



Despite Jobs Crisis, Latinos Working Hard to Strengthen America's Economy

In honor of Labor Day 2010, the National Council of La Raza NCLR (National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, highlights the economic contributions of the nation's 22 million Latino workers.

Latino workers are an integral part of the American workforce.

- More than 14% of the workers employed in the following industries are Hispanic: construction; agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; leisure and hospitality; other services; and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (see Figure 1).
- The top ten occupations for Latinos based on 2009 employment levels are cooks; janitors and building cleaners; construction laborers; maids and housekeepers; drivers/sales workers and truck drivers; cashiers; grounds maintenance workers; retail salespersons; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers; and supervisors/managers of retail sales workers (see Table 1).

Latinos are overrepresented in industries that are growing despite the recession.

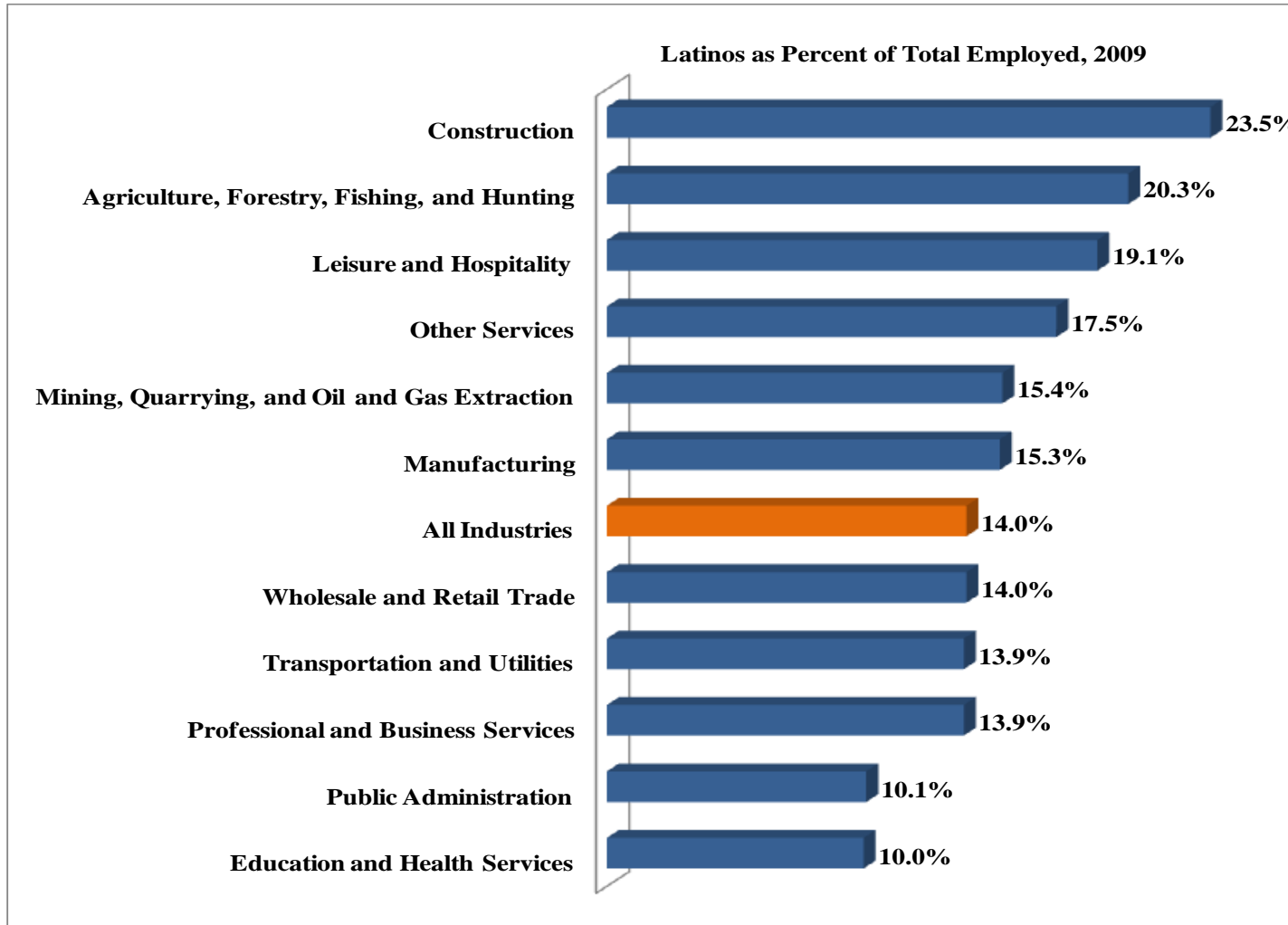
- Given stalled economic growth and job creation, it is difficult to find industries that have added jobs over the past year. However, there are some bright spots—industries that experienced a net gain in employment from July 2009 through July 2010 (the most recent data available).
- Table 2 highlights detailed industries in which Latinos are overrepresented and that have added jobs during the past year.

Hispanics will continue to drive the growth of the American labor market for decades to come.

- Between 2000 and 2007 alone, the U.S.-born Hispanic labor force grew by 34.2%, and the foreign-born Hispanic labor force grew by 53.7%.¹
- The Hispanic workforce is projected to grow by 33.1% by 2018.²
- By 2050, one in three working Americans* will be Latino.³

* Not all working-age adults are in the labor force.

Figure 1. Latino Contributions to America's Industries



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "2009 Annual Averages," *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm> (accessed August 2010), Table 18.

Table 1. Top Latino Occupations

Occupation	Latinos Employed, 2009 (in thousands)
Cooks	643
Janitors and Building Cleaners	632
Construction Laborers	630
Maids and Housekeepers	596
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	590
Cashiers	525
Grounds Maintenance Workers	466
Retail Salespersons	446
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	374
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	342

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employed and Experienced Unemployed Persons by Detailed Occupation, Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity,” in “2009 Annual Averages,” *Current Population Survey*. Washington, DC, 2010.

Table 2. Latino Employment in Growth Industries

Detailed Industry	Percent Growth in Employment, July 2009—July 2010	Net Change in Employment, July 2009—July 2010 (seasonally adjusted; numbers in thousands)	Latinos as Percent of Employed Workers
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	19.8%	71	15.9%
Support Activities for Mining	14.0%	38	21.7%
Child Day Care Services	9.5%	75	15.6%
Home Health Care Services	4.6%	47	16.2%
Plastics and Rubber Products	3.9%	24	15.2%
Administrative and Support Services*	3.2%	223	24.4%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	2.7%	37	18.6%
General Merchandise Stores*	1.0%	28	17%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.6%	24	14.8%
Waste Management and Remediation Services	0.2%	1	20.5%

Source: NCLR calculation using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Data Retrieval: Employment, Hours, and Earnings,” *Current Employment Statistics*, <http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesbtabs.htm> (accessed August 2010), Table B-1. Data from July 2010 is preliminary; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “2009 Annual Averages,” *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm> (accessed August 2010), Table 18.

*Includes other industries that have not been disaggregated.

Endnotes

¹ Algernon Austin and Marie T. Mora, *Hispanics and the Economy: Economic stagnation for Hispanic American workers, throughout the 2000s* (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2008).

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program. Washington, DC, 2009, http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_301.pdf (accessed August 2010), Table 3.1.

³ Jeffrey J. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, *U.S. Population Projections: 2005–2050* (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center, 2008), <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/85.pdf> (accessed August 2010).