

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2007

Some 4.1 million Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin resided in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. That is a slightly greater number than the population of Puerto Rico itself in 2007, which was 3.9 million. Puerto Ricans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin; this means either they themselves are Puerto Rican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Puerto Rico. This statistical profile focuses on the characteristics of Puerto Ricans residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, henceforth the United States.¹

Most Puerto Ricans in the United States — 2.7 million in all — were born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Additionally, one-third of the Puerto Rican population in the U.S. — 1.4 million — was born in Puerto Rico. People born in Puerto Rico are also considered native born because they are U.S. citizens by birth. A small number of Puerto Ricans — 48,000 — were born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth. They are considered foreign born.

Puerto Ricans are the second-largest population of Hispanic origin residing in the United States, accounting for 9.1% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007. Mexicans constituted 29.2 million, or 64.3%, of the Hispanic population.

As a group, Puerto Ricans are older than Hispanics on average but they are younger than the U.S. population. They are less likely to be married than either Hispanics overall or the U.S. population overall. The majority (55.9%) of Puerto Rican women ages 15 to 44 who had a birth in the 12 months prior to the survey

¹ Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, but all references to the United States in this profile refer to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

were unmarried. The comparable share for all Hispanic women was 38.1% and the figure for all U.S. women was 33.4%.

Among Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older living in the U.S., most do not speak only English at home. Some 20.5% of Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics. Puerto Ricans are concentrated in the Northeast, mostly in New York, and in the South, mostly in Florida.

Puerto Ricans have lower levels of education and lower incomes than average for the U.S. population. They are less likely to be in the labor force, and among those in the labor force they have a higher rate of unemployment than either all Hispanics or the overall population. The rate of homeownership among Puerto Ricans is lower than the rate for Hispanics overall and the U.S. population overall.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2007 [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 2007 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 www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf. 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 Passel, “[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#),” Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2007)). 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/acs/www/Downloads/Report10.pdf> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/ASA_nelson.pdf).

Table 1

Population Characteristics, 2007

(residents of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, in thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	4,115
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	2,016
Female	152,982	21,924	2,099
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	4,067
Born in Puerto Rico	1,470	1,420	1,373 ¹
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	48 ²
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	388
5-17	53,217	10,438	946
18-29	50,386	9,328	767
30-39	40,623	7,629	622
40-49	45,132	5,871	562
50-64	53,769	4,737	538
65 and older	37,798	2,481	292
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	1,143
Never married	74,061	12,199	1,269
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	597
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	969
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	68
Unmarried women ³ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	38
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	921
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	641
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	720
Some college	53,251	4,931	606
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	365
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,333	\$21,048	\$25,298
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,464	\$27,321	\$34,405
Persons in Poverty⁴			
Younger than 18	12,809	4,045	403
18-64	19,856	4,362	457
65 and older	3,248	428	62
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵			
In family households	246,339	40,369	3,454
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	1,859
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	525
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	4,090 ¹
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	24
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	1,201
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	2,525
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	1,762
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	763
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast (%)	18.1	13.7	55.6
New York	6.4	6.9	26.1
New Jersey	2.9	3.0	9.7
Pennsylvania	4.1	1.2	7.6
Midwest (%)	22.0	9.0	9.4
Illinois	4.3	4.2	4.3
South (%)	36.6	34.9	27.2
Florida	6.1	8.3	17.8
West (%)	23.2	42.4	7.8
California	12.1	29.1	4.1

¹Persons born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth. ²Persons who indicated they were not born in the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth.³Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. ⁴For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=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. ⁵The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). 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/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

Table 2 Household Characteristics, 2007 <i>(residents of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia)</i>			
	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total (in thousands)	112,386	12,296	1,329
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	541
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	789
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	40.7
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$38,452
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.8

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.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). 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/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

Table 3 Employment Characteristics, by Industry and Occupation, 2007 <i>(residents of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, in thousands, unless otherwise noted)</i>			
	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	1,605
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	178
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	1,130
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	10.0
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	89
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	160
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	344
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	1,012
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	468
Services	20,728	4,391	311
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	455
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	76
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	295

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). 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/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.