

U.S. EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING FARM EMPLOYEES)
ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY DATA
1970 TO 2019

COL 1 YEAR	COL 2 ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT (year-end) (000)	COL 3 ANNUAL CHANGE (Dec to Dec) (000)	COL 4 ANNUAL CHANGE (Dec to Dec) (%)
1970	70,792	(n.a.)	(n.a.)
1971	72,109	1,317	1.9
1972	75,268	3,159	4.4
1973	78,031	2,763	3.7
1974	77,652	-379	-0.5
1975	78,017	365	0.5
1976	80,448	2,431	3.1
1977	84,410	3,962	4.9
1978	88,671	4,261	5.0
1979	90,672	2,001	2.3
1980	90,943	271	0.3
Average		2,015	2.6
1981	90,895	-48	-0.1
1982	88,771	-2,124	-2.3
1983	92,230	3,459	3.9
1984	96,107	3,877	4.2
1985	98,609	2,502	2.6
1986	100,509	1,900	1.9
1987	103,661	3,152	3.1
1988	106,898	3,237	3.1
1989	108,836	1,938	1.8
1990	109,166	330	0.3
Average		1,822	1.9
1991	108,328	-838	-0.8
1992	109,495	1,167	1.1
1993	112,314	2,819	2.6
1994	116,165	3,851	3.4
1995	118,320	2,155	1.9
1996	121,143	2,823	2.4
1997	124,549	3,406	2.8
1998	127,596	3,047	2.4
1999	130,772	3,176	2.5
2000	132,709	1,937	1.5
Average		2,354	2.0
2001	130,982	-1,727	-1.3
2002	130,472	-510	-0.4
2003	130,588	116	0.1
2004	132,624	2,036	1.6
2005	135,149	2,525	1.9
2006	137,249	2,100	1.6
2007	138,392	1,143	0.8
2008	134,839	-3,553	-2.6
2009	129,788	-5,051	-3.7
2010	130,822	1,034	0.8
Average		-189	-0.1
2011	132,896	2,074	1.6
2012	135,072	2,176	1.6
2013	137,373	2,301	1.7
2014	140,377	3,004	2.2
2015	143,097	2,720	1.9
2016	145,442	2,345	1.6
2017	147,551	2,109	1.5
2018	149,865	2,314	1.6
2019	151,961	2,096	1.4
Average		2,349	1.7

Updated: February 7 2020

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Establishment Employment, also known as "Total Nonfarm Payroll", is a standard measure of the number of workers in the U.S. economy. This measure does not include farm employees, private household employees, proprietors, and the unincorporated self-employed. "The measure provides useful insights into the current economic situation because it can represent the number of jobs added or lost in an economy."

During the past five decades, establishment employment in the U.S. more than doubled, rising to 152.0 million persons by the end of 2019 from 70.8 million in 1970.

The decade of the 1970s witnessed the strongest average annual change in establishment employment, 2.6 percent. The decade beginning 2001 witnessed the weakest average annual change in establishment employment, -0.1 percent.

Every decade except the first decade of the 21st century (2001 to 2010) witnessed an expansion by about 20,000,000 establishment employees. At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, there were less establishment employees in the labor force than there were in 2001. For U.S. establishment employment, the first decade of the 21st century was a lost decade.

During the "Great Recession" (December 2007 through June 2009), more jobs were lost than in any of the recessionary years in the previous three decades.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *All Employees: Total nonfarm* [PAYEMS] data series, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/PAYEMS/>, February 07, 2020. Data originally collected by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, through the Establishment Survey. Data are seasonally adjusted.

Indicates all or part of the year was in a recession.