

Hawaii's Immigrant Population: 2005

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Introduction

This report presents data and analysis on the characteristics of Hawaii's immigrants. Data are tabulated from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2005. The American Community Survey was started by the Bureau in 1996 and is now the largest household survey in the United States. The survey includes about three million households throughout the nation and contains questions relating to population, housing, social and economic characteristics of our nation's people. Information on individuals living in group quarters such as military barracks, college dormitories, and nursing homes are not yet available from the ACS, but will be included in the near future. The intent of the ACS is to provide annual data. Hawaii has been included in the ACS survey since 2000. From 2000 to 2004, the ACS interviewed about 1% of Hawaii's household population. The interview rate went up to about 1.6% of the household population in 2005 with the full implementation of the ACS.

The tables contained in this DBEDT report compared Hawaii's population 1 years and older living in households (household population) in 2005 with the subgroup consisting of people 1 years and older living in households who moved to Hawaii from another state, U.S. territories or a foreign country during 2005 (migrants).

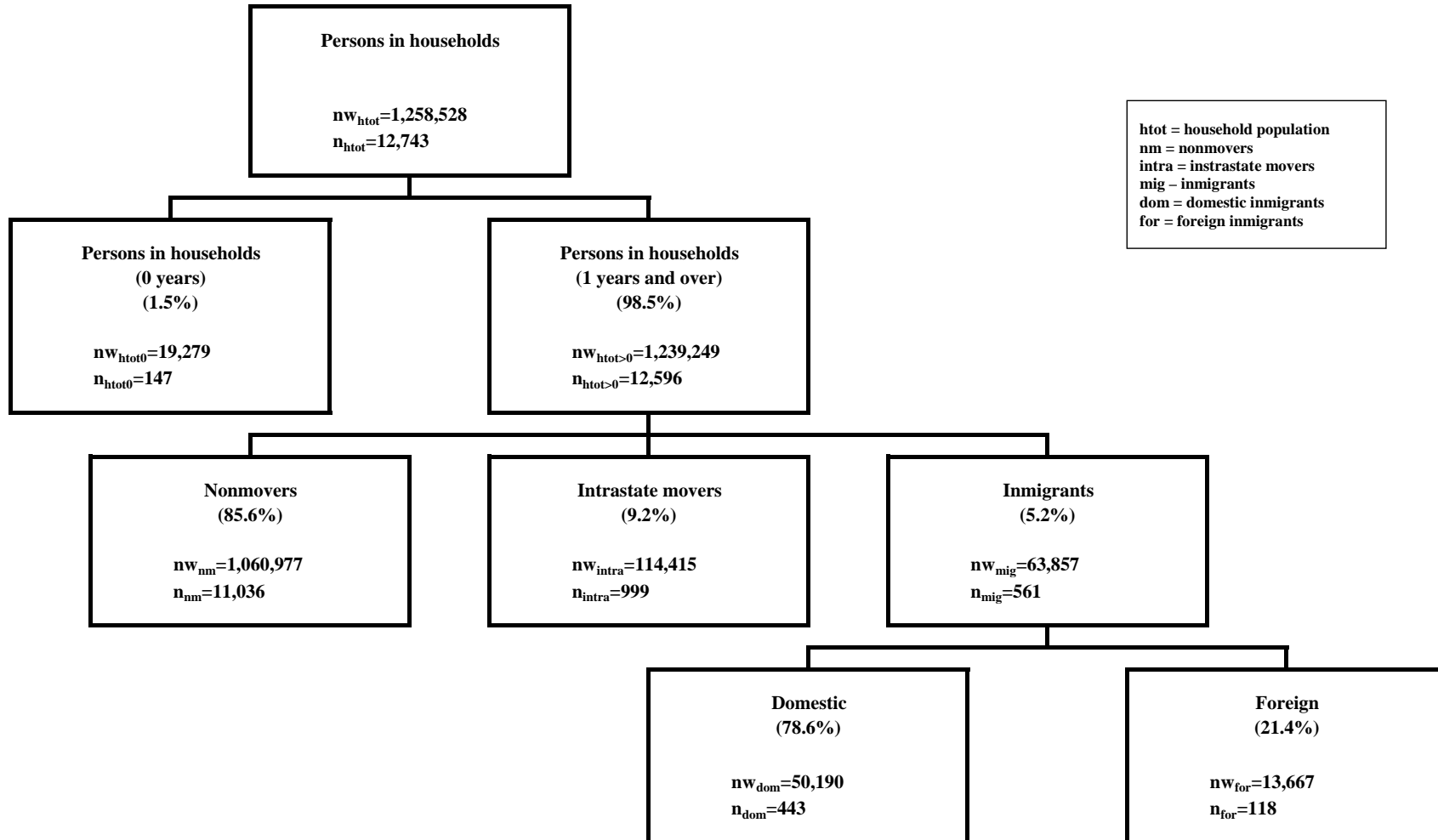
Population Mobility Status

The flowchart below displays data for Hawaii's household population by age (0 years versus 1 years and over) and migrant categories. The ACS migrant data were collected for only people who were 1 years and over. Ninety-eight percent of Hawaii's population was in the age category of 1 years and over and living in households. Within this group, about 5% were migrants. The migrant population was further subdivided and about one-fifth were shown to be foreign migrants while the remaining four-fifths were domestic migrants. The number of foreign migrants in the sample, however, was too small to be studied. All the characteristics of migrants in the following tables represent the combined domestic and foreign migrants.

During 2005, there were a total of 63,857 persons one years old and over who moved to our state. Of these, 50,190 came from the U.S. mainland and 13,667 moved here from abroad.

Figure 1-- Mobility Status of Persons in the State of Hawaii: 2005

(nw=weighted totals, n=sample size)



Note: Intrastate movers include people who moved within the State of Hawaii over the past year. Domestic immigrants are people who moved to the State of Hawaii from another state one year earlier, while foreign immigrants are people who moved to Hawaii from Guam, U.S. island areas or a foreign country one year earlier.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) (October 2006); produced by the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis Division.

Age by Sex

Age is one of the most important variables explaining migration. Young adults are usually the largest group to migrate from one place to another. Possible reasons for movement into our state by young people are to seek employment or as part of their military career. First of all, migrants to Hawaii were more heavily concentrated in the 18 through 44 years old age categories versus the proportion in the household population. Sixty percent of the migrant group was between the ages of 18 and 44 as opposed to about 36% in the household population group. Secondly, the data revealed that the elderly population (people 65 years and over) did not actively move to our islands. Elderly migrants consisted of only about 5% of the migrant group. These two trends were also seen in the separate male and female tables.

The ratio of males per 100 females was 96.3. Hawaii is one of the few states that usually have more males per females in its state population. However, the high ratio has been mainly due to our military population where the majority of the group consists of males. Since the 2005 ACS contained only household population, people in group quarters such as military barracks were excluded from the data. This may have greatly affected the sex ratio for 2005.

**Table 1-- Age by Sex by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

Total

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 1 years and over	1,239,249	+/- 2,941	63,857	+/- 12,530
Less than 18 years	23.4%	+/- 1.0	24.9%	+/- 8.7
18 to 24 years	9.2%	+/- 0.7	18.5%	+/- 7.8
25 to 44 years	26.7%	+/- 1.0	41.5%	+/- 9.9
45 to 64 years	26.7%	+/- 1.0	10.5%	+/- 6.2
65 years and over	13.9%	+/- 0.8	4.7%	+/- 4.2

Male

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 1 years and over	607,986	+/- 14,726	31,883	+/- 8,972
Less than 18 years	24.7%	+/- 1.5	21.1%	+/- 11.6
18 to 24 years	9.5%	+/- 1.0	20.5%	+/- 11.5
25 to 44 years	27.5%	+/- 1.5	42.4%	+/- 14.1
45 to 64 years	26.7%	+/- 1.5	12.0%	+/- 9.3
65 years and over	11.6%	+/- 1.1	3.9%	+/- 5.5

Female

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 1 years and over	631,263	+/- 14,734	31,974	+/- 8,984
Less than 18 years	22.2%	+/- 1.4	28.6%	+/- 12.9
18 to 24 years	9.0%	+/- 0.9	16.5%	+/- 10.6
25 to 44 years	26.0%	+/- 1.5	40.6%	+/- 14.0
45 to 64 years	26.7%	+/- 1.5	8.9%	+/- 8.1
65 years and over	16.0%	+/- 1.2	5.4%	+/- 6.4

Race

A majority of the migrant population identified themselves as white race alone (52%) compared to about 25% of our state's household population in that same category. On the other hand, only 21% of the migrant population selected the Asian race alone category while over 43% of Hawaii's household population fell into this category. In addition to that, the Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders race alone group was a small part of the migrant group (1%) but was a much more visible part of the household population (9%). Hawaii, well-known for our large mixed racial population, had a 21% representation in the household population. Yet, this mixed racial group comprised only about 10% of the migrant population. One possible explanation for the differences in the racial composition of the migrant population and the household population may be the greater presence of military personnel in the migrant population as can be seen in the next section. The military population is generally composed of people of the white race and of non-mixed racial background.

Table 2-- Race by Migrant Status for the State of Hawaii: 2005

[Race reflects self-identification by people according to the race or races with which they most closely identify. People were allowed to choose more than one race]

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error 1/	Migrant population estimate 2/	Margin of Error 1/
Persons 1 years and over	1,239,249	+/- 2,941	63,857	+/- 12,530
Race alone				
White alone	24.5%	+/- 1.3	51.5%	+/- 10.1
Asian alone	42.5%	+/- 1.5	20.6%	+/- 8.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	8.5%	+/- 0.9	1.0%	+/- 2.0
Some other race alone	3.4%	+/- 0.6	17.4%	+/- 7.6
Two or more major race groups	21.1%	+/- 1.4	9.5%	+/- 5.9

Military Status

There was a large difference in military status between the migrant population (with over 17% on active military duty) and the household population (with about 2% on active military duty). This comes as no surprise because of large number of military movements due to tour lengths and deployments. It should be noted that the ACS data included only military persons living in households and did not include military personnel living in group quarters such as barracks. Data will be included for group quarters in the near future and the proportion of military in the overall population and the migrant group will probably be larger than what is currently being collected in the ACS data. No figures on military dependents were presented in this report.

**Table 3-- Military Status by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 17 years and over	967,465	+/- 10,095	48,933	+/- 11,037
Military	2.3%	+/- 0.3	17.4%	+/- 8.7
Civilian	97.7%	+/- 0.3	82.6%	+/- 8.7

Civilian Age

Analyses of the age distribution data revealed that the civilian migrant population was much more predominant in the 18 to 44 year age category (74%) than for the household civilian population (45%). Conversely, the proportion of the civilian household population 65 years and over (18%) was higher than the proportion of the civilian migrant population 65 years (7%). These trends were similar to those found in the total household population table that contained both the civilian and military population.

**Table 4-- Civilian Age by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 1 years and over	945,201	+/- 10,353	40,426	+/- 10,067
Less than 18 years	2.0%	+/- 0.3	2.4%	+/- 3.8
18 to 24 years	11.5%	+/- 0.7	22.0%	+/- 10.5
25 to 44 years	33.5%	+/- 1.0	52.2%	+/- 12.6
45 to 64 years	34.9%	+/- 1.0	16.1%	+/- 9.3
65 years and over	18.2%	+/- 0.8	7.3%	+/- 6.6

Income

The income distribution of individuals in the migrant and household population appeared to be fairly similar. Previous tables have shown that a majority of the immigrants belong to the age groups in which people are employed. The range of low wage jobs through high wage jobs which are occupied by the household population group may be the same type of jobs that new migrants are being hired for. This includes the service jobs which have the low wage jobs through the technology jobs that are the more desirable, high paying jobs. The American Community Survey may include people with seasonal or second homes in Hawaii. We would expect this group to be more affluent than the general population, but there seems to be no impact of this wealthier group on the income data at this point in time.

**Table 5-- Income of Individuals by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

[Income for individuals is the sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; social security or railroad retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; and payment for retirement, survivor, or disability]

Income 1/	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 15 years and over	1,001,624	+/- 9,651	49,717	+/- 11,122
Less than \$10,000	29.4%	+/- 1.2	32.5%	+/- 10.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	9.0%	+/- 0.8	5.3%	+/- 5.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14.8%	+/- 0.9	18.8%	+/- 8.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.0%	+/- 0.9	12.4%	+/- 7.5
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.7%	+/- 0.9	12.7%	+/- 7.6
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11.1%	+/- 0.8	10.0%	+/- 6.8
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3.8%	+/- 0.5	3.6%	+/- 4.3
\$100,000 to \$124,999	0.7%	+/- 0.2	0.5%	+/- 1.6
\$125,000 to \$149,999	2.1%	+/- 0.4	3.1%	+/- 3.9
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0.9%	+/- 0.2	0.5%	+/- 1.5
\$200,000 or more	0.5%	+/- 0.2	0.7%	+/- 1.9

Employment Status

The search for employment is a motivating factor for people to migrate. This can be slightly seen in the data presented in Table 6. A lower percentage of migrant people were in the employed civilian category (47%) than people in the household population (60%) suggesting that some migrants may have come to Hawaii looking for a job. This coincides with the data showing that a slightly lower proportion of the migrant population was not in the labor force when compared with the household population, 28% versus 35% respectively. The data also showed that the proportion of the Armed forces population (17%) were much higher in the migrant population than in the household population (2%), which collaborated with the data showing more military migrants in the military status table.

**Table 6-- Employment Status by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 16 years and over	984,281	+/- 9,884	49,346	+/- 11,082
Civilian employed	59.9%	+/- 1.1	47.2%	+/- 11.4
Civilian unemployed	2.9%	+/- 0.4	7.3%	+/- 6.0
Armed forces	2.3%	+/- 0.3	17.2%	+/- 8.7
Not in labor force	34.8%	+/- 1.0	28.2%	+/- 10.3

Educational Attainment

Past research has shown that migrants tend to have higher educational attainment than the general population. In Hawaii, this pattern seems to hold true. The migrant population had a higher percentage of people in the some college and above categories (73%) when compared to the household population (57%). This should have a positive impact for Hawaii's labor force since a majority of the migrants are in the working ages of 18 through 44.

**Table 7-- Educational Attainment by Migrant Status
for the State of Hawaii: 2005**

Subject	Household population estimate	Margin of Error	Migrant population estimate	Margin of Error
Persons 25 years and over	834,129	+/- 11,319	36,168	+/- 9,539
Less than high school	11.8%	+/- 0.9	5.8%	+/- 6.3
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	30.9%	+/- 1.2	21.5%	+/- 11.0
Some college, no degree (includes associate degree)	29.1%	+/- 1.2	37.0%	+/- 12.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.1%	+/- 1.2	35.7%	+/- 12.8

Conclusion

In general, migrants to Hawaii differed from our total household population in several ways. Migrants were more likely to be younger, of the white race alone, in the military or else unemployed, and having more education than the overall household population.

Margin of Error

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error. The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables (from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey).

Description of PUMS Dataset

Annual data from the American Community Survey have been released for the State of Hawaii since 2002. The number of housing units actually used in the survey has grown over the years from about 3,000 units in 2002 to over 7,000 units in 2005.

Of the 7,000 housing units surveyed in 2005, about 5,000 units were selected for inclusion in the 2005 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). The PUMS dataset allows data users to create their own customized tabulations. The 2005 ACS PUMS included all responses from the 13,000 people living in those housing units. Responses were weighted so that they would represent the estimated 1,238,158 people living in households within our state during 2005.

Comparison Issues

People have a tendency to compare of the American Community Survey data with data from the familiar decennial censuses, but there are significant differences between the datasets.

The ACS data are collected throughout the year and, therefore more closely resembles other annual surveys. For example, ACS data are collected on a continuous basis and responses reflect the point in time that the survey was taken. In other words, information for a specific year represented data collected every month over the twelve month period in that year. For the decennial censuses, however, most questions are asked in relation to

an April 1 date and data collection efforts focus on only a few months around that April date every ten years.

Another difference is that the ACS information is collected from people who have been or will be living in a residence for more than two months, regardless of if they have a usual residence at another location. This contrasts with the decennial censuses that determined if a person is a resident of a specific location by his usual place of residence on April 1 of the decennial year.

A third difference is that the ACS data do not include people living in group quarters and includes only people living in households. Decennial censuses include data for the total population – people living in household and people living in group quarters.

There may be major differences in specific variables, especially because of the way the ACS data is collected, but those differences are not listed in this report.

The PUMS data presented in this report may also differ from 2005 ACS data that are in predefined tables produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. PUMS data is only a subset of the total ACS data collected. The predefined tables contained data from the entire ACS dataset.

Acknowledgements

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Data Source and References

U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) (October 2006) and “Accuracy of the Data (2005)”
<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2005/AccuracyPUMS.pdf>> accessed December 1, 2006.