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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 1.1 million Hispanics of Guatemalan origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Guatemalans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Guatemalan origin; this means either they themselves are Guatemalan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Guatemala. Guatemalans are the sixth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.2% 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 Guatemalan 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.** Seven-in-ten Guatemalans (68%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. More than seven-in-ten immigrants from Guatemala (73%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly one quarter of Guatemalan immigrants (24%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (39%) speak English proficiently.³ Some 61% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Guatemalans are younger than the U.S. population. The median age of Guatemalans is 27; the median age of the U.S. population is 36.
- **Marital status.** Less than half of Guatemalans (44%) and Hispanics overall (45%) are married.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (41%) Guatemalan 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%—and greater than the rate for U.S. women—35%.

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

- **Regional dispersion.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (39%) live in the West, mostly in California (32%). One-third (33%) live in the South.
- **Educational attainment.** Guatemalans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 55% of Guatemalans ages 25 and older—compared with 39% of all U.S. Hispanics—have not obtained at least a high school diploma.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Guatemalans ages 16 and older were \$17,000 in 2009; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics and the U.S. population were \$20,000 and \$28,900, respectively.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Guatemalans who live in poverty, 26%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and for all Hispanics (23%).
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-half of Guatemalans (48%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 17% of Guatemalans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Guatemalan homeownership (32%) 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 Guatemalan 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>).

Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	1,077
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	629
Female	155,633	23,368	448
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	340
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	738
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	27
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	136
5-17	53,300	11,258	187
18-29	51,995	9,640	276
30-39	40,338	7,786	225
40-49	44,163	6,269	135
50-64	56,546	5,242	90
65 and older	39,492	2,716	28
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	346
Never married	77,957	13,449	364
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	79
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	217
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	22
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	9
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	177
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	339
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	130
Some college	58,319	5,801	93
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	52
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,900	\$20,000	\$17,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$22,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	101
18-64	24,347	5,515	171
65 and older	3,560	495	5
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	515
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	56
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	250,360	43,137	931
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	561
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	136
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	516
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	562
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	86
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	855
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	283
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	573
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	201
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	193
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	343
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	189
New York	19,541	3,275	60
New Jersey	8,708	1,454	42
Midwest	66,837	4,358	105
South	113,318	17,210	360
Florida	18,538	3,987	88
Texas	24,782	9,151	73
West	71,568	20,203	423
California	36,962	13,682	344

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?memonic=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 Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	266
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	85
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	181
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	32.1
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$39,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	4.0

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 Guatemalan Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	540
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	67
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	170
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	11.1
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	116
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	77
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	68
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	279
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	53
Services	21,662	4,799	177
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	70
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	110
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	129

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/.