

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho's December Unemployment Rate Revised to 3.6% -- Annual average remains at 3.8% --

Idaho's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for December 2016 was revised by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to 3.6 percent – one-tenth percent lower than the 3.7 percent first reported.

The BLS also confirmed Idaho's annual average unemployment rate for 2016 at 3.8 percent.

Revisions to Idaho's 2016 and 2015 labor market estimates were minor and the result of an annual benchmark process conducted by the BLS. The revision process takes into account updated and additional data to revise two years of previously estimated monthly unemployment rates and labor market conditions by smoothing out the volatility of monthly change.

According to the BLS, components of Idaho's unemployment rate demonstrated greater strength than first estimated.

The state's labor force grew by 15,000 from January 2016 to December 2016, significantly more than the 7,900 pre-benchmark figure. Idaho's annual average labor force was 814,300 for 2016 - up 2.2 percent over 2015. This change is primarily due to updated population figures.

Revised statewide total employment figures ended the year with an increase of 19,700 during 2016, almost 2,700 more than previously estimated, up 2.6 percent over 2015.

Unemployment totals were revised little, with the addition of only 300 more unemployed Idahoans at the end of 2016 than original estimates, down 6.9 percent from 2015.

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NEWS EDITORS / DIRECTORS – The January 2017 statewide employment situation and benchmarked 2016 nonfarm industry jobs will be released Monday, March 13, 2017. County estimates for January and February 2017 will be released with February's employment situation on Friday, March 24, 2017.



Idaho Labor Force Data Annual Average, 2016 and 2015

	Labor Force		Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
2016								
Annual Average	810,449	814,282	779,825	783,305	30,624	30,978	3.8	3.8
Change from previous year	13,770	17,399	15,918	19,696	-2,148	-2,297		
% change from previous year	1.7%	2.2%	2.1%	2.6%	-6.6%	-6.9%		
2015								
Annual Average	796,679	796,883	763,907	763,608	32,772	33,275	4.1	4.2
Change from previous year	15,946	16,274	20,673	20,579	-4,727	-4,304		
% change from previous year	2.0%	2.1%	2.8%	2.8%	-12.6%	-11.5%		