

HISTORICAL LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT PROFILE OF PUERTO RICANS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS IN CONNECTICUT, 2000-2021

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The objective of this report is to show the trends of the labor force, which includes both employed and unemployed workers, and the employment profile of the Puerto Rican, Hispanic/Latino, and Latin American immigrant population in the state of Connecticut. Data used in this report is limited to “foreign” birthplace, that is Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico and Latin American immigrants born in Latin America.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT PROFILE OF PUERTO RICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS IN CONNECTICUT

In the period 2000-2021, Puerto Rican migration increased by 16.2% compared with 156% from other Caribbean countries, 64% from Central America, and 203% from South America. The labor force and employment decreased for migrants from Puerto Rico and South America, while the labor force and employment increased for immigrants from other Caribbean countries and Central America.

Table 1: Labor force and employment profile of the Latin American Immigrants in Connecticut

	2000	2003	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019	2020	2021
Immigrants (Thousands)											
Puerto Rican	80.7	71.2	77.5	80.2	96.9	85.1	96.5	98.4	102.4	96.5	93.9
Caribbean without Puerto Rico	16.4	14.9	16.2	12.4	17.5	22.6	29.6	26.2	33.1	28.5	42.1
Central America	38.4	34.2	42.4	53.4	52.8	66.5	59.5	65.3	53.3	58.7	63.2
South America	28.3	55.5	62.8	67.1	74.6	73.5	80.2	85.6	102.2	87.6	86.1
Labor force (% immigrants)											
Puerto Rican	51.3	49.1	53.6	51.8	45.9	49.4	52.3	44.7	49.5	52.9	48.4
Caribbean without Puerto Rico	64.2	72.6	69.1	64.3	73.7	70.0	64.4	54.8	63.2	63.8	64.7
Central America	69.7	77.8	76.7	75.1	74.6	82.1	71.8	70.3	71.7	71.0	70.7
South America	87.4	66.6	68.7	74.0	78.0	70.9	76.0	73.4	73.9	70.5	75.0
Employment (% immigrants)											
Puerto Rican	48.6	39.7	47.8	46.8	38.8	42.5	44.2	39.3	43.0	48.1	43.2
Caribbean without Puerto Rico	50.6	58.1	57.3	55.1	65.4	63.9	58.7	48.4	58.5	58.3	61.3
Central America	56.9	73.7	69.9	68.8	65.3	76.0	66.5	66.7	66.9	68.6	65.6
South America	87.4	60.7	65.3	69.6	69.0	67.6	69.7	69.0	70.0	64.1	72.5
Self-employment (% immigrants)											
Puerto Rican	1.5	2.1	3.4	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.4	3.2	3.8
Caribbean without Puerto Rico	0.0	4.4	7.6	4.9	5.8	6.6	3.0	3.8	3.6	6.5	11.8
Central America	0.0	2.9	5.9	10.7	8.8	11.0	10.4	8.4	10.2	8.8	7.2
South America	10.9	8.1	10.3	9.7	15.9	14.2	15.7	15.3	12.3	16.7	12.3

Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

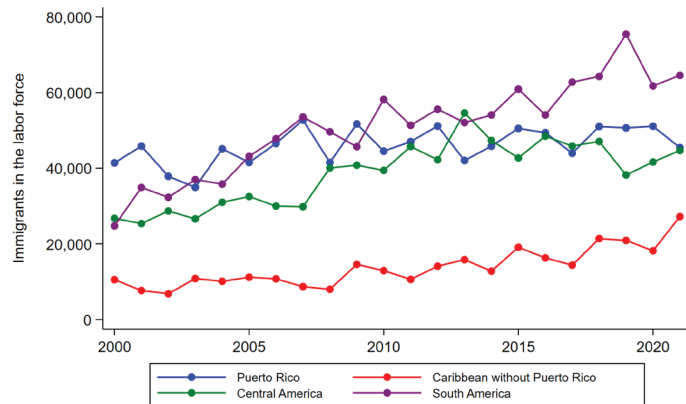
Notes: The labor force corresponds to the sum of employed and unemployed persons. Self-employment corresponds to employment where people work for themselves in a variety of trades, professions, and occupations rather than working for an employer.

TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE GROWTH OF PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

The labor force of Puerto Rican migrants grew slightly between 2000 and 2021 (41,414 in 2000 and 45,459 in 2021). In contrast, the Latin American immigrant labor force almost doubled during the same period of time. The South American labor force grew from 24,762 in 2000 to 64,575 in 2021, and the Central American labor force grew from 21,832 in 2000 to 41,452 in 2021, and the Caribbean labor force grew from 10,900 in 2000 to 27,000 in 2021.

Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

Figure 1: Trends in Labor Force Growth of Puerto Rican Migrants and Latin American Immigrants, 2000-2021

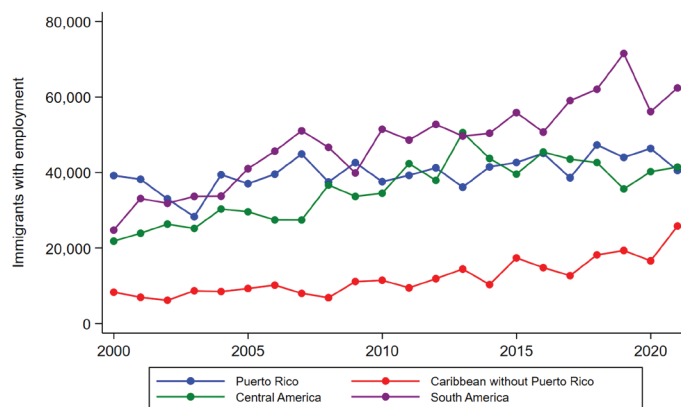


EMPLOYMENT TRENDS OF PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

The employment of Puerto Rican migrants grew slightly between 2000 (39,206) and 2021 (40,537). However, the employment of Puerto Ricans has been decreasing since 2017. In contrast, the employment trend of Latin American immigrants increased significantly during this period. South American employment more than doubled between 2000 (24,762) and 2021 (62,390). Likewise Central American employment almost doubled between 2000 (21,832) and 2021 (41,452).

Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

Figure 2: Employment Trends of Puerto Rican Migrants and Latin American Immigrants, 2000-2021

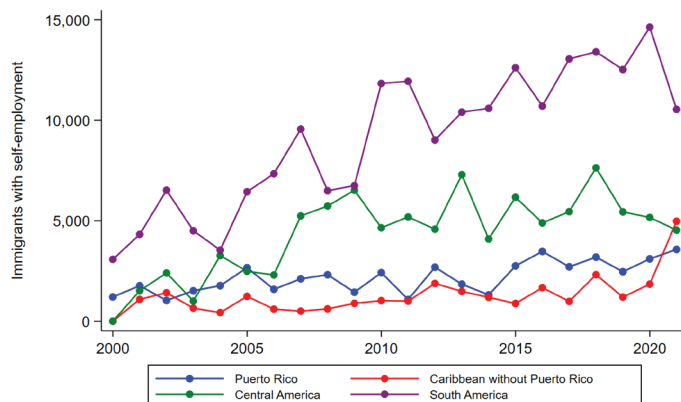


TRENDS IN SELF-EMPLOYMENT OF PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

The largest proportion of self-employed immigrants is from South America (3,079 in 2000 and 10,544 in 2021). Also, there are growing trends in the self-employment of immigrants from Central America (1,518 in 2001 and 4,534 in 2021), Puerto Rico (1,207 in 2000 and 3,575 in 2021), and other Caribbean Countries (1,090 in 2001 and 4,977 in 2021).

Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

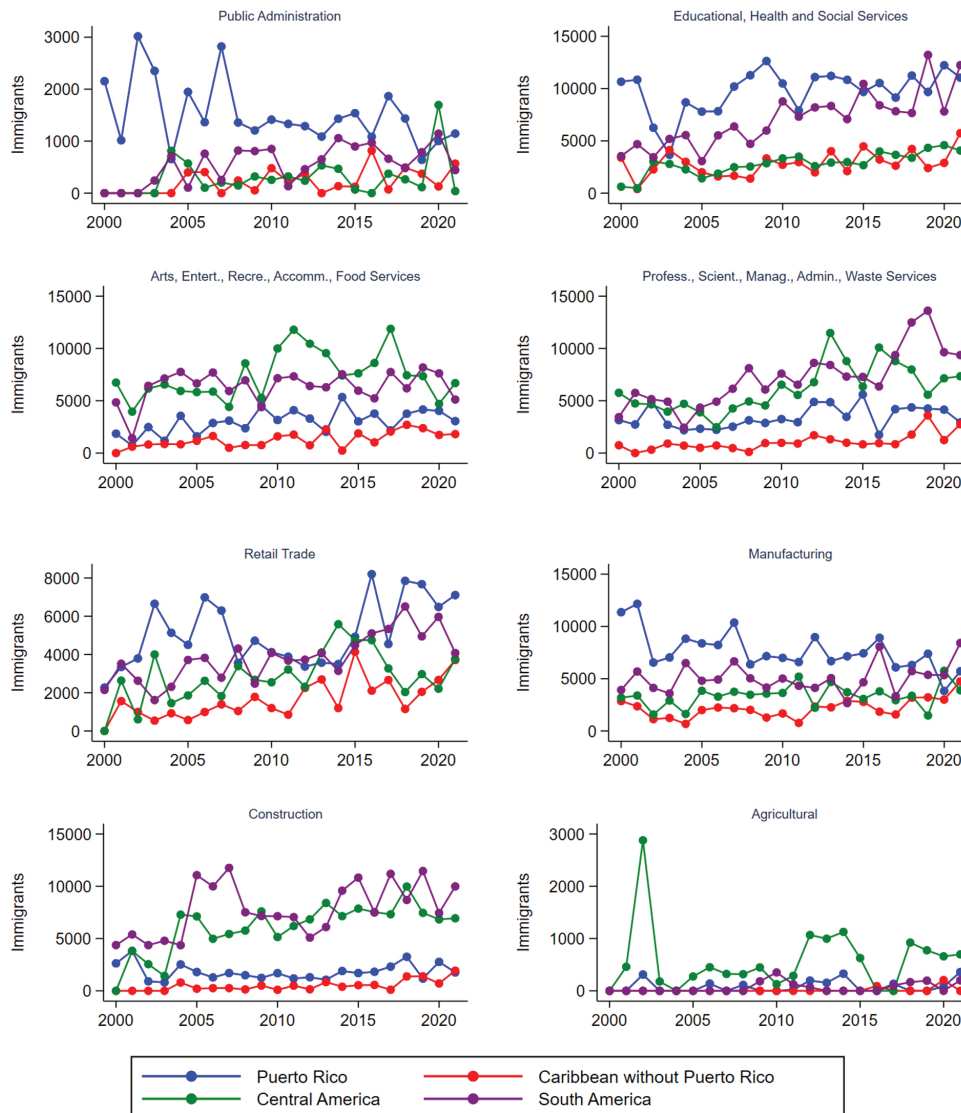
Figure 3: Trends in Self-Employment of Puerto Rican Migrants and Latin American Immigrants, 2000-2021



EMPLOYMENT TRENDS OF PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS BY INDUSTRY

The largest proportion of Puerto Rican migrants is employed in Public Administration, Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Educational-Health-Social Services. However, Puerto Rican migrants employed in Public Administration and Manufacturing show a decreasing trend since 2000.

Figure 4: Employment Trends of Puerto Rican Migrants and Latin American Immigrants by Industry, 2000-2021

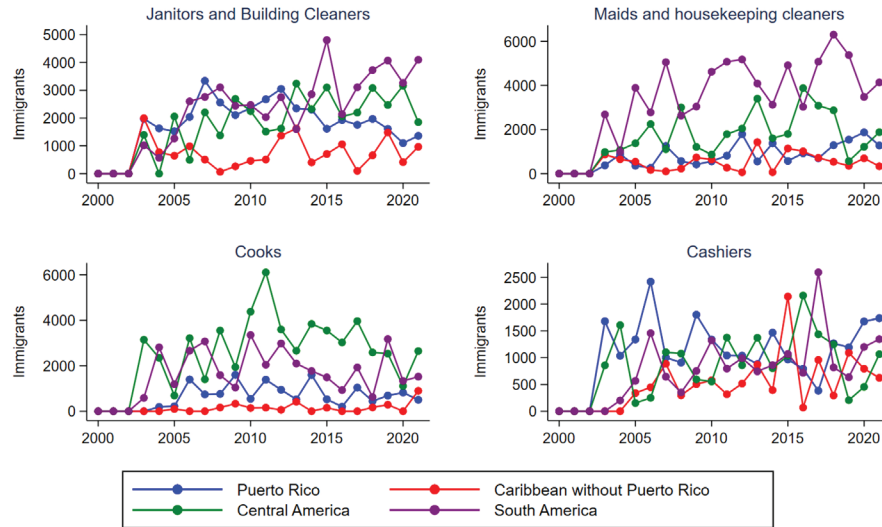


Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS OF PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS AND LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS BY OCCUPATION

The largest proportion of Puerto Rican migrants was employed as janitors and building cleaners, but this activity has been occupied mainly by immigrants from South America since 2014.

Figure 5: Employment trends of Puerto Rican Migrants and Latin American Immigrants by Occupation, 2000-2021



Source: American Community Survey (IPUMS USA). Own elaboration.

WHERE DID WE GET THIS INFORMATION FROM?

We use macrodata and microdata from the American Community Survey for the period 2006-2021. First, we use macrodata estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau to analyze the general dynamics of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Latino population and the Latin American population born outside the United States. Second, we use microdata harmonized by IPUMS USA to estimate the Puerto Rican and Latin American immigration statistics per country in the state of Connecticut.

ABOUT OUR FUNDING

The Puerto Rican Studies Initiative is funded by an American Rescue Plan Act grant awarded by the Connecticut General Assembly.

The Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy (PRSI) is a research initiative that can help document and support the Puerto Ricans' vital economic, intellectual, and cultural contributions to Connecticut and provide research-based support for the development of public policies addressing the needs of Puerto Ricans in the State of Connecticut.

This initiative is part of a collaboration between El Instituto (CLAS, UConn Storrs), the Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies Project (School of Social Work, UConn Hartford), and the Hispanic Health Council.

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