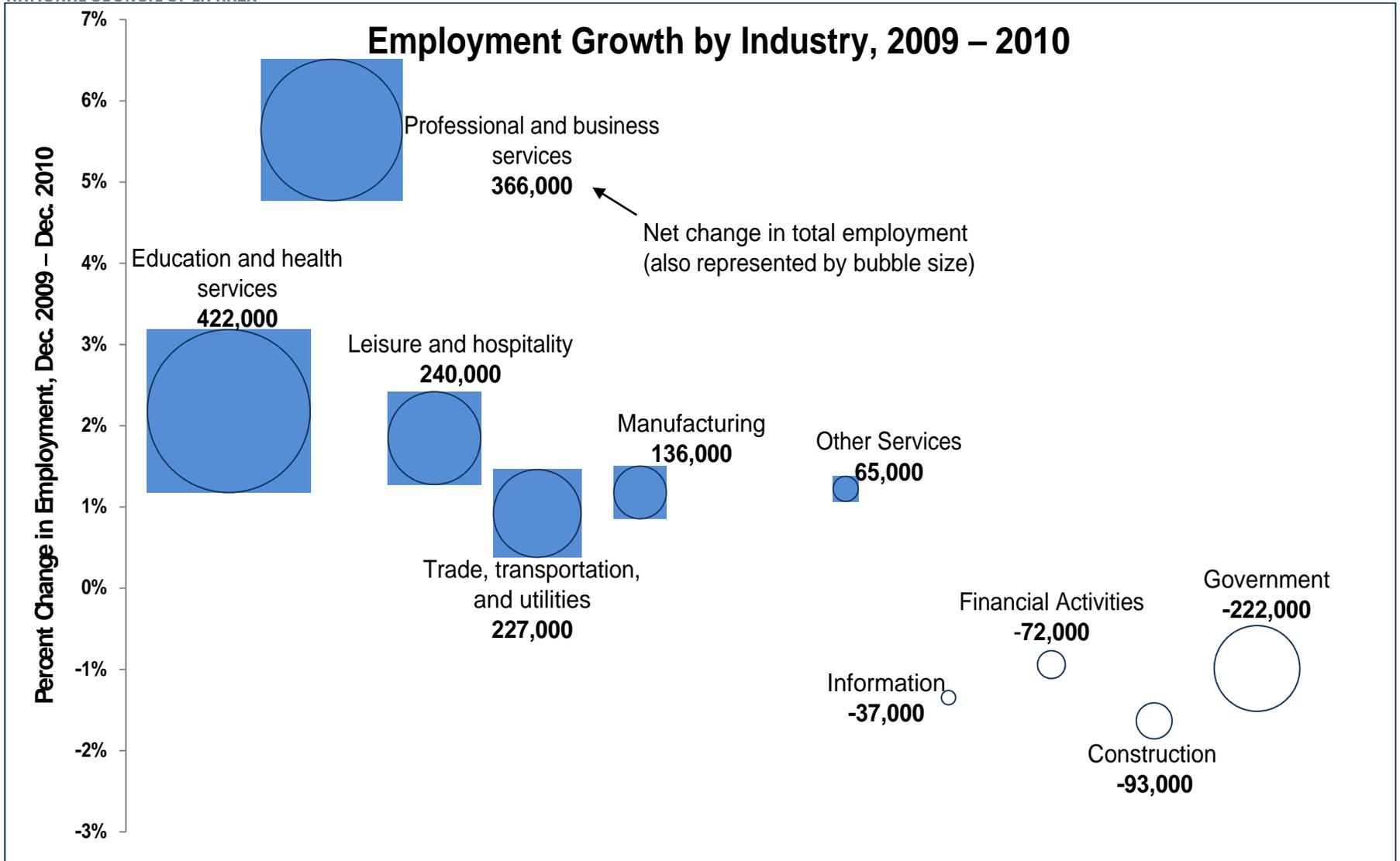




**Fits and Starts:
Latino Employment in Growing and Shrinking Industries
December 2009 – December 2010**



Source: NCLR calculation using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “The Employment Situation – December 2010,” news release, January 7, 2011, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf> (accessed January 7, 2011), Table B-1.

How Did Latinos Fare?

From a national perspective, tracking employment by industry is one way to understand how Latino workers are faring as the economy emerges from the recession. While Latino unemployment continues to hover around 13%, compared to 10% for the nation overall, the employment picture is not uniformly bleak. Latinos are modestly positioned to make gains in growing sub-industries such as home health, mining support activities, and employment services. However, previous research shows that Latinos tend to be overrepresented in low-level and often low-quality occupations. Job quality is an important factor of the recovery conversation, especially as it relates to Latinos, who continue to be the fastest-growing segment of the workforce.

Below are profiles of select sub-industries that add a Latino perspective to the employment visualization above.¹

Education and health services

Latinos were well-positioned to benefit from the fastest-growing industry in education and health services: home health care services, which grew by 3.9% between December 2009 and December 2010, adding 41,000 new workers nationally. Latinos represent 16.2% of workers in home health care. However, Latinos are only about 9% of the employees in nursing and residential care facilities, which experienced the highest net employment growth last year, adding 56,000 workers.

Professional and business services

Latinos represent 17.6% of workers in the fastest-growing industry in this category: employment services. Workers employed in this industry usually fill job vacancies at companies on a temporary basis. The 12.2% growth in employment services between 2009 and 2010 indicates a reluctance among employers to hire permanent employees, probably due to uncertainty about future business conditions. Employment services added 314,000 new employees last year, swelling to 2,888,700 employees in December 2010.

Only 9.6% of workers in accounting and bookkeeping services were Latino. Accounting and bookkeeping was the losing industry in professional and business services last year. This industry shed 53,000 workers between December 2009 and December 2010, a 5.8% decline.

Leisure and hospitality

Food services and drinking establishments experienced moderate employment growth last year, adding 188,000 employees. This was likely to benefit many Latinos, who represent 21.8% of workers in this industry.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Trade, transportation, and utilities

Latino workers were overrepresented in the winning and losing industries in this category in 2010. Clothing and clothing accessories stores, with a workforce that is 18.6% Latino, added 58,000 workers between December 2009 and December 2010, while health and personal care stores, with a 17.1% Latino workforce, shed 18,000 jobs. Transit and ground passenger transportation was the industry with the largest percent growth in employment, 5.9%. It is difficult to say whether Latinos benefited from this growth, since Latino representation in transportation occupations varies widely.

Manufacturing

Employment in the manufacturing of fabricated metal products and primary metals manufacturing both increased last year. Latinos represent approximately 11.5% of employees in fabricated metal products manufacturing, which netted 62,000 employees. They are slightly better represented among employees in primary metals manufacturing (approximately 14.2% Latino), which added 23,000 new employees.

Latinos continue to suffer from declining employment in textile product mills, where they are 28.3% of the workforce. Employment declined by 3.6% to 117,700 workers in this industry between December 2009 and December 2010.

Mining and logging

The mining and logging industry is not shown in the chart above because it is a major outlier. Employment grew by 13.6% in this industry between December 2009 and December 2010, a change of 92,000 employees. Support activities for mining, which experienced the greatest growth, grew by 27.2%, from 261,900 employees to 333,200 employees. Latinos are well-positioned to benefit from this growth, since they represent 21.7% of the workers in this industry.

Other Services

Latinos are underrepresented in the growth industry in this category, which is membership associations and organizations (8.5% Latino). This industry grew by 1.5% and now employs 2,947,000 workers.

Information

It is difficult to tell how Latinos have fared in this declining industry. Telecommunications, the industry that experienced the greatest losses in employment last year, has a workforce that is approximately 9.8% Latino. In December 2010, 911,500 people worked in telecommunications across the nation, a 4.7% decline from the same month a year before.

Financial Activities



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Latinos are generally underrepresented in this industry and they compose only 11.5% of the employees of lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets. Employment in this industry, which deals with patents, trademarks, and the like, shrunk by 5.5% last year.

Construction

The construction industry, in which Latinos are heavily represented (23.5%), continues to shed jobs. Employment in residential specialty trade contractors and residential building declined by 2.8% and 6.2% respectively between December 2009 and December 2010.

Government

Government employment declined by 1% last year, shedding approximately 222,000 jobs, with 22,259,000 people employed in December 2010. While Latinos represent only about 10% of government workers, the sheer magnitude of the government workforce means that employment losses in this sector can be far-reaching.

Endnotes

¹ Industry profiles based on NCLR calculations using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “The Employment Situation – December 2010,” news release, January 7, 2011, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf> (accessed January 7, 2011), Table B-1; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, Washington, DC, 2009, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat18.pdf> (accessed January 7, 2011), Table 18.