

Hispanics of Dominican Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 1.3 million Hispanics of Dominican origin resided in the United States in 2008, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Dominicans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Dominican origin; this means either they themselves are Dominican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.8% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2008. Mexicans constituted 30.7 million, or 65.7%, of the Hispanic population.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Dominican population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Nearly six-in-ten of Dominicans (57.3%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from the Dominican Republic (57.0%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly half of Dominican immigrants (47.4%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Dominicans (53.4%) speak English proficiently.² Some 46.6% of Dominicans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Dominicans are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Dominicans is 29; 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 Dominicans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Dominicans are less likely than Hispanics overall to be married—38.7% versus 46.5%.
- **Fertility.** Half (52.0%) of Dominican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was greater than the rate for all Hispanic women—38.8%—and the rate for U.S. women—34.5%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Eight-in-ten Dominicans (79.4%) live in the Northeast, and half (50.6%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Dominicans have slightly higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Sixteen percent of Dominicans ages 25 and older—compared with 12.9% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Dominicans ages 16 and older were \$20,571 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Dominicans who live in poverty, 23.2%, is nearly double the rate for the general U.S. population (12.7%) and higher than the 20.7% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** One-quarter of Dominicans (23.4%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 12.5% of Dominicans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Dominican homeownership (28.3%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (49.1%) and the U.S. population (66.6%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Dominican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [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 2008 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/accuracy2008.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, 2008)). 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, 2008
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Total	304,060	46,822	1,334
Gender			
Male	149,863	24,214	611
Female	154,196	22,608	723
Nativity			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	570
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	764
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	121
5-17	53,012	10,787	297
18-29	51,086	9,344	257
30-39	40,407	7,769	202
40-49	44,673	6,087	200
50-64	55,207	4,989	175
65 and older	38,797	2,631	82
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,805	15,422	382
Never married	75,960	12,713	390
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	215
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	342
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	26
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	13
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,068	10,497	300
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	274
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	194
Some college	57,595	5,601	169
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	118
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$20,571
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$28,515
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	128
18-64	21,919	4,792	155
65 and older	3,648	491	27
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	312
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	52
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	247,692	41,549	1,198
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	581
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	118
Citizenship			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	932
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	402
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	104
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	1,109
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	544
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	565
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	329
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	252
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	184
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	1,059
New York	19,490	3,232	675
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	177
Massachusetts	6,498	557	101
Pennsylvania	12,448	589	53
Midwest	66,561	4,252	18
South	111,719	16,441	233
Florida	18,328	3,846	155
West	70,855	19,724	24

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 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf>.

Table 2 Household Characteristics, 2008			
	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,101	12,612	397
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	112
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	285
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	28.3
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$35,644
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.3
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 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf .			

Table 3 Employment Characteristics, by Industry and Occupation, 2008 (thousands, unless otherwise noted)			
	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Dominican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	146,246	20,683	589
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	64
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	305
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	9.8
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	27
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	62
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	142
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	359
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	136
Services	21,669	4,614	147
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	152
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	22
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	132
¹ Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older. Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 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/accuracy2008.pdf .			