

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin in the United States, 2011

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An estimated 645,000 Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin resided in the United States in 2011, 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 10th-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.2% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2011. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 33.5 million, or 64.6%, of the Hispanic population in 2011.¹

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 tabulations from the 2011 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** About six-in-ten Ecuadorians (62%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 36% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. About two-thirds of immigrants from Ecuador (67%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. More than four-in-ten Ecuadorian immigrants (42%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** More than half of Ecuadorians (53%) speak English proficiently.² The other 47% of Ecuadorians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 34% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Ecuadorians are younger than 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 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Ecuadorians ages 15 and older are married at a higher rate than Hispanics overall—46% versus 43%—and at a lower rate than the entire U.S. population 15 years of age and older (48%).
- **Fertility.** Less than one-in-ten (7%) Ecuadorian women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was similar to the overall rate for all Hispanic women—8%—and the rate for U.S. women—6%.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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

- **Regional dispersion.** Two-thirds of Ecuadorians (66%) live in the Northeast, and four-in-ten (40%) live in New York.
- **Educational attainment.** Ecuadorians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall but lower levels than the U.S. population overall. Some 19% of Ecuadorians ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics and 29% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Ecuadorians ages 16 and older were \$22,000 in the year prior to the survey—higher than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$20,000) but lower than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$29,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Ecuadorians who live in poverty, 18%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (26%).
- **Health Insurance.** More than three-in-ten Ecuadorians (32%) do not have health insurance compared with 30% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 9% of Ecuadorians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Ecuadorian homeownership (40%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (46%) and the U.S. population (65%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin is based on the Census Bureau’s 2011 [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 2011 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 http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/. 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/methodology/ASA_nelson.pdf, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

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Table 1
U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Ecuadorian Origin, 2011

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
TOTAL	311,592	51,927	645
Gender			
Male	153,248	26,336	340
Female	158,344	25,591	305
Nativity			
Native Born	271,210	33,139	242
Foreign Born	40,382	18,788	402
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	32
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,024	5,141	50
5-17	53,826	12,245	113
18-29	52,253	10,665	132
30-39	40,205	8,160	116
40-49	43,344	6,762	102
50-64	60,552	6,013	90
65 and older	41,388	2,940	41
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,912	16,154	231
Never married	81,300	15,417	191
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,223	5,671	83
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,611	12,050	144
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,031	932	10
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,544	435	***
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,875	12,015	113
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,077	10,383	115
High school diploma or equivalent	58,586	7,581	115
Some college	59,874	6,424	100
Bachelor's degree or more	58,996	3,759	79
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,000	\$20,000	\$22,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Persons in Poverty ²			
Younger than 18	16,493	5,894	37
18-64	28,212	6,755	68
65 and older	3,737	556	8
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,903	15,572	208
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,540	2,232	14
Persons in Households by Type of Household ³			
In family households	254,071	46,317	581
In married-couple households	182,097	29,159	366
In non-family households	49,515	4,649	59
Citizenship			
Citizen	289,366	38,905	410
Non-citizen	22,226	13,022	235
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	230,923	11,827	63
Does not speak only English at home	60,644	34,959	531
Speaks English very well	35,389	19,051	251
Speaks English less than very well	25,255	15,908	281
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,208	6,658	132
1990-1999	10,759	5,399	118
2000-2005	8,093	4,340	96
2006 or later	6,321	2,391	56
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,522	7,186	427
New York	19,465	3,497	260
New Jersey	8,821	1,599	124
Midwest	67,159	4,772	47
Illinois	12,869	2,078	33
South	116,047	18,820	114
Florida	19,058	4,354	69
West	72,865	21,149	57
California	37,692	14,358	47

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. ²For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 3,112,017; Hispanics 427,432; Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin 4,591. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.

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Table 2

Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Ecuadorian Origin, 2011

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,992	13,668	182
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,376	6,351	72
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	40,615	7,317	110
Homeownership rate (%)	64.7	46.5	39.6
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$48,600
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.6

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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 1,204,830; Hispanics 118,668; Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin 1,346. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.

Table 3

Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Ecuadorian Origin, 2011

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Ecuadorian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,458	21,368	335
Unemployed	16,037	3,014	35
Not in labor force	88,723	11,847	127
Unemployment rate (%)	10.2	12.4	9.5
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,261	2,799	42
Manufacturing	14,700	2,303	32
Trade and transportation	25,998	4,032	66
Information, finance and other services	88,499	12,233	195
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,208	4,658	72
Services	22,055	5,138	80
Sales and office support	34,521	4,755	79
Construction, extraction and farming	8,019	2,485	39
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,656	4,332	66

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,509,144; Hispanics 303,057; Hispanics of Ecuadorian origin 3,507. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.