U.S. Employers Add 250,000 Jobs in October

National Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged at 3.7%

HEALTH CARE LEADS JOB GROWTH ADDING 36,000 JOBS

In October, health care added 36,000 jobs, with hospitals and ambulatory health care services leading the growth with a combined 17,000 new jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in the health care sector, making up only 13% of workers.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	156.5 million	27.2 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	6.0 million	1.2 million
Civilian Labor Force • The sum of employed and unemployed people	162.6 million	28.5 million
Not in the Labor Force • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	95.8 million	14.5 million
Unemployment Rate • Share of the labor force that is unemployed	3.7%	4.4%
Labor Force Participation Rate • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	62.9%	66.2%
Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	60.6%	63.3%

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 November 2, 2018), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in October 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 250,000 jobs in October, up from 134,000 jobs in September. In October, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.7%, the lowest unemployment rate in decades. This may be because individuals are finding more work, as employers have added an average of 211,000 jobs monthly over the past 12 months. Monthly job growth has continued to grow at the pace of, on average, more than 200,000 jobs per month since 2014.

The Latino unemployment rate inched down to 4.4% in October from 4.5% in September. At 4.5%, the Latino unemployment rate has also hit historic lows, continuing a gradual decline since January 2011 when the Latino unemployment rate was 12.3%. However, despite the hard work put forth by Latinos, which has contributed to lowering the unemployment rate, Latino unemployment remains higher than the national rate of 3.7%. Latinos saw an increase in those employed (+193,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-39,000). There was an increase of 154,000 Latinos in the civilian labor force from September to October, which may contribute to an increase in the labor force participation rate, up slightly to 66.2% from 66.0%.

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 3.1%, compared to the 3.5-4% economists recommend for a healthy economy. Another important indicator of job quality and a strong labor market is the ability to find full-time work. Yet, in October, the total number of people working part-time but who would prefer full-time employment totaled 4.6 million, including 1.3 million Latinos.

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

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The Latino male unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.9% from September to October. The number of employed Hispanic men increased by approximately 22,000 between September and October.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas remained unchanged at 4.3% from September to October. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 53,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth declined between September and October, from 15.3% to 11.6%. This may be due to an increase of 88,000 employed young Latino workers.