

PewResearchCenter



May 26, 2011

Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Ecuadorian 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

www.pewhispanic.org

Copyright © 2011

Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin in the United States, 2009

An estimated 611,000 Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Ecuadorians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin; this means either they themselves are Ecuadorian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Ecuador.

Ecuadorians are the ninth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.3% 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 Ecuadorian 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.** Two-thirds of Ecuadorians (65%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds of immigrants from Ecuador (67%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly four-in-ten Ecuadorian immigrants (38%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** About half of Ecuadorians (49%) speak English proficiently.³ Some 51% of Ecuadorians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Ecuadorians are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Ecuadorians is 31; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Ecuadorians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—48% versus 45%.
- **Fertility.** Three-in-ten (32%) of Ecuadorian 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—40%—and 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 Ecuadorians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Two-thirds of Ecuadorians (64%) live in the Northeast, and four-in-ten (41%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Ecuadorians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 18% of Ecuadorians 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 Ecuadorians ages 16 and older were \$22,700 in 2009; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$20,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Ecuadorians who live in poverty, 16%, is similar to the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and lower than the 23% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** One-third of Ecuadorians (34%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 11% of Ecuadorians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Ecuadorian homeownership (43%) 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 Ecuadorian 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 Ecuadorian Origin in the United States, 2009

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

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	611
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	316
Female	155,633	23,368	295
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	211
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	400
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	31
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	56
5-17	53,300	11,258	100
18-29	51,995	9,640	127
30-39	40,338	7,786	117
40-49	44,163	6,269	98
50-64	56,546	5,242	72
65 and older	39,492	2,716	42
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	229
Never married	77,957	13,449	170
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	74
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	141
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	12
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	4
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	96
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	122
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	104
Some college	58,319	5,801	96
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	69
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,900	\$20,000	\$22,700
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$29,900
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	33
18-64	24,347	5,515	57
65 and older	3,560	495	6
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	207
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	17
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	250,360	43,137	550
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	350
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	56
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	365
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	247
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	58
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	497
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	212
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	285
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	132
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	116
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	153
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	394
New York	19,541	3,275	253
New Jersey	8,708	1,454	100
Midwest	66,837	4,358	44
Illinois	12,910	1,969	23
South	113,318	17,210	117
Florida	18,538	3,987	70
West	71,568	20,203	56
California	36,962	13,682	42

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 Ecuadorian Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	166
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	72
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	94
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	43.2
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$50,700
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	3.7

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 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 Ecuadorian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	309
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	39
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	118
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	11.1
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	42
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	28
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	67
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	171
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	70
Services	21,662	4,799	70
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	67
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	40
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	61

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/.