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Hispanics of Nicaraguan Origin in the United States, 2013

Statistical Profile

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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BY *Gustavo López*

An estimated 381,000 Hispanics of Nicaraguan origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

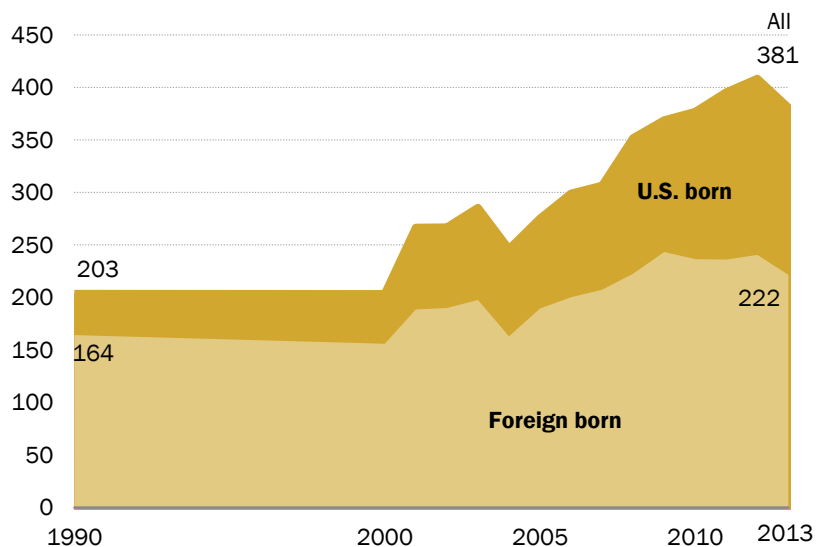
Nicaraguans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Nicaraguan origin; this means either they themselves are Nicaraguan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguans are the 12th-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 0.7% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013. Since 1990, the Nicaraguan-origin population nearly doubled, growing from 203,000 to 381,000 over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Nicaraguan origin living in the U.S. grew by 35%, up from 164,000 in 1990 to 222,000 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

Nicaraguan-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 Nicaraguan 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.** About six-in-ten Nicaraguans (58%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. About six-in-ten immigrants from Nicaragua (59%) have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. A little over half of Nicaraguan immigrants (56%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** About six-in-ten (63%) Nicaraguans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.² Some 37% of Nicaraguans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. In addition, 83% of Nicaraguans ages 5 and older speak Spanish at home.
- **Age.** Nicaraguans are younger than the U.S. population but older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Nicaraguans is 33; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Nicaraguans, the median age of immigrants is 44 years, while it's only 16 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Nicaraguans ages 18 and older are about as likely to be married (47%) as Hispanics overall (46%) but less likely to be married than the U.S. population overall (50%).
- **Fertility.** Less than one-in-ten (7%) Nicaraguan 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%).
- **Regional dispersion.** Nicaraguans are concentrated in the South (54%), mostly in Florida (36%), and in the West (33%), mostly in California (29%).
- **Educational attainment.** Nicaraguans have higher levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population but lower levels than the U.S. population overall. Some 19% of Nicaraguans 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 Nicaraguans ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or more than foreign-born Nicaraguans—33% vs. 16%.

² This includes Nicaraguans 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."

- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Nicaraguans ages 16 and older was \$24,000 in the year prior to the survey—higher 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 Nicaraguans who live in poverty, 17%, is close to the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and less than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** About three-in-ten Nicaraguans (31%) do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 10% of Nicaraguans 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 Nicaraguan homeownership (42%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) and the U.S. population (64%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Nicaraguan 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 Nicaraguan Origin, 2013

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Nicaraguan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
TOTAL	316,129	53,964	381	159	222
Gender					
Male	155,592	27,377	182	78	105
Female	160,537	26,587	198	81	117
Nativity					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	159	159	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	222	---	222
Age					
Median (in years)	37	28	33	16	44
Age Groups					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	32	31	1
5-17	53,820	12,635	59	53	6
18-29	53,007	10,923	77	48	29
30-39	40,997	8,454	65	13	53
40-49	42,158	7,039	58	6	52
50-64	61,801	6,560	61	7	54
65 and older	44,663	3,301	29	1	28
Marital Status (ages 18 and older)					
Married	122,043	16,750	137	23	114
Never married	71,957	13,603	104	48	56
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	49	4	45
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	87	39	49
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	6	3	3
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	58	53	***
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	59	4	56
High school graduate ²	58,768	8,037	69	9	60
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	71	15	56
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	47	14	33
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$24,000	\$22,000	\$24,600
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$30,000
Persons in Poverty ³					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	20	18	2
18-64	28,336	6,693	40	10	30
65 and older	4,155	631	6	<0.5	6
Health Insurance ⁴					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	118	26	92
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	9	8	2
Persons in Households by Type of Household ⁵					
In family households	257,066	48,026	343	148	195
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	220	95	125
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	33	9	24
Citizenship					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	282	159	123
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	98	---	98
Language (ages 5 and older)					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	56	44	11
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	293	84	210
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	165	75	91
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	128	9	119
Years in the U.S. (foreign-born only)					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	15	---	15
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	22	---	22
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	30	---	30
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	23	---	23
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	131	---	131
Regional Dispersion					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	34	17	17
Midwest	67,548	4,953	16	9	7
South	118,384	19,724	207	75	132
Florida	19,553	4,620	137	42	95
West	74,254	21,749	124	58	66
California	38,333	14,716	110	51	60

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 Nicaraguan origin, 3,167; U.S.-born Nicaraguans, 1,298; foreign-born Nicaraguans, 1,869. 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 Nicaraguan Origin, 2013

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Nicaraguan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Total (in thousands)	116,291	14,246	104	19	85
Homeownership (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	44	***	35
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	60	***	50
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	42.4	***	41.6
Household Annual Income (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$50,000	***	\$45,400
Household Size					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.6	****	3.7

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 Nicaraguan origin, 980; U.S.-born Nicaraguans, 192; foreign-born Nicaraguans, 788. 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 3

Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Nicaraguan Origin, 2013

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Nicaraguan Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	193	51	142
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	20	6	14
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	86	26	60
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	9.3	10.3	9.0
Industries¹					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	19	2	17
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	13	3	10
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	45	11	34
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	116	35	81
Occupations					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	54	19	35
Services	22,944	5,522	39	9	31
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	49	16	33
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	16	1	15
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	34	6	29

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 Nicaraguan origin, 2,508; U.S.-born Nicaraguans, 688; foreign-born Nicaraguans, 1,820. 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.