

FACTS f FEATURES



CB04-FFSE05

April 21, 2004



★ Special Edition ★ Cinco de Mayo



May 5th marks the Mexican army's victory over the French invaders at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. In the United States, the celebration of this battle has come to be known simply as the "Cinco de Mayo." Along with Mexican Independence Day on Sept. 16, Cinco de Mayo has become a time to celebrate Mexican heritage and culture.

24 million

Number of U.S. residents of Mexican ancestry. These residents constitute 9 percent of U.S. residents and more than 6-in-10 residents of Hispanic origin.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_lang=en&_ts=92837068834>



15.7 million

Number of people of Mexican origin who reside either in California (9.6 million) or in Texas (6.2 million). People of Mexican origin make up 28 percent of the residents of these two states.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_lang=en&_ts=92837068834>

(more)

9.9 million

Number of foreign-born residents from Mexico. They constitute about 3-in-10 people who were foreign-born.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_lang=en&_ts=92837068834>

55%

Percentage of Latinos of Mexican descent who live in the West.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hispanic_origin_population/001130.html>

37%

Percentage of Mexican-origin residents who are under 18, the highest percentage of that age group among Latino groups.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hispanic_origin_population/001130.html>

31%

Percentage of Mexican family households containing five or more people. This is the highest rate for large households among Latino groups.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hispanic_origin_population/001130.html>

12%

Percentage of those of Mexican heritage who work in managerial or professional occupations.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hispanic_origin_population/001130.html>

613,000

Number of U.S. military veterans of Mexican descent. People of Mexican descent make up about 2 percent of all veterans.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=DEC&_lang=en&_ts=>>

(more)



79%

Percentage of people of Mexican heritage who speak Spanish at home. Of this group, about half speak English “very well.”

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=DEC&_lang=en&_ts=>

268

Number of U.S. tortilla manufacturing establishments in 2001. The establishments that produce this unleavened flat bread employ more than 12,000 people. Tortillas, the principal food of the Aztecs, are known as the “bread of Mexico.”

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county_business_patterns/000926.html>

\$235.5 billion

The value of goods and services traded between the United States and Mexico in 2003. Mexico is our nation’s second-leading trading partner after Canada.

<<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/country/index.html>>

From time to time, special editions of the U.S. Census Bureau’s *Facts for Features* are issued to commemorate anniversaries or observances or to provide background information for topics in the news. Below is a listing of previous such editions:

U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans (April 10, 2003)

Tax Time (April 11, 2003)

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial (May 12, 2003)

Dialing for Dollars (Sept. 24, 2003)

First Flight Centennial (Dec. 3, 2003)

Social Security COLA (Dec. 11, 2003)

The 2004 Presidential Election (Jan. 6, 2004)

Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary (Feb. 4, 2004)

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (March 10, 2004)

50th Anniversary of ‘Wonderful World of Color’ in Television (March 11, 2004)

Editor’s note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error.

Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau’s Public Information Office: telephone:

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