

Series Comparability for Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Due to the LAUS 2015 Redesign and changes in metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, in some instances, estimates will not be comparable across all years. Methodological changes in the local area unemployment statistics program affect statewide and substate estimates.

At the statewide level, changes include:

- Improvements in time-series models;
- Improvements in model-based real-time benchmarking (i.e., producing estimates that automatically sum to the census division controls vs doing it manually);
- Improved treatment of outliers (i.e., assigning outliers to a specific state vs spreading these out amongst states comprising the census division) and,
- An improved smoothing process to reduce residual seasonality effects still being seeing in the previous model).

Because of the above changes, comparability of statewide historical data is affected in the following manner:

- Ohio statewide estimates from 1970- 1975 are not comparable to statewide estimates from 1976 to current.
- Cleveland MSA estimates from 1970- 1989 are not comparable to estimates from 1990 to current.

At the substate level (counties, cities, and metropolitan statistical areas, except for Cleveland MSA), changes include:

- Updated dynamic residency ratios (ORR);
- More accurate estimates for all-other employment;
- More accurate estimates of agricultural employment;
- Improved estimation of non-covered agricultural unemployment;
- Incorporation of the handbook methodology at the county level;
- Inclusion of estimation points from the American Community Survey.

Because of the above changes and due to the new methodology carried back to 2010, comparability of substate historical data is affected in the following manner:

- Substate estimates from 1970- 1989 are not comparable to substate estimates from 1990 to current.
- Many areas display breaks in series between 2009 and 2010