

Latinos See Strong Job Growth in February

U.S. Employers Add 235,000 Jobs



Construction Surges Ahead in February

Construction added 58,000 jobs, with the most growth in specialty trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering construction. February's surge may be tied to unseasonably warm weather that is conducive to construction work. Latinos make up nearly one-third of construction workers, but are more likely to be in lower-wage laborer positions.

The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in February 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported](#) that employers added 235,000 jobs in February, a hefty gain that exceeded economists' estimate of 190,000 jobs. The national unemployment rate inched down from 4.8% in January to 4.7% in February, and has stayed consistently at or under 5% since April 2016, which according to the U.S. Federal Reserve, is an indication the economy is at or near full employment. In February, the Latino unemployment rate dropped from 5.9% in January to 5.6%, while the share of Latino workers over 16 rose by half a percentage point to 62.7%. This slight shift for Latinos could have been spurred by the increase in construction jobs this month, in addition to more people coming off the sidelines to find work after more than six years of steady job growth.

Indicators	Latinos, February 2017
Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	25.7 million
Unemployed • Those who are available to work, try to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working	1.5 million
Civilian Labor Force • The sum of employed and unemployed people	27.2 million
Not in the Labor Force • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	13.8 million
Unemployment Rate • Share of the labor force that is unemployed	5.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	66.5%
Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	62.7%

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 March 10, 2017), Table A-3.