

# More Latinos Return to the Labor Force

Economy Continues Job Growth for 86th Consecutive Month



## PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LEAD JOB GROWTH

Professional and business services added 46,000 jobs in November. Over the past 12 months, the industry added 548,000 jobs. Within this industry, Latinos are employed the most in the professional, scientific, and technical services sector. This sector includes occupations such as accountants and auditors, analysts, and lawyers.

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	26.1 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>	6.6 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>	160.5 million	27.4 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%	4.7%
<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>	60.1%	62.5%

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 December 8, 2017), Table A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in November 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 228,000 jobs in November, exceeding economists' predictions by roughly 28,000 jobs. This means the economy's job creation trend continues for its 86th consecutive month. Over the past 11 months, the United States added more than 1.9 million jobs to the economy, or about 174,000 jobs per month. The national unemployment rate remained at 4.1%—the lowest rate since 2000—however the number of people unemployed increased by 90,000 workers. These workers are unemployed because they are either new workers entering the labor force or reentrants coming back to the labor force. November's employment data could signal the strength of seasonal hiring for this year. The start of seasonal hiring could be one of the reasons why more workers are entering the labor force. Indeed, the retail industry added nearly 19,000 jobs in November—the most in more than a year.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased from 4.8% in October to 4.7% in November. This makes November's Latino unemployment rate the lowest since 2006. The decreased unemployment rate is a result of an increase in the number of employed Latinos in November. The number of Latinos working grew by 108,000, from 26 million workers in October to 26.1 million in November.

Wages grew slightly in November, rising by five cents. Over the year, wage growth increased by 2.5%. While this is a promising trend, the growth target for wages, considering the economy's low unemployment rate and strong job growth, should be somewhere around [3.5 to 4%](#).

While the economy continues to recover from the Great Recession, events in Congress could hinder the U.S. from reaching full recovery. Republicans in the House and Senate are rushing to pass tax cuts for the rich and largest corporations that would [explode the nation's deficit by \\$1.5 trillion](#). Not only would these cuts be paid for by the working- and middle-class, it would cause interest rates to rise, forcing the government to borrow more to finance spending. With less revenue to spend, the economy slows and the risk of employers shedding jobs increases.

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

- Men (ages 20 years and older): The Latino male unemployment rate decreased from 3.9% in October to 3.8% in November. November's Latino male unemployment rate is the lowest in at least five months. The low unemployment rate is due to an increase of 21,000 employed Latino males.
- Women (ages 20 years and older): The unemployment rate for Latinas remained at 4.9%. However, the number of Latinas employed in November grew by 79,000 workers.
- Young Latino/Latina workers (ages 16-19 years old): The unemployment rate for Latino youths also declined, from 16.3% in October to 15.4% in November. Similar to the trend for Latinos and Latinas, the number of employed Latino youths increased by 7,000 workers.