

CES Preliminary Benchmark Announcement

In accordance with usual practice, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is announcing the preliminary estimate of the upcoming annual benchmark revision to the establishment survey employment series. The final benchmark revision will be issued on February 5, 2010, with the publication of the January 2010 Employment Situation news release.

Each year, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey employment estimates are benchmarked to comprehensive counts of employment for the month of March. These counts are derived from state unemployment insurance (UI) tax records that nearly all employers are required to file. For national CES employment series, the annual benchmark revisions over the last 10 years have averaged plus or minus two-tenths of one percent of total nonfarm employment. The preliminary estimate of the benchmark revision indicates a downward adjustment to March 2009 total nonfarm employment of 824,000 (0.6 percent).

Table 1 shows the March 2009 preliminary benchmark revisions by major industry sector. As is typically the case, many of the individual industry series show larger percentage revisions than the total nonfarm series, primarily because statistical sampling error is greater at more detailed levels than at a total level.

Table 1. National Current Employment Statistics March 2009 preliminary benchmark revisions by major industry sector

	Benchmark revision (in thousands)	Percent benchmark revision
Total nonfarm	-824	-0.6
Total private	-855	-.8
Mining & logging	-23	-3.2
Construction	-152	-2.5
Manufacturing	-67	-.6
Trade, transportation, & utilities	-282	-1.1
Information	-36	-1.3
Financial activities	-9	-.1
Professional & business services	-111	-.7
Education & health services	-57	-.3
Leisure & hospitality	-76	-.6
Other services	-42	-.8
Government	31	.1