



Economic News Release



Employment Situation Summary

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
8:30 a.m. (EST) Friday, February 2, 2018

USDL-18-0154

Technical information:

Household data: (202) 691-6378 * cpsinfo@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/cps
Establishment data: (202) 691-6555 * cesinfo@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/ces

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 * PressOffice@bls.gov

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION -- JANUARY 2018

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 200,000 in January, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment continued to trend up in construction, food services and drinking places, health care, and manufacturing.

Changes to The Employment Situation Data

Establishment survey data have been revised as a result of the annual benchmarking process and the updating of seasonal adjustment factors. Also, household survey data for January 2018 reflect updated population estimates. See the notes at the end of this news release for more information about these changes.

Household Survey Data

In January, the unemployment rate was 4.1 percent for the fourth consecutive month. The number of unemployed persons, at 6.7 million, changed little over the month. (See table A-1. For information about annual population adjustments to the household survey estimates, see the note at the end of this news release and tables B and C.)

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for Blacks increased to 7.7 percent in January, and the rate for Whites edged down to 3.5 percent. The jobless rates for adult men (3.9 percent), adult women (3.6 percent), teenagers (13.9 percent), Asians (3.0 percent), and Hispanics (5.0 percent) showed little change. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 1.4 million in January and accounted for 21.5 percent of the unemployed. (See table A-12.)

The civilian labor force and total employment, as measured by the household survey, changed little in January (after accounting for the annual adjustments to the population controls). The labor force participation rate was 62.7 percent for the fourth consecutive month and the employment-population ratio was 60.1 percent for the third month in a row. (See table A-1. For additional information about the effects of the population adjustments, see table C.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers) was essentially unchanged at 5.0 million in January. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job. (See table A-8.)

In January, 1.7 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, little changed from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. (See table A-16.)

Among the marginally attached, there were 451,000 discouraged workers in January, little changed from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.2 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in January had not searched for work for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-16.)

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 200,000 in January. Employment continued to trend up in construction, food services and drinking places, health care, and manufacturing. (See table B-1. For information about the annual benchmark process, see the note and table A.)

Construction added 36,000 jobs in January, with most of the increase occurring among specialty trade contractors (+26,000). Employment in residential building construction continued to trend up over the month (+5,000). Over the year, construction employment has increased by 226,000.

Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in January (+31,000). The industry has added 255,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Employment in health care continued to trend up in January (+21,000), with a gain of 13,000 in hospitals. In 2017, health care added an average of 24,000 jobs per month.

In January, employment in manufacturing remained on an upward trend (+15,000). Durable goods industries added 18,000 jobs. Manufacturing has added 186,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Employment in other major industries, including mining, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, information, financial activities, professional and business services, and government, changed little over the month.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.2 hour to 34.3 hours in January. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.2 hour to 40.6 hours, while overtime remained at 3.5 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 33.6 hours. (See tables B-2 and B-7.)

In January, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents to \$26.74, following an 11-cent gain in December. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 75 cents, or 2.9 percent. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees increased by 3 cents to \$22.34 in January. (See tables B-3 and B-8.)

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for November was revised down from +252,000 to +216,000, and the change for December was revised up from +148,000 to +160,000. With these revisions, employment gains in November and December combined were 24,000 less than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors. The annual benchmark process also contributed to the November and December revisions.) After revisions, job gains have averaged 192,000 over the last 3 months.

The Employment Situation for February is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 9, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

Partial Federal Government Shutdown

Due to a lapse in funding, some agencies of the federal government were shut down or were operating at reduced staffing levels from January 20, 2018, through January 22, 2018.

All household data collection was suspended during the shutdown. Household survey data collection resumed on January 23, 2018, and was conducted through January 26, 2018, to allow for the usual number of collection days. The response rate for the household survey in January 2018 was slightly below the average rate for 2017.

In the establishment survey, collection of data by interviewers was suspended on January 22, 2018, and resumed on January 23, 2018. Electronic data collection was not interrupted. Collection rates for the establishment survey for this collection period were within the normal range.

Overall, there were no discernible effects on the national unemployment rate and other major household survey measures, or on the estimates of total nonfarm payroll employment, for the month of January.

Revisions to Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data released today have been benchmarked to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs for March 2017. These counts are derived principally from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which counts jobs covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax system.

In addition, the data were updated to the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) from the 2012 NAICS. This update resulted in minor changes to several detailed industries. The normal benchmark process revises not seasonally adjusted data

from April 2016 forward and seasonally adjusted data from January 2013 forward. However, some data were also revised further back in their history than normal due to the implementation of 2017 NAICS and other minor technical changes related to rounding and re-aggregation of some series.

The total nonfarm employment level for March 2017 was revised upward by 146,000 (+138,000 on a not seasonally adjusted basis, or +0.1 percent). On a not seasonally adjusted basis, the average absolute benchmark revision over the past 10 years is 0.2 percent.

The effect of these revisions on the underlying trend in nonfarm payroll employment was minor. For example, the over-the-year change in total nonfarm employment for 2017 was revised from +2,055,000 to +2,173,000 (seasonally adjusted). Table A presents revised total nonfarm employment data on a seasonally adjusted basis from January to December 2017.

All revised historical establishment survey data are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/ces/data.htm. In addition, an article that discusses the benchmark and post-benchmark revisions and other technical issues is available at www.bls.gov/web/empst/cesbmart.htm.

Table A. Revisions in total nonfarm employment, January–December 2017, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Year and month	Level			Over-the-month change		
	As previously published	As revised	Difference	As previously published	As revised	Difference
2017						
January.....	145,541	145,696	155	216	259	43
February.....	145,773	145,896	123	232	200	-32
March.....	145,823	145,969	146	50	73	23
April.....	146,030	146,144	114	207	175	-32
May.....	146,175	146,299	124	145	155	10
June.....	146,385	146,538	153	210	239	29
July.....	146,523	146,728	205	138	190	52
August.....	146,731	146,949	218	208	221	13
September.....	146,769	146,963	194	38	14	-24
October.....	146,980	147,234	254	211	271	60
November.....	147,232	147,450	218	252	216	-36
December (p)....	147,380	147,610	230	148	160	12

(p) = preliminary.

Adjustments to Population Estimates for the Household Survey

Effective with data for January 2018, updated population estimates were incorporated into the household survey. Population estimates for the household survey are developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Each year, the Census Bureau updates the estimates to reflect new information and assumptions about the growth of the population since the previous decennial census. The change in population reflected in the new estimates results from adjustments for net international migration, updated vital statistics, and estimation methodology improvements.

In accordance with usual practice, BLS will not revise the official household survey estimates for December 2017 and earlier months. To show the impact of the population adjustments, however, differences in selected December 2017 labor force series based on the old and new population estimates are shown in table B.

The adjustments increased the estimated size of the civilian noninstitutional population in December by 488,000, the civilian labor force by 333,000, employment by 318,000, and unemployment by 15,000. The number of persons not in the labor force was increased by 154,000. The total unemployment rate, employment–population ratio, and labor force participation rate were unaffected.

Data users are cautioned that these annual population adjustments can affect the comparability of household data series over time. Table C shows the effect of the introduction of new population estimates on the comparison of selected labor force measures between December 2017 and January 2018. Additional information on the population adjustments and their effect on national labor force estimates is available at www.bls.gov/web/empst/cps-pop-control-adjustments.pdf

Table B. Effect of the updated population controls on December 2017 estimates by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, not seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

					Black	
--	--	--	--	--	-------	--

Category	Total	Men	Women	White	or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	488	296	192	194	104	171	328
Civilian labor force.....	333	228	106	141	70	111	242
Participation rate.....	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Employed.....	318	219	100	132	66	109	230
Employment-population ratio.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Unemployed.....	15	9	5	8	3	2	12
Unemployment rate.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not in labor force.....	154	67	86	54	35	60	86

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table C. December 2017-January 2018 changes in selected labor force measures, with adjustments for population control effects
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Dec.-Jan. change, as published	2018 population control effect	Dec.-Jan. change, after removing the population control effect (1)
Civilian noninstitutional population.	671	488	183
Civilian labor force.....	518	333	185
Participation rate.....	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employed.....	409	318	91
Employment-population ratio.....	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unemployed.....	108	15	93
Unemployment rate.....	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not in labor force.....	153	154	-1

1 This Dec.-Jan. change is calculated by subtracting the population control effect from the over-the-month change in the published seasonally adjusted estimates.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- [Employment Situation Summary Table A. Household data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Summary Table B. Establishment data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Employment Situation Technical Note](#)
- [Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age](#)
- [Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment](#)
- [Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-6. Employment status of the civilian population by sex, age, and disability status, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-7. Employment status of the civilian population by nativity and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-8. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status](#)
- [Table A-9. Selected employment indicators](#)
- [Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-11. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment](#)
- [Table A-12. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment](#)
- [Table A-13. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-14. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization](#)
- [Table A-16. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-2. Average weekly hours and overtime of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)

- [Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-4. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-5. Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-6. Employment of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-7. Average weekly hours and overtime of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-8. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-9. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "B" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [HTML version of the entire news release](#)

The PDF version of the news release

News release charts

Supplemental Files Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Last Modified Date: February 02, 2018

RECOMMEND THIS PAGE USING:  Facebook  Twitter  LinkedIn

TOOLS

Areas at a Glance
 Industries at a Glance
 Economic Releases
 Databases & Tables
 Maps

CALCULATORS

Inflation
 Injury And Illness

HELP

Help & Tutorials
 FAQs
 Glossary
 About BLS
 Contact Us

INFO

What's New
 Careers @ BLS
 Find It! DOL
 Join our Mailing Lists
 Linking & Copyright Info

RESOURCES

Inspector General (OIG)
 Budget and Performance
 No Fear Act
 USA.gov
 Benefits.gov
 Disability.gov

[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Customer Survey](#) | [Important Web Site Notices](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics | Division of Labor Force Statistics, PSB Suite 4675, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001

www.bls.gov/CPS | Telephone: 1-202-691-6378 | [Contact CPS](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics | Division of Current Employment Statistics, PSB Suite 4860, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001

www.bls.gov/CES | Telephone: 1-202-691-6555 | [Contact CES](#)