



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Economic Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Wake of the Great Recession

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Introduction

In January 2009, the U.S. economy was still in the throes of the Great Recession, shedding 800,000 jobs a month. No one community was immune to the economic downturn. Like other Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)¹ were hit hard by the Great Recession. During that time, the unemployment rate more than doubled for Asian American workers from 3.2 percent in 2007 to 7.5 percent in 2010. Similarly, the unemployment rate for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander workers² increased two and a half times over the same period (4.8 to 12.0 percent). Though the recession ended over four years ago, the scars of the worst economic contraction since the Great Depression remain.

For the most part, as a group, AAPI workers have had more favorable economic outcomes than workers in any other racial group. In 2013, the AAPI community has nearly the highest labor force participation rate at 64.9 percent and the lowest unemployment rate at 5.6 percent. Together, workers in AAPI communities also have the highest weekly median earnings of all the major race and ethnic groups (\$987).

The aggregate statistics above, while positive, tell an incomplete story of the economic status of the AAPI community. There is a great deal of variation in these economic outcomes across ethnic groups, disparities that have their roots in different immigration histories and many other factors.

The Department of Labor published a report in 2011 on the Asian American and Pacific Islander Labor Force and the recovery from the Great Recession. As the economy continues to recover, this report is an updated look at the economic situation of AAPI workers. We first provide an overview of the demographic and human capital characteristics of the AAPI community, and then provide an update on the economic status of AAPI workers disaggregated by ethnicity to highlight the variation that exists within the AAPI community.

This report also provides context for the differences in economic outcomes experienced by Asian American and Pacific Islander workers relative to those of other groups. In particular, we examine whether the characteristics of the AAPI population, including very high levels of educational attainment among some AAPIs, correspond to expected differences in unemployment and earnings across race and ethnic groups.

By presenting differences in various labor market outcomes of different race and ethnic groups, we can illustrate how each group fared in the Great Recession and show the extent to which they have recovered.

The report concludes with a discussion of the Department of Labor's policies and programs that train, protect, and support the AAPI community in the labor market.

Getting into the Data

Background

In 2013, there were 19.4 million Asian Americans and 1.4 million Pacific Islanders living in the United States, representing 6.1 and 0.5 percent of the total population, respectively³. Members of this community descend from (or are themselves foreign born in) a broad set of countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Most of the individuals in this community immigrated to the United States for various reasons that influence their particular characteristics.

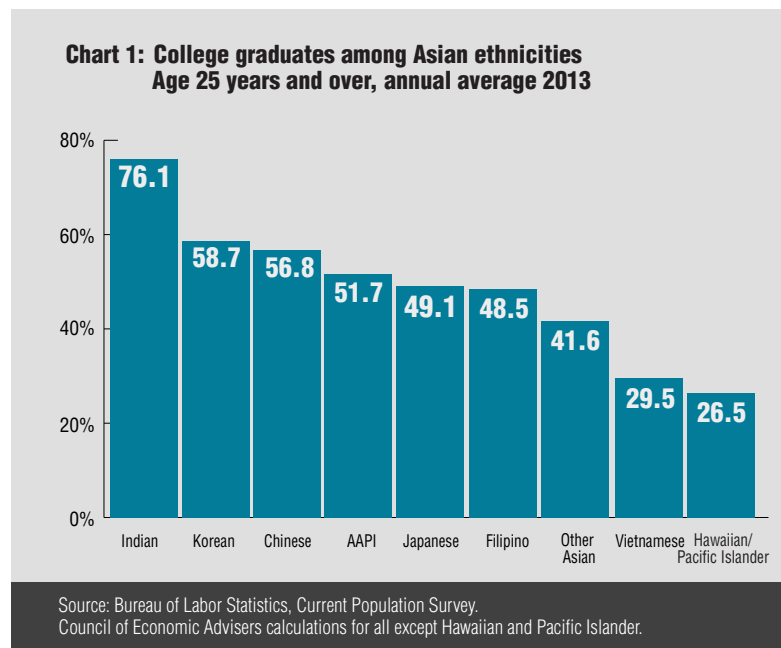
Most native Pacific Islanders were indigenous to the area before the establishment of the United States. Chinese and Japanese immigrants were among the first Asians to arrive in the U.S. in the mid-1800s, and many settled in Hawaii and Western states like California, often finding work primarily in agriculture, services, and construction⁴. Filipino, Korean, Indian, and “Other Asian” immigrants from South and East Asia also arrived in increasing numbers through the late 1800s and early 1900s.

“A large share—about 65 percent—of the AAPI community is foreign born. Over 70 percent of Indians, Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese are foreign born. Nearly one-third of the AAPI community resides in California alone”.

AAPI’s in the U.S. were drawn heavily by the opportunities to work in low-skilled occupations. Immigration for members of all these groups (except those from the Philippines which was then an American territory) effectively ceased following a series of racially motivated anti-immigration laws culminating in the National Origins Act of 1924. The Immigration Act of 1965 reopened opportunities for immigrants from Asian countries, particularly for high-skilled workers. The change led to rapid increases in immigration ever since and today the AAPI population is growing faster than any other racial group.

Looking at the civilian non-institutional population a majority of Asian Americans identify as either Chinese or Indian, while those identifying as Japanese represent the smallest percentage of Asians (Table 1).

Reflecting the relatively recent influx of immigrants, a large share—about 65 percent—of the AAPI community is foreign born (Table 1). Over 70 percent of Indians, Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese are foreign born. Conversely, only 29 percent of Pacific Islanders and 40 percent of Japanese are foreign born. Moreover, the geographic concentration of the AAPI population reflects the original destinations of the earliest immigrants. Nearly one-third of the AAPI community resides in California alone, compared to roughly 12 percent of the total U.S. population located in this state. Another 10 percent of AAPIs live in Hawaii or New Jersey.



Like other predominantly immigrant groups, members of the AAPI community also tend to have a lower median age than the overall population (Asian 33.6, Pacific Islanders 27.4, and U.S. overall 37.6). Compared to other races, AAPI communities have a higher percentage of their population age 18 to 64 years old, and a higher percentage of their population distribution falling between the ages of 25 to 54 years old (often considered “prime working age”) – 44.8 percent Asian and 40.4 percent Pacific Islander, compared to 39.6 percent for the U.S. total.⁵

As a group, average educational attainment among AAPI community is very high. Overall, 53.4 percent of Asians over the age of 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher—the highest percentage by far among the major race groups: Pacific Islander (26.5 percent), white (31.9 percent), black (21.9 percent), and Hispanic (15.5 percent).⁶

This fact, however, conceals important differences across different AAPI groups (Table 1 and Chart 1) as well as within those groups. Within Asian ethnic subgroups, 76.1 percent of Indian, 58.7 percent of Korean, and 56.8 percent of Chinese individuals have a bachelor’s degree or higher (Chart 1). The share of members of Japanese, Filipino, and “Other Asian” groups with a college degree is slightly below the overall rate for those in the AAPI community, but still higher than people of other racial and ethnic groups. By contrast, 29.5 percent of Vietnamese have a bachelor’s degree or higher and only 26.5 percent of Pacific Islanders do (slightly more than one-third of the Indian college degree attainment rate) (Chart 1). Those identifying as Vietnamese or Pacific Islander have college degree attainment rates below those who identify as white but above those identifying as black or Hispanic.

While the AAPI community has the highest percentage graduating from college, some groups within the community have higher percentages of members with less than a high school diploma (high school dropouts) compared to whites (Table 1).

“The Vietnamese, “Other Asian”, and Chinese groups have the highest percentage of high school dropouts (29.3, 22.3, and 18.4 percent respectively).”

Table 1: Demographics and Geography by Race and Ethnicity

	Education	Geography				Nativity and Language	
	Percent with less than a high school diploma	Percent residing in California	Percent residing in Hawaii	Percent residing in New Jersey	Percent residing in the rest of the US	Percent foreign-born	Percent speaking English “very well” or “excellent”
AAPI	14.0	32.1	5.6	4.7	57.5	65.4	68.8
Pacific Islander	12.8	23.1	36.2	0.8	40.0	29.4	89.9
Indian	8.3	19.5	0.1	10.1	70.3	72.1	81.0
Chinese	18.4	36.6	1.5	3.9	58.0	70.3	56.2
Filipino	7.4	45.6	8.2	4.4	41.8	67.5	79.3
Japanese	4.8	32.7	26.4	2.2	38.7	40.4	79.2
Korean	7.1	32.0	1.9	6.4	59.6	75.1	58.9
Vietnamese	29.3	37.8	0.5	1.4	60.3	69.5	51.0
Other Asian	22.3	26.0	2.3	3.2	68.5	61.7	66.5
White	13.0	11.7	0.2	2.7	85.5	11.7	92.8
Black	16.6	6.1	0.1	3.1	90.8	9.6	97.2
Hispanic	35.9	27.3	0.2	3.1	69.3	39.3	70.6

Source: American Community Survey (2012).

Note: The three states with the largest Asian population shares are California, Hawaii, and New Jersey.

Within the AAPI community, the Vietnamese, “Other Asian”, and Chinese groups have the highest percentage of high school dropouts (29.3, 22.3, and 18.4 percent respectively) and all have a higher percentage than the white community (13.0 percent) (Table 1). On the other hand, the Japanese, Korean, and Filipino groups have the lowest percentage of members with less than a high school diploma (4.8, 7.1, and 7.4 percent respectively) (Table 1).

Labor Force Status

As a group, the AAPI community has a labor force participation rate of 64.9 percent, slightly higher than the U.S. average, and an unemployment rate of 5.6 percent, lower than that for any other group (Table 2). The Japanese community has the lowest labor force participation rate; Pacific Islander and Indian communities have the highest. Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest unemployment rates at 10.2 and 5.8 percent respectively, whereas Chinese and Japanese experience the lowest rates of unemployment at 4.4 and 3.3 percent.

Since the end of the recession, the labor force participation rate (the percent of people who are working or looking for work in a specific population) has been declining in the United States. As of 2013, the AAPI community had the second highest labor force participation rate of all the major race and ethnic groups (64.9 percent) (Table 2). This level has traditionally been close to or above the labor force participation rate for the United States’ population as a whole. However, whereas all other races’ participation rates declined in 2013, the Asian American rate rose by nearly 0.7 percentage point – widening the gap between the Asian American and national rates (the Pacific Islander rate fell 1.4 percentage point).⁷ Because the AAPI community tends to be younger on average than the overall population, their participation rates are higher with more people in their prime working age.

Table 2: Employment status of Asian groups 2013, annual averages (numbers in thousands)

	Civilian noninstitutional population (ages 16+) ^a	Civilian labor force			
		Total	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment-to-Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate
				Percent of population	Percent of labor force
AAPI	14,179	9,202	64.9	61.3	5.6
Native Hawaiian & Other PI	883	618	70	62.9	10.2
Asian, total	13,296	8,584	64.6	61.2	5.2
Indian	2,435	1,656	68	64.9	4.6
Chinese	2,976	1,867	62.8	60	4.4
Filipino	2,182	1,495	68.5	64.6	5.8
Japanese	760	442	58.2	56.3	3.3
Korean	1,260	763	60.5	57.3	5.3
Vietnamese	1,459	947	64.9	61.6	5
Other Asian	2,224	1,414	63.5	59	7.1
White	194,333	123,412	63.5	59.4	6.5
Black	30,376	18,580	61.2	53.2	13.1
Hispanic or Latino	37,517	24,771	66	60	9.1

NOTE: Other Asians include individuals who reported an Asian group not listed and those who reported two or more Asian groups. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

SOURCE: Unpublished tabulations from the Current Population Survey (CPS), Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 2 shows how labor force participation rates varied for AAPI subgroups through the recession of 2007 to 2009 and subsequent recovery. With the exception of Pacific Islanders and Vietnamese, almost all Asian subgroups experienced increases in labor force participation in 2013 (the Chinese rate showed no movement).⁹

The AAPI community as a whole has the highest employment rate (share of those employed as a percent of their population) of all major race and ethnic groups (61.3 percent). Within the AAPI community, Indian and Filipino groups have the highest rates of employment at 64.9 and 64.6 percent (Table 2). Japanese and Koreans have the lowest rates of employment with 56.3 and 57.3 percent employed, respectively, and the Japanese also have the highest percentage working part-time (23.9 percent) (Table 3).

With respect to gender, 47.5 percent of all AAPI workers are women—lower than the share of employed black women (53.7 percent), but higher than the share of employed white women (46.1 percent) and employed Hispanic women (42.1 percent).¹⁰ On average, both AAPI men and women have the highest weekly earnings out of the racial groups (\$1,125 and \$839 per week, respectively).¹¹

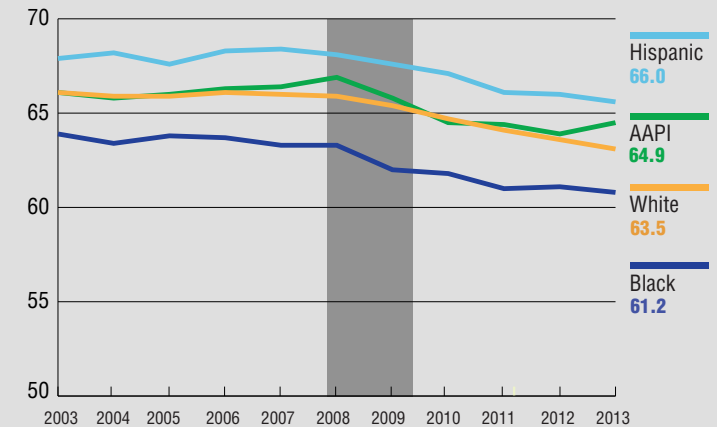
Looking more closely at individual Asian subgroups, more Filipino women are employed (57.1 percent) than any other community; Indians had the smallest share of employed women (36.8 percent). Japanese women make up 50.1 percent of the Japanese workers, much higher than the share of Indian women.¹² African Americans rank amongst the highest of all ethnic groups with women as 54 percent of their total employed population.¹³

“More Filipino women are employed (57.1 percent) than any other community; Indians had the smallest share of employed women (36.8 percent).”

The majority of the AAPI labor force is in the private sector at 78.4 percent.¹⁴ This percentage is second only to the Hispanic labor force (81.8 percent).¹⁵ Members of the AAPI community are less likely to work in the public sector (11.1 percent) than those identifying as white or black (13.6 and 18.5 percent respectively).¹⁵ AAPI workers are more likely to be self-employed (5.8 percent) than black workers, but less likely to be self-employed than white (7 percent) or Hispanic workers (6.1 percent).¹⁷

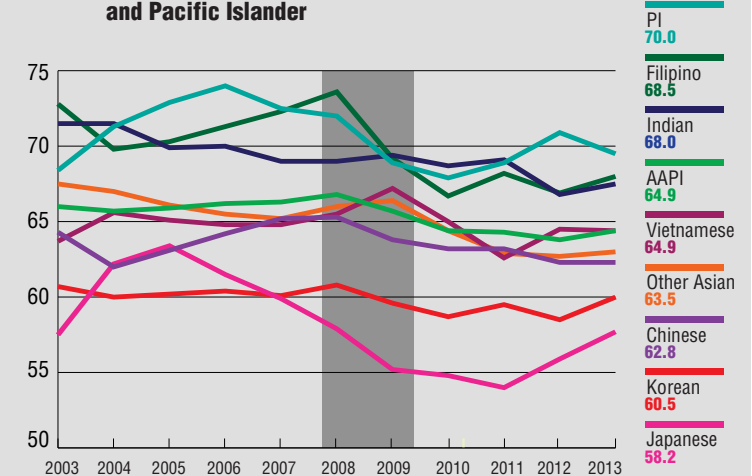
Unemployment rates for all races and ethnicities have declined from their peak 2010 levels during the recession. The same trend is true when looking at Asian subgroups individually. Each group has a lower unemployment rate in 2013 than it had at the end of the recession in 2010.¹⁸

Chart 2: Labor Force Participation rates by race and ethnicity



Source: calculations based on BLS CPS annual averages.

Chart 3: Labor Force Participation rates by Asian ethnicities and Pacific Islander



Source: calculations based on BLS CPS annual averages.

The unemployment rate for the AAPI community was 5.6 percent in 2013 (Table 3). Among the Asian subgroups, Japanese have the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3 percent (Chart 4). Chinese, Indian, and Vietnamese groups all have unemployment rates below the average for members of the AAPI community (Chart 4). Conversely, Korean, Filipino, and “Other Asian” groups have unemployment rates above the average for all Asian Americans (Chart 4).

In some parts of this report, we use regression analysis to better understand the difference we see in wages and unemployment rates between different races and ethnicities. Regression analysis allows us to examine different variables, such as age, geographic location, or level of education to potentially explain why different subgroups may have different trends in their respective labor reports. Conceptually, we use this technique to assess the importance of a characteristic—such as having a college degree—by comparing the gaps in outcomes like unemployment or earnings to the gaps in that outcome among individuals who are similar in that characteristic (same age, gender, education level, etc).

Based on raw data in Table 3, the unemployment rate is 6.6 percent for the white labor force and 4.4 percent for the Chinese labor force. However, when we compare only white and Chinese workers with identical demographics and educational attainment, the difference in their unemployment rates disappears. This suggests that educational attainment plays a factor in lowering the overall unemployment rate for Chinese workers. Likewise, with members of the Japanese community, education plays a major factor in their employment outcome. On average, Japanese have a significantly lower unemployment rate than whites, but when comparing whites with similar demographics and levels of education, the two groups’ unemployment rates look more alike.¹⁹

“The Indian community as a whole tends to be more educated, but when looking at similarly situated white workers, their employment outcomes are less favorable.”

Table 3: Unemployment and employment characteristics by Asian subgroups, 2013 annual averages

	% Employed (employment-population ratio among those 16 and older) ²	% Usually working part-time ¹	Unemployment Rate ²	Median duration of unemployment in weeks ¹	% of unemployed who are long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more) ¹
Whites	59.4	25.6	6.5	16	35.8
Blacks	53.2	23.8	13.1	22	43.3
Hispanics	60	24.2	9.1	15	34.6
AAPI	61.4	20.6	5.6	20	41.7
PI	62.9	23.1	10.2	16	40.4
Indian	64.9	15.2	4.6	16	39.7
Chinese	60.0	20	4.4	20	40.6
Filipino	64.6	21.8	5.8	21	42.4
Japanese	56.3	23.9	3.3	18	40.8
Korean	57.3	22.8	5.3	15	33.8
Vietnamese	61.6	20.9	5.0	27	50.1
Other Asian	59.0	23.2	7.1	24	43.8

Source 1: CEA calculations from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

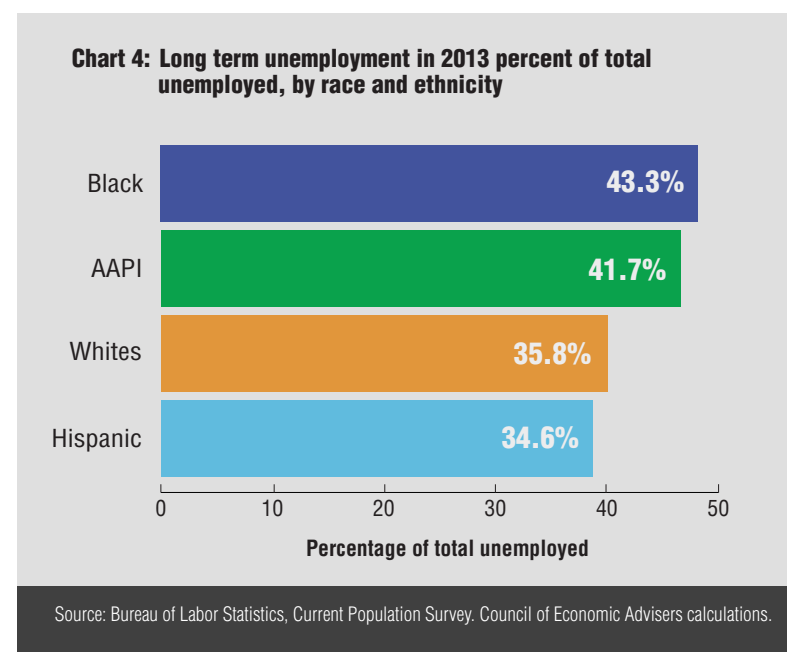
Source 2: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey—Unpublished tables.

Note: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Those identified as White, Black, or Asian includes those Hispanics who selected White, Black, or Asian when queried about their race.

Based on raw data, the unemployment rate for Indians is lower than the unemployment rate of whites; however, when controlled for age, sex, and educational attainment, unemployment rate for Indians is actually higher than comparable whites. This difference suggests that the Indian community as a whole tends to be more educated, but when looking at similarly situated white workers, their employment outcomes are less favorable. The unemployment rate for Pacific Islander workers is higher than that of whites, even after taking into account other factors, such as demographics and education. Geography might play some role, but not enough to explain the gap between white and Pacific Islanders' unemployment rates. Even after controlling for different variables, Pacific Islanders still have higher unemployment rates than similar white workers.²⁰

The AAPI community has the second highest share of unemployed workers who are long-term unemployed (41.7 percent) (Chart 4). Half of all unemployed Vietnamese are in fact long-term unemployed. Filipinos, "Other Asians," Japanese, Chinese, and Pacific Islanders all have over 40 percent of their unemployed that are long-term unemployed (42.4, 43.8, 40.8, 40.6, and 40.4 percent, respectively). In fact, out of all the Asian subgroups and Pacific Islanders, only Koreans (33.8 percent), have a lower share of long-term unemployed, compared to whites (35.8 percent).²¹ Asian Americans who are unemployed have longer median durations of unemployment (20 weeks) than members of both the white (16 weeks) and Hispanic (15 weeks) groups of unemployed.²² Pacific Islanders have the same average unemployment duration as white workers (16 weeks), but have the highest unemployment rate among all the different races and ethnicities (10.3 percent).²³ Among Asian Americans, Indian (16 weeks) and Korean (15 weeks) unemployed workers have the shortest average durations of unemployment, whereas Vietnamese workers have the longest (27 weeks).²⁴

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Earnings

AAPI workers in general earn more than white, black, and Hispanic workers (Chart 6). White workers have median weekly earnings of \$865, below AAPI median weekly earnings (\$987) (Chart 6). This ranking is the same when each race and ethnic group is broken down by gender. On average, both men and women identifying as AAPI earn more than their counterparts in the other groups (chart 6).

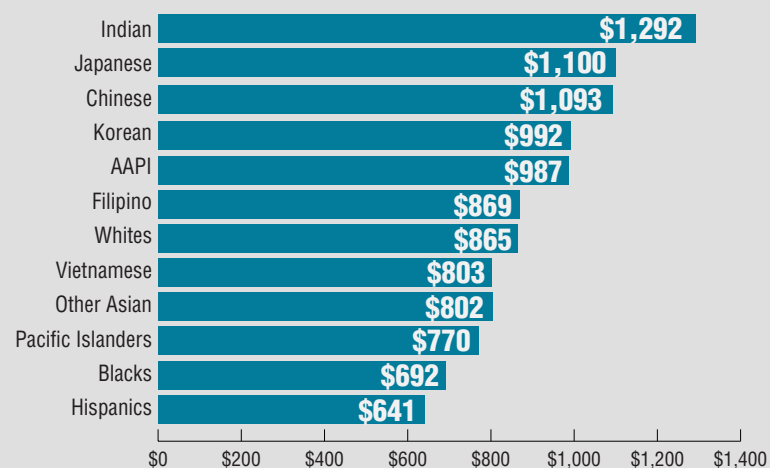
Similar to other race and ethnicity groups, women only make 75 percent of men's median usual weekly earnings within the Asian American labor force (Chart 6). While Asian American women have the highest median weekly earnings among all major race and ethnic groups, they also have the second to largest median weekly earnings gap (Chart 6). The 75 percent gender-earnings ratio is slightly larger than that of white women (74 percent), but smaller than that of Hispanic (81 percent) and black women (88 percent) (Chart 6).

Chart 5 shows the differences in earnings between members of the Asian American subgroups and those of the Pacific Islander labor force. Weekly earnings of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese workers are well above the average for all AAPI workers (Chart 5). Conversely, those identifying as Filipino, Vietnamese, or "Other Asian" are below the AAPI average (Chart 5). Korean workers earn slightly more than the AAPI average, with Korean men earning more than the average Asian American male (\$1,177 compared to \$1,125), offsetting the relatively lower earnings of Korean women (Chart 6).

Within the Asian subgroups, women who identify as "Other Asian," Korean, and Japanese make a smaller percentage of men's weekly earnings than the average Asian American woman 74, 68, and 67 percent respectively) (Chart 6). Indian and Pacific Islander women have similar gender earnings ratios as the average for all Asian Americans (75 percent) (Chart 6). Women who identify as Vietnamese, Chinese, or Filipino make a higher percentage of men's median weekly earnings (78, 78, and 86 percent, respectively) (Chart 6).

What explains the differences in earnings documented above? Further analyses suggest that education differences may play the greatest role. Indian, Japanese, and Chinese Americans have the highest wages, making 32, 24, and 13 percent more than whites respectively. Demographic (e.g., age, marital status and gender) differences in the workforce account for only a small share of these differences. But if we compare individuals with the same level of education, these raw wage gaps shrink dramatically. The gaps for Indian, Japanese, and Chinese workers fall to 10, 8, and 1 percent, respectively. In other words, for these ethnic groups, education explains most of the wage differences, since on average Indian, Japanese, and Chinese workers have higher levels of education than the rest of the labor force (education explains half to three-quarters of the observed wage gaps). For Koreans and Filipinos, while their average wages are higher than whites, amongst individuals with the same education, their wages are actually lower than those for whites. Similar results explain the difference in unemployment rates between AAPIs and whites.²⁵

Chart 5: Median weekly earnings in 2013 by race and detailed ethnicity (weekly earnings, employed 16+)



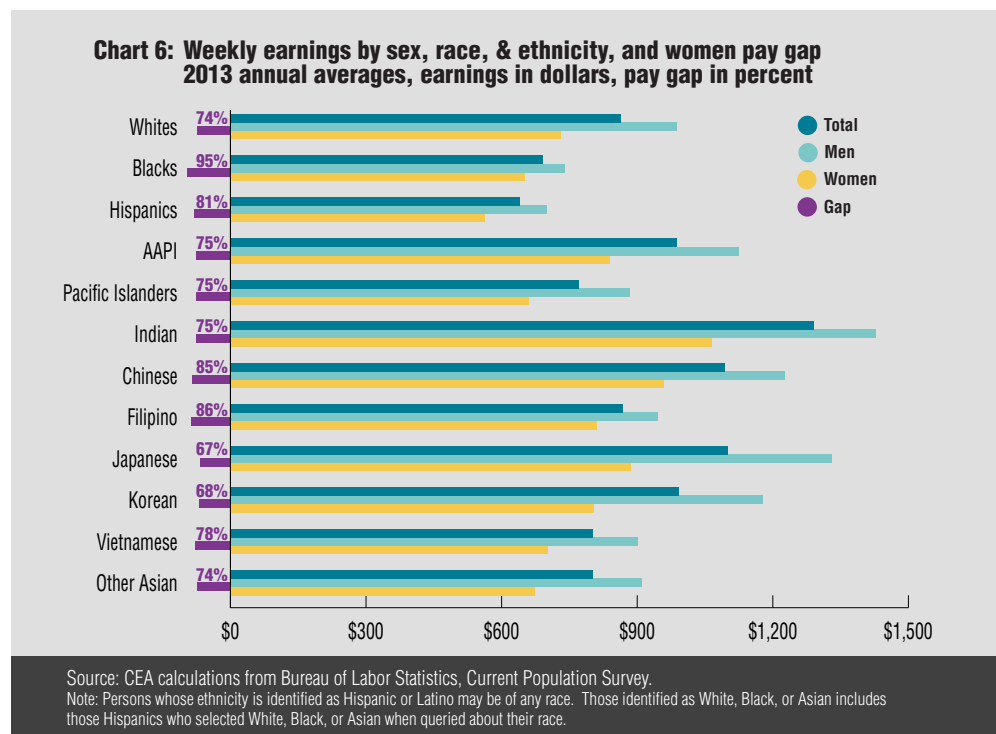
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Council of Economic Advisers.

“In other words, for these ethnic groups, education explains most of the wage differences, since on average Indian, Japanese, and Chinese workers have higher levels of education than the rest of the labor force.”

Geography also plays a significant role in explaining the gaps in outcome between AAPI and white wages. Since many AAPI workers are concentrated in relatively high-wage areas—such as metro-areas in California or New Jersey—this also explains some of the difference in average wages relative to whites. When we look at workers who live in similar areas, we see that for the AAPI subgroups whose raw data shows they earn more than whites (Filipino, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean), there is not as much of a difference in their median weekly earnings from whites – the gap in earnings is smaller. The AAPI subgroups whose raw data show that they earn less than whites (Vietnamese and Pacific Islanders), however, have a larger gap in their earnings than the raw data originally shows – they

make even less than their white counterparts who live in similar geographic locations.²⁶ Overall, when workers who are similar in terms of demographics, education, geographic location, citizenship and English language ability are compared, the wage differences between AAPI and white workers change considerably. For Indian and Japanese workers, the wage differences shrink to one-third and one-fourth, respectively, of their original magnitudes. Korean and Filipino workers earn 4 and 9 percent more than white workers overall. But when workers with similar characteristics are compared, Koreans and Filipinos both earn about 6 percent less on average than whites. Chinese workers make roughly 13 percent more than whites on average. This gap, however, is completely eliminated when comparing workers of similar characteristics.²⁷

“When workers with similar characteristics are compared, Koreans and Filipinos both earn about 6 percent less on average than whites.”



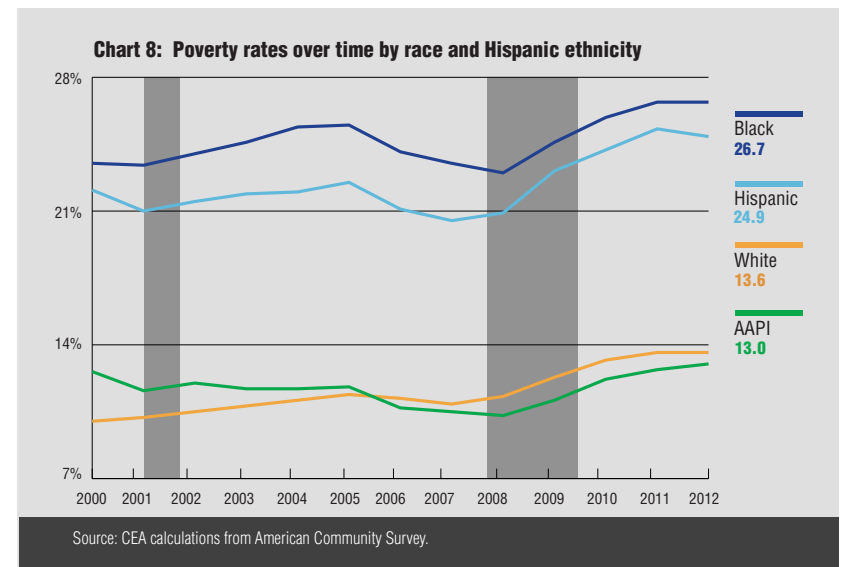
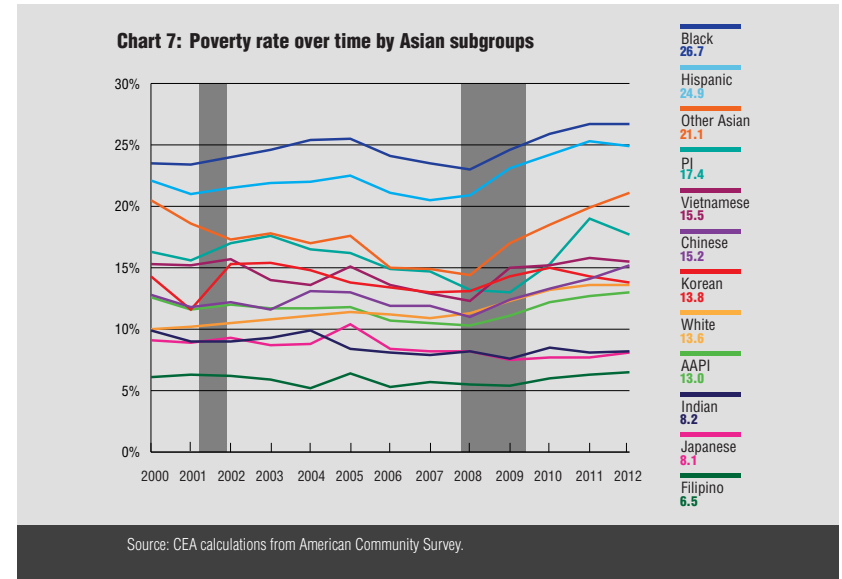
Poverty

Like most other groups, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities had elevated levels of poverty in 2012 relative to their average over the 2001 to 2007 recovery, reflecting the lingering effects of the Great Recession. Given the strong labor market outcomes documented above, it may seem somewhat surprising that in 2012 the official poverty rate among Asian Americans was fairly high at 11.3 percent, and among Pacific Islanders was even higher, at 17.5 percent. The official poverty measure for the AAPI community as a whole is 12.1 percent, which is still much lower than black (27.2 percent) and Hispanic (25.6 percent) measures, but closer than might be expected to the white official poverty levels (12.7 percent).

The official poverty measure (OPM), however, has well known flaws that may particularly distort comparisons of AAPI poverty to that of other racial groups. The OPM is based on the level of a family's pre-tax money income relative to a set of national poverty thresholds that vary by the size and ages of family members. The most serious limitation with the OPM from the standpoint of comparing AAPI poverty to that of other groups is that the poverty thresholds do not take into account dramatic geographic differences in the cost of living. The strong concentration of the AAPI community in California and Hawaii, two of the highest cost of living states in the country, makes a significant difference.

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Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Census constructed a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) that addresses many of the flaws in the OPM. The SPM includes after-tax money income as well as in-kind transfers in its definition of family resources, and compares this to a poverty threshold that is adjusted for geographic differences in the cost of living. Not surprisingly, the poverty rates of Asian Americans are significantly higher under this definition: the Asian American poverty level is 16.3 percent in the SPM, compared to 11.3 percent in the OPM. While Asian Americans have lower official poverty rates than whites, their poverty rates measured by the SPM are higher. Interesting enough, PI poverty falls to 16.5% when using the SPM.



Since the SPM measure is only available since 2009, we must use the OPM to study trends in poverty within the AAPI community. When looking at AAPI poverty over time (beginning in 2000), Koreans are the only group for which the poverty rate in 2012 is below its 2009 level. Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Pacific Islander subgroups had higher poverty rates in 2012 than they did in 2000 (Chart 7). Similarly, the poverty rates for the black, white, and Hispanic communities in 2012 remain above their pre-recession and 2009 levels.

The largest numbers of Asians in poverty are found in cities with the largest numbers of total Asians: New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The highest poverty rates for Asians tended to be in cities with small Asian populations (we caution that smaller samples have relatively higher margins of error). Census estimates that there are 8,163 Asians below the poverty line in Buffalo, NY (32.2 percent Asian poverty rate). Similarly, there are 6,177 Asians below poverty in Madison, WI (24.0 percent Asian poverty rate)²⁸. Restricting the analysis to cities with an Asian community of at least 100,000, the highest Asian poverty rate was found in Sacramento, CA, at 17.8 percent²⁹.

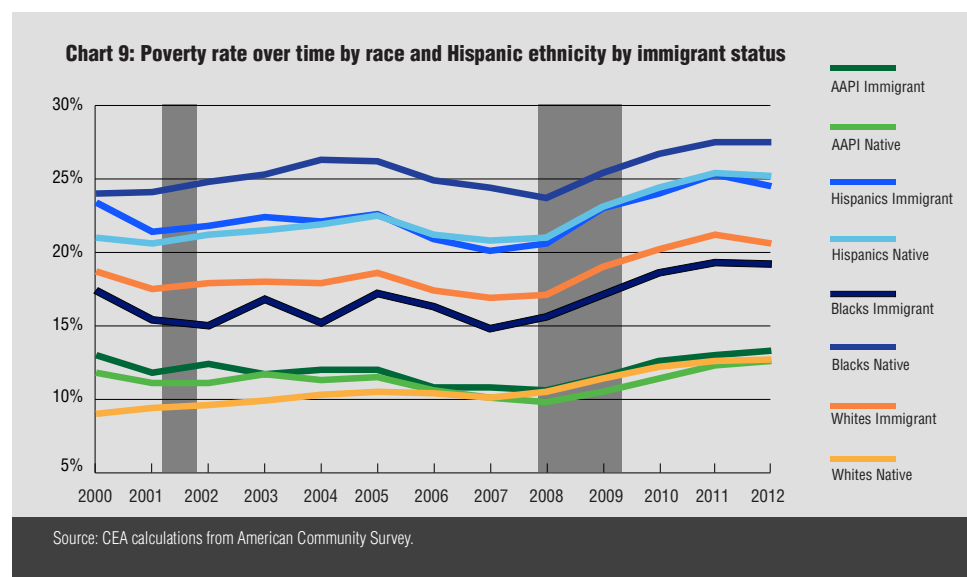
As one might predict, the city with the largest number of

“The Asian American poverty level is 16.3 percent in the SPM.”

Pacific Islanders

in poverty is Honolulu, HI—which is also the metropolitan area with the largest overall population of Pacific Islanders (22,698 PI in poverty—24 percent poverty rate)³⁰.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is not monolithic. As this report demonstrates, the AAPI community still feels the scars from the great recession with high shares of long-term unemployed and elevated levels of poverty. To fully understand the impact the Great Recession has had on the AAPI community, we must first understand the heterogeneity within the group. Within the AAPI community, there are great disparities in economic earnings and labor force participation. The next sections of this report outline activities and policies the Department of Labor and others are undertaking to most effectively engage, educate, and protect AAPI workers.



Work of the Department of Labor on behalf of the AAPI Community

Worker Safety and Health

According to data provided by the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for 2012, a total of 147 Asian American and seven Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander workers died on the job. Fatal assaults and acts of violence accounted for the highest percentage of fatal work injuries to Asian Americans (49 percent). The second highest percentage of fatal occupational injuries to Asian Americans (19 percent) resulted from transportation incidents, including incidents on and off highways, as well as those involving air, rail, and water transportation. Compared to published counts of fatal work injuries to workers of other races, a lower percentage of Asian American workers were killed as a result of work-related trauma, including contact with objects and equipment and exposure to harmful substances and environments.

In 2012, Asian American workers and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander workers accounted for 1.7 percent of all non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work, with 15,770 and 3,500 incidents, respectively, out of a total of 1,153,980. This is similar to the proportion of total incidents from 2011, when AAPIs respectively accounted for 14,020 and 3,480 non-fatal injuries and illnesses out of a total of 1,181,290. In 2012, the private sector industry with the most non-fatal injuries or illnesses for Asian American workers was health care and social assistance (3,220 incidents), followed by manufacturing (2,430), and accommodation and food services (2,390). Health care and social assistance (650 incidents); accommodation and food services (510 incidents); and retail trade (280 incidents) were among industries with a high number of injuries and illnesses for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander workers.

OSHA has made significant strides to address worker safety and health in nail and hair salons. Of the 375,000 nail technicians working in salons across the United States, 40% are AAPI workers. In 2013 and 2014, OSHA staff spoke at several AAPI nail salon forums, sent hundreds of letters to nail salon employers with educational information and resources, and translated and distributed more than 17,000 printed copies of a publication on nail salon safety in Korean and Vietnamese. This publication is currently being translated into simplified Chinese and Nepalese. To educate salon workers on the use of Toluene, a flammable and potentially hazardous substance used in nail polish, glue, and adhesives, OSHA has created a new web page and fact sheet on Toluene safety in nail salon products. These resources are being translated into Korean and Vietnamese. In fiscal year 2013, OSHA awarded more than \$500,000 and in fiscal year 2014, more than \$600,000 in Harwood capacity-building and targeted topic grants to organizations

that provided training and resources in Korean, Vietnamese, Nepalese, and Mandarin Chinese to hair and nail salon workers. Grants were also awarded to groups that serve AAPI workers in health care, construction, restaurant, and other industries.

Fair Treatment of Workers

The Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) enforces the civil rights of the nearly 22 percent of workers in the U.S. who work for or seek employment with federal contractors and subcontractors. OFCCP has prioritized worker education and community engagement, which includes providing critical information about workers' rights in ways that are linguistically accessible and culturally competent for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

In fiscal year 2012, OFCCP recovered nearly \$500,000 in back wages for more than 600 AAPI workers who were affected by employment discrimination. This accounted for about 10 percent of the \$5 million in back pay that went to workers who experienced discrimination because of race, color, or national origin that year and represents a 200 percent increase in the amount of financial remedies recovered for Asian American workers who were adversely affected by race-based discrimination in the previous year.

Outreach and Education

Across its agencies, the department has conducted significant outreach and education to AAPI communities. In the last three years, OSHA has increased its number of outreach activities to AAPI-specific communities by 50 percent by hosting and actively participating in AAPI-specific focused events throughout the nation, including regional interagency working groups, summits, fairs, forums, worker trade meetings, training events, consular partnerships, and alliance signings. From 2011 to 2014, OSHA hosted (along with the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs) regional Asian American and Pacific Islander Worker Protection Summits in New York, San Francisco, and Palisades Park, New Jersey. The summits convened more than 150 community-based organizations, service providers, advocacy organizations, and labor unions representing AAPI workers. OSHA staff conducted presentations in Asian languages to workers on their right to a safe and healthy workplace. Agency representatives fluent in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Hindi, and Tagalog were available during these events to answer questions, give interviews, and provide multilingual materials and information to

workers in various trades and industries. The Worker Protection Summits fostered a relationship development opportunity to discuss worker protection issues, including workplace safety and health, wages and overtime pay protections, and employment discrimination.

OSHA actively pursues participants in the Alliance Program, where organizations work together to prevent injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the workplace. OSHA has signed Alliances with the Philippine Consulate in various regions to develop training programs and conduct outreach on workplace hazards and worker rights for Filipino workers and employers. OSHA also has an Alliance with the Korean Cleaners Association of New Jersey to protect workers from the hazards common in the dry cleaning industry.

Pursuant to a formal partnership between the Department of Labor and the Philippine Embassy, the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) district offices have signed 15 arrangements with Philippine consulates around the country, the latest with the Gulf Coast District Office. The arrangements will facilitate the process of referrals of valid complaints, the dissemination of education and outreach materials to low-wage vulnerable workers, the training of consular staff, and the restitution of wages owed to the workers. To date, the Embassy and its consular network will also soon sign arrangements with South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Since fiscal year 2012, the department's WHD has conducted 208 outreach events providing valuable information and compliance assistance to AAPI worker and employer communities, nationwide. In addition to regularly translating press releases on WHD activities, the agency has translated more than 100 different publications into several AAPI languages including Chinese, Hmong Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese. These materials are designed to ensure that workers understand the law and know where to go for help. The translated publications include fact sheets, posters, employee rights cards, bookmarks, forms, and public service announcements.

To increase awareness among AAPI communities about federal wage and hour laws, the Department's Wage and Hour Division regularly engages with AAPI community organizations and other stakeholders through a variety of outreach forms. For example, Wage and Hour Division staff in Houston recently participated in a live Vietnamese language interview about the Fair Labor Standards Act and Family Medical Leave Act for the Vietnamese American Network Television station evening show, "Social Services – Benefits and Your Life." Staff in West Covina, CA participated in a similar on-camera interview for the Kababayan Today-LA18, a Filipino-American community program broadcasted daily throughout Southern California.

The Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) educates workers about their health insurance and pension benefits. EBSA Benefits Advisors have provided technical guidance and assistance in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Hindi, Tagalog, Lao, Khmer (Cambodian), Bengali, Hmong, and Telugu. EBSA Benefits Advisors participated in a White House AAPI Roundtable in Atlanta to provide information on health benefits. EBSA also has a publication that provides information on the laws it administers and educates workers who have lost their jobs on how they can protect their retirement benefits and maintain health coverage, which has been translated into Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese.

Working with Faith-Based Communities

The Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) works within the department and with external community groups, immigrant worker organizations, and AAPI partners to address worker safety and workforce development issues. The CFBNP works with the department's Wage and Hour Division and the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the Restaurant Opportunities Center United, and the Thai Community Development Corporation to address issues such as the home care rule, wage theft, proposed increase in the minimum wage, and the tip wage credit. The CFBNP has been working with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, the Korean Churches for Community Development, and the National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development on accessing workforce development grants and programs. The CFBNP continues to serve as a resource for all other parts of the Department of Labor in making connections with AAPI organizations and communities.

Connecting and Improving Employment Opportunities

The Department of Labor promotes policies that ensure meaningful access to services in American Job Centers by all individuals, including those with limited English proficiency.³¹ The department has in place guidance and resources for state workforce agencies, local workforce areas, and American Job Centers to serve customers with diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. In the most recent program year (July 2012 to June 2013), the department's Employment Service program served 535,000 AAPIs at American Job Centers, roughly three percent of total participants.³²

The Department of Labor also has several programs connecting AAPI and other adults to employment and training services. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs served over 70,000 AAPI participants from July 2012 through June 2013, and over 53,000 AAPIs exited these programs from

April 2012 through March 2013.³³ Since fiscal year 2011, the department has funded grant competitions to train workers for good jobs in high-growth and emerging industries, including information technology, advanced manufacturing, and health care. As of December 2013, 5,227 AAPIs have participated in employment and training programs funded by fees paid by employers who use H-1B temporary visas to hire high-skilled foreign workers.

The Department of Labor is also investing in employment opportunities for AAPI youth. From July 2012 to June 2013, the WIA Youth Program served nearly 6,000 AAPI participants.³⁴ In addition, programs such as the department's YouthBuild and Job Corps programs are intended to provide job training and educational opportunities for low-income or at-risk youth ages 16 to 24, including AAPI youth. From 2007 (when YouthBuild began with the Department of Labor),³⁵ to December 31, 2013, the YouthBuild program enrolled 764 youth who identified as AAPI, about 2.5 percent of all YouthBuild participants. The proportion of AAPI participants is higher in grantees located in states with larger AAPI populations. From 2007 to December 31, 2013, there have been 143 AAPI youth enrolled in California YouthBuild grant programs, 4.5 percent of the total enrollments within California. In Hawaii, the 211 AAPI participants comprised 95 percent of all YouthBuild enrollments in the state.³⁶

In the last full program year of 2012 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013), Job Corps enrolled 1,081 students who identified themselves as AAPI, representing 2.6 percent of Job Corps' total student population nationwide.³⁷ As with YouthBuild, the proportion of AAPI students is higher in Job Corps centers located in states with larger AAPI populations. There were 2,747 students enrolled in the seven Job Corps centers located in California in program year 2012, with 207 (7.5 percent) of those students identifying themselves as Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders. The Hawaii Job Corps Center and its Maui satellite center currently receive students from U.S. territories in the Pacific where AAPIs comprise a majority of the local population. In program year 2012, there were 220 AAPI students at the Hawaii Job Corps Center, comprising 86.3 percent of that center's total enrollment. Job Corps outreach includes youth from AAPI families with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Written outreach and application materials have been translated into Chinese, and in California there are bilingual Admissions Counselors fluent in Chinese and Tagalog. Where bilingual Admissions Counselors are not available, Job Corps employs contracted interpreters to assist LEP applicants.

Assisting Unemployed Workers

In 2013, 3.4 percent of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants were AAPIs, which translates to approximately 273,000 AAPIs³⁸ who received approximately \$2.11 billion in benefits from all UI programs, including Extended Benefits and

Emergency Unemployment Compensation for long-term unemployment (lasting longer than six months) in states with high unemployment rates. In addition, 6,036 AAPIs have participated in programs funded by Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants. These grants support partnerships between community colleges, employers, and the public workforce system to expand targeted training programs for unemployed workers, especially those impacted by foreign trade. In fiscal year 2013, nine TAACCCT grantees were Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving institutions.

Building Tools to Analyze Data

An effort spearheaded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, the department is in process of developing an interactive thematic map to support the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The color-coded, thematic maps allow both non-technical and advanced users to examine data on the population density for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The maps allow users to select their area of interest, cartographic layer, and review AAPI population centers located near the Department of Labor's 2,542 American Job Centers, 129 Job Corps Centers, 86 Occupational Safety and Health Administration area offices, and 52 Wage and Hour Division district offices. The map also has a feature that illustrates the relationship between population counts and the distribution of Department of Labor-funded programs. In the next phase of the project, the department will add data to include Employee Benefits Security Administration and Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs locations. Planned enhancements will allow users to perform analysis on thematic maps and indicators (such as language proficiency, age cohort information, unemployment rates, and Department of Labor enforcement data) for the purpose of regional management decision making.

Conclusion

The status of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States post-Great Recession is complex. The data shows that AAPI individuals and workers are a heterogeneous group with varying economic situations. As a result, AAPIs have not been uniformly affected by the economic downturn and subsequent recovery. In addition to examining data on the AAPI community, the Department of Labor and the Obama Administration have undertaken efforts to prioritize and strengthen worker safety, education, and reduce discrimination. Efforts to collect and analyze data, as done in this report, will continue to inform and shape the policy priorities of the Department and this Administration as related to the AAPI community.

Appendix

This report looks at the most recent data available for the AAPI community as of 2013. Some parts, which will be identified, will have 3 years of pooled data due to the small sample sizes. The three year pools are limited and done only when needed. Some reports pool 5 years of data to capture characteristics of more AAPI sub-groups, our report does not take that approach, as we wanted to avoid including data that would be skewed by the effects of the Great Recession.

Acknowledgments

The Department would like to thank the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders for their support with this report. We hope this report serves as a valuable resource for the AAPI community.

Table 4: Unemployment Rate Regressions for AAPI Sub-Groups (Relative to Whites)

	No additional controls	Demographics	Education	Citizenship/language	Geography	Plus Citizenship/language	Plus Geography
Pacific Islander	0.0340***	0.0260***	0.0201***	0.0263***	0.0280***	0.0213***	0.0230***
	(0.00386)	(0.00382)	(0.00379)	(0.00382)	(0.00394)	(0.00379)	(0.00391)
Indian	-0.0124***	-0.00326**	0.0135***	-0.00193	-0.00633***	0.0200***	0.0156***
	(0.00155)	(0.00156)	(0.00155)	(0.00159)	(0.00157)	(0.00158)	(0.00159)
Chinese	-0.0123***	-0.00222	0.00171	-0.00527***	-0.00818***	0.00843***	0.000464
	(0.00137)	(0.00137)	(0.00137)	(0.00138)	(0.00139)	(0.00139)	(0.00140)
Filipino	-0.00460***	0.00257*	0.0110***	0.00323**	-0.00561***	0.0145***	0.00460***
	(0.00156)	(0.00155)	(0.00154)	(0.00155)	(0.00158)	(0.00155)	(0.00159)
Japanese	-0.0356***	-0.0257***	-0.0115***	-0.0252***	-0.0276***	-0.00717***	-0.00961***
	(0.00230)	(0.00231)	(0.00231)	(0.00232)	(0.00244)	(0.00232)	(0.00244)
Korean	-0.00744***	-0.00159	0.00873***	-0.00418*	-0.00591**	0.0154***	0.00953***
	(0.00243)	(0.00241)	(0.00242)	(0.00242)	(0.00242)	(0.00243)	(0.00244)
Vietnamese	0.00782***	0.0142***	-0.000642	0.00903***	0.0106***	0.00464**	-0.000535
	(0.00229)	(0.00229)	(0.00229)	(0.00230)	(0.00229)	(0.00230)	(0.00231)
Other Asian	0.0180***	0.0148***	0.0105***	0.0136***	0.0130***	0.0160***	0.0128***
	(0.00217)	(0.00215)	(0.00214)	(0.00216)	(0.00216)	(0.00215)	(0.00216)
Black	0.0879***	0.0732***	0.0652***	0.0733***	0.0736***	0.0655***	0.0659***
	(0.000723)	(0.000712)	(0.000706)	(0.000713)	(0.000728)	(0.000706)	(0.000722)
Hispanic	0.0337***	0.0228***	-0.00401***	0.0194***	0.0191***	0.00288***	-0.00276***
	(0.000562)	(0.000562)	(0.000593)	(0.000637)	(0.000600)	(0.000642)	(0.000675)

Robust standard errors in parentheses

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

Source: Counsel of Economic Advisers calculations from American Community Survey (2011-2013).

Table 5: Wage Gap Regressions for AAPI Sub-Groups (Relative to Whites)

	No additional controls	Demographics	Education	Citizenship/ language	Geography	Plus Citizenship/ language	Plus Geography
Pacific Islander	-0.0909***	-0.0544***	-0.0000652	-0.0461***	-0.0973***	0.00597	-0.0369***
	(0.00880)	(0.00809)	(0.00772)	(0.00799)	(0.00840)	(0.00768)	(0.00797)
Indian	0.316***	0.274***	0.103***	0.328***	0.202***	0.145***	0.0970***
	(0.00499)	(0.00473)	(0.00432)	(0.00476)	(0.00473)	(0.00437)	(0.00437)
Chinese	0.128***	0.0921***	0.0112***	0.191***	0.000212	0.0703***	0.00175
	(0.00443)	(0.00429)	(0.00375)	(0.00402)	(0.00430)	(0.00367)	(0.00368)
Filipino	0.0878***	0.0584***	-0.0112***	0.0873***	-0.0305***	0.0115***	-0.0601***
	(0.00424)	(0.00406)	(0.00382)	(0.00402)	(0.00413)	(0.00380)	(0.00387)
Japanese	0.244***	0.192***	0.0782***	0.230***	0.128***	0.108***	0.0580***
	(0.00782)	(0.00723)	(0.00702)	(0.00730)	(0.00747)	(0.00704)	(0.00727)
Korean	0.0409***	0.0392***	-0.0620***	0.124***	-0.0415***	-0.00652	-0.0657***
	(0.00741)	(0.00705)	(0.00670)	(0.00686)	(0.00700)	(0.00660)	(0.00655)
Vietnamese	-0.101***	-0.131***	-0.0721***	-0.0246***	-0.189***	-0.0169***	-0.0613***
	(0.00640)	(0.00625)	(0.00559)	(0.00596)	(0.00618)	(0.00550)	(0.00547)
Other Asian	-0.102***	-0.0772***	-0.0773***	-0.00722	-0.135***	-0.0351***	-0.0786***
	(0.00549)	(0.00530)	(0.00498)	(0.00518)	(0.00530)	(0.00494)	(0.00496)
Black	-0.196***	-0.140***	-0.0853***	-0.135***	-0.146***	-0.0839***	-0.0900***
	(0.00147)	(0.00136)	(0.00129)	(0.00136)	(0.00138)	(0.00129)	(0.00131)
Hispanic	-0.275***	-0.226***	-0.0845***	-0.115***	-0.280***	-0.0264***	-0.0667***
	(0.00124)	(0.00119)	(0.00118)	(0.00132)	(0.00127)	(0.00127)	(0.00134)

Robust standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1
Source: Counsel of Economic Advisers calculations from American Community Survey (2011-2013).

Chart A1: Educational attainment (percent of total) by race.
(age 25 years and over, annual average 2013)

	White	Black	AAPI	Hispanic
Less than a high school diploma	11.4	14.4	10.2	32.8
High school graduates, no college	30.0	34.2	19.9	30.6
Some college or associate degree	26.7	29.6	17.8	21.1
College graduates	31.9	21.9	52.1	15.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, www.bls.gov/cps.

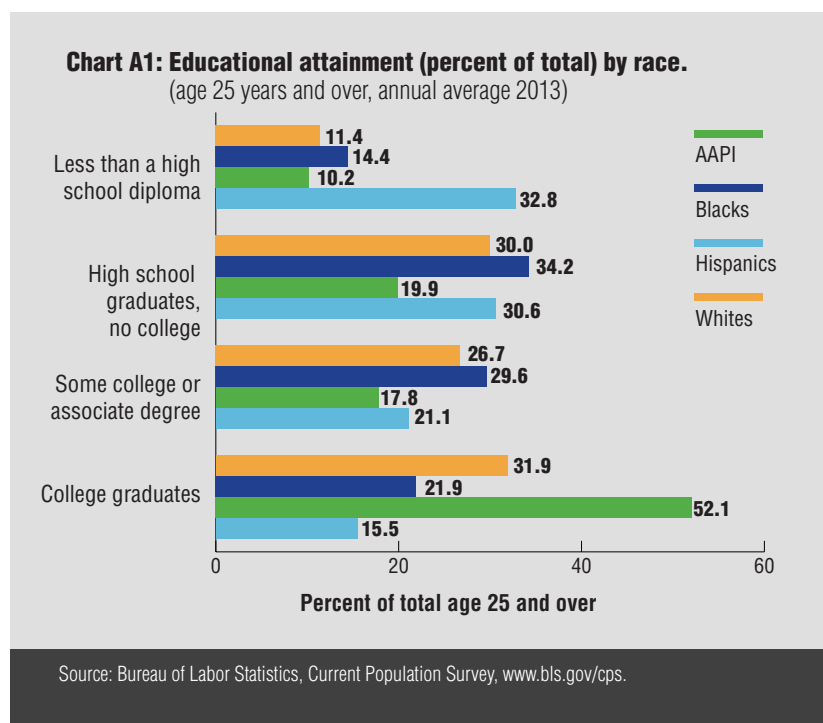


Chart A2: Unemployment rate by education attainment
(age 25 years and over, annual average 2013)

	White	Black	AAPI	Hispanic
Less than a high school diploma	9.7	20.5	6.9	9.1
High school graduates, no college	6.6	12.6	6.2	7.9
Some college or associate degree	5.6	9.8	6.3	7.0
College graduates	3.5	5.7	3.5	5.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, www.bls.gov/cps.

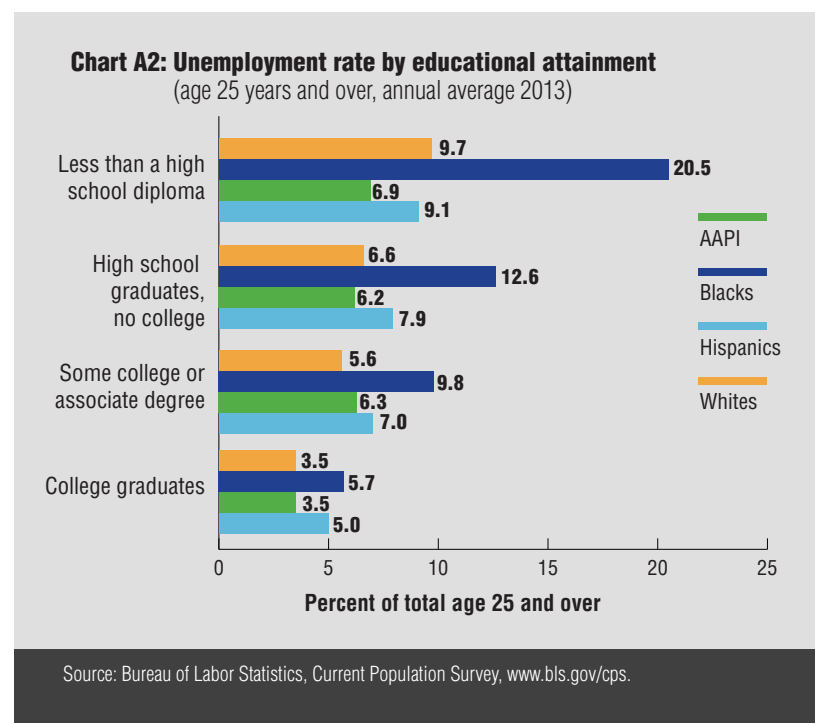
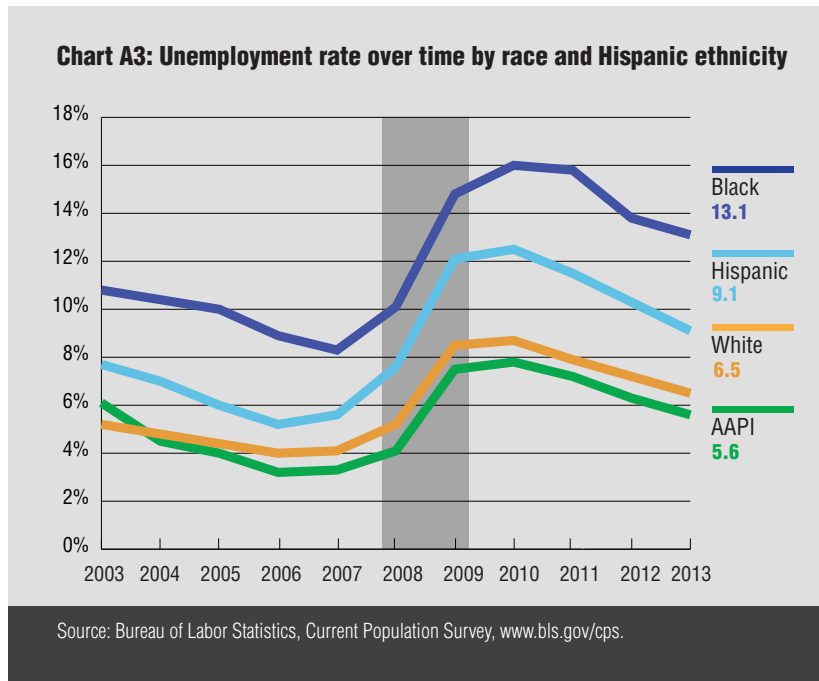


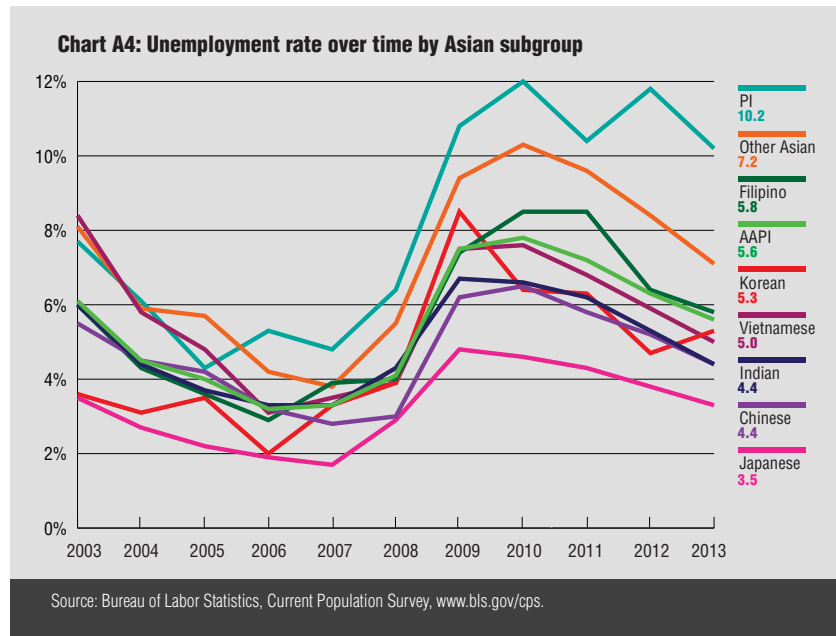
Chart A3: Unemployment rate over time by race and Hispanic ethnicity



Year	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

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, www.bls.gov/cps.

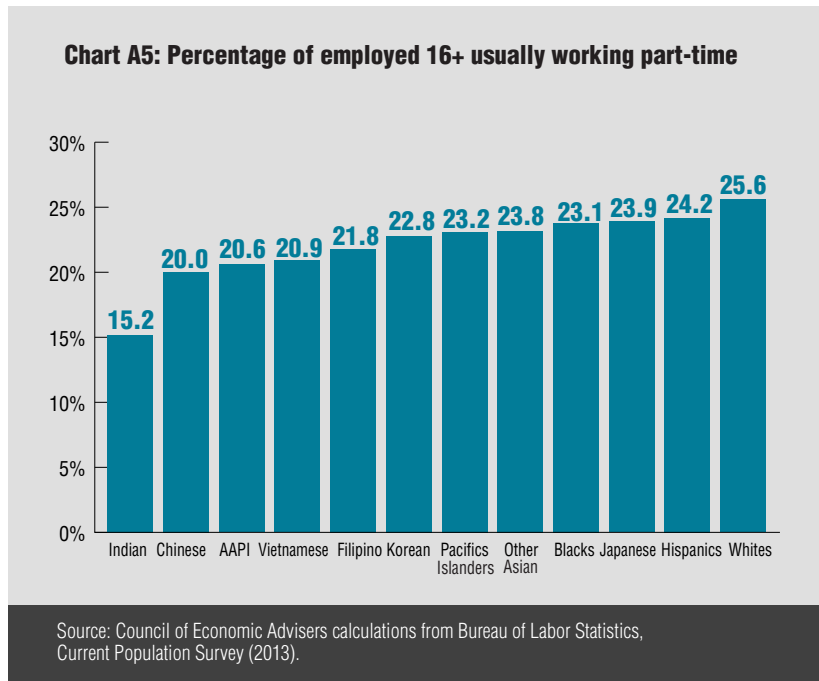
Chart A4: Unemployment rate over time by Asian subgroup



Year	AAPI	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian	Pacific Islander
2003	6.1	6.0	5.5	6.0	3.5	3.6	8.4	8.1	7.7
2004	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.3	2.7	3.1	5.8	5.9	6.1
2005	4.0	3.7	4.2	3.6	2.2	3.5	4.8	5.7	4.3
2006	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.9	1.9	2.0	3.1	4.2	5.3
2007	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.9	1.7	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.8
2008	4.1	4.3	3.0	4.0	2.9	3.9	3.9	5.5	6.4
2009	7.5	6.7	6.2	7.4	4.8	8.5	7.5	9.4	10.8
2010	7.8	6.6	6.5	8.5	4.6	6.4	7.6	10.3	12.0
2011	7.2	6.2	5.8	8.5	4.3	6.3	6.8	9.6	10.4
2012	6.3	5.3	5.2	6.4	3.8	4.7	5.9	8.4	11.8
2013	5.6	4.4	4.4	5.8	3.3	5.3	5.0	7.1	10.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, www.bls.gov/cps.

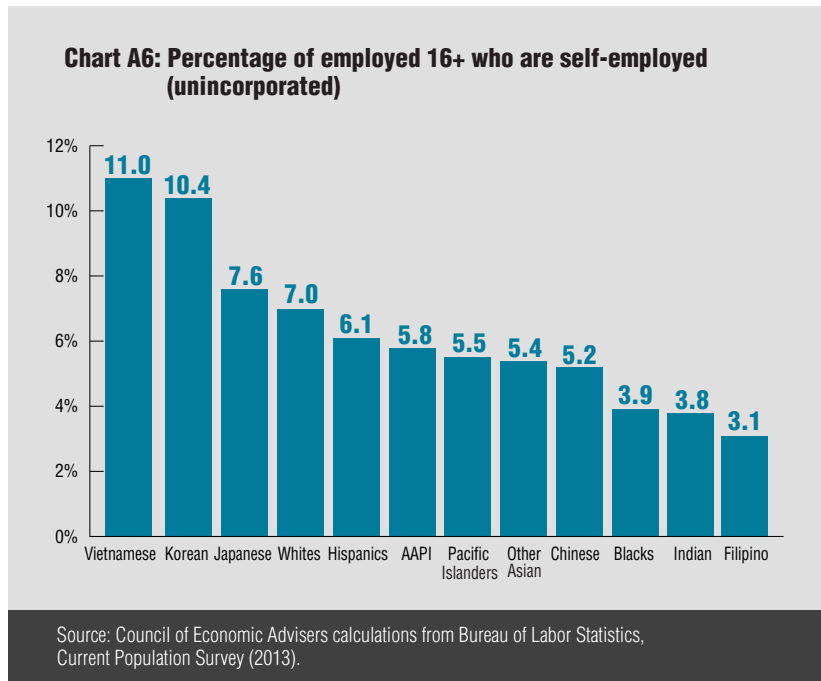
Chart A5: Percentage of employed 16+ usually working part-time



Race	Percentage
Indian	15.2
Chinese	20
AAPI	20.6
Vietnamese	20.9
Filipino	21.8
Korean	22.8
Pacific Islanders	23.1
Other Asian	23.2
Blacks	23.8
Japanese	23.9
Hispanics	24.2
Whites	25.6

Source: Council of Economic Advisers calculations from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (2013).

Chart A6: Percentage of employed 16+ who are self-employed (unincorporated)



Race	Percentage
Vietnamese	11
Korean	10.4
Japanese	7.6
Whites	7
Hispanics	6.1
AAPI	5.8
Pacific Islanders	5.5
Other Asian	5.4
Chinese	5.2
Blacks	3.9
Indian	3.8
Filipino	3.1

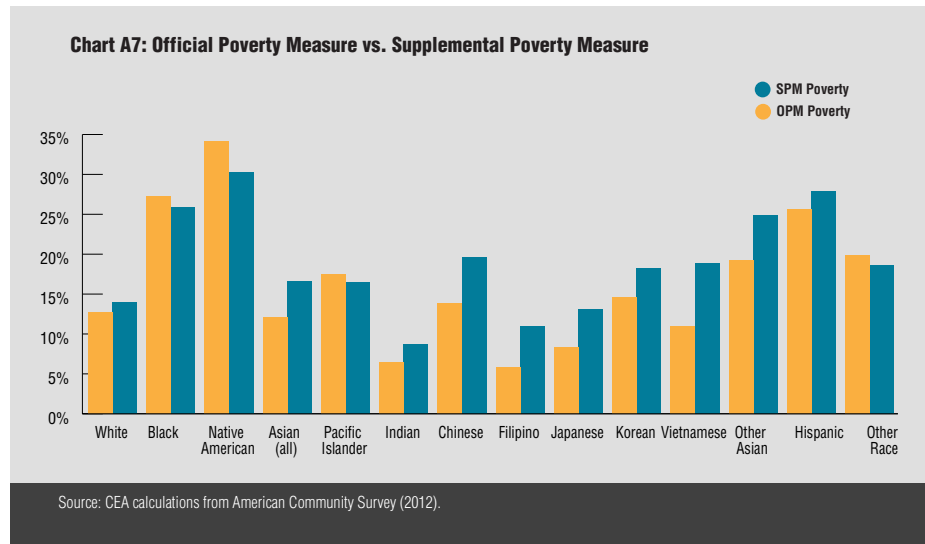
Source: Council of Economic Advisers calculations from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (2013).

Table 6: Poverty rate over time by Asian subgroup and PI ethnicity by immigrant status

Year	Indian		Chinese		Filipino		Japanese		Korean		Vietnamese		Other Asian		Pacific Islander	
	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant
2000	9.9	9.9	10.4	13.8	7.3	5.6	4.8	15.6	11.8	15.0	17.8	14.5	20.0	20.8	15.8	17.5
2001	9.2	8.9	9.1	13.0	8.0	5.6	4.7	14.3	10.4	12.0	15.9	14.9	18.2	18.9	15.8	15.1
2002	8.8	9.0	9.1	13.4	6.2	6.2	5.0	15.3	9.6	16.7	16.8	15.4	19.3	16.0	15.8	20.7
2003	9.8	9.2	9.8	12.4	7.4	5.2	5.1	13.6	11.8	16.5	14.7	13.8	20.6	16.1	18.1	16.3
2004	11.5	9.3	10.5	14.2	6.8	4.4	5.4	13.3	11.7	15.8	15.4	12.8	16.4	17.4	15.4	20.0
2005	8.7	8.3	11.5	13.6	7.3	6.0	6.0	16.8	10.2	14.8	15.5	14.9	18.7	16.9	15.3	19.0
2006	8.9	7.8	10.3	12.6	6.2	4.9	5.5	12.6	11.7	13.9	14.8	13.1	15.3	14.9	14.3	16.5
2007	8.1	7.9	9.9	12.7	6.2	5.4	5.7	11.8	9.6	14.0	13.1	12.8	16.8	13.6	12.7	19.6
2008	7.5	8.4	9.3	11.7	7.3	4.6	6.1	10.8	9.6	14.4	13.0	12.0	14.1	14.7	11.6	17.3
2009	7.0	7.8	9.9	13.5	6.1	5.1	5.5	10.3	11.6	15.2	17.0	14.1	16.6	17.3	12.6	14.1
2010	9.0	8.4	10.3	14.5	6.6	5.7	6.6	9.6	13.1	15.6	14.5	15.5	18.0	18.7	14.1	17.9
2011	7.8	8.1	10.7	15.5	7.6	5.8	6.1	10.2	12.4	15.0	15.4	15.9	19.1	20.3	18.6	19.8
2012	8.3	8.1	11.5	16.8	7.8	5.9	6.1	11.2	11.8	14.5	16.5	15.0	20.5	21.5	17.6	17.9

Source: CEA calculations from American Community Survey.

Chart A7: Official Poverty Measure vs. Supplemental Poverty Measure



	OPM Poverty	SPM Poverty
White	12.7%	14.0%
Black	27.2%	25.9%
Native American	34.2%	30.3%
Asian (all)	12.1%	16.6%
Pacific Islander	17.5%	16.5%
Indian	6.5%	8.7%
Chinese	13.9%	19.6%
Filipino	5.8%	11.0%
Japanese	8.3%	13.1%
Korean	14.6%	18.2%
Vietnamese	11.0%	18.9%
Other Asian	19.3%	24.9%
Hispanic	25.6%	27.9%
Other Race	19.9%	18.6%

Source: CEA calculations from the American Community Survey (2012).

Endnotes

¹ For simplicity in this report, we use the term “AAPI” to refer to the combined Asian and Pacific Islander populations living in the United States regardless of citizenship. OMB defines official race designations for use in government statistics, but OMB does not define a combined AAPI race category. “Asian” is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg_1997standards/

² Will refer to this group as Pacific Islanders throughout the report

³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Single Year of Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/PEP/2013/PEPALL5N/0100000US?slice=year~est72013>
Note: individuals may report more than one race.

⁴ See Takaki, Ronald. Strangers from a Different Shore.

⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Single Year of Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/PEP/2013/PEPALL5N/0100000US?slice=year~est72013>
Note: individuals may report more than one race.

⁶ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

⁷ BLS Current Population Survey

⁸ People 16 years of age and older residing in the 50 States and the District of Columbia who are not inmates of institutions (penal, mental facilities, homes for the aged), and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces

⁹ BLS Current Population Survey

¹⁰ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹¹ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹² BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹³ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹⁴ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹⁵ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹⁶ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹⁷ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

¹⁸ See appendix for illustrations of these trends

¹⁹ Appendix Table 4

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

²² BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

²³ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

²⁴ BLS Current Population Survey – CEA calculations

²⁵ Appendix Table A2

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ U.S. Census 2013 population estimates

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ On July 22, President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law. WIOA reaffirmed the role of the American Job Center service delivery system, a cornerstone of the public workforce investment system, and brought together and enhanced several key employment, education and training programs.

³² This number is an unduplicated count of all participants who identified as Asian and/or Pacific Islander, alone or in combination with other racial categories.

³³ These numbers are unduplicated counts of all participants/exiters who identified as Asian and/or Pacific Islander, alone or in combination with other racial categories.

³⁴ This number is an unduplicated count of all participants who identified as Asian and/or Pacific Islander, alone or in combination with other racial categories.

³⁵ YouthBuild was transferred from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the U.S. Department of Labor in September 2006

³⁶ Because the YouthBuild grants categorize youth based on the Census categories, Asian and Hawaiian Native or Other Pacific Islander are separate race categories and therefore, there may be duplication in these counts where youth consider themselves to be both Asian and Hawaiian Native or Other Pacific Islander (such as in Hawaii).

³⁷ These numbers are unduplicated counts of all Job Corps students who identified as Asian and/or Pacific Islander, alone or in combination with other racial categories.

³⁸ In the H-1B funded grant and TAACCCT grant data, individuals who identify as both Asian and Pacific Islander may be double-counted.

Addendum: Tables Data

Chart 1: College graduates among Asian ethnicities

Age 25 years and over, annual average 2013

	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian	AAPI
College graduates	26.5	76.1	56.8	48.5	49.1	58.7	29.5	41.6	51.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. Council of Economic Advisers calculations for all except Hawaiian and Pacific Islander.

Chart 2: Labor Force Participation rates by race and ethnicity

Year	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

Source: calculations based on BLS CPS annual averages.

Chart 3: Labor Force Participation rates by Asian ethnicities and Pacific Islander

Year	AAPI	PI	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian
2003	66.5	68.9	72.0	64.8	73.3	58.0	61.2	64.2	68.0
2004	66.2	71.8	72.0	62.5	70.3	62.7	60.5	66.1	67.5
2005	66.4	73.4	70.4	63.6	70.8	63.9	60.7	65.6	66.6
2006	66.7	74.5	70.5	64.7	71.8	62.0	60.9	65.3	66.0
2007	66.8	73.0	69.5	65.7	72.8	60.4	60.6	65.3	65.7
2008	67.3	72.5	69.5	65.8	74.1	58.4	61.3	66.0	66.5
2009	66.2	69.4	69.9	64.3	69.7	55.7	60.1	67.7	66.9
2010	64.9	68.4	69.2	63.7	67.2	55.3	59.2	65.5	64.9
2011	64.8	69.4	69.6	63.7	68.7	54.5	60.0	63.1	63.4
2012	64.3	71.4	67.3	62.8	67.4	56.4	59.0	65.0	63.2
2013	64.9	70.0	68.0	62.8	68.5	58.2	60.5	64.9	63.5

Source: calculations based on BLS CPS annual averages.

Chart 4: Long term unemployment in 2013 percent of total unemployed, by race and ethnicity

	Blacks	AAPI	Whites	Hispanics
% of unemployed who are long-term unemployed	43.3%	41.7%	35.8%	34.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. Council of Economic Advisers calculations.

Chart 5: Median weekly earnings in 2013 by race and detailed ethnicity

	Whites	Blacks	Hispanics	AAPI	Pacific Islanders	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian
Weekly earnings, employed 16+	\$865	\$692	\$641	\$987	\$770	\$1,291	\$1,093	\$869	\$1,100	\$992	\$802	\$803

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. Council of Economic Advisers.

Chart 6: Weekly earnings characteristics by race 2013 annual averages

	Total	Men	Women	GAP
Pacific Islanders	\$770	\$884	\$660	75%
Indian	\$1291	\$1427	\$1064	75%
Chinese	\$1093	\$1127	\$958	85%
Filipino	\$869	\$945	\$811	86%
Japanese	\$1100	\$1330	\$886	67%
Korean	\$992	\$1177	\$804	68%
Vietnamese	\$802	\$900	\$702	78%
Other Asian	\$803	\$909	\$673	74%
Whites	\$865	\$986	\$731	74%
Blacks	\$692	\$739	\$699	95%
Hispanics	\$641	\$699	\$563	81%
AAPI	\$987	\$1125	\$839	75%

Source: CEA calculations from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Those identified as White, Black, or Asian includes those Hispanics who selected White, Black, or Asian when queried about their race.

Chart 7: Poverty rates over time by race and Hispanic ethnicity

Year	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian	Whites	Pacific Islander	Hispanics	Blacks	AAPI
2000	9.9	12.8	6.1	9.1	14.3	15.3	20.5	10.0	16.3	22.1	23.5	12.6
2001	9.0	11.8	6.3	8.9	11.6	15.2	18.6	10.2	15.6	21.0	23.4	11.6
2002	9.0	12.2	6.2	9.3	15.3	15.7	17.3	10.5	17.0	21.5	24.0	12.0
2003	9.3	11.6	5.9	8.7	15.4	14.0	17.8	10.8	17.6	21.9	24.6	11.7
2004	9.9	13.1	5.2	8.8	14.8	13.6	17.0	11.1	16.5	22.0	25.4	11.7
2005	8.4	13.0	6.4	10.4	13.8	15.1	17.6	11.4	16.2	22.5	25.5	11.8
2006	8.1	11.9	5.3	8.4	13.4	13.6	15.0	11.2	14.9	21.1	24.1	10.7
2007	7.9	11.9	5.7	8.2	13.0	12.9	14.9	10.9	14.7	20.5	23.5	10.5
2008	8.2	11.0	5.5	8.2	13.1	12.3	14.4	11.3	13.2	20.9	23.0	10.3
2009	7.6	12.4	5.4	7.5	14.3	15.0	17.0	12.3	13.0	23.1	24.6	11.1
2010	8.5	13.3	6.0	7.7	15.0	15.2	18.5	13.2	15.3	24.2	25.9	12.2
2011	8.1	14.1	6.3	7.7	14.3	15.8	19.9	13.6	19.0	25.3	26.7	12.7
2012	8.2	15.2	6.5	8.1	13.8	15.5	21.1	13.6	17.7	24.9	26.7	13.0

Source: CEA calculations from American Community Survey.

Chart 8: Poverty rates over time by race and Hispanic ethnicity

Year	Hispanics	Blacks	AAPI	Whites
2000	22.1	23.5	12.6	10.0
2001	21.0	23.4	11.6	10.2
2002	21.5	24.0	12.0	10.5
2003	21.9	24.6	11.7	10.8
2004	22.0	25.4	11.7	11.1
2005	22.5	25.5	11.8	11.4
2006	21.1	24.1	10.7	11.2
2007	20.5	23.5	10.5	10.9
2008	20.9	23.0	10.3	11.3
2009	23.1	24.6	11.1	12.3
2010	24.2	25.9	12.2	13.2
2011	25.3	26.7	12.7	13.6
2012	24.9	26.7	13.0	13.6

Source: CEA calculations from American Community Survey.

Chart 9: Poverty rate over time by race and Hispanic ethnicity by immigrant status

Year	Whites		Blacks		Hispanics		AAPI	
	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant	Native	Immigrant
2000	9.0	18.7	24.0	17.4	21.0	23.4	11.8	13.0
2001	9.4	17.5	24.1	15.4	20.6	21.4	11.1	11.8
2002	9.6	17.9	24.8	15.0	21.2	21.8	11.1	12.4
2003	9.9	18.0	25.3	16.8	21.5	22.4	11.7	11.7
2004	10.3	17.9	26.3	15.2	21.9	22.1	11.3	12.0
2005	10.5	18.6	26.2	17.2	22.5	22.6	11.5	12.0
2006	10.4	17.4	24.9	16.3	21.2	20.9	10.6	10.8
2007	10.1	16.9	24.4	14.8	20.8	20.1	10.1	10.8
2008	10.5	17.1	23.7	15.6	21.0	20.6	9.8	10.6
2009	11.4	19.0	25.4	17.1	23.1	23.0	10.5	11.5
2010	12.2	20.2	26.7	18.6	24.4	24.0	11.4	12.6
2011	12.6	21.2	27.5	19.3	25.4	25.3	12.3	13.0
2012	12.7	20.6	27.5	19.2	25.2	24.5	12.6	13.3

Source: CEA calculations from American Community Survey.



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