

## Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 882,000 Hispanics of Colombian origin resided in the United States in 2008, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Colombians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Colombian origin; this means either they themselves are Colombian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Colombia. Colombians are the seventh-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.9% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2008. Mexicans constituted 30.7 million, or 65.7%, of the Hispanic population.<sup>1</sup>

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Colombian 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.** Two-thirds of Colombians (66.5%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Colombia (58.7%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Less than half of Colombian immigrants (48.8%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Colombians (57.5%) speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> Some 42.5% of Colombians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Colombians are older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Colombians is 36, which is the same as the median ages of the U.S. population; the median age of all Hispanics is 27.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

<sup>2</sup> Colombians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Colombians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—50.4% versus 46.5%.
- **Fertility.** One-in-five (21.6%) Colombian 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—38.8%—and the rate for U.S. women—34.5%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Colombians are concentrated in the South (46.8%), mostly in Florida (31.9%), and in the Northeast (37.3%), mostly in New York (16.1%) and New Jersey (12.9%).
- **Educational attainment.** Colombians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 30.3% of Colombians ages 25 and older—compared with 12.9% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Colombians ages 16 and older were \$25,460 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Colombians who live in poverty, 11.0%, is similar to the rate for the general U.S. population (12.7%) and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (20.7%).
- **Health Insurance.** One-quarter of Colombians (26.4%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 16.6% of Colombians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Colombian homeownership (53.0%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (49.1%) but lower than the 66.6% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

#### About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Colombian 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](http://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](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/ASA_nelson.pdf)).

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
<b>Total</b>	304,060	46,822	882
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	149,863	24,214	409
Female	154,196	22,608	473
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	295
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	586
<b>Age</b>			
Median (in years)	36	27	36
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	57
5-17	53,012	10,787	151
18-29	51,086	9,344	151
30-39	40,407	7,769	140
40-49	44,673	6,087	168
50-64	55,207	4,989	146
65 and older	38,797	2,631	68
<b>Marital Status (ages 15 and older)</b>			
Married	120,805	15,422	361
Never married	75,960	12,713	218
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	137
<b>Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)</b>			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	221
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	15
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	3
<b>School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)</b>			
K-12	52,068	10,497	146
<b>Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	94
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	157
Some college	57,595	5,601	155
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	177
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)</b>			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$25,460
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$32,588
<b>Persons in Poverty<sup>2</sup></b>			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	26
18-64	21,919	4,792	62
65 and older	3,648	491	9
<b>Health Insurance</b>			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	233
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	34
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household<sup>3</sup></b>			
In family households	247,692	41,549	764
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	523
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	106
<b>Citizenship</b>			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	581
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	300
<b>Language (ages 5 and older)</b>			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	106
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	718
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	368
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	350
<b>Year of Entry (foreign-born only)</b>			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	242
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	162
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	181
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	328
New York	19,490	3,232	142
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	114
Midwest	66,561	4,252	50
South	111,719	16,441	413
Florida	18,328	3,846	281
Texas	24,327	8,816	47
West	70,855	19,724	90
California	36,757	13,435	59

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed.<sup>2</sup>For 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.<sup>3</sup>The 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 Colombian Origin
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	113,101	12,612	282
<b>Homeownership (household heads)</b>			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	149
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	132
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	53.0
<b>Household Annual Income (in dollars)</b>			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$49,901
<b>Household Size</b>			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.9

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.

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	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
<b>Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)</b>			
Employed	146,246	20,683	477
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	35
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	185
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	6.8
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	32
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	48
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	98
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	299
<b>Occupations<sup>1</sup></b>			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	155
Services	21,669	4,614	104
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	116
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	24
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	78

<sup>1</sup>Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

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