

**Labor force and employment estimates smoothed for population adjustments,
1990-2008**

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 2009, there were downward adjustments to the estimated levels of the civilian noninstitutional population (-483,000), labor force (-449,000), employment (-407,000), unemployment (-42,000), and those not in the labor force (-34,000). (Population control effects were calculated from unrounded estimates. See the article on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps09adj.pdf> for additional information about the adjustments.)

The smoothed labor force and employment series have been updated to reflect the January 2009 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, 1990-2008, 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	142,264	142,450	142,426	142,740	142,374	142,574	142,258	142,492	142,493	142,594	142,931	143,214
2001	143,763	143,661	143,881	143,524	143,270	143,306	143,600	143,227	143,929	144,023	144,174	144,236
2002	143,812	144,578	144,403	144,644	144,854	144,721	144,714	144,916	145,456	145,215	144,940	144,962
2003	145,199	145,341	145,243	145,673	145,679	146,212	145,624	145,564	145,629	145,794	146,056	145,766
2004	146,303	146,160	146,383	146,278	146,481	146,864	147,084	146,945	146,786	147,151	147,507	147,394
2005	147,379	147,711	147,718	148,265	148,600	148,579	148,750	149,087	149,259	149,279	149,356	149,253
2006	149,519	149,961	150,144	150,248	150,452	150,721	150,728	151,066	150,975	151,312	151,699	151,941
2007	152,101	151,959	152,072	151,582	151,807	152,121	152,126	151,871	152,425	152,154	152,854	152,802
2008	153,471	153,093	153,433	153,517	154,090	153,976	154,077	154,389	154,184	154,436	154,174	153,998

NOTE: This series reflects seasonally adjusted Current Population Survey labor force levels that have been revised from January 1990-December 2008 to smooth out the effects of population control adjustments introduced in January 2000 and January of 2003-09.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 6, 2009.

Employment smoothed for adjustments in population controls, 1990-2008, 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	136,556	136,593	136,693	137,260	136,617	136,925	136,513	136,642	136,870	137,062	137,294	137,583
2001	137,745	137,576	137,744	137,258	137,048	136,827	137,022	136,190	136,792	136,336	136,179	135,986
2002	135,637	136,371	136,108	136,054	136,464	136,338	136,333	136,623	137,217	136,920	136,431	136,333
2003	136,731	136,777	136,711	136,890	136,783	137,009	136,676	136,732	136,773	137,128	137,546	137,515
2004	137,972	138,032	137,933	138,149	138,310	138,621	138,991	138,998	138,902	139,135	139,622	139,506
2005	139,662	139,783	140,021	140,626	140,972	141,072	141,379	141,773	141,736	141,870	141,864	142,081
2006	142,540	142,826	143,105	143,147	143,467	143,723	143,605	143,992	144,145	144,617	144,906	145,298
2007	145,130	145,129	145,392	144,766	145,022	145,153	145,059	144,810	145,268	144,924	145,707	145,328
2008	145,944	145,699	145,643	145,873	145,586	145,347	145,202	144,876	144,629	144,254	143,739	142,931

NOTE: This series reflects seasonally adjusted Current Population Survey employment that has been revised from January 1990-December 2008 to smooth out the effects of population control adjustments introduced in January 2000 and January of 2003-09.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 6, 2009.