

Latino Unemployment Drops to 5.2%

National unemployment rate hits new pandemic-era low, but still lags pre-pandemic levels ahead of the holiday season.

INDICATORS	National	Latinos
Unemployment Rate		
Share of the labor force that is unemployed, but actively looking for work	4.2%	5.2%
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	6.9 million	1.5 million
Employed		
Working people over the age of 16, including those temporarily absent from their jobs	152.6 million	28.4 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	61.8%	66.3%

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 December 3, 2021), Table A and A-3.

Employment in November 2021

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy added only 210,000 jobs in November 2021, failing short of expectations as the holiday season begins. The national unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points to 4.2% and the number of unemployed persons fell by 542,000 to 6.9 million. Both measures are down considerably from their highs back in March-April 2020. But they remain above their levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (3.5% and 5.7 million, respectively, in February 2020).

In November, notable job gains occurred in the professional and business services, transportation and warehousing, construction, and manufacturing.

- Latino unemployment declined by 0.7 percentage points to 5.2% from October to November. The unemployment rate of Latinos continues to be considerably higher than the pre-pandemic average of 4% and higher than the white unemployment rate currently at 3.7%. 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 6.9 million—down from 7.4 million in October 2021. For Latinos, the number of unemployed has slightly decreased to 1.5 million from 1.7 million in October 2021.

- The leisure and hospitality sector, where Latino workers are overrepresented, changed little in November, adding only 23,000 jobs. Employment in retail trade declined by 20,000, with the largest job losses in general merchandise stores (-20,000) and clothing stores (-18,000). The losses were partially offset by job gains in food and beverage stores (+9,000) and in building material and garden supply stores (+7,000). Nevertheless, despite recent growth, employment retail trade is still down by 176,000 when compared to February 2020 levels.
- 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. The underwhelming November job growth highlights the need for inclusive and equitable policy actions that include Latino workers and their families.
- The November 2021 jobs report shows the progress the country has made since the beginning of the pandemic. However, the road towards an equitable economic recovery from this ongoing pandemic will require a stable workforce and a sufficient supply of workers to fill new jobs. The historic investments included in the Build Back Better plan are a step in the right direction to harness the economic power of Latinos and other worker groups.

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](#).