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Group O's \$507M in revenues again tops in Ill.

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Milan-based Group O Inc. once again tops the 2012 list of Hispanic-owned businesses in Illinois, according to HispanicBusiness magazine.

Group O had 2011 revenues of \$507 million, placing it at No. 15 in the United States, compared to a No. 9 ranking in 2011, when it saw \$515 million in revenues.

The top 20 Illinois Hispanic-owned companies in the 2012 HispanicBusiness 500 ranking produced revenues of \$1.14 billion in 2011, slightly up from the \$1.1 billion produced the year before.

The companies employed a total of 5,415 people last year, which was up from 4,345 in 2010. Group O has 1,500 current employees, 900 in the Quad-Cities. The next biggest Hispanic-owned business in Illinois is Montgomery-based Gusto Packing Co., which makes processed pork and turkey products, with \$268 million in 2011 revenues and 530 workers.

Group O is the only Quad-Cities company to make the HispanicBusiness Top 500. The top performer in the nation is Brightstar Corp. of Miami, the world's largest distributor and services provider for the wireless industry, with 4,114 employees and \$5.7 billion in revenues. All the top 10 Hispanic-owned businesses are in Florida or Texas.

In September, Group O CEO Gregg Ontiveros was named Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. At the same awards ceremony, the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was honored as small Hispanic Chamber of the Year by the U.S. chamber. Group O founder Bob Ontiveros is president of the Q-C Hispanic chamber.

Group O -- founded in 1974 -- specializes in marketing operations, supply-chain and packaging solutions. It was first seen on the HispanicBusiness 500 list in 1993, when it was ranked at 139. Since then, the company has continued to grow. In 2007, it had \$313 million in revenues.

In an editorial preface to the 2011 HispanicBusiness report, the editors noted an increase in the number of companies whose revenues and headcount declined in 2010; Group O increased revenues and increased headcount during that period. From 2007 to 2011, Group O's workforce grew by almost 40 percent to just more than 1,350 employees.

In 2010, Gregg Ontiveros was recognized by HispanicBusiness as one of its Top 100 Influentials, for his stewardship of the company as it achieved excellent growth while maintaining a commitment to employee and supplier diversity. HispanicBusiness also named Group O to its list of 100 Fastest-Growing Companies.

Its Q-C locations include its headquarters at 4905 77th Ave., Milan; packaging solutions at 7300 50th St., Milan, and supply chain solutions at 2916 78th Ave. West, Rock Island. The company has offices and staff from coast to coast. For more information, visit [groupo.com](http://groupo.com).