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# Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2013

## *Statistical Profile*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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# Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2013

BY *Gustavo López*

An estimated 34.6 million Hispanics of Mexican origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

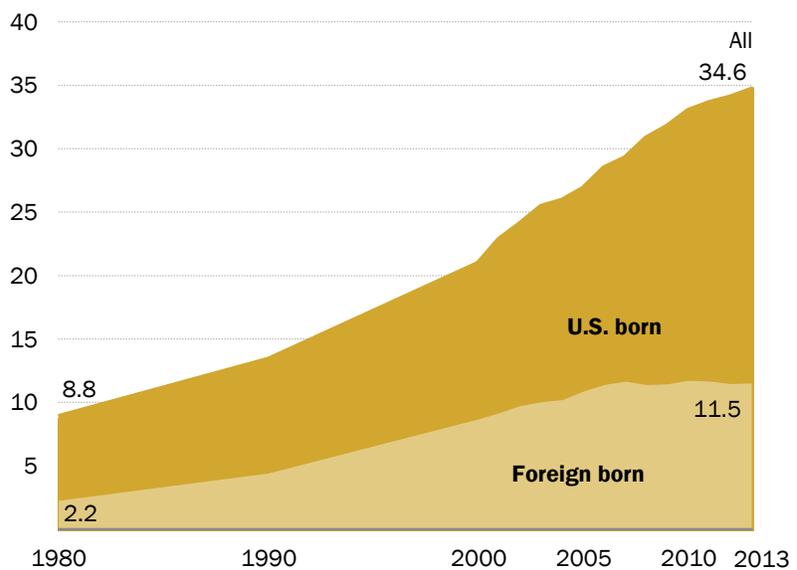
Mexicans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Mexican origin; this means either they themselves are Mexican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Mexico.

Mexicans are the largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for nearly two-thirds (64.1%) of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013.<sup>1</sup> Since 1980, the Mexican-origin population has almost quadrupled, growing from 8.8 million to 34.6 million over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Mexican origin living in the U.S. grew more than 400%, up from 2.2 million in 1980 to 11.5 million in 2013.

FIGURE 1

## Mexican-Origin Population in the U.S., 1980-2013

*In millions*



Note: People in group quarters such as college dormitories or institutions are not included in figures for 2001 to 2005. Changes in the wording of the Hispanic origin question in the 2000 decennial census may have led to an undercount of some Hispanic origin groups in that year. For more, see <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2002/05/09/counting-the-other-hispanics/>

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS) and 2001-2013 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS)

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

## About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Mexican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2013 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) and a nationally representative [Pew Research Center survey](#) of 5,103 Hispanic adults conducted May 24-July 28, 2013. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish on cellular as well as landline telephones and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. For a complete methodology, see: <http://www.pewforum.org/2014/05/07/appendix-a-survey-methodology-2/>

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 S. Passel. 2007. "[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#)." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center, March). 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/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

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, and includes public opinion data of Mexican and Hispanic adults. It is based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey and Pew Research Center's 2013 National Survey of Latinos. Key facts include:

- ***Immigration status.*** One-third of Mexicans in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Some 42% of immigrants from Mexico have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. About one-quarter of Mexican immigrants (26%) are U.S. citizens.
- ***English proficiency and speaking Spanish at home.*** According to the ACS, more than two-thirds (68%) of Mexicans speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> Some 32% of Mexicans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, equal to the share among all Hispanics. Overall, 73% of Mexicans speak Spanish at home, equal to the share of all Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak Spanish at home.

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<sup>2</sup>This includes Mexicans ages 5 and older who speak only English at home or, if they speak a non-English language at home, indicate they can speak English "very well."

- **Bilingualism and language dominance.** [According to the 2013 Pew Research Center survey](#), about one-quarter of Mexican adults (26%) are English-dominant, similar to the share of Hispanics overall (25%).<sup>3</sup> Four-in-ten Mexican adults are Spanish-dominant, and roughly one-third (34%) are bilingual. The share of Mexican adults who are Spanish-dominant is about the same as the overall Hispanic population (38%), and the share of bilingual speakers is similar to the overall Hispanic population (36%). For Mexican immigrants, two-thirds (66%) are Spanish-dominant, while three-in-ten are bilingual. Only 4% of Mexican immigrants are English-dominant.
- **Age.** Mexicans are younger than the U.S. population and Hispanics overall. The median age of Mexicans is 26; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Mexicans, the median age of immigrants is 39 years, while it's only 17 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Mexicans ages 18 and older are slightly more likely (48%) to be married than Hispanics overall (46%) but less likely than the U.S. population overall (50%). Among Mexicans ages 18 and older, the foreign born are more likely to be married than U.S.-born Mexicans—60% vs. 37%.
- **Fertility.** Fewer than one-in-ten (7%) Mexican women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was equal to the rate for all Hispanic women and similar to the overall rate for U.S. women (6%). More than four-in-ten (44%) Mexican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was similar to the 45% rate for all Hispanic women and greater than the 38% overall rate for U.S. women.
- **Regional dispersion.** More than half of Mexicans live in the West (51%), mostly in California (35%), and 35% live in the South, mostly in Texas (26%).
- **Educational attainment.** Mexicans have lower levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population and the U.S. population overall. Some 10% of Mexicans ages 25 and older—compared with 14% of all U.S. Hispanics and 30% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. Among Mexicans ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or more than foreign-born Mexicans—15% vs. 6%.

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<sup>3</sup> Language dominance, or primary language, is a composite measure based on self-described assessments of speaking and reading abilities. "Spanish-dominant" persons are more proficient in Spanish than in English, i.e., they speak and read Spanish "very well" or "pretty well" but rate their English-speaking and -reading ability lower. "Bilingual" refers to persons who are proficient in both English and Spanish. "English-dominant" persons are more proficient in English than in Spanish.

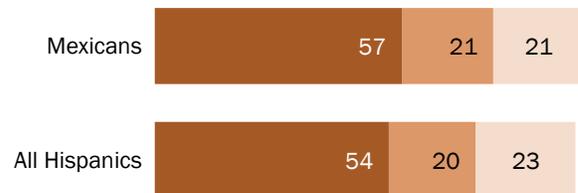
- Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Mexicans ages 16 and older was \$20,800 in the year prior to the survey—slightly lower than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) and lower than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- Poverty status.** The share of Mexicans who live in poverty, 26%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and slightly higher than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- Health insurance.** About three-in-ten Mexicans (31%) do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 13% of Mexicans younger than 18 are uninsured. (These data reflect insurance rates prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act.)
- Homeownership.** The rate of Mexican homeownership (47%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) and lower than the U.S. population (64%) as a whole.
- “Mexican” is the identity term used most often.** When asked in a [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) what term they use to describe themselves most often, a majority of Mexican adults (57%) say they most often use the term “Mexican.” About two-in-ten (21%) say they describe themselves most often as “American.” The same share most often use the pan-ethnic

FIGURE 2

## Mexican Views of Identity

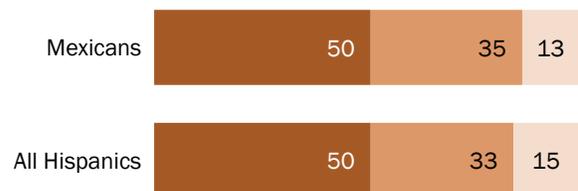
% saying they most often describe themselves as ...

■ Hispanic Origin Term ■ Hispanic/Latino ■ American



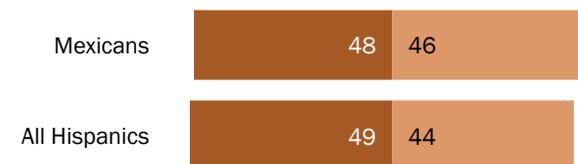
% saying they prefer the term ...

■ No preference ■ Hispanic ■ Latino



% saying they think of themselves as ...

■ A typical American ■ Very different from a typical American



Note: “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown. For top chart, volunteered responses of “Depends” not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (N=5,103 including 2,346 Mexican adults)

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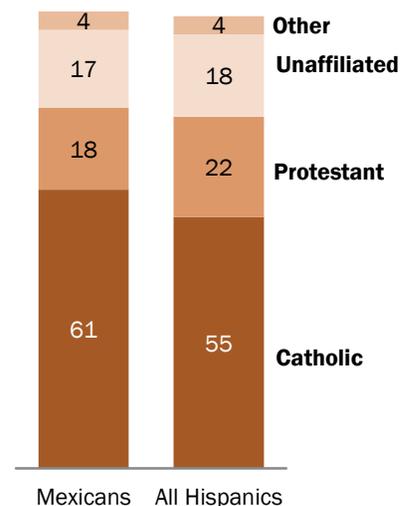
terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe their identity. By comparison, 54% of all U.S. Hispanics say they prefer their ancestor’s Hispanic origin term to describe their identity, 23% say they describe themselves most often as “American” and two-in-ten use the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe their identity.

- Preference for Hispanic or Latino.** In regard to the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino,” half of Mexican adults have no preference for either term. Among those who have a preference, more prefer the term “Hispanic” (35% of all Mexicans), while 13% prefer the term “Latino.” By comparison, half of all Hispanic adults have no preference for either term, and among those who do have a preference Hispanic is favored over Latino 2-to-1.
- Typical American or not.** When asked in the 2013 Pew Research survey whether they thought of themselves as a typical American or very different from a typical American, the responses are split. Some 48% of Mexican adults see themselves as a “typical American,” while 46% think of themselves as “very different from a typical American.” Hispanic adults overall share similar views as Mexicans, and on balance Hispanic adults are more likely to see themselves as a typical American (49%) than very different from a typical American (44%).
- Religious affiliation.** A [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) of Hispanic adults finds that a majority of Mexican adults (61%) identify themselves as Catholic. About two-in-ten (18%) Mexicans are Protestant, and among all Mexicans, 5% are mainline Protestants and 13% are evangelical Protestants. Roughly two-in-ten (17%) Mexicans are religiously unaffiliated. In contrast, among all Hispanics, 55% identify as Catholic, 22% identify as Protestant, and about two-in-ten (18%) are unaffiliated.

FIGURE 3

### Mexican Religious Affiliation

% of adults who belong to each religious group



Note: “Don’t know” responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (n=4,080 including 1,843 Mexican adults)

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**Table 1**  
**U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,129</b>	<b>53,964</b>	<b>34,582</b>	<b>23,081</b>	<b>11,502</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	155,592	27,377	17,726	11,625	6,101
Female	160,537	26,587	16,856	11,456	5,400
<b>Nativity</b>					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	23,081	23,081	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	11,502	---	11,502
<b>Age</b>					
Median (in years)	37	28	26	17	39
<b>Age Groups</b>					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	3,485	3,443	42
5-17	53,820	12,635	8,814	8,166	648
18-29	53,007	10,923	7,073	4,880	2,193
30-39	40,997	8,454	5,418	2,463	2,955
40-49	42,158	7,039	4,319	1,601	2,718
50-64	61,801	6,560	3,744	1,654	2,090
65 and older	44,663	3,301	1,730	873	857
<b>Marital Status</b> (ages 18 and older)					
Married	122,043	16,750	10,742	4,293	6,449
Never married	71,957	13,603	8,244	5,397	2,847
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	3,297	1,781	1,516
<b>Fertility</b> (women ages 15 to 44)					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	7,966	4,819	3,148
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	591	327	264
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	261	168	93
<b>School Enrollment</b> (ages 5 to 18)					
K-12	52,794	12,383	8,634	7,968	666
<b>Educational Attainment</b> (ages 25 and older)					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	7,337	1,654	5,684
High school graduate <sup>2</sup>	58,768	8,037	4,892	2,512	2,380
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	3,933	2,741	1,193
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	1,832	1,266	566
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings</b> (in dollars)					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$20,800	\$22,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$29,000	\$34,000	\$25,000
<b>Persons in Poverty</b> <sup>3</sup>					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	4,186	3,887	298
18-64	28,336	6,693	4,333	1,869	2,464
65 and older	4,155	631	309	121	188
<b>Health Insurance</b> <sup>4</sup>					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	10,664	4,381	6,283
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	1,548	1,209	339
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household</b> <sup>5</sup>					
In family households	257,066	48,026	31,388	21,041	10,348
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	20,435	13,278	7,157
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	2,626	1,631	995
<b>Citizenship</b>					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	26,021	23,081	2,940
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	8,562	---	8,562
<b>Language</b> (ages 5 and older)					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	8,229	7,797	432
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	22,868	11,841	11,028
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	12,880	9,790	3,090
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	9,988	2,050	7,938
<b>Years in the U.S.</b> (foreign-born only)					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	908	---	908
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	1,718	---	1,718
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	2,457	---	2,457
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	1,588	---	1,588
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	4,831	---	4,831
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	965	488	477
Midwest	67,548	4,953	3,708	2,447	1,261
Illinois	12,882	2,118	1,697	1,022	675
South	118,384	19,724	12,105	8,222	3,883
Texas	26,448	10,155	8,890	6,370	2,520
West	74,254	21,749	17,803	11,923	5,880
California	38,333	14,716	12,251	8,027	4,223
Arizona	6,627	2,004	1,804	1,294	510
Colorado	5,268	1,109	822	603	219

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. <sup>2</sup>High school graduate" includes those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate. <sup>3</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>4</sup>These data reflect insurance coverage prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act. <sup>5</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, 3,132,795; Hispanics, 435,427; Hispanics of Mexican origin, 280,127; U.S.-born Mexicans, 190,212; foreign-born Mexicans, 89,915.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/de/sign.shtml> and [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).

Table 2

**Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2013**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>116,291</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>4,369</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	4,030	2,076	1,954
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	4,459	2,044	2,415
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	47.5	50.4	44.7
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$40,000	\$45,700	\$36,000
<b>Household Size</b>					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.8	3.3	4.2

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, 1,211,264; Hispanics, 121,664; Hispanics of Mexican origin, 72,677; U.S.-born Mexicans, 37,205; foreign-born Mexicans, 35,472.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).

Table 3

**Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	14,186	7,177	7,009
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	1,545	935	610
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	7,677	4,317	3,360
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	9.8	11.5	8.0
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	2,273	639	1,633
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	1,616	632	985
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	2,593	1,560	1,032
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	7,704	4,346	3,358
<b>Occupations<sup>1</sup></b>					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	2,707	1,960	747
Services	22,944	5,522	3,450	1,347	2,104
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	2,996	2,144	852
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	2,001	495	1,506
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	3,032	1,231	1,801

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

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 2,530,954; Hispanics, 311,328; Hispanics of Mexican origin, 193,507; U.S.-born Mexicans, 107,650; foreign-born Mexicans, 85,857.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).