

Primary Source Guide: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Introductory Tutorial – Finding & Using Employment Numbers Data

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Announcement

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FEB 15

CPI for all items rises 0.6% in January; largest increase since February 2013

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers increased 0.6 percent in January after rising 0.3 percent in December. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in January after increasing 0.2 percent in December.

[HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#) | [Charts](#) | [Local and Regional CPI](#)

02/15/2017 **Real average hourly earnings decrease 0.5% in January**

02/14/2017 **PPI for final demand increases 0.6% in January; goods rise 1.0%, services advance 0.3%**

02/10/2017 **Import prices up 0.4% in January due to higher fuel prices; export prices advance 0.1%**

02/09/2017 **Lowest decade on record for number of major work stoppages, averaging 14 per year**

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The cost of crisis: why stock fees rise when markets slip

This article examines price changes for dealer transactions-equity securities and two measures of stock market volatility.

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Economic news release finder

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WEST

LATEST NUMBERS

Consumer Price Index (CPI):
+0.6% in Jan 2017

Unemployment Rate:
4.8% in Jan 2017

Payroll Employment:
+227,000 (p) in Jan 2017

Average Hourly Earnings:
+\$0.03(p) in Jan 2017

Producer Price Index - Final Demand:
+0.6% (p) in Jan 2017

Employment Cost Index (ECI):
+0.5% in 4th Qtr of 2016

Productivity:
+1.3% in 4th Qtr of 2016

PART I

National Employment Data

Learning Goals for Part I:

- Navigate the Bureau of Labor Statistics Website to find monthly jobs employment data
- Retrieve employment data for a specific sector, i.e. Private or Public
- Retrieve employment data for a specific range of time
- Graph the data retrieved

INFLATION & PRICES

- Consumer Price Index
- Producer Price Indexes
- Import/Export Price Indexes
- Employment Cost Index
- Contract Escalation
- Price Index Research
- Inflation & Prices Overview

PAY & BENEFITS

- Compensation Data
- Wages by Area & Occupation
- Earnings by Demographics
- Earnings by Industry
- County Wages
- Benefits
- Compensation Research
- Strikes & Lockouts
- Pay & Benefits Overview

SPENDING & TIME USE

- Consumer Expenditures
- How Americans Spend Time

UNEMPLOYMENT

- National Unemployment Rate
- State & Local Unemployment Rates
- Unemployment Research
- Unemployment Overview

EMPLOYMENT

- National Employment**
- State & Local Employment
- State & County Employment
- Worker Characteristics
- Employment Projections
- Job Openings & Labor Turnover
- Employment by Occupation
- Work Experience Over Time
- Business Employment Dynamics
- Employment Research
- Employment Overview

WORKPLACE INJURIES

OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

PRODUCTIVITY

- Labor Productivity & Costs
- Multifactor Productivity
- Productivity Research
- Productivity Overview

INTERNATIONAL

- International Technical Cooperation
- Import/Export Price Indexes
- International Overview

REGIONAL OFFICES

- New England (Boston)
- New York-New Jersey (NY City)
- Mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia)
- Southeast (Atlanta)
- Midwest (Chicago)
- Southwest (Dallas)
- Mountain-Plains (Kansas City)
- West (San Francisco)
- Regional Overview

STEP 1:
Select subject area

From the dropdown list of "Subjects," select "National Employment."



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LATEST NUMBERS

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+0.5% in 4th Qtr of 2016  
- Productivity:**
+1.3% in 4th Qtr of 2016  
- U.S. Import Price Index:**
+0.4% in Jan 2017  
- U.S. Export Price Index:**
+0.1% in Jan 2017  

THE ECONOMICS DAILY

- Consumer Price Index, January 2017
- PPI final demand index, January 2017

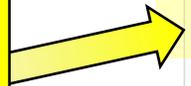
CAREER INFORMATION

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Career Outlook

STEP 2:

Scroll to “Historical Data”

On the “National Employment” page, scroll down until you get to the **Historical Data** and click on the link for the “*Access to historical data for the ‘B’ tables of the Employment Situation News Release.*”



[All CES Tables >>](#)

CES Databases

Databases

Database Name	Special Notice	Top Picks	Data Finder	One Screen	Multi-Screen	Tables	Text Files
Employment, Hours, and Earnings - National (Current)							
Employment Statistics - CES)	SPECIAL NOTICE	TOP PICKS	DATA FINDER	ONE-SCREEN DATA SEARCH	MULTI-SCREEN DATA SEARCH	TABLES	TEXT FILES

[CES Data Access Tips](#)

[CES Published Series](#) – A table displaying the availability, by industry, of both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data

Historical data for series in the selected news releases from the Current Employment Statistics survey (National)

- [Access to historical data for the 'B' tables of the Employment Situation News Release](#)

Vintage data

- [CES vintage data](#) tables that display the published employment values for a given reference month across time

More Tools

- [Series Report](#) — Already know the series identifier for the statistic you want? Use this shortcut to retrieve your data

[All CES Databases >>](#)

CES Technical Notes

- [CES NAICS Overview](#)
- BLS Handbook of Methods Chapter 2: Employment, Hours, and Earnings from the Establishment Survey ([PDF](#))

STEP 3:

Choose the correct data set (#1 for general employment numbers)

There are several options to view on the “Access to historical data” page.
If you are looking for general employment numbers, you will want to select the first option: “Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail.”

Current Employment Statistics - CES (National) SHARE ON: Facebook Twitter LinkedIn CES FONT SIZE: PRINT:

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- BIRTH/DEATH
- SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT
- REVISIONS AND COLLECTION RATES
- CES REPORT FORMS

Access to historical data for the "B" tables of the Employment Situation News Release

Note: The forms below allow you to retrieve historical establishment-based data on National employment, hours, and earnings found in the monthly "B" tables of the Employment Situation News Release. The layout of the forms is similar to those published in the monthly "B" tables.

1. [Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
2. [Average weekly hours and overtime of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
3. [Average hourly and weekly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
4. [Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
5. [Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
6. [Employment of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
7. [Average weekly hours and overtime of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
8. [Average hourly and weekly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
9. [Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)

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Data Retrieval: Employment, Hours, and Earnings (CES)

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail
[In thousands]

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Select All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total nonfarm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total private	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goods-producing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining and logging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil and gas extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining, except oil and gas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coal mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal ore mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support activities for mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction of buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonresidential building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy and civil engineering construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialty trade contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential specialty trade contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STEP 4: Select the industry sector

There is a long list of various industry sectors grouped into two major categories: (1) *Total Private*, and (2) *Government* (down at the bottom of the page).

To see the job numbers for the private sector, check the box for “*Total Private*.” You will also want to check the box for “*Seasonally Adjusted*” (Checking this box does not alter the data, but evens out seasonal variations so that trends are more easily recognized once the data is graphed).

To see public sector employment, scroll down to Government. You can choose to view all public sector employment, or choose a specific level (Federal, State, or Local).

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail
[In thousands]

Amusements, gambling, and recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodation and food services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food services and drinking places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair and maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal and laundry services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership associations and organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal, except U.S. Postal Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. Postal Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State government education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State government, excluding education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government, excluding education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Footnotes:
 (1) Includes other industries, not shown separately.
 (2) Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.
 (3) Includes ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

Note: p = preliminary.

Retrieve data Reset form

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STEP 5: Retrieve data

When you’ve selected the sector of employment you want to see, scroll down and select the “*Retrieve data*” button.

PART II

National Unemployment Data

Unemployment, Labor Force Participation, and more

Learning Goals for Part I:

- Navigate the Bureau of Labor Statistics Website to find monthly unemployment data
- Retrieve unemployment data for various measures: Unemployment Rate, Employment to Population Ratio, Labor Force Participation, etc.
- Retrieve unemployment data for a specific range of time
- Graph the data retrieved

STEP 1:

Select subject area

From the dropdown list of "Subjects," select "National Unemployment Rate."

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Productivity Research
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Productivity:
+1.3% in 4th Qtr of 2016

U.S. Import Price Index:
+0.4% in Jan 2017

U.S. Export Price Index:

Economic news release finder

Choose a State ▾ **GO**

Choose a Subject ▾ **GO**

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SOUTHEAST
MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST
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WEST

THE ECONOMICS DAILY

CAREER INFORMATION»

STEP 2:

Scroll to “Historical Data”

Historical News Release Tables

Table Name	News Release Tables
Historical 'A' Tables (Household data): Previous years and months	
Employment Situation News Release (monthly) Current Population Survey (CPS)	
Historical 'B' Tables (Establishment data): Previous years and months	
Employment Situation News Release (monthly) Current Employment Statistics (CES)	
Weekly Earnings Tables: Previous quarters	
Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers News Release (quarterly) Current Population Survey (CPS)	
Union Affiliation Tables: Previous years	
Union Members News Release (annual) Current Population Survey (CPS)	
Access to Historical Data Series by Subject: Previous years and months	
Browse labor force, employment, unemployment, and other data by subject Current Population Survey (CPS)	

More Tools

- [Series Report](#) — Already know the series identifier for the statistic you want? Use this shortcut to retrieve your data. (See tab-delimited files below for series id codes.)
 - [LN series id list](#) — Labor force statistics including the national unemployment rate
 - [LE series id list](#) — Weekly earnings and workers paid hourly rates
 - [LU series id list](#) — Union affiliation data
 - [FM series id list](#) — Marital and family labor force statistics
- [Compressed flat files site](#) — For those who want it all. Download a compressed flat file of the entire LN database or large subset of the LN database.

On the “National Unemployment Rate” page, scroll down until you get to the **Historical News Release Tables**.

Under “Historical ‘A’ Tables,” click on the link for the **“Employment Situation News Release Monthly.”**

STEP 3:

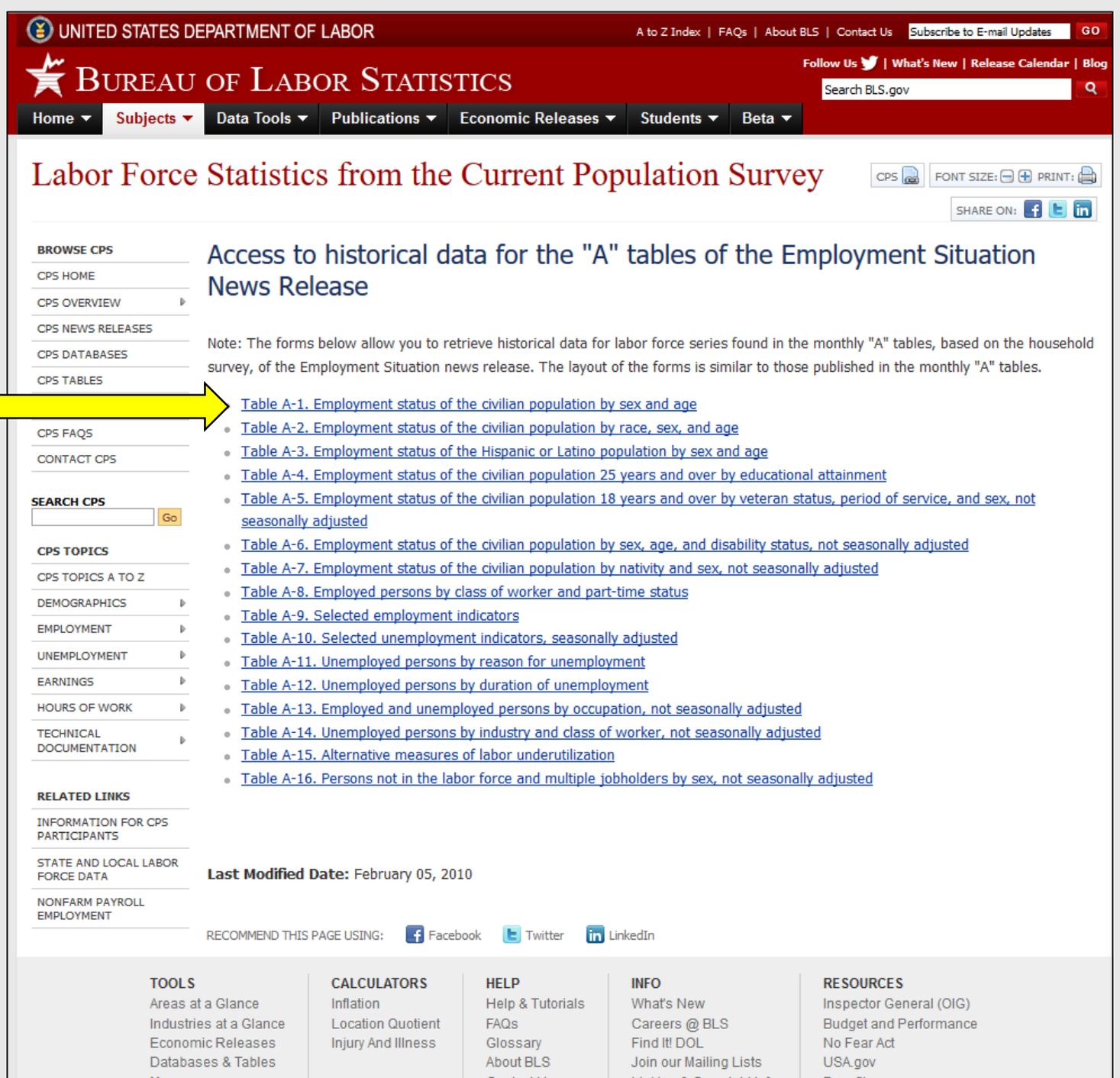
Choose the correct data set

There are several options to view on this page. Which one you choose will depend on what specific information you are seeking.

If you are looking for general UNEMPLOYMENT information, use **Table A-1**

On this table you will be able to find the

- **Unemployment Rate**
- **Participation Rate**
- **Employment to Population Ratio**
- **Not in the labor force**
- **Persons who currently want a job (but are not in the labor force)**



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Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation News Release

Note: The forms below allow you to retrieve historical data for labor force series found in the monthly "A" tables, based on the household survey, of the Employment Situation news release. The layout of the forms is similar to those published in the monthly "A" tables.

BROWSE CPS

- CPS HOME
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- CPS NEWS RELEASES
- CPS DATABASES
- CPS TABLES

SEARCH CPS

CPS TOPICS

- CPS TOPICS A TO Z
- DEMOGRAPHICS
- EMPLOYMENT
- UNEMPLOYMENT
- EARNINGS
- HOURS OF WORK
- TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

RELATED LINKS

- INFORMATION FOR CPS PARTICIPANTS
- STATE AND LOCAL LABOR FORCE DATA
- NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT

- [Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age](#)
- [Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment](#)
- [Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-6. Employment status of the civilian population by sex, age, and disability status, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-7. Employment status of the civilian population by nativity and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-8. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status](#)
- [Table A-9. Selected employment indicators](#)
- [Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-11. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment](#)
- [Table A-12. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment](#)
- [Table A-13. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-14. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization](#)
- [Table A-16. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)

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STEP 4:

Select desired data
and
“Retrieve Data”

Choose what information you need. If you want to see the general trends for graphing, be certain to check the “*Seasonally Adjusted*” box for that data.

Once you have made your selections, scroll down to the bottom of the tables and click the “**Retrieve Data**” button.

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Data Retrieval: Labor Force Statistics (CPS)

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ACCESS TO HISTORICAL DATA FOR THE "A" TABLES OF THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION RELEASE

TABLE A-1. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY SEX AND AGE

TABLE A-2. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY RACE, SEX, AND AGE

TABLE A-3. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HISPANICS BY SEX AND AGE

TABLE A-4. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

TABLE A-5. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY VETERAN STATUS, PERIOD OF SERVICE, AND SEX

TABLE A-6. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY DISABILITY STATUS, SEX, AND AGE

TABLE A-7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE FOREIGN AND NATIVE BORN BY SEX

WORKER AND PART-TIME STATUS

TABLE A-9. SELECTED EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

TABLE A-10. SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

TABLE A-11. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE A-12. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE A-13. EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

TABLE A-14. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY AND CLASS OF WORKER

TABLE A-15. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF LABOR

To see the last 10 years of data, select one or more series from the table below, then scroll down to click the "Retrieve data" button.

You can choose other years, reformat your returned information, or create differences using the "More formatting options" link that will be shown with the retrieved information.

(Note: Annual average information is stored only with the "Not seasonally adjusted" series. Be sure to check the box at the top of the output page to include annual averages with the retrieved information.)

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

[Numbers in thousands]

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted ⁽¹⁾
Select All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL		
Civilian noninstitutional population	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
Civilian labor force	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment-population ratio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not in labor force	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons who currently want a job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men, 16 years and over		
Civilian noninstitutional population	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
Civilian labor force	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment-population ratio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not in labor force	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STEP 5:

Adjust output options as desired

Once you have retrieved the data, you can adjust for the **date range** you want, and you can check the box to **include graphs**.

To see the changes you made to the output, you have to click on the **“GO”** button after making those changes.

Review your data.

Download as a spreadsheet file if you like.

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Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

Change Output Options:

From: 2001 To: 2017

include graphs include annual averages

GO

Data extracted on: February 19, 2017 (9:17:46 PM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNS12300000
Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Seas) Employment-Population Ratio
Labor force status: Employment-population ratio
Type of data: Percent or rate
Age: 16 years and over

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2001	64.4	64.3	64.3	64.0	63.8	63.7	63.7	63.2	63.5	63.2	63.0	62.9
2002	62.7	63.0	62.8	62.7	62.9	62.7	62.7	62.7	63.0	62.7	62.5	62.4
2003	62.5	62.5	62.4	62.4	62.3	62.3	62.1	62.1	62.0	62.1	62.3	62.2
2004	62.3	62.3	62.2	62.3	62.3	62.4	62.5	62.4	62.3	62.3	62.5	62.4
2005	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.7	62.8	62.7	62.8	62.9	62.8	62.8	62.7	62.8
2006	62.9	63.0	63.1	63.0	63.1	63.1	63.0	63.1	63.1	63.3	63.3	63.4
2007	63.3	63.3	63.3	63.0	63.0	63.0	62.9	62.7	62.9	62.7	62.9	62.7
2008	62.9	62.8	62.7	62.7	62.5	62.4	62.2	62.0	61.9	61.7	61.4	61.0
2009	60.6	60.3	59.9	59.8	59.6	59.4	59.3	59.1	58.7	58.5	58.6	58.3
2010	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.7	58.6	58.5	58.5	58.6	58.5	58.3	58.2	58.3
2011	58.3	58.4	58.4	58.4	58.3	58.2	58.2	58.3	58.4	58.4	58.6	58.6
2012	58.4	58.5	58.5	58.4	58.5	58.6	58.5	58.4	58.7	58.8	58.7	58.7
2013	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.6	58.6	58.6	58.7	58.7	58.7	58.3	58.6	58.7
2014	58.7	58.7	58.9	58.9	58.9	59.0	59.1	59.0	59.1	59.3	59.2	59.2
2015	59.3	59.3	59.3	59.3	59.4	59.3	59.3	59.4	59.3	59.3	59.4	59.6
2016	59.6	59.8	59.9	59.7	59.7	59.6	59.8	59.7	59.8	59.7	59.7	59.7
2017	59.9											

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