

2025 Workforce Data Revisions

Nonfarm jobs were mostly higher and unemployment lower in 2023 and 2024 than previously estimated

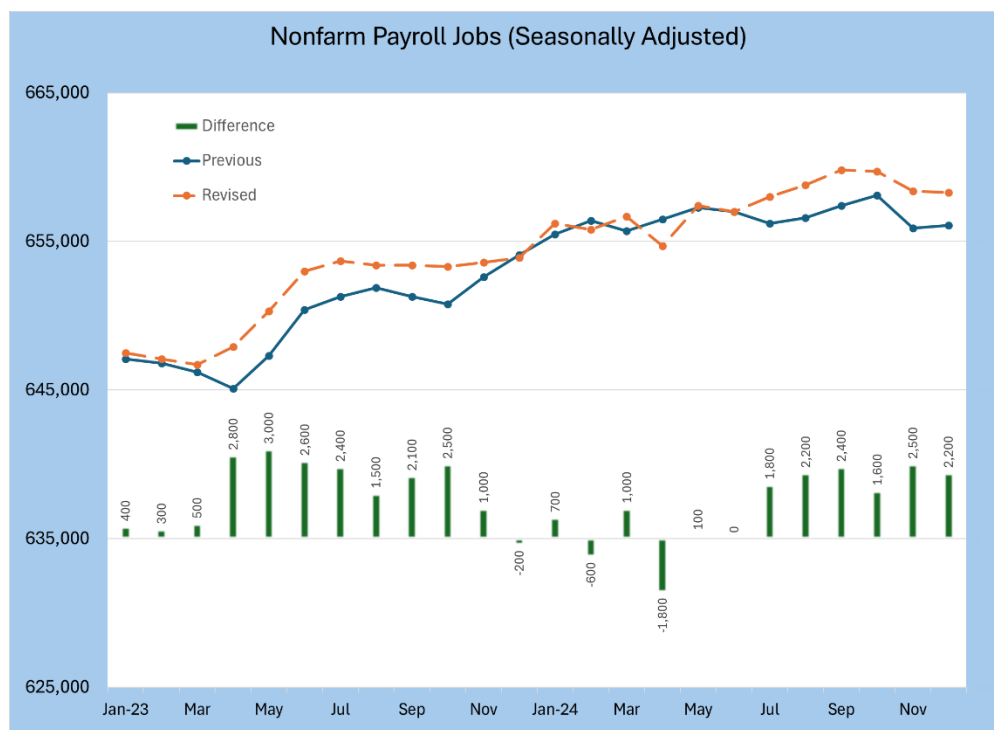
Each month estimates derived from two surveys provide the most current indications of workforce conditions. Nonfarm wage and salary jobs by sector are based on the Current Employment Statistics “payroll survey.” Unemployment and labor force estimates are based on the Current Population Survey “household survey.”

In March of each year estimates from those programs are revised for previous years based on more complete information. Revisions usually are largest for the most recent year and smaller for the year before that. Compared to previously published data, now official revised estimates indicate that:

- The number of nonfarm jobs was higher throughout 2023 and in the second half of 2024
- Unemployment was lower through most of 2023 and early 2024; it was higher thereafter
- Labor force participation was higher and increased in a more consistent pattern

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Previously published estimates indicated nonfarm jobs changed little at the start of 2023, increased through the end of the year, and then changed little throughout 2024. Revised data indicates there was an average of 1,600 more jobs in 2023, especially in the middle of the year, and 1,000 more in 2024, especially in the second half.



The most significant upward revisions occurred in:

- The professional & business services and the leisure & hospitality sectors, which averaged 1,400 and 900 more jobs in 2023 than previously indicated

- The professional & business services and the construction sectors, which averaged 1,900 and 1,700 more jobs in 2024 than previously indicated

The most significant downward revisions occurred in:

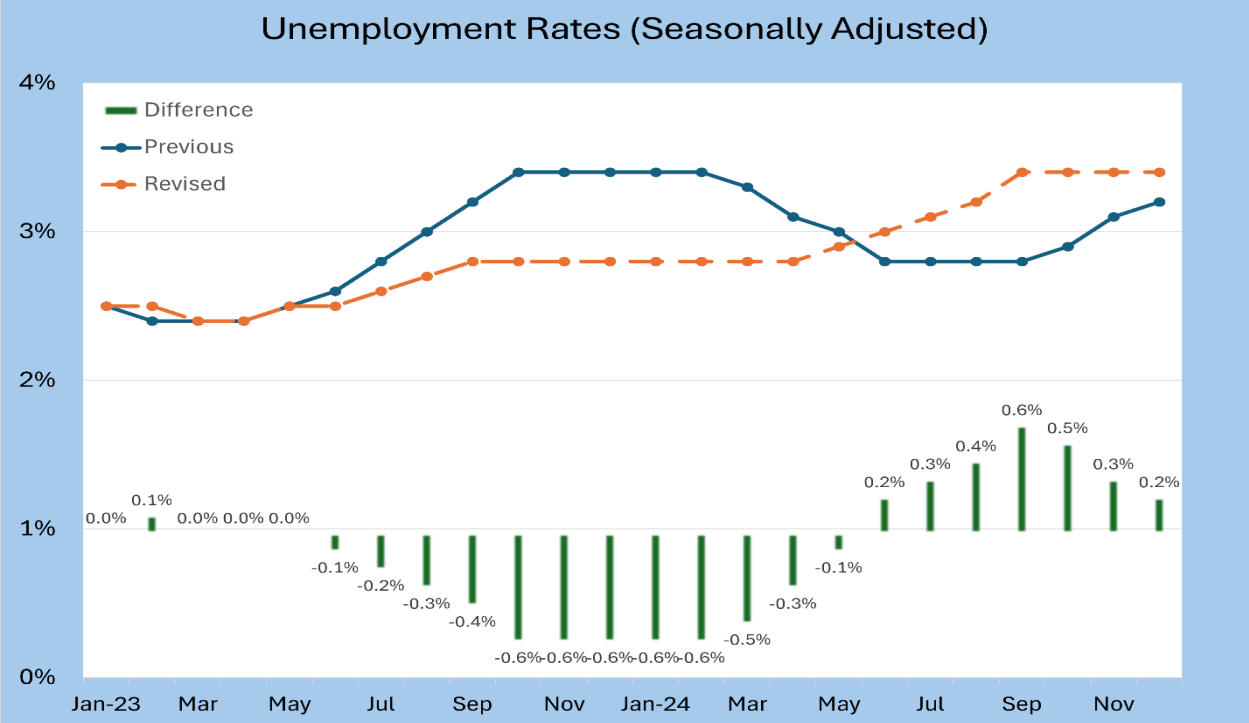
- The manufacturing sector, which had 1,500 fewer jobs, and in local government which had 1,100 fewer jobs in 2024 than previously estimated

Upward revisions in the number of professional & business services jobs in the last two years is partly from the increase in remote workers. People residing here working for an out-of-state employer usually are classified into professional services, regardless of the industry the employer operates in. In contrast, jobs held by those who work remotely for an employer that has operations in the state are classified in the industry of their employer.

Previously Published and Revised Average Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs by Sector (in thousands)								
Sector	2023		2024		Net Revised		Percent Revised	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	2023	2024	2023	2024
Statewide								
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs	649.3	651.1	656.5	657.1	1.8	0.6	0.3%	0.1%
Total Private	549.1	550.8	553.9	555.9	1.7	2.0	0.3%	0.4%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	107.2	106.9	112.2	110.6	-0.3	-1.6	-0.3%	-1.4%
Retail Trade	82.1	82.0	81.9	82.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.1%	0.1%
Professional & Business Services	76.5	77.9	76.3	78.2	1.4	1.9	1.8%	2.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	68.3	69.2	69.7	71.3	0.9	1.6	1.3%	2.3%
Manufacturing	53.9	53.5	53.6	52.1	-0.4	-1.5	-0.7%	-2.8%
Financial Activities	33.7	33.7	33.6	33.2	0.0	-0.4	0.0%	-1.2%
Construction	33.6	34.1	33.3	35.0	0.5	1.7	1.5%	5.1%
Educational Services	23.0	22.8	22.5	23.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.9%	2.2%
Other Services	22.1	22.3	22.0	22.6	0.2	0.6	0.9%	2.7%
Wholesale Trade	19.5	19.4	19.3	19.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5%	-1.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	19.0	18.8	19.6	18.5	-0.2	-1.1	-1.1%	-5.6%
Information	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.2	0.1	0.1	1.2%	1.2%
Mining & Logging	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	-0.1	0.0%	-5.0%
Government	100.2	100.3	102.5	101.1	0.1	-1.4	0.1%	-1.4%
Local	60.4	60.4	61.8	60.7	0.0	-1.1	0.0%	-1.8%
State	22.9	22.9	23.4	23.1	0.0	-0.3	0.0%	-1.3%
Federal	16.9	16.9	17.3	17.3	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%

Unemployment

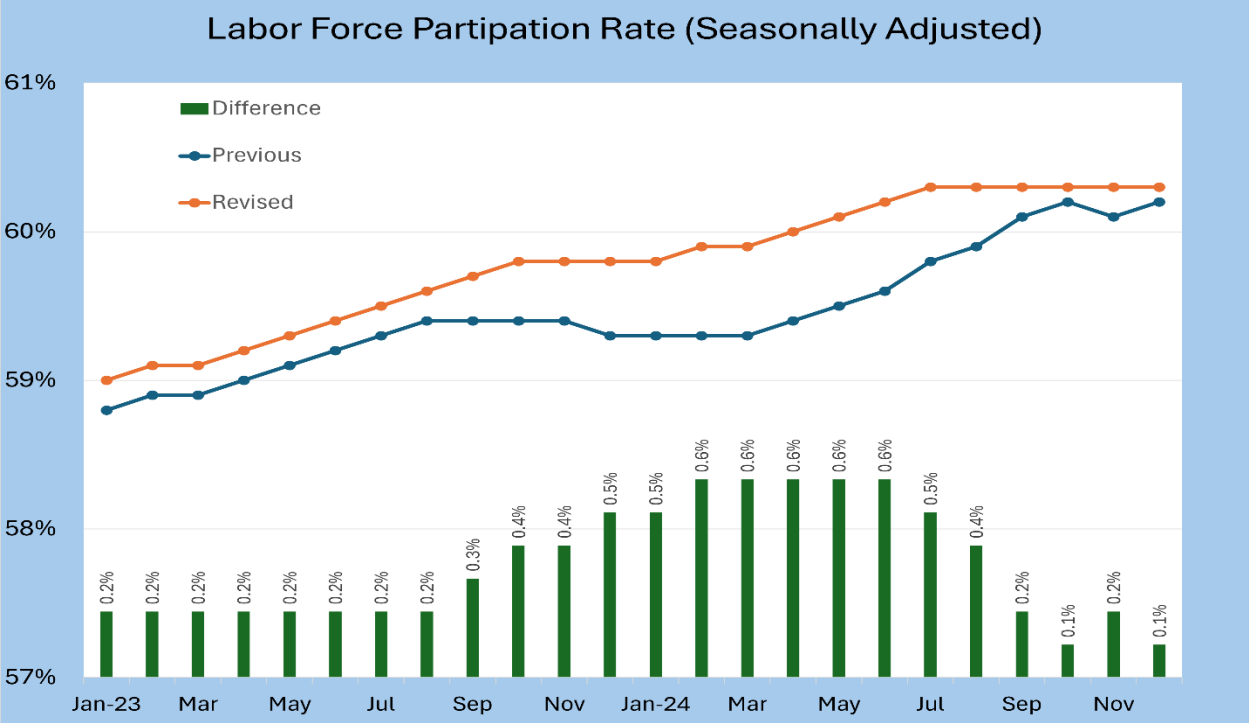
Previously published estimates indicated unemployment followed an undulating pattern throughout the last two years, generally increasing through fall 2023, unchanged at highs through winter, decreasing until summer 2024, unchanged at lows through summer, and ending the year on the rise.



Revised rates indicate unemployment changed little in 2023 and the first months of 2024. Rates gradually increased in spring and summer, before flattening at nearly three-year highs in the final four months. The 2023 average unemployment rate of 2.6 percent is now the lowest on record; the 2024 average of 3.1 percent is the third lowest, after 2.9 percent in 2019 and 2022. Future revisions are likely to moderate the pattern of rising unemployment in the second half of 2024, as has been the case in each of the last two years.

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation generally increased in 2023 and 2024. Revised estimates are somewhat higher and the pattern of increase is more consistent than previously indicated. Unemployment sometimes increases in periods of job growth if the labor force increases at a faster rate, which generally was the case in 2024.



Summary

Annual revisions improve workforce data and provide a better indication of overall trends. Variability in preliminary estimates is expected to continue in 2025 and beyond. This is from gaps in the representativeness of survey respondents to the broader workforce. It usually is better to look at trends over many months than the change from one month to another, and to look at multiple measures to draw conclusions about the direction and rate of change in the labor market. When preliminary estimates from the two surveys do diverge, estimates from the payroll survey are usually a more reliable indicator of workforce conditions than unemployment and labor force estimates from household survey. This is because of the larger sample and better representativeness of the payroll survey.