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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2010

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An estimated 32.9 million Hispanics of Mexican origin resided in the United States in 2010, 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 (64.9%) of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2010.¹

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 2010 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.² Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** More than one-third (36%) of Mexicans in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% 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. Less than one-quarter of Mexican immigrants (23%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Mexicans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.³ The other 36% of Mexicans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 35% of 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 are about as likely as Hispanics overall to be married—46% versus 44%.
- **Fertility.** More than two-fifths (44%) of Mexican 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—45%—and greater than the overall rate for U.S. women—38%.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

² The 2010 Census did not collect data on most of the characteristics tabulated in this profile.

³ This includes Mexicans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **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 (25%).
- **Educational attainment.** Mexicans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 9% of Mexicans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Mexicans ages 16 and older were \$20,000 in 2010, the same as for U.S. Hispanics in total.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Mexicans who live in poverty, 27%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (15%) and slightly above the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health Insurance.** One-third of Mexicans (34%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 16% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 16% of Mexicans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Mexican homeownership (50%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (47%) 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 2010 [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 2010 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/. 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/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

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Table 1
U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Mexican Origin, 2010
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Total	309,350	50,730	32,916
Gender			
Male	152,055	25,723	16,916
Female	157,294	25,007	16,000
Nativity			
Native Born	269,433	31,912	21,208
Foreign Born	39,917	18,817	11,708
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	25
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,095	5,089	3,579
5-17	54,037	12,093	8,483
18-29	51,776	10,471	6,873
30-39	40,245	8,060	5,255
40-49	43,723	6,526	3,977
50-64	59,025	5,681	3,269
65 and older	40,449	2,810	1,480
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,934	16,067	10,459
Never married	79,570	14,749	9,232
Divorced/separated/widowed	47,550	5,411	3,010
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,479	11,856	7,667
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,078	963	663
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,557	434	291
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,994	11,824	8,287
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,433	10,306	7,269
High school diploma or equivalent	58,212	7,216	4,385
Some college	59,030	6,226	3,531
Bachelor's degree or more	57,672	3,589	1,580
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,500	\$20,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$27,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	15,916	5,518	4,111
18-64	26,672	6,268	4,199
65 and older	3,535	513	269
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	48,794	15,828	11,142
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,971	2,446	1,911
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	252,342	45,437	30,050
In married-couple households	182,448	28,957	19,783
In non-family households	49,021	4,360	2,313
Citizenship			
Citizen	286,889	37,457	23,905
Non-citizen	22,461	13,272	9,011
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	229,736	11,203	7,231
Does not speak only English at home	59,519	34,438	22,106
Speaks English very well	34,308	18,356	11,642
Speaks English less than very well	25,211	16,082	10,465
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,233	6,689	4,069
1990-1999	10,827	5,403	3,599
2000 or later	13,857	6,726	4,039
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,361	7,022	944
Midwest	66,976	4,671	3,550
Illinois	12,843	2,037	1,623
South	114,866	18,315	11,402
Texas	25,257	9,533	8,388
West	72,147	20,721	17,020
California	37,349	14,092	11,771
Arizona	6,414	1,909	1,724
Colorado	5,049	1,049	809

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. ²For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/POVERTY#description_tab. 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: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 3,061,692; Hispanics 416,860; Hispanics of Mexican origin 271,423. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 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_2010.pdf.

Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,567	13,269	7,982
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,948	6,278	3,952
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	39,620	6,991	4,029
Homeownership rate (%)	65.4	47.3	49.5
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$49,800	\$40,000	\$38,700
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	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 1,203,777; Hispanics 115,695; Hispanics of Mexican origin 69,730. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Mexican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	139,103	20,739	12,989
Unemployed	16,870	3,070	1,901
Not in labor force	86,814	11,412	7,135
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	12.9	12.8
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,305	2,789	2,087
Manufacturing	14,432	2,183	1,511
Trade and transportation	25,761	3,872	2,349
Information, finance and other services	87,605	11,895	7,042
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,511	4,480	2,391
Services	21,578	4,984	3,162
Sales and office support	34,768	4,628	2,780
Construction, extraction and farming	8,075	2,495	1,876
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,170	4,154	2,779

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,443,926; Hispanics 291,505; Hispanics of Mexican origin 183,357. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and