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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Dominican Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 1.4 million Hispanics of Dominican origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Dominicans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Dominican origin; this means either they themselves are Dominican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.8% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2009. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 31.7 million, or 65.5%, of the Hispanic population in 2009.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Dominican 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.² Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Nearly six-in-ten of Dominicans (57%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from the Dominican Republic (60%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly half of Dominican immigrants (47%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority (53%) of Dominicans speak English proficiently.³ Some 47% of Dominicans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Dominicans are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Dominicans is 29; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Dominicans are less likely than Hispanics overall to be married—38% versus 45%.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (41%) of Dominican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was similar

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

³ This includes Dominicans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

to the rate for all Hispanic women—40%—and higher than the rate for U.S. women—35%.

- **Regional dispersion.** Eight-in-ten Dominicans (79%) live in the Northeast, and half (50%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Dominicans have slightly higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Fifteen percent of Dominicans 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 Dominicans 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 Dominicans who live in poverty, 25%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and similar to the 23% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** One-quarter of Dominicans (23%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 9% of Dominicans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Dominican homeownership (26%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (48%) and the U.S. population (66%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Dominican 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/. 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/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

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Table 1
U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Dominican Origin, 2009
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	1,360
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	644
Female	155,633	23,368	717
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	580
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	780
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	127
5-17	53,300	11,258	286
18-29	51,995	9,640	281
30-39	40,338	7,786	197
40-49	44,163	6,269	193
50-64	56,546	5,242	189
65 and older	39,492	2,716	86
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	382
Never married	77,957	13,449	430
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	207
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	330
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	20
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	8
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	281
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	282
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	196
Some college	58,319	5,801	181
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	115
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,900	\$20,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$29,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	133
18-64	24,347	5,515	176
65 and older	3,560	495	28
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	312
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	38
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	250,360	43,137	1,220
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	606
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	116
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	948
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	413
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	101
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	1,132
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	551
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	581
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	314
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	251
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	215
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	1,073
New York	19,541	3,275	675
New Jersey	8,708	1,454	166
Massachusetts	6,594	582	104
Pennsylvania	12,605	644	50
Midwest	66,837	4,358	23
South	113,318	17,210	238
Florida	18,538	3,987	163
West	71,568	20,203	26

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 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/.

Hispanics of Dominican Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	391
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	104
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	288
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	26.5
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$35,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	3.5

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/.

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	570
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	93
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	327
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	14.0
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	28
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	54
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	134
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	355
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	144
Services	21,662	4,799	145
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	134
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	25
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	122

¹Currently 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/.