

# Employers Add 261,000 Jobs After Hurricanes

## Latino Unemployment Rate Declines as Workers Leave Labor Force



### FOOD SERVICES LEADS JOB GROWTH

Employment in food services and drinking places rose by 89,000 jobs in October 2017, mostly offsetting a decline in September due to many workers being out of work because of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. Food services and drinking places employed nearly 2.5 million Latino workers in 2016, and is expected to employ more people than the manufacturing industry by 2020.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
<b>Employed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</li> </ul>	153.9 million	26 million
<b>Unemployed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	6.5 million	1.3 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sum of employed and unemployed people</li> </ul>	160.4 million	27.3 million
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</li> </ul>	95.4 million	14.3 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</li> </ul>	4.1%	4.8%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</li> </ul>	62.7%	65.6%
<b>Employment-Population Ratio</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</li> </ul>	60.2%	62.4%

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 November 3, 2017), Table A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in October 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 261,000 jobs in October. While this is lower than economists' prediction of 300,000 jobs, it is still a sharp increase from September's estimates. The DOL originally estimated that the economy lost 33,000 jobs in September, however it has since revised its original reporting to indicate that the economy gained 18,000 jobs.

The increase in employment from September to October is expected, as it shows the economy slowly bouncing back from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The national unemployment rate continues its six-year decline, dipping from 4.2% in September to 4.1% in October. Though the national unemployment rate is now at its lowest since December 2000, it is mainly due to workers leaving the labor force.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased from 5.1% in September to 4.8% in October, however the cause of decline mirrors the national trend. The number of Latinos participating in the labor force (either as employed or unemployed) declined in October by 310,000 workers, and the number of Latino workers not in the labor force increased. Though the Latino labor force participation rate slightly fell from September to October, Latinos still participate in the labor force at a rate higher than other groups.

Wage growth, an important indicator of job quality, continues at a sluggish pace. Average earnings fell by 1 cent per hour in October. Over the past 12 months, wage growth has grown by 2.4%.

The following takes a closer look at Latino employment by gender and age:

- Men (ages 20 years and older): The unemployment rate for Latino males continues its three-month decline, dipping from 4.8% in August to 4% in September to 3.9% in October. The labor force participation rate for Latino males declined in October by 1.1 percentage points to 79.7%. Nearly 77% of Latino male workers participating in the labor force are employed.
- Women (ages 20 years and older): The unemployment rate for Latinas decreased from 5.4% in September to 4.9% in October. The labor force participation rate for Latinas also declined, going from 59.2% in September to 58.6% in October. More than 55% of Latinas participating in the labor force are employed.
- Young Latino/Latina workers (ages 16-19 years old): The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased from 14.3% in September to 16.3% in October. The labor force participation rate for Latino youth declined by 1.4 percentage points to 31.2% in October. About 26.1% of Latino youth in the labor force are employed.