On June 13th, 2013 the U.S. Census Bureau released its annual population estimates. One widely quoted statistic from the release was “Asians fastest growing race or ethnic group in 2012”. For this issue of Data Flash we look into the numbers for Miami-Dade County to see if the nationwide trend is reflected in our area. We also present the breakdown of the Asian population by country of origin.

Between July 1st 2011 and July 1st 2012 the Asian population in the County increased by 4.3 percent, four times the overall population growth of 1 percent and over 50 percent faster than the national figure of 2.8 percent. By 2012 the Asian population reached 43,801 or 1.69 percent of the total population for the County.

The more rapid growth of the Asian population in Miami-Dade during the most recent year was in contrast to the faster growth in the nation during the previous two decades. In the period 1990 to 2010, the Asian population grew by 112 percent compared to 47 percent in Miami-Dade.

As was the case at the national level during the most recent year, the growth of the Asian population was higher than the growth for Hispanics (0.4 percent), Non-Hispanic Blacks (-0.2) and Non-Hispanic Whites (4 percent). This higher rate of growth has been the case since 2000.

The latest information about the origin of the Asian population is provided by the 2010 Census. Within the Asian population the largest nationality is the Chinese. The Chinese group accounts for 29 percent of the total Asian population. Close behind on this measure are Asian Indians that account for 26.5 percent of total Asians, on third place are Filipinos with 15.7 percent. Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese follow with shares of 6.1, 4.2 and 4.1 percent respectively.

Looking back twenty years to 1990, there have been some notable changes in the share of Asian population by county of origin. The most significant of these changes in share is a 55 percent increase in Vietnamese followed by a 23 and 21 percent decrease in Koreans and Japanese respectively.