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Statistical Profile

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# Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2011

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## Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2011

An estimated 33.5 million Hispanics of Mexican origin resided in the United States in 2011, 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 (64.6%) of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2011.<sup>1</sup>

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 tabulations from the 2011 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** More than one-third (35%) of Mexicans in the United States are foreign born compared with 36% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. About two-in-three immigrants from Mexico (65%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. About one-quarter of Mexican immigrants (24%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Two-thirds (66%) of Mexicans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> The other 34% of Mexicans report speaking English less than very well, equal to the share among all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Mexicans are younger than both 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 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Mexicans ages 15 and older are slightly more likely (45%) to be married than Hispanics overall (43%) but less likely than the U.S. population overall (48%).
- **Fertility.** Almost one-in-ten (8%) Mexican women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was the same as the rate for all Hispanic women—8%—and slightly higher than the overall rate for U.S. women—6%. More than four-in-ten (45%) Mexican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That

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

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

was similar to the rate for all Hispanic women—47%—and greater than the overall rate for U.S. women—38%.

- **Regional dispersion.** More than half of Mexicans live in the West (52%), mostly in California (36%), and another 35% live in the South, mostly in Texas (26%).
- **Educational attainment.** Mexicans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall and the U.S. population overall. Some 10% of Mexicans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics and 29% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Mexicans ages 16 and older were \$20,000 in the year prior to the survey, the same as for U.S. Hispanics in total; the median earnings for the U.S. population were \$29,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Mexicans who live in poverty, 28%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and slightly higher than the rate for Hispanics overall (26%).
- **Health Insurance.** One-third of Mexicans (33%) do not have health insurance compared with 30% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 14% of Mexicans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Mexican homeownership (49%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (46%) but lower than the 65% 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 2011 [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 2011 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/](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, 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/methodology/ASA\\_nelson.pdf](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 Mexican Origin in the United States, 2011

Table 1  
**U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2011**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted			
	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311,592</b>	<b>51,927</b>	<b>33,539</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	153,248	26,336	17,209
Female	158,344	25,591	16,330
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native Born	271,210	33,139	21,888
Foreign Born	40,382	18,788	11,651
<b>Age</b>			
Median (in years)	37	27	25
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Younger than 5	20,024	5,141	3,608
5-17	53,826	12,245	8,534
18-29	52,253	10,665	6,954
30-39	40,205	8,160	5,296
40-49	43,344	6,762	4,146
50-64	60,552	6,013	3,443
65 and older	41,388	2,940	1,559
<b>Marital Status</b> (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,912	16,154	10,520
Never married	81,300	15,417	9,592
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,223	5,671	3,129
<b>Fertility</b> (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,611	12,050	7,779
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,031	932	637
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,544	435	287
<b>School Enrollment</b> (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,875	12,015	8,366
<b>Educational Attainment</b> (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,077	10,383	7,280
High school diploma or equivalent	58,586	7,581	4,638
Some college	59,874	6,424	3,630
Bachelor's degree or more	58,996	3,759	1,659
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings</b> (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$28,000
<b>Persons in Poverty</b> <sup>2</sup>			
Younger than 18	16,493	5,894	4,330
18-64	28,212	6,755	4,477
65 and older	3,737	556	282
<b>Health Insurance</b>			
Uninsured, all ages	47,903	15,572	10,910
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,540	2,232	1,737
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household</b> <sup>3</sup>			
In family households	254,071	46,317	30,492
In married-couple households	182,097	29,159	19,880
In non-family households	49,515	4,649	2,480
<b>Citizenship</b>			
Citizen	289,366	38,905	24,717
Non-citizen	22,226	13,022	8,822
<b>Language</b> (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	230,923	11,827	7,546
Does not speak only English at home	60,644	34,959	22,386
Speaks English very well	35,389	19,051	12,102
Speaks English less than very well	25,255	15,908	10,284
<b>Year of Entry</b> (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,208	6,658	4,057
1990-1999	10,759	5,399	3,576
2000-2005	8,093	4,340	2,729
2006 or later	6,321	2,391	1,289
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>			
Northeast	55,522	7,186	933
Midwest	67,159	4,772	3,599
Illinois	12,869	2,078	1,654
South	116,047	18,820	11,654
Texas	25,675	9,794	8,570
West	72,865	21,149	17,353
California	37,692	14,358	11,950
Arizona	6,483	1,950	1,777
Colorado	5,117	1,071	830

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. <sup>2</sup>For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 3,112,017; Hispanics 427,432; Hispanics of Mexican origin 279,019. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).

## Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2011

Table 2

**Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2011**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>114,992</b>	<b>13,668</b>	<b>8,199</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,376	6,351	3,994
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	40,615	7,317	4,205
Homeownership rate (%)	64.7	46.5	48.7
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$38,000
<b>Household Size</b>			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.8

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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 1,204,830; Hispanics 118,668; Hispanics of Mexican origin 72,101. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).

Table 3

**Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2011**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,458	21,368	13,340
Unemployed	16,037	3,014	1,851
Not in labor force	88,723	11,847	7,368
Unemployment rate (%)	10.2	12.4	12.2
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,261	2,799	2,093
Manufacturing	14,700	2,303	1,577
Trade and transportation	25,998	4,032	2,425
Information, finance and other services	88,499	12,233	7,245
<b>Occupations<sup>1</sup></b>			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,208	4,658	2,505
Services	22,055	5,138	3,242
Sales and office support	34,521	4,755	2,817
Construction, extraction and farming	8,019	2,485	1,868
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,656	4,332	2,907

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

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,509,144; Hispanics 303,057; Hispanics of Mexican origin 191,543. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).