

Employers Add 273,000 Jobs in February

Latino unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.4%



HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE LEADS JOB GROWTH, ADDING 57,000 JOBS

In February, health care and social assistance added 57,000 jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in this sector, making up only 9% of health care workers compared to 75.3% in the White, non-Hispanic population.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed		
• Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	158.8 million	28.5 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	5.8 million	1.3 million
Civilian Labor Force		
• The sum of employed and unemployed people	164.5 million	29.9 million
Unemployment Rate		
• Share of the labor force that is unemployed	3.5%	4.4 %
Labor Force Participation Rate		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	63.4%	68.1%
Employment-Population Ratio		
• Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	61.1%	65.1 %

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 March 6, 2020), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in February 2020

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 273,000 jobs in February—an increase from the 225,000 jobs added in January. The national unemployment rate decreased slightly from 3.6% to 3.5%, while the number of employed persons increased slightly by 45,000 to 158.8 million.

The Latino unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.3% to 4.4% from January to February. At 4.4%, the Latino unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national rate of 3.5%—a difference of 0.9%. In February, Latinos saw an increase in those employed (+134,000), but also an increase in the number of unemployed (+47,000).

Despite high labor force participation, 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% 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 3.4% in January to 3.2% in February. The number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 52,000 between January and February.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.4% in January to 4.9% in February. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by 133,000 last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16–19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth remained the same at 14.5% from January to February.

About US

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).