

U.S. Employers Add 103,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 90th Consecutive Month



MANUFACTURING LED JOB GROWTH

In March, manufacturing-related employment added 22,000 jobs. Employment in fabricated metals products increased by 9,000 over the month and, over the past year, manufacturing overall has added 232,000 jobs. Latinos account for approximately 17% of those employed in the manufacturing industry.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed		
• Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	155.2 million	26.5 million
Unemployed		
• 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		
• The sum of employed and unemployed people	161.8 million	27.9 million
Not in the Labor Force		
• People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	95.3 million	14.5 million
Unemployment Rate		
• Share of the labor force that is unemployed	4.1%	5.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	62.9%	65.8%
Employment-Population Ratio		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	60.4%	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 March 9, 2018), Table A-3.

Employment of Latinos in March 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 103,000 jobs in March, continuing a 90-month job creation trend. In March, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1% for the sixth consecutive month—the lowest rate since 2000. The low unemployment rate could be the result of large employment gains in January (+200,000) and February (+326,000).

However, the Latino unemployment rate increased to 5.1% in March from 4.9% in February. This is the highest Latino unemployment rate in six months (since September 2017) and the largest gap between the Latino and overall unemployment rate (5.1% vs. 4.1%) in over a year. Other unfavorable employment trends for Latinos include a decrease in those employed (-146,000) and an increase in the number of unemployed (+46,000). Overall negative employment trends for Latinos this month could be explained by slight job-losses in industries where Latinos make up a considerable share of the workforce, such as construction (-15,000) and general merchandise stores (-4,700), where Latinos account for approximately 23% and 20% of the workforce, respectively.

After President Trump issued massive tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, Congress is now attempting to pass another massive corporate giveaway by de-regulating Wall Street, if S. 2155 is enacted. All the while, wage growth, an important indicator of job quality and key factor in economic security, has been increasing at a sluggish pace. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen by only 2.7%, falling short of the [3.5 to 4.0%](#) target economists believe is necessary for a strong economy. To help the economy and middle class, policymakers should raise the minimum wage, support high-quality job training programs, expand Medicaid, strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit, and make sure higher education is accessible and affordable for all Americans.

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 considerably from 3.9% in February to 4.4% in March. Further, the number of employed Hispanic men dropped by approximately 35,000 between February and March.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** Unlike Latino men, the unemployment rate for Latinas decreased from 5.2% in February to 4.9% in March. However, there was a decrease in the number of employed Hispanic women over the last month (-138,000).
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youths changed very little between February and March, decreasing slightly from 14.2% to 14.1%. Further, the number of employed Hispanic youths increased by 27,000 workers over the last month.