

# Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 1997

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Effective with the release of January 1997 data, revisions were introduced into the population controls used for the Current Population Survey (CPS). Such revisions are periodically introduced into the survey to incorporate the latest information available on population growth trends. The current revisions primarily reflect improvements in the estimation of the demographic characteristics of various sub-components of migration into and out of the United States. This article briefly describes the revisions and provides an indication of their effect on national labor force estimates.

## Nature of the revisions

Each month, CPS estimates of the population are adjusted to conform with independent population controls. In this year's annual updating of national post-censal population estimates by the Bureau of the Census, two projected components of population change—undocumented migration to the United States and the emigration of legal residents from the United States—were revised. Because the projections of these components date from the last decade, the changes affected population estimates for the entire interval after April 1990; however, they are only being carried into the CPS population controls for January 1997 forward.

Specifically, these revisions affected the distributions of both components by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin and, consequently, the magnitude of the estimated population 16 years and over. The revisions in the two migration components tended to reinforce each other, relative to their effect on the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over. In the case of net undocumented immigration, new data on the characteristics of undocumented residents legalizing their residency status under provisions of the Immigration

Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) are reflected in the population projections for the first time. This change resulted in a substantial increase in the Hispanic-origin share of net undocumented immigration, with the greatest effect for males 16 to 39 years. This upward revision was balanced by a downward revision in the share of non-Hispanic whites. In the case of emigration, a change in the methodology for estimating the age distribution yielded a decrease in the proportion of emigrants 16 years and over, and thus, a corresponding increase in the population 16 years and over for both Asian and Pacific Islanders and persons of Hispanic-origin.

## Effect of the revisions on national estimates

Table 1 provides population and labor force estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for December 1996 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 population and labor force estimates and represents a break in series with data for prior years. As the table indicates, the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over was raised by about 470,000, primarily men. The labor force and employment levels were increased by about 320,000 and 290,000, respectively. The Hispanic-origin population and labor force estimates were raised by about 450,000 and 350,000, respectively, and Hispanic employment by 325,000. The increases in the overall and Hispanic-origin estimates were largest among the 20- to 54-year-old age group. Unemployment rates and other percentages of labor market participation were not affected by the revisions.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The "old" December 1996 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 1996; 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 .....	201,836	202,104	468	169,044	169,313	269	23,794	23,812	18	19,505	19,957	452
16 to 19 years .....	15,141	15,245	104	12,008	12,096	88	2,391	2,393	2	1,986	2,082	96
20 to 24 years .....	17,389	17,548	159	13,824	13,956	132	2,540	2,547	7	2,502	2,608	106
25 to 54 years .....	116,122	116,263	141	96,488	96,523	35	14,111	14,109	-2	11,928	12,150	224
55 years and over .....	52,964	53,049	85	46,724	46,738	14	4,751	4,764	13	3,090	3,117	27
Men .....	96,742	97,185	423	81,878	82,188	310	10,666	10,671	5	9,741	10,177	436
Women .....	104,894	104,940	46	87,165	87,125	-40	13,128	13,142	14	9,763	9,781	18
<b>Civilian labor force</b>												
Total, 16 years and over .....	134,673	134,990	317	113,696	113,891	195	15,269	15,274	5	13,183	13,535	352
16 to 19 years .....	7,482	7,532	50	6,348	6,392	44	870	871	1	821	866	45
20 to 24 years .....	13,231	13,366	135	10,830	10,946	116	1,751	1,758	7	1,890	1,982	92
25 to 54 years .....	97,722	97,842	120	82,141	82,178	37	11,260	11,257	-3	9,389	9,593	204
55 years and over .....	16,238	16,251	13	14,376	14,374	-2	1,388	1,390	2	1,083	1,094	11
Men .....	71,950	72,261	311	61,751	61,966	235	7,192	7,193	1	7,793	8,138	345
Women .....	62,723	62,729	6	51,944	51,905	-39	8,076	8,082	6	5,390	5,397	7
<b>Employed</b>												
Total, 16 years and over .....	127,896	128,188	292	108,769	108,945	176	13,742	13,746	4	12,245	12,571	326
16 to 19 years .....	6,318	6,360	42	5,529	5,566	37	585	586	1	659	695	36
20 to 24 years .....	12,131	12,255	124	10,091	10,199	108	1,440	1,444	4	1,717	1,802	85
25 to 54 years .....	93,694	93,808	114	79,205	79,239	34	10,366	10,363	-3	8,855	9,049	194
55 years and over .....	15,753	15,765	12	13,943	13,941	-2	1,351	1,353	2	1,015	1,028	11
Men .....	68,376	68,663	287	59,076	59,291	215	6,471	6,470	-1	7,321	7,640	319
Women .....	59,520	59,524	4	49,693	49,655	-38	7,271	7,275	4	4,925	4,931	6
<b>Unemployed</b>												
Total, 16 years and over .....	6,776	6,802	26	4,927	4,946	19	1,527	1,528	1	938	964	26
16 to 19 years .....	1,164	1,172	8	818	826	8	285	285	0	162	171	9
20 to 24 years .....	1,100	1,111	11	739	748	9	312	312	0	173	181	8
25 to 54 years .....	4,028	4,034	6	2,937	2,939	2	894	894	0	534	544	10
55 years and over .....	485	486	1	433	433	0	37	37	0	68	69	1
Men .....	3,574	3,598	24	2,675	2,695	20	722	722	0	473	498	25
Women .....	3,203	3,204	1	2,251	2,250	-1	806	806	0	465	466	1
<b>Unemployment rate</b>												
Total, 16 years and over .....	5.0	5.0	0	4.3	4.3	0	10.0	10.0	0	7.1	7.1	0
16 to 19 years .....	15.6	15.6	0	12.9	12.9	0	32.7	32.7	0	19.8	19.7	-1
20 to 24 years .....	8.3	8.3	0	6.8	6.8	0	17.8	17.8	0	9.2	9.1	-1
25 to 54 years .....	4.1	4.1	0	3.6	3.6	0	7.9	7.9	0	5.7	5.7	0
55 years and over .....	3.0	3.0	0	3.0	3.0	0	2.7	2.7	0	6.3	6.3	0
Men .....	5.0	5.0	0	4.3	4.3	0	10.0	10.0	0	6.1	6.1	0
Women .....	5.1	5.1	0	4.3	4.3	0	10.0	10.0	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 1996.

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