

AAPI in the South Data

Jeremiah Cha

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1 Labor Stats

AAPIs in the southern workforce are a diverse community. With a number of different skills and occupations, it is important to identify the demographics of this population.

1.1 STEM v Non-STEM

There are currently 2,451,128 AAPIs in the United States workforce that are in STEM occupations. This makes up about 23.5% of the entire AAPI workforce. Conversely, there are 7,958,666 AAPIs that are in non-STEM occupations, making up about 76.5% of the AAPI workforce.

In the South, there are about 620,671 AAPIs in the workforce that are in STEM occupations. This makes up about 26.1% of the southern AAPI workforce. Conversely, there are 1,756,931 AAPIs that are in non-STEM occupations, making up about 73.9% of the southern AAPI workforce.

1.2 Arts and Humanities

AAPIs also make up a sizable community within the arts and humanities¹². Throughout the nation, there are 233,714 in occupations that are considered arts and humanities. This amounts to 6.7% of all individuals in the arts and humanities throughout the nation. AAPIs make up 6.4% of the United States and 6.5% of the workforce. In terms of participation in the arts and humanities, AAPIs reflect rates similar to the rest of the nation.

In the South, there are 43,383 AAPIs in the arts and humanities. This amounts to 0.7% of the AAPI workforce in the South. Moreover, AAPIs in the South only represent about 4% of all individuals in the arts and humanities in the South. Compared to national statistics, participation of AAPIs in these professions are lower in the southern states.

¹The Academy of Arts and Sciences offers a definition of "humanities" occupations - considering the scope of this project, including humanities related occupations, such as teaching, would be overly inclusive: <https://www.humanitiesindicators.org/content/indicatordoc.aspx?i=60>

²Arts occupations are defined as occupations within the Census designation of Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations

2 Disaggregation and Income

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have called for disaggregation, as different groups have different outcomes. Table 1 outlines not only the population of all AAPI groups with over 20,000 individuals but also their median incomes. As evident in the chart, AAPI groups have different levels of economic outcomes.

Table 1: AAPIs by Ethnicity in the South

Ethnicity	Population	Median Income
Asian Indian	1,008,906	\$60,758
Chinese	621,464	\$41,216
Vietnamese	596,303	\$26,329
Filipino	458,166	\$35,483
Korean	346,544	\$35,442
Pakistani	166,660	\$32,148
White and Filipino	116,069	\$25,345
White and Other Asian	112,656	\$28,354
Japanese	91,497	\$43,037
White and Korean	65,472	\$35,442
White and Japanese	65,246	\$35,889
Laotian	57,488	\$28,995
White and Chinese	55,625	\$30,414
Thai	53,304	\$26,329
Cambodian	46,868	\$25,345
Burmese	46,264	\$20,253
Nepalese	45,607	\$20,276
Other Asian Write In	44,729	\$26,790
Bangladeshi	38,839	\$24,729
White and Asian Indian	33,089	\$33,000
Asian Write In and Other Write In	32,396	\$37,633
Taiwanese	30,830	\$50,690
White and Vietnamese	29,174	\$33,000
Hmong	25,345	\$25,316
White, Black and Asian	22,740	\$30,379

3 Political Stats

As the AAPI population in the South grows, campaigns, elected officials, and bureaucratic institutions need to account for the demographics and needs of this often overlooked population. Despite the foreign origin of a majority of the AAPI population in the South, nearly 65.3% of the AAPI population over the age of eighteen are eligible to vote. This group of 2,238,890 naturalized and native-born citizens are an important voting bloc in certain areas and could potentially swing key elections in the future.

3.1 Citizen Voting Age Population by State

Table 2 details the citizen voting age population of each of the states in the American South³. From 2000 to 2016, the AAPI CVAP increased by almost triple in certain states, such as Texas. Table 3 illustrates the citizen voting age population by state in the South in the year 2000. The increase in the AAPI CVAP demonstrates the expansion of AAPI influence in key election. In the states with the largest populations, the growth was the most profound.

Table 2: CVAP by State in 2016

State	AAPI CVAP
Texas	658,445
Florida	361,312
Virginia	305,490
Georgia	198,293
Maryland	224,371
North Carolina	137,823
Tennessee	61,753
Oklahoma	47,984
Louisiana	46,259
South Carolina	44,419
Alabama	35,062
Kentucky	30,512
Arkansas	23,490
Delaware	17,161
District Of Columbia	19,291
Mississippi	17,517
West Virginia	9,708

³CVAP Population data was obtained using American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata

Table 3: CVAP by State in 2000

State	AAPI CVAP
Texas	278,816
Florida	165,317
Virginia	139,740
Maryland	110,014
Georgia	80,736
North Carolina	54,768
Louisiana	30,575
Tennessee	29,552
Oklahoma	26,930
South Carolina	20,379
Alabama	18,719
Kentucky	14,877
Arkansas	11,496
Mississippi	10,268
District of Columbia	8,886
Delaware	8,042
West Virginia	6,491

3.2 Citizen Voting Age Population by Metropolitan Area

The data can also be divided by metropolitan areas, giving a better idea of the key areas of population growth. Table 4 details the metropolitan areas with the top ten largest CVAP populations.

Table 5 describes the AAPI CVAP in 2000. Similar to the growth in each of the Southern states since 2000, the growth in the AAPI CVAP in metropolitan areas is significant. Although the metropolitan areas included in the top ten list did not change, their position on the list as well as the total populations drastically changed. Growth may not be consistent, but the trend of population growth is important to note. Using the DMV area as an example, the AAPI CVAP nearly tripled within this period.

Table 4: CVAP by Metropolitan Area in 2016

Metropolitan Area	18+ Population	CVAP Population
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	516,478	353,898
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	392,152	264,350
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	352,107	222,084
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell	256,754	154,431
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach	140,619	95,728
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson	127,631	86,196
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	92,977	67,152
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	89,504	63,172
Austin-Round Rock	93,039	59,701
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News	66,076	52,383 %

Table 5: CVAP by Metropolitan Area in 2000

Metropolitan Area	18+ Population	CVAP Population
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	278,968	126,175
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	185,927	88,716
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	160,910	64,687
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell	112,725	41,033
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach	85,138	38,294
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson	59,951	26,429
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News	39,961	19,725
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	40,554	18,758
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	42,174	16,693
Austin-Round Rock	39,842	14,034

3.3 Registration and Turnout

Although CVAP data does assist in creating a better picture of the AAPI electorate, registration and turnout rates from the November 2016 give the best picture of the AAPI electorate⁴.

AAPIs nationally are registered at a rate of 72.4%, while AAPIs in the South are registered at a rate of 71.3%. Voter registration rates are calculated by taking the total registered individuals and dividing it by the total number of individuals over the age of 18 with requisite citizenship status (or known formerly as the Citizen Voter Age Population).

AAPIs turnout at a rate of 84.6% nationally and 80.7% in the South. The trends point to the fact that when AAPIs are registered, they are more likely to cast a ballot than not.

The rate of registration and turnout in the South may not be significantly different, but the lower rates of both registration and turnout should be noted.

⁴Registration and turnout statistics were calculated using the Current Population Survey (CPS) Public Use Microdata