

Representation

- In 2006, Hispanics represented 14% of the U.S. labor force, 15% of the unemployed, 12% of the long-term unemployed, 22% of those working part-time for economic reasons, and 13% of marginally attached workers. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Charting the U.S. Labor Market in 2006*]

Employment status

- Hispanics have a higher labor force participation rate than others. In 2006, the labor force participation rate—the percentage of persons 16 years and over who were working or looking for work—was 69% percent for Hispanics, 64% for blacks, and 66% for whites and Asians. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Charting the U.S. Labor Market in 2006*]
- In 2007, the highest percentage of employed Hispanics 16 and over were in service occupations (24%), followed by sales and office occupations (21%) and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (19%). [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, Household Data, Employed persons by occupation, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, Table 10]
- In 2007, 18% of Latinos 16 and over were employed in management, professional, and related occupations. At the same time, those occupations employed the highest percentages of whites (37%), blacks (27%), and Asians (48%) age 16 and over. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, Household Data, Employed persons by occupation, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, Table 10]
- The unemployment rate for Hispanics 16 and over in the civilian workforce was 6% in 2007. In comparison, the unemployment rate for white peers was 4%, and for black peers 8%. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, Household Data, Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex, age, and race, Table 4, 5]
- The employment-population ratio of Hispanics aged 25 and over is higher than other groups for all levels of educational attainment. In 2007, Hispanics with less than a high school diploma had an employment-population ratio of 59% compared to 43% of all others. Hispanics with a bachelor's degree or higher had an employment-population ratio of 80% compared to 76% of all others. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, Household Data, Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Table 7]

Earnings and education

- The median weekly earnings of Hispanics were lower than for other groups. In 2007, the median weekly salary earnings of Hispanics were \$503, compared to \$716 for whites, \$569 for blacks, and \$830 for Asians. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, Household Data, Median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, Table 37]
- Unemployment rates generally decline with higher levels of education. In 2006, the unemployment rate for Hispanic college graduates was 2% while the rate for Hispanics with less than a high school diploma was 6%. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Charting the U.S. Labor Market in 2006*] Education pays for Hispanics. Among Hispanics, median weekly earnings for high school dropouts were \$396, compared to \$860 for college graduates. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Charting the U.S. Labor Market in 2006*]