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NEW JERSEY

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

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Governor

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY
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Data through February 1984

March 1984

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased on a seasonally adjusted basis by 7,700 to a record level of 3,246,700 during February. Although February's improvement was the smallest since August 1983, it followed an unsustainably large gain of 31,600 between December and January.

Department analysts also noted that employment estimates for the past several years have been revised upwards on the basis of new "benchmark" data obtained primarily from quarterly tax reports filed by all employers covered by the State's unemployment insurance system. For example, the January estimate was revised upward by 59,700.

The revised estimates indicate that the 1981-82 recession was somewhat more shallow in New Jersey than previously reported and that the expansion of jobs over the past year has been substantially greater than the monthly sample survey of employers had initially indicated. The biggest revisions were in trade and services, but there also were sizable upward adjustments in construction, manufacturing, finance, and transportation and public utilities.

Based on revised data, February's gain brought the cumulative recovery of nonfarm jobs since December 1982 to 156,500. Employment surpassed New Jersey's September 1981 pre-recession peak by 138,100.

Department analysts attributed most of the over-the-month gain to favorable weather during the survey week and continued strength of consumer spending and building activity, which resulted in fewer than expected seasonal layoffs in retail trade and construction.

Nonmanufacturing employment rose by 8,700 from January to a record seasonally adjusted level of 2,516,000 in February on the strength of over-the-month increases in trade, services, and government.

Wholesale and retail trade increased by 4,500 over the month in response to continued high levels of consumer spending. There also were increases in educational services and government attributable primarily to the return from vacations of adjunct staff at New Jersey's public and private institutions of higher education.

Construction employment increased by 800 to 128,800, reflecting the continued strong pace of both homebuilding and non-residential building activity. Especially strong was the performance in special trades, such as plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work. This was the highest job level for the construction industry since July 1974.

Factory division employment dropped by 1,000 jobs to a seasonally adjusted level of 730,700 in February. This was the first manufacturing decrease since September 1983, but it was due to atypical seasonal patterns and does not signify a slowdown in industrial activity.

After seasonal adjustment, the average factory workweek jumped sharply by 36 minutes to 41.9 in January from 41.3 hours in February, reflecting widespread increases in overtime. Department analysts also noted that the originally reported January workweek data were revised upward from 40.9

Table 1

NEW JERSEY NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT
 BY INDUSTRY FOR FEBRUARY 1984
 Seasonally Adjusted
 (000)
 1983 Benchmark

Industry	Feb 1984	Jan 1984	Feb 1983
TOTAL NONFARM	3246.7	3239.0	3102.8
PRIVATE NONFARM	2711.1	2705.1	2576.4
MANUFACTURING	730.7	731.7	706.2
<u>Durable Goods</u>	347.1	348.1	335.7
Lumber	6.3	6.6	5.5
Furniture	10.6	10.8	10.1
Stone, Clay & Glass	27.8	27.4	27.1
Primary Metals	21.0	20.9	20.2
Fabricated Metals	53.8	53.4	51.1
Machinery Exc. Electrical	61.9	61.8	61.8
Electrical/Electronic Equip.	91.6	91.2	87.4
Transportation Equipment	14.0	14.9	14.4
Instruments	34.3	34.6	35.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	25.8	26.5	22.9
<u>Nondurable Goods</u>	383.6	383.6	370.5
Food	49.5	48.6	46.5
Tobacco	0.2	0.2	.3
Textiles	16.5	16.2	15.1
Apparel	54.8	55.6	49.5
Paper	32.0	31.8	31.0
Printing & Publishing	58.1	58.2	56.5
Chemicals	120.7	120.8	120.1
Petroleum	9.7	9.7	10.8
Rubber/Plastics	37.5	37.5	35.1
Leather	4.6	5.0	5.6
NONMANUFACTURING	2516.0	2507.3	2396.6
Mining	2.0	1.9	2.0
Construction	128.8	128.0	108.5
Transportation/Public Utilities	207.6	207.3	199.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	759.8	755.3	712.0
Wholesale Trade	229.7	227.4	217.1
Retail Trade	530.1	527.9	494.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	175.3	175.5	169.6
Services	706.9	705.4	678.7
Government	535.6	533.9	526.4

Average Weekly Hours of Production Workers
 Seasonally Adjusted
 1982 Benchmark

TOTAL MANUFACTURING	Feb 1984	Jan 1984	Feb 1983
	41.9	41.3	38.5

Table 2

NEW JERSEY'S NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
 Seasonally Adjusted
 (000)
 1983 Benchmark

Date	TOTAL	Manufac- turing	Constr'n	Transport. Pub. Util.	Trade	Finance Insurance Real Est.	Services	Gov't
1972	2674.4	823.3	121.6	181.2	577.3	124.6	437.9	405.3
1973	2760.8	842.6	126.8	186.4	596.9	131.0	456.8	417.1
1974	2783.4	825.9	118.7	185.8	603.5	136.5	469.9	439.9
1975	2699.9	747.9	99.2	174.3	599.3	135.2	471.1	470.2
1976	2753.7	756.2	93.9	176.0	618.5	138.0	488.0	480.5
1977	2836.9	767.3	94.5	178.2	637.3	142.9	509.8	504.0
1978	2961.9	786.8	105.3	188.5	665.9	147.7	542.2	523.0
1979	3027.2	799.1	113.7	190.4	678.6	153.9	571.0	517.8
1980	3060.4	781.0	111.2	194.5	680.3	158.1	603.1	529.7
1981	3098.1	770.7	108.7	196.5	690.6	161.8	638.5	529.0
1982	3090.5	727.6	107.3	197.1	701.2	167.1	662.1	526.0
1983	3148.8	712.1	112.1	201.3	728.3	172.3	692.4	528.2
<u>1983</u>								
Jan	3103.7	707.0	111.4	199.5	713.6	169.4	676.2	524.7
Feb	3102.8	706.2	108.5	199.4	712.0	169.6	678.7	526.4
Mar	3114.0	706.5	108.0	196.8	719.2	170.3	685.1	526.1
Apr	3128.1	707.3	109.0	201.5	724.0	171.1	687.7	525.6
May	3133.7	707.8	109.8	202.3	725.7	171.6	689.1	525.4
Jun	3145.5	708.2	110.7	203.9	729.6	172.6	690.7	527.9
Jul	3154.7	714.6	111.8	204.5	730.3	172.9	693.2	525.4
Aug	3144.9	714.2	112.4	190.4	730.8	173.5	694.8	526.9
Sep	3172.2	713.8	113.2	204.6	733.6	174.0	698.7	532.4
Oct	3185.6	719.8	114.9	204.4	735.4	174.4	702.9	531.8
Nov	3199.6	722.8	115.5	204.7	741.9	174.6	705.3	532.8
Dec	3207.4	724.4	118.1	204.5	743.3	174.7	707.3	533.1
<u>1984</u>								
Jan	3239.0	731.7	128.0	207.3	755.3	175.5	705.4	533.9
Feb	3246.7	730.7	128.8	207.6	759.8	175.3	706.9	535.6

TECHNICAL NOTES APPEAR ON THE BACK COVER

Table 3

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN NEW JERSEY'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(000)

Date	Atlantic City	Camden	Hackensack	Jersey City	Long Branch- Asbury Park	Newark	Paterson- Clifton- Passaic	Perth Amboy- New Brunswick- Sayreville	Trenton	VineLand- Millville- Bridgeton
1972	64.0	276.2	335.0	247.8	128.3	857.3	185.9	228.5	142.9	51.3
1973	65.7	286.8	347.9	245.6	133.3	873.4	187.4	242.4	148.0	53.0
1974	66.0	292.6	353.1	244.0	136.2	869.4	184.1	249.6	148.7	52.1
1975	64.2	284.9	346.3	233.4	136.0	845.2	175.8	242.1	145.7	50.1
1976	65.9	295.4	359.1	231.5	139.5	860.0	177.1	246.0	149.5	51.7
1977	68.2	307.1	370.4	231.8	145.6	888.7	181.3	258.5	155.0	53.8
1978	71.9	324.3	386.3	232.5	155.4	914.4	188.1	274.4	160.0	54.7
1979	81.9	334.5	392.0	230.7	158.9	936.4	190.2	283.8	162.4	54.3
1980	90.7	337.5	394.9	227.8	163.3	940.9	189.0	288.2	162.2	54.3
1981	99.8	345.2	400.1	224.2	167.5	944.6	190.2	293.1	163.9	53.7
1982	101.5	346.5	402.7	218.1	169.5	938.8	186.0	293.3	162.5	51.9
1983	105.6	357.7	408.6	218.5	172.3	954.9	188.4	294.9	165.5	52.1
1983										
Jan	98.0	349.2	398.0	210.7	163.6	931.1	183.1	285.1	162.5	51.1
Feb	97.6	346.6	396.6	212.3	162.4	929.5	182.0	288.2	161.9	50.8
Mar	99.3	349.6	401.7	213.2	164.8	936.8	183.5	290.6	163.4	51.7
Apr	102.3	353.9	406.7	215.3	168.5	945.6	187.7	292.7	164.4	52.1
May	104.8	357.0	409.7	216.9	172.2	951.4	188.8	294.9	166.1	51.1
Jun	109.9	363.3	416.6	219.8	178.4	963.2	191.2	296.3	167.7	52.3
Jul	113.3	361.6	412.0	220.9	180.7	964.3	190.7	297.6	165.3	51.7
Aug	113.3	360.4	409.2	221.2	178.6	958.7	189.1	296.4	163.6	52.2
Sep	109.8	360.2	409.5	221.2	175.4	960.2	189.5	295.7	166.1	52.1
Oct	107.4	362.3	413.9	223.3	174.4	969.0	191.0	298.7	168.2	53.9
Nov	106.3	363.6	414.9	223.5	174.2	974.1	191.9	300.5	168.2	53.6
Dec	104.9	365.3	415.0	223.5	174.9	974.3	192.0	302.1	168.1	52.9
1984										
Jan	103.7	358.6	409.7	215.7	171.6	966.3	188.7	295.8	167.8	52.6
Feb	103.6	357.9	408.9	217.4	171.9	967.3	188.4	298.1	167.8	52.6

Table 4

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF NEW JERSEY FACTORY PRODUCTION WORKERS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
1982 Benchmark

Date	All Manufacturing			Durable Goods			Nondurable Goods		
	Earnings		Hours per Week	Earnings		Hours per Week	Earnings		Hours per Week
	Weekly	Hourly		Weekly	Hourly		Weekly	Hourly	
1972	163.35	3.99	40.9	167.07	4.05	41.2	159.77	3.93	40.7
1973	176.41	4.26	41.4	182.62	4.37	41.8	170.43	4.16	40.0
1974	186.11	4.57	40.7	191.42	4.66	41.1	180.93	4.48	41.0
1975	199.68	4.99	39.9	206.55	5.12	40.4	193.43	4.88	40.4
1976	215.33	5.33	40.4	222.77	5.46	40.8	209.32	5.22	40.1
1977	239.20	5.82	41.1	248.53	5.96	41.7	231.83	5.71	40.6
1978	256.22	6.28	40.8	263.45	6.41	41.1	248.06	6.14	40.4
1979	276.45	6.71	41.2	285.34	6.81	41.9	267.71	6.61	40.5
1980	297.07	7.31	40.7	308.41	7.49	41.2	287.93	7.18	40.1
1981	325.95	8.02	40.6	336.37	8.23	40.9	316.08	7.81	40.5
1982	345.72	8.60	40.2	353.98	8.77	40.4	337.89	8.45	40.0
1983	374.85	9.21	40.7	385.63	9.27	41.6	365.48	9.16	39.9
<u>1983</u>									
Jan	363.81	9.05	40.2	372.78	9.07	41.1	354.88	9.03	39.3
Feb	350.59	9.13	38.4	356.20	9.11	39.1	345.87	9.15	37.8
Mar	370.27	9.13	40.6	380.64	9.15	41.6	361.78	9.09	39.8
Apr	370.17	9.14	40.5	381.89	9.18	41.6	359.45	9.10	39.5
May	370.58	9.15	40.5	383.05	9.23	41.5	359.06	9.09	39.5
Jun	373.63	9.18	40.7	383.05	9.23	41.5	365.20	9.13	40.0
Jul	375.14	9.24	40.6	384.19	9.28	41.4	366.16	9.20	39.8
Aug	378.53	9.21	41.1	386.98	9.28	41.7	371.79	9.18	40.5
Sep	383.36	9.26	41.4	394.99	9.36	42.2	372.81	9.16	40.7
Oct	383.26	9.28	41.3	397.20	9.39	42.3	369.95	9.18	40.3
Nov	388.54	9.34	41.6	400.87	9.41	42.6	376.36	9.27	40.6
Dec	392.29	9.43	41.6	406.17	9.49	42.8	379.49	9.37	40.5
<u>1984</u>									
Jan	389.34	9.45	41.2	401.43	9.49	42.3	377.88	9.40	40.2
Feb	395.43	9.46	41.8	407.03	9.51	42.8	384.87	9.41	40.9

to 41.3 based on more complete employer sample response and the effects of the employment benchmark adjustments.

The survey also revealed that the average production worker in New Jersey's manufacturing industries earned \$395.43 during February, an increase of \$6.09 from January, and \$44.84, or approximately 13 percent, more than a year ago. Analysts noted that the over-the-year change in earnings was distorted by the fact that a snowstorm caused a sharp drop in the workweek during the survey week in February 1983.

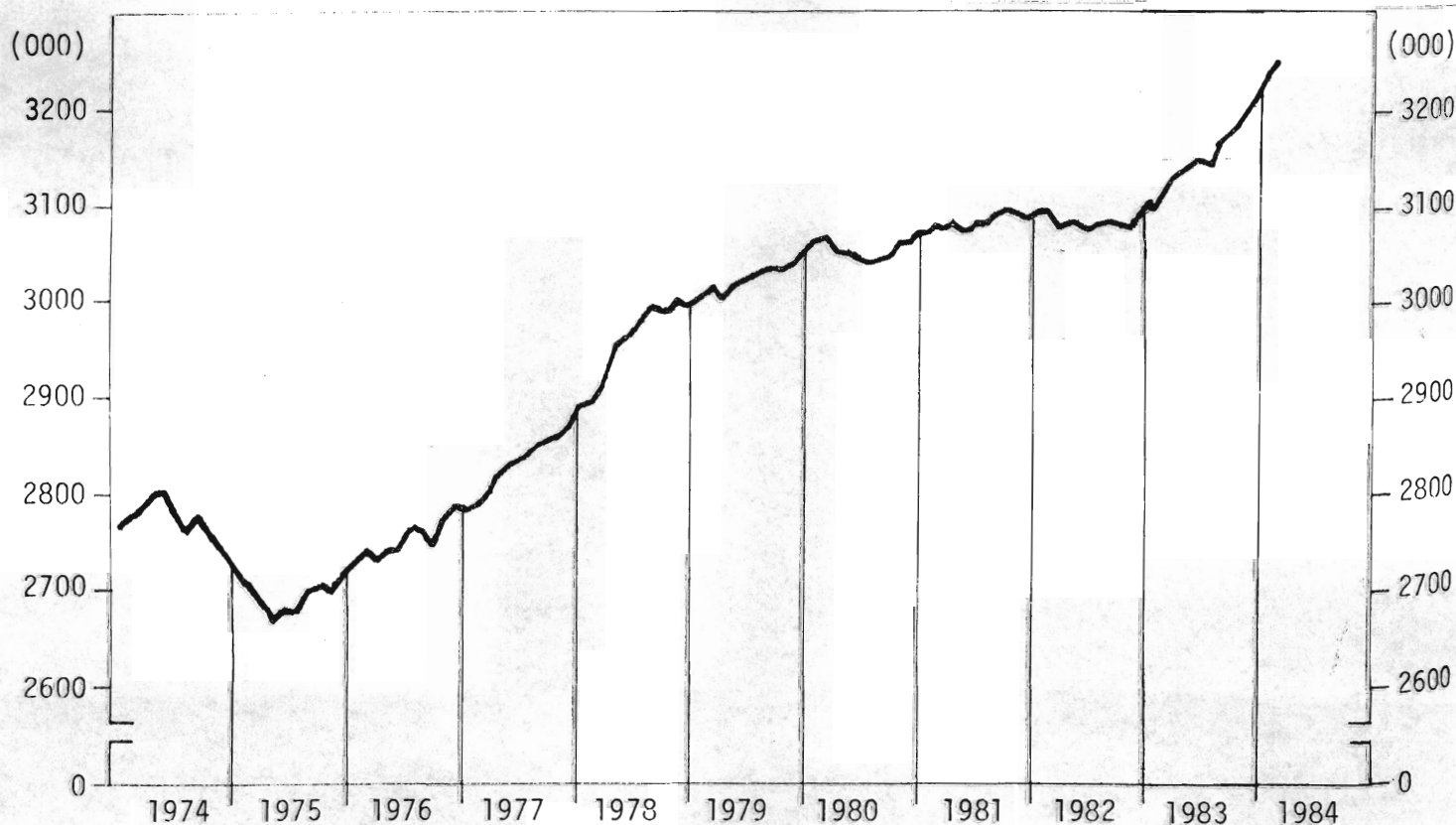
LABOR AREA COMMENTS (Not seasonally adjusted)

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased more than or as much as seasonally expected in four of New Jersey's ten major labor areas, while four areas decreased as much or less than anticipated and two areas remained unchanged during February. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in the New Brunswick-Perth Amboy-Sayreville Labor Area up by 2,300, due primarily to increases in the nonmanufacturing sector. The Hackensack Labor Area recorded the largest over-the-month decrease, down by 800, with all of the decline concentrated in nonmanufacturing. The Trenton and Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton labor areas, which would usually be expected to decrease, remained unchanged over-the-month.

Note:

Seasonally adjusted employment estimates previously published for January 1984 have been revised upward by 59,700 from estimates in last month's release. A major reason for this difference is that all series, which are based on a monthly sample of about 7,600 employers, are revised once a year to a universe count of employment or a benchmark. The employment data in this release have been revised to a 1983 benchmark. The estimates also differ because of new seasonal factors which incorporate the experience of 1983 and because of additional sample response.

NEW JERSEY NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT
Seasonally Adjusted



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0056

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TECHNICAL NOTES

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers in households. Salaried officers of corporations are included. Government employment covers only civilian employees; federal military personnel are excluded.

Persons on an establishment payroll who are on paid sick leave (when pay is received directly from the firm), on paid holiday or paid vacation, or who work during any part of the pay period but are unemployed or on strike during the rest of the period, are counted as employed. Not counted as employed are persons who, during the pay period which includes the 12th, are laid off, on leave without pay or on strike for the entire period, or who are hired but do not work during the period.

Average Hours and Earnings

Hours and earnings data are derived from reports of payroll and man-hours for production and related workers in manufacturing. When the reported pay period exceeds one week, the payroll and man-hour figures are reduced to a weekly basis.

Average hourly earnings for manufacturing are on a "gross" basis, reflecting not only changes in basic hourly rates, but also such variable factors as premium pay for overtime and shift work, and changes in output of workers paid on an incentive plan. Excluded from average earnings are irregular bonuses, retroactive items, payments of various welfare benefits, and payroll taxes paid by employers.

NOTE: 13-month tables unavailable at time of printing.