

U.S. EMPLOYERS ADD 148,000 JOBS

Economy Continues Job Growth for 87th Consecutive Month



HEALTH CARE LED JOB GROWTH

In December, health-related employment added 31,000 jobs. Employment continued to rise in ambulatory health care services and hospitals, increasing by 15,000 and 12,000 jobs, respectively, in December. The industry added 300,000 jobs in 2017. Within the education and health care services overall, Latinos account for approximately 16% of those employed in this industry.

| INDICATORS | National | Latinos |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs | 154.0 million | 26.1 million |
| Unemployed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 6.6 million | 1.4 million |
| Civilian Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sum of employed and unemployed people | 160.6 million | 27.5 million |
| Not in the Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed | 95.5 million | 14.3 million |
| Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the labor force that is unemployed | 4.1% | 4.9% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force | 62.7% | 65.7% |
| Employment-Population Ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working | 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 January 5, 2018), Table A-3.

EMPLOYMENT OF LATINOS IN DECEMBER 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 148,000 jobs in December. This means the economy's job creation trend continues for its 87th consecutive month. Over the past year, the U.S. added more than 1.8 million jobs to the economy. In December, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1% for the third consecutive month—the lowest rate since 2000 – and, the number of people unemployed decreased by 40,000 workers. The decrease in the unemployment rate could be the result of employment gains in the health care as well as manufacturing and construction industries, together accounting for approximately 58% (86,000) of the jobs created in December.

The Latino unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.8% in November to 4.9% in December, raising the total number of unemployed Latinos to 1.4 million. This increase could be explained by an increase in new workers entering the labor force or an increase in people reentering the labor force and seeking employment. At the same time, the number of working Latinos grew by 53,000, reaching 26.1 million workers in December.

Wages grew slightly in December, as average hourly earnings rose by nine cents. Over the last year, average hourly earnings have risen by only 2.5%, considerably less than the [3.5 to 4.0%](#) target for workers to benefit from economic growth. Rather than seek to bolster opportunities for working families, Congress and the president are delivering a massive tax giveaway to the wealthiest Americans that is projected to [explode the nation's deficit by \\$1.5 trillion](#). If history is any indication, these tax cuts will not create jobs or boost workers' wages.

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

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The Latino male unemployment rate remained steady at 3.8% in December, and is one-percentage point lower than it in December 2016 (4.8%). However, the number of employed Latinos rose by approximately 100,000 between November and December 2017.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.9% in November to 5.3% in December. A higher unemployment rate is due to an increase of approximately 45,000 Latinas who are unemployed.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youths declined marginally, from 15.5% in November to 15.4% in December. During this period, the number of employed Hispanic youths increased by an estimated 25,000 workers.