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Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2013

Statistical Profile

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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An estimated 1.1 million Hispanics of Colombian origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of 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.

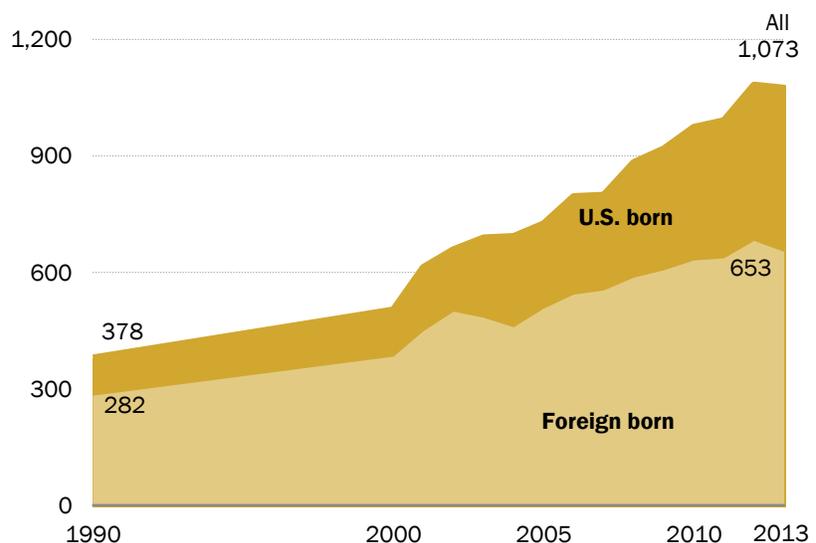
Colombians are the seventh-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013. Since 1990, the Colombian-origin population has almost

tripled, growing from 378,000 to 1.1 million over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Colombian origin living in the U.S. grew by 131%, up from 282,000 in 1990 to 653,000 in 2013. In comparison, Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 34.6 million, or 64.1%, of the Hispanic population in 2013.¹

FIGURE 1

Colombian-Origin Population in the U.S., 1990-2013

In thousands



Note: People in group quarters such as college dormitories or institutions are not included in figures for 2001 to 2005. Changes in the wording of the Hispanic origin question in the 2000 decennial census may have led to an undercount of some Hispanic origin groups in that year. For more, see <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2002/05/09/counting-the-other-hispanics/>

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS) and 2001-2013 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS)

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¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

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 Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** About six-in-ten Colombians (61%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Four-in-ten immigrants from Colombia have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. A little over half of Colombian immigrants (56%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority (64%) of Colombians ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.² The other 36% of Colombians report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. In addition, 83% of Colombians ages 5 and older speak Spanish at home.
- **Age.** Colombians are younger than the U.S. population but older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Colombians is 34; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 28, respectively. Among Colombians, the median age of immigrants is 45 years, while it's only 17 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Colombians ages 18 and older are roughly as likely to be married (49%) as Hispanics overall (46%) and the U.S. population overall (50%). Among Colombians ages 18 and older, the foreign born are more likely to be married than those who are U.S. born—55% vs. 31%.
- **Fertility.** Some 4% of Colombian women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. This was slightly less than the rate for all Hispanic women (7%) and the overall rate for U.S. women (6%).
- **Regional dispersion.** Colombians are concentrated in the South (51%), mostly in Florida (33%), and the Northeast (32%), mostly in New York (14%) and New Jersey (11%).
- **Educational attainment.** Colombians have higher levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population and slightly higher levels than the U.S. population overall. Some 33% of Colombians ages 25 and older—compared with 14% of all U.S. Hispanics and 30% among the entire U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. Among

²This includes Colombians ages 5 and older who speak only English at home or, if they speak a non-English language at home, indicate they can speak English "very well."

Colombians ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or more than foreign-born Colombians—42% vs. 30%.

- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Colombians ages 16 and older was \$25,000 in the year prior to the survey—higher than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) but lower than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Colombians who live in poverty, 16%, is the same as the rate for the general U.S. population and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** One-quarter of Colombians do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 11% of Colombians younger than 18 are uninsured. (These data reflect insurance rates prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act.)
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Colombian homeownership (45%) is the same as the rate for all Hispanics but lower than the 64% 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 2013 [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 2013 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 S. Passel, 2007. "[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#)." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center, March). 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/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

Table 1
U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Colombian Origin, 2013

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All		Hispanics		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
TOTAL	316,129	53,964	1,073	420	653
Gender					
Male	155,592	27,377	482	209	273
Female	160,537	26,587	591	211	380
Nativity					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	420	420	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	653	---	653
Age					
Median (in years)	37	28	34	17	45
Age Groups					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	68	65	2
5-17	53,820	12,635	182	148	34
18-29	53,007	10,923	210	111	99
30-39	40,997	8,454	167	46	122
40-49	42,158	7,039	170	33	137
50-64	61,801	6,560	189	13	176
65 and older	44,663	3,301	86	5	82
Marital Status (ages 18 and older)					
Married	122,043	16,750	406	64	342
Never married	71,957	13,603	253	124	129
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	164	19	145
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	273	107	166
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	12	4	8
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	***	***	***
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)					
K-12	52,794	12,383	181	144	36
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	93	11	82
High school graduate ²	58,768	8,037	170	19	151
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	208	46	161
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	228	55	173
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,800
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$36,500	\$40,000	\$35,300
Persons in Poverty³					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	40	32	8
18-64	28,336	6,693	109	26	83
65 and older	4,155	631	15	1	15
Health Insurance⁴					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	265	61	204
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	28	16	12
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵					
In family households	257,066	48,026	918	367	551
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	643	251	393
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	136	43	93
Citizenship					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	789	420	369
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	284	---	284
Language (ages 5 and older)					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	168	122	46
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	837	233	604
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	474	206	269
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	363	27	335
Years in the U.S. (foreign-born only)					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	89	---	89
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	83	---	83
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	158	---	158
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	64	---	64
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	259	---	259
Regional Dispersion					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	348	125	223
New York	19,651	3,609	154	57	97
New Jersey	8,899	1,685	115	38	78
Midwest	67,548	4,953	52	24	28
South	118,384	19,724	549	209	340
Florida	19,553	4,620	358	128	230
Texas	26,448	10,155	63	***	36
West	74,254	21,749	123	62	61
California	38,333	14,716	78	39	39

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. ²High school graduate" includes those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate. ³For 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. ⁴These data reflect insurance coverage prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act. ⁵The 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, 3,132,795; Hispanics, 435,427; Hispanics of Colombian origin, 8,751; U.S.-born Colombians, 3,331; foreign-born Colombians, 5,420. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Sources: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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_2013.pdf.

Table 2

Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Colombian Origin, 2013

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Total (in thousands)	116,291	14,246	327	67	261
Homeownership (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	148	28	120
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	179	38	141
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	45.2	42.8	45.8
Household Annual Income (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$50,900	\$60,000	\$48,500
Household Size					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	3.0	2.8	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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 1,211,264; Hispanics, 121,664; Hispanics of Colombian origin, 2,825; U.S.-born Colombians, 550; foreign-born Colombians, 2,275.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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_2013.pdf.

Table 3

Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Colombian Origin, 2013

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	555	149	406
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	47	13	34
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	246	61	185
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	7.8	8.0	7.7
Industries¹					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	30	6	24
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	48	9	38
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	109	33	77
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	369	102	267
Occupations					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	203	60	143
Services	22,944	5,522	123	25	98
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	134	46	88
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	23	4	19
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	72	14	58

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 2,530,954; Hispanics, 311,328; Hispanics of Colombian origin, 6,959; U.S.-born Colombians, 1,772; foreign-born Colombians, 5,187.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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_2013.pdf.