Stats and Facts: AAPIs in the American South*

February 2017

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1 Overview

The following summarizes key stats and facts about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the American South using the most current United States Census American Community Survey (ACS) microdata. Per the United States Census, an Asian person is a person "having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent."[1] A Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander is a "person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands."[2] Per the United States Census, the American South includes sixteen states plus the District of Columbia.[3] This includes the West South region with Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The East South region with Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. And the South Atlantic region with Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

2 Stats and Facts

2.1 How Many AAPIs Are There in the American South and Where Do They Live?

- AAPIs are one of the fast growing demographic groups in the United States.

- 4.52 million AAPIs call the American South home, which accounts for 22.6% of the total AAPI population in the United States.

- Southern states with the largest AAPI populations (at least 100,000 AAPIs) are Texas (1.33 million), Florida (670,000), Virginia (600,000), Georgia (430,000), Maryland (420,000), North Carolina (300,000), Tennessee (130,000), and Oklahoma (100,000).

- The metropolitan areas in the American South with the largest AAPI populations (at least 100,000 AAPIs) are the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area (680,000), the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area (500,000), the Dallas-Forth Worth-Arlington metropolitan area (470,000),

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[1]See United States Census definition here: https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html

[2]*Ibid.*

[3]See United States Census definition here: https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf

the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell metropolitan area (340,000), the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area (180,000), the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson metropolitan area (170,000), the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford metropolitan area (120,000), the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area (120,000), and the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area (120,000).

2.2   The Diversity of AAPIs in the American South

- AAPI is a category that includes dozens of national origin groups and even more ethnicities and languages.

- AAPIs in the American South self-identify with over 100 distinct racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.

- For example, 82.7% of AAPIs in the American South are "mono-race AAPIs," meaning they self identify with one racial identity group. Among these individuals, there are *at least thirty-eight racial identity groups represented*. The most common (over 50,000 AAPIs) are Asian Indian (950,000), Chinese (610,000), Vietnamese (590,000), Filipino (450,000), Korean (350,000), Pakistani (160,000), Japanese (89,000), Thai (54,000), and Laotian (54,000).

- This means that, 17.3% of AAPIs in the American South are "multi-race AAPIs," meaning they self identify with more than one racial identity group. Among these individuals, there are *at least sixty-eight different multi-racial identity groups represented*. The most common (over 50,000 AAPIs) are White and Filipino (110,000), White and Korean (63,000), White and Japanese (63,000), and White and Chinese (52,000).

- AAPIs in the American South speak *at least 108 different languages*. The most common languages spoken (over 50,000 AAPIs) are English (1.29 million), Vietnamese (490,000), Chinese (370,000), Filipino, Tagalog (280,000), Korean (260,000), Hindi (190,000), Urdu (160,000), Gujarathi (120,000), Telugu (99,000), Mandarin (74,000), Bengali (67,000), Tamil (63,000), Japanese (60,000), Spanish (59,000), and Malayalam (59,000).

- To be clear, the language diversity among AAPIs in the American South does not mean that AAPIs do not speak English. In fact, 71.6% speak English only or are bilingual and speak English very well.

- The data further show that 2.85 million AAPIs in the American South were born outside of the United States, which translates into 63.0% of the total AAPI population in the American South.

- AAPIs in the American South who were born outside of the United States come from *at least 148 different countries and territories*. The most common countries and territories (over 50,000 AAPIs) are India (600,000), Vietnam (420,000), Philippines (360,000), China (320,000), Korea (280,000), Pakistan (130,000), Japan (77,000), Taiwan (72,000), and Thailand (63,000).

- AAPIs in the American South who were born outside of the United States have lived in country an average of 17.6 years.

- 57.4% of AAPIs in the American South who were born outside of the United States are American citizens.

2.3   AAPIs and the Southern Economy

- 94.1% of AAPIs in the American South who are 16 or older and in the labor force are currently employed.

- The main industries that AAPIs in the American South work in are *Health Care and Social Assistance* (13.6%), *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* (12.6%), *Retail Trade* (11.9%), and *Accommodation and Food Services* (10.0%).

- The main jobs that AAPIs in the American South work in (over 50,000 AAPIs) are Software Developers, Applications and Systems Software (83,000), Personal Care Workers (75,000), Cashiers (72,000), Registered Nurses (67,000), Managers (60,000), Retail Supervisors (67,000), Postsecondary Teachers (57,000), and Physicians and Surgeons (53,000).

- AAPIs in the American South earn a combined $112.7 billion annually in pre-tax wages and salary income.

- 52.2% of AAPIs in the American South who are 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or higher.