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Statistical Profile

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# Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2011

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## Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2011

An estimated 1.2 million Hispanics of Guatemalan origin resided in the United States in 2011, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Guatemalans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Guatemalan origin; this means either they themselves are Guatemalan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Guatemala. Guatemalans are the sixth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.3% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2011. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 33.5 million, or 64.6%, of the Hispanic population in 2011.<sup>1</sup>

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Guatemalan population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on tabulations from the 2011 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Nearly two-in-three Guatemalans (64%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 36% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. More than seven-in-ten immigrants from Guatemala (74%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly one-quarter of Guatemalan immigrants (23%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** More than four-in-ten Guatemalans (43%) speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> Some 57% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 34% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Guatemalans are younger than U.S. population. The median age of Guatemalans is 27; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Guatemalans ages 15 and older are married at a lower rate (40%) than Hispanics overall (43%) and the U.S. population overall (48%).
- **Fertility.** About one-in-ten (9%) Guatemalan women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That about the same as the rate for all Hispanic women—8%—and greater than the overall rate for U.S. women—6%.

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

<sup>2</sup> This includes Guatemalans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** About four-in-ten Guatemalans (38%) live in the West, mostly in California (32%). Roughly one-third (34%) live in the South.
- **Educational attainment.** Guatemalans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall and the U.S. population overall. Some 7% of Guatemalans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics and 29% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Guatemalans ages 16 and older were \$17,000 in the year prior to the survey; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics and the U.S. population were \$20,000 and \$29,000, respectively.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Guatemalans who live in poverty, 29%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and for all Hispanics (26%).
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-half of Guatemalans (46%) do not have health insurance compared with 30% of all U.S. Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 14% of Guatemalans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Guatemalan homeownership (30%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (46%) and the U.S. population (65%) as a whole.

### About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Guatemalan origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2011 [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 2011 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 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/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 Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2011

**Table 1**  
**U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Guatemalan Origin, 2011**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311,592</b>	<b>51,927</b>	<b>1,216</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	153,248	26,336	689
Female	158,344	25,591	527
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native Born	271,210	33,139	435
Foreign Born	40,382	18,788	781
<b>Age</b>			
Median (in years)	37	27	27
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Younger than 5	20,024	5,141	129
5-17	53,826	12,245	234
18-29	52,253	10,665	322
30-39	40,205	8,160	232
40-49	43,344	6,762	162
50-64	60,552	6,013	106
65 and older	41,388	2,940	29
<b>Marital Status (ages 15 and older)</b>			
Married	120,912	16,154	360
Never married	81,300	15,417	445
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,223	5,671	93
<b>Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)</b>			
Total number of women	62,611	12,050	269
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,031	932	24
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,544	435	***
<b>School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)</b>			
K-12	52,875	12,015	227
<b>Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>			
Less than high school diploma	29,077	10,383	379
High school diploma or equivalent	58,586	7,581	147
Some college	59,874	6,424	108
Bachelor's degree or more	58,996	3,759	48
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)</b>			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,000	\$20,000	\$17,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$24,000
<b>Persons in Poverty<sup>2</sup></b>			
Younger than 18	16,493	5,894	130
18-64	28,212	6,755	211
65 and older	3,737	556	6
<b>Health Insurance</b>			
Uninsured, all ages	47,903	15,572	559
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,540	2,232	50
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household<sup>3</sup></b>			
In family households	254,071	46,317	1064
In married-couple households	182,097	29,159	615
In non-family households	49,515	4,649	138
<b>Citizenship</b>			
Citizen	289,366	38,905	616
Non-citizen	22,226	13,022	600
<b>Language (ages 5 and older)</b>			
Speaks only English at home	230,923	11,827	118
Does not speak only English at home	60,644	34,959	969
Speaks English very well	35,389	19,051	348
Speaks English less than very well	25,255	15,908	621
<b>Year of Entry (foreign-born only)</b>			
Before 1990	15,208	6,658	200
1990-1999	10,759	5,399	196
2000-2005	8,093	4,340	225
2006 or later	6,321	2,391	160
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>			
Northeast	55,522	7,186	222
New York	19,465	3,497	81
Midwest	67,159	4,772	117
South	116,047	18,820	409
Florida	19,058	4,354	84
Texas	25,675	9,794	82
Georgia	9,815	880	56
West	72,865	21,149	467
California	37,692	14,358	395

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. <sup>2</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>3</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 3,112,017; Hispanics 427,432; Hispanics of Guatemalan origin 8,956. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).

## Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2011

Table 2

**Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Guatemalan Origin, 2011**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>114,992</b>	<b>13,668</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,376	6,351	85
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	40,615	7,317	201
Homeownership rate (%)	64.7	46.5	29.8
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$36,400
<b>Household Size</b>			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	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 1,204,830; Hispanics 118,668; Hispanics of Guatemalan origin 2,301. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).

Table 3

**Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Guatemalan Origin, 2011**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Thousands, unless otherwise noted			
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,458	21,368	593
Unemployed	16,037	3,014	80
Not in labor force	88,723	11,847	209
Unemployment rate (%)	10.2	12.4	11.9
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,261	2,799	112
Manufacturing	14,700	2,303	74
Trade and transportation	25,998	4,032	85
Information, finance and other services	88,499	12,233	322
<b>Occupations<sup>1</sup></b>			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,208	4,658	65
Services	22,055	5,138	207
Sales and office support	34,521	4,755	79
Construction, extraction and farming	8,019	2,485	108
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,656	4,332	133

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

**Note:** Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,509,144; Hispanics 303,057; Hispanics of Guatemalan origin 6,429. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf).