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# Hispanics of Dominican Origin in the United States, 2013

*Statistical Profile*

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

BY *Gustavo López*

An estimated 1.8 million Hispanics of Dominican origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

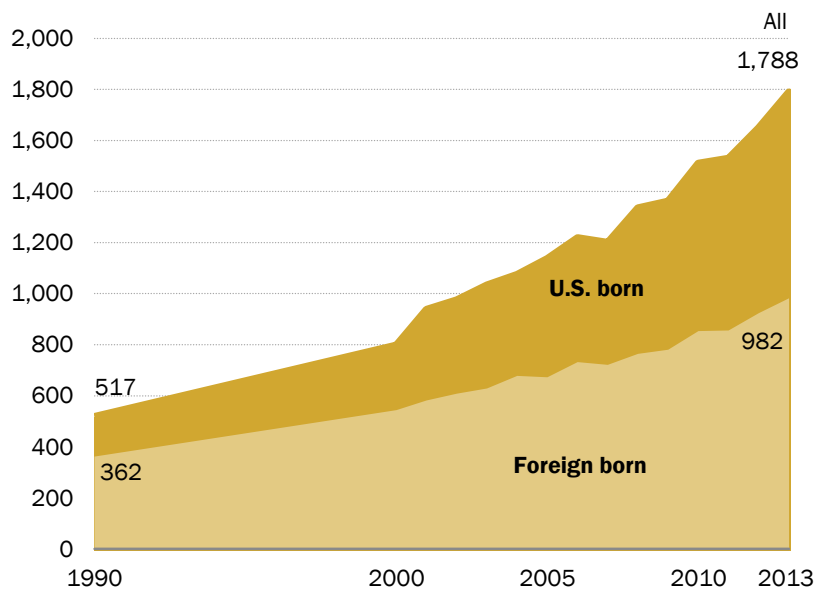
Dominicans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Dominican origin; this means either they themselves are Dominican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to the Dominican Republic.

Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.3% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013. Since 1990, the Dominican-origin population has more than tripled, growing from 517,000 to 1.8 million over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Dominican origin living in the U.S. grew by 171%, up from 362,000 in 1990 to 982,000 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

## Dominican-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.

### About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Dominican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2013 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) and a nationally representative [Pew Research Center survey](#) of 5,103 Hispanic adults conducted May 24-July 28, 2013. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish on cellular as well as landline telephones and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. For a complete methodology, see: <http://www.pewforum.org/2014/05/07/appendix-a-survey-methodology-2/>

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>).

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Dominican population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall and includes public opinion data of Dominican and Hispanic adults. It is based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey and Pew Research Center's 2013 National Survey of Latinos. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** More than half of the Dominicans (55%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Four-in-ten immigrants from the Dominican Republic have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. Half of Dominican immigrants are U.S. citizens.
- **English proficiency and speaking Spanish at home.** According to the ACS, a majority (57%) of Dominicans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> The other 43% of Dominicans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. Overall, 88% of Dominicans speak Spanish at home, higher than the share (73%) of all Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak Spanish at home.

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

- **Bilingualism and language dominance.** [According to the 2013 Pew Research Center survey](#), one-in-ten Dominican adults are English-dominant, lower than the share of Hispanics overall (25%).<sup>3</sup> About half of Dominican adults (48%) are Spanish-dominant, and roughly four-in-ten (43%) are bilingual. About four-in-ten (38%) Hispanic adults are Spanish-dominant, and 36% of Hispanic adults are bilingual speakers. For Dominican immigrants, about half (53%) are Spanish-dominant, while 44% are bilingual. Only 3% of Dominican immigrants are English-dominant.
- **Age.** Dominicans are younger than the U.S. population and have the same median age as Hispanics overall. The median age of Dominicans is 28; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Dominicans, the median age of immigrants is 43 years, while it's 15 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Dominicans ages 18 and older are less likely to be married (37%) than Hispanics overall (46%) and the U.S. population overall (50%). Among Dominicans ages 18 and older, the foreign born are more likely to be married than the U.S. born—44% vs. 21%.
- **Fertility.** Fewer than one-in-ten (7%) Dominican women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was the same as the rate for all Hispanic women and similar to the overall rate for U.S. women (6%). Some 55% of Dominican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was higher than the 45% rate for all Hispanic women and the 38% overall rate for U.S. women.
- **Regional dispersion.** About eight-in-ten Dominicans (79%) live in the Northeast, and nearly half (47%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Dominicans have higher levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population but lower levels than the U.S. population overall. Some 17% of Dominicans 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. Among Dominicans ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or more than foreign-born Dominicans—25% vs. 15%.

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<sup>3</sup> Language dominance, or primary language, is a composite measure based on self-described assessments of speaking and reading abilities. "Spanish-dominant" persons are more proficient in Spanish than in English, i.e., they speak and read Spanish "very well" or "pretty well" but rate their English-speaking and -reading ability lower. "Bilingual" refers to persons who are proficient in both English and Spanish. "English-dominant" persons are more proficient in English than in Spanish.

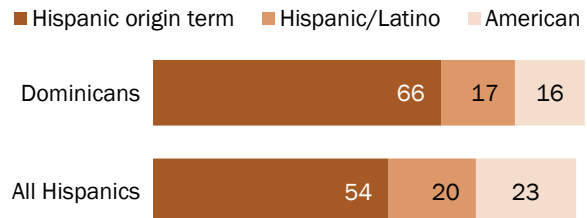
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Dominicans ages 16 and older was \$20,000 in the year prior to the survey — slightly lower than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) and lower than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Dominicans who live in poverty, 28%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and slightly higher than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** About two-in-ten Dominicans (21%) do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 8% of Dominicans 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 Dominican homeownership (24%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) and the U.S. population (64%) as a whole.

- **“Dominican” is the identity term used most often.** When asked in a [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) what terms they use to describe themselves most often, two-thirds of Dominican adults (66%) say they most often use the term “Dominican.” Some 16% say they most often describe themselves as “American.” Roughly the same share (17%) most often use the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe their identity. By

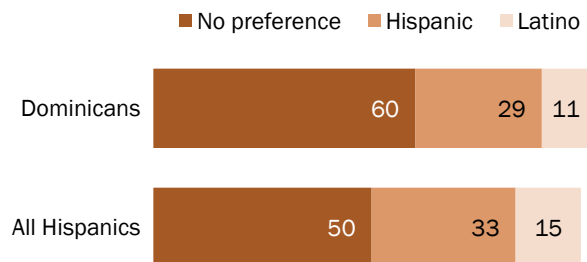
FIGURE 2

### Dominican Views of Identity

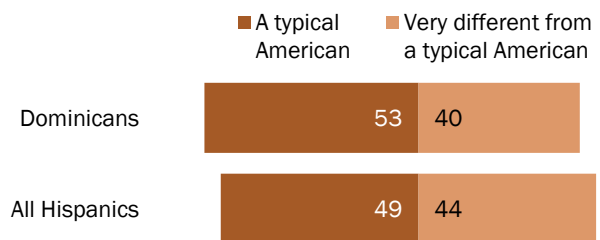
% saying they most often describe themselves as ...



% saying they prefer the term ...



% saying they think of themselves as ...



Note: “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown. For top chart, volunteered responses of “Depends” not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (N=5,103 including 338 Dominican adults)

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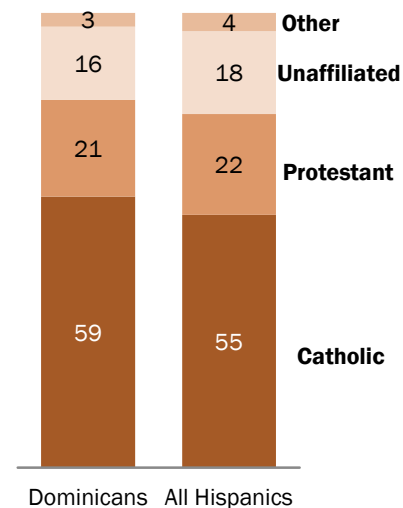
comparison, 54% of all U.S. Hispanics say they prefer their ancestor’s Hispanic origin term to describe their identity, 23% say they describe themselves most often as “American” and two-in-ten use the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe their identity.

- Preference for Hispanic or Latino.** In regards to the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino,” six-in-ten Dominicans have no preference for either term. Among those who have a preference, more prefer the term “Hispanic” (29% of all Dominicans), while 11% prefer the term “Latino.” By comparison, half of all Hispanic adults have no preference for either term, and among those who do have a preference, Hispanic is favored over Latino 2-to-1.
- Typical American or not.** When asked in the 2013 Pew Research survey whether they thought of themselves as a typical American or very different from a typical American, about half of Dominican adults (53%) see themselves as a typical American, while four-in-ten think of themselves as very different from a typical American. Hispanic adults are more likely to see themselves as a typical American (49%) than very different from a typical American (44%).
- Religious affiliation.** A [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) of Hispanic adults finds that about six-in-ten Dominican adults (59%) identify themselves as Catholic. Roughly two-in-ten (21%) Dominicans are Protestant, and among all Dominicans, 6% are mainline Protestants and 16% are evangelical Protestants. Some 16% of Dominican adults are religiously unaffiliated. In contrast, among all Hispanics 55% identify as Catholic, 22% identify as Protestant, and about two-in-ten (18%) are unaffiliated.

FIGURE 3

### Dominican Religious Affiliation

% of adults who belong to each religious group



Note: “Don’t know” responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (n=4,080 including 272 Dominican adults)

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

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,129</b>	<b>53,964</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>982</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	155,592	27,377	847	413	434
Female	160,537	26,587	941	394	548
<b>Nativity</b>					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	806	806	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	982	---	982
<b>Age</b>					
Median (in years)	37	28	28	15	43
<b>Age Groups</b>					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	150	145	5
5-17	53,820	12,635	374	305	69
18-29	53,007	10,923	398	219	179
30-39	40,997	8,454	265	84	181
40-49	42,158	7,039	235	33	202
50-64	61,801	6,560	248	14	234
65 and older	44,663	3,301	117	5	113
<b>Marital Status (ages 18 and older)</b>					
Married	122,043	16,750	470	74	395
Never married	71,957	13,603	535	248	287
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	259	34	226
<b>Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)</b>					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	452	192	259
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	30	11	19
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	16	***	***
<b>School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)</b>					
K-12	52,794	12,383	367	300	66
<b>Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	327	27	300
High school graduate <sup>2</sup>	58,768	8,037	259	49	211
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	258	75	183
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	168	50	118
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)</b>					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$20,000	\$19,200	\$20,800
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$35,700	\$29,000
<b>Persons in Poverty<sup>3</sup></b>					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	184	155	29
18-64	28,336	6,693	272	82	190
65 and older	4,155	631	39	1	38
<b>Health Insurance<sup>4</sup></b>					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	376	115	261
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	40	27	13
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household<sup>5</sup></b>					
In family households	257,066	48,026	1,598	741	857
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	721	300	420
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	155	45	111
<b>Citizenship</b>					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	1,295	806	489
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	493	---	493
<b>Language (ages 5 and older)</b>					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	180	143	37
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	1,458	518	940
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	759	451	308
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	699	67	632
<b>Years in the U.S. (foreign-born only)</b>					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	190	---	190
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	133	---	133
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	122	---	122
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	141	---	141
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	395	---	395
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	1,405	608	797
New York	19,651	3,609	840	367	473
New Jersey	8,899	1,685	245	98	147
Massachusetts	6,693	704	151	66	85
Pennsylvania	12,774	803	83	37	46
Midwest	67,548	4,953	34	21	13
South	118,384	19,724	309	151	158
Florida	19,553	4,620	206	94	112
West	74,254	21,749	40	27	14

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. <sup>2</sup>High school graduate<sup>2</sup> 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 Dominican origin, 12,368; U.S.-born Dominicans, 5,627; foreign-born Dominicans, 6,741. 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 Dominican Origin, 2013**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>116,291</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	120	27	93
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	381	74	307
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	23.9	26.7	23.2
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$33,900	\$46,700	\$31,000
<b>Household Size</b>					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.5

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 Dominican origin, 3,698; U.S.-born Dominicans, 781; foreign-born Dominicans, 2,917. 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 Dominican Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	776	217	559
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	114	45	70
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	427	134	293
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	12.9	17.0	11.1
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	34	8	26
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	71	14	57
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	185	54	131
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	486	141	345
<b>Occupations</b>					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	185	62	123
Services	22,944	5,522	215	45	170
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	185	77	108
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	30	6	24
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	162	27	135

<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 Dominican origin, 9,158; U.S.-born Dominicans, 2,833; foreign-born Dominicans, 6,325. 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).