

As the data below show, Hispanics\* are quickly becoming a population with a national presence. The most dramatic Latino population growth has occurred in "nontraditional" states, and Hispanics are now the largest minority in the country. Given that almost half of Hispanics are under 25 years old, they will constitute a large segment of the future U.S. population, workforce, and electorate.

## Alabama Compared to the Nation

- ▼ Alabama is the state with the 38<sup>th</sup>-largest Latino population.
- ▼ Between 1990 and 2000, the growth rate of the Latino population in Alabama ranked seventh in the country.<sup>1</sup>
- ▼ Of all states, Alabama has the 43<sup>rd</sup>-largest share of Latinos when compared to the total state population.<sup>1</sup>

	Population (2003) <sup>2</sup>		Hispanic Percent of Population <sup>2</sup>	Growth Rate (1990-2000) <sup>1</sup>		Median Age (2003) <sup>2</sup>	
	Total	Hispanic		Total	Hispanic	Total	Hispanic
U.S.	282,909,885	39,194,837	13.9%	13.2%	57.9%	36.0 years	26.7 years
Alabama	4,385,446	84,021	1.9%	10.1%	207.9%	36.9 years	26.2 years

## Economic Well-Being

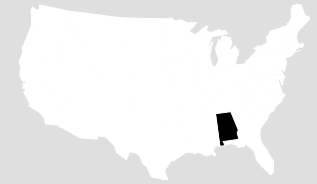
- ▼ Latinos represent an increasing share of workers and taxpayers, yet they are overwhelmingly vulnerable to economic downturns and experience high poverty rates, especially among working families with children.

	Total (2003)	Hispanic (2003)	Hispanic Proportion of Total
In Labor Force <sup>3</sup>	2,147,000	35,000	1.6%
Participation Rate*	62.4%	79.4%	--
Unemployed	125,000	2,000	1.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	6.0%	--
Population Below Poverty Level <sup>2</sup>	747,852	20,289	2.7%
Percent of Population Below Poverty	17.1%	24.1%	--
Population Under 18 (Children) <sup>2</sup>	1,085,850	22,549	2.1%
Children Below Poverty Level	255,264	5,999	2.4%
Percent of Children Below Poverty	23.5%	26.6%	--

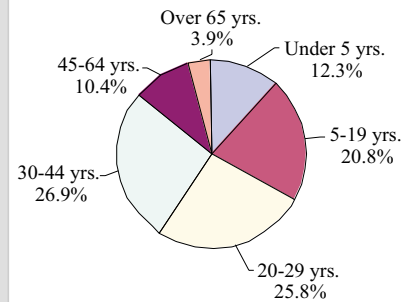
\*The labor force participation rate is calculated using the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, not the total population.

Median Household Income (2003):<sup>2</sup> \$35,158  
Hispanic Median Household Income (2003):<sup>2</sup> \$31,026

† The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to identify persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, and Spanish descent; they may be of any race.

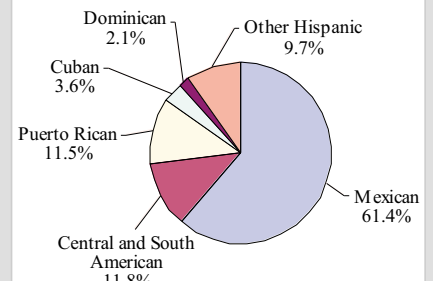


Alabama Hispanic Population, by Age: 2003



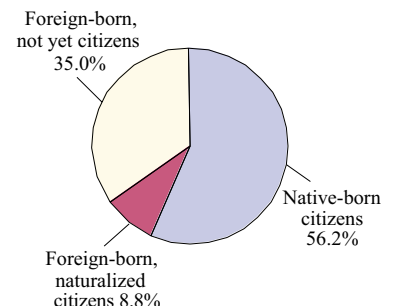
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey

Alabama Hispanic Population, by Ethnic Subgroup: 2003



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey

Alabama Hispanic Population, by Citizenship Status: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Education

- Hispanic children are a growing segment of the public school population. In particular, the state has experienced dramatic growth in the Hispanic student population over the last decade.

	Total (2000)	Growth Rate 1990-2000 (Total Pop.)	Hispanic (2000)	Growth Rate 1990-2000 (Hispanic Pop.)
Population 0-4 years <sup>1</sup>	295,992	4.5%	8,723	260.8%
School-Age Population 5-18 years <sup>1</sup>	891,852	6.0%	17,629	194.6%

	Total Children Enrolled (2003)	Hispanic Children Enrolled (2003)	Hispanic Proportion of Enrolled Children
Enrollment, Grades 1-12 <sup>2</sup>	756,711	9,347	1.2%

## Health Insurance

- Despite high work participation rates, a significant proportion of the Latino population is uninsured and does not benefit from either private or public insurance.

	Total Nonelderly Uninsured		Hispanic Nonelderly Uninsured		Hispanic Proportion of Nonelderly Uninsured
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Nonelderly (0-64 years) Uninsured <sup>4</sup>	596,120	15.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Homeownership

- Although homeownership is at an all-time high, Latinos are still less likely than other Americans to be homeowners.

	Number of Homeowners	Percent of All Householders that are Homeowners	Number of Hispanic Homeowners	Percent of Hispanic Householders that are Homeowners	Hispanic Proportion of Total Homeowners
Owner-Occupied Households <sup>2</sup>	1,249,588	71.7%	9,162	33.3%	0.7%

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*. Percentages calculated by the National Council of La Raza.

<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2003 American Community Survey*. Percentages calculated by the National Council of La Raza.

<sup>3</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Bureau of Labor Statistics: 2003 Annual Averages*.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org): 50 State Comparisons.