

## FAST FACTS: Latinos in South Carolina

- According to U.S. Census Estimates, South Carolina's immigrant population grew faster than any other state in the U.S. between 2006 and 2007.
- According to American Community Survey data (U.S. Census), South Carolina's Latino population increased over 460 percent between 1990 and 2007 (from roughly 30,000 to roughly 168,000).
- Based on immigration rates, school enrollment data and birth rates, researchers at the University of South Carolina's Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies estimate South Carolina's Latino population at between 400,000 and 500,000.
- According to American Community Survey data (U.S. Census), in summer 2007 the majority (63 percent) of South Carolina's Latino immigrants were of Mexican origin, followed by (in order of size) those of Puerto Rican, Central American, South American, and other Caribbean origin. Of Central Americans, most are of Honduran and Guatemalan origin. Of South Americans, the majority (49 percent of those of South American origin) are of Colombian origin, followed by those of Peruvian and Venezuelan origin (14 and 13 percent, respectively).
- The Hispanic population in South Carolina is relatively young: the median age of Hispanic males is 27.2, Hispanic females is 24.7, while the median age of all South Carolinian males is 35.2, and that of all females in the state is 37.5.
- Latinos make important contributions to South Carolina's economy, performing jobs from business management to lower wage positions in a variety of industries.
- Most of the Latino workforce in the state is found in the construction, manufacturing, food processing, service, and agricultural industries.
- The largest Latino communities in South Carolina (in order of size) are found in Greenville, Beaufort, Spartanburg, Richland, Charleston and Horry Counties.
- In some schools in the state, Latino students comprise up to half of the student body.
- Recent reports by the PEW Hispanic Center reveal that the economic downturn has slowed unauthorized migration from Mexico.