

U.S. Employers Add 213,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 93rd Consecutive Month



PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LED JOB GROWTH

In June, professional and business services added 50,000 jobs, with over 19,000 new jobs created in administrative and support services. Over the past year, the professional and business services industry has added 521,000 jobs. Latinos account for 16% of those employed in the professional and business services sector.

| INDICATORS | National | Latinos |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs | 155.6 million | 27.1 million |
| Unemployed • Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working | 6.6 million | 1.3 million |
| Civilian Labor Force • The sum of employed and unemployed people | 162.1 million | 28.4 million |
| Not in the Labor Force • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed | 95.5 million | 14.3 million |
| Unemployment Rate • Share of the labor force that is unemployed | 4% | 4.6% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force | 62.9% | 66.5% |
| Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working | 60.4% | 63.4% |

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 July 6, 2018), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in June 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 213,000 jobs in June, continuing a 93-month job creation trend. In June, the national unemployment rate increased slightly to 4%, the highest since March. This may be because individuals who had left the labor force are returning: the number of those not in the labor force decreased by more than 400,000 from May to June.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.6% in June from 4.9% in May. This is the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record since the Department of Labor started tracking Hispanic unemployment numbers in 1973. Even though it is a record low, the Latino unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate of 4%. Latinos saw an increase in those employed (+250,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-86,000). There was an increase of 164,000 Latinos in the civilian labor force from May to June, which may contribute to a slight uptick in the labor force participation rate, up to 66.5%.

While Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of all racial or ethnic groups (66.5%), they too often do not earn enough to cover basic necessities. One contributing factor is insufficient wage growth, an important indicator of job quality and a key factor in economic security. Over the past year, average hourly earnings only rose by 2.7%, compared to the 3.5–4% economists recommend for a healthy economy. Faced with stagnant wages, a federal minimum wage that is too low, and a growing racial wealth gap, benefit programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) help Latino families make ends meet. Just last week, the Senate passed a Farm Bill that would preserve SNAP, maintaining nutrition assistance for 10 million Latinos. This is in sharp contrast to the House-passed Farm Bill, which would gut funding for SNAP and increase barriers for participation, leaving hardworking families hungry.

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 slightly from 3.9% in May to 3.8% in June. The number of employed Hispanic men increased by approximately 116,000 between May and June.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas fell—from 5.1% in May to 4.8% in June. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 148,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16–19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth dropped significantly between May and June, from 15.1% to 11.4%. This may be due to young workers leaving the labor force, as both the number of young workers in the civilian labor force and their labor force participation rate decreased from May to June.