

Latino Unemployment Drops to 6.6%

National unemployment rate hits new pandemic-era low, although Latino-White unemployment gap persists.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Unemployment Rate Share of the labor force that is unemployed, but actively looking for work	5.4%	6.6%
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	8.7 million	1.9 million
Employed Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	152.6 million	27.5 million
Labor Force Participation Rate Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force and employed or actively looking for a job	61.7%	65.7%

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 August 6, 2021), Table A and A-3.

Employment in July 2021

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy added 943,000 jobs in July 2021, beating economic forecasts. It is a sign that the economy is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic despite looming challenges with the Delta variant. The national unemployment rate declined by 0.5% to 5.4%. Moreover, BLS revised the June 2021 report to show that the economy added 88,000 additional jobs bringing up the total for June to 938,000.

As these analyses have observed in the last few months, employment in leisure and hospitality continue to lead much of the job creation. This can be attributed to continued progress on vaccinations and reopenings.

- Latino unemployment declined by 0.8% to 6.6% from June to July. The unemployment rate of Latinos continues to be considerably higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4% and higher than the white unemployment rate at 4.8%. The overall unemployment rate is significantly down from the historic high of 10.5% in July 2020 but remains above pre-pandemic levels. The number of unemployed workers is at 8.7 million—down from 9.4 million in June 2021.

- The leisure and hospitality sector, where Latino workers are overrepresented, experienced significant gains, adding 380,000 jobs. Two-thirds of the job gain was in food services and drinking places (+253,000). Employment also increased in accommodation (+74,000) and arts, entertainment, and recreation (+53,000). Nevertheless, despite recent growth, employment in leisure and hospitality is still down by 1.7 million jobs, or 10.3%, from its level in February 2020.
- As noted above, Latino workers continue to experience elevated unemployment rates compared to other worker groups. As a result, UnidosUS remains focused on advocating for meaningful investments in America's workforce and economy to fuel a full and equitable recovery. While there are laudable provisions in the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure bill, Congress must move on a parallel track the budget blueprint that invests in the jobs and opportunities Latino workers deserve—including important investments in the "care economy." A step in the right direction would be a budget reconciliation package that increases access to health coverage, housing, and further reduces child poverty for all children, including Latino children and those with ITIN numbers.
- Lastly, to rebuild the nation, we will need a stable workforce and a sufficient supply of workers to fill new jobs. Therefore, a budget blueprint must include a path to citizenship for essential workers who helped carry us through the worst of the pandemic, including DACA and TPS holders and recipients.

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](#).