

Latino Unemployment Falls to May 2008 Levels

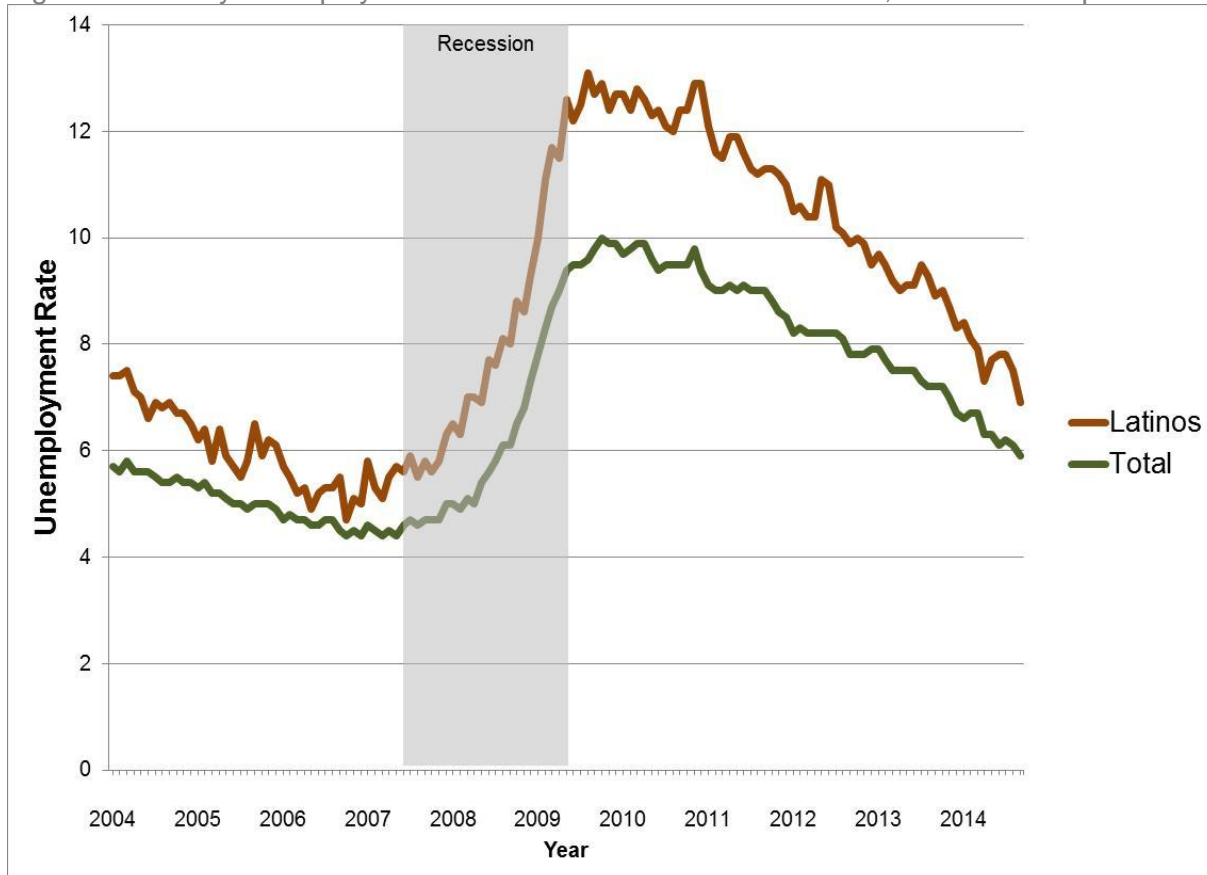
Construction, Administrative Support, and Temporary Help All Gain Jobs

In September unemployment for all racial and ethnic groups declined to its lowest level since 2008. This *Monthly Latino Employment Report* summarizes recent trends and factors behind the decline of 0.6 percentage points in unemployment for Latinos.

Latino Employment Statistics for September 2014

The U.S. Department of Labor [reported today](#) that U.S. employers added 240,000 jobs in September after adding only 180,000 jobs in August. The national unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.9%, its lowest level since July 2008. The Latino unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points, from 7.5% to 6.9%, the same level as May 2008 (see Table 1). The disparity between the Latino unemployment rate and the overall unemployment rate has hovered around 1.5 percentage points this year, narrower than the two- to three-percentage-point gap in the immediate aftermath of the recession. Figure 1 illustrates these trends.

Figure 1. Monthly Unemployment Rates for Latinos and All Workers, Jan. 2004–Sept. 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age” and “Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age,” *Current Population Survey*, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsatabs.htm> (accessed October 3, 2014), Table A-2 and Table A-3.

Job Growth in Key Latino Industries

Latino employment likely benefited from payroll gains in several key industries where Latinos are overrepresented as a share of the workforce. Employment in residential [construction](#), where Latinos represent nearly one-quarter of the workforce, rose by 6,200 last month. Administrative and waste services grew by 59,800. Latinos make up one-quarter or more of workers in this industry group.

Table 1. The Employment Situation for Latino Workers in September 2014

Indicators	Latinos, September 2014
Employed — <i>Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs</i>	23.7 million
Unemployed — <i>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</i>	1.7 million
Civilian Labor Force — <i>The sum of employed and unemployed people</i>	25.4 million
Not in the Labor Force — <i>People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed</i>	13.2 million
Unemployment Rate — <i>Share of the labor force that is unemployed</i>	6.9%
Labor Force Participation Rate — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force</i>	65.9%
Employment-Population Ratio — <i>Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working</i>	61.4%

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 October 3, 2014), Table A-3.

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