

U.S. Employers Add 145,000 Jobs in December

Latino Unemployment Rate remained unchanged at 4.2%



RETAIL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT LEADS JOB GROWTH, ADDING 41,000 JOBS

In December, the retail services sector added 41,000 jobs. Latinos are overrepresented in the retail services sector, making up 17.7% of workers.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Employed • Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	158.8 million	28.3 million
Unemployed • Those who are available to work, trying to find a job, or expect to be called back from a layoff but are not working	5.8 million	1.2 million
Civilian Labor Force • The sum of employed and unemployed people	164.6 million	29.5 million
Unemployment Rate • Share of the labor force that is unemployed	3.5%	4.2 %
Labor Force Participation Rate • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	63.2%	67.1%
Employment-Population Ratio • Share of the population over the age of 16 that is working	61.0%	64.3 %

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 January 10, 2020), Table A and A-3.

Employment of Latinos in December 2019

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) reported that employers added 145,000 jobs in December—a significant decrease from the 266,000 jobs added in November. Moreover, many of these gains are attributable to temporary or seasonal employment during the holidays. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.5% while the number of employed persons increased by 267,000 to 158.8 million.

The Latino unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.2% from November to December. At 4.2%, the Latino unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national rate of 3.5%—a difference of 0.7%. In December, Latinos saw a slight decrease in those employed (-53,000), but also a slight decrease in the number of unemployed (-5,000).

Despite high labor force participation, 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 2.7%, compared to the 3.5% to 4% economists recommend for a healthy economy.

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

- **Men (ages 20 years and older):** The Latino male unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.0% from November to December. The number of employed Hispanic men decreased by approximately 105,000 between November and December.
- **Women (ages 20 years and older):** The unemployment rate for Latinas increased from 4.3% in November to 4.5% in December. The number of employed Hispanic women increased by 61,000 last month.
- **Young Hispanic workers (ages 16–19 years old):** The unemployment rate for Latino youth decreased between November and December from 16.5% to 14.2%.

About US

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).