

Latino Labor Force Growth

Demographics of Today's Economy Are a Preview of 2050

The year 2050 is widely projected to be a [turning point](#) after which the United States will have no single racial or ethnic majority. By that time, the Latino share of the American workforce will have nearly doubled from 15.6% to 30%.* This *Monthly Latino Employment Report* highlights industries in which Latinos already represent one in three workers, as well as occupations that are seldom recognized as relying disproportionately on Latino workers.

Latino Employment Statistics for May 2014

The [latest report](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) shows that U.S. employment increased by 217,000 workers in May 2014. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.3% and the slight rise in Latino unemployment from 7.3% to 7.7% appears to be due to growth in Hispanic workers (53,000) who entered the labor force. Fortunately for Latinos, job growth was concentrated in several industries in which Latinos are overrepresented.

Table 1. The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in May 2014

Indicators	Latinos, May 2014
Employed — <i>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</i>	23.1 million
Unemployed — <i>Those who are available to work, make an effort to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working</i>	1.9 million
Civilian Labor Force — <i>The sum of employed and unemployed people</i>	25.1 million
Not in the Labor Force — <i>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</i>	13.1 million
Unemployment Rate — <i>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</i>	7.7%
Labor Force Participation Rate — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</i>	65.6%
Employment-Population Ratio — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</i>	60.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Status of the Hispanic or Latino Population by Sex and Age," *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t03.htm> (accessed June 6, 2014), Table A-3.

* Mitra Toossi, "Projections of the Labor Force to 2050: A Visual Essay," *Monthly Labor Review*. U.S. Department of Labor. Washington, DC, October 2012, www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/10/art1full.pdf (accessed June 2014).

Industries with a “One in Three” Demographic Profile

Latinos currently account for 15.6% of the American workforce. By 2050, one in three workers in the U.S. will be Latino. The relative youth and high labor force participation rate of the Latino population, immigration trends, and the aging of the non-Hispanic workforce are primary reasons for the growing share of Latinos in the labor force. The demographic makeup of the workforce of the future is already evident in certain segments of today’s economy. Table 2 lists industries in which Latinos represent more than 30% of the workforce.

Table 2. Industries with Latino Employment Greater Than 30%, 2013 Annual Averages

Detailed industry	Latinos as percent of total employed
All industries	15.6%
Landscaping services	43.2%
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	41.9%
Services to buildings and dwellings	39.9%
Carpet and rug mills	38.7%
Cut and sew apparel manufacturing	38.6%
Services, private households	36.9%
Car washes	36.4%
Dry-cleaning and laundry services	33.7%
Animal slaughtering and processing	33.6%
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing	32.6%
Bakeries, except retail	31.3%
Warehousing and storage	30.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employed persons by detailed industry, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Annual Average 2013,” *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat18.htm> (accessed June 4, 2014).

Latinos Work in a Diverse Array of Occupations

Scholars and the public tend to focus on major industries and occupations that employ a large share of the Latino workforce, such as construction, warehousing, and food service. Meanwhile, the diversity of Latino employment is often overlooked. As Table 3 shows, Latinos are overrepresented in a wide range of occupations.

Table 3. Latino Employment in Select Occupations, 2013 Annual Averages

Detailed occupation	Latinos as a percent of total employed	Employed Latinos (in thousands)
All occupations	15.6%	22,453
Advertising and promotions managers	16.1%	8
Barbers	30.0%	38
Butchers and other meat, poultry, and fish processing workers	34.7%	112
Cashiers	21.3%	693
Dental assistants	22.9%	63
Dishwashers	37.9%	114
Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers	55.1%	69
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	47.0%	44
Grounds maintenance workers	44.8%	594
Hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	23.1%	404
Hand packers and packagers	37.7%	186
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	42.5%	71
Logisticians	17.2%	15
Medical assistants	24.8%	114
Misc. media and communication workers	31.5%	28
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	52.6%	29
Tax preparers	17.9%	17
Teacher assistants	16.6%	152

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employed persons by detailed occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Annual Average 2013," *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm> (accessed June 4, 2014).

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