

## 2015 ENDS WITH STRONG JOB GROWTH

Employers Add 292,000 Jobs in December



### CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES TO GROW

Construction once again leads in job growth for the second consecutive month with 45,000 new jobs in December. However, the year-end surge in construction employment was not enough to beat 2014 job growth in the sector, which had 338,000 new jobs in 2014 compared to 263,000 in 2015. Latinos make up nearly one-third of construction workers.

### The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in December 2015

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported today](#) that U.S. employers added 292,000 jobs in December 2015. This represents one of the strongest months of job growth in 2015 and a strong end-of-year surge in new employment. Still, in December, the unemployment rate continued its three-month trend at 5%. The Latino unemployment rate also continued a three-month trend, nearly unchanged at 6.3% from 6.4% in the previous two months. While job growth has shown consistent improvement over the last year, wage growth, an important indicator of job quality, has not kept up. Wage growth, at about 2%, has not met the Federal Reserve's estimates of a 3.5% increase for 2015. Unrealized wage growth likely affects Latinos, who are more likely to work in low-wage sectors and earn poverty-level wages.

| Indicators  | Latinos, December 2015 |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Employed</b><br>• Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs  | 24.6 million           |
| <b>Unemployed</b><br>• Those who are available to work, make an effort to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working | 1.7 million            |
| <b>Civilian Labor Force</b><br>• The sum of employed and unemployed people  | 26.3 million           |
| <b>Not in the Labor Force</b><br>• People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed  | 13.8 million           |
| <b>Unemployment Rate</b><br>• Share of the labor force that is unemployed   | 6.3%                   |
| <b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b><br>• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force                                    | 65.5%                  |
| <b>Employment-Population Ratio</b><br>• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working  | 61.4%                  |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Status of the Hispanic or Latino Population by Sex and Age," *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t03.htm> (accessed January 8, 2016), Table A-3.