

September Job Creation Lowest in Months

U.S. employers added 134,000 jobs in September, lower than the monthly average of 201,000 jobs added over the last 12 months



Unemployment Hits Historic 50-Year Low

Professional and business services led job growth in September, adding 54,000 jobs. Over the past year, this sector has contributed 560,000 new jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in the professional and business sector, making up only 16% of workers.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs 	155.9 million	27.1 million
Unemployed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working 	5.9 million	1.3 million
Civilian Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sum of employed and unemployed people 	161.9 million	28.3 million
Not in the Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed 	96.4 million	14.6 million
Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the labor force that is unemployed 	3.7%	4.5%
Labor Force Participation Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force 	62.7%	66.0%
Employment-Population Ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working 	60.4%	63.0%

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/empst.pdf> (accessed October 5, 2018), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in September 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 134,000 jobs in September, down from 157,000 jobs in August. In September, the national unemployment rate inched down to 3.7%, surpassing the May's 3.8% unemployment rate for the lowest unemployment rate in decades. This may be because individuals are finding more work, as employers have added an average of 201,000 jobs monthly over the past 12 months.

The Latino unemployment rate decreased to 4.5% in September from 4.7% in August. At 4.7%, the Latino unemployment rate is also at historic lows. 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 (+132,000) and a decrease in the number of unemployed (-28,000). There was a decrease of 104,000 Latinos in the civilian labor force from August to September, which may contribute to a decrease in the labor force participation rate, down to 65.9% from 66.6%.

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 2.8%, 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 September, the total number of people working part-time but who would prefer full-time employment rose by 263,000, totaling 4.6 million.

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

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The Latino male unemployment rate increased from 3.7% in August to 3.9% in September. The number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 27,000 between August and September.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas fell—from 5% in August to 4.3% in September. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by approximately 163,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth increased significantly between August and September, from 13% to 15.3%. This may be due to young workers entering the labor force.