

Marshallese Migrants in the United States in 2015:

A Statistical Profile Based on the American Community Survey

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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.

Table 1. Marshallese in the United States: 2010 to 2015

Year	Source	Marshallese	
		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
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 than 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”.

Table 2. Relationship to Householder: 2015

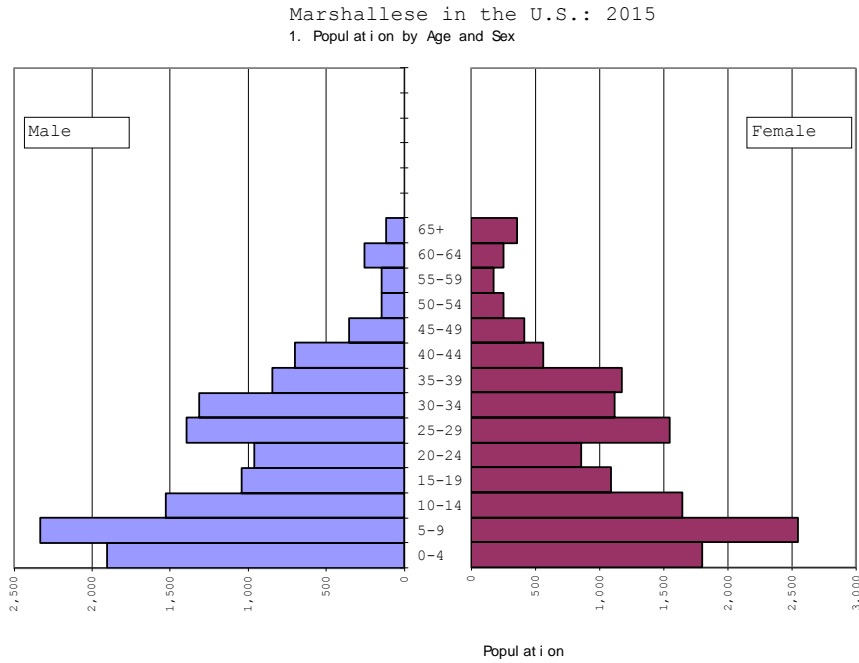
Relationship	Numbers			Percents		
	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii
Population in households	25,782	5,944	8,351	100.0	100.0	100.0
Householder	4,287	1,113	1,202	16.6	18.7	14.4
Spouse	2,488	645	630	9.7	10.9	7.5
Child	11,723	2,562	3,404	45.5	43.1	40.8
Other relatives	5,643	1,178	2,523	21.9	19.8	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

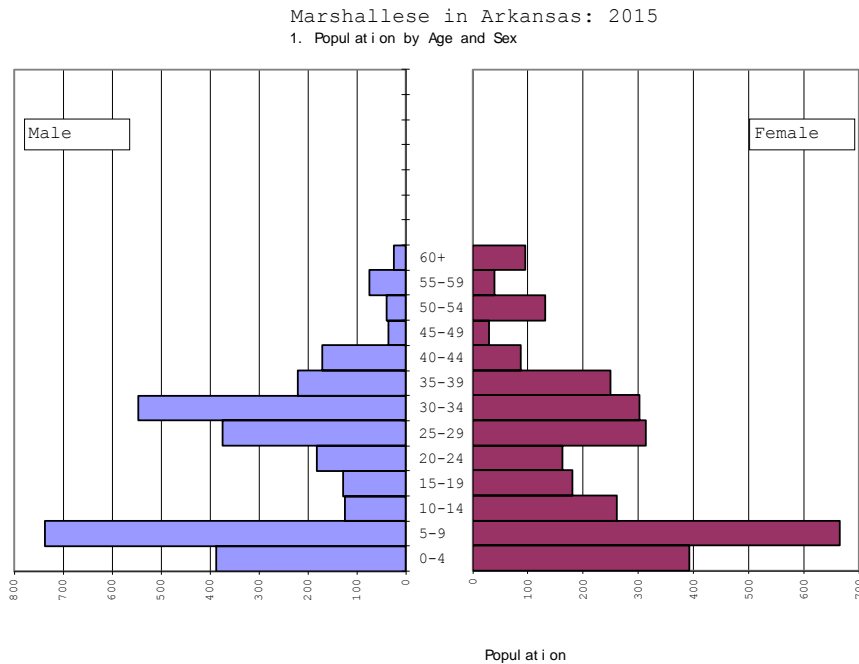
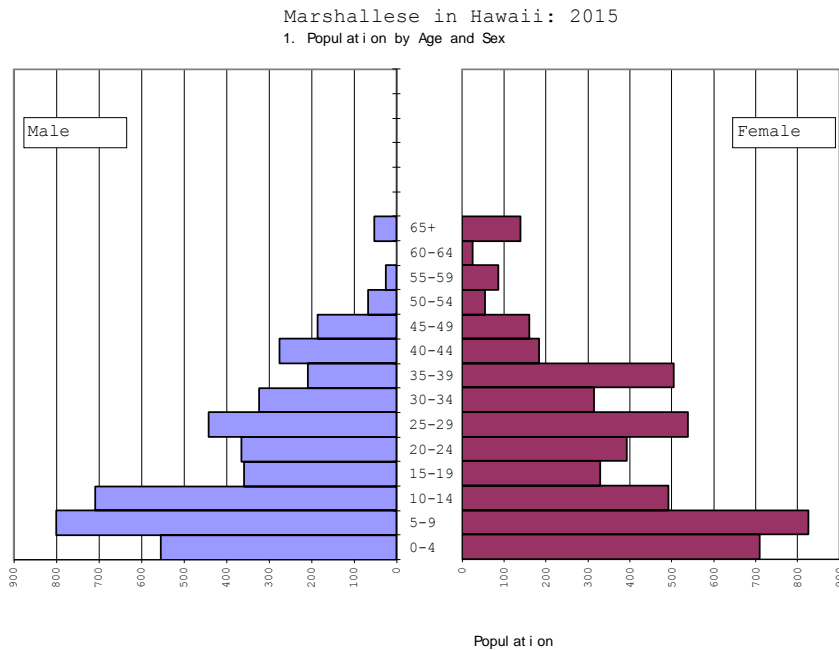


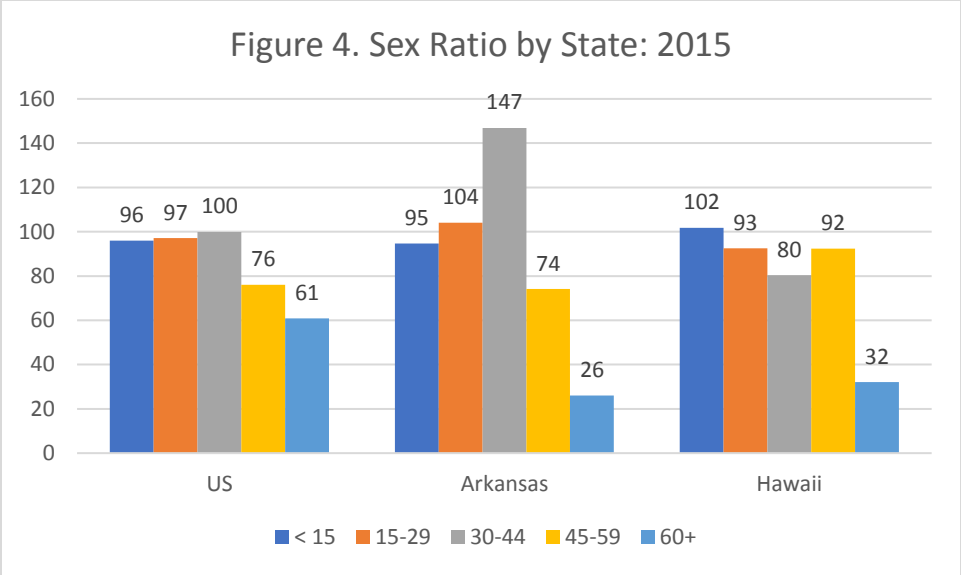
Figure 3 shows the pyramid for Hawaii with the largest group being those 5 to 9, but also with an indentation for those less than 5 years, showing decreased fertility (or missing some of the youngest Marshallese which often happens in enumerations). The Hawaii pyramid also shows the effects of the migration 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.

Table 3. Dependency Ratio by State: 2015

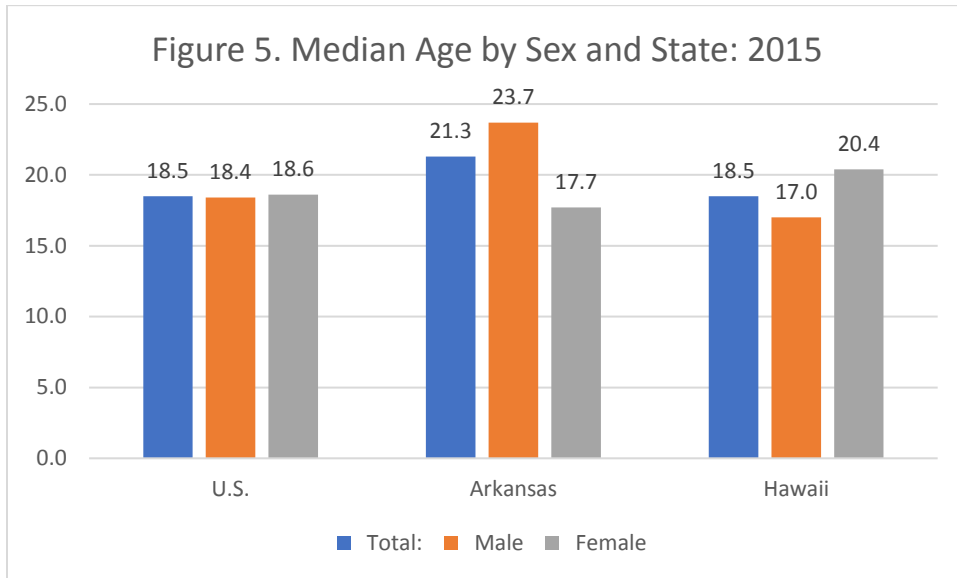
Age	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii
Total	26,856	5,955	9,119
Less than 15 years	11,773	2,568	4,092
15 to 29 years	6,892	1,341	2,424
30 to 44 years	5,724	1,575	1,808
45 to 59 years	1,486	350	577
60 or more years	981	121	218
Dependency Ratio	90.4	82.3	89.6

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 than 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.



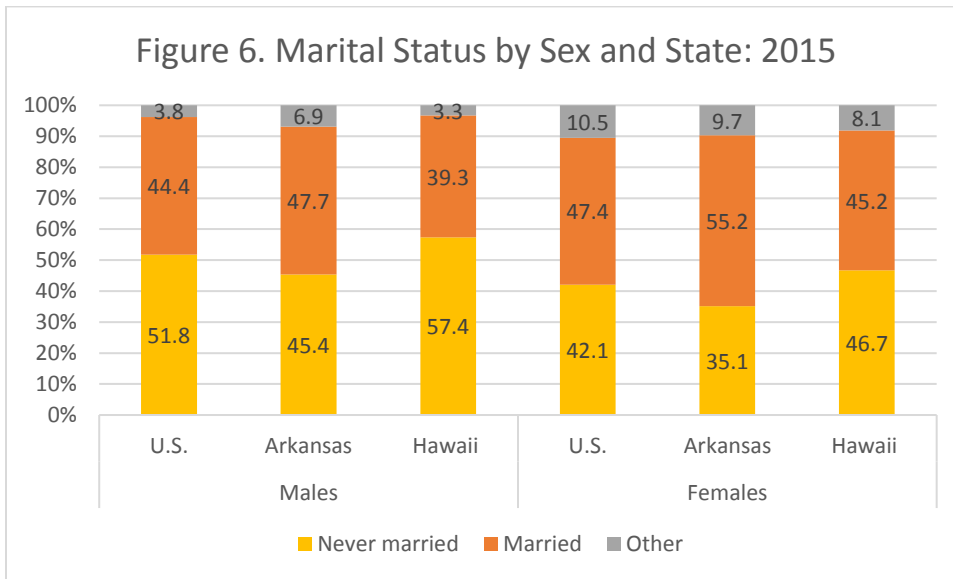
Marital Status. The Census Bureau reports marital status for everyone 15 years and over. They assume that those less than 15 are never married, so they don't ask. And, usually, the tables of marital status are shown separately for males and females. Slightly more than half the adult Marshallese males 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.

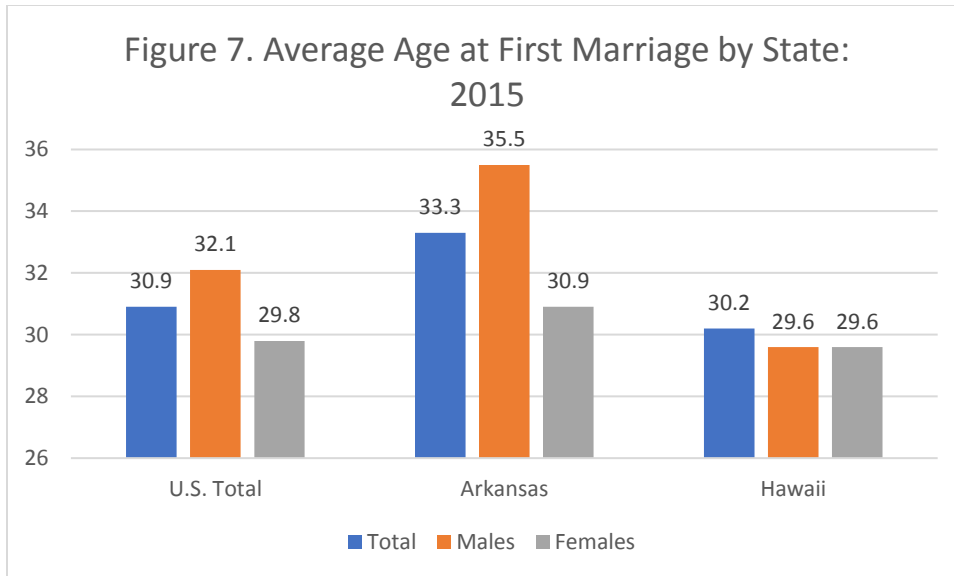
Table 4. Marital Status: 2015

Marital Status	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

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.

Table 6. Grandparents: 2015

Grandparents	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

Table 7 . Birthplace: 2015

Educational Attainment	Numbers			Percents			Percent Native		
	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.

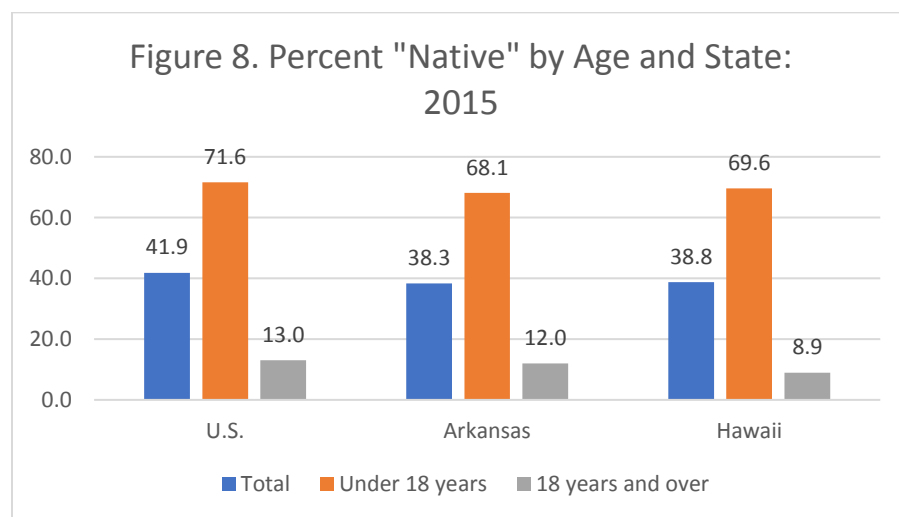
Table 8 . Nativity and Citizenship by Age and Sex: 2015

Nativity and Citizenship	U.S.			Arkansas			Hawaii		
	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.

Table 9. Year of Entry: 2015

Year of Entry	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

Table 10. Residence One Year Before Survey: 2015

Educational Attainment	Numbers			Percents			Percent Different House		
	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.

Table 11. Disability by Sex and Age: 2015

Disability	U.S.			Arkansas			Hawaii		
	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.

Table 12. Nationality and Language by State: 2010

Language Nativity	Number			Percent			Percent Non-English Speakers		
	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.

Table 13. Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English by Age: 2015
[Population 5 years and over]

Language Ability to Speak English	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

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.

Table 15. School Attendance: 2015

Attending School	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

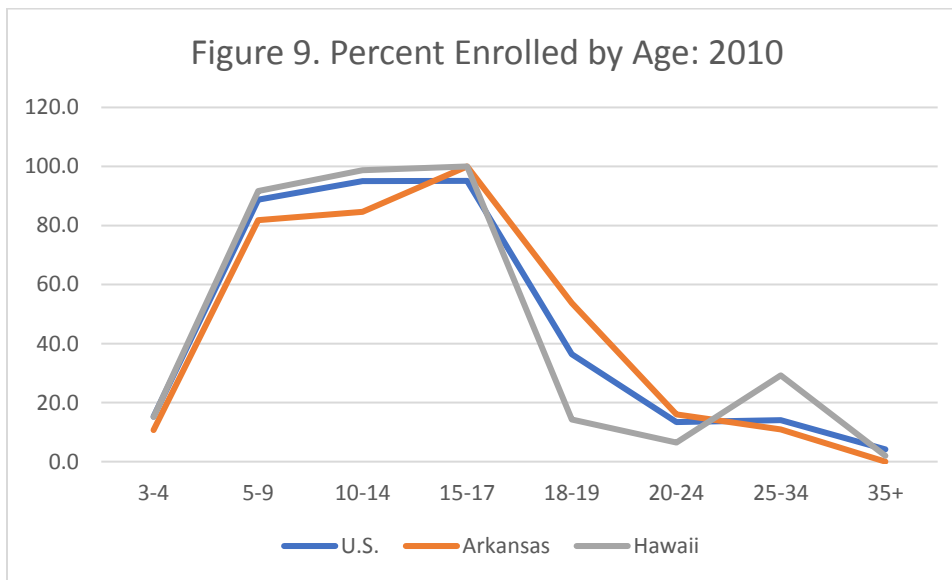
After that, decline occurred. Of course, those graduating from high school and not going on to college should not be considered drop outs. But while 36 percent of all Marshallese 18 and 19 years old in the States were in school, this was true for 54 percent of those in Arkansas, but only 14 percent for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

Table 16. School Enrollment by Sex, Age and State: 2010

School Enrollment	Total			Males			Females		
	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.

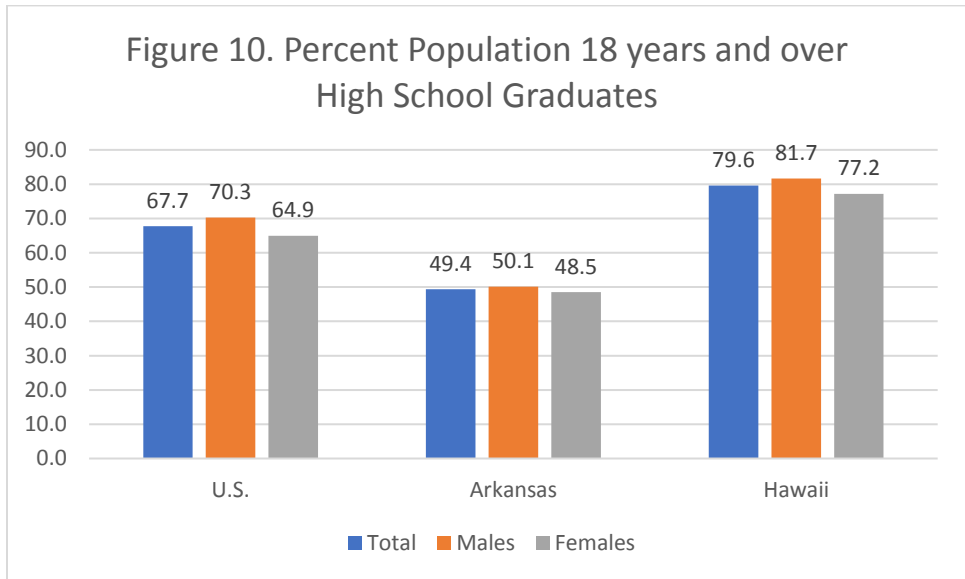
Table 17. Educational Attainment by Age and Sex

Age Educational Attainment	Total			Males			Females		
	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 is 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 begun 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.

Table 18 . Educational Attainment: 2015

Educational Attainment	Numbers			Cumulative Percents		
	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 Statuses. 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.

Table 20. Employment Status: 2015

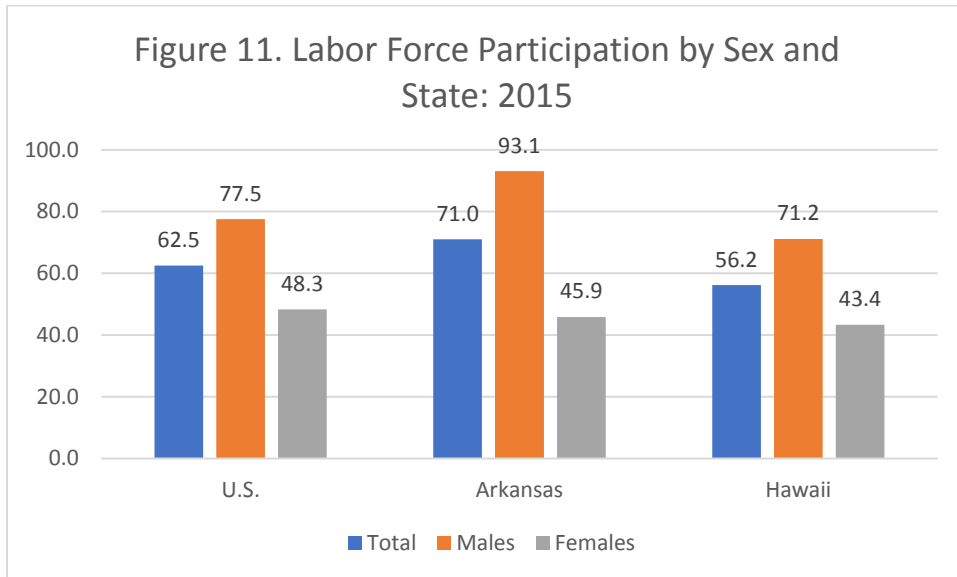
Employment Status	Total			Males			Females		
	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii	U.S.	Arkansas	Hawaii
Population 16 years and over	14,676	3,378	5,000	7,113	1,795	2,302	7,563	1,583	2,698
In labor force	9,168	2,398	2,808	5,513	1,672	1,638	3,655	726	1,170
Percent	62.5	71.0	56.2	77.5	93.1	71.2	48.3	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

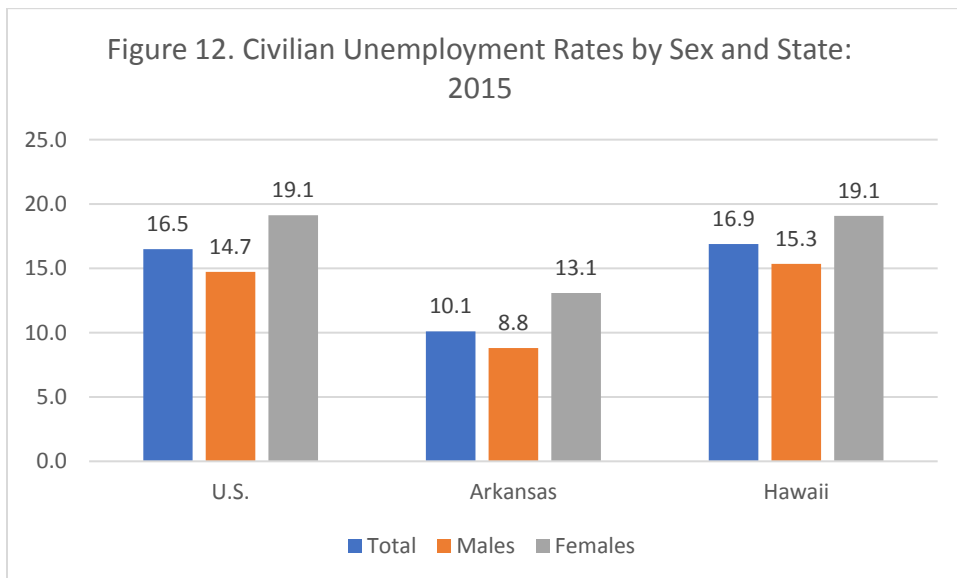
Because of the manufacturing industries in Arkansas, the percentages employed were much higher than the U.S. average. About 71 percent of Arkansas' Marshallese adult population was in the labor force – about fully 93 percent of the males but 46 percent of the females; manufacturing seems to be male-oriented (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.



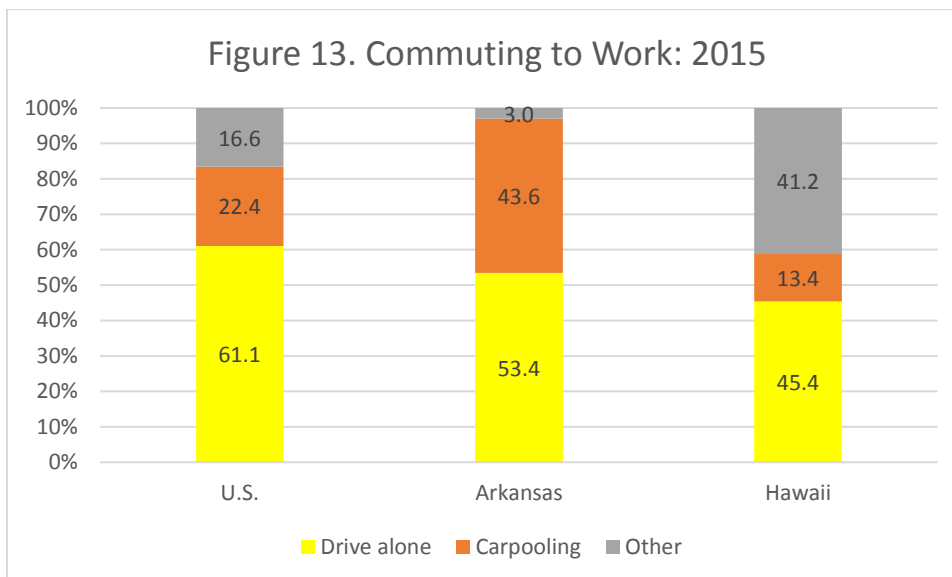
Commuting to Work. About 61 percent of all Marshallese workers drove alone to work (Table 21 and Figure 13). More than half of the Marshallese workers in Arkansas drove to work alone, while less than half of the Hawaii workers drove alone. However, with the Marshallese who carpooled in Arkansas, about 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.

Table 21. Commuting to Work: 2015

Commuting to Work	Numbers			Percent		
	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.

Table 22. Occupation by Sex: 2015
[Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over]

Occupation	Total			Males			Females		
	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.

Table 23. Occupation: 2015

Occupation	Numbers			Percent		
	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

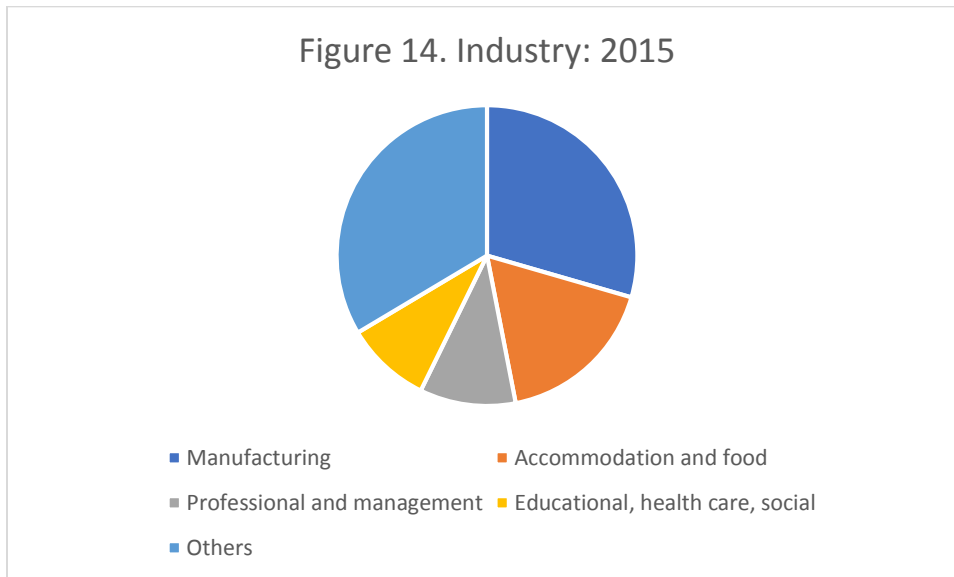
Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables

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.

Table 24 . Industry: 2015

Industry	Numbers			Percent		
	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.

Table 25. Class of Worker by Sex and State: 2015

Class of Worker	Total			Males			Females		
	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

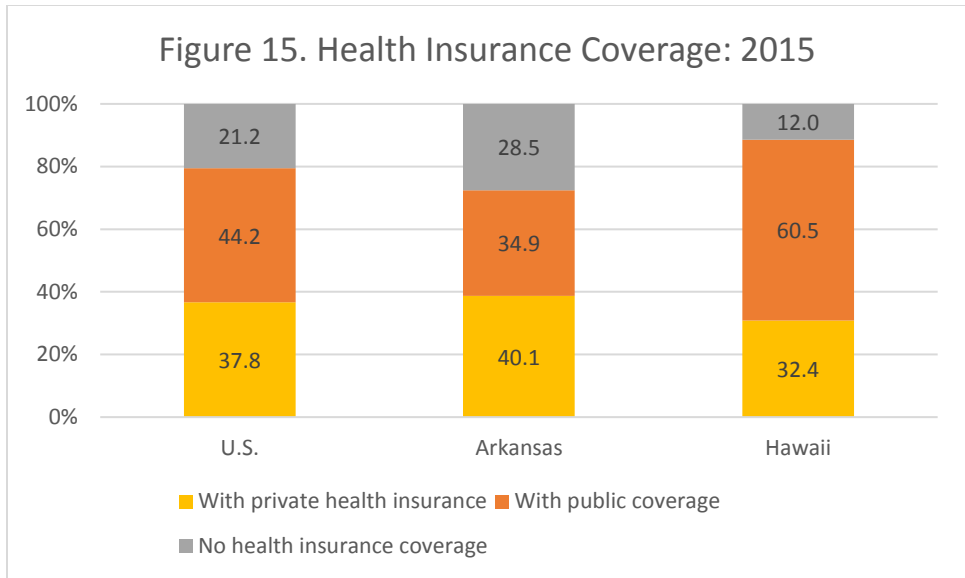
Of the average 27,000 Marshallese in the 2011 to 2015, 79 percent had some type of insurance (Table 26) Marshallese in Arkansas were less likely to have insurance, and those in Hawaii were more likely to have insurance. About 38 percent of the U.S. Marshallese had private health insurance compared to 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).

Table 26. Health Insurance Coverage: 2015

Health Insurance Coverage	Numbers			Percent		
	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.

Table 27. Labor Force and Health Insurance: 2015

Labor Force and Health Insurance	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

Table 28 Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)

Household Income	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

Table 29. Type of Household Income: 2015

Type of Household Income	Numbers			Percents		
	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.

Table 30. Family Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)

Family Income	Numbers			Percents		
	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

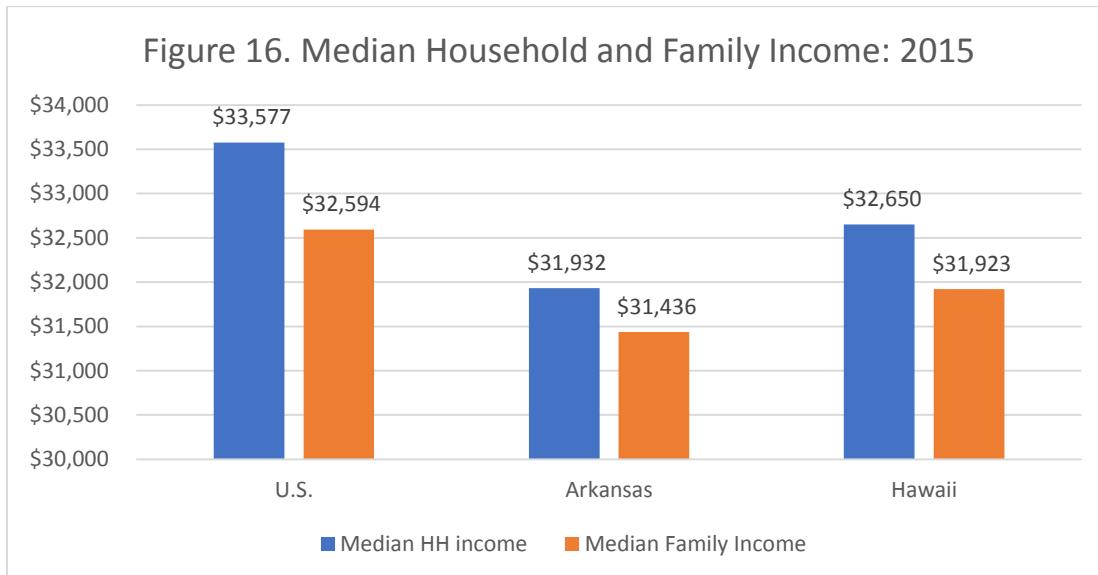
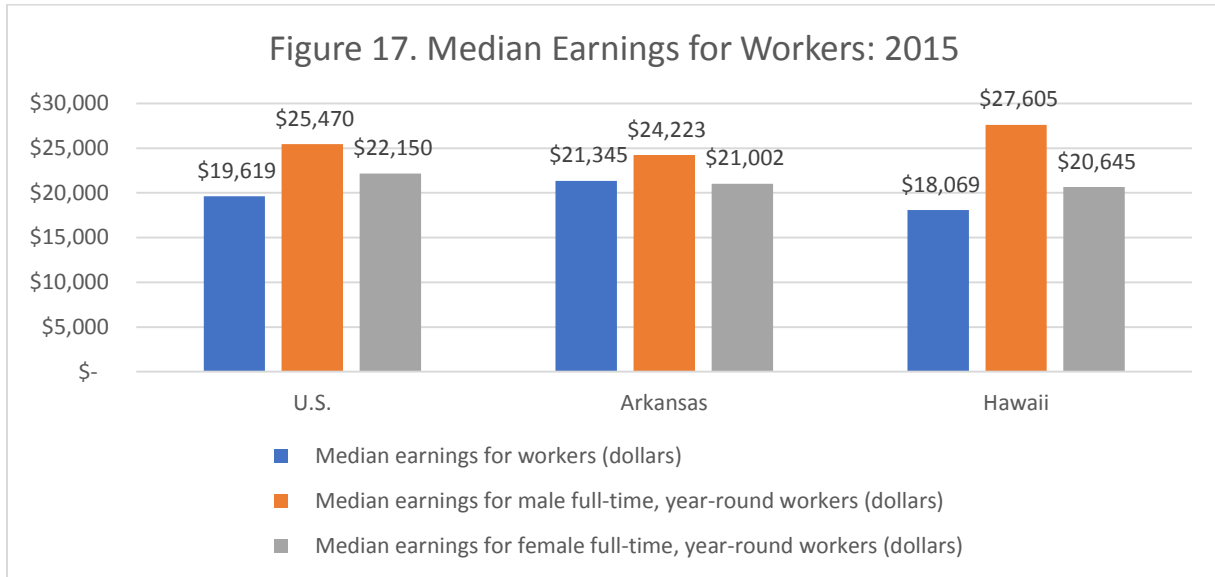
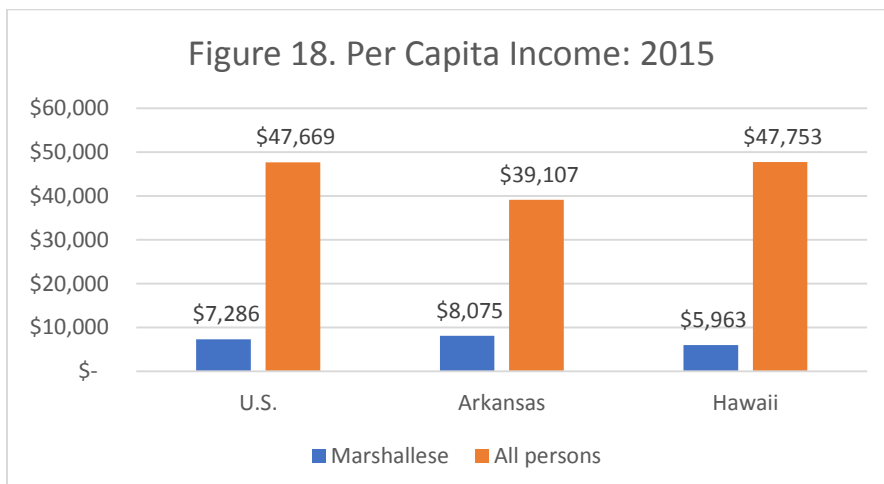


Figure 17 shows median earnings for Marshallese workers for the average year during the period 2011 to 2015. If there is only one wage earner in the household, then the amount shown will be the same as for the household earnings for that household. But if there is more than one wage earner, the amount 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.

Table 31. Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months: 2015

Gross Rent as Percent of Household Income	Numbers			Percent		
	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.

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.

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.