LATINO DATA PROJECT

Unemployment and Labor Force Participation Rates Among Racial/Ethnic Groups and Latino Nationalities in the New York Metro Area and the Five Boroughs

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This report details the unemployment rates among Latino origin groups and racial/ethnic groups in the New York Metro area. The data are broken down by boroughs and by the eight largest Latino origin groups in New York: Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans, Cubans, Colombians, Guatemalans, Peruvians and Ecuadorians. The data for this report were derived from the 2005 American Community Survey published by the U.S. Census Bureau.[1]

The New York Metro Area had an average unemployment rate of 4.5%, as reported in the American Community Survey of 2005. [2] Latinos in the New York Metro Area reported an unemployment rate of 6.4% (see figures 1 and 2 and table 1). African-Americans had an even higher unemployment rate of 7%. Whites (3.7%) and Asians (4.2%) had the lowest rates of unemployment. While Latinos and African-Americans fared considerably worse than Asians, Whites or others, unemployment rates have decreased for Latinos since 1999 when there was a 7.1% unemployment rate for Latinos and an 8.5% unemployment rate for African-Americans[3].

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[1] Data are available at http://www.census.gov/acs/. Data examined in this report are unemployment rates and rates of labor force non-participation rates. The U.S. Census classifies those not in the labor force as anyone who is not working nor actively seeking employment, such as students, homemakers, retired people and discouraged workers. Only adults over the age of 16 are included in this report.

[2] The metropolitan area is defined by the United States Census Bureau as the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with an estimated population (as of 2005) of 18,747,320

[3] The data reported from the US Census 2000 is taken from the Latino Data Project, available at: http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/Latinodatabases.htm

Figure 1: Unemployment Rates Among Racial/Ethnic Groups
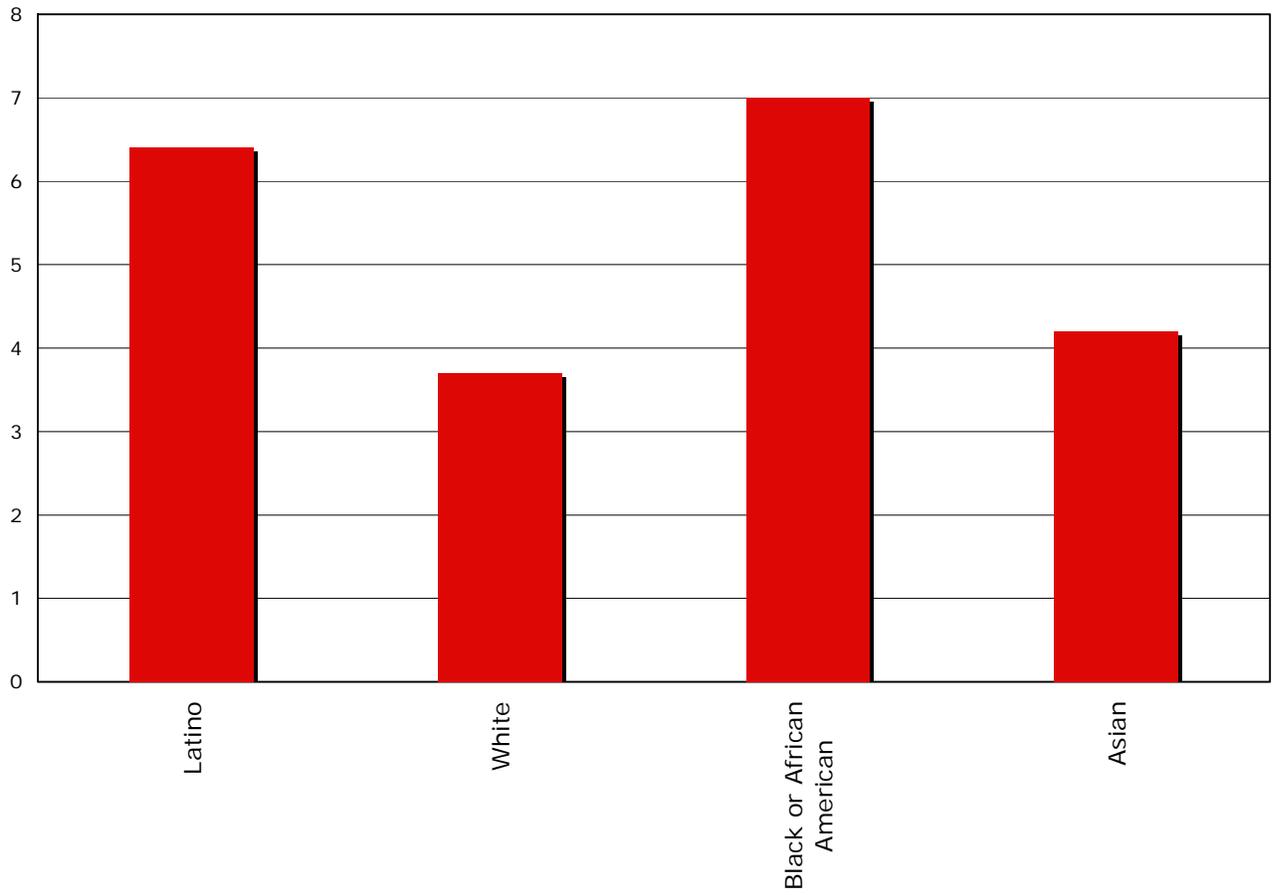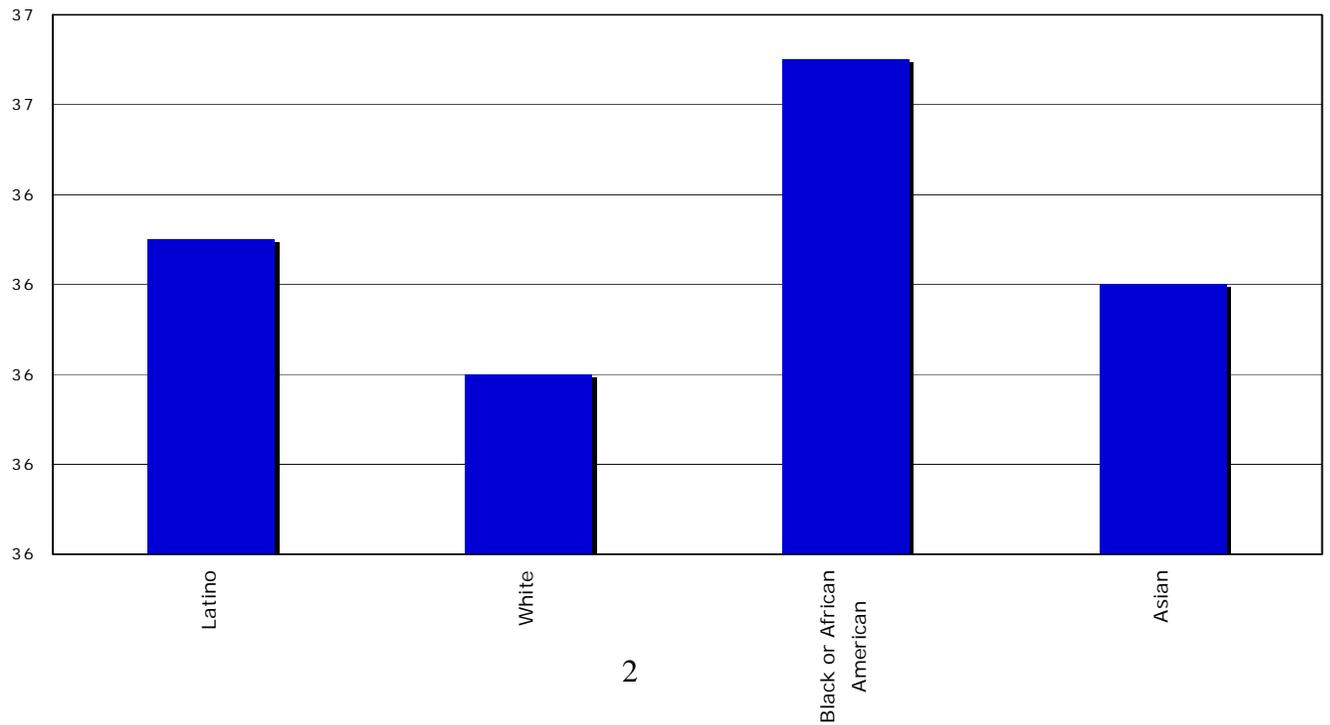### Ages 16 and Older, New York Metro Area in Percentages

Figure 2: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Racial/Ethnic Groups
Ages 16 and Older, New York Metro in Percentages

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**Table 1: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates
Among Racial/Ethnic Groups, Ages 16 and Older
New York Metro in Percentages**

Ethnic/Racial Group	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Latino	6.4	36.3
White	3.7	36.0
African American	7.0	36.7
Asian	4.2	36.7

Unemployment Rates by Latino Nationality

Employment patterns vary widely among Latino nationalities and across boroughs. Figures 3 and 4 and table 2 show the unemployment and labor force participation rates broken down by Latino nationalities in the New York Metro Area. As a whole, Dominicans (7.4%) and Puerto Ricans (6.8%) had the highest rates of unemployment and both groups had low rates of labor force participation. Cubans also reported a low rate of labor participation. When compared to the rest of the Latino population in the New York Metro area, a large percentage (13.9%) of Puerto Ricans were over 60, however this number is not high enough to account for such a high percentage of Puerto Ricans out of the labor force. Dominicans had a relatively low percentage of the population above 60 (8.3%).

These rates as well as a Pearson's statistical test of correlation indicate that more than half of the low labor force participation rate might be due to other factors such as discouraged workers who are no longer seeking employment. Cubans have a significant correlation (.744) between members of the population over the age of 60 and low labor force participation rates; 29% of Cubans were over the age of 60 at the time of the survey, which explains a large part of the low labor force participation among them. Guatemalans reported the lowest unemployment rate (3.4%,), which also corresponds with a high rate of labor force participation; 78.6% of Guatemalans reported being in the labor force. As to be expected the actual unemployment rates are lower in the 2005 ACS than in the 2000 Census. In both the 2000 Census and 2005 ACS, both Dominicans and Puerto Ricans reported the highest unemployment rates and Guatemalans reported the lowest.

In the **Bronx** the groups with the highest rate of unemployment were Colombians (10.9%) and Ecuadorians (10.1%). Dominicans also reported a high rate of unemployment (7.9 %). These rates are much higher than the average rate of for Latinos (6.4%) in the New York Metro area as well as for Latinos in the Bronx (6.5%). Neither Colombians (34.8%) nor Ecuadorians (27.1%) in the Bronx

reported high rates of labor force non-participation, indicating that the high unemployment rates of Colombians and Ecuadorians might be due to people actively seeking employment who have not become discouraged.

Moreover, Pearson's statistical correlations show that the labor force non-participation rates for Colombians (-.127) and Ecuadorians (.237) are not explained by an older population, which would indicate an even higher rate of unemployment since discouraged workers and others are not counted in the unemployment rates. Mexicans (3%), Cubans (3.9%) and Peruvians (3.1%) experienced the lowest rates of unemployment in the Bronx; these rates are considerably lower than the average New York Metro area rate of Latino unemployment. Latino groups in the Bronx had some of the highest inequality in relation to unemployment rates. (see figures 5 and 6 and table 3)

Cubans (9%) Dominicans (8%) and Colombians (6.2%) had the highest rates of unemployment in **Manhattan.** Puerto Ricans had a high rate of labor force non-participation, 53.5%. A Pearson's correlation of .372 shows that this can be explained in part by the population over 60 (23.4%) but also includes a large number of others such as discouraged workers, students or stay-at-home mothers, indicating that the real unemployment rate for Puerto Ricans in Manhattan was much higher. Similar to the patterns in the Bronx, Mexicans in Manhattan had the lowest rate of unemployment, 3.3% (see figures 7 and 8 and table 4).

The average unemployment rate for the population in **Brooklyn** was 5.6%, which is 1.1% percentage points higher than the average population unemployment rate in the New York Metro area. In Brooklyn, Puerto Ricans reported the highest unemployment rate of 8.9% as well as the highest rate of non-labor force participation (48.4%) However, a Pearson correlation of .298 shows that only a small part of the labor force non-participation rate can be attributed to an older, retired population. Cubans, Dominicans and Peruvians also had high rates of unemployment. Colombians reported a 1% rate of unemployment, which is dramatically different from the unemployment rate among Colombians in the Bronx. This may be due in large part to the group's high labor force non-participation rate (47.4%). (see figures 9 and 10 and table 5)

In **Queens** Puerto Ricans had some of the lowest unemployment rates in **(**3.8%), which was the lowest rate for Puerto Ricans across the five boroughs. However, 40.5% of Puerto Ricans did not participate in the labor force and a Pearson's correlation of .071 shows that the age of the population only explains a small part of the labor force non-participation rate, indicating that in fact the true unemployment rate for Puerto Ricans might be much higher. Guatemalans also reported a low unemployment rate of 2% yet the labor force non-participation rate was only 20%, significantly lower than the labor force non-participation rates for Puerto Ricans. Ecuadorians (6.8%), Colombians (6.5%) and Dominicans (6.1%) had the highest unemployment rate in Queens, all of which approach the average

unemployment rate for the Latino population in the New York Metro area. (see figures 11 and 12 and table 6)

As a result of the small population sample of the American Community Survey, the data on employment status in **Staten Island** is not extensive. The data show some of the highest employment rates for Latinos in the five boroughs as well as some the highest unemployment rates; Mexicans reported a 17.4% unemployment rate and Dominicans reported a 12.6% unemployment rate. These rates are considerably higher than the average unemployment rate for Latinos in Staten Island of 7.7%. (see figures 13 and 14 and table 7)

Figure 3: Unemployment Rates Rates Among Latino Nationalities
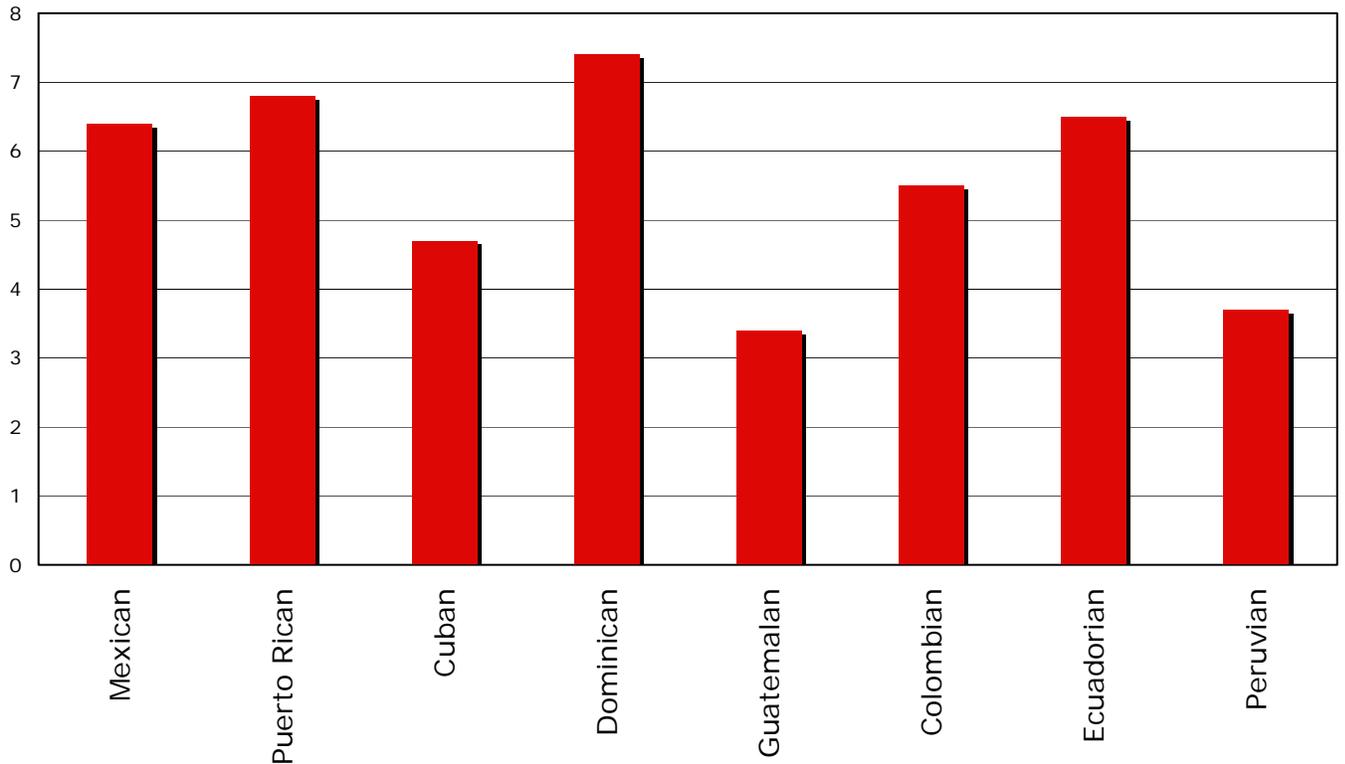Ages 16 and Older, New York Metro Area in Percentages

Figure 4: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities
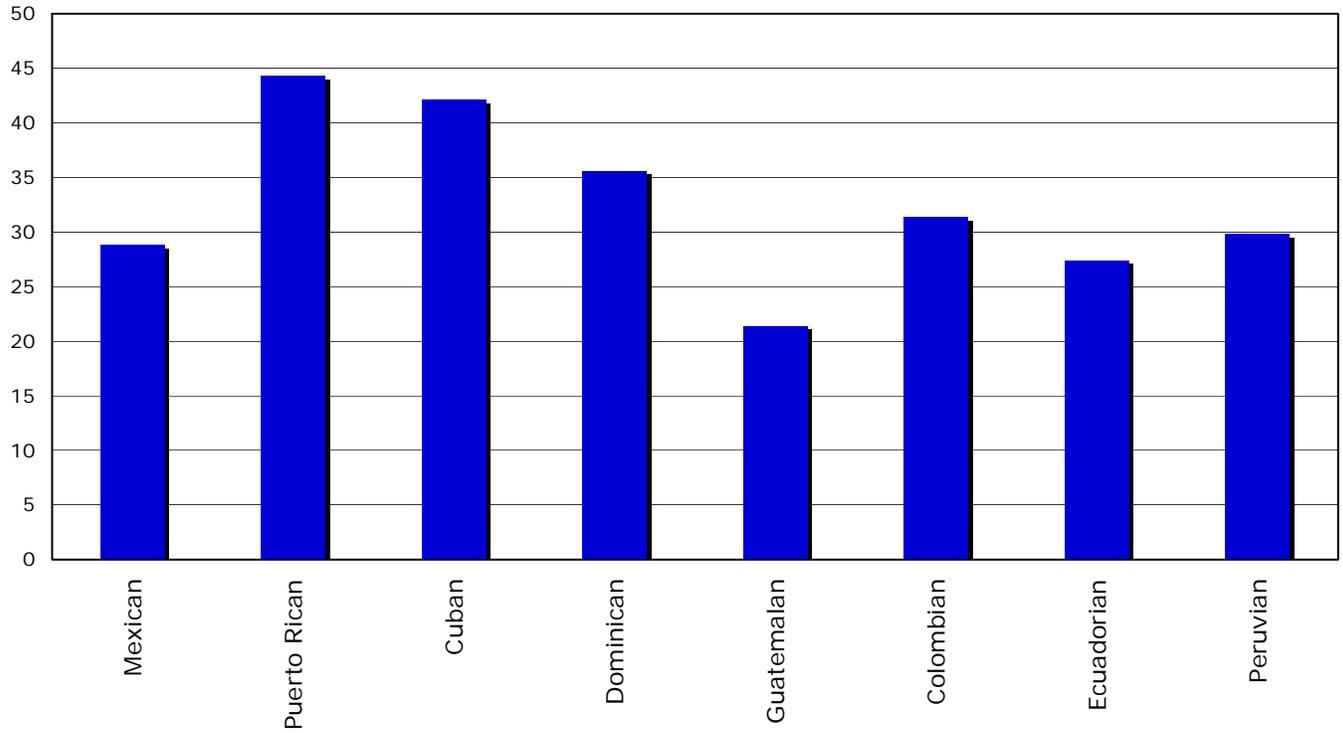Ages 16 and Older, New York Metro Area in Percentages

**Table 2: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among
Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older
New York Metro Area in Percentages**

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	6.4	28.8
Puerto Rican	6.8	44.3
Cuban	4.7	42.1
Dominican	7.4	35.6
Guatemalan	3.4	21.4
Colombian	5.5	31.4
Ecuadorian	6.5	27.4
Peruvian	3.7	29.8

Figure 5: Unemployment Rates Among Latino Nationalities
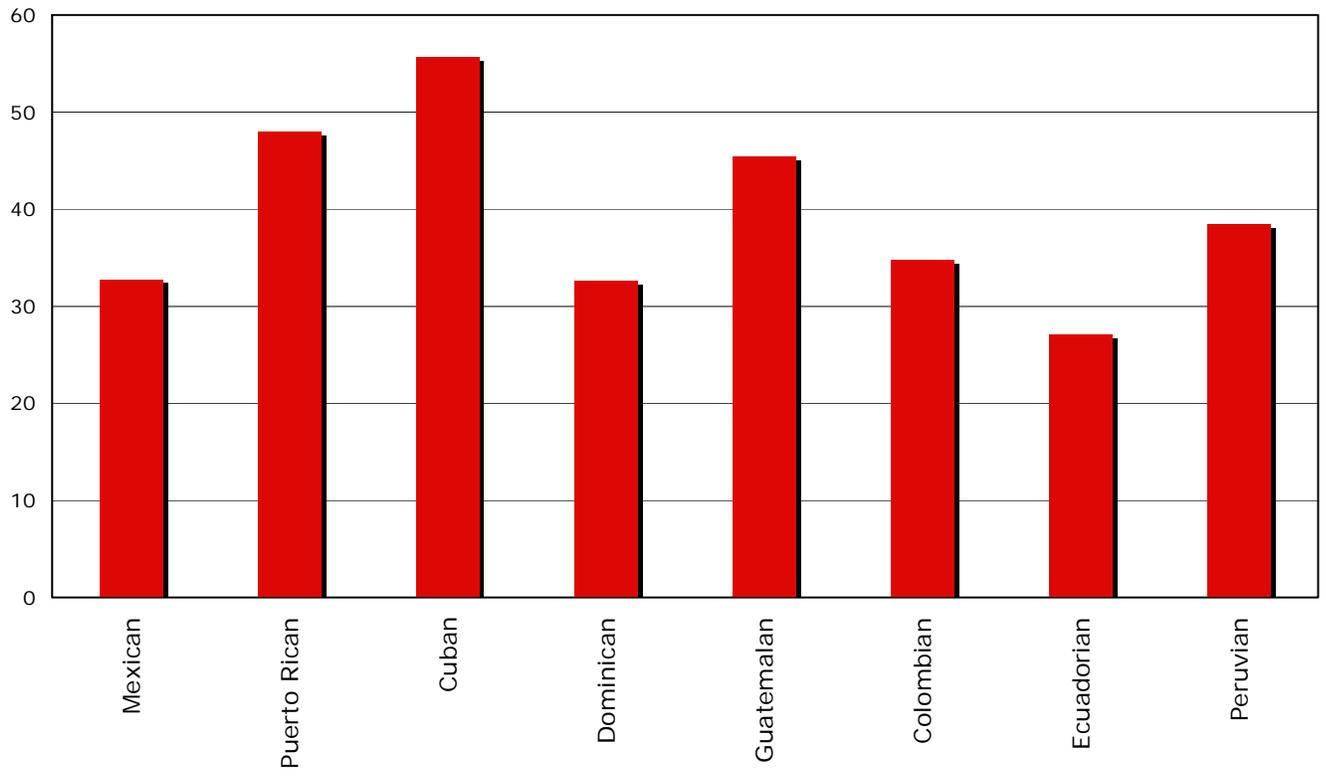## Ages 16 and Older, Bronx in Percentages

Figure 6: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities
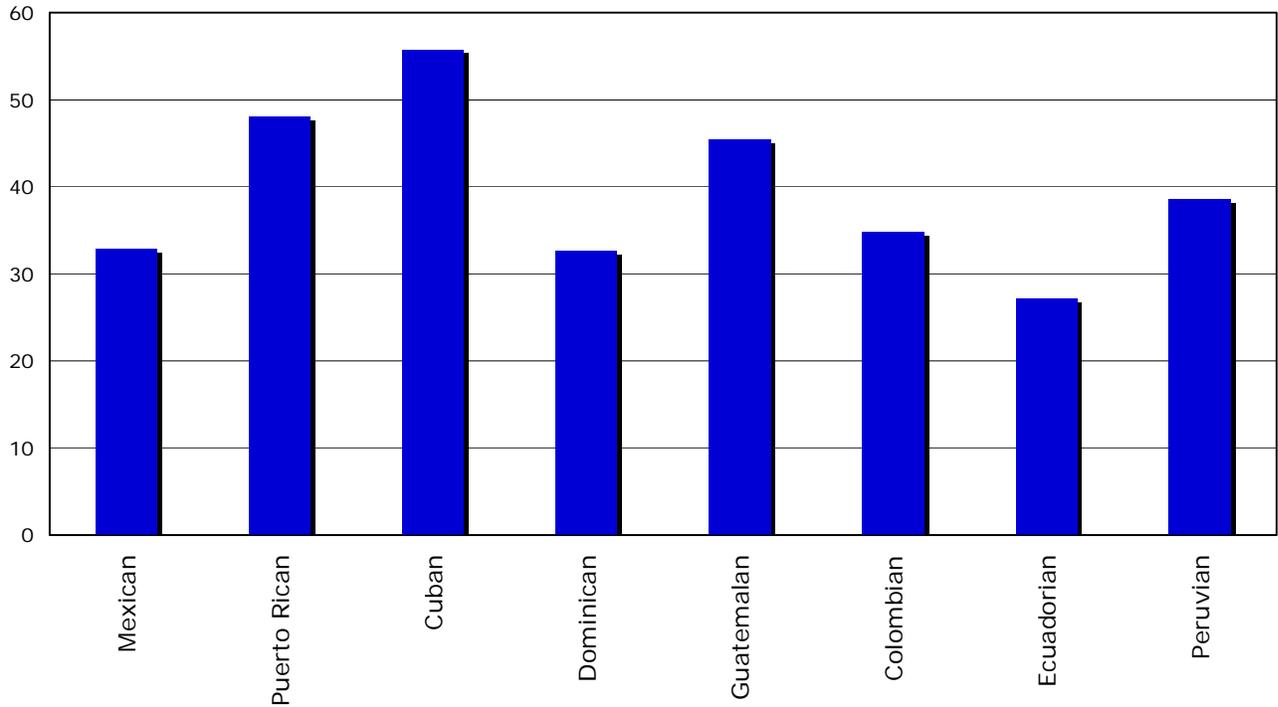Ages 16 and Older, Bronx in Percentages

Table 3: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older Bronx in Percentages

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	3.0	32.8
Puerto Rican	6.2	48.0
Cuban	3.9	55.7
Dominican	7.9	32.6
Guatemalan	NA	45.4
Colombian	10.9	34.8
Ecuadorian	10.1	27.1
Peruvian	3.1	38.5

Figure 7: Unemployment Rates Among Latino Nationalities
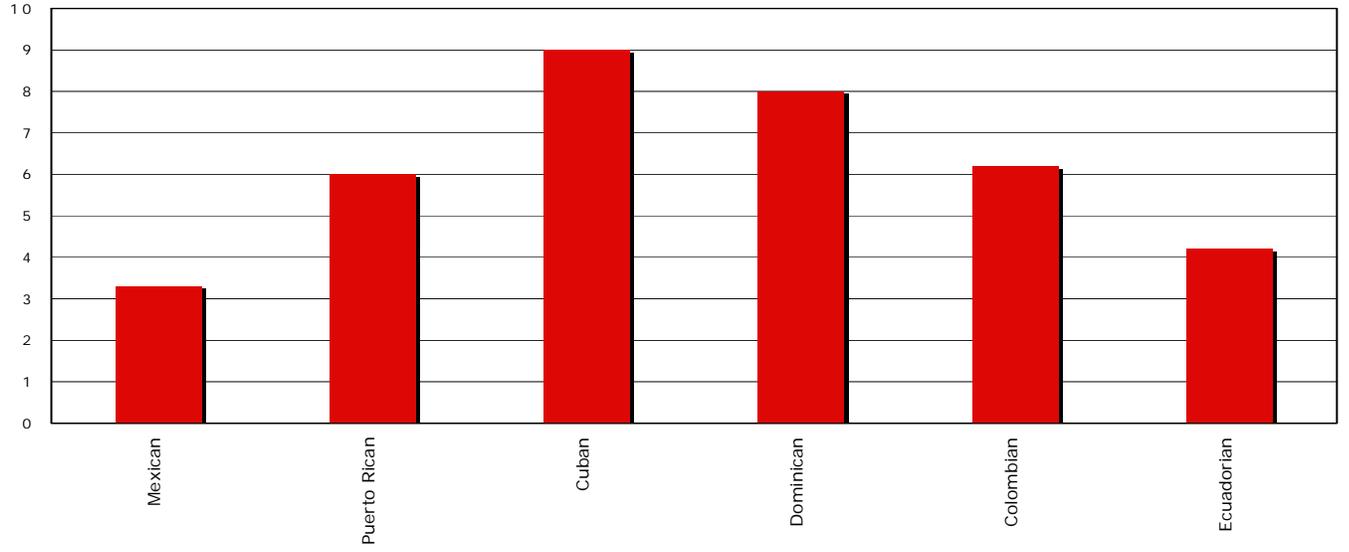Ages 16 and older, Manhattan in Percentages

Figure 8: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities
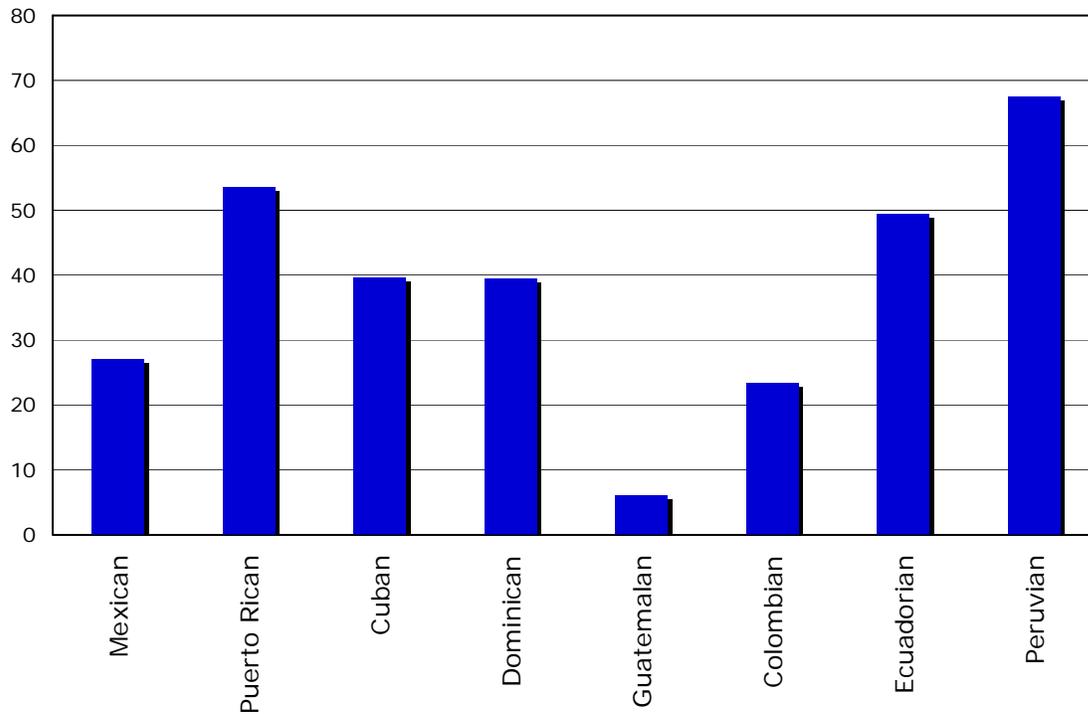Ages 16 and older, Manhattan in Percentages

**Table 4: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among
Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older
Manhattan in Percentages**

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	3.3	27.0
Puerto Rican	6.0	53.5
Cuban	9.0	39.6
Dominican	8.0	39.4
Guatemalan	NA	6.1
Colombian	6.2	23.4
Ecuadorian	4.2	49.4
Peruvian	NA	67.5

Figure 9: Unemployment Rates Among Latino Nationalities
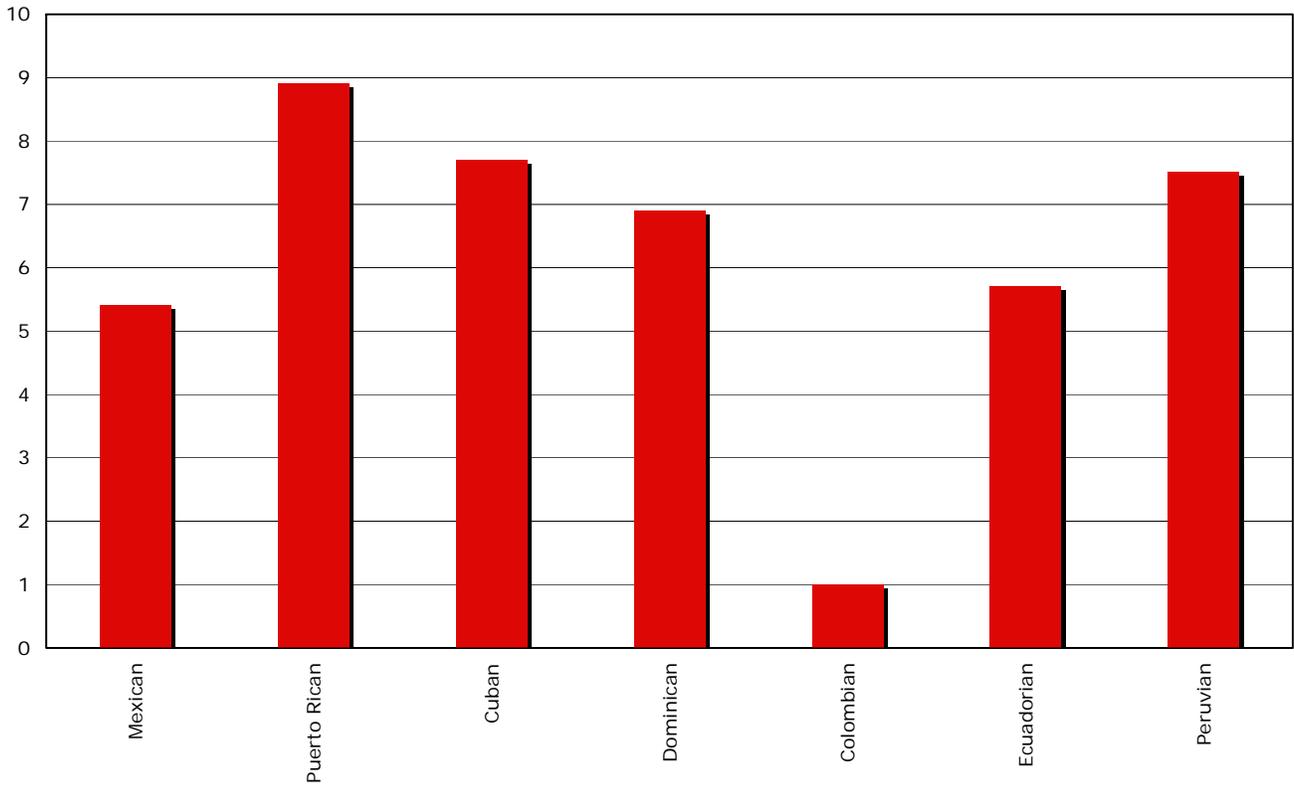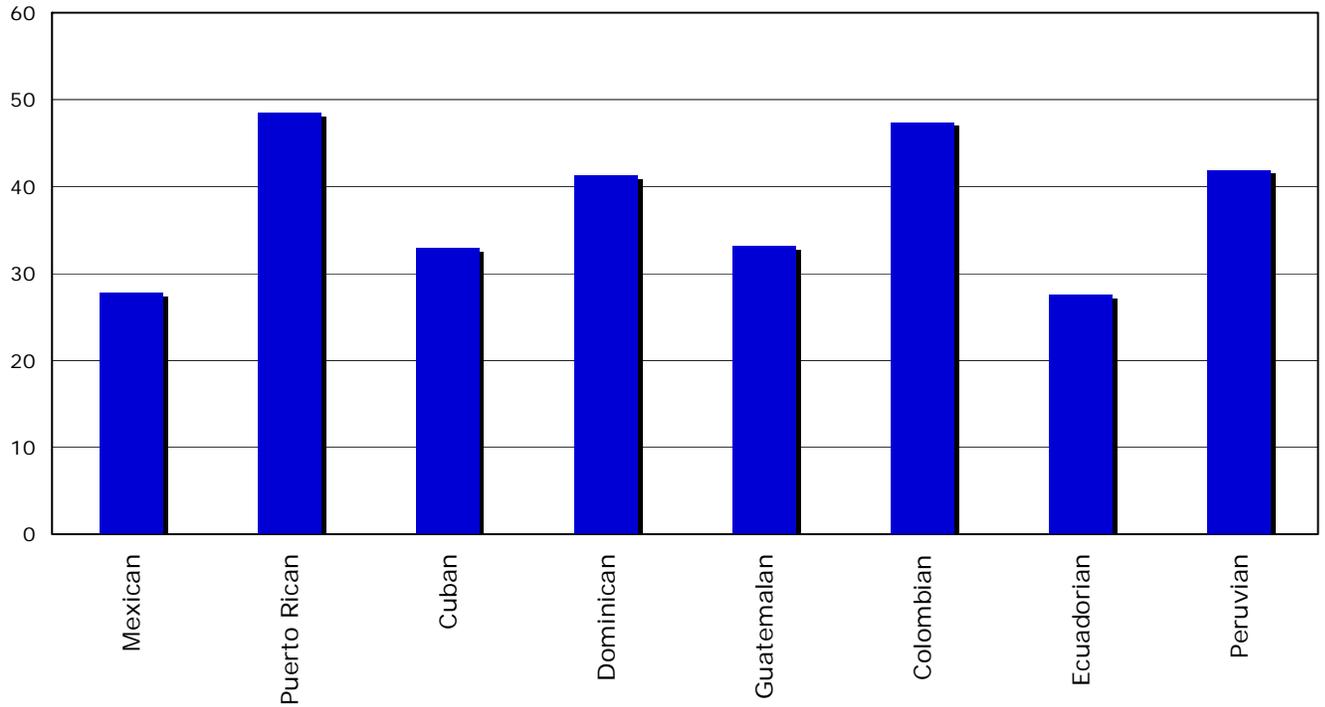Ages 16 and Older, Brooklyn in Percentages

Figure 10: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities
Ages 16 and Older, Brooklyn in Percentagesw

**Table 5: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among
Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older
Brooklyn in Percentages**

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	5.4	27.8
Puerto Rican	8.9	48.4
Cuban	7.7	32.9
Dominican	6.9	41.2
Guatemalan	NA	33.1
Colombian	1.0	47.4
Ecuadorian	5.7	27.5
Peruvian	7.5	41.9

Figure 11: Unemployment Rates Among Latino Nationalities
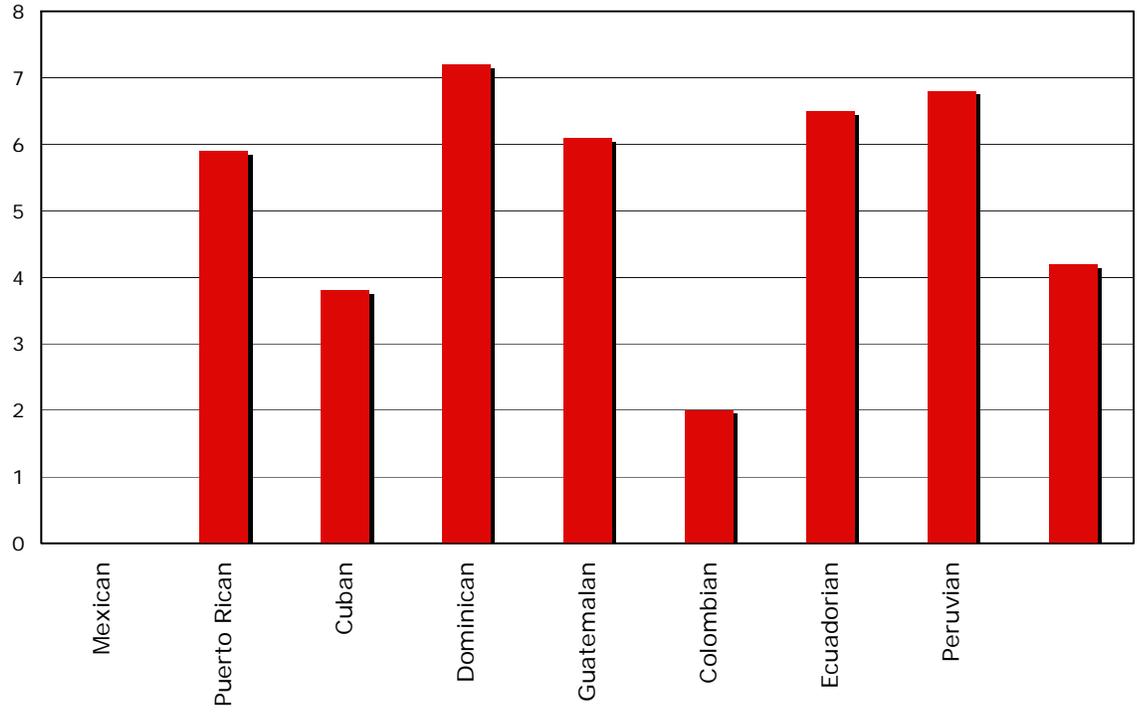Ages 16 and Older, Queens in Percentages

Figure 12: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino Nationalities
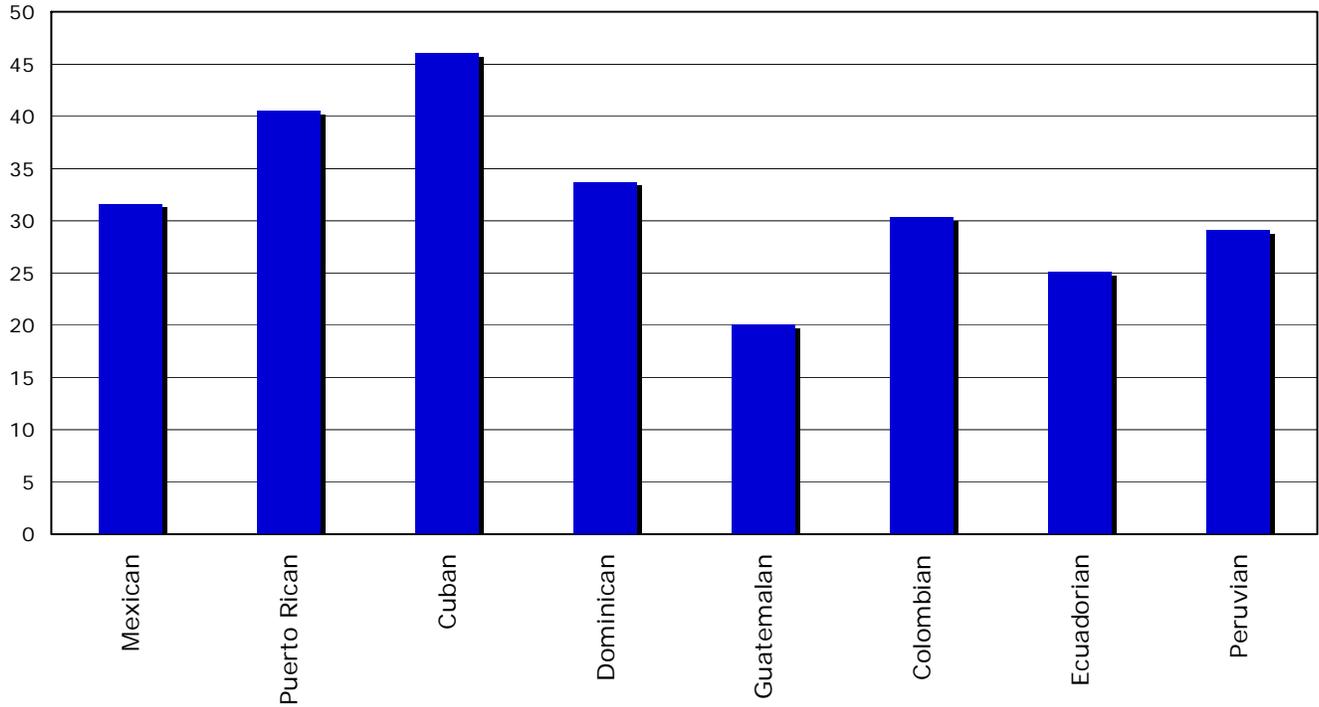Ages 16 and Older, Queens in Percentages

**Table 6: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among
Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older
Queens in Percentages**

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	5.9	31.6
Puerto Rican	3.8	40.5
Cuban	7.2	46.0
Dominican	6.1	33.7
Guatemalan	2.0	20.0
Colombian	6.5	30.3
Ecuadorian	6.8	25.1
Peruvian	4.2	29.1

Figure 13: Unemployment Rates Among Latino Nationalities
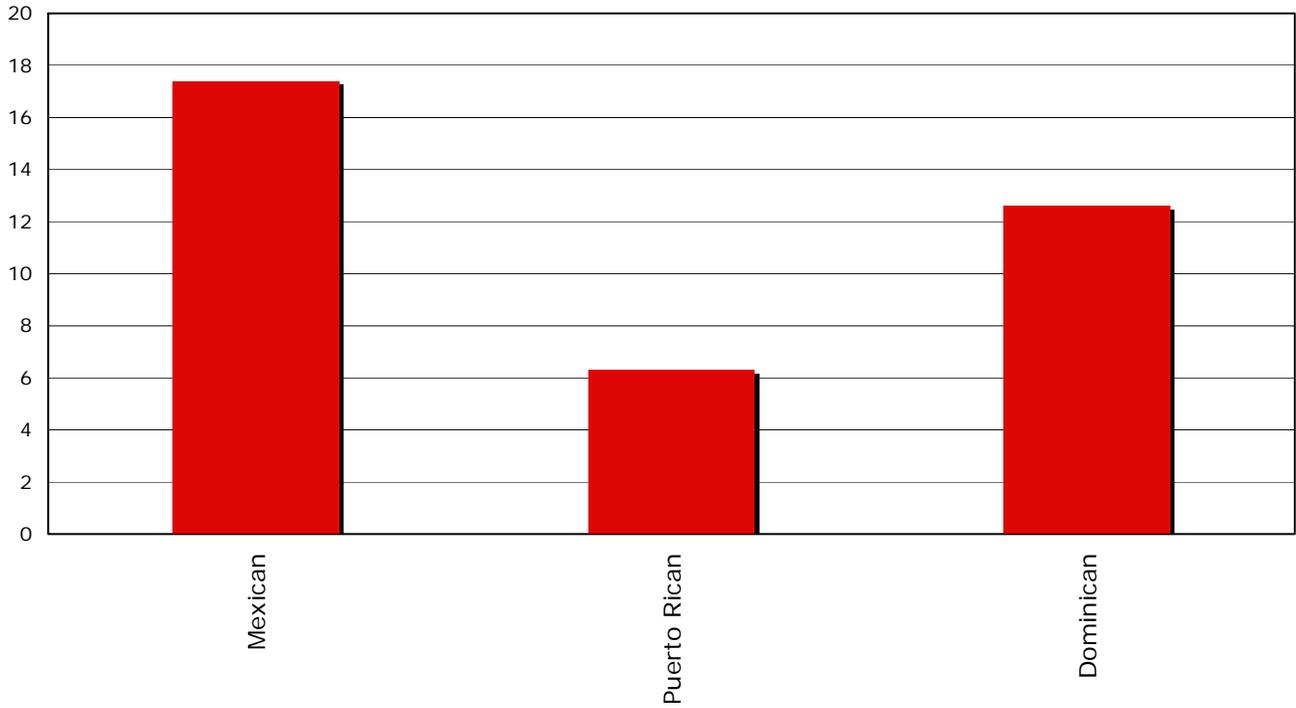Ages 16 and older, Staten Island in Percentages

Figure 14: Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among Latino
Nationalities
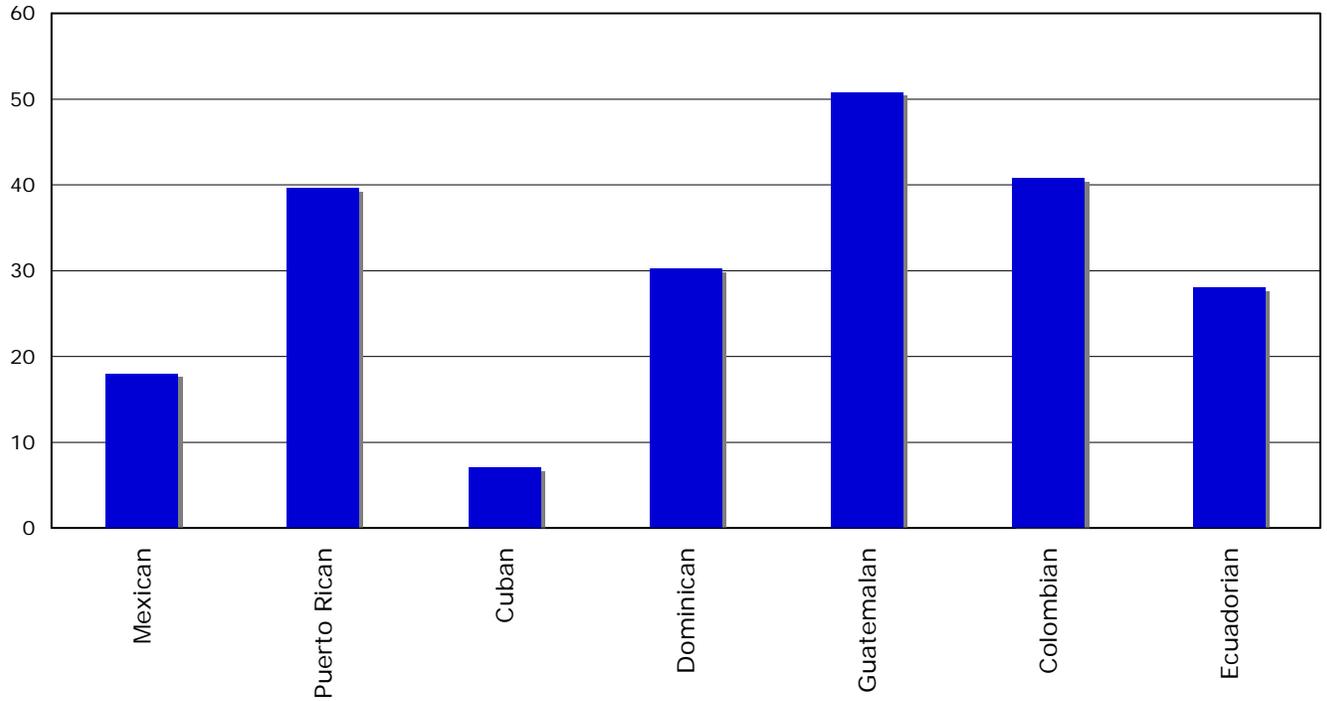Ages 16 and older, Staten Island in Percentages

**Table 7: Unemployment and Labor Force Non-Participation Rates Among
Latino Nationalities Ages 16 and Older
Staten Island (%)**

Latino Nationality	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Mexican	17.4	18.0
Puerto Rican	6.3	39.6
Cuban	NA	7.1
Dominican	12.6	30.2
Guatemalan	NA	50.8
Colombian	NA	40.8
Ecuadorian	NA	28.0
Peruvian	NA	NA

Conclusion

This report shows that in 2005 Latinos in the New York Metro area had the highest unemployment rate behind African Americans. Puerto Ricans and Dominicans reported the highest rates of unemployment in the New York Metro area. While Puerto Ricans had a high rate of unemployment in Brooklyn, they did not have excessively high rates in the other boroughs. This indicates that much of the high unemployment rate may be attributed to Puerto Ricans living outside of the five boroughs. Dominicans reported consistently high rates of unemployment across the five boroughs. According to the data, Guatemalans had the lowest unemployment rate in New York Metro area, and they showed consistently low rates across the five boroughs. The other groups vary widely across the five boroughs, which would indicate different grouping or settlement patterns according to socio-economic status.

Labor force non-participation rates are reported to show that the real unemployment rates are likely to be much higher than reported. The data and statistical tests of correlations showed that age and retirement status (older than 60) may have some impact on the rate of labor force non-participation, but cannot account for all. Students and homemakers might account for another portion, but the labor force non-participation rates may be highly influenced by discouraged workers. Since discouraged workers do not form part of the labor force, they are not counted in the unemployment rates. In conclusion, Latinos continue to have high rates of unemployment. Reasons such as English speaking abilities, education levels, and citizenship status may all be factors affecting the employment status of Latinos.