

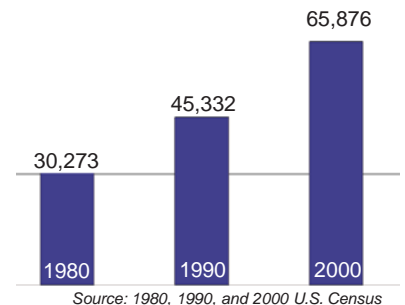


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **7**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **210,000***

Texas is home to the seventh largest Arab American community. Like other Southern states, Texas Arab Americans tend to have roots in Lebanon and Syria as a result of the first major immigration wave. The state has diversified in recent decades with increasing numbers of second wave groups like Egyptians, Palestinians, Jordanians and a significant number of students from the Gulf region. Arab Americans are well represented in business and the professions, especially medical fields, and are active in the state's civic life.

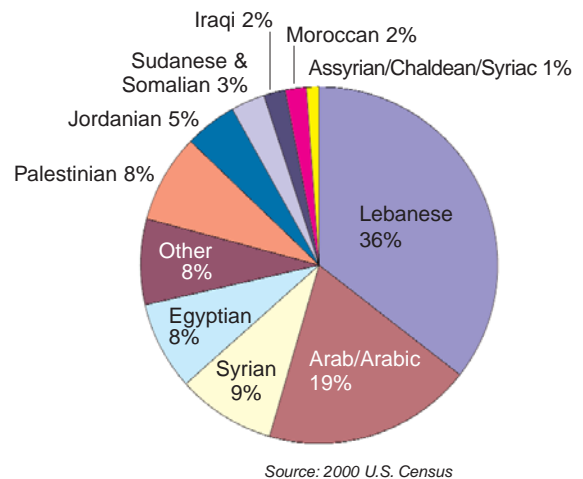
Growth Trends

The population who identified an Arabic-speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census grew by more than 45% between 1990 and 2000. The number of Texans who claim an Arab ancestry more than doubled since the Census first measured ethnic origin in 1980 and is among the fastest growing Arab populations in the country. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for underreporting*, is close to 210,000.



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 Texas, according to the 2000 census, roughly two in five Arab Americans in the state have Lebanese or Syrian roots. Since 1990, significant increases appear in the number of Texans who are of Egyptian and Palestinian descent. One in five ancestry respondents chose the generic identity of "Arab/Arabic."

Immigration

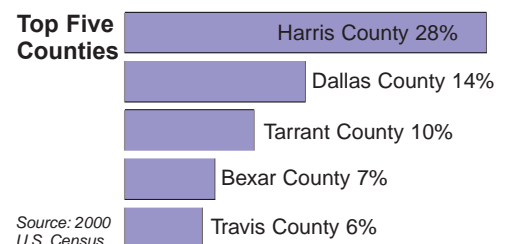
Based on a sample year of 197, the largest number of new Arab immigrants to Texas came from Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. Texas is one of the most popular destinations for new arrivals from the Arab world. Immigrants from the Gulf region originate from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Maghreb region includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Immigrants by country:	By region:
Jordan 312	Gulf 941
Lebanon 217	Maghreb 342
Egypt 157	
Iraq 140	
Syria 97	

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

Where Do Texas Arab Americans Live?

Arab Americans in Texas reside in 155 of the 248 counties in the state. Concentrations can be found in the Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and El Paso metropolitan areas.



*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.