

Latino Unemployment Down Slightly to 6.4%

Latino jobless rate sees little change from July 2021 as hiring in key industries hits a standstill.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Unemployment Rate Share of the labor force that is unemployed	5.2%	6.4%
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	8.4 million	1.8 million
Employed Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	153.1 million	27.6 million
Labor Force Participation Rate Share of the population over the age of 16 that is in the labor force	61.7%	65.6%

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 month date, year), Table A and A-3.

Employment in August 2021

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy added 235,000 jobs in August 2021, missing economic forecasters' expectations. As a result, the national unemployment rate declined by 0.2% to 5.2%. Moreover, BLS revised the July 2021 report to show that the economy added 110,000 additional jobs bringing up the total for July to 1,053,000.

After consecutive months of growth, hiring in the leisure and hospitality industry came to a standstill in August, potentially due to the rising cases of COVID-19 driven by the Delta variant. In addition, the retail trade industry experienced job losses. On the other hand, notable job gains occurred in professional and business services, manufacturing, private education, and other services. Notably, support for the federal pandemic unemployment assistance program (PUA) just expired on September 6, and nearly seven million people will lose their unemployment benefits, and close to three million will lose a \$300 weekly boost to their state unemployment benefits.

- At 6.4% in August, Latino unemployment decreased by 0.2% from July 2021. However, Latinos' unemployment rate is higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4% and higher than the white unemployment rate at 4.5%.
- The overall unemployment rate is significantly down from the historic high of 8.5% in August 2020 but remains higher than pre-pandemic levels. The number of unemployed workers is 8.4 million—down from 8.7 million in July 2021.
- In August, employment in leisure and hospitality was unchanged, after increasing by an average of 350,000 per month over the prior six months. In August, job gains in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+36,000) were more than offset by a loss in food services and drinking places (-42,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 1.7 million, or 10.0% since February 2020.
- The August 2021 jobs report is a clear indication that the economy is still far from reaching pre-pandemic levels. For Latino workers, a full economic recovery will take much longer as Latino's unemployment rate continues to be higher than other worker groups. In addition, the rising cases of COVID-19 infections driven by the Delta variant heighten concerns that industries where Latinos are disproportionately represented in their workforces will be negatively impacted.
- It is critical that Congress make meaningful investments in our nation's infrastructure and boosts supports for families through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and budget reconciliation package to put the economy on the path to a robust 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](#).