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# A Profile of Latino Citizenship in the United States: Demographic, Educational and Economic Trends between 1990 and 2013

Karen Okigbo

*Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies*

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# CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

## A Profile of Latino Citizenship in the United States: Demographic, Educational and Economic Trends between 1990 and 2013

Karen Okigbo

Sociology Ph.D. Program

Research Associate

Center for Latin American, Caribbean,  
and Latino Studies

Center for Latin American,  
Caribbean & Latino Studies

Graduate Center  
City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue  
Room 5419  
New York, New York 10016

212-817-8438

<mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu>

<http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/>

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The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu>

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Staff:

Laird W. Bergad, Distinguished Professor, Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies, Lehman College, Ph.D. Program in History, Executive Director, CLACLS

Teresita Levy, Associate Professor, Department of Latin American, Latino and Puerto Rican Studies, Lehman College, Associate Director

Mila Burns, Administrative Director

Justine Calcagno, Director of Quantitative Research

Lawrence Cappello, Quantitative Research Associate

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Director of Outreach and Special Projects

Karen Okigbo, Research Associate

Sebastián Villamizar-Santamaría, Research Associate

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Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies  
Room 5419  
Graduate Center  
City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
212-817-8438  
<mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu>  
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## Table of Contents

Guide to Tables .....	4
Guide to Figures .....	5
Executive Summary .....	7
Citizenship Status in the United States .....	9
Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity .....	9
Citizenship Status by Sex .....	11
Citizenship Status by Age .....	12
Citizenship Status by Age among Latinos .....	12
Citizenship Status among the Five Largest Latino National Subgroups .....	13
The Impact of Citizenship Status on Educational Attainment among Latinos .....	15
The Impact of Citizenship Status on the Personal Income among Latinos .....	17
The Impact of Citizenship Status on Employment Status among Latinos .....	18
The Impact of Citizenship Status on Personal Income among Employed Latinos .....	20
The Impact of Citizenship Status on Hours Worked per Week among Latinos .....	21
The Impact of Citizenship Status on the Poverty Status of Latinos .....	23
Conclusion .....	24
Statistical Appendix .....	25

## Guide to Tables

Table 1: Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	10
Table 2: Citizenship Status by Sex among the Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	11
Table 3: Citizenship Status among the Four Largest Latino National Subgroups, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	14
Table 4: Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment among Latinos, Age 25+ United States, 1990 - 2013.....	16
Table 5: Citizenship Status by Employment Status among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	19
Table 6: Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Income among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	21
Table 7: Citizenship Status by Hours Worked among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	22
Table 8: Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	24
Table 9: Citizenship Status by Age among Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	25
Table 10: Citizenship Status by Median Age among Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	25
Table 11: Citizenship Status by Age among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	26
Table 12: Citizenship Status by Median Age among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	26
Table 13: Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment, Age 25+, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	27
Table 14: Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	27
Table 15: Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among the Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	27
Table 16: Citizenship Status by Employment Status among the Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	28
Table 17: Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Income, United States, 1990 - 2013.....	28

Table 18: Citizenship Status by Hours Worked per Week among the Total Population,  
United States, 1990 - 2013 ..... 29

Table 19: Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among the Total Population,  
United States, 1990 - 2013 ..... 29

**Guide to Figures**

Figure 1: Citizenship Status among the Total Population, United States, 1990 - 2013 ..... 9

Figure 2: Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 2013 ..... 10

Figure 3: Citizenship Status by Sex among the Total Population, United States, 2013..... 11

Figure 4: Median Age by Citizenship Status among the Total Population,  
United States, 1990 - 2013..... 12

Figure 5: Median Age by Citizenship Status among Latinos, United States, 1990 - 2013..... 13

Figure 6: Citizenship Status among the Five Largest Latino National Subgroups,  
United States, 2013..... 14

Figure 7: Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment among Latinos, Age 25+  
United States, 2013..... 16

Figure 8: Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among Latinos,  
United States, 1990 - 2013..... 17

Figure 9: Citizenship Status by Employment Status among Latinos, United States, 2013..... 19

Figure 10: Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Personal Income among  
Latinos, United States, 2013 ..... 20

Figure 11: Citizenship Status by Hours Worked among Latinos, United States, 2013 ..... 22

Figure 12: Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among Latinos, United States, 2013..... 23

## Executive Summary

This report examines trends in citizenship status between 1990 and 2013, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup> It explores trends in citizenship status by race/ethnicity, sex, age, and among the five largest Latino national subgroups. In addition, this report also examines the effect of citizenship status on the following outcomes: education, income, employment status, usual hours worked, and poverty status.

In this report, citizenship status is defined using three categories: citizen by birth, naturalized citizen, and not a citizen. A citizen by birth is someone who was either born in the U.S. or born to at least one parent who is an American citizen. In addition, educational attainment was computed for those age 25 and older, while the remaining outcomes of income, employment status, usual hours worked, and poverty status were computed for those between the ages of 16 and 64.<sup>2</sup> All findings are reported in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars. The data indicated three key trends.

First, most Latinos in the United States were citizens by birth in each year between 1990 and 2013. In 2013, 76% of Latinos were U.S. citizens either by birth (65%) or naturalization (11%). Excluding Puerto Ricans who are all citizens by birth, Mexicans, Cubans, and Dominicans had the highest rates of citizenship by birth or naturalization, at 76%, 77%, and 73% respectively in 2013.

Second, naturalized Latino citizens had better educational and economic outcomes than non-citizens and citizens by birth. Levels of educational attainment among naturalized Latino citizens, especially in higher education, far surpassed educational attainment among Latino non-citizens in each year. Despite similar employment rates, personal incomes were higher among naturalized Latino citizens (\$24,000 in 2013), compared to the incomes of both Latinos that were citizens by birth (\$12,700) and non-citizens (\$13,500 in 2013). Between 1990 and 2013, poverty rates were lower among naturalized Latino citizens (13% in 2013), compared to both Latino citizens by birth (20%) and non-citizens (28%).

Third, despite the 2008 - 2009 recession, the employment rate among Latino non-citizens rose between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, 64% of those individuals were employed, which increased to 74% in 2013. This is in striking contrast to stagnating and dropping employment rates among Latino citizens, and among the majority of the total U.S. population. This trend is not explained by the age structure, as Latino non-citizens are older than citizens by birth but younger than naturalized citizens.

However, the percentages of Latino non-citizens who were employed full-time declined over that period. Moreover, Latino non-citizens who were employed had the lowest median incomes in comparison to the median incomes of Latino citizens and the employed population in the U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> This study uses the American Community Survey PUMS (Public Use Microdata Series) data for all years considered here released by the Census Bureau and reorganized for public use by the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, IPUMSusa, (<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/index.shtml>). See Public Use Microdata Series Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> See "The Concentration of Household Income in the United States by Race/Ethnicity and Latino Nationalities." Available on the internet at <http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/files/2014/12/Household-Income-Concentration-in-the-United-States-1990-2010.pdf>

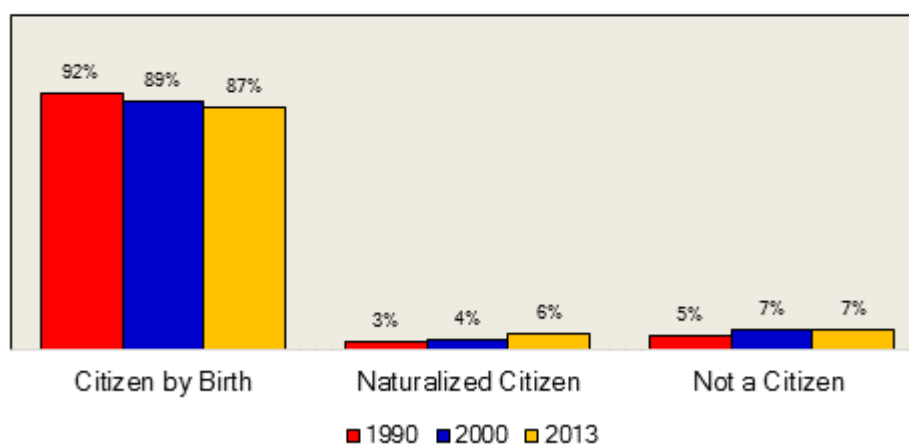


Together these trends suggest that while the overall employment rate increased among non-citizen Latinos between 1990 and 2013, employment only rose among part-time workers in low-wage jobs.

## Citizenship Status in the United States

Between 1990 and 2013, the majority of the United States population were citizens by birth. However, there was a slight shift toward greater percentages of citizens by naturalization and non-citizens over those two decades. In 1990, 92% of the total population were citizens by birth, and that percentage decreased to 87% in 2013. Naturalized citizens made up the lowest proportion of the total population at 3% in 1990, and that percentage climbed to 6% in 2013. About 5% of the total population were not citizens in 1990, and that percentage increased to 7% in 2013.<sup>3</sup> (See figure 1).

Figure 1  
Citizenship Status among the Total Population  
United States, 1990 - 2013



## Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity

Among the major race/ethnic groups in the United States, the non-Hispanic white population had the largest percentage of citizens by birth between 1990 and 2013 (96% in both years). (See figure 2 and table 1).

Non-Hispanic blacks had the second highest percentage of citizens by birth (95%) in 1990. That percentage decreased to 94% in 2000, and decreased again to 91% in 2013.

Approximately 61% of the Latino population were citizens by birth in 1990, which decreased slightly in 2000 to 60%. In 2013, 65% of Latinos were citizens by birth. Between citizens by birth and naturalized citizens, 76% of Latinos in the U.S. were citizens in 2013.

Asians had the lowest percentages of citizens by birth. In 1990, 36% of the Asian population were citizens by birth. That percentage decreased to 31% in 2000, and increased to 35% in 2013. However, the Asian population had exceptionally high percentages of naturalized citizens (38% in 2013).

<sup>3</sup> The American Community Survey PUMS (Public Use Microdata Series) released by the Census Bureau does not delineate what percentage of the non-citizen population are documented or undocumented.

Figure 2  
Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity  
United States, 2013

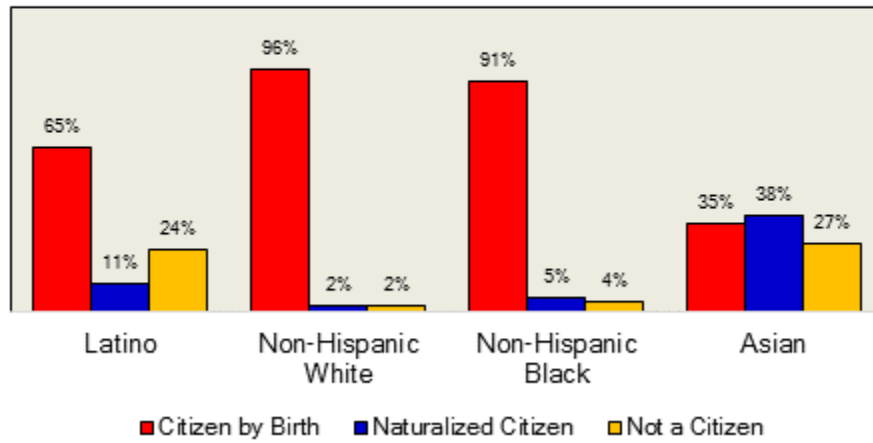


Table 1  
Citizenship Status by Race/Ethnicity  
United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Race	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Latino	61%	60%	65%
	Non-Hispanic White	96%	96%	96%
	Non-Hispanic Black	95%	94%	91%
	Asian	36%	31%	35%
Naturalized Citizen	Latino	10%	11%	11%
	Non-Hispanic White	2%	2%	2%
	Non-Hispanic Black	2%	3%	5%
	Asian	26%	34%	38%
Not a Citizen	Latino	29%	29%	24%
	Non-Hispanic White	2%	2%	2%
	Non-Hispanic Black	3%	3%	4%
	Asian	38%	35%	27%

**Citizenship Status by Sex**

Among citizens by birth and non-citizens, there were no substantial sex differences in citizenship status between 1990 and 2013. About 49% of citizens by birth were male and 51% were female in both 1990 and 2013. In contrast, among naturalized citizens, females were a larger proportion of the population. Approximately 54% of naturalized citizens were females and 46% were males in both 1990 and 2013. This sex difference in the rate of naturalized citizens could reflect the fact that more immigrant women become naturalized through family-sponsored preferences and by being immediate relatives of citizens (including by marriage).<sup>4</sup> (See figure 3 and table 2).

Figure 3  
Citizenship Status by Sex among the Total Population  
United States, 2013

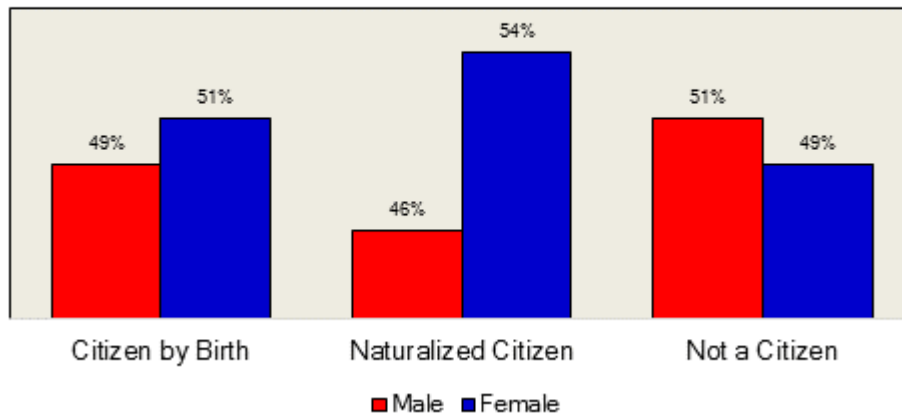


Table 2  
Citizenship Status by Sex among the Total Population  
United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Sex	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Male	49%	49%	49%
	Female	51%	51%	51%
Naturalized Citizen	Male	46%	46%	46%
	Female	54%	54%	54%
Not a Citizen	Male	50%	52%	51%
	Female	50%	48%	49%

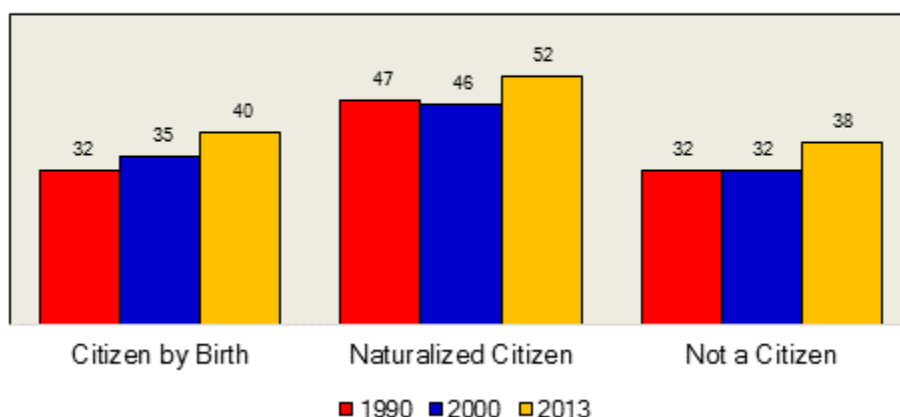
<sup>4</sup> See “2013 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.” Available on the internet at [http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois\\_yb\\_2013\\_0.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois_yb_2013_0.pdf)

## Citizenship Status by Age

Between 1990 and 2013 the population aged in all three citizenship status groups. This trend reflects the aging population in the United States. In 1990, the median age for citizens by birth was 32. The median age increased to 35 in 2000 and increased again to 40 in 2013. (See figure 4). Naturalized citizens had higher median ages than any other citizenship status group. In 1990, the median age for naturalized citizens was 47. This number slightly decreased to 46 in 2000, and increased to 52 in 2013. The median age of non-citizens was 32 in 1990 and 2000, and increased to 38 in 2013.

Additional data on citizenship status and age are found in the statistical appendix, including information about the age structure of each group.

Figure 4  
Median Age by Citizenship Status among the Total Population  
United States, 1990 - 2013



## Citizenship Status by Age among Latinos

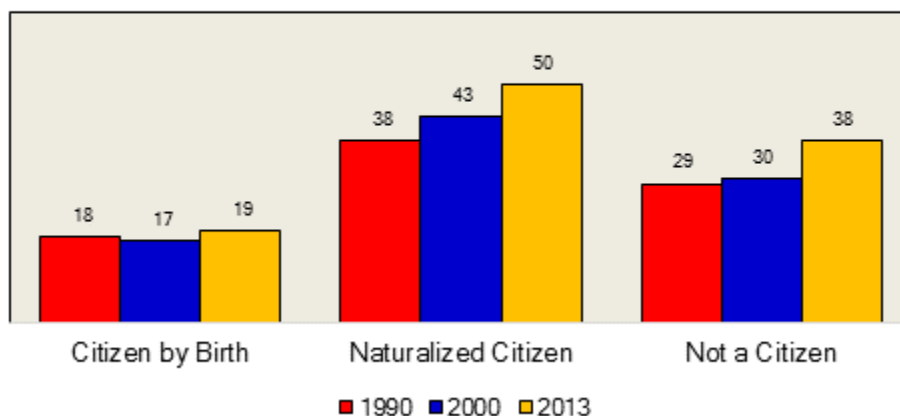
Latino citizens by birth were very young in comparison to the total population of citizens by birth in the U.S.<sup>5</sup> (See figure 5). In 2013, for example, the median age of Latino citizens by birth was 19 years old, which was approximately half the median age of citizens by birth in the total population (40 years old). This trend is likely a reflection of the high birth rates among the Latino population.

In contrast, the median age of naturalized Latino citizens (50 in 2013) was relatively similar to the median age of naturalized citizens in the total population (52 in 2013). The median age of Latinos who were not citizens (38 in 2013) was similar to the median age of non-citizens in the total population (38 in 2013).

Additional data on Latino citizenship status and age are found in the statistical appendix, including information about the age structure of each group.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates of the total population figures include Latino data.

Figure 5  
Median Age by Citizenship Status among Latinos  
United States, 1990 - 2013



### Citizenship Status among the Five Largest Latino National Subgroups

Among the five largest Latino national subgroups (and excluding Puerto Ricans who are all citizens by birth), Mexicans had the highest percentage of citizens by birth. In 1990, 63% of Mexicans were citizens by birth. Approximately two-thirds or 67% of the Mexican population were citizens by birth in 2013. (See figure 6). In 2013, 9% of Mexicans were naturalized citizens. About one-quarter of Mexicans were not U.S. citizens in 2013 (24%).

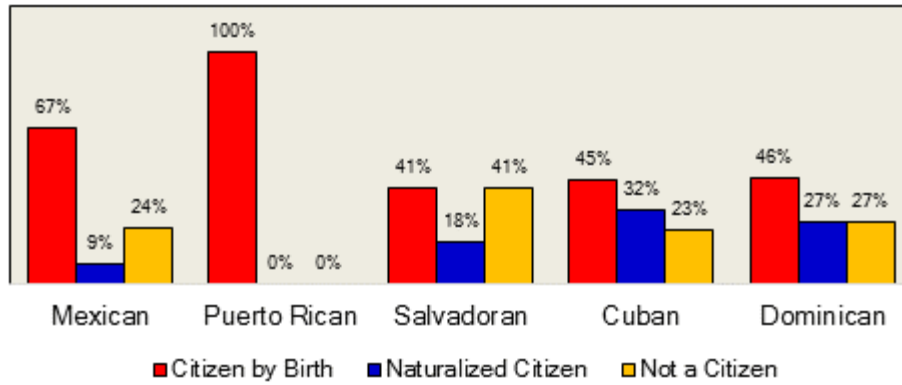
Cubans had highest percentage of naturalized citizens between 1990 (35%) and 2013 (32%). Nearly half of the Cuban population were citizens by birth in 2013 (45%), and 23% were not citizens in that year.

Salvadorans had the highest percentage of non-citizens between 1990 (67%) and 2013 (41%). The percentage of Salvadoran citizens by birth grew from 21% in 1990 to 41% in 2013. About 18% of Salvadorans were naturalized citizens in 2013.

The percentage of Dominicans that were citizens by birth rose from 33% in 1990 to 46% in 2013. In 1990 nearly half of all Dominicans were non-citizens (49%), which dropped to 27% in 2013. About one-quarter of Dominicans were naturalized citizens in 2013 (27%).

See Table 3 for data on citizenship status among the five largest Latino national subgroups in each year considered in this report.

Figure 6  
 Citizenship Status among the Five Largest  
 Latino National Subgroups  
 United States, 2013



Note: All Puerto Ricans are citizens by birth.

Table 3  
 Citizenship Status among the Four Largest  
 Latino National Subgroups  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Latino Subgroups	Citizenship Status	1990	2000	2013
Mexican	Citizen by Birth	63%	60%	67%
	Naturalized Citizen	8%	9%	8%
	Not a Citizen	29%	31%	24%
Salvadoran	Citizen by Birth	21%	25%	41%
	Naturalized Citizen	12%	19%	18%
	Not a Citizen	67%	56%	41%
Cuban	Citizen by Birth	31%	37%	45%
	Naturalized Citizen	35%	38%	32%
	Not a Citizen	34%	25%	23%
Dominican	Citizen by Birth	33%	34%	46%
	Naturalized Citizen	18%	24%	27%
	Not a Citizen	49%	42%	27%

Note: All Puerto Ricans are citizens by birth, and thus are not included in this table.

## The Impact of Citizenship Status on Educational Attainment among Latinos

Educational attainment was computed for those age 25 or older. Among Latinos that were citizens by birth, educational attainment improved between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, most Latino citizens by birth (39%) did not graduate from high school, which decreased to only a 19% non-graduation rate in 2013. Approximately 29% were high school graduates in 2013. (See figure 7). The percentage of Latino citizens by birth that attained Bachelor's degrees or higher increased from 10% in 1990 to 18% in 2013.

Educational attainment also improved among naturalized Latino citizens between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, nearly half of the Latino population that were naturalized citizens did not graduate high school (48%). That percentage decreased to 33% in 2013. Attainment of high school degrees or higher rose between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, 13% of naturalized Latino citizens attained Bachelor's degrees or above, which increased to 18% in 2013.

By contrast, levels of educational attainment improved only modestly among Latinos who were not non-citizens between 1990 and 2013. Most Latino non-citizens did not graduate from high school between 1990 (67%) and 2013 (56%). However, high school graduation rates rose among non-citizens, from 15% in 1990 to 25% in 2013. Attainment of higher education among Latino non-citizens stagnated between 1990 and 2013. Approximately 6% in 1990 and 7% in 2013 attained a BA or higher.

Comparatively, Latinos that were citizens by birth had the best levels of educational attainment, followed by Latinos that were naturalized citizens. Non-citizen Latinos had lower levels of educational attainment in each year. That difference is likely a reflection of the lower levels of education among foreign-born individuals, who enter directly into the workforce upon arriving in the U.S.

Table 4 presents data on citizenship status and educational attainment among Latinos in each year considered in this report.

In comparison to the overall population of the United States, Latinos in each citizenship group had lower levels of educational attainment between 1990 and 2013. This difference is particularly apparent when examining those with a Bachelor's or higher. Approximately 30% of citizens by birth in the total population attained Bachelor's degrees or above in 2013, whereas among Latino citizen by birth the rate of BA or higher was 18%.

Similarly, 34% of the total population's naturalized citizens attained BA or above in 2013, whereas 18% of Latino naturalized citizens attained BA or higher. The difference was particularly stark among non-citizens. In the total population, 22% of non-citizens attained Bachelor's degrees or higher, and yet among Latino non-citizens that rate was 7%. These differences between the total population and Latinos could reflect the fact that the Latino population has a much younger age structure than the overall population, especially in the citizens by birth and non-citizens categories.



See the statistical appendix for data on citizenship status and educational attainment among the total population in the U.S.

Figure 7  
Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment among Latinos, Age 25+ United States, 2013

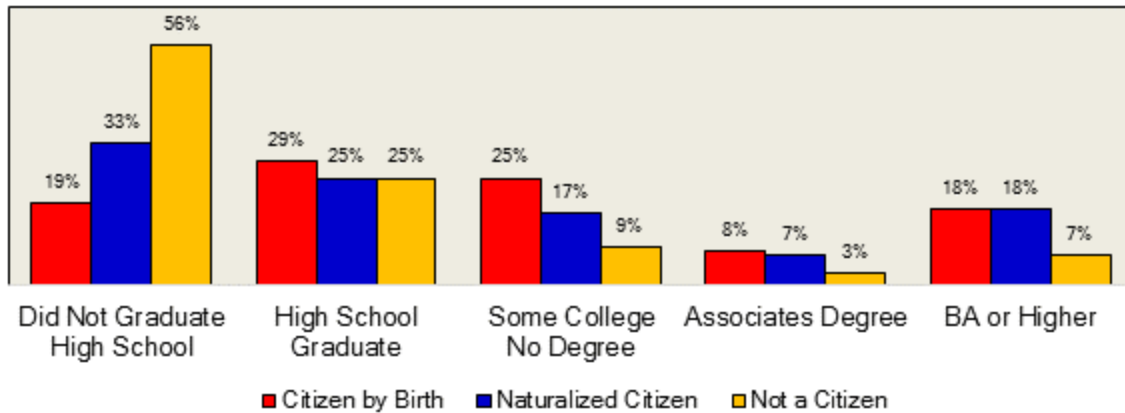


Table 4  
Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment among Latinos, Age 25+ United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Educational Attainment	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Did Not Graduate High School	39%	31%	19%
	High School Graduate	27%	27%	29%
	Some College, No Degree	18%	22%	25%
	Associates Degree	6%	6%	8%
	BA or Higher	10%	14%	18%
Naturalized Citizen	Did Not Graduate High School	48%	47%	33%
	High School Graduate	19%	20%	25%
	Some College, No Degree	14%	16%	17%
	Associates Degree	6%	5%	7%
	BA or Higher	13%	13%	18%
Not a Citizen	Did Not Graduate High School	67%	66%	56%
	High School Graduate	15%	17%	25%
	Some College, No Degree	9%	8%	9%
	Associates Degree	3%	2%	3%
	BA or Higher	6%	7%	7%

### Impact of Citizenship Status on the Personal Income among Latinos

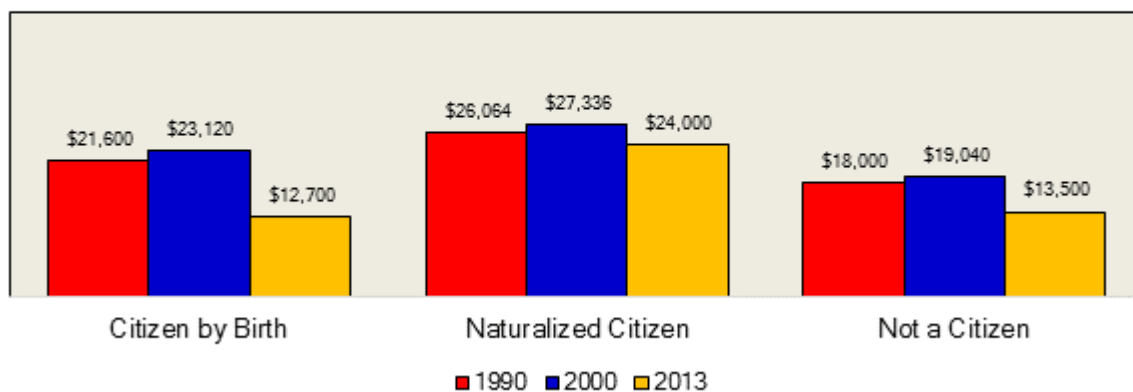
In 1990, the median personal income was \$21,600 among Latinos that were citizens by birth, using 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars for those between the ages of 16 and 64. That increased to \$23,120 in 2000, but dropped by almost half to \$12,700 in 2013. The median personal income for naturalized Latino citizens was \$26,064 in 1990. That number increased to \$27,336 in 2000 and slightly decreased to \$24,000 in 2013. Among the Latino population that were not citizens, the median personal income in 1990 was \$18,000. That number increased to \$19,040 in 2000 and decreased to \$13,500 in 2013. (See figure 8).

Comparing across Latino citizenship groups, naturalized Latino citizens had higher median personal incomes than those who were citizens by birth and non-citizens. In fact, in 2013 naturalized Latino citizens had a median personal income that was almost equal to the personal median income of citizens by birth and non-citizens *combined*. However, it should be noted that among all Latino citizenship groups, median personal incomes declined from 2000 to 2013. That trend may be an enduring result of the 2008 - 2009 recession in the United States.

Latinos in each citizenship category had lower levels of income than their counterparts in the total population. This trend could be a reflection of the younger age structure of the Latino population coupled with their lower levels of educational attainment. Overall, citizens by birth in the U.S. earned \$23,000 in 2013, compared to the \$12,700 earned by Latino citizens by birth in that year. Naturalized Latino citizens consistently had lower median personal incomes (\$24,000 in 2013) than naturalized citizens in the overall population (\$28,965 in 2013). There were smaller disparities between the incomes of non-citizens in the total population and Latino non-citizens. Non-citizens earned \$14,400 in 2013, and Latino non-citizens earned \$13,500 in that year. This may be because non-citizens and Latino non-citizens have similar occupations.

See the statistical appendix for additional data on citizenship status and median personal income among Latinos and the total population in the U.S.

Figure 8  
Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among Latinos  
United States, 1990 - 2013



## The Impact of Citizenship Status on the Employment Status among Latinos

Overall, more than 60% of the Latino population was employed between 1990 and 2013. (See figure 9 and table 5).

In 1990, 62% of Latino citizens by birth were employed. That percentage was 61% in 2000 and 2013. About 7% of Latino citizens by birth were unemployed in 1990. That percentage was 6% in 2000 and 8% in 2013. Nearly one-third (31%) of Latino citizens by birth were not in the labor force in 1990. In 2000 that percentage was 33%, and in 2013 that percentage was 31%.

Among naturalized Latino citizens the employment rate in 1990 was 72%. That percentage decreased to 63% in 2000, and dropped again in 2013 to 61%. In 1990, 6% of naturalized citizens were unemployed. That percentage was 4% in 2000, and climbed to 8% in 2013. Approximately 22% of naturalized citizens were not in the labor force in 1990. That number rose sharply to 32% in 2000 and 31% in 2013.

Despite the 2008 - 2009 recession, the employment rate among Latinos who were not citizens rose between 1990 and 2013. In 1990 64% of non-citizens were employed, which increased to 74% in 2013. The percentage of unemployed non-citizens was 8% in 1990 and decreased to 6% in 2000 and 2013. Around 27% of non-citizens were not in the labor force in 1990, and that percentage decreased to 20% in 2013. (See figure 9).

The most striking comparison between the Latino population and total population is the finding that employment rates among Latino non-citizens rose between 1990 and 2013, whereas employment rates among the total population of U.S. citizens dropped. In 1990, 71% of citizens by birth among the total population were employed, which declined to 67% in 2013. Employment rates among Latinos that were naturalized citizens dropped, whereas those rates among the total population of naturalized citizens were stable (about 75% in 1990 and 2010). Non-citizens in the total population had stable employment rates, at around 65% in 1990 and 2013.

See the statistical appendix for additional data on citizenship status and employment status among the total population in the U.S.

Figure 9  
Citizenship Status by Employment Status among Latinos  
United States, 2013

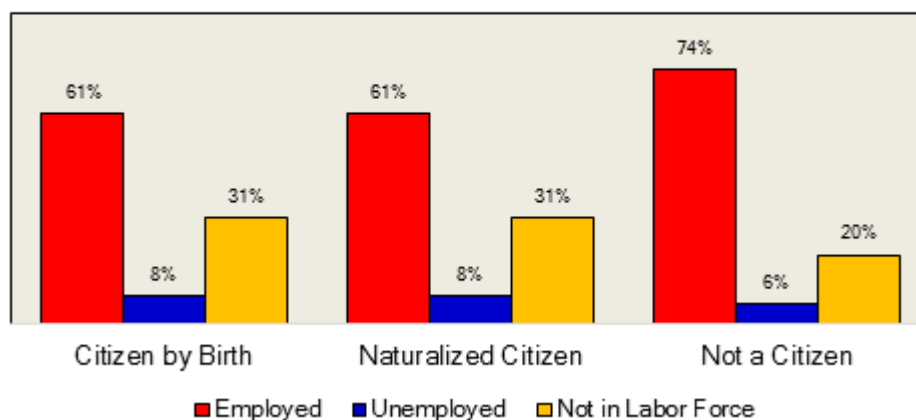


Table 5  
Citizenship Status by Employment Status among Latinos  
United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Employment Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Employed	62%	61%	61%
	Unemployed	7%	6%	8%
	Not in Labor Force	31%	33%	31%
Naturalized Citizen	Employed	72%	63%	61%
	Unemployed	6%	4%	8%
	Not in Labor Force	22%	32%	31%
Not a Citizen	Employed	64%	56%	74%
	Unemployed	8%	6%	6%
	Not in Labor Force	27%	38%	20%

### The Impact of Citizenship Status on Personal Income among Employed Latinos

As previously mentioned, it is striking that the employment rates among Latinos that were not non-citizen rose between 1990 and 2013, while the employment rates among all other groups either stagnated or declined. However, this positive trend in the employment rates among non-citizen Latinos was not reflected in their median income. In 2013, non-citizen Latinos who were employed earned a median income of \$20,000, which was lower than the median income of employed naturalized citizens (\$30,600) and citizens by birth (\$27,000). (See figure 10 and table 6).

Employed Latinos in each citizenship group earned lower median incomes between 1990 and 2013, compared to the median personal income among the total population. In 2013, employed Latino

citizens by birth earned a median income of \$27,000, whereas the median income among the overall population of citizens by birth was \$36,300. Naturalized citizen Latinos earned \$30,600 in 2013, which was nearly \$10,000 less than the median income among naturalized citizens in the total population (\$40,000). The difference between the median incomes of non-citizen Latinos (\$20,000) and the median income of non-citizens in the total population (\$24,000) was about \$4,000 in 2013. Overall, employed Latinos in each citizen group earned lower median incomes than the median incomes among overall population in each group.

See the statistical appendix for additional data on citizenship status, employment status, and median income among the total population in the U.S.

Figure 10  
Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Income among Latinos  
United States, 2013

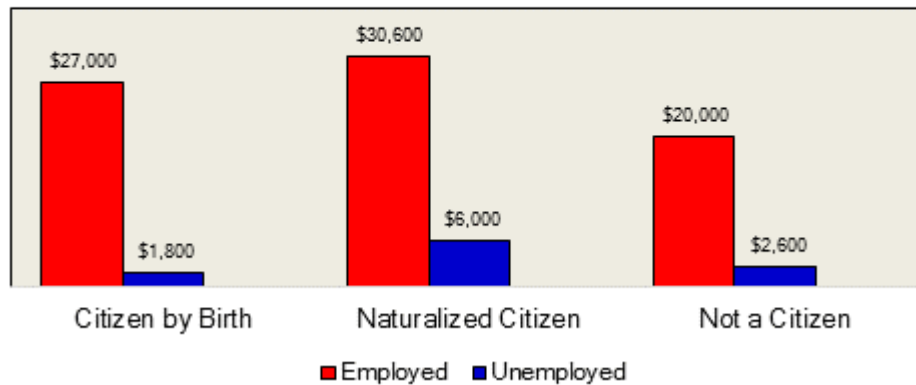


Table 6  
Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Income among Latinos  
United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Employment Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Employed	\$ 28,800	\$ 28,560	\$ 27,000
	Unemployed	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,472	\$ 1,800
Naturalized Citizen	Employed	\$ 31,860	\$ 31,960	\$ 30,600
	Unemployed	\$ 15,552	\$ 16,592	\$ 6,000
Not a Citizen	Employed	\$ 12,600	\$ 20,400	\$ 20,000
	Unemployed	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,920	\$ 2,600

Note: This table omits data among those who were not a part of the labor force

## The Impact of Citizenship Status on Hours Worked per Week among Latinos

Most employed Latinos worked full-time regardless of citizenship status between 1990 and 2013.<sup>6</sup> (See figure 11 and table 7).

The percentage of employed Latino citizens by birth who worked full-time declined between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, 78% of employed Latino citizens by birth worked full-time, and 79% of that population worked full-time in 2000. In 2013, the percentage of employed Latino citizens by birth who worked full-time dropped to 72%.

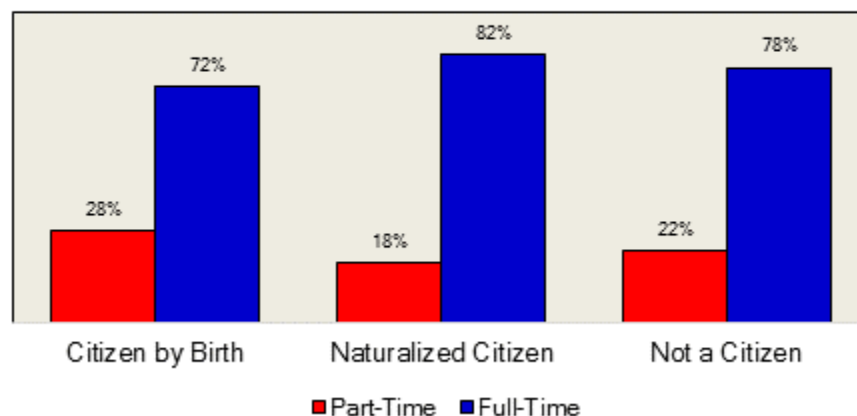
Among the employed Latino population that were naturalized citizens, 86% worked full-time in 1990 and 2000. In 2013, 82% of that population worked full-time.

In 1990, 85% of employed Latino non-citizens worked full-time, and 86% worked full-time in 2000. In 2013, however, the percentage of Latino non-citizens that worked full-time decreased to 78%. Together with the data on employment status, this suggests that while the overall employment rate among non-citizen Latinos increased between 1990 and 2013, this increase was likely among part-time workers. This is further supported by the fact that non-citizen Latinos earned lower median incomes than Latino citizens (by birth or naturalization).

There were no notable differences in hours worked per week between the employed population in the U.S., and employed Latinos. Among the overall employed population, 75% of citizens by birth, 81% of citizens by naturalization, and 78% of non-citizens worked full-time in 2013. These figures are quite similar to the full-time employment rates among Latinos in each respective citizenship group.

See the statistical appendix for additional data on citizenship status and hours worked per week among the total population in the U.S.

Figure 11  
Citizenship Status by Hours Worked among Latinos  
United States, 2013



<sup>6</sup> Full-time employment status means that the individual works 35 hours per week or more.

Table 7  
 Citizenship Status by Hours Worked among Latinos  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Hours Worked	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Full-Time	78%	79%	72%
	Part-Time	22%	21%	28%
Naturalized Citizen	Full-Time	86%	86%	82%
	Part-Time	14%	14%	18%
Not a Citizen	Full-Time	85%	86%	78%
	Part-Time	15%	14%	22%

### The Impact of Citizenship Status on the Poverty Status of Latinos

In 1990, 20% of the Latino population that were citizens by birth were living in poverty. (See figure 12 and table 8). The poverty rate for Latino citizens by birth decreased to 17% in 2000, but returned to 20% in 2013. Among the Latino population that were naturalized citizens the poverty rate in 1990 was 17%. That rate decreased to 14% in 2000 and 13% in 2013.

Approximately 26% of the Latino population that were not citizens in 1990 and 2000 were living in poverty. The poverty rate increased to 28% in 2013 among Latinos that were not citizens. This result suggests that while Latino non-citizens may have increasing employment rates, particularly in the part-time section, their poverty rates have not been impacted by access to employment. Additionally, the lower poverty rates among naturalized citizens, compared to citizens by birth and non-citizens, is likely due to the higher levels of education and income.

The proportions of the Latino population that were in poverty between 1990 and 2013 were slightly higher than the poverty rate among the overall population in the U.S. In 1990 the poverty rate among Latino citizens by birth (20%) was double the poverty rate for the overall population of citizens by birth (10%). That gap narrowed by 2013, however, with 15% of all citizens by birth living in poverty. Naturalized citizens in the total population and Latino naturalized citizens had a small gap in poverty rates. About 11% of the total population's naturalized citizens were in poverty in 2013, compared to 13% of their Latino counterparts. There was a slight difference in poverty rates between non-citizens (25% in 2013) in the total population and Latino non-citizens in specific (28% in 2013).

Figure 12  
 Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among Latinos  
 United States, 2013

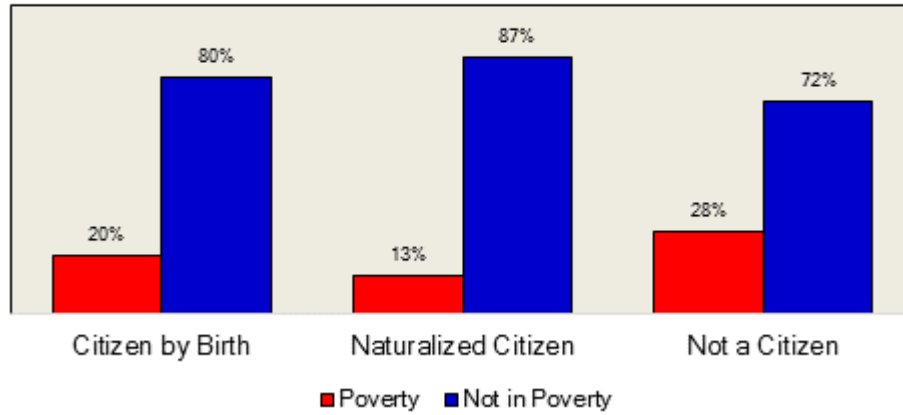


Table 8  
 Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among Latinos  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Poverty Status	Citizenship Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Poverty	20%	17%	20%
	Not in Poverty	80%	83%	80%
Naturalized Citizen	Poverty	17%	14%	13%
	Not in Poverty	83%	86%	87%
Not a Citizen	Poverty	26%	26%	28%
	Not in Poverty	74%	74%	72%



## Conclusion

This report analyzed and compared trends in citizenship status between the overall United States population and the Latino population between 1990 and 2013. It explored trends in citizenship status by race/ethnicity, sex, age, and among the five largest Latino national subgroups. In addition, this report also studied the impact of citizenship status on educational, economic, and occupational outcomes.

One interesting set of results from this study relates to employment trends among Latinos that were not citizens - who comprised about 25% of the Latino population. Despite the 2008 - 2009 recession, the employment rate among Latino non-citizens rose between 1990 and 2013. Yet, this rise in the employment rate among Latino non-citizens was not reflected in their median income, which was markedly lower than Latino citizens in each year. Moreover, the percentages of Latino non-citizens who were employed full-time declined over that period. Together these trends suggest that while the overall employment rate increased among non-citizen Latinos between 1990 and 2013, employment only rose among a small percentage of part-time workers in low wage jobs.

A second notable interpretation is related to educational and economic outcomes among Latinos. Naturalized Latino citizens had substantially higher educational attainment, higher median incomes, and lower poverty rates than Latino non-citizens. Those findings indicate that a pathway to citizenship for Latino immigrants may result in improved educational and economic outcomes. Immigration reform that integrates immigrants into U.S. society may be a viable solution to educational and economic obstacles and promote better standards of living.

Statistical Appendix

Table 9  
 Citizenship Status by Age among Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Age	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	0-15	24%	25%	23%
	16-34	30%	25%	26%
	35-49	20%	23%	18%
	50-64	13%	15%	19%
	65+	13%	13%	14%
Naturalized Citizen	0-15	3%	3%	3%
	16-34	23%	21%	17%
	35-49	28%	33%	30%
	50-64	21%	23%	29%
	65+	25%	19%	22%
Not a Citizen	0-15	12%	12%	7%
	16-34	45%	46%	37%
	35-49	25%	27%	34%
	50-64	12%	10%	16%
	65+	7%	5%	7%

Table 10  
 Citizenship Status by Median Age among Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	32	35	40
Naturalized Citizen	47	46	52
Not a Citizen	32	32	38

Table 11  
 Citizenship Status by Age among Latinos  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Age	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	0-15	44%	46%	43%
	16-34	32%	29%	32%
	35-49	13%	14%	13%
	50-64	7%	7%	8%
	65+	4%	4%	4%
Naturalized Citizen	0-15	5%	4%	2%
	16-34	37%	25%	18%
	35-49	30%	37%	32%
	50-64	17%	20%	30%
	65+	11%	14%	18%
Not a Citizen	0-15	13%	12%	5%
	16-34	51%	51%	38%
	35-49	22%	26%	37%
	50-64	9%	8%	15%
	65+	5%	3%	5%

Table 12  
 Citizenship Status by Median Age among Latinos  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	18	17	19
Naturalized Citizen	38	43	50
Not a Citizen	29	30	38

Table 13  
 Citizenship Status by Level of Educational Attainment, Age 25+  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Educational Attainment	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Did Not Graduate High School	23%	17%	10%
	High School Graduate	31%	30%	29%
	Some College, No Degree	19%	22%	23%
	Associates Degree	6%	7%	8%
	BA or Higher	20%	24%	30%
Naturalized Citizen	Did Not Graduate High School	35%	30%	20%
	High School Graduate	21%	20%	22%
	Some College, No Degree	15%	16%	16%
	Associates Degree	7%	6%	8%
	BA or Higher	23%	27%	34%
Not a Citizen	Did Not Graduate High School	47%	46%	40%
	High School Graduate	18%	18%	23%
	Some College, No Degree	11%	11%	11%
	Associates Degree	5%	4%	4%
	BA or Higher	18%	21%	22%

Table 14  
 Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among Latinos  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	\$ 21,600	\$ 23,120	\$ 12,700
Naturalized Citizen	\$ 26,064	\$ 27,336	\$ 24,000
Not a Citizen	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,040	\$ 13,500

Table 15  
 Median Personal Income by Citizenship Status among the Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	\$ 28,800	\$ 32,096	\$ 23,000
Naturalized Citizen	\$ 36,000	\$ 34,272	\$ 28,965
Not a Citizen	\$ 21,600	\$ 21,760	\$ 14,400

Table 16  
 Citizenship Status by Employment Status among the Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Employment Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Employed	71%	71%	67%
	Unemployed	5%	4%	6%
	Not in Labor Force	24%	25%	27%
Naturalized Citizen	Employed	74%	68%	75%
	Unemployed	4%	3%	5%
	Not in Labor Force	22%	28%	20%
Not a Citizen	Employed	64%	59%	66%
	Unemployed	7%	5%	6%
	Not in Labor Force	29%	36%	28%

Table 17  
 Citizenship Status by Employment Status and Median Income among the Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Employment Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Employed	\$ 35,640	\$37,400	\$36,300
	Unemployed	\$ 12,600	\$12,648	\$ 3,300
Naturalized Citizen	Employed	\$ 39,600	\$40,800	\$40,000
	Unemployed	\$ 18,000	\$19,040	\$ 5,000
Not a Citizen	Employed	\$ 25,200	\$24,480	\$24,000
	Unemployed	\$ 13,046	\$13,328	\$ 1,800

Table 18  
 Citizenship Status by Hours Worked per Week among the Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Citizenship Status	Hours Worked	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Full-Time	79%	80%	75%
	Part-Time	21%	20%	25%
Naturalized Citizen	Full-Time	85%	85%	81%
	Part-Time	15%	15%	19%
Not a Citizen	Full-Time	83%	84%	78%
	Part-Time	17%	16%	22%

Table 19  
 Citizenship Status by Poverty Status among the Total Population  
 United States, 1990 - 2013

Poverty Status	Citizenship Status	1990	2000	2013
Citizen by Birth	Poverty	10%	10%	15%
	Not in Poverty	90%	90%	85%
Naturalized Citizen	Poverty	9%	10%	11%
	Not in Poverty	91%	90%	89%
Not a Citizen	Poverty	20%	22%	25%
	Not in Poverty	80%	8%	75%