

Navigating the Mechanics of State Employment Data

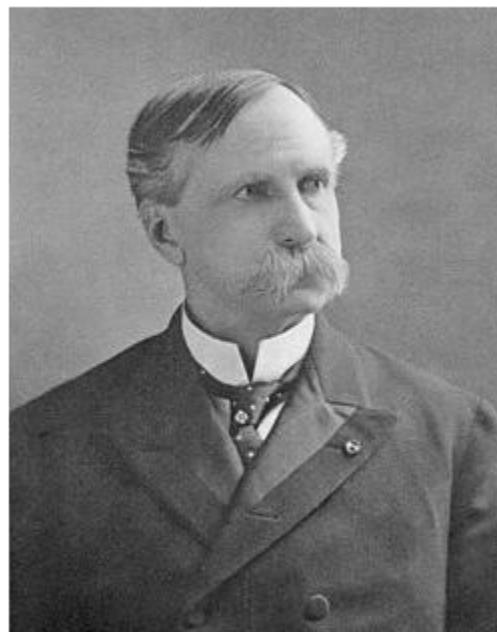
Ensuring the Quality of U.S. Statistics

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June 9, 2026



Bureau of Labor Statistics

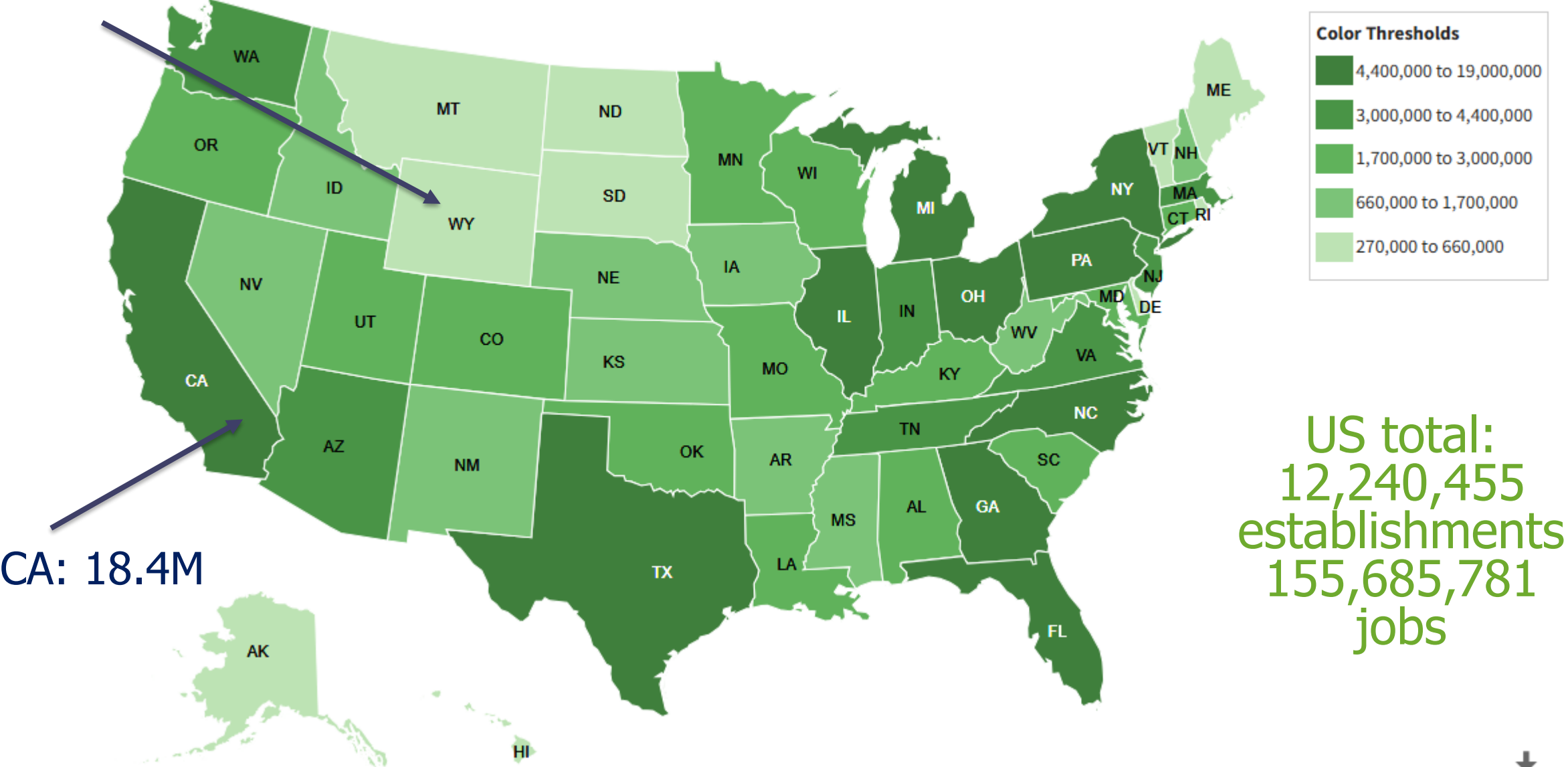
- Principal Federal agency responsible for measuring:
 - ▶ Labor market activity
 - ▶ Working conditions
 - ▶ Price changes
 - ▶ Productivity in the economy
- Collect, calculate, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision making



The fearless publication
of the facts without
regard to the influence
those facts may have
upon any party's
position or any
partisan's views since
1885

WY: 278K

Employment, Total, All Industries Total Covered Dec 2025 (p)

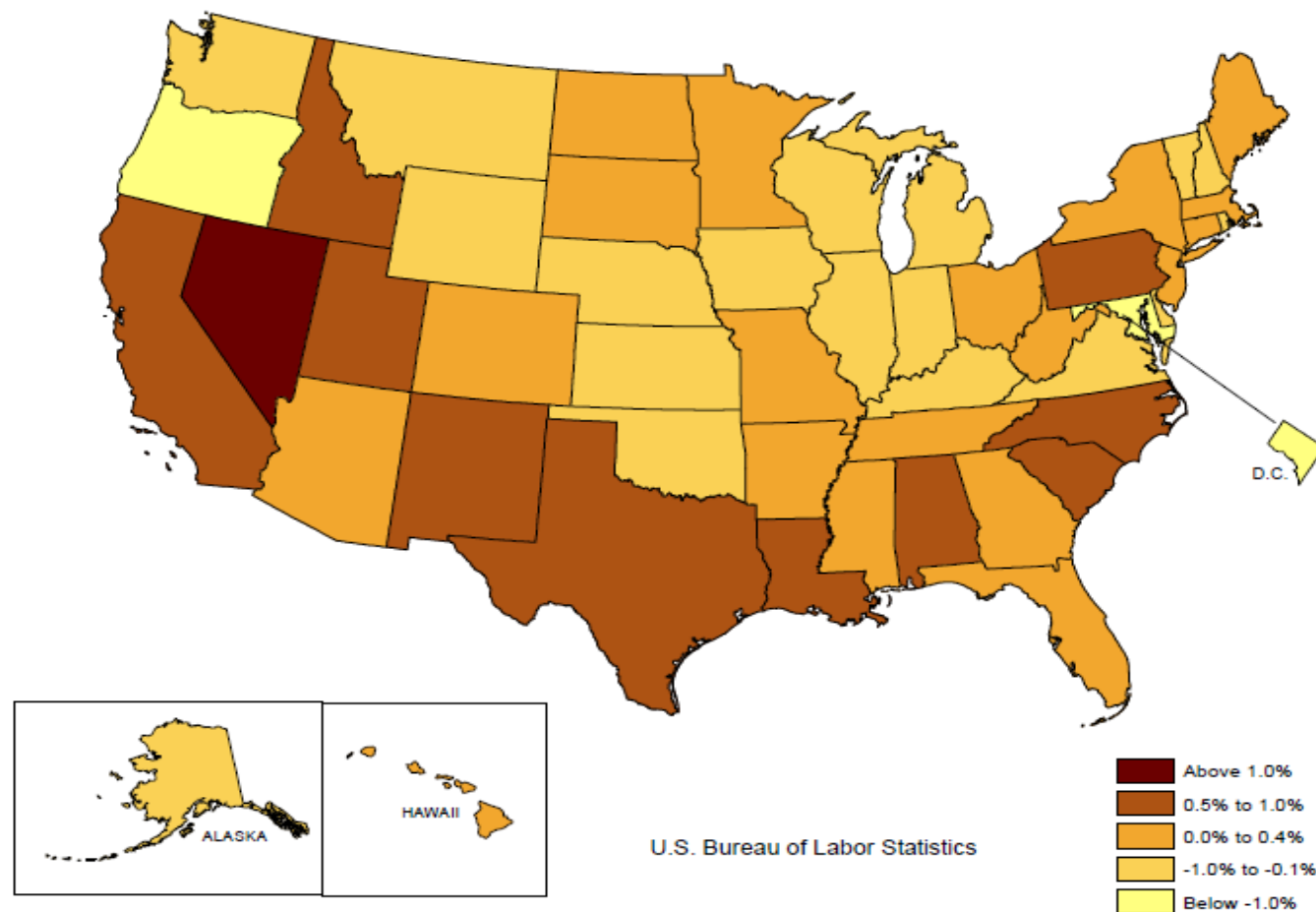


CA: 18.4M

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, December 2025

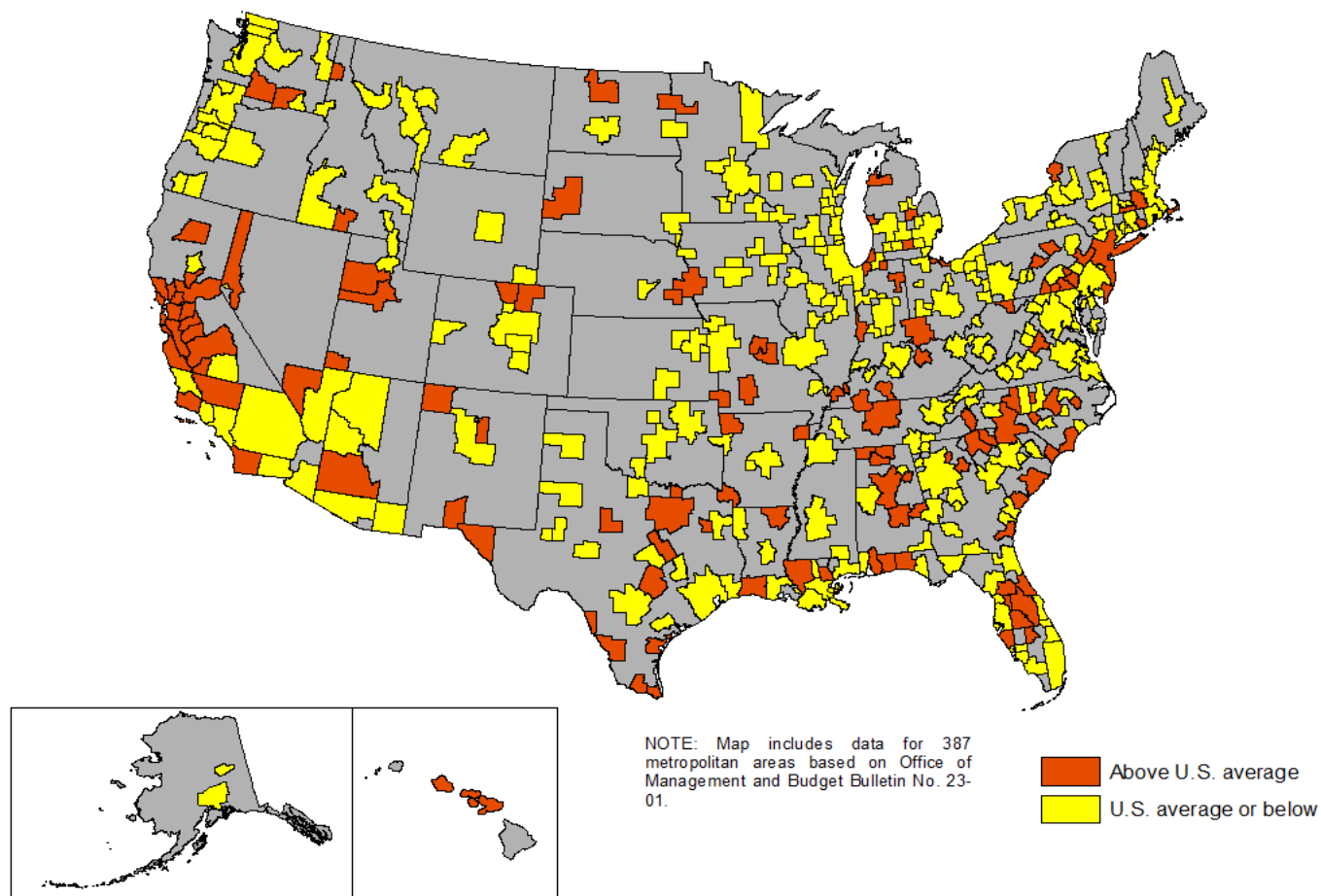


Percentage change in nonfarm employment by state, seasonally adjusted April 2025 to April 2026



Percentage change in nonfarm employment by metro area, not seasonally adjusted April 2025 to April 2026

April 2026 (U.S. average = 0.2 percent)



CES Sample Design

- Large; represents over one-fourth of all jobs
- Maximize reliability of total private employment estimate at *statewide* level
- Updated semi-annually for new firm births and deaths

[Design](#)



Timeliness—It is all in the name

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

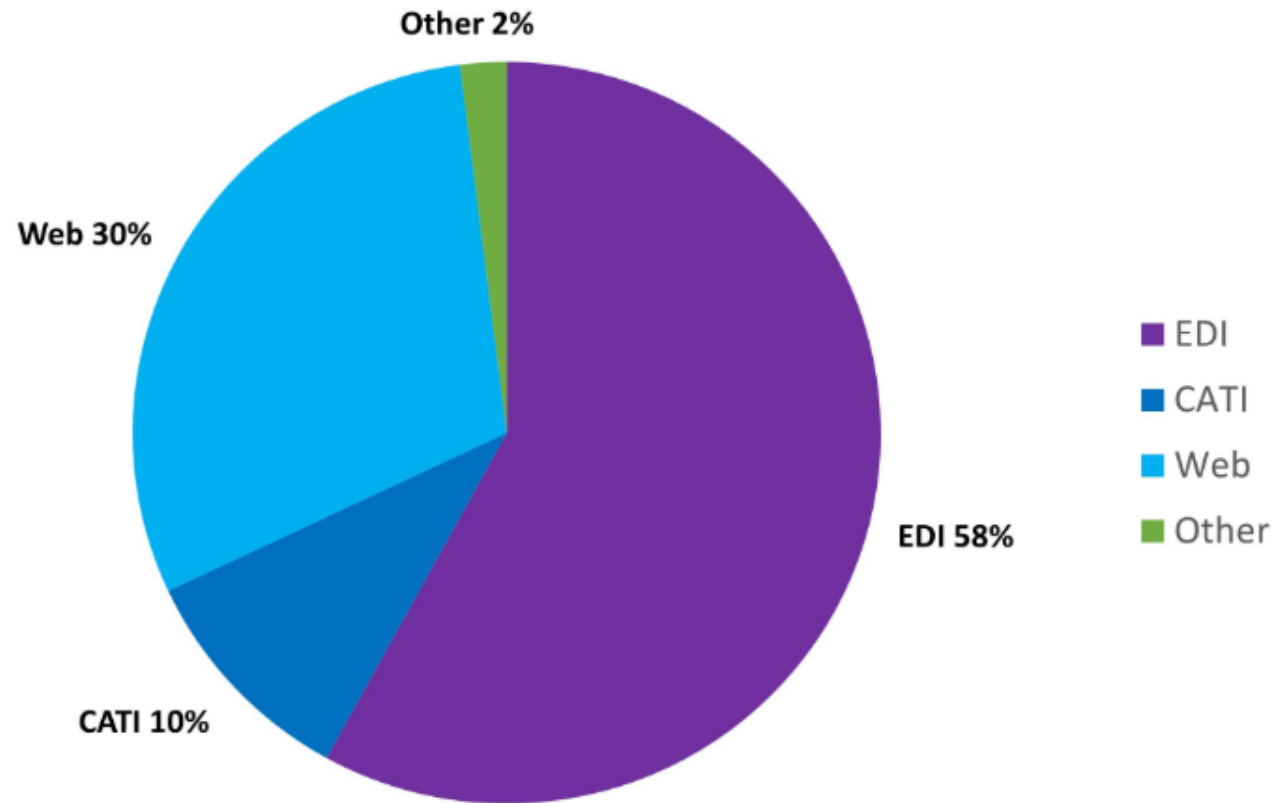
March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

- **CURRENT** Employment Statistics
- The Employment Situation is published on the 3rd Friday after the week of the 12th.
- This often occurs on the first Friday of the month, but this is not always the case.

Data collection

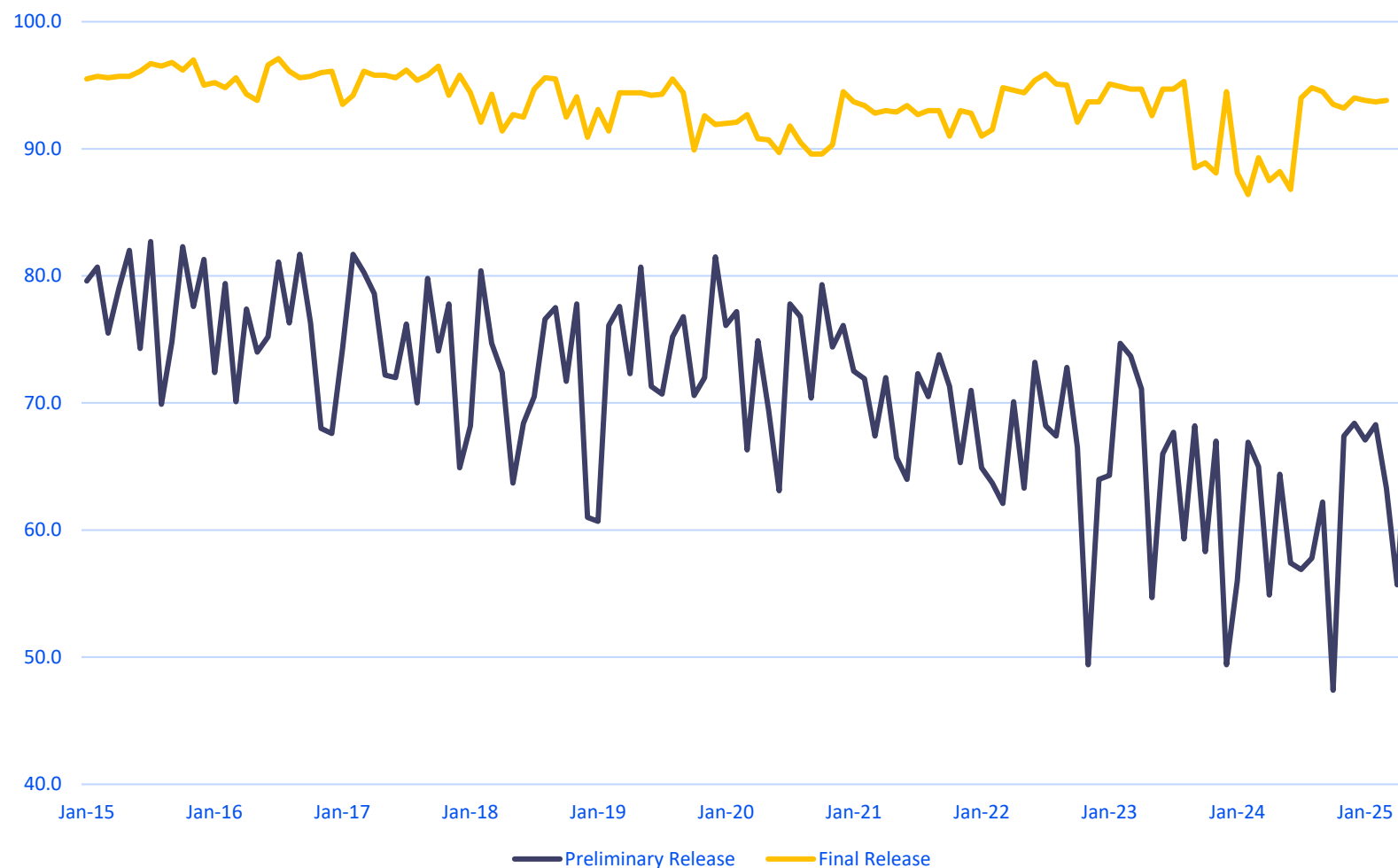
Current Employment Statistics Survey Data Collection Methods, by percent



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Current Employment Statistics.
February 7, 2025

[Data collection](#)

CES Collection Rates, 2015-2025



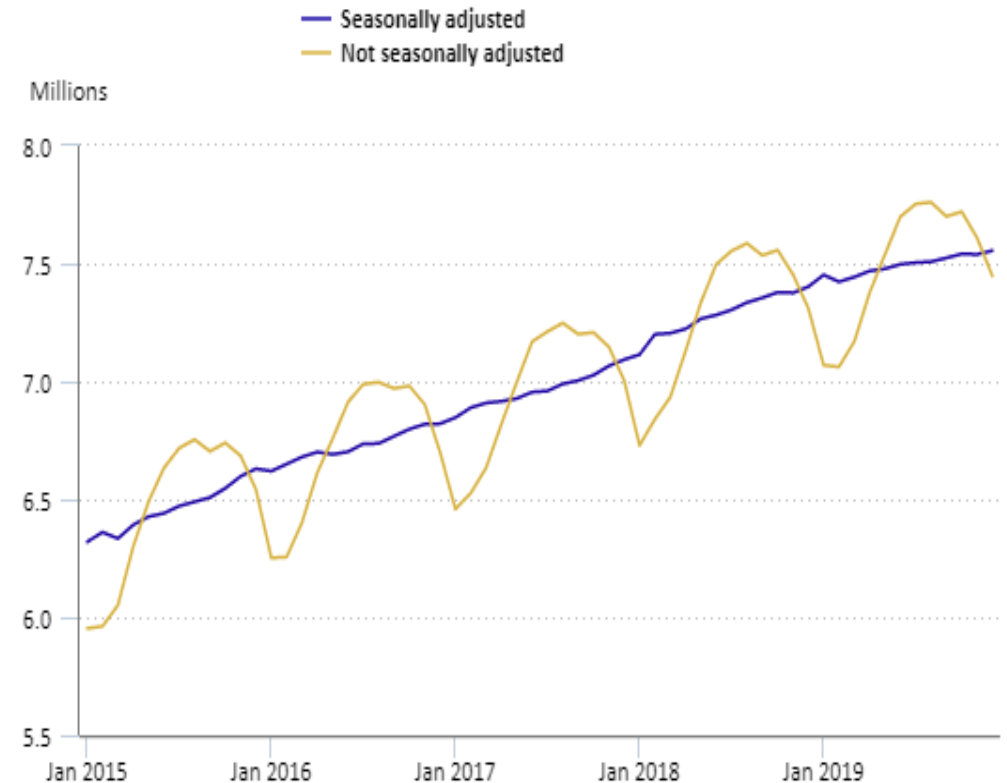
[Current Employment Statistics Data Finder \(Collection Rates by Release\)](#)



Seasonal adjustment

- Driven by the underlying not-seasonally adjusted data
- Seasonal factors must be adjusted to account for the impact of:
 - ▶ Additional sample to previous month's estimates
 - ▶ Additional observation as input to the model

Construction employment, 2015–19



Monthly revisions

Contributing factors to monthly revisions:

- ▶ Additional sample reports
- ▶ Corrected microdata
- ▶ Concurrent seasonal adjustment factors recalculated

Business births and deaths

- Lag between firms opening for business and appearing on the sample frame
- Capturing business death units is different than capturing openings.
- CES birth-death model
 - ▶ Well documented; transparent
- Effectively reduces non-sampling error

Revisions improve data quality

■ Additional sample improves the reliability of the over-the-month change

- ▶ Standard error first preliminary estimates: 74,335
- ▶ Standard error second preliminary estimates: 61,326

■ Reduce annual error/revisions

- ▶ Reduction in annual error via a reduction in reporting and non-response error
- ▶ Reduction in annual revisions to over-the-month-changes seasonally adjusted*

* = "Concurrent Seasonal Adjustment for Industry Employment Statistics," October 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ces/additional-resources/cescsapdf.pdf>



Takeaways & Final Notes

- Revisions are an important part in the quality control of CES sample-based estimates
- Revisions have been a part of the CES program for many decades
- Monthly and annual revisions improve CES estimates
- CES publishes extensive information on both monthly and annual revisions, as well as information on the reliability of CES estimates

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We have a stat for that!

