At the beginning of every year, two of our statistical series that herald the state of the economy go through a planned revision called benchmark. Both the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data series go through this adjustment process.

Why do these statistical data series have revisions?

To answer a question with a question, does everybody pay their taxes on time? Revisions in CES and LAUS happen because both series rely in part on unemployment tax information. Therefore, both series are revised as additional information from late filers becomes available. There are other inputs into both series that also cause the need to revise the estimates to provide better understanding of the economic situation.

CES publishes preliminary estimates and revised estimates each month and then revised estimates for the prior year at the beginning of each year. The monthly estimates incorporate additional sample receipts from respondents in the survey and recalculated seasonal adjustment factors. For more information on the monthly revisions, please visit http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesrevinfo.htm. Annually the CES survey incorporates a benchmark revision that re-anchors estimates to the nearly complete employment counts available from unemployment insurance tax records. The benchmark helps to control for sampling and modeling errors in the estimates. For more information on the annual benchmark revision, please visit http://www.bls.gov/web/cesbmart.htm.

LAUS annual processing is done at the beginning of each calendar year on the previous year’s estimates, incorporating revisions to such inputs as population estimates, Current Employment Statistics-based employment figures, unemployment insurance claims counts, and updated historical relationships. For more information on this process, please visit http://www.bls.gov/lau/launews1.htm.

**Workforce Information Tips**

**How do I find economic activity in a specific county?**

2. Click on "Area Profile."
3. My favorite selection is "Custom Area Report" where you will be able to choose a variety of different economic information for a quick-glance report. The "Narrative Area Summary" and "Tabular Area Summary" both are nice, fast economic reports. Click on "Custom Area Report."
4. Select the area you are interested in: "Statewide," "A Specific County" or "A Specific Workforce Development Region."
5. Put checks in the boxes for the statistics you are interested in. There are a variety of options for Labor Market Data, Demographics and Economics. Click "View Report."
6. At the bottom of the page is the option for a "Print View."

**How do I compare my counties economic activity to the State or another county?**

2. Click on "Compare Areas."
3. Select your first area to compare. Start with "Statewide." Now don't get confused as the page will display the areas again; it's time to choose your second area such as "A Specific County" and "Sandoval."
4. Now you have a quick report with New Mexico and Sandoval statistics, including Average Weekly Wage, Civilian Labor Force, Population, Industries, Income, and other economic indicators.
5. At the bottom of the page is the option for a "Print View."

Suzan Reagan  
Labor Market Information Webmaster  
New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions  
Economic Research & Analysis Bureau

*For more labor market information and publications, give it a click!*  
www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-lmi.html