

Latino Unemployment Goes Down to 5.9%

October data shows that Latinos still have a long way to go before their employment rate is back to pre-pandemic levels.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Unemployment Rate Share of the labor force that is unemployed	4.6%	5.9%
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	7.4 million	1.7 million
Employed Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	154 million	27.9 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, Employment Situation Summary - 2021 M10 Results (bls.gov)* (accessed November 5, 2021), Table A and A-3

Employment in October 2021

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that total employment rose by 531,000 in October, and the unemployment rate edged down by 0.2 percentage points from 4.8% to 4.6%. The overall unemployment rate is significantly down from the historic high of 10.3% in September 2020 but remains above pre-pandemic levels. Job growth was widespread, with notable job gains in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, in manufacturing, and in transportation and warehousing. Employment in public education declined over the past month.

- In October, Latino unemployment slightly declined, by 0.4 percentage points to 5.9%, continuing a recent trend. Yet the unemployment rate for Latinos continues to be higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4 % and higher than the white unemployment rate, which is now also at 4%. The number of Latino unemployed workers is at 1.7 million.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality—a sector in which Latino workers are overrepresented—increased by 164,000 in October and gone up by 2.4 million thus far in 2021. Over the month, employment in food services and drinking places rose by 119,000, and by 23,000 in accommodation-related jobs. Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 1.4 million people, or 8.2% since February 2020.

- Overall, employment in manufacturing increased by 60,000 in October, led by a gain in the motor vehicles and parts sector (+28,000). Employment also rose in fabricated metal products (+6,000), chemicals (+6,000), and printing and related support activities (+4,000). Still, manufacturing employment is down by 270,000 since February 2020.
- In October, overall employment in the retail trade rose by 35,000. Employment gains occurred in food and beverage stores (+16,000), general merchandise stores (+15,000), health and personal care stores (+8,000), and electronics and appliance stores (+6,000). These gains were partially offset by job losses in building material and garden supply stores (-10,000). Retail trade employment is 140,000 lower than in February 2020.
- The October 2021 jobs report shows that the country still has a long road ahead to achieve a full economic recovery. Latinos, on average, are lagging their white counterparts. Historic investments in housing, tax credits, and other anti-poverty programs like those included in the Build Back Better framework can provide the necessary investments that some 1.7 million unemployed Latinos deserve and need for an 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](#).