

# CENSUS DATA HIGHLIGHTS

## Hawaii State Data Center, September 15, 2022

### 2021 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates today. The release includes income, poverty, employment, housing, and other data for areas with populations of 65,000 or more. About 1.8% of Hawaii’s households were surveyed in 2021.

Included in this release are data for the State, the counties, Hawaii’s 10 Public Use Microdata Sample Areas (PUMAs), and Hawaii’s two congressional districts. Additionally, there are data for select CDPs, Urbanized Areas, and Micro/Metro Areas, including: Urban Honolulu CDP; Kailua-Kaneohe and Urban Honolulu Urbanized Areas; Hilo and Kapaa Micro Areas; and Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina Metro Area. Kalawao County does not meet the population threshold for 1-year estimates; however, it is included in the State total.

The wealth of topics covered by the ACS and the annual nature of the survey allow data users to compare various topics across time, geography, and population groups. Below, we’ll explore some of the differences in remote work, commuting, households with earnings, and public assistance observed in the data for 2019, before the pandemic, and 2021. Bolded figures in the tables and graphs indicate statistically significant changes between 2019 and 2021.

#### Changes in Remote Work and Commute Times, 2019 and 2021

Between 2019 and 2021, the number of people working from home in Hawaii more than doubled, from 4.8% (about 33,500 workers) to 10.7% (about 71,700 workers). Honolulu County, which had the smallest percentage of remote workers in the year prior to the pandemic, had the largest increase in remote workers in 2021. Hawaii County had the largest share of remote workers in both 2019 and 2021.

The new Census data also indicates significant differences in remote work by gender, with about 41,000 women working from home in 2021, compared to roughly 30,700 men.

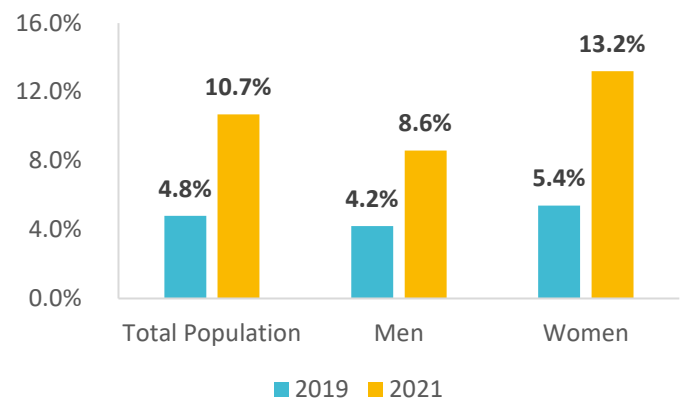
Despite the increases in remote work in 2021, Hawaii ranked 42nd in the nation among the 50 states and D.C. in remote work. Washington D.C. had the most remote workers, 48.3%, and Mississippi had the fewest remote workers, 6.3%. The national percentage of workers working from home was 17.9%.

Percent of remote workers by county<sup>1</sup>

	2019	2021
State of Hawaii	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Hawaii County	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
Honolulu County	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
Kauai County	7.3%	9.7%
Maui County	6.2%	7.8%

Percent of workers ages 16 and over.

Percent of remote workers by gender<sup>1</sup>



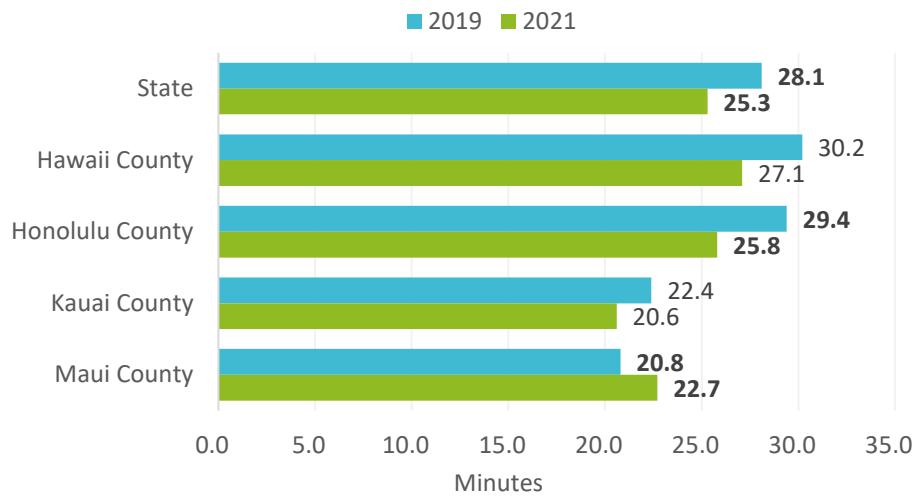
Fewer people drove alone or took public transportation to work, and average commute times decreased. In 2021, 65.3% of workers drove alone to work, compared to 69.3% in 2019. This corresponded to about 49,500 fewer people commuting alone by private vehicle—486,335 in 2019 and 436,797 in 2021. Public transportation as a means of

commuting declined from 5.4% in 2019 to 3.3% in 2021. This decreased represented a decline of about 15,600 people commuting by public transportation in 2021.

The average one-way commute to work decreased by 2.8 minutes, from 28.1 minutes in 2019 to 25.3 minutes in 2021. Honolulu County saw a statistically significant decrease in commute times, with one-way commutes shortened by 3.6 minutes. Average one-way commutes in Maui County, however, got longer in 2021, with commutes increasing by 1.9 minutes.

Average one-way commutes for the U.S. were 25.6 minutes in 2021, two minutes shorter than in 2019. Hawaii had the 20th longest average commute in the nation. New York had the longest average one-way commute, 31.4 minutes, and South Dakota had the shortest average one-way commute, 17.4 minutes.

Average one-way commute to work by county<sup>1</sup>



### Households with Earnings, 2019 and 2021

In 2021, 78.1% of households reported earnings, which was a statistically significant decrease compared to the share of households reporting earnings in 2019. The percentage of households with earnings was statistically lower in Hawaii County. The other counties had declines in the share of reported households with earnings as well, but they were not statistically significant.

Nationally, 77.0% of households reported earnings. This was a marginal, though statistically significant, decrease in the share of households reporting from 77.4% in 2019. Earnings are defined as wage and salary income and income from self-employment for the population aged 16 and over.

Percent of households with earnings<sup>1</sup>

	2019	2021
State of Hawaii	<b>79.8%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>
Hawaii County	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>
Honolulu County	81.4%	80.2%
Kauai County	77.6%	76.7%
Maui County	78.3%	76.2%

Percent of total households.

## SNAP Beneficiaries, 2019 and 2021

In 2021, 12.6% of households received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. This was roughly 13,500 more households than in 2019. Honolulu and Maui counties saw statistically significant increases in households receiving SNAP benefits, which provided food and nutritional support to the most vulnerable populations.

Over half (52.0%) of all households receiving SNAP benefits had children under the age of 18, and 47.1% of SNAP households included someone over the age of 60. The median household income of a household receiving SNAP benefits was \$49,107.

Households receiving SNAP Benefits<sup>1</sup>

	2019	2021
State of Hawaii	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>
Hawaii County	18.7%	20.2%
Honolulu County	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
Kauai County	9.9%	14.0%
Maui County	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

Percent of total households.

Select Household Characteristics, 2021

	Total	With SNAP benefits
Someone(s) 60 years and over	50.2%	47.1%
Child(ren) under 18 years	30.5%	52.0%
Below poverty level	11.7%	35.1%
Someone(s) with a disability	27.4%	42.7%
Median household income	\$84,857	\$49,107

## New Tables for this Release

A new detailed table included in this release includes estimates of computer ownership and internet subscription for the household population. The table also includes a breakdown of individuals by school enrollment status and grade enrolled for those who are aged 3 and over.

There were also new additions to household reporting. Two new detailed tables were added that describes additional estimates for vacant housing units. One table includes a more detailed breakdown of the “Other Vacant” category. The other table includes estimates on how long a housing unit has been vacant. Four new detailed tables contain distribution of utility costs for occupied housing units. Two tables cover monthly costs for electricity and gas, and the other two tables cover annual costs for water and sewer and other house heating fuels.

Additional changes were made to reporting for detailed industry, with the inclusion of three new detailed tables. One table has estimates for the civilian employed population 16 years and over, and the two other tables break these estimates down in to the male and female population. However, these tables are published at the national level only.

The last new addition shows the total number of people in households for whom poverty status is determined, the number of people in households whose income is below poverty level, and the number of people in household whose income is at or above the poverty level.

<sup>1</sup> Bold font indicates statistically significant change between 2019 and 2021.