

More Latinos Reentered the Work Force

January Jobs Growth Outpaced Expectations



Surge in Number of Low-Wage Retail Trade Jobs

Retail trade added 46,000 jobs in January. While Latinos make up a significant share (16.8%) of retail workers, these jobs provide some of the lowest wages. Consequently, many families continue to struggle with the rising cost of living. Many families will have more money in their pockets as [19 states](#) increase their minimum wages in 2017. Raising the [federal minimum wage](#) could help millions more.

The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in January 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported](#) today that employers added 227,000 jobs in January, a robust start to the year that outpaced economists' expectations of 180,000. This report also extends the nation's record streak of job growth to 76 consecutive months. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate inched up slightly by 0.1% from December to 4.8% in January and the Latino unemployment rate remains unchanged at 5.9%. Labor force participation increased for all workers in January, meaning that people who were previously not in the labor force are now returning. Latino workers still lead all other racial and ethnic groups with a labor force participation rate of 66.1%.

| Indicators | Latinos, January 2017 |
|---|-----------------------|
| Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs | 25.4 million |
| Unemployed • 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 | 1.6 million |
| Civilian Labor Force • The sum of employed and unemployed people | 27 million |
| Not in the Labor Force • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed | 13.9 million |
| Unemployment Rate • Share of the labor force that is unemployed | 5.9% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force | 66.1% |
| Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working | 62.2% |

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 February 3, 2017), Table A-3.