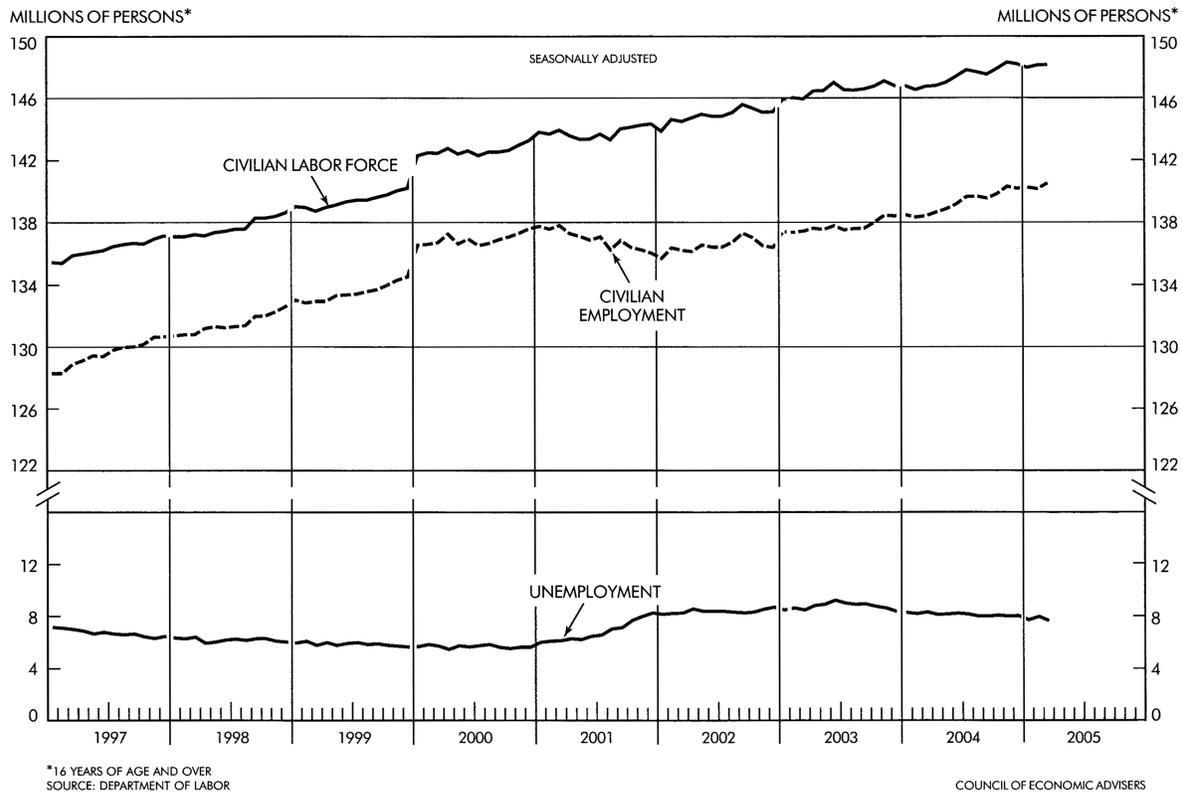


EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

STATUS OF THE LABOR FORCE

In March, employment rose by 357,000 and unemployment fell by 332,000.



[Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over, except as noted; monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted by NSA]

Period	Civilian noninstitutional population (NSA)	Civilian labor force	Civilian employment				Unemployment				Not in labor force	Percent ¹		
			Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16-19 years	Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16-19 years		Labor force participation rate	Employment/population ratio	Unemployment rate
1995	198,584	132,304	124,900	64,085	54,396	6,419	7,404	3,239	2,819	1,346	66,280	66.6	62.9	5.6
1996	200,591	133,943	126,708	64,897	55,311	6,500	7,236	3,146	2,783	1,306	66,647	66.8	63.2	5.4
1997 ²	203,133	136,297	129,558	66,284	56,613	6,661	6,739	2,882	2,585	1,271	66,837	67.1	63.8	4.9
1998 ²	205,220	137,673	131,463	67,135	57,278	7,051	6,210	2,580	2,424	1,205	67,547	67.1	64.1	4.5
1999 ²	207,753	139,368	133,488	67,761	58,555	7,172	5,880	2,433	2,285	1,162	68,385	67.1	64.3	4.2
2000 ²	212,577	142,583	136,891	69,634	60,067	7,189	5,692	2,376	2,235	1,081	69,994	67.1	64.4	4.0
2001	215,092	143,734	136,933	69,776	60,417	6,740	6,801	3,040	2,599	1,162	71,359	66.8	63.7	4.7
2002	217,570	144,863	136,485	69,734	60,420	6,332	8,378	3,896	3,228	1,253	72,707	66.6	62.7	5.8
2003 ²	221,168	146,510	137,736	70,415	61,402	5,919	8,774	4,209	3,314	1,251	74,658	66.2	62.3	6.0
2004 ²	223,357	147,401	139,252	71,572	61,773	5,907	8,149	3,791	3,150	1,208	75,956	66.0	62.3	5.5
2004: Mar	222,550	146,737	138,408	71,158	61,424	5,825	8,330	3,877	3,299	1,154	75,812	65.9	62.2	5.7
Apr	222,757	146,788	138,645	71,158	61,591	5,897	8,143	3,751	3,185	1,207	75,969	65.9	62.2	5.5
May	222,967	147,018	138,846	71,226	61,723	5,896	8,172	3,869	3,080	1,223	75,950	65.9	62.3	5.6
June	223,196	147,386	139,158	71,575	61,731	5,853	8,228	3,786	3,259	1,184	75,809	66.0	62.3	5.6
July	223,422	147,823	139,639	71,830	61,902	5,907	8,184	3,737	3,183	1,265	75,599	66.2	62.5	5.5
Aug	223,677	147,676	139,658	71,847	61,877	5,934	8,018	3,768	3,032	1,217	76,001	66.0	62.4	5.4
Sept	223,941	147,531	139,527	71,701	61,939	5,887	8,005	3,761	3,069	1,175	76,410	65.9	62.3	5.4
Oct	224,192	147,893	139,827	71,895	62,024	5,908	8,066	3,736	3,102	1,227	76,299	66.0	62.4	5.5
Nov	224,422	148,313	140,293	72,134	62,145	6,014	8,020	3,733	3,099	1,188	76,109	66.1	62.5	5.4
Dec	224,640	148,203	140,156	72,020	62,208	5,927	8,047	3,733	3,051	1,262	76,437	66.0	62.4	5.4
2005: Jan ²	224,837	147,979	140,241	72,029	62,295	5,917	7,737	3,565	3,023	1,150	76,858	65.8	62.4	5.2
Feb	225,041	148,132	140,144	72,131	62,202	5,811	7,988	3,685	3,068	1,235	76,909	65.8	62.3	5.4
Mar	225,236	148,157	140,501	72,429	62,099	5,973	7,656	3,492	2,952	1,212	77,079	65.8	62.4	5.2

¹ Civilian labor force (or employment) as percent of civilian noninstitutional population; and unemployment as percent of civilian labor force.

² Not strictly comparable with earlier data.

NOTE.—Beginning January 2005 data reflect revised population controls and are not strictly comparable with earlier data.

See *Employment and Earnings* for details on breaks in series.
Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.