

# U.S. Employers Add 313,000 Jobs

Job Growth Continues for 89th Consecutive Month



## CONSTRUCTION LED JOB GROWTH

In February, construction-related employment added 61,000 jobs. Most of the job creation took place in among specialty trade contractors (+38,000), while residential building construction also continued to rise (+16,000). The construction industry added 185,000 jobs over the last four months. Latinos account for approximately 30% of those employed in the construction industry.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
<b>Employed</b> • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	155.2 million	26.6 million
<b>Unemployed</b> • 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	6.7 million	1.4 million
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b> • The sum of employed and unemployed people	161.9 million	28.0 million
<b>Not in the Labor Force</b> • People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed	95.0 million	14.3 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> • Share of the labor force that is unemployed	4.1%	4.9%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b> • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	63.0%	66.2%
<b>Employment-Population Ratio</b> • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	60.4%	62.9%

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/empsit.t03.htm> (accessed March 9, 2018), Table A-3.

## Employment of Latinos in February 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 313,000 jobs in February, continuing an 89-month job creation trend. In February, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1% for the fifth consecutive month—the lowest rate since 2000. The steady, low unemployment rate could be the result of employment gains in the construction (+61,000), retail trade (+50,000), and professional and retail services (+50,000). Together, these sectors accounted for about 51% of the jobs created in February.

The Latino unemployment rate dropped slightly to 4.9% in February from 5.0% in January. Other positive employment trends for Latinos include an increase in those employed (+214,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-18,000). Overall positive employment trends for Latinos could be explained by strong job-growth in industries where Latinos make up a considerable share of the workforce, such as construction.

While President Trump and Congress issued massive tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, wage-growth, an important indicator of job quality, has been increasing at a sluggish pace. In February, average hourly earnings rose by only four cents to \$26.75. Over the last year, hourly earnings have increased by only 2.6%, falling short of the [3.5 to 4.0%](#) target economists believe is necessary for a strong economy. To help the economy and middle class, policymakers should raise the minimum wage, support high-quality job training programs, and make sure higher education is accessible and affordable for all Americans.

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 4.3% in January to 3.9% in February, and markedly lower than it was in February 2017 (4.6%). Further, the number of employed Hispanic men rose by approximately 64,000 between January and February.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** Unlike Latino men, the unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.6% in January to 5.2% in February. However, there was a slight uptick in the number of employed Hispanic women over the last month (+78,000).
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youths decreased from 17.0% in January to 14.2% in February. Along this trend, the number of employed Hispanic youths increased by 72,000 workers and the number of unemployed decreased by 29,000 during this period.