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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2010

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An estimated 972,000 Hispanics of Colombian origin resided in the United States in 2010, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Colombians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Colombian origin; this means either they themselves are Colombian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Colombia. Colombians are the seventh-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.9% 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 Colombian 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.** Two-thirds of Colombians (65%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of all Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Colombia (64%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Less than half of Colombian immigrants (48%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority (59%) of Colombians speak English proficiently.³ The other 41% of Colombians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 35% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Colombians are younger than U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Colombians is 34; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Colombians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—47% versus 44%.
- **Fertility.** Less than one-in-ten (6%) Colombian women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was less than the rate for all Hispanic women—8%—and the overall rate for U.S. women—7%.

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 Colombians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Colombians are concentrated in the South (49%), mostly in Florida (34%), and in the Northeast (34%), mostly in New York (15%) and New Jersey (10%).
- **Educational attainment.** Colombians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 32% of Colombians 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 Colombians ages 16 and older were \$25,000 in 2010; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$20,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Colombians who live in poverty, 13%, is similar to the rate for the general U.S. population (15%) and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health Insurance.** More than one-quarter of Colombians (28%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 16% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 13% of Colombians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Colombian homeownership (49%) 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 Colombian 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>).

Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total	309,350	50,730	972
Gender			
Male	152,055	25,723	434
Female	157,294	25,007	538
Nativity			
Native Born	269,433	31,912	342
Foreign Born	39,917	18,817	630
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	34
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,095	5,089	61
5-17	54,037	12,093	182
18-29	51,776	10,471	181
30-39	40,245	8,060	152
40-49	43,723	6,526	162
50-64	59,025	5,681	159
65 and older	40,449	2,810	76
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,934	16,067	366
Never married	79,570	14,749	257
Divorced/separated/widowed	47,550	5,411	154
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,479	11,856	251
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,078	963	15
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,557	434	***
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,994	11,824	183
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,433	10,306	92
High school diploma or equivalent	58,212	7,216	170
Some college	59,030	6,226	165
Bachelor's degree or more	57,672	3,589	197
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,500	\$20,000	\$25,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$34,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	15,916	5,518	35
18-64	26,672	6,268	77
65 and older	3,535	513	12
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	48,794	15,828	270
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,971	2,446	32
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	252,342	45,437	854
In married-couple households	182,448	28,957	573
In non-family households	49,021	4,360	104
Citizenship			
Citizen	286,889	37,457	645
Non-citizen	22,461	13,272	328
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	229,736	11,203	121
Does not speak only English at home	59,519	34,438	790
Speaks English very well	34,308	18,356	419
Speaks English less than very well	25,211	16,082	372
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,233	6,689	224
1990-1999	10,827	5,403	169
2000 or later	13,857	6,726	237
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,361	7,022	334
New York	19,392	3,434	150
New Jersey	8,802	1,564	99
Midwest	66,976	4,671	54
South	114,866	18,315	481
Florida	18,843	4,253	330
Texas	25,257	9,533	51
West	72,147	20,721	104
California	37,349	14,092	70

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 Colombian origin 8,235. 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 Colombian Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,567	13,269	286
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,948	6,278	141
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	39,620	6,991	146
Homeownership rate (%)	65.4	47.3	49.1
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$49,800	\$40,000	\$49,500
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	3.1

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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 1,203,777; Hispanics 115,695; Hispanics of Colombian origin 2,603. 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 Colombian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	139,103	20,739	477
Unemployed	16,870	3,070	60
Not in labor force	86,814	11,412	222
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	12.9	11.3
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,305	2,789	26
Manufacturing	14,432	2,183	40
Trade and transportation	25,761	3,872	92
Information, finance and other services	87,605	11,895	319
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,511	4,480	160
Services	21,578	4,984	106
Sales and office support	34,768	4,628	117
Construction, extraction and farming	8,075	2,495	19
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,170	4,154	75

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 Colombian origin 6,427. 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