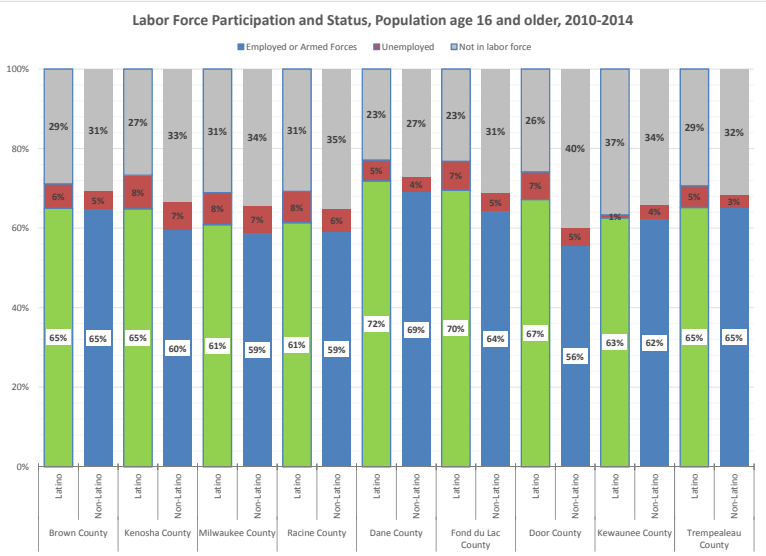
Labor Force

In looking at labor force participation among Latinos and non-Latinos in the nine counties, perhaps what is most striking is the similarity of participation status across the categories and counties. In general, the percent of the Latino population age 16 and older that is employed ranges from 61% (Milwaukee) to 72% (Dane); for non-Latinos, the range is from 56% (Door) to 69% (Dane). The percentages that reported being unemployed were very similar among Latinos and non-Latinos. Finally, because non-Latinos are relatively older, it is not surprising to see higher percentages for those not in the labor force.



Latinos' employment by broad industry categories indicate that, in six of the nine study counties, the largest percentages are in manufacturing. In fact, state-wide, 25% of Latinos work in manufacturing compared to 18% of non-Latinos. Not surprisingly, in rural Door County—with its emphasis on tourism—the largest percentage of Latinos are employed in the industry category that includes accommodation and food services. In rural Kewaunee County, one-half of Latinos are employed in agriculture.

Table 8. Top 5 Industries of Employment for Latinos within County, 2006-10

	Brown County	Kenosha County	Milwaukee County	Racine County	Dane County	Fond du Lac County	Door County	Kewaunee County	Trempealeau County
Manufacturing	43%	24%	23%	28%	15%	32%	11%	19%	62%
Entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services	14%	17%	13%	12%	23%	9%	61%	18%	4%
Education, health care, social assistance	7%	16%	15%	14%	21%		4%		
Professional, management		7%	12%	9%	11%			3%	7%
Agriculture, forestry	7%					11%		50%	16%
Retail trade	9%		9%	9%		14%	13%	4%	
Construction		8%			7%	9%			
Transportation, warehousing, utilities							7%		
Other services, excluding public admin.									3%