

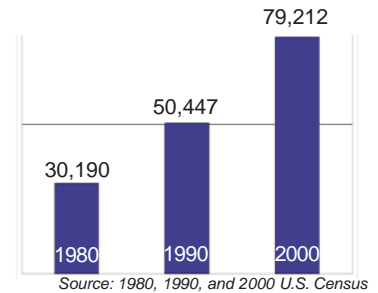


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **4**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **255,000***

Florida ranks fourth among states by Arab American population. The community is well dispersed, consisting of both Lebanese and Syrian Americans well into their third generation along side growing numbers of Palestinians and Egyptians. Florida's Arab American population is well represented in business and the professions and is developing a network of ethnic institutions.

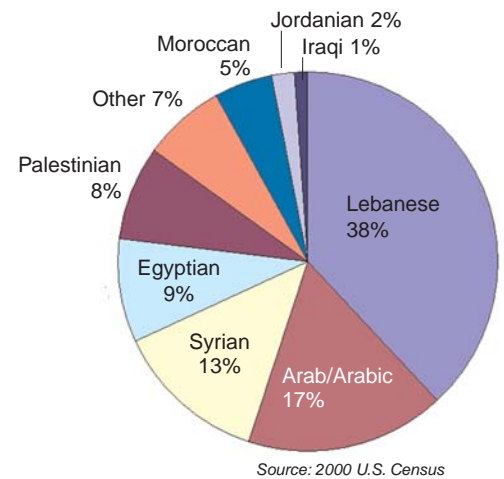
Growth Trends

The population who identified an Arabic-speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census **grew by more than 57% between 1990 and 2000**. Florida's identifiable Arab American community more than doubled since the Census of 1980. The Arab ancestry population increased by over 25,000 in the last decade alone. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for underreporting*, is close to 255,00.



How Do Arab Americans Identify Themselves?

Primary ethnic identification is derived from responses to the ancestry question on the long (sample) form of the 2000 U.S. Census. Census data on "Arabs" include the responses Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Jordanian, Palestinian, Moroccan, Arab or Arabic, and the following countries collapsed as "Other Arab": Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



We also include Arabic-speaking persons who identify as Assyrian/Chaldean, Somali or Sudanese, identities which are not aggregated as Arab in Census reports. In Florida, those of Lebanese and Syrian descent represent half of the Arab ancestry population. Since 1990 both the Egyptian and Palestinian subgroups experienced the most growth; factoring the number of Palestinians who self identify generically as Arabs, this community represents the second largest national origin group after Lebanese.

Immigration

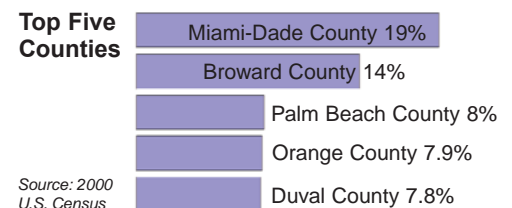
Based on a sample year of 1997, the **largest number of new Arab immigrants to Florida** came from Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan, mostly West Bank Palestinians who held Jordanian passports. Immigrants from the Gulf region originate from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Maghreb region includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Immigrants by country:	By region:
Lebanon 214	Maghreb 317
Egypt 210	Gulf 143
Jordan 173	
Syria 92	
Iraq 30	

Source: Florida Immigrants Admitted by Country of Birth and State of Residence, INS 1997

Where Do Florida's Arab Americans Live?

Arab Americans reside in **59 out of Florida's 67 counties**, with significant numbers in the coastal counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, with other concentrations in Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa.



*AAI reports estimates by Zogby International whose research projects population figures at least three times that of census data. The decennial Census identifies only a portion of the Arab population through a question on "ancestry" on the census long form. Reasons for the undercount include the placement of and limits of the ancestry question (as distinct from race and ethnicity); the effect of the sample methodology on small, unevenly distributed ethnic groups; high levels of out-marriage among the third and fourth generations; and distrust/misunderstanding of government surveys among more recent immigrants.