

Fun Facts: Hispanic Heritage Month

In September of 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. In 1989, it was expanded to a month long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15).

The start date is significant because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Educational Attainment



For Hispanics 25 years and over, approximately...

- **7 out of 10** (75%) have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- **4 out of 10** (43%) have some college.
- **2 out of 10** (21%) have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Total Population of Hispanic Origin

About 70 million The Hispanic population of the United States in 2025 constitutes **one out of five** (20.5%) of the nation's total population. The Hispanic population grew from 18.8% in 2020 to 20.5% in 2025, a 1.7 percentage-point increase.

Did You Know?

1 in every 4 children, 25.7% (18.8 million), in the United States were of Hispanic origin in 2020, up from 23.1% (17.1 million) in 2010.



What's the Age?

31.1 Median age of the Hispanic population in 2025, up from 30.8 in 2024.

Where They Live

Over half of the **70 million** Hispanics in the U.S. call themselves:



- Californians - **About 4 out of 10** (16,069,215).
- Texans - **About 4 out of 10** (12,602,294).
- Floridians - **About 1 out of 10** (6,849,243).

Spanish Speakers

Roughly 14% of all people 5 years and over speak Spanish in the United States.

Business Owners*



Over 8% (8.4) or **495 thousand** (495,822) businesses in the United States were Hispanic-owned in 2023.

The top sector for Hispanic-owned businesses was:

Over 19% Construction. These businesses had a total of **482,173** employees and an annual payroll of **\$26,797,303,000** in 2023. (Ranked by the number of firms)



Birthplace Populations of Famous Hispanics

- **Julia Alvarez** – New York City, New York (Pop. – **8,584,629**)
Dominican American poet, author, and essayist.
- **Julian Castro** – San Antonio, Texas (Pop. – **1,548,422**)
Democratic politician of Mexican descent. First Latino at a Democratic National Convention to serve as the keynote speaker.
- **Cesar Chavez** – Yuma, Arizona (Pop. – **105,227**)
Union leader and labor organizer dedicated his life to improving treatment, pay and working conditions for farm workers.
- **Rita Moreno** – Humacao Municipio, Puerto Rico (Pop. – **49,249**)
Puerto Rican actress best known as Anita in West Side Story in 1961 and first-ever Hispanic American woman to win Academy Award.



Be Your Own Boss!

In 2023, a significantly larger proportion of Hispanic workers were self-employed (10.0%) than non-Hispanic workers (9.6%).

Note: *The numbers in the Business Owners section only represent Hispanic-owned businesses with employees. Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 Population Estimates; 2023 Current Population Survey; Current Population Survey, 2023 Annual Social and Economic Supplement; 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; 2023 Annual Business Survey; and biography.com.