

Latino Employment Status, December 2009

In December 2009, Latinos continued to face an unemployment rate nearly three points higher than that of the nation overall: 12.7% compared to 10%. Contributing to Latinos' high unemployment rate is their large presence in occupations with elevated levels of unemployment. Nearly all of the major occupational groups in which Latinos are overrepresented have unemployment rates above the national unemployment rate (see table below). These occupations include:

- **Service occupations**
- **Farming, fishing, and forestry**
- **Construction and extraction**
- **Production**
- **Transportation and material moving**

These distressing figures are unequivocal evidence of the need for long-overdue job creation programs that target the areas hit hardest by joblessness. The economic security of Latinos—and the nation overall—is still very much at stake.

Latino Workers Overrepresented in High-Unemployment Occupations

- Latinos are overrepresented
- Unemployment rates are above the national unemployment rate

Occupation	National unemployment rate		Latinos as a percent of total workforce	Percent distribution of the Latino workforce
	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009		
Total workforce, age 16 years and over	7.1%*	9.7%	14%	100%
Management, professional, and related occupations	3.3	4.6	7.1	18.3
Management, business, and financial operations	3.9	5.2	7.5	8.1
Professional and related	2.9	4.2	6.7	10.2
Service occupations	7.8	10.2	20.2	24.2
Sales and office occupations	6.5	8.7	12.3	21.4
Sales and office	7	8.9	11.7	9.3
Office and administrative support	6.1	8.5	12.8	12.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	12.7	18.2	25	18.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry	18.3	21.8	39.3	1.9
Construction and extraction	15.9	22.5	29.6	12.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair	6	9.6	14.5	3.7
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	10.1	13.4	20.4	17.8
Production	10.5	14.7	21.1	9.3
Transportation and material moving	9.6	12.2	19.7	8.5

*Unemployment data are not seasonally adjusted.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Data Retrieval: Labor Force Statistics," *Current Population Survey*. Washington, DC, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsatabs.htm> (accessed September 2009), Table A-10; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, 2008 annual averages. Washington, DC, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm> (accessed September 2009), Tables 10 and 11.