

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho's 2017 Annual Average Unemployment Rate Up Slightly to 3.2 Percent December 2017 rate revised upward to 3 percent

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has revised Idaho's statewide seasonally adjusted annual average unemployment rate for 2017 up slightly to 3.2 percent - one-tenth percent higher than the estimated 3.1 percent first reported.

Idaho's December 2017 unemployment rate was also slightly higher at 3 percent - revised upward one-tenth of a percent from the 2.9 percent reported before the benchmark.

These minor revisions to the state's unemployment estimates are the result of an annual benchmark process conducted by the BLS in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Labor. The BLS benchmarking process includes re-estimations from an improved model and updated data from the U.S. Census Bureau, BLS and other sources.

Other revisions include an upward adjustment of Idaho's record low unemployment rate of 2.8 percent previously reported in September 2017 to 3 percent.

Idaho's annual average labor force was 832,900 for 2017, up 2.5 percent over 2016. BLS revisions also show the state's labor force increasing by 19,800 from January to December 2017, slightly more than the 18,400 pre-benchmark figure.

Revised statewide total employment figures ended the year with an increase of 24,300 during 2017, just over 8,000 more than previously estimated, up 3.1 percent over 2016.

Idaho's unemployment totals are also slightly higher than previously reported, with an increase of 500 more unemployed Idahoans at the end of 2017 than the original estimates. Overall, 2017 unemployment totals were down 14 percent from 2016.

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Editors and news directors:

The upcoming release schedule is as follows:

- March 12, 2018: Statewide labor force and nonfarm employment data for January 2018
- March 23, 2018: Statewide labor force and nonfarm employment data for February 2018 and Idaho substate area estimates for January and February 2018.

More information about the new Local Area Unemployment Statistics estimation model can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/ssachanges2018.htm>

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Idaho Labor Force Data Annual Average, 2017 and 2016

	Labor Force		Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
2017								
Annual Average	825,499	832,927	799,535	806,604	25,965	26,323	3.1	3.2
Change from previous year	11,217	20,034	16,230	24,324	-5,013	-4,290		
% change from previous year	1.4%	2.5%	2.1%	3.1%	-16.2%	-14.0%		
2016								
Annual Average	814,282	812,893	783,305	782,280	30,978	30,613	3.8	3.8
Change from previous year	17,399	18,228	19,696	21,215	-2,297	-2,987		
% change from previous year	2.2%	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%	-6.9%	-8.9%		

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