

Deep in the Heart of Asian Texas



Part 1: Profiles of AAPI Communities

August 2024





Mission

We connect Asian
and Pacific Islander
Texans to civic action
to build personal and
political power.

Vision

We envision a
future where all
people feel bold in
their belonging.



About Asian Texans for Justice

Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) is a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded to be a voice for our state's diverse Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community — to claim our space and inspire Texas to invest in our stories.

We do this by building coalitions with leaders and organizations across Texas and the country, building a talent pipeline with leadership development, and advocating for issues that can bring meaningful change to Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

We believe that civic action is a critical component of asserting our voices, strengthening our democracy, and creating a society in which all people feel bold in their belonging. Our civic action work is focused on four key areas:

1. Civic Engagement
2. Advocacy
3. Youth Leadership Development
4. Coalition Building

Learn more about ATJ and our work by visiting:
www.AsianTexansForJustice.org



Contents

Introduction	01
--------------	----

Key Insights	02
--------------	----

Statewide Overview: AAPI Texans	03
---------------------------------	----

Regional Deep Dives

↘ Austin	12
----------	----

↘ Dallas-Ft. Worth	17
--------------------	----

↘ Houston	24
-----------	----

↘ San Antonio	30
---------------	----

Conclusion	35
------------	----

Acknowledgements	36
------------------	----

Introduction

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Texas represent a powerful, growing base of constituents for Texas policy and politics.

More and more, politicians and policymakers are recognizing the importance of AAPI voices for the future of our state. As one of the fastest growing groups in both the nation and in Texas, AAPI Texans hold extraordinary potential to influence the direction of our state, but only if we are connected to political power and action. Though previously overlooked, AAPI Texans are more interested, engaged, and committed to civic participation than ever.

Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) believes that civic action is a critical component of asserting our voices, strengthening our democracy, and creating a society in which all people feel bold in their belonging. ATJ is committed to increasing understanding and awareness of the AAPI community among policymakers and other political stakeholders.

In September 2022, we released *The Deciding Margin: How AAPI Voters Will Shape the Future of Texas*, with results from the first-ever political poll specifically focused on AAPI voters in Texas. While *The Deciding Margin* included a glance at the demographics of AAPI Texans, we recognize that understanding the AAPI community in Texas requires deeper analysis.

This document is intended to provide insights into the demographics and identities of AAPI Texans across the state.

Alongside a statewide profile of AAPI Texans, this brief offers additional information about specific Asian communities in the state's largest metropolitan areas, where approximately 90% of AAPI Texans reside, including Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Austin, and San Antonio. Unless otherwise noted, the data in this brief are from the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2023 Annual Population Estimates and the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year and 5-Year Estimates.¹ Limitations of ACS data about Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders required many parts of this brief to focus on insights about the Asian diaspora in Texas and the metro regions previously stated. Where Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders are included, this brief uses "AAPI," and insights focused exclusively on Asian Texans are stated accordingly.



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Texas: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (SC-EST2023-SR11H-48). U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year and 5-Year Estimates. Datasets: ACSSPP1Y2022, ACSDP1Y2022, and ACSDT5Y2022.

Key Insights

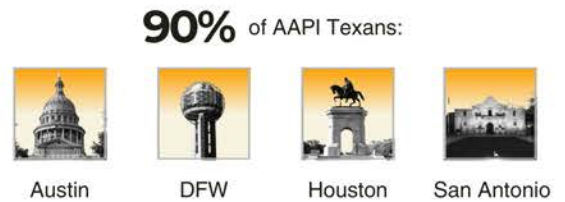
1.

Approximately **2 million** Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) live in Texas, comprising **6.6%** of the state's population. Texas had the largest increase in the nation of its Asian population between 2022 and 2023, gaining **over 91,000** residents.



2.

Almost all (**90%**) of **AAPI Texans** reside in the four largest metropolitan regions, including Houston, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Austin, and San Antonio.



3.

Texas' AAPI diaspora is rich and diverse, and the **majority (62%)** of AAPI Texans identify as Asian Indian, Chinese, or Vietnamese.



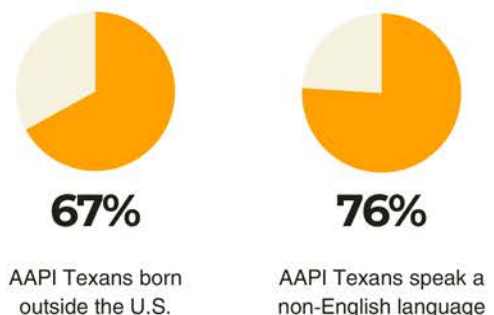
4.

AAPI Texans tend to have **more education** and **higher median household incomes** than the general population; however, some Asian subgroups (Pakistani and Vietnamese) have higher enrollment rates in essential benefits programs such as supplemental security income, cash public assistance income, and Food Stamp / SNAP benefits than the general population.



5.

Compared to the state's overall population, AAPI Texans are **more likely** to be born outside of the U.S. (67%) and speak a non-English language at home (76%).



A grayscale photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a light-colored sweater and a tool belt. She is smiling and looking down at a book she is holding in her hands. The background is a blurred bookshelf filled with books.

Statewide Overview:

AAPI Texans

Statewide Overview: AAPI Texans

Texas has the third-highest AAPI population in the United States, behind only California and New York.

Between 2020 and 2023, the Asian population in Texas grew by 14.4%, outpacing the national growth rate of Asian Americans of 2.3%, Texas' overall population growth rate of 4.3%, and that of any other racial group in Texas.² From 2022 to 2023, Texas had the largest-gaining Asian population in the nation, with an increase of over 91,000. In *The Deciding Margin*, we saw that AAPI Texans are younger than the general population, tend to have high rates of educational attainment and household incomes, and are significantly more likely to be immigrants.

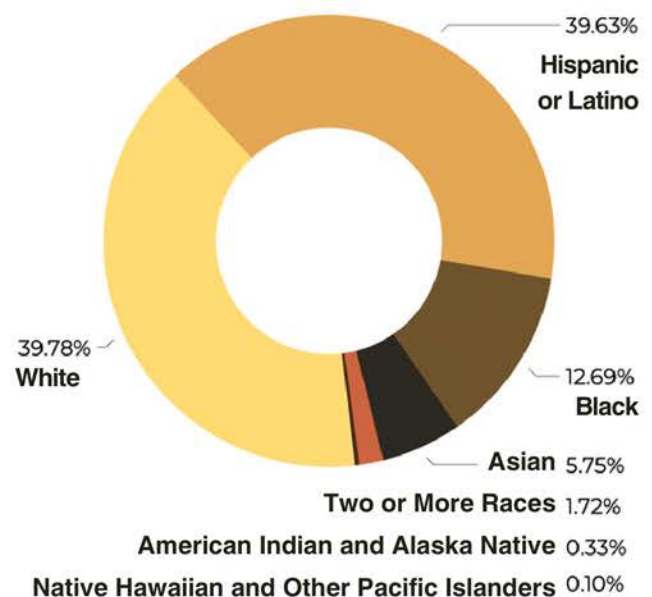
Population & Demographics

In 2023, over 1.78 million AAPI people lived in Texas. Asian Texans make up 5.7% of the state's population, while Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up 0.1%. If accounting for people who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islanders in combination with other races, over 1.96 million Asian Texans make up 6.4% of the state's population, while approximately 57,000 Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders comprise 0.1% of Texas.

Though AAPIs are often referred to as a singular group, they are not a monolith with the same views and perspectives. The reality is the AAPI diaspora is widespread and diverse. Of the almost 2 million AAPIs in Texas, 62% identify as Asian Indian, Vietnamese, or Chinese.

² U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Texas: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (SC-EST2023-SR11H-48).

Figure 1.
Texas Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2023



Note: Graph depicts Texas population and races not in combination. AAPI Texans include Census data for "Asian alone" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders alone" rather than in combination with one or more other races.

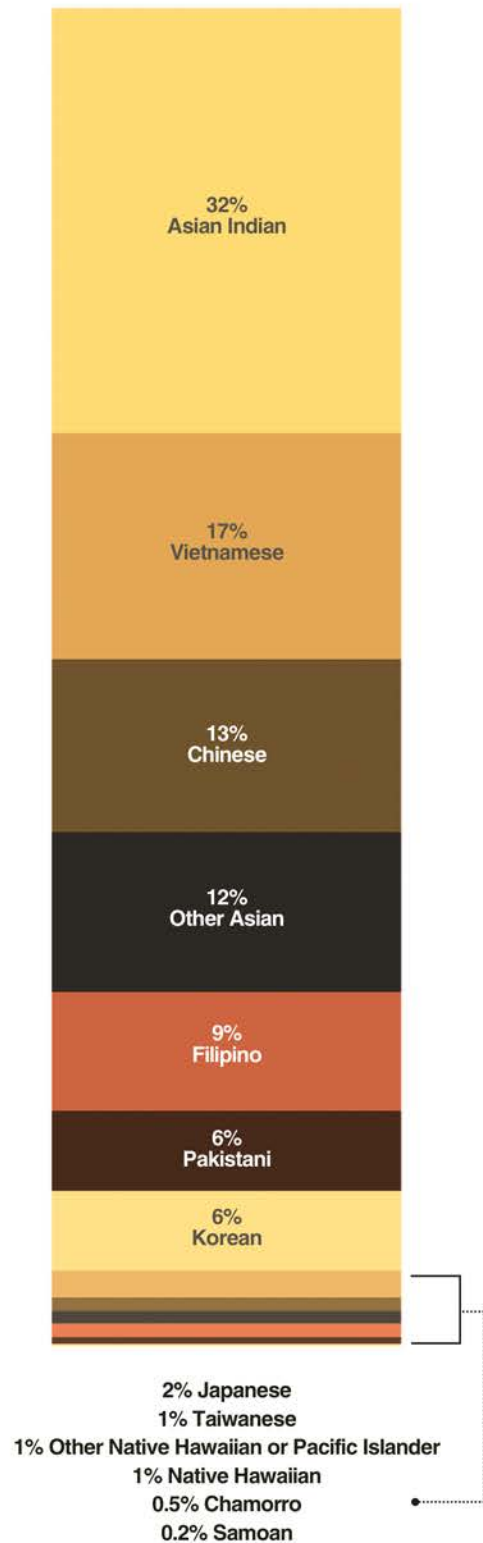
One of Texas' economic and political advantages is its relatively young population. 63% of the state's population is below 45, and the state's median age is 35.6. Similarly, 64% of Asian Texans are below 45, and the median age of Asian Texans is 37. This varies across the Asian diaspora from a median age of 35.9 for Asian Indians to 42.2 for Filipinos.

Finally, place of birth for Asian Texans differs significantly from that of the general population. While 83% of Texas' population is native-born and 17% is foreign-born, one-third (33%) of Asian Texans were born in the U.S. compared to two-thirds (67%) born outside of the U.S. The ratio of native to foreign-born individuals is also consistent across Asian groups. Of those born outside the U.S., 60% of Asian Texans are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Figure 2.
Median Age of AAPI Texans

Filipino	42.2
Korean	42.1
Vietnamese	40.7
Chinese	38.9
Asian Texans	37.3
Pakistani	36.1
Asian Indian	35.9

Figure 3.
Texas AAPI Population by Ethnicity



Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, ACSDT5Y2022.

Compared to the general Texas population and other racial groups, Asian Texans tend to have higher rates of educational attainment.

Education & Employment

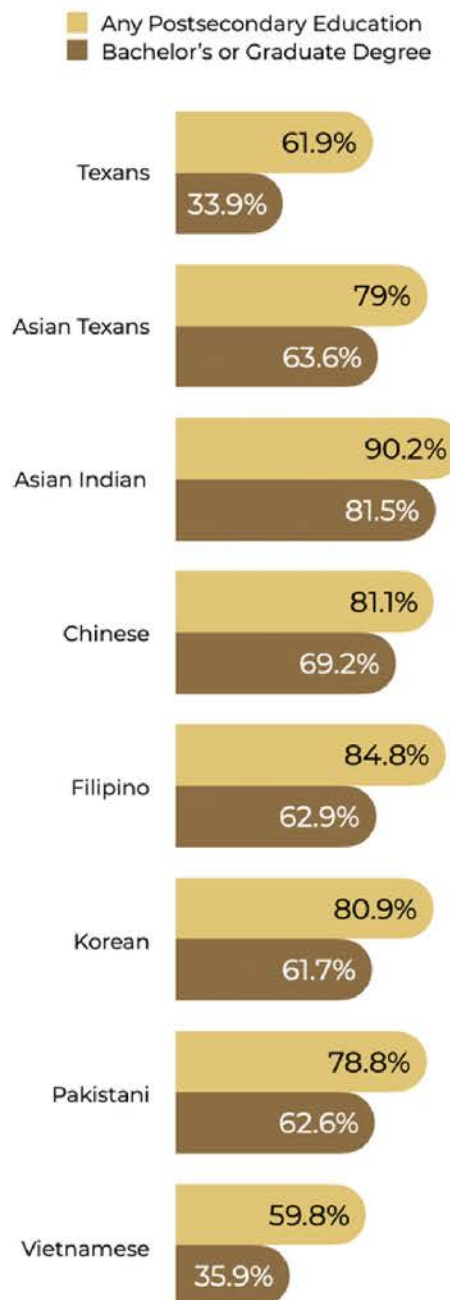
For the purpose of this document, educational attainment is analyzed in two ways: 1) the percentage of people with any postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree), and 2) the percentage of people with a bachelor's or graduate degree.

79% of Asian Texans have some level of postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree) compared to 61.9% of Texans overall. Comparatively, 70.2% of white Texans, 63.3% of Black Texans, 43.8% of Hispanic or Latino Texans, and 46.9% of American Indian or Alaska Native Texans have some postsecondary education.

However, educational attainment rates vary across the Asian diaspora. Because educational attainment is closely linked with employment prospects and economic opportunity, it is important to be aware of the differences across various Asian groups. For example, almost all (90.2%) of Asian Indians in Texas have some level of postsecondary education compared to slightly more than half (59.8%) of Vietnamese Texans.

Strikingly, the attainment rate of bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees among many Asian groups far exceeds that of the general Texas population or any other racial group.

Figure 4.
Educational Attainment Rates of Asian Texans



Regarding employment by occupation and industry, Asian Texans are disproportionately represented in management, business, science, and arts roles and in professional, educational, and healthcare services.

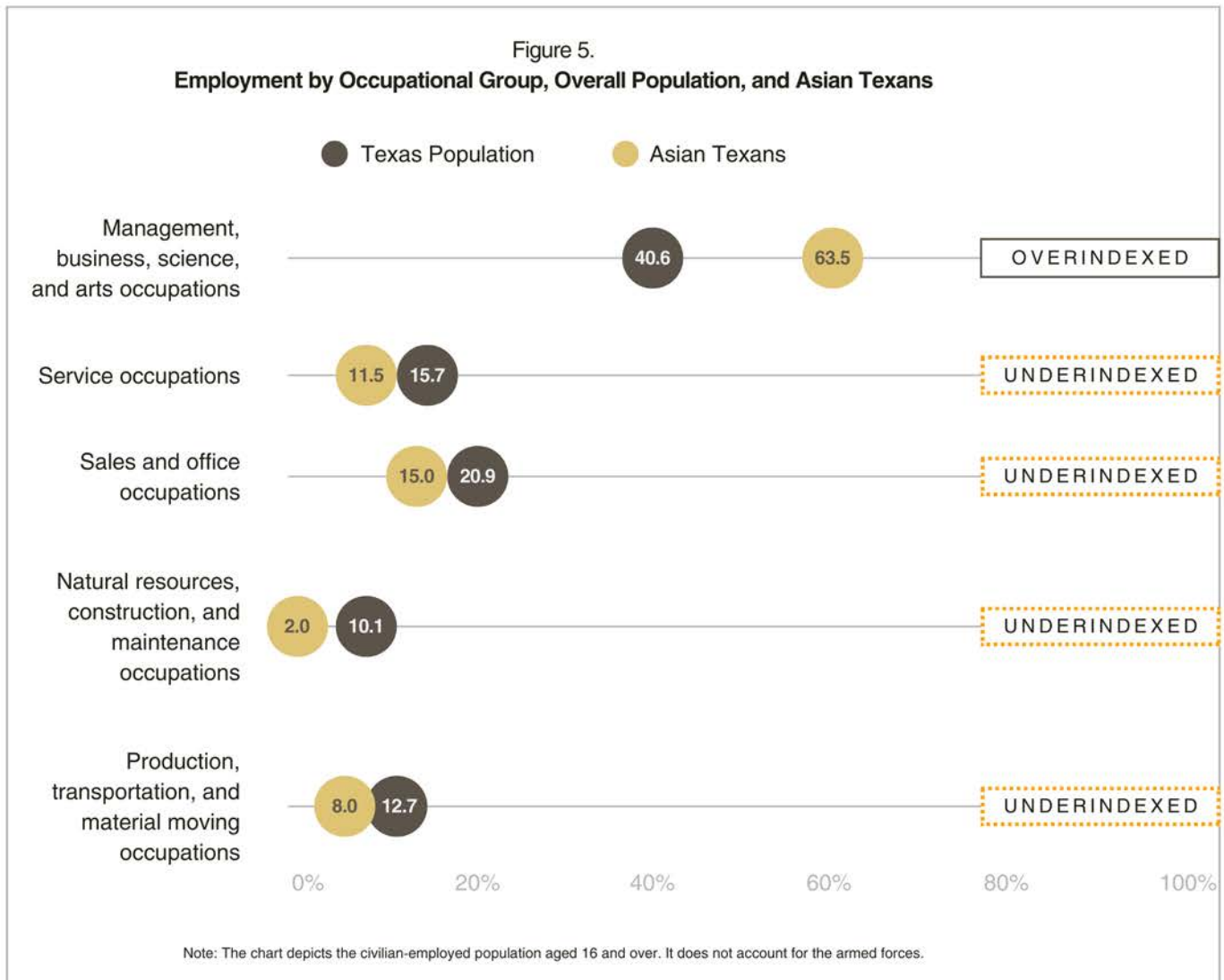
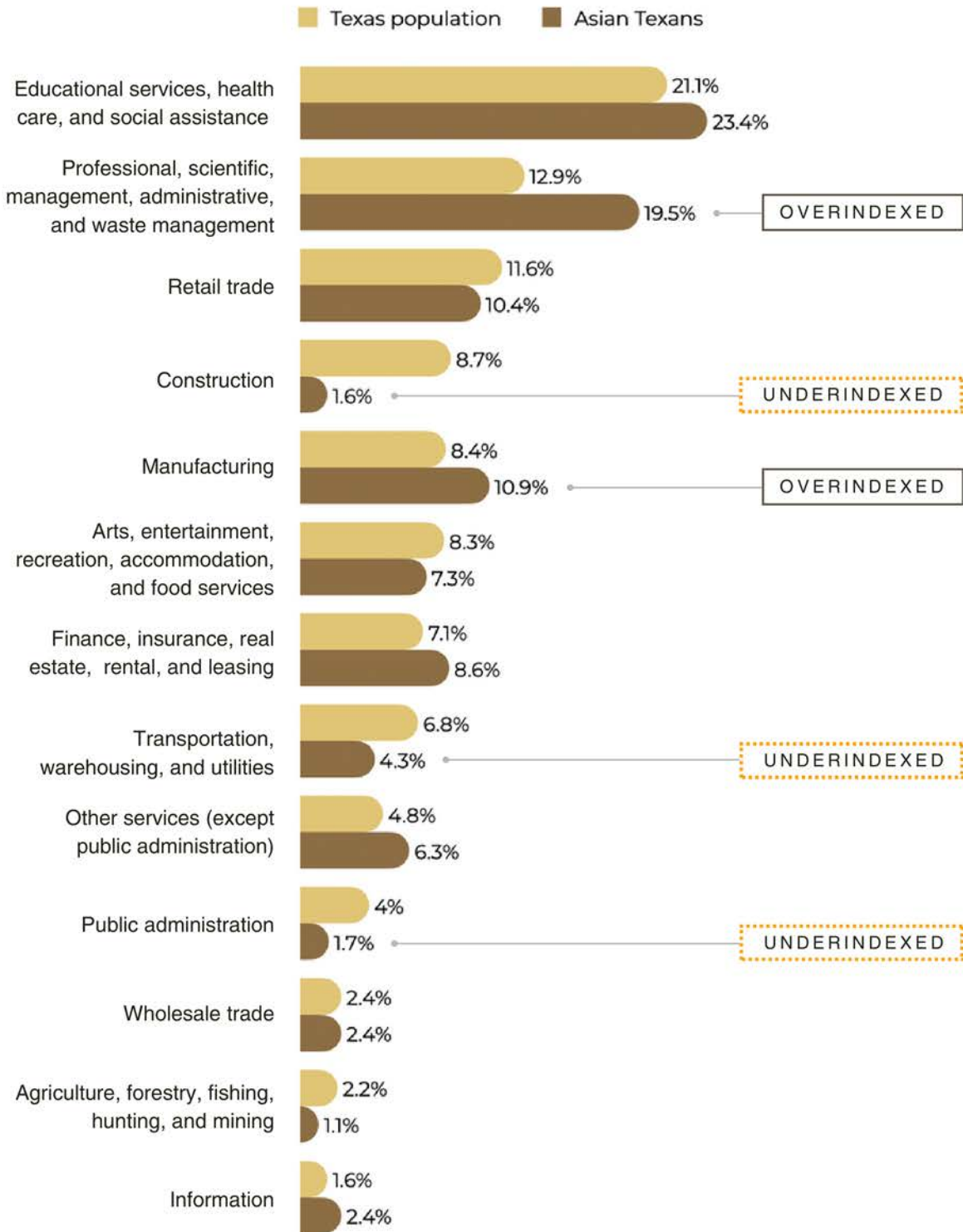


Figure 6.
Employment by Industry, Overall Population, and Asian Texans



Asian Texans have significantly higher median household incomes than the general Texas population and any other racial group.

Household Characteristics

Compared to other Texans, AAPI Texans have different household characteristics, including income, public benefits, and language(s) spoken. Once again, median household income varies considerably across the Asian diaspora.

Though median household income among Asian Texans is significantly higher than that of the general population, it is important to note that aggregated data can mask the level of economic needs across the Asian community.






Figure 7.
Median Household Income,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

Asian	\$107,673
Asian Indian	\$142,298
Filipino	\$107,766
Pakistani	\$107,357
Chinese	\$102,952
Korean	\$83,871
Vietnamese	\$81,941
White	\$82,032
Texas	\$72,284
American Indian and Alaska Native	\$65,765
Hispanic or Latino	\$60,504
Black	\$55,759

The percentage of households accessing essential benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, and Food Stamp/SNAP benefits is noteworthy and has policy implications for the state.

Table 1.
Enrollment Rates for Public Benefits, Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

	 Supplemental Security Income	 Cash public assistance income	 Food Stamp / SNAP benefits
Texas	4.0%	1.9%	12.0%
Asian Texans	3.3%	2.2%	6.2%
↳ Asian Indian	2.2%	1.1%	3.2%
↳ Chinese	3.0%	2.2%	3.2%
↳ Filipino	2.8%	3.1%	6.1%
↳ Korean	3.2%	1.6%	3.5%
↳ Pakistani	7.1%	2.8%	7.4%
↳ Vietnamese	8.9%	9.6%	16.9%

Given the fact that two-thirds of Asian Texans were born outside of the U.S., it is not surprising to see that multiple languages are spoken in many Asian households. Though 64.9% of Texas households speak English only, it is striking that 76.1% of Asian Texan households speak a language other than English. Furthermore, 26.9% of those households identify as speaking English less than “very well.”

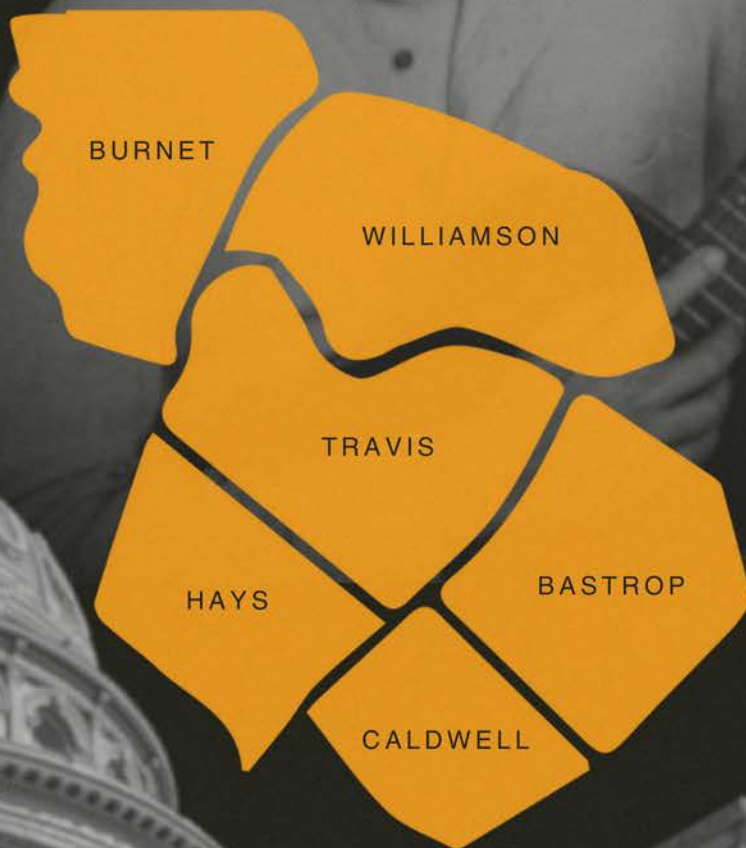
This has implications for outreach and civic engagement for policymakers, organizers, and other stakeholders who wish to increase civic action among Asian Texans.

Table 2.
Primary Household Language, Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

	English Only	Language other than English	Speak English less than “very well”
Texas	64.9%	35.1%	12.8%
Asian Texans	23.9%	76.1%	26.9%
↳ Asian Indian	22.8%	77.2%	14.8%
↳ Chinese	22.3%	77.7%	35.2%
↳ Filipino	36.0%	64.0%	15.3%
↳ Korean	22.7%	77.3%	38.4%
↳ Pakistani	13.9%	86.1%	21.2%
↳ Vietnamese	20.5%	79.5%	43.8%

Regional Deep Dive:

Austin Area



Regional Deep Dive: Austin Area

The Austin region has one of the fastest-growing Asian populations among large metropolitan areas in the country.

Home to over 2.42 million people, it boasts of a thriving economy, a growing population, and diverse communities. Between 2022 and 2023, the Austin region had the fastest-growing Asian population among large U.S. metros, with a 10.5% growth rate.³

Two counties, Williamson and Travis, are among Texas' highest-density Asian American population. According to 2020 Census data, Williamson County experienced a 164% growth between 2010 and 2020, with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) comprising over 10.6% of the county's population.⁴ Travis County's population grew by 77% in the same period, with AAPIs making up 9.5%.

Where available, this regional deep dive includes insights about the largest Asian subgroup in the region – Asian Indians. This brief uses 2022 American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year estimates for the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which includes five counties: Williamson, Travis, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell.

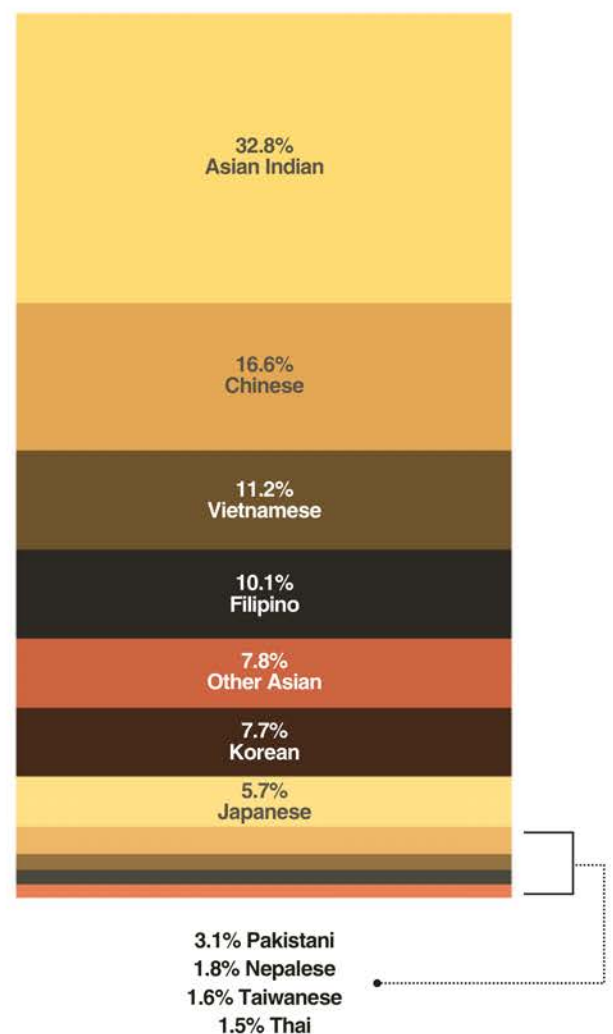
Population & Demographics

In 2022, AAPIs accounted for 7.1% of the overall population, or approximately 170,000 individuals, in the Austin region. Though a small but growing segment of the region's overall population, the Asian diaspora in Austin is quite diverse.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, *New Estimates Highlight Differences in Growth Between the U.S. Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Populations*.

⁴ *Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 and 2020 Census*.

Figure 8.
AAPI Population by Ethnicity in the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, ACSST5Y2022.

While 65% of the region’s population is below the age of 45, the Asian community is even younger, with 70.1% under that threshold. Asian Indians, the largest Asian subgroup in the region, are younger than the general population and Asians overall, with 76.5% of the group under 45. Because Austin Asians are relatively young, they can be expected to play a significant role in the region's future, both politically and economically.

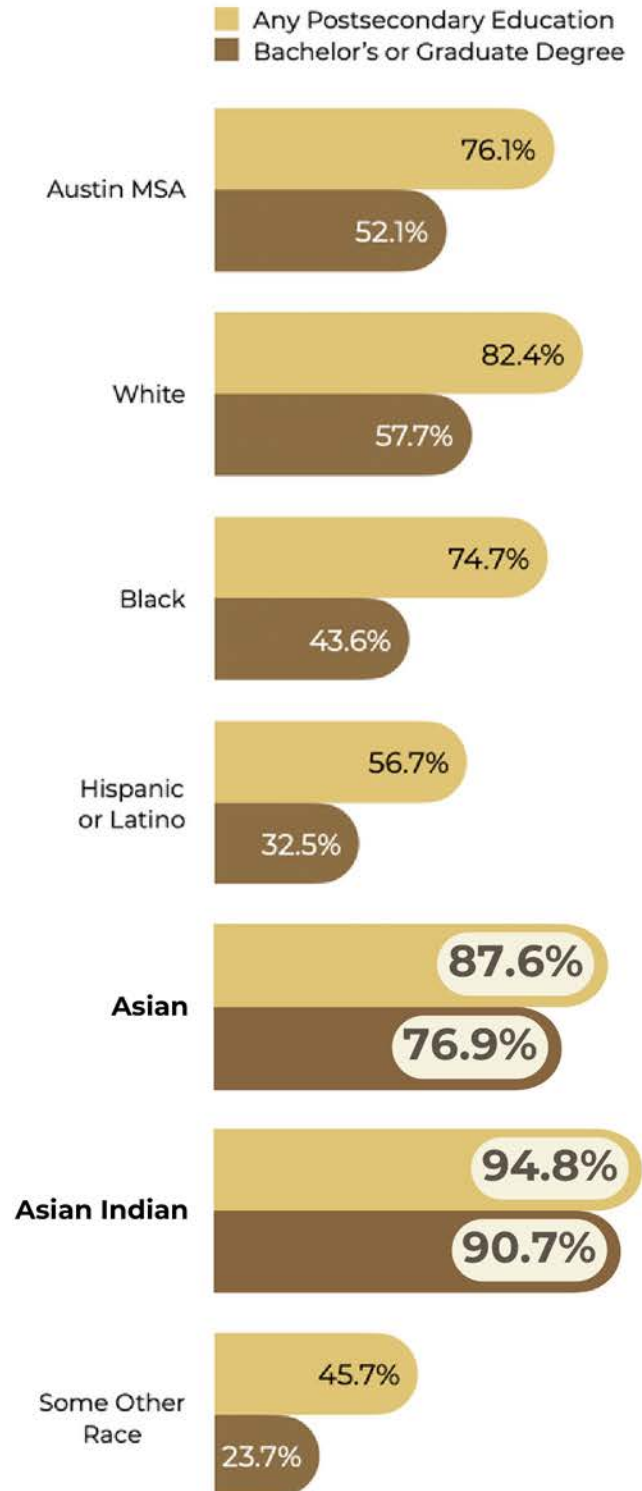
The place of birth for Asians in the Austin region is also notable. Though over 84% of the region’s population was born in the U.S., only 34.7% of Asians are native-born. 65.3% of Asians in the area were born outside of the U.S., and over half (52.7%) of those born outside the country hold U.S. citizenship.

Education & Employment

Like statewide trends, Asians in the Austin region tend to have higher educational attainment rates than any other group. While 76.1% of Austin’s population has some level of postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor’s, or graduate degree), 87.6% of Austin Asians have some level of postsecondary education. Notably, 94.8% of Asian Indians in the region have some postsecondary education, and 90.7% have at least a bachelor’s degree. This educational attainment rate far exceeds Texas’ statewide rate and those of Asian Texans in any other major metropolitan region.

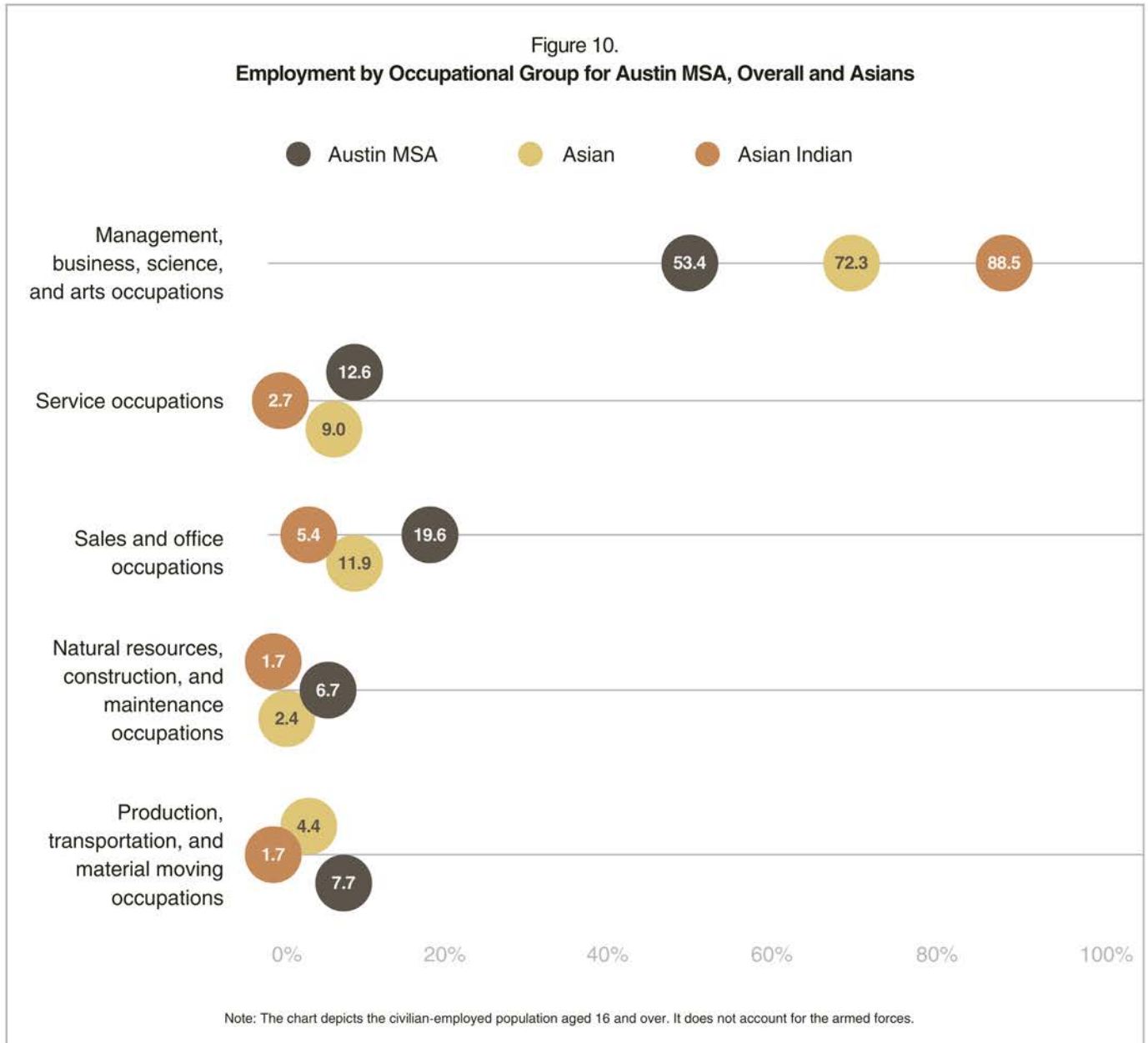


Figure 9.
Austin MSA Educational Attainment Rates,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity



Asians in the Austin region are overwhelmingly represented in management and business occupations, as 72.3% of Asians in the area and 88.5% of Asian Indians are in those roles. A quarter (25.2%) of Asians in the Austin region are employed in professional, scientific, management, and administrative services.

Other industries with high representation of Asian individuals include educational services, health care, and social assistance (17.8%) and manufacturing (14.2%).



Household Characteristics

Following similar patterns for educational attainment and occupational groups, Asians in the Austin region tend to have higher median household incomes than other groups. In 2022, the median household income for the MSA was \$94,604, \$129,551 for Asians, and \$186,619 for Asian Indians.

As Texas policymakers, political organizers, and other stakeholders consider ways better to engage the Asian diaspora in the Austin region, it is crucial to consider the language(s) spoken across households. Most (73.2%) Asians speak a language other than English at home, and 20.5% identify as speaking English less than “very well.” Similar patterns are true for Asian Indians, with 78.4% speaking a language other than English in their households.

Figure 11.
Median Household Income for Austin MSA,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

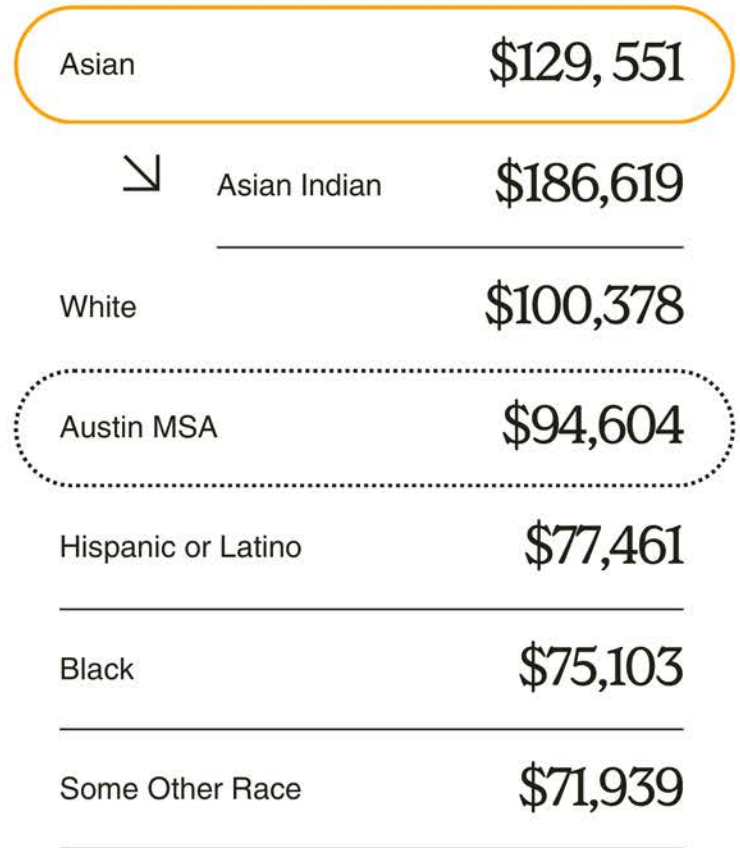
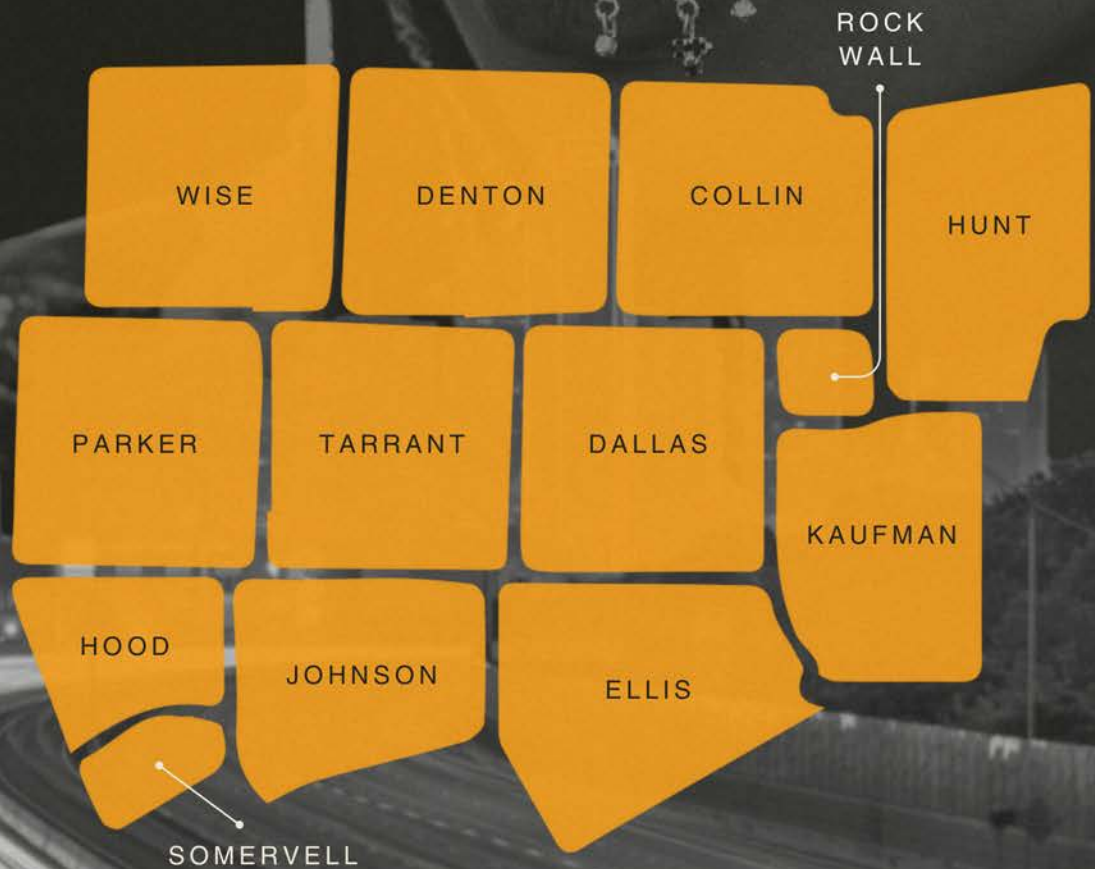


Table 3.
Primary Household Language for Austin MSA, Overall and Asians

	English Only	Language other than English	Speak English less than “very well”
Austin MSA	71.8%	28.2%	88.5%
Asian	26.8%	73.2%	2.7%
Asian Indian	21.6%	78.4%	5.4%

Regional Deep Dive:

Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex



Regional Deep Dive: Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex

The DFW Metroplex had the largest increase in Asian population (approximately 44,000) among all U.S. metro areas between 2022 and 2023.⁵

With a total of 7.9 million people, the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex consistently ranks among the fastest-growing areas in the country year after year, and increases in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population are a major contributor to that growth. Almost 20,000 of those new Asian residents moved to Collin County, which had the largest county-level increase in Asian residents in the nation.

Two counties, Collin and Denton, are among those in Texas with the highest-density Asian American population. According to 2020 Census data, Collin County experienced a 113% growth between 2010 and 2020, with AAPIs comprising 19.4% of the county's population.⁶ Denton County's population grew by 115% in the same period, with AAPIs making up 11.7%.

Where available, this regional deep dive includes insights about the largest Asian subgroups in the region – Asian Indian, Chinese, and Vietnamese. This brief uses 2022 American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year estimates for the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which includes 13 counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise.

⁵ [U.S. Census Bureau. New Estimates Highlight Differences in Growth Between the U.S. Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Populations.](#)

⁶ [Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 and 2020 Census.](#)



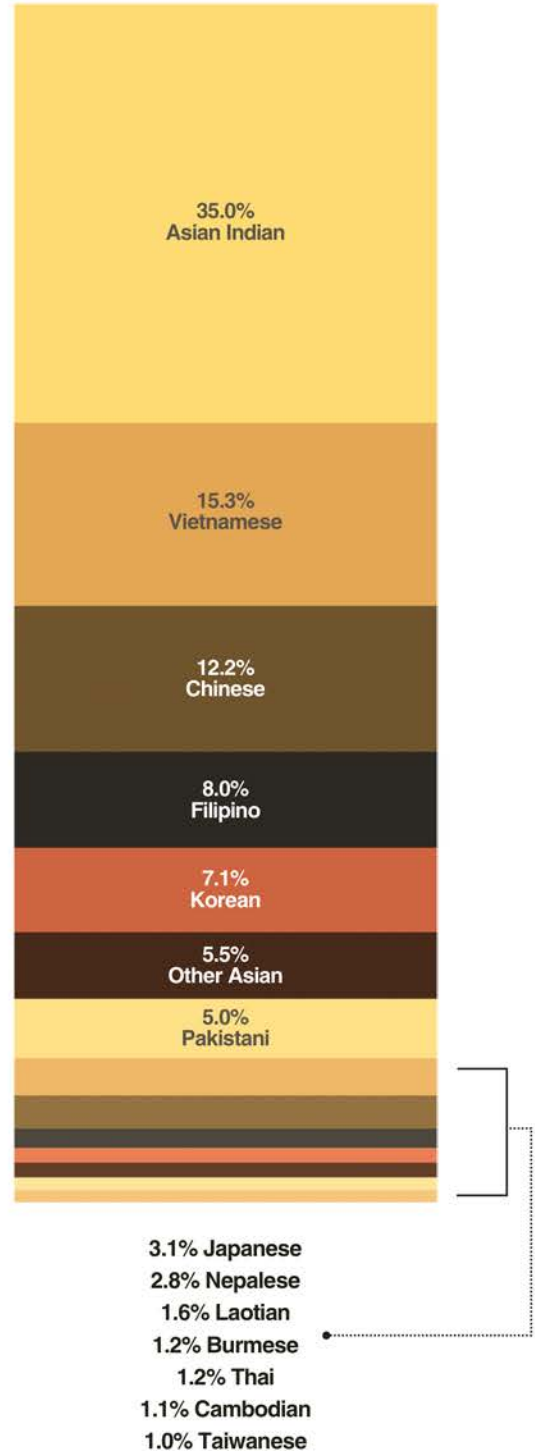
Population & Demographics

In 2022, the DFW Metroplex was home to approximately 644,000 AAPI Texans, comprising 8.1% of the region’s population. The DFW Asian community is incredibly diverse, with dozens of East, Southeast, South, and Central Asian countries represented. The DFW Asian diaspora includes the groups in Figure 12.

Like statewide trends, the DFW Asian community skews slightly younger than the overall state population, with 65.9% under 45 compared to 63.8% at the state level. However, the median age across different Asian subgroups varies. While the overall median age of the DFW population is 35.5 (years), the Asian median age is 36.8. The median age of Asian Indians is 35.1, Chinese is 40.8, and Vietnamese is 38.8.

Place of birth and U.S. citizenship status also varies across the DFW Asian diaspora. While 81.1% of the overall DFW population was born in the U.S., two-thirds (67%) of DFW Asians are foreign-born. The ratio of native-born to foreign-born is consistent for Asian Indian, Chinese, and Vietnamese individuals. However, among those born outside of the U.S., the percentage of those who hold U.S. citizenship varies: 56.9% for DFW Asians overall, 42.9% for Asian Indians, 61.9% for Chinese, and 76.5% for Vietnamese.

Figure 12.
AAPI Population in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



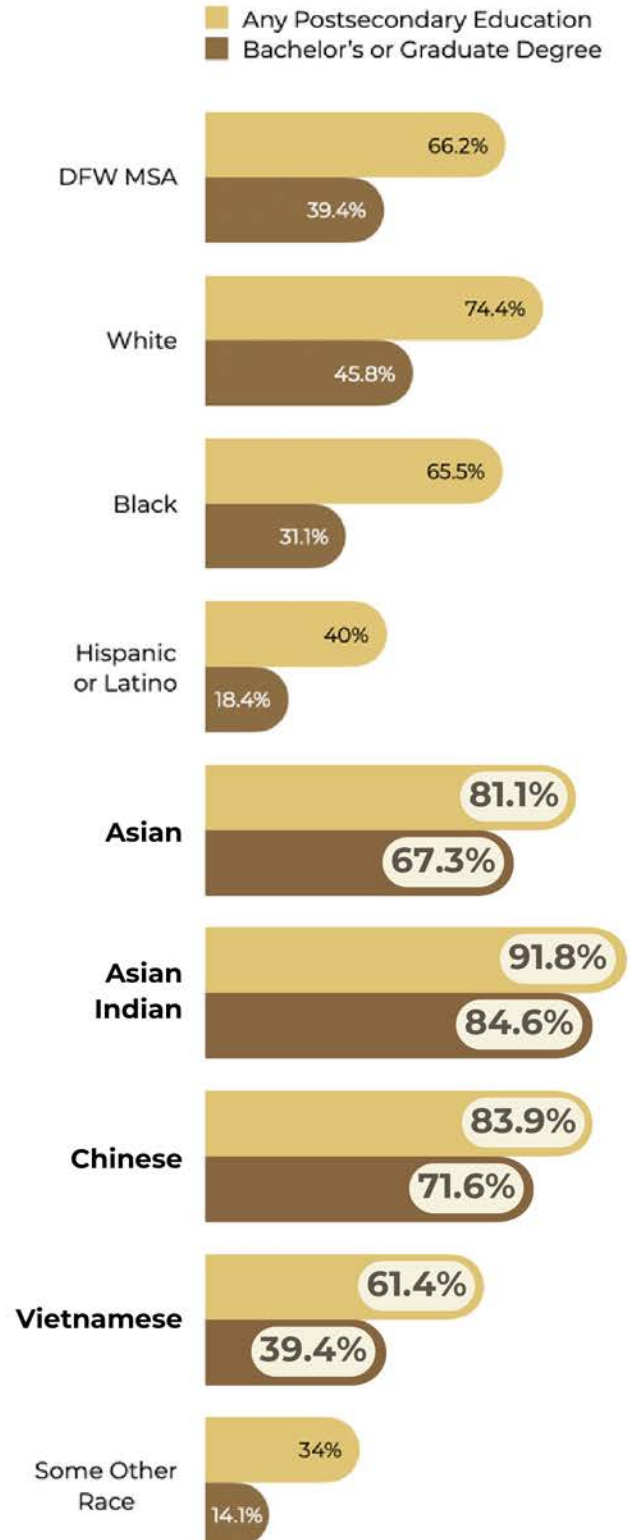
Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, ACSDT5Y2022.

Education & Employment

Though Asians in the DFW Metroplex tend to have higher rates of educational attainment than the overall DFW population and other racial groups, it is important to note differences among Asian subgroups.

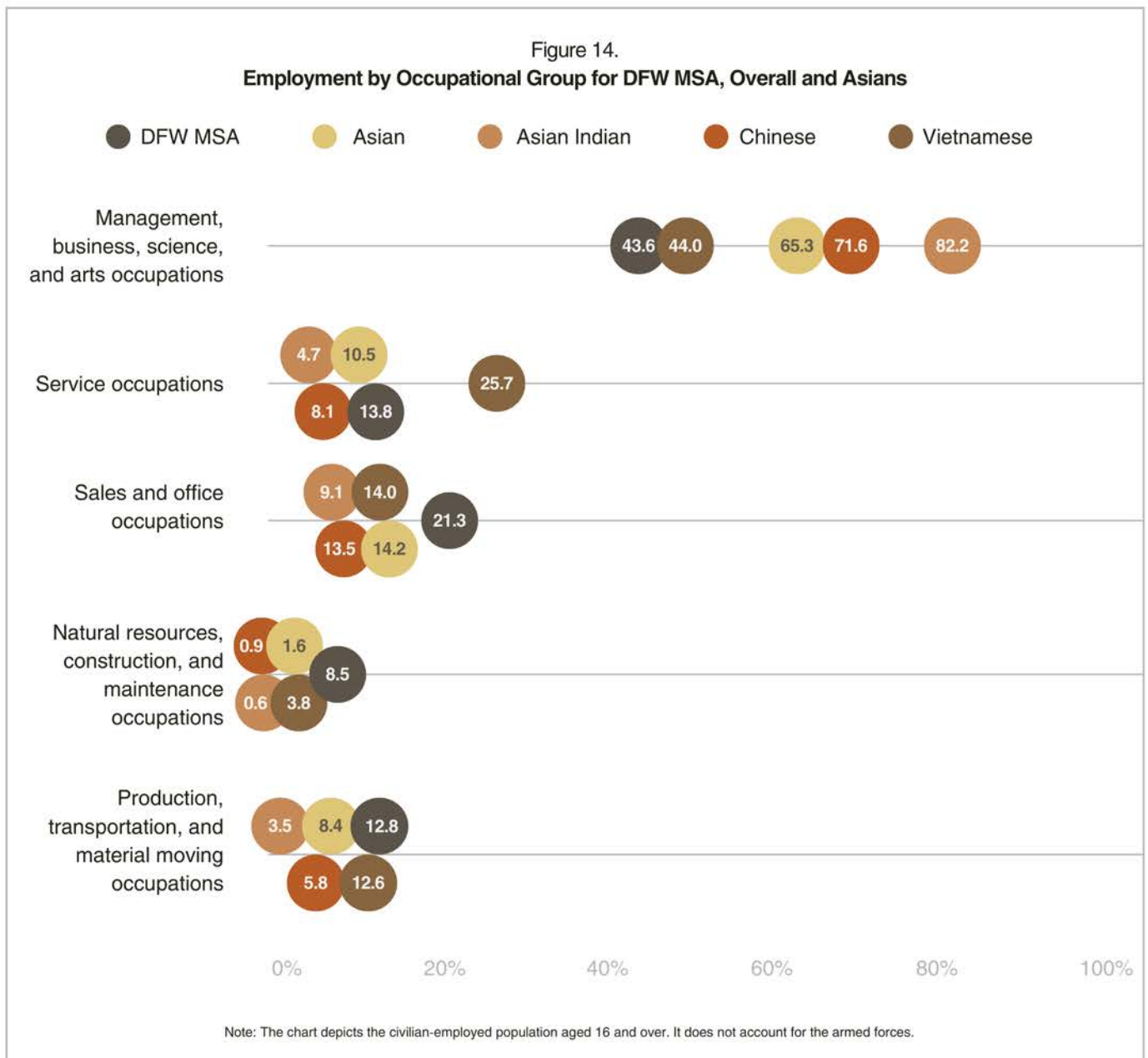
As shown in Figure 13, 81.1% of DFW Asians have some postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree), and 67.3% have a bachelor's or graduate degree. Educational attainment rates range from 91.8% of Asian Indians having some postsecondary education to only 61.4% of Vietnamese people. These differences are even greater for percentages of Asians with a bachelor's degree or above from 84.6% of Asian Indians to 71.6% of Chinese and 39.4% of Vietnamese.

Figure 13.
Educational Attainment Rates for DFW Metroplex,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity



Compared to the overall DFW population, Asians in the region tend to be more represented in management and business occupations and significantly underrepresented in sales and natural resources occupations. As seen in Figure 14, employment across occupational groups vary across the Asian diaspora. DFW Asians are also employed across various industries and sectors, with 23% represented in professional, scientific, management, and administrative services, 20% in educational services, health care, and

social assistance, and 11.7% in finance, insurance, and real estate. Among subgroups, 36.5% of Asian Indians are represented in professional, scientific, management, and administrative services. 20.6% of Chinese individuals are in educational and health care services, and another 20.1% are in professional services. Finally, Vietnamese individuals are distributed across educational services and health care services (18.8%), other services (19.2%), and manufacturing (16.7%).



Household Characteristics

Median household incomes vary significantly across racial groups and within the Asian diaspora in the DFW Metroplex. While the region's median is \$82,823, it ranges from \$59,034 for Black households to \$147,169 for Asian Indian households.

Figure 15.
Median Household Income for DFW MSA,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

Asian	\$118,228
↳ Asian Indian	\$147,169
Chinese	\$110,533
Vietnamese	\$91,138
White	\$95,220
DFW MSA	\$82,823
Hispanic or Latino	\$68,191
Some Other Race	\$64,428
Black	\$59,034



One potential barrier to increasing civic action and engagement among AAPIs in the DFW Metroplex is the many languages spoken across the Asian diaspora.

Among Chinese and Vietnamese households, 31.7% and 36.8% of households, respectively, indicate limited fluency in English.

Over two-thirds (68.2%) of the population only speak English in their households; however, 77% of Asian households speak a language other than English.

Table 4.
Primary Household Language for DFW MSA, Overall and Asians

	English Only	Language other than English	Speak English less than "very well"
DFW MSA	68.2%	31.8%	11.6%
Asian	23.0%	77.0%	24.2%
↳ Asian Indian	21.8%	78.2%	13.4%
↳ Chinese	24.2%	75.8%	31.7%
↳ Vietnamese	21.5%	78.5%	36.8%



Regional Deep Dive:

Greater Houston Metro



Regional Deep Dive: Greater Houston Metro

The Houston area is home to 600,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, making it one of the largest AAPI communities in the U.S.

As one of the largest metropolitan regions in the nation, the Greater Houston area is home to over 7.3 million people and continues to attract more residents each year. The Houston area is also home to 600,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), making it one of the largest AAPI communities in the U.S.

Fort Bend County has one of the highest-density Asian American populations in Texas. According to 2020 Census data, the county experienced an 83% growth between 2010 and 2020, with AAPIs comprising 23.6% of the county's population.⁷ With approximately 194,000 AAPIs living in Fort Bend County, this area includes a powerful concentration of AAPI constituents and civic participants.

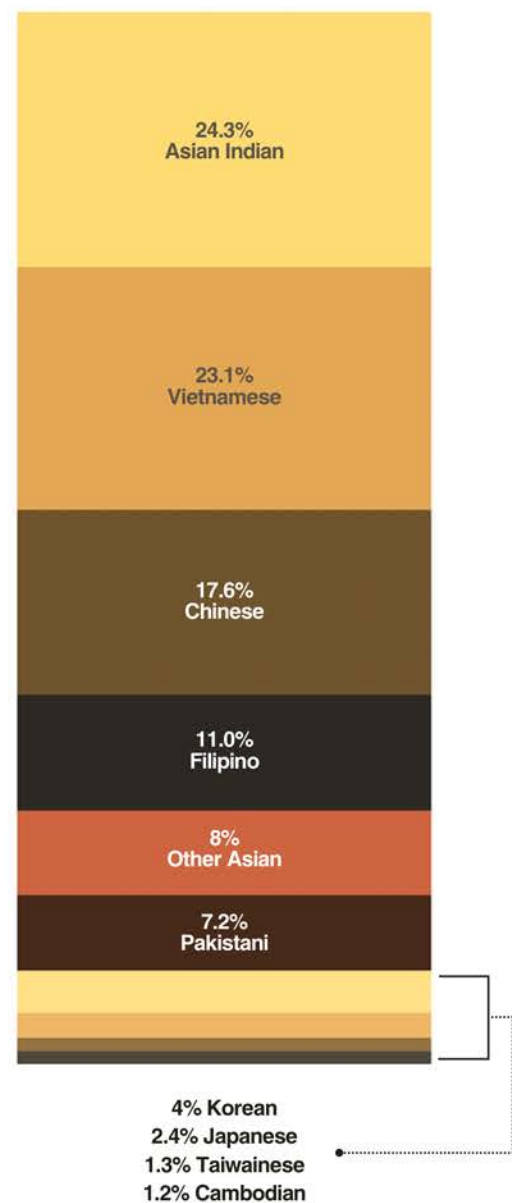
Where available, this regional deep dive includes insights about the largest Asian subgroups in the region – Asian Indian, Chinese, and Vietnamese. This brief uses 2022 American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year estimates for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which includes nine counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller.

Population & Demographics

In 2022, approximately 600,000 AAPI people called the Greater Houston area home, representing 8.1% of the region's population.

⁷ [Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 and 2020 Census.](#)

Figure 16.
AAPI Population in the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, ACSDT5Y2022.

Of those identifying as Asian, over three-fourths (76%) are Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Chinese, or Filipinos. The Asian diaspora in the Greater Houston region is one of the most diverse in the nation.

The median age for the region’s overall population is 35.4 years. However, the Asian population in the Greater Houston region is slightly older, with a median age of 39 years. This also varies by Asian subgroups, as the median age for Asian Indians is 37.6, Chinese is 41.5, and Vietnamese is 42.6. Furthermore, 17.4% and 16.5% of Chinese and Vietnamese people, respectively, are over 65. This slightly older Asian population in Houston has policy implications, especially related elder care and support.

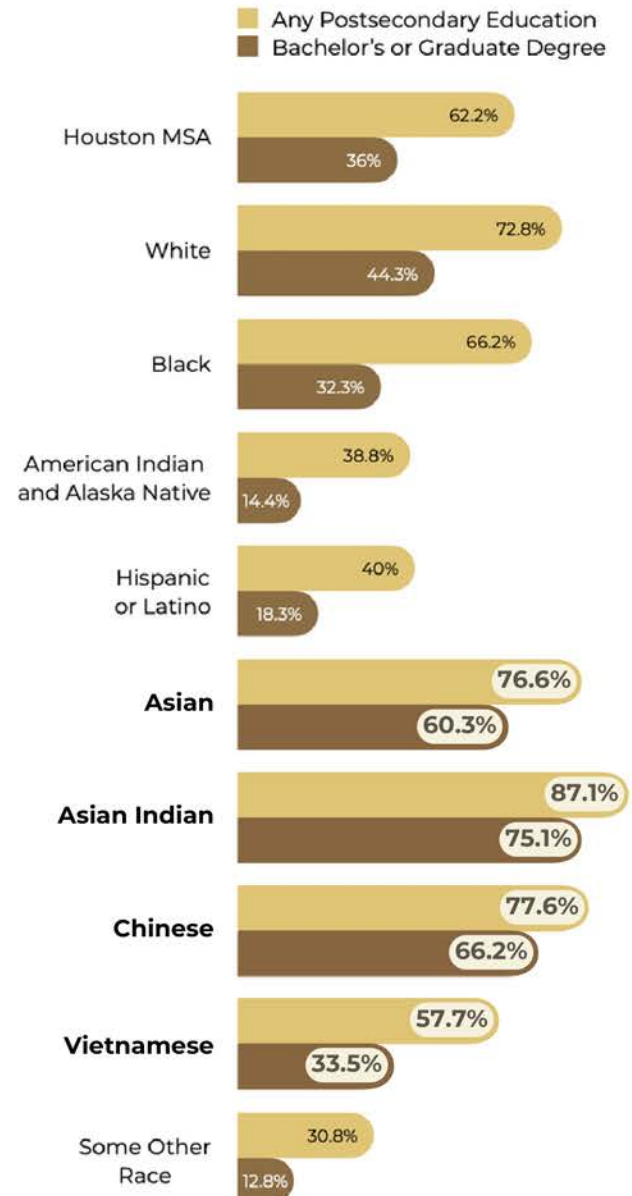
Though 76.1% of the region’s population was born in the U.S., the opposite is true for Houston Asians. Two-thirds (67.3%) of Asians in the region report being born outside of the U.S., and this rate varies from 72.6% of Asian Indians to 69.5% of Chinese and 63% of Vietnamese. Of those foreign-born, 65.5% of all Asians hold U.S. citizenship; however, this varies by subgroup with slightly more than half (54.3%) of Asian Indians, 61.8% of Chinese, and 83.6% of Vietnamese holding citizenship.

Education & Employment

Educational attainment in the Houston region also varies across races and within the Asian diaspora. Over 62% of the region’s population has some level of postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor’s, or graduate degree), and 36% have a bachelor’s or graduate degree.

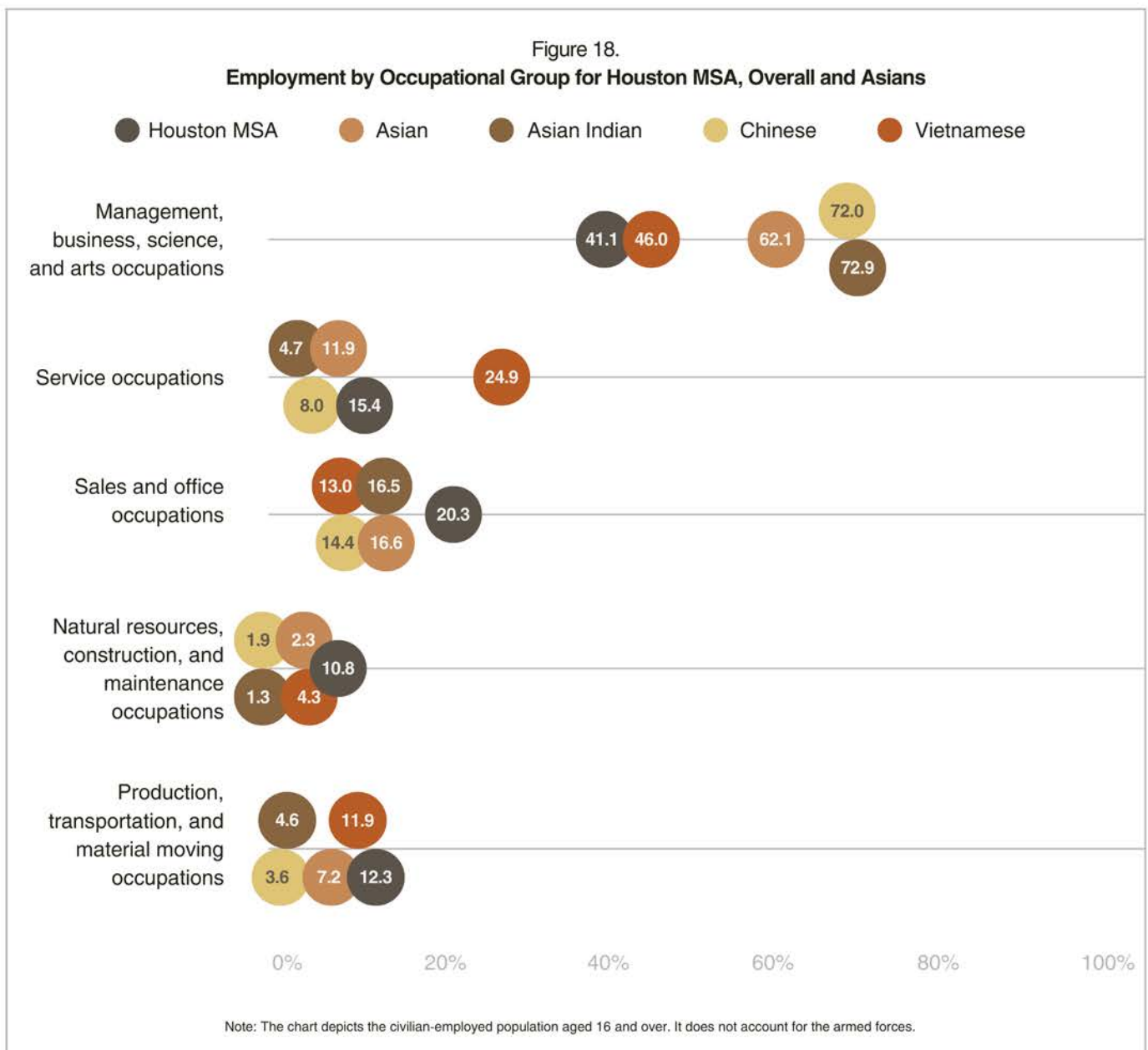
Like statewide trends, Asians in the Houston region have higher educational attainment rates, with 76.6% having some postsecondary education and 60.3% having a bachelor’s or graduate degree. This varies significantly across Asian subgroups, with three-fourths (75.1%) of Asian Indians holding at least a bachelor’s degree to only 33.5% of Vietnamese people.

Figure 17.
Educational Attainment Rates for Houston MSA,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity



Variation in employment across occupational groups is also apparent across the Asian diaspora. Overall, Asians in the Houston region are more likely to be represented in management, business, science, and arts occupations than the general population. This trend is also true for Asian Indian and Chinese subgroups but less significant for Vietnamese people, who are overrepresented in service occupations.

Analysis of employment by industry finds that Asians in the Houston region are overrepresented in professional, scientific, and management occupations (16.8%) and educational services and health care occupations (25.4%) compared to the overall population. They are also overrepresented in the manufacturing industry, which employs 9% of the region’s overall population, 12% of Asians in the area, 11.2% of Asian Indians, 14% of Chinese people, and 14.2% of Vietnamese people.



Household Characteristics

In 2022, the median household income for the Houston region was \$74,863. As seen with other regions, household income ranges significantly across racial groups and Asian subgroups. While the median household income for Asian households overall was \$104,614, it was higher for Asian Indian (\$133,206) and Chinese households (\$105,057) but much lower for Vietnamese households (\$76,114).



Figure 19.
Median Household Income for Houston MSA,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

Asian	\$104,614
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">↘</div> <div>Asian Indian</div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">\$133,206</div> </div>	
Chinese	\$105,057
Vietnamese	\$76,114
White	\$92,476
Houston MSA	\$74,863
American Indian and Alaska Native	\$68,198
Hispanic or Latino	\$62,377
Black	\$57,880
Some Other Race	\$53,874

As one of the most diverse regions in the state, Greater Houston is home to a wide array of people, rich diasporas, and immigrant communities. As such, 59.9% of households speak only English at home, while 40.1% speak a language other than English. This percentage of households speaking a non-English language is higher than the state trend and that of any other major metropolitan region.

Asian households in the Houston metro report even higher rates (77.8%) of speaking non-English languages. Moreover, 76.6% of Asian Indian, 82.4% of Chinese, and 81% of Vietnamese households indicate speaking a language other than English at home. Slightly less than half of Chinese (40.5%) and Vietnamese (46.7%) households speak English less than “very well.”

Table 5.
Primary Household Language for Houston MSA, Overall and Asians

	English Only	Language other than English	Speak English less than “very well”
Houston MSA	59.9%	40.1%	16.5%
Asian	22.2%	77.8%	31.0%
↳ Asian Indian	23.4%	76.6%	17.5%
↳ Chinese	17.6%	82.4%	40.5%
↳ Vietnamese	19.0%	81.0%	46.7%



Regional Deep Dive:

San Antonio Region



Regional Deep Dive: San Antonio Region

In 2022, approximately 70,000 Asian Americans and 2,500 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders resided in the San Antonio region.

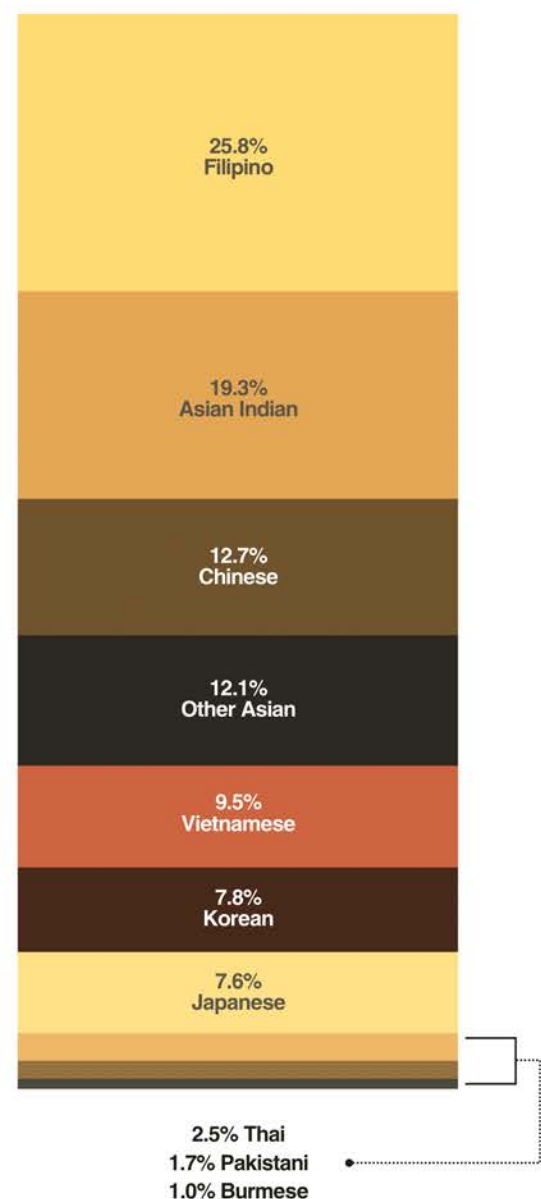
The San Antonio-New Braunfels metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was home to approximately 2.6 million people, of which 72,000 were Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). Though AAPIs comprised only 2.7% of the region's population, the eight-county region is still home to a significant portion of the state's overall AAPI community. This brief uses 2022 American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year estimates for the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA, which includes eight counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson.

Population & Demographics

In 2022, approximately 70,000 Asian Americans and 2,500 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders resided in the San Antonio region. This is the fourth-largest concentration of AAPI Texans in the state behind the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex, Greater Houston Metro, and Austin region. Despite comprising a small portion of the San Antonio region's overall population, the Asian diaspora is still diverse with a quarter (25.8%) of Asians in the area identifying as Filipino and 19.3% as Asian Indian.

Almost two-thirds (66.2%) of Asians in the San Antonio region are below 45, making the Asian population slightly younger than the overall population. While the median age for the San Antonio MSA is 35.7, the median age of Asians is 35.5.

Figure 20.
AAPI Population for San Antonio Metropolitan
Statistical Area (MSA)



Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Detailed Tables, ACSDT5Y2022.

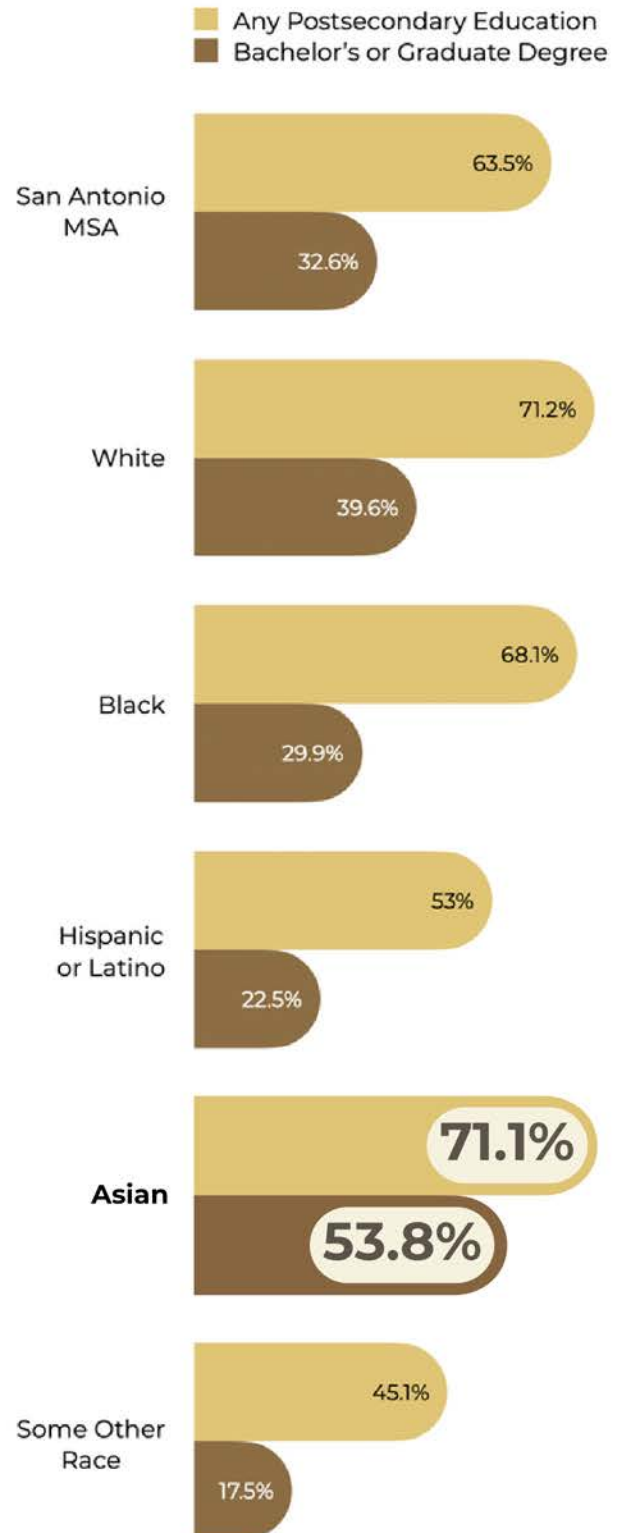
Compared to other racial groups, the median age of Asians is younger than that of white individuals (38.3) but higher than that of Black (33.4) and Hispanic or Latino (32.3) individuals.

Like overall state trends and those of other metro areas, Asians in the San Antonio region are more likely to be born outside of the U.S. (67.4%) than in the U.S. (32.6%). This differs from the overall population in the region, which is significantly more likely to be native-born (88.5%) than foreign-born (11.5%). Of foreign-born Asians, about half (50.8%) hold U.S. citizenship compared to only 45% of other foreign-born residents. This is the opposite of statewide and other regional trends, where the overall population is more likely to hold U.S. citizenship than the Asian community.

Education & Employment

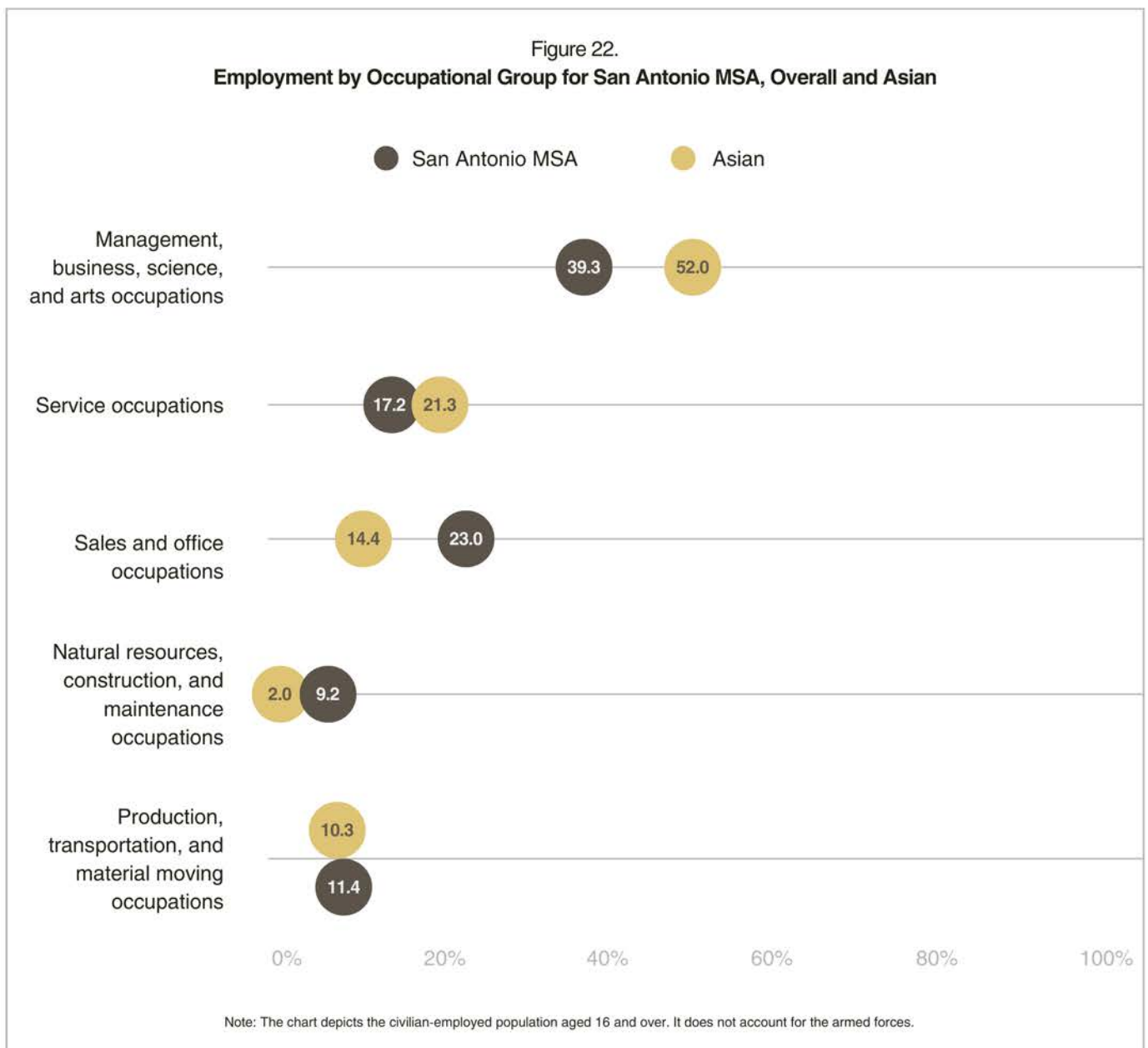
Most of the region's population (63.5%) have some postsecondary education (some college, associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree) while 32.6% have a bachelor's or graduate degree. Educational attainment varies across different groups with 71.1% of Asians having some postsecondary education and over half (53.8%) holding at least a bachelor's degree.

Figure 21.
Educational Attainment Rates for San Antonio MSA, Overall and by Race / Ethnicity



About half (52%) of Asians in the San Antonio region are employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations, exceeding the rate for the region's population (39.3%). In addition, Asians are more likely to be represented in service occupations while less likely to be represented in sales and office occupations, as well as natural resources, construction, and maintenance roles.

Asians are also more likely to be employed in educational, health care, and social services (33.4%) compared to the general population (22.2%) and professional, scientific, and management industries (17.3% compared to 12.5%). On the other hand, Asians are less likely to be employed in construction and manufacturing industries (3.0% and 2.2%, respectively) compared to the overall region (8.4% and 6.3%, respectively).



Household Characteristics

Compared to the region’s overall population, Asians in the San Antonio area have the highest median income at \$83,652. While data about Asian subgroups are unavailable for the San Antonio region, we can infer that median household income likely varies similarly to trends for other metro areas.

As policymakers and other stakeholders consider ways to engage the AAPI community in San Antonio, household language must be considered. While two-thirds (66.2%) of the region’s population speaks only English, a smaller proportion (31.8%) of Asian households do. Comparatively, 68.2% of Asian households speak languages other than English, and 27% of them report speaking English less than “very well.”

Figure 23.
Median Household Income for San Antonio MSA,
Overall and by Race / Ethnicity

Asian	\$83,652
White	\$78,931
San Antonio MSA	\$70,538
Hispanic or Latino	\$60,902
Some Other Race	\$59,865
Black	\$55,143

Table 6.
Primary Household Language for San Antonio MSA, Overall and Asian

	English Only	Language other than English	Speak English less than “very well”
San Antonio MSA	66.2%	33.8%	10.2%
Asian	31.8%	68.2%	27.0%

Conclusion

As one of the fastest-growing groups in Texas, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are poised to shape the state's political and economic future. AAPI Texans are not a monolith but instead a rich and diverse diaspora with varied backgrounds, views, and opinions.

By increasing awareness and understanding of AAPI Texans, Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) seeks to enable organizers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to better serve the unique needs of AAPI communities across the state.

Understanding the similarities and differences across different regions will empower stakeholders to build stronger coalitions, invest in targeted resources, and amplify the voices of AAPI Texans, making our collective future even stronger for generations to come.

Acknowledgements

This report is part of a series from Asian Texans for Justice called “Deep in the Heart of Asian Texas: Insights on Asian and Pacific Islander Voters.”

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