

Latino Workers Contribute to Nevada's Economy

An integral part of Nevada's workforce, Latinos contribute to Nevada's core industries. Although Hispanic unemployment in Nevada has declined since its spike during the recession, it remains higher than the national Hispanic unemployment rate and the rate for all Nevada workers.

National Latino Employment Statistics for June 2012

June marked another month of sluggish job growth, with 80,000 jobs added. The unemployment rate for all workers and for Hispanic workers remained unchanged at 8.2% and 11%, respectively. Monthly job growth has averaged 75,000 for the second quarter of 2012, compared to an average monthly job growth of 226,000 in the first quarter of the year.

Latino Workers in the Silver State

In 2011, there were 306,000 Latinos in Nevada's labor force, making up [23% of the state's total workforce](#). Latinos make significant contributions to Nevada's industries, as seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Nevada Industries Employing More than Twenty Thousand Latinos

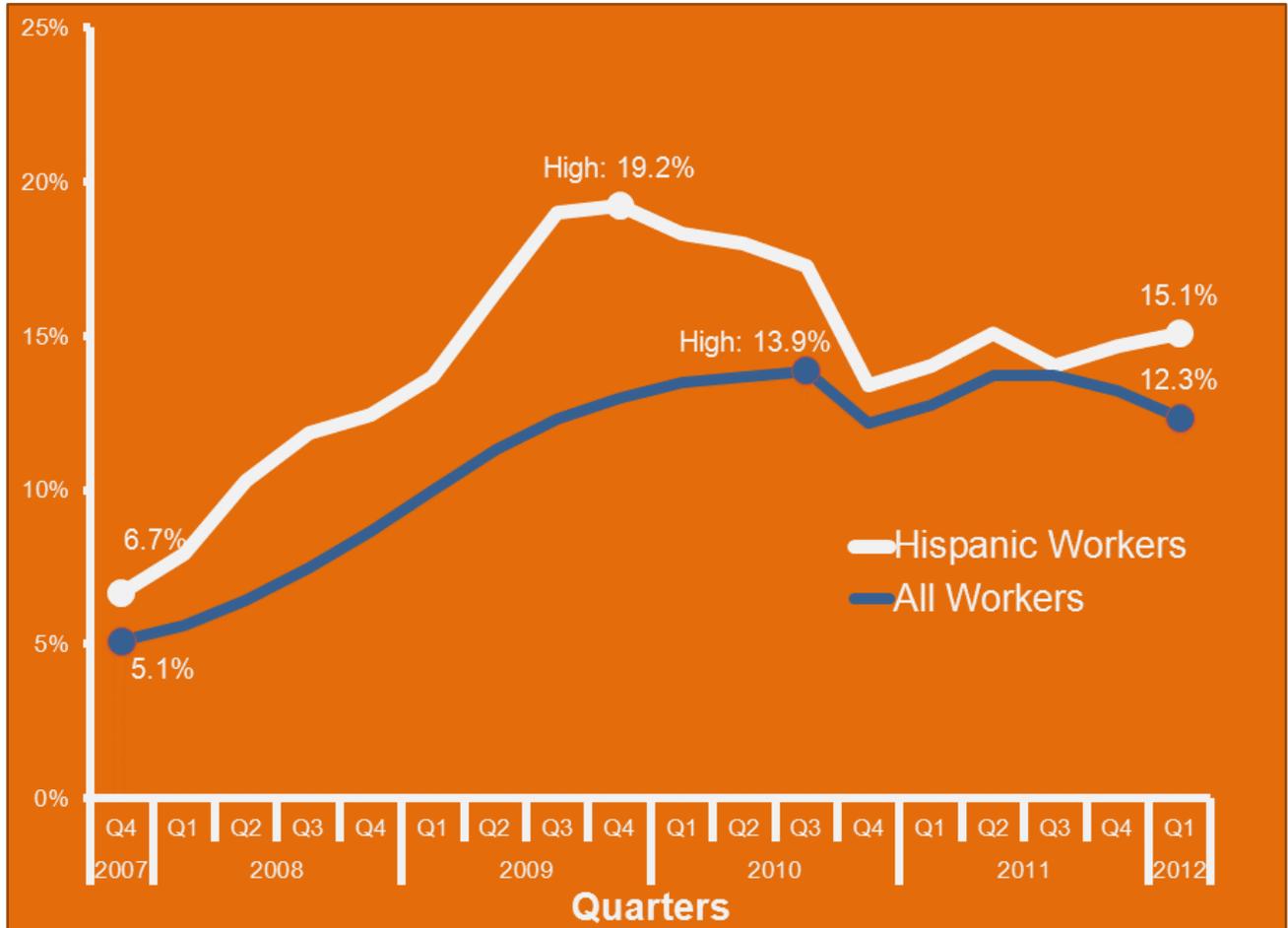
Industry	Employed Hispanics
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	76,417
Wholesale and retail trade	34,585
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	28,028
Manufacturing	22,561
Construction	22,220
Educational, health, and social services	21,799

Source: National Council of La Raza (NCLR) calculation using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, 2011 March Supplement.

The housing market crash took a heavy toll on Nevada's construction workforce and contributed to a severe increase in Latino unemployment during and after the recent recession. As [Figure 1](#) shows, at the start of the recession during the fourth quarter of 2007, the Latino unemployment rate was 6.7%. Shortly after the official end of the recession in the fourth quarter of 2009, the Latino unemployment rate peaked at 19.2%. Latino unemployment has since declined by 4.1 percentage points to 15.1% in the first quarter of 2012. This change represents a greater improvement than the overall Nevada unemployment rate, which has only declined by 1.5 percentage points since its post-recession high of 13.9%. However, Latinos are still more likely than their fellow Nevadans to be unemployed, at a rate of 15.1% compared to 12.3% overall.

New analysis from the Economic Policy Institute reports that the [Las Vegas–Paradise metropolitan area](#) in Nevada ranked fourth among other major Hispanic metropolitan areas in terms of Hispanic unemployment in 2011 (the most recent data available). Latinos in Las Vegas–Paradise experienced a 14.5% unemployment rate in 2011, down from 18.0% in 2010. The improvement in the Las Vegas–Paradise Hispanic unemployment rate—a decline of 3.4 percentage points between 2010 and 2011—was larger than for any other Hispanic metro area measured.

Figure 1. Unemployment Rates for Hispanics and All Workers in Nevada, 2007–2012



Source: Economic Policy Institute estimates using U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey* and Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*.