



a PewResearchCenter project

Chronicling Latinos' diverse experience in a changing America

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# Ethnicity, Race and Nativity in the U.S. Labor Market

Presentation to the Construction Economics Research Network  
"The Economics of Immigration"  
Washington, DC

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December 7, 2007

# DEMOGRAPHICS

# Household Population, 2005 (in millions)

	Foreign Born	Native Born	Total
Total	35.8	252.6	288.4
Hispanic	16.8	25.1	41.9
White	7.4	185.1	192.5
Black	2.5	31.9	34.4
Asian	8.4	4.0	12.3
Other	0.6	6.6	7.2

Note: White, black, Asian and other populations refer to their non-Hispanic components.

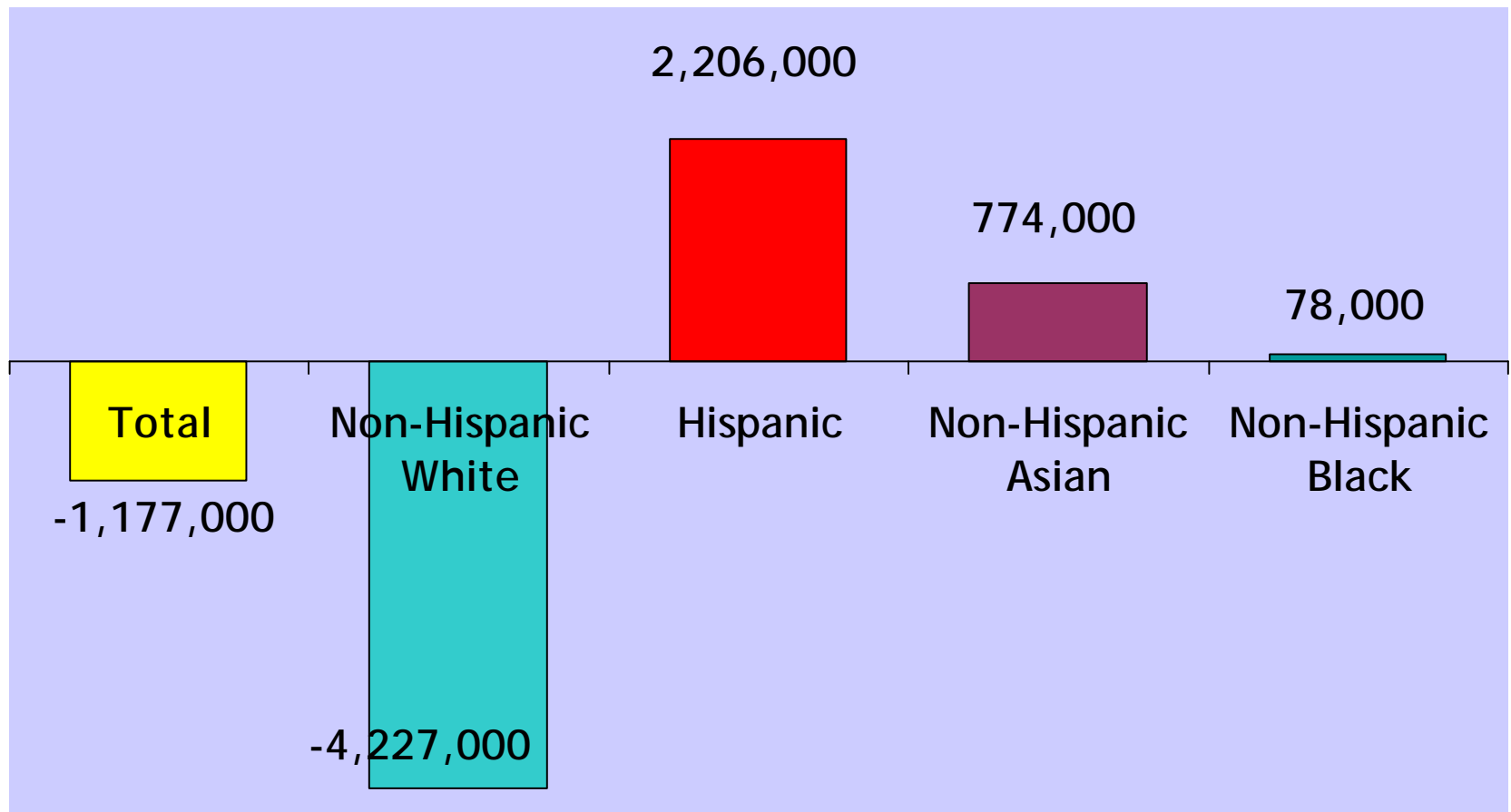
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2005 American Community Survey

# Household Population, 2005 (distribution by race/ethnicity)

	Foreign Born	Native Born
Total	100%	100%
Hispanic	47.1%	9.9%
White	20.8%	73.3%
Black	7.1%	12.6%
Asian	23.4%	1.6%
Other	1.7%	2.6%

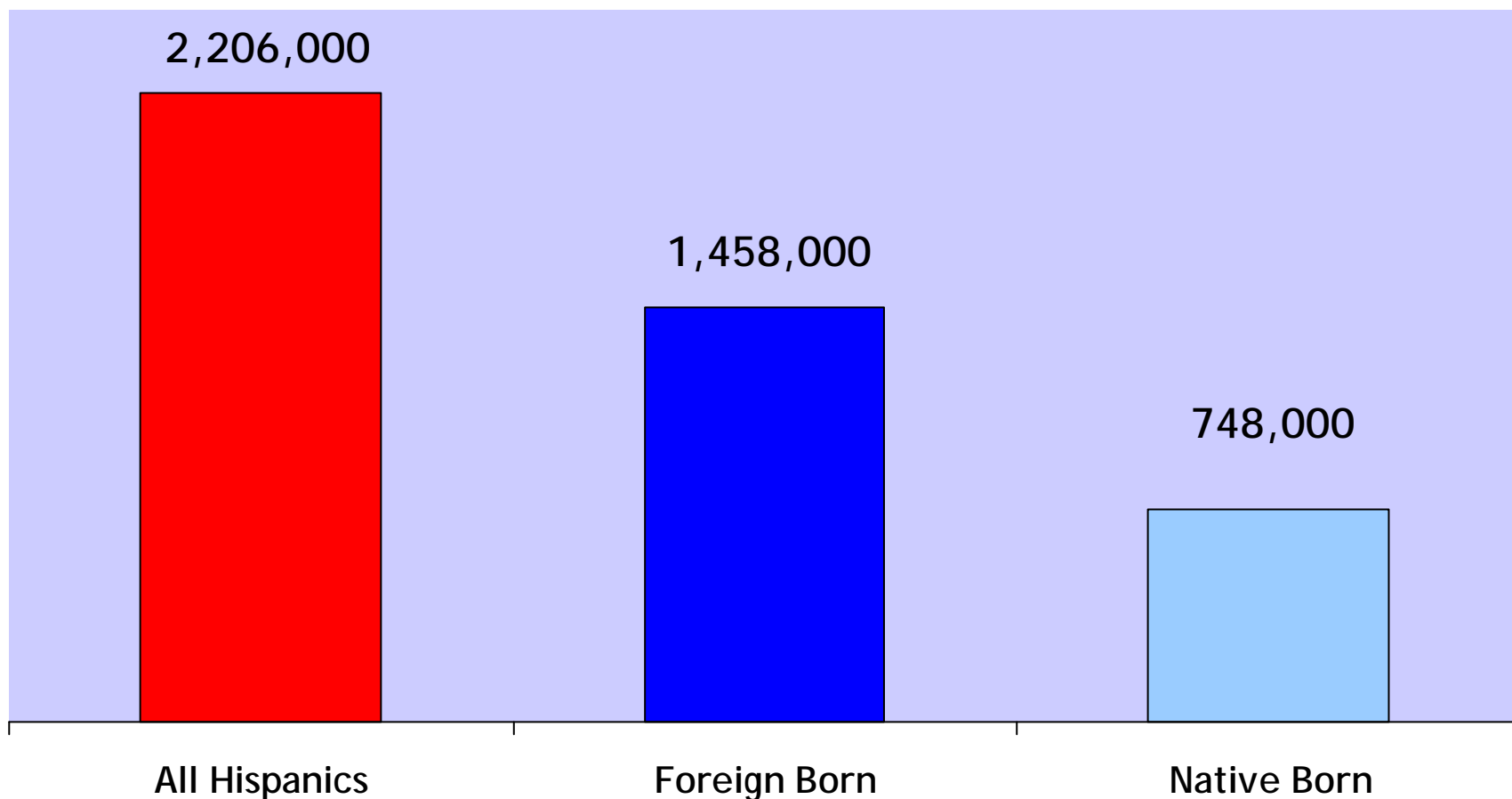
Note: White, black, Asian and other populations refer to their non-Hispanic components.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2005 American Community Survey

# Population Change: Ages 25-44 2000-2005



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, March 2005 and Census 2000

# Population Change: Hispanics by Nativity Ages 25-44, 2000-2005



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, March 2005 and Census 2000



# LABOR MARKET

# Hispanics and Immigrants in the Labor Force

- Primary source of new workers
- More likely to be young and not well educated
- Concentrated by occupation and industry
- Low earnings for Hispanic immigrants
- Growing numbers in new settlements
- Many unauthorized

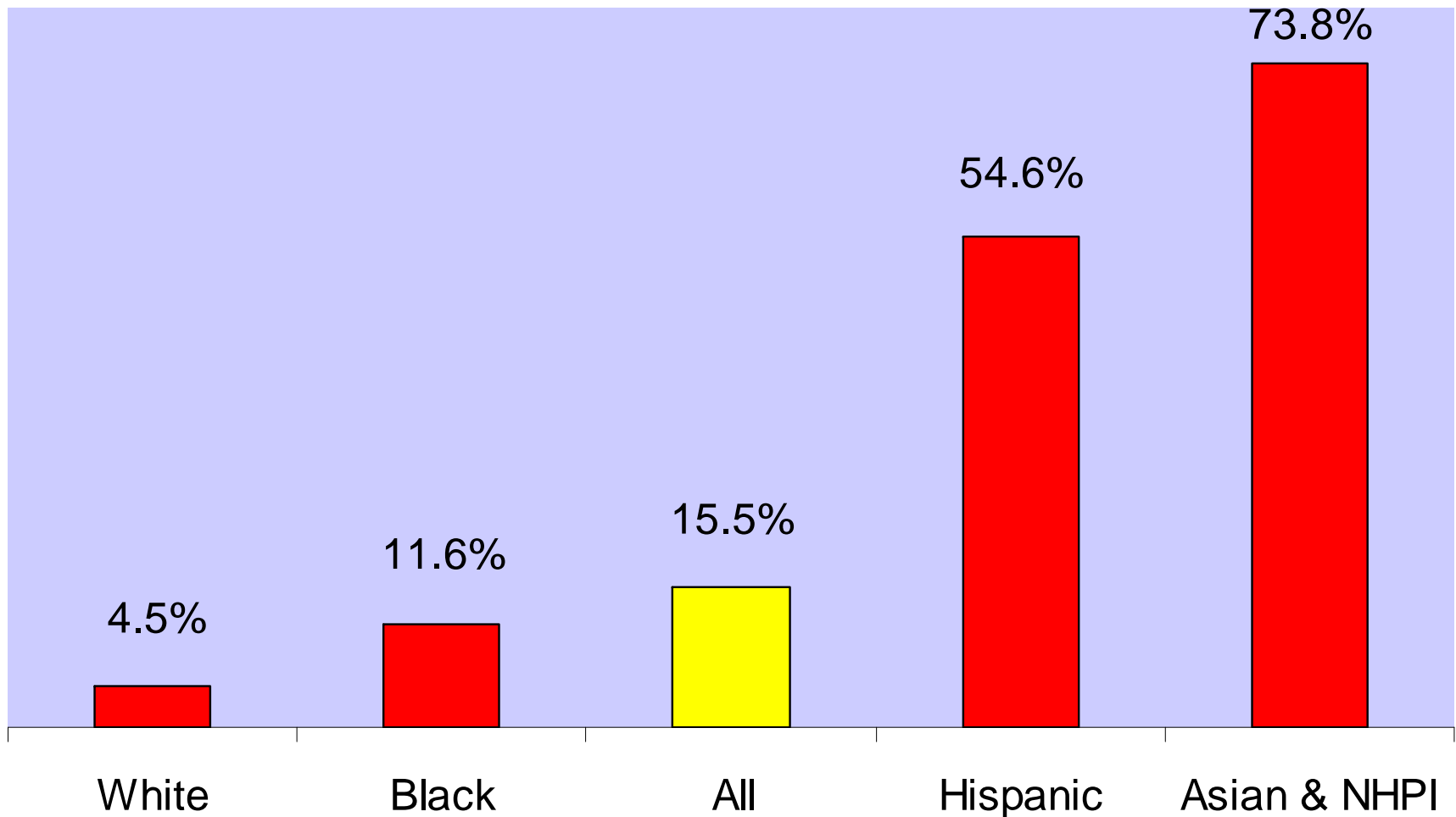
# The U.S. Labor Force, 2007 (millions)

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born
Total	152.1	128.4	23.6
White	104.5	99.8	4.7
Black	16.7	14.7	1.9
Hispanic	21.3	9.6	11.6
Asian & NHPI	7.2	1.9	5.3
Other	2.4	2.3	0.1

Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted. White, black, Asian and other populations refer to their non-Hispanic components.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# Shares of Foreign-Born Workers Within Race and Ethnicity Groups, 2007



Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted. White, black, Asian and other populations refer to their non-Hispanic components.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

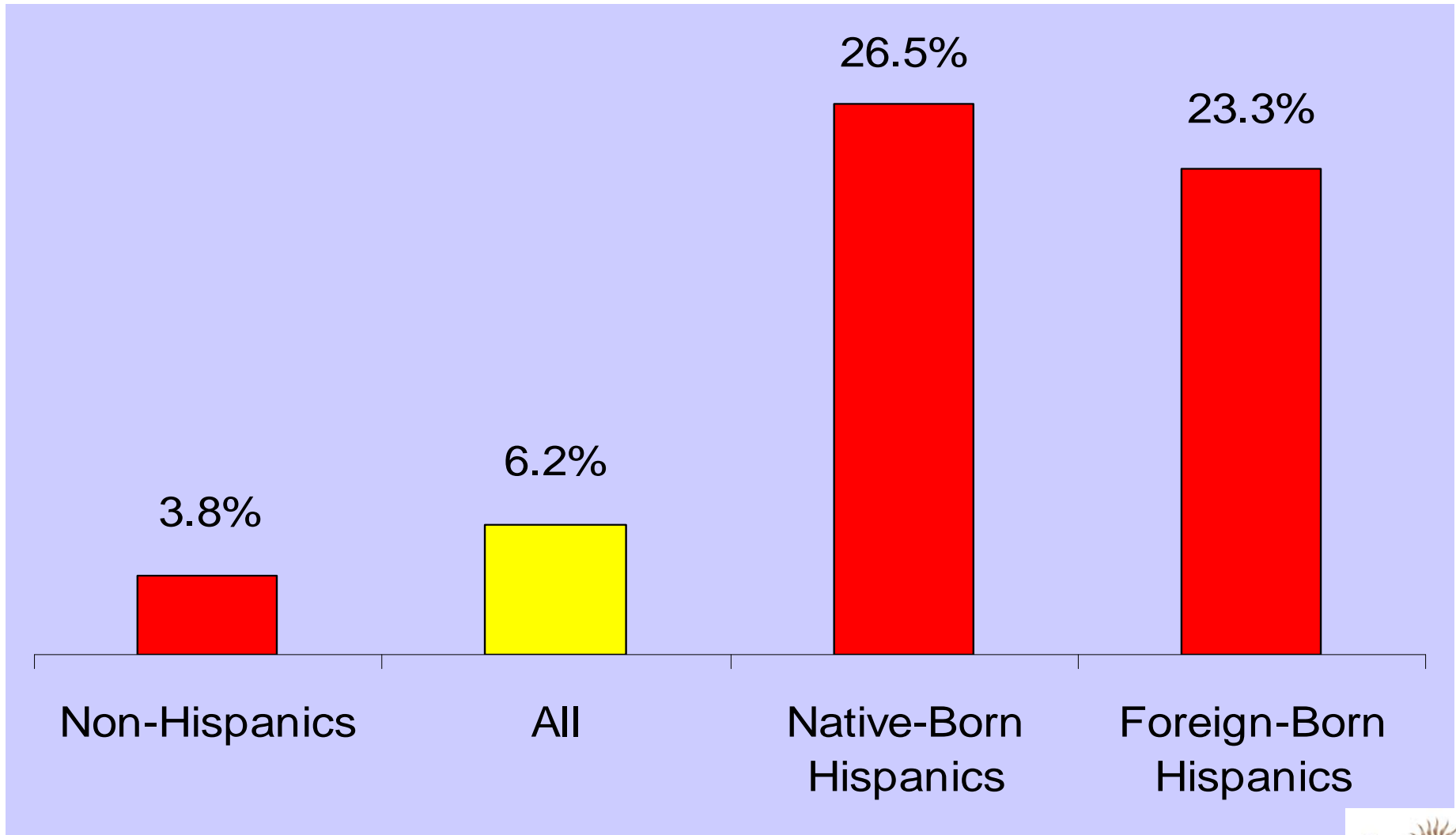
## The Change in the Labor Force, 2000 to 2006 (millions)

	2000	2006	Change
Total	143.1	152.0	8.9
Non-Hispanic	126.3	131.1	4.8
Hispanic	16.7	20.9	4.1
<i>Foreign Born</i>	7.3	9.2	1.9
<i>Native Born</i>	9.5	11.7	2.2

Note: Data reflect annual averages.

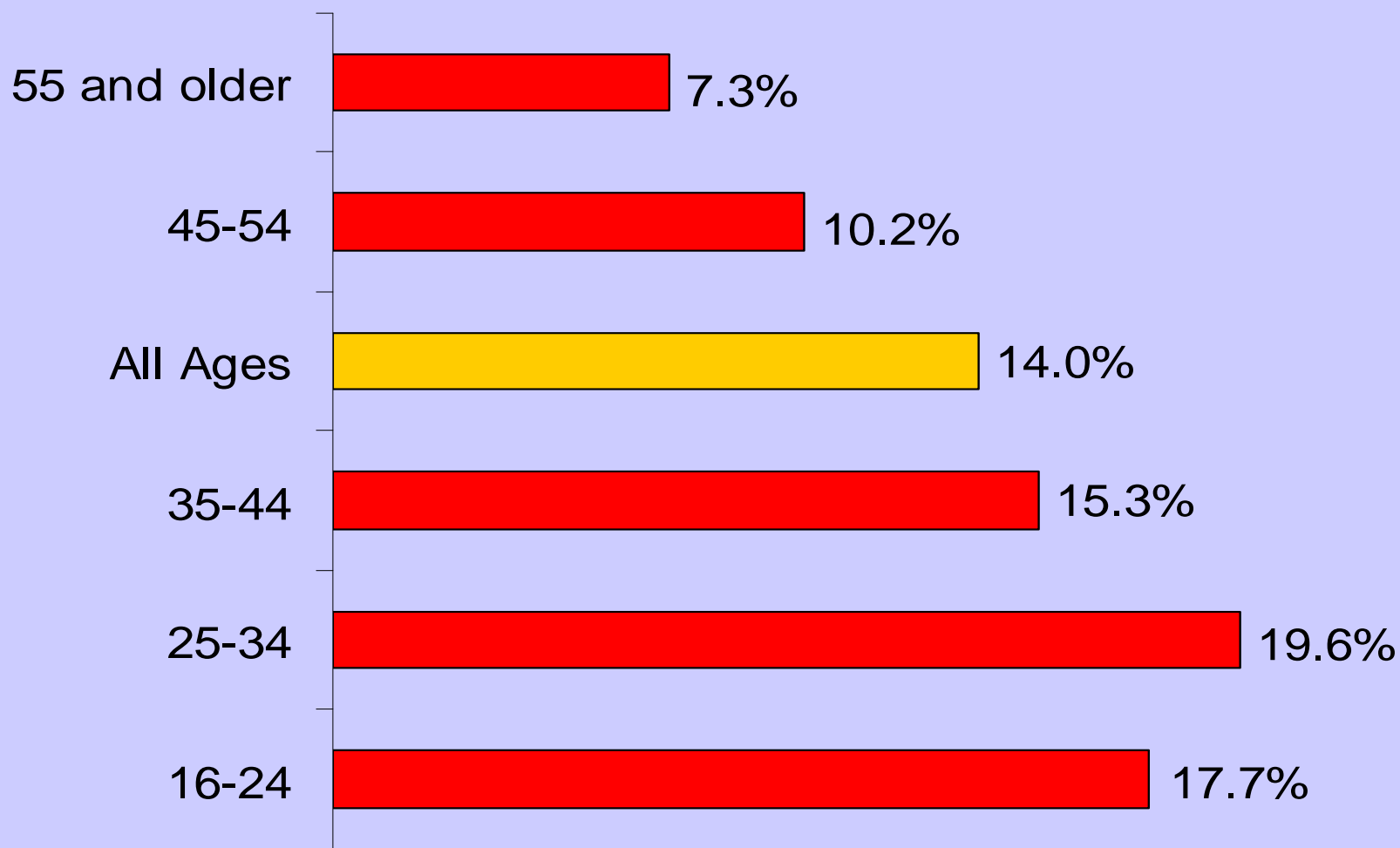
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# The Growth in the Labor Force From 2000 to 2006



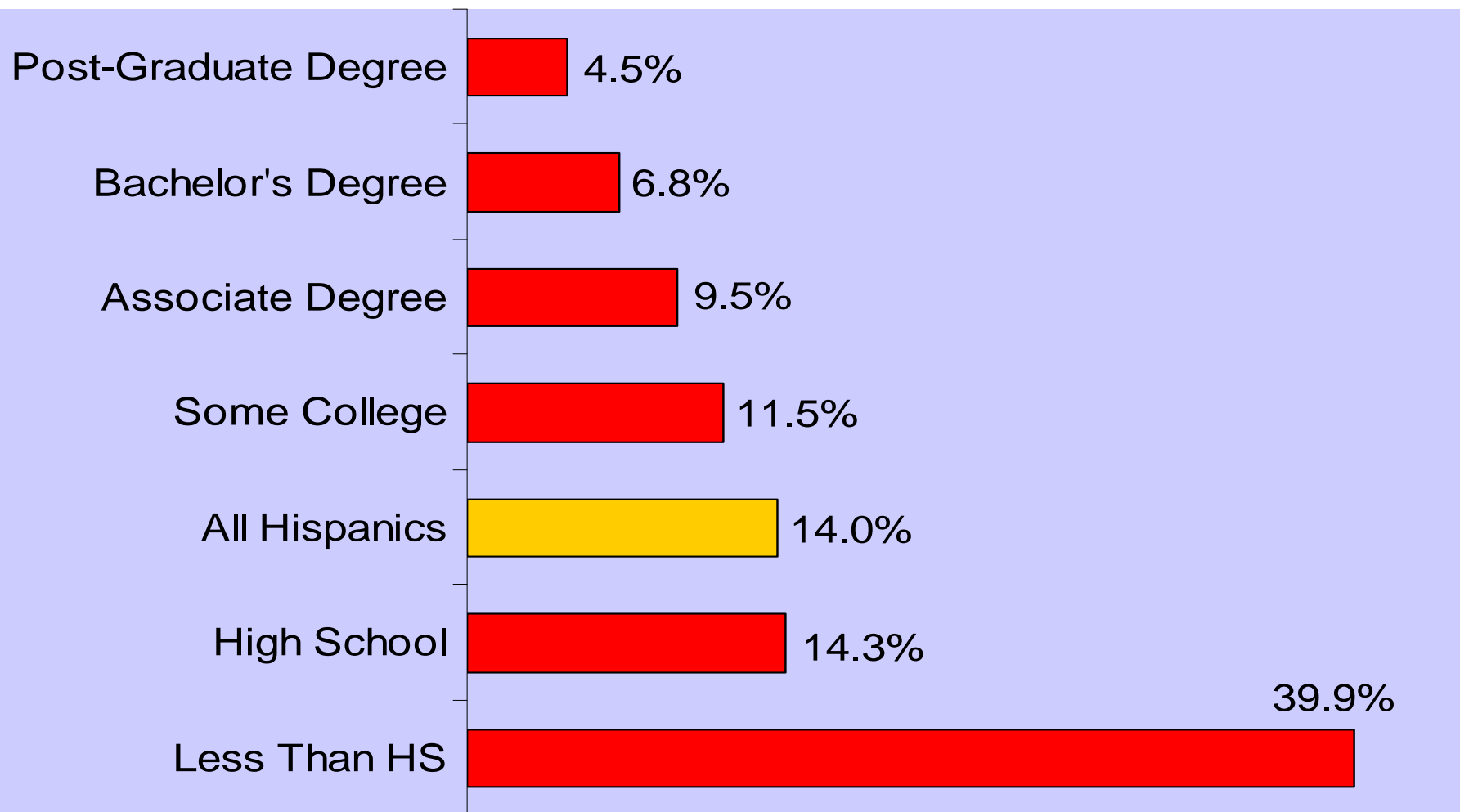
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# Hispanic Share of the Labor Force by Age, 2007



Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# Hispanic Share of the Labor Force by Level of Education, 2007

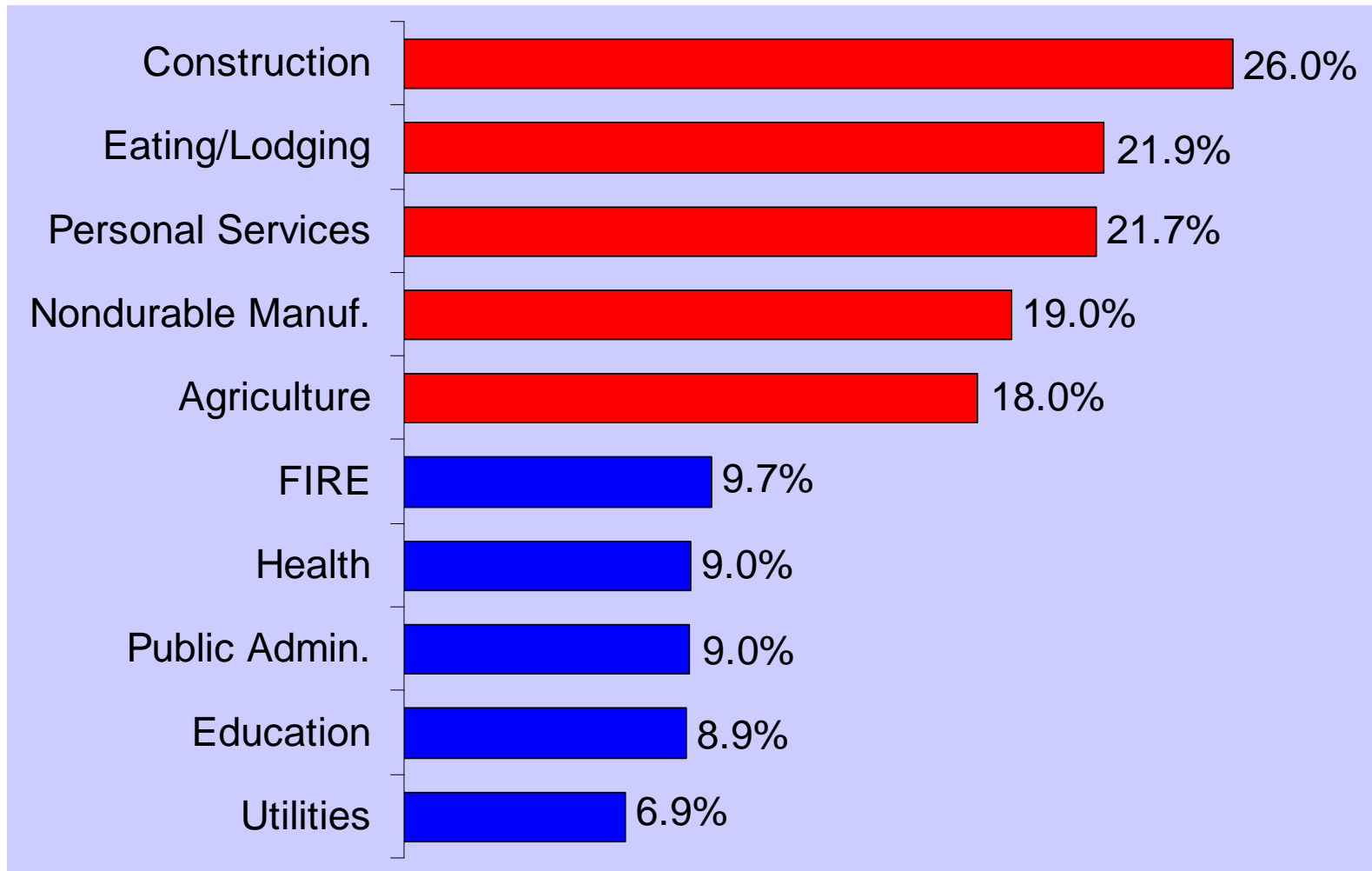


Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# Hispanic Share of Employment in Selected Industries, 2007

## 5 Highest and 5 Lowest

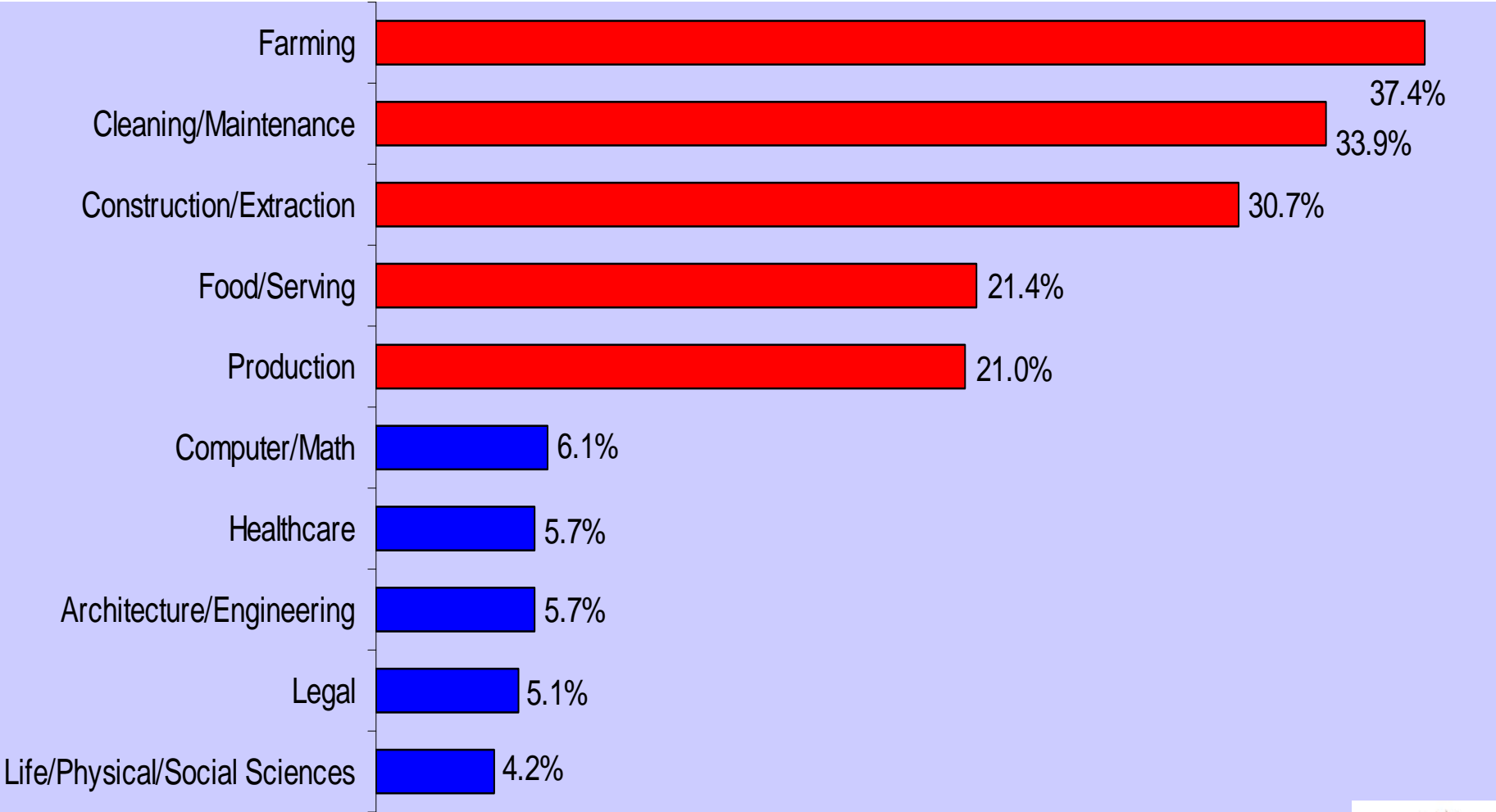


Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

# Hispanic Share of Employment in Selected Occupations, 2007

## 5 Highest and 5 Lowest



Note: Data are for the first quarter of 2007 and are not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

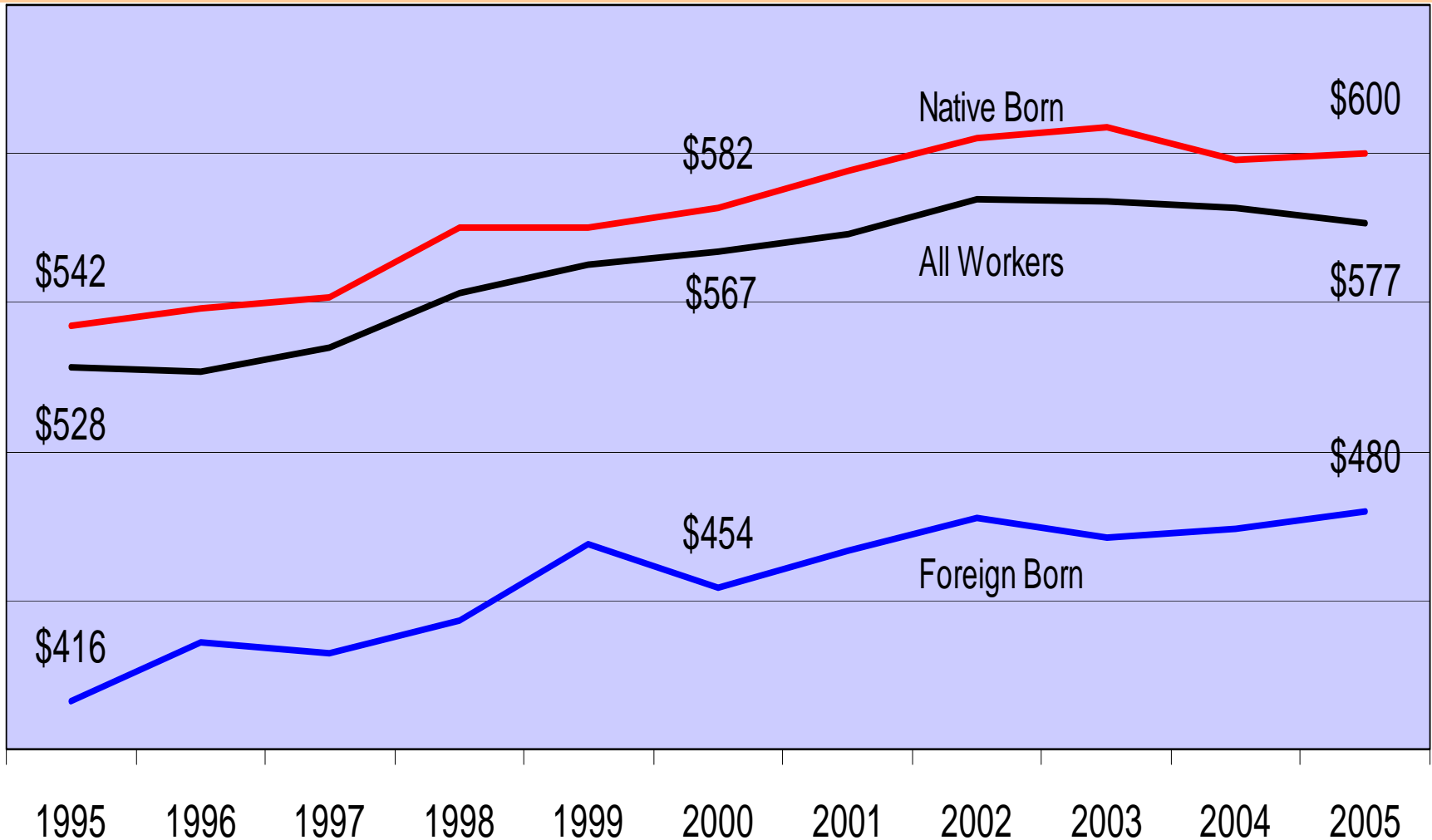
# Labor Market Status for Hispanics and Asians by Nativity, 2007

(in millions)

	Hispanics		Asians	
	Native born	Foreign born	Native born	Foreign born
Labor Force	9.7	11.7	1.9	5.3
Employment	9.0	11.0	1.8	5.2
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	5.5%	3.8%	2.9%

Source: Pew Hispanic tabulations of Current Population Survey data, first quarter 2007  
Note: Data are non-seasonally adjusted.

# Real Median Weekly Wage (in 2005 dollars) by Nativity, 1995-2005

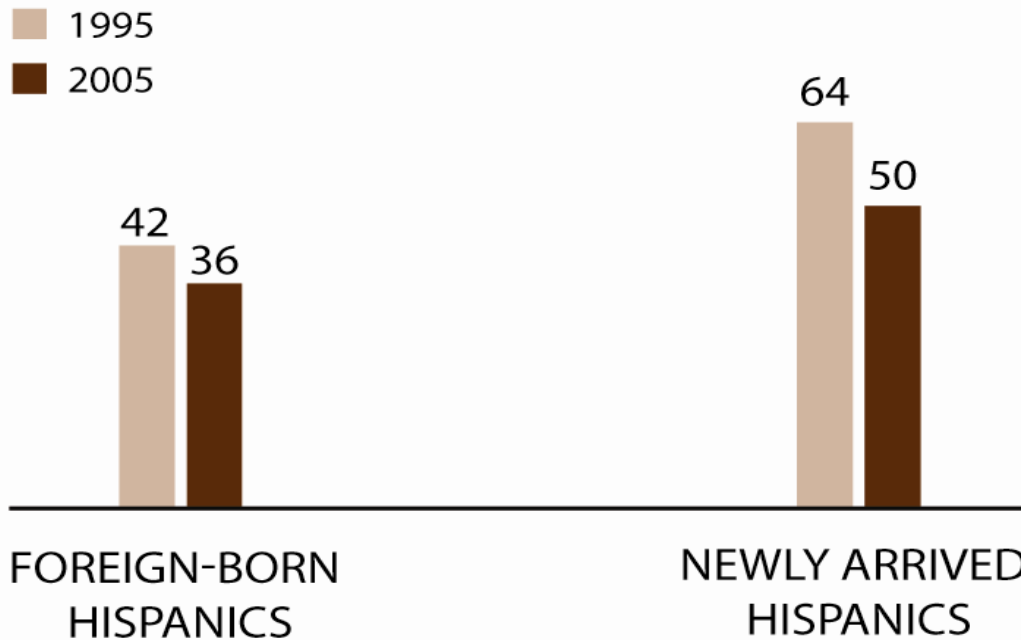


Note: Those without pay, uninc. self-employed, and those with wage less than \$50 per week are excluded.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of CPS MORG files.

## Proportions of Workers Employed in the Lowest Wage Class, 1995 and 2005

(percentage)



Note: Newly arrived foreign-born workers in 1995 are those who entered the country in 1990 or later; in 2005, it is those who entered in 2000 or later.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data

# The Role of Construction in the Employment of Hispanics, 2004-2006 (in thousands)

	Change in Employment Over Last Year		
	2005	2006	Total
<b>All Hispanics</b>			
Total	743	999	1,742
Construction	277	372	649
Share of construction	37%	37%	37%
<b>Foreign Born Hispanics</b>			
Total	482	825	1,307
Construction	262	335	597
Share of construction	54%	41%	46%

Source: Pew Hispanic tabulations of Current Population Survey data  
 Note: Data are annual averages.

# Employment Trends in 2007

- The employment situation took a turn for the worse in 2007
- The construction sector went from being a leading contributor to employment growth to a leading source of unemployment in the space of one year
- The construction sector does not appear to have contributed to the growth in Hispanic employment in 2007

# The Effect of Immigration on the Wages of Native-Born Workers: Key Issues

- Are immigrant workers providing skills readily available in the U.S., i.e. are they *substituting* for native-born workers?
- Are immigrant workers providing skills not readily available in the U.S., i.e. do they *complement* the work of native-born workers?
- Do immigrants cause native-born workers to *relocate* to other areas in search of work?
- As immigrants increase the size of the U.S. labor force do they *attract investment* (capital) from abroad?