

**Labor force and employment estimates smoothed for population adjustments,
1990-2007**

Each January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) incorporates new population controls into the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. These population controls are developed by the Census Bureau. The changes reflect an annual review of the components of population change—births, deaths, and international migration—and of the methodology used to estimate population. BLS typically does not revise the historical national labor market data series to reflect new population controls because of the extensive effort needed to completely revise and verify all of the time series produced from the CPS and because the revisions would be negligible for most series.

Substantial revisions to the population controls in some years, however, have created historical comparability problems in some CPS data series, particularly the labor force and employment levels. In December 2003, BLS outlined a method to “smooth” such level shifts in major CPS data series as a convenience to its data users. The method distributed the January 2000 and January 2003 level shifts incrementally over a multi-year period rather than incorporating the entire change in January of the years that they were implemented. (See Marisa L. DiNatale, *Creating Comparability in CPS Employment Series*, on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpscomp.pdf>.)

BLS has since provided updated versions of the smoothed, seasonally adjusted labor force and employment series following significant population control revisions.

In January 2008, there were downward adjustments to the estimated levels of the civilian noninstitutional population (-745,000), labor force (-637,000), employment (-598,000), unemployment (-40,000), and those not in the labor force (-107,000). (Population control effects were calculated from unrounded estimates. See the article on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps08adj.pdf> for additional information about the adjustments.)

The smoothed labor force and employment series have been updated to reflect the January 2008 population control adjustments and are presented in the following tables; data from January 2000 forward were revised. Users should be aware that these smoothed series will not match the official estimates in BLS publications and on the BLS website. In addition, these estimates would differ from those calculated using other smoothing methods.

Civilian labor force smoothed for adjustments in population controls, 1990-2007, seasonally adjusted

(In thousands)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1990	125,845	125,734	125,837	125,697	125,953	125,645	125,816	126,087	126,001	126,116	126,203	126,287
1991	126,112	126,189	126,420	126,742	126,382	126,549	126,384	126,392	126,905	126,909	126,981	126,956
1992	127,566	127,524	127,934	128,184	128,475	128,829	128,945	129,008	128,908	128,444	128,872	128,998
1993	128,856	128,926	129,079	129,077	129,772	129,932	129,931	130,166	129,826	130,145	130,296	130,539
1994	131,210	131,296	131,038	131,272	131,444	131,237	131,341	131,980	132,139	132,477	132,637	132,710
1995	132,811	132,901	132,906	133,404	132,673	132,784	133,193	133,199	133,489	133,607	133,517	133,426
1996	133,545	133,896	134,138	134,381	134,654	134,697	135,302	135,083	135,560	135,982	136,082	136,202
1997	136,560	136,517	137,025	137,164	137,281	137,387	137,668	137,824	137,894	137,865	138,209	138,418
1998	138,370	138,401	138,539	138,465	138,703	138,800	138,947	138,942	139,679	139,685	139,801	140,070
1999	140,456	140,433	140,207	140,452	140,615	140,852	140,977	140,981	141,189	141,353	141,623	141,790
2000	142,268	142,458	142,437	142,755	142,393	142,597	142,285	142,522	142,527	142,632	142,973	143,260
2001	143,813	143,715	143,939	143,585	143,335	143,375	143,673	143,304	144,010	144,108	144,263	144,329
2002	143,908	144,680	144,508	144,754	144,968	144,838	144,834	145,041	145,586	145,348	145,076	145,102
2003	145,344	145,490	145,396	145,830	145,840	146,377	145,793	145,737	145,805	145,974	146,241	145,955
2004	146,485	146,340	146,546	146,472	146,684	147,072	147,316	147,188	147,038	147,404	147,760	147,660
2005	147,597	147,917	147,898	148,507	148,864	148,825	149,053	149,393	149,582	149,614	149,646	149,582
2006	149,777	150,165	150,349	150,554	150,771	151,026	151,106	151,429	151,366	151,750	152,017	152,318
2007	152,397	152,158	152,310	151,963	152,189	152,490	152,580	152,279	152,890	152,684	153,197	153,228

NOTE: This series reflects seasonally adjusted Current Population Survey labor force levels that have been revised from January 1990-December 2007 to smooth out the effects of population control adjustments introduced in January 2000 and January of 2003-08.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 1, 2008.

Employment smoothed for adjustments in population controls, 1990-2007, seasonally adjusted

(In thousands)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1990	119,093	119,082	119,238	118,898	119,209	119,052	118,891	118,894	118,628	118,651	118,432	118,379
1991	118,089	117,915	117,823	118,293	117,634	117,845	117,785	117,712	118,169	118,052	118,033	117,740
1992	118,265	118,050	118,454	118,748	118,709	118,764	119,071	119,195	119,101	119,020	119,280	119,413
1993	119,503	119,715	119,995	119,938	120,594	120,781	120,970	121,373	121,081	121,363	121,722	122,031
1994	122,547	122,679	122,534	122,908	123,497	123,277	123,362	124,013	124,372	124,811	125,230	125,448
1995	125,402	125,681	125,720	125,722	125,207	125,321	125,629	125,677	125,972	126,241	126,052	125,963
1996	126,013	126,542	126,779	126,924	127,189	127,562	127,922	128,161	128,540	128,909	128,801	128,904
1997	129,358	129,370	129,981	130,247	130,584	130,544	130,970	131,172	131,194	131,368	131,859	131,898
1998	131,958	132,053	132,072	132,484	132,614	132,545	132,643	132,718	133,333	133,359	133,655	133,994
1999	134,436	134,276	134,381	134,402	134,775	134,855	134,905	135,097	135,227	135,529	135,862	136,092
2000	136,560	136,600	136,704	137,274	136,635	136,946	136,538	136,670	136,902	137,098	137,334	137,627
2001	137,792	137,627	137,799	137,316	137,110	136,892	137,091	136,262	136,868	136,415	136,262	136,072
2002	135,726	136,465	136,205	136,155	136,569	136,446	136,445	136,738	137,336	137,043	136,556	136,462
2003	136,864	136,914	136,851	137,034	136,931	137,161	136,831	136,891	136,935	137,294	137,716	137,688
2004	138,141	138,201	138,086	138,332	138,499	138,818	139,201	139,215	139,123	139,372	139,853	139,739
2005	139,864	139,988	140,191	140,864	141,210	141,315	141,655	142,050	142,016	142,193	142,138	142,346
2006	142,771	143,042	143,294	143,462	143,754	144,030	143,951	144,322	144,492	145,036	145,219	145,579
2007	145,387	145,354	145,604	145,167	145,360	145,527	145,479	145,182	145,681	145,432	146,054	145,614

NOTE: This series reflects seasonally adjusted Current Population Survey employment that has been revised from January 1990-December 2007 to smooth out the effects of population control adjustments introduced in January 2000 and January of 2003-08.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 1, 2008.