

U.S. Employers Add 201,000 Jobs in August

Job Growth Rebounds To June Levels



PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES LEAD JOB GROWTH

In August, professional and business services added 53,000 new jobs, contributing to the 519,000 jobs added over the year.

Temporary help services lead job growth in this industry with 10,200 jobs. Latinos account for 16% of those employed in the professional and business services sector.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs 	155.5 million	26.9 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 	6.2 million	1.3 million
Civilian Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sum of employed and unemployed people 	161.8 million	28.2 million
Not in the Labor Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People over the age of 16 classified as neither employed nor unemployed 	96.3 million	14.6 million
Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the labor force that is unemployed 	3.9%	4.7%
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%	65.9%
Employment-Population Ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working 	60.3%	62.8%

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 September 7, 2018), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in August 2018

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 201,000 jobs in August, up from 157,000 jobs in July. In August, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.9%, nearly hitting the 3.8% unemployment seen in May—which was the lowest unemployment rate since 2000. The low unemployment rate could be the result of average monthly gains of 196,000 jobs over the past 12 months, which have continued to rise since January, 2018.

The Latino unemployment rate increased to 4.7% in August from 4.5% in July. July's 4.5% unemployment rate was the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record since the Department of Labor started tracking Hispanic unemployment numbers in 1973. Even though the Latino unemployment rate is still low, the Latino unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate of 3.9%. Additionally, Latinos saw a decrease in those employed (-296,000) and an increase in the number of unemployed (+42,000). There was a decrease of 253,000 Latinos in the civilian labor force from July to August, which may contribute to a decrease in the labor force participation rate, down from 65.9% to 66.6%. This may be caused by more Latinos re-entering the labor force because of better job prospects, but they have not found jobs.

Despite high labor force participation and low unemployment, many working 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. As reported by the Federal Reserve, through the end of June, median weekly earnings of full-time workers increased 2%—compared to the 3.5-4% economists recommend for a healthy economy.

Faced with stagnant wages, a federal minimum wage that is too low, and a growing racial wealth gap, benefit programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) help Latino families make ends meet. Just last month, the Senate passed a Farm Bill that would preserve SNAP, maintaining nutrition assistance for 10 million Latinos. This is in sharp contrast to the House-passed Farm Bill, which would gut funding for SNAP and increase barriers to participation, leaving hard-working families hungry. Now, the House and Senate must reconcile their bills this month to determine the fate of this critical program.

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 3.2% in July to 3.7% in August. The number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 168,000 between July and August.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.7% in July to 5% in August. The number of employed Hispanic women decreased slightly by approximately 122,000 over the last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16-19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth decreased significantly between July and August, from 16.8% to 13%. This may be due to younger workers returning to school.