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4.0%

Mar-11-19 Garden State Employment Increases in January NJ Unemployment

Rate Equals Nation at 4.0%



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TRENTON – New Jersey employers added to their payrolls in January, while the state’s unemployment rate rose slightly by 0.1 percent to equal the national rate of 4.0 percent, according to data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, previously released estimates for 2018 underwent annual benchmark revisions and were also released.

Preliminary nonfarm wage and salary estimates for January 2019 show an increase in total nonfarm employment by 17,800 jobs over the month, reaching a seasonally adjusted level of 4,196,900. All of the gain was recorded in the private sector of the state’s economy (+19,900).

Industry sectors that recorded over-the-month job gains for January included leisure and hospitality (+8,100), professional and business services (+7,900), education and health services (+3,500), construction (+1,900), trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,500), and information (+700). Sectors that recorded a job loss include other services (-1,500), financial activities (-1,300), and manufacturing (-900). Government employment was lower by 2,100 over the month.

BENCHMARK REVISIONS FOR 2018

The BLS’s benchmark process, a required annual review and adjustment of previously released employment data at the state and metropolitan area levels, re-anchors monthly, sample-based survey estimates to full-universe counts of employment, primarily derived from records of the unemployment insurance tax system.

The results of the latest annual benchmarking adjustment process, conducted by BLS each year at this time for all states, indicate a slower rate of job growth in 2018 than previously released. After benchmark revisions, 2018

still marks the eighth consecutive year of annual job growth in New Jersey, however the over-the-year change in total nonfarm jobs was revised to show a gain of 39,400 jobs, lower than the previously reported gain of 61,900.

The revised data show that over the December 2017 – December 2018 period, seven of nine major private industry sectors of the New Jersey economy added jobs. Job gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality (+12,700), education and health services (+11,900), trade, transportation, and utilities (+4,900), other services (+4,600), construction (+4,200), manufacturing (+3,200), and professional and business services (+200). Sectors that recorded job losses over the year include the information (-2,800) and financial activities (-2,400) sectors. Government employment was higher by 2,900 jobs.

New Jersey's unemployment rate was also revised as part of the benchmark process, with the annual average unemployment rate for 2018 revised to 4.1 percent. In comparison, New Jersey's annual average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in 2017.

Preliminary BLS data for February 2019 will be released on March 21, 2019.

[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 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.

Effective with the release of January 2018 estimates, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program has converted to concurrent seasonal adjustment, which uses all available estimates, including those for the current month, in developing seasonal factors. Previously, the CES program developed seasonal factors once a year during the annual benchmark process. For more information on concurrent seasonal adjustment in the CES State and Area program, see www.bls.gov/sae/saeconcurrent.htm.

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