

Latino Unemployment Ticks Down to 6.3%

September data suggest that the economy remains vulnerable to pandemic-related disruptions.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Unemployment Rate Share of the labor force that is unemployed	4.8%	6.3%
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	7.7 million	1.8 million
Employed Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	153.7 million	27.7 million
Labor Force Participation Rate Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	61.6 %	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 October 8, 2021), Table A and A-3.

Employment in September 2021

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy added 194,000 jobs in September 2021, missing expectations for a second month. As a result, the national unemployment rate ticked down to 4.8%. Moreover, BLS revised the August 2021 report to show that the economy added 131,000 additional jobs, bringing up the August total to 366,000.

Notable job growth occurred in the leisure and hospitality sector—an area that had temporarily slowed hiring in August 2021—thus resuming a trend seen in previous monthly job reports this year. Other sectors that experienced notable job growth include professional and business services, retail, and transportation and warehousing.

- At 6.3% in September, Latino unemployment slightly declined, by 0.1, from August 2021. Yet unemployment for Latinos continues to be noticeably higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4% and higher than the white and Asian unemployment rate, both of which are at 4.2%. The overall unemployment rate is significantly down from the historic high of 10.3% in

September 2020 but remains above pre-pandemic levels. The number of Latino unemployed workers is at 1.8 million, with just 2,000 jobs added in the last month.

- Employment in leisure and hospitality—a sector in which Latino workers are overrepresented— increased by 74,000 in September, with continued job growth in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+43,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 1.6 million, or 9.4%, when measured in comparison to February 2020.
- Employment in food services and drinking places changed little for the second consecutive month, compared with an average monthly increase of 197,000 from January through July in 2021.
- Five million people reported they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic. The number of long-term unemployed (*i.e.*, those who have been out of work for six months or more) is 2.7 million.
- The September 2021 jobs report shows that the economy remains vulnerable to the pandemic. There are still millions more people who are unemployed than in February 2020. Some economists and policymakers had predicted that the end of the enhanced unemployment benefits and school re-openings could lead to an increase in the labor force, but employment data shows otherwise.
- In the face of the Delta COVID-19 variant, which threatens to continue disrupting the economy, there is a need for Congress to make meaningful investments to support Latino workers and their families. An inclusive, once-in-a-generation investment like those envisioned in the Build Back Better Act can help to usher in a more full and equitable recovery.

About UnidosUS

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](#).