

# Last Names of Spanish Language Origin in the U.S.

## Spanish Language Day 2021

NAMES of each Person who abode therein on the Night of Sunday, June 6th.	Age of Males.	Age of Females.	OCCUPATION. if any.	Where Born	
				Whether Born in same County.	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
The Queen		20	✓	Y	
H. H. Prince Albert	20		✓	N	F
The Princess Royal		6 months	✓	Y	
Earl of Weymouth	45		✓ Lord in Waiting	N	
George Thos. Koppel	40		✓ Groom in Waiting	Y	
Edouard Proctorius	30		✓ Secretary to H. H. Prince Albert		N
Thomas Batchelor	55		✓ Page of the Backstairs	N	
Augustus Fred <sup>r</sup> . Gerding	40		✓ Page of the Backstairs		F
William Seel	30		✓ Page of the Presence	N	
George Wakeley	50		✓ Queen's Messenger	N	
Thomas Hill	40		✓ Queen's Messenger	N	
Isaac Curt	30		✓ Valet		F
Andrew Dehler	30		✓ Valet to H. H. Prince Albert		F
Thomas Cooper	25		✓ Valet	N	
Charles Woolger	30		✓ Valet	N	
James Woods	30		✓ Valet	N	

## Context: The U.S. Hispanic Population

The U.S. Hispanic population is already the largest minority in the U.S. and is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. The U.S. Hispanic population already constitutes 18.3% of the U.S. population, and according to U.S. Census forecasts, it is expected that by 2060 the U.S. Hispanic population will exceed 111 million inhabitants and will represent almost 30% of the total population.

Moreover, according to data from the Pew Research Center, it is the youngest and fastest growing demographic. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanics are under the age of 35, and the number of Hispanics under the age of 18 grew by 22% between 2006 and 2016.

Finally, it is important to highlight that the growth of the Hispanic population is occurring throughout the entire United States. In fact, according to Census Bureau data, in 2000 there were 10 states with more than 10% Hispanic population, in the last update in 2010 there are already 23.



## Last Names: A Measure of the Significance of the Hispanic Community in the U.S.

These data points are further reflected in an aspect of the American populace that we rarely stop to consider: last names. In line with the country's data, last names of Spanish origin have experienced great growth in recent years and are a true reflection of the diversity of the American society.

The U.S. Census will publish the results of the 2020 study during 2021. For the UN International Spanish Language Day, the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute wants to highlight the evolution of the presence of last names in the U.S. with Spanish language origins and their importance in recent years to highlight the relevance of the Hispanic community in the country.



# 1. 1990 vs. 2010: Unstoppable Growth

In the last three updates of the US Census (1990, 2000, 2010), we can see how last names with Spanish language origins have been increasing among the most common last names in the country. In 1990, we found none among the 15 most common last names in the U.S. population; in 2000, four last names of Spanish language origin appeared in the top 15; and in 2010 there were six, more than 33%.

The table below shows how in 2000 four last names of Spanish language origin entered the top 15 most common last names in the USA, and in 2010 the number grew to six. Pending data for 2021, there are two other candidates to enter this list: Pérez and Sánchez. Currently, they are the 22nd and 26th most common last names in the country, respectively.

Most Common Last Names in the U.S. (1990-2010)

Rank	1990	2000	2010
1	Smith	Smith	Smith
2	Johnson	Johnson	Johnson
3	Williams	Williams	Williams
4	Jones	Brown	Brown
5	Brown	Jones	Jones
6	Davis	Miller	García
7	Miller	Davis	Miller
8	Wilson	García	Davis
9	Moore	Rodríguez	Rodríguez
10	Taylor	Wilson	Martínez
11	Anderson	Martínez	Hernández
12	Thomas	Anderson	López
13	Jackson	Taylor	González
14	White	Thomas	Wilson
15	Harris	Hernández	Anderson

Source: US Census Bureau





## 2. Other Last Names in the Top 100

If we were to continue analyzing the list of the most commonly held last names in the U.S., we would find that among the 100 most common last names, 24 are of Spanish language origin.

In the next Census update coming this 2021, this number is expected

to grow even more. Surnames such as Vázquez, Romero, Moreno, Herrera, Medina or Aguilar are among the 100-130 most common last names in the U.S. according to 2010 data, but it is expected that some of them could be part of the 100 most common after the next update.

US Overall Rank	Last Name
6	García
9	Rodríguez
10	Martínez
11	Hernández
12	López
13	González
22	Pérez
26	Sánchez
28	Ramírez
37	Torres
40	Flores
46	Rivera
51	Gómez
55	Díaz
57	Cruz
60	Reyes
63	Morales
68	Ortiz
76	Ramos
88	Mendoza
89	Ruiz
92	Álvarez
93	Castillo
100	Jiménez



### 3. The States with the Most Last Names with Origins in the Spanish Language

We find that there are six states in which at least one of the three most common last names in the state is of Spanish language origin.

It is not surprising to see these findings since these states have a higher concentration of the U.S. Hispanic population. Particularly striking is the state of California, where the three most common last names in the state are of Spanish language origin. Notably, California is also the state with the largest population in the United States. Likewise, the three most common

names in the state of New Mexico are of Spanish language origin. It is worth noting that these states are not only those with the largest Hispanic population at present, but also those in which Spanish-speaking cultural heritage has been most deeply rooted for centuries. Although migratory increases and the demographic growth of these populations have contributed to the increase of last names of Spanish language origin in recent years, these last names are not new (far from it) to these geographic areas, as we will see below.

#### Most Common Last Names by State

	Most Common Last Name	2nd Most Common Last Name	3rd Most Common Last Name
Arizona	Smith	Johnson	García
California	García	Hernández	López
Colorado	Smith	Johnson	Martínez
Nevada	Smith	Johnson	García
New Mexico	Martínez	García	Chávez
Texas	García	Smith	Martínez

Source: US Census Bureau



## 4. Last Names with History and Background

Last names of Spanish language origin, which are becoming more and more common in the United States, have a long presence in what is now U.S. territory.

While it is true that the demographic growth of the U.S. Hispanic community in the last 30 years is what has contributed to Hispanic last names being among

the most common in the United States, they are not something new to U.S. history. Since the beginning of the Spanish presence in the 16th century, continuing with the Mexican dominance control of much of what is now the United States, these last names have been part of the cultural identity of many areas of the U.S.



Source: NetCredit



Of the six Spanish language last names in the top 15 in the United States, all of them have their origins in the Iberian Peninsula. After more than 300 years of Spanish presence in America, last names of Spanish origin became common on the other side of the Atlantic, and this is a direct cause of the trends that

American society is experiencing today.

Patronymic surnames, those formed from the father's name, usually with a suffix, predominate in Latin America and in the United States.



Source: NetCredit



## 5. History, Culture, and Diversity

Undoubtedly, last names give us a great sample of the enormous cultural, social and historical heritage shared by the Spanish-speaking world. It is a tool that allows us to remember the close historical ties that all these countries and peoples share.

The United States is experiencing an increase of last names with origins in the Spanish language, and this is a reminder of the great importance, past, present and future, of the Hispanic community in the country. It is also a great reminder that the Spanish language and speakers of it have a long history in the U.S., and that is why, on the United Nation's Spanish Language Day we should celebrate this aspect of U.S. culture.

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