

## U.S. Employers Add 223,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 92nd Consecutive Month



### RETAIL SERVICES LED JOB GROWTH

In May, the retail trade industry added 31,100 jobs, with more than 13,000 of new jobs created in general merchandise stores. Over the past year, the retail trade industry has added 125,000 jobs. Latinos account for 17% of those employed in the wholesale and retail trade industry.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
<b>Employed</b> • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	155.5 million	26.8 million
<b>Unemployed</b> • Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working	6.1 million	1.4 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> • The sum of employed and unemployed people	161.5 million	28.2 million
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b> • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	95.9 million	14.4 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> • Share of the labor force that is unemployed	3.8%	4.9%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b> • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	62.7%	66.2%
<b>Employment-Population Ratio</b> • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	60.4%	63%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Status of the Hispanic or Latino Population by Sex and Age," Current Population Survey, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2018), Table A and A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in May 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 223,000 jobs in May, continuing a 92-month job creation trend. In May, the national unemployment rate dipped slightly to 3.8%, 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 increased to 4.9% in May from 4.8% in April. While the national unemployment rate inched down in May, the Latino unemployment rose, and it remains higher than the national unemployment rate of 3.8%. Latinos saw a decrease in those employed (-33,000) and an increase in the number of unemployed (+10,000). The decrease in the number of employed Latinos this month could be explained by an increase of the number of Latinos not in the labor force. From April to May, 109,000 Latinos left the labor force.

While Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of all racial or ethnic groups (66.2%), too often they 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 with average hourly earnings only rising by 2.7% over the year. 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 legislation that will make it harder for families to access those programs. In June, the House of Representatives is voting again on a partisan Farm Bill that guts SNAP benefits and creates more red tape for those who rely on the program. The House may also vote on a sweeping bill that would take federal benefits away from people who do not meet restrictive work requirements.

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 4.1% in April to 3.9% in May. However, the number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 56,000 between April and May.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas rose—from 4.7% in April to 5.1% in May. However, the number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 61,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased between April and May, from 14.8% to 15.1%. This mirrors a reduction in the number of employed Hispanic youth by 38,000 workers over the last month.