

Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin in the United States, 2007

A total of 860,000 Hispanics of Guatemalan origin resided in the United States in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Guatemalans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Guatemalan origin; this means either they themselves are Guatemalan immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Guatemala. Guatemalans are the sixth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.9% 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 Guatemalan 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 Guatemalans (69.0%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 39.8% of Hispanics and 12.6% of the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds of immigrants from Guatemala (67.4%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Two-in-ten Guatemalan immigrants (22.9%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (40.3%) speak English proficiently.² Some 59.7% of Guatemalans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Guatemalans are younger than the U.S. population. The median age of Guatemalans is 27, which is the same as the median age of all Hispanics; the median age of the U.S. population is 36.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

- **Marital status.** Guatemalans are less likely than Hispanics overall to be married—44.0% versus 47.3%.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (43.4%) Guatemalan 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—38.1%—and the rate for U.S. women—33.4%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Four-in-ten Guatemalans (42.3%) live in the West, mostly in California (35.1%).
- **Educational attainment.** Guatemalans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 54.1% of Guatemalans ages 25 and older—compared with 39.4% of all U.S. Hispanics—have not obtained at least a high school diploma.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Guatemalans ages 16 and older were \$18,518 in 2007; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$21,048.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Guatemalans who live in poverty, 19.0%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (11.9%) and similar to the share for all Hispanics (19.5%).
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Guatemalan homeownership (35.3%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (49.9%) and the U.S. population (67.2%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Guatemalan 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 Guatemalan Origin
Total	301,621	45,379	860
Gender			
Male	148,639	23,455	495
Female	152,982	21,924	365
Nativity			
Native Born	263,573	27,329	267
Foreign Born	38,048	18,050	593
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	27
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,696	4,894	83
5-17	53,217	10,438	165
18-29	50,386	9,328	227
30-39	40,623	7,629	182
40-49	45,132	5,871	112
50-64	53,769	4,737	72
65 and older	37,798	2,481	18
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,941	15,299	286
Never married	74,061	12,199	288
Divorced/separated/widowed	45,704	4,853	76
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,106	10,403	192
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,137	898	14
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,382	342	6
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,022	10,130	159
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	30,594	9,768	265
High school diploma or equivalent	59,707	6,985	114
Some college	53,251	4,931	68
Bachelor's degree or more	54,382	3,116	43
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,333	\$21,048	\$18,518
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,464	\$27,321	\$22,262
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	12,809	4,045	63
18-64	19,856	4,362	97
65 and older	3,248	428	2
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	246,339	40,369	746
In married-couple households	181,733	26,497	439
In non-family households	47,161	4,144	107
Citizenship			
Citizen	279,778	32,444	403
Non-citizen	21,844	12,934	457
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	225,588	8,931	62
Does not speak only English at home	55,338	31,553	715
Speaks English very well	30,891	15,838	251
Speaks English less than very well	24,446	15,715	464
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	16,331	7,122	194
1990 to 1999	11,179	5,578	165
2000 or later	10,539	5,349	234
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	54,681	6,198	166
New York	19,298	3,147	57
New Jersey	8,686	1,379	38
Midwest	66,389	4,076	82
South	110,455	15,850	248
Florida	18,251	3,751	68
Texas	23,904	8,591	44
West	70,097	19,256	364
California	36,553	13,219	302

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>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	112,386	12,296	222
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	75,523	6,135	78
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	36,863	6,161	143
Homeownership rate (%)	67.2	49.9	35.3
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,595	\$40,476	\$42,399
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	4.0

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>.

	U.S. Population	All Hispanics	Hispanics of Guatemalan Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	142,634	19,739	455
Unemployed	9,624	1,554	31
Not in labor force	83,170	10,163	150
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	7.3	6.4
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	13,701	3,299	99
Manufacturing	16,097	2,381	59
Trade and transportation	27,055	3,624	69
Information, finance and other services	85,781	10,435	228
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	52,452	3,900	50
Services	20,728	4,391	141
Sales and office support	36,491	4,239	66
Construction, extraction and farming	9,867	2,958	94
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	23,096	4,252	103

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

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