

Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2007

A total of 29.2 million Hispanics of Mexican origin resided in the United States in 2007, 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 (64.3%) of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007.¹

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 Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Four-in-ten Mexicans (39.9%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 39.8% of Hispanics and 12.6% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Mexico (62.6%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Two-in-ten of Mexican immigrants (21.9%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Mexicans (59.1%) speak English proficiently.² Some 40.9% of Mexicans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of 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 (49.3%) and Hispanics overall (47.3%) are married.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

² Mexicans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Fertility.** Thirty-six percent of Mexican 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—38.1%—but greater than the rate for U.S. women—33.4%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Nearly four-in-ten Mexicans (37.6%) live in California, and one-in-four (25.0%) 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 12.6% 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 \$20,238 in 2007; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,048.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Mexicans who live in poverty, 20.8%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (11.9%) and similar to the share for all Hispanics (19.5%).
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Mexican homeownership (51.2%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (49.9%) but lower than the 67.2% 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 2007 [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 2007 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/accuracy2007.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, 2007)). 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, 2007
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	29,189
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	15,401
Female	152,982	21,924	13,788
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	17,554
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	11,635
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	25
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	3,454
5-17	53,217	10,438	7,163
18-29	50,386	9,328	6,237
30-39	40,623	7,629	4,975
40-49	45,132	5,871	3,474
50-64	53,769	4,737	2,637
65 and older	37,798	2,481	1,249
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	9,908
Never married	74,061	12,199	7,583
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	2,599
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	6,618
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	628
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	225
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	6,935
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	6,909
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	4,208
Some college	53,251	4,931	2,682
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	1,304
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,333	\$21,048	\$20,238
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,464	\$27,321	\$25,298
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	12,809	4,045	2,949
18-64	19,856	4,362	2,916
65 and older	3,248	428	209
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	246,339	40,369	26,436
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	17,976
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	2,254
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	20,101
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	9,089
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	5,494
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	20,242
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	9,710
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	10,532
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	16,331	7,122	4,348
1990 to 1999	11,179	5,578	3,781
2000 or later	10,539	5,349	3,506
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,681	6,198	798
Midwest	66,389	4,076	3,043
Illinois	12,853	1,923	1,501
South	110,455	15,850	9,790
Texas	23,904	8,591	7,295
West	70,097	19,256	15,558
California	36,553	13,219	10,971
Arizona	6,339	1,893	1,677
Colorado	4,862	968	682

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 2007 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/accuracy2007.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Total (in thousands)	112,386	12,296	7,286
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	3,733
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	3,554
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	51.2
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$40,274
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	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 2007 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/accuracy2007.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	12,382
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	955
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	6,168
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	7.2
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	2,489
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	1,639
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	2,146
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	6,109
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	2,005
Services	20,728	4,391	2,813
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	2,463
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	2,253
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	2,849

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

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