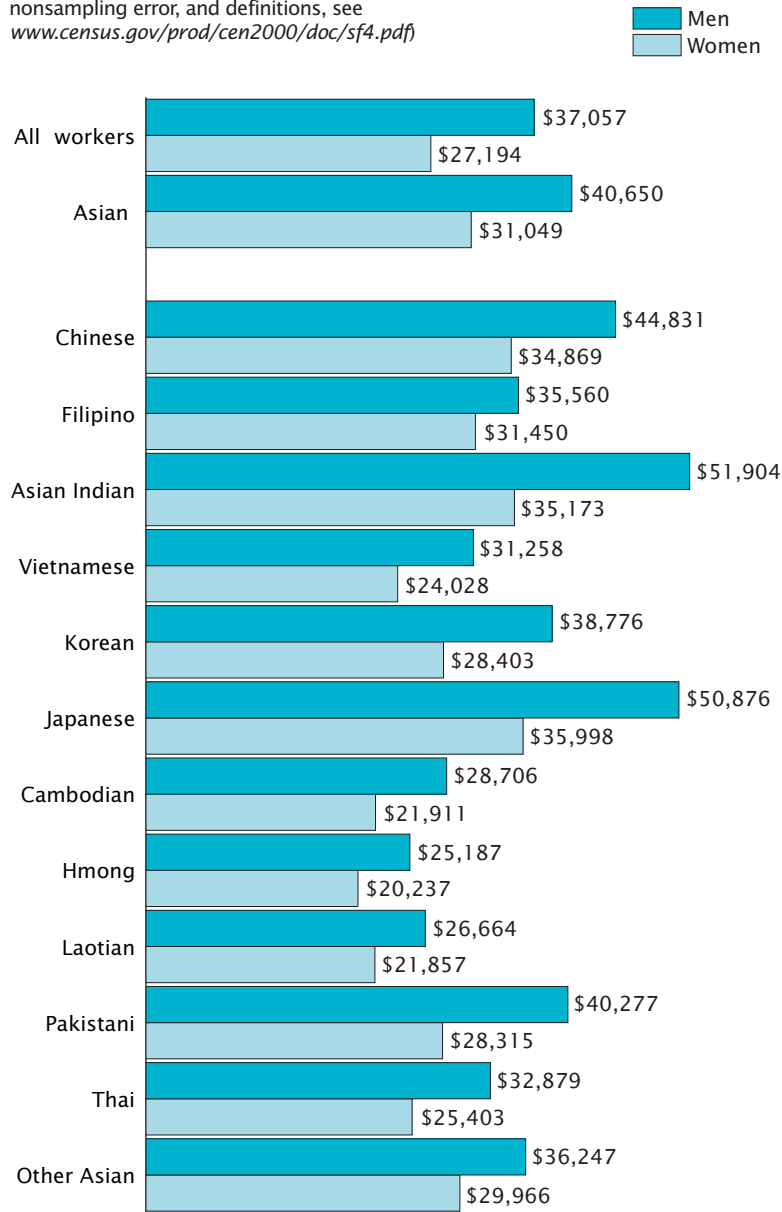
(Percent distribution of employed civilian population 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Figure 12.
Median Earnings by Sex: 1999

(For employed, full-time, year-round workers 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Asian men and women who worked year-round, full-time had higher median earnings than all men and women.

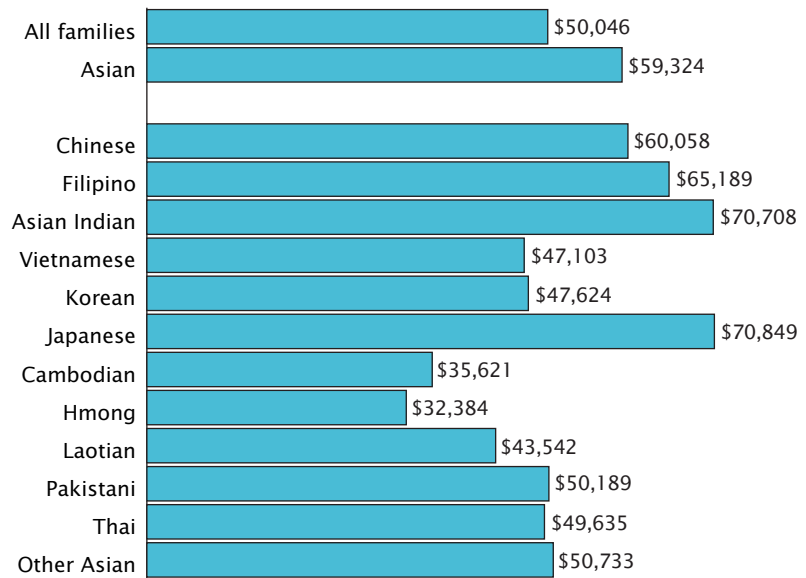
- In 1999, among year-round, full-time workers, the median earnings of Asian men were 9 percent higher than those of all men, and the median earnings of Asian women were 14 percent higher than those of all women.
- On average, Asian women who worked year-round, full-time earned about 76 dollars for every 100 dollars earned by their male counterparts that year.
- Asian Indian, Japanese, and Chinese men had higher median earnings than Asian men and all men. Asian Indian men had the highest year-round, full-time median earnings (\$51,900), followed by Japanese, with earnings of \$50,900. Hmong and Laotian men had the lowest median earnings of year-round, full-time Asian male workers.
- Japanese, Asian Indian, and Chinese women had the highest median earnings of all detailed Asian female groups and higher median earnings than all Asian women. They also earned between \$4,300 and \$8,800 more annually than all women.

The median annual income of Asian families was higher than the median of all families.

- The median income of Asian families was over \$9,000 higher than the median for all families (\$59,300 compared with \$50,000).
- Asian Indian and Japanese families' median incomes were more than \$10,000 higher than that of all Asian families.
- Cambodian, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Pakistani, Thai, and Vietnamese median family incomes were substantially lower than the median for all Asian families. The median incomes of Hmong and Cambodian families were the lowest of all Asian groups (\$32,400 and \$35,600, respectively).

Figure 13.
Median Family Income: 1999

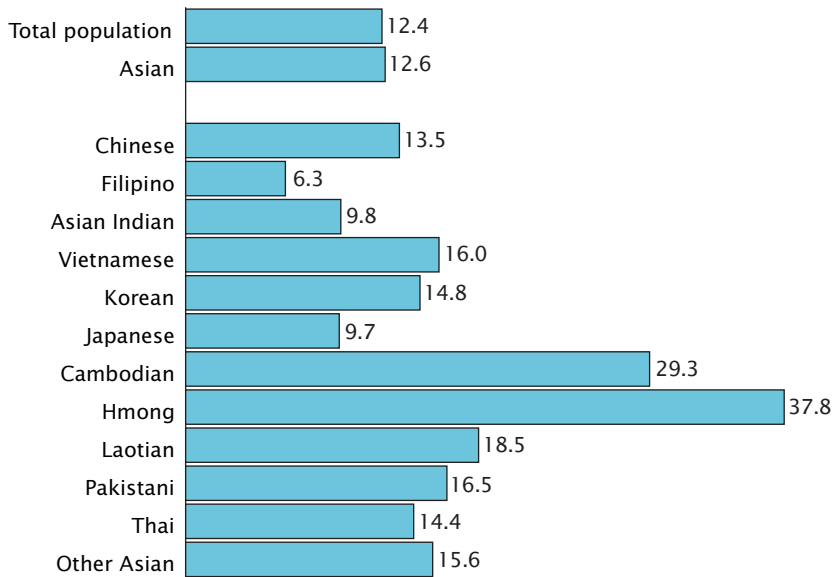
(Families classified by race of householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Figure 14.
Poverty Rate: 1999

(Percent in poverty. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Note: Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, or college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

The poverty rates of specific Asian groups varied.

- Poverty rates for the Asian population and the total population were similar, even though median earnings for Asians were higher.⁹
- Hmong had the highest individual poverty rates, followed by Cambodians.
- The lowest individual poverty rates were for Filipinos, Japanese, and Asian Indians.

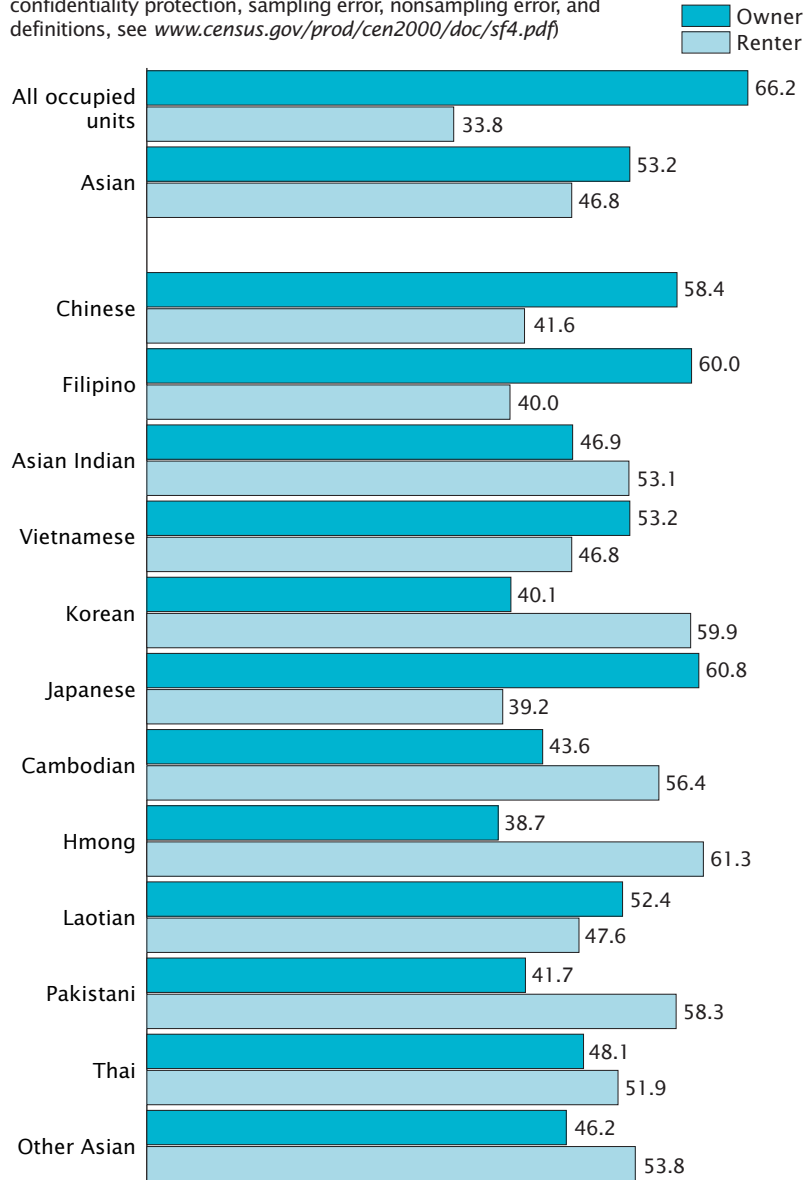
⁹ In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,029. Poverty statistics exclude unrelated individuals under 15. For more information, see Alemayehu Bishaw and John Iceland, 2003, *Poverty: 1999*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR-19. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-19.pdf.

Homeownership was relatively lower for Asians than the total U.S. population.

- In 2000, just over 53 percent of Asian-occupied housing units were owned by their occupants, compared with 66 percent of all occupied housing units.
- Japanese, Filipino, and Chinese had the highest proportion of owner-occupied housing units (61 percent, 60 percent, and 58 percent, respectively).
- The majority of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Laotian, and Vietnamese householders owned their homes. The majority of householders for the remaining detailed Asian groups rented. Hmong, Korean, Pakistani, and Cambodian had the highest proportions of renter-occupied housing units.

Figure 15.
Housing Tenure: 2000

(Percent distribution of occupied housing units. Housing tenure of the detailed group is shown by the race of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households that responded to the Census 2000 long form.

Nationally, approximately one out of every six housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, and hence of people living in those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from sampling, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 4 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, Accuracy of the Data, located at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf>.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: first, errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and second, errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher-income categories and overstated for the lower-income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

All statements in this Census 2000 Special Report have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in the tables and figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, the estimates used to summarize statistics for one population group may not be statistically different from estimates for another population group. Further information on

the accuracy of the data is located at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf>. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 and Summary File 4 data are available from American Factfinder on the Census Bureau's Web site <factfinder.census.gov>. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf> or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Briefs and Census 2000 Special Reports series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>. These series present information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For more information on race in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race.html>.

To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Table 2.
Selected Characteristics of the Asian Population—Alone, In Combination With Non-Asian Races, and Total: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/st4.pdf)

Characteristic	Number			Percent		
	Alone	In combination	Total	Alone	In combination	Total
Total Asian	10,171,820	1,687,626	11,859,446	100.0	100.0	100.0
AGE						
Under 18 years	2,433,891	754,550	3,188,441	23.9	44.7	26.9
18 to 64 years	6,954,935	872,527	7,827,462	68.4	51.7	66.0
65 years and over	782,994	60,549	843,543	7.7	3.6	7.1
Median age (years)	33.0	20.6	31.4	(X)	(X)	(X)
MARITAL STATUS						
Population 15 years and over	8,156,126	1,035,686	9,191,812	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	2,446,207	441,698	2,887,905	30.0	42.6	31.4
Married	4,906,330	468,442	5,374,772	60.2	45.2	58.5
Separated	107,759	20,881	128,640	1.3	2.0	1.4
Widowed	349,654	30,786	380,440	4.3	3.0	4.1
Divorced	346,176	73,879	420,055	4.2	7.1	4.6
HOUSEHOLD TYPE						
Households with an Asian householder	3,129,127	386,069	3,515,196	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family households	2,350,399	265,686	2,616,085	75.1	68.8	74.4
Married couple	1,932,421	192,574	2,124,995	61.8	49.9	60.5
Female householder, no spouse present	276,118	49,028	325,146	8.8	12.7	9.2
Male householder, no spouse present	141,860	24,084	165,944	4.5	6.2	4.7
Nonfamily households	778,728	120,383	899,111	24.9	31.2	25.6
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP						
Total population	10,171,820	1,687,626	11,859,446	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native	3,159,618	1,266,277	4,425,895	31.1	75.0	37.3
Foreign born	7,012,202	421,349	7,433,551	68.9	25.0	62.7
Naturalized	3,502,021	204,798	3,706,819	34.4	12.1	31.3
Not a citizen	3,510,181	216,551	3,726,732	34.5	12.8	31.4
FOREIGN BORN BY YEAR OF ENTRY						
Foreign-born population	7,012,202	421,349	7,433,551	100.0	100.0	100.0
Before 1980	1,692,548	111,787	1,804,335	24.1	26.5	24.3
1980 to 1989	2,270,080	130,537	2,400,617	32.4	31.0	32.3
1990 to 2000	3,049,574	179,025	3,228,599	43.5	42.5	43.4
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY						
Population 5 years and over	9,520,205	1,440,955	10,961,160	100.0	100.0	100.0
Only English at home	2,003,642	934,281	2,937,923	19.7	55.4	24.8
Non-English at home, English spoken "very well"	3,753,638	307,329	4,060,967	36.9	18.2	34.2
Non-English at home, English spoken less than "very well"	3,762,925	199,345	3,962,270	37.0	11.8	33.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Population 25 years and over	6,640,671	710,558	7,351,229	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school graduate	1,299,750	127,211	1,426,961	12.8	7.5	12.0
High school graduate	1,051,190	160,890	1,212,080	10.3	9.5	10.2
Some college or associate's degree	1,363,988	208,657	1,572,645	13.4	12.4	13.3
Bachelor's degree or more	2,925,743	213,800	3,139,543	28.8	12.7	26.5
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION						
Men 16 years and over	3,793,543	494,119	4,287,662	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	2,693,069	356,713	3,049,782	71.0	72.2	71.1
Women 16 years and over	4,226,787	506,876	4,733,663	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	2,384,722	314,614	2,699,336	56.4	62.1	57.0
OCCUPATION						
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	4,786,782	611,408	5,398,190	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,132,705	201,972	2,334,677	44.6	33.0	43.2
Service occupations	675,200	105,878	781,078	14.1	17.3	14.5
Sales and office occupations	1,148,775	182,971	1,331,746	24.0	29.9	24.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	14,066	2,429	16,495	0.3	0.4	0.3
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	172,887	41,593	214,480	3.6	6.8	4.0
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	643,149	76,563	719,712	13.4	12.5	13.3
EARNINGS AND INCOME (in 1999)						
Median earnings (dollars) for males ¹	40,650	35,110	40,117	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median earnings (dollars) for females ¹	31,049	27,897	30,774	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median income (dollars) for families	59,324	48,776	57,874	(X)	(X)	(X)
POVERTY (in 1999)						
Individuals for whom poverty status was determined²	9,979,963	1,637,737	11,617,700	100.0	100.0	100.0
Individuals below the poverty level	1,257,237	210,176	1,467,413	12.6	12.8	12.6
HOUSING TENURE						
Occupied housing units	3,117,356	382,805	3,500,161	100.0	100.0	100.0
Owner occupied	1,659,794	181,102	1,840,896	53.2	47.3	52.6
Renter occupied	1,457,562	201,703	1,659,265	46.8	52.7	47.4

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Based on full-time, year-round workers.

² Poverty status was determined for everyone except individuals in institutions, military group quarters, college dormitories, and individuals under age 15 unrelated to the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

