

Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2007

A total of 1.5 million Hispanics of Salvadoran origin resided in the United States in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Salvadorans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Salvadoran origin; this means either they themselves are Salvadoran immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to El Salvador. Salvadorans are the fourth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.2% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007. Mexicans constituted 29.2 million, or 64.3%, of the Hispanic population.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Salvadoran 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.** Two-thirds of Salvadorans (66.1%) 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 El Salvador (56.0%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Three-in-ten of Salvadoran immigrants (28.8%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Less than half of Salvadorans (43.8%) speak English proficiently.² Some 56.2% of Salvadorans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Salvadorans are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Salvadorans is 29; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

- **Marital status.** Less than half of Salvadorans (45.1%) and Hispanics overall (47.3%) are married.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (37.4%) of Salvadoran 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—38.1%—but greater than the rate for U.S. women—33.4%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Four-in-ten Salvadorans (38.5%) live in California, and one-in-seven (13.9%) live in Texas.
- **Educational attainment.** Salvadorans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Fifty-three percent of Salvadorans ages 25 and older—compared with 39.4% of all U.S. Hispanics—have not obtained at least a high school diploma.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Salvadorans 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 Salvadorans who live in poverty, 14.6%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (11.9%) and below the 19.5% share among all Hispanics.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Salvadoran homeownership (48.1%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (49.9%) and the U.S. population (67.2%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Salvadoran 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 Salvadoran Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	1,473
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	782
Female	152,982	21,924	691
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	499
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	975
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	137
5-17	53,217	10,438	292
18-29	50,386	9,328	325
30-39	40,623	7,629	299
40-49	45,132	5,871	215
50-64	53,769	4,737	157
65 and older	37,798	2,481	49
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	502
Never married	74,061	12,199	470
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	140
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	358
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	27
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	10
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	283
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	467
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	219
Some college	53,251	4,931	121
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	67
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	86
18-64	19,856	4,362	121
65 and older	3,248	428	8
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	246,339	40,369	1,344
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	800
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	116
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	780
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	694
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	97
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	1,239
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	489
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	751
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	16,331	7,122	429
1990 to 1999	11,179	5,578	294
2000 or later	10,539	5,349	251
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,681	6,198	213
New York	19,298	3,147	122
Midwest	66,389	4,076	49
South	110,455	15,850	559
Texas	23,904	8,591	204
Virginia	7,712	489	97
Maryland	5,618	347	95
West	70,097	19,256	653
California	36,553	13,219	567

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.html> and <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Total (in thousands)	112,386	12,296	387
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	186
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	201
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	48.1
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$44,524
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	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 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 Salvadoran Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	776
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	50
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	261
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	6.0
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	131
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	100
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	145
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	400
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	89
Services	20,728	4,391	232
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	131
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	123
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	202

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 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>.