

Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin in the United States, 2008

A total of 591,000 Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin resided in the United States in 2008, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Ecuadorians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin; this means either they themselves are Ecuadorian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Ecuador. Ecuadorians are the ninth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.3% 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 Ecuadorian 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.** Two-thirds of Ecuadorians (66.4%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 38.1% of Hispanics and 12.5% of the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds of immigrants from Ecuador (66.2%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Nearly four-in-ten Ecuadorian immigrants (37.2%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Less than half of Ecuadorians (49.1%) speak English proficiently.² Some 50.9% of Ecuadorians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37.3% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Ecuadorians are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Ecuadorians is 32; 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 Ecuadorians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Ecuadorians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—50.7% versus 46.5%.
- **Fertility.** Two-in-ten (20.8%) of Ecuadorian 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—38.8%—and the rate for U.S. women—34.5%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Two-thirds of Ecuadorians (68.0%) live in the Northeast, and more than four-in-ten (42.5%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Ecuadorians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 18.2% of Ecuadorians 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 Ecuadorians ages 16 and older were \$23,423 in 2008; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,488.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Ecuadorians who live in poverty, 13.5%, is similar to the rate for the general U.S. population (12.7%) and below the 20.7% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** One-third of Ecuadorians (34.7%) do not have health insurance compared with 31.7% of all Hispanics and 15.4% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 16.4% of Ecuadorians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Ecuadorian homeownership (40.3%) 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 Ecuadorian 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).

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Total	304,060	46,822	591
Gender			
Male	149,863	24,214	315
Female	154,196	22,608	276
Nativity			
Native Born	266,044	28,985	198
Foreign Born	38,016	17,837	392
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	32
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,879	5,216	54
5-17	53,012	10,787	99
18-29	51,086	9,344	116
30-39	40,407	7,769	119
40-49	44,673	6,087	93
50-64	55,207	4,989	70
65 and older	38,797	2,631	39
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,805	15,422	232
Never married	75,960	12,713	154
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,228	5,030	72
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,005	10,543	132
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,354	936	10
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,503	363	2
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,068	10,497	95
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,050	10,011	115
High school diploma or equivalent	57,016	6,637	109
Some college	57,595	5,601	83
Bachelor's degree or more	55,356	3,302	68
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,533	\$21,488	\$23,423
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,736	\$28,820	\$30,552
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	13,131	4,390	26
18-64	21,919	4,792	46
65 and older	3,648	491	7
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	46,729	14,852	205
Uninsured, younger than 18	7,354	2,985	25
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	247,692	41,549	528
In married-couple households	181,848	27,094	364
In non-family households	48,121	4,379	59
Citizenship			
Citizen	282,374	34,097	345
Non-citizen	21,686	12,726	246
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	227,375	9,855	44
Does not speak only English at home	55,806	31,752	493
Speaks English very well	31,376	16,223	219
Speaks English less than very well	24,430	15,529	273
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,879	6,883	133
1990 to 1999	10,913	5,424	124
2000 or later	11,225	5,530	135
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,925	6,405	401
New York	19,490	3,232	251
New Jersey	8,683	1,424	107
Connecticut	3,501	424	24
Midwest	66,561	4,252	39
South	111,719	16,441	103
Florida	18,328	3,846	59
West	70,855	19,724	48
California	36,757	13,435	35

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>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Total (in thousands)	113,101	12,612	171
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,342	6,188	69
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	37,760	6,424	102
Homeownership rate (%)	66.6	49.1	40.3
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$51,938	\$41,754	\$49,392
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.5

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>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	146,246	20,683	317
Unemployed	9,984	1,678	22
Not in labor force	81,350	9,885	113
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	7.5	6.5
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,429	3,229	39
Manufacturing	16,385	2,389	34
Trade and transportation	27,777	3,913	68
Information, finance and other services	88,654	11,151	175
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,413	4,233	62
Services	21,669	4,614	82
Sales and office support	37,260	4,579	66
Construction, extraction and farming	9,637	2,858	34
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,268	4,399	73

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
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