## The Working Lives and Struggles of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California

## **Japanese Americans**

## About the Survey

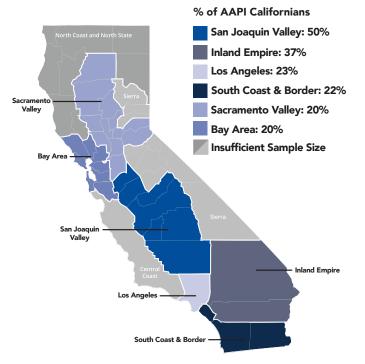
In November 2019, researchers from PRRI and AAPI Data released a landmark report on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers in California. The survey of 2,684 AAPI California residents explored experiences and perspectives of workers, many of whom are struggling with poverty.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastestgrowing racial groups (and working-age population) in California and the nation. Between 2010 and 2017, most new immigrants (56%) to California came from Asia.

As with other racial and ethnic groups, the research tells the story of "two Californias" — one where some AAPI workers are financially stable and another in which AAPI workers report struggle significantly. This brief highlights key findings relevant to Japanese American workers in California from the full report.

# AAPI California Workers Struggling with Poverty Within Each Region

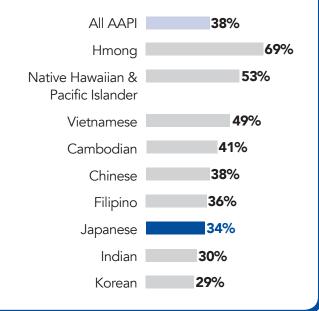
In California, the highest proportion of Japanese American adults reside in Los Angeles County (36%) and the Bay Area (25%).



### **Key Findings**

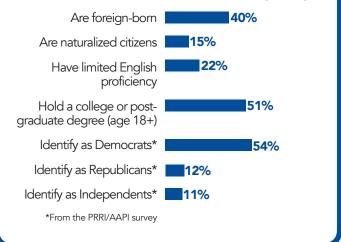
Nearly FOUR IN 10 AAPI workers in California are struggling with poverty.

### AAPI Workers Struggling with Poverty



#### **Snapshot of Japanese Americans in California**

From the Census Bureau's American Community Survey:



#### **Economic Hardships and Concerns**

#### Share of Japanese American workers in California who experienced hardships in the past 12 months:



**32%** reduced meals or cut back on food to save money



**25%** helped parents or in-laws financially

**22%** had difficulty paying rent or mortgage

**20%** were not able to pay a monthly bill

Share of Japanese American workers in California who are:



worried that they or someone in their family will be unable to afford housing 58%

worried that they or someone in their family will lose health insurance 47%

worried that they or someone in their family will **be deported 9%** 

Views on the American Dream and Economic **Mobility Among Japanese Americans in** California

45% still believe in the American Dream (if you work hard, you'll get ahead), compared to 62% of all AAPI Californians.

**26%** of struggling Japanese American workers in California believe in the American Dream.

**44%** believe it is harder to achieve the American Dream here than in other states.

**38%** would encourage young people to leave their community for better opportunities.

**58%** agree that hard work is not a guarantee of success, compared to 55% of all AAPI Californians.

#### Hardships on the Job

Share of Japanese American workers in California who said they or someone in their household experienced the following in the past 12 months:



Experienced racial discrimination or bias at work 20%

**19%** 



13%

minimum waqe



Experienced discrimination or bias related to gender or sexual orientation at work 26%







Had wages withheld by an employer without cause 9%

#### Views on the Economy, Employers, and Policymakers

Share of Japanese American workers in California believe that:

The U.S. economy unfairly favors the wealthy 81%

Public officials do not care what they think **68%** 

Employers generally see them as replaceable 69%

It is important to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them 74%

For more data and survey methodology, please see the full report, in English, at: irvine.org/learning/aapi

Nakatomi & Associates developed this brief based on research conducted by PRRI (www.PRRI.org) and AAPI Data (www.aapidata.com).

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