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Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2013

Statistical Profile

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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An estimated 1.3 million Hispanics of Guatemalan origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

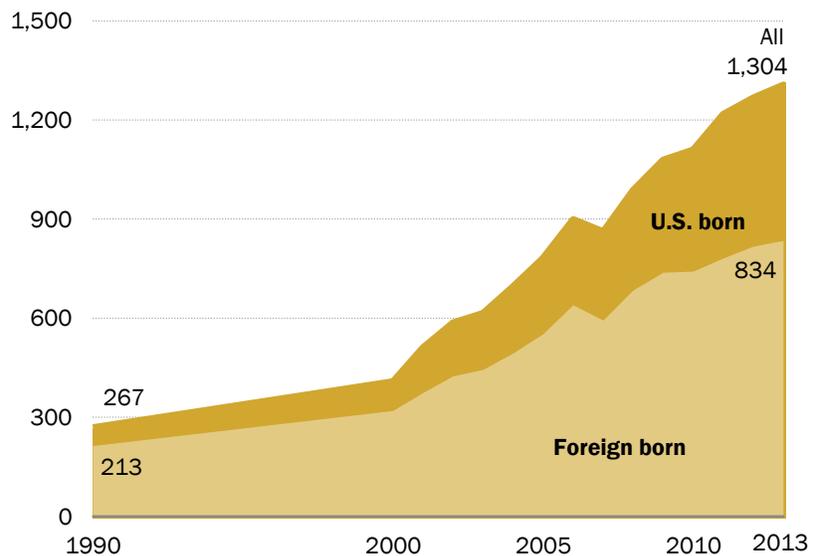
Guatemalans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Guatemalan origin; this means either they themselves are Guatemalan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Guatemala.

Guatemalans are the sixth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.4% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013. Since 1990, the Guatemalan-origin population has increased almost fivefold, growing from 267,000 to 1.3 million over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Guatemalan origin living in the U.S. grew almost 300%, up from 213,000 in 1990 to 834,000 in 2013. In comparison, Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 34.6 million, or 64.1%, of the Hispanic population in 2013.¹

FIGURE 1

Guatemalan-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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¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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 Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration Status.** Nearly two-in-three Guatemalans (64%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. One-third of immigrants from Guatemala (30%) have been in the U.S. for 20 years or more. About one-quarter of Guatemalan immigrants (24%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** More than four-in-ten Guatemalans (45%) speak English proficiently.² Some 55% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. In addition, 88% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older speak Spanish at home.
- **Age.** Guatemalans are younger than the U.S. population. The median age of Guatemalans is 28; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Guatemalans, the median age of immigrants is 35 years, while it's only 11 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Guatemalans ages 18 and older are married at a slightly lower rate (43%) than Hispanics overall (46%) and the U.S. population overall (50%).
- **Fertility.** About one-in-ten (9%) Guatemalan women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was similar to the rate for all Hispanic women (7%) and close to the overall rate for U.S. women (6%).
- **Regional dispersion.** About four-in-ten Guatemalans (37%) live in the West, mostly in California (31%). Roughly one-third (34%) live in the South.
- **Educational attainment.** Guatemalans have lower levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population and the U.S. population overall. Some 9% of Guatemalans ages 25 and older—compared with 14% of all U.S. Hispanics and 30% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. Among Guatemalans ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree than foreign-born Guatemalans—27% vs. 7%.

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

- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Guatemalans ages 16 and older were \$18,000 in the year prior to the survey—lower than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) and the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Guatemalans who live in poverty, 28%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** More than four-in-ten Guatemalans (45%) do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 13% of Guatemalans 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 Guatemalan homeownership (28%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) and the U.S. population (64%) as a whole. Among Guatemalans, U.S.-born Guatemalans have a higher homeownership rate compared with foreign-born Guatemalans—37% vs. 27%.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Guatemalan origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2013 [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 2013 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 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>).

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

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
TOTAL	316,129	53,964	1,304	470	834
Gender					
Male	155,592	27,377	742	234	508
Female	160,537	26,587	562	237	326
Nativity					
U.S. Born	274,798	34,981	470	470	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	834	---	834
Age					
Median (in years)	37	28	28	11	35
Age Groups					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	114	112	2
5-17	53,820	12,635	256	203	53
18-29	53,007	10,923	319	98	222
30-39	40,997	8,454	276	38	238
40-49	42,158	7,039	180	11	169
50-64	61,801	6,560	123	6	117
65 and older	44,663	3,301	37	3	34
Marital Status (ages 18 and older)					
Married	122,043	16,750	406	40	366
Never married	71,957	13,603	429	104	325
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	99	12	87
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	285	86	199
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	25	7	19
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	***	***	***
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)					
K-12	52,794	12,383	249	197	52
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	419	14	405
High school graduate ²	58,768	8,037	159	17	142
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	116	29	87
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	71	23	49
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$33,300	\$23,000
Persons in Poverty³					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	137	120	17
18-64	28,336	6,693	223	29	194
65 and older	4,155	631	7	1	6
Health Insurance⁴					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	588	77	510
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	48	31	18
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵					
In family households	257,066	48,026	1,122	436	686
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	657	257	399
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	162	27	136
Citizenship					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	674	470	204
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	630	---	630
Language (ages 5 and older)					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	131	79	52
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	1,060	280	779
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	402	230	172
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	658	50	608
Years in the U.S. (foreign-born only)					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	125	---	125
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	209	---	209
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	160	---	160
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	87	---	87
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	253	---	253
Regional Dispersion					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	270	85	184
New York	19,651	3,609	96	30	65
New Jersey	8,899	1,685	61	***	44
Midwest	67,548	4,953	109	44	65
South	118,384	19,724	441	148	293
Florida	19,553	4,620	117	34	83
Texas	26,448	10,155	75	***	54
West	74,254	21,749	485	193	292
California	38,333	14,716	408	160	248

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. ²High school graduate² includes those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate. ³For 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. ⁴These data reflect insurance coverage prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act. ⁵The 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 Guatemalan origin, 9,444; U.S.-born Guatemalans, 3,445; foreign-born Guatemalans, 5,999. 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.

Table 2

Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Guatemalan Origin, 2013

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Total (in thousands)	116,291	14,246	318	39	279
Homeownership (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	89	14	75
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	228	25	204
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	28.1	36.9	26.8
Household Annual Income (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$38,200	\$52,700	\$36,300
Household Size					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	4.0	3.3	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, 1,211,264; Hispanics, 121,664; Hispanics of Guatemalan origin, 2,442; U.S.-born Guatemalans, 317; foreign-born Guatemalans, 2,125.

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.

Table 3

Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Guatemalan Origin, 2013

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	686	104	582
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	61	16	45
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	220	56	163
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	8.1	13.4	7.1
Industries¹					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	133	5	127
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	77	10	68
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	96	27	68
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	379	61	318
Occupations					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	81	29	52
Services	22,944	5,522	239	19	220
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	91	34	58
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	125	5	120
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	150	17	132

¹Currently 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 Guatemalan origin, 7,016; U.S.-born Guatemalans, 1,402; foreign-born Guatemalans, 5,614.

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.