

# More Working-Age Latinos Join the Labor Force

Economy Loses 33,000 Jobs



## HEALTH CARE SERVICES LEAD JOB GROWTH

Health care jobs rose by 23,000 in September. Job gains occurred in ambulatory health care services, but were partially offset by a decrease in jobs in nursing care facilities. Latinos represent 10% of the Baby Boomer population. As that generation continues to retire, jobs in the health care industry, including home and long-term care, will become increasingly vital.

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>	154.3 million	26.2 million
<b>Unemployed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	6.8 million	1.4 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sum of employed and unemployed people</li> </ul>	161.1 million	27.6 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>	94.4 million	13.9 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</li> </ul>	4.2%	5.1%
<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>	63.1%	66.5%
<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>	60.4%	63.1%

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 September 1, 2017), Table A-3.

## Employment for Latinos in September 2017

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported today that the economy lost 33,000 jobs in September due to Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. This is the first monthly decline in employment in the U.S. in more than seven years.

However, the national unemployment rate declined from 4.4% in August to 4.2% in September. This is largely the result of an increase in the number of people who found new employment after losing a previous job or completing a temporary job. The Latino unemployment rate decreased slightly from 5.2% in August to 5.1% in September. September also saw an increase in both the Latino labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio. This means that not only did more Latinos participate in the labor force in September, but that there was an increase in the number of employed Latinos.

Wage growth, an important indicator of job quality, has been increasing at a sluggish pace despite strong job growth. Over the past 12 months, wages have grown by 2.5%. However, in a resurging economy, many economists expect wage growth near 3.5%. While there is no consensus about the cause of sluggish wage growth, many economists conjecture it is partly due to the [weakening of unions and low productivity](#).

The following takes a closer look at Latino employment by gender and age:

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latino males in September was 4%, close to the national unemployment rate for males which stood at 3.9%. Over the past four months, the Latino male unemployment rate ranged from 3.8% in June 2017 to 4.8% in August 2017. The labor force participation rate for Latino males in September remained high, with nearly 78% of Latino male workers employed.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.7% in August to 5.4% in September, 1.3% higher than the unemployment rate for all women 20 years of age and older. Over the past four months, the Latina unemployment rate has hovered around 5.3%. The labor force participation rate for Latinas in September was 59.2%, with almost 56% of Latinas employed.
- **Young Latino/Latina workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased from 13.6% in August to 14.3% in September, higher than the 12.9% national youth unemployment rate. The labor force participation rate for Latino youth in September was 32.6%, lower than the national labor force participation rate of 35.8%. About 27.9% of Latino youth in the labor force are employed.