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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
Labor & Workforce Development
NEWS RELEASE

New Jersey Employers Added 12,600 Jobs in February
Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.4 Percent, Lowest Rate Since October 2007

TRENTON, March 23, 2017 – New Jersey employment grew by 12,600 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to a 10-year low of 4.4 percent in February, according to preliminary data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). January's preliminary private sector job growth estimate of 14,600 was also revised higher by 1,300 nonfarm jobs, resulting in an over-the-month gain of 15,900 jobs, based on more complete reporting from employers.

"The Garden State economy is steaming forward with private-sector job growth well above 10,000 for the second month in a row. The unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent and is now well below the national rate of 4.7 percent. And, for yet another month, New Jersey's private sector growth outpaced the national rate," said James Wooster, Chief Economist for the New Jersey Department of the Treasury.

The majority of the job gain in February occurred in the private sector (+12,300) of the state's economy. Looking at the longer term, New Jersey's private-sector employers have added 77,700 jobs over the past year (February 2016 – February 2017). Since February 2010, the recessionary low point, private-sector employment in the Garden State has increased by 326,700 jobs.

In February, private-sector job growth was widespread, with all nine major industry sectors adding jobs. Industries that recorded employment gains include: manufacturing (+2,400), construction (+2,400), trade, transportation, and utilities (1,900), financial activities (+1,600), education and health services (+1,400), information (+1,100), other services (+800), professional and business services (+400), and leisure and hospitality (+300). Over the month, public-sector employment was higher by 300 jobs.

Preliminary BLS data for March 2017 will be released on April 20, 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

Labor Force Data (resident)					
	Current Month	**Previous Month**	**One Year Ago**	**Net Change**	**Net Change**
	Feb. 17 (P)	**Jan. 17 (R)**	**Feb. 16**	**over the Month**	**over the Year**
Civilian Labor Force	4,523,000	4,514,300	4,517,400	8,700	5,600
Employment	4,321,900	4,308,600	4,289,900	13,300	32,000
Unemployment	201,100	205,800	227,500	-4,700	-26,400
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.6
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	**Previous Month**	**One Year Ago**	**Net Change**	**Net Change**
	Feb. 17 (P)	**Jan. 17 (R)**	**Feb. 16**	**over the Month**	**over the Year**
Total Nonfarm	4,130,200	4,117,600	4,056,500	12,600	73,700
Total Private Sector	3,520,500	3,508,200	3,442,800	12,300	77,700
Goods Producing	404,400	399,600	397,600	4,800	6,800
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Construction	157,500	155,100	154,400	2,400	3,100
Manufacturing	245,500	243,100	241,800	2,400	3,700
Service-Providing	3,725,800	3,718,000	3,658,900	7,800	66,900
Private Service-Providing	3,116,100	3,108,600	3,045,200	7,500	70,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	878,400	876,500	860,800	1,900	17,600
Information	73,700	72,600	74,000	1,100	-300
Financial Activities	252,200	250,600	247,100	1,600	5,100
Professional and Business Services	675,700	675,300	656,300	400	19,400
Education and Health Services	687,300	685,900	669,200	1,400	18,100
Leisure and Hospitality	378,100	377,800	367,500	300	10,600
Other Services	170,700	169,900	170,300	800	400
Public Sector	609,700	609,400	613,700	300	-4,000
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	11,800	7,300	4,500	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	12,600	8,300	4,300	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	37.6	38.4	39.8	-0.8	-2.2
Durable Goods	37.6	37.7	40.0	-0.1	-2.4
Nondurable Goods	37.6	38.9	39.6	-1.3	-2.0
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	$22.10	$22.52	$20.61	-$0.42	$1.49
Durable Goods	$25.54	$26.64	$24.77	-$1.10	$0.77
Nondurable Goods	$19.30	$19.27	$16.97	$0.03	$2.33
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	$830.96	$864.77	$820.28	-$33.81	$10.68
Durable Goods	$960.30	$1,004.33	$990.80	-$44.03	-$30.50
Nondurable Goods	$725.68	$749.60	$672.01	-$23.92	$53.67

March 23, 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.

Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends

2016 Benchmark

	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Feb. 17 (P)	**Jan. 17 (R)**	**Feb. 16**	**Feb. 17 (P)**	**Jan. 17 (R)**	**Feb. 16**
Civilian Labor Force	4,517,100	4,487,300	4,523,000	4,523,000	4,514,300	4,517,400
Resident Employment	4,296,900	4,274,000	4,281,100	4,321,900	4,308,600	4,289,900
Unemployment	220,200	213,400	241,900	201,100	205,800	227,500
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	4.8	5.3	4.4	4.6	5.0
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.5	63.1	63.9	63.6	63.5	63.8
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	60.4	60.1	60.5	60.8	60.6	60.6

New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1996 - 2016

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)
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

Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2015-2016

Date	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate %
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 (R)	4,514,300	4,308,600	205,800	4.6
Feb (P)	4,523,000	4,321,900	201,100	4.4
Mar				
Apr				
May				
Jun				
Jul				
Aug				
Sep				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

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

March 23, 2017. P - preliminary, R-revised.

Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for February 2017 Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2016 Benchmark				
Industry	Current Month Feb. 17 (P)	Previous Month Jan. 17 (R)	One Year Ago Feb. 16	Net Change over the Year
Total Nonfarm	**4,039,000**	**4,019,400**	**3,971,300**	**67,700**
Total Private Sector	3,418,800	3,413,900	3,349,700	69,100
Goods Producing	387,900	385,500	381,300	6,600
Mining & Logging	**1,300**	**1,300**	**1,300**	**0**
Construction	**143,900**	**143,200**	**140,300**	**3,600**
Manufacturing	**242,700**	**241,000**	**239,700**	**3,000**
Durable Goods*	110,200	109,400	109,200	1,000
Fabricated Metal Products	20,400	20,200	20,300	100
Machinery Manufacturing	13,500	13,400	13,700	-200
Computer and Electronic Products	22,600	22,500	22,900	-300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	17,800	17,800	17,900	-100
Nondurable Goods*	132,500	131,600	130,500	2,000
Food Manufacturing	33,700	33,500	32,600	1,100
Paper Manufacturing	9,500	9,600	9,900	-400
Printing and Related Support	14,600	14,600	14,500	100
Chemical Manufacturing	44,600	44,000	43,500	1,100
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	23,600	23,300	22,700	900
Service-Providing	3,651,100	3,633,900	3,590,000	61,100
Private Service-Providing	3,030,900	3,028,400	2,968,400	62,500
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**859,700**	**870,100**	**843,900**	**15,800**
Wholesale Trade*	211,900	213,200	213,200	-1,300
Retail Trade*	453,000	462,000	448,100	4,900
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	32,100	32,000	30,000	2,100
Food and Beverage Stores	109,300	110,600	110,400	-1,100
Health and Personal Care Stores	38,000	38,100	36,200	1,800
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	51,200	53,300	48,800	2,400
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	15,700	16,500	16,600	-900
General Merchandise Stores	75,200	79,800	73,600	1,600
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	194,800	194,900	182,600	12,200
Utilities*	14,000	14,000	14,000	0
Transportation & Warehousing*	180,800	180,900	168,600	12,200
Information	**72,600**	**72,300**	**73,100**	**-500**
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	18,300	18,100	18,300	0
Telecommunications	28,300	28,300	29,600	-1,300
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Proc. Srvs.	9,900	9,800	9,600	300
Financial Activities	**249,700**	**249,000**	**244,100**	**5,600**
Finance and Insurance*	193,600	192,700	188,900	4,700
Financial Investments and Related Activities	40,100	40,300	39,600	500
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	82,300	81,100	81,900	400
Real Estate and Rental/Leasing*	56,100	56,300	55,200	900
Professional and Business Services	**650,600**	**648,300**	**637,400**	**13,200**
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	300,100	299,500	298,100	2,000
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	80,400	81,000	80,400	0
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	270,100	267,800	258,900	11,200
Education, Health and Social Assistance Services	**688,300**	**681,600**	**668,400**	**19,900**
Educational Services*	110,300	102,900	103,700	6,600
Health Care and Social Assistance*	578,000	578,700	564,700	13,300
Hospitals	162,300	162,300	159,200	3,100
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	96,500	96,700	94,000	2,500
Social Assistance	88,600	87,500	87,000	1,600
Leisure and Hospitality	**342,700**	**340,600**	**334,600**	**8,100**
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation*	50,100	49,900	49,600	500
Accommodation and Food Services*	292,600	290,700	285,000	7,600
Food Services and Drinking Places	248,600	247,200	239,900	8,700
Other Services	**167,300**	**166,500**	**166,900**	**400**
Repair and Maintenance	34,100	33,400	33,300	800
Personal and Laundry Services	60,100	59,000	58,200	1,900
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	73,100	74,100	75,400	-2,300
Government	**620,200**	**605,500**	**621,600**	**-1,400**

March 23, 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.

Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment 2016 Benchmark						
Annual Averages						
	Total	**Private Sector**				**Public**
Year		**Total**	**Manufacturing**	**Construction**	**Service-Providing**	
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
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2016						
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
2017						
Jan (R)	4,117,600	3,508,200	243,100	155,100	3,108,600	609,400
Feb (P)	4,130,200	3,520,500	245,500	157,500	3,116,100	609,700
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

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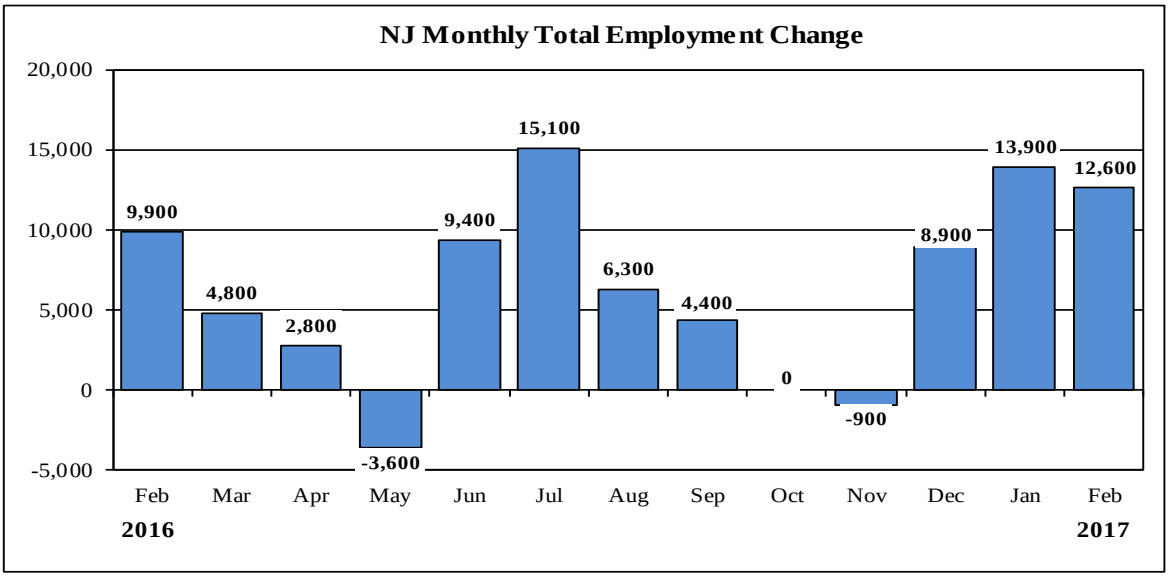
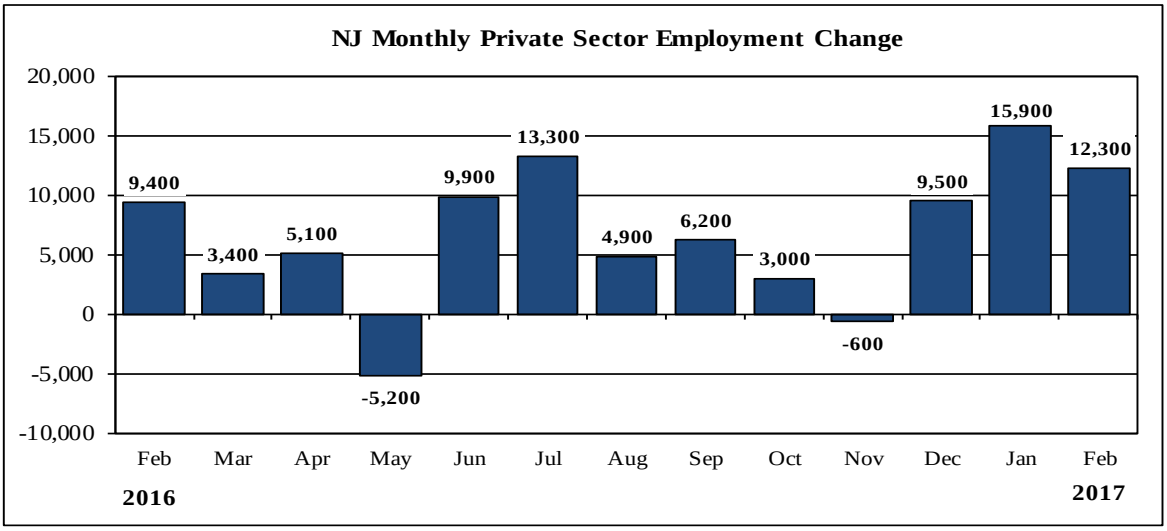
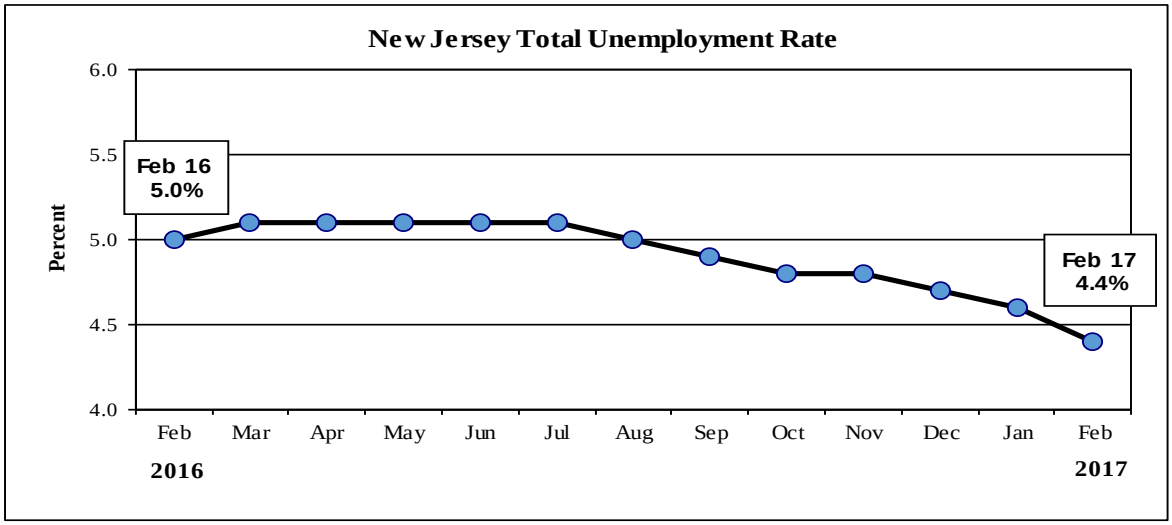
Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

Key Economic Indicators: February 2017

(Seasonally Adjusted)







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