

Asian/Pacific Americans in Iowa: 2023

May 2023

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.

88,093

The population of who will identify themselves as Asian alone in Iowa according to the 2021 Annual population estimates. This group comprises 2.8% of Iowa's total population.

140.5%

The percent change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2021. This is a 51,458 numeric increase for the period.

195,869

The projected number of Iowa residents who will identify themselves as either Asian or native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2060 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.. That will be 5.6% of the total state population.

6,324

The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2021. This group comprises 0.2% of Iowa's total population.

526.8%

The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders alone from 2000 to 2021. This is a numeric increase of 5,315 for that period.

Coming to America

36.1%

The percent of Iowa's foreign born population in 2021 who were born in Asia. The total foreign-born population in Iowa was 173,021

82.5%

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

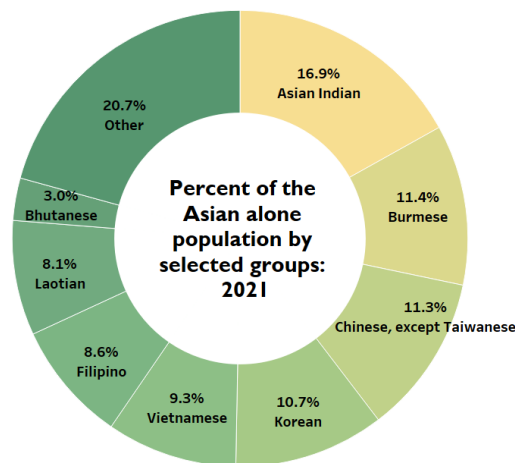
56.1%

The percentage of Iowa's foreign-born in 2021 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the Iowa foreign-born population as a whole is 48.1 percent.

32.1

The median age of
Iowa's Asian
population in 2021.

The median age for the
state of Iowa is 38.5



11,054

The estimated number of foreign-born people in Iowa from India according to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey. After Mexico, India 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 China (9,630), Vietnam (7,886), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5,758), Korea (5,072), the Philippines (4,489), and Burma (4,386).

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

County	2021	2010	Percent Change
Polk	25,720	15,220	69.0%
Johnson	9,885	6,819	45.0%
Story	7,834	5,383	45.5%
Linn	6,051	3,806	59.0%
Dallas	5,536	1,662	233.1%

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	2021	2010	Percent Change
Dubuque	705	288	144.8%
Woodbury	690	106	550.9%
Wapello	683	48	1,322.9%
Black Hawk	682	201	239.3%
Buena Vista	500	100	400.0%

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

25,720

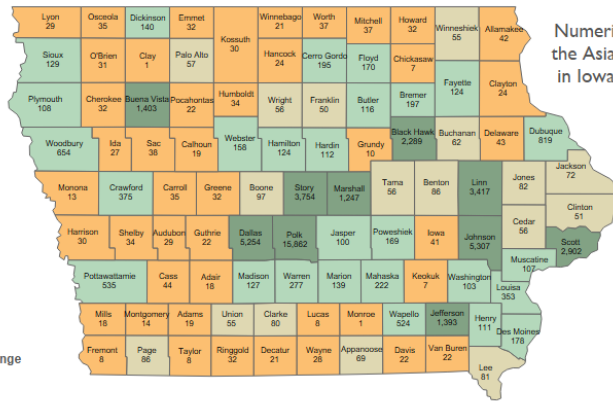
The number of Asians in Polk county in 2021, which leads all counties in Iowa. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (10,500) of people in this group between 2010 and 2021.

Buena Vista county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (11.0 percent).

705

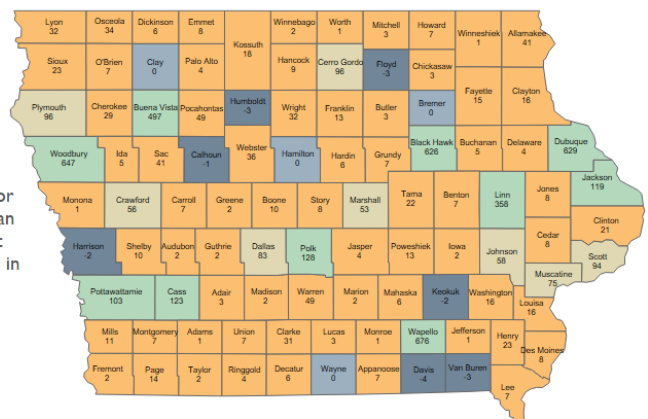
The number of native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Dubuque county in 2021, which leads all counties in Iowa.

Buena Vista county is where native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion (2.4 percent) of the total population.



Numeric change for the Asian population in Iowa: 2000-2021

Numeric change
 1-49
 50-99
 100-999
 Over 1,000



Numeric change for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in Iowa: 2000-2021

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

41.5%

The percentage of Asians in 2021, 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 **30.5** percent.

77.0%

The percentage of Asians in 2021, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans is **93.3** percent.

23.1%

The percentage of Asians in 2021, 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 **9.9** percent.

19.2%

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over in 2021, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education.

82.5%

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates in 2021.

Languages

8,046

The number of people who speak Chinese at home in 2021. Chinese is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (5,250), Korean (3,216); and Tagalog (2,962).

Age

40.9%

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population in 2021 that are under 18; 1.5 percent are 65 or over.

24.5%

The percentage of people identifying themselves as Asian in 2021 that are under 18; 6.1 percent are 65 or over.

Serving Our Nation

687

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

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey
5-year estimates

Income and poverty

\$94,495

The median income of households in 2021 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is **\$65,600**.

\$62,608

The median income of households whose householders reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2021.

12.8%

The poverty rate in 2021 for those who reported their race as Asian. The corresponding rate for Iowa as a whole is **11.1** percent.

23.8%

The poverty rate for those who reported their race native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. 2017-2021 American Community Survey.



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Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :
U.S. Census Bureau,
2021 American Community Survey
2021 Annual population estimates
U.S. Decennial Census 2020, 2010,
and 2000

Employment

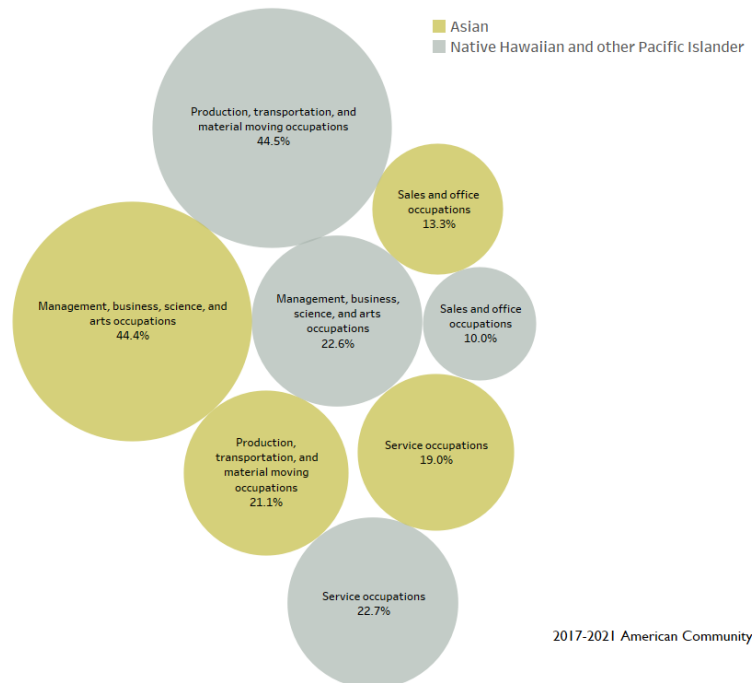
2.0%

The unemployment rate in 2021 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all Iowans is **3.6**.

7.2%

The unemployment rate for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Source: 2017-2021 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"

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**.