

POWER OF THE PURSE

How Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Contribute to the U.S. Economy



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Executive Summary

While migration from Latin America has been at the forefront of the immigration debate for much of the past half century, in more recent years, immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands, or AAPI immigrants, have constituted an increasing share of newcomers arriving in the United States. In 2015, almost 40 percent of all newly arrived immigrants, or those who came within the last five years, hailed from Asia or the Pacific—a larger share than from Latin America.¹ This coincided with Asian Americans more broadly becoming the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States, overtaking Hispanic-Americans during the past decade.²

In 2015, almost 40% of all newly arrived immigrants came from Asia or the Pacific—a larger share than from Latin America.

Given how rapidly the Asian American and Asian immigrant population in the country is expanding, it is important to understand the unique ways these individuals contribute to the U.S. workforce and the broader economy overall. There are many ways an individual can support the U.S. economy or spur economic or productivity growth. He or she can fill a job that would otherwise likely remain vacant, allowing a U.S. company to continue to expand, innovate, and hire more workers. She can pay taxes to state and local governments, supporting public schools, police forces, or other vital services. Or, he can participate in our economy simply as a consumer, buying the goods and services like groceries, clothes, and house painting that allow U.S.-based businesses to thrive.

In this research brief—part of a series from New American Economy (NAE) on the economic contributions of immigrants—we shed light on how

the AAPI population, both foreign-born and U.S.-born, is enriching our economy on each of these fronts. Using the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) from the U.S. Census, we examine data on the 21.3 million people of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in America—detailing how much they earn each year, their spending power, and the amount they contribute as taxpayers. To shed light on which communities and businesses may benefit the most from their contributions, we also detail who these immigrants are, what skills they have, their entrepreneurship patterns, and where they are concentrated in the country. This work represents an important expansion of the current literature. While ample research on the demographics of Asian Americans exists, their role in the U.S. economy is much less discussed.

As workers, business owners, and consumers, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders frequently contribute more than their sheer numbers would suggest.

What our findings show is that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are indispensable to the U.S. economy and, more broadly, to American society. As workers, business owners, and consumers, they frequently contribute more than their sheer numbers would suggest. They also contribute to occupations and fields where the United States struggles to attract enough workers, and are gaining clout at the voting booth. And as the AAPI population continues to grow—it is estimated that the Asian American population will increase by 143 percent by 2060, while the Pacific Islander population will double³—this group will likely play an even greater role in the United States in the coming decades.

KEY FINDINGS

▶ Immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands have particularly high levels of annual income.

In 2015, the median income of households led by Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants was **\$75,000**, far higher than the \$55,300 median income of U.S. households overall. The broader AAPI population also had median household earnings of **\$75,000** that year.

▶ AAPI immigrants make meaningful contributions to the U.S. economy as both taxpayers and consumers.

In 2015, households led by AAPI immigrants paid **\$97.5 billion** in federal taxes and **\$38.2 billion** in state and local taxes, leaving them with **\$335.8 billion** in disposable income or “spending power” to use at U.S. businesses. AAPI households overall held **\$455.6 billion** in spending power that year, and contributed **\$184.0 billion** in taxes.

▶ Asian American and Pacific Islander entrepreneurs stand out for the relative success of their businesses.

In 2012, firms owned by Asian Americans generated **\$707.6 billion** in total receipts and sales, the highest total of any minority group in the United States. AAPI business owners also employed more than **3.6 million** U.S. workers that year, once again a higher figure than other comparable groups. As recently as 2007, more than **1.9 million** U.S.-based workers held jobs at firms owned by AAPI immigrants.

▶ AAPI immigrants are considerably more likely than the broader population to have a college degree.

In 2015, more than **60 percent** of recently arrived AAPI immigrants, age 25 and above, had at least a bachelor’s degree. That made them almost twice as likely as the U.S.-born population overall in that age group to have achieved that level of education. For all AAPI immigrants, regardless of arrival date, roughly half had at least a bachelor’s degree.

▶ Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants fill critical gaps in the labor market.

More than one in six working AAPI immigrants hold jobs in science, technology, engineering, or math, or STEM, fields—making them **more than twice as likely** to work in such areas than U.S. workers overall. They also are more than **twice as likely** as other college-educated workers to hold jobs as physicians or surgeons, another profession that has faced shortages in recent years.

KEY FINDINGS

► **Foreign-born consumers from Asia and the Pacific Islands are particularly influential in several key states.**

In 2015, households led by foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders held roughly one out of every eight dollars in spending power in California. Their share of spending power was even greater in Hawaii, reaching **14.8 percent**. AAPI households more broadly, meanwhile, held relatively large shares of spending power in several surprising states, including Nevada and Washington. Roughly one out of every 10 dollars in spending power in each of those states was in AAPI hands in 2015.

► **By 2020, AAPIs will hold considerable voting power in some states.**

By 2020, an estimated **13.7 million** Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will be eligible to vote, a group that includes **8.0 million** AAPI immigrants. In some swing states, the voting power of the AAPI population will become particularly meaningful. In Virginia, for instance, a state Hillary Clinton won by roughly **186,000** votes in 2016, there will be more than **400,000** eligible Asian American and Pacific Islander voters by 2020. In several other key states—including Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—the estimated number of eligible AAPI voters by 2020 will similarly eclipse 2016 margins.

PART I

Introduction

When Bing Goei and his parents came to western Michigan in 1960, they were among the first Indonesians to move to the region, and their arrival made the front page of the local newspaper. “It must have been a slow news day,” Goei laughs. These days, it is hardly big news when an immigrant family arrives in Michigan—but for Goei, it is still something worth celebrating. “These are wonderful and talented and skilled people,” he says. “We have to spread the message that every person who comes here has the ability to contribute in their own way to the enrichment of our society.”

Goei’s own family left Indonesia in the 1950s, after the country’s government started dictating how Goei’s father, a teacher, should run his classes. They forfeited all their belongings, except for what they could cram into a suitcase, and fled to the Netherlands before coming to Michigan as political refugees. For Goei, then age 12, America was a semi-mythical place, the land of cowboy movies. For his parents, it was a place to start afresh. “America was, and continues to be, viewed by immigrants as a country of opportunity,” Goei says. “That’s what my parents always told us.”

Goei’s father found work as a janitor at a floral wholesaler, and Goei and his brothers worked their way through college at the same company. Later, Goei bought out the business, and started selling flowers around Michigan from the back of a truck. Eventually, Goei branched out into retail, taking over a bankrupt florist chain. His company, Eastern Floral, now has five locations around Michigan, with 80 employees and revenues of more than \$5 million a year. That is a good example, he says, of the benefits immigrants bring. “Our contributions have a ripple effect,” he says. “We pay

taxes, we start businesses, and we hire thousands and thousands of people to work in our companies.”

AAPI immigrants in the United States stand out not only for founding businesses at greater rates than other Americans, but also for starting particularly successful firms.

In this brief, we explore this very ripple effect—specifically, the way that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our country, both U.S.- and foreign-born, are contributing to the U.S. economy overall. Our work examines the contributions that Asians and Pacific Islanders make as taxpayers, earners, and consumers. We also take a close look at the entrepreneurship patterns of AAPI immigrants and the Asian American population more broadly. This work shows that Goei’s story, while inspiring, is not unique. AAPI immigrants in the United States stand out for not only founding businesses at greater rates than the U.S.-born, but also starting particularly successful firms. The AAPI population as a whole also boasts particularly high median earnings—allowing both immigrants and the U.S.-born to make large contributions as both taxpayers and consumers each year. They also fill gaps in our STEM workforce, helping companies innovate and grow.

The success of AAPI immigrants and Asian Americans overall is good news for the U.S. economy. As we detail, Asian Americans contributed \$183.9 billion in taxes in 2015. In recent years, businesses owned by Asian Americans have also provided employment to more than 3.6 million U.S. workers. Our work, however, calculates

only the direct contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in America. Given that many of the things we quantify have secondary effects—such as tax payments allowing communities to create more jobs in their police forces or public schools—the impact of Asian Americans is likely far greater than what we detail here.

Goei himself has ensured that his legacy and contribution is larger than what he has done with Eastern Floral. Several years ago, he founded the International Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence,

an incubator offering low-cost workspace to immigrant, minority, and women-owned enterprises. And in 2015, he was also tapped by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to lead the Michigan Office of New Americans, an initiative that aims to attract and support high-skilled immigrants and entrepreneurs in the state. Goei says he is encouraged by these efforts, and other changes he has seen in recent years in his state. “With the new immigrants coming to western Michigan,” Goei says, “the business community is beginning to realize that there’s an opportunity to grow the economy.”

PART II

The Earning Power of the AAPI Population

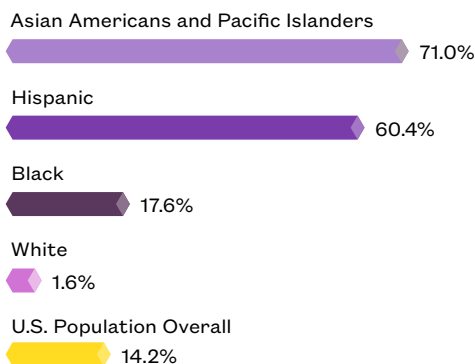
The history of significant immigration from Asia and the Pacific to the United States can be traced back to the 19th century.⁴ This first wave of Asian immigrants consisted of primarily low-skilled workers who suffered under poor working conditions, widespread discrimination, and general exclusion from mainstream American society. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 tightly restricted Chinese immigration and prohibited ethnic Chinese people in the United States from becoming citizens. Later laws also sought to minimize the footholds Asian immigrants had made in the country by imposing quotas on immigrants from certain countries. It was not until 1965 that this quota system was abolished, opening the way for the widespread immigration from Asian countries that we see today.

By 2015, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders—which we define as those who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander exclusively or in combination with other

By 2015, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders accounted for 6.6% of the U.S. population, or 21.3M people.

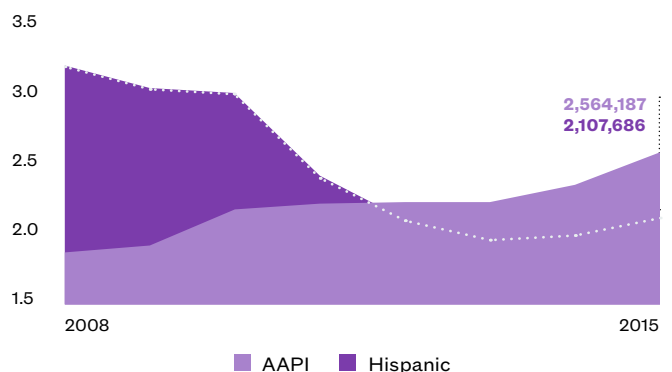
race groups in the Census—accounted for 6.6 percent of the U.S. population, or 21.3 million people.⁵ Between 2000 and 2015, Asians and Pacific Islanders have been the fastest growing demographic group in the United States, increasing by 71 percent while the overall U.S. population only grew by 14.1 percent (Figure 1). When compared with Hispanic Americans and immigrants from Latin America who have a longer history of migration to the United States, Asian Americans and

FIGURE 1: POPULATION GROWTH, 2000-2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2000-2015

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF NEW IMMIGRANTS (ARRIVED WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS) IN MILLIONS



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2008-2015

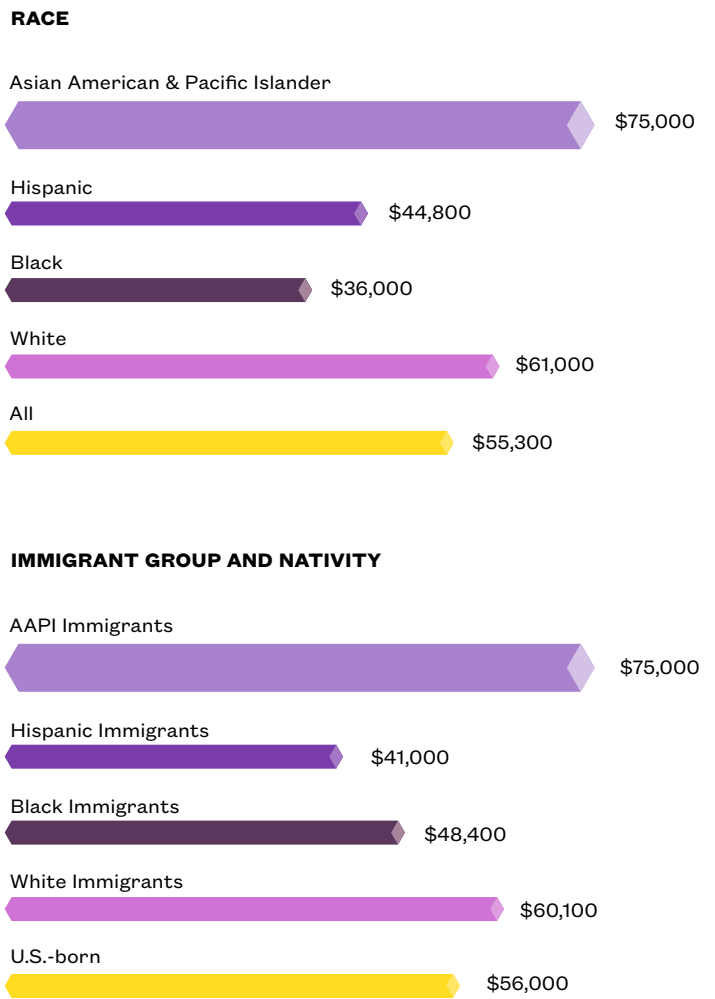
Pacific Islanders are relative newcomers. Since 2012, the number of recent immigrants—those who have been in the United States less than five years—from Asia and the Pacific has surpassed the number of recent immigrants from Latin America, with more than 2.5 million, or 38.2 percent of all newly arrived immigrants, being AAPI (Figure 2.)

In recent years, the Asian American and AAPI immigrant population has stood out not just for its rapid growth, but for their high average earnings as well. Our analysis of data from the 2015 American Community Survey shows that AAPI households, both native and foreign-born, have higher median incomes than many other comparable demographic groups. (See Figure 3.) The median household income of Asian households was \$75,000 in 2015, while the median household income for the U.S. population as a whole was only \$55,300 that year. For comparison, the median income of Hispanic-American households was \$44,800.

Taking a closer look at just the foreign-born subset of the AAPI population, once again they stand out for their strong earning power. In 2015, 12.1 million of the 21.3 million AAPI residents of the United States were immigrants, or 56.8 percent of the AAPI population overall. In 2015, the median income of AAPI immigrants was \$75,000, high compared to other segments of the population. In 2015, the median income of U.S.-born households in the United States overall was \$56,000. The income of white immigrants to America was \$60,100.

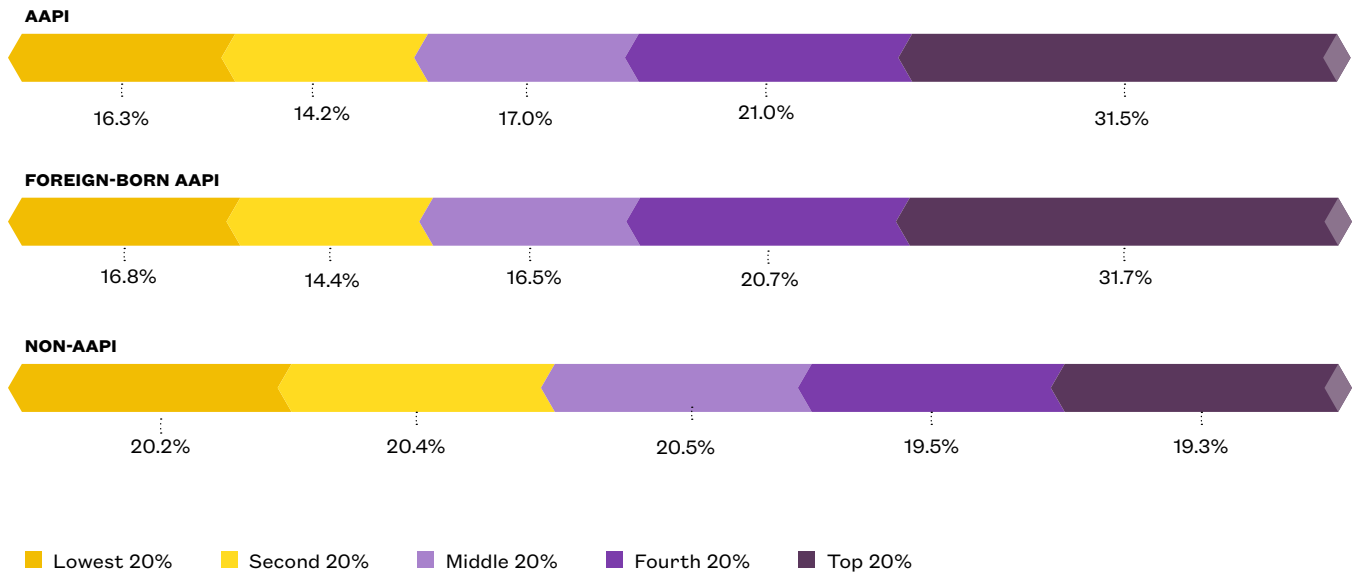
Looking at how the AAPI population is distributed among five income quintiles also provides insight into the real earning power of the Asian American population. While non-AAPI households are almost equally distributed among the five income quintiles, AAPI households disproportionately fall into upper income brackets. More than half of all AAPI in households are in the top two income quintiles in the United States and 31.5 percent of all AAPI in households are in the top income quintile. This is relatively high—only 19.3 percent of non-AAPI

FIGURE 3: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE AND IMMIGRANT GROUPS, 2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

FIGURE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS FIVE INCOME QUINTILES



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

in households fall into this bracket, a stark difference illustrated in Figure 4.

The high median earnings of the AAPI in the United States mean that even though they make up a small share of the overall U.S. population—6.6 percent—they still hold substantial economic clout. In 2015, AAPI households earned \$639.5 billion in total household income. Some 73.7 percent of those earnings went directly to households headed by Asian or Pacific

Islander immigrants, a group that collectively earned \$471.5 billion in income that year.

The high median earnings of Asian Americans mean that even though they make up a small share of the overall U.S. population, they still **hold substantial economic clout.**

PART III

Tax Contributions

The AAPI population consistently punches above its weight class in terms of the amount of taxes paid to federal, state, and local governments. In 2015 we estimate that AAPI households contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes to the government. At the federal level, these taxes support services and programs like the U.S. Military and increasingly imperiled entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security. At the state and local level, they help sustain public services that are vital to local communities, such as public schools, police forces, and garbage collection.

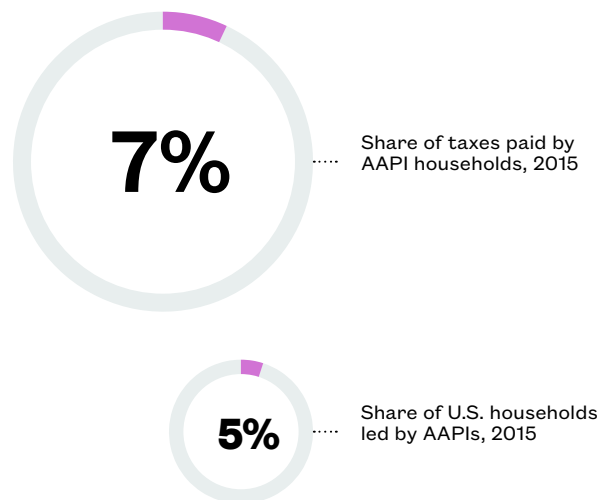
In 2015, AAPI households paid roughly **\$184.0B** in taxes. For context, that was **more than the federal government spent on education** that year.

Our analysis of ACS data indicates that AAPI households contributed \$132.0 billion in federal taxes in 2015 and \$52.0 billion in state and local taxes, or \$184.0 billion in taxes overall. To put that figure in context, this amount is larger than the total amount the federal government spent on education, training, employment, and social service programs in 2015 (\$122.1 billion), or what it spent on either community regional development (\$20.7 billion) or agriculture (\$18.5 billion) that year.⁶ Although AAPI households make up only 5.3 percent of U.S. households, they pay 7.4 percent of the money that goes to taxes each year.

Drilling down to households led by AAPI immigrants, we can see that they are an important part of the tax picture overall. In 2015, we estimate that AAPI immigrants paid \$97.5 billion in federal taxes and approximately \$38.2

billion in state and local taxes. This accounted for almost three out of every four dollars of taxes paid by AAPI in the country that year.

FIGURE 5: ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS PUNCH ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT CLASS AS TAXPAYERS



As described above, the federal taxes that Asian Americans pay include contributions to Social Security and Medicare. These programs are particularly critical now given that Baby Boomers are reaching retirement age at the rate of roughly 10,000 people per day.⁷ Absent immigration, this demographic change could be a double blow: As social programs like Social Security face financial challenges from an expanding over-65 population, the number of people in the United States paying into the system is decreasing. While the United States had roughly 16 workers paying into entitlement programs for every one retiree in 1950, that number is projected to drop to just two workers for every retiree by 2035.⁸

In 2015, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders earned **\$639.5B.**



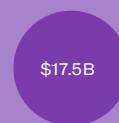
\$52.0B went to state and local taxes...

\$132.0B went to federal taxes...

Leaving them with **\$455.6B** in spending power.

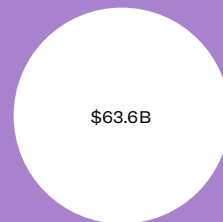
ENTITLEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders also contribute to our country's entitlement programs. In 2015, through taxes on their individual wages, the AAPI population contributed **\$17.5B** to Medicare and **\$63.6B** to Social Security.



\$17.5B

Medicare



\$63.6B

Social Security

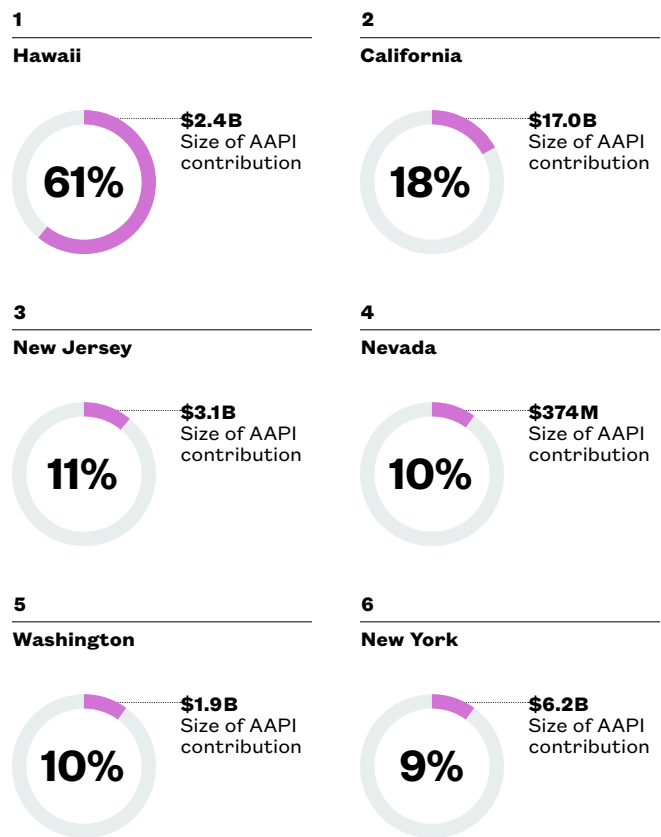
Our study shows that AAPIs are more likely to be of working age than the U.S. population as a whole. They make important contributions to Medicare and Social Security. In 2015 AAPI households contributed \$63.6 billion to Social Security and \$17.5 billion to Medicare. Following the pattern in the country as a whole, foreign-born AAPIs made particularly large contributions. In 2015, we estimate that immigrant-led households paid \$45.6 billion to Social Security and \$12.6 billion to Medicare.

Although current data do not allow us to focus specifically on how much the AAPI population uses in entitlement benefits each year, numerous studies have shown that the foreign-born population in general contributes more to entitlement programs than they draw down. A 2014 study from New American Economy estimated that immigrants contributed a net of \$182.4 billion to Medicare between 1996 and 2011, while the U.S.-born population generated a \$68.7 billion deficit during the same period.⁹ Given that a full 79.7 percent of AAPI immigrants are currently working-age—a far higher figure than the 64.9 percent share of the U.S. population overall—they likely follow a similar pattern.

We also examined the important contributions that AAPI households are making to state and local tax revenues in several states. In California, for instance, AAPI households paid \$17.1 billion in state and local taxes in 2015, or more than one out of every six dollars in state and local taxes paid by Californians that year. A full \$12.3 billion of that was paid directly by households led by AAPI immigrants. The AAPI population also made important tax contributions in states as varied as New Jersey, Nevada, and Virginia that year. In Nevada, AAPI households paid 9.6 percent of all state and local tax revenues received by the state in 2015. In two other states, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were responsible for paying more than 7 percent of all state and local tax contributions received that year—a notable impact given the small size of their population overall.

In Figure 6 below, we show the states where AAPI households contributed the largest shares of state and local tax revenues in 2015. Data on the household income and tax contributions of AAPI households in all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C., can be found in the data appendix at the back of this report.

FIGURE 6: STATES WHERE AAPI CONTRIBUTE THE LARGEST SHARE OF STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES, 2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

PART IV

Spending Power

One important measure of how a given group contributes to the country's economy is the amount they spend each year as consumers. More than three out of every five U.S. jobs were in the broader services sector in 2014, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹⁰ These jobs included positions in retail, healthcare, and hospitality—industries that each provided employment to more than 15 million Americans in 2014.¹¹ The important role of the services industry in our economy means that it is critically important for businesses to know that they have access to a strong base of paying customers. Without a suitable number of patients, restaurant diners, and shoppers it is hard for many of these businesses to grow and thrive.

Asian and Pacific Islander households held **\$455.6B** in spending power in 2015. To put that figure in perspective, that amount is **comparable to Walmart's annual revenue**.

In this brief, we shed light on the role that Asians-Americans play as consumers by looking at the “spending power” of this group. This measure, which is frequently used in NAE research, refers to the discretionary income left over to households after deducting what they pay in federal, state, and local taxes.¹² Using that methodology, we find that Asian and Pacific Islander households held \$455.6 billion in spending power in 2015. To put that figure in perspective, that amount is comparable to Walmart's annual revenue (\$485.7 billion) and is more than two times Apple's revenue of \$182.8 billion in 2015.¹³

If we consider just the subset of AAPI households led by immigrants, once again we see that they play a prominent role in the spending power story. In 2015, foreign-born AAPI households held 73.7 percent of all the spending power held by Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. That meant that in 2015, the spending power of these households totaled \$335.8 billion. That figure was greater than the GDP of Denmark in 2015, and roughly comparable with South Africa's GDP of \$317.4 billion that year.¹⁴

At the state level, we find that AAPI households make up significant shares of some states' total spending power. About 60 percent of the spending power in Hawaii—a state with an AAPI population that comprises 68.9 percent of its total population—comes from AAPI households. Asians in Hawaii, California, New Jersey, and Washington hold at least 10 percent of the total spending power of each of those states, respectively. In California, Asians' spending power is \$150.4 billion, while Asians in New Jersey and Washington are estimated to have a spending power of \$24.9 billion and \$18.0 billion, respectively. The sizable foreign-born Asian populations in New York and Texas also represent important consumers. New York's foreign-born Asians have an estimated spending power of \$30.8 billion, and in Texas, foreign-born Asians hold approximately \$26.5 billion in spending power. We highlight the spending power of AAPI households, both native and foreign-born, in Figure 7 on page 15.

Robert Lee, a real estate developer and entrepreneur in Austin, is one example of a successful Asian American whose investment and spending have made an important mark on his community in Central Texas. Lee got his start in the real estate industry in the late 1970s, helping his mother, Rita Lee, buy residential properties and turn them over for sale.¹⁵

In 2015, Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants earned **\$471.5B.**



\$38.2B went to state and local taxes...

\$97.5B went to federal taxes...

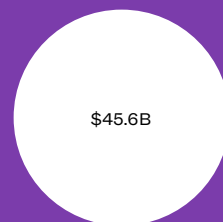
Leaving them with **\$325.8B** in spending power.

ENTITLEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants also contribute to U.S. entitlement programs. In 2015, through taxes on their wages, immigrants contributed **\$12.6B** to Medicare and **\$45.6B** to Social Security.

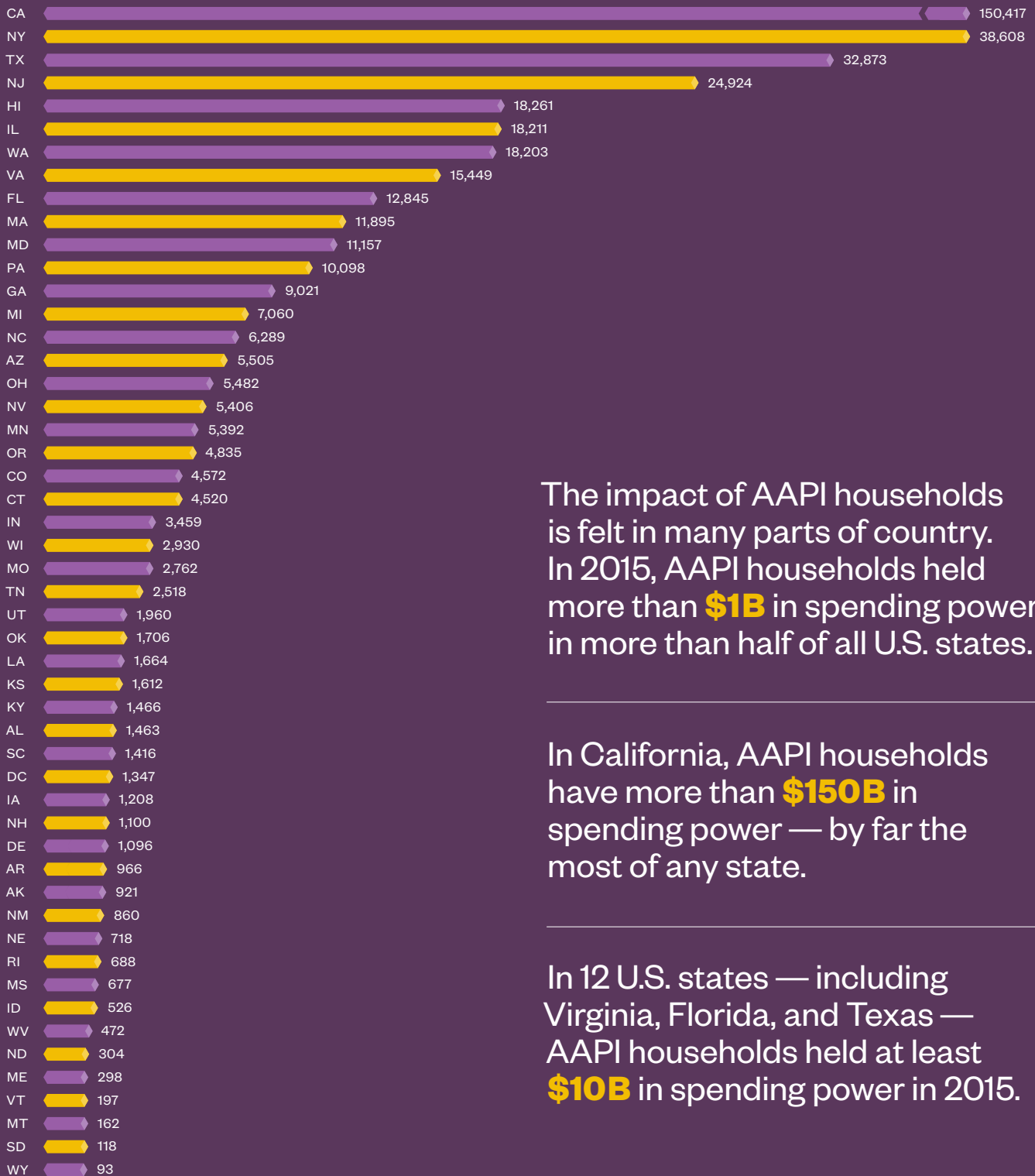


Medicare



Social Security

FIGURE 7: STATES WHERE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HOUSEHOLDS HAD THE MOST SPENDING POWER, 2015 (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



The impact of AAPI households is felt in many parts of country. In 2015, AAPI households held more than **\$1B** in spending power in more than half of all U.S. states.

In California, AAPI households have more than **\$150B** in spending power — by far the most of any state.

In 12 U.S. states — including Virginia, Florida, and Texas — AAPI households held at least **\$10B** in spending power in 2015.

In 2015, the spending power of households led by Asian or Pacific Islander immigrants totaled **\$335.8B** — a larger amount than the GDP of Denmark.

Now, roughly 40 years later, Robert Lee hardly seems like an outsider in the real estate market of Austin, which has ranked as one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country in recent years.¹⁶ After taking over his mother's firm, Lee Properties, in 1991, he turned it into a highly successful management, leasing, and sales firm that today manages 400 different properties across the city. And in the early 2000s, tired of purchasing properties from others on the open market, he decided he wanted to start his own construction, development, and general contracting firm. That company, Land Development & Construction Corporation, has since done everything from develop sleek townhouses in downtown Austin to plan whole subdivisions just south of the city. Lee's firms were involved in \$200 million

worth of local development projects from 2000 to 2009 alone.

But while Lee himself has supported Austin as a taxpayer, investor, and employer, part of what he has done in recent years is inspire other Asian families to invest their considerable spending power in the city's growth. "Asians are the fastest-growing community in Austin by population," explains Lee, who is also a board member of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, "and we have a larger economic impact relative to the size of the population." In 2012, Lee, a second-generation Taiwanese-American, brought together several Chinese-American families to fund a \$26 million student high-rise project just blocks from the University of Texas at Austin campus. The project, 21 Pearl, was the largest ever commercial real estate project in Austin to be funded by Asian Americans at the time. For Lee, it was a natural progression in his career, which has always celebrated both his Texas and Asian roots. "When we had the opportunity to develop high-rise housing in Austin's West Campus," he said at the time, "I didn't hesitate to invest."¹⁷

PART V

Explanations for the Large Economic Contributions of AAPI

Why does the AAPI population in the United States boast particularly high median incomes and tax contributions? Although the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is hardly monolithic, the group’s notable educational achievements and high-skilled immigration patterns are both important factors in helping to explain these trends.

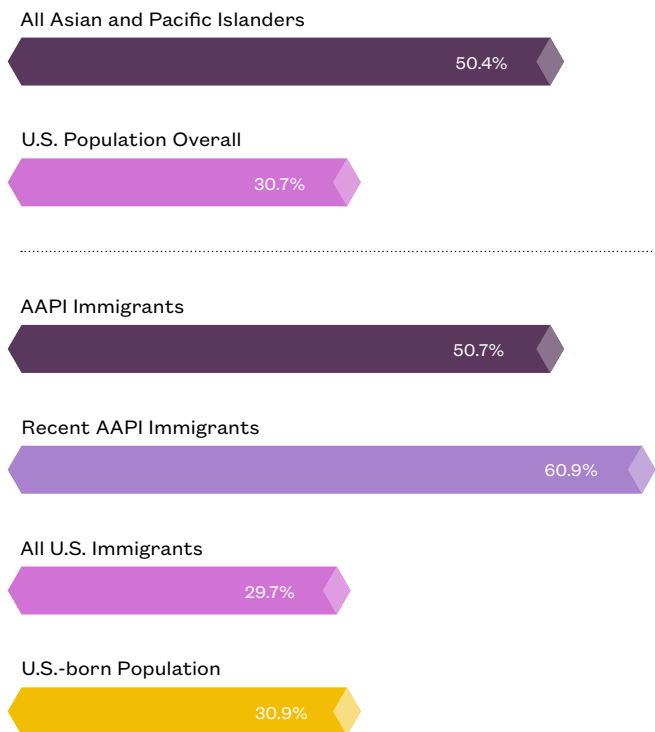
Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have the **highest educational attainment rates** among any demographic in the United States.

Immigrants from Asia and the Pacific who came after 1965 were radically different from their predecessors, who were largely viewed as low-skilled workers.¹⁸ This was due in large part to the provisions of the Immigration Act, which established preference for immigrants with the skills to fill jobs for which there was an insufficient supply of American workers. Furthermore, given the tendency for U.S.-born Asians to pursue higher education as a means of upward mobility, the overall levels of educational attainment for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders also increased rapidly after 1965.¹⁹

Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have the highest educational attainment rates among any demographic in the United States. As seen in Figure

FIGURE 8: ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE LIKELY THAN AVERAGE TO HAVE AT LEAST A BACHELOR’S DEGREE

Share of Population, age 25 and above, with at least a BA in 2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

8, more than half of the AAPI population aged 25 years or more holds at least a bachelor's degree. The share of recent AAPI immigrants educated at this level is considerably higher, reaching 60.9 percent. This is far higher than the 30.7 percent of the U.S. population with that level of training, or the 29.7 percent of all immigrants.²⁰ Meanwhile, Asian-Americans are on par with the general U.S. population, with 12.8 percent of both groups having less than a high school degree.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans also are able to amass more spending power simply because they are more likely to be of working age than the U.S. population as a whole. In 2015, 67.8 percent of the Asian American population and 79.7 percent of the foreign-born Asian population were in the prime of their working years, between the ages of 16 and 64, while only 64.9 percent of the U.S. population as a whole fell into that age bracket. AAPI households also boasted high workforce

participation rates. In 2015, 65.2 percent of all AAPI Americans were active in the labor force, compared to the national average for all residents of 63.1 percent.

Other less appreciated factors may also play into the high household earnings of Asian and Pacific Islanders. As one recent study detailed, Asians tend to have bigger household sizes and to live in metropolitan areas with higher costs of living.²¹

In 2015, more than **four out of every five** AAPI immigrants were in the prime of their working years, or between the ages of 16 and 64, compared to **64.9%** of the U.S. population overall.

PART VI

Entrepreneurship

Today, the United States is home to almost 930,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander American entrepreneurs. These include the almost 730,000 AAPI immigrants who run their own businesses. That meant that in 2015, 10.5 percent of employed AAPI immigrants were self-employed entrepreneurs. That entrepreneurship rate was higher than the rate for the working population in America more broadly, which sat at 9.4 percent that year. Data, however, makes clear that the high level of entrepreneurship among AAPI workers was driven largely by foreign-born Asians. When we look at the entrepreneurship rate for the AAPI working population overall, it is slightly lower than the national average, sitting at 9.1 percent in 2015. (See Figure 9.)

In recent years, encouraging entrepreneurship in the United States as a whole has been a top priority for policymakers. Researchers have found that between 1977 and 2005 almost all the net job creation in the

country was attributable to young firms.²² In 2015, however, the rate of new business formation slowed in the United States for the second straight year—a worrying trend given how much new businesses help spur job creation, productivity increases, and economic growth overall.²³ In this environment, immigrants continue founding companies at higher rates than the U.S. population as a whole, making them a rare bright spot in the start-up landscape. This report shows that AAPI immigrants exhibit this pattern as well. Given the growing size of the Asian population, they are clearly an integral reason why immigrant entrepreneurship rates remain so high.

In 2015, **10.5%** of employed AAPI immigrants were entrepreneurs, a far higher share than the **9.4%** of working U.S. adults overall.

FIGURE 9: ENTREPRENEURSHIP RATE OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS, 2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

FIGURE 10: EMPLOYMENT, SALES, AND PAYROLL OF MINORITY-OWNED FIRMS, 2012

Ethnic Group	Number of Firms With Paid Employees	Number of Paid Employees	Annual Payroll	Total Sales
Black or African American	109,137	975,052	\$27.7B	\$150.2B
American Indian and Alaska Native	26,179	208,178	\$7.0B	\$38.8B
Hispanic	287,501	2,329,553	\$70.9B	\$473.6B
Asian and Pacific Islander	485,732	3,611,578	\$112.0B	\$707.6B
All U.S. Firms	5,424,458	115,249,007	\$5,236.4B	\$33,536.8B

Source: Survey of Business Owners, 2012

Asian American immigrants stand out, however, not only for their high levels of entrepreneurship, but also for the inherent success of the businesses they found. According to Survey of Business Owners, firms owned by Asian Americans generated \$707.6 billion in total receipts and sales in 2012—a figure higher than the receipts generated by businesses owned by any other minority group that year. (See Figure 10.) Asian Americans also owned more than 485,000 firms with paid employees in 2012, more than many other comparable groups.

Asian American immigrants stand out, not only for their high levels of entrepreneurship, but also for the **inherent success of the businesses** they found.

The large number of firms owned by Asians and Pacific Islanders has allowed them to create a meaningful number of jobs and opportunities for other American workers. Asian American business owners paid almost \$112.0 billion to the more than 3.6 million workers that they employed in 2012. In some states, their impact was particularly large. Asian business owners employed more than one million people in California in 2012—a state where roughly one in six residents was of AAPI

heritage in 2015. They were also important employers in states with smaller AAPI populations, like Florida, Illinois, and Georgia, where they hired more than 100,000 workers each. While large, these state figures are conservative because they exclude employees at large, publicly-traded firms owned by Asians, for privacy reasons. Nevertheless, the 10 states where Asian Americans have had the largest employment impact are shown in Figure 11.

While the figures already presented on Asian entrepreneurship are quite impressive, our work shows that the success of Asian-owned businesses has grown rapidly in recent years. Between 2007 and 2012, the sales and receipts generated by Asian-owned firms increased by 40 percent, rising from \$506.1 billion in 2007 to \$707.6 billion in 2012. Annual payroll also increased by 40 percent during that period.²⁴

Once again, AAPI immigrants played a large role driving overall entrepreneurship patterns. In 2012, 74.2 percent of the Asian business owners were foreign-born. Although 2012 data on firms with at least one AAPI immigrant owner are not yet available, we can gain a sense of their impact by looking at figures from 2007. That year, firms owned by AAPI immigrants generated \$343.3 billion in sales and receipts and had \$57.7 billion in payroll expenses. They also employed 1.9 million U.S.-

based workers. This included almost 620,000 people in California, and almost 145,000 people in Texas. (See Figure 13.)

Naveen Jain, an Indian-born entrepreneur, is one example of an AAPI immigrant who has created a substantial number of U.S. jobs. Jain’s parents came to the United States hoping to create new opportunities for their son. At first, however, they were concerned; Naveen had been studying engineering at Purdue University when he dropped out to start a website design business.

Firms with at least one owner who is an AAPI immigrant generated \$343.3B in sales and receipts in 2007. They also employed 1.9M American workers.

Over a decade later, at 35, Jain has become, by many measures, incredibly successful. He founded Clique Here, a merchandizing and marketing solutions firm, and Sparkart, a creative and technology firm that has designed websites and digital campaigns for the likes of Bon Jovi, Epic Insurance, and the America’s Cup sailing championship. The businesses Jain owns directly employ 50 to 60 people. Through his investments, he has also created another 250-plus jobs.

Jain’s ambition came directly from his parents, both of whom grew up with modest means. Jain’s father, raised in an orphanage, went on to become an accountant. Both parents also earned their MBAs. “Their work ethic was unreal,” says Jain, who grew up watching his father frequently work until 2 or 3 in the morning. “It was very different from my friends who were born here.”

Jain’s outsize ambitions have also led him to tackle another potentially intractable problem: the crisis surrounding HIV and AIDS. Motivated by his father’s own struggle with a debilitating auto-immune disease, in 2013 Jain co-founded The Immunity Project, a non profit that is developing an AIDS vaccine. Through this work, Jain hopes to make a vaccine that is not just effective

FIGURE 11: TOP 10 STATES WITH THE MOST WORKERS EMPLOYED AT AAPI-OWNED FIRMS, 2012

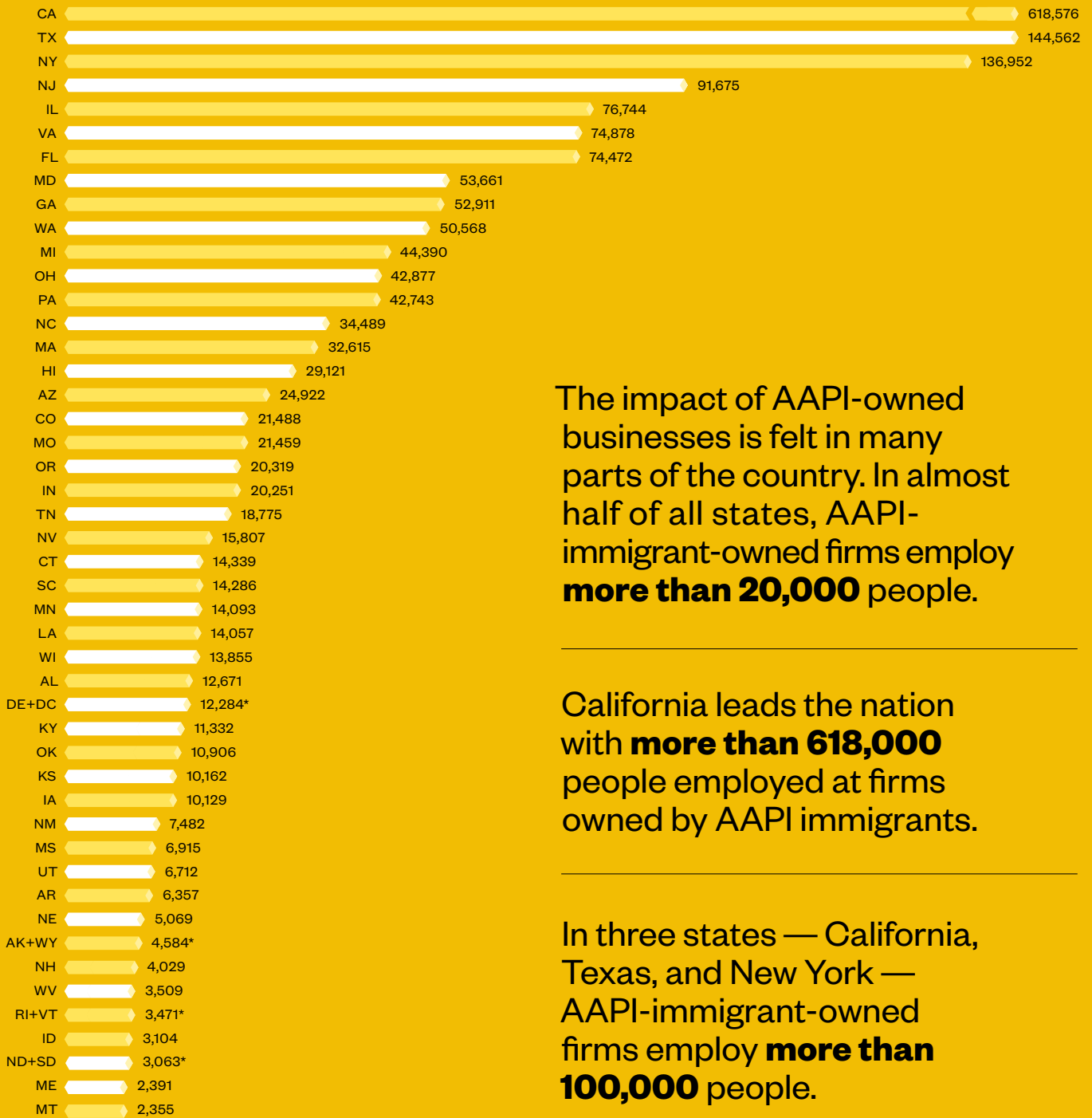


Source: Survey of Business Owners, 2012

FIGURE 12: SHARE OF AAPI-OWNED FIRMS WITH IMMIGRANT OWNERS, 2012



FIGURE 13: NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED AT BUSINESSES OWNED BY ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER IMMIGRANTS, 2007



The impact of AAPI-owned businesses is felt in many parts of the country. In almost half of all states, AAPI-immigrant-owned firms employ **more than 20,000** people.

California leads the nation with **more than 618,000** people employed at firms owned by AAPI immigrants.

In three states — California, Texas, and New York — AAPI-immigrant-owned firms employ **more than 100,000** people.

* Due to small sample sizes, the U.S. Census combines smaller states.

Source: Survey of Business Owners, 2007

and easy to administer, as well as simple to transport and cost-effective as well. The prototype is inhalable and room temperature-stable—making it far easier to distribute than the typical vaccine requiring cold storage. Although it is still unclear how the project will fare in the long term, Jain says he is pressing on. “You have to be willing to take risks,” Jain says, “but then, I’m a college dropout so what do I know?”

While Jain has founded businesses and nonprofits in the technology, marketing, and healthcare sectors, our research shows that Asian entrepreneurs make large contributions to a variety of different industries, including many Main Street businesses. In 2015, the most common industry for immigrant Asian entrepreneurs was restaurants and food services where more than one out of every 10 immigrant Asian

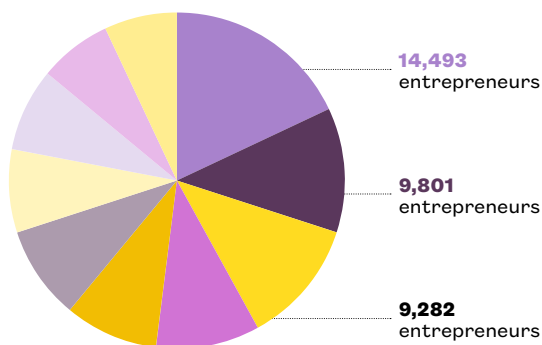
entrepreneurs was employed that year. Almost 50,000 Asian entrepreneurs worked at nail salons, and another roughly 33,000 at construction companies. Our work shows that self-employed Asians also commonly open businesses that may require them to have high levels of skills and training. For instance, almost 35,000 self-employed Asian and Pacific Islanders, including more than 29,000 immigrants, were working at physicians’ offices in 2015.

Almost **35,000** self-employed Asian and Pacific Islanders, including more than **29,000** immigrants, were working at physicians’ offices in 2015.

FIGURE 14: DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND AAPI IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS AMONG TOP INDUSTRIES, 2015

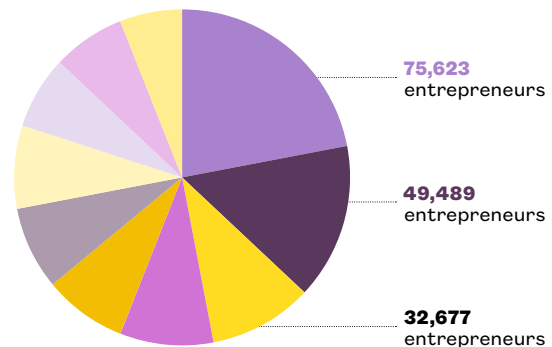
Top 10 Industries for U.S.-born Asians

40.8% of Total



Top 10 Industries for Foreign-Born Asians

45.6% of Total



- Construction
- Real Estate
- Performing Arts
- Consulting
- Other Schools
- Restaurants
- Computers Systems Design
- Physicians' Offices
- Beauty Salons
- Legal Services

- Restaurants
- Nail Salons
- Construction
- Physicians' Offices
- Taxi & Limousine
- Computer Systems Design
- Beauty Salons
- Real Estates
- Grocery Stores
- Consulting

PART VII

Filling Gaps in the Labor Force

Between 2014 and 2024, science, technology, engineering, and math—or “STEM”—fields are projected to play a key role in U.S. economic growth, adding almost 800,000 new jobs and growing 37.0 percent faster than the U.S. economy as a whole.²⁵ Yet, despite the incredible importance of STEM to our broader economy and level of innovation, there are still strong signs that the United States lacks the workers it needs to fully fill some critical roles. In 2015, for instance, there were almost 17 STEM jobs listed online for every one unemployed American STEM worker.

Our work shows that the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is playing an important role helping U.S. employers meet their needs for workers in STEM fields.

Having an adequate number of STEM employees has implications for workers in a variety of fields. When STEM firms are adequately staffed, they are able to provide more business to a whole host of other companies, such as the law firms, accountants, and shipping professionals that service them. Internally, such STEM firms are also able to provide more jobs to non-STEM employees like HR professionals, sales professionals, and secretaries.

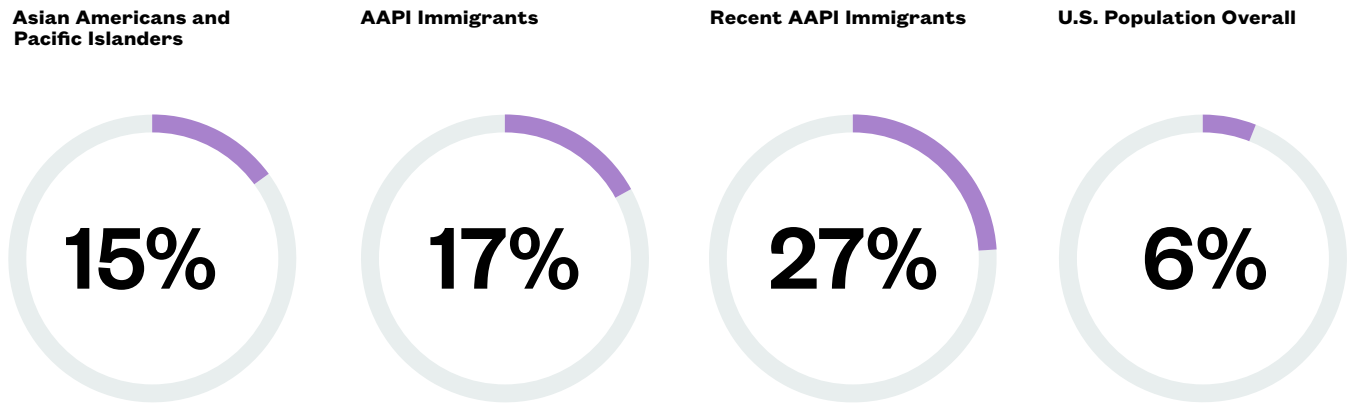
Our work shows that the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is playing an important role helping U.S. employers meet their needs for workers in STEM fields. Overall, 15.1 percent of the working

AAPI population holds STEM jobs—nearly three times the national rate of 5.9 percent. If we look at just the foreign-born AAPI population, we find even higher concentrations in STEM fields: Approximately 17.3 percent of foreign-born AAPI workers hold STEM positions, or more than one out of every six working AAPI immigrants. Among new arrivals this trend is even more pronounced, with more than one out of every four AAPI immigrants who arrived within the last five years working in STEM. (See Figure 15.)

The foreign-born population of Asian and Pacific Islanders, however, is not monolithic. In addition to filling jobs in various high-skilled STEM fields, AAPI immigrants also fill positions at the lower end of the labor market as well that might otherwise remain vacant. To highlight this issue, we looked at the top 10 occupations held by AAPI immigrants at two distinct skill levels—workers with bachelor’s degree or above and ones with a high school education or less. The figures show some interesting trends. In 2015, a full 7.3 percent of Asians at the lower end of the labor force held jobs as “miscellaneous personal appearance workers,” a profession that includes nail salon workers and makeup artists. Such jobs likely hold little appeal for natives: That same year, just one tenth of one percent of U.S.-born workers with that level of education assumed such roles. (See Figure 16.)

AAPI immigrants in the country also appear to be critically important to the healthcare sector, a part of our economy that will be particularly strained as Baby Boomers age and demand more care. Foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders with college degrees are more than 40 percent more likely to work as registered

FIGURE 15: SHARE OF WORKERS IN STEM AMONG KEY GROUPS, 2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

nurses than equivalent natives. That field is already plagued by labor shortages now that are projected to only worsen in the coming decade.²⁶ AAPI immigrants are also more than twice as likely as the college-educated U.S.-born population to work as physicians or surgeons. Past NAE research has documented the real physician shortages that already exist in many parts of the country, particularly in more rural communities, which have less than half the physician coverage of larger, urban areas.²⁷

Foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders with college degrees are more than **40%** more likely to work as registered nurses than equivalent natives.

FIGURE 16: TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS FOR FOREIGN-BORN ASIANS IN 2015, BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Less Than High School or High School Graduate			
Occupation	Number of Workers	Share of Immigrant Workers	Share of U.S.-born Workers
Miscellaneous Personal Appearance Workers	120,547	7.3%	0.1%
Cooks	72,579	4.4%	2.0%
Cashiers	68,763	4.2%	2.3%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	50,347	3.1%	1.5%
Personal Care Aides	46,694	2.8%	1.4%
Waiters and Waitresses	46,055	2.8%	1.1%
Janitors and Building Cleaners	44,642	2.7%	3.2%
Chefs and Head Cooks	44,274	2.7%	0.2%
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	43,847	2.7%	1.4%
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	41,254	2.5%	2.6 %
BA and Above			
Occupation	Weighted Count	Percentage	U.S.-born Share
Software Developers, Applications and Systems Software	329,087	8.7%	1.3%
Registered Nurses	188,320	5.0%	3.6%
Miscellaneous Managers	183,764	4.9%	5.0%
Postsecondary Teachers	155,589	4.1%	2.5%
Accountants and Auditors	141,431	3.7%	3.0%
Physicians and Surgeons	133,729	3.5%	1.6%
Miscellaneous Engineers	74,602	2.0%	0.8%
Computer Systems Analysts	69,600	1.8%	0.6%
Computer Programmers	67,174	1.8%	0.5%
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	65,522	1.7%	1.5%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

PART VIII

Demographic Change and Implications

Compared with Hispanics who have a longer history in the United States and are more widely dispersed across the country, the AAPI population tends to cluster in certain states and metropolitan areas. Roughly 60 percent of the Asian population is concentrated in just six states: California, New York, Texas, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Washington. Almost one-third of the total AAPI population, or 6.6 million people, live in California, the state that is often seen as a top destination for Asian immigrants. Moreover, we find that the AAPI population is highly concentrated in urban areas. About half of the AAPI population lives in just 10 metropolitan areas. The New York City metro area has the largest number of AAPI residents, with more than 2.4 million people, followed closely by Los Angeles (2.4 million), and San Francisco (1.4 million).

The number of Asian residents increased in every state in the country between 2000 and 2015.

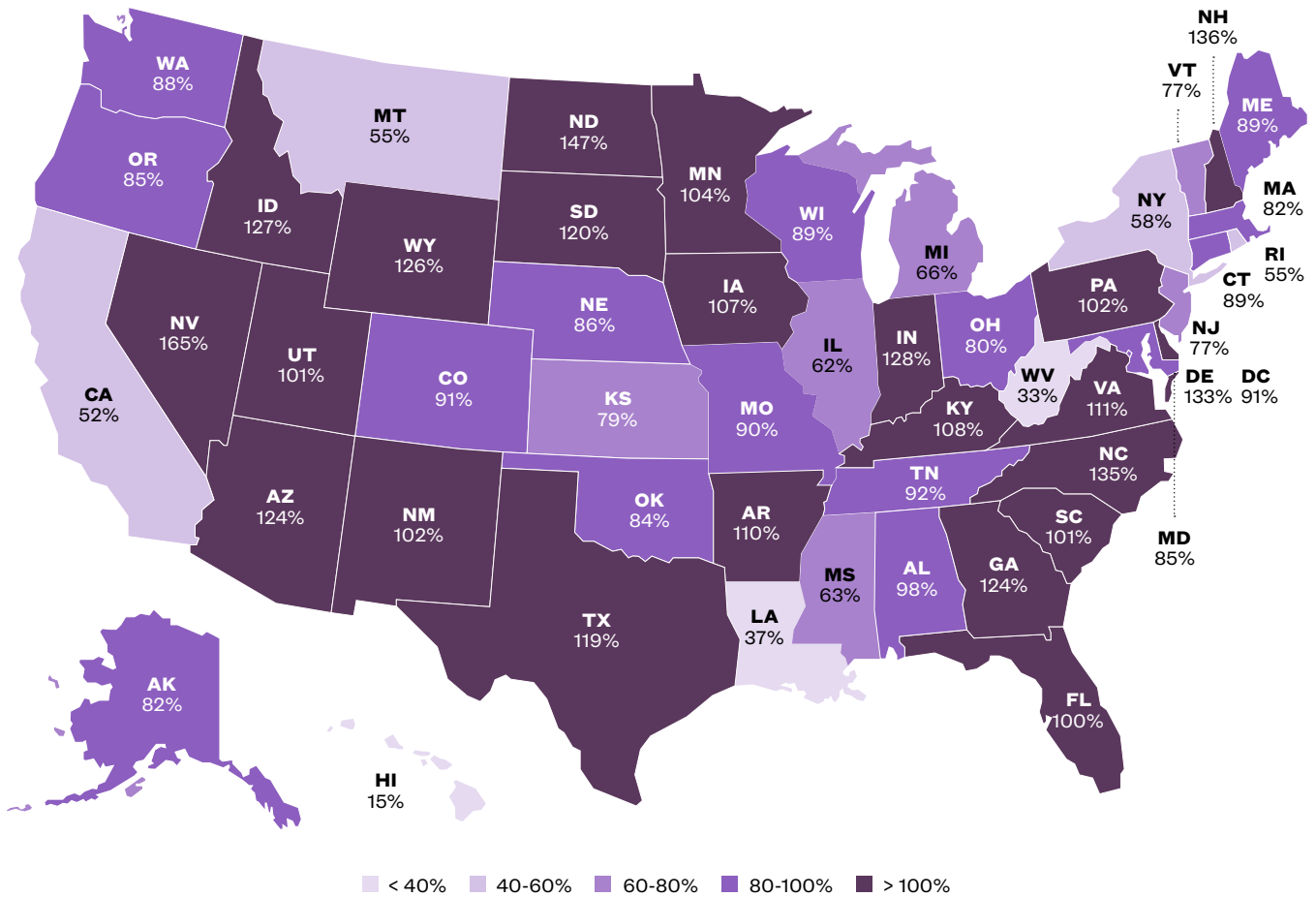
Regardless of the clustering of the AAPI population in the United States, the number of Asian residents increased in every state in the country between 2000 and 2015. California saw the most significant growth—its Asian population swelled by more than two million people, accounting for 25.2 percent of all AAPI population growth nationwide. Meanwhile, Texas also saw sizable growth of its AAPI population, gaining 795,000 new AAPI residents, along with New York, which added 688,000. New Jersey similarly grew its AAPI population by 410,000 people during those 15 years.

In the map on the following page, we show the percentage change in the AAPI population across all 50 states. Viewed this way, Nevada—a state that more than doubled its AAPI population—saw the single largest percent increase, followed closely by North Dakota, a state with a small but growing AAPI population. (Population figures for all states can be found in the data appendix at the back of the report.)

To explore how the AAPI immigrant population is growing across the country, we first looked at the top 200 metro areas in the United States by population. Some of the fastest growing AAPI communities can be found in surprising areas such as Port St. Lucie in Florida, Wilmington in North Carolina, Greeley, Colorado, and Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton in Pennsylvania. In these metro areas, we saw at least a two-fold, if not three-fold increase in their AAPI immigrant population.

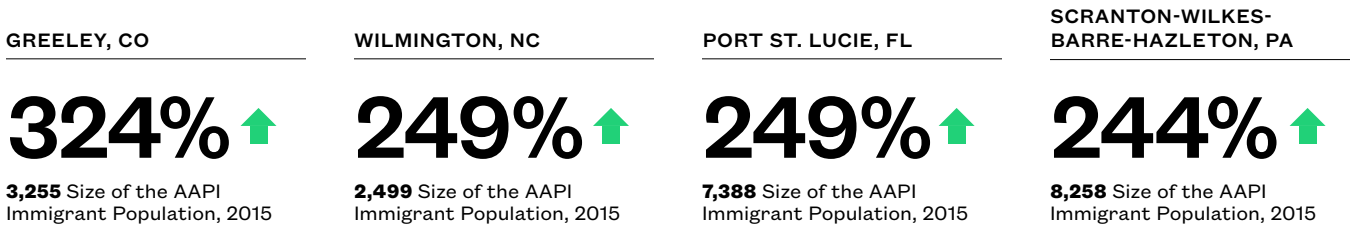
Expanding to look at all metros, regardless of size, we find significant relative growth in the foreign-born Asian American and Pacific Islander population in many smaller cities AAPI immigrants, signaling that AAPI are no longer confined to large urban areas. Places such as Ocean City, New Jersey, Midland, Texas, and Dubuque, Iowa saw the highest growth rates in the country from 2000 to 2015. These AAPI immigrant in some cases were also responsible for much of the overall population growth in these cities. For example, in Dubuque, Iowa, they accounted for 49.5 percent of the total population growth between 2000 and 2015. Similarly, AAPI immigrants accounted for 48.6 percent of all population growth in Springfield, Illinois, as well as 34.8 percent of all population growth in the Norwich-New London, Connecticut metro area.

FIGURE 17: GROWTH IN THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION, 2000-2015



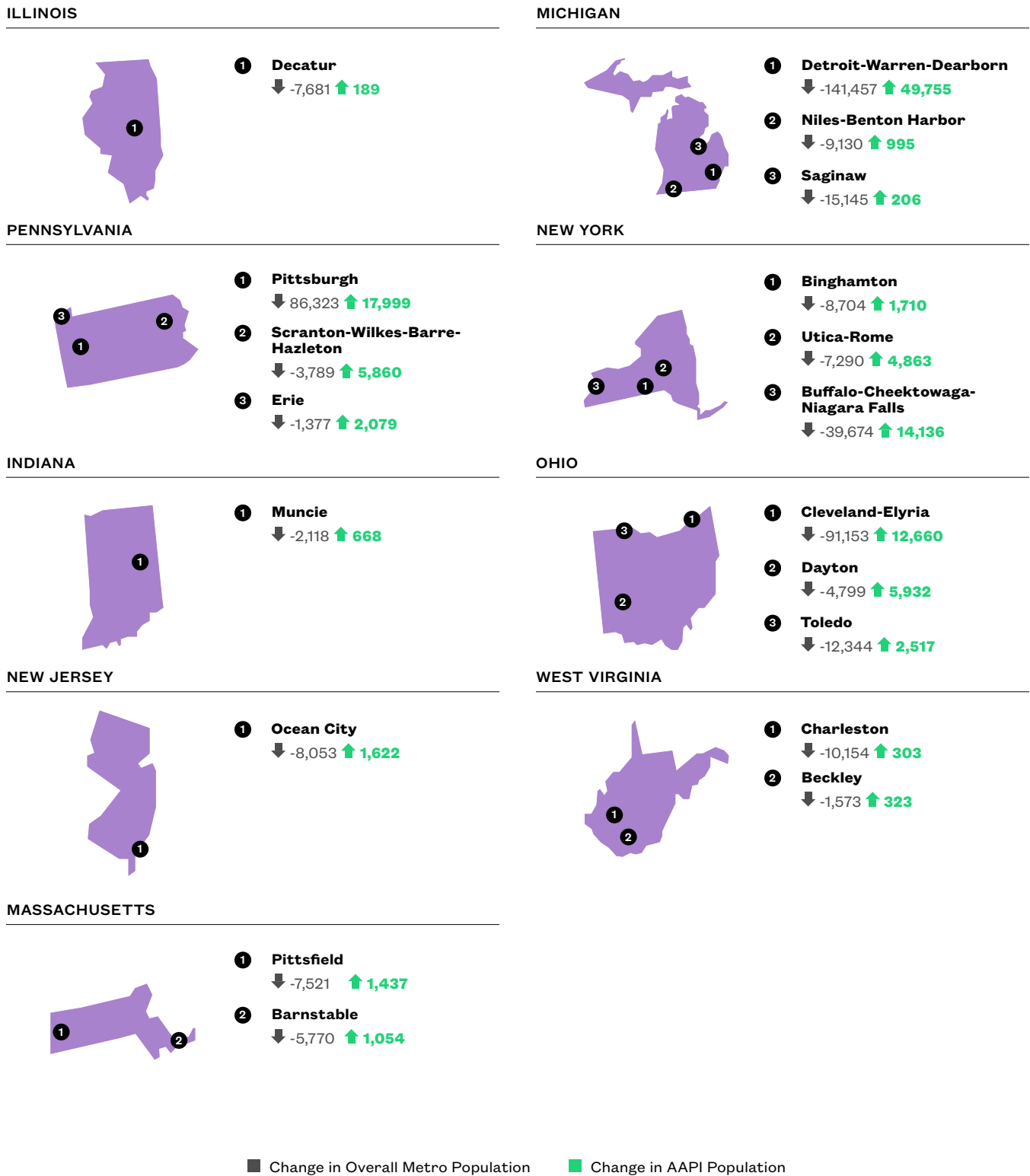
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2000-2015

FIGURE 18: METROPOLITAN AREAS WITH THE FASTEST GROWING AAPI IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS, 2000-2015



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2000-2015

FIGURE 19: METROPOLITAN AREAS WHERE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER IMMIGRANTS HELPED SLOW TOTAL POPULATION DECLINE, 2000-2015



In some communities, AAPI immigrants are helping stem depopulation trends. From 2000 to 2015, the total population in the Cleveland metropolitan area decreased by 91,000 people and the elderly population, age 65 and over, increased by more than 39,000. During that same time, the number of AAPI immigrants in Cleveland increased by more than 12,000 people. Though this increase in Asian immigrants is not large enough in itself to completely offset the area's shrinking population, AAPI immigrants clearly played an important role keeping the Cleveland labor market young, vibrant, and better able to better support the city's economy. Similar trends are evident in Pennsylvania, a state that has struggled with a rapidly aging population and worker shortages in recent years.²⁸ Our work shows that from 2000 to 2015, a period when the population of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area fell by more than 86,000 people, the number of AAPI immigrants there rose by almost 18,000 residents. We highlight a selection of metropolitan areas where immigrants have helped to slow population decline in Figure 19. Many communities in the Rust Belt—from Erie and Scranton in Pennsylvania to Buffalo in New York—have experienced similar trends.

Many communities in the Rust Belt — from Erie and Scranton in Pennsylvania to Buffalo, New York — have seen an influx in Asian residents in recent years, **helping to lessen depopulation trends.**

Studies have consistently shown how helpful an influx of young or working-age immigrants can be to metro areas. When cities lose population, an increase in vacant homes and an eroding tax base can hurt property values and hinder the ability of areas to fund critical services like public schools and police forces. It also deprives businesses of customers, resulting in fewer local jobs. Repopulating neighborhoods once in decline, then, often increases home values. One NAE study on this topic credited immigrants with collectively raising U.S. housing wealth by \$3.7 trillion between 1990 and 2010. It also found that every time 1,000 immigrants moved to a county, 270 U.S.-born residents were drawn there in the following two decades as a direct result.²⁹

PART IX

Voting Power

The large increase in the size of the Asian American population does not only impact the broader U.S. economy, it has implications at the voting booth as well. The Asian American population is unique in that it has not been the subject of widespread get-out-the-vote or political mobilization efforts in the way that the Hispanic or Black population has been in recent years.³⁰ Scholars have speculated some of this is due to the heavy concentration of the AAPI population in large cities and the state of California, areas that have historically been relatively uncompetitive. The rich diversity of the population also presents challenges. The factors that motivate the Vietnamese community, which traditionally sides more heavily with Republicans, may not motivate the Bangladeshis, who tend to favor Democrats.³¹

There is evidence, though, that the lack of focus on the Asian voters may be changing. In 2012, Democratic President Barack Obama won 73 percent of the Asian vote—a surprisingly strong majority that some say helped solidify his victory.³² The Asian population has also grown rapidly in some swing states in recent years, including Nevada, which is now home to more than 300,000 AAPI residents. Some political analysts have speculated that the AAPI population is not strongly partisan, indicating these voters could be swayed or persuaded by efforts that spoke more directly to the issues they care about. A full 41 percent of Asian American voters were registered as independents in 2016,³³ while a 2011 survey of AAPI immigrants, who appear to have even weaker ties to political parties, revealed that 60 percent failed to identify with a party.³⁴

However, while the majority of AAPI voters cast ballots for Republicans in 2014,³⁵ an increasing number of Asian American registered voters have identified as Democrats in recent years.³⁶ A survey of nine Asian

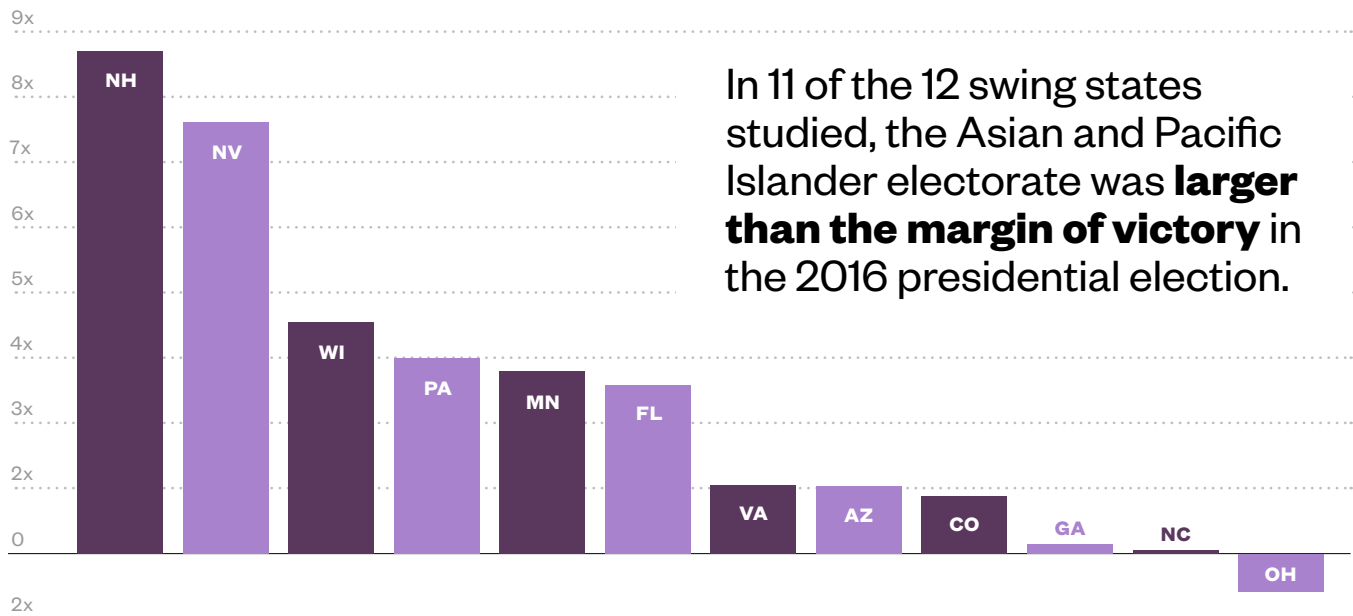
American and Pacific Island ethnic subgroups conducted in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election found that, on average, the Democratic edge over Republicans had increased 11 percentage points since 2012, with 57 percent of all Asian American voters identifying as Democrats in the fall of 2016 compared to just 24 percent identifying as Republicans.³⁷

By 2020, we estimate the United States will be home to almost 13.7M eligible AAPI voters, a group that includes 8.0M immigrants who will have naturalized and gained the right to vote.

Our work shows just how important this potentially up-for-grabs portion of the electorate may be in the coming election cycle. By 2020, we estimate the United States will be home to almost 13.7 million eligible AAPI voters, a group that includes 8.0 million immigrants who will have naturalized and gained the right to vote. Much like the broader population, we project this group of eligible voters will be most heavily concentrated in California, a state that will be home to almost 4.6 million eligible Asian voters, including 2.7 million immigrants. In several emerging hubs for Asian Americans and immigrants, they will have a strong presence in the electorate as well. We estimate that Texas will be home to more than 862,000 eligible AAPI voters, for instance, while Georgia will have more 270,000, including more than 177,000 AAPI immigrants. (We show the figures for all states in Data Appendix 4 at the back of the report.)

The growing voting power of the AAPI population may soon be a particularly large factor in several swing—

FIGURE 20: SIZE OF PROJECTED ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ELECTORATE RELATIVE TO MARGIN OF VICTORY, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



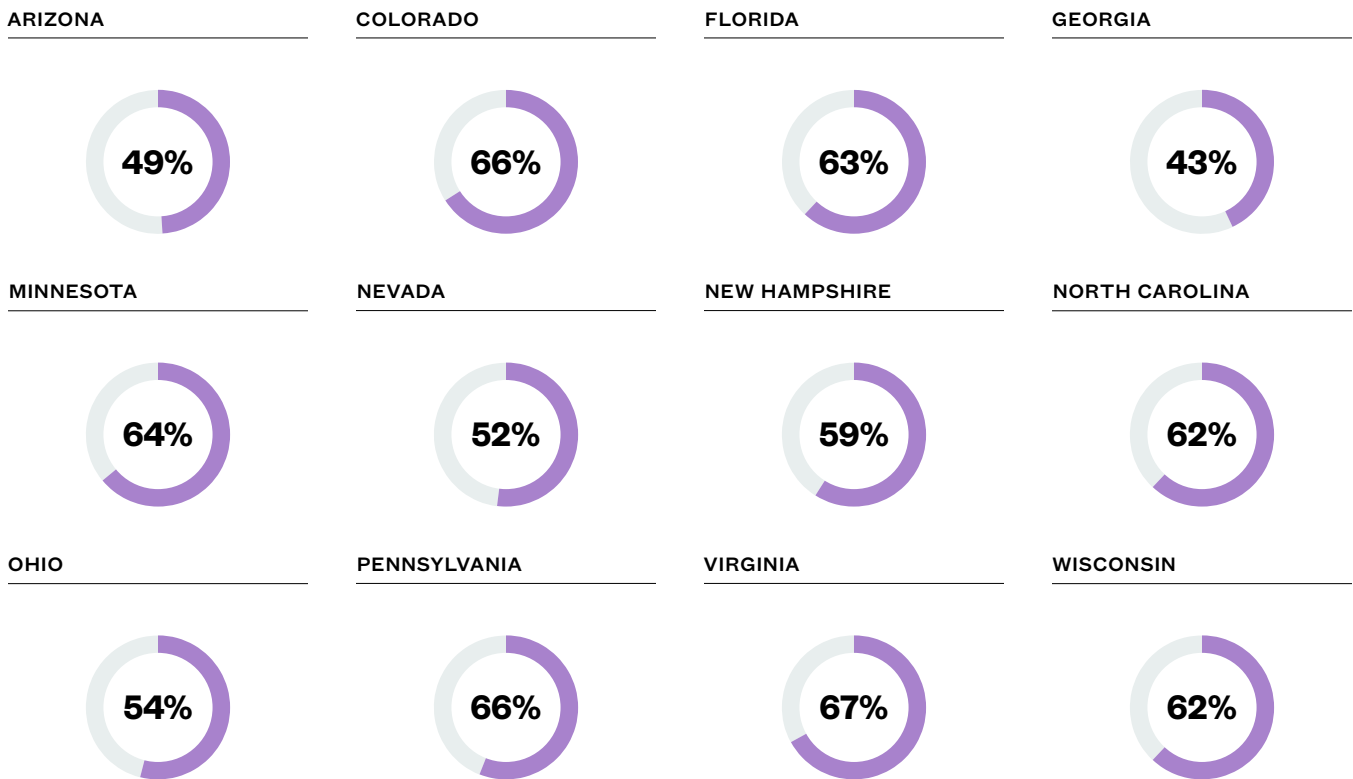
	Number of All Eligible AAPI Voters, 2020*	Number of Eligible Voters, Foreign-Born, 2020*	2016 Presidential Margin of Victory	Factor of AAPI Electorate to Margin of Victory
Arizona	183,185	99,604	84,904	2.2
Colorado	148,719	73,065	-74,754	2.0
Florida	466,572	293,878	119,770	3.9
Georgia	271,641	177,151	231,323	1.2
Minnesota	180,751	106,996	-43,785	4.1
Nevada	222,363	116,156	-26,434	8.4
New Hampshire	26,312	15,707	-2,732	9.6
North Carolina	187,693	104,938	177,529	1.1
Ohio	165,564	98,325	454,983	0.4
Pennsylvania	297,629	188,823	68,236	4.4
Virginia	404,962	264,737	-185,689	2.2
Wisconsin	113,760	52,582	22,871	5.0

* Projected

or increasingly purple—states. Virginia, a state that Hillary Clinton won by roughly 186,000 votes in 2016, will be home to almost 405,000 eligible AAPI voters by 2020. This will include almost 265,000 immigrants. Similarly, the projected number of eligible AAPI voters in Pennsylvania by 2020 is more than four times the size of that state’s 2016 presidential election margin. In Nevada, the number of eligible AAPI voters will exceed that state’s 2016 margin by a factor of 8.4. We highlight this dynamic as it plays out in a variety of different swing states in Figure 20 on the previous page.

Of course, the impact of any voting group depends on how likely they are to both register and participate in elections. Nationally, our analysis of Current Population Survey data shows that 53.3 percent of eligible Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were registered as voters from 2008-2014, as were 55.3 percent of eligible AAPI immigrants. In some key swing states, however, the share of registered AAPI voters was far higher. For instance, 66.7 percent of all eligible AAPI immigrant voters were registered in Virginia, and a full 61.6 percent in North Carolina. In Colorado, two out of every three eligible AAPI immigrants had taken this step. Given the

FIGURE 21: SHARE OF ELIGIBLE AAPI IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE, KEY STATES, 2008-2014



Source: Current Population Survey, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014

increased focus on registering Asian voters in recent election cycles, these figures have the potential to climb higher—an important development given the historically low political participation of this group.³⁸

To win over AAPI voters, however, it will be critical for parties to be smarter in their election strategies. Despite the relative nonpartisan nature of the AAPI population, there are signs that they have been strongly turned off by this year’s anti-immigration election rhetoric. One poll of more than 1,200 registered Asian American voters found that a full 40 percent said that they would

oppose a candidate—whom they otherwise agreed with on most issues—if he or she had anti-immigrant or anti-Muslim views.³⁹ In a larger survey of Asian American registered voters, the third most common response to the open-ended question, “What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States today?” involved racism or racial discrimination, behind only the economy and national security.⁴⁰ In the 2016 presidential election, only 19 percent of Asian American voters cast a ballot for Republican Donald Trump, while 75 percent voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton.⁴¹

Conclusion

This report highlights the increasingly important role that Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans are playing in the United States. The population has overtaken Hispanics to become the largest newlyarrived immigrant group in the United States. Besides settling in main metropolitan areas such as the greater New York City area and the Los Angeles area, Asians also move into new, up-and-coming hubs like Greeley, Colorado, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Port St. Lucie, Florida. The growing, young Asian labor force is working to replenish the U.S. workforce and revitalize local economic activity, especially in communities faced with challenges of population loss or aging populations.⁴² What’s more, studies have shown that AAPI residents have high levels of civic engagement compared with U.S.-born Americans.⁴³ Although historically they have had low voter participation rates, the increasing size of their voting bloc—and strong registration patterns in swing states—may soon make them a powerful force in elections.

It is nationally, however, that we see the full impact of the AAPI population. They play a major role in supporting the U.S. economy, contributing billions in personal spending power and contributing billions more in taxes. As business owners, they not only generate impressive volumes of sales and economic activity, but also pay out tens of billions in wages to the 3.6 million workers that they employ. Their high levels of educational attainment and contributions to STEM fields also help keep some American industries a step ahead of the rest of the world. The success of Asian immigrants in recent years is clear. Their significant economic contributions to the U.S. economy show why responsible immigration policy—or that which allows the best and the brightest to study, stay, and work in the United States—is critical to ensure that our country continues to reap the benefits of increasing immigrant diversity.

Data Appendix

DATA APPENDIX TABLE 1: TAX CONTRIBUTIONS OF AAPI POPULATION, BY NATIVITY AND STATE, 2015

State	State And Local Tax Contributions				Federal Tax Contributions				Social Security Contributions		Medicare Contributions	
	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	AAPI Share of State and Local Taxes	Foreign-born AAPI Share of State and Local Taxes	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	AAPI Share of Federal taxes	Foreign-born AAPI Share of Federal Taxes	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-Born Asian Households (in millions of USD)	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-Born AAPI Households (in millions of USD)
AL	138.7	97.1	1.6%	1.1%	366.8	263.6	1.9%	1.4%	201.8	135.5	53.3	35.9
AK	47.1	32.7	6.1%	4.2%	230.9	158.8	5.4%	3.7%	153.3	109.6	38.2	26.2
AZ	554.9	381.3	4.1%	2.8%	1,429.8	1,027.5	4.7%	3.4%	790.1	553.3	213.7	153.7
AR	117.6	93.7	1.9%	1.5%	245.4	199.9	2.2%	1.8%	136.4	108.7	37.7	30.0
CA	17,056.1	12,290.5	17.7%	12.8%	44,808.6	32,092.6	18.9%	13.5%	20438.2	14251.9	5640.4	3949.8
CO	435.0	266.0	3.5%	2.1%	1,190.0	747.7	3.5%	2.2%	671.0	389.2	173.8	103.1
CT	602.0	497.8	4.7%	3.9%	1,424.3	1,148.4	5.0%	4.0%	638.1	518.7	193.8	154.7
DE	74.6	60.4	5.2%	4.2%	315.1	251.3	6.1%	4.9%	153.0	124.2	41.1	32.7
DC	161.7	91.2	6.1%	3.4%	435.1	251.6	6.0%	3.5%	203.3	108.8	56.3	29.8
FL	1,052.5	812.2	3.0%	2.3%	3,341.9	2,540.9	3.6%	2.7%	1,779.3	1,327.1	485.2	362.2
GA	982.7	813.8	4.6%	3.8%	2,480.8	2,043.8	5.3%	4.4%	1,309.7	1,044.6	357.5	279.9
HI	2,386.8	574.1	61.3%	14.7%	4,928.8	1,175.7	61.7%	14.7%	2,432.8	599.9	607.2	146.7
ID	54.7	28.8	1.8%	1.0%	118.3	65.1	1.9%	1.0%	79.3	43.6	18.8	10.3
IL	2,271.6	1,786.0	6.2%	4.9%	5,548.3	4,340.0	7.3%	5.7%	2,556.3	1,942.9	738.9	556.6
IN	372.3	309.1	2.5%	2.0%	1,080.9	922.7	3.8%	3.2%	443.8	369.8	145.3	123.2
IA	141.8	105.3	1.8%	1.4%	284.6	206.6	1.9%	1.4%	184.2	141.4	48.0	37.2
KA	181.4	132.2	2.7%	2.0%	385.9	267.5	2.6%	1.8%	245.9	187.8	64.7	47.2
KY	172.3	135.5	1.7%	1.4%	409.7	344.5	2.3%	1.9%	196.0	146.2	58.3	46.2
LA	160.7	104.1	1.9%	1.2%	415.4	264.9	2.2%	1.4%	258.0	158.0	69.1	44.5
ME	35.5	26.7	1.1%	0.8%	78.3	58.9	1.3%	1.0%	44.3	32.7	12.0	9.3
MD	1,487.3	1,178.7	7.2%	5.7%	3,464.6	2,787.3	7.8%	6.3%	1,602.5	1,208.3	434.4	327.2
MA	1,303.4	1,043.6	6.6%	5.2%	3,628.0	2,895.9	7.1%	5.7%	1,655.9	1,293.7	459.6	361.1
MI	756.8	637.0	3.5%	2.9%	1,876.3	1,602.8	4.1%	3.5%	1,019.8	837.7	264.0	216.4

State	State And Local Tax Contributions				Federal Tax Contributions				Social Security Contributions		Medicare Contributions	
	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	AAPI Share of State and Local Taxes	Foreign-born AAPI Share of State and Local Taxes	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	AAPI Share of Federal taxes	Foreign-born AAPI Share of Federal Taxes	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-Born Asian Households (in millions of USD)	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-Born AAPI Households (in millions of USD)
MN	694.4	539.4	4.2%	3.2%	1,570.5	1,201.9	4.6%	3.5%	824.1	631.2	224.6	176.3
MS	69.8	44.2	1.3%	0.9%	170.3	117.5	1.8%	1.2%	89.9	53.9	24.4	15.9
MO	300.1	227.6	2.2%	1.7%	716.0	547.2	2.6%	2.0%	405.9	291.4	109.6	78.5
MT	12.0	5.7	0.8%	0.4%	25.9	12.2	0.6%	0.3%	31.2	12.5	7.3	2.9
NE	83.9	58.9	1.8%	1.3%	187.9	132.4	2.0%	1.4%	117.4	89.9	29.7	22.7
NV	374.2	228.8	9.8%	6.0%	1,186.6	724.6	9.6%	5.8%	759.5	458.9	192.3	114.1
NH	75.5	64.6	2.9%	2.5%	338.4	276.8	3.9%	3.2%	142.2	113.1	42.5	33.7
NJ	3,056.9	2,667.2	10.9%	9.6%	7,895.3	6,812.7	11.8%	10.2%	3516.3	3015.1	1001.9	854.7
NM	91.8	50.3	2.3%	1.3%	208.5	107.8	2.7%	1.4%	127.6	71.8	33.8	19.6
NY	6,153.4	4,906.0	8.7%	6.9%	12,019.1	9,482.5	9.1%	7.2%	5459.3	4145.0	1556.5	1174.8
NC	676.1	560.1	3.2%	2.7%	1,683.7	1,435.8	3.7%	3.2%	926.4	733.1	249.8	199.6
ND	24.0	13.9	1.6%	0.9%	71.8	39.6	1.5%	0.8%	37.4	26.4	9.2	6.2
OH	667.8	474.4	2.3%	1.6%	1,438.5	1,007.8	2.6%	1.8%	807.4	591.9	215.9	156.2
OK	176.9	140.1	2.3%	1.8%	431.0	356.5	2.6%	2.1%	248.9	180.9	64.9	48.2
OR	483.9	305.6	5.7%	3.6%	1,276.8	841.9	6.3%	4.2%	684.9	427.5	182.4	115.7
PA	1,112.0	900.3	3.5%	2.8%	2,894.6	2,321.2	4.2%	3.4%	1391.3	1071.4	392.4	299.9
RI	91.4	61.0	3.0%	2.0%	174.6	112.1	2.9%	1.9%	104.1	70.0	28.9	19.5
SC	130.3	97.4	1.5%	1.2%	352.0	269.5	1.8%	1.4%	196.8	149.1	50.0	38.6
SD	10.8	6.9	0.7%	0.5%	22.2	14.8	0.6%	0.4%	26.5	16.2	6.5	4.1
TN	202.9	145.5	1.8%	1.3%	677.8	442.9	2.4%	1.6%	352.8	262.5	97.5	68.3
TX	2,844.2	2,299.3	5.6%	4.5%	9,134.3	7,302.6	6.6%	5.3%	4573.5	3616.0	1242.5	979.7
UT	197.7	108.6	3.5%	1.9%	487.8	269.2	3.7%	2.0%	302.6	155.5	81.1	42.9
VT	24.6	13.5	1.4%	0.7%	70.3	30.5	2.0%	0.9%	27.0	12.8	9.9	6.0
VA	1,566.0	1,226.9	7.5%	5.9%	4,517.2	3,582.4	8.2%	6.5%	2264.6	1714.6	609.9	467.9
WA	1,877.1	1,273.6	9.9%	6.7%	5,105.4	3,674.1	11.5%	8.3%	2474.7	1670.2	676.2	471.0
WV	50.6	41.7	1.5%	1.2%	147.0	123.9	2.3%	1.9%	57.6	43.6	17.6	13.3
WI	363.2	273.8	2.4%	1.8%	717.6	561.2	2.5%	1.9%	448.5	317.9	118.0	83.9
WY	6.7	3.3	0.8%	0.4%	14.9	7.9	0.5%	0.2%	16.6	11.0	3.9	2.6

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

DATA APPENDIX TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD EARNINGS OF AAPI HOUSEHOLDS, BY NATIVITY AND STATE, 2015

State	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	Share of state income held by AAPI Households	Share of state income held by AAPI Foreign-Born Households	State	All AAPI Households (in millions of USD)	Foreign-born AAPI households (in millions of USD)	Share of state income held by AAPI Households	Share of state income held by AAPI Foreign-Born Households
AL	1,968.6	1,380.7	1.5%	1.0%	MT	199.7	94.6	0.7%	0.5%
AK	1,199.2	841.1	5.9%	4.0%	NE	990.0	696.7	2.1%	1.4%
AZ	7,490.0	5,230.3	4.4%	3.3%	NV	6,966.9	4,262.8	9.5%	6.1%
AR	1,329.4	1,068.6	2.0%	1.7%	NH	1,514.4	1,269.0	2.7%	2.3%
CA	212,281.9	152,915.9	17.5%	12.8%	NJ	35,876.3	31,202.4	11.3%	9.7%
CO	6,196.6	3,817.3	3.2%	2.1%	NM	1,160.4	624.5	2.4%	1.5%
CT	6,546.7	5,330.2	4.8%	3.9%	NY	56,780.7	45,226.4	8.4%	6.5%
DE	1,485.5	1,201.8	4.8%	4.3%	NC	8,648.5	7,222.2	3.3%	2.6%
DC	1,943.7	1,108.0	4.8%	2.1%	ND	400.0	232.1	0.9%	0.8%
FL	17,239.8	13,217.4	3.3%	2.6%	OH	7,588.0	5,369.3	3.0%	2.3%
GA	12,484.2	10,320.1	4.4%	3.6%	OK	2,313.8	1,860.0	1.9%	1.1%
HI	25,576.7	6,153.2	60.2%	14.9%	OR	6,595.6	4,184.4	5.2%	3.3%
ID	698.9	372.0	2.1%	0.9%	PA	14,105.0	11,369.1	3.7%	2.9%
IL	26,031.0	20,410.5	5.9%	4.8%	RI	954.4	635.0	3.1%	2.0%
IN	4,912.5	4,122.8	2.5%	2.1%	SC	1,898.0	1,428.0	1.6%	1.2%
IA	1,634.3	1,209.4	2.6%	2.3%	SD	150.8	98.2	0.6%	0.4%
KA	2,179.2	1,557.2	3.1%	2.5%	TN	3,398.8	2,338.4	2.1%	1.6%
KY	2,048.0	1,653.1	1.8%	1.4%	TX	44,852.0	36,075.4	6.0%	5.0%
LA	2,240.1	1,442.1	2.3%	1.7%	UT	2,645.2	1,465.3	3.1%	1.8%
ME	411.7	313.7	1.3%	0.8%	VT	292.2	157.9	1.0%	0.7%
MD	16,109.3	12,816.3	6.9%	5.7%	VA	21,531.8	16,943.4	7.4%	5.7%
MA	16,826.1	13,480.0	6.1%	5.0%	WA	25,005.2	17,527.0	9.8%	6.6%
MI	9,693.2	8,197.0	3.7%	3.0%	WV	669.5	553.8	0.7%	0.5%
MN	7,657.2	5,932.6	3.7%	3.0%	WI	4,010.6	3,047.8	2.6%	1.9%
MS	917.5	598.3	1.3%	0.8%	WY	114.7	58.7	1.1%	0.6%
MO	3,778.3	2,871.3	2.6%	1.8%					

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2015

DATA APPENDIX TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT AND SALES IMPACT OF AAPI-OWNED FIRMS, BY STATE

State	Number of AAPI Owned Firms, 2012	Number of Paid Employees at AAPI Firms, 2012	Total Sales Receipts (in thousands of dollars)	Total Payroll of AAPI Owned Firms, 2012 (in thousands of dollars)	Number of AAPI Immigrant Owned Firms, 2007	Number of Paid Employees at AAPI Immigrant Firms, 2007
AL	9,353	27,863	4,617,052	769,114	3,639	12,671
AK	3,033	6,321	778,420	156,065	1,464	4,584
AZ	22,088	42,421	6,122,106	1,147,064	8,171	24,922
AR	4,753	11,473	2,442,130	230,793	1,524	6,357
CA	604,870	1,016,937	229,512,016	33,923,770	216,598	618,576
CO	18,629	35,874	5,560,477	980,924	7,571	21,488
CT	13,799	26,649	4,866,141	796,970	5,633	14,339
DE	3,854	7,717	1,512,460	267,487	3,143	12,284
DC	3,974	14,692	2,173,766	492,510	3,143	12,284
FL	80,938	136,237	24,890,576	3,909,906	30,913	74,472
GA	56,856	105,601	20,846,707	2,871,608	20,387	52,911
HI	60,967	104,791	19,482,939	3,436,922	12,015	29,121
ID	2,354	4,148	474,698	80,591	795	3,104
IL	72,665	133,973	27,273,015	4,415,950	27,089	76,744
IN	12,192	34,522	6,113,752	958,236	4,589	20,251
IA	4,310	8,940	1,310,270	205,674	1,701	10,129
KA	6,464	15,962	2,441,350	441,276	2,549	10,162
KY	7,019	18,509	2,770,029	464,808	2,694	11,332
LA	14,459	29,433	4,421,855	621,185	4,891	14,057
ME	1,621	4,224	389,954	79,645	668	2,391
MD	41,634	85,867	15,345,235	3,198,660	17,270	53,661
MA	33,875	65,469	11,238,471	2,592,879	11,839	32,615
MI	26,672	74,669	11,604,821	2,780,837	11,210	44,390
MN	15,486	25,137	3,786,181	645,432	5,640	14,093
MS	5,447	14,644	2,041,068	246,460	1,696	6,915
MO	13,022	28,663	4,080,602	670,480	5,164	21,459
MT	947	2,086	276,791	53,515	351	2,355
NE	3,189	6,014	719,944	110,907	1,244	5,069
NV	21,717	29,149	4,925,971	798,234	6,634	15,807

State	Number of AAPI Owned Firms, 2012	Number of Paid Employees at AAPI Firms, 2012	Total Sales Receipts (in thousands of dollars)	Total Payroll of AAPI Owned Firms, 2012 (in thousands of dollars)	Number of AAPI Immigrant Owned Firms, 2007	Number of Paid Employees at AAPI Immigrant Firms, 2007
NH	2,749	6,392	1,007,183	199,865	1,175	4,029
NJ	81,898	163,776	44,001,818	6,449,624	33,367	91,675
NM	4,312	13,265	1,603,165	285,971	1,575	7,482
NY	243,105	321,972	65,963,632	9,156,852	69,894	136,952
NC	27,112	55,182	8,729,685	1,364,299	10,482	3,063
ND	678	2,845	275,460	49,555	552	34,489
OH	21,679	64,287	10,762,432	1,800,714	9,929	42,877
OK	9,643	22,276	2,799,682	414,373	3,489	10,906
OR	16,173	39,321	6,116,104	895,458	6,984	20,319
PA	39,602	78,869	15,772,304	2,475,207	16,016	42,743
RI	2,937	6,501	907,316	152,740	1,218	3,471
SC	9,492	26,163	3,895,094	536,880	3,658	14,286
SD	790	2,032	675,463	52,239	552	3,063
TN	14,364	36,218	7,411,981	907,421	5,378	18,775
TX	155,784	346,765	62,965,284	9,623,469	48,961	144,562
UT	6,286	13,542	1,352,595	295,037	2,086	6,712
VT	870	1,742	255,124	33,280	1,218	3,471
VA	58,390	132,383	19,634,198	5,045,123	22,477	74,878
WA	46,054	87,530	17,139,942	2,540,408	19,864	50,568
WV	1,988	6,243	901,942	198,992	831	3,509
WI	9,848	25,041	5,090,396	672,957	3,806	13,855
WY	802	2,250	212,826	45,248	1,464	4,584

Note: For confidentiality reasons, figures exclude large, publicly owned firms. For AAPI immigrants, the total number of employees is reported in groups of two for a handful of states. Alaska and Wyoming figures are from the two states together. Rhode Island and Vermont are also grouped together, as are North and South Dakota and Delaware and Washington, DC.

Source: Survey of Business Owners, 2007 and 2012

DATA APPENDIX TABLE 4: PROJECTED NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER VOTERS BY 2020, BY STATE AND NATIVITY

State	Total AAPI residents eligible to vote by 2020	Projected number of AAPI Immigrants eligible to vote by 2020	State	Total AAPI residents eligible to vote by 2020	Projected number of AAPI Immigrants eligible to vote by 2020
AL	42,860	21,106	MT	8,244	-
AK	42,546	22,090	NE	25,928	14,807
AZ	183,185	99,604	NV	222,363	116,156
AR	32,446	16,836	NH	26,312	15,707
CA	4,588,523	2,708,274	NJ	586,563	420,487
CO	148,719	73,065	NM	37,044	15,345
CT	103,826	64,856	NY	1,147,403	777,225
DE	21,021	13,690	NC	187,693	104,938
DC	22,334	7,698	ND	4,168	1,866
FL	466,572	293,878	OH	165,564	98,325
GA	271,641	177,151	OK	60,004	32,981
HI	725,506	134,857	OR	156,422	72,443
ID	23,234	9,980	PA	297,629	188,823
IL	513,151	335,613	RI	27,540	13,890
IN	82,356	49,515	SC	62,813	33,644
IA	39,774	23,748	SD	6,822	3,508
KA	60,177	35,111	TN	84,571	48,430
KY	39,212	23,908	TX	862,924	570,456
LA	60,584	34,315	UT	76,927	34,736
ME	16,436	8,723	VT	7,485	4,421
MD	286,702	194,827	VA	404,962	264,737
MA	301,038	189,465	WA	506,730	250,642
MI	211,401	136,909	WV	9,946	-
MN	180,751	106,996	WI	113,760	52,582
MS	22,006	11,408	WY	6,480	2,541
MO	92,441	47,295			

Note: Unable to make reliable estimates in Montana and West Virginia due to small sample size of foreign-born AAPI population

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2014; Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2007-2014

Methodology Appendix

The report used the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) to quantify the tax contributions and spending power of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). The demographic data across different years are also obtained from ACS 1-year data between 2000 and 2015.

The main population of interest in the report is the AAPI population, defined as the population that identified themselves as Asians, Pacific Islanders, or Native Hawaiians in their race, either exclusively or mixed. Multiracial population is often overlooked in these kinds of demographic research, but we argue that they share a similar cultural background with the AAPI population and shall be considered part of the overall AAPI population. A report released by Pew Research Center on the Asian population also included the multiracial population.⁴⁴ The brief also presents extensive research particularly on AAPI immigrants, defined as the AAPI population living in the U.S. who were born aboard to non-U.S. citizen parents.

In this report, we defined spending power as the disposable income in hands of the households after extracting federal, state, and local taxes from household incomes. First, we aggregated the household income by state as well as by income quintile, and then calculated the state and local taxes based on the tax rates estimate by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.⁴⁵ As for federal tax, we used the data released along with a report from the Congressional Budget Office in 2014 and calculated the federal tax based on the federal tax bucket that they are in.⁴⁶ After that, we obtained the disposable income by extracting the federal as

well as state and local tax state by state for different populations of interest (AAPI, foreign-born AAPI, U.S. population). A household is defined as AAPI household if the householder is Asian American or Pacific Islander, and a foreign-born AAPI household is a household with a foreign-born AAPI householder.

Social Security and Medicare contributions are drawn from taxes on an individual's wage earnings.⁴⁷ This is far different from a household's overall income, which may include other revenue streams such as rental income and returns on investments. To account for this difference between overall federal taxes and Social Security and Medicare contributions, we estimate Medicare and Social Security contributions based on wage and salary data provided at the individual level in the ACS. For self-employed individuals, we used the self-employment income as the income base. The amount of earnings that can be taxed by the Social Security program is capped at \$117,000, while there is no such limit for the Medicare program.⁴⁸ We used a flat tax rate of 12.4 percent to estimate Social Security contributions and 2.9 percent to capture Medicare contributions. This estimates the total amount that immigrants and their employers contributed in 2015.⁴⁹

It is also worth noting that half of the amount contributed to Social Security and Medicare (6.4 percent of Social Security tax rate and 1.45 percent of Medicare tax rate) comes from individual workers, while the other half comes directly from their employers. Self-employed workers have to pay the full tax themselves. When estimating Social Security and Medicare contributions, we include all individual wage earners in the households and aggregate the amount paid by state.

Voting Estimates

The registration rate among foreign-born AAPI eligible voters is calculated from the Voter Supplement in the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the years 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 using the IPUMS database. AAPI eligible voters are defined as AAPI citizens age 18 or older.

We also estimate the number of new AAPI voters who will become eligible to vote in 2020, either by turning 18 or through naturalization, as well as the total number of AAPI voters in 2020. The estimates of newly eligible voters include all AAPI citizens age 12-17 in 2014 (thereby becoming voting age by 2020). Applicable mortality rates of the AAPI population are also applied to the AAPI voters who were already eligible in 2014 to project the number of voters surviving to 2020. In addition, we estimate newly naturalized AAPI citizens using data from the Department of Homeland Security's Yearbook of Immigration Statistics. We make the projections by averaging the total number of new naturalizations for each state for every two-year period between 2007-2014. Estimates of total AAPI voters in 2020 include AAPI citizens age 18 or older in 2014, discounted by AAPI's average mortality rates by age brackets, summed to the pool of newly eligible AAPI voters. We also use the same methodology to estimate the number of foreign-born AAPI eligible voters in 2020.

Endnotes

- 1** In this report, “Asian Americans and the Pacific Islanders” refer to the ethnic group that identify themselves as Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Korean, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Mongolian, Nepalese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Bangladeshi, Burmese, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Samoan, Tongan, Guamanian/Chamorro, Fijian, or other Pacific Islanders. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who identify as mixed-race group with other races are also included.
- 2** “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” “AAPIs,” “Asians,” and “Asian Americans” are used interchangeably, referring to the ethnic group detailed in note 1.
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