

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
Labor & Workforce Development
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2017

New Jersey Employers Reporting Historically High Levels of Jobs in Garden State
Nearly 25,000 Jobs Added in June and July as Total Nonfarm Employment Continues to Climb

TRENTON, August 17, 2017 – New Jersey is reporting unprecedented private sector employment with the highest level of nonfarm jobs in state history, according to data released today by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Employment gains in July, coupled with an upward revision in June's preliminary estimate, showed a payroll growth of nearly 25,000 jobs over the two-month period in New Jersey. Total nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 9,800 in July to reach a seasonally adjusted level of 4,132,300, marking the highest level of nonfarm employment reported in New Jersey history. The majority of July's monthly gain occurred in the private sector (+7,300) of the state's economy, as private sector employment in the Garden State hit a historic high and is now 77,700 jobs higher than the peak employment level reached before the last recession.

The BLS data additionally indicates private sector employers have added 50,200 jobs over the past year (July 2016 - July 2017), and 325,700 jobs since February 2010, the low point of private sector employment during the last recession.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released June estimates were revised higher, up by 4,300, to show an over-the-month (May-June) total nonfarm employment gain of 14,900 jobs. Preliminary estimates had initially indicated an over-the-month gain of 10,600 jobs. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate moved to 4.2 percent, still below the national rate of 4.3 percent, as the state's labor participation rate continued to best the national rate, 63.4 percent vs. 62.9 percent.

In July, job gains were posted in five of nine major private industry sectors. Sectors that increased included leisure and hospitality (+6,900), professional and business services (+2,200), financial activities (+1,100), trade, transportation and utilities (+900) and construction (+900). Sectors that recorded a loss were manufacturing (-2,200), other services (-1,600), information (-500) and education and health services (-400). Over the month, public sector employment was higher by 2,500 jobs with the majority of the gains recorded in the local government sector.

PRESS TABLES

Technical Notes: Estimates of industry employment and unemployment levels are arrived at through the use of two different monthly surveys.

Industry employment data are derived through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 5,000 business establishments conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the “establishment” survey).

Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the New Jersey portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the “household” survey).

Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by BLS. In addition, these estimates are benchmarked (revised) annually based on actual counts from New Jersey’s Unemployment Compensation Law administrative records and more complete data from all New Jersey employers.

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