

May 26, 2011

Statistical Profile

---

# Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2009

**Daniel Dockterman**, Research Assistant

---

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-3600

Fax (202) 419-3608

[info@pewhispanic.org](mailto:info@pewhispanic.org)

[www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

Copyright © 2011

## Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2009

An estimated 31.7 million Hispanics of Mexican origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Mexicans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Mexican origin; this means either they themselves are Mexican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Mexico. Mexicans are the largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for nearly two-thirds (65.5%) of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2009.<sup>1</sup>

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Mexican population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on tabulations from the 2009 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.<sup>2</sup> Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Thirty-six percent of Mexican in the United States are foreign born, compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Mexico (64%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. More than two-in-ten Mexican immigrants (23%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** More than six-in-ten of Mexicans (63%) speak English proficiently.<sup>3</sup> Some 37% of Mexicans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, equal to the share among all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Mexicans are younger than the U.S. population and Hispanics overall. The median age of Mexicans is 25; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Less than half of Mexicans (47%) and Hispanics overall (45%) are married.
- **Fertility.** Thirty-nine percent of Mexican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was similar to the rate for all Hispanic women—40%—but greater than the rate for U.S. women—35%.

---

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

<sup>2</sup> The 2010 Census did not collect data on most of the characteristics tabulated in this profile.

<sup>3</sup> This includes Mexicans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** One-third of Mexicans (36%) live in California, and one-in-four (25%) live in Texas.
- **Educational attainment.** Mexicans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Nine percent of Mexicans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Mexicans ages 16 and older were \$20,000 in 2009; the median earnings for the U.S. population were \$28,900.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Mexicans who live in poverty, 24%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and similar to the share for all Hispanics (23%).
- **Health Insurance.** One-third of Mexicans (34%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 17% of Mexicans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Mexican homeownership (50%) is similar to the rate for all Hispanics (48%) but lower than the 66% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

### About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Mexican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2009 [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 2009 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 [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/). 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, 2009)). 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/methodology/ASA\\_nelson.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/methodology/ASA_nelson.pdf), <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

## Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>Total</b>	307,007	48,348	31,674
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	151,373	24,980	16,586
Female	155,633	23,368	15,088
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	20,247
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	11,426
<b>Age</b>			
Median (in years)	36	27	25
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	3,853
5-17	53,300	11,258	7,942
18-29	51,995	9,640	6,464
30-39	40,338	7,786	5,115
40-49	44,163	6,269	3,832
50-64	56,546	5,242	3,033
65 and older	39,492	2,716	1,434
<b>Marital Status (ages 15 and older)</b>			
Married	120,802	15,492	10,121
Never married	77,957	13,449	8,549
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	2,865
<b>Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)</b>			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	7,046
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	652
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	254
<b>School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)</b>			
K-12	52,293	10,964	7,733
<b>Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	7,249
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	4,168
Some college	58,319	5,801	3,295
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	1,458
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)</b>			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,900	\$20,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$27,000
<b>Persons in Poverty<sup>2</sup></b>			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	3,761
18-64	24,347	5,515	3,732
65 and older	3,560	495	250
<b>Health Insurance</b>			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	10,778
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	2,062
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household<sup>3</sup></b>			
In family households	250,360	43,137	28,755
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	19,117
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	2,371
<b>Citizenship</b>			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	22,838
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	8,836
<b>Language (ages 5 and older)</b>			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	6,686
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	21,134
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	10,769
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	10,365
<b>Year of Entry (foreign-born only)</b>			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	4,133
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	3,603
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	3,691
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	850
Midwest	66,837	4,358	3,290
Illinois	12,910	1,969	1,559
South	113,318	17,210	10,784
Texas	24,782	9,151	8,036
West	71,568	20,203	16,750
California	36,962	13,682	11,545
Arizona	6,596	2,032	1,857
Colorado	5,025	1,017	785

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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 2009 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/methodology/methodology\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/).

## Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>			
	113,616	12,728	7,735
<b>Homeownership (household heads)</b>			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	3,856
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	3,878
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	49.9
<b>Household Annual Income (in dollars)</b>			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$40,000
<b>Household Size</b>			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	3.8

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 2009 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/methodology/methodology\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/).

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)</b>			
Employed	140,638	20,041	12,692
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	1,692
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	6,513
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	11.8
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	2,160
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	1,509
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	2,298
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	6,724
<b>Occupations<sup>1</sup></b>			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	2,266
Services	21,662	4,799	3,108
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	2,650
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	1,916
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	2,752

<sup>1</sup>Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.  
Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 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/methodology/methodology\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/).