



Chicano Latino
Affairs Council
State of Minnesota

CLAC Fact Sheets Series WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 2011

Latinos and Minnesota's Workforce

As large portions of Minnesota's majority work force begin to enter retirement, there is not a large enough inflow of new workers to sustain the total level of work required. However, while the majority work force declines, the Latino workforce is estimated to increase steadily over the next two decades. According to Census 2010 data, there are 250,258 Latinos in Minnesota.¹ Latinos in Minnesota have a median age of 24, while the median age of the majority population is 40.² Continuing with this trend, Latinos will be able to support the Minnesotan workforce once the majority enters retirement. Latinos in Minnesota have a high workforce participation rate at 80.5%.³ This is the highest participation rate of any group in Minnesota.

Income

Latinos in Minnesota have a median of \$20,368 in annual personal earnings,⁴ while Latino households had a median income of \$39,455.⁵ Their median earnings are less than the majority population (\$32,599) and the black population (\$22,405), while their household income is far lower than the median income for majority households (\$57,314) and Asian households (\$59,909).

A HispanTelligence report points out a strong link between educational attainment and

earnings; in 2006, median earnings for Latino males with a Bachelor's degree reached \$45,917, while median earnings for those with only a high school diploma was \$30,844. Latino men with master's degrees had a median earning of \$68,167.⁶

Latino Occupations

According to Dr. Bruce Corrie's analysis of Census 2000 data*, Latinos in Minnesota are employed in a wide variety of occupations, ranging from manufacturing, construction, and food processing to law enforcement, medical records, agriculture, administrative services and other professional occupations.

Food processing plants draw a large portion of Hispanic immigrants to Minnesota. According to Katherine Fennelly at the Humphrey Institute, many Latinos come to Minnesota from California, Texas or Midwestern states in search of jobs. Farming jobs have given way to manufacturing and food processing jobs in Minnesota. As a result, Latino seasonal workers have settled in small towns or moved to metropolitan areas.⁷

*Update pending release of Census 2010 data

Minnesota's Employment Change

In November 2010, three job sectors experienced job growth, seven sectors lost jobs, and one sector remained static. The three sectors with the largest losses were Leisure & Hospitality (4,000 losses), Financial Activities

¹ Census 2010

² Pew Hispanic Center. "Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Minnesota."

<http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=MN>

³ US Bureau of Labor Statistics

⁴ Pew Hispanic Center. "Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Minnesota, 2008." *Pew Hispanic Center*.

<http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=MN>

⁵ 2007 American Community Survey. "Minnesota: Employment Status." www.factfinder.census.gov

⁶ HispanTelligence. "Special Report. The U.S. Hispanic Economy in Transition." *HispanTelligence*. www.hispanicbusiness.com

⁷ Fennelly, Katherine. "Latinos, Africans and, Asians in the North Star State: Immigrant Communities in Minnesota." *Beyond the Gateway: Immigrants in a Changing America*. 2005.



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(2,900 losses), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (2,100 losses). Furthermore, Minnesota's nonfarm economy lost 5,100 jobs.⁸ Despite heavy losses in certain sectors, other sectors experienced job growth in November 2010. Government gained 3,500 new jobs, Manufacturing gained 1,800 new jobs, and Professional and Business Services gained 1,500 new jobs.⁹

communities, and one of the worst educational achievement gaps in the country.¹¹

Unemployment

Minnesota has one of the largest unemployment gaps between Latinos and European Americans at 5.9%, one of the worst gaps in the country. In 2010, the overall unemployment rate for Minnesota was 7.3%.¹⁰ At the same time, unemployment reached 12.3% among Latinos in Minnesota.

In 2009, there were 14,775 unemployment claims filed by Latinos in Minnesota, an increase of more than 4,000 from 2008.

While many states have been hit hard by the recession, most do not have the same ethnic unemployment disparity that Minnesota is facing. Economic analysts, civil rights organizers, academics, and unemployed Minnesotans cite a combination of factors leading to the large gap, including the small minority population in Minnesota, limited networks for minorities for finding jobs, a lack of employment programs targeted at minority

⁸ MN DEED. "State and National Employment and Unemployment." *Positively Minnesota*. 2010. http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/Data_Publications/Data/Current_Economic_Highlights/State_National_Employment_Unemployment.aspx

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Unemployment Rates for States." *Bureau of Labor Statistics*. 2011.

¹¹ Rodriguez, Eric. "Unemployment Woes Plague Latino Voters." *NCLR*. 2010.