

## Latino Labor Force Growth

### Demographic Profiles of Select Industries and Occupations

The year 2050 is widely projected to be a [turning point](#), after which the United States population will have no single racial or ethnic majority. By that time, the Latino share of the American workforce will double from 15% to 30%.<sup>1</sup> 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 September 2013

The [latest report](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) shows that U.S. employment increased by 148,000 workers in September 2013. The national unemployment rate declined insignificantly to 7.2% and the Latino unemployment rate declined from 9.3% in August to 9.0% in September. The Latino labor force participation rate dropped for the second month, and the total Latino workforce shrank by 116,000.

The monthly report was released more than two weeks late due to the federal government shutdown. DOL publishes survey data collected for the previous month, so today's report does not reflect any employment effects of the government shutdown.

Table 1. The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in September 2013

| Indicators  | Latinos,<br>September 2013 |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Employed</b> — <i>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</i>  | <b>22.6 million</b>        |
| <b>Unemployed</b> — <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> | <b>2.2 million</b>         |
| <b>Civilian Labor Force</b> — <i>The sum of employed and unemployed people</i>  | <b>24.8 million</b>        |
| <b>Not in the Labor Force</b> — <i>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</i>  | <b>12.9 million</b>        |
| <b>Unemployment Rate</b> — <i>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</i>   | <b>9.0%</b>                |
| <b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b> — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</i>                                    | <b>65.8%</b>               |
| <b>Employment-Population Ratio</b> — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</i>  | <b>59.9%</b>               |

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/webapps/legacy/cpsatab3.htm> (accessed October 22, 2013), Table A-3.

## Industries with a “One in Three” Demographic Profile

Latinos currently account for 15.7% of the American workforce. By the year 2050, one in three workers in the U.S. will be Latino. Primary reasons for the growing share of Latinos in the labor force include the relative youth and high labor force participation rate of the Latino population, immigration trends, and the aging of the non-Hispanic workforce. Yet 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%, 2012 Annual Averages

| Detailed industry   | Latinos as a percent of total employed |
|---|--|
| All industries  | 15.4%                                  |
| Landscaping services  | 42.7%                                  |
| Services to buildings and dwellings                             | 40.6%                                  |
| Footwear and leather goods repair                               | 40.2%                                  |
| Animal slaughtering and processing                              | 39%                                    |
| Metal industries  | 37.9%                                  |
| Services, private households                                    | 37.2%                                  |
| Car washes  | 36.8%                                  |
| Cut and sew apparel manufacturing                               | 35.3%                                  |
| Bakeries, except retail   | 32.9%                                  |
| Textile and fabric finishing and coating mills                  | 32.1%                                  |
| Dry-cleaning and laundry services                               | 30.5%                                  |
| Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing | 30.4%                                  |
| Carpet and rug mills  | 30%                                    |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employed and experienced unemployed persons by detailed industry, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Annual Average 2012,” *Current Population Survey*, unpublished estimates.

## 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, 2012 Annual Averages

| Detailed occupation   | Latinos as a percent of total employed | Employed Latinos (in thousands) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| All occupations   | 15.4%                                  | 21,878                          |
| Barbers   | 24.1%                                  | 26                              |
| Butchers and other meat, poultry, and fish processing workers   | 41.6%                                  | 129                             |
| Cashiers  | 19.9%                                  | 650                             |
| Dishwashers   | 40.5%                                  | 110                             |
| Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers   | 62.0%                                  | 80                              |
| Emergency management directors  | 23.0%                                  | 1                               |
| Geological and petroleum technicians  | 19.1%                                  | 4                               |
| Graders and sorters, agricultural products  | 58.0%                                  | 68                              |
| Grounds maintenance workers   | 44.4%                                  | 576                             |
| Hand packers and packagers  | 42.0%                                  | 181                             |
| Helpers for installation, maintenance, and repair workers   | 37.9%                                  | 11                              |
| Medical assistants  | 22.9%                                  | 98                              |
| Misc. community and social service specialists, including health educators and community health workers | 18.4%                                  | 17                              |
| Misc. media and communication workers   | 35.0%                                  | 34                              |
| Nurse midwives  | 26.6%                                  | 1                               |
| Paralegals and legal assistants   | 17.0%                                  | 71                              |
| Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials   | 47.9%                                  | 26                              |
| Tax preparers   | 15.9%                                  | 17                              |
| Teacher assistants  | 15.7%                                  | 141                             |
| Telephone operators   | 25.9%                                  | 11                              |
| Transit and railroad police   | 75.5%                                  | 2                               |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employed and experienced unemployed persons by detailed occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Annual Average 2012," *Current Population Survey*, unpublished estimates.

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## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Mitra Toossi, "Projections of the labor force to 2050: a visual essay." *Monthly Labor Review*. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, 2012, [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/10/art1full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/10/art1full.pdf) (accessed October 2013).