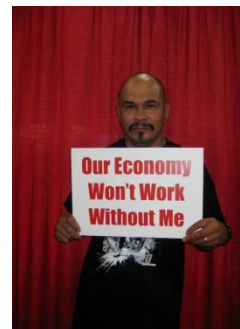


Celebrating the Latino Workforce

On Labor Day and Every Day

In honor of Labor Day, this month's report highlights the best of the *Monthly Latino Employment Report* series and voices of individuals from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) network who shared their stories with us.



Latino Employment Statistics for August 2012

The [latest report](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor showed that net job growth was 96,000 jobs and the unemployment rate decreased slightly to 8.1%. The Latino unemployment rate was 10.2%, a slight decrease from July when it was 10.3%. The Hispanic labor force participation rate, 66.0%, continues to be the highest of any demographic group. Much of August's employment growth occurred in leisure and hospitality (+34,000 jobs) which includes 28,000 new employees [in food services and drinking establishments](#), a sector that largely employs Latinos.

Highlights from NCLR's *Monthly Latino Employment Report Series*

Since the official end of the recession, NCLR has examined opportunities for Latino workers and their contributions in several growth industries, such as health care, and in states with large proportions of Hispanics, such as Florida. Below is a list of stand-out reports which emphasize that an economic turnaround that employs people in low-wage, low-quality jobs is not a true recovery. Building a stronger economy requires the development of high-quality jobs that provide living wages and benefits, offer opportunities for career advancement, and keep workers safe on the job.

- [Young Latinos in the Workforce: Employment Trends and Policies to Improve Labor Market Outcomes](#)
- [Caring for Caregivers: Latinos in the Direct-Care Workforce](#)
- [Latino Workers Contribute to Colorado's Economy](#)
- [Latinos in the Poultry Processing Industry](#)
- [Latinos and the Jobs of the Not-So-Distant Future](#)
- [Latino Workers Contribute to Nevada's Economy](#)
- [Latino Workers Contribute to Florida's Economy](#)
- Find all of our reports [here!](#)



Labor Day 2012: Our Economy Won't Work Without Me

This past Labor Day, NCLR not only honored the [contributions of Latino workers](#) in this country but also reached out to our network to hear why our economy won't work without them. We received many responses from all over illustrating how America's economy relies on the contributions of its existing workforce. Here are just a few:

"Our economy won't work without the dedication of low-income immigrant Latinos to other families' homes, children, food supplies, and well-being. Our economy cannot flourish while some within it do not have access to the benefits and [opportunities] challenges that others have."—Margie Berkeley, CA

“I’m one of those IT professionals filling an empty market niche, keeping the computer systems [running], helping like many other immigrants to make this nation stronger and more productive.”—William *Philadelphia, PA*

“My work as a dispatcher keeps my cab company running. It is a collectively owned small business with about 100 owners and 200 lease drivers... Our business stimulates the local economy; the revenue does not leave the state, but rather goes back into the community.” —Avery *Portland, OR*

“I am the economy! Small businessman, stock market investor, author, and college administrator... I consider the American Dream an activity, NOT a pastime. I would hope that America grasps how important Latinos are to this country's continued success.”

—Miguel *Dallas, TX*



“As the former Colorado District Director (first Latina in this position in the country) of the U.S. Small Business Administration and retired four years ago—I feel my experience, knowledge, and expertise in assisting small businesses in Colorado has and currently is helping strengthen the economy. I currently have a small business

to assist any and all small business owners with resources and basic information on how to succeed in their business.”—Patricia *Denver, CO*

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