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Halloween candy spending could reach record levels



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Mexico offers plan to keep U.S.-bound migrants in Mexico

PIJIJAPAN, Mexico (Reuters) - Mexico on Friday offered temporary identification papers and jobs to migrants who register for asylum in the country, stepping up efforts to halt the advance of a U.S.-bound Central American caravan that has angered Washington.

A migrant, traveling with a caravan of thousands from Central America en route to the United States, looks to hitch a ride on a truck to Arriaga from Pijijiapan, Mexico October 26, 2018. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border and cut aid to Central America to try to stop the caravan of several thousand people. U.S. officials have said that up to 1,000 troops may be sent to the U.S. southern border to prevent the migrants from crossing. Making reference to the caravan, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said that migrants wishing to obtain temporary identification documents, jobs or education for their children could do so by registering for asylum in southern Mexico.

“This plan is only for those who comply with Mexican laws, and it’s a first step towards a permanent solution for those who are granted refugee status in Mexico,” Pena Nieto said in a pre-recorded address broadcast on Friday afternoon.

To qualify for the scheme he called “Estas en Tu Casa” (“Make Yourself at Home”) migrants had to be in the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Pena Nieto said.

Temporary work in the states would be extended so as also to benefit Mexicans, said Pena Nieto, who leaves office on Nov. 30.

The caravan, which is moving through Chiapas on the border of Guatemala, has enabled Trump to campaign hard on illegal immigration ahead of midterm congressional elections on Nov. 6, in which Republicans are battling to keep control of Congress.

Mexican officials have said those migrants who do not qualify for refugee status are liable to be deported.

Mexico’s government has said that more than 1,700 people in the convoy have registered for asylum, while others have returned home. Estimates on the size of the group vary.

Alden Rivera, the Honduran ambassador to Mexico, told Mexican radio



Families rest roadside while traveling with a caravan of thousands of migrants from Central America en route to the United States, on their way to Mapastepec from Huixtla

on Friday that the caravan could reach Mexico City by next Friday. He put an “official” headcount at 3,500, estimating that at least two-thirds of them were Hondurans.

The caravan set off in Honduras nearly two weeks ago, and has picked up other Central Americans en route. Alexander Fernandez, a Honduran traveling in the caravan, said people began leaving the town of Pijijiapan at about 3 a.m. to head for Arriaga, a town in the west of Chiapas.

A banner hanging over a bridge on the migrants’ path read: “Your hearts are brave, don’t give up.”

Migrants to Trump: “We are not terrorists”

Tens of thousands of Central Americans set off for the United States every year, looking to escape violence and poverty. Hondurans, Guatemalans and Salvadorans make up the bulk of illegal immigrants apprehended at the U.S. border.

China's Wanda Group explores Legendary Entertainment stake sale - sources

HONG KONG/NEW YORK (Reuters) - China’s Dalian Wanda Group is exploring a partial sale of its Hollywood film studio and the full sale of its sports assets in its latest push to reduce offshore holdings under pressure from Beijing, sources familiar with the matter said.

Deals for the assets would essentially reduce the conglomerate’s overseas holdings to a handful of property developments - also reported to be on the block, according to The Real Deal, a U.S. property news website.

The company, led by billionaire Wang Jianlin, once had dreams of developing a China-Hollywood film nexus, had a stake in top-flight Spanish football club Atletico Madrid and owned prime property developments in Sydney and London.

Wanda paid \$3.5 billion in early 2016 for Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment, maker of “Pacific Rim” and “The Great Wall”.

It is now exploring the sale of a minority stake, two sources with direct knowledge said, similar to Wanda’s recent stake sale in AMC Entertainment (AMC.N), the world’s largest cinema operator, a two-part deal that ostensibly gave U.S. private equity group Silver Lake a stake of up to 22 percent via convertible bonds and saw Wanda give up majority control.

New management at Legendary Entertainment has

helped clean up its balance sheet and boosted its pipeline of TV and film content, one of the sources said.

The people declined to be named as the information is confidential.

Wanda said that the report of the sales were “seriously inconsistent with the facts.”

A representative for Legendary declined to comment.

Wanda is also considering the sale of its sports marketing firm Infront Sports & Media as well as World Triathlon Corp (WTC) - owner of the Ironman Triathlons - the people said, cautioning the plans are not final and could change.

In December last year, Wanda asked a group of investment banks to look into the potential for listing the sports assets, potentially in Hong Kong.

The group has since received offers for the businesses from a number of private equity firms, including CVC Partners. But Wanda considered the offers too low, according to two of the people, who said the unit could yet push for a listing.

Wanda could also sell its remaining stake of 38 percent in AMC Entertainment for the right price, the people said.

Wanda first bought AMC in 2012 for \$2.6 billion,

and floated the company in 2013, when it retained a stake of about 60 percent, before entering into the deal with Silver Lake in September.

Under that deal, the private equity firm holds the right of first refusal on certain future sales of AMC shares by Wanda.

AMC, which operates more than 1,000 movie theaters globally, did not respond to a request for comment.

Wanda’s retrenchment began after Beijing launched a crackdown in mid-2017 on what it viewed as irrational acquisitions by some Chinese conglomerates.

The group rapidly offloaded \$9 billion in domestic hotels and tourism assets to fellow Chinese property developers but has taken longer to cut back its international holdings.

In February, it sold its 17 percent stake in Atletico Madrid and this year has already disposed of prime property developments in London, Sydney and Australia’s Gold Coast.

Wanda is now focusing on core domestic businesses, notably its commercial property arm, financial unit, and Wanda Cinema Line Corp, China’s largest cinema operator, said one of source.

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Stocks slump again; S&P 500, Dow back into red for year

Stocks are back in the red for the year after another wave of selling hit Wall Street Friday. The latest plunge came at the end of an unusually turbulent week of trading that had one huge gain sandwiched between massive losses. A three-week slide has left the benchmark S&P 500 index on track for its worst month since February 2009, right before the stock market hit bottom following the 2008 financial crisis. Longtime market favorites like Amazon led the way lower after reporting weak results. Technology and consumer-focused companies accounted for much of the sell-off. Media and communications stocks, banks and health care companies also took heavy losses. Bond prices rose, sending yields lower, as investors sought out less risky assets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 300 points and the S&P 500, a benchmark for many index funds, is now down 9.3 percent from its September peak. That's just shy of what Wall Street calls a "correction," or a drop of 10 percent or more from a peak. The last S&P 500 correction happened in February. The stock market has whipsawed this week, with the Dow slumping 500 points over the first two days of the week, plunging 608 on Wednesday, soaring 401 points Thursday and then

plunging again on Friday. The ups and downs came during the busiest week for third-quarter company earnings. "We're going through this transition where, earlier in the year, the corporate earnings results were just a blowout and now they're more mixed," said David Lefkowitz, senior equity strategist Americas at UBS Global Wealth Management. "That's causing some of this volatility." The S&P 500 index slid 46.88 points, or 1.7 percent, to 2,658.69. The Dow dropped 296.24 points, or 1.2 percent, to 24,688.31. The average was briefly down 539 points. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite lost 151.12 points, or 2.1 percent, to 7,167.21. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 16.58 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,483.82. The S&P 500 and Dow are now down for the year again. Stock trading turned volatile in October after a placid summer, with big sell-offs in the sectors that have powered the bulk of the gains during the market's long bull run.



Halloween candy spending could reach record levels

John C. Roper

Americans will conjure up a record \$2.5 billion on sweets for trick-or-treaters this year, a spooktacular rise of 4.2 percent compared with last Halloween that will ensure a fang-tastic evening for children and candy sellers alike, according to market analysts. Analyst IHS Markit forecasts average spending this year per household will be \$20.10. Halloween candy prices are also said to have risen 0.5 percent year-over-year due to a global sugar price surge. IHS Markit Principal Economist David Duell said the increased cost won't scare off consumers. "This year Halloween candy spending is likely to be propped up by elevated consumer confidence, strong employment markets and real disposable income growth," Duell said.



Spending on Halloween candy has increased in each of the last two years, carving out a 2.4 percent gain in 2017 and a bone-chilling 7.6 percent rise in 2016. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 41.1 million trick-or-treaters ages 5-14 in 2017.





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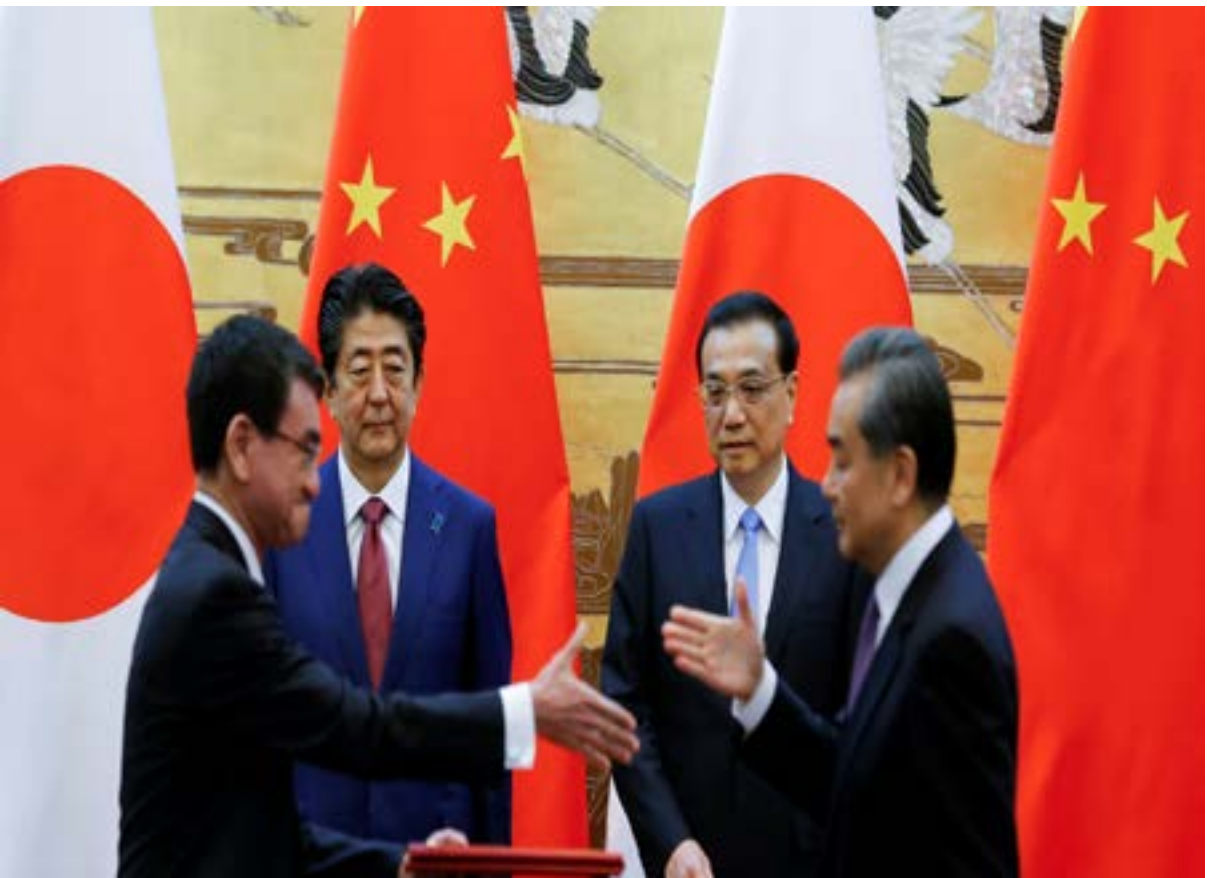
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Editor’s Choice



Birds trainer Valerie Recher trains a stork in Frouzins near Toulouse



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono attend a signing ceremony in Beijing



FILE PHOTO: Supporters participate at a campaign rally for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) in Houston, Texas, U.S., October 22, 2018. REUTERS/Leah Millis/File Photo



U.S. President Donald Trump hosts White House reception commemorating the 35th anniversary of the attack on the Beirut Barracks



South Korean soldier carries a casket containing a piece of bone believed to be the remains of an unidentified South Korean soldier killed in the Korean War in DMZ in Cheorwon



A Nihang or Sikh warrior uses a hammer to break bricks on the head of another Sikh as they perform Gatkha in Amritsar



Supporters participate at a campaign rally in Mosinee, Wisconsin



A member of Sri Lankan web journalist association holds a placard during a protest condemning the murder of slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi in front of the Saudi Embassy in Colombo

Texas Cities Dominate
List of U.S. ‘Boomtowns’

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Aerial View of Austin, Texas. (Photo AP)

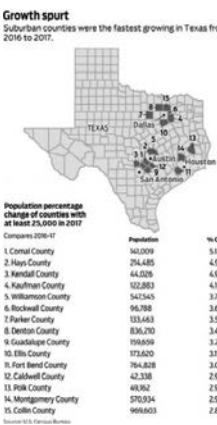
Magnify Money, a consumer finance web-site, released a new study this week that found Texas dominated the list of U.S. “boomtowns” and Austin scored the top spot. “Americans are flocking to and prospering in Texas,” wrote Kali McFadden, a Magnify Money senior analyst. She said Lone Star State metros represented one-third of the top 15 spots on their rankings. Five of the six Texas cities on the list placed in the top 11. “We wanted to find out where Americans are gathering now to take advantage of growing prosperity and improved lifestyles to achieve the American dream,” said McFadden. Magnify Money researchers examined the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) over the five year period from 2011 to 2016 using data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and County Business Patterns. Researchers focused on business growth, population and housing, and workforce and earnings. Boomtowns saw the biggest influx of people, work opportunities, and business growth. “Austin jumps way out ahead of all the metros we reviewed, showing the greatest five year growth in population and housing,” said McFadden. The Texas capital earned a perfect population and housing score of 100. It added people and had jobs for them. The Austin metro area experienced a 23 percent drop in unemployment. The median wage increased by nearly nine percent. The number of businesses operating in Austin rose by 21 percent and new hires soared by 24 percent. Analysts identified one shortcoming — 10 percent housing unit growth lagged next to the almost 16 percent population boom. Dallas (7), San Antonio (9), and McAllen (10) made the top 10. Houston (11) and El Paso (24) placed in the top 25. Business also boomed in Provo, Utah; Raleigh, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and Nashville, Tennessee; ranking second through fifth, respectively. Provo got the highest score, 95.1, in the business growth category. Its population increased by 12 percent and housing rose eight percent. Although the workforce grew by 13 percent, median wages stalled, budging only 3.5 percent higher than five years earlier.



Provo, Utah

Raleigh, with a 13 percent surge in residents and a nine percent rise in dwellings, ranked second to Austin in the population and housing subset. The North Carolina capital was fifth in business growth. Nearby Durham ranked 16th. Charlotte took 13th. Charleston got the third highest marks for workforce and earnings, with a healthy 22 percent drop in joblessness. Its workforce grew by 11 percent. During this time, Charleston’s population also increased 11 percent but the number of housing units fell short, stalled at slightly more than six percent. Nashville firms grew staff by a healthy 21 percent. Their workforce grew nine percent. Unemployment dropped 25 percent. McFadden suggested the boom “may be luring people to work” and noted the city diversified from its traditional country music roots. Housing, though, increased by five percent, not nearly enough for the influx of new people. Colorado’s Denver ranked sixth while Colorado Springs placed 23rd. Boise, Idaho, took eighth, and Des Moines, Iowa, was 15th. Top 25 listers included Florida’s Orlando (14),

Fort Myers (17), and Sarasota (25); Utah’s Ogden (12) and Salt Lake City (18), and California’s San Jose (19) and San Francisco (22). Riverside (40), San Diego (43) and Los Angeles (58) placed lower. (Courtesy <https://www.breitbart.com/texas>) The study also identified the slowest growing places in the nation. Four of six Ohio metros shrunk their labor forces and number of businesses between 2011 and 2016. Only Columbus (34) saw appreciable growth. Connecticut and Pennsylvania MSAs landed in the bottom quarter of the findings as did metros in New York, except for New York City (62). Boston (46) was the sole northeastern city in the top half of the list. **Eight of 15 of the fastest-growing counties in the U.S. between 2016 and 2017 are in Texas** Suburban counties in Texas led the way nationwide in percentage growth in that one-year period. Suburban counties in the Austin and San Antonio metropolitan areas were among the fastest-growing in the nation between 2016 and 2017, according to figures the Census Bureau released late Wednesday.



In the Austin area, Hays, Williamson and Caldwell counties were among the fast-growing at 4.96 percent, 3.75 percent and 2.99 percent, respectively. Caldwell County, which abuts Travis County to the south, saw its largest growth rate this decade.; its previous annual growth rates since 2010 were under 2 percent. Among metro areas with more than 1 million people, the five-county Austin area was the fastest-growing for the seventh consecutive year. The agency estimated population changes between July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017. Amelia Smith, who’s worked in real estate in Caldwell County for more than 30 years, attributed the area’s growth to lighter traffic and lower cost of living. “The toll road is becoming increasingly popular,” Smith said of Texas 130. “Even though it is expensive to drive, it is a flash trip from Austin to Lockhart. I live in Lockhart, and I can get to Onion Creek in about 18 minutes. It’s fast.” “People in Austin, particularly in the east side, are seeing property values rise so much that the land their \$100,000 house sits on is worth \$700,000 or \$800,000, and they’re being driven out by high taxes, and they’re coming to Lockhart with proceeds from their sale and buying houses (with) cash. ... We’re seeing a lot of that.” Also, under a new Lockhart school superintendent, the district is working toward becoming one of the best in Central Texas, which might be another draw, Smith said.



Austin, Texas

Closer to San Antonio, Comal County grew by almost 7,000 people to just more than 140,000 people, giving the county the second-fastest growth nationally among counties with populations of 10,000 people or more, according to the Census Bureau. In 2016, Comal County ranked as the seventh-fastest-growing county in America. Business leaders in New Braunfels, the county seat, credit the increase to a lower cost of living and its proximity to two large cities. “I love the accessibility,” said Rashmi Baht, who used to live in Houston and owns a European deli inspired in part by her childhood in Europe. “It’s really close to Austin and San Antonio, but you don’t have the cost of living that those cities have, nor do you have the traffic.” Lee and Jennifer Garza, co-owners of an insurance franchise in New Braunfels, both grew up and have family in the area and returned as they began their family, after living and working in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The growing population was an incentive to return home, Lee Garza said. “That was one of the major reasons why it was easy for us to make the decision to move here,” he said. “It provided a lot of opportunity career- and business-wise. ... It had a lot of advantages for my family and me.” Employment opportunities drove population growth in suburban counties in the San Antonio-Austin corridor, state demographer Lloyd Potter told the American-Statesman. “The bulk of their growth (in Texas suburban counties) — 80 to 90 percent — is from domestic migration, and that’s people moving from other counties in Texas, but also from other counties or other states within the United States,” he said. “Usually, when you see growth that’s occurring from domestic migration like that, in those fast-growing counties, it’s happening because jobs are being created.” Eight of the 15 counties nationally that gained the most people between 2016 and 2017 were in Texas. Travis County was 15th, with a gain of 22,116 people. Harris County, No. 4 nationally and No. 1 in Texas, saw an increase of nearly 36,000 people. “Texas dominates overall,” Potter said. “Our counties dominate what we’re seeing in terms of population growth nationwide.” (Courtesy <https://www.mystatesman.com/news>)

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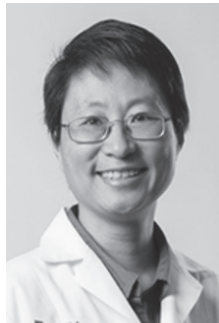


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“I consider it a privilege to be allowed to help take care of patients and their families and make a difference in the life of a child. I view myself as a partner with the parents and patient and derive great satisfaction through our interactions. I love working with kids, a simple smile or hug will brighten my day.”

~Beth Yip, M.D., co-managing physician, Pearland Clinic

Dr. Yip is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her medical degree, internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Harris County Medical Society and Texas Pediatric Society.

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By Guest Writer Alfredo Ortiz

President Trump’s economy is the rising tide that is lifting all boats. This is especially true for Hispanics, who were among the biggest victims of the low-growth, high-regulation economy under President Obama.

Last week, the Census Bureau announced new household income numbers, which showed that median income for Hispanic households grew by 3.7 percent, adjusted for inflation, last year. That’s more than double the increase seen by all households. More Hispanics moved into the upper-income brackets, and fewer remained in the lower ones. That’s welcome news as the nation celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month.



(Photo/AFP/Getty Images)

Contrast this to the Obama economy. It took until 2015 for Hispanic household incomes to finally get back to their 2006 levels. For the population as a whole, household incomes remained flat between 2010 and 2014, as President Obama rolled out one job-killing policy after the next.

In addition to rising incomes, there are more job opportunities than ever today for Hispanics. This month, the Labor Department announced that the Hispanic unemployment rate remained at a record low — below 5 percent for the fifth consecutive month. This is less than half the unemployment rate that Hispanics faced as recently as President Obama’s second term. Median weekly earnings for full-time Hispanic employees have grown by 4.3 percent, adjusted for inflation, over the past two years.



So why are Hispanics doing so well under

Hispanics Flourishing In Trump Economy

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

the Trump economy?

President Trump’s pro-growth policies have had a disproportionately positive impact on Hispanics because they are more entrepreneurial than the general population. Hispanics start businesses at a faster rate than any other ethnic group. Since 2007, the number of Latino-owned businesses has grown by nearly 50 percent, nearly double the rate of all other ethnic groups combined. By a far higher margin than the general public, Hispanics believe that you can get ahead by hard work, according to Pew polling.

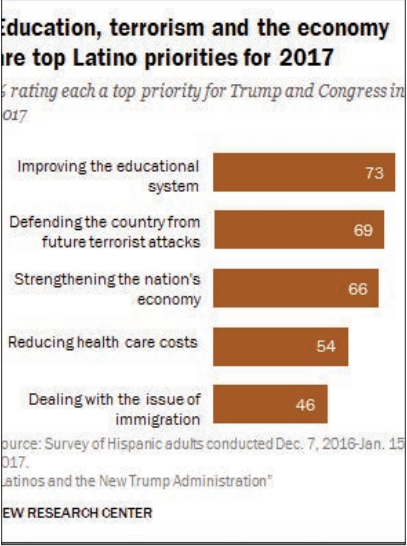
President Trump’s deregulation and pro-business policies have made it far easier to be entrepreneurial. Exhibit A are the tax cuts that took effect this year. They contain numerous provisions that specifically help entrepreneurs. These include a new 20 percent small business tax deduction that allow entrepreneurs to protect one-fifth of their earnings from taxes, funds that can be used to help their businesses survive and thrive. Most small businesses describe this provision as a “game changer,” according to a recent Bank of America survey.

With Trump unleashing the economy’s animal spirits, entrepreneurs — led by Hispanics — are increasing the long-depressed small business start-up rate. These businesses are more likely to provide good job opportunities to Hispanic job seekers. In fact, one survey shows they plan to hire workers at twice the rate of their non-Hispanic counterparts.

Hispanics also have benefited generally from the growing economy. For example, the number of full-time jobs is rapidly increasing at the expense of part-time jobs. This has helped Hispanics, who also disproportionately work in the service sector, to raise their incomes to a middle-class level because they are able to work more hours.

Given this success, it’s no surprise that Hispanic approval of President Trump is rising. According to a Harvard CAPS/Harris poll this summer, Trump’s approval

among Hispanics jumped by 10 percentage points in one month.



President Trump and Republicans can build on this support by continuing to focus on a unifying pro-growth, pro-opportunity message. Like most Americans, Hispanics care about the economy, education and jobs. Republicans shouldn’t get swayed by the siren song of pursuing divisive social issues that may drive up turnout in rural areas but will repel Hispanics and independents in the suburbs where voters will decide control of the House of Representatives.

Electoral success will allow Trump to continue his policy agenda that is delivering historic economic benefits to Hispanics and all Americans. (Courtesy thehill.com) Alfredo Ortiz is the president and CEO of the Job Creators Network.

Related

Yes, President Trump's policies are good for Latinos too

President Donald Trump’s bold economic policy of sweeping tax cuts and aggressive deregulation is reaping historic benefits for Americans across all racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Based on data in the latest jobs report, the

Latino community in particular is benefiting from the president’s economic policies — and Latinos are noticing, much to the dismay of the Democratic Party.

The economy added 213,000 jobs in June, according to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report, and the number of employed Americans has grown by an incredible 2.4 million people over the past year. It’s now clear that many of these jobs have gone to Latino Americans.

Unemployment for Latinos hit an all-time record low of 4.6 percent in June, according to the latest BLS report. There have only been nine months in history with a Latino unemployment rate below 5 percent — eight of them under President Trump’s economic leadership.



That’s not the only record broken in June. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Latino teens aged 16 to 19 fell below 12 percent for the first time ever, reaching a new low of 11.4 percent. Also in June, the unemployment rate for Latinos aged 25 to 29 reached a record low of 4.1 percent.

President Trump’s deregulatory policies are also creating a climate in which small businesses can expand and thrive. This is a significant development for Latinos, who are statistically the most entrepreneurial demographic in the country.

Given this success, it’s hardly surprising that the president’s popularity with Latinos is rising rapidly. In June, President Trump’s approval rating among Hispanics jumped by a whopping 10 points, according to a Harvard CAPS/Harris poll.

The Democrats and their supporters in mainstream media insist that the Trump administration is biased against Latinos because it wishes to enforce immigration laws and secure the border.

It might disappoint the Democrats to know that most Latinos are law-abiding citizens who support the full enforcement of our sensible immigration laws. An Economist/YouGov poll revealed that only 20 percent of Latinos support Obama administration-era “catch and release” policies, for instance.



The same poll showed that 64 percent of Latinos support detaining illegal alien families together or separating parents from children if necessary. Nationally, by a 2-to-1 margin Latinos believe that immigration enforcement isn’t strict enough.

The Democrats’ anti-Trump rhetoric is particularly off base in the face of the success and growth we’re seeing in our communities everyday as a direct result of President Trump’s color-blind, pro-growth agenda. Since February 2017, the Latino unemployment rate has averaged 5 percent. During the Obama years, it averaged over 9 percent and was often in the double digits.

The American economy continues to grow and set new records thanks to President Trump’s economic policies. Latinos recognize that if the Democrats take power again, America’s record-breaking economic gains will be lost once they rescind the Trump tax cuts and renew the Obama regulatory assault against businesses large and small.

It’s clear today’s Democratic Party has nothing to offer the Latino community beyond the divisive politics of fear. Meanwhile, President Trump and the Republican Party are delivering real results across society, including the Latino community, and we have the data to prove it. (Courtesy the Denver Post)

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