

Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2021

Household survey data beginning in January 2021 reflect updated population estimates, also referred to as population controls. These are independent estimates of population used to weight the household survey sample results to reflect the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older. (Additional information about household survey population controls is available on the [Current Population Survey technical documentation page](#).)

The U.S. Census Bureau develops the population estimates for the household survey. Each year, the Census Bureau adjusts the estimates to include the latest information about population change and to incorporate any improvements in the estimation methodology.

The population adjustments incorporated with household survey data for January 2021 reflect updated birth and death statistics, which include the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; new estimates of net international migration, which reflect reduced international migration due to the pandemic and associated travel restrictions; and methodological improvements to the estimation process.

For additional information, see the Census Bureau's [Vintage 2020 Methodology and Release Notes documentation](#). Questions about the population estimates and the methodology used to develop them should be directed to the [Census Bureau](#).

In addition, effective with data for January 2021, household survey estimates for veterans incorporate population controls derived from a new Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop2018). Information about the [Veteran Population Projection Model](#) is available from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Following usual Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) practice, official household survey estimates for December 2020 and earlier months were not revised.

To evaluate the impact of population control adjustments on key labor force data, BLS produces special tabulations of December data that incorporate the new population controls. The difference between the special tabulations and the official December estimates (not seasonally adjusted) shows the effect of the adjustment. The adjustment effect may be either positive or negative.

See the accompanying table for the latest population control adjustment effects to the major labor force series, based on not seasonally data for December 2020. A supplemental table ([XLSX](#)) that shows population control adjustment effects for additional series, including veterans, is also available.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2020 (2021 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.....	261,230	260,754	-476
Civilian labor force.....	160,017	159,817	-200
Participation rate.....	61.3	61.3	0.0
Employed.....	149,613	149,433	-180
Employment-population ratio.....	57.3	57.3	0.0
Unemployed.....	10,404	10,384	-20
Unemployment rate.....	6.5	6.5	0.0
Not in labor force.....	101,213	100,936	-277
Men, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	126,367	126,144	-223
Civilian labor force.....	84,644	84,544	-100
Participation rate.....	67.0	67.0	0.0
Employed.....	78,955	78,864	-91
Employment-population ratio.....	62.5	62.5	0.0
Unemployed.....	5,689	5,680	-9
Unemployment rate.....	6.7	6.7	0.0
Not in labor force.....	41,723	41,600	-123
Men, 20 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	118,010	117,808	-202
Civilian labor force.....	81,877	81,783	-94
Participation rate.....	69.4	69.4	0.0
Employed.....	76,572	76,485	-87
Employment-population ratio.....	64.9	64.9	0.0
Unemployed.....	5,305	5,297	-8
Unemployment rate.....	6.5	6.5	0.0
Not in labor force.....	36,134	36,026	-108
Women, 16 years and over			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	134,862	134,610	-252
Civilian labor force.....	75,373	75,274	-99
Participation rate.....	55.9	55.9	0.0
Employed.....	70,658	70,569	-89
Employment-population ratio.....	52.4	52.4	0.0
Unemployed.....	4,715	4,705	-10
Unemployment rate.....	6.3	6.2	-0.1
Not in labor force.....	59,490	59,336	-154

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2020 (2021 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.....	126,681	126,451	-230
Civilian labor force.....	72,558	72,463	-95
Participation rate.....	57.3	57.3	0.0
Employed.....	68,248	68,163	-85
Employment-population ratio.....	53.9	53.9	0.0
Unemployed.....	4,309	4,300	-9
Unemployment rate.....	5.9	5.9	0.0
Not in labor force.....	54,124	53,987	-137
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	16,538	16,495	-43
Civilian labor force.....	5,582	5,571	-11
Participation rate.....	33.8	33.8	0.0
Employed.....	4,793	4,784	-9
Employment-population ratio.....	29.0	29.0	0.0
Unemployed.....	789	787	-2
Unemployment rate.....	14.1	14.1	0.0
Not in labor force.....	10,956	10,923	-33
WHITE			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	201,749	201,546	-203
Civilian labor force.....	123,828	123,782	-46
Participation rate.....	61.4	61.4	0.0
Employed.....	116,479	116,442	-37
Employment-population ratio.....	57.7	57.8	0.1
Unemployed.....	7,348	7,340	-8
Unemployment rate.....	5.9	5.9	0.0
Not in labor force.....	77,921	77,764	-157
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	33,516	33,471	-45
Civilian labor force.....	19,919	19,904	-15
Participation rate.....	59.4	59.5	0.1
Employed.....	18,066	18,052	-14
Employment-population ratio.....	53.9	53.9	0.0
Unemployed.....	1,853	1,852	-1
Unemployment rate.....	9.3	9.3	0.0
Not in labor force.....	13,597	13,567	-30

See notes at end of table.

Employment status of the population for selected labor force groups, not seasonally adjusted, December 2020 (2021 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.....	16,583	16,357	-226
Civilian labor force.....	10,259	10,124	-135
Participation rate.....	61.9	61.9	0.0
Employed.....	9,664	9,538	-126
Employment-population ratio.....	58.3	58.3	0.0
Unemployed.....	595	586	-9
Unemployment rate.....	5.8	5.8	0.0
Not in labor force.....	6,324	6,233	-91
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY			
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	44,639	44,452	-187
Civilian labor force.....	29,129	29,019	-110
Participation rate.....	65.3	65.3	0.0
Employed.....	26,442	26,343	-99
Employment-population ratio.....	59.2	59.3	0.1
Unemployed.....	2,688	2,676	-12
Unemployment rate.....	9.2	9.2	0.0
Not in labor force.....	15,510	15,433	-77

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.