

**Media Contact**

Karla Bardinás

609-984-2841

**EMAIL:** [MediaCalls@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:MediaCalls@dol.state.nj.us)



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
NEWS RELEASE

**New Jersey's Unemployment Rate Dips to 4.1 Percent, Lowest Since June 2001**

*Private-Sector Employers Added 1,900 Jobs in April*

TRENTON, May 18, 2017 – New Jersey's unemployment rate continued to decline in April for the fifth consecutive month, edging lower by 0.1 percentage point to 4.1 percent, as private-sector employers added an estimated 1,900 jobs last month and another record high level of people reported to be employed, according to data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

New Jersey's private-sector employers have added 55,900 jobs over the past year (April 2016 – April 2017) and have added 313,400 jobs since the February 2010 recessionary low point for private-sector employment. Total non-farm employment for April reached a seasonally adjusted level of 4,115,700, according to the BLS's monthly employer survey, as the public sector shed 2,200 jobs. Additionally, the BLS's monthly household survey showed New Jersey again hit a record high level of people (4,343,300) reporting to be employed, factoring in the state's 4.1 percent unemployment rate, which marks a 16-year low and remains lower than the national rate of 4.4 percent.

“The April figures indicate the New Jersey labor market remains on a positive track, with private-sector employment increasing by 1,900 jobs for an average of 3,725 jobs per month thus far in 2017. This is fully in line with the performance over the current recovery. Further supporting the improving labor market is the fact that the unemployment rate, at 4.1 percent, is at its lowest level since June 2001,” said James Wooster, Chief Economist for the New Jersey Department of the Treasury.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released March estimates were revised higher, up by 5,000, to show an over-the-month (February-March) total nonfarm employment contraction of 12,500 jobs. Preliminary estimates had initially indicated an over-the-month drop of 17,500.

In April, job gains were posted in five of nine major private industry sectors: leisure and hospitality (+3,100), professional and business services (+2,600), financial activities (+1,300), education and health services (+800), and other services (+100). Sectors that recorded a loss included trade, transportation, utilities (-4,600); construction (-1,000); and manufacturing (-400). Over-the-month contractions in public sector employment was led by drops at the state (-1,700) and federal government levels (-800).

Preliminary BLS data for April 2017 will be released on June 15, 2017.

**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 4,000 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 the 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.

**Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey**  
**Seasonally Adjusted**  
**2016 Benchmark**

<b>Labor Force Data (resident)</b>					
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>One Year Ago</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
	<b>Apr. 17 (P)</b>	<b>Mar. 17 (R)</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
Civilian Labor Force	4,528,400	4,523,000	4,515,700	5,400	12,700
Employment	4,343,300	4,332,200	4,284,900	11,100	58,400
Unemployment	185,100	190,800	230,800	-5,700	-45,700
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	5.1	-0.1	-1.0
<b>Employment Data (establishment)</b>					
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>One Year Ago</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
	<b>Apr. 17 (P)</b>	<b>Mar. 17 (R)</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	4,115,700	4,116,000	4,064,100	-300	51,600
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	3,507,200	3,505,300	3,451,300	1,900	55,900
<b>Goods Producing</b>	400,300	401,700	396,500	-1,400	3,800
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100
Construction	153,000	154,000	153,500	-1,000	-500
Manufacturing	245,900	246,300	241,700	-400	4,200
<b>Service-Providing</b>	3,715,400	3,714,300	3,667,600	1,100	47,800
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	3,106,900	3,103,600	3,054,800	3,300	52,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	871,100	875,700	863,900	-4,600	7,200
Information	73,800	73,800	74,300	0	-500
Financial Activities	253,200	251,900	247,400	1,300	5,800
Professional and Business Services	676,800	674,200	658,500	2,600	18,300
Education and Health Services	686,900	686,100	671,500	800	15,400
Leisure and Hospitality	376,000	372,900	368,500	3,100	7,500
Other Services	169,100	169,000	170,700	100	-1,600
<b>Public Sector</b>	608,500	610,700	612,800	-2,200	-4,300
<b>3-Month Average Change</b>					
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	-600	4,100	5,800	N/A	N/A
<b>Private Sector</b>	-300	4,300	6,000	N/A	N/A
<b>Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*</b>					
Manufacturing	38.4	37.7	40.3	0.7	-1.9
Durable Goods	37.3	37.6	40.1	-0.3	-2.8
Nondurable Goods	39.3	37.7	40.5	1.6	-1.2
<b>Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*</b>					
Manufacturing	\$21.81	\$21.99	\$20.96	-\$0.18	\$0.85
Durable Goods	\$25.80	\$25.66	\$24.86	\$0.14	\$0.94
Nondurable Goods	\$18.79	\$19.02	\$17.60	-\$0.23	\$1.19
<b>Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**</b>					
Manufacturing	\$837.50	\$829.02	\$844.69	\$8.48	-\$7.19
Durable Goods	\$962.34	\$964.82	\$996.89	-\$2.48	-\$34.55
Nondurable Goods	\$738.45	\$717.05	\$712.80	\$21.40	\$25.65

May 18, 2017. P - preliminary, R-revised.

\* Production workers.

\*\* Weekly earnings are computed from not seasonally adjusted hourly earnings and hours of work data.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

<b>Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends</b>						
<b>2016 Benchmark</b>						
	<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>			<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>		
	<b>Apr. 17 (P)</b>	<b>Mar. 17 (R)</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>	<b>Apr. 17 (P)</b>	<b>Mar. 17 (R)</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>
Civilian Labor Force	4,507,500	4,507,100	4,522,600	4,528,400	4,523,000	4,515,700
Resident Employment	4,333,300	4,313,000	4,294,100	4,343,300	4,332,200	4,284,900
Unemployment	174,200	194,100	228,500	185,100	190,800	230,800
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.9	4.3	5.1	4.1	4.2	5.1
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.3	63.4	63.8	63.6	63.6	63.7
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	60.9	60.6	60.6	61.0	60.9	60.5
<b>New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1996 - 2016</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>		<b>Employment</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>	
1996	4,205,200		3,946,700	258,600	6.1	
1997	4,263,800		4,039,800	224,000	5.3	
1998	4,246,400		4,051,500	194,900	4.6	
1999	4,287,900		4,094,600	193,300	4.5	
2000	4,282,100		4,123,700	158,400	3.7	
2001	4,288,800		4,106,200	182,600	4.3	
2002	4,346,200		4,095,200	251,100	5.8	
2003	4,347,200		4,093,700	253,500	5.8	
2004	4,349,200		4,138,800	210,300	4.8	
2005	4,391,600		4,194,900	196,700	4.5	
2006	4,445,900		4,236,500	209,400	4.7	
2007	4,441,800		4,251,800	190,000	4.3	
2008	4,504,400		4,264,000	240,500	5.3	
2009	4,550,600		4,138,600	412,100	9.1	
2010	4,555,300		4,121,500	433,900	9.5	
2011	4,565,300		4,138,500	426,800	9.3	
2012	4,588,000		4,160,000	428,000	9.3	
2013	4,531,900		4,159,500	372,300	8.2	
2014	4,515,800		4,211,500	304,300	6.7	
2015	4,530,500		4,267,900	262,600	5.8	
2016	4,524,300		4,299,900	224,300	5.0	
<b>Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2015-2016</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>		<b>Employment</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Rate %</b>	
Jan 2016	4,516,900		4,290,100	226,800	5.0	
Feb	4,517,400		4,289,900	227,500	5.0	
Mar	4,516,700		4,287,600	229,100	5.1	
Apr	4,515,700		4,284,900	230,800	5.1	
May	4,515,100		4,283,300	231,700	5.1	
Jun	4,514,800		4,283,600	231,200	5.1	
Jul	4,514,400		4,285,600	228,800	5.1	
Aug	4,514,000		4,288,600	225,400	5.0	
Sep	4,513,200		4,291,300	221,900	4.9	
Oct	4,511,800		4,293,200	218,600	4.8	
Nov	4,510,000		4,294,600	215,400	4.8	
Dec	4,507,800		4,295,300	212,500	4.7	
Jan 2017	4,514,300		4,308,600	205,800	4.6	
Feb	4,523,300		4,321,500	201,800	4.5	
Mar (R)	4,523,000		4,332,200	190,800	4.2	
Apr (P)	4,528,400		4,343,300	185,100	4.1	
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

May 18, 2017. P - preliminary, R-revised.

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for April 2017**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2016 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	Apr. 17 (P)	Mar. 17 (R)	Apr. 16	over the Year
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,094,200</b>	<b>4,058,100</b>	<b>4,052,400</b>	<b>41,800</b>
Total Private Sector	3,472,100	3,435,900	3,426,600	45,500
Goods Producing	395,700	389,800	393,900	1,800
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>144,200</b>	<b>152,300</b>	<b>-2,300</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>244,300</b>	<b>244,300</b>	<b>240,300</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Durable Goods*	111,100	111,100	109,500	1,600
Fabricated Metal Products	20,500	20,400	20,300	200
Machinery Manufacturing	13,400	13,500	13,500	-100
Computer and Electronic Products	22,600	22,600	23,100	-500
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	17,900	17,900	17,900	0
Nondurable Goods*	133,200	133,200	130,800	2,400
Food Manufacturing	33,700	33,700	32,700	1,000
Paper Manufacturing	9,500	9,500	9,700	-200
Printing and Related Support	14,500	14,700	14,600	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	44,800	44,900	43,700	1,100
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	23,700	23,800	22,700	1,000
Service-Providing	3,698,500	3,668,300	3,658,500	40,000
Private Service-Providing	3,076,400	3,046,100	3,032,700	43,700
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>860,400</b>	<b>861,700</b>	<b>853,900</b>	<b>6,500</b>
Wholesale Trade*	213,200	213,100	214,900	-1,700
Retail Trade*	458,200	455,400	453,700	4,500
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	35,300	33,200	33,800	1,500
Food and Beverage Stores	109,100	109,500	111,200	-2,100
Health and Personal Care Stores	37,800	37,700	36,400	1,400
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	51,200	51,300	48,900	2,300
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	15,400	15,500	16,200	-800
General Merchandise Stores	74,800	74,800	73,400	1,400
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	189,000	193,200	185,300	3,700
Utilities*	14,100	14,000	14,200	-100
Transportation & Warehousing*	174,900	179,200	171,100	3,800
<b>Information</b>	<b>73,300</b>	<b>73,300</b>	<b>73,800</b>	<b>-500</b>
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	18,200	18,300	18,300	-100
Telecommunications	28,800	28,600	30,100	-1,300
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Proc. Svcs.	10,000	10,100	9,700	300
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>251,700</b>	<b>250,100</b>	<b>245,800</b>	<b>5,900</b>
Finance and Insurance*	194,100	193,700	189,200	4,900
Financial Investments and Related Activities	40,600	40,800	39,600	1,000
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	82,200	81,300	81,600	600
Real Estate and Rental/Leasing*	57,600	56,400	56,600	1,000
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>669,100</b>	<b>657,100</b>	<b>656,600</b>	<b>12,500</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	303,700	303,300	300,500	3,200
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	80,400	80,500	80,200	200
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	285,000	273,300	275,900	9,100
<b>Education, Health and Social Assistance Services</b>	<b>690,700</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>675,100</b>	<b>15,600</b>
Educational Services*	110,500	111,100	106,300	4,200
Health Care and Social Assistance*	580,200	578,900	568,800	11,400
Hospitals	162,400	162,500	158,700	3,700
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	96,300	96,200	94,600	1,700
Social Assistance	90,700	90,300	88,400	2,300
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>362,100</b>	<b>346,300</b>	<b>357,500</b>	<b>4,600</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation*	60,800	52,100	59,900	900
Accommodation and Food Services*	301,300	294,200	297,600	3,700
Food Services and Drinking Places	254,900	249,700	250,300	4,600
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>169,100</b>	<b>167,600</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>-900</b>
Repair and Maintenance	34,100	34,100	33,500	600
Personal and Laundry Services	61,100	59,700	59,600	1,500
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	73,900	73,800	76,900	-3,000
<b>Government</b>	<b>622,100</b>	<b>622,200</b>	<b>625,800</b>	<b>-3,700</b>

May 18, 2017 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series, \* denote sector series.

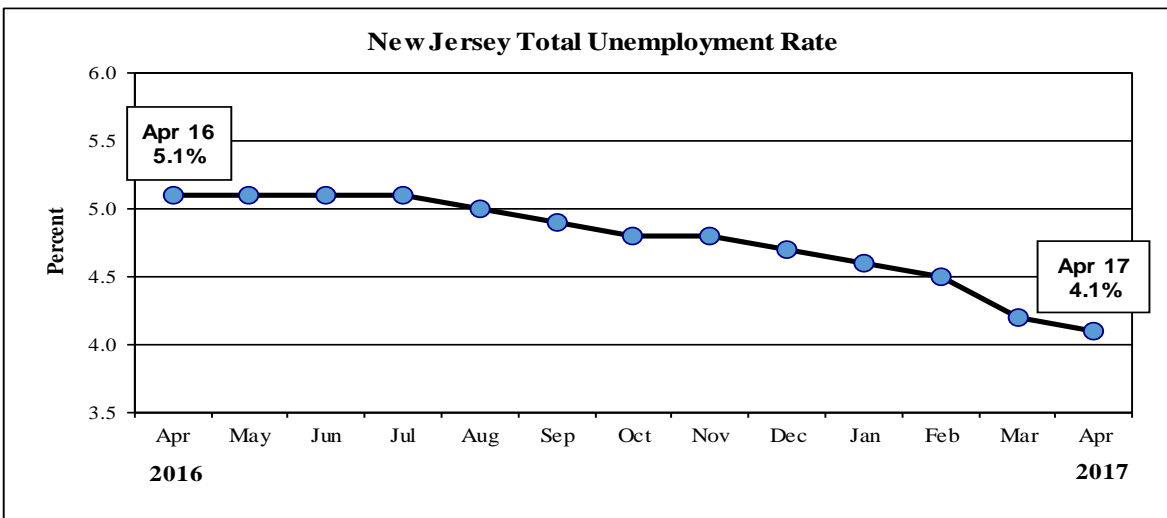
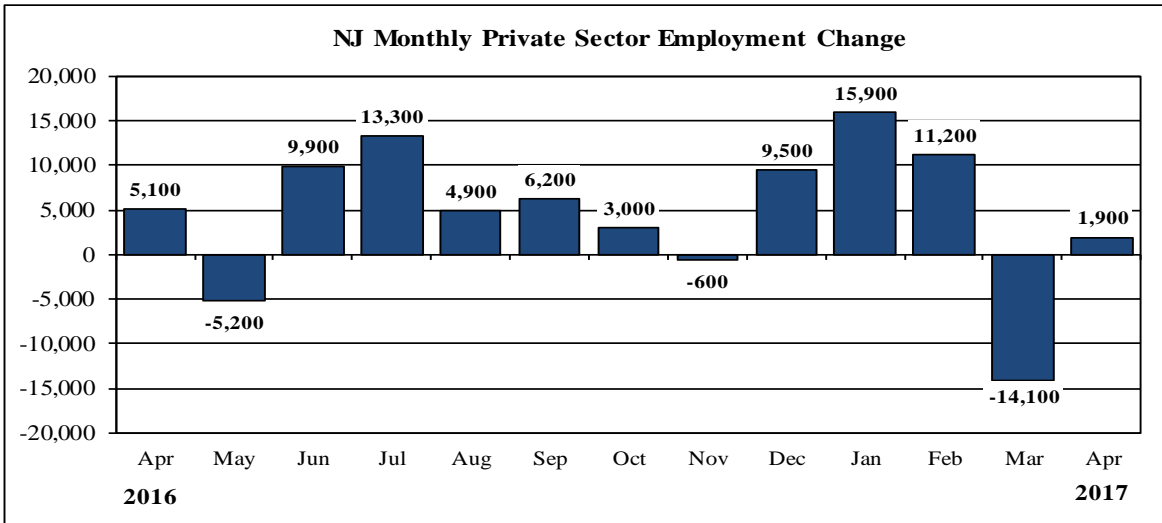
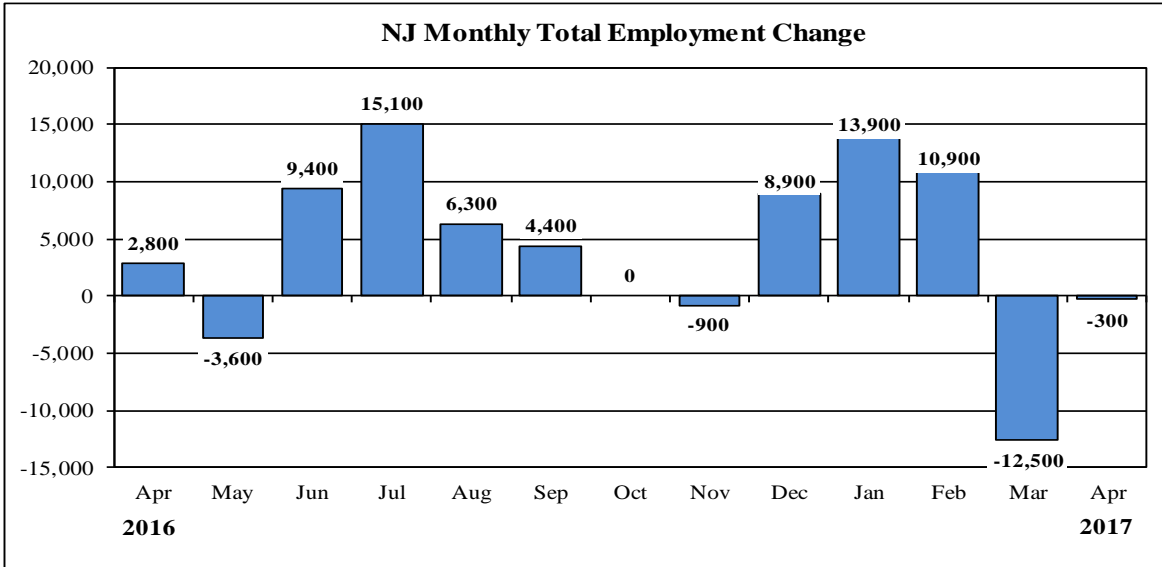
Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

<b>Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment 2016 Benchmark</b>						
<b>Annual Averages</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Private Sector</b>			<b>Public</b>	
<b>Year</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Service-Providing</b>	
1996	3,635,100	3,064,500	430,800	125,000	2,506,600	570,600
1997	3,720,200	3,150,000	427,800	131,800	2,588,200	570,300
1998	3,801,900	3,230,200	427,300	136,100	2,664,500	571,700
1999	3,901,900	3,324,000	420,500	143,600	2,757,700	577,900
2000	3,995,500	3,406,100	419,600	149,600	2,835,000	589,400
2001	3,998,000	3,394,600	399,100	158,800	2,834,900	603,400
2002	3,984,800	3,370,200	365,100	162,600	2,841,000	614,600
2003	3,978,600	3,355,300	348,000	160,500	2,845,300	623,200
2004	3,999,400	3,364,500	335,700	165,900	2,861,300	634,900
2005	4,040,000	3,396,900	327,800	169,100	2,898,300	643,100
2006	4,071,500	3,422,600	321,100	174,900	2,924,900	648,900
2007	4,079,100	3,429,700	308,400	172,300	2,947,400	649,400
2008	4,050,600	3,399,600	295,400	164,500	2,938,100	650,900
2009	3,896,400	3,242,200	260,900	138,600	2,841,200	654,200
2010	3,851,000	3,209,100	252,100	129,500	2,826,100	642,000
2011	3,850,100	3,229,100	246,900	129,900	2,851,100	621,000
2012	3,893,300	3,275,100	240,900	130,400	2,902,400	618,300
2013	3,938,100	3,320,400	238,700	137,600	2,942,800	617,700
2014	3,970,900	3,351,500	238,800	141,600	2,969,800	619,300
2015	4,015,700	3,401,600	238,800	148,400	3,013,000	614,200
2016	4,075,500	3,461,300	241,700	153,000	3,065,200	614,200
<b>Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data</b>						
<b>2016</b>						
Jan	4,046,600	3,433,400	241,200	153,900	3,036,900	613,200
Feb	4,056,500	3,442,800	241,800	154,400	3,045,200	613,700
Mar	4,061,300	3,446,200	242,100	154,900	3,047,800	615,100
Apr	4,064,100	3,451,300	241,700	153,500	3,054,800	612,800
May	4,060,500	3,446,100	241,800	152,900	3,050,000	614,400
Jun	4,069,900	3,456,000	242,400	153,100	3,059,100	613,900
Jul	4,085,000	3,469,300	243,000	153,200	3,071,700	615,700
Aug	4,091,300	3,474,200	243,000	152,900	3,076,900	617,100
Sep	4,095,700	3,480,400	242,500	152,800	3,083,700	615,300
Oct	4,095,700	3,483,400	240,100	151,400	3,090,500	612,300
Nov	4,094,800	3,482,800	239,500	150,600	3,091,300	612,000
Dec	4,103,700	3,492,300	239,900	150,900	3,100,100	611,400
<b>2017</b>						
Jan	4,117,600	3,508,200	243,100	155,100	3,108,600	609,400
Feb	4,128,500	3,519,400	245,600	156,700	3,115,700	609,100
Mar (R)	4,116,000	3,505,300	246,300	154,000	3,103,600	610,700
Apr (P)	4,115,700	3,507,200	245,900	153,000	3,106,900	608,500
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

May 18, 2017 P - preliminary, R-revised.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

**Key Economic Indicators: April 2017**  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



May 18, 2017

Source: New Jersey Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.