

2019 RI-Based Jobs Revisions

The Labor Market Information Division in conjunction with US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently completed its annual revision of RI-based job counts through the annual benchmark process. This year's benchmark process replaces unadjusted job counts for the October 2018 through September 2019 period. The unadjusted job counts for October, November and December 2019 were re-estimated based on the September 2019 benchmarked level. During the 2019 benchmark process, the method of calculating state government employment was also retooled to account for quasi-government employment and the student workers employed at state colleges where they are enrolled as students. These two employment levels had been previously absent from the state government estimates. As a result, total government and state government employment was revised up by an average of 3,900 in 2019. Corrections to total government and state government employment counts were made back to 1990. Seasonally adjusted job counts were then revised for January 1990 through December 2019.

Annual Revisions

In 2019, the RI-based seasonally adjusted job count was revised up by an average of 2,300 jobs or 0.5 percent. Employment was revised up in eight employment sectors and was revised down in nine employment sectors.

Seasonally adjusted, the largest annual upward job revisions occurred in two sectors, the Government sector which was revised up by an average of 3,900 jobs in 2019, followed by the Accommodation & Food Services sector which was revised up by an average of 2,400 jobs.

Moderate seasonally adjusted upward job revisions were also reported in the Professional & Technical Services (+600), Manufacturing (+400), Construction (+300) and Educational Services (+300) sectors. Lastly, an upward revision of 100 jobs was reported in the Management of Companies and the Mining & Logging sectors.

Large seasonally adjusted downward revisions were noted in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors. These sectors were revised down by an average of 1,300 and 1,000 jobs, respectively, in 2019. Sizeable downward revisions were also reported in the Financial Activities (-800), Transportation & Utilities (-800), Other Services (-700) and Wholesale Trade (-600) sectors.

Smaller seasonal adjusted downward revisions in 2019 were reported in the Administrative & Waste Services (-300), Retail Trade (-100) and Information (-100) sectors.

Monthly Revisions

Monthly, job estimates were revised up during the first 6 months of 2019, while being revised down during the last 6 months of the year. February (+8,700) and January (+8,600) reported the largest upward revisions in 2019, while October (-1,000) and November (-1,000) reported the largest downward revisions.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island														
Seasonally Adjusted Benchmark Revisions (in thousands)														
	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	<u>Jun-19</u>	<u>Jul-19</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	2019 Ann. Avg.
Benchmark	501.8	503.8	503.9	503	503.5	503.3	502.8	502.6	503.4	502.8	504.7	505.2	505.7	503.7
Published	<u>497.7</u>	<u>495.2</u>	<u>495.2</u>	<u>496.1</u>	<u>499.3</u>	<u>499.4</u>	<u>502.6</u>	<u>503.4</u>	<u>504.0</u>	<u>503.4</u>	<u>505.7</u>	<u>506.2</u>	<u>506.3</u>	<u>501.4</u>
Revision	4.1	8.6	8.7	6.9	4.2	3.9	0.2	-0.8	-0.6	-0.6	-1.0	-1.0	-0.6	2.3

Finally, Rhode ended the year with 3,900 more jobs in December 2019, when compared to December 2018. Pre-Benchmark estimates had showed a year over year gain of 8,600. The December 2019 seasonally adjusted revised job count stood at 505,700 in relation to the revised December 2018 job count of 501,800. The December 2019 employment level of 505,700, marks a peak employment level for the state.

All revised seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted tables can be found at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm>

The RI Department of Labor and Training offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT protects Rhode Island's workforce by enforcing labor laws, prevailing wage rates and workplace health and safety standards. The department also provides temporary income support to unemployed and temporarily disabled workers. For more information on the programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders, please call the RI Department of Labor and Training at (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at www.dlt.ri.gov.