

Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 1.6 million Hispanics of Cuban origin resided in the United States in 2008, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Cubans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Cuban origin; this means either they themselves are Cuban immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Cuba. Cubans are the third-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.5% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2008. Mexicans constituted 30.7 million, or 65.7%, and Puerto Ricans 4.2 million, or 8.9%, of the Hispanic population.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Cuban population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Six-in-ten Cubans (60.1%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Cuba (57.2%) arrived in the U.S. before 1990. Most Cuban immigrants (58.2%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Cubans (58.3%) speak English proficiently.² Some 41.7% of Cubans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Cubans are older than the U.S. population and Hispanics overall. The median age of Cubans is 41; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Cubans are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—49.1% versus 46.5%.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

- **Fertility.** One-quarter (26.1%) of Cuban 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—38.8%—and the rate for U.S. women—34.5%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Cubans are the most geographically concentrated Hispanic origin group. Nearly seven-in-ten (68.5%) live in Florida.
- **Educational attainment.** Cubans have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Twenty-five percent of Cubans ages 25 and older—compared with 12.9% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Cubans ages 16 and older were \$26,478 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Cubans who live in poverty, 13.2%, is similar to that of the general U.S. population (12.7%) and below the 20.7% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-quarter of Cubans (22.7%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 14.5% of Cubans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Cuban homeownership (59.7%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (49.1%) but lower than the 66.6% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Cuban origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [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 2008 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/accuracy2008.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, 2008)). 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, 2008
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin
Total	304,060	46,822	1,631
Gender			
Male	149,863	24,214	822
Female	154,196	22,608	809
Nativity			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	652
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	979
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	41
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	103
5-17	53,012	10,787	231
18-29	51,086	9,344	218
30-39	40,407	7,769	223
40-49	44,673	6,087	268
50-64	55,207	4,989	273
65 and older	38,797	2,631	313
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,805	15,422	664
Never married	75,960	12,713	370
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	319
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	304
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	17
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	4
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,068	10,497	226
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	281
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	320
Some college	57,595	5,601	267
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	291
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$26,478
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$34,625
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	43
18-64	21,919	4,792	104
65 and older	3,648	491	68
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	370
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	49
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	247,692	41,549	1,348
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	973
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	235
Citizenship			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	1,222
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	409
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	252
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	1,276
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	638
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	638
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	560
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	202
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	217
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	185
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	82
New York	19,490	3,232	68
Midwest	66,561	4,252	62
South	111,719	16,441	1,260
Florida	18,328	3,846	1,117
Texas	24,327	8,816	44
West	70,855	19,724	123
California	36,757	13,435	77

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 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/designs.shtml> and <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2008.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin
Total (in thousands)	113,101	12,612	589
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	351
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	237
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	59.7
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$43,587
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.7

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 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	146,246	20,683	770
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	56
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	504
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	6.8
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	67
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	63
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	176
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	464
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	260
Services	21,669	4,614	115
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	211
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	51
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	133

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
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