



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LWD

[LWD Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2008](#) > Sep-17-08 Employment Declined in August Unemployment Rate Increased to 5.9 Percent

## Sep-17-08 Employment Declined in August Unemployment Rate Increased to 5.9 Percent

- [2008 News Releases](#)
- [2007 News Releases](#)
- [2006 News Releases](#)
- [2005 News Releases](#)
- [2004 News Releases](#)
- [2003 News Releases](#)
- [2002 News Releases](#)

**Contact:****Marcela Ospina**

TEL: 609.292.0306

FAX: 609.777.3634

- News Release -

**Contact:****Kevin Smith**

TEL: 609.984.2841

FAX: 609.777.3634

**TRENTON, September 17, 2008**—National economic conditions continued to take a toll on New Jersey's job market in August as employers pared payrolls and the state's unemployment rate moved higher.

Increasing numbers of New Jerseyans entered an already tight labor market in August, driving the state's unemployment rate up by 0.5 percentage point to a five-year high of 5.9 percent. The New Jersey rate remained below the national rate which also hit a five-year high of 6.1 percent.

According to preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers, nonfarm wage and salary employment in the Garden State decreased by 2,200 in August to a total of 4,066,600. The majority of the job contraction occurred in the public sector which fell by 1,500 while private sector jobholding decreased by 700. Based on more complete reporting, the previously released July estimate was revised higher by 300 to reflect a June-to-July gain of 100 jobs.

"New Jersey's employment situation was consistent with the national economic downturn, with job losses during the first eight months of this year," said New Jersey Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "Over the month, New Jersey's private sector held relatively steady, while three-quarters of the statewide decline in employment came from a reduction of 1,700 state government jobs, largely as a result of state workers opting to accept an early retirement buy-out before the August 1, 2008 deadline," Socolow said.

In the public sector, declining payrolls at the state (-1,700) and federal (-200) levels were partially offset by a rise in local employment (+400). Local government employment consists of county and municipal employees.

Over the first eight months of 2008, New Jersey's employment picture has mirrored the national trend; the state's total nonfarm employment has declined by 0.39 percent (16,000 jobs) whereas the nation's employment dropped by 0.44 percent (605,000 jobs).

August job gains occurred in information (+700) and education and health services (+600). Advances in the telecommunications industry helped move employment higher in information while hiring in the

health care and social services component (+800) was responsible for the gain in education and health services. Smaller over-the-month gains were realized in trade, transportation and utilities (+100) and construction (+100).

The majority of private sector job losses were in two industry supersectors: professional and business services (-1,000) and leisure and hospitality (-900). The decline in professional and business services was due to cutbacks in the professional, scientific and technical services component which was lower by 1,400. Leisure and hospitality employment fell for the fourth consecutive month and may be reflective of consumers pulling back on discretionary spending in light of higher prices for necessities such as food and energy. Small losses were recorded in manufacturing (-200) and financial activities (-100) over the month.

Over the month, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing workers decreased by 0.1 hours to 41.7 hours, average hourly earnings rose by \$0.05 to \$17.89 and weekly earnings were up by \$0.30 to \$746.01. Compared with August of last year, the unadjusted workweek was up by 1.7 hours, average hourly earnings rose by \$0.40 and weekly earnings were higher by \$46.41.

[Press Release Tables](#)

--30--

---

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal employment opportunity employer and provides equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to assist individuals with disabilities.

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 2007

Department of Labor and Workforce Development: 1 John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 110 Trenton, NJ 08625-0110

Email: [Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us)

---

**Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey**  
**Seasonally Adjusted (thousands)**  
**2007 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>August 08 (P)</b>	<b>July 08 (R)</b>	<b>August 07</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
Civilian Labor Force	4,524.5	4,505.6	4,462.0	18.9	62.5
Employment	4,257.9	4,260.1	4,274.2	-2.2	-16.3
Unemployment	266.6	245.5	187.7	21.1	78.9
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.4%	4.2%	+0.5 pt	+1.7 pt
<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>August 08 (P)</b>	<b>July 08 (R)</b>	<b>August 07</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	4,066.6	4,068.8	4,073.4	-2.2	-6.8
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	3,419.2	3,419.9	3,426.4	-0.7	-7.2
<b>Goods Producing</b>	470.6	470.7	485.1	-0.1	-14.5
Natural Resources and Mining	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	167.0	166.9	171.6	0.1	-4.6
Manufacturing	301.9	302.1	311.8	-0.2	-9.9
<b>Service-Providing</b>	3,596.0	3,598.1	3,588.3	-2.1	7.7
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	2,948.6	2,949.2	2,941.3	-0.6	7.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	873.0	872.9	877.2	0.1	-4.2
Information	99.4	98.7	98.7	0.7	0.7
Financial Activities	266.2	266.3	274.1	-0.1	-7.9
Professional and Business Services	615.4	616.4	610.8	-1.0	4.6
Education and Health Services	590.9	590.3	578.8	0.6	12.1
Leisure and Hospitality	337.6	338.5	337.7	-0.9	-0.1
Other Services	166.1	166.1	164.0	0.0	2.1
<b>Public Sector</b>	647.4	648.9	647.0	-1.5	0.4
<b>Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)</b>					
Manufacturing	41.7	41.8	40.0	-0.1	1.7
Durables	42.1	42.5	40.9	-0.4	1.2
Nondurables	41.3	41.2	39.3	0.1	2.0
Information	34.3	34.5	35.7	-0.2	-1.4
<b>Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)</b>					
Manufacturing	\$17.89	\$17.84	\$17.49	\$0.05	\$0.40
Durables	\$19.87	\$19.68	\$19.19	\$0.19	\$0.68
Nondurables	\$16.20	\$16.24	\$16.07	-\$0.04	\$0.13
Information	\$31.49	\$31.53	\$31.62	-\$0.04	-\$0.13
<b>Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*</b>					
Manufacturing	\$746.01	\$745.71	\$699.60	\$0.30	\$46.41
Durable Goods	\$836.53	\$836.40	\$784.87	\$0.13	\$51.66
Nondurable Goods	\$669.06	\$669.09	\$631.55	-\$0.03	\$37.51
Information	\$1,080.11	\$1,087.79	\$1,128.83	-\$7.68	-\$48.72

September 17, 2008 P - preliminary, R-revised.

\* 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 Labor Market and Demographic Research.

**Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends (thousands)****2007 Benchmark**

	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	August 08 (P)	July 08 (R)	August 07	August 08 (P)	July 08 (R)	August 07
Civilian Labor Force	4,562.0	4,582.2	4,475.2	4,524.5	4,505.6	4,462.0
Resident Employment	4,300.7	4,314.2	4,292.8	4,257.9	4,260.1	4,274.2
Unemployment	261.3	268.0	182.5	266.6	245.5	187.7
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.8%	4.1%	5.9%	5.4%	4.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.1%	67.4%	66.3%	66.5%	66.3%	66.1%
Employment/Population Ratio	63.2%	63.5%	63.6%	62.6%	62.7%	63.3%

**New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1990 - 2007**

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment Volume	Unemployment Rate (%)
1990	4,072.5	3,865.0	207.5	5.1
1991	4,050.4	3,776.6	273.7	6.8
1992	4,051.9	3,709.5	342.4	8.5
1993	4,034.6	3,727.3	307.3	7.6
1994	4,067.5	3,790.0	277.5	6.8
1995	4,111.8	3,846.3	265.5	6.5
1996	4,184.1	3,925.8	258.3	6.2
1997	4,257.4	4,031.0	226.4	5.3
1998	4,242.4	4,047.1	195.3	4.6
1999	4,284.6	4,092.7	191.8	4.5
2000	4,287.8	4,130.3	157.5	3.7
2001	4,302.3	4,117.5	184.8	4.3
2002	4,370.8	4,117.3	253.5	5.8
2003	4,363.9	4,108.4	255.5	5.9
2004	4,373.0	4,157.5	215.5	4.9
2005	4,431.6	4,232.9	198.7	4.5
2006	4,492.8	4,283.6	209.2	4.7
2007	4,466.3	4,276.6	189.7	4.2

**Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey (thousands) 2007-2008**

Date	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment Volume	Unemployment Rate %
Jan 2007	4,477.1	4,285.3	191.8	4.3
Feb	4,474.0	4,281.4	192.6	4.3
Mar	4,469.0	4,275.5	193.6	4.3
Apr	4,468.1	4,275.0	193.1	4.3
May	4,466.1	4,275.8	190.3	4.3
Jun	4,467.6	4,278.4	189.3	4.2
Jul	4,463.7	4,274.3	189.4	4.2
Aug	4,462.0	4,274.2	187.7	4.2
Sep	4,461.0	4,273.8	187.2	4.2
Oct	4,460.3	4,274.8	185.5	4.2
Nov	4,462.6	4,274.6	188.1	4.2
Dec	4,463.8	4,275.8	188.0	4.2
Jan 2008	4,491.2	4,287.1	204.1	4.5
Feb	4,507.7	4,291.3	216.3	4.8
Mar	4,495.3	4,278.2	217.1	4.8
Apr	4,511.9	4,288.6	223.3	4.9
May	4,516.8	4,273.9	242.9	5.4
Jun	4,505.0	4,267.4	237.6	5.3
Jul (R)	4,505.6	4,260.1	245.5	5.4
Aug (P)	4,524.5	4,257.9	266.6	5.9
Sep				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research.  
September 17, 2008. P - preliminary, R - revised.

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for August 2008**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted (thousands) 2007 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	August 08 (P)	July 08 (R)	August 07	over the Year
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,066.2</b>	<b>4,089.0</b>	<b>4,079.4</b>	<b>-13.2</b>
Total Private Sector	3,455.9	3,465.0	3,468.0	-12.1
Goods Producing	478.3	477.5	493.6	-15.3
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>174.5</b>	<b>173.5</b>	<b>179.3</b>	<b>-4.8</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>302.1</b>	<b>302.3</b>	<b>312.6</b>	<b>-10.5</b>
Durable Goods	132.8	132.9	138.2	-5.4
Fabricated Metal Products	26.7	26.7	26.9	-0.2
Machinery Manufacturing	16.4	16.5	16.6	-0.2
Computer and Electronic Products	30.5	30.5	30.5	0.0
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	5.9	5.9	6.4	-0.5
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19.4	19.5	20.0	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	169.3	169.4	174.4	-5.1
Food Manufacturing	29.3	29.0	29.5	-0.2
Paper Manufacturing	13.1	13.3	13.8	-0.7
Printing and Related Support	20.6	20.9	22.3	-1.7
Chemical Manufacturing	70.8	71.3	71.5	-0.7
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	42.2	42.7	42.8	-0.6
Service-Providing	3,587.9	3,611.5	3,585.8	2.1
Private Service-Providing	2,977.6	2,987.5	2,974.4	3.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>868.6</b>	<b>871.4</b>	<b>872.6</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
Wholesale Trade*	232.3	232.7	233.5	-1.2
Retail Trade*	465.1	466.2	469.0	-3.9
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	35.7	36.2	36.5	-0.8
Food and Beverage Stores	111.5	112.0	111.3	0.2
Health and Personal Care Stores	38.3	38.4	39.1	-0.8
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	60.4	60.0	60.7	-0.3
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book and Music Stores	21.9	22.0	22.8	-0.9
General Merchandise Stores	64.8	64.5	65.7	-0.9
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	171.2	172.5	170.1	1.1
Utilities*	13.9	14.0	13.6	0.3
Transportation & Warehousing*	157.3	158.5	156.5	0.8
<b>Information</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	28.3	28.4	29.0	-0.7
Telecommunications	41.9	41.5	40.6	1.3
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Processing Svcs.	11.5	11.5	11.6	-0.1

(continued)

(continued)

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for August 2008**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted (thousands) 2007 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	August 08 (P)	July 08 (R)	August 07	over the Year
<b>Information</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	28.3	28.4	29.0	-0.7
Telecommunications	41.9	41.5	40.6	1.3
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Processing Svcs.	11.5	11.5	11.6	-0.1
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>268.4</b>	<b>268.8</b>	<b>277.9</b>	<b>-9.5</b>
Finance and Insurance*	209.4	210.1	217.0	-7.6
Securities, Commodity Contracts and Other Fin. Investments	53.8	53.9	54.9	-1.1
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	82.3	82.4	83.5	-1.2
Real Estate and Rental/Leasing*	59.0	58.7	60.9	-1.9
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>624.2</b>	<b>623.5</b>	<b>620.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	290.4	291.8	287.4	3.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	66.4	66.2	67.3	-0.9
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	267.4	265.5	265.5	1.9
<b>Education, Health and Social Assistance Services</b>	<b>582.7</b>	<b>586.3</b>	<b>570.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Educational Services*	83.2	85.9	82.2	1.0
Health Care and Social Assistance*	499.5	500.4	488.2	11.3
Hospitals	156.7	156.3	155.1	1.6
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	84.4	84.3	81.5	2.9
Social Assistance	74.9	76.1	72.6	2.3
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>365.7</b>	<b>369.5</b>	<b>368.3</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation*	64.9	66.5	67.0	-2.1
Accommodation and Food Services*	300.8	303.0	301.3	-0.5
Food Services and Drinking Places	229.2	230.8	228.8	0.4
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>169.3</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Repair and Maintenance	37.7	37.8	37.3	0.4
Personal and Laundry Services	51.4	51.4	49.6	1.8
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	79.3	80.1	78.9	0.4
<b>Government</b>	<b>610.3</b>	<b>624.0</b>	<b>611.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

September 17, 2008 P - preliminary, R-revised.

Shaded rows denote supersector series, \* denote sector series.

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

<b>Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment (in thousands) 2007 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>	
1990	3,635.1	3,058.4	529.5	147.7	2,378.1	576.7
1991	3,498.7	2,927.1	498.3	122.6	2,303.7	571.6
1992	3,457.9	2,886.0	474.1	112.1	2,297.5	571.9
1993	3,493.0	2,922.3	462.9	116.3	2,340.8	570.7
1994	3,552.8	2,979.4	456.0	121.7	2,399.3	573.4
1995	3,600.6	3,027.2	448.6	123.3	2,452.9	573.4
1996	3,638.9	3,068.3	437.4	125.0	2,503.8	570.6
1997	3,724.5	3,154.3	435.4	131.8	2,584.8	570.3
1998	3,801.3	3,229.6	429.4	136.1	2,661.8	571.7
1999	3,901.1	3,323.5	422.5	143.6	2,755.3	577.6
2000	3,994.5	3,405.7	421.6	149.6	2,832.6	588.9
2001	3,997.2	3,394.6	401.2	158.8	2,832.8	602.6
2002	3,983.9	3,370.4	367.5	162.6	2,838.8	613.5
2003	3,978.8	3,356.9	350.4	160.5	2,844.5	621.9
2004	3,999.1	3,365.7	338.2	165.9	2,860.0	633.4
2005	4,039.1	3,397.5	330.4	169.1	2,896.3	641.6
2006	4,071.0	3,423.7	323.9	175.0	2,923.1	647.3
2007	4,073.8	3,425.6	312.9	171.5	2,939.6	648.3
<b>Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data</b>						
<b>2007</b>						
Jan	4,071.9	3,423.1	317.3	173.2	2,931.0	648.8
Feb	4,066.3	3,418.2	315.8	170.8	2,930.1	648.1
Mar	4,067.2	3,418.9	314.6	171.0	2,931.7	648.3
Apr	4,067.3	3,419.1	314.0	171.1	2,932.4	648.2
May	4,077.0	3,427.7	313.2	172.0	2,940.8	649.3
Jun	4,083.2	3,433.3	312.7	173.2	2,945.7	649.9
Jul	4,074.8	3,427.6	312.7	171.7	2,941.5	647.2
Aug	4,073.4	3,426.4	311.8	171.6	2,941.3	647.0
Sep	4,070.1	3,423.5	311.1	171.0	2,939.7	646.6
Oct	4,073.8	3,426.6	310.6	171.0	2,943.3	647.2
Nov	4,076.0	3,427.6	309.9	170.8	2,945.3	648.4
Dec	4,082.6	3,433.8	309.7	170.1	2,952.4	648.8
<b>2008</b>						
Jan	4,074.0	3,425.5	309.7	169.3	2,944.9	648.5
Feb	4,071.9	3,423.0	308.7	168.9	3,592.8	648.9
Mar	4,071.7	3,422.9	308.3	168.0	2,945.0	648.8
Apr	4,071.6	3,423.0	306.9	166.9	2,947.5	648.6
May	4,072.6	3,423.6	304.6	167.3	2,950.0	649.0
Jun	4,068.7	3,419.4	301.9	166.8	2,949.0	649.3
Jul (P)	4,068.8	3,419.9	302.1	166.9	2,949.2	648.9
Aug (P)	4,066.6	3,419.2	301.9	167.0	2,948.6	647.4
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

September 17, 2008 P - preliminary, R-revised.

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

## Key Economic Indicators: August 2008 Seasonally Adjusted

