

Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2012

Household survey data beginning in January 2012 reflect updated population estimates, also referred to as population controls. 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 last decennial census. The adjustments incorporated with household survey data for January 2012 reflect the introduction of the Census 2010 population base, adjustments for net international migration, updated birth and death statistics and other information, and some methodological changes in the population estimation process. The vast majority of the population change, however, is due to the change in base population from Census 2000 to Census 2010. Official population and labor force estimates for December 2011 and earlier months will not be revised.

To gauge the impact on the labor force data, the Bureau of Labor Statistics uses special tabulations of December data that incorporate the new population controls. When applied to December 2011, the updated controls increased the estimated size of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over by 1,510,000, the civilian labor force by 258,000, employment by 216,000, unemployment by 42,000, and persons not in the labor force by 1,252,000. The total unemployment rate was not affected. The labor force participation rate and the employment-population ratio were each reduced by 0.3 percentage point. (See the table on the following pages for the population control effects on labor force series for key demographic groups.)

Information about the Census Bureau's population estimation methodology is available on their website at <http://www.census.gov/popest/methodology/>. Questions about population estimation should be directed to the Census Bureau's Population Division at 1-866-758-1060 or by email at pop@census.gov.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2011 (2012 population adjustment effect)

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	As published	Based on updated population controls	Difference ¹
TOTAL			
Civilian noninstitutional population	240,584	242,094	1,510
Civilian labor force	153,373	153,631	258
Participation rate	63.8	63.5	-.3
Employed	140,681	140,897	216
Employment-population ratio	58.5	58.2	-.3
Unemployed	12,692	12,734	42
Unemployment rate	8.3	8.3	.0
Not in labor force	87,212	88,463	1,252
16 to 24 years			
Civilian noninstitutional population	38,201	38,722	521
Civilian labor force	20,395	20,496	101
Participation rate	53.4	52.9	-.5
Employed	17,234	17,286	52
Employment-population ratio	45.1	44.6	-.5
Unemployed	3,161	3,210	49
Unemployment rate	15.5	15.7	.2
Not in labor force	17,807	18,227	420
25 to 54 years			
Civilian noninstitutional population	124,690	124,391	-299
Civilian labor force	101,732	101,323	-408
Participation rate	81.6	81.5	-.1
Employed	94,069	93,699	-370
Employment-population ratio	75.4	75.3	-.1
Unemployed	7,663	7,624	-38
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.5	.0
Not in labor force	22,958	23,067	109
55 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population	77,693	78,981	1,288
Civilian labor force	31,246	31,812	565
Participation rate	40.2	40.3	.1
Employed	29,378	29,912	534
Employment-population ratio	37.8	37.9	.1
Unemployed	1,868	1,900	32
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.0	.0
Not in labor force	46,447	47,170	723

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2011 (2012 population adjustment effect)–Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	As published	Based on updated population controls	Difference ¹
Men, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population	116,832	116,716	-116
Civilian labor force	82,019	81,606	-413
Participation rate	70.2	69.9	-.3
Employed	74,837	74,470	-368
Employment-population ratio	64.1	63.8	-.3
Unemployed	7,181	7,136	-45
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.7	.0
Not in labor force	34,813	35,110	297
Men, 20 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population	108,290	107,983	-307
Civilian labor force	79,288	78,822	-467
Participation rate	73.2	73.0	-.2
Employed	72,812	72,406	-405
Employment-population ratio	67.2	67.1	-.2
Unemployed	6,477	6,415	-61
Unemployment rate	8.2	8.1	.0
Not in labor force	29,001	29,162	160
Women, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population	123,753	125,378	1,626
Civilian labor force	71,354	72,025	671
Participation rate	57.7	57.4	-.2
Employed	65,843	66,427	584
Employment-population ratio	53.2	53.0	-.2
Unemployed	5,511	5,598	87
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.8	.0
Not in labor force	52,398	53,353	955
Women, 20 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population	115,602	116,989	1,387
Civilian labor force	68,746	69,368	622
Participation rate	59.5	59.3	-.2
Employed	63,676	64,226	550
Employment-population ratio	55.1	54.9	-.2
Unemployed	5,070	5,141	72
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.4	.0
Not in labor force	46,856	47,621	764

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2011 (2012 population adjustment effect)–Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	As published	Based on updated population controls	Difference ¹
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years			
Civilian noninstitutional population	16,693	17,122	430
Civilian labor force	5,339	5,441	103
Participation rate	32.0	31.8	-.2
Employed	4,193	4,264	71
Employment-population ratio	25.1	24.9	-.2
Unemployed	1,146	1,177	31
Unemployment rate	21.5	21.6	.2
Not in labor force	11,354	11,681	327
WHITE			
Civilian noninstitutional population	193,682	192,501	-1,181
Civilian labor force	124,114	122,729	-1,385
Participation rate	64.1	63.8	-.3
Employed	115,117	113,851	-1,266
Employment-population ratio	59.4	59.1	-.3
Unemployed	8,998	8,878	-119
Unemployment rate	7.2	7.2	.0
Not in labor force	69,567	69,772	205
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			
Civilian noninstitutional population	29,286	29,693	407
Civilian labor force	18,024	18,191	166
Participation rate	61.5	61.3	-.3
Employed	15,285	15,449	165
Employment-population ratio	52.2	52.0	-.2
Unemployed	2,739	2,741	2
Unemployment rate	15.2	15.1	-.1
Not in labor force	11,262	11,502	240
ASIAN			
Civilian noninstitutional population	11,580	12,741	1,161
Civilian labor force	7,505	8,236	731
Participation rate	64.8	64.6	-.2
Employed	6,991	7,667	676
Employment-population ratio	60.4	60.2	-.2
Unemployed	514	569	55
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.9	.1
Not in labor force	4,075	4,506	430

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2011 (2012 population adjustment effect)—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	As published	Based on updated population controls	Difference ¹
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY			
Civilian noninstitutional population	34,885	36,215	1,330
Civilian labor force	23,309	24,090	781
Participation rate	66.8	66.5	-.3
Employed	20,731	21,406	675
Employment-population ratio	59.4	59.1	-.3
Unemployed	2,579	2,684	106
Unemployment rate	11.1	11.1	.1
Not in labor force	11,575	12,125	550

¹ Differences are calculated from unrounded estimates.

NOTE: 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.