

# Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 1999

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John F. Stinson Jr.

Effective with the release of January 1999 data, revisions were introduced into the population controls used for the Current Population Survey (CPS). Such revisions are introduced periodically into the survey to incorporate the latest information available on population growth trends. The current revisions primarily reflect updated information on immigration. This article briefly describes the revisions and provides an indication of their effects on national labor force estimates.

## Nature of the revisions

Each month, CPS estimates of the population are controlled to independent population estimates. The current revisions to the population controls resulted from the incorporation of information provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which increased the proportion of undocumented immigrants who originated as "visa overstayers." These are persons who came into the United States on a temporary visa and did not leave when it expired. The significant effect of this change was to reduce the size of the Hispanic-origin population for men and to increase it for women. It also contributed to a disproportionately large increase in the size of the population for the "other races" category, especially for Asian and Pacific Islanders. The INS data were incorporated into the population controls because they represented an analysis of information

available through the mid-1990s. The previous information on undocumented immigration reflected in the population controls was derived from 1990 census data.

## Effect of the revisions on national estimates

Table 1 provides population and labor force estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for December 1998 based on the old and revised population controls.<sup>1</sup> The introduction of these controls into the CPS estimation procedure results in an increase in the estimated population and labor force levels and represents a break in series with data for prior years. In many cases, however, the break is inconsequential. As the table indicates, the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over was raised by about 310,000, with the population of men falling by about 180,000 and that for women increasing by about 490,000. The labor force and employment levels were increased by about 60,000 each, as gains for women more than offset losses among men. The Hispanic-origin population estimates were lowered by about 165,000 and the labor force and employment estimates were lowered by about 225,000 and 215,000, respectively, with large declines for men much more than offsetting smaller gains for women. The population revisions had a negligible impact on unemployment rates and other percentage estimates.

BLS has no plans to revise the national historical labor force estimates at this time.

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John F. Stinson Jr. is an editor of *Employment and Earnings* and an economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Staff of the Bureau of the Census provided information for this article.

<sup>1</sup> The "old" December 1998 data are weighted noncomposited estimates and differ from the official weighted composite estimates previously published.

**Table 1. Population and labor force estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, using old and revised 1990 census-based population controls, December 1998, not seasonally adjusted**

(Numbers in thousands)

| Characteristic                              | Total                     |                  |            | White                     |                  |            | Black                     |                  |            | Hispanic origin           |                  |            |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
|   | Old controls <sup>1</sup> | Revised controls | Difference | Old controls <sup>1</sup> | Revised controls | Difference | Old controls <sup>1</sup> | Revised controls | Difference | Old controls <sup>1</sup> | Revised controls | Difference |
| <b>Civilian noninstitutional population</b> |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |
| Total, 16 years and over .....              | 206,270                   | 206,577          | 307        | 172,197                   | 172,296          | 99         | 24,561                    | 24,634           | 73         | 21,405                    | 21,241           | -164       |
| 16 to 19 years .....                        | 15,933                    | 15,995           | 62         | 12,568                    | 12,609           | 41         | 2,509                     | 2,516            | 7          | 2,241                     | 2,268            | 27         |
| 20 to 24 years .....                        | 17,648                    | 17,658           | 10         | 14,243                    | 14,230           | -13        | 2,526                     | 2,538            | 12         | 2,784                     | 2,732            | -52        |
| 25 to 54 years .....                        | 117,767                   | 117,853          | 86         | 97,148                    | 97,102           | -46        | 14,557                    | 14,599           | 42         | 13,039                    | 12,875           | -164       |
| 55 years and over .....                     | 54,922                    | 55,071           | 149        | 48,238                    | 48,355           | 117        | 4,969                     | 4,982            | 13         | 3,340                     | 3,366            | 26         |
| Men .....                                   | 99,309                    | 99,126           | -183       | 83,748                    | 83,510           | -238       | 11,018                    | 11,039           | 21         | 10,906                    | 10,523           | -383       |
| Women .....                                 | 106,960                   | 107,451          | 491        | 88,449                    | 88,786           | 337        | 13,543                    | 13,596           | 53         | 10,499                    | 10,719           | 220        |
| <b>Civilian labor force</b>                 |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |
| Total, 16 years and over .....              | 138,764                   | 138,822          | 58         | 116,142                   | 116,068          | -74        | 16,287                    | 16,333           | 46         | 14,542                    | 14,316           | -226       |
| 16 to 19 years .....                        | 8,115                     | 8,140            | 25         | 6,790                     | 6,808            | 18         | 1,021                     | 1,023            | 2          | 999                       | 1,009            | 10         |
| 20 to 24 years .....                        | 13,522                    | 13,514           | -8         | 11,162                    | 11,139           | -23        | 1,759                     | 1,766            | 7          | 2,095                     | 2,040            | -55        |
| 25 to 54 years .....                        | 99,406                    | 99,429           | 23         | 82,669                    | 82,590           | -79        | 11,953                    | 11,988           | 35         | 10,382                    | 10,198           | -184       |
| 55 years and over .....                     | 17,721                    | 17,739           | 18         | 15,521                    | 15,530           | 9          | 1,554                     | 1,556            | 2          | 1,066                     | 1,070            | 4          |
| Men .....                                   | 74,199                    | 73,978           | -221       | 63,246                    | 62,990           | -256       | 7,575                     | 7,587            | 12         | 8,699                     | 8,354            | -345       |
| Women .....                                 | 64,565                    | 64,844           | 279        | 52,896                    | 53,078           | 182        | 8,712                     | 8,746            | 34         | 5,844                     | 5,962            | 118        |
| <b>Employed</b>                             |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |
| Total, 16 years and over .....              | 133,119                   | 133,175          | 56         | 111,951                   | 111,883          | -68        | 15,105                    | 15,147           | 42         | 13,454                    | 13,240           | -214       |
| 16 to 19 years .....                        | 7,105                     | 7,126            | 21         | 6,042                     | 6,056            | 14         | 810                       | 812              | 2          | 819                       | 826              | 7          |
| 20 to 24 years .....                        | 12,657                    | 12,652           | -5         | 10,585                    | 10,567           | -18        | 1,508                     | 1,514            | 6          | 1,910                     | 1,860            | -50        |
| 25 to 54 years .....                        | 96,117                    | 96,142           | 25         | 80,193                    | 80,121           | -72        | 11,296                    | 11,328           | 32         | 9,720                     | 9,546            | -174       |
| 55 years and over .....                     | 17,240                    | 17,256           | 16         | 15,131                    | 15,139           | 8          | 1,491                     | 1,493            | 2          | 1,005                     | 1,008            | 3          |
| Men .....                                   | 71,029                    | 70,825           | -204       | 60,831                    | 60,595           | -236       | 6,973                     | 6,983            | 10         | 8,114                     | 7,792            | -322       |
| Women .....                                 | 62,090                    | 62,350           | 260        | 51,119                    | 51,288           | 169        | 8,132                     | 8,163            | 31         | 5,340                     | 5,448            | 108        |
| <b>Unemployed</b>                           |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |
| Total, 16 years and over .....              | 5,645                     | 5,647            | 2          | 4,192                     | 4,185            | -7         | 1,182                     | 1,186            | 4          | 1,089                     | 1,076            | -13        |
| 16 to 19 years .....                        | 1,009                     | 1,014            | 5          | 749                       | 752              | 3          | 211                       | 211              | 0          | 180                       | 183              | 3          |
| 20 to 24 years .....                        | 865                       | 863              | -2         | 577                       | 573              | -4         | 251                       | 252              | 1          | 185                       | 179              | -6         |
| 25 to 54 years .....                        | 3,289                     | 3,287            | -2         | 2,476                     | 2,469            | -7         | 658                       | 660              | 2          | 662                       | 652              | -10        |
| 55 years and over .....                     | 481                       | 482              | 1          | 390                       | 391              | 1          | 63                        | 63               | 0          | 61                        | 62               | 1          |
| Men .....                                   | 3,170                     | 3,153            | -17        | 2,415                     | 2,395            | -20        | 602                       | 603              | 1          | 585                       | 562              | -23        |
| Women .....                                 | 2,475                     | 2,494            | 19         | 1,777                     | 1,790            | 13         | 580                       | 583              | 3          | 504                       | 515              | 11         |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b>                    |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |                           |                  |            |
| Total, 16 years and over .....              | 4.1                       | 4.1              | 0          | 3.6                       | 3.6              | 0          | 7.3                       | 7.3              | 0          | 7.5                       | 7.5              | 0          |
| 16 to 19 years .....                        | 12.4                      | 12.5             | .1         | 11.0                      | 11.1             | .1         | 20.7                      | 20.7             | 0          | 18.0                      | 18.2             | 2          |
| 20 to 24 years .....                        | 6.4                       | 6.4              | 0          | 5.2                       | 5.1              | -.1        | 14.2                      | 14.3             | .1         | 8.8                       | 8.8              | 0          |
| 25 to 54 years .....                        | 3.3                       | 3.3              | 0          | 3.0                       | 3.0              | 0          | 5.5                       | 5.5              | 0          | 6.4                       | 6.4              | 0          |
| 55 years and over .....                     | 2.7                       | 2.7              | 0          | 2.5                       | 2.5              | 0          | 4.0                       | 4.0              | 0          | 5.7                       | 5.8              | .1         |
| Men .....                                   | 4.3                       | 4.3              | 0          | 3.8                       | 3.8              | 0          | 7.9                       | 8.0              | .1         | 6.7                       | 6.7              | 0          |
| Women .....                                 | 3.8                       | 3.8              | 0          | 3.4                       | 3.4              | 0          | 6.7                       | 6.7              | 0          | 8.6                       | 8.6              | 0          |

<sup>1</sup>These are weighted noncomposited estimates and differ from the official weighted composited estimates previously published for December 1998.

totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin group will not sum to