

## **Hispanic Heritage Month 2019**

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week to recognize the rich culture and contributions of Americans who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean. Just two decades later, lawmakers expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration, stretching from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The timing is key. Hispanic Heritage Month – like its shorter precursor – always starts on Sept. 15, a historically significant day that marks the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The designated period is also a nod to those from Mexico and Chile, which celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

The following facts are available thanks to the public’s invaluable cooperation and participation in U.S. Census Bureau surveys. We appreciate the information shared by each respondent as we continuously count and measure America’s people, places and economy.

### **Did You Know?**

#### **59.9 million**

The Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2018, making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or racial minority. Hispanics constituted 18.3% of the nation’s total population.

Source: [Vintage 2018 Population Estimates](#)

#### **10**

The number of states with a population of 1 million or more Hispanic residents in 2018 — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Texas.

Source: [Vintage 2018 Population Estimates](#)

#### **34,395**

The increase from 2017 to 2018 in the number of Hispanics in Maricopa, Arizona, the biggest jump in this population during this period.

Source: [Vintage 2018 Population Estimates](#)

#### **29.5 years of age**

The median age of the Hispanic (any race) population, an increase of 0.3 years since 2017.

Source: [Vintage 2018 Population Estimates](#)

## More Stats

See a [detailed profile](#) on the Hispanic population from the 2017 American Community Survey.

Statistics include:

- Families
- Housing
- Languages
- Education
- Jobs
- Income and Poverty
- Health Insurance
- [Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: Latin America](#)

## Previous Facts for Features

- [FFF: Hispanic Heritage Month 2018](#)
- [FFF: Hispanic Heritage Month 2017](#)
- [FFF: Hispanic Heritage Month 2016](#)

###

The following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)

Women's History Month (March)

Irish-American Heritage Month (March)

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)

The Fourth of July (July 4)

Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)

Halloween (Oct. 31)

American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)

Veterans Day (Nov. 11)

Thanksgiving Day/Holiday Season (November-December)

**Editor's note:** This data comes from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are generally released about two months before an observance to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030 or e-mail: [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov).

*Profile America's [Facts for Features](#) provides statistics related to observances and holidays not covered by [Stats for Stories](#). For observances not listed above, visit our [Stats for Stories](#) web page.*

*Profile America's [Stats for Stories](#) provides links to timely story ideas highlighting the Census Bureau's newsworthy statistics that relate to current events, observances, holidays and anniversaries. The story ideas are intended to assist the media in story mining and producing content for their respective audiences. Dates with Presidential Proclamations are marked with (P).*

###

Frances Alonzo  
Public Information Office  
301-763-3030 / [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)

[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)  
Connect with us on [Social media](#)