



**United States and States**

**R1603. Percent of People 5 Years and Over Who Speak English Less Than "Very Well"**

Universe: Population 5 years and over

Data Set: 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Survey: American Community Survey, Puerto Rico Community Survey

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.

Rank	State	Percent	Margin of Error
1	California	19.8	+/-0.1
2	Texas	14.5	+/-0.2
3	Nevada	13.5	+/-0.5
4	New York	13.2	+/-0.2
5	New Jersey	12.1	+/-0.3
6	Hawaii	11.8	+/-0.7
7	Florida	11.6	+/-0.2
8	Arizona	10.7	+/-0.3
9	New Mexico	9.6	+/-0.5
10	Illinois	9.5	+/-0.2
11	Rhode Island	8.9	+/-0.5
	<b>United States</b>	8.6	+/-0.1
12	Massachusetts	8.6	+/-0.2
13	Connecticut	8.0	+/-0.3
14	Washington	7.6	+/-0.2
15	Colorado	7.1	+/-0.3
16	Oregon	6.3	+/-0.3
17	Maryland	6.1	+/-0.2
18	Alaska	6.0	+/-0.5
19	Georgia	5.6	+/-0.2
20	Utah	5.3	+/-0.3
21	Virginia	5.2	+/-0.2
22	North Carolina	4.6	+/-0.1
23	Kansas	4.5	+/-0.2
24	Delaware	4.4	+/-0.4
24	Nebraska	4.4	+/-0.3
26	District of Columbia	4.0	+/-0.5
26	Minnesota	4.0	+/-0.2
28	Idaho	3.9	+/-0.4
29	Oklahoma	3.7	+/-0.2
30	Pennsylvania	3.6	+/-0.1
31	Michigan	3.3	+/-0.1
32	Wisconsin	3.2	+/-0.1
33	Arkansas	3.1	+/-0.2
33	Indiana	3.1	+/-0.1
35	South Carolina	2.9	+/-0.1
36	Iowa	2.7	+/-0.2
37	New Hampshire	2.6	+/-0.3
38	Louisiana	2.5	+/-0.2
38	Tennessee	2.5	+/-0.1
40	Ohio	2.2	+/-0.1
41	Alabama	2.1	+/-0.1
41	Missouri	2.1	+/-0.1
43	Kentucky	2.0	+/-0.2
44	Maine	1.9	+/-0.3
44	South Dakota	1.9	+/-0.3
46	Wyoming	1.8	+/-0.3
47	Mississippi	1.5	+/-0.1
48	North Dakota	1.3	+/-0.2
48	Vermont	1.3	+/-0.2
50	Montana	1.0	+/-0.2

Rank ↓	State ↓	Percent	Margin of Error
51	West Virginia	0.7	+/-0.1
	Puerto Rico	81.3	+/-0.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see [Accuracy of the Data](#)). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

**Notes:**

·While the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) data generally reflect the November 2008 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in ACS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities.

·Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on Census 2000 data. Boundaries for urban areas have not been updated since Census 2000. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.

**Explanation of Symbols:**

1. An '\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An '\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
6. An '\*\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.
7. An 'N' entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
8. An '(X)' means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.