



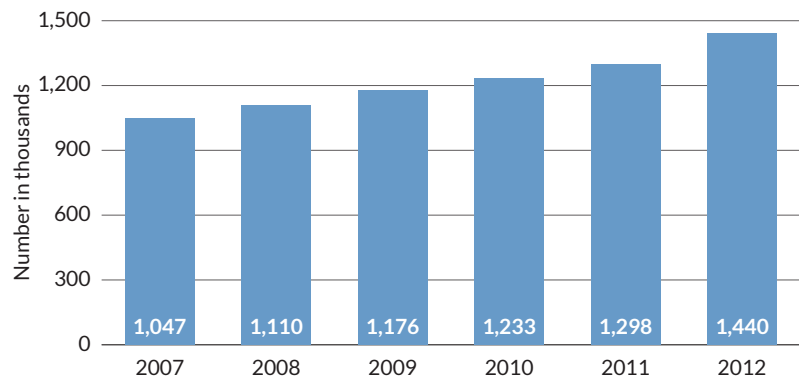
Asian American and Pacific Islander Older Workers: Employment Trends

- Compared to the total U.S. population, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) aged 55 years and older have a higher labor force participation rate (42.5% vs. 38.1%).
- AAPIs across all age ranges (55-75+) have higher unemployment rates than the total U.S. population. Additionally, men have higher unemployment rates than women.
- Labor force participation rates of older workers (55+ years) among AAPI ethnicities range from 10% to 68%.
- Approximately 37% of AAPIs who are 55 years and older have management and professional occupations, followed by 23% in sales and office occupations, 21% in service occupations, and 19% in construction/production occupations.

Labor Force¹ Participation Among AAPI Older Workers

The United States has recently encountered some fluctuations in the aging workforce. There has been an increase in the overall number of older workers in the labor force, as well as an increase in the number of older AAPI workers in the labor force. Among older AAPI workers aged 55 years and older, labor force participation numbers have gradually increased by approximately 37.5%, from 1,047,000 in 2007 to 1,440,000 in 2012 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Labor Force Participation for the Asian Population Aged 55 Years and Older, 2007-2012



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor force statistics from the Current Population Survey, <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=ln>

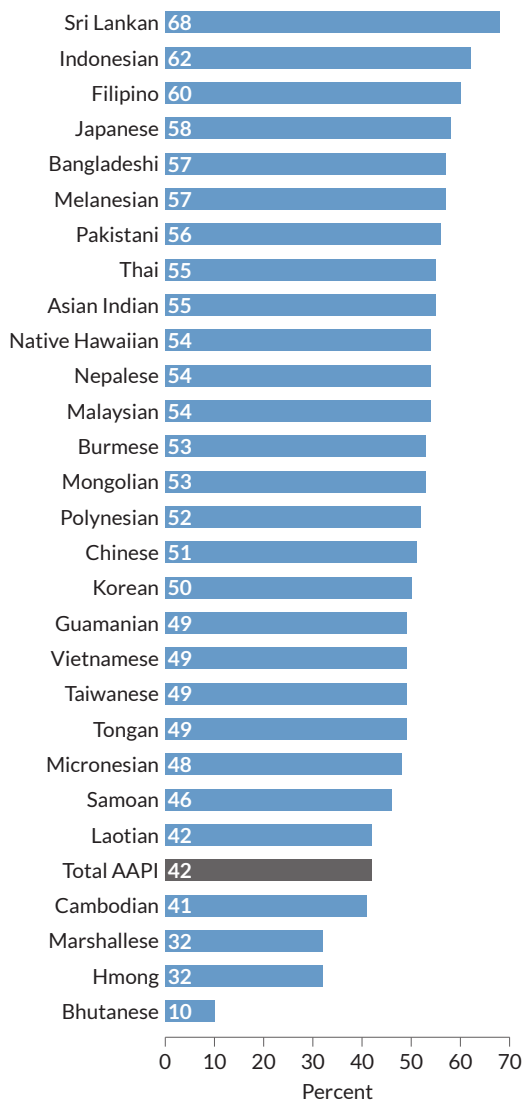
Table 1: Labor Force Participation by Sex and Age

	Number 55+	Percent 55+	Number 55-64	Percent 55-64	Number 65-74	Percent 65-74	Number 75+	Percent 75+
AAPI Labor Force Participation	1,174,275	42.5	962,864	66.6	187,772	23.8	26,639	4.5
Men	625,303	51.0	501,192	76.5	110,459	30.8	13,652	6.5
Women	548,972	35.6	461,672	58.3	77,313	18.0	9,987	3.1
Total U.S. Population Labor Force Participation	27,859,360	38.1	21,833,496	63.7	4,982,532	24.3	1,043,332	5.7
Men	14,841,954	44.9	11,453,324	69.3	2,772,149	29.2	616,481	8.7
Women	13,017,406	32.6	10,380,172	58.5	2,210,383	20.1	426,851	3.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates

¹The labor force is defined as the population that is currently employed and unemployed. Employed individuals are those who are currently working. Unemployed individuals are those who are available and looking for employment, but not currently working.

Figure 2: Labor Force Participation Rates by AAPI Ethnicity, 55 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 ACS, 5-Year Estimates

Among the total population aged 55 years and older in the labor force, 4% are AAPI. AAPIs aged 55 years and older have a higher labor force participation rate (42.5%) than the total U.S. population (38.1%) (Table 1). Moreover, AAPI men tend to have higher labor force participation rates than men in the total U.S. population. AAPI women across all age groups have comparable rates to women in the total U.S. population. AAPIs aged 65 years and older have labor force participation rates similar to those of the total U.S. population of the same age. Labor force participation and rates decrease as individuals age and retire.

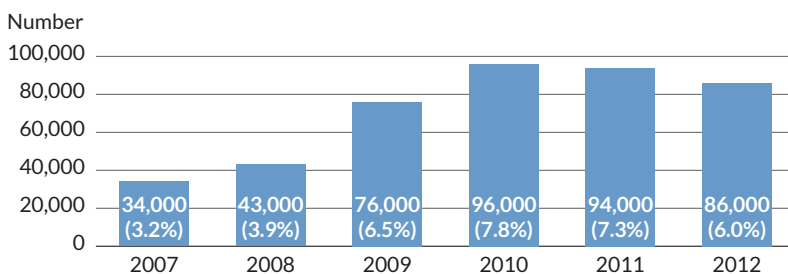
The labor force participation rate varies by AAPI ethnic group. For instance, workforce rates for AAPIs aged 55 years and older range from 10% (Bhutanese) to 68% (Sri Lankan). The median labor force participation rate among AAPI ethnicities for the workforce 55 years and older is 52%, while the aggregated rate is 42%. This is higher than the participation rate of the total U.S. population (38%). Sri Lankans, Indonesians, Filipinos, Japanese, and Bangladeshis have the highest participation rates. Conversely, Laotians, Cambodians, Marshallese, Hmong, and Bhutanese have the lowest participation rates.

Unemployment Status Among AAPI Older Workers

The unemployment status of AAPI older workers fluctuated between 2007 and 2012. Similar to the increase in labor force participation among older AAPIs, there was also an increase in unemployment, from 34,000 (3.2%) in 2007 to 96,000 (7.8%) in 2010. The unemployment rates, however, then decreased to 86,000 (6.0%) in 2012.

Among the total unemployed population 55 years and older, 5% are AAPI. AAPI unemployment rates for older workers are

Figure 3: Unemployment Numbers and Rates for the Asian Population Aged 55 Years and Older, 2007-2012



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor force statistics from the Current Population Survey, <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=ln>

slightly higher than those of the total U.S. population (Table 2). Additionally, both AAPI men and men in the total U.S. population have slightly higher unemployment rates than women.

Unemployment rates among AAPIs aged 55 years and older range from 0% (Marshallese) to 12% (Bangladeshi). The median unemployment rate among AAPI ethnicities is 6%, which is comparable to the aggregated AAPI unemployment rate (6%), but

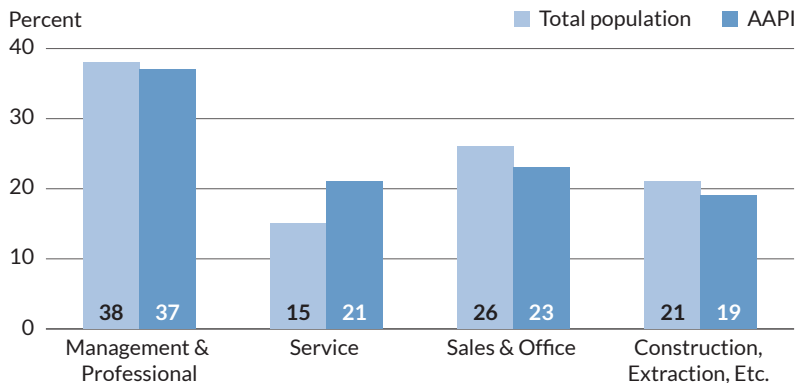
a bit higher than the unemployment rate of the total U.S. population (5%) aged 55 years and older. Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Bhutanese, Tongans, and Samoans have the highest unemployment rates of those 55 years and older. Indonesians, Japanese, Malaysians, Mongolians, and Marshallese have the lowest unemployment rates of that age range.

Table 2: Unemployment Rate by Sex and Age

	Percent 55+	Percent 55-64	Percent 65-74	Percent 75+
AAPI	6.1	6.0	6.3	5.8
Men	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.1
Women	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.3
Total U.S. Population	5.4	5.5	5.3	4.8
Men	5.9	6.0	5.5	4.9
Women	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.7

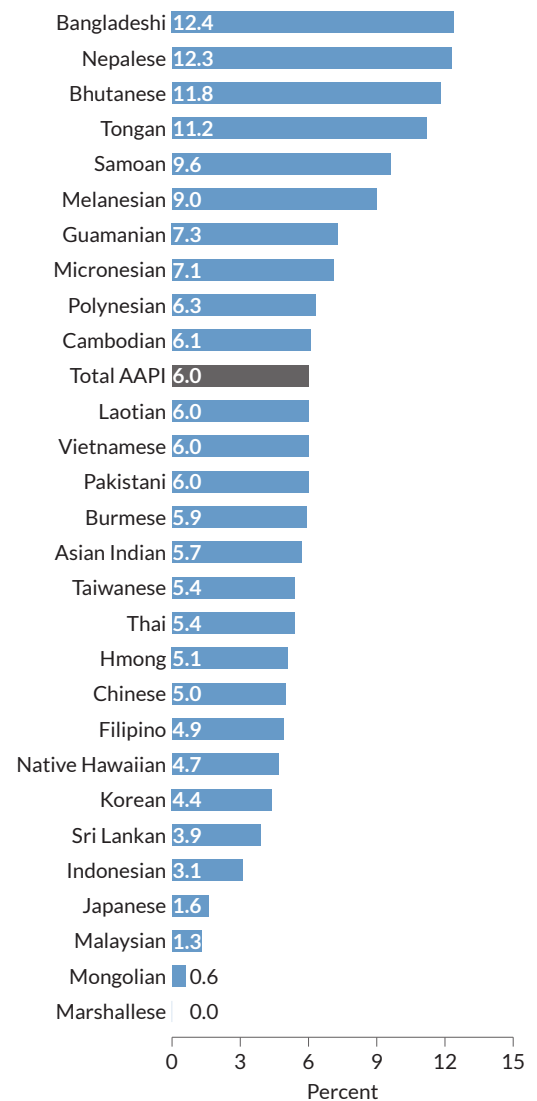
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 ACS, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 5: AAPI and Total U.S. Occupations, 55 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

Figure 4: Unemployment Rates by AAPI Ethnicity, 55 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 ACS, 5-Year Estimates

Occupations Among AAPI Older Workers

According to data from the American Community Survey, approximately 37% of AAPIs who are 55 years and older have management and professional occupations, followed by 23% with sales and office occupations, 21% in service occupations, and 19% in construction/production occupations.

MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Over one-third (37%) of AAPIs 55 years and older work in management and professional occupations, which is comparable to the rate of the total U.S. population (38%). Of the AAPIs who work in management and professional occupations, 15% have healthcare practitioner or other technical jobs (e.g. chiropractors, dentists, veterinarians, registered nurses, clinical laboratory technologists, emergency

medical technicians, etc.). Another 15% are in management fields, such as chief executives and various manager positions. AAPIs in management and professional occupations also have business and financial operations jobs (9%); education, training, and library jobs (7%); and architecture and engineering jobs (6%).

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS

About one in five (21%) AAPIs aged 55 years and older are in service occupations, compared to only 15% of the total U.S. population. Of the AAPIs who work in service occupations, 19% of those jobs are food preparation and serving-related (e.g. chefs, food preparation workers, waiters and waitresses, dishwashers, etc.) and 16% are personal care and service jobs (e.g. hairdressers, personal appearance workers, ushers/lobby attendants/ticket takers, childcare workers, etc.). Other service occupations include building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (13%); healthcare support (7%); and protective service occupations, such as police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, etc. (3%).

SALES AND OFFICE OCCUPATIONS

Approximately one-quarter (23%) of AAPIs aged 55 years and older are in sales and office occupations. Of these, 35% are in sales jobs, such as telemarketers, cashiers, retail salespersons, door-to-door sales workers, real estate brokers, insurance sales agents, etc. Another 35% have office and administrative support jobs. These include telephone operators, file clerks, payroll clerks, receptionists, postal service clerks, administrative assistants, data entry keyers, hotel desk clerks, etc.

CONSTRUCTION, EXTRACTION, PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MATERIAL MOVING

Only 19% of AAPIs aged 55 years and older have construction, extraction, production, transportation, and material moving jobs, compared to 21% of the total U.S. population. Of these, 31% of AAPIs have production occupations, which include jobs from food production (e.g. bakers and butchers) to machinists, tool and die makers, metal workers, and metal furnace operators. AAPIs in this field also have jobs in transportation and material moving (12%); construction and extraction (6%); and installation, maintenance, and repair (6%).

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