



Asians in Utah

History

The first Asian residents of Utah were Chinese railroad workers who built the western segment of the Transcontinental Railroad, which was completed near Promontory, Utah in 1869. The Chinese who made Utah home were followed by the first Japanese settlers in 1882, Koreans in 1910, Filipinos in 1922, and most recently, new Utahns originally from South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Population

There are over 80,000 Asians residing in Utah¹ - with Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos comprising over 50% of the Asian population (followed by Vietnamese, Indian, Laotian, and Thai communities). Smaller communities of Nepali, Tibetan, Bhutanese, Hmong, Karen, and other groups also call Utah home.

At 4.4%, Salt Lake County has the state's highest proportion of Asians.² The populations of Indians, Filipinos, and Thais all doubled between 2000 and 2010, while the overall Asian population in Utah experienced a 63% increase during those years.³

Sociodemographics

The median age of Utah Asians in 2014 is 26.8 years – the second “oldest” population in Utah, with a sex distribution of 47.5% males and 52.5 females.¹

Utah's Asians are more likely to be born outside the U.S. than any other population.⁴ About 57% of Asians report speaking a language other than English at home – the second-highest rate of non-English language use in the state.⁵ With 11,451 speakers, Chinese is the third-most spoken language in Utah after English and Spanish. Vietnamese and Korean are also among the top ten Utah languages.

About one-quarter of Utah Asians holds a bachelor's degree, the highest rate of any Utah race group.⁶

RACE/ETHNICITY	Population	Median Age (Years)	% Male	% Female	Foreign Born	Other Language	Bachelor's Degree
White	2,601,525	29.4	50.2%	49.8%	5.3%	9.2%	20.5%
Hispanic/Latino	370,870	23.6	51.6%	48.4%	40.0%	67.1%	8.2%
Asian	80,037	26.8	47.5%	52.5%	48.2%	57.1%	24.2%
Am. Indian/AK Native	59,338	24.1	49.6%	50.4%	2.5%	31.4%	8.7%
Black/African Am.	47,856	19.6	55.2%	44.8%	17.2%	22.8%	14.5%
N.Hawaiian/Pacific I.	37,994	20.2	52.2%	47.8%	21.3%	44.0%	11.2%

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race Alone or in Combination, 2014 Population Estimates, Table PEPA SR5H.

² U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011-2013 3-Year Estimates, Table S0201.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2013 3-Year Estimates..

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates, Table B05003.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates, Table B16004.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates, Table B15002.