

Hispanic Facts of the Day

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Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

September Facts of the Day		
Date	Fact	Source
1	Lt. General Pedro Augusto del Valle (1893–1978) was the first Hispanic Marine to reach the rank of lieutenant general. Del Valle participated in many conflicts ranging from the Banana Wars in Nicaragua to the seizure of Guadalcanal. He later became the commanding general of the 1st Marine Division during World War II.	6th Marine Corps District
2	Hispanics comprised 6.2 percent of civilians employed by the Department of Defense as of September 20, 2010.	deomi.org
3	Half of all women working as full-time wage and salary workers earned \$669 or more per week in 2010. This median weekly wage was 81.2 percent of that earned by men. Hispanic women earned the least, with half of all Hispanic women earning \$508 or more per week (half earning less).	http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/reports/femalelaborforce/
4	As of September 20, 2010 Hispanics make up 9.5 percent of all reserve forces including the National Guard.	deomi.org
5	Luis W. Alvarez was awarded the 1968 Nobel Prize in physics for his work with subatomic particles. He helped develop the ground-control approach system for aircraft in the 1940s and played an important part in the making of the atomic bomb. Alvarez held the patents for more than 30 inventions. Later, he and his son proposed the now-accepted theory that the mass dinosaur extinction was caused by a meteor impact.	http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1968/alvarez-bio.html
6	Hispanics comprise 10.8 percent of all active duty services as of September 20, 2010.	deomi.org
7	President Barack Obama said, "As members of the Armed Forces, heroic Hispanic men and women have also fought and died to defend the liberties and security of the United States in every war since the American Revolution, many serving before becoming American citizens."	www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/15/presidential-proclamation

8	The United States, as of 2009, ranks 2nd for Hispanic population worldwide, with a population of 48.4 million. Only Mexico, with a population of 111 million, had a larger Hispanic population than the United States.	U.S. Census Bureau
9	Sergeant Major José Luis Santiago, USMC, has the distinction of being the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines first Hispanic Sergeant Major. In addition, he is the first Sergeant Major since its reactivation on July 13, 2007.	2nd Battalion, 9th Marines
10	Hispanics of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban origin or descent remain the nation's three largest Hispanic country-of-origin groups, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. However, while the relative position of these groups has remained unchanged since 2000, the next four Hispanic subgroups—Salvadorans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, and Colombians—grew faster during the decade.	http://pewhispanic.org/
11	Loretta Janeta Velasquez was a Cuban-born woman who masqueraded as a male Confederate soldier during the Civil War. She fought at Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, and Fort Donelson, but her gender was discovered and she was discharged. Undeterred, she reenlisted and fought at Shiloh, until unmasked once more. She then became a spy, working in both male and female guises.	http://www.army.mil/hispanicamericans/english/profiles/valasquez.html
12	Forty-three men of Hispanic heritage were awarded the Medal of Honor. Of those 43, two were presented to members of the United States Navy, 13 to members of the United States Marine Corps, and 28 to members of the United States Army. Twenty-five Medals of Honor were presented posthumously.	Congressional Medal of Honor Society

13	The oldest of 12 children, Dr. France Anne Cordova was the youngest person to hold the position of NASA chief scientist. Cordova is the recipient of NASA's Distinguished Service Medal, its highest honor. Dr. Cordova now serves as the 11th president of Purdue University, and the first Hispanic woman to lead the Indiana campus.	http://www.purdue.edu/president/about/index.html
14	Dr. Antonia Novello was appointed in 1990 by President George Bush to be the Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Novello was the first Hispanic person and the first woman to become Surgeon General, the highest ranking doctor in the U.S. government.	Academy of Achievement
15	In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, which was to be observed during the week that included September 15th and 16th. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observance to become Hispanic Heritage month, beginning on September 15th and ending on October 15th.	U.S. Census Bureau
16	In the United States, we observe Hispanic Heritage month by celebrating the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.	U.S. Census Bureau
17	September 15th was chosen as the starting point of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th.	U.S. Census Bureau
18	More than one of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, was Hispanic. There were 1.4 million Hispanics added to the population during this period.	factmonster.com

19	The Hispanic population of the United States on July 1, 2050 is projected to be 132.8 million. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 30 percent of the nation's population by that date.	factmonster.com
20	The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2009 was 48.4 million, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority.	factmonster.com
21	Hispanics/Latinos account for 13 percent of the U.S. population and 12 percent of the private sector; Hispanic/Latino employees comprise less than 7 percent of the federal workforce.	www.military.com/veteran-jobs/content/serach/government-jobs/federal-latino-diversity
22	According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, roughly 56 percent of all homeless veterans are African American or Hispanic, despite only accounting for 12.8 percent and 15.4 percent of the U.S. population respectively.	http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm
23	Col. Manuel "Pete" Fernández, Jr., who flew 125 combat missions in the Korean War, was the first Hispanic flying ace.	DEOMI TRIP Report Jun-Aug 2003
24	The first Hispanic American to become a four-star admiral was Horacio Rivero of Puerto Rico, in 1964.	Puerto Rico Herald
25	In 1982, General Richard E. Cavazos became the U.S. Army's first Hispanic four-star general.	National Republican Hispanic Alliance
26	In 1986, Franklin Chang-Díaz (Costa Rican) was the first Hispanic American to fly in space. He flew on a total of seven space-shuttle missions. The first female Hispanic astronaut was Ellen Ochoa, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991.	Encyclopedia Britannica
27	Lieutenant General Elwood R. Quesada was the first Hispanic general officer in the Air Force. Later, he became the first head of the Federal Aviation Administration.	National Republican Hispanic Alliance

28	<p>President Barack Obama said, "Like so many Americans, Hispanics have overcome great obstacles to persevere and flourish in every sector of our society. With enduring values of faith and family, hard work and sacrifice, Hispanics have preserved the rich heritage of generations past while contributing mightily to the promise of our Nation for their children and grandchildren."</p>	<p>www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/15/presidential-proclamation</p>
29	<p>The usage of Hispanic as an ethnic indicator in the United States is believed to have come into mainstream prominence following inclusion in a question in the 1980 U.S. Census, which asked people to voluntarily identify if they were of "Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent." The term Hispanic is currently used to refer to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race.</p>	<p>Diversity Jobs</p>
30	<p>The first Hispanic-American to be promoted to flag rank in the USCG was Rear Admiral Ronald J. Rábago, who earned his first star in 2006.</p>	<p>USCG Historian's Office</p>