**Marshallese Migrants in the United States in 2015:**

**A Statistical Profile Based on the American Community Survey**

Michael J. Levin

PacificWeb, LLC

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INTRODUCTION

Under the Compact of Free Association between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States, Marshallese have visa-free entry into the United States and its territories. The first Compact was implemented in the late 1980s, and after a short lag, Marshallese began to migrate to Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland.

The Census Bureau does a complete count of the population every 10 years as part of the Decennial Census. In between, it collects detailed information about the population through the American Community Survey (ACS). Although Marshallese it is not a named group on the ACS, Census Bureau employees will code when respondents write in Marshallese on the questionnaire. Even though the sample is relatively large, the Marshallese numbers are small, and so the Census Bureau usually groups the information into 3-year and 5-year periods.

While the Census Bureau has been collecting data on Marshallese for some time, it is a little difficult to tease information from the compiled results. Most of the results appear in the American Fact Finder. This paper uses that instrument to present a statistical profile of Marshallese in the United States. Most of the statistics are for the period 2011 to 2015, but in some cases data are not available for that period, so the period 2006 to 2010 is used. The tables and figures here are derived from the population items. The housing items could appear in a separate paper.

POPULATION COUNTS

Table 1 shows the numbers of Marshallese in the United States based on the 2010 Census and the American Community Surveys. The United States Census Bureau only collects a small amount of information in the Decennial Census, but it does collect what it calls “Race” which is self-defined and includes color, ancestry, nationality, and other possibilities. Although Marshallese is not shown separately on the questionnaire, people who choose “Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander” can then write in Marshallese and be counted as such.

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| Table 1. Marshallese in the United States: 2010 to 2015 | | | |
|  |  | Marshallese | |
| Year | Source | Alone | Plus Combination |
| 2010 | Census | 19,841 | 22,434 |
| 2011 | ACS 1 yr | 21,478 | 27,018 |
| 2012 | ACS 1 yr | 18,468 | 20,497 |
| 2013 | ACS 1 yr | 25,152 | 27,932 |
| 2014 | ACS 1 yr | 24,467 | 26,566 |
| 2015 | ACS 1 yr | 22,544 | 27,823 |
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| 2011-2013 | ACS 3 yr | 26,834 | 27,337 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2006-2010 | ACS 5 yr | 14,486 | 16,257 |
| 2011-2015 | ACS 5 yr | 23,444 | 26,856 |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey | | | |

But, the Census Bureau also collects multiple races, that is, people can select more than one racial group, so a person could write in Marshallese alone, or could write in write in more than one, for example, Marshallese and Palauan, and both would be recorded, with later compilations for “Marshallese in combination with other group(s)”. If a person filled the circle for “Samoan” and also wrote in Marshallese, they would also be counted in the group “Marshallese in combination with other group(s)”.

The Decennial census is collected only every ten years, in years ending in 0. So, the last census was in 2010, and the next one will be in 2020. In the interim, the Census Bureau collects a very large survey that obtains estimates of the population – total and by race – as well as the characteristics of the population, which it no longer collects in the Decennial Census. So, Marshallese can be written in during these enumerations as in the census.

The Census Bureau produces a number, but it also provides a “margin of error” as well, so that statistical users can see a kind of maximum and minimum number to work with. Since most people using the information only look at the main figure presented, we will only be using those figures here. Readers can go to the Census Bureau’s website for the margins of error.

The Census Bureau uses imputation for all missing values. So, if someone does not report an item, other variables are used to make the best guess of what the item should have been. The reported values go into a “hot deck” and then are pulled when they are needed, based on age and sex and other characteristics. Because most Marshallese do respond to the item on race, their race goes into the hot deck frequently. Other races are not as likely to respond, and so they do not go into the hot deck as frequently (percentage-wise). Hence, Marshallese is more likely to be pulled then it would be if all groups responded in the same proportions. So, the values for Marshallese might be artificially inflated.

The most recent counts and characteristics for Marshallese in the United States come from the American Community Surveys of 2011 to 2015 – so an average of those. The values are weighted up to totals of the basis of the number of housing units enumerated.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Relationship. About 26,000 Marshallese alone or in combination with other groups lived in households in the 2011 to 2015 period (Table 2). Another 1,000 people or so lived in other arrangements – in school dormitories, construction and other barracks, and military installations, for example. Of those about 1 in 6 were householders or heads of households. A larger percentage of household members in Arkansas were householders and a lower percentage existed in Hawaii. About 45 percent of the Marshallese were children, 10 percent were spouses, and 22 percent were “other relatives”.

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| Table 2. Relationship to Householder: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Relationship | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population in households | 25,782 | 5,944 | 8,351 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Householder | 4,287 | 1,113 | 1,202 | 16.6 | 18.7 | 14.4 |
| Spouse | 2,488 | 645 | 630 | 9.7 | 10.9 | 7.5 |
| Child | 11,723 | 2,562 | 3,404 | 45.5 | 43.1 | 40.8 |
| Other relatives | 5,643 | 1,178 | 2,523 | 21.9 | 19.8 | 30.2 |
| Nonrelatives | 1,641 | 446 | 592 | 6.4 | 7.5 | 7.1 |
| Unmarried partner | 884 | 282 | 252 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 3.0 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

Because the number of householders or heads is equal to the number of households, we can get the average household size by dividing the number of householders into the total number of people living in households. So, the average household size of Marshallese households in the United States about 2015 was 6.0 people per household compared to 2.4 for all United States households. The average was somewhat smaller for those living in Arkansas, at 5.3 persons per household, and lower than the average household size in Hawaii of almost 7 per household.

Age and Sex. Figure 1 shows the age and sex distribution of all Marshallese either alone or in combination with other races in the 2011 to 2015 period (hereafter referred to as 2015). The pyramid does not have the shape of a traditional pyramid because of the way the Marshallese have migrated. So, we see more in the 25 to 29 year age group, and then decreasing numbers in higher ages. But for the younger people, we see a surplus of those 5 to 9 years old, those who are children of the original migrants, many of whom were born in the United States. The smaller number in the youngest age group may show declining fertility as the young adults go into the work force and delay marrying and having children.

Figure 1. Marshallese in the United States: 2015



The pyramid for Arkansas is even more pronounced, partly because of smaller numbers (Figure 2). Except for the very large number of people 5 to 9 years old, the largest groups were those 25 to 34 years old, for both males and females. This figure shows the Marshallese population moving to Northwest Arkansas to take jobs in Tyson’s Chicken and other similar industries.

Figure 2. Marshallese in Arkansas: 2015



Figure 3 shows the pyramid for Hawaii with the largest group being those 5 to 9, but also with an indentation for those less than 5 years, showing decreased fertility (or missing some of the youngest Marshallese which often happens in enumerations). The Hawaii pyramid also shows the effects of the migration of young working age migrants and the smaller numbers in the 15 to 24 year groups.

Figure 3. Marshallese in Hawaii: 2015



The sex ratio is the number of males per female. It is usually expressed as 100 males to 100 females, so a value of 100 means that equal numbers of males and females reside in the place. Among the Marshallese migrants, the U.S. had approximately equal numbers of males and females for those younger than 44, but decreasing numbers of males in older age groups, partly because male mortality is higher – and so they die earlier (Figure 4).

Arkansas had a very different pattern. At 147, the Springdale area had about 3 males for every 2 females in the 30 to 44 age group, the group most likely to be working in manufacturing industries. The sex ratios for Hawaii were decidedly female for the adults 15 years and over. In both Arkansas and Hawaii, the most elderly, those 60 years and over, were much more female, indicating that Marshallese males die earlier.

Dependency Ratio. The dependency ratio gives an informal measure of the dependents to potential workers. It is usually expressed as the sum of the youth (those less than 15 years old) and elderly (those 60 or 65 years and over) divided by the working ages – usually those 15 to 59 years old. The value is usually expressed as per 100. So, as illustrated in Table 3, the dependency ratio for all Marshallese in the United States was about 90, or about 90 dependents for every 100 workers. This is a good ratio because it puts less pressure on each worker to take care of the dependents. The ratio in the Marshall Islands, at 72 in 2011, was even lower. The dependency ratio was 82 in Arkansas, showing the effects of the industrial and other workers, and 90 in Hawaii.

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| Table 3. Dependency Ratio by State: 2015 | |  |  |
| Age | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total | 26,856 | 5,955 | 9,119 |
| Less than 15 years | 11,773 | 2,568 | 4,092 |
| 15 to 29 years | 6,892 | 1,341 | 2,424 |
| 30 to 44 years | 5,724 | 1,575 | 1,808 |
| 45 to 59 years | 1,486 | 350 | 577 |
| 60 or more years | 981 | 121 | 218 |
| Dependency |  |  |  |
| Ratio | 90.4 | 82.3 | 89.6 |
| Source: 2015 American Community Survey | |  |  |

Median Age. The median age is that age splitting the population – half are older than that age, and half are younger. The median age of Marshallese migrants around 2015 was about 18.5, which was lower than in the Marshalls at 20.6 years in 2011, and much lower than among other U.S. migrant populations (Figure 5). The median age for males and females was about the same.

Arkansas and Hawaii showed markedly different patterns. The median age in Arkansas was about 21 years, about 3 years older than the average for the Marshallese as a whole in the U.S., indicating a slightly aging population since the community is established and so some aging taking place. The median for males, though, was 23.7, about 2 years older that for the whole Arkansas migrant population, and 6 years older than the females. Hence, many males are coming to Arkansas to work. For Hawaii, the median was the same as for all the U.S., but in this case, the females were about 3 years older than the males on average. This difference could be females coming to Hawaii for babysitting and to find work to support families both in Hawaii and back home in the Marshalls.

Marital Status. The Census Bureau reports marital status for everyone 15 years and over. They assume that those less than 15 are never married, so they don’t ask. And, usually, the tables of marital status are shown separately for males and females. Slightly more than half the adult Marshallese males in the United States about 2015 were never married (Table 4 and Figure 6). The percentage was somewhat lower in Arkansas where whole Marshallese families are more likely to go, and the percentage was much higher in Hawaii where young Marshallese come directly from the Marshalls to go to school and to work to earn funds both to go on to the Mainland and to bring out their relatives.

Marshallese females were more likely to be married than the males. In Arkansas, 55 percent of the adult females were married (so some were not married to Marshallese males.) The numbers of married and unmarried Marshallese females in Hawaii were about equal.

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| Table 4. Marital Status: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Marital Status | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Males 15 years and over | 7,270 | 1,795 | 2,397 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Never married | 3,768 | 815 | 1,375 | 51.8 | 45.4 | 57.4 |
| Now married, except separated | 3,230 | 857 | 943 | 44.4 | 47.7 | 39.3 |
| Separated | 47 | 42 | 0 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 0.0 |
| Widowed | 33 | 0 | 14 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Divorced | 192 | 81 | 65 | 2.6 | 4.5 | 2.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Females 15 years and over | 7,813 | 1,592 | 2,726 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Never married | 3,286 | 558 | 1,274 | 42.1 | 35.1 | 46.7 |
| Now married, except separated | 3,703 | 879 | 1,232 | 47.4 | 55.2 | 45.2 |
| Separated | 164 | 20 | 96 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 3.5 |
| Widowed | 526 | 84 | 100 | 6.7 | 5.3 | 3.7 |
| Divorced | 134 | 51 | 24 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 0.9 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |

The average age at first marriage is derived from an algorithm called Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM), which is a common census or survey indicator. The average age at first marriage among Marshallese migrants was about 31, about 32 years old for males and 30 for females, so males being about 2 years older than the females at first marriage (Figure 7). (In most cases, the first Marshallese marriages are the only marriages.) The mean age at first marriage among those in Arkansas was 33 years, about 2 years older, with males at 36 and females at 31 showing a difference of 5 years when they marry. The mean age at marriage for males and females in Hawaii was 30 years.

Grandparents. The U.S. Census asks questions about whether a grandparent is in the housing unit, and if that grandparent is responsible for any of his or her own grandchildren under 18 years old. As Table 5 shows, 680 Marshallese grandparents were in the housing units, with more grandmothers than grandfathers. Of those, 404 were responsible for their own grandchildren 18 years or younger, or about 59 percent (3 out of every 5 of the grandparents). Grandfathers were about as likely as grandmothers to be responsible for grandchildren. About the same number of grandfathers 30 to 59 years as those 60 years and over were responsible for grandchildren, but about twice as many grandmothers 30 to 59 years old were responsible for grandchildren as their older counterparts. Often, grandmothers are brought from the Marshalls specifically to take care of grandchildren while the parents work.

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| Table 5 . Grandparents by Age and Responsibility for Grandchildren: 2015 | |  |  |
| Grandparents | Total | Males | Females |
| Total | 680 | 314 | 366 |
| Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years: | 404 | 189 | 215 |
| Percent | 59.4 | 60.2 | 58.7 |
| 30 to 59 years | 241 | 98 | 143 |
| 60 years and over | 163 | 91 | 72 |
| Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years | 276 | 125 | 151 |
| Source: American Community Survey, 2015 |  |  |  |

The Compact of Free Association went into effect in the late 1980s so the Marshalls have experienced about 30 years of visa-free entry. And, because of this pattern, many have now had children born in the United States, and some even have had grandchildren born in the States. These children are automatically “native” by the U.S. definition since any child born in the United States is automatically a U.S. citizen.

Of the 1,500 people reported as a grandparent in the American Community Survey for Marshallese alone or in combination with other groups, 700 or somewhat less than half were responsible for grandchildren in the housing unit (Table 6). About 2 in every 5 of the grandparents responsible for grandchildren had been watching the grandchildren for 5 years or more. In Arkansas, more than half the grandparents fell in this category.

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| Table 6. Grandparents: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Grandparents | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years | 1,524 | 311 | 722 |  |  |  |
| Grandparents responsible for grandchildren | 676 | 159 | 322 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Years responsible for grandchildren |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 1 year | 63 | 24 | 7 | 9.3 | 15.1 | 2.2 |
| 1 or 2 years | 149 | 14 | 122 | 22.0 | 8.8 | 37.9 |
| 3 or 4 years | 191 | 37 | 65 | 28.3 | 23.3 | 20.2 |
| 5 or more years | 273 | 84 | 128 | 40.4 | 52.8 | 39.8 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |

Birthplace and Citizenship. Of the 27,000 Marshallese enumerated in the surveys, about 2 in every 5 were native, meaning they were born in the United States or another U.S. Area (Table 7). Of the natives, about 9 in 10 were born in the United States itself, with most of those born in the State of current residence. As would be expected, almost all of the Marshallese in Hawaii that were “native” to the U.S. were born in Hawaii. About 7 in every 10 of those born in the United States were born in their state of current residence.

About 3 in every 5 of the Marshallese were “foreign” born, most of whom were born in the Marshall Islands, and then migrated to the United States. The percentages were somewhat higher for Marshallese living in Arkansas and Hawaii.

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| Table 7 . Birthplace: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | | Percent Native | | |
| Educational Attainment | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total population | 26,856 | 5,955 | 9,215 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Native | 11,240 | 2,281 | 3,572 | 41.9 | 38.3 | 38.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Born in United States | 10,210 | 1,913 | 3,351 | 38.0 | 32.1 | 36.4 | 90.8 | 83.9 | 93.8 |
| State of residence | 7,759 | 1,389 | 3,224 | 28.9 | 23.3 | 35.0 | 69.0 | 60.9 | 90.3 |
| Different state | 2,451 | 524 | 127 | 9.1 | 8.8 | 1.4 | 21.8 | 23.0 | 3.6 |
| Born in another U.S. | 1,030 | 368 | 221 | 3.8 | 6.2 | 2.4 | 9.2 | 16.1 | 6.2 |
| Foreign born | 15,616 | 3,674 | 5,643 | 58.1 | 61.7 | 61.2 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

As Table 8 shows, of the 27,000 Marshallese enumerated as either Marshallese alone or in combination with other groups, about 11,000 or 42 percent, were classified as native – that is born in the United States, so U.S. citizens. The percentage was slightly higher for females than males. Both Arkansas and Hawaii had lower percentages of natives – 38 percent for Arkansas and 39 percent for Hawaii. Of the 16,000 foreign-born, about 1,500 were naturalized U.S. citizens (about 10 percent). The other 14,000 were not U.S. citizens, so were presumably Marshall Islands citizens.

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| Table 8 . Nativity and Citizenship by Age and Sex: 2015 | | | | | | |  |  |  |
| Nativity and | U.S. | | | Arkansas | | | Hawaii | | |
| Citizenship | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| Total | 26,856 | 13,036 | 13,820 | 5,955 | 3,044 | 2,911 | 9,215 | 4,461 | 4,754 |
| Native | 11,240 | 5,328 | 5,912 | 2,281 | 986 | 1,295 | 3,572 | 1,764 | 1,808 |
| Percent | 41.9 | 40.9 | 42.8 | 38.3 | 32.4 | 44.5 | 38.8 | 39.5 | 38.0 |
| Foreign Born | 15,616 | 7,708 | 7,908 | 3,674 | 2,058 | 1,616 | 5,643 | 2,697 | 2,946 |
| Naturalized U.S. citizen | 1,537 | 671 | 866 | 56 | 20 | 36 | 192 | 90 | 102 |
| Not a U.S. citizen | 14,079 | 7,037 | 7,042 | 3,618 | 2,038 | 1,580 | 5,451 | 2,607 | 2,844 |
| Under 18 years | 13,217 | 6,419 | 6,798 | 2,791 | 1,326 | 1,465 | 4,535 | 2,298 | 2,237 |
| Native | 9,464 | 4,522 | 4,942 | 1,902 | 795 | 1,107 | 3,155 | 1,594 | 1,561 |
| Percent | 71.6 | 70.4 | 72.7 | 68.1 | 60.0 | 75.6 | 69.6 | 69.4 | 69.8 |
| Foreign Born | 3,753 | 1,897 | 1,856 | 889 | 531 | 358 | 1,380 | 704 | 676 |
| Naturalized U.S. citizen | 716 | 295 | 421 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 8 | 28 |
| Not a U.S. citizen | 3,037 | 1,602 | 1,435 | 889 | 531 | 358 | 1,344 | 696 | 648 |
| 18 years and over | 13,639 | 6,617 | 7,022 | 3,164 | 1,718 | 1,446 | 4,680 | 2,163 | 2,517 |
| Native | 1,776 | 806 | 970 | 379 | 191 | 188 | 417 | 170 | 247 |
| Percent | 13.0 | 12.2 | 13.8 | 12.0 | 11.1 | 13.0 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 9.8 |
| Foreign Born | 11,863 | 5,811 | 6,052 | 2,785 | 1,527 | 1,258 | 4,263 | 1,993 | 2,270 |
| Naturalized U.S. citizen | 821 | 376 | 445 | 56 | 20 | 36 | 156 | 82 | 74 |
| Not a U.S. citizen | 11,042 | 5,435 | 5,607 | 2,729 | 1,507 | 1,222 | 4,107 | 1,911 | 2,196 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | |  |  |  |  |

As would be expected, those under 18 years old were much more likely to be U.S. citizens, since many were born in the United States. In fact, 72 percent of those under 18 years were native, that is, about 7 in every 10 of these young people. Of the 3,800 foreign-born young people, about 700 (or 19 percent) were naturalized, so a larger percentage than the total. But for those 18 years and over, only 13 percent were native, most being Marshallese migrants. Of the 12,000 foreign-born, not quite half of all Marshallese migrants, only 800 (or 7 percent were naturalized U.S. citizens.

About 68 percent of the young Marshallese in Arkansas were native born as were about 70 percent of those in Hawaii, so those percentages were not very different from the U.S. total (Figure 8). Similarly, about 12 percent of the adults in Arkansas and 9 percent of those in Hawaii were native.

Year of Entry. Table 9 shows year of entry for the Marshallese living in the United States during the survey period. Of the 17,000 Marshallese born outside the United States, about 14 percent entered in 2010 or later, and 14,000 entered before 2010. These figures would indicate a slowing down of migration from the Marshalls and an increase in Marshallese born in the United States to make the 27,000 total. The percentage entering in 2010 or later was about the same for Hawaii as for the United States total, while a slightly smaller percentage were moving to Arkansas – but that was also close to the U.S. average.

The Marshallese “Natives” were likely born on Guam or another U.S. territory, or born abroad of at least one U.S. parent. Only about 7 percent of this small group entered in 2010 or later, but this was true for 14 percent of those living in Hawaii (so probably Marshallese born on Guam or in the CNMI and then going to Hawaii. The Foreign-Born Marshallese migration was similar to the total since most of those migrating came from the Marshalls.

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| Table 9. Year of Entry: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Year of Entry | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population born outside the U. S. | 16,646 | 4,042 | 5,864 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Entered 2010 or later | 2,338 | 512 | 814 | 14.0 | 12.7 | 13.9 |
| Entered before 2010 | 14,308 | 3,530 | 5,050 | 86.0 | 87.3 | 86.1 |
| Native | 1,030 | 368 | 221 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Entered 2010 or later | 74 | 4 | 31 | 7.2 | 1.1 | 14.0 |
| Entered before 2010 | 956 | 364 | 190 | 92.8 | 98.9 | 86.0 |
| Foreign born | 15,616 | 3,674 | 5,643 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Entered 2010 or later | 2,264 | 508 | 783 | 14.5 | 13.8 | 13.9 |
| Entered before 2010 | 13,352 | 3,166 | 4,860 | 85.5 | 86.2 | 86.1 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |

Residence 1 Year Before. The Census Bureau measures short term migration with a question asking for residence exactly one year before the census. For the Marshallese one year and over, about 77 percent lived in the same house one year before the time of their particular survey (Table 10). The percentage for Arkansas was less, at 74 percent, indicating that people were moving there (compared to the U.S. total). The percentage living in the same house one year before in Hawaii was higher, indicating less migration house to house.

On the other hand, while about 2 percent of the Marshallese had been abroad one year before the survey, about 4 percent of those living in Hawaii were in that category. However, almost no Marshallese were going directly from the Marshalls to Arkansas during the year before the survey.

Of those living in a different house in the United States, about 3 in every 4 of all Marshallese in the United States moved within the same county – and this was true for about 9 in every 10 of the Marshallese in Arkansas and even a larger percentage for those living in Hawaii.

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| Table 10. Residence One Year Before Survey: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | | Percent Different House | | |
| Educational Attainment | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population 1 year and over | 26,233 | 5,878 | 8,915 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Same house | 20,188 | 4,351 | 7,273 | 77.0 | 74.0 | 81.6 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Different house in the U.S. | 5,485 | 1,496 | 1,266 | 20.9 | 25.5 | 14.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Same county | 4,248 | 1,331 | 1,189 | 16.2 | 22.6 | 13.3 | 77.4 | 89.0 | 93.9 |
| Different county | 1,237 | 165 | 77 | 4.7 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 22.6 | 11.0 | 6.1 |
| Same state | 793 | 165 | 37 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 0.4 | 14.5 | 11.0 | 2.9 |
| Different state | 444 | 0 | 40 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| Abroad | 560 | 31 | 376 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 4.2 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Disability is collected by the Census Bureau, but it is self-reported so somewhat subjective. Of the 27,000 Marshallese reported in the American Community Survey, about 1,350 (or 5 percent) were reported as with a disability (Table 11). Males were more likely to report a disability, at 7 percent, than females, at 4 percent. Marshallese in Arkansas were more likely to report a disability than Marshallese in general in the States. This reporting could have to do with working in industries more likely to produce injuries. While about 4 percent of the females in Arkansas reported having a disability, about the same as for the rest of the U.S., about 10 percent of the males reported a disability, making about 7 percent of the Arkansas population reporting a disability. Marshallese in Hawaii were less likely to report a disability.

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| Table 11. Disability by Sex and Age: 2015 | | | | | | | |  |  |
|  | U.S. | | | Arkansas | | | Hawaii | | |
| Disability | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| Total | 26,726 | 12,917 | 13,809 | 5,944 | 3,033 | 2,911 | 9,174 | 4,426 | 4,748 |
| With a disability | 1,348 | 847 | 501 | 407 | 293 | 114 | 417 | 258 | 159 |
| Percent | 5.0 | 6.6 | 3.6 | 6.8 | 9.7 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 5.8 | 3.3 |
| No disability | 25,378 | 12,070 | 13,308 | 5,537 | 2,740 | 2,797 | 8,757 | 4,168 | 4,589 |
| Under 5 years: | 3,703 | 1,897 | 1,806 | 779 | 387 | 392 | 1,256 | 547 | 709 |
| With a disability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No disability | 3,703 | 1,897 | 1,806 | 779 | 387 | 392 | 1,256 | 547 | 709 |
| 5 to 17 years: | 9,488 | 4,496 | 4,992 | 2,012 | 939 | 1,073 | 3,268 | 1,740 | 1,528 |
| With a disability | 440 | 422 | 18 | 286 | 286 | 0 | 53 | 50 | 3 |
| No disability | 9,048 | 4,074 | 4,974 | 1,726 | 653 | 1,073 | 3,215 | 1,690 | 1,525 |
| 18 to 34 years: | 7,804 | 3,989 | 3,815 | 1,955 | 1,142 | 813 | 2,605 | 1,246 | 1,359 |
| With a disability | 184 | 71 | 113 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 119 | 51 | 68 |
| No disability | 7,620 | 3,918 | 3,702 | 1,955 | 1,142 | 813 | 2,486 | 1,195 | 1,291 |
| 35 to 64 years: | 5,257 | 2,421 | 2,836 | 1,150 | 565 | 585 | 1,853 | 840 | 1,013 |
| With a disability | 554 | 310 | 244 | 73 | 7 | 66 | 196 | 147 | 49 |
| No disability | 4,703 | 2,111 | 2,592 | 1,077 | 558 | 519 | 1,657 | 693 | 964 |
| 65 to 74 years: | 396 | 100 | 296 | 48 | 0 | 48 | 192 | 53 | 139 |
| With a disability | 138 | 30 | 108 | 48 | 0 | 48 | 49 | 10 | 39 |
| No disability | 258 | 70 | 188 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 143 | 43 | 100 |
| 75 years and over: | 78 | 14 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| With a disability | 32 | 14 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No disability | 46 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | | | | |

LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION

Language. The data in Table 12 are from an earlier 5-year American Community Survey. This tables shows nativity by language use. So, while about 1 in every 5 Marshallese in the United States in the period before 2010 were speaking only English at home, this was true for only 15 percent of the Marshallese in Arkansas and 14 percent of those in Hawaii. But, the percentages for those speaking another language – presumably Marshallese – at home, did not change very much as seen in the next table below.

“Native” in this case is those born in the United States or one of its territories or born abroad to at least one U.S. parent. About 1 in 4 of the Marshallese over age 5 were “native” born. Of these, about half of those in the United States and in Hawaii alone spoke only English at home. Only 14 percent of native born Marshallese in Arkansas spoke only English at home. And, of the native born who did not speak English at home, about 3 in 5 of the non-English speakers in the United States and Hawaii spoke English “very well” compared to about half in Arkansas.

For the “Foreign born”, that is, those born in the Marshall Islands, only 11 percent spoke only English at home – about 16 percent in Arkansas and about 2 percent in Hawaii, showing the relatively recent migration to Hawaii. About 44 percent of the non-English at home speakers in the United States and in Hawaii spoke English “very well”, compared to about 29 percent of those in Arkansas.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 12. Nationality and Language by State: 2010 | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| Language | Number | | | Percent | | | Percent Non-English Speakers | | |
| Nativity | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii |
| Total | 13,799 | 2,361 | 4,628 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak only English | 2,968 | 356 | 634 | 21.5 | 15.1 | 13.7 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 10,730 | 2,005 | 3,994 | 77.8 | 84.9 | 86.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 5,068 | 711 | 1,853 | 36.7 | 30.1 | 40.0 | 47.2 | 35.5 | 46.4 |
| Speak English "well" | 3,586 | 869 | 1,114 | 26.0 | 36.8 | 24.1 | 33.4 | 43.3 | 27.9 |
| Speak English "not well" | 1,929 | 386 | 973 | 14.0 | 16.3 | 21.0 | 18.0 | 19.3 | 24.4 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 147 | 39 | 54 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.4 |
| Native: | 3,716 | 698 | 1,178 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak only English | 1,842 | 97 | 579 | 49.6 | 13.9 | 49.2 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 1,773 | 601 | 599 | 47.7 | 86.1 | 50.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 1,089 | 302 | 371 | 29.3 | 43.3 | 31.5 | 61.4 | 50.2 | 61.9 |
| Speak English "well" | 517 | 210 | 169 | 13.9 | 30.1 | 14.3 | 29.2 | 34.9 | 28.2 |
| Speak English "not well" | 159 | 81 | 59 | 4.3 | 11.6 | 5.0 | 9.0 | 13.5 | 9.8 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Foreign born: | 10,083 | 1,663 | 3,450 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak only English | 1,126 | 259 | 55 | 11.2 | 15.6 | 1.6 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 8,957 | 1,404 | 3,395 | 88.8 | 84.4 | 98.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 3,979 | 409 | 1,482 | 39.5 | 24.6 | 43.0 | 44.4 | 29.1 | 43.7 |
| Speak English "well" | 3,069 | 659 | 945 | 30.4 | 39.6 | 27.4 | 34.3 | 46.9 | 27.8 |
| Speak English "not well" | 1,770 | 305 | 914 | 17.6 | 18.3 | 26.5 | 19.8 | 21.7 | 26.9 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 139 | 31 | 54 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 1.6 |
| Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |  |  |  |

Language by age appeared in the more recent data set. For the 2011 to 2015 period, about 23,000 were 5 years and over (Table 13). Of those, about 20 percent spoke only English at home. Of those that did not speak only English at home, about half reported speaking English “very well”. Another 1 in 3 spoke English “well”, and less than 1 in 20 did not speak English at all. The figures for Hawaii showed only about 1 in 10 spoke English at home, but the percentages for those not speaking English were similar to the whole United States. But, in Arkansas, the percentage speaking only English at home was lower, and the percentage not speaking English at home also was lower or those speaking English “very well”.

As would be expected, young people were more likely to speak only English at home. More than 1 in 4 of the Marshallese 5 to 17 years old spoke only English at home. However, this pattern differed in Arkansas (where only 4 percent of these young people spoke only English at home) and Hawaii (16 percent). However, the young people were also more likely to speak English “very well” if they did not speak only English at home, showing bilingualism.

None of the Marshallese 65 years and over in Arkansas were reported to be speaking only English at home. And, almost all of these elderly in Arkansas did not speak English at all. About 1 in 4 of the elderly Marshallese in the United States did not speak English as well as about 1 in 6 of the elderly Marshallese in Hawaii.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 13. Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English by Age: 2015 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| [Population 5 years and over] |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Language | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Ability to Speak English | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii |
| Total | 23,145 | 5,176 | 7,951 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak only English | 4,588 | 444 | 882 | 19.8 | 8.6 | 11.1 |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 18,453 | 4,732 | 7,069 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 9,337 | 1,589 | 3,526 | 50.6 | 33.6 | 49.9 |
| Speak English "well" | 6,380 | 2,011 | 2,625 | 34.6 | 42.5 | 37.1 |
| Speak English "not well" | 1,904 | 515 | 801 | 10.3 | 10.9 | 11.3 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 832 | 617 | 117 | 4.5 | 13.0 | 1.7 |
| 5 to 17 years: | 9,506 | 2,012 | 3,271 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak only English | 2,501 | 76 | 515 | 26.3 | 3.8 | 15.7 |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 6,965 | 1,936 | 2,756 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 4,609 | 980 | 1,780 | 66.2 | 50.6 | 64.6 |
| Speak English "well" | 1,696 | 500 | 813 | 24.4 | 25.8 | 29.5 |
| Speak English "not well" | 351 | 168 | 155 | 5.0 | 8.7 | 5.6 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 309 | 288 | 8 | 4.4 | 14.9 | 0.3 |
| 18 to 64 years: | 13,165 | 3,116 | 4,488 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak only English | 2,008 | 368 | 349 | 15.3 | 11.8 | 7.8 |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 11,093 | 2,748 | 4,139 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 4,621 | 608 | 1,716 | 41.7 | 22.1 | 41.5 |
| Speak English "well" | 4,614 | 1,511 | 1,753 | 41.6 | 55.0 | 42.4 |
| Speak English "not well" | 1,441 | 347 | 589 | 13.0 | 12.6 | 14.2 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 417 | 282 | 81 | 3.8 | 10.3 | 2.0 |
| 65 years and over: | 474 | 48 | 192 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak only English | 79 | 0 | 18 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 9.4 |
| Speak Pacific Is languages: | 395 | 48 | 174 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Speak English "very well" | 107 | 1 | 30 | 27.1 | 2.1 | 17.2 |
| Speak English "well" | 70 | 0 | 59 | 17.7 | 0.0 | 33.9 |
| Speak English "not well" | 112 | 0 | 57 | 28.4 | 0.0 | 32.8 |
| Speak English "not at all" | 106 | 47 | 28 | 26.8 | 97.9 | 16.1 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

Table 14 looks at households with limited English speaking. Of the 4,300 Marshallese households 360 or 8 percent spoke only English at home. Of those speaking a Pacific Islands language, presumably Marshallese, 1,200 of the 3,900 households or 31 percent were “limited English speaking households”. In Arkansas, almost half of the households were limited English speaking households by the Census Bureau’s definition. In Hawaii, only 1 in 4 of the households fell in this category. In both Arkansas and Hawaii, almost none of the households spoke only English.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 14. Households with Limited English: 2015 | |  |  |
| Limited English | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total Households | 4,287 | 1,113 | 1,202 |
| English only | 356 | 38 | 16 |
| Pacific Island languages: | 3,906 | 1,075 | 1,186 |
| Limited English speaking household | 1,198 | 505 | 291 |
| Percent | 30.7 | 47.0 | 24.5 |
| Not a limited English speaking household | 2,708 | 570 | 895 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |

School Attendance. More than 10,000 Marshallese were attending some level of school around 2015. About 5 percent were in nursery or pre-school, about 11 percent in Kindergarten, 56 percent (so more than half) in elementary school, 18 percent in high school, and 9 percent in college or graduate school (Table 15). The 27 percent of Marshallese students being in Kindergarten is probably an artifact of the sampling procedures. Hawaii had a larger percentage of students in elementary school and a smaller percentage in high school.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 15. School Attendance: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Attending School | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population 3 years and over enrolled in school | 10,265 | 1,859 | 3,654 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Nursery school, preschool | 549 | 74 | 190 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 5.2 |
| Kindergarten | 1,168 | 492 | 284 | 11.4 | 26.5 | 7.8 |
| Elementary school (grades 1-8) | 5,751 | 912 | 2,236 | 56.0 | 49.1 | 61.2 |
| High school (grades 9-12) | 1,864 | 199 | 580 | 18.2 | 10.7 | 15.9 |
| College or graduate school | 933 | 182 | 364 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 10.0 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |

Table 16 and Figure 9 show school enrollment based on the 2006 to 2010 surveys; a similar table does not appear for the later 5-year grouping. About 95 percent of the Marshallese aged 10 to 14 were attending school – so 5 percent were not. Unfortunately, the percentage attending for Arkansas was much lower, at 85 percent (although Hawaii showed 99 percent). While the percentage for those 15 to 17 remained about the same for the U.S., Hawaii and Arkansas saw all of its children in that age group enrolled.

After that, decline occurred. Of course, those graduating from high school and not going on to college should not be considered drop outs. But while 36 percent of all Marshallese 18 and 19 years old in the States were in school, this was true for 54 percent of those in Arkansas, but only 14 percent for those in Hawaii.

Females were more likely to be enrolled in school than males at most of the age groups. About 34 percent of the males 3 years and over were enrolled at some level of schooling compared to about 43 percent of the females. Only 1 in 4 of the males in Arkansas were enrolled compared to 35 percent of the males in Hawaii; about 44 percent of the females in Arkansas and 46 percent of those in Hawaii were enrolled.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 16. School Enrollment by Sex, Age and State: 2010 | | | | | | | | | |
| School | Total | | | Males | | | Females | | |
| Enrollment | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Enrolled | 5,820 | 928 | 1,992 | 2,589 | 349 | 872 | 3,231 | 579 | 1,120 |
| 3 and 4 years | 199 | 37 | 46 | 54 | 0 | 18 | 145 | 37 | 28 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,981 | 302 | 723 | 1,056 | 140 | 352 | 925 | 162 | 371 |
| 10 to 14 years | 1,802 | 248 | 626 | 729 | 116 | 230 | 1,073 | 132 | 396 |
| 15 to 17 years | 701 | 141 | 181 | 328 | 66 | 96 | 373 | 75 | 85 |
| 18 and 19 years | 314 | 102 | 5 | 67 | 18 | 5 | 247 | 84 | 0 |
| 20 to 24 years | 227 | 28 | 45 | 112 | 9 | 26 | 115 | 19 | 19 |
| 25 to 34 years | 470 | 70 | 344 | 165 | 0 | 123 | 305 | 70 | 221 |
| 35 years and over | 126 | 0 | 22 | 78 | 0 | 22 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| Percents | 38.5 | 34.3 | 40.4 | 34.0 | 25.2 | 35.2 | 43.1 | 43.8 | 45.6 |
| 3 and 4 years | 15.3 | 10.7 | 15.2 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 10.3 | 22.9 | 28.9 | 21.7 |
| 5 to 9 years | 88.7 | 81.8 | 91.6 | 91.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 85.4 | 70.7 | 84.9 |
| 10 to 14 years | 95.0 | 84.6 | 98.7 | 93.8 | 78.4 | 100.0 | 95.9 | 91.0 | 98.0 |
| 15 to 17 years | 95.1 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 92.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 97.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 18 and 19 years | 36.3 | 53.7 | 14.3 | 15.3 | 17.0 | 33.3 | 58.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| 20 to 24 years | 13.4 | 16.0 | 6.4 | 9.8 | 7.8 | 4.9 | 21.1 | 31.7 | 11.7 |
| 25 to 34 years | 14.0 | 10.9 | 29.2 | 10.4 | 0.0 | 26.1 | 17.3 | 22.5 | 31.3 |
| 35 years and over | 4.2 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | | | | |

Educational Attainment. Table 17 and Figure 10 show educational attainment of Marshallese in the United States. Of those 18 years and over, about 68 percent were high school graduates and 2 percent were college graduates. Marshallese in Arkansas were much less likely to be high school and college graduates; those in Hawaii were more likely to be high school and college graduates. In Arkansas, males were slightly more likely to be high school graduates than females.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 17. Educational Attainment by Age and Sex | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age | Total | | | Males | | | Females | | |
| Educational Attainment | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total | 8,933 | 1,558 | 3,024 | 4,662 | 812 | 1,625 | 4,271 | 746 | 1,399 |
| Less than 9th grade | 574 | 222 | 91 | 283 | 165 | 20 | 291 | 57 | 71 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 2,274 | 567 | 517 | 1,102 | 240 | 278 | 1,172 | 327 | 239 |
| High school graduate, GED | 3,556 | 541 | 1,258 | 2,079 | 305 | 816 | 1,477 | 236 | 442 |
| Some college, no degree | 1,713 | 186 | 686 | 862 | 60 | 342 | 851 | 126 | 344 |
| Associate's degree | 604 | 33 | 425 | 265 | 33 | 146 | 339 | 0 | 279 |
| Bachelor's degree | 178 | 9 | 38 | 71 | 9 | 23 | 107 | 0 | 15 |
| Percent H.S. graduate | 67.7 | 49.4 | 79.6 | 70.3 | 50.1 | 81.7 | 64.9 | 48.5 | 77.2 |
| Percent B.S. degree | 2.0 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 1.1 |
| 18 to 24 years: | 2,552 | 365 | 734 | 1,581 | 221 | 551 | 971 | 144 | 183 |
| Less than 9th grade | 108 | 46 | 24 | 68 | 46 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 24 |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 747 | 196 | 41 | 402 | 94 | 36 | 345 | 102 | 5 |
| High school graduate, GED | 1,055 | 95 | 379 | 710 | 72 | 294 | 345 | 23 | 85 |
| Some college, no degree | 584 | 28 | 290 | 343 | 9 | 221 | 241 | 19 | 69 |
| Associate's degree | 26 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bachelor's degree | 32 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Percent H.S. graduate | 66.5 | 33.7 | 91.1 | 70.3 | 36.7 | 93.5 | 60.4 | 29.2 | 84.2 |
| Percent B.S. degree | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 25 to 34 years: | 3,349 | 641 | 1,178 | 1,585 | 330 | 472 | 1,764 | 311 | 706 |
| Less than 9th grade | 225 | 132 | 23 | 154 | 99 | 11 | 71 | 33 | 12 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 704 | 180 | 159 | 341 | 61 | 113 | 363 | 119 | 46 |
| High school graduate, GED | 1,212 | 230 | 370 | 591 | 140 | 171 | 621 | 90 | 199 |
| Some college, no degree | 713 | 91 | 222 | 345 | 22 | 52 | 368 | 69 | 170 |
| Associate's degree | 411 | 8 | 389 | 147 | 8 | 125 | 264 | 0 | 264 |
| Bachelor's degree | 84 | 0 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 0 | 15 |
| Percent H.S. graduate | 72.3 | 51.3 | 84.6 | 68.8 | 51.5 | 73.7 | 75.4 | 51.1 | 91.8 |
| Percent B.S. degree | 2.5 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| 35 to 44 years: | 1,833 | 304 | 605 | 946 | 157 | 385 | 887 | 147 | 220 |
| Less than 9th grade | 94 | 13 | 9 | 37 | 13 | 9 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 489 | 154 | 109 | 243 | 85 | 58 | 246 | 69 | 51 |
| High school graduate, GED | 775 | 111 | 353 | 471 | 52 | 247 | 304 | 59 | 106 |
| Some college, no degree | 306 | 26 | 110 | 134 | 7 | 56 | 172 | 19 | 54 |
| Associate's degree | 115 | 0 | 9 | 55 | 0 | 9 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Bachelor's degree | 30 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Percent H.S. graduate | 66.9 | 45.1 | 79.0 | 70.4 | 37.6 | 82.6 | 63.1 | 53.1 | 72.7 |
| Percent B.S. degree | 1.6 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 45 to 64 years: | 976 | 217 | 389 | 471 | 104 | 170 | 505 | 113 | 219 |
| Less than 9th grade | 91 | 31 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 84 | 24 | 13 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 233 | 37 | 112 | 69 | 0 | 24 | 164 | 37 | 88 |
| High school graduate, GED | 448 | 74 | 156 | 292 | 41 | 104 | 156 | 33 | 52 |
| Some college, no degree | 110 | 41 | 64 | 40 | 22 | 13 | 70 | 19 | 51 |
| Associate's degree | 52 | 25 | 27 | 37 | 25 | 12 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Bachelor's degree | 32 | 9 | 17 | 26 | 9 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Percent H.S. graduate | 65.8 | 68.7 | 67.9 | 83.9 | 93.3 | 85.9 | 48.9 | 46.0 | 53.9 |
| Percent B.S. degree | 3.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 5.5 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over: | 223 | 31 | 118 | 79 | 0 | 47 | 144 | 31 | 71 |
| Less than 9th grade | 56 | 0 | 22 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 22 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 101 | 0 | 96 | 47 | 0 | 47 | 54 | 0 | 49 |
| High school graduate, GED | 66 | 31 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 31 | 0 |
| Some college, no degree | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Associate's degree | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bachelor's degree | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |

As the chart shows, only about half of the Marshallese adults in Arkansas were high school graduates based on the 2010 period. As for the U.S. and for Hawaii, males had higher high school graduation rates than females. About 2 out of every 3 Marshallese adults in the U.S. were high school graduates, so Arkansas was not typical. Because so many unskilled and semi-skilled Marshallese adults went to Tyson’s chicken and other manufacturing jobs in Northwest Arkansas, it si not surprising that the rates were lower there. And, many Marshallese high school graduates go to Hawaii for community and 4-year colleges, so their rates are higher – with about 4 out of every 5 adults being high school graduates.

The Census Bureau has traditionally used 25 years and over as the basis for educational attainment but has recently began using 18 years as the cutoff. Using age 25 as the base, Table 18 shows that of the 11,100 Marshallese 25 years and over, 8,400 or about 75 percent (3 in every 4 adults) were high school graduates in 2015. Only about 7 in every 10 of the Marshallese were high school graduates but the percentage for Hawaii was similar to that of the whole United States.

About 4 percent of the Marshallese 25 years and over were college graduates, with the majority not living in Arkansas or Hawaii. Only 3 percent of the Marshallese in Hawaii were college graduates, and less than 1 percent of those living in Arkansas. These figures are very low compared to other migrant groups, and might reflect a still struggling education system in the Marshall Islands.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 18 . Educational Attainment: 2015 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Cummutive Percents | | |
| Educational Attainment | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population 25 years and over | 11,133 | 2,735 | 3,679 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Less than 9th grade | 1,005 | 447 | 156 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 1,746 | 351 | 727 | 91.0 | 83.7 | 95.8 |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 5,413 | 1,486 | 1,968 | ***75.3*** | ***70.8*** | ***76.0*** |
| Some college, no degree | 2,058 | 415 | 542 | 26.7 | 16.5 | 22.5 |
| Associate's degree | 481 | 18 | 189 | 8.2 | 1.3 | 7.8 |
| Bachelor's degree | 350 | 18 | 86 | ***3.9*** | ***0.7*** | ***2.6*** |
| Graduate or professional degree | 80 | 0 | 11 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |

Veterans. The Compact of Free Association allows Marshallese to join any of the branches of the U.S. Military. Those who choose to have a faster method of obtaining U.S. citizenship in this way. Many Marshallese currently are in one of the five branches, but very few have enlisted, served their time, and then retired to become veterans. As Table 19 shows, of the 14,000 civilian Marshallese 18 years and over, only 310 or 2 percent were veterans in 2015. The percentage was about the same for those living in Arkansas, and slightly higher for those living in Hawaii.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 19. Veteran Status: 2015 | | | |
| Veteran Status | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Civilian population 18 years and over | 13,585 | 3,164 | 4,666 |
| Civilian veterans | 310 | 78 | 139 |
| Percent | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Employment Statues. About 15,000 Marshallese in the United States during the period were 16 years and over. Of those about 9,000 or 62 percent were in the labor force (Table 20). The labor force includes civilians employed or unemployed and the armed forces. More Marshallese were actually in the Armed Forces than reported in table 20 because those abroad and on some military bases are not included in the surveys. About 1,500 people or 16 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed.

Male Marshallese, at 78 percent, were more likely to be in the labor force than females (at 48 percent) as would be expected. So, while 3 out of every 4 adult Marshallese males were in the labor force, this was true for only about half of the females. Similarly, while 15 percent of the males were unemployed, more than 19 percent of the females were in this category.

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| Table 20. Employment Status: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total | | | Males | | | Females | | |
| Employment Status | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Population 16 years and over | 14,676 | 3,378 | 5,000 | 7,113 | 1,795 | 2,302 | 7,563 | 1,583 | 2,698 |
| In labor force | 9,168 | 2,398 | 2,808 | 5,513 | 1,672 | 1,638 | 3,655 | 726 | 1,170 |
| Percent | 62.5 | 71.0 | 56.2 | 77.5 | 93.1 | 71.2 | 48.3 | 45.9 | 43.4 |
| Civilian labor force | 9,114 | 2,398 | 2,794 | 5,465 | 1,672 | 1,630 | 3,649 | 726 | 1,164 |
| Employed | 7,612 | 2,156 | 2,322 | 4,661 | 1,525 | 1,380 | 2,951 | 631 | 942 |
| Unemployed | 1,502 | 242 | 472 | 804 | 147 | 250 | 698 | 95 | 222 |
| Percent | 16.5 | 10.1 | 16.9 | 14.7 | 8.8 | 15.3 | 19.1 | 13.1 | 19.1 |
| Armed Forces | 54 | 0 | 14 | 48 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Not in labor force | 5,508 | 980 | 2,192 | 1,600 | 123 | 664 | 3,908 | 857 | 1,528 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |

Because of the manufacturing industries in Arkansas, the percentages employed were much higher than the U.S. average. About 71 percent of Arkansas’ Marshallese adult population was in the labor force – about fully 93 percent of the males but 46 percent of the females; manufacturing seems to be male-oriented (Figure 11). Only 10 percent of the Marshallese in Arkansas were reported as unemployed, including 9 percent of the males and 13 percent of the females.

The situation in Hawaii was not as good, perhaps because of the recent migrants still getting established. Only 56 percent of the adult Marshallese in Hawaii were in the labor force, including 71 percent of the males and 43 percent of the females. Many of the Marshallese on the Mainland are probably finding it easier to find suitable work than those in Hawaii, who are competing for very scarce jobs with many other migrant and established ethnic groups.

About 17 percent of the Marshallese in Hawaii were reported as unemployed, including 15 percent of the males and 19 percent of the females (Figure 12). The unemployment rates are not very different from those for all Marshallese in the United States, but they are very high nonetheless.

Commuting to Work. About 61 percent of all Marshallese workers drove alone to work (Table 21 and Figure 13). More than half of the Marshallese workers in Arkansas drove to work alone, while less than half of the Hawaii workers drove alone. However, with the Marshallese who carpooled in Arkansas, about 95 percent of the workers there commuted by car, truck, or van. About 1 in every 4 Marshallese workers in Hawaii commuted using public transportation. These workers were 85 percent of all the Marshallese workers in the United States who used public transportation; that is, most Marshallese, except those in Hawaii, did not have access to public transportation where they were living. None of the workers in Arkansas used public transport or walked to work.

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| Table 21. Commuting to Work: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
| Commuting to Work | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Workers 16 years and over | 7,391 | 2,077 | 2,204 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Car, truck, or van -- drove alone | 4,514 | 1,110 | 1,000 | 61.1 | 53.4 | 45.4 |
| Car, truck, or van -- carpooled | 1,653 | 905 | 296 | 22.4 | 43.6 | 13.4 |
| Public transportation (excluding taxicab) | 655 | 0 | 559 | 8.9 | 0.0 | 25.4 |
| Walked | 210 | 0 | 168 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 7.6 |
| Other means | 186 | 18 | 132 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 6.0 |
| Worked at home | 173 | 44 | 49 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes) | 24.6 | 16.3 | 41.1 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | |  |

Occupation. About 6,600 Marshallese were 16 years and older and civilian employed. The total would be higher except that the Census Bureau did not allow for a table with all states by sex and occupation, so the sum is of those States it allowed. Of these, the largest number were in production, transportation, and material moving – and 2 in every 5 workers (Table 22). However, the figures were heavily influenced by the 1,400 Marshallese workers in these occupations in Arkansas. They were about 2 in 3 of all the workers in Arkansas. About 1 in every 4 Marshallese workers were in service occupations, but this was influenced by the 2 in 5 Hawaii Marshallese workers in these occupations. About 1 in every 4 Hawaii Marshallese were working in production occupations. These figures, then show Arkansas Marshallese primarily in production, and Hawaii Marshallese providing services.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 22. Occupation by Sex: 2015 | | | | | | |  |  |  |
| [Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total | | | Males | | | Females | | |
| Occupation | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii |
| Total | 6,633 | 2,156 | 2,322 | 4,158 | 1,525 | 1,380 | 2,475 | 631 | 942 |
| Management, business, science, and arts occupations | 617 | 111 | 194 | 308 | 76 | 112 | 309 | 35 | 82 |
| Service occupations | 1,763 | 303 | 934 | 883 | 127 | 551 | 880 | 176 | 383 |
| Sales and office occupations | 1,049 | 169 | 503 | 340 | 107 | 53 | 709 | 62 | 450 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 426 | 191 | 143 | 401 | 180 | 143 | 25 | 11 | 0 |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 2,778 | 1,382 | 548 | 2,226 | 1,035 | 521 | 552 | 347 | 27 |
| Percents | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Management, business, science, and arts occupations | 9.3 | 5.1 | 8.4 | 7.4 | 5.0 | 8.1 | 12.5 | 5.5 | 8.7 |
| Service occupations | 26.6 | 14.1 | 40.2 | 21.2 | 8.3 | 39.9 | 35.6 | 27.9 | 40.7 |
| Sales and office occupations | 15.8 | 7.8 | 21.7 | 8.2 | 7.0 | 3.8 | 28.6 | 9.8 | 47.8 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 6.4 | 8.9 | 6.2 | 9.6 | 11.8 | 10.4 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 41.9 | 64.1 | 23.6 | 53.5 | 67.9 | 37.8 | 22.3 | 55.0 | 2.9 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

More than half of Marshallese males were in production occupations as were about 2 in every 3 in Arkansas and more than 1 in 3 in Hawaii. About 2 in every 5 Hawaii Marshallese males were in service occupations – about the same percentage as for the Hawaii females. About half of the Hawaii females were working in sales and office occupations. And, more than half the female Marshallese in Arkansas were in production, and another 1 in 4 were in service occupations.

Table 23 shows the values for all of the Marshallese civilian employed and 16 years and over. This table shows all of the States, and so shows the full 7,600 Marshallese workers in the sample. The values do not change very much from the previous table.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 23. Occupation: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
| Occupation | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Civilian employed population 16 years & over | 7,612 | 2,156 | 2,322 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Management, business, science, and arts | 700 | 111 | 194 | 9.2 | 5.1 | 8.4 |
| Service occupations | 2,211 | 303 | 934 | 29.0 | 14.1 | 40.2 |
| Sales and office occupations | 1,145 | 169 | 503 | 15.0 | 7.8 | 21.7 |
| Natural resources, construction, maintenance | 523 | 191 | 143 | 6.9 | 8.9 | 6.2 |
| Production, transportation, & material moving | 3,033 | 1,382 | 548 | 39.8 | 64.1 | 23.6 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

Industry. Manufacturing is the largest industry category by far for Marshallese in the United States. More than 2,200 of the 7,600 civilian workers were in manufacturing – about 1 in every 3 (Table 24 and Figure 14). The manufacturing sector was even more prominent in Arkansas, with almost 3 in every 5 adult workers in manufacturing. Recreation and accommodations was the second largest category, at about 1 in every 6 in the United States, but about 1 in every 4 Marshallese workers in Hawaii – this category was the largest one in Hawaii. About 1 in every 8 workers in Hawaii was in retail trade, and about the same number was in transportation, with professional and administrative industries following. About 1 in every 10 of Marshallese workers in the U.S. were in professional and scientific industries, followed by education and social services.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 24 . Industry: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
| Industry | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Civilian employed population 16 years and over | 7,612 | 2,156 | 2,322 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining | 117 | 27 | 58 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| Construction | 204 | 0 | 81 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 3.5 |
| Manufacturing | 2,244 | 1,267 | 108 | 29.5 | 58.8 | 4.7 |
| Wholesale trade | 410 | 144 | 136 | 5.4 | 6.7 | 5.9 |
| Retail trade | 518 | 113 | 292 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 12.6 |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 568 | 139 | 279 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 12.0 |
| Information | 122 | 7 | 77 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 3.3 |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 295 | 76 | 101 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative | 786 | 69 | 273 | 10.3 | 3.2 | 11.8 |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 699 | 192 | 186 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 8.0 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services | 1,329 | 84 | 538 | 17.5 | 3.9 | 23.2 |
| Other services, except public administration | 214 | 0 | 181 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 7.8 |
| Public administration | 106 | 38 | 12 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

Class of Worker. Table 25 on class of worker shows class of worker for the U.S., Arkansas and Hawaii. The total for the U.S. however, is not all Marshallese because the Census Bureau’s tables show only the largest States and those with small numbers of Marshallese are not shown. Nonetheless, the table shows that 86 percent of the Marshallese workers in the United States were working for private wages and salaries. More than 88 percent of the males and 82 percent of the females were working in the private sector.

The percentages were even higher in Arkansas, with 9 out of every 10 workers in the private sector (93 percent of the males and 84 percent of the females). The percentages were much lower in Hawaii – 82 percent for the total, with 80 percent of the males, and a larger percentage of females, at 85 percent. It is not surprising that so few Marshallese are in the public sector or self-employed because most recent migrants take some time to establish themselves and move into the public sector; the public sector is much more common for second and later generations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 25. Class of Worker by Sex and State: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total | | | Males | | | Females | | |
| Class of Worker | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total | 6,633 | 2,156 | 2,322 | 4,158 | 1,525 | 1,380 | 2,475 | 631 | 942 |
| Private for-profit wage and salary workers: | 5,718 | 1,952 | 1,910 | 3,677 | 1,420 | 1,106 | 2,041 | 532 | 804 |
| Percent | 86.2 | 90.5 | 82.3 | 88.4 | 93.1 | 80.1 | 82.5 | 84.3 | 85.4 |
| Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers | 360 | 9 | 243 | 228 | 9 | 197 | 132 | 0 | 46 |
| Local government workers | 76 | 7 | 19 | 32 | 0 | 8 | 44 | 7 | 11 |
| State government workers | 209 | 168 | 40 | 97 | 76 | 20 | 112 | 92 | 20 |
| Federal government workers | 75 | 20 | 20 | 31 | 20 | 11 | 44 | 0 | 9 |
| Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers | 195 | 0 | 90 | 93 | 0 | 38 | 102 | 0 | 52 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | | | | |
| Note: Total based on States Reported in the ACS | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

HEALTH INSURANCE

Of the average 27,000 Marshallese in the 2011 to 2015, 79 percent had some type of insurance (Table 26) Marshallese in Arkansas were less likely to have insurance, and those in Hawaii were more likely to have insurance. About 38 percent of the U.S. Marshallese had private health insurance compared to 44 percent who had public health insurance. The numbers were reversed for those in Arkansas, with more Marshallese having private health insurance than public health insurance, partly because they were more likely to be in private sector companies offering insurance as part of the benefits. But about 3 in every 5 Marshallese in Hawaii had public health insurance compared to only 1 in 3 with private insurance (and 1 in 8 with no insurance.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 26. Health Insurance Coverage: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
| Health Insurance Coverage | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Civilian noninstitutionalized population | 26,726 | 5,944 | 9,174 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| With health insurance coverage | 21,055 | 4,248 | 8,076 | 78.8 | 71.5 | 88.0 |
| With private health insurance | 10,100 | 2,386 | 2,971 | 37.8 | 40.1 | 32.4 |
| With public coverage | 11,802 | 2,074 | 5,552 | 44.2 | 34.9 | 60.5 |
| No health insurance coverage | 5,671 | 1,696 | 1,098 | 21.2 | 28.5 | 12.0 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

Figure 15 shows the percentages private and public health insurance coverage as well as the percentages of Marshallese with no health insurance. Marshallese in Hawaii were most likely to have health insurance because of organized efforts by some leaders in the community to make sure that participants know how to fill out the forms. Those in Arkansas were less likely than the U.S. Marshallese as a whole to have insurance – Arkansas may have more recent migrants who have yet to get insurance.

Everyone should have health insurance. And, most working adults get health insurance with their jobs. As the table shows, for the 13,000 civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 18 to 64 years, about 9,000 had insurance but about 4,000 did not have insurance. So about 71 percent of the total Marshallese working population had insurance, with about 63 percent of those in Arkansas and fully 88 percent of those in Hawaii.

As would be expected, those who were employed were more likely to have insurance than those who were not employed. About 74 percent of the employed Marshallese in the U.S. had health insurance, including a similar percentage for Arkansas but 91 percent of those in Hawaii (Table 27). The unemployed did not do as well – only 56 percent had insurance (and only 32 percent of those in Arkansas but still 77 percent of those in Hawaii.) But, because those not in the labor force might have relied on others in the labor force, the last group was about the same as the total for the total U.S. and for Hawaii, but only 41 percent of those not in the labor force in Arkansas had health insurance.

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| Table 27. Labor Force and Health Insurance: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Labor Force and Health Insurance | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii |
| Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years | 13,061 | 3,105 | 4,458 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With health insurance coverage | 9,263 | 1,949 | 3,933 | 70.9 | 62.8 | 88.2 |
| No health insurance coverage | 3,798 | 1,156 | 525 | 29.1 | 37.2 | 11.8 |
| Employed: | 7,518 | 2,150 | 2,249 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With health insurance coverage | 5,531 | 1,574 | 2,041 | 73.6 | 73.2 | 90.8 |
| No health insurance coverage | 1,987 | 576 | 208 | 26.4 | 26.8 | 9.2 |
| Unemployed: | 1,322 | 171 | 417 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With health insurance coverage | 745 | 55 | 322 | 56.4 | 32.2 | 77.2 |
| No health insurance coverage | 577 | 116 | 95 | 43.6 | 67.8 | 22.8 |
| Not in labor force: | 4,221 | 784 | 1,792 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With health insurance coverage | 2,987 | 320 | 1,570 | 70.8 | 40.8 | 87.6 |
| No health insurance coverage | 1,234 | 464 | 222 | 29.2 | 59.2 | 12.4 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

INCOME

Household Income. Table 28 shows the distribution of household income for Marshallese households in the 12 months before the survey in 2015 inflation adjusted dollars. The median income was about $33,600 compared to $55,800 for all U.S. households, so Marshallese households were making only 60 percent of U.S. average. The median household income is that income which divides all households in half – half of the households make more than that, while half the households make less.

The mean Marshallese household income in 2015 was about $39,200, so considerably more than the median. The reason for this is that some households make much more than the median income and so the mean or average takes into account households making much more than the average. As the table shows, 11 Marshallese households were making $200,000 or more – none of these households were in Arkansas or Hawaii. But 31 households in Arkansas were making more than $100,000 and 4 households in Hawaii were making more than $125,000.

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| Table 28 Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars) | | | | | | |
| Household | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Income | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total | 4,287 | 1,113 | 1,202 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Less than $10,000 | 347 | 8 | 158 | 8.1 | 0.7 | 13.1 |
| $10,000 to $14,999 | 319 | 122 | 81 | 7.4 | 11.0 | 6.7 |
| $15,000 to $19,999 | 274 | 44 | 89 | 6.4 | 4.0 | 7.4 |
| $20,000 to $24,999 | 341 | 83 | 143 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 11.9 |
| $25,000 to $29,999 | 483 | 206 | 114 | 11.3 | 18.5 | 9.5 |
| $30,000 to $34,999 | 474 | 153 | 63 | 11.1 | 13.7 | 5.2 |
| $35,000 to $39,999 | 265 | 55 | 59 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| $40,000 to $44,999 | 416 | 37 | 192 | 9.7 | 3.3 | 16.0 |
| $45,000 to $49,999 | 138 | 59 | 48 | 3.2 | 5.3 | 4.0 |
| $50,000 to $59,999 | 552 | 232 | 61 | 12.9 | 20.8 | 5.1 |
| $60,000 to $74,999 | 349 | 24 | 127 | 8.1 | 2.2 | 10.6 |
| $75,000 to $99,999 | 198 | 59 | 51 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 4.2 |
| $100,000 to $124,999 | 86 | 31 | 12 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 1.0 |
| $125,000 to $149,999 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| $150,000 to $199,999 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $200,000 or more | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Median | $33,577 | $31,932 | $32,650 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Mean | $39,209 | $39,306 | $35,374 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | |  |

Table 29 shows type of household income. As noted, household income sums the incomes of all the individuals in the household to get a household amount. As noted previously, the Census Bureau reported 4,287 Marshallese households – these are households where the householder was either Marshallese alone or Marshallese in combination with at least one other group. Of these, 3,900 or 91 percent had earnings. That means that 9 percent of the households did not have earnings. Some households were living off of social security or retirement income or public assistance, since, of course, all households must have some form of income.

The percentage of Marshallese households with earnings was about the same for Hawaii, and only slightly less in Arkansas. The mean amount of earnings, that is, the total of all earnings by all people in Marshallese households divided by the number of those households was about $40,000. This amount is based only on those households with earnings and not all households – those figures would be what we showed in the table on household income. The mean household earnings income in Arkansas was somewhat higher at about $42,000, while the mean was much lower in Hawaii, at only $36,000. The average hourly wage based on this amount would be about $18 an hour, but even the total for the U.S. comes to only $20 an hour, and this is for all persons in the household combined.

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| Table 29. Type of Household Income: 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Type of Household Income | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Ark. | Hawaii |
| Total Households | 4,287 | 1,113 | 1,202 |  |  |  |
| With earnings | 3,915 | 1,000 | 1,101 | 91.3 | 89.8 | 91.6 |
| Mean earnings (dollars) | $ 40,084 | $ 41,793 | $ 36,081 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With Social Security | 224 | 47 | 67 | 5.2 | 4.2 | 5.6 |
| Mean Social Security income (dollars) | $ 11,287 | N | $ 11,316 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With retirement income | 201 | 113 | 24 | 4.7 | 10.2 | 2.0 |
| Mean retirement income (dollars) | $ 10,944 | N | $ 4,608 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With Supplemental Security Income | 53 | 4 | 13 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 1.1 |
| Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars) | $ 7,979 | N | N | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With cash public assistance income | 667 | 63 | 222 | 15.6 | 5.7 | 18.5 |
| Mean cash public assistance income (dollars) | $ 5,710 | N | $ 7,039 | . . . | . . . | . . . |
| With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months | 2,319 | 435 | 768 | 54.1 | 39.1 | 63.9 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

The other sources of income were less common, as would be expected. Only 224 Marshallese households were getting any Social Security income – so about 5 percent of the households. And, the average amount of Social Security in the year before the survey was about $11,300. About 200 households received retirement income, about the same as Social Security, at about $11,000 per household. About 50 households received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at about $8,000 per household for those receiving. But about 700 households or 16 percent received cash public assistance income during the year – that is, welfare – which is expected in recently immigrant groups. The amount was about $5,700 for the whole United States and about $7,000 for those living in Hawaii (18 percent of the households).

Marshallese were eligible for what used to be called Food Stamps and now called SNAP. About 2,300 households or 54 percent of all the Marshallese households had SNAP benefits at some point in the year before the survey. These households included about 39 percent of the Marshallese households in Arkansas and about 64 percent – almost 2 out of every 3 – Marshallese households in Hawaii.

Family Income. Table 30 and Figure 16 show the distribution of family income for Marshallese families in the 12 months before the survey in 2015 inflation adjusted dollars. Households include single person units as well as those where the householder is not related to others in the unit, so family income is usually higher than household income. The median family income was about $32,600 compared to $53,700 for all U.S. families, so Marshallese families were making only 61 percent of U.S. average. The median family income is that income which divides all families in half – half of the families make more than that, while half the families make less.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 30. Family Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars) | | | | | | |
| Family | Numbers | | | Percents | | |
| Income | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total | 3,947 | 999 | 1,164 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Less than $10,000 | 408 | 38 | 179 | 10.3 | 3.8 | 15.4 |
| $10,000 to $14,999 | 265 | 122 | 37 | 6.7 | 12.2 | 3.2 |
| $15,000 to $19,999 | 204 | 14 | 89 | 5.2 | 1.4 | 7.6 |
| $20,000 to $24,999 | 326 | 66 | 143 | 8.3 | 6.6 | 12.3 |
| $25,000 to $29,999 | 468 | 190 | 124 | 11.9 | 19.0 | 10.7 |
| $30,000 to $34,999 | 546 | 200 | 117 | 13.8 | 20.0 | 10.1 |
| $35,000 to $39,999 | 436 | 54 | 161 | 11.0 | 5.4 | 13.8 |
| $40,000 to $44,999 | 406 | 79 | 170 | 10.3 | 7.9 | 14.6 |
| $45,000 to $49,999 | 148 | 83 | 39 | 3.7 | 8.3 | 3.4 |
| $50,000 to $59,999 | 358 | 108 | 33 | 9.1 | 10.8 | 2.8 |
| $60,000 to $74,999 | 182 | 0 | 51 | 4.6 | 0.0 | 4.4 |
| $75,000 to $99,999 | 91 | 14 | 5 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| $100,000 to $124,999 | 82 | 31 | 12 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 1.0 |
| $125,000 to $149,999 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| $150,000 to $199,999 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $200,000 or more | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Median | $32,594 | $31,436 | $31,923 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Mean | $35,540 | $34,022 | $31,121 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | |  |

Figure 17 shows median earnings for Marshallese workers for the average year during the period 2011 to 2015. If there is only one wage earner in the household, then the amount shown will be the same as for the household earnings for that household. But if there is more than one wage earner, the amount in the household earnings will be the sum of the individual earnings shown below. The average earnings for a Marshallese in the United States was about $20,000. Male full-time year-round workers earned about $25,500 compared to about $22,000 for females, a difference of about $3,500.

The median earnings of Marshallese workers in Arkansas was higher than the U.S. average, at $21,000, while the median for Hawaii was lower, at $18,000. The difference in full-time year-round earnings in Arkansas was about $3,000 between males and females, while the difference was $7,000 for Hawaii. Even at $27,000 for Marshallese male year-round full-time workers, that is only about $13.50 per hour, not much to cover rent and other costs in Hawaii.

Per Capita Income. Figure 18 shows the Per Capita Income for Arkansas, Hawaii, and the whole United States, and for Marshallese living in those areas. The per capita income in the United States in 2015 was about $48,000, but was only $7,000 for Marshallese migrants. Similarly, while the per capita Marshallese income was higher in Arkansas, probably because of the manufacturing sector, it was still only about 1/5th of the per capita income for the whole state. Marshallese in Hawaii were doing even worse – only about $6,000 compared to about $48,000 for all residents, or about 1/8th as much.

Gross Rent and Income. Rent is one of the largest expenses for Marshallese migrants. Very few Marshallese can afford to buy a house or apartment. In fact, of the 4,287 households, 4,011 rented (94 percent)(Table 31). More than 1 in 5 Marshallese households pays more than 50 percent of its household income on gross rent. The percentages were lower for both Arkansas (at 15 percent) and Hawaii (20 percent). The median percentage, though, was 32 percent, so on average, Marshallese households spent about 1/3rd of their household income on rent. The percentages for Arkansas and Hawaii were about the same.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 31. Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months: 2015 | | | | | | |
| Gross Rent as Percent of | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
| Household Income | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| Total: | 4,011 | 1,089 | 1,109 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Less than 10.0 percent | 88 | 38 | 5 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 0.5 |
| 10.0 to 14.9 percent | 320 | 140 | 14 | 8.0 | 12.9 | 1.3 |
| 15.0 to 19.9 percent | 455 | 196 | 108 | 11.3 | 18.0 | 9.7 |
| 20.0 to 24.9 percent | 497 | 99 | 183 | 12.4 | 9.1 | 16.5 |
| 25.0 to 29.9 percent | 366 | 27 | 110 | 9.1 | 2.5 | 9.9 |
| 30.0 to 34.9 percent | 516 | 132 | 213 | 12.9 | 12.1 | 19.2 |
| 35.0 to 39.9 percent | 342 | 111 | 107 | 8.5 | 10.2 | 9.6 |
| 40.0 to 49.9 percent | 441 | 165 | 107 | 11.0 | 15.2 | 9.6 |
| 50.0 percent or more | 906 | 167 | 226 | 22.6 | 15.3 | 20.4 |
| Not computed | 80 | 14 | 36 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 3.2 |
| Median | 32.3 | 31.4 | 32.7 | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | | | | |

POVERTY

The United States defines poverty based on numbers of people in a family and the income for basic needs. The poverty level for a family of 4 in 2015 was $24,250. The U.S. adjusts the poverty level for Hawaii since costs are higher in that State; the poverty level there was $27,890. As Table 32 shows, the poverty level for Marshallese families in 2015 was 40 percent, with Arkansas families at 37 percent and Hawaii’s at 46 percent. Obviously, all of these percentages are much high than the average for all ethnic groups and also higher than other immigrant groups. Much of these high figures can be attributed to the fact that migration was recent and lack of needed skills for higher level employment.

The percentages of families in poverty with related children under 18 years was even higher – 41 percent for the U.S., 38 percent for Arkansas, and 49 percent for Hawaii. That is, almost half of all Marshallese families in Hawaii with children under 18 years were in poverty. The figures for married couple families were lower, partly because often both husband and wife work and so increase the family income.

The values for families with female householders without a husband present were much higher. More than 63 percent of those U.S. and 67 percent of Hawaii families were in poverty – about 2 out of every 3 families. The figures were even worse in Arkansas – about 4 in every 5 families with female householders without a husband present.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 32. Percentage of Families Whose Income in the Past 12 months is Below Poverty Level: 2015 | | | |
| Percentage in Poverty | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| All families | 39.8 | 36.7 | 46.2 |
| With related children of the householder under 18 years | 41.3 | 38.3 | 48.7 |
| With related children of the householder under 5 years only | 27.8 | 12.0 | 29.8 |
| Married couple families | 34.1 | 29.7 | 41.3 |
| With related children of the householder under 18 years | 34.9 | 29.7 | 42.7 |
| With related children of the householder under 5 years only | 19.8 | 0.0 | 16.0 |
| Families with female householder, no husband present | 63.3 | 81.3 | 66.9 |
| With related children of the householder under 18 years | 64.6 | 81.3 | 66.9 |
| With related children of the householder under 5 years only | 47.1 | 76.9 | 76.9 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables | | | |

The figures for individuals in poverty were similar. About 41 percent of all Marshallese in the United States in 2015 were in poverty – about 2 in every 5 in Arkansas, but more than half of the Marshallese living in Hawaii (Table 33). More than half the Marshallese individuals under 18 years living in Arkansas were in poverty as were 54 percent of those in Hawaii. Other figures were also much higher.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 33. Percentage of People Whose Income in the Past 12 months is Below Poverty Level: 2015 | | | |
| Percentage in Poverty | U.S. | Arkansas | Hawaii |
| All people | 40.6 | 39.1 | 51.1 |
| Under 18 years | 44.7 | 51.9 | 54.3 |
| Related children of the householder under 18 years | 44.5 | 51.9 | 54.1 |
| Related children of the householder under 5 years | 41.5 | 48.5 | 46.1 |
| Related children of the householder 5 to 17 years | 45.7 | 53.2 | 57.2 |
| 18 years and over | 36.8 | 27.8 | 48.2 |
| 18 to 64 years | 36.5 | 26.7 | 48.8 |
| 65 years and over | 45.6 | 97.9 | 32.8 |
| People in families | 40.2 | 40.5 | 50.4 |
| Unrelated individuals 15 years and over | 44.6 | 26.3 | 55.4 |
| Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables |  |  |  |

CONCLUSIONS

This paper has presented statistics on Marshallese in the United States, for those who have migrated directly from the Marshall Islands, but also the second and now third generations of self-reported Marshallese. As the statistics show, while it may take a while for Marshallese to get established in Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland, when they do settle, they contribute to the social and economy through participation in the work force and taxes paid. Because Marshallese is a separate ethnic category on the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, researchers, analysts and policy makers will be able to use the Marshallese data in the U.S. to monitor how programs are working, and in the Marshall Islands to consider those Marshallese in the States who might be brought back at some point to help develop the economy in the Marshall Islands.