

Latino Unemployment Rate At 7.3%

Latino unemployment is down, an encouraging trend. However, the Hispanic-white unemployment gap persists.

| INDICATORS | National | Latinos |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Unemployment Rate Share of the labor force that is unemployed | 5.8% | 7.3% |
| 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 | 9.3 million | 2.1 million |
| Employed Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs | 151.6 million | 27.1 million |
| Labor Force Participation Rate Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force | 61.6% | 65.3% |

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 June 4, 2021), Table A and A-3.

Employment in May 2021

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy added 559,000 jobs in May 2021, an improvement to the April 2021 job numbers. As a result, the national unemployment rate declined by 0.3% to 5.8%. Additionally, BLS revised the April 2021 report to show that the economy added 12,000 additional jobs bringing up the total to 278,000.

Employment in leisure and hospitality experienced continued growth, adding 292,000 jobs as pandemic-related restrictions continue to be lifted throughout the country and more people get vaccinated. There was also job growth in amusements, gambling, and recreation (+58,000) and in the accommodation sector (+35,000). At 61.6%, the overall labor participation rate saw little change from April 2021 and has remained within a narrow range of 61.4% to 61.7% since June 2020.

- At 7.3% in May, Latino unemployment declined by 0.6% from April 2021. Unemployment for Latinos continues to be considerably higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4% and higher than the national average. The overall unemployment rate is down from a historic high of 13.3% in May 2020 but remains well above pre-pandemic levels. The number of unemployed workers is at 9.3 million—down from 9.8 million in April 2021.

- The leisure and hospitality sector, where Latino workers are overrepresented, continued to lead in job creation in May 2021, adding 292,000 jobs. Nearly two-thirds of the job increases were in food services and drinking places (+186,000). Other key industries that experienced job gains include health care and social assistance (+46,000), manufacturing (+23,000), and transportation and warehousing (+23,000). On the other hand, there were declines in other areas Latinos are overrepresented in the workforce, such as construction employment (-20,000) and jobs in retail trade (-6,000). Despite the job increases in some of these key industries, the employment rate in these sectors remains far below their pre-pandemic February 2020 levels.
- The overall Latino labor force participation rate saw no change—remaining at 65.3%. The unemployment rate for Hispanic men decreased by 0.8%, while the rate for Hispanic women decreased only by 0.1%. The modest change in the Latina workers' rate in May can be attributed to the ongoing challenges they face at home. As states continue to lift restrictions this summer, child care still keeps some parents, particularly mothers, from returning to in-person work. Mothers who stayed at home during the pandemic are likely to look for employment again after a full return to classrooms in the fall. Nevertheless, it remains to be seen whether schools reopen fully or continue a hybrid model.¹ For that reason, it is necessary that federal policymakers provide permanent solutions that would allow parents to transition back to pre-pandemic normalcy.

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](#).

¹ "Will Schools Open in the Fall?," *New York Times*. May 3, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/03/briefing/schools-reopening-working-mothers.html>