

U.S. Employers Add 20,000 Jobs in February

Latino Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.3%—A Historic Low



PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LEADS JOB GROWTH, ADDING 42,000 JOBS

In February, professional and business services added 42,000 jobs, with temporary help services adding 11,400 jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in the professional and business services sector, composing only 12.7% of workers.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs 	157.0 million	27.5 million
Unemployed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working 	6.3 million	1.3 million
Civilian Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sum of employed and unemployed people 	163.2 million	28.7 million
Not in the Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed 	95.2 million	14.4 million
Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the labor force that is unemployed 	3.8%	4.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force 	63.2%	66.6%
Employment-Population Ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working 	60.7%	63.7%

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 March 8, 2019), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in February 2019

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added only 20,000 jobs in February, down from 304,000 jobs in January. Yet in February, the national unemployment rate decreased slightly to 3.8%. These numbers could still reflect some of the confusion and delays caused by the 35-day partial government shutdown, as furloughed federal workers and contractors ceased working in part-time or gig jobs once the shutdown ended.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.3% in February, down from 4.9% in January. The decrease in the Latino unemployment rate marks the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record since the Department of Labor started tracking Hispanic unemployment numbers in 1973. Still, the Latino unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate of 3.8%. In February, Latinos saw a decrease in those employed (-99,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (+161,000).

Despite high labor force participation and historically 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 decreased from 4.0% in January to 3.6% in February. The number of employed Hispanic men increased by approximately 51,000 between January and February.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas decreased from 4.8% in January to 4.0% in February. The number of employed Hispanic women decreased by approximately 65,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased between January and February, from 15.2% to 17.6%. This may be due to young workers returning to school or ending their seasonal employment.