

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 monthlong 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** (74%) 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.

About 60.6 million The Hispanic population of the United States in 2019 constitutes roughly **one out five** (18.5%) of the nation's total population. The Hispanic population grew from 16.4% in 2010 to 18.5% in 2019, a 2.1 percentage-point increase.

Total Population of Hispanic Origin

Age Breakdown

Approximate percentage of Hispanics in the United States in 2019:

- **8%** - under 5 years of age
- **17%** - 5 to 14 years of age
- **16%** - 15 to 24 years of age
- **16%** - 25 to 34 years of age
- **26%** - 35 to 54 years of age
- **13%** - 55 to 74 years of age
- **3%** - 75 years and over

Where They Live

More than 50% of the **60.6 million** Hispanics in the U.S. call themselves:

- Californians - **About 4 out of 10** (15,574,882).
- Texans - **About 4 out of 10** (11,524,842).
- Floridians - **About 3 out of 10** (5,663,629).

Spanish Speakers

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

Birthplace Populations of Famous Hispanics

- **Ellen Ochoa** - Los Angeles City, California (Pop. - **3,979,576**)
The first Hispanic American woman astronaut to go to space with a nine-day mission.
- **Sonia Sotomayor** - Bronx, New York (Pop. - **1,418,207**)
The first Hispanic American to sit on the Supreme Court.
- **Roberto Clemente** - Carolina, Puerto Rico (Pop. - **146,984**)
The first Hispanic American to win a World Series as a starting baseball player.
- **Selena** - Lake Jackson City, Texas (Pop. - **27,220**)
One of the most celebrated Mexican American entertainers.

Business Owners*

Approximately 6% or **322 thousand** businesses in the United States were Hispanic-owned in 2018.

The top three sectors for Hispanic-owned businesses were:

About 9%

Accommodation and food services. These businesses had a total of **710,095** employees. (Includes restaurants and food services.)



Roughly 8%

Construction. These businesses had a total of **326,423** employees.



Approximately 4%

Professional, scientific, and technical services. These businesses had a total of **186,918** employees. (Includes accounting, engineering, architectural, veterinary services.)



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 2019 population estimates; 2019 Current Population Survey; Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement; 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates; 2019 Annual Business Survey, data year 2018; and biography.com.