

A DEMOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF THE MEXICAN-ORIGIN¹ POPULATION IN NEBRASKA

HIGHLIGHTS

- * As of 2012, approximately 140,000 Mexican-origin residents live in Nebraska, making up 80% of the total Latino population and 7% of the total population in the state.
- * The Nebraska Mexican population has grown consistently after two of the largest immigrant waves in the state. Compared to the period of 1910 to 1930, the increase in the Mexican population was significantly larger for 1990-2000. Since 2000, Mexican immigration to Nebraska has slowed down, but still the Mexican population in the state has doubled in size.
- * Although immigration has been an important factor contributing to the increase of the Mexican population in the state, only one-third of this population (36%) was born in Mexico. Two-thirds of the Mexican population (64%) is U.S.-born and more than a half of its youngest generation (57% of those U.S.-born under 17 years old) has at least one Mexican-born parent.
- * The number of Mexicans moving to Nebraska has declined in the last five years, especially those moving from abroad. Between 2008 and 2012, only one in five new arrivals came directly from abroad, compared to four in five who moved from different states in the U.S.
- * In the last five years, the top five “sending” states of the Mexican population to Nebraska were California, Iowa, Texas, Colorado, and Arizona.
- * Twelve counties in Nebraska have a share of the Mexican population that is higher than the state share of 7%.
- * Nebraska’s Mexican-origin population is young, with a median age of 22. Mexican-Americans are even younger, with a median age of 13. More than half of the Mexican working-age population (53%) is composed of immigrants. Mexican-Americans make up 91% of the Mexican population that is 17 years old and younger.
- * Compared to their status in the year 2000, Mexicans, and particularly Mexican Americans, are now better educated, more proficient in English and more likely to own a home in Nebraska. Nonetheless, household income has dropped significantly, and levels of poverty have increased among all Mexican-origin populations.
- * Over the last decade, female-headed households with no husband present have increased among Mexican immigrants. In 2000, 8% of Mexican-immigrant households were headed by females compared to 19% for the period of 2008-2012.

MEXICAN-ORIGIN POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 1900

Traditionally, the Mexican-origin population in the United States resided in the Southwest, a former Mexican territory annexed to the United States in 1848³. Approximately 100,000 Spanish-speaking people lived in this territory before the creation of California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado (Grajeda 1998). While a large proportion of the Mexican-origin population still resides within these states, a greater geographical dispersion of the Mexican-origin population started around 1990. Yet, even if the numbers were never particularly large, in some of these so-called new destinations, such as the case of Nebraska, the presence of the Mexican-origin population has a long history.

Although few Mexicans lived in the Midwest before 1900⁴, this population steadily grew as a product of two of the largest immigration waves in the United States (See Figure 1). The first notable growth of this population in Nebraska occurred between 1910 and 1930. During this period, according to the U.S. Census estimates, Nebraska’s Mexican-origin population increased from 299 in 1910 to 6,321 in 1930. Based on Integrated Public Use Microdata Series IPUMS data

approximations, the 1930 census year was the only time when the number of Mexican-born (4,015) surpassed U.S.-born Mexicans (2,306). During these two decades, two-thirds (63%) of this growth was the result of immigration.

The “push” produced by the Mexican Revolution significantly influenced Mexican migration to the United States between 1910 and 1930. However, while important, without the active recruitment of workers by companies operating in the interior of the country, this foundational migration and early settlements of Mexicans in Nebraska would not have occurred. Few of these workers came directly from Mexico to Nebraska. The first workers came through Kansas City and were hired by Union Pacific and Burlington/Santa Fe to work on the railroads. Another larger set of workers were recruited from other states such as Texas, Wyoming, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona (Grajeda 1976:58–59). From these other states, many were brought to work in the expanding sugar beet industry in Western Nebraska and at the meatpacking houses and stockyards in South Omaha (Grajeda 1998).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Over the past four decades, the size of the Mexican-origin population in Nebraska has increased substantially. Mexicans –immigrants and U.S. born– represent by far the largest proportion of the Latino population in Nebraska. This report presents a historical account of the Mexican-origin population growth, outlines some current socio-demographic characteristics by nativity², and identifies some socioeconomic trends in the last decade.

This early Mexican immigrant wave in the Midwest was characterized by largely young, unattached males or *solteros* who saw their stay as temporary and with little interest in seeking naturalization or citizenship (García 2004). As noted by the testimonies of early Mexican settlers, many did not intend to settle permanently in the state (Grajeda 1976:62) and were usually portrayed as a “floating” population (Sullenger 1924). Nonetheless, small Mexican settlements developed alongside many of the railroads and towns as some employers hired families to maintain a more permanent workforce (Valdés 2000).

During the years of the Great Depression (1929-1939), the Mexican-origin population and particularly the number of Mexican immigrants shrank considerably in Nebraska. According to census data, the Mexican-origin population declined to a total of 5,500 in 1940, a decrease of 13% in ten years. Estimations from IPUMS suggest that from a total of 4,016 Mexican immigrants in 1930, this population dwindled to 1,710 in 1940. Removal from relief rolls, discrimination in hiring practices, and forced repatriations are the main factors that contributed to the sudden decline of the Mexican-origin and immigrant populations in the Midwest (García 2004). Nationally, more than 400,000 persons in the United States were forcefully repatriated to Mexico from 1929 to 1937 (Hoffman 1974:174–175). In Nebraska, many studies show how Mexican communities were affected. Grajeda documents how Mexican-born parents with U.S.-born children serving in World War II were routinely targeted by immigration authorities (1976:68). Arbelaez narrates how the building of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church in Omaha, founded as parish in 1919, was delayed until 1944 because of the radical drop in the number of parishioners (2006:17).

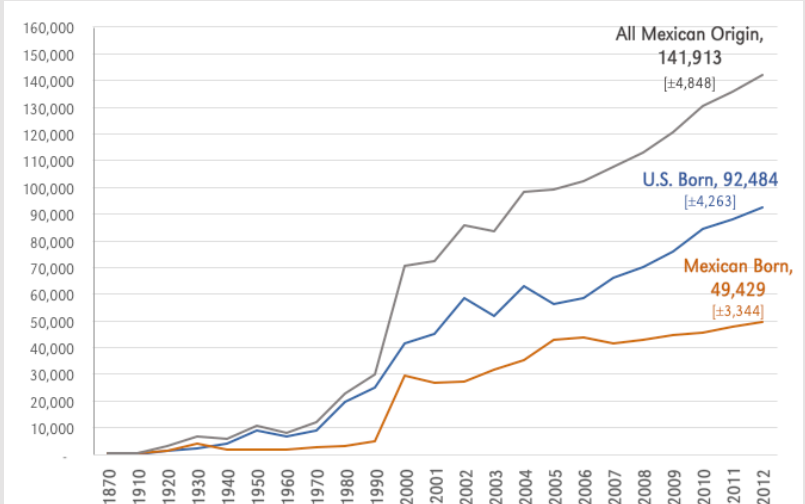
From 1940 to 1980, the offspring of the early immigrant wave became the principal source of growth for the total Mexican-origin population in Nebraska. According to the U.S. Census estimate for the state, the total Mexican-origin population in 1980 was four times the population of 1940. Estimations by nativity based on IPUMS data show that U.S.-born Mexicans quintupled the population size from 3,790 in 1940 to 19,489 in 1980, representing 93% of the growth during these four decades. The continuous growth of the U.S.-born Mexican population resulted in an increasing number of second- and third-generation Mexican Americans in the state. The growing presence and leadership of these generations marked various milestones in the Mexican American community. A few in Omaha include the creation of the Chicano Awareness Center in 1971 and the Indian-Chicano Health Center in 1970, now known as the Latino Center of the Midlands, and the One World Community Health Centers.

Up to 1980, immigrants accounted for less than a third of the total Mexican population in Nebraska and remained a largely mobile and seasonal popu-

lation. From 1942 to 1964, Mexican immigrant workers in the United States were brought by the Bracero program, which permitted Mexican citizens to take temporary agricultural work in the United States. In those years, the number of Mexican immigrants in the Bracero program in Nebraska rose steadily but did not significantly increase Mexican migration in the state. At peak agricultural times, the documented number of braceros was 154 in 1943, 1,035 in 1947, and 1,831 in 1963 (Martínez 1958; Needs 1965). Yet, according to estimates based on birthplace using the IPUMS data, the number of Mexican immigrants remained at about 1,500 during those years. One reason the Bracero program did not have an important impact in Nebraska was the exclusion of Texas at the start of the program. Texas was an important gateway that directed workers through Kansas to Nebraska (Davis 2001). Additionally, the technological changes in the planting and harvesting of sugar beets in Western Nebraska contributed to a diminishing need for migrant farm workers over the years (Sanchez 2011).

After the end of the Bracero program, Mexican migration started to increase but its overall contribution to population growth was minor. From 1960 to 1970, Mexican immigrants in Nebraska increased by 70% to a total of 2,703 in 1970. Between 1970 and 1980, a time corresponding to Nebraska’s farm crisis, there was only a 9% increase. After the U.S. Immigration Control and Reform Act of 1986 (IRCA), which granted residence to many former agricultural migrant workers in the United States, the increase was more sizeable. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of Mexican immigrants almost doubled to a total of 4,602. Nonetheless, after 1960 and up to 1990, Mexican im-

Figure 1: Mexican-Origin Population in Nebraska, 1870-2012



Source: Total Mexican-origin population for years 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1970, 1980 and 1990 total Mexican-origin population: U.S. Census Bureau Historical Census Statistics by Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung 2002; Mexican-born and U.S.-born in the corresponding years were approximated using U.S. Censuses PUMS files available through DataFerrett; for year 2000: U.S. Census Summary File 4 tables available through American Fact Finder; total and by nativity Mexican-origin estimates for years 1870, 1950, 1960 and 2001-2004: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA); for the period 2005-2012: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1 year estimates available through American Fact Finder.
* Margins of error for a 90% confidence interval between []

migrants' contribution to overall growth of the Mexican-origin population was only 14%.

The second and sharpest increase of the Mexican-origin population took place between 1990 and 2000. Compared to the period of 1910-1930, the numbers of Mexican immigrants brought by this later wave of immigration to Nebraska was significantly larger⁵. From 29,665 in 1990, the Mexican-origin population rose to 70,525 in 2000. Immigrants accounted for 60% of the overall Mexican-origin population growth. Once again, it was active recruitment by large meatpacking plants such as IBP and Excel that constituted the main immigration driver, attracting large numbers of low-wage workers to rural towns in Nebraska (Gouveia and Stull 1997). Mexicans are now dispersed across a large number of small communities where agro-food and service employers have readily incorporated them into their otherwise dwindling workforce.

MIGRATION STATUS AND INTERGENERATIONAL LINKAGES

One-third (36%) of the Mexican-origin population in Nebraska is foreign-born. Three out of four Mexican immigrants in the state are not U.S. citizens⁷ (See Figure 2).

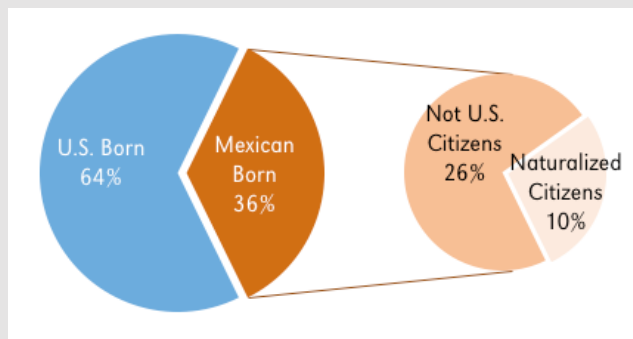
Although the proportion of U.S.-born Mexicans in Nebraska surpasses those born in Mexico, important linkages exist between these two populations. For the period of 2008-2012, about three out of five U.S.-born Mexican children under 17 years of age in

From 2000 to 2012, the Mexican-origin population doubled, ultimately totaling 141,913⁶ residents in 2012. Compared to U.S.-born Mexicans, Mexican immigrants' growth has been steady but less steep after 2007. Immigrants accounted for only 23% of the total growth of the Mexican-origin population in the state between 2007 and 2012. Adding to the fourth and even fifth Mexican American generations already settled in the state, a significantly large second and incipient third U.S.-born generation has already come of age as a result of this latest wave. This trend led to a Nebraska Mexican-origin population that is majority U.S.-born. As of 2012, two-thirds of the Mexican-origin population in the state is U.S.-born.

Today, Mexicans in Nebraska represent around 7% of the total population in the state and almost 80% of its total Latino population.

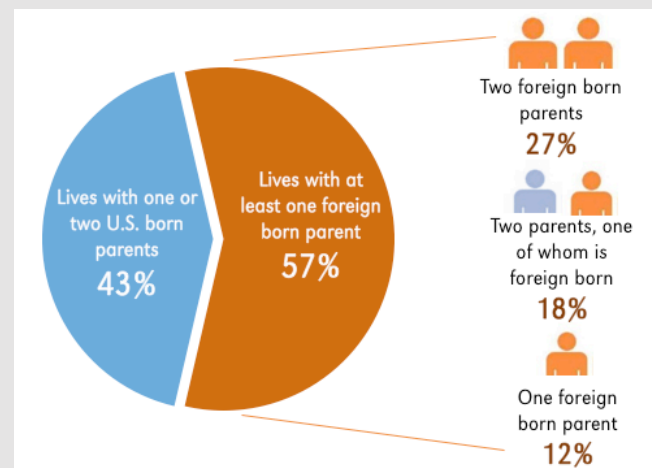
Nebraska had at least one foreign-born parent. The largest proportion of these children (27%) had two foreign-born parents. Thus, the migration status of their parents could undoubtedly shape the experiences and well-being of the upcoming generation.

Figure 2: Mexican-origin Population by Nativity and Immigration Status in Nebraska, 2008-2012



Source: Calculations based on 2008-2012 ACS

Figure 3: Mexican American Children* by Parental Nativity, Nebraska 2008-2012



Source: Calculations based on 2008-2012 ACS

* Includes the Mexican-origin population born in the U.S. under 18 years of age

MOVING PATTERNS IN AND OUT OF NEBRASKA IN THE LAST DECADE

Mexican migration to Nebraska has slowed during the last 12 years. Far more of the Mexican-origin population moved to Nebraska than moved out during the five years prior to 2000 compared to 2012. In 2000, the census reported a total of 21,084 Mexicans who moved in versus 6,873 who moved out during the previous five years. In contrast, from 2008 to 2012, according to the American Community Survey, 4,704 Mexicans moved in and 3,869 moved out. As a result, the net migration rate, which indicates the contribution of migration to the overall population change, decreased from 83 per 10,000 in 2000 to 4 per 10,000 for the period of 2008-2012.

Although international migration was more significant in 2000, it has diminished notably in the last few years. In 2000, two in five Mexican movers came directly from abroad compared to one in five who moved between 2008 and 2012. The population that moved directly from abroad in 2000 reached a total of 8,434, compared to 923 for the period of 2008-2012.

The inflow of the Mexican-origin population to the state has been increasingly more domestic than international. In 2000, 59% of the Mexican-origin population arrived from other states, and from 2008-2012, this domestic migration rose to 80% of the total Mexican-origin population that moved to Nebraska.

Table 1: Total Mexican-origin Movers, Out-movers and Net Migration Rates (NMR) by Origin Types and Top Sending States, Nebraska, 2000 and 2008-2012

Origin Type	2000			2008-2012		
	Moved-in	Moved-out	NMR Per 10,000	Moved-in	Moved-out	NMR Per 10,000
International	8,434	n.a.	n.a.	923	n.a.	n.a.
Domestic	12,650	6,873	34	3,781	3,869	-1
Neighboring States	2,503	2,145	2	1,331	1,176	1
1 st Iowa	936	638	2	502	684	-1
2 nd Colorado	637	808	-1	339	208	1
Non-Contiguous States	10,147	4,728	32	2,450	2,693	-1
1 st California	4,610	758	23	814	716	1
2 nd Texas	2,479	1,225	7	352	1,151	-1
3 rd Illinois/Arizona	568	123	3	317	35	2
Total	21,084	6,873	83	4,704	3,869	4

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Population Census 2000 (5%) PUMS and 2008-2012 ACS-PUMS.

Nonetheless, as in the case of international migration, the total number of domestic migrant of Mexican-origin was much less for the period of 2008-2012 than in 2000.

Among Mexican-origin domestic migrants to Nebraska, the larger proportion continues to come from non-contiguous states (48% in 2000 and 52% for 2008-2012). However, the proportion of those who moved from neighboring states⁸ increased the most from 12% in 2000 to 28% for the period of 2008-2012. Compared to 2000, this recent flow of migration, from both neighboring and non-contiguous states, is much less. Therefore, the domestic net migration rate (NMR) for both types of migration was low or negative during the period of 2008-2012. In contrast, the number of Mexican-origin individuals who migrated into and out of the state in 2000, from both neighboring and non-contiguous states, resulted in an NMR of 34 for

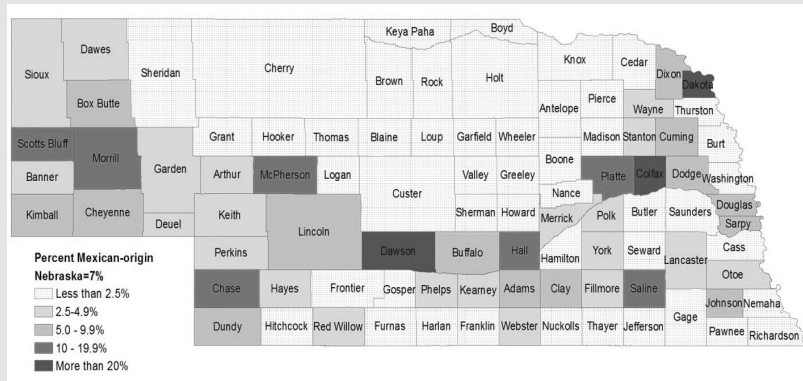
every 10,000 residents.

Iowa and Colorado, are consistently listed among the top sending neighboring states for both periods. However, for the latest period, more of the Mexican-origin population left Nebraska for Iowa than moved in from Iowa. The opposite has happened for Colorado for the period of 2008-2012. Among the non-neighboring states, the largest “feeders” of Mexican-origin movers continue to be California and Texas. Nonetheless for the period of 2008-2012, the Mexican-origin population coming from these states to Nebraska has decreased, almost reaching the numbers of those who are moving out to these states (See Table 1). Mexican movers from Arizona, which was not a typical state of prior residence among Mexican-origin movers in 2000, increased the most in the last decade.

MORE DISPERSED PATTERNS OF SETTLEMENT IN NEBRASKA

Mexicans in Nebraska first settled around the North Platte region, mostly in Scottsbluff, and in Douglas County. Today, a total of 12 counties have a share of the Mexican population larger than the state share of 7%. Mexican communities, having at least 100 Mexican-origin residents, have spread to reach more than one third (38%) of the counties in Nebraska.

According to 2010 U.S. Census, the Mexican-origin population in the counties of Colfax, Dakota, and Dawson represent more than 20% of its residents. Seven counties, Platte, Saline, Hall, Chase, McPherson, Morrill, and Scottsbluff, host a Mexican-origin population between 10% and 19%. Fourteen counties have a share of Mexican-origin population between 5% and 9.9%. And 30 counties have a share between 2.5% and 4.9%. Out of Nebraska's 93 counties, 48 have less than 2.5% of the Mexican-origin population (See Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of Mexican-Origin Population across Counties in Nebraska, 2010

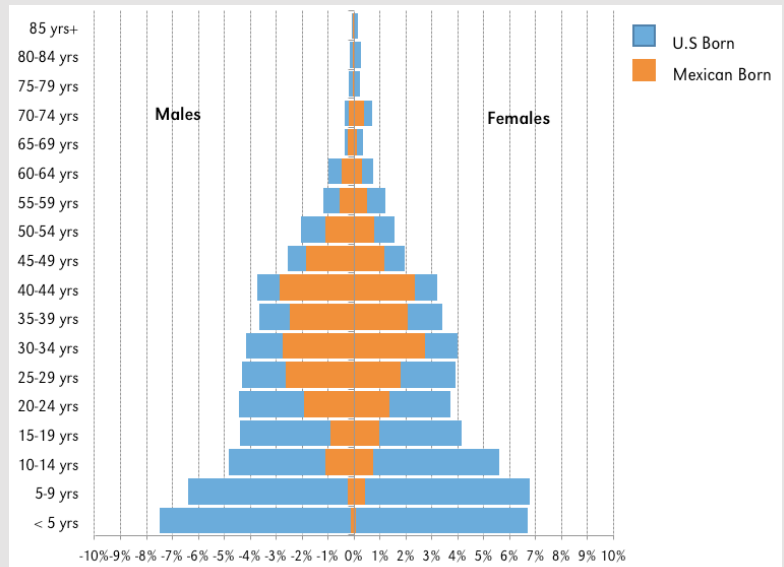
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Census 2010.

SEX AND AGE STRUCTURE BY NATIVITY

Key differences exist in some of the demographic characteristics of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans. In terms of gender, Mexican immigrants' composition by gender shows a slightly greater proportion of women (55% female versus 45% male). Meanwhile Mexican Americans have a more balanced gender composition.

The Mexican-origin population represents one of the youngest segments of Nebraska's population. Non-Hispanic whites, which represent around 83% of the state's total population, have a median age of 39. In contrast, the overall median age for the Mexican-origin population in Nebraska is 22. As shown in Figure 5, the Mexican-born population concentrates at the center of the population pyramid, between ages 20 to 49, while the Mexican American population concentrates at the bottom of the pyramid in the under-20 age groups. As a result, the Mexican-born population renders a median age of 34 while the Mexican American population renders a median age of 13. These differential age distributions ratify the interconnections of these two populations and the importance of an expanding second generation. Almost 90% of Mexican immigrants are of working age, representing half of the Mexican-origin working-age population. Meanwhile, two-thirds of Mexican Americans are under age 18

Figure 5: Age-Sex Distribution of the Mexican-Origin Population by Nativity in Nebraska, 2008-2012



Source: Calculations based on 2008-2012 ACS-PUMS.

and represent 91% of all the Mexican-origin population in that age group. In other words, an important share of the Mexican-origin population is composed of immigrant families raising children born in the United States.

TODAY AND A DECADE AGO: SOME SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

More English Proficient and a Bilingual Second Generation

Around one-third of the Mexican-origin population speaks only English at home. In contrast to Mexican immigrants, the share of Mexican Americans who are monolingual has increased by 4% over the last decade. Yet, two-thirds of all Mexicans (68%) and almost half of Mexican Americans (48%) are not routinely monolingual or live in "only English" speaking households.

Levels of English proficiency have also increased for the Mexican-origin population. For the period 2008-2012, 68% declared that they spoke English well or very well compared to 61% in 2000. Currently, the majority (93%) of Mexican-American bilingual speakers are English proficient compared to half of Mexican immigrants (51%). Nonetheless, compared to the year 2000, levels of English proficiency for the Mexican-born have increased by 8%.

A Better Educated Second Generation

Half of the Mexican-origin adult population still lacks at least a high school diploma. Yet, their levels of educational attainment overall have improved since 2000. A quarter of all the Mexican-origin population ages 25 and older for the period 2008-2012

(26%) have pursued a degree beyond high school compared to 8% in 2000.

The rise in the overall educational attainment rates is explained by the educational achievements of Mexican Americans, particularly the children of immigrants arriving in this latest wave who are now of college age and beyond. Although Mexican-born adults increased college attendance from 6% in 2000 to 8% for the period 2008-2012, the share of those obtaining a bachelor's or other professional degree have remained at 3% for the same period. In contrast, a higher proportion of Mexican American adults have either attended college (29% in 2000 versus 33% for 2008-2012) or earned a bachelor's or other professional degree (11% in 2000 versus 15% for 2008-2012). (See Table 2).

Still Twice as Likely to be Unemployed

The unemployment rate for Mexicans has remained constant at 9% in the last decade. This rate doubles the Nebraska unemployment rate which has remained at 4%, noticeably below the national unemployment rate. For Mexican immigrants, the unemployment rate has decreased from 10% to 8% between 2000 and the period of 2008-2012. In contrast, for U.S.-born Mexicans the unemployment rate rose from 7% to 10% in the same period.

Employment beyond Meatpacking for Mexican Immigrants

In 2000, half of Mexican-born workers in Nebraska were employed in the manufacturing sector, which is mostly composed of meatpacking plants. For the period of 2008-2012, only three in ten Mexican immigrants worked in this industry. In the last decade, construction (16%), accommodation and food services (11%), and waste management (7%) have become other important industries of employment for Mexican immigrants.

No substantial changes were identified in labor force participation of U.S.-born Mexican workers by industry in the last decade. For Mexican Americans, modest decreases occurred in the labor participation rates in manufacturing and retail trade (from 19% to 17% and from 15% to 12%, respectively) and a modest increase occurred in the educational services sector (from 6% to 8%). The industry of health care and social assistance also remains as an important field of employment for Mexican Americans, representing 11% of the employed population.

Female-Headed Immigrant Households on the Rise

National studies on Hispanic family patterns have shown that traditional two-parent households are more common among Mexican immigrants compared to their Mexican American counterparts and other Hispanic groups⁹. Similarly, female-headed households are increasing among Mexican Americans at levels higher than those observed for non-Hispanic whites and blacks¹⁰. Yet, in Nebraska, the share of two-parent families has not only declined at a faster pace for Mexican immigrant households but also the share of female-headed households is on the rise among this population, reaching the levels observed for Mexican American households.

Compared to 2000, the share of married couple households among Mexicans has decreased from 57% to 52% for the period 2008-2012. For non-Hispanic whites, the decline in married couple households was similar, from 56% to 52% in the same period. Compared to Mexican American households, households headed by Mexican immigrants are still more likely to be traditional two-parent households. Nonetheless, the decline in the share of married couple households has been steeper for Mexican-born (from 66% to 52%) than for Mexican American (from 47% to 45%) over the last decade.

This decline in traditional two-parent households among Mexican immigrants corresponds to the increase in the share of female-headed households. The share of female householders with no husband present among the Mexican-born increased dramatically, from 8% in 2000 to 19% for 2008-2012. In Nebraska, female-headed households with no husband present for non-Hispanic whites and Mexican Americans remained constant at 8% and 19%, respectively, in the same period. Male-headed household with no wife present also increased for Mexican born from 11% to 14% over the last decade.

The unexpected rise of female-headed households among the Mexican born could be explained, in part, by the increasing number of deportations experienced all over the country, which have affected mostly young Mexican men¹¹. This trend is worrisome as female-headed households usually confront greater social and economic hardship.

More Homeowners

For the period 2008-2012, half of Mexican-origin households¹² own a house in Nebraska. Compared to 2000, the rate of homeownership has increased modestly for both Mexican-immigrant households (from 45% to 47%) and Mexican American households (from 50% to 54%).

Shrinking Household Incomes

For the period 2008-2012, according to the five year ACS-PUMS, Nebraska's median household income was \$51,217, falling over 2% after adjusting for inflation compared with the household median income of 2000¹³. Mexican-origin households in the state have also seen their levels of income decline but at a higher rate. From 2008-2012, the inflation-adjusted median annual household income¹⁴ for Mexican-origin household was \$39,587, compared to \$43,999 in 2000, representing a fall of 11%. U.S.-born Mexican households still have income levels higher than their Mexican-born counterparts. Yet, the decrease was equally sizeable for both types of households.

Still Twice as Likely To Live In Poverty

During the last decade, the share of Nebraska's population living in poverty rose from 10% to 12%. For the same period, Mexicans in the state not only remained almost twice as likely to be poor but their levels of poverty increased. Almost a quarter (24%) of the Mexican-origin population in the state lives in poverty compared with 20% in 2000. Immigrant Mexicans in 2000 were more likely to live in poverty than their U.S.-born counterparts: 21% versus 18%, respectively. But the increase in poverty rates for the period of 2008-2012, at 24% for both, has closed the gap between these two Mexican-origin populations.

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Table 2: Selected Socioeconomic Indicators for Mexican-Origin Population by Nativity, Nebraska 2000-2012
Percentages, unless otherwise noted

	All Mexican-origin			Mexican-born			Mexican-Americans		
	2000	2008-2012	Net Change	2000	2008-2012	Net Change	2000	2008-2012	Net Change
Language use and proficiency (5yrs and older)									
Speaks only English at home	27	32	4	4	3	-1	48	52	4
Does not speak only English at home	73	68	-4	96	97	1	52	48	-4
Speaks English well or very well	61	68	7	43	51	7	91	93	2
Speaks English less than well	39	32	-7	57	49	-7	9	7	-2
Educational Attainment (25yrs and older)									
Less than a high school diploma	67	49	-18	77	69	-8	28	19	-9
High school diploma or equivalent	25	25	0	14	20	6	32	33	1
Some college or more	1	18	17	6	8	2	29	33	4
Bachelors, graduate or professional degree	7	8	1	3	3	0	11	15	4
Employment Status (Civilians 16 yrs and older)									
Unemployment rate	9	9	0	10	8	-2	7	10	3
Top Industries of Employment (Civilians 16 yrs and older)									
Manufacturing	38	26	-12	54	34	-20	19	17	-2
Retail trade	9	8	-1	4	5	1	15	12	-3
Accommodation and food services	9	11	2	7	11	4	10	11	1
Construction	8	12	4	11	16	5	5	6	1
Health care and social assistance	7	7	0	4	4	0	10	11	1
Transportation	4	4	0	1	1	0	7	6	-1
Educational services	4	5	1	1	2	1	6	8	2
Administrative, support, and waste management	3	6	3	3	7	4	4	5	1
Other services	3	4	1	3	4	1	4	3	-1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	3	3	0	4	5	1	2	1	-1
Other industries below top ten	11	14	3	8	11	3	18	20	2
Household Characteristics									
Household type									
Married couple households	57	52	-5	66	58	-8	47	45	-2
Male householder*, no wife present	9	10	1	11	14	3	7	6	-1
Female householder, no husband present	13	19	6	8	19	11	19	19	0
Non-family households	21	19	-2	15	9	-6	27	31	4
Homeownership rate	48	50	2	45	47	2	50	54	4
Median Household income (in 2012 dollars)	43,999	39,587	-4,412	42,266	37,139	-5,126	47,865	42,445	-5,421
Poverty status									
Population below poverty line	20	24	4	21	24	3	18	24	6

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Population Census 2000 and 2008-2012 ACS-PUMS.

*Householder is the person under whose name the house is owned or rented.

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ENDNOTES

- Throughout this report, the term Mexican and Mexican-origin refer to all persons of Mexican descent in the United States regardless of nativity. For the population born in Mexico, the term Mexican immigrant and Mexican-born is used interchangeably. For the population of Mexican descent born in the United States, the terms Mexican American or U.S.-born Mexican is used interchangeably, too.
- Unless specified otherwise, all the data used in this report comes from calculations based on the U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 and 2008-2012 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples.
- In this year, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo officially put an end at the Mexico-US war.
- The IPUMS estimates a total of 112 respondents in 1870 who declared being of Mexican descent. Other historical sources report an even lower number, a total of 27 people of Mexican descent in 1900. See: Grajeda, Ralph. F. "Mexicans in Nebraska". Nebraska State Historical Society, www.nebraskahistory.org [Accessed on December 12th, 2013].
- Notice, however, that as of 2012, the total number of immigrants to the state (118,522), regardless of race and ethnicity, represent half of the total number of immigrants that came to the state at the peak year of 1890 (212,549). This 2012 total in Nebraska is also numerically lower than the totals observed for the period 1900-1930.
- Mexican origin population 2012 estimates for Nebraska range from 132,000 thousand and 143,000 depending on the survey sources. One-year survey estimates usually render higher number of Mexicans living in Nebraska. Nonetheless, those estimates have a larger margin of error due to their small sample sizes at the state level. Multi-year surveys provide smaller margins of error but provide less current estimates. For either one-year or multi-year surveys, Public Use Microdata Series (PUMS) files are also subject to further sample design errors. In this report, we use the one-year published ACS estimates to follow up the evolution of Mexican population for the period of 2007-2012. However, in order to have more accurate estimates that could be comparable to the 2000 Census, we calculate indicators based on the five-year ACS PUMS files. Based on the 2008-2012 ACS-PUMS, used for most of the tables in this report, the margin of error for the total Mexican-origin population (133,276) is +/- 5,040 based on a 90% confidence interval. This estimate is close to the one reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same period, which was 132,472 based on the full survey.
- Available sources of information do not permit to estimate the number of unauthorized migrants.
- These include six contiguous states: South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming.
- It is important to note that, nationally, traditional two-parent families are not more common among Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites. See: Landale, Nancy S., Salvador R. Oropesa, and Christina Bradatan. 2006. "Hispanic Families in the United States: Family Structure and Process in an Era of Family Change". Pp. 138-178 in *Hispanics and the Future of America*, edited by Marta Tienda and Faith Mitchell. Washington D.C.: National Academies Press (US).
- Op.cit.
- See: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Deportations 2012 and 2013 report by gender, age, and country of citizenship available at <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/350/>
- A Mexican-origin household is defined as a household in which the householder, the person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented, is of Mexican-origin.
- The published U.S. Census Bureau summary tables calculated from the five year ACS full survey reported the Nebraska median household income for the period 2008-2012, very close to our estimate, at \$51,381. Based on our calculations from the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 5% Public Microdata Sample, the Nebraska inflation-adjusted median household income for 2000 was \$52,131.
- Household incomes were inflation-adjusted to 2012 dollars.