

Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 986,000 Hispanics of Guatemalan origin resided in the United States in 2008, 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 2.1% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2008. Mexicans constituted 30.7 million, or 65.7%, of the Hispanic population.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 Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Seven-in-ten Guatemalans (69.4%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Seven-in-ten of immigrants from Guatemala (69.6%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly one quarter of Guatemalan immigrants (23.8%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (39.1%) speak English proficiently.² Some 60.9% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Guatemalans are younger than the U.S. population and similar in age to Hispanics overall. The median age of Guatemalans is 28; 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 Guatemalans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Less than half of Guatemalans (44.6%) and Hispanics overall (46.5%) are married.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (41.3%) Guatemalan women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was greater than the rate for all Hispanic women—38.8%—and the rate for U.S. women—34.5%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (40.2%) live in the West, mostly in California (33.9%). One-third (32.4%) live in the South.
- **Educational attainment.** Guatemalans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 53.6% of Guatemalans ages 25 and older—compared with 39.2% 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 \$19,349 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Guatemalans who live in poverty, 20.6%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (12.7%) and similar to the share for all Hispanics (20.7%).
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-half of Guatemalans (47.9%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 22.8% of Guatemalans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Guatemalan homeownership (35.6%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (49.1%) and the U.S. population (66.6%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Guatemalan origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [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 2008 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/accuracy2008.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, 2008)). 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).

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Total	304,060	46,822	986
Gender			
Male	149,863	24,214	556
Female	154,196	22,608	430
Nativity			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	302
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	684
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	28
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	114
5-17	53,012	10,787	176
18-29	51,086	9,344	243
30-39	40,407	7,769	207
40-49	44,673	6,087	126
50-64	55,207	4,989	91
65 and older	38,797	2,631	28
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,805	15,422	327
Never married	75,960	12,713	326
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	81
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	217
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	20
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	8
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,068	10,497	166
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	305
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	126
Some college	57,595	5,601	88
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	50
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$19,349
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$24,441
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	77
18-64	21,919	4,792	121
65 and older	3,648	491	5
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	472
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	66
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	247,692	41,549	851
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	516
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	122
Citizenship			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	464
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	521
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	79
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	793
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	262
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	531
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	208
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	193
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	283
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	181
New York	19,490	3,232	69
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	48
Midwest	66,561	4,252	89
South	111,719	16,441	320
Florida	18,328	3,846	87
Texas	24,327	8,816	62
West	70,855	19,724	396
California	36,757	13,435	334

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 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Total (in thousands)	113,101	12,612	247
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	88
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	159
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	35.6
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$41,754
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 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	146,246	20,683	515
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	39
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	166
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	7.1
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	112
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	66
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	84
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	253
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	59
Services	21,669	4,614	152
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	74
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	99
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	131

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
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