

Planned Changes in Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Employment SECURITY

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Beginning with the release of January 2005 data in March, New Hampshire, along with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other cooperating states, will implement a redesigned method for producing labor force estimates for census regions, divisions, states, and selected substate areas. The redesigned method includes the following changes:

- (1) the use of improved time-series statistical models for all states; and
- (2) the introduction of real-time benchmarking to national Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates of employment and unemployment.

In addition, the estimates will reflect routine annual updates to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The redesign will result in improved seasonal adjustment. Also, the real-time benchmarking to national data

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means that major economic events, such as the onset of recessions, will be reflected in state estimates on a more timely basis. This, along with other improvements, will reduce end-of-year revisions.

What these changes mean to you, our data users

The implementation means that data for January 2005 will not be strictly comparable to previously released data. In order to ensure comparability of data series, all monthly historical data for 1976-2004 will be replaced with re-estimated series. This may result in small changes in data we have published over the years. If you use historical labor force statistics in your projects, you may wish to update your files.

Economic Conditions will announce when the historical data for New Hampshire is available on our web site.

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