

# U.S. Employers Add 200,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 88th Consecutive Month



### CONSTRUCTION LED JOB GROWTH

In January, construction-related employment added 36,000 jobs. Most of the job creation took place in among specialty trade contractors (+26,000), while residential building construction also continued to rise (+5,000). The construction industry added 226,000 jobs over the last year. Latinos account for approximately 30% of those employed in the construction industry.

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>	154.4 million	26.4 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>	6.7 million	1.4 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sum of employed and unemployed people</li> </ul>	161.1 million	27.8 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>	95.7 million	14.4 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</li> </ul>	4.1%	5.0%
<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%	65.9%
<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%	62.6%

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 February 2, 2018), Table A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in January 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 200,000 jobs in January, continuing an 88-month job creation trend. In January, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1% for the fourth consecutive month—the lowest rate since 2000. The decrease in the unemployment rate could be the result of employment gains in the construction as well as food services and health care, together accounting for approximately 44% (+88,000) of the jobs created in January. Further, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.9% over the last year. The increase in earnings could be due, in part, to 20 cities and 18 states raising minimum wage in January.

For the third consecutive month, the Latino unemployment rate increased slightly to 5% in January, raising the total number of unemployed Latinos to 1.4 million. This increase could be explained by an increase in new Latino workers entering or Latinos reentering the labor force and seeking employment. In fact, the Hispanic civil labor force increased by more than 300,000 people between December and January.

President Trump pointed to lower unemployment and a soaring stock market as a sign that his policies are helping the economy and the middle class. In reality, the [top 10%](#) of Americans with the highest wealth own a vast majority of all stock shares, while working class individuals do not benefit from stock gains. More concerning is that while the stock market grew by 25% last year, wages only increased 2.9%, considerably less than the [3.5 to 4.0%](#) target for workers to benefit from economic growth. Investment in policies like raising the minimum wage, supporting high-quality job training programs, and making sure higher education is accessible and affordable for all Americans to climb up the ladder of economic opportunity should be a priority.

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

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The Latino male unemployment rate increased from 3.8% in December to 4.3% in January, but is half a percentage-point lower than it was in January 2017 (4.8%). However, the number of employed Hispanic men rose by approximately 150,000 between December and January.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** Unlike Latino men, the unemployment rate for Latinas decreased from 5.3% in December to 4.6% in January. More than approximately 140,000 Hispanic women were employed in January than December.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youths increased, from 15.4% in December to 17% in January. The number of employed Hispanic youths decreased by 1,000 workers during this period.