

U.S. Employers Add 75,000 Jobs in May

Latino Unemployment Rate Decreases to 4.2%—A Historic Low



PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LEADS JOB GROWTH, ADDING 33,000 JOBS

In May, professional and business services added 33,000 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 	156.8 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 	5.9 million	1.2 million
Civilian Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sum of employed and unemployed people 	163.0 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 	96.2 million	14.7 million
Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the labor force that is unemployed 	3.6%	4.2%
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 	62.8%	66.2%
Employment-Population Ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working 	60.6%	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/empst.pdf> (accessed June 7, 2019), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in May 2019

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 75,000 jobs in May, a significant decrease from the 263,000 jobs added in April. Yet the national unemployment rate remained at 3.6%. This may be because the number of employed persons remained at 157 million for the third consecutive month.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.2% in May, a historic low. Still, the Latino unemployment rate remains significantly higher than the national rate of 3.6%. In March, Latinos saw an increase in those employed (+145,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (+2,000).

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%–4% 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 3.7% in April to 3.4% in May. The number of employed Hispanic men increased by approximately 160,000 between April and May.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 3.7% in April to 4.1% in May. The number of employed Hispanic women remained at 11,330,000.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16–19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth decreased between April and May, from 15.6% to 15.1%. This may be due to young workers entering the labor force.