



For release 10:00 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, September 9, 2025

USDL-25-1354

Technical information: (202) 691-6559 • sminfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/sae
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS PRELIMINARY BENCHMARK (STATE AND AREA) — MARCH 2025

The average absolute preliminary benchmark revision across all states and the District of Columbia was 0.7 percent for March 2025, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. In accordance with usual practice, final benchmark data for all CES state and metropolitan area series are scheduled to be released in March 2026 with the publication of the January 2026 State Employment and Unemployment news release.

Each year, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) employment estimates are benchmarked to comprehensive counts of employment from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). These counts are derived primarily from state unemployment insurance (UI) tax records that nearly all employers are required to file with state workforce agencies. The final benchmark will reflect revisions to all not seasonally adjusted data from April 2024 to December 2025, all seasonally adjusted data from January 2021 to December 2025, and select series subject to historical revisions before April 2024.

Summary of revisions at the state level

The average absolute preliminary benchmark revision across all states and the District of Columbia was 0.7 percent for March 2025. Compared with sample-based estimates, preliminary benchmark levels were lower in 38 states and the District for March 2025 and higher in 12 states. For all states and the District, the preliminary benchmark revisions to total nonfarm employment for March 2025 ranged from -1.8 percent in Colorado to +1.1 percent in Arizona and New York. The average preliminary revision across all states was -0.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Summary of revisions for large metropolitan areas

The average absolute preliminary benchmark revision across the 56 metropolitan areas with a 2020 Census population of 1 million or more was 0.8 percent for March 2025. Compared with sample-based estimates, preliminary benchmark levels were lower in 36 areas for March 2025 and higher in 20 areas. Among these large metropolitan areas, the preliminary benchmark

revisions to total nonfarm employment for March 2025 ranged from -2.4 percent in Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL, to +4.3 percent in Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI. The average preliminary revision across all large metropolitan areas was -0.2 percent. (See table 2.)

The final benchmark revisions for states and metropolitan areas for March 2025 will be released in March 2026 with the January 2026 State Employment and Unemployment news release.

Technical Note

This news release presents preliminary benchmark revisions to total nonfarm employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and metropolitan areas with a Census 2020 population of 1 million or more. The CES program is a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Each year, CES employment estimates are benchmarked to comprehensive counts of employment from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. These counts are derived primarily from state unemployment insurance (UI) tax reports that nearly all employers are required to file with state workforce agencies. While most firms are required to pay UI tax for their employees, there are some types of employees that are exempt from UI tax law but are still within scope for the CES. Because these employees are not included in the QCEW, CES uses several other sources to generate counts of this noncovered employment. More information on noncovered employment is available in the CES Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/ces/calculation.htm#noncovered-employment.

Method of calculation

Preliminary benchmark revisions are calculated for March of the current year. Noncovered employment levels for the upcoming benchmark

are not available for the release of the preliminary benchmark revisions. Therefore, the preliminary benchmark revision is calculated by adding the previous year's March noncovered employment level to the current year's March QCEW employment and subtracting the current year's March CES estimate of employment: Preliminary benchmark revision = (previous year March noncovered employment + current year March QCEW employment) – current year March CES employment estimate.

Final benchmark revisions are issued each March with the publication of the January State Employment and Unemployment news release. For more information on the CES benchmarking process for states and metropolitan areas, see www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.htm.

Additional information

Estimates of nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings from the CES program for states and metropolitan areas are available online at www.bls.gov/sae. Historical data for preliminary and final benchmark revisions are available for download at www.bls.gov/sae/publications/preliminary-benchmark-announcement.htm#HistoricalData.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Table 1. Preliminary benchmark revisions to total nonfarm employment by state, not seasonally adjusted

State	March 2025 Preliminary Benchmark Revision	
	Level (in thousands)	Percent ¹
Alabama.....	-13.3	-0.6
Alaska.....	-2.3	-0.7
Arizona.....	34.8	1.1
Arkansas.....	-11.3	-0.8
California.....	20.7	0.1
Colorado.....	-51.2	-1.8
Connecticut.....	5.5	0.3
Delaware.....	3.0	0.6
District of Columbia.....	-8.1	-1.1
Florida.....	-35.0	-0.3
Georgia.....	-1.8	0.0
Hawaii.....	-8.4	-1.3
Idaho.....	-12.6	-1.5
Illinois.....	1.7	0.0
Indiana.....	-8.9	-0.3
Iowa.....	4.3	0.3
Kansas.....	3.4	0.2
Kentucky.....	-8.5	-0.4
Louisiana.....	-5.3	-0.3
Maine.....	2.3	0.4
Maryland.....	-3.5	-0.1
Massachusetts.....	-6.0	-0.2
Michigan.....	-39.7	-0.9
Minnesota.....	-35.8	-1.2
Mississippi.....	-9.6	-0.8
Missouri.....	-12.4	-0.4
Montana.....	0.9	0.2
Nebraska.....	-3.9	-0.4
Nevada.....	-3.1	-0.2
New Hampshire.....	-5.7	-0.8
New Jersey.....	31.5	0.7
New Mexico.....	-10.8	-1.2
New York.....	109.6	1.1
North Carolina.....	-56.9	-1.1
North Dakota.....	-3.1	-0.7
Ohio.....	-31.1	-0.6
Oklahoma.....	-30.6	-1.7
Oregon.....	-29.0	-1.5
Pennsylvania.....	-37.0	-0.6
Rhode Island.....	-2.7	-0.5
South Carolina.....	-17.9	-0.8
South Dakota.....	-7.4	-1.6
Tennessee.....	-21.0	-0.6
Texas.....	-7.2	-0.1
Utah.....	-12.4	-0.7
Vermont.....	-1.7	-0.6
Virginia.....	-6.9	-0.2
Washington.....	-26.2	-0.7
West Virginia.....	3.8	0.5
Wisconsin.....	-17.9	-0.6
Wyoming.....	-3.8	-1.3

¹ Percentage revisions are rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent. Values of 0.0 represent percentage revisions less than +/- 0.05 percent.

NOTE: This is a preliminary benchmark revision announcement. Final benchmark revisions will be available in March 2026 with the publication of the the January 2026 State Employment and Unemployment Summary news release.

Table 2. Preliminary benchmark revisions to total nonfarm employment in metropolitan areas with a Census 2020 population of 1 million or more, not seasonally adjusted

Metropolitan area	March 2025 Preliminary Benchmark Revision	
	Level (in thousands)	Percent ¹
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA.....	-10.1	-0.3
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX.....	15.0	1.1
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD.....	1.1	0.1
Birmingham, AL.....	-2.3	-0.4
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH.....	-4.9	-0.2
Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY.....	-2.3	-0.4
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC.....	-14.9	-1.1
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN.....	4.1	0.1
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN.....	2.7	0.2
Cleveland, OH.....	-10.2	-0.9
Columbus, OH.....	9.8	0.8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.....	-5.4	-0.1
Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO.....	-5.2	-0.3
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI.....	-31.3	-1.6
Fresno, CA.....	-7.7	-1.8
Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI.....	26.8	4.3
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT.....	9.3	1.5
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX.....	8.0	0.2
Indianapolis-Carmel-Greenwood, IN.....	5.8	0.5
Jacksonville, FL.....	-10.7	-1.3
Kansas City, MO-KS.....	2.8	0.2
Las Vegas-Henderson-North Las Vegas, NV.....	-6.6	-0.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA.....	0.7	0.0
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN.....	-3.9	-0.6
Memphis, TN-MS-AR.....	-1.7	-0.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL.....	7.2	0.2
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI.....	-4.9	-0.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI.....	-6.2	-0.3
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN.....	-7.9	-0.7
New Orleans-Metairie, LA.....	-3.0	-0.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ.....	102.8	1.0
Oklahoma City, OK.....	-12.5	-1.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL.....	-35.2	-2.4
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD.....	5.0	0.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ.....	19.6	0.8
Pittsburgh, PA.....	-5.3	-0.4
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA.....	-11.6	-0.9
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA.....	-0.2	0.0
Raleigh-Cary, NC.....	-4.0	-0.5
Richmond, VA.....	2.2	0.3
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA.....	20.6	1.2
Rochester, NY.....	-1.0	-0.2
Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA.....	9.2	0.8
Salt Lake City-Murray, UT.....	-5.5	-0.7
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX.....	-4.7	-0.4
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA.....	-13.2	-0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA.....	-9.3	-0.4
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA.....	11.0	1.0
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA.....	-26.9	-1.3
St. Louis, MO-IL ²	-1.9	-0.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.....	-5.9	-0.4
Tucson, AZ.....	4.5	1.1
Tulsa, OK.....	-6.2	-1.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Preliminary benchmark revisions to total nonfarm employment in metropolitan areas with a Census 2020 population of 1 million or more, not seasonally adjusted — Continued

Metropolitan area	March 2025 Preliminary Benchmark Revision	
	Level (in thousands)	Percent ¹
Urban Honolulu, HI.....	-8.5	-1.8
Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk, VA-NC.....	-6.5	-0.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV.....	-7.9	-0.2

¹ Percentage revisions are rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent. Values of 0.0 represent percentage revisions less than +/- 0.05 percent.

² Area boundary does not reflect the official OMB delineation.

NOTE: This is a preliminary benchmark revision announcement. Final benchmark revisions will be available in March 2026 with the publication of the the January 2026 State Employment and Unemployment Summary news release.

NOTE: Area delineations are based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 23-01, dated July 21, 2023, and are available on the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>. Some metropolitan areas lie in two or more states. They are listed under the state containing the first principal city, unless otherwise footnoted.