

# U.S. Employers Add 304,000 Jobs in January

Latino Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.9%



## LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY LEADS JOB GROWTH, ADDING 74,000 JOBS

In January, leisure and hospitality added 74,000 jobs, with food services and drinking places adding 37,000 new jobs. Throughout 2018, the leisure and hospitality sector added 410,000 jobs. Latinos are overrepresented in the leisure and hospitality sector, making up 23% of workers.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
<b>Employed</b>		
• Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	156.7 million	27.6 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	6.5 million	1.4 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>		
• The sum of employed and unemployed people	163.2 million	29.0 million
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b>		
• People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	95.0 million	14.0 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>		
• Share of the labor force that is unemployed	4.0%	4.9%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	63.2%	67.3%
<b>Employment-Population Ratio</b>		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	60.7%	64.1%

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/empst.pdf> (accessed February 1, 2019), Table A and A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in January 2019

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 304,000 jobs in January, down from 312,000 jobs in December. In January, the national unemployment rate inched up slightly to 4.0%, after a four-month period of staying below 4.0%. This may be because more individuals are unemployed (+241,000) compared to December, as the unemployment rate does not fully capture the impact of the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history, which lasted 34 full days and included most of January. Because of the shutdown, 800,000 federal employees and an additional estimated 1.2 million federal contractors were either furloughed or working without pay. The employment data for January captured federal employees working without pay as employed, and those not working as unemployed.

The Latino unemployment rate increased to 4.9% in January, up from 4.4% in December. The increase in the Latino unemployment rate represents a departure from the previous four months when the Latino unemployment rate reached 4.4% for the first time—marking the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record since the Department of Labor started tracking Hispanic unemployment numbers in 1973. The Latino unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate of 4.0%. In January, Latinos saw a decrease in those employed (-122,000) and an increase in the number of unemployed (+145,000).

Despite high labor force participation and relatively low unemployment, many Latino families continue to struggle 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% to 4.0% economists recommend for a healthy economy.

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 3.5% in December to 4.0% in January. The number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 41,000 between December and January.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.3% in December to 4.8% in January. The number of employed Hispanic women decreased by approximately 91,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth decreased slightly between December and January, from 15.4% to 15.2%. This may be due to young workers finding work in January.