

Latino Employment Status, April 2009

In April, 2009, the national unemployment rate rose to 8.9%. While this figure is dire, unemployment in many communities surpassed the 9.0% mark months ago; April unemployment was 11.3% for Latinos and 15.0% for African Americans nation-wide¹. As the map below shows, 18 states had already crossed the 9.0% threshold for unemployment in March.

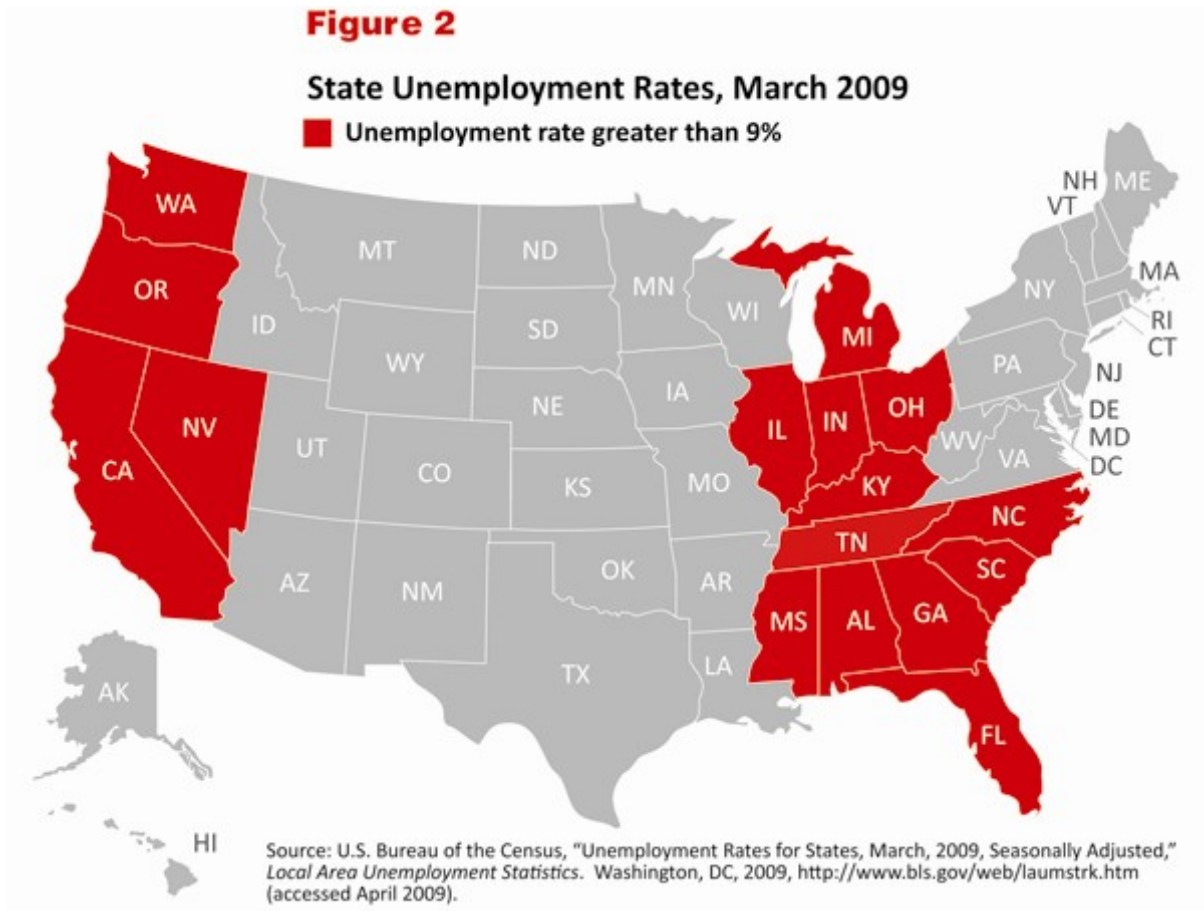
Figure 1

Latinos in States with Unemployment Rates Higher than 9%			
States	Overall Unemployment Rate, March 2009*	Latino Population, Ages 18-64 (in thousands)†	Latinos, % of State Population‡
Michigan	12.6%	238	3.8 Percent
Oregon	12.1	230	9.6
South Carolina	11.4	105	3.8
California	11.2	7,967	34.4
North Carolina	10.8	389	6.8
Rhode Island	10.5	74	11.0
Nevada	10.4	375	23.2
Indiana	10	182	5.5
District of Columbia	9.8	35	8.6
Kentucky	9.8	53	2.0
Florida	9.7	2,374	21.3
Ohio	9.7	164	2.3
Tennessee	9.6	126	3.2
Georgia	9.4	2,718	2.0
Mississippi	9.2	5,436	7.4
Washington	9.2	358	8.6
Illinois	9.1	1,179	14.6
Alabama	9.0	72	2.5

Sources: *U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Unemployment Rates for States, March, 2009, Seasonally Adjusted," *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. Washington, DC, 2009, <http://www.bls.gov/web/laumstrk.htm> (accessed April 2009).

† Pew Hispanic Center, "State and County Databases" (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2008). <http://pewhispanic.org/states> (accessed May

Now, more than ever, unemployed workers and their families rely on community-based organizations for short-term relief and resources for improving their prospects in this difficult job market. Nearly 300 such organizations belong to the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Affiliate Network, serving Hispanic Americans in communities throughout the country. Table 1 lists the states with the highest unemployment rates and their Latino populations, demonstrating where there is acute need for community-based assistance and increased services.



NCLR is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, working with its Affiliates to reach Hispanic Americans in 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. For an interactive map of the entire NCLR Affiliate Network, [click here](#).

Visit NCLR's new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act web page at www.nclr.org/recoveryact to find helpful resources for individuals, community-based organizations, and advocates.

¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Data Retrieval: Labor Force Statistics," Current Population Survey, Table A-2 and Table A-3, <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab2.htm>, (accessed May 2009).