

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2010

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An estimated 1.8 million Hispanics of Salvadoran origin resided in the United States in 2010, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Salvadorans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Salvadoran origin; this means either they themselves are Salvadoran immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to El Salvador. Salvadorans are the fourth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.6% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2010. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 32.9 million, or 64.9%, of the Hispanic population in 2010.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Salvadoran 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 three-fifths of Salvadorans (62%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Nearly two-thirds of immigrants from El Salvador (64%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. More than one-in-four Salvadoran immigrants (27%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Nearly half (46%) of Salvadorans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.³ The other 54% of Salvadorans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 35% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Salvadorans are younger than the U.S. population but older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Salvadorans is 29; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Salvadorans are as likely as Hispanics overall to be married—44%.
- **Fertility.** Almost half (46%) of Salvadoran women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was greater than the rate for all Hispanic women—45%—and 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 Salvadorans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Salvadorans are concentrated in the West (41%), mostly in California (36%), and in the South (40%), mostly in Texas (13%).
- **Educational attainment.** Salvadorans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Less than one-in-ten (7%) Salvadorans 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 Salvadorans ages 16 and older were \$20,000 in 2010, the same as the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Salvadorans who live in poverty, 20%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (15%) and less than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health Insurance.** Four-in-ten Salvadorans (41%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 16% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 15% of Salvadorans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Salvadoran homeownership (42%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (47%) and lower than the 65% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Salvadoran 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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	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Total	309,350	50,730	1,827
Gender			
Male	152,055	25,723	921
Female	157,294	25,007	907
Nativity			
Native Born	269,433	31,912	688
Foreign Born	39,917	18,817	1,140
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,095	5,089	179
5-17	54,037	12,093	360
18-29	51,776	10,471	406
30-39	40,245	8,060	356
40-49	43,723	6,526	265
50-64	59,025	5,681	202
65 and older	40,449	2,810	58
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,934	16,067	594
Never married	79,570	14,749	609
Divorced/separated/widowed	47,550	5,411	161
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,479	11,856	468
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,078	963	36
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,557	434	16
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,994	11,824	353
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,433	10,306	567
High school diploma or equivalent	58,212	7,216	257
Some college	59,030	6,226	165
Bachelor's degree or more	57,672	3,589	78
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	\$25,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	15,916	5,518	132
18-64	26,672	6,268	210
65 and older	3,535	513	12
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	48,794	15,828	741
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,971	2,446	83
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	252,342	45,437	1,668
In married-couple households	182,448	28,957	1,002
In non-family households	49,021	4,360	140
Citizenship			
Citizen	286,889	37,457	998
Non-citizen	22,461	13,272	829
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	229,736	11,203	159
Does not speak only English at home	59,519	34,438	1,490
Speaks English very well	34,308	18,356	596
Speaks English less than very well	25,211	16,082	893
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,233	6,689	405
1990-1999	10,827	5,403	321
2000 or later	13,857	6,726	413
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,361	7,022	279
New York	19,392	3,434	157
Midwest	66,976	4,671	66
South	114,866	18,315	740
Texas	25,257	9,533	240
Maryland	5,786	474	157
Virginia	8,025	630	130
West	72,147	20,721	742
California	37,349	14,092	656

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 Salvadoran origin 13,626. 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 Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,567	13,269	450
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,948	6,278	187
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	39,620	6,991	262
Homeownership rate (%)	65.4	47.3	41.7
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$49,800	\$40,000	\$43,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	4.1

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 Salvadoran origin 3,610. 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://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	139,103	20,739	898
Unemployed	16,870	3,070	125
Not in labor force	86,814	11,412	314
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	12.9	12.2
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,305	2,789	132
Manufacturing	14,432	2,183	93
Trade and transportation	25,761	3,872	169
Information, finance and other services	87,605	11,895	504
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,511	4,480	111
Services	21,578	4,984	289
Sales and office support	34,768	4,628	161
Construction, extraction and farming	8,075	2,495	121
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,170	4,154	215

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 Salvadoran origin 10,006. 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://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and