**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on November 2020 Establishment and Household Survey Data**

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based upon estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. Nonfarm employment data is provided by the BLS' Current Employment Statistics survey program. The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

The household survey response rate in November 2020 for the nation was 79 percent. This was an improvement from the low of 65 percent in June but below the average of 83 percent for the 12 months prior to the pandemic. The collection rate for the establishment survey for the nation in November was 74 percent, which was about the same as the average for the 12 months ending in February 2020.

In the establishment survey, workers who are paid by their employer for all or any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month are counted as employed, even if they were not actually at their jobs. Workers who are temporarily or permanently absent from their jobs and are not being paid are not counted as employed, even if they are continuing to receive benefits.

In the household survey, individuals are classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force based on their answers to a series of questions about their activities during the survey reference week (November 8th through November 14th). Workers who indicate they were not working during the entire survey reference week and expect to be recalled to their jobs should be classified as unemployed on temporary layoff. In November, a large number of persons were classified as unemployed on temporary layoff.

Since March, household survey interviewers have been instructed to classify employed persons absent from work due to temporary, coronavirus-related business closures or cutbacks to be classified as unemployed on temporary layoff.  BLS and Census Bureau analyses of the underlying data suggest that this group still may include some workers affected by the pandemic who should have been classified as unemployed on temporary layoff. The share of responses that may have been misclassified was much smaller in recent months.

If the workers who were recorded as employed but absent from work due to "other reasons" (over and above the number absent for other reasons in a typical November) had been classified as unemployed on temporary layoff, the overall unemployment rate would have been 0.4  percentage point higher than reported (on a not seasonally adjusted basis) for the Nation. However, according to usual practice, the data from the household survey are accepted as recorded. To maintain data integrity, no ad hoc actions are taken to reclassify survey responses.

More information is available at https://www.bls.gov/covid19/employment-situation-covid19-faq-november-2020.htm.