

Hispanics of Peruvian Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 519,000 Hispanics of Peruvian origin resided in the United States in 2008, 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 1.1% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2008. Mexicans constituted 30.7 million, or 65.7%, 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 2008 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Seven-in-ten Peruvians (69.3%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds of immigrants from Peru (66.1%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Four-in-ten Peruvian immigrants (42.3%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Peruvians (55.1%) speak English proficiently.² Some 44.9% of Peruvians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% 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—50.7% versus 46.5%.
- **Fertility.** Two-in-ten Peruvian women (19.6%) 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.** Peruvians are more geographically dispersed than other Hispanic origin groups. Two-in-ten Peruvians (19.8%) live in Florida and one-in-six (16.8%) live in California; some one-in-eight live in New Jersey (12.9%) and New York (12.3%).
- **Educational attainment.** Peruvians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 29.8% of Peruvians 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 Peruvians ages 16 and older were \$24,441 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Peruvians who live in poverty, 9.5%, is lower than the rate of the general U.S. population (12.7%) and the rate among all Hispanics (20.7%).
- **Health Insurance.** Three-in-ten Peruvians (30.2%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 20.0% of Peruvians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Peruvian homeownership (50.1%) is similar to 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 Peruvian 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 Peruvian Origin
Total	304,060	46,822	519
Gender			
Male	149,863	24,214	249
Female	154,196	22,608	271
Nativity			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	160
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	360
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	35
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	42
5-17	53,012	10,787	86
18-29	51,086	9,344	87
30-39	40,407	7,769	85
40-49	44,673	6,087	88
50-64	55,207	4,989	89
65 and older	38,797	2,631	43
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,805	15,422	209
Never married	75,960	12,713	135
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	68
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	125
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	10
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	2
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,068	10,497	85
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	39
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	102
Some college	57,595	5,601	99
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	102
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$24,441
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$32,079
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	15
18-64	21,919	4,792	30
65 and older	3,648	491	4
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	157
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	25
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	247,692	41,549	451
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	317
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	62
Citizenship			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	312
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	208
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	62
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	416
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	201
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	215
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	122
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	107
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	130
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	163
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	67
New York	19,490	3,232	64
Midwest	66,561	4,252	31
South	111,719	16,441	202
Florida	18,328	3,846	103
Texas	24,327	8,816	29
West	70,855	19,724	123
California	36,757	13,435	87

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 Peruvian Origin
Total (in thousands)	113,101	12,612	155
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	78
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	77
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	50.1
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$51,734
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 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 Peruvian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	146,246	20,683	290
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	17
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	98
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	5.6
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	23
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	29
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	64
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	174
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	75
Services	21,669	4,614	70
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	74
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	19
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	51

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
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