

Hispanics: Labor Force & Economy

February 2016, Vol. 7, No. 3

Highlights

- ◆ Idaho's civilian labor force is becoming more diverse, mainly because of the state's growing Hispanic population. In 2014, Hispanics made up 12% of Idaho's available labor force, compared to 10% in 2010 and 7% in 2000.^a
- ◆ In 2014, Idaho's 83,300 Hispanic workers made up 11% of the state's employed workers, compared to 16% at the national level.^a
- ◆ On average, Hispanic workers in Idaho earn less than other workers. For example, median annual earnings among full-time, year-round Hispanic male workers was \$29,084 in 2014, compared to \$46,479 among non-Hispanic male workers.^a
- ◆ Hispanic unemployment rates have fallen since the recession ended, but remained 2.3 percentage points higher than non-Hispanic rates in 2014.^a

Hispanics in Idaho's labor force

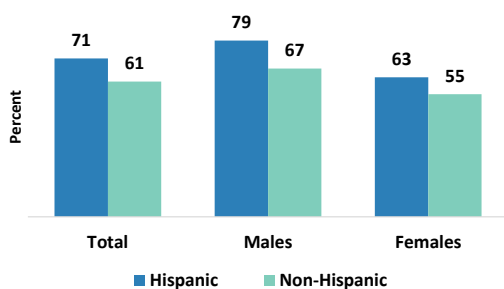
Hispanics made up 12% of the state's civilian labor force in 2014, compared to 16% at the national level. They are more likely than other Idahoans to be in the labor force (which is defined as being employed or looking for work): 71% of Idaho's Hispanics are in the labor force, compared to 61% of non-Hispanics. This difference holds true among both males and females and reflects the age distribution of the Hispanic population.

As a group, Hispanics are younger and less likely than non-Hispanics to be retired.^a

During the recession, (2007 to 2009) the number of employed workers held almost steady among Hispanics and fell among non-Hispanics. The number of employed Hispanics decreased 0.3%, compared to a 4% decrease among non-Hispanic workers. Since the recession (2009 to 2014), the number of employed Hispanic workers increased 32%, compared to a 3% increase among non-Hispanic workers.^a

Hispanic workers are less likely than non-Hispanic workers to be self-employed—3%, compared to 8%—or employed by the government—7%, compared to 16%. They are more likely than non-Hispanics to be employed as private wage and salary workers—89%, compared to 76%.^a

Labor force participation rates in Idaho, 2014



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The University of Idaho's **James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research**

was founded in 2007. The Center's approach to addressing society's complex issues sustains

Senator McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaboration and sound public policy.

View the full series of *Idaho at a Glance* policy briefs at www.uidaho.edu/IdahoataGlance

Make-up of Idaho's Hispanic Labor Force

Industries in which Hispanics work

Agriculture employs more Hispanics than any other industry in Idaho. In 2014, 16% of the state's Hispanics worked in agriculture, which the Census Bureau groups with forestry, fishing, hunting and mining. This compares to 4% of non-Hispanic workers.^a

One-fifth of the state's Hispanics live in counties in which farming is a significant part of the local economy. Examples of farming-dependent counties with a high percentage of Hispanics include Jerome County (34% Hispanic), Minidoka County (34% Hispanic), and Power County (31% Hispanic).^{a,b}

Hispanics are also disproportionately represented in the manufacturing industry, which includes food processing such as dairy and meat processing. They are underrepresented in the education, health, and social assistance industries.

Since the end of the recession, most industries gained Hispanic workers, especially retail trade and agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining. Hispanic employment even grew in industries where non-Hispanic employment fell: construction, and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service.^a

Idaho Employment	2014		2009-2014	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
	Number		Change (number)	
Employed workers age 16+	83,324	643,444	20,389	20,904
	Percent of employed workers		Change (number)	
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	16	4	4,900	2,100
Education, health, social assistance	13	23	2,500	4,800
Manufacturing	13	9	600	3,100
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service	13	9	2,400	-1,300
Retail trade	11	12	3,600	1,900
Construction	9	7	2,400	-7,300
All other sectors	24	36	4,000	16,200
EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION				
Natural resources, construction, maintenance	25	10	6,300	-3,500
Service	22	18	3,700	4,300
Sales, administrative	20	24	6,000	-6,200
Production, transportation	17	12	2,200	10,100
Management, professional	16	36	2,200	15,500

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Occupations in which Hispanics work

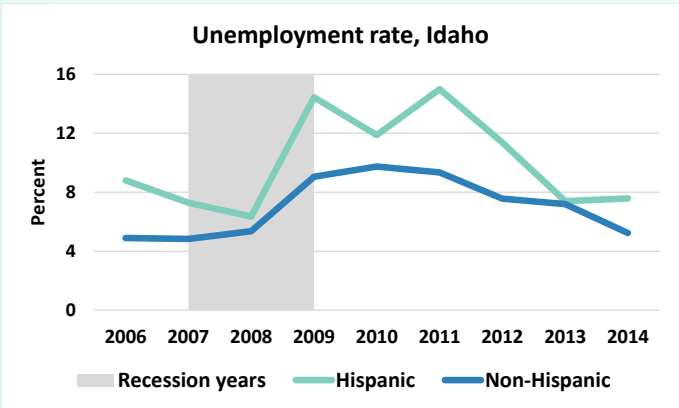
Hispanics are more likely than other workers in Idaho to have low-skill occupations, for example, service, farming and construction occupations. They are less likely than other workers to work in management and professional occupations.^a

Since the end of the recession, Hispanic employment grew the most in natural resources, construction, and maintenance jobs, as well as jobs in sales and administrative positions. Employment of non-Hispanic workers in these two types of jobs fell during the same period.^a

Three quarters of the nation's migrant and seasonal farmworkers are Hispanic.^c The number of such workers changes month to month as seasons change and workers move. In 2015, Idaho's employment of migrant and seasonal farmworkers reached its peak of 18,781 in October.^d

Unemployment among Idaho Hispanics

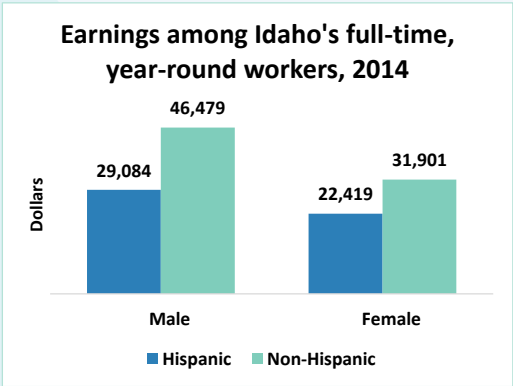
Despite having higher labor force participation rates, Idaho’s Hispanic workers have historically higher unemployment rates than non-Hispanics. The Hispanic unemployment rate was especially high by the end of the 2007-2009 recession, and peaked at 15% in 2011.^a



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Hispanic workers earn less than other Idahoans

Because they are more likely to work in lower-wage industries and occupations, Hispanics earn less on an annual basis than non-Hispanics. In 2014, median earnings for full-time, year-round workers were about \$29,100 for Hispanic males and \$22,400 for Hispanic females, compared to roughly \$46,500 for non-Hispanic males and \$31,900 for non-Hispanic females.^a



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

This difference in earnings is due, in part, to lower educational levels among Hispanic workers. In 2014, 58% of Idaho’s Hispanic adults aged 25 years or older had a high school diploma, and only 8% had a four-year college degree. In contrast, 93% of Idaho’s non-Hispanic adults had a high school diploma, and 27% had a four-year college degree.^a

Hispanic-owned businesses

In 2012, there were roughly 6,250 Hispanic-owned businesses, 62% more than in 2007. This compares to an decrease of 3% among non-Hispanic-owned businesses. From 2007 to 2012, receipts for Hispanic-owned businesses grew from \$457 million to \$619 million, a 35% increase, compared to a decrease of less than 1% among non-Hispanic-owned businesses.^e

In 2012:

- ◆ Hispanic-owned businesses made up 4.3% of Idaho’s roughly 146,600 businesses, compared to 2.6% in 2007.
- ◆ Idaho’s Hispanic-owned businesses tended to be small, employing less than 1% of Idaho’s 492,000 paid employees.
- ◆ 15% of Hispanic-owned businesses had paid employees, compared to 22% of non-Hispanic-owned businesses.

Selected economic indicators	IDAHO		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total
LABOR FORCE ^a			
Civilian labor force, age 16+			
Most recent (#), 2014	90,502	682,960	773,462
Post-recession (#), 2009	73,736	689,985	763,721
Pre-recession (#), 2007	68,413	687,147	755,560
Labor force participation rate (%), 2014	71	61	62
Number of employed workers, age 16+			
Most recent (#), 2014	83,324	643,444	726,768
Post-recession (#), 2009	62,935	622,540	685,475
Pre-recession (#), 2007	63,113	650,959	714,072
Unemployment rate (%)			
Most recent, 2014	7.6	5.3	5.5
Post-recession, 2009	14.5	9.1	9.6
Pre-recession, 2007	7.3	4.9	5.1
Median earnings for full-time, year-round workers (\$), 2014			
Males	29,084	46,479	42,624
Females	22,419	31,901	31,019
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP ^e			
Number of businesses, by ethnicity of business owner (#)			
2012	6,265	136,017	146,642
2007	3,875	140,766	151,671
Change (%), 2007-2012	62	-3	-3
<i>Note: Businesses that are equally-owned by Hispanics and non-Hispanics are only included in the total.</i>			
BUYING POWER ^f			
Household income after taxes (\$), 2013	3.2 billion	48.5 billion	51.7 billion
Household income after taxes (\$), 2009	2.5 billion	41.3 billion	43.8 billion

SPECIAL THANKS: Margie Gonzalez (Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs), Janell Hyer (Idaho Department of Labor), and Paul Lewin (University of Idaho). **OTHERS TBD.**

HISPANIC: An ethnicity that refers to those who identify themselves as “Spanish,” of “Hispanic origin,” or “Latino.” Hispanics may be of any race.

SOURCES:

- a—U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Single-Year Estimates, 2006-2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census of Population and Housing, SF3.
- b—U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2010-2012 Economic County Types.
- c—National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc., “*Farmworker Health Fact Sheet*,” posted online in August 2012.
- d—Idaho Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Idaho Farm Labor, Agricultural Employment Estimates.
- e—U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Business Owners, 2002, 2007, & 2012.
- f—Idaho Department of Labor, *Hispanic Buying Power 2013*.

REPORT AUTHORS:

Christy Dearien, Research Associate
Priscilla Salant, Director

**McClure Center for
Public Policy Research**

mcclurecenter@uidaho.edu

