UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Economic Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

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Introduction

In early 2009, the U.S. economy was still in the throes of the Great Recession, shedding 800,000 jobs a month as the unemployment rate rose toward 10 percent. No one community was immune to the economic downturn. Like other Americans, people in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community were hit hard by the Great Recession. During that time, the unemployment rate more than doubled for AAPI workers, placing a tremendous strain on AAPI households throughout the nation. In the last seven years, however, we have seen a solid economic recovery as the national unemployment rate has fallen by more than half, the ranks of the long-term unemployed have shrunk dramatically, and, since early 2010, over 15 million private-sector jobs have been created. Our country is in the middle of the longest streak of total job growth on record.[1] While there is still ground to make up, AAPI workers and their families have contributed to and benefited from this recovery.

Labor market data can tell us a lot about the current conditions AAPI households and workers face. As a group, AAPI workers have tended to have more favorable economic outcomes than workers in other racial or ethnic groups. In 2015, the AAPI community had the second highest labor force participation rate of all major racial and ethnic groups, and the lowest unemployment rate.[2] Together, workers in AAPI communities also have the highest average weekly earnings of any major racial or ethnic group.

However, while these aggregate statistics tell a largely positive story, the story is incomplete because it does not speak to two important factors: (1) there are substantial differences in the economic experiences of the subgroups that comprise the broader AAPI community, and (2) the broader AAPI community tends to have different characteristics than other groups, including higher educational attainment, that are related to their positive outcomes overall. Only by disaggregating the data and looking at AAPI subgroups individually can we begin to gain an accurate understanding of how these workers and their families are faring in today's economy. And by comparing AAPI workers to other workers with *similar* characteristics, we are able to paint an even more detailed picture of the labor market experiences of this diverse community.

Working toward this goal, the Department of Labor published a report in 2011 on the AAPI Labor Force and the recovery from the Great Recession. The Department then provided an updated report in 2014, which focused on the recovery years. As the recovery strengthens, this report again provides an updated look at the economic situation of AAPI workers as well as context for the differences in economic outcomes experienced by Asian American and Pacific Islander workers relative to those of other groups.

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[1] Through August 2016 the United States has experienced 71 continuous months of non-farm job growth.
[2] Note that in this report 'major racial and ethnic groups' refers to AAPI Non-Hispanics, White Non-Hispanics, Black Non-Hispanics, and Hispanics.

Approach to the Data

Most of the data in this report come from two programs at the U.S. Census Bureau – the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS), the latter of which is jointly sponsored by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Because the Census Bureau does not publish many tables containing data on detailed AAPI subgroups, the Department's Office of the Chief Economist conducted its own analyses of publically available microdata from each survey, and the tables below contain the results of these analyses.

For most of the figures relating to the poverty status and geographic distribution of AAPIs, data from the ACS were used. Because it is the largest annual survey in the U.S. and is designed to accurately sample data from states and localities, the ACS is the best data source to use for documenting where members of the AAPI community live. Its large sample size also makes it the best data source to use when looking at AAPI subgroup poverty rates. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the CPS – which is where the official poverty rate comes from – does not have a sufficient sample size to allow for satisfactory disaggregation of the data by AAPI subgroup. The most recent year for which analyzable ACS microdata were available at the time of the writing of this report was 2014, and, consequently, all ACS-derived summary statistics described below are from calendar year 2014.

For the analyses relating to characteristics of the AAPI labor force, data from the CPS were used. The CPS provides monthly data on American workers and households and allows for more up-to-date analyses of national-level labor force trends and outcomes.[3] At the time of the writing of this report, 2015 was the most recent year for which data were available for a full calendar year, and, consequently, all single-year CPS-derived summary statistics described below are from calendar year 2015 (see the Appendix for a description of the data used in the regression analyses).[4]

The AAPI subgroups discussed below are Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Other Asians, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders because these are the AAPI subgroups for which disaggregated data is available in the CPS.[5]

All of the major race groups and AAPI subgroups used in this report contain only individuals who reported only one race and – if AAPI – one subgroup identity.[6] Additionally, major racial and ethnic categories are mutually exclusive, namely White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, AAPI Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic of any race. This means that the broad AAPI group (and all AAPI subgroups) discussed below exclude individuals who also identify as Hispanic, unless otherwise stated. For ease of reading comprehension, these groups are referred to below as "AAPIs," "Japanese," "Korean," etc., as opposed to "Non-Hispanic AAPIs," "Non-Hispanic Japanese," and "Non-Hispanic Korean."

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[3] Note that some of the CPS-derived numbers contained in this report may not match BLS-produced numbers exactly due to confidential population weights used by BLS in their own tabulations. All of the numbers presented in this report – aside from those that the report specifically identifies as having been provided to the Department by BLS – were produced using publically available data and the weights contained therein.
[4] Historical labor force data disaggregated by AAPI subgroup is not available in publically-available microdata files going back further than 2013, however, the Current Population Survey program at the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) was able to provide the authors of this report disaggregated data going back to 2003. These data are used to look at time trends in labor force participation and unemployment.
[5] Data is available for additional subgroups in the ACS, however, for the sake of consistency only these subgroups are discussed individually while all other Asians that do not fall into one of these groups are categorized as "Other Asian".
[6] Note that any individual who identified themselves as being a member of more than one AAPI subgroup is included in the 'Other Asian' subgroup.

Getting into the Data

BACKGROUND

In 2015, there were 17.4 million Non-Hispanic Asian Americans and 560,000 Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders living in the United States, representing 5.4 and 0.2 percent of the total population, respectively.[7] Members of this community descend from, or were themselves born in, a broad set of countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

As shown in Table 1, looking at this population in 2014 – the most recent year for which data disaggregated by AAPI subgroup is available – the largest subgroups are Chinese, Indians, and Filipinos, who together comprise over half of the total AAPI population. Those identifying as Japanese represent the smallest share of the groups we profile here.[8]

Table 1: Demographics and geography by race and ethnicity, 2014

	Population	Nativity and Language		Geography[3]					
	Percent of Total Population[1]	Percent foreign-born	Percent speaking English very well or speaking only English[2]	Percent residing in California	Percent residing in New York	Percent residing in Texas	Percent residing in Hawaii	Percent residing in New Jersey	Percent residing in the rest of the US
AAPI Non-Hispanic	5.5	64.3	66.7	32.4	9.4	6.6	5.0	4.6	42.0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3	18.7	89.4	22.6	1.5	3.1	35.7	0.6	36.5
Indian	1.1	71.2	79.1	19.6	11.1	9.1	0.1	9.8	50.3
Chinese	1.2	69.4	54.9	36.8	17.6	4.7	1.5	3.8	35.6
Filipino	0.9	65.9	78.2	45.8	4.3	4.5	7.7	4.2	33.5
Japanese	0.2	40.6	77.5	36.1	4.8	2.1	25.8	1.5	29.7
Korean	0.5	71.9	58.2	32.2	8.2	4.8	2.0	7.0	45.8
Vietnamese	0.5	67.8	48.1	37.7	1.5	13.6	0.5	1.5	45.2
Other Asian	0.8	61.6	62.8	25.1	10.4	8.0	1.8	2.6	52.1
White Non-Hispanic	63.1	4.0	98.4	7.9	5.7	5.9	0.2	2.6	77.7
Black Non-Hispanic	13.2	8.3	97.7	6.1	7.4	7.8	0.1	3.0	75.6
Hispanic, any race	17.3	34.9	68.4	27.5	7.1	18.6	0.2	3.3	43.3

Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.
[1] Subgroups do not sum to 100%.
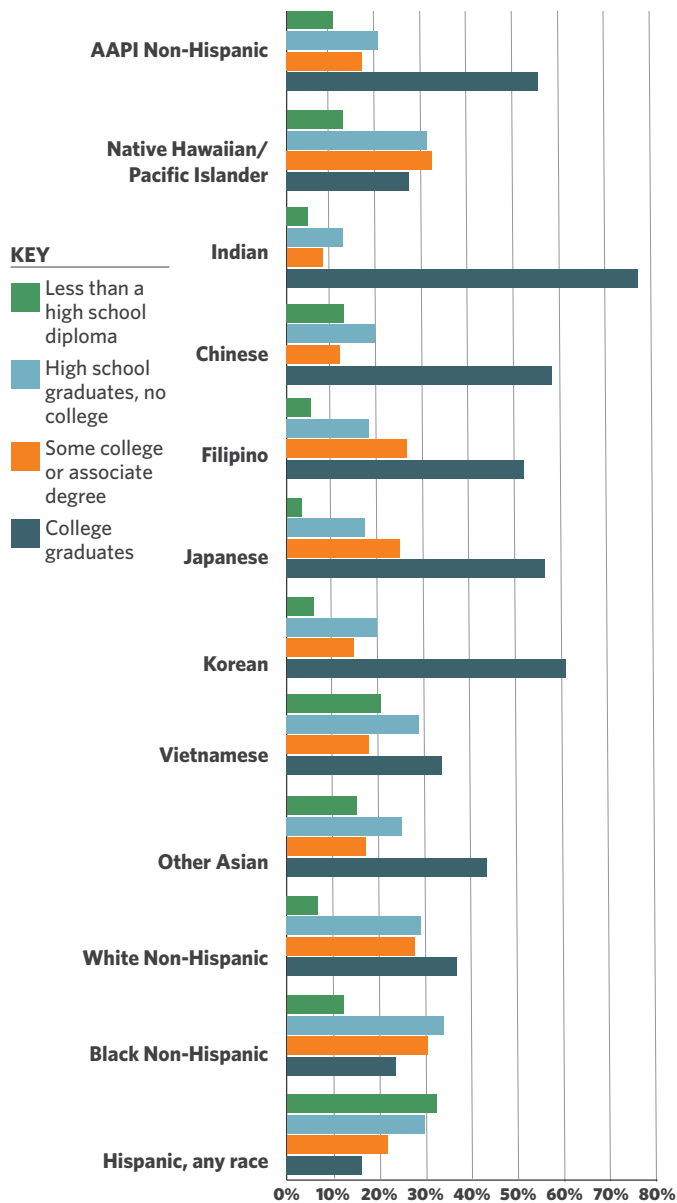[2] Share of total population 5 years and older
[3] Share of total population 16 years and older

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[7] U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates, available at **http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk**. Note that according to these population estimates, as of 2015 there were approximately 552,000 Asians and 196,000 Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders that identified as Hispanic, accounting for roughly 3.2 and 26.4 percent of the total number of individuals identifying themselves as Asians and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders respectively. As noted in the Approach to the Data portion of the paper, these individuals have been excluded from the majority of these calculations—including these population totals—so as to be consistent with the way other racial groups are categorized and discussed.

Note also that the 17.4 million estimate presented here is an estimate of the total population of all AAPIs of all ages living in the United States. This figure will not match the population estimates presented in Table 2, as those are estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and above derived from ACS data.
[8] DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Chart 1: Educational attainment by race and ethnicity, 2015 annual average*

KEY
- Less than a high school diploma
- High school graduates, no college
- Some college or associate degree
- College graduates

Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. *For data figures see Addendum, Chart 1, p. 18

A large share – about 64 percent – of the AAPI community is foreign born. Among Koreans, Indians, Chinese, and Vietnamese, the foreign-born share of the population is around 70 percent. The notable exception is Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, of whom only 18.7 percent are foreign-born.[9] Looking at the geographic distribution of the AAPI community, it can be seen that, unsurprisingly, a large share of the AAPI community lives in the nation's most populous states, with Hawaii being the notable exception. California, which contains approximately 12 percent of the total U.S. population, is home to nearly one-third of the AAPI community and is the state with the single largest AAPI population. The states with the next largest AAPI communities are New York and Texas, where 9.4 and 6.6 percent live, respectively. Another 9.6 percent of AAPIs live in Hawaii or New Jersey.[10] However, these geographic concentrations do differ by AAPI subgroup. For example, almost half of all Filipinos in the United States live in California. New York has a large Chinese population, but relatively small Vietnamese and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander populations. In contrast, about 36 percent of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders and 26 percent of Japanese live in Hawaii, but the state has comparatively small populations of the other AAPI subgroups.

English language skills also vary by subgroup. Two-thirds of all AAPIs report speaking English very well or speaking only English. However, that percentage is substantially smaller for Koreans (58.2 percent), Chinese (54.9 percent), and Vietnamese (48.1 percent).[11]

As a group, average educational attainment among the AAPI community is very high. Of AAPI individuals over the age of 25, 54.2 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. This share is higher than for White Non-Hispanics (36.6 percent), Black Non-Hispanics (23.5 percent), and Hispanics (16.3 percent).[12] This fact, however, conceals important differences across AAPI subgroups. Within AAPI subgroups, 75.7 percent of Indians and 60.2 percent of Koreans have a bachelor's degree or higher, along with greater than 50 percent of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos. By contrast, only 33.5 percent of Vietnamese and 26.4 percent of Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders have a bachelor's degree or higher. A related trend can be observed in those with less than a high school degree. For example, less than 10 percent of Non-Hispanic Indians, Koreans, Filipinos, and Japanese have not attained a high school degree, compared to over a fifth of the Vietnamese population and roughly 15 percent of Other Asians.[13]

[9] DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.
[10] Note that the ranking of states by AAPI population are based on DOL calculations using 2014 ACS data. The rankings in the Census Population estimates d
[11] DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.
[12] DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.
[13] DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau. iffer slightly, but not substantially so. According to the 2014 Population Estimates—which coincide with the year from which the ACS data being used was collected—the states that are home to the largest share of the AAPI population are (in descending order): California, New York, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, and Hawaii.

LABOR FORCE STATUS

As a group, the AAPI community had a labor force participation rate of 62.8 percent in 2015, placing them above White Non-Hispanics (62.2 percent) and Black Non-Hispanics (61.2 percent), but below Hispanics (65.9 percent). As shown in Table 2, among AAPI subgroups, the Japanese, Korean, and Chinese communities have the lowest labor force participation rates – all below 60 percent – while the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Filipino, and Indian communities have the highest labor force participation rates – all above 65 percent.

Some of the differences seen in these overall labor force participation rates are the product of subgroup demographic characteristics, one of the most important of which is age. To account for broad differences in the age distribution when conducting labor force participation comparisons, labor economists tend to look at the labor force participation rate of individuals in their "prime" working years, typically defined as ages 25 to 54. We find that narrowing the population to individuals of prime working age reveals a slightly different labor force participation story than when looking at all individuals age 16 and older. Among all major racial and ethnic groups, AAPIs rank last in prime-age labor force participation, with 77.7 percent of prime-age AAPIs participating in the labor force compared with 78.3 percent of Black Non-Hispanics, 78.7 percent of Hispanics, and 82.5 percent of White Non-Hispanics. The fact that the labor force participation rate of prime age AAPIs drops so far below that of White Non-Hispanics (whereas the overall labor force participation rate of AAPIs is slightly above that of White Non-Hispanics) is primarily due to the following two facts: (1) for all groups, the labor force participation rate of individuals age 55 and above is lower than that of prime age workers, and (2) compared to White Non-Hispanics, a smaller share of AAPI individuals in the U.S. are age 55 and above. Thus, removing individuals age 55 and above from the calculation boosts the LFPR of White Non-Hispanics relative to that of AAPIs.

Table 2: Labor force characteristics of AAPIs, 2015 annual averages (numbers in thousands)

	Civilian noninstitutional population (ages 16+)	Civilian labor force	Labor force participation rate	Prime age labor force participation rate (ages 25 to 54)		
				All	Male	Female
AAPI Non-Hispanic	14,759	9,273	62.8%	77.7%	88.9%	67.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	735	500	68.1%	77.8%	87.7%	68.2%
Indian	2,829	1,869	66.1%	76.1%	92.3%	58.9%
Chinese	3,259	1,943	59.6%	78.4%	87.5%	70.6%
Filipino	2,131	1,444	67.7%	85.1%	91.5%	80.5%
Japanese	755	414	54.8%	73.9%	93.3%	61.1%
Korean	1,267	742	58.5%	72.4%	87.0%	60.8%
Vietnamese	1,425	895	62.8%	81.3%	84.2%	78.7%
Other Asian	2,358	1,466	62.2%	74.6%	86.9%	63.5%
White Non-Hispanic	161,557	100,409	62.2%	82.5%	89.1%	76.1%
Black Non-Hispanic	29,719	18,196	61.2%	78.3%	80.5%	76.5%
Hispanic, any race	39,617	26,126	65.9%	78.7%	90.8%	66.3%

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

Among AAPI subgroups, prime-age Koreans (72.4 percent) and Japanese (73.9 percent) continue to have the lowest labor force participation rates, while the three subgroups with the highest labor force participation rates become Filipinos (85.1 percent), Vietnamese (81.3 percent), and Chinese (78.4 percent).

Looking more specifically at prime-age female labor force participation, AAPI women as a whole have the second-lowest participation rate at 67.7 percent, above only that of Hispanic women (66.3 percent). Indian women (58.9 percent), Korean women (60.8 percent), and Japanese women (61.1 percent) have the lowest prime-age labor force participation rates of the AAPI subgroups, while Filipino women (80.5 percent) and Vietnamese women (78.7 percent) have the highest. Overall, prime-age AAPI women have a labor force participation rate that is 21.2 percentage points lower than the participation rate of prime-age AAPI men, which compares to a gap of 4.0 percentage points among Black Non-Hispanics, 13.0 percentage points among White Non-Hispanics, and 24.5 percentage points among Hispanics. The AAPI subgroups with the smallest such gaps are Vietnamese (5.5 percentage points) and Filipinos (11.0 percentage points), while the subgroups with the largest gaps are Indians (33.4 percentage points) and Japanese (32.2 percentage points). It is worth noting that these raw comparisons of labor force participation rates between men and women and between racial and ethnic groups do not account for other differences between these groups that are also related to labor force participation, including education, marital status, citizenship status, place of residence, etc. We investigate the impact of other such factors below in the context of unemployment rates and earnings.

Focusing on only employed workers, we can see in Table 3 that overall, AAPIs are more likely to be self-employed (5.4 percent) than Black Non-Hispanic workers (3.5 percent), but less likely to be self-employed than White Non-Hispanic (7.0 percent) or Hispanic workers (6.4 percent).[14] Of the AAPI subgroups, Koreans (11.2 percent) and Japanese (7.8 percent) are the most likely to self-employed, while Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (3.2 percent), Filipinos (3.6 percent), and Indians (3.7 percent) are the least likely to be self-employed.

As also shown in Table 3, employed AAPI workers are also the least likely of the major racial groups to be usually working part-time, with only 15.4 percent report doing so compared to 17.6 percent of Black Non-Hispanics, 17.9 percent of Hispanics, and 18.9 percent of White Non-Hispanics. Vietnamese (17.9 percent) and Japanese (17.3 percent) are the AAPI subgroups most likely to report that they usually work part-time, while Indians (12.5 percent) and Chinese (15.1 percent) are the least like to report doing so.

Table 3: Characteristics of Employed AAPIs, 2015 annual averages

	Share of employed workers	
	Self-employed (unincorporated)	Usually working part-time
AAPI Non-Hispanic	5.4%	15.4%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	3.2%	16.1%
Indian	3.7%	12.5%
Chinese	5.3%	15.1%
Filipino	3.6%	15.4%
Japanese	7.8%	17.3%
Korean	11.2%	16.8%
Vietnamese	6.5%	17.9%
Other Asian	6.0%	16.4%
White Non-Hispanic	7.0%	18.9%
Black Non-Hispanic	3.5%	17.6%
Hispanic, any race	6.4%	17.9%

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

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[14] The Bureau of Labor Statistics' official estimates of the number of self-employed workers in the U.S. only counts unincorporated self-employed workers, while incorporated self-employed workers are counted as wage and salary workers because they are deemed to technically be employees of their own businesses. The definition of self-employed used here is consistent with that definition, and these figures reflect only the share of workers that are self-employed and whose businesses remain unincorporated.

UNEMPLOYMENT

With a 3.9 percent unemployment rate in 2015, AAPIs had the lowest unemployment rate of any major racial or ethnic group, although substantial variation exists between AAPI subgroups. As shown in Table 4, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders have the highest unemployment rates at 5.5 percent, whereas Japanese workers experience the lowest rate of unemployment at 2.4 percent. However, all AAPI subgroups have lower unemployment rates than both Black Non-Hispanics (9.6 percent) and Hispanics (6.6 percent).

Table 4: Unemployment characteristics of AAPIs, 2015 annual averages

	Unemployment Rate	Share of unemployed who are long-term unemployed
AAPI Non-Hispanic	3.9%	30.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5.5%	16.5%
Indian	4.2%	26.1%
Chinese	3.2%	32.9%
Filipino	4.3%	34.2%
Japanese	2.4%	22.8%
Korean	3.3%	27.5%
Vietnamese	3.7%	41.5%
Other Asian	4.5%	30.6%
White Non-Hispanic	4.2%	26.2%
Black Non-Hispanic	9.6%	34.7%
Hispanic, any race	6.6%	25.2%

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

While AAPIs as a whole do have very low unemployment rates, the AAPI community has the second highest share of unemployed workers who are long-term unemployed (30.2 percent), trailing only the Black Non-Hispanic community (34.7 percent). The Vietnamese community has the highest share of long-term unemployed workers (41.5 percent). Of all the AAPI subgroups, only Japanese (22.8 percent) and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (16.5 percent) have a notably lower share of long-term unemployed than both White Non-Hispanics (26.2 percent) and Hispanics (25.2 percent).

While the raw differences in unemployment rates presented in Table 4 are useful, they miss an important part of the story. Some of these disparities can be explained by the fact that the groups also differ on many other factors related to economic outcomes, including education, age, gender, citizenship status, state of residence, and more. Consider education. Chart 1 shows that the AAPI community has, on average, higher educational attainment than other groups. It is also true that, for all racial and ethnic groups, workers with higher levels of education tend to have lower unemployment rates. Thus, the fact that the AAPI community has higher levels of education explains part of their lower unemployment rates.

We use regression analysis to control for observable characteristics of workers, like education, that are related to economic outcomes.[15] Table A1 in the Appendix contains the output from a series of regressions that use combined data from 2013, 2014, and 2015 to illustrate how being a member of a particular AAPI subgroup impacts an individuals' probability of being unemployed relative to if they were a White Non-Hispanic individual with identical characteristics.

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[15] The demographic controls included in this series of regressions were age, age squared, gender, marital status, an interaction term of marital status and gender, citizenship status, and educational attainment. The geographic controls included were state of residence and whether or not an individual lives in a metropolitan statistical area. The job characteristic controls included were industry of employment and an individual's occupation. Year fixed effects were also included. For more information on the methodology used, see the Appendix.

The regression analysis shows that, while when looking at raw comparisons AAPI workers as a whole have lower unemployment rates than White Non-Hispanic workers, AAPI workers in fact have *higher* unemployment rates than White Non-Hispanic workers *who have similar characteristics*. In particular, when looking at raw comparisons, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese workers have significantly lower unemployment rates than White Non-Hispanic workers. However, after controlling for observable differences, Indians have *higher* unemployment rates than White Non-Hispanic workers – as do Koreans, Other Asians, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders – while Chinese workers have unemployment rates that are statistically indistinguishable from White Non-Hispanic workers. It is only among Japanese workers that the unemployment rate remains lower than that of White Non-Hispanics after controlling for observable characteristics, but there too the difference is much smaller than in the raw comparisons.

TIME TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE STATUS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

While looking at these point-in-time measures from 2015 is extremely helpful for understanding the current labor force characteristics of AAPI workers, looking at data over time is also useful to gain a better understanding of where the AAPI community now stands relative to where it was before and during the Great Recession. Unfortunately, data disaggregated by both ethnicity and AAPI subgroup are not available going back further than 2013. Consequently, the following graphs show labor force participation and unemployment rates from 2003 through 2015 for racial groups *including Hispanics who identify as a member of that race*, and for Hispanics of any race. Thus, these numbers are not directly comparable to those above.

First, as can be seen in Chart 2, following the Great Recession the labor force participation rates of all major racial groups declined fairly steadily through 2013.[16] From 2013 to 2015, the labor force participation rates of Blacks and Hispanics began to stabilize while Whites and AAPIs saw their labor force participation rates continue to decline. This is not surprising given that the labor force participation rate for all workers continued to decline through late 2015 before recently rising slightly and stabilizing in the first two thirds of 2016 between 62.7 and 63.0 percent.[17] Despite these slightly different trends among the major racial and ethnic groups, the relative order of the groups has remained essentially unchanged, with the labor force participation of AAPIs continuing to rank second behind that of Hispanics but above the participation rates of Whites and Blacks.

Chart 2: Labor force participation rate by race and ethnicity, 2003 - 2015 annual averages
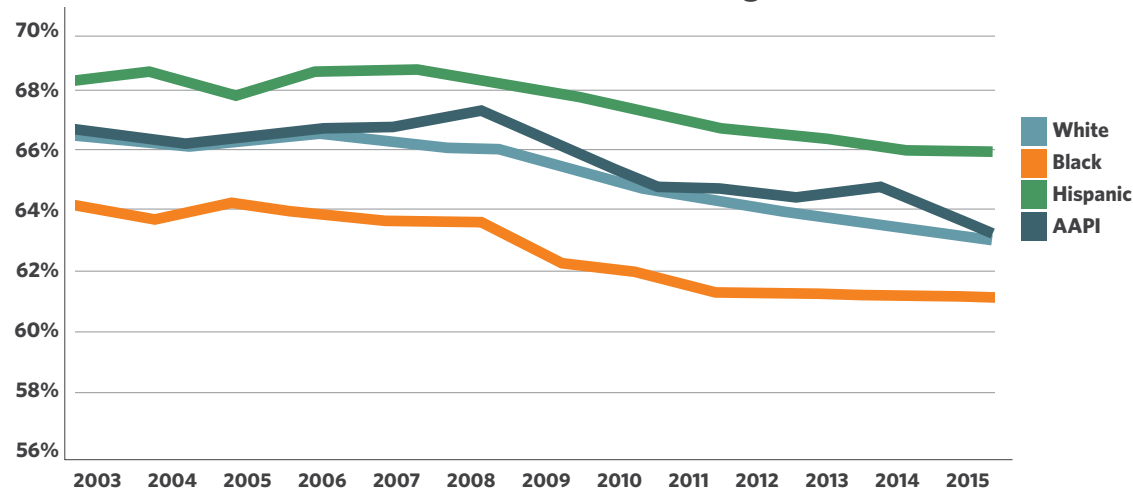
Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL. Note: Racial groups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that race, and Hispanic includes individuals of all races.

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[16] The decline in the overall labor force participation rate seen over this period was driven by a number of factors including general economic conditions as well as demographic changes such as the aging of the population.

[17] The overall labor force participation rate reached its lowest post-recession point in September 2015 at 62.4 percent.

Chart 3 illustrates the labor force participation trends of each AAPI subgroup. While the data is considerably 'noisier' – the result of smaller subgroup sample sizes in the Current Population Survey – the chart shows that almost every subgroup has experienced a decline in its labor force participation rate relative to its pre-recession level. Some groups, such as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander workers and Chinese workers, have experienced somewhat larger declines than others, but overall the relative ranking of the subgroups has not changed substantially relative to 2007.

Chart 3: Labor force participation rate by AAPI subgroup, 2003 - 2015 annual averages
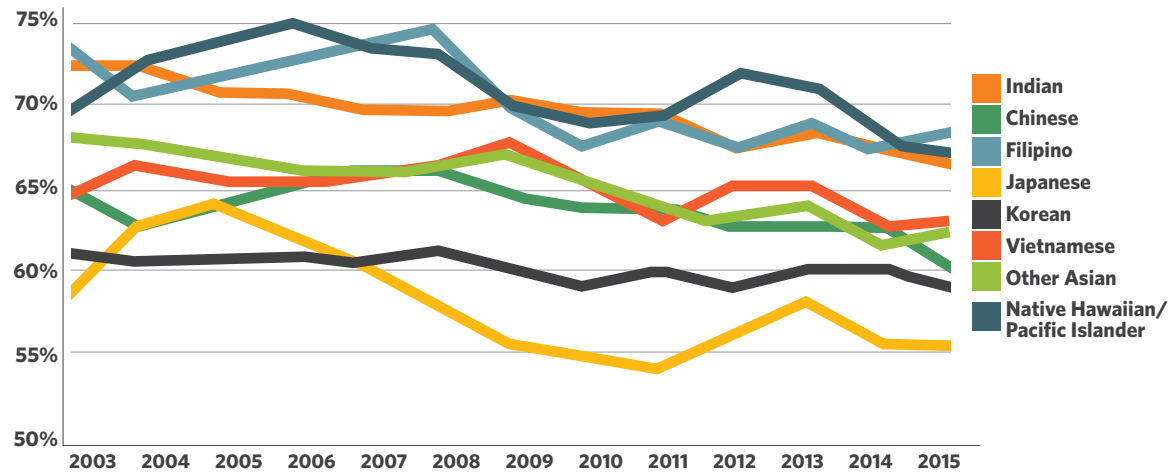

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL. Note: AAPI subgroups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that subgroup.

Turning to unemployment rates, Chart 4 shows that each major racial and ethnic group saw its unemployment rate peak in 2010, with the unemployment rate of AAPIs hitting 7.8 percent that year, up from 3.3 percent in 2007. Each major racial group has also seen a steady decline in their unemployment rate since those peaks, although all remain elevated relative to their pre-recession levels. In 2015 the overall unemployment rate of AAPIs was down to 4.0 percent.[18] As can be seen in Chart 5, this broad pattern is visible in each subgroup's data as well, though as before, the subgroup data are "noisier" due to smaller sample sizes.

Chart 4: Unemployment rate by race and ethnicity, 2003 - 2015 annual averages

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL. Note: Racial groups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that race, and Hispanic includes individuals of all races.

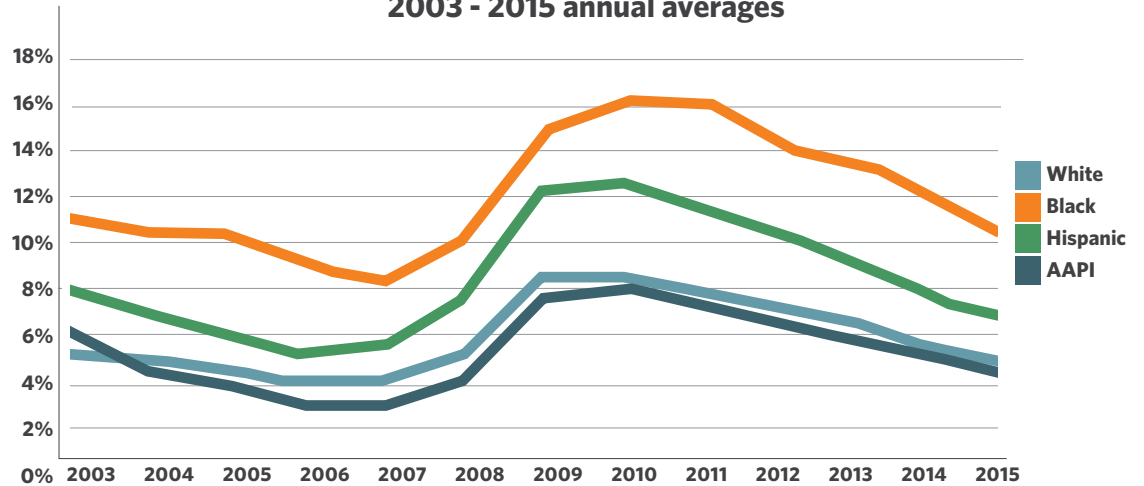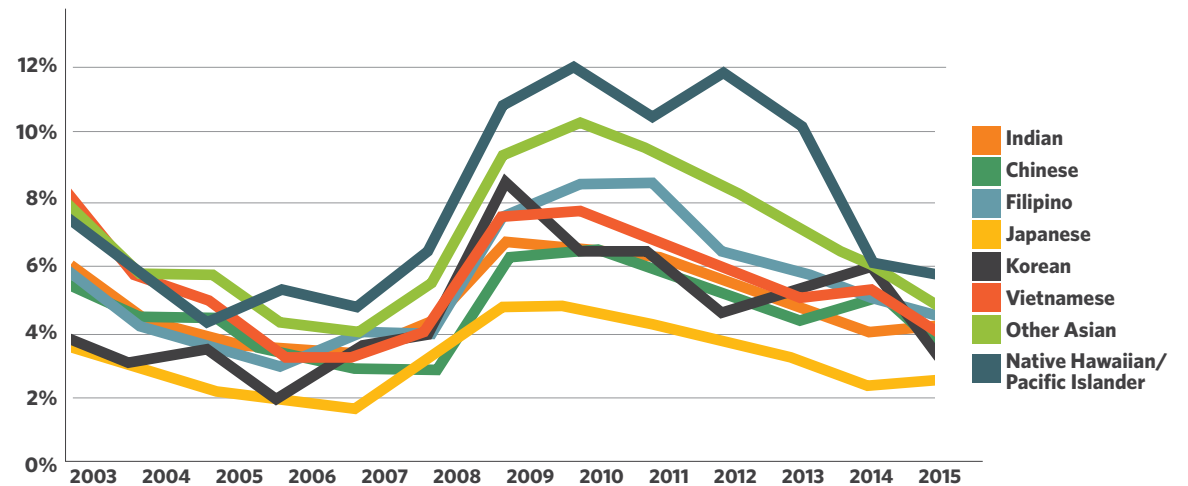## Chart 5: Unemployment rate by AAPI subgroup, 2003-2015 annual averages

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL. Note: AAPI subgroups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that subgroup.

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[18] As explained above, this number is different than the 3.9 percent unemployment rate previously presented because that figure was for Non-Hispanic AAPIs only, while this figure is for all AAPIs including those that identify as Hispanic.

EARNINGS

AAPI workers in general earn more than White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic workers. As shown in Table 5, median weekly earnings for AAPI full-time workers are $969, compared with $900 for White Non-Hispanics, $640 for Black Non-Hispanics, and $600 for Hispanics. This ranking is the same when looking at average weekly earnings of full-time workers and when each race and ethnic group is broken down by gender (gender breakdowns are in Table 6).

Table 5: Earnings by race and ethnicity, 2015 annual averages

	Median Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Workers	Average Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Workers
AAPI Non-Hispanic	$969	$1,183
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	$780	$927
Indian	$1,346	$1,464
Chinese	$1,080	$1,256
Filipino	$865	$1,058
Japanese	$1,153	$1,333
Korean	$1,000	$1,170
Vietnamese	$700	$955
Other Asian	$782	$1,026
White Non-Hispanic	$900	$1,090
Black Non-Hispanic	$640	$809
Hispanic, any race	$600	$765

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 5 also shows the differences in earnings between subgroups of the AAPI workforce. Median weekly earnings of full-time Indian and Japanese workers are well above the median for all AAPI workers. Conversely, the weekly earnings of full-time workers identifying as Other Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or Vietnamese are below the AAPI median, although they are still higher than the earnings of Black Non-Hispanics and Hispanics. Korean, Chinese, and Filipino workers all earn relatively close to the overall AAPI median.

While full-time AAPI women have the highest median weekly earnings among all major race and ethnic groups, they are effectively tied for having the largest gender gap in median weekly earnings. Full-time working AAPI women earn only 78 percent of AAPI men's median weekly earnings, indistinguishable from the ratio seen among White Non-Hispanics. This is substantially lower than the earnings ratios seen among Hispanics (89 percent) and among Black Non-Hispanics (90 percent).[19]

Within the AAPI subgroups, the largest gender earnings gap is found within the Vietnamese community, where the median earnings of women working full time amount to only 71 percent of their male counterparts' earnings. Indian (74 percent) and Japanese (75 percent) workers also experience larger gender pay gaps than the overall AAPI gap. Filipinos and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders have the smallest gender pay gaps among the AAPI subgroups as full-time working women earn 96 percent and 95 percent of what their male counterparts earn, respectively. Chinese (85 percent) workers also experience a smaller gender pay gap than that seen among all AAPI workers, while the gender pay gaps for full-time Korean and Other Asian workers are nearly identical to the overall AAPI gap.

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[19] Note that gender wage gap estimates are often also calculated using data from the Census Bureau's Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS using estimates of median earnings for full-time year-round workers, however, those estimates are not easy to disaggregate by AAPI subgroup due to sample size limitations. Estimates derived from those data show the ratio of women's earnings to men's earnings in 2015 being 80 percent for workers of all races and ethnicities, 75 percent for While Alone Non-Hispanic workers, 88 percent for Black Alone workers, 87 percent for Hispanic workers, and 78 percent for Asian Alone workers. See Table P-40 at Census Bureau, "Historical Income Tables: People", available at **http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-people.html** (last accessed October 2016).

Note also that a typical way of analyzing the pay gap is to compare the earnings of women from differently racial and ethnic groups to those of White Non-Hispanic males. The data presented in Table 6 illustrate that when analyzing median weekly earnings of full-time workers, Hispanic women earn 56 percent of what White Non-Hispanic males do, while Black Non-Hispanic women earn 62 percent and AAPI women earn 87 percent.

As we saw with unemployment rates, the raw differences in earnings between different racial and ethnic groups presented in Tables 5 and 6 miss an important part of the story. Again, some of the disparities can be explained by the fact that the groups also differ on many other factors related to economic outcomes, including education, age, gender, citizenship status, state of residence, and more. And like before, we use regression analysis to control for observable characteristics of workers that are related to economic outcomes.[20] Table A2 in the Appendix contains the output from a series of regressions that use combined data from 2013, 2014, and 2015 to illustrate how being a member of a particular AAPI subgroup impacts an individuals' weekly earnings relative to if they were a White Non-Hispanic individual with identical characteristics.

The regression analysis shows that while in raw comparisons, AAPI workers earn significantly more than White Non-Hispanic workers, AAPI workers in fact earn less than White Non-Hispanic workers who have similar characteristics and do similar jobs. In particular, in raw comparisons, Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, and Koreans all earn more than White Non-Hispanic workers. However, after controlling for observable differences, the magnitude of the differences is substantially diminished across the board, and in the case of Filipino workers, completely reversed. On the other hand, in raw comparisons, Vietnamese, Other Asians, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders have significantly lower earnings than White Non-Hispanic workers, but the magnitudes of those differences are also diminished when comparing workers of similar characteristics.

This type of analysis not only indicates that a number of factors contribute to the raw earnings differences seen between AAPIs and other races and ethnicities, but also helps further illustrate the importance of disaggregating data by AAPI subgroup. While the final set of regressions show AAPIs' overall earnings being statistically significantly less than the earnings of comparable White Non-Hispanics, this is not the case for all subgroups.

Table 6: Earnings by gender, race, and ethnicity and gender earnings ratios, 2015 annual averages

	Median Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Workers			Ratio of Women's Earnings to Men's
	All workers	Male workers	Female workers	
AAPI Non-Hispanic	$969	$1,115	$865	78%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	$780	$800	$760	95%
Indian	$1,346	$1,500	$1,115	74%
Chinese	$1,080	$1,173	$1,000	85%
Filipino	$865	$900	$865	96%
Japanese	$1,153	$1,325	$1,000	75%
Korean	$1,000	$1,125	$865	77%
Vietnamese	$700	$870	$620	71%
Other Asian	$782	$870	$673	77%
White Non-Hispanic	$900	$1,000	$778	78%
Black Non-Hispanic	$640	$680	$615	90%
Hispanic, any race	$600	$630	$560	89%

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

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[20] The demographic controls included in this series of regressions were age, age squared, gender, marital status, an interaction term of marital status and gender, citizenship status, and educational attainment. The geographic controls included were state of residence and whether or not an individual lives in a metropolitan statistical area. The job characteristic controls included were industry of employment, an individual's occupation, and whether an individual was covered by a union contract. Year fixed effects were also included, as was a control for usual weekly hours worked. For more information on the methodology used, see the Appendix.

POVERTY

Similar to other racial and ethnic groups, the poverty rate in the AAPI community peaked in 2012, followed by a slight decline over the next two years. Despite this improvement, most subgroups still had higher poverty rates in 2014 than they did in 2007, reflecting the lingering effects of the Great Recession. The poverty rate for the AAPI community was 12.3 percent in 2014, which was still much lower than the Black Non-Hispanic (25.7 percent) and Hispanic (23.7 percent) measures, but closer to the White Non-Hispanic poverty level (10.7 percent).

Looking at AAPI subgroups, Other Asians and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders had the highest poverty rates in 2014 (19.2 and 16.7 percent, respectively). The Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese communities had poverty levels above the AAPI average as well. Filipinos had the lowest poverty rate in 2014 (6.5 percent), followed by Indians (7.1 percent), and Japanese (8.3 percent). In 2014, most AAPI subgroups had poverty rates above their 2007 level, with the two exceptions being Indians, whose poverty rate is lower than it was before the recession, and Japanese, whose poverty rate is the same as it was before the recession.[21]

Chart 6: Poverty rate by race and ethnicity
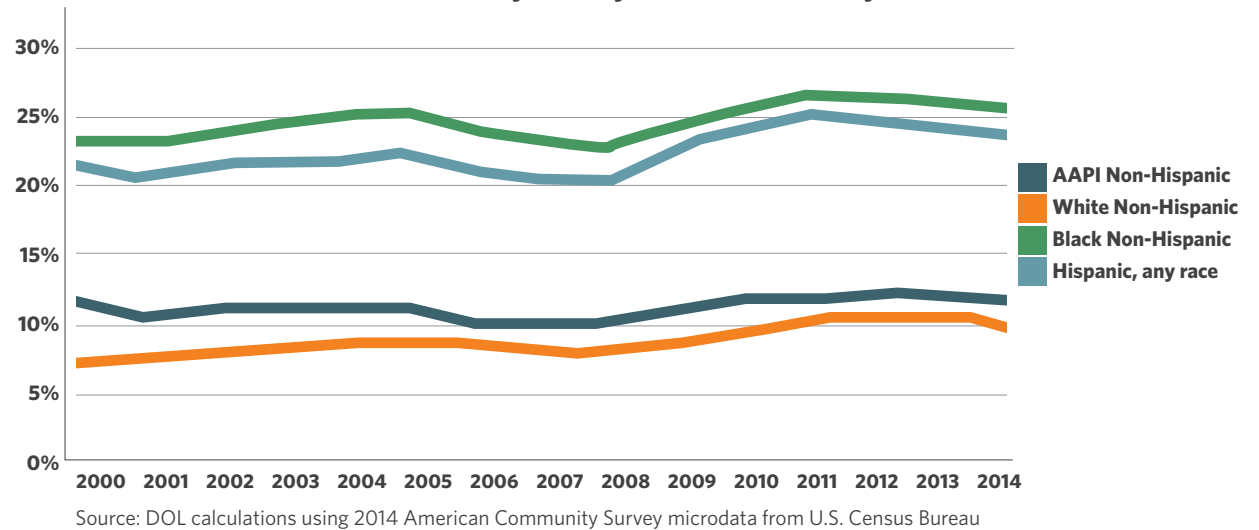
Legend:
- AAPI Non-Hispanic
- White Non-Hispanic
- Black Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic, any race

Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau

Chart 7: Poverty rate by Non-Hispanic AAPI subgroup

Legend:
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian

Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau

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[21] DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Chart 8: Poverty rate by race, ethnicity, and immigrant status, 2014*

KEY
- ■ Native
- ■ Immigrant non-citizen
- ■ Immigrant citizen

Categories (top to bottom): AAPI Non-Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Other Asian, White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, any race

X-axis: 0% to 30%
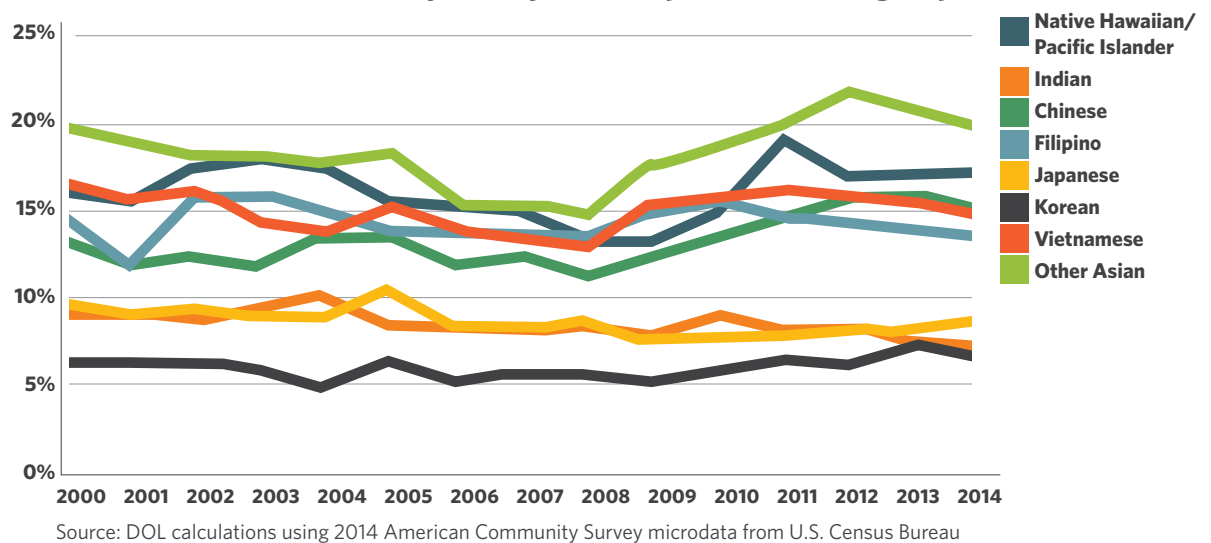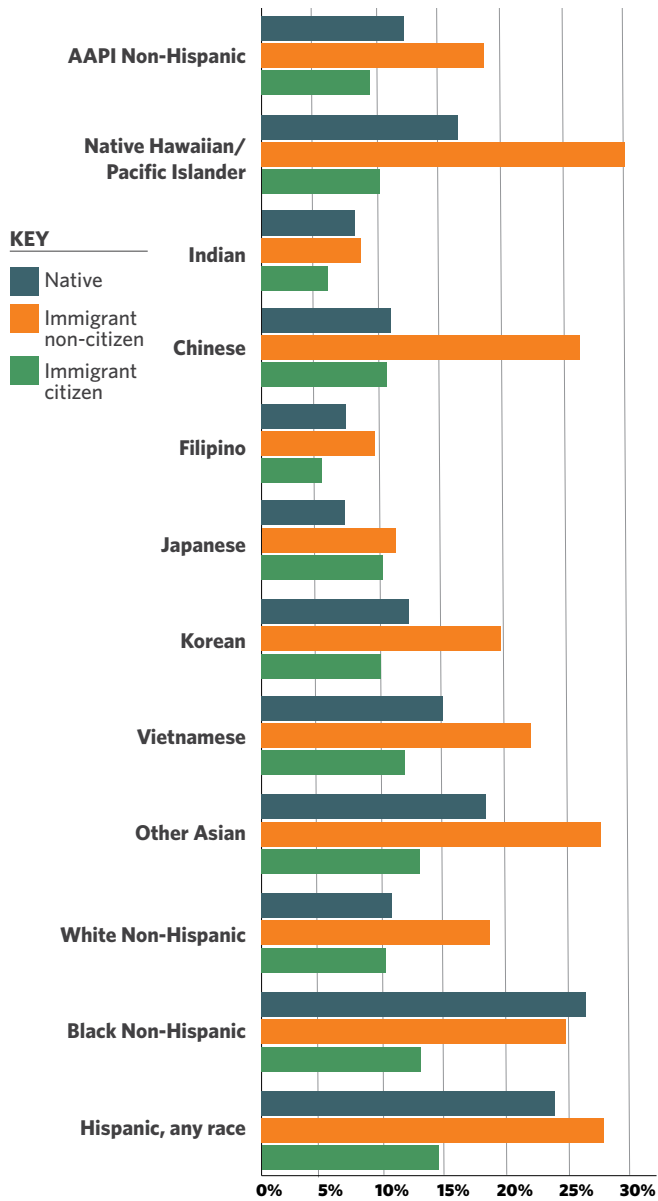
Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. *For data figures see Addendum, Chart 8, p. 21.

Poverty rates also depend on nativity and citizenship status. As a whole, foreign-born AAPIs have a higher poverty rate than native-born AAPIs, which is also true for the White Non-Hispanic population. For both Hispanics and Black Non-Hispanics, the native-born poverty rate is higher than the total immigrant poverty rate.[22] However, Chart 8 shows that when we further break-out the immigrant populations into those who are naturalized U.S. citizens and those who are not, we observe a significant difference in poverty rates between these groups. In the AAPI community, as well as for all other major racial and ethnic groups, immigrants who are not naturalized citizens have a higher poverty rate than those who are. The poverty rate for AAPI immigrant citizens (8.8 percent) is even lower than the native poverty rate (11.6 percent).

When looking at the AAPI subgroups, we see a similar pattern, with immigrant citizens generally having the lowest poverty rate, and immigrant non-citizens having the highest. This differs only for the Japanese population, in which native-born Japanese have the lowest poverty rate. The amount to which immigrant poverty differs between citizens and non-citizens does vary by subgroup. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders have the largest such poverty rate gap – immigrant non-citizens have a poverty rate of 29.6 percent, and immigrant citizens have a poverty rate of 9.6 percent – a gap of 20 percentage points. The poverty rate gap between immigrant citizens and immigrant non-citizens is also particularly large for the Chinese (15.7 percentage points) and Other Asian (14.7 percentage points) populations.

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[22] Foreign-born AAPIs have a poverty rate of 12.7%, compared to 11.6% for native-born AAPIs. Foreign-born White Non-Hispanics have a poverty rate of 13.4%, compared to 10.6% for native-born. Foreign-born Black Non-Hispanics have a poverty rate of 18.1%, compared to 26.4% for native-born. Foreign-born Hispanics have a poverty rate of 23.4%, compared to 23.9% for native-born.

Conclusion

The findings of this report illustrate how important disaggregating data can be, particularly when it comes to analyzing groups as diverse as the AAPI workforce. While broad measures of overall AAPI outcomes can show that AAPIs as a whole have continued to make significant progress in recovering from the Great Recession in recent years, only by contiuing to break down more and more data by subgroup can we begin to truly understand how each community is particpating in and benefiting from the strengthening the economy and gain a grasp of what individual challenges these communities continue to face. Analayzing data in this way not only greatly broadens our understanding of how workers of different backgrounds are faring in the labor market, but also has the potential to improve the ways in which governments and communities tackle remaining challenges and to tangibly improve the lives of workers and their families.

Appendix

REGRESSION METHODOLOGY

The output of two series of ordinary least squares regressions is presented below. The first series regresses whether or not an individual is unemployed on racial and ethnic group and a set of observable worker characteristics. The second series regresses the natural log of individuals' weekly earnings on racial and ethnic group and a set of observable worker characteristics. In both series of regressions, pooled Current Population Survey (CPS) microdata from 2013, 2014, and 2015 are used.

In both series of regressions, the omitted racial category is White Non-Hispanic, meaning that the coefficients on all racial and ethnic variables can be interpreted as the impact of being a member of that racial or ethnic group relative to being White Non-Hispanic. Both series also run two regressions for each model specification. The first regression (see columns 1, 3, 5, and 7 in Tables A1 and A2) includes the mutually exclusive racial and ethnic indicator variables AAPI Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic. The second regression (see columns 2, 4, 6, and 8 in Tables A1 and A2) replaces AAPI Non-Hispanic with its component subgroups: Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Other Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

In the unemployment regressions contained in Table A1, the sample is limited to individuals over the age of 16 in the civilian noninstitutional labor force. In the first model specification (columns 1 and 2) only year fixed effects are included. In the second model specification (columns 3 and 4) the following demographic controls are introduced: age, age squared, sex, marital status, an interaction term of sex and marital status, educational attainment, and citizenship status. In the third model specification (columns 5 and 6) the following geographic controls are introduced: state fixed effects and an indicator variable indicating whether or not an individual lives in a metropolitan statistical area. In the final model specification (columns 7 and 8) the following job characteristic controls are introduced: occupation and industry. Note that for individuals that are unemployed, the occupation and industry they report is the occupation and industry associated with their most recent job.

In the wage regressions contained in Table A2, the sample is limited to employed individuals over the age of 16 who are part of the CPS Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG), because detailed wage information is only collected from individuals in the ORG sample. In the first model specification (columns 1 and 2), year fixed effects are included and usual hours worked is controlled for. In the second model specification (columns 3 and 4) the following demographic controls are introduced: age, age squared, sex, marital status, an interaction term of sex and marital status, educational attainment, and citizenship status. In the third model specification (columns 5 and 6) the following geographic controls are introduced: an indicator variable indicating whether or not an individual lives in a metropolitan statistical area and state fixed effects. In the final model specification (columns 7 and 8) the following job characteristic controls are introduced: occupation, industry, and an indicator variable indicating whether or not an individual is covered by a union contract.

In the tables below, only the coefficients on the racial and ethnic indicator variables of interest are reported, while coefficients on the control variables and the constant have been excluded.

Table A1: Unemployment Rate Regressions for AAPIs and Subgroups (Relative to White Non-Hispanics)

	(1) Unemployed	(2) Unemployed	(3) Unemployed	(4) Unemployed	(5) Unemployed	(6) Unemployed	(7) Unemployed	(8) Unemployed
AAPI Non-Hispanic	-0.002***		0.011***		0.008***		0.007***	
	(0.001)		(0.001)		(0.001)		(0.001)	
Indian		-0.007***		0.018***		0.016***		0.015***
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.001)
Chinese		-0.008***		0.007***		0.002		0.002
		(0.001)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.001)
Filipino		-0.001		0.012***		0.007***		0.006***
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Japanese		-0.025***		-0.006***		-0.006***		-0.006***
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Korean		-0.002		0.015***		0.013***		0.010***
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Vietnamese		-0.003		0.002		0.001		0.002
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Other Asian		0.008***		0.011***		0.010***		0.008***
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		0.024***		0.018***		0.018***		0.015***
		(0.003)		(0.003)		(0.004)		(0.003)
Black Non-Hispanic	0.064***	0.064***	0.051***	0.051***	0.052***	0.052***	0.046***	0.046***
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Other Non-Hispanic	0.059***	0.059***	0.043***	0.043***	0.044***	0.044***	0.040***	0.040***
	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Hispanic, any race	0.027***	0.027***	0.009***	0.009***	0.007***	0.007***	0.006***	0.006***
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Year fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demographic controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geographic controls	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Job characteristic controls	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,358,800	2,358,800	2,358,800	2,358,800	2,336,466	2,336,466	2,322,730	2,322,730

Robust standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A2: Weekly Earnings Regressions for AAPIs and Subgroups (Relative to White Non-Hispanics)

	(1) Log Weekly Earnings	(2) Log Weekly Earnings	(3) Log Weekly Earnings	(4) Log Weekly Earnings	(5) Log Weekly Earnings	(6) Log Weekly Earnings	(7) Log Weekly Earnings	(8) Log Weekly Earnings
AAPI Non-Hispanic	0.078***		0.040***		0.005		-0.010**	
	(0.005)		(0.005)		(0.005)		(0.005)	
Indian		0.295***		0.157***		0.134***		0.051***
		(0.011)		(0.011)		(0.011)		(0.010)
Chinese		0.145***		0.074***		0.029***		0.006
		(0.011)		(0.010)		(0.010)		(0.009)
Filipino		0.042***		0.008		-0.038***		-0.042***
		(0.011)		(0.010)		(0.010)		(0.009)
Japanese		0.200***		0.109***		0.075***		0.056***
		(0.019)		(0.017)		(0.017)		(0.017)
Korean		0.079***		-0.001		-0.039**		-0.023
		(0.020)		(0.018)		(0.018)		(0.018)
Vietnamese		-0.131***		-0.064***		-0.095***		-0.059***
		(0.014)		(0.012)		(0.012)		(0.012)
Other Asian		-0.092***		-0.035***		-0.066***		-0.054***
		(0.011)		(0.010)		(0.010)		(0.009)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		-0.081***		0.010		-0.020		-0.009
		(0.017)		(0.015)		(0.015)		(0.014)
Black Non-Hispanic	-0.214***	-0.214***	-0.122***	-0.123***	-0.127***	-0.127***	-0.099***	-0.099***
	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)
Other Non-Hispanic	-0.152***	-0.152***	-0.050***	-0.050***	-0.052***	-0.053***	-0.037***	-0.037***
	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Hispanic, any race	-0.273***	-0.273***	-0.059***	-0.059***	-0.091***	-0.091***	-0.061***	-0.062***
	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)
Year fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hours worked controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demographic controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geographic controls	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Job characteristic controls	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	497,323	497,323	497,323	497,323	492,804	492,804	492,804	492,804

Robust standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Addendum: Chart Data

Chart 1: Educational attainment by race and ethnicity, 2015 annual average

	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college	Some college or associate degree	College graduates
AAPI Non-Hispanic	9.9%	19.7%	16.2%	54.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	12.0%	30.2%	31.4%	26.4%
Indian	4.6%	12.0%	7.7%	75.7%
Chinese	12.4%	18.9%	11.5%	57.2%
Filipino	5.2%	17.7%	26.0%	51.1%
Japanese	3.2%	16.8%	24.3%	55.7%
Korean	5.8%	19.5%	14.5%	60.2%
Vietnamese	20.2%	28.6%	17.7%	33.5%
Other Asian	15.1%	24.9%	17.0%	43.1%
White Non-Hispanic	6.7%	29.0%	27.7%	36.6%
Black Non-Hispanic	12.3%	33.8%	30.4%	23.5%
Hispanic, any race	32.3%	29.7%	21.7%	16.3%

Source: DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

Chart 2: Labor force participation rate by race and ethnicity, 2003 – 2015 annual averages

	Labor Force Participation Rate			
	White	Black	Hispanic	AAPI
2003	66.5%	64.3%	68.3%	66.5%
2004	66.3%	63.8%	68.6%	66.2%
2005	66.3%	64.2%	68.0%	66.4%
2006	66.5%	64.1%	68.7%	66.7%
2007	66.4%	63.7%	68.8%	66.8%
2008	66.3%	63.7%	68.5%	67.3%
2009	65.8%	62.4%	68.0%	66.2%
2010	65.1%	62.2%	67.5%	64.9%
2011	64.5%	61.4%	66.5%	64.8%
2012	64.0%	61.5%	66.4%	64.3%
2013	63.5%	61.2%	66.0%	64.9%
2014	63.1%	61.2%	66.1%	63.8%
2015	62.8%	61.5%	65.9%	63.1%

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL.

Note: Racial groups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that race, and Hispanic includes individuals of all races.

Chart 3: Labor force participation rate by AAPI subgroup, 2003 – 2015 annual averages

	Labor Force Participation Rate							
	Indian	**Chinese**	**Filipino**	**Japanese**	**Korean**	**Vietnamese**	**Other Asian**	**Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**
2003	72.0%	64.8%	73.3%	58.0%	61.2%	64.2%	68.0%	68.9%
2004	72.0%	62.5%	70.3%	62.7%	60.5%	66.1%	67.5%	71.8%
2005	70.4%	63.6%	70.8%	63.9%	60.7%	65.6%	66.6%	73.4%
2006	70.5%	64.7%	71.8%	62.0%	60.9%	65.3%	66.0%	74.5%
2007	69.5%	65.7%	72.8%	60.4%	60.6%	65.3%	65.7%	73.0%
2008	69.5%	65.8%	74.1%	58.4%	61.3%	66.0%	66.5%	72.5%
2009	69.9%	64.3%	69.7%	55.7%	60.1%	67.7%	66.9%	69.4%
2010	69.2%	63.7%	67.2%	55.3%	59.2%	65.5%	64.9%	68.4%
2011	69.6%	63.7%	68.7%	54.5%	60.0%	63.1%	63.4%	69.4%
2012	67.3%	62.8%	67.4%	56.4%	59.0%	65.0%	63.2%	71.4%
2013	68.0%	62.8%	68.5%	58.3%	60.4%	65.0%	63.6%	70.1%
2014	67.6%	62.6%	67.3%	55.9%	60.4%	62.5%	61.5%	67.6%
2015	66.0%	60.0%	68.0%	55.9%	58.9%	62.9%	62.3%	66.5%

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL.

Note: AAPI subgroups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that subgroup.

Chart 4: Unemployment rate by race and ethnicity, 2003 – 2015 annual averages

	Unemployment Rate			
	White	**Black**	**Hispanic**	**AAPI**
2003	5.2%	10.8%	7.7%	6.1%
2004	4.8%	10.4%	7.0%	4.5%
2005	4.4%	10.0%	6.0%	4.0%
2006	4.0%	8.9%	5.2%	3.2%
2007	4.1%	8.3%	5.6%	3.3%
2008	5.2%	10.1%	7.6%	4.1%
2009	8.5%	14.8%	12.1%	7.5%
2010	8.7%	16.0%	12.5%	7.8%
2011	7.9%	15.8%	11.5%	7.2%
2012	7.2%	13.8%	10.3%	6.3%
2013	6.5%	13.1%	9.1%	5.6%
2014	5.3%	11.3%	7.4%	5.0%
2015	4.6%	9.6%	6.6%	4.0%

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL.

Note: Racial groups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that race, and Hispanic includes individuals of all races.

Chart 5: Unemployment rate by AAPI subgroup, 2003 – 2015 annual averages

	Unemployment Rate							
	Indian	**Chinese**	**Filipino**	**Japanese**	**Korean**	**Vietnamese**	**Other Asian**	**Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**
2003	6.0%	5.5%	6.0%	3.5%	3.6%	8.4%	8.1%	7.7%
2004	4.4%	4.5%	4.3%	2.7%	3.1%	5.8%	5.9%	6.1%
2005	3.7%	4.2%	3.6%	2.2%	3.5%	4.8%	5.7%	4.3%
2006	3.3%	3.2%	2.9%	1.9%	2.0%	3.1%	4.2%	5.3%
2007	3.3%	2.8%	3.9%	1.7%	3.3%	3.5%	3.8%	4.8%
2008	4.3%	3.0%	4.0%	2.9%	3.9%	3.9%	5.5%	6.4%
2009	6.7%	6.2%	7.4%	4.8%	8.5%	7.5%	9.4%	10.8%
2010	6.6%	6.5%	8.5%	4.6%	6.4%	7.6%	10.3%	12.0%
2011	6.2%	5.8%	8.5%	4.3%	6.3%	6.8%	9.6%	10.4%
2012	5.3%	5.2%	6.4%	3.8%	4.7%	5.9%	8.4%	11.8%
2013	4.6%	4.4%	5.8%	3.3%	5.3%	5.0%	7.1%	10.2%
2014	3.9%	5.2%	4.9%	2.3%	6.0%	5.4%	6.0%	6.1%
2015	4.2%	3.2%	4.3%	2.4%	3.2%	3.7%	4.6%	5.6%

Source: Figures for 2013 through 2015 from DOL calculations using 2015 Current Population Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau. Figures for previous years are not publically available but were produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provided to DOL.

Note: AAPI subgroups include Hispanic individuals who identify themselves as a member of that subgroup.

Chart 6: Poverty rate by race and ethnicity

	Poverty Rate			
	AAPI Non-Hispanic	**White Non-Hispanic**	**Black Non-Hispanic**	**Hispanic, any race**
2000	12.3%	8.0%	23.3%	22.0%
2001	11.5%	8.3%	23.4%	21.0%
2002	11.9%	8.5%	24.0%	21.5%
2003	11.6%	8.7%	24.5%	21.9%
2004	11.7%	9.0%	25.3%	22.0%
2005	11.8%	9.2%	25.4%	22.5%
2006	10.7%	9.1%	24.1%	21.1%
2007	10.5%	8.9%	23.5%	20.5%
2008	10.3%	9.2%	23.0%	20.9%
2009	11.1%	9.8%	24.6%	23.1%
2010	12.1%	10.5%	25.9%	24.3%
2011	12.6%	10.8%	26.7%	25.4%
2012	12.9%	10.9%	26.7%	24.9%
2013	12.6%	10.9%	26.4%	24.2%
2014	12.3%	10.7%	25.7%	23.7%

Source: DOL calculations using 2000 through 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

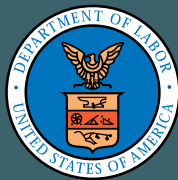## Chart 7: Poverty rate by Non-Hispanic AAPI subgroup

	Poverty Rate							
	Indian	**Chinese**	**Filipino**	**Japanese**	**Korean**	**Vietnamese**	**Other Asian**	**Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**
2000	9.0%	13.0%	6.3%	9.5%	14.4%	15.5%	19.2%	15.5%
2001	9.0%	11.8%	6.2%	8.9%	11.7%	15.2%	18.7%	15.1%
2002	8.8%	12.2%	6.1%	9.3%	15.3%	15.7%	17.5%	17.0%
2003	9.3%	11.3%	5.8%	8.7%	15.4%	14.0%	17.8%	17.5%
2004	9.9%	13.2%	4.9%	8.8%	14.7%	13.5%	17.3%	16.9%
2005	8.3%	13.0%	6.3%	10.4%	13.8%	15.1%	17.7%	15.2%
2006	8.0%	11.8%	5.2%	8.2%	13.4%	13.7%	15.1%	14.9%
2007	7.9%	11.9%	5.5%	8.3%	13.0%	12.8%	14.9%	14.6%
2008	8.1%	11.0%	5.3%	8.1%	13.0%	12.4%	14.5%	13.0%
2009	7.5%	12.4%	5.3%	7.4%	14.4%	14.9%	17.1%	12.7%
2010	8.5%	13.3%	5.7%	7.6%	15.1%	15.3%	18.5%	14.7%
2011	8.0%	14.1%	6.2%	7.7%	14.4%	15.8%	19.6%	18.5%
2012	8.1%	15.2%	6.3%	8.1%	14.0%	15.4%	21.1%	16.4%
2013	7.3%	15.3%	7.0%	7.8%	13.7%	15.0%	19.9%	16.5%
2014	7.1%	14.9%	6.5%	8.3%	13.1%	14.5%	19.2%	16.7%

Source: DOL calculations using 2000 through 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

Chart 8: Poverty rate by race, ethnicity, and immigrant status, 2014

	Poverty Rate		
	Immigrant Citizen	**Immigrant Non-Citizen**	**Native**
AAPI Non-Hispanic	8.8%	18.1%	11.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9.6%	29.6%	16.0%
Indian	5.4%	8.1%	7.9%
Chinese	10.2%	25.9%	10.5%
Filipino	4.9%	9.2%	6.9%
Japanese	9.9%	10.9%	6.8%
Korean	9.7%	19.5%	12.0%
Vietnamese	11.7%	21.9%	14.8%
Other Asian	12.9%	27.6%	18.3%
White Non-Hispanic	10.1%	18.6%	10.6%
Black Non-Hispanic	13.0%	24.8%	26.4%
Hispanic, any race	14.4%	27.9%	23.9%

Source: DOL calculations using 2014 American Community Survey microdata from U.S. Census Bureau.

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