

Census: Fremont is 14th-largest city

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still the largest single ethnic group, at 48 percent. The number of Caucasians living in Fremont is lower than it has been in 30 years. On the other hand, the Asian population has jumped to 75,165, more than doubling the 33,671 counted in the 1990 Cesus.

In fact, though Fremont's total population has continued to climb to its new high of 203,413 people, — making it the 14th-largest city in California — the number of Caucasians living here is lower than even the 1970 Census figure of 97,649.

"But I don't know that that really means anything other than things are changing," Fremont Mayor Gus Morrison said. "I don't think it indicates anything too ground-breaking."

Morrison pointed to the value of homes in the area as one factor for the decline of Caucasian residents. The people who originally purchased houses in Fremont have grown older and are retiring, he said, and a majority of those people are Caucasian.

"And their houses are worth a lot of money now, so they're selling them," he said. "And who's moving in, but the people who work in Silicon Valley."

IT boom a big reason

Half of the computer and technological businesses in San Jose are owned by Asian Americans, Morrison said, so it makes sense that the local Asian population has shot up with the high-tech job wave that came through in the 1990s.

As older Caucasians retire and move away, younger business people are moving in, Morrison said. In this case, many of those professionals are Asian American, resulting in a new look and feel to the city.

"Things evolve," former mayor Don Dillon said. "And I think it's great. I'm having a lot of fun watching this town accommodate itself."

Dillon agreed with Morrison that the major impetus behind Fremont's cultural change is the amount of available housing and the proximity to the rest of the Silicon Valley.

In 1963, when Dillon first became mayor, the city's entire population was only around 30,000 people, he said, and most of those people were Caucasian.

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Don Dillon

former mayor

Some long-time residents expressed uneasy feelings about the change, but many view the influx of Asian Americans as positive and a learning experience.

Philip Holmes has lived in Fremont for more than 30 years and says he finds the change "de-lightful."

"It's interesting because we see the numbers in the paper, but to us it looks like the population is 85 percent Asian," he said. "I've definitely seen things change and whites leave, but I personally think a diverse populace adds a lot to the community. I enjoy it very much."

Newer residents like diversity

And, for many Asian Americans, the feeling is mutual.

"We don't want to live with only Asians," said Fremont resident Chi Choy. "That would defeat the purpose of coming to the U.S. We want to be with lots of different cultures and experience all that that has to offer. I appreciate Fremont because of that."

Community leaders are slow to make predictions about whether the local Caucasian population will continue to decline. Morrison said he had no idea when he took office in 1985 of the changes he would see during his tenure, making him hesitant to make predictions now.

"No one could have seen these changes coming," he said. "I suspect that we'll see more Asians moving here over the next two years, but beyond that I can't say. All I know is that cities change, and I'm sure ours will continue to do so as well."

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Fremont experiences 'white flight'

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New census shows greater diversity

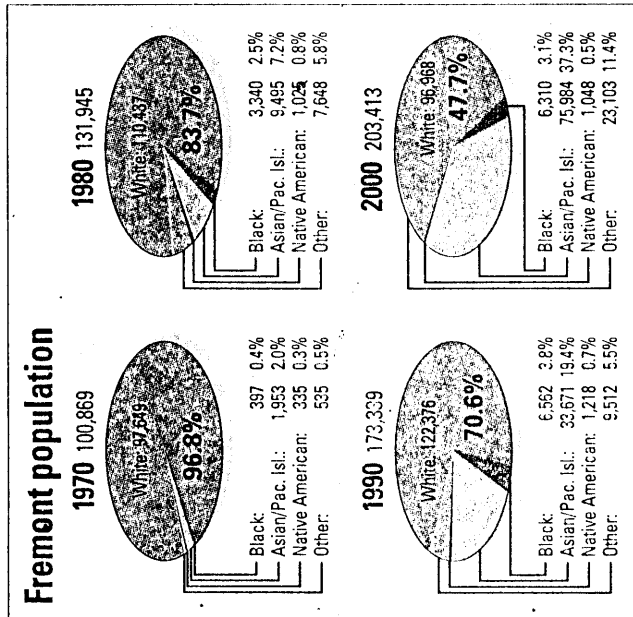
By Jennifer Carnig
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — Though their city looks like a typical suburb in many ways, local residents no longer expect to find the "Brady Bunch" living in too many homes in the area.

The city is breaking the mold from the stereotypical white suburb found in the television show and across much of the country.

Over the past several decades, the racial mix in Fremont has become consistently more diversified, but according to the 2000 Census, the city looks more unique than ever.

Between 1990 and 2000, the Caucasian population has decreased from 122,376 to 96,968 — a 20.8 percent decline. While



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

— Staff

Please see Census, NEWS-5

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Asians abound in Bay Area

By Lisa Friedman
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Making official in charts and numbers what communities have known for years, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today that Bay Area cities are home to the largest concentrations of Asian Americans in the continental United States.

Daly City, Fremont, Sunnyvale and San Francisco were the metropolitan areas with the highest percentages of Asians. Only Honolulu, where 67.7 percent identified themselves as entirely or part Asian, ranked higher.

Nationwide, the Asian population increased by 3.3 million, or 48 percent,

Largest population in continental U.S.

over the past decade — a spurt that exceeded the country's total population growth during that time. And of the 11.9 million men, women and children who identified themselves as Asian on the 2000 Census, nearly half are living in the West, officials said.

"I don't think that anyone was expecting anything different," said Giles Li, spokesman for the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington, D.C.

More striking, he said, was the continued growth of specific Asian communities. The Vietnamese population grew by 89.2 percent over the past decade to

Asian jumping 61 percent.

New York and Los Angeles ranked first and second respectively as the largest metropolitan regions with the largest Asian communities. According to the Census, Los Angeles is now about 11 percent Asian, with 407,444 residents identifying as such.

Per capita, though, Bay Area cities far outpaced the rest of the country.

According to the Census, 53 percent of Daly City residents identified themselves as at least part Asian; 39.8 percent in Fremont; 34.2 percent in Sunnyvale; 32.6 percent in San Francisco; 31.4 percent in Santa Clara and 28.8 percent in San Jose.

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Census: Asians dominant in Fremont

Matthew Artz, STAFF WRITER

FREMONT -- Asians have leaped ahead of whites as the largest racial group in Fremont, and now constitute just a sliver less than half of the city's population, recent estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau reported.

Asians account for 104,800 (or 49.8 percent) of Fremont's household population of 210,387. Non-Hispanic whites number 64,110 (30 percent), and Hispanics of any race account for 29,222 (14 percent).

People who identify as multiracial account for 5,296 of Fremont's population, while those who belong to a race not listed by the Census Bureau account for 22,116.

The figures show a dramatic shift in the city's demographics since the 2000 Census. That report showed that out of a population of 203,413, non-Hispanic whites numbered 84,149; Asians, 75,165; and Hispanics of any race, 27,409.

Fremont's foreign-born population jumped from 75,494 in the 2000 Census to an estimated 95,894 in the recent report.

Meanwhile, African Americans declined in population from 6,310 to

4,416 in five years.

Fremont and Union City are the only places in Alameda County where Asians have emerged as the largest racial grouping.

The already sizable Asian communities in both cities are magnets for drawing more Asian transplants, said Melissa Michelson, professor of ethnic and minority politics at California State University, East Bay.

"It makes them feel comfortable," she said. "They all have the advantage of not being the first Asian family on the block."

The census data released Tuesday is not as precise as the full census. It included only cities with populations of more than 65,000, and did not take into account people living in group quarters, including universities and prisons, which accounted for about

1,800 of Fremont's residents in the 2000 Census.

The report has a margin of error that varied between 5 percent and 50percent.

Little could be gleaned from data on Union City because nearly every shift from the 2000 Census fell well within the report's margin of error.

In Fremont, however, even using the most conservative estimates for the growth of the Asian population and the departure of non-Hispanic white residents, Asians still would predominate, 95,264 to 69,904.

"That's not surprising," said John Juarez of Prudential California Realty. "It's hard for anybody not to notice that there is a growth in the Asian population of Fremont."

Fremont's Asian population, which includes Indo-Americans, Chinese, Vietnamese and Afghans, to name a few national groups, tends to be

better educated and younger than its white neighbors, according to census data.

The average age for non-Hispanic whites is 42. For Asians, it's 34; for Hispanics, 29.6; for African Americans, 29.5; and for residents who list more than one race, 23.

Among Asians older than 25, 68 percent held bachelor's or graduate degrees, compared with 36 percent for non-Hispanic whites and 15 percent for Hispanics.

"It's nice that Fremont is such an attraction to new-money types," Councilmember Bob Wieckowski said. "This isn't bring me your poor; this is bring me your rich."

Wieckowski didn't expect Fremont's burgeoning Asian majority to affect the city's politics. Most of the national groups classified as Asian by the census have varying interests and political cultures, he said.

One thing the census data made clear, however, is that more of Fremont's immigrant population is becoming eligible to vote. Fifty-one percent of Fremont's foreign-born residents are naturalized U.S. citizens, according to the new report, versus the 45 percent reported in the 2000 Census.

So, where are the non-Hispanic whites going?

It's hard to say, exactly, Michelson said. Some may be dying of old age or retiring elsewhere; others likely are moving to cities that have a higher percentage of whites.

Fremont's largest Asian communities are Chinese, estimated at 40,129; Indo-Americans, estimated at 34,870; and Filipinos, estimated at 14,578.

But as the report tries to account for smaller national groupings, the margin of error rises. Councilmember Anu Natarajan, Fremont's most prominent Indo-American public official, doubted some of the figures.

"I think (for Indo-Americans) the population is probably in the low 20,000s," she said. "Since 2003, I'm seeing a lot more people moving back to India."

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