Hispanic Women in the Labor Force (Infographic)

Women's Bureau
Hispanic Women in the Labor Force (Infographic)

Abstract
There were about 11.1 million Hispanic women in the civilian labor force in 2015, representing 1 in 7 women in the labor force. Of those, 10.3 million were employed.

As a group, Hispanic women tend to have less favorable outcomes than Hispanic men and non-Hispanics, outcomes that could be improved by raising the minimum wage, closing the wage gap, ensuring adequate working conditions and expanding opportunities for higher wage occupations.

The data below highlight the outcomes of Hispanic women, and compares them to their White, non-Hispanic counterparts as a reference group.

Keywords
Women, work, labor force, Hispanic American

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Suggested Citation

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Hispanic women and men earn well below the overall average for their educational attainment levels, with Hispanic women lagging behind, especially when it comes to college graduates. As of 2015, Hispanic women and men earned about 74.8% and 84.8% respectively of the median weekly earnings of White, non-Hispanic women and men. This wage gap can be attributed to a number of factors, including lower educational attainment and concentration in lower-paying occupations.

**Educational Attainment**

- **Less than high school:** 5.9% for Hispanic women, 3.8% for Hispanic men.
- **High school diploma:** 20.3% for Hispanic women, 21.9% for Hispanic men.
- **Some college or associate’s degree:** 22.2% for Hispanic women, 29.8% for Hispanic men.
- **Bachelor’s degree:** 8.0% for Hispanic women, 13.2% for Hispanic men.
- **Advanced degree:** 3.2% for Hispanic women, 2.7% for Hispanic men.

**Labor Force Participation Rate**

- **2019:** 55.6% for Hispanic women, 61.7% for Hispanic men.
- **2015:** 52.6% for Hispanic women, 59.7% for Hispanic men.

**Average Weekly Earnings**

- **2019:** $35,673 for Hispanic women, $43,063 for Hispanic men.
- **2015:** $31,109 for Hispanic women, $39,085 for Hispanic men.

**Occupations**

- **Service occupations:** Hispanic women and men are more likely to be in service occupations (52.6% and 48.4% respectively) compared to their non-Hispanic counterparts (45.2% and 40.3%).
- **Non-Hispanic women:** 27.2%
- **Hispanic women:** 30.0%

**Educational Enrollment**

- **2015:** 10.2% for Hispanic women, 6.8% for Hispanic men, compared to 9.0% for non-Hispanic women and 5.8% for non-Hispanic men.

**Employment Distribution**

- **2015:** 72.2% of Hispanic families with children under 18 are in poverty, compared to 15.1% of non-Hispanic families with children under 18.

**Earnings in the Labor Force**

- **Hispanic women:** $430, $438
- **Hispanic men:** $437, $438
- **Non-Hispanic women:** $482
- **Non-Hispanic men:** $575

**Wage Gap**

- **2015:** $57,204 for Hispanic women, $71,404 for Hispanic men, compared to $75,304 for non-Hispanic women and $79,004 for non-Hispanic men.

**Labor Force Participation Rate**

- **2015:** 52.6% for Hispanic women, 59.7% for Hispanic men.
- **2019:** 55.6% for Hispanic women, 61.7% for Hispanic men.

**HISPANIC WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE**

- **Labor force participation rate:** Hispanic women are more likely to be in the labor force than 20 years ago, and their labor force participation rate is projected to surpass that of White non-Hispanic women, while White non-Hispanic women’s participation rate will fall to 55.7%.
- **Median weekly earnings:** Hispanic women had lower earnings in each of the occupational groups compared to their non-Hispanic counterparts, with Hispanic women earning less than half of the earnings of White, non-Hispanic women.
- **Educational attainment:** Hispanic women are less likely to have completed high school or to be college graduates (56.8%) compared to their White, non-Hispanic counterparts (44.6%).

**Notes:**

- **Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program.
- **Note:** Hispanic women are more likely to be in the labor force than 20 years ago, and their labor force participation rate is projected to surpass that of White non-Hispanic women, while White non-Hispanic women’s participation rate will fall to 55.7%.
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