The Current Employment Statistics survey is undergoing a major revision so that it can account better for employment added when new businesses open and lost when existing businesses close. The previous methodology, bias adjustment, had shortcomings that necessitated large revisions when benchmarking employment data every March.

The new methodology is based on a net birth/death model, which uses a probability-based sample that represents the birth/death universe through techniques—randomized selection and improved estimation methodology—that bias adjustment lacks. Whereas bias adjustment is revised quarterly and has a six- to nine-month lag between the birth of a business and its appearance in the sample, the birth/death model is adjusted monthly and follows seasonal patterns, allowing for more timely measurement of employment growth. While this creates more variability at a monthly frequency, it will result in more accurate employment numbers and will reduce annual revisions.

Currently, only wholesale trade, manufacturing, mining, and construction use the birth/death model. Estimates for mining and manufacturing after April 1999 and for construction after April 2000 have been recalculated using the birth/death model. Summing the growth from net new business creation in each sector using its appropriate model gives the total adjustment of employment growth for business births and deaths.