

Hispanics of Peruvian Origin in the United States, 2007

A total of 471,000 Hispanics of Peruvian origin resided in the United States in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Peruvians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Peruvian origin; this means either they themselves are Peruvian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Peru. Peruvians are the tenth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.0% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007. Mexicans constituted 29.2 million, or 64.3%, of the Hispanic population.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Peruvian population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Three-in-four Peruvians (73.8%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 39.8% of Hispanics and 12.6% of the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds of immigrants from Peru (66.8%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Four-in-ten Peruvian immigrants (38.1%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Peruvians (51.3%) speak English proficiently.² Some 48.7% of Peruvians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Peruvians are similar in age to the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Peruvians is 35; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

² Peruvians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Peruvians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—50.3% versus 47.3%.
- **Fertility.** Three-in-ten (29.5%) Peruvian women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was less than the rate for all Hispanic women—38.1%—and the rate for U.S. women—33.4%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Peruvians are more geographically dispersed than other Hispanic origin groups. Two-in-ten Peruvians (19.7%) live in Florida; some one-in-six (17.2%) live in California and in New Jersey (16.0%).
- **Educational attainment.** Peruvians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 31.0% of Peruvians ages 25 and older—compared with 12.6% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Peruvians ages 16 and older were \$24,286 in 2007; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,048.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Peruvians who live in poverty, 10.9%, is similar to that of the general U.S. population (11.9%) and below the 19.5% share among all Hispanics.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Peruvian homeownership (47.3%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (49.9%) and the U.S. population (67.2%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Peruvian origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2007 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of about 3 million addresses. The data used for this statistical profile come from 2007 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series ([IPUMS](#)), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population.

Like any survey, estimates from the ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. Information on the ACS sampling strategy and associated error is available at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf. An example of measurement error is that citizenship rates for the foreign born are estimated to be overstated in the Decennial Census and other official surveys, such as the ACS (see Jeffrey Passel, “[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#),” Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2007)). Finally, estimates from the ACS may differ from the Decennial Census or other Census Bureau surveys due to differences in methodology and data collection procedures (see, for example, <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/Report10.pdf> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/ASA_nelson.pdf).

Table 1
Population Characteristics, 2007
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Peruvian Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	471
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	222
Female	152,982	21,924	248
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	123
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	347
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	35
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	32
5-17	53,217	10,438	75
18-29	50,386	9,328	80
30-39	40,623	7,629	90
40-49	45,132	5,871	79
50-64	53,769	4,737	79
65 and older	37,798	2,481	34
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	193
Never married	74,061	12,199	129
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	61
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	122
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	9
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	3
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	75
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	45
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	94
Some college	53,251	4,931	83
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	99
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,333	\$21,048	\$24,286
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,464	\$27,321	\$30,357
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	12,809	4,045	17
18-64	19,856	4,362	31
65 and older	3,248	428	3
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	246,339	40,369	414
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	286
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	52
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	256
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	215
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	50
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	389
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	175
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	213
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	16,331	7,122	115
1990 to 1999	11,179	5,578	99
2000 or later	10,539	5,349	132
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,681	6,198	163
New Jersey	8,686	1,379	75
New York	19,298	3,147	58
Midwest	66,389	4,076	26
South	110,455	15,850	173
Florida	18,251	3,751	93
Virginia	23,904	8,591	26
West	70,097	19,256	109
California	36,553	13,219	81

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. ²For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=POVERTY>. Due to the way in which the IPUMS assigns poverty values, these data will differ from those that might be provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. ³The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.html> and <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Peruvian Origin
Total (in thousands)	112,386	12,296	145
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	69
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	77
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	47.3
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$47,560
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.2

Note: The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters. Households are classified by the ethnicity of the household head. Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Peruvian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	258
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	17
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	101
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	6.2
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	22
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	27
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	55
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	154
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	68
Services	20,728	4,391	58
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	62
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	19
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	51

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

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