

# U.S. Employers Add 157,000 Jobs in July

This Month Shows Lowest Job Growth Since March 2018



## PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LEAD JOB GROWTH

In July professional and business services added 51,000 new jobs, contributing to the 518,000 jobs added over the year. Temporary help services lead job growth in this industry with 28,000 jobs.

Latinos account for 16% of those employed in the professional and business services sector.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
<b>Employed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</li> </ul>	155.9 million	27.2 million
<b>Unemployed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working</li> </ul>	6.3 million	1.3 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sum of employed and unemployed people</li> </ul>	162.2 million	28.5 million
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</li> </ul>	95.6 million	14.3 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</li> </ul>	3.9%	4.5%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</li> </ul>	62.9%	66.6%
<b>Employment-Population Ratio</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</li> </ul>	60.5%	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/empsit.pdf> (accessed August 3, 2018), Table A and A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in July 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 157,000 jobs in July, down from 213,000 jobs in June. In June, the national unemployment rate inched down slightly to 3.9%, nearly hitting on the 3.8% unemployment seen in May, which was the lowest unemployment rate since 2000. This may be because individuals are finding more work as the number of those employed increased (+389,000) and the number of unemployed decreased (-284,000), surpassing the increase of those not in the labor force (+96,000).

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.5% in July from 4.6% in June. This month beats out last month for the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record since the Department of Labor started tracking Hispanic unemployment numbers in 1973. Even though it is a record low, the Latino unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate of 3.9%. Latinos saw an increase in those employed (+146,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-19,000). There was an increase of 126,000 Latinos in the civilian labor force from June to July, which may contribute to a slight uptick in the labor force participation rate, up to 66.6% from 66.5%.

Despite high labor force participation and 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.

Faced with stagnant wages, a federal minimum wage that is too low, and a growing racial wealth gap, benefit programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) help Latino families make ends meet. Just last month, the Senate passed a Farm Bill that would preserve SNAP, maintaining nutrition assistance for 10 million Latinos. This is in sharp contrast to the House-passed Farm Bill, which would gut funding for SNAP and increase barriers for participation, leaving hard-working families hungry. Now, the House and Senate must reconcile their bills next month to determine the fate of these critical programs.

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 3.8% in June to 3.2% in July. The number of employed Hispanic men increased by approximately 56,000 between June and July.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas fell—from 4.8% in June to 4.7% in July. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 66,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased significantly between June and July, from 11.4% to 16.8%. This may be due to young workers entering the labor force.