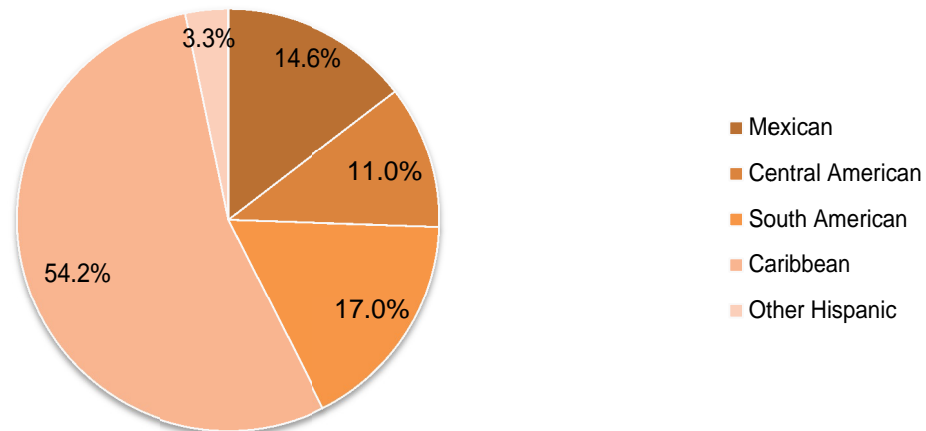


## Latino Workers Contribute to Florida's Economy

The presence of Latinos in Florida is not a recent phenomenon. The 2010 Census national data demonstrate that [Florida ranks among the top ten](#) states with the largest proportions of Latinos between 2000 and 2010. Another distinct quality of the Hispanic population in Florida is the diverse representation of Latin American heritage; as Figure 1 shows, over half trace their origins to the Caribbean, while those of Mexican origin represent the third largest group. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, approximately three in four (72.5%) Hispanics in Florida are U.S. citizens as of 2010. Although Latinos have been a vital segment of Florida's workforce, strengthening the state's main industries, Hispanic unemployment remains high.

Figure 1. Country of Origin or Heritage of Total Latino Population of Florida, 2010



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2010.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2010.pdf).

## National Latino Employment Statistics for August 2012

According to the [latest report](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), July saw encouraging job growth compared to the trend observed in recent months. Net job growth was 163,000 and the unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.3%. The Latino unemployment rate was 10.3%, a decrease from May and June when it was 11%. Still, the Latino labor force participation rate, 66.6%, continues to be the highest of any demographic group.

## Latino Workers in the Sunshine State

In 2011, there were approximately 1.9 million Latinos in Florida's labor force, making up [21.2% of the state's total workforce](#). As Table 1 and Table 2 demonstrate, Latinos make significant contributions to Florida's industries. The [food services and drinking places industry](#) is the second largest employer of Hispanics in Florida and is also among the industries that added the most jobs nationally in July, increasing by 29,000.

Table 1. Ten Florida Industries with the Largest Latino Employment

Industry	Employed Latinos
<b>Retail trade</b>	229,323
<b>Food services and drinking places</b>	155,388
<b>Construction</b>	124,737
<b>Education services</b>	112,855
<b>Health care services, except hospitals</b>	105,457
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>	90,055
<b>Administrative and support services</b>	89,550
<b>Professional and technical services</b>	83,760
<b>Hospitals</b>	75,857
<b>Public administration</b>	70,618

Source: National Council of La Raza (NCLR) calculation using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, 2011 March Supplement.

Table 2. Share of Latino Workers in Selected Florida Subindustries

Subindustry	Percent Latino
<b>Private households</b>	50%
<b>Pipeline transportation</b>	45%
<b>Landscaping services</b>	42%
<b>Shoe stores</b>	39%
<b>Services to buildings and dwellings</b>	37%
<b>Warehousing and storage</b>	35%
<b>Traveler accommodation</b>	33%
<b>Construction</b>	31%

Source: National Council of La Raza (NCLR) calculation using U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 3-Year Estimates, 2008–2010, Public Use Microdata Sample.

Similar to [Nevada](#), Florida's [housing crash during the Great Recession adversely impacted the state's construction labor force](#) and helped spur the sharp increase in Latino unemployment, which remains high. The Economic Policy Institute's recent analysis shows that two of Florida's largest metropolitan areas, [Orlando and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach](#), ranked second and fourteenth, respectively, among large metropolitan areas examined in terms of Hispanic unemployment in 2011 (the most recent data available). While Latinos in Orlando experienced a 0.5 percentage point increase in unemployment from 16.1% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2011, Hispanics in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach experienced a drop in the unemployment rate from 12.6% in 2010 to 10.7% in 2011. This improvement—a decrease of 1.9 percentage points between 2010 and 2011—was among the largest for all metro areas measured.