

Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2007

A total of 797,000 Hispanics of Colombian origin resided in the United States in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Colombians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Colombian origin; this means either they themselves are Colombian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Colombia. Colombians are the seventh-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.8% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007. Mexicans constituted 29.2 million, or 64.3%, of the Hispanic population.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Colombian population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Seven-in-ten Colombians (69.4%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 39.8% of Hispanics and 12.6% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Colombia (58.5%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Less than half of Colombian immigrants (45.1%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Colombians (55.0%) speak English proficiently.² Some 45.0% of Colombians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Colombians are similar in age to the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Colombians is 35; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

- **Marital status.** Colombians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—50.4% versus 47.3%.
- **Fertility.** One-in-six (16.9%) Colombian women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was less than the rate for all Hispanic women—38.1%—and the rate for U.S. women—33.4%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Colombians are concentrated in the South (46.9%), mostly in Florida (31.2%), and in the Northeast (37.2%), mostly in New York (18.1%) and New Jersey (11.1%).
- **Educational attainment.** Colombians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 30.3% of Colombians ages 25 and older—compared with 12.6% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Colombians ages 16 and older were \$24,792 in 2007; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,048.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Colombians who live in poverty, 10.0%, is lower than the rate for the general U.S. population (11.9%) and Hispanics overall (19.5%).
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Colombian homeownership (51.9%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (49.9%) but lower than the 67.2% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Colombian 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).

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	797
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	365
Female	152,982	21,924	432
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	244
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	553
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	35
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	54
5-17	53,217	10,438	132
18-29	50,386	9,328	142
30-39	40,623	7,629	129
40-49	45,132	5,871	158
50-64	53,769	4,737	122
65 and older	37,798	2,481	60
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	326
Never married	74,061	12,199	194
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	126
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	210
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	12
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	2
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	130
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	83
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	154
Some college	53,251	4,931	132
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	160
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,333	\$21,048	\$24,792
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,464	\$27,321	\$30,357
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	12,809	4,045	25
18-64	19,856	4,362	46
65 and older	3,248	428	9
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	246,339	40,369	691
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	471
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	91
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	494
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	304
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	84
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	659
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	325
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	334
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	16,331	7,122	230
1990 to 1999	11,179	5,578	160
2000 or later	10,539	5,349	163
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,681	6,198	297
New York	19,298	3,147	144
New Jersey	8,686	1,379	88
Midwest	66,389	4,076	44
South	110,455	15,850	374
Florida	18,251	3,751	249
Texas	23,904	8,591	45
West	70,097	19,256	82
California	36,553	13,219	58

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. ²For 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. ³The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

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

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total (in thousands)	112,386	12,296	256
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	133
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	123
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	51.9
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$49,583
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.0

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.
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
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	423
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	25
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	183
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	5.7
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	31
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	45
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	88
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	259
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	130
Services	20,728	4,391	87
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	103
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	26
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	76

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.
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>.