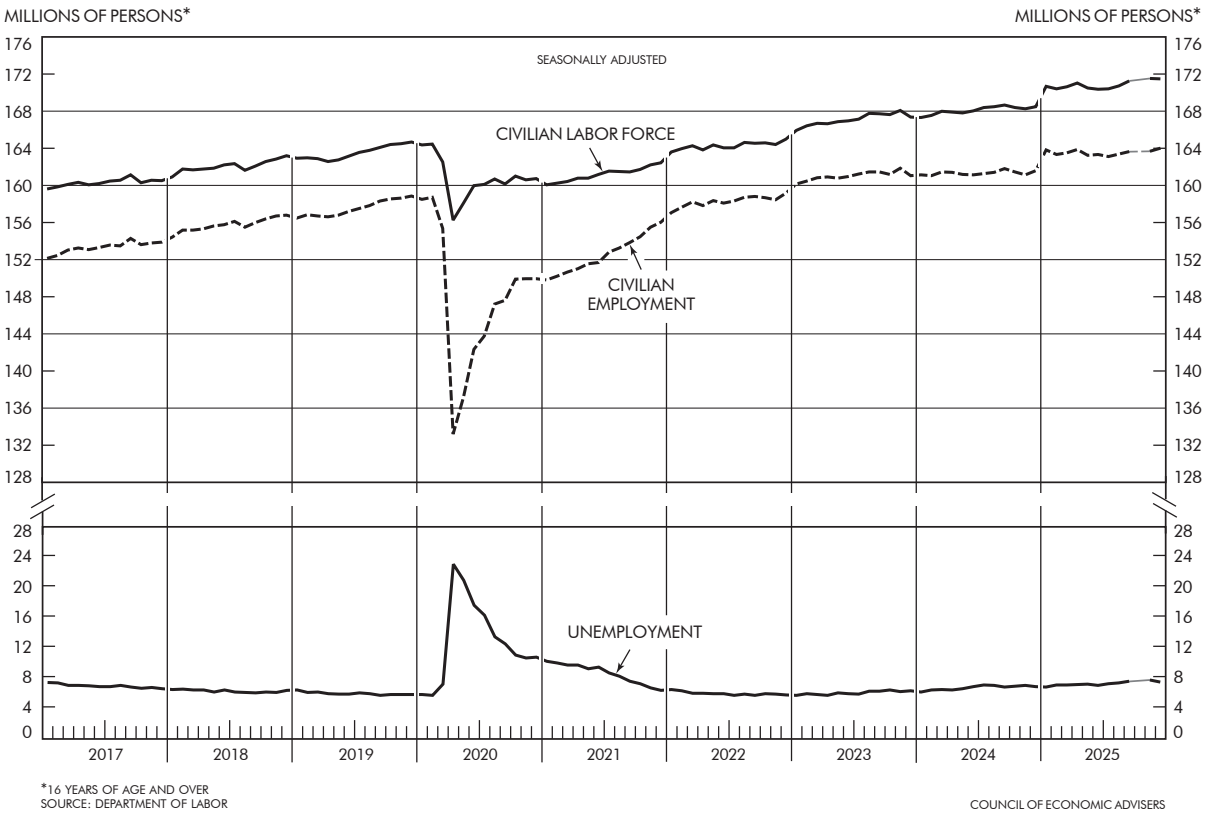
EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

Status of the Labor Force

In December, unemployment as measured by the household survey fell 278,000 to 7.5 million.



[Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over, except as noted; monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted by NSA]

Period	Civilian noninstitutional population (NSA)	Civilian labor force	Civilian employment				Unemployment				Not in labor force	Percent [1]		
			Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16–19 years	Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16–19 years		Labor force participation rate	Employment/population ratio	Unemployment rate
2016	253,538	159,187	151,436	78,084	68,387	4,965	7,751	3,675	3,151	925	94,351	62.8	59.7	4.9
2017	255,079	160,320	153,337	78,919	69,344	5,074	6,982	3,287	2,868	827	94,759	62.9	60.1	4.4
2018	257,791	162,075	155,761	80,211	70,424	5,126	6,314	2,976	2,578	759	95,716	62.9	60.4	3.9
2019	259,175	163,539	157,538	80,917	71,470	5,150	6,001	2,819	2,435	746	95,636	63.1	60.8	3.7
2020	260,329	160,742	147,795	76,227	66,873	4,695	12,947	6,118	5,804	1,025	99,587	61.7	56.8	8.1
2021	261,445	161,204	152,581	78,216	69,099	5,266	8,623	4,302	3,625	696	100,241	61.7	58.4	5.3
2022	263,973	164,287	158,291	81,409	71,283	5,600	5,996	2,867	2,453	675	99,686	62.2	60.0	3.6
2023	266,942	167,116	161,037	82,698	72,692	5,647	6,080	2,985	2,382	713	99,826	62.6	60.3	3.6
2024	268,571	168,106	161,346	82,514	73,170	5,661	6,761	3,206	2,731	823	100,465	62.6	60.1	4.0
2025	273,653	170,807	163,493	83,806	74,135	5,551	7,314	3,463	2,947	905	102,846	62.4	59.7	4.3
2024: Dec [r]	269,638	168,506	161,586	82,707	73,099	5,781	6,920	3,247	2,859	814	101,132	62.5	59.9	4.1
2025: Jan [r]	272,685	170,696	163,831	83,776	74,354	5,701	6,865	3,289	2,812	763	101,989	62.6	60.1	4.0
Feb [r]	272,847	170,441	163,338	83,366	74,199	5,773	7,104	3,327	2,915	862	102,405	62.5	59.9	4.2
Mar [r]	273,023	170,641	163,509	83,594	74,156	5,759	7,132	3,371	2,841	920	102,382	62.5	59.9	4.2
Apr [r]	273,197	171,054	163,898	83,835	74,360	5,704	7,155	3,446	2,859	850	102,143	62.6	60.0	4.2
May [r]	273,385	170,492	163,244	83,705	73,970	5,569	7,248	3,395	2,989	864	102,893	62.4	59.7	4.3
June [r]	273,585	170,380	163,327	83,862	74,110	5,355	7,054	3,394	2,753	906	103,205	62.3	59.7	4.1
July [r]	273,785	170,412	163,140	83,696	74,150	5,294	7,272	3,464	2,857	950	103,373	62.2	59.6	4.3
Aug [r]	274,001	170,750	163,370	84,129	73,895	5,346	7,380	3,557	2,959	864	103,251	62.3	59.6	4.3
Sept [r]	274,226	171,261	163,656	83,945	74,102	5,609	7,605	3,546	3,201	858	102,964	62.5	59.7	4.4
Oct	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov [r]	274,633	171,541	163,760	84,043	74,302	5,415	7,781	3,585	3,140	1,056	103,092	62.5	59.6	4.5
Dec	274,816	171,495	163,992	84,199	74,306	5,486	7,503	3,439	3,044	1,020	103,321	62.4	59.7	4.4

[1] Civilian labor force (or employment) as percent of civilian noninstitutional population; and unemployment as percent of civilian labor force.

Note: Beginning each January, data reflect revised population controls and are not strictly comparable with earlier data.
See *Employment and Earnings* for details on breaks in series. Data for October 2025 are unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations.

Data reflect annual revisions released January 9, 2026; seasonally adjusted data revised beginning 2021.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

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