

Disparities in Youth Unemployment Persist

One in Five Teens in the Workforce is Latino

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported today](#) that U.S. employers added 295,000 jobs in February 2015, the 12th consecutive month of job growth above 200,000. The national unemployment rate dropped to 5.5%. The Latino unemployment rate also dropped slightly to 6.6% (see Table 1).

Table 1. The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in February 2015

Indicators	Latinos, February 2015
Employed — <i>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</i>	24.2 million
Unemployed — <i>Those who are available to work, make an effort to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working</i>	1.7 million
Civilian Labor Force — <i>The sum of employed and unemployed people</i>	26 million
Not in the Labor Force — <i>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</i>	13.3 million
Unemployment Rate — <i>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</i>	6.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</i>	66.2%
Employment-Population Ratio — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</i>	61.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Status of the Hispanic or Latino Population by Sex and Age," *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t03.htm> (accessed March 6, 2015), Table A-3.

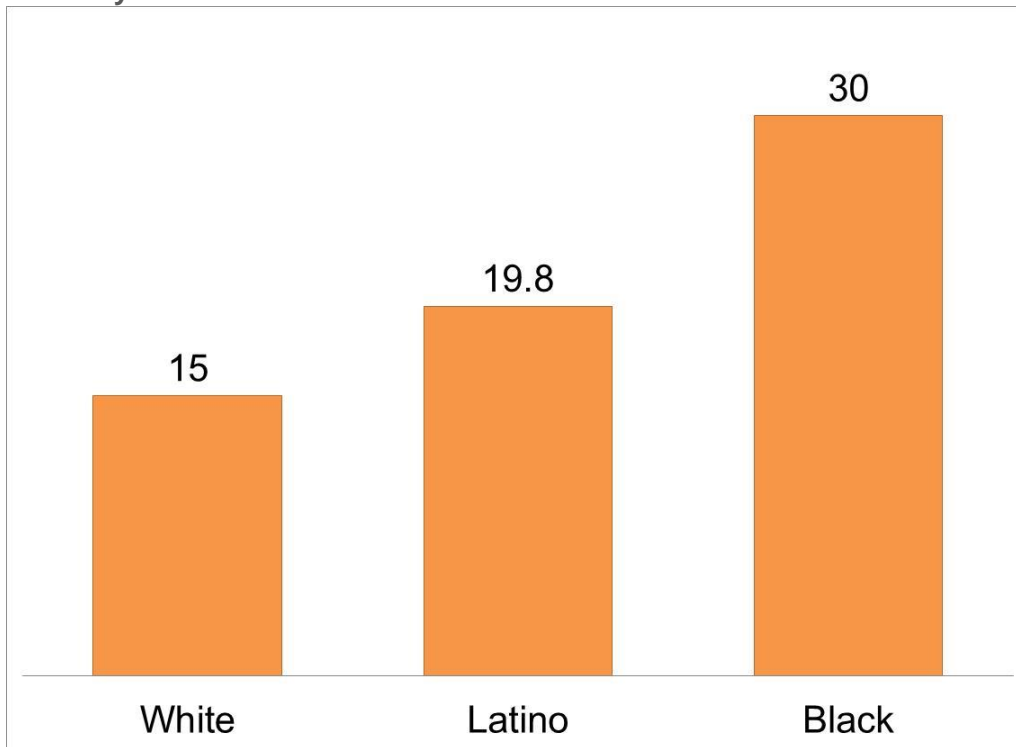
Youth Unemployment Remains Acute in Communities of Color

The unemployment rate of teenagers ages 16–19 who are actively seeking work is 17.1%, about three times that of the overall unemployment rate. As Latinos represent a fast-growing share of the workforce, it is instructive to track their youth employment trends. A methodological change to the 2015 Current Populations Survey now allows the Department of Labor to more accurately measure Latino youth employment by adjusting monthly estimates for seasonal factors like weather and seasonal hiring.

Latinos represent 20% of U.S. workers between ages 16 and 19, compared to 16% of the total workforce. As Figure 1 illustrates, Latino and Black teens are much more likely to be unemployed than their White counterparts. For a deeper analysis of the drivers of Latino youth employment

and promising policy solutions, see NCLR's report [Giving Them an Edge? The Effects of Work Experience on the Employment Prospects of Latino Young Men](#).

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate of Workers Ages 16–19, February 2015, by Race and Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t03.htm> (accessed March 6, 2015), Tables A-2 and A-3.

Get the latest news and trends in the Latino workforce by following us on [Twitter](#).