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# Hispanics of Venezuelan Origin in the United States, 2013

*Statistical Profile*

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

BY *Gustavo López*

An estimated 248,000 Hispanics of Venezuelan origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

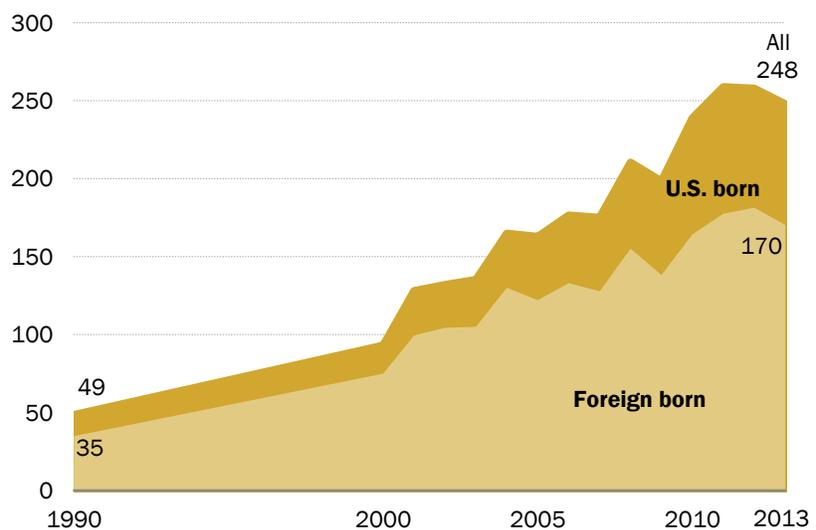
Venezuelans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Venezuelan origin; this means either they themselves are Venezuelan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Venezuela.

Venezuelans are the 13th-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 0.5% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013. Since 1990, the Venezuelan-origin population has grown more than fivefold, going from 49,000 to 248,000 over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Venezuelan origin living in the U.S. grew by 388%, up from 35,000 in 1990 to 170,000 in 2013. In comparison, Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 34.6 million, or 64.1%, of the Hispanic population in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

FIGURE 1

## Venezuelan-Origin Population in the U.S., 1990-2013

*In thousands*



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 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.

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Venezuelan population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** About seven-in-ten Venezuelans (69%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. About a quarter of immigrants from Venezuela (23%) have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. About four-in-ten Venezuelan immigrants (39%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Seven-in-ten Venezuelans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> The other 30% of Venezuelans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. In addition, 85% of Venezuelans ages 5 and older speak Spanish at home.
- **Age.** Venezuelans are younger than the U.S. population but older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Venezuelans is 34; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Venezuelans, the median age of immigrants is 39 years, while it's only 15 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Venezuelans ages 18 and older are more likely to be married (54%) than Hispanics overall (46%) and the U.S. population overall (50%). Among Venezuelans ages 18 and older, the foreign born are more likely to be married than U.S.-born Venezuelans—57% vs. 40%.
- **Fertility.** One-in-twenty (5%) Venezuelan women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was similar to the rate for all Hispanic women (7%) and the overall rate for U.S. women (6%).
- **Regional dispersion.** Venezuelans are concentrated in the South (69%), mostly in Florida (42%).
- **Educational attainment.** Venezuelans have higher levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population and the U.S. population overall. Half of Venezuelans ages 25 and older—compared with 14% of all U.S. Hispanics and 30% among the U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. There is no difference in college completion rates among Venezuelans who are U.S. born and those who are foreign born.

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<sup>2</sup> This includes Venezuelans 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."

- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Venezuelans ages 16 and older was \$28,000 in the year prior to the survey—greater than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) and less than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Venezuelans who live in poverty, 18%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** One-quarter of Venezuelans (26%) do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 14% of Venezuelans 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 Venezuelan homeownership (49%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) but lower than the 64% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

### About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Venezuelan origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2013 [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 2013 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 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>).

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

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Venezuelan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,129</b>	<b>53,964</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	155,592	27,377	118	41	76
Female	160,537	26,587	130	36	94
<b>Nativity</b>					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	77	77	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	170	---	170
<b>Age</b>					
Median (in years)	37	28	34	15	39
<b>Age Groups</b>					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	16	14	1
5-17	53,820	12,635	45	29	16
18-29	53,007	10,923	45	14	31
30-39	40,997	8,454	47	9	38
40-49	42,158	7,039	48	6	42
50-64	61,801	6,560	34	4	31
65 and older	44,663	3,301	13	2	12
<b>Marital Status (ages 18 and older)</b>					
Married	122,043	16,750	101	14	88
Never married	71,957	13,603	51	16	35
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	35	5	30
<b>Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)</b>					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	68	***	54
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	3	***	2
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	***	***	***
<b>School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)</b>					
K-12	52,794	12,383	45	30	***
<b>Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	10	1	9
High school graduate <sup>2</sup>	58,768	8,037	25	3	21
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	45	7	38
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	80	12	68
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)</b>					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$28,000	\$26,300	\$28,400
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$44,500	\$55,000	\$42,000
<b>Persons in Poverty<sup>3</sup></b>					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	13	8	4
18-64	28,336	6,693	29	4	25
65 and older	4,155	631	3	***	3
<b>Health Insurance<sup>4</sup></b>					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	64	9	55
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	9	3	6
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household<sup>5</sup></b>					
In family households	257,066	48,026	209	67	142
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	160	49	111
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	35	8	27
<b>Citizenship</b>					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	145	77	67
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	103	---	103
<b>Language (ages 5 and older)</b>					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	32	21	11
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	200	42	158
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	129	37	92
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	71	5	66
<b>Years in the U.S. (foreign-born only)</b>					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	41	---	41
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	26	---	26
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	42	---	42
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	22	---	22
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	39	---	39
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	35	12	23
Midwest	67,548	4,953	20	8	12
South	118,384	19,724	171	50	121
Florida	19,553	4,620	105	25	80
Texas	26,448	10,155	33	13	21
West	74,254	21,749	22	8	14

<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 Venezuelan origin, 2,062; U.S.-born Venezuelans, 638; foreign-born Venezuelans, 1,444. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

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 2

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

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Venezuelan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>116,291</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	40	***	33
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	41	***	34
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	49.5	***	49.3
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$56,270	***	\$54,000
<b>Household Size</b>					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.9	***	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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 1,211,264; Hispanics, 121,664; Hispanics of Venezuelan origin, 724; U.S.-born Venezuelans, 134; foreign-born Venezuelans, 590. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

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 Venezuelan Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Venezuelan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	122	23	99
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	14	3	11
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	59	11	48
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	10.3	12.3	9.8
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	7	***	6
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	9	***	7
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	26	***	21
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	81	***	65
<b>Occupations</b>					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	56	***	45
Services	22,944	5,522	18	***	14
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	33	***	27
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	4	***	4
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	12	***	10

<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 Venezuelan origin, 1,668; U.S.-born Venezuelans, 324; foreign-born Venezuelans, 1,344. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

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).