

(See [documentation for prior years](#))

Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2025

Beginning in January 2025, data from the Current Population Survey (CPS, or household survey) reflect updated population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition, updated estimates of veterans from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs were incorporated.

Population controls

The independent estimates of population from the Census Bureau are referred to as population controls. They are used to weight, or control, the survey results to reflect the size and composition of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older. Population controls are updated annually and introduced with data for January. (See the [CPS technical documentation](#) for information about adjustments for prior years.)

The Census Bureau develops the population estimates for the CPS. Each year, the Census Bureau adjusts their population estimates to include the latest information about population change and to incorporate improvements in their estimation methodology.

The population adjustments incorporated with data for January 2025 are based on the Census Bureau's Vintage 2024 population estimates reflecting the blended 2020 population base. (Read more below about where the population controls come from.)

Conceptually, the effects of the annual population control adjustments represent the cumulative over- or under-estimation of the population all the way back to the last population base, typically the last decennial census. Hence, the January 2025 adjustment reflects changes back to the 2020 Census blended population base, even though the entire adjustment is incorporated in the January 2025 estimates. The introduction of population controls affects the comparability of estimates over time. (Read more below about historical comparability.)

The effects of the January 2025 adjustment

The January 2025 adjustment was large relative to adjustments in past years and reflects both [updated methodology and new information about net international migration](#). While the January 2025 adjustment reflects cumulative change back to the 2020 Census blended population base, it largely reflects an increase in net international migration that was concentrated in recent years.

To show the impact on the labor force data, BLS uses special tabulations of December data that incorporate the new population controls. When applied to December 2024, the January 2025 adjustment increased the estimated size of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over by 2.9 million people (or 1.1 percent). The adjustment increased the civilian labor force by 2.1 million, including an increase of 2.0 million in employment and an increase of 105,000 in unemployment. The number of people not in the labor force increased by 765,000. Although the effect on levels was relatively large, the effect on rates and ratios was small. The adjustment increased the labor force participation rate,

employment-population ratio, and unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point each. The effects of the adjustment on the rates for the major worker groups were also relatively small.

The increases in population were disproportionately large for Asians and Hispanics. Although the effect for Whites is sizeable, this reflects the increase in the Hispanic population. (People of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity may be of any race.)

By age, the effects occurred mostly in those under age 55, with smaller effects for those age 55 and older.

See the accompanying table for the population control adjustment effects on the major labor force series, based on not seasonally adjusted data for December 2024. Population control adjustment effects for additional series are available in a [supplemental table \(XLSX\)](#).

Historical data comparability

The introduction of population controls affects the comparability of estimates over time.

In accordance with usual practice, official household survey estimates for December 2024 and earlier months were not revised. Consequently, household survey data for January 2025 will not be directly comparable with data for December 2024 or earlier periods.

Although the official estimates were not revised, BLS will produce experimental time series back to April 2020 for the labor force and the employed that account for the January 2025 population control effects. These experimental series will be available in the CPS [technical documentation](#) shortly after the publication of the Employment Situation news release on February 7, 2025.

Estimates of veterans

Effective with data for January 2025, CPS estimates for veterans incorporate population controls derived from a new Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop2023). Information about the [Veteran Population Projection Model](#) is available from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Historical data were not revised. Population controls for veterans are updated periodically.

Where do the new population controls come from?

The CPS population controls incorporate the most recent population estimates available from the Census Bureau. Each year, the Census Bureau's [Population Estimates Program \(PEP\)](#) creates a new time series, or vintage, of population data back to the most recent decennial census. The vintage incorporates the latest information about population change and any improvements in the estimation methodology.

The components of population change (births, deaths, and net international migration) are updated with a lag. For additional information, see the Census Bureau's [Vintage 2024 Methodology and Release Notes documentation](#). Please direct questions about the population estimates and the methodology used to develop them to the [Census Bureau](#).

Each vintage includes a short-term projection of monthly population estimates. For example, Vintage 2024 has monthly estimates from April 2020 through December 2025, where the estimates from August 2024 to December 2025 are short-term projections. The January 2025 adjustment introduces the Vintage 2024 short-term projections for January through December 2025, which will be used to weight the CPS estimates for 2025.

How are the population controls implemented in the CPS?

Estimates from the CPS are weighted to represent the civilian noninstitutional population. (Official BLS estimates refer to people age 16 and older.) The weights are adjusted so that CPS sample estimates match independent estimates of population controls that account for specific combinations of age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity. (There are different controls used for national and state estimates. Note that not all race groups are part of the population controls.) The population controls make CPS estimates representative at both the national and state level. A full discussion of the weighting and estimation process is available in Chapter 2-3 of [*Design and methodology: Current Population Survey, Technical Paper 77*](#) (2019).

The new population controls are accounted for in the standard multi-stage weighting process for CPS estimation. When the population controls are adjusted, the weighting process simply uses the new controls. There is no change in estimation or adjustment to methodology needed to account for the updated population information. The weights are created by the Census Bureau and used by BLS for estimation.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2024 (2025 population adjustment effect)

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	As published	Based on updated population controls	Difference
TOTAL			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	269,638	272,509	2,871
Civilian labor force.....	167,746	169,852	2,106
Participation rate.....	62.2	62.3	0.1
Employed.....	161,294	163,294	2,000
Employment-population ratio.....	59.8	59.9	0.1
Unemployed.....	6,452	6,557	105
Unemployment rate.....	3.8	3.9	0.1
Not in labor force.....	101,892	102,657	765
Men, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	131,455	132,925	1,470
Civilian labor force.....	88,712	89,868	1,156
Participation rate.....	67.5	67.6	0.1
Employed.....	85,139	86,235	1,096
Employment-population ratio.....	64.8	64.9	0.1
Unemployed.....	3,574	3,633	59
Unemployment rate.....	4.0	4.0	0.0
Not in labor force.....	42,743	43,057	314
Men, 20 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	122,480	123,833	1,353
Civilian labor force.....	85,558	86,676	1,118
Participation rate.....	69.9	70.0	0.1
Employed.....	82,378	83,442	1,064
Employment-population ratio.....	67.3	67.4	0.1
Unemployed.....	3,179	3,233	54
Unemployment rate.....	3.7	3.7	0.0
Not in labor force.....	36,923	37,158	235
Women, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	138,183	139,583	1,400
Civilian labor force.....	79,034	79,983	949
Participation rate.....	57.2	57.3	0.1
Employed.....	76,155	77,059	904
Employment-population ratio.....	55.1	55.2	0.1
Unemployed.....	2,879	2,924	45
Unemployment rate.....	3.6	3.7	0.1
Not in labor force.....	59,149	59,600	451

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2024 (2025 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
Women, 20 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	129,518	130,817	1,299
Civilian labor force.....	75,961	76,879	918
Participation rate.....	58.6	58.8	0.2
Employed.....	73,359	74,235	876
Employment-population ratio.....	56.6	56.7	0.1
Unemployed.....	2,602	2,644	42
Unemployment rate.....	3.4	3.4	0.0
Not in labor force.....	53,557	53,939	382
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	17,640	17,858	218
Civilian labor force.....	6,227	6,297	70
Participation rate.....	35.3	35.3	0.0
Employed.....	5,556	5,616	60
Employment-population ratio.....	31.5	31.5	0.0
Unemployed.....	671	681	10
Unemployment rate.....	10.8	10.8	0.0
Not in labor force.....	11,412	11,561	149
WHITE			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	205,598	207,017	1,419
Civilian labor force.....	127,352	128,440	1,088
Participation rate.....	61.9	62.0	0.1
Employed.....	122,986	124,026	1,040
Employment-population ratio.....	59.8	59.9	0.1
Unemployed.....	4,366	4,414	48
Unemployment rate.....	3.4	3.4	0.0
Not in labor force.....	78,245	78,577	332
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	35,194	35,586	392
Civilian labor force.....	21,822	22,098	276
Participation rate.....	62.0	62.1	0.1
Employed.....	20,593	20,850	257
Employment-population ratio.....	58.5	58.6	0.1
Unemployed.....	1,229	1,249	20
Unemployment rate.....	5.6	5.7	0.1
Not in labor force.....	13,372	13,487	115

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2024 (2025 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
ASIAN			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,174	19,018	844
Civilian labor force.....	11,626	12,207	581
Participation rate.....	64.0	64.2	0.2
Employed.....	11,242	11,800	558
Employment-population ratio.....	61.9	62.0	0.1
Unemployed.....	383	407	24
Unemployment rate.....	3.3	3.3	0.0
Not in labor force.....	6,548	6,811	263
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	49,483	50,760	1,277
Civilian labor force.....	33,315	34,243	928
Participation rate.....	67.3	67.5	0.2
Employed.....	31,627	32,504	877
Employment-population ratio.....	63.9	64.0	0.1
Unemployed.....	1,687	1,739	52
Unemployment rate.....	5.1	5.1	0.0
Not in labor force.....	16,169	16,517	348

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.