Introduction

Using data from the Census Bureau’s 2006-2008 and 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS), this profile outlines characteristics and trends in New York City’s Japanese American population. It presents data on growth rates, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, poverty, income, and housing. Key variables will be placed in context with New York City’s total population.

As the seventh largest Asian ethnic group, Japanese New Yorkers had, relative to all residents:

- higher education levels,
- higher incomes,
- lower poverty rates,
- more likely to rent,
- and lower English skills.

Population

New York City was home to 61 percent of New York State’s Japanese residents. The Japanese population in New York City dropped by 6.6 percent, from 33,868 in 2008 to 31,649 in 2011. Japanese, the seventh largest Asian group in the city, comprised 2.8 percent of the Asian population, which was a slight drop from 3.3 percent in 2008.

By borough, 57 percent of Japanese New Yorkers lived in Manhattan, 23 percent in Queens, 17.5 percent in Brooklyn, 2 percent in the Bronx, and 1 percent in Staten Island. The percent of Japanese in Queens fell from 27 percent in 2008, and the percent of Japanese in Brooklyn rose from 13.6 percent in 2008. Japanese were mostly spread across many neighborhoods in Manhattan. The neighborhoods with large Japanese populations included Lincoln Square, Yorkville, Lenox Hill - Roosevelt Island, Murray Hill - Kips Bay, Turtle Bay - East Midtown, Clinton, East Village, Upper West Side, and Midtown - Midtown South in Manhattan; and Astoria in Queens.

Japanese in New York City were more likely to be working age adults (age 18 to 64) than the general population, with 78 percent of Japanese as working age adults, compared with 66 percent of general population. Also, 16 percent of Japanese were children (under 18 years of age) and 6 percent were seniors (age 65 or older), both lower than 22 percent and 12 percent for all New Yorkers, respectively. The median age of 35.7 years for Japanese was close to the 35.5 years for general population.
More than half of Japanese (57 percent) were female, higher than the 52.5 percent of the citywide population. While only 43 percent of Japanese children were females, 62 percent of Japanese age 18 to 34 years, 58 percent of Japanese age 35 to 64 years, and 63 percent of Japanese seniors were female. By contrast, 49 percent of children, 51.5 percent of those age 18 to 34 years, 53 percent of those age 35 to 64 years, 60 percent of seniors were female citywide.

Education
Japanese in New York City had more schooling than the citywide population. In New York City’s Japanese adult population, the percent without a high school diploma fell from 5 percent in 2008 to 3 percent in 2011, which was significantly lower than 21 percent of general population.

At the other end of the spectrum, 67 percent of Japanese had a bachelor’s degree or higher, which almost doubled the 34 percent of adults in general.

English Proficiency
Japanese were more likely to have limited English proficiency (LEP) than the general population. According to the ACS, the percent of Japanese who spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all” fell from 45 percent in 2008 to 36 percent in 2011, and was still higher than the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. By age group, 28 percent of Japanese children, 41 percent of Japanese adults (age 18 to 64), and 52 percent of Japanese seniors had English limitations, compared with 11 percent, 24 percent, and 33 percent, respectively, of all New Yorkers.

Poverty
The poverty rates of Japanese were lower than that of general population. Overall, 12.1 percent of Japanese lived below the poverty line, lower than the citywide rate of 20.1 percent. Among children, 6.3 percent of Japanese lived in poverty – a much lower rate than 29.1 percent for all children. The 12.9 percent poverty rate of Japanese working age adults (age 18 to 64) was also lower than the 17.5 percent of adults in general. Japanese seniors had similar poverty rate with all elderly New Yorkers (17.5 percent and 18.2 percent respectively).

Income
Japanese in New York City had higher incomes than the general population. Japanese median household income of $61,250 was higher than the citywide figure of $50,331. Median family income for Japanese of $93,453 was above the citywide median family
Japanese per capita income of $43,973 was higher than the citywide per capita income of $30,717.

Figure 2: Poverty Rates of Total Population and Japanese

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-64</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Housing

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Japanese had smaller households (averaging 1.82 people). Japanese households were less crowded than other Asian households, with 7 percent of Japanese households having more than one occupant per room, close to 9 percent of households in general.\(^9\)

A higher percentage of Japanese households rented in New York City, compared to households overall. Over four in five (82 percent) Japanese households rented, compared with 68 percent for the city overall.

Japanese households in New York City devoted a similar share of their income to housing expenses with households in general.\(^10\) Among homeowners, 41 percent of Japanese households paid thirty percent or more of their household income to owner costs, compared with 51 percent of all households that owned.\(^11\) For renters, 49 percent of Japanese households spent more than thirty percent of their household income on rent and utilities, compared with 53 percent of all households that rented.

Footnotes

1. Data source used in this brief were the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and are for the Japanese Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.
2. Data based on Japanese Alone.
3. Data from Census 2010, and for Japanese Alone or in Any Combination and neighborhood definitions from the New York City Department of City Planning Neighborhood Tabulation Areas.
4. For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.
5. “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”.
6. Data from 2009-2011 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and for Japanese Alone only.
7. Families and individuals were classified as below the poverty line if their total family income or unrelated individual income over the last 12 months was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and number of related children younger than 18 present for the year and month the data was collected. For these thresholds, please see http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html.
8. Householder income refers to the income of all occupants of a housing unit.
9. The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.
10. The small sample sizes for Japanese in New York City resulted in large margins of error. Statistical tests comparing the selected monthly owner costs/gross rents as a percentage of household income for Japanese with New York City as a whole within the ACS 2009-2011, show no statistically significant difference between the two data sets. In short, the ACS data cannot show a difference in these rates between Japanese and New York City as a whole.
11. Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs.

Technical Notes

Race Categories

Beginning with the Census 2000, the Census Bureau collects data in which respondents were allowed to mark more than one race. For example, 2000 data include results for single-race as well as multiple-race responses. “Japanese Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported only Japanese and no other race category. “Alone” should be considered the minimum population size in any analysis that uses Census Bureau data.

To be as inclusive as possible, this profile uses “Japanese Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Japanese, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Japanese and another racial group (e.g., Japanese and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Japanese Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for Japanese and the other racial group. Hence, some overlap in the “In Any Combination” numbers occurred. “Alone or in Any Combination” should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census Bureau data.

American Community Survey

As part of the redesign of the decennial census, the Census Bureau implemented the American Community Survey (ACS) as the replacement for the Decennial Census Long Form. Instead of collecting Long Form data (demographic, housing, social, and economic information) once every ten years, the ACS supplies communities new local data every year. In order to obtain sufficiently large number of samples for small populations, the ACS makes use of the concept of period estimates. For Census tracts, five-year period estimates are updated annually starting in 2010. For communities with 20,000 or more people, annual three-year period estimates are released. Populations with 65,000 or more people receive annual single-year estimates.
Japanese Population in Manhattan & Astoria

Legend
Japanese Population
- 0 - 49
- 50 - 99
- 100 - 199
- 200 - 299
- 300 - 377

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau