

# Asian/Pacific Americans in Iowa: 2024

May 2024

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.

**88,649**

The population of who will identify themselves as Asian alone in Iowa according to the 2022 annual population estimates. This group comprises 2.8% of Iowa's total population.

**7,382**

The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2022. This group comprises 0.2% of Iowa's total population.

## Coming to America

**32.3%**

The percent of Iowa's foreign born population in 2022 who were born in Asia. The total foreign-born population in Iowa was 190,727.

**142.0%**

The percent change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2022. This is a 52,014 numeric increase for the period.

**631.6%**

The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders alone from 2000 to 2022. This is a numeric increase of 6,373 for that period.

**82.1%**

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

**51.5%**

The percentage of Iowa's foreign-born in 2022 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the Iowa foreign-born population as a whole is 44.9 percent.

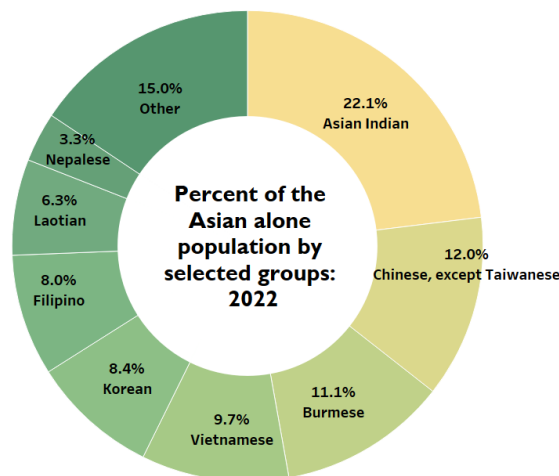
**34.3**

The median age of  
 Iowa's Asian  
 population in 2022.

The median age for the  
 state of Iowa is 38.9

**195,839**

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.



**11,148**

The estimated number of foreign-born people in Iowa from India according to the 2018-2022 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 (8,912), Vietnam (7,428), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5,715), Korea (5,155), the Philippines (4,675), and Burma (4,514).

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

County	2022	2010	Percent Change
Polk	26,170	15,220	71.9%
Johnson	10,012	6,819	46.8%
Story	7,858	5,383	46.0%
Linn	5,995	3,806	57.5%
Dallas	5,751	1,662	246.1%

City	2018-2022 ACS	2010	Percent Change
Des Moines	14,092	8,990	56.8%
Ames	6,690	5,175	29.3%
Iowa City	5,898	4,680	26.0%
West Des Moines	4,226	2,709	56.0%
Cedar Rapids	3,686	2,796	31.8%

**Top 5 counties and cities of residence for all Native Hawaiians and/or other Pacific Islanders alone in Iowa**

County	2022	2010	Percent Change
Wapello	803	48	1,572.9%
Woodbury	800	106	654.7%
Black Hawk	796	201	296.0%
Dubuque	791	288	174.7%
Buena Vista	626	100	526.0%

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

### 26,170

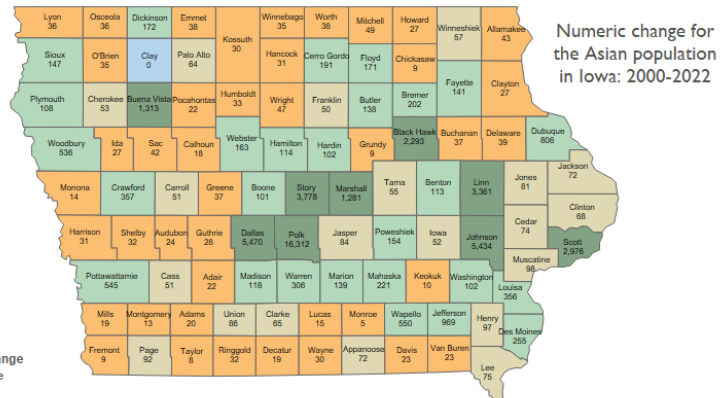
The number of Asians in Polk county in 2022, which leads all counties in Iowa. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (10,950) of people in this group between 2010 and 2022.

Buena Vista county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (10.7 percent).

### 803

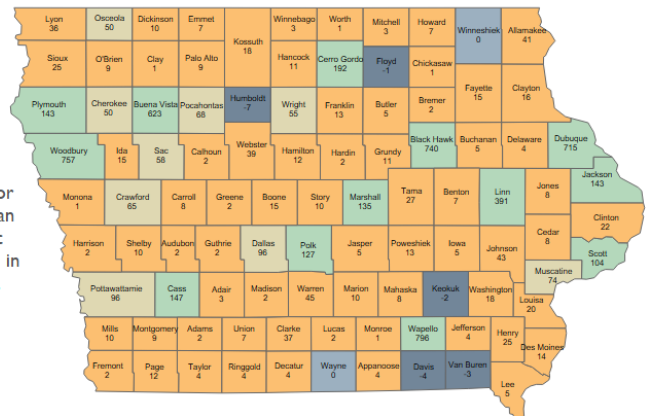
The number of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Wapello county in 2022, which leads all counties in Iowa.

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 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in Iowa: 2000-2022

Numeric change for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in Iowa: 2000-2022



## Education

**17,141**

The number Asian and Pacific Islanders enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

**91.6%**

Percent increase in enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2023-2024.

*Source: Iowa Department of Education*

**57.6%**

The percentage of Asians in 2022, 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 **32.3** percent.

**86.2%**

The percentage of Asians in 2022, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans is **93.5** percent.

**27.8%**

The percentage of Asians in 2022, 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 **10.8** percent.

**7.0%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over in 2022, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education.

**47.6%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates in 2022.

## Languages

**7,928**

The number of people who speak Chinese at home in 2022. Chinese is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (**7,031**), Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai languages (**5,923**); and Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages (**4,365**).

## Age

**41.2%**

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population in 2022 that are under 18; **3.7** percent are 65 or over.

**19.0%**

The percentage of people identifying themselves as Asian in 2022 that are under 18; **9.0** percent are 65 or over.

## Serving Our Nation

**802**

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

*Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates*

## Income and poverty

**\$84,574**

The median income of households in 2022 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is **\$69,588**.

**\$49,950**

The median income of households whose householders reported their race as Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2022.

**14.1%**

The poverty rate in 2022 for those who reported their race as Asian. The corresponding rate for Iowa as a whole is **11.0** percent.

**40.3%**

The poverty rate in 2022 for those who reported their race Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.



State Library of Iowa  
Miller Building  
1112 E. Grand Ave  
Des Moines, Iowa 50327  
Phone: 800-248-4483  
Fax: 515-242-6543  
E-mail: census@iowa.gov  
www.iowadatacenter.org



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## Employment

**1.3%**

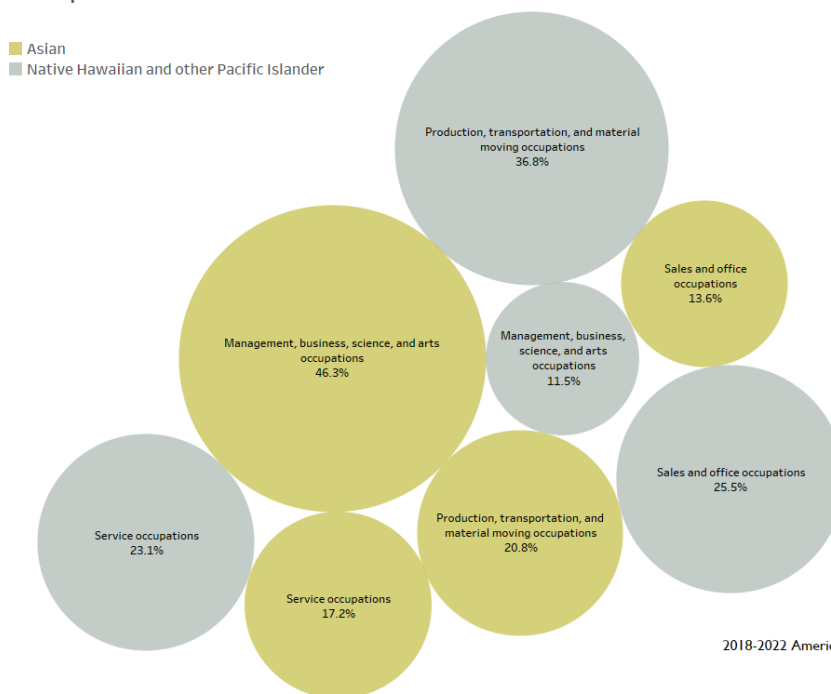
The unemployment rate in 2022 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all Iowans is **2.9**.

**7.1%**

The unemployment rate for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

### Occupation for Asian and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders in Iowa



2018-2022 American Community Survey

## Vital Statistics

**11.6**

The Asian birth rate per 1,000 population in 2022. The birth rate per 1,000 for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders was **45.8**. The rate for the state was **11.5**.

**14.6**

The Asian rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2022. The rate for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders was **82.8**. The rate for the state was **37.6**.

**2.4**

The Asian death rate per 1,000 population in 2022. The death rate per 1,000 for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders was **4.6**. The rate for the state of Iowa was **10.6**.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services publication, "2022 Vital Statistics of Iowa"

Data Source (unless otherwise noted):  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2022 American Community Survey  
2022 Annual population estimates  
U.S. Decennial Census 2020, 2010,  
and 2000

**182.5**

The Asian rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2022. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders was **724.9**. The rate for the state was **357.1**.