

2025 Benchmark Analysis

(Embargoed until 10 am Thursday April 2, 2026)

The Case for Annual Data Revision

As is the annual practice, the release of January 2026 employment and unemployment report is accompanied by benchmarked revisions to previous releases of these data. Generally, unemployment (household survey) data are revised for the previous five years while jobs (payroll survey) data are revised back 21 months (April 2024). These revisions are calculated using more newly available inputs: new population controls, new seasonal adjustment factors, and more comprehensive employment counts.

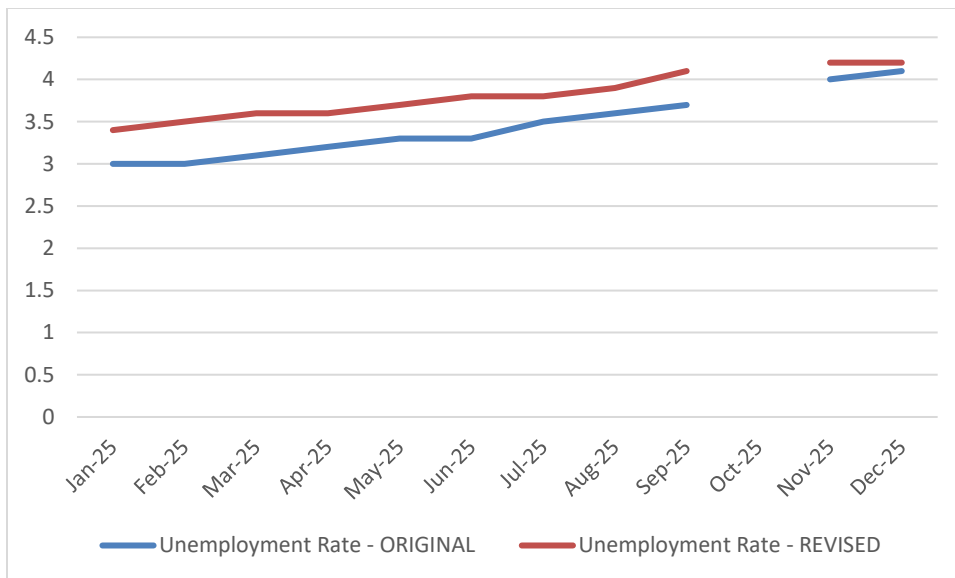
In short, the revision process is a BLS-state collaborative process that replaces monthly employer data collected by the BLS and the U.S. Census Bureau with Unemployment Insurance census data submitted by each state, the latter more comprehensive and therefore more reliable.

This document examines how Minnesota's labor market in 2025 looked when revised estimates are now available.

Household Survey – Labor Force and Employment

- The LAUS – Local Area Unemployment Statistics – program estimates labor force, employment and unemployment for state and local areas.
- Due to a lapse of federal funding in October-November 2025, LAUS data for the month of October 2025 is not available.
- LAUS revisions show a higher unemployment rate than originally published. For calendar year 2025, revised data show that Minnesota's unemployment rate started at 3.4% in January and ended the year at 4.2% in December, the highest it has been since February 2021 when the economy recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic.

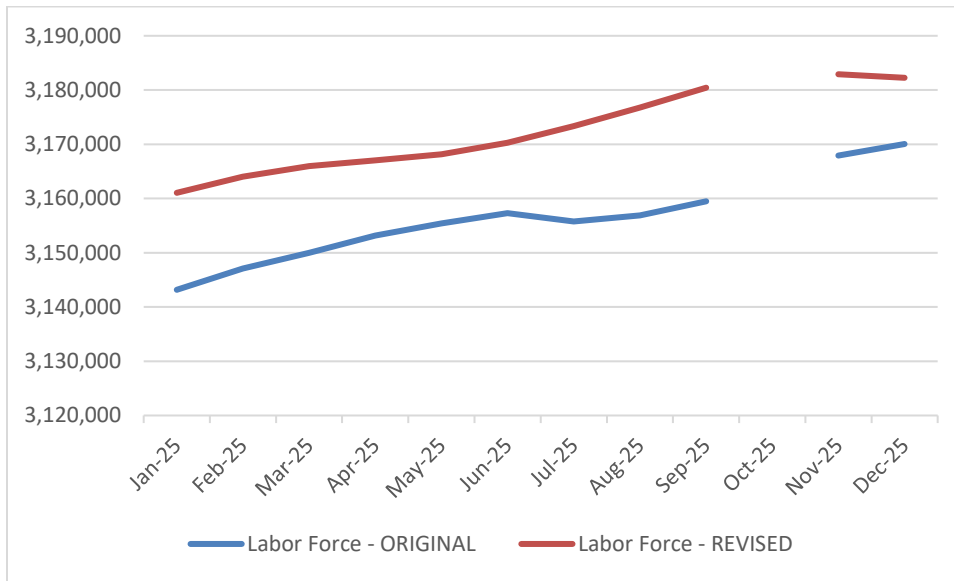
2025 Minnesota Unemployment Rate, Seasonally Adjusted, Original and Revised



- In comparison the original series started the year at 3.0% in January and ended at 4.1% in December.
- The number of people employed was revised upward for most months in 2025. The result for December 2025 was a total of 3,048,170 workers, or 9,644 more people employed after revisions than originally estimated.
- The number of unemployed was revised upward throughout 2025. The result for December 2025 was a total of 134,096 people unemployed, or 2,571 more people unemployed than originally estimated.

- The estimated number of people in the labor force was revised upward throughout 2025. Revised data show Minnesota’s labor force grew from 3,161,050 people to 3,182,266 people, an increase of 21,216 people.

2025 Minnesota Labor Force Size, Seasonally Adjusted, Original and Revised

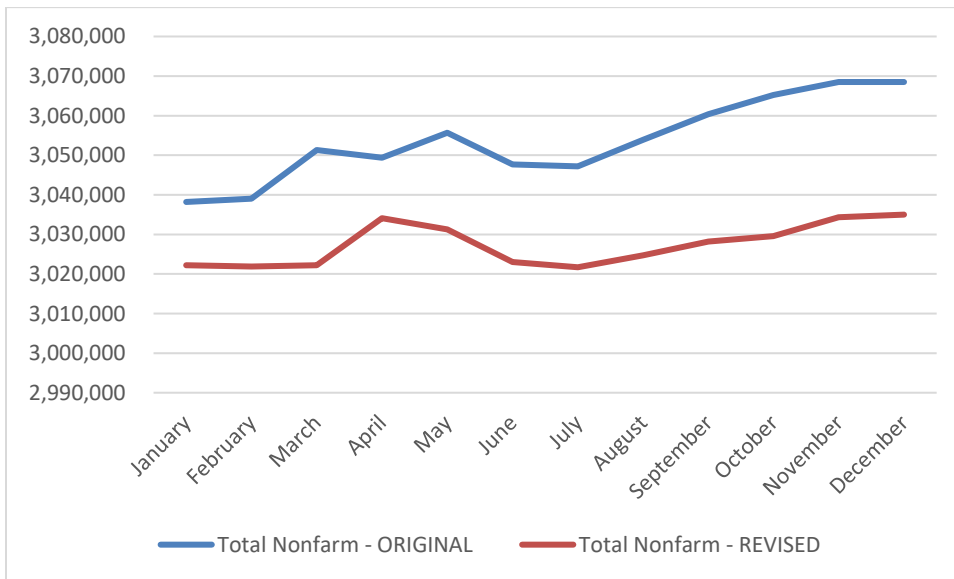


- In comparison the original series estimated 3,143,168 people in January 2025, growing to 3,170,051 people in December 2025, an increase of 26,883.
- Although the revised data show Minnesota gained a smaller number of people in its labor force in calendar year 2025 – approximately 21,000 rather than 27,000 – the total revised labor force size is 12,215 people bigger at 3,182,266 people in December 2025.
- Minnesota’s labor force participation rate was revised slightly upward starting in December 2024 to August 2025, peaking at 68.4% in September 2025. As of December 2025, the revised labor force participation rate was 68.3%, slightly higher than the originally published rate of 68.2%.

Payroll Survey - Jobs

- The CES – Current Employment Statistics – program estimates monthly nonfarm employment, wages, and hours worked by industry for the U.S., Minnesota, and Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Seasonally adjusted estimates are used to track change from month-to-month. Unadjusted estimates are used to compare changes from year-to-year.
- Revised month-to-month total job growth show less jobs in Minnesota than originally estimated. The difference between the original and revised series ranged from 0.5%, or 15,300 jobs, in April 2025 to 1.16%, or 35,600 jobs, in October 2025. The year ended with December jobs revised down to 3,035,000 jobs, which is 33,500 less jobs than originally estimated.

2025 Total Nonfarm Employment, Seasonally Adjusted, Original and Revised



- Job estimates in the Private Sector were revised downward similarly. In December 2025, Minnesota’s private sector job estimate stood at 2,599,500 jobs, which was 32,200 less jobs (-1.22%) than originally published.
- Over-the-year job change by industry sectors were revised downward for all industries.

2025 Minnesota Over-the-Year Growth by Supersector, Original and Revised

Supersector	Avg Job Change - ORIGINAL	Avg Growth Rate (%) - ORIGINAL	Avg Job Change - REVISED	Avg Growth Rate (%) - REVISED
Total Non-farm	39,210	1.3	11,829	0.4
Private Sector	33,196	1.3	7,063	0.3
Mining & Logging	64	1.1	(179)	-2.8
Construction	4,485	3.2	4,303	3.1
Manufacturing	1,720	0.5	(5,401)	-1.7
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	2,158	0.4	(5,070)	-0.9
Information	(1,276)	-2.9	(2,033)	-4.7
Financial Activities	(2,972)	-1.6	(1,180)	-0.6
Prof. & Business Services	1,059	0.3	(6,575)	-1.8
Ed. & Health Services	26,424	4.5	22,276	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	620	0.2	(196)	-0.1
Other Services	913	0.8	1,116	1
Government	6,014	1.4	4,766	1.1

- Similarly, over-the-year job change by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) were revised downward for all MSAs.

2025 Minnesota Over-the-Year Growth by MSA, Original and Revised

MSA	Avg Job Change - ORIGINAL	Avg Growth Rate (%) - ORIGINAL	Avg Job Change - REVISED	Avg Growth Rate (%) - REVISED
Minneapolis-St. Paul MN-WI MSA	15,281	0.8	9,792	0.5
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	91	0.1	-332	-0.2
Rochester MSA	6,838.75	5.4	919	0.7
St. Cloud MSA	13.16666667	0	-145	-0.1
Mankato MSA	912.25	1.6	89	0.2

**Labor Market Information Office
 MN Department of Employment and Economic Development
 April 2, 2026**