

## The Vietnamese Population in the United States: 2010

**1,548,449**

This report provides a portrait of Vietnamese American population in the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and discusses its distribution and some selected social and economic characteristics at the national level, including some selected Asian groups.

The 2010 Census showed that the United States population was **308,745,538** on April 1, 2010. Of the total, **14,674,252**, or 4.8 percent, reported Asian, and **1,548,449**, or 0.5 percent, reported Vietnamese alone.

The Vietnamese population was the 4th largest among the Asian population groups in the United States. Between 2000 and 2010, the Vietnamese population had gained a numeric increase of 425,921, or 37.9%, compared with the total Asian population growth at 43.2%, and the United States at 9.7%.

### 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, such as Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam.

Since the 1980 census, there were 6 separate response categories for Asian: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Asian Alone Population in the United States: 2010	
Asian	<b>14,674,252</b>
Chinese	3,347,229
Asian Indian	2,843,391
Filipino	2,555,923
<b>Vietnamese</b>	<b>1,548,449</b>
Korean	1,423,784
Japanese	763,325
Other Asian	2,192,151

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Since the 2000 Census, respondents were asked to report **one or more** races they considered themselves and other members of their household to be. Data on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race **alone** and the race **in combination** population.

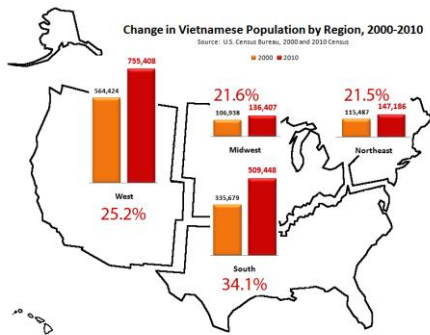
Hispanic is not a race. People of Hispanic origin may be any race. An individual's responses to the race question and to the Hispanic origin question were based upon self-identification.

Change in Asian Alone Population 2000 - 2010				
Asian	2000	2010	Change	
			Number	Percent
Asian Alone	<b>10,242,998</b>	<b>14,674,252</b>	<b>4,431,254</b>	<b>43.2</b>
Chinese	2,432,585	3,347,229	914,644	37.5
Asian Indian	1,678,765	2,843,391	1,164,626	69.3
Filipino	1,850,314	2,555,923	705,609	38.1
Vietnamese	1,122,528	1,548,449	425,921	37.9
Korean	1,076,872	1,423,784	346,912	32.2
Japanese	796,700	763,325	-33,375	-4.1
Other Asian	1,285,234	2,192,151	906,917	70.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

This summary was prepared as an aid in responding to inquiry about the Vietnamese population in the United States. For more information, please contact Anh T. Nguyen, U.S. Census Bureau / Atlanta Region, email [anh.t.nguyen@census.gov](mailto:anh.t.nguyen@census.gov), or call (404) 423-0812. These charts and tables were created for educational and display purposes only, not for publication, replication, or distribution. Data availability varies, depending on topics and survey parameters. All data can be retrieved from the U.S. Census website: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), or otherwise noticed. Updated June 2011.

Over half of the Vietnamese population lived in the **West** region. Between 2000 and 2010, the **South** had experienced the largest percentage growth in Vietnamese population by 34.1%. However, this is a decrease from 49.7% in between 1990 and 2000. Respectively, the West grew by 25.2% (down from 40.8% in previous decade); Midwest 21.6% (down from 51.4%), and Northeast 21.5% (down from 47.6%).



According to Census geography, the **Northeast** region includes the states of CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT. **Midwest**: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WS. **West**: AK, AR, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY. **South**: AL, AR, DE, D.C., FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV.

By far, California had the largest concentration of Vietnamese by state, **581,946**, followed by Texas (210,913), Washington (66,575), Florida (58,470), and Virginia (53,529).

**California** gained the most (134,914), while **West Virginia** experienced the fastest growth (138%), followed by Nevada (124%), Wyoming (91%), Arizona (87%), and Florida and Delaware (76%).

Change in Vietnamese Population by Region: 2000-2010				
	2000	2010	2000 - 2010	
			Number	Percent
Northeast	115,487	147,186	31,699	21.50
Midwest	106,938	136,407	29,469	21.60
West	564,424	755,408	190,984	25.20
South	335,679	509,448	173,769	34.10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

Top 10 States with Largest Vietnamese Population: 2010		
1	California	581,946
2	Texas	210,913
3	Washington	66,575
4	Florida	58,470
5	Virginia	53,529
6	Georgia	45,263
7	Massachusetts	42,915
8	Pennsylvania	39,008
9	New York	28,764
10	Louisiana	28,352

Top 10 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas with Largest Vietnamese Population: 2010		
1	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	271,234
2	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	125,774
3	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown,	103,525
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington,	71,839
5	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD	58,767
6	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	55,636
7	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	55,114
8	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	44,202
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	36,554
10	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	32,353

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Demographic Profile

Top 10 Cities with Largest Vietnamese Population: 2010		
1	San Jose city, California	100,486
2	Garden Grove city, California	47,331
3	Westminster city, California	36,058
4	Houston city, Texas	34,838
5	San Diego city, California	33,149
6	Santa Ana city, California	23,167
7	Los Angeles city, California	19,969
8	Anaheim city, California	14,706
9	Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	14,431
10	New York city, New York	13,387

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

The **Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA Metro Area** had the largest Vietnamese population of **271,234**, followed by San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA (125,774), Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX (103,525), Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (71,839), and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV (58,767).

A **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** consists of one or more counties and includes the counties containing the core urban area with population of 50,000 or more, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core.



Atlanta MSA

Most Vietnamese resided in an array of counties, the largest tended to be found in coastal and/or urban counties. The majority of Vietnamese population was predominantly concentrated in suburbs of large metropolitan areas.

Among the large metropolitan areas, the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara MSA had the largest percentage of Vietnamese residing in the core city

#### Vietnamese Population by County: 2010 (with 5,000 or more)

Orange County, California	183,766
Santa Clara County, California	125,695
Los Angeles County, California	87,468
Harris County, Texas	80,409
San Diego County, California	44,202
King County, Washington	38,726
Alameda County, California	30,533
Tarrant County, Texas	29,128
Fairfax County, Virginia	28,770
Dallas County, Texas	26,276
Sacramento County, California	25,030
Maricopa County, Arizona	18,934
Gwinnett County, Georgia	16,022
Fort Bend County, Texas	15,557
Riverside County, California	14,623
Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania	14,431
Multnomah County, Oregon	13,969
Cook County, Illinois	13,522
San Francisco County, California	12,871
San Bernardino County, California	12,819
Suffolk County, Massachusetts	12,109
Montgomery County, Maryland	12,089
Travis County, Texas	11,231
Orange County, Florida	10,709
Collin County, Texas	10,013
Snohomish County, Washington	9,790
Sedgwick County, Kansas	9,408
Honolulu County, Hawaii	8,887
Clark County, Nevada	8,483
Middlesex County, Massachusetts	8,361
Hennepin County, Minnesota	8,305
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana	8,288
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina	8,143
San Joaquin County, California	7,812
Contra Costa County, California	7,401
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma	7,316
Clayton County, Georgia	7,211
Norfolk County, Massachusetts	7,108
Worcester County, Massachusetts	6,892
Pinellas County, Florida	6,888
Washington County, Oregon	6,871
Hillsborough County, Florida	6,626
Pierce County, Washington	6,598
Salt Lake County, Utah	6,513
Orleans Parish, Louisiana	5,994
Denton County, Texas	5,764
Guilford County, North Carolina	5,658
Kent County, Michigan	5,314
Denver County, Colorado	5,055

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

of San Jose: **79%**. At the other end of the spectrum, like elsewhere in D.C., Los Angeles, and Dallas MSA, a small percentage of Vietnamese population resided inside the core city. For example, of the total 28 counties making up the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta MSA, the 2010 Census counted 731 Vietnamese, or 2 percent lived in the city of Atlanta, while there were 36,554 Vietnamese residing in the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta MSA.

Of the 3,141 counties in the United States, 184 counties had Vietnamese population of 1,000 or more.

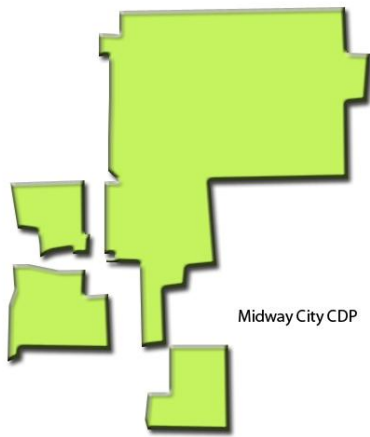
**Orange County, CA**, had the largest Vietnamese population, 183,766, followed by Santa Clara County, CA (125,695), Los Angeles County, CA (87,468), Harris County, TX (80,409), and San Diego County, CA (44,202).

Census 2010 showed that **San Jose, CA** had the largest Vietnamese population by city with 100,486, followed by Garden Grove, CA ( 47,331), Westminster, CA (36,058), Houston, TX (34,838), and San Diego, CA (33,149).

Top 5 U.S. Cities with High Percent of Vietnamese Population: 2010	
City	Percent
Midway City CDP, CA	41.4
Westminster city, CA	40.2
Garden Grove city, CA	27.7
Fountain Valley city, CA	20.7
Morrow city, GA	20.3

Change in Vietnamese Population by State: 2010 (Largest to smallest)				
Geography	Census		Change	
	2000	2010	Number	Percent
California	447,032	581,946	134,914	30%
Texas	134,961	210,913	75,952	56%
Washington	46,149	66,575	20,426	44%
Florida	33,190	58,470	25,280	76%
Virginia	37,309	53,529	16,220	43%
Georgia	29,016	45,263	16,247	56%
Massachusetts	33,962	42,915	8,953	26%
Pennsylvania	30,037	39,008	8,971	30%
New York	23,818	28,764	4,946	21%
Louisiana	24,358	28,352	3,994	16%
North Carolina	15,596	27,304	11,708	75%
Oregon	18,890	26,195	7,305	39%
Illionois	19,101	25,036	5,935	31%
Arizona	12,931	24,216	11,285	87%
Maryland	16,744	23,635	6,891	41%
Minnesota	18,824	23,544	4,720	25%
Colorado	15,457	20,899	5,442	35%
New Jersey	15,180	20,628	5,448	36%
Michigan	13,673	16,787	3,114	23%
Oklahoma	12,566	16,258	3,692	29%
Missouri	10,626	14,523	3,897	37%
Kansas	11,623	14,015	2,392	21%
Ohio	9,812	13,121	3,309	34%
Tennessee	7,007	10,033	3,026	43%
Nevada	4,420	9,892	5,472	124%
Hawaii	7,867	9,779	1,912	24%
Connecticut	7,538	9,341	1,803	24%
Iowa	7,129	8,347	1,218	17%
Utah	5,968	8,025	2,057	34%
Nebraska	6,364	7,910	1,546	24%
Alabama	4,628	7,398	2,770	60%
Mississippi	5,387	7,025	1,638	30%
Indiana	4,843	6,845	2,002	41%
South Carolina	4,248	6,801	2,553	60%
Arkansas	3,974	5,515	1,541	39%
Kentucky	3,596	5,046	1,450	40%
Wisconsin	3,891	4,877	986	25%
New Mexico	3,274	4,726	1,452	44%
New Hamshire	1,697	2,472	775	46%
Maine	1,323	1,713	390	29%
Idaho	1,323	1,707	384	29%
Delaware	817	1,438	621	76%
Rhode Island	952	1,326	374	39%
Vermont	980	1,019	39	4%
Alaska	814	960	146	18%
West Virginia	379	901	522	138%
South Dakota	574	762	188	33%
North Dakota	478	640	162	34%
Montana	199	297	98	49%
Wyoming	100	191	91	91%
District of Columbia	1,903	1,567	-336	-18%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

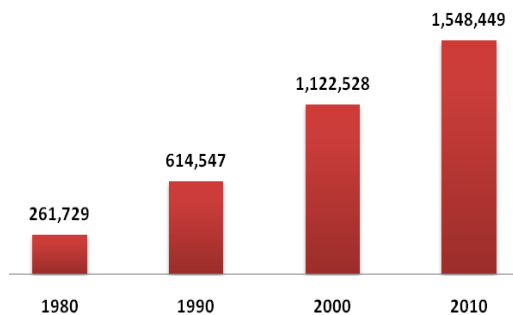


**Midway City, CA** had the highest proportion of Vietnamese in its total population: 41.4%, compared with 10.6% in San Jose, CA. However, Midway City is an unincorporated area, i.e. without its own government. The Census Bureau assigned the city as a Census Designated Place (CDP) for statistical purpose. Its boundary has no legal status.

From the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, the Vietnamese population grew considerably, in part due to higher level of immigration. The population increased by 134.8% between 1980 and 1990; 82.6% between 1990 and 2000. Since 2000 onward, the growth of Vietnamese population began to slow down, by 37.9% between 2000 and 2010.

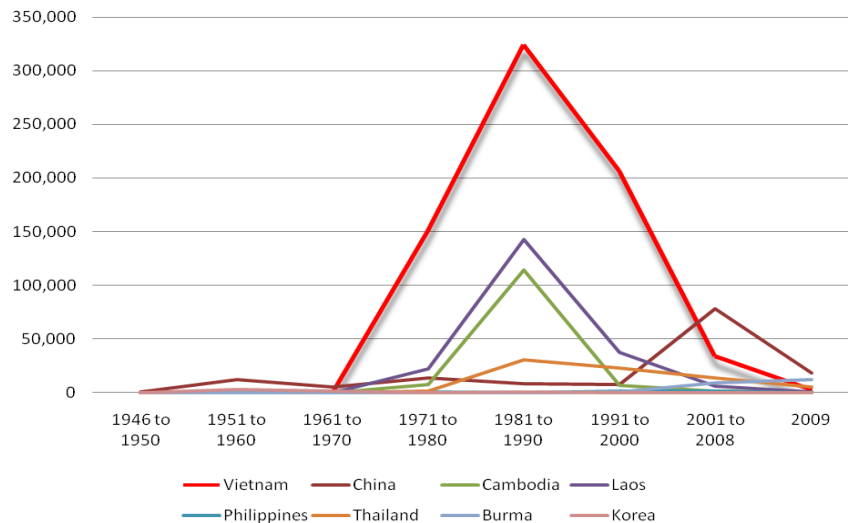
#### Vietnamese Population Growth: 1980-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



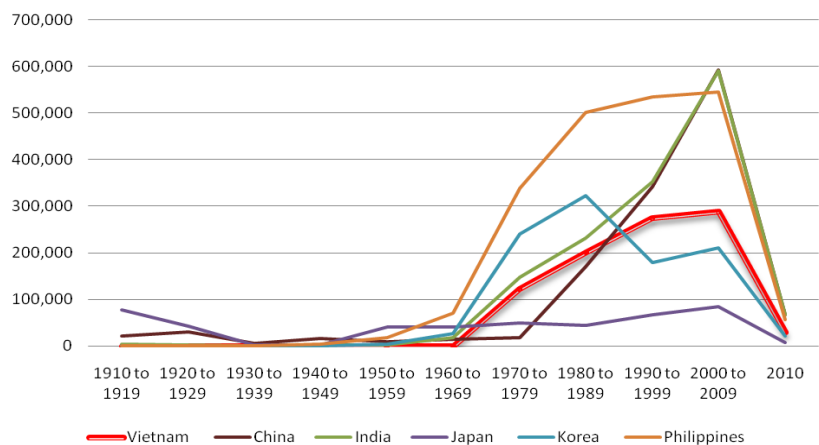
#### Refugees Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident

Source: U.S. Homeland Security



#### Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident 1910-2010

(Source: U.S. Homeland Security)



#### Language Spoken at Home Other Than English

According to the 2007 ACS report, from 1980 to 2007, Vietnamese speakers had the largest percentage increase (511 percent) of people speaking a language other than English at home. While increased immigration led to gains for some language groups, other groups experienced aging populations and dwindling migrant flows into the United States.

#### Foreign Born Population

Vietnamese Foreign-born Population Estimates		
	Number	Percent
<b>Total population</b>	1,471,509	100
<b>Native</b>	473,810	22.2
<b>Foreign born</b>	997,699	67.8
Naturalized U.S. citizen	726,342	72.8
Not a U.S. citizen	271,357	27.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



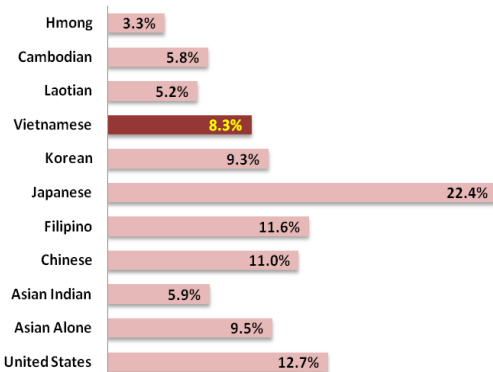
## Age

According to the 2009 American Community Survey, the median age of the total U.S. population was 36.8 years. The overall median age for people reported Asian alone was 35.7 years, and Vietnamese was 35.4 years. Since 2000, Vietnamese population median age has increased from 30.5 years to 35.4 years in 2009.

The age distribution varied considerably among Asian groups. The Vietnamese alone under 17 years was 25.6% of its total population, according to the 2007-2009 ACS, compared with the youngest group, the Hmong at 43.9%. Among the older population of 65 years and over, Vietnamese distribution was 8.3%, compared with Japanese: 22.4%, highest among Asian groups.

### 65 years and Over Among Asian

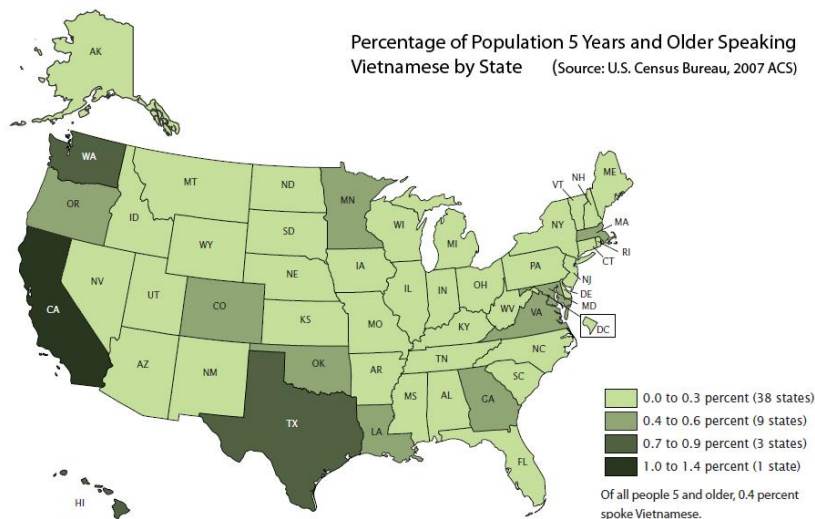
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



## Poverty

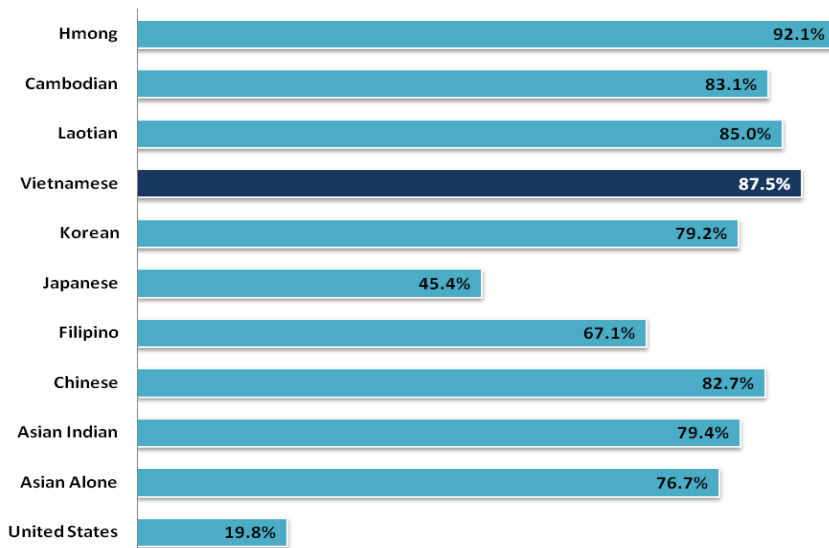
Poverty Rates for Vietnamese Families and People for Whom Poverty Status is Determined	Percent
All families	10.7
Married-couple family	8.7
Female householder, no husband present, family	21.6
All people	13.1
65 years and over	11.6

Percentage of Population 5 Years and Older Speaking Vietnamese by State (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 ACS)



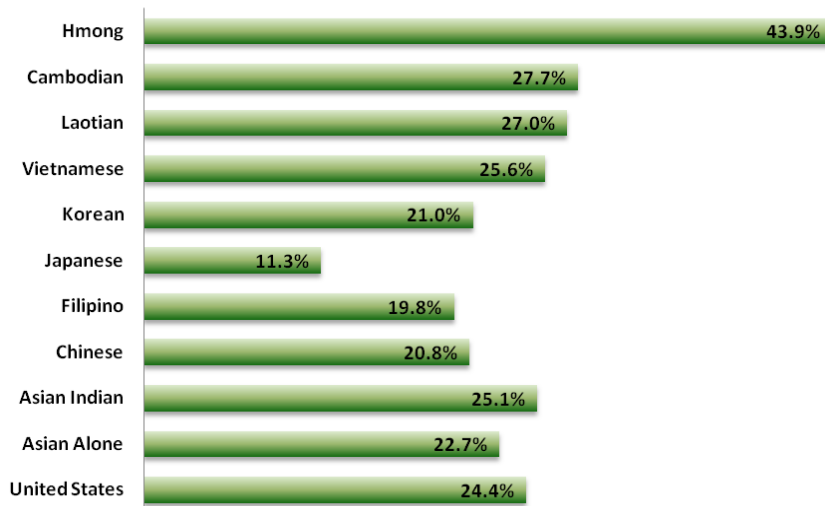
## Language Spoken At Home other than English

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



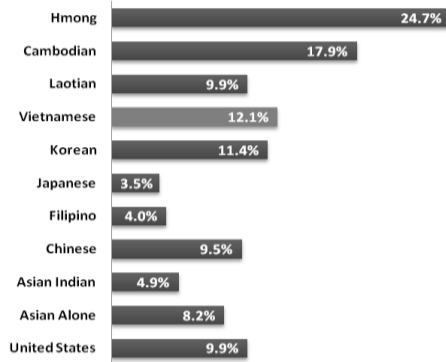
## Under 17 Years Old Among Asian

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



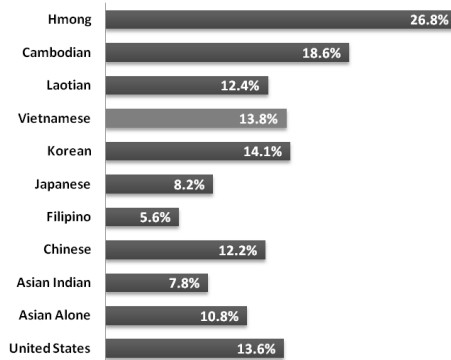
## Asian Families Living Below Poverty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



## Asian People Living Below Poverty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



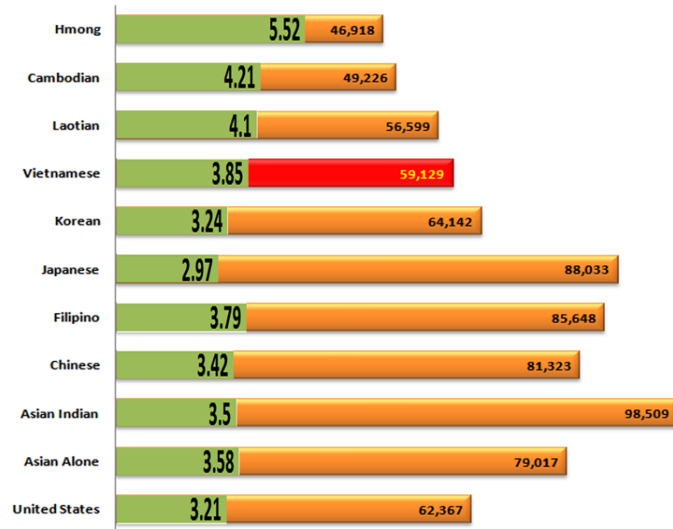
## Homeownership

Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the nation's or a community's economy for decades. These data are used by the government in establishing Fair Market Rents, mortgage insurance, home energy assistance, house value, Section 8 and other housing program subsidies, and overall viability of local housing markets.

Local planners use data on tenure to assess neighborhood stability. Banks use the data to distribute funds for mortgage insurance, for rental housing in urban renewal areas, and for national defense housing.

## Average Family Size and Median Family Income

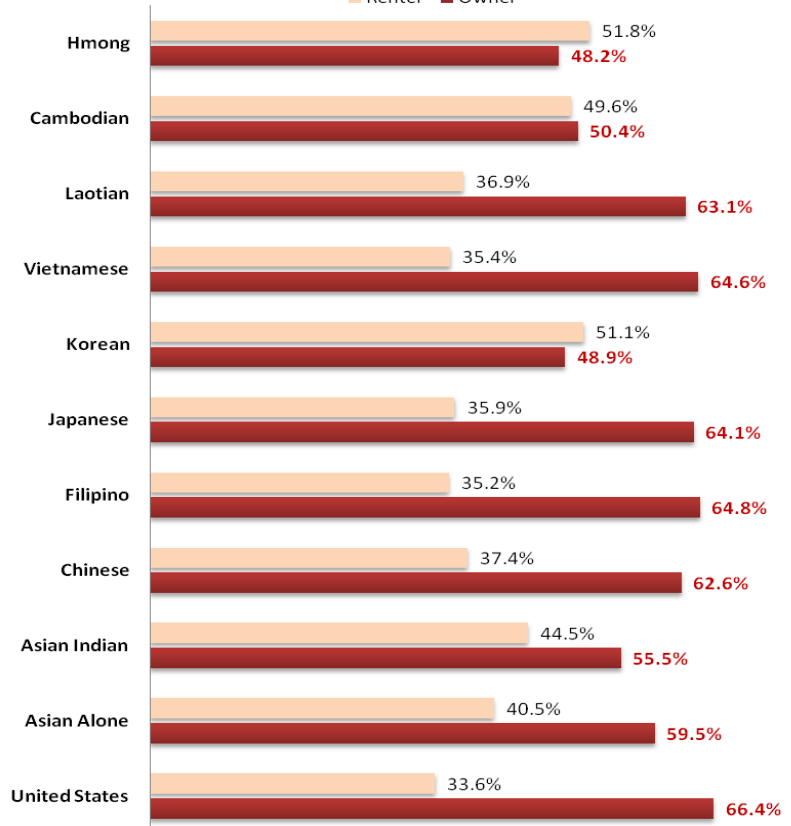
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS



## Homeownership Among Asian

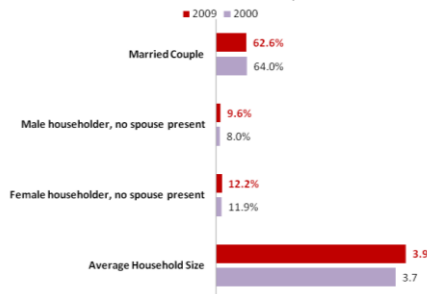
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS

■ Renter ■ Owner

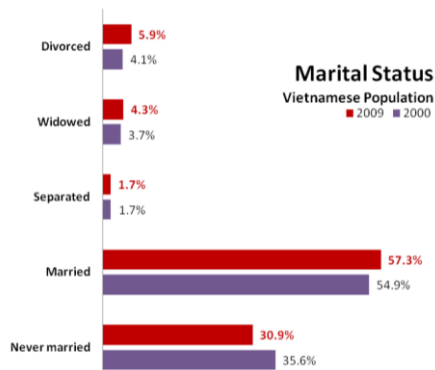


## Trends and Characteristics of Vietnamese Family Household

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2009 ACS



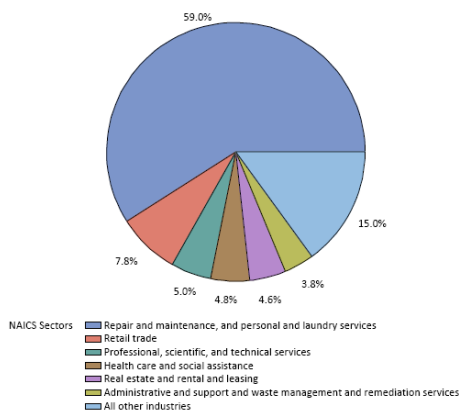
## Marital Status



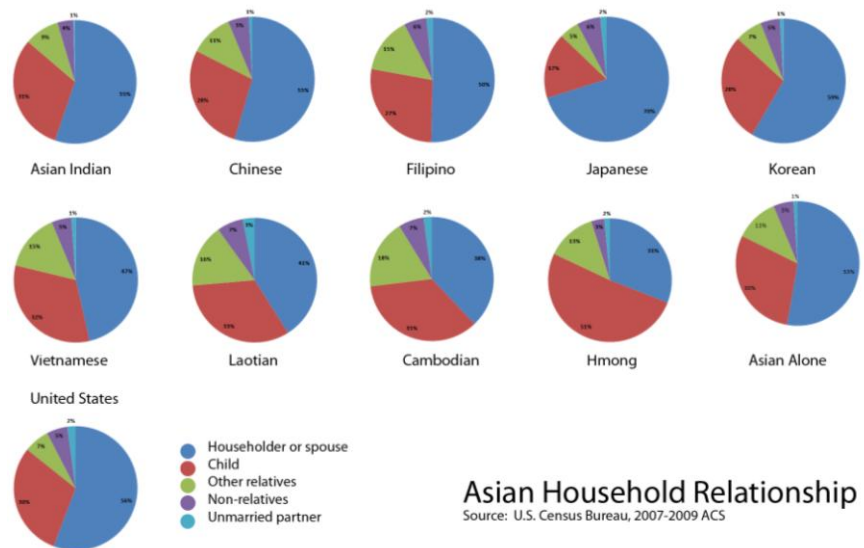
## Economic Characteristics

The robust revenues of Asian-owned firms and the growth in the number of businesses indicated that minority entrepreneurs are at the forefront as engines for growth in U.S. economy. The 2007 Survey of Business Owners (SOB), conducted by the Census Bureau, showed that Vietnamese small business ownership had grown by 55.8% since 2002, compared to 40.4% among Asian-owned firms.

Vietnamese-Owned Firms  
Number of Firms by Kind of Business: 2007  
Total: 229,149



## Household Relationship

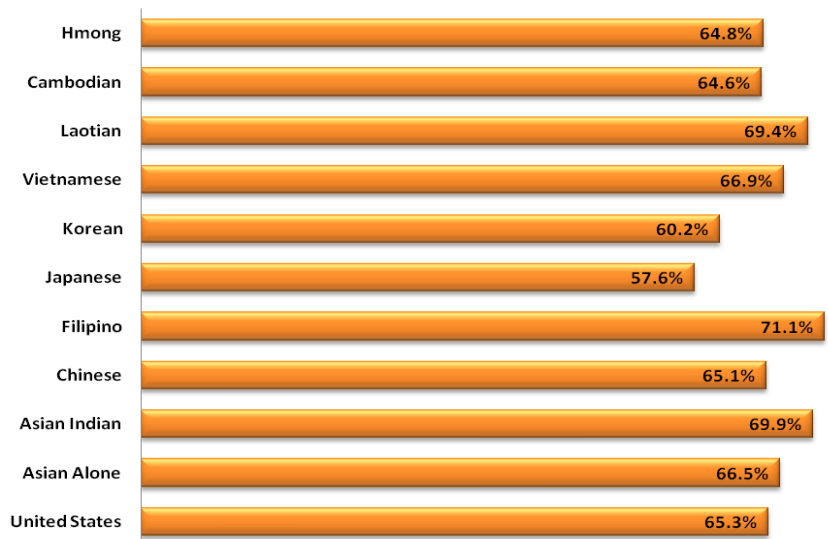


## Asian Household Relationship

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 ACS

## Employment Status

Population 16 years and over in labor force



The 2007 SOB showed that Vietnamese owned 229,149 firms, or 14.8% of total firms owned by Asian, generating \$28.8 billion in receipts.

Of all the total firms, 66.9% were in the repair, maintenance, personal, laundry services and the retail trade, ranking #1 among Asian groups.

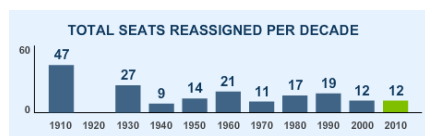
There were 29,782 Vietnamese-owned employer firms, an increase of 16.4 percent from 2002. These firms employed 166,425 persons and had a total payroll of \$3.8 billion. In 2007, these firms generated \$21.0 billion in receipts, an increase of 82.1 percent from 2002. In 2007, employer firms accounted for 13.0 percent of the total number of Vietnamese-owned firms and 72.9 percent of Vietnamese-owned firms' receipts.

The number of Vietnamese-owned firms with no paid employees accounted for 87.0 percent of the total number of Vietnamese-owned firms and 27.1 percent of receipts. There were 199,367 Vietnamese-



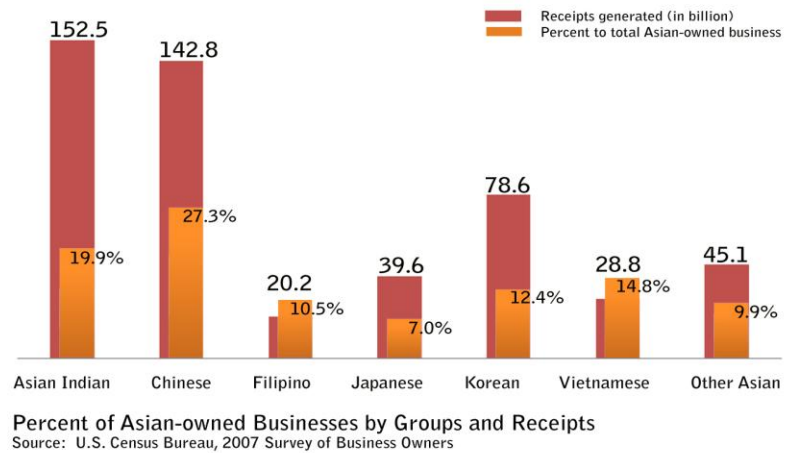
owned firms had no paid employees, an increase of 64.2 percent from 2002. These nonemployer firms generated \$7.8 billion in receipts, an increase of 96.0 percent from 2002.

## Political Empowerment

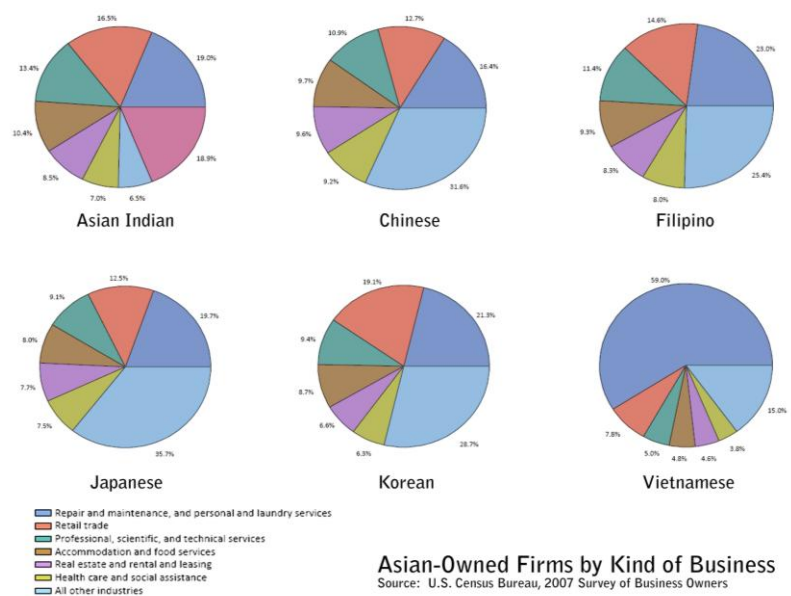


Census results have a profound impact on all levels of America's political landscape. Population data is used to redistribute congressional representation. Gaining or losing a congressional seat means an increase or decrease in power. To ensure equal representation across the country, the Supreme Court ruled that every district must be "substantially equal," by using the Method of Equal Proportions to allocate seats among the states. The results of the 2010 Census showed that each U.S. Representative represented about 647,000 people.

Congressional reapportionment also triggers a second process called Redistricting. Legislative boundaries must be redrawn to incorporate the change in population, even in states



## Kind of Business



that experience no change in congressional seats.

Racially-balanced representation, for example, is one but many factors closely monitored and reinforced by the Justice Department, in compliance with the Voting Right Acts.

The Census Bureau delivers the redistricting statistics, called Public Law 94-171 Data, also known as Redistricting Data to state government. The law specifies that total population count be provided, by race and Hispanic origin, and voting-age population for every political geography within the state, as well as for census tracts, block groups, and blocks.

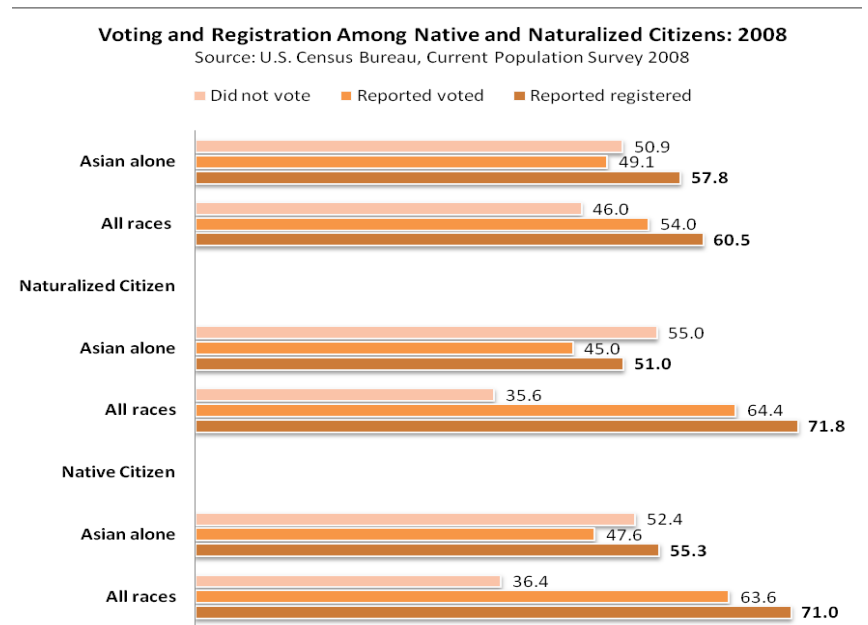
### Voting

The Census Bureau's 2008 Current Population Survey showed that 57.1% of the voting-age population casted votes for Presidential election and 53.3% for U.S. House of Representatives.

Asian had lower registration and voting rates than total U.S. voting-age population. Of the total Asian voting-age population, 55.3% registered to vote, compared to 71% for all U.S. voting-age population. Yet, 47.6% of all the registered individuals reported voting, compared to 63.6% for all U.S. voting-age population.

Naturalized citizens registered to vote and voted more than native citizens. 57.8% Asian naturalized citizens of Asian registered to vote, compared to 51% among Asian native citizens. Of all the registered, 49.1% of naturalized citizens voted, compared to 47.6% Asian native citizens. According to the 2007-2009 American Community Survey, 67.8%

of the Vietnamese population were foreign-born. Of all the Vietnamese foreign-born, 72.8% were naturalized U.S. citizens.



Midway City, CA has the largest percentage of Vietnamese population by city at 41.4%. Yet, Midway City is an unincorporated area. It has no own government.

San Jose, CA has the largest concentration of Vietnamese by city. 71.1% of the total Vietnamese population was foreign-born. Of which, 78.5% were naturalized citizens.

Reported Voting and Registration Among Native and Naturalized Citizens, by All Races and Asian Alone: 2008									
Nativity status, race and Hispanic origin, and region of birth	U.S. Citizen								
	Total citizen population (1,000)	Reported registered		Not registered		Reported voted		Did not vote	
		Number (1,000)	%	Number (1,000)	%	Number (1,000)	%	Number (1,000)	%
All races	206,072	146,311	71.0	59,761	29.0	131,144	63.6	74,928	36.4
Asian alone	7,059	3,901	55.3	3,159	44.7	3,357	47.6	3,702	52.4
Native Citizen									
All races	190,683	137,001	71.8	53,682	28.2	122,839	64.4	67,844	35.6
Asian alone	2,654	1,353	51.0	1,301	49.0	1,194	45.0	1,460	55.0
Naturalized Citizen									
All races	15,390	9,310	60.5	6,080	39.5	8,305	54.0	7,085	46.0
Asian alone	4,405	2,548	57.8	1,857	42.2	2,163	49.1	2,242	50.9
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2008, Current Population Reports, 2010.									

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2008, Current Population Reports, 2010.

This summary was prepared as an aid in responding to inquiry about the Vietnamese population in the United States. For more information, please contact Anh T. Nguyen, U.S. Census Bureau / Atlanta Region, email [anh.t.nguyen@census.gov](mailto:anh.t.nguyen@census.gov), or call (404) 423-0812. These charts and tables were created for educational and display purposes only, not for publication, replication, or distribution. Data availability varies, depending on topics and survey parameters. All data can be retrieved from the U.S. Census website: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), or otherwise noticed. Updated June 2011.