

Maryland State Data Center

Economic Data

Current Employment Statistics (CES)

About the CES Data

The CES or Current Employment Statistics is a monthly series produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with state labor market information agencies. CES is a survey conducted on or about the 12th of every month. A national sample of 145,000 nonfarm business establishments and government agencies which employ roughly 697,000 workers is selected from the universe of unemployment insurance (UI) records. In the state of Maryland, the Department of Labor's Office of Workforce Information and Performance surveys 5,200 business establishments.

CES collects information on jobs, hours and earnings. The Current Employment Statistics series does not include information on the self-employed, unpaid family workers, military, domestic workers, agricultural workers, and proprietors. It counts jobs covered by the UI system as well as railroad workers, elected officials, non-UI employees of religious organizations and non-profits, and independent insurance agents.

Jobs data are broken down by industry and geography. The NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System) organizes industry from the general to the specific, from the super-sector to the industry level. Employment estimates are produced for the nation, 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and 450 metropolitan areas.

If a worker holds multiple jobs—i.e., he or she is on more than one payroll-- then that worker is counted more than once in the CES. CES counts jobs not persons.

CES series is produced monthly, however, public data release lags about three weeks from the reference period (12th of the month). For example, March national statistics are released the first Friday in April while March state data usually release the third Friday in April. Seasonally Adjusted and Not Seasonally Adjusted data are made available. Note that all BLS data are subject to revision. The initial CES data are revised twice more after that first publication. CES data are also subject to annual benchmarking: data are benchmarked to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' QCEW (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages) and to the Census Bureau's CBP (County Business Patterns). Annual benchmark revisions affect two years of CES data.