The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics Jobs Report shows the number of jobs added in November was above market expectations.\textsuperscript{1} The general unemployment rate remained unchanged, while unemployment rates for Latina and Black women decreased in November 2022.

\textbf{NDWA Labs’ November Report shows that the percentage of jobless domestic worker respondents in November ticked up to 18%}. While this is still within the lower end of joblessness rates we have seen since we started surveying in 2020, it remains twice the rate of 9% who reported having no jobs before COVID-19.\textsuperscript{2}

Domestic workers are the nannies, homecare workers, and house cleaners whose work is essential to our economy, and yet they are one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of workers. Domestic workers earn less than the average US worker and are three times as likely to be living in poverty.\textsuperscript{3}

La Alianza survey data from \textbf{Spanish-speaking domestic workers} shows how the pandemic has amplified the vulnerability of this workforce. Domestic workers continue to face low wages and high levels of unemployment and underemployment. A contextual note regarding our findings: domestic workers, and particularly house cleaners, often have multiple employers. This means they may have to schedule several jobs in a given week in order to make ends meet.

Each month, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases an Economic Situation Summary with employment and other labor market data. This is an important report to keep track of how the economy is doing. However, domestic workers, along with other vulnerable workers, are often underrepresented in official data. Here we present an overview of the BLS Jobs report, along with NDWA Labs’ data which shows the employment and economic situation of thousands of Spanish-speaking domestic workers.

On December 2, the BLS released new employment data for November 2022.

- The number of jobs added in November was above market expectations.
- The general unemployment remained unchanged.
- The unemployment rate for Latina women decreased slightly in November.
  - However, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Latina women ticked up.
- The unemployment rate for Black women decreased in November.
- The unemployment rates for Black and Latinx adults continue to be higher compared to the rates for white adults.
- People who have been unemployed long-term (27 weeks or more) represented 20.6% of the total unemployed in November.

NDWA Labs’ November Report shows the percentage of jobless Spanish-speaking domestic worker respondents ticked up in November, moving in the same direction as the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Latina women nationally. While the share of joblessness for domestic workers is not directly comparable to the unemployment rate nationwide*, looking at trends in the data for Spanish-speaking domestic workers in the context of national trends can support our understanding of the sector as it relates to the broader economy.

November Domestic Worker Jobs and Wages

November joblessness increased for domestic worker respondents. In November, an average of 18% of respondents reported having zero hours of work in a weekly survey, compared with 16% in October.

- This joblessness rate remains lower than the 19% who, on average, reported being without work in July and August**.
- The share of respondents working more than 20 hours per week decreased to 32% in November, compared with 36% in October.
This is a return to the rate of 32% that we saw, on average, in July and August 2022**.

18% of surveyed domestic workers were jobless in November, compared with 16% in October

** Underemployment also increased in November. 70% of domestic worker respondents who had at least one hour of work per week said they wanted to work more hours, compared with 67% of respondents in October.

- Of the underemployed domestic worker respondents in November, 66% told us they were underemployed because they did not find more clients, 12% were taking care of relatives, 15% had a health issue, and 7% were underemployed for another reason.

The wage distribution worsened in November. 65% domestic worker respondents earned less than $15 per hour in November, compared with 63%, on average, in July and August 2022.

- The distribution of wages remains improved, compared with the first half of 2022, with fewer workers making less than $15 per hour.
● This share is still higher than the share of respondents who earned less than $15 per hour before COVID-19, which was at most 55%***.

65% of respondents reported earning less than $15 per hour in November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much did you earn per hour last week, on average?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9 or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Aug 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 5,513 total responses | Source: NDWA Labs/ La Alianza Weekly Survey, July 15 - August 26, 2022; October 21-28, 2022 | Note: Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to send surveys between September 2 - October 14, 2022

Job search

Nearly 3 in 4 respondents looked for additional work in November.

● 73% of domestic worker respondents, whether or not they had current work, told us they had looked for new work in the past 30 days.

Housing and Food Security

Housing insecurity increased in November and food insecurity remained steady, compared with July and August 2022**. More than 4 in 10 domestic worker respondents faced housing insecurity, and nearly 8 in 10 experienced food insecurity in November 2022.

● In November 2022, 45% of domestic worker respondents said they were unable to pay their monthly rent or mortgage, compared with 42%, on average, in July and August.
45% of surveyed domestic workers experienced housing insecurity in November, up from 42% on average in July and August 2022.

Were you able to pay your rent or mortgage this month?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I could not</th>
<th>Does not apply</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2022</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Aug 2022</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 2,275 total respondents  | Source: NDWA Labs' La Alianza Monthly Survey, July 15, August 5, November 4, 2022  | Note: Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to send surveys between September 2 - October 14, 2022

- In November 2022, 14% of respondents said they would not be able to afford food in the following two weeks and 65% were unsure if they would be able to.

79% of surveyed domestic workers experienced some level of food insecurity in November 2022

Will you be able to pay for food in the next two weeks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2022</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July - Aug 2022</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 2,244 total responses  | Source: NDWA Labs' La Alianza Monthly Survey, July 15, August 5, November 4, 2022  | Note: Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to send surveys between September 2 - October 14, 2022
### About the surveys

NDWA Labs surveys Spanish-speaking domestic workers each week, via La Alianza, a Messenger chatbot. At the end of each survey, La Alianza provides respondents with relevant news articles and resources in Spanish. To learn more about NDWA Labs’ La Alianza survey of Spanish-speaking domestic workers, see this [report](#).

The employment numbers presented in this report include data from all of our weekly surveys from June through November 2022. Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to send surveys between September 2 and October 14, which meant we were unable to present averages for the full third quarter of 2022.

November averages represent data from three weekly surveys fielded on November 4, 11, and 18, 2022. October averages reflect data from two weekly surveys fielded on October 21 and 28, 2022. July and August averages reflect data from six weekly surveys in July and August 2022.

The total number of fully completed surveys for our three November weekly surveys, which includes both new and repeated respondents was 2,040; for October weekly surveys, we had 1,450 completed surveys; for August, we had 1,799 completed surveys; for July, we had 1,743 completed weekly surveys; and for June, we had 3,605 completed weekly surveys.

Questions about hours worked and hourly wages are asked weekly, questions regarding underemployment and job search are asked bi-weekly, and questions around food and housing security are asked monthly.

La Alianza is a product of [NDWA Labs](#), the innovation partner of the [National Domestic Workers Alliance](#). NDWA Labs experiments with the ways technology can organize domestic workers and transform domestic work jobs into good jobs by bringing respect, living wages, and benefits to an undervalued and vulnerable part of the economy.

For questions, please contact us [here](#).

### Notes

1. White House Council of Economic Advisers (2022), *The Employment Situation in November*
2. NDWA Labs (2020), *6 Months in Crisis: The Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Workers*
3. Economic Policy Institute (2022), *Domestic Workers Chartbook*
Unlike unemployment rates, joblessness for domestic workers may include people who are not working but are currently unavailable to work, or not actively looking for jobs. Additionally, the NDWA Labs' joblessness rate for surveyed domestic workers is NOT seasonally adjusted, while BLS unemployment rates are adjusted.

** Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to survey between September 2-October 14, 2022. Due to this gap, we are unable to show averages for the full third quarter of 2022.

*** The share of respondents earning less than $15 in 2022 cannot be directly compared to baseline numbers before COVID-19, due to a change in answer option ranges (see above footnote). However, since 55% of respondents reported earning $15 or less before COVID-19, a share which is inclusive of those who earned $15 per hour, we know that the share of respondents earning less than $15 is at most 55%.