

# U.S. Employers Add 164,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 91st Consecutive Month



## PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LED JOB GROWTH

In April, professional and business services added 54,000 jobs, with half (27,600) in administrative and waste services. Over the past year, the professional and business services industry has added over half a million jobs. Latinos account for 16% of those employed in the professional and business services sector.

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>	155.2 million	26.9 million
<b>Unemployed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working</li> </ul>	6.3 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>	161.5 million	28.2 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	14.3 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</li> </ul>	3.9%	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>	62.8%	66.4%
<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>	60.3%	63.2%

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 May 4, 2018), Table A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in April 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 164,000 jobs in April, continuing a 91-month job creation trend. In April, the national unemployment rate dipped to 3.9%, the lowest rate since 2000. The low unemployment rate could be the result of average monthly gains of 191,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.8% in April from 5.1% in March. This is the lowest Latino unemployment rate since November 2017 but remains higher than the national unemployment rate of 3.9%.

Other employment trends for Latinos include an increase in those employed (+360,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-53,000). The increase in the number of employed Latinos this month could be explained by slight job gains in industries where Latinos make up a considerable share of the workforce, such as construction (+17,000) and leisure and hospitality (+18,000), where Latinos account for approximately 30% and 23% of the workforce, respectively.

While Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of all racial or ethnic groups (66.4%), they too often do not earn enough to cover basic necessities like health care, nutritious food, and housing. One reason for that is that wage-growth, an important indicator of job quality and a key factor in economic security, remains stagnant.

Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by only 2.6%. Faced with stagnant wages, a federal minimum wage that is too low, and a growing racial wealth gap, benefit programs like Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and affordable housing initiatives help Latino families make ends meet. Yet, Congress will soon vote on a partisan Farm Bill gutting SNAP benefits and creating more red tape for those who rely on the program.

Instead of taking food from families, Congress should invest in families and raise the minimum wage, support high-quality job training programs, 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 decreased from 4.4% in March to 4.1% in April. Further, the number of employed Hispanic men grew by approximately 213,000 between March and April.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas also decreased—from 4.9% in March to 4.7% in April. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 179,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased between March and April, from 14.1% to 14.8%. This mirrors a reduction in the number of employed Hispanic youth by 32,000 workers over the last month.