

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

Facts for
Features

CB08-FF.15
July 9, 2008

Updated Sept. 8, 2008

Hispanic Heritage Month 2008: Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, which was observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a monthlong celebration (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15). America celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Population

45.5 million

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2007, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 15 percent of the nation's total population. In addition, there are approximately 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>> and <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011109.html>>

About 1

. . . of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, was Hispanic. There were 1.4 million Hispanics added to the population during the period.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

3.3%

Percentage increase in the Hispanic population between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, making Hispanics the fastest-growing minority group.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

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132.8 million

The projected Hispanic population of the United States on July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 30 percent of the nation's population by that date.

Source: Population projections <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012496.html>>

22.4 million

The nation's Hispanic population during the 1990 Census — less than half the current total.

Source: The Hispanic Population: 2000 <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf>>

2nd

Ranking of the size of the U.S. Hispanic population worldwide, as of 2007. Only Mexico (108.7 million) had a larger Hispanic population than did the United States (45.5 million). (Spain had a population of 40.4 million.)

Source: International Data Base <<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/idbrank.pl>> <<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbsum.html>> and population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

64%

The percentage of Hispanic-origin people in the United States who are of Mexican background. Another 9 percent are of Puerto Rican background, with 3.4 percent Cuban, 3.1 percent Salvadoran and 2.8 percent Dominican. The remainder are of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origin.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

About 50 percent of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City and about half of the nation's Cubans in Miami-Dade County, Fla.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

27.6 years

Median age of the Hispanic population in 2007. This compares with 36.6 years for the population as a whole.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

107

Number of Hispanic males in 2007 per every 100 Hispanic females. This was in sharp contrast to the overall population, which had 97 males per every 100 females.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

States and Counties

48%

The percentage of the Hispanic-origin population that lives in California or Texas. California is home to 13.2 million Hispanics, and Texas is home to 8.6 million.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

16

The number of states with at least a half-million Hispanic residents. They are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

44%

The percentage of New Mexico's population that is Hispanic, the highest of any state. Hispanics also make up more than a quarter of the population in California and Texas, at 36 percent each, Arizona (30 percent) and Nevada (25 percent).

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

4.7 million

The Hispanic population of Los Angeles County, Calif., in 2007 — the largest of any county in the nation. Maricopa County, Ariz. (home of Phoenix) had the biggest numerical increase in the Hispanic population (60,700) since July 2006.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012463.html>>

97%

Proportion of the population of Starr County, Texas, that was Hispanic as of 2007, which led the nation. In fact, each of the top 10 counties in this category was in Texas.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012463.html>>

308,000

The increase in Texas' Hispanic population between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, which led all states. California (268,000) and Florida (131,000) also recorded large increases.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

20

Number of states in which Hispanics are the largest minority group. These states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

Businesses

Source for statements in this section: *Hispanic-owned Firms: 2002*
<<http://www.census.gov/csd/sbo/hispanic2002.htm>>

1.6 million

The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002.

Triple

The rate of growth of Hispanic-owned businesses between 1997 and 2002 (31 percent) compared with the national average (10 percent) for all businesses.

\$222 billion

Revenue generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 19 percent from 1997.

44.6%

. . . of all Hispanic-owned firms were owned by Mexicans, Mexican-Americans and Chicanos.

29,168

Number of Hispanic-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more.

- Nearly 43 percent of Hispanic-owned firms operated in construction; administrative and support, and waste management and remediation services; and other services, such as personal services, and repair and maintenance. Retail and wholesale trade accounted for nearly 36 percent of Hispanic-owned business revenue.

- Counties with the highest number of Hispanic-owned firms were Los Angeles County (188,422); Miami-Dade County (163,187); and Harris County, Texas (61,934).

Families and Children

9.9 million

The number of Hispanic family households in the United States in 2006. Of these households, 62 percent included children younger than 18.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/009842.html>

67%

The percentage of Hispanic family households consisting of a married couple.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/009842.html>

44%

The percentage of Hispanic family households consisting of a married couple with children younger than 18.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/009842.html>

66%

Percentage of Hispanic children living with two married parents.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/009842.html>

24%

Percentage of total population younger than 5 that was Hispanic as of July 1, 2007.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

Spanish Language

34 million

The number of U.S. residents 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute 12 percent of U.S. residents.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

29%

Percentage of Texas residents 5 and older who speak Spanish at home, which leads all states. (The percentage for Texas is not significantly different from that of New Mexico, however.) This compares with the national average of 12 percent.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

78%

Percentage of Hispanics 5 and older who speak Spanish at home.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

Income, Poverty and Health Insurance

\$38,679

The median income of Hispanic households in 2007, statistically unchanged from the previous year after adjusting for inflation.

Source: *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/012528.html>

21.5%

The poverty rate among Hispanics in 2007, up from 20.6 percent in 2006.

Source: *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/012528.html>

32.1%

The percentage of Hispanics who lacked health insurance in 2007, down from 34.1 percent in 2006.

Source: *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/012528.html

Education

60%

The percentage of Hispanics 25 and older who had at least a high school education in 2007.
Source: Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011196.html>>

13%

The percentage of the Hispanic population 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007.

Source: Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011196.html>>

3.3 million

The number of Hispanics 18 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2007, up from 1.7 million a decade earlier.

Source: Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011196.html>>

811,000

Number of Hispanics 25 and older with advanced degrees in 2007 (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate).

Source: Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011196.html>>

11%

Percentage of all college students in October 2006 who were Hispanic. Among elementary and high school students combined, the corresponding proportion was 19 percent.

Source: School Enrollment – Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 2006 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011921.html>>

Educational attainment levels are higher among certain Hispanic groups than among others. For example, among Cubans 25 and older, 75 percent were at least high school graduates, and 26 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

Jobs

68%

Percentage of Hispanics 16 and older who are in the civilian labor force.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

17%

The percentage of Hispanics 16 or older who work in management, professional and related occupations. Roughly the same percentage work in construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations (although this percentage is significantly lower than for those in management, professional and related occupations). Approximately 24 percent of Hispanics 16 or older work in service occupations; 22 percent in sales and office occupations; 2 percent in farming, fishing and forestry occupations; and 18 percent in production, transportation and material moving occupations.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

82,500

Number of Hispanic chief executives. In addition, 46,200 physicians and surgeons; 53,600 postsecondary teachers; 43,000 lawyers; and 5,700 news analysts, reporters and correspondents are Hispanic.

Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2009*, Table 596
<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>

Voting

7.6 million

The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting — about 47 percent — did not change statistically from four years earlier.

Source: *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2004*

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/voting/004986.html>>

5.6 million

The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2006 congressional elections. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting — about 32 percent — did not change statistically from four years earlier.

Source: *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2006*

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/voting/012234.html>>

Serving our Country

1.1 million

The number of Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)
Super Bowl XLII (Feb. 3)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
Women's History Month (March)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
Older Americans Month (May)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)
Mother's Day (May 11)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)
Father's Day (June 15)
The Fourth of July (July 4)
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)
Back to School (August)

Labor Day (Sept. 1)
Grandparents Day (Sept. 7)
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 21-27)
Halloween (Oct. 31)
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month
(November)
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27)
The Holiday Season (December)

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; fax: 301-763-3762; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.