

U.S. Employers Add 151,000 Jobs in January

Latinos See Job Growth and Drop in Unemployment



Latinos are One-Quarter of Food Service Workers

Food service was once again one of the largest growth industries last month, adding 47,000 new jobs in January. The food service industry has added more than 380,000 jobs over the last year. Latinos are disproportionately represented in the food service industry; they account for 16% of the total workforce but make up 24.9% of workers in this industry.

The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in January 2016

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported today](#) that U.S. employers added 151,000 jobs in January 2016, a definite decline from the strong job growth in the previous month of 292,000 jobs. Modest job growth in January led to a slight decline in the national unemployment rate to 4.9% from 5%. The Latino unemployment rate, however, declined noticeably from 6.3% in December to 5.9% in January, as the number of employed Latinos increased. While job growth in the food service industry led to gains for Latinos, low and stagnant wages remain an issue for workers in the restaurant industry. Continued job growth in the restaurant industry despite recent minimum wage increases in states, along with a recent [Cornell University report](#), challenge the assumption that raising wages would lead to job loss.

Indicators	Latinos, January 2015
Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	24.9 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	26.5 million
Not in the Labor Force • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	13.8 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	65.8%
Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	61.9%

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/empstat.t03.htm> (accessed February 5, 2016), Table A-3.