

Regional Focus: South Jersey

Data and analysis for the Atlantic City-Hammonton, Camden, Ocean City, and Vineland-Bridgeton labor areas

(Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Cape May, and Cumberland counties)

Regional Employment Rises Over the Year

The Southern Region's not seasonally adjusted level of nonfarm payroll employment totaled an estimated 783,100 in December 2017, representing an increase of 11,500 jobs or 1.5 percent, from the same month one year ago. In comparison, New Jersey employers added 25,200 jobs (0.6%) to reach a total of 4,166,400.

Within the Southern Region, employment advances occurred in the following sectors: leisure and hospitality (+4,400 or +4.8%), education and health services (+3,300 or +2.5%), trade, transportation and utilities (TTU, +2,100 or +1.2%), manufacturing (+2,000 or +4.1%), and professional and business services (+200 or +0.2%).

The largest regional job contraction occurred in financial activities, which was down by 1,500 jobs or -4.2 percent from the same month a year ago. Construction (-700 or -2.3%), other services (-200 or -0.8%) and information (-100 or -1.2%) were down over the year. Government payrolls remained unchanged.

At the statewide level, sectors that experienced significant not seasonally adjusted employment gains since December 2016 included leisure and hospitality (+12,900 or +3.6%), education and health services (+11,600 or +1.7%), manufacturing (+7,900 or +3.3%), and construction (+3,100 or +2.0%). Much of the gain in leisure and hospitality occurred in restaurants which added 5,100 jobs (+2.4%). Within the education and health services sector, ambulatory health care services added 7,300 jobs.

Sectors which were down over the year included government (-2,700 or -0.4%), financial activities (-2,300 or -0.9%), TTU (-1,800 or -0.2%), professional and business services (-1,700 or -0.3%) and information (-1,500 or -2.1%).

Gains Spread Across All of the Region's Labor Areas

All four labor areas within the region added jobs over the year. The smallest labor area, Ocean City (Cape May County), was the fastest-growing with a gain of 5.2 percent or 1,900 jobs while the Camden Labor Area (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties), the region's largest, added the most jobs (+4,500 jobs or +0.8%). Jobholding in the Atlantic City (Atlantic County) Labor Area advanced by 3,500 jobs or 2.7 percent. The Vineland-Bridgeton (Cumberland County, VB) Labor Area recorded an increase of 1,600 jobs or 2.6 percent.

Change in Nonfarm Employment
Dec 2016 - Dec 2017 prelim
(not seasonally adjusted, 2016 benchmark)

| | Region | | State | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Net | % | Net | % |
| Total Nonfarm Employment | 11,500 | 1.5 | 25,200 | 0.6 |
| Private Sector | 11,500 | 1.8 | 27,900 | 0.8 |
| Construction ¹ | -700 | -2.3 | 3,100 | 2.0 |
| Manufacturing ¹ | 2,000 | 4.1 | 7,900 | 3.3 |
| Trade, Trans. & Utilities | 2,100 | 1.2 | -1,800 | -0.2 |
| Information ¹ | -100 | -1.2 | -1,500 | -2.1 |
| Financial Activities ¹ | -1,500 | -4.2 | -2,300 | -0.9 |
| Prof. & Business Svcs. ¹ | 200 | 0.2 | -1,700 | -0.3 |
| Ed. & Health Svcs. | 3,300 | 2.5 | 11,600 | 1.7 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 4,400 | 4.8 | 12,900 | 3.6 |
| Other Services ¹ | -200 | -0.8 | -200 | -0.1 |
| Government | 0.0 | 0.0 | -2,700 | -0.4 |

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

¹Employment does not include data for Cape May County



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The Ocean City Labor Area's total employment level reached 38,600 in December 2017. TTU was the labor area's job growth leader with a gain of 1,200 jobs or 17.1 percent. The addition of 900 jobs in retail trade accounted for much of this gain. Education and health services (+600 or +12.5%) and the goods-producing sectors (+400 or +13.3%) were also up over the year. Accommodations and food services was reduced by 1,400 or 26.4 percent and was a main contributor to a decline of 2,000 jobs in leisure and hospitality (-6.7%).

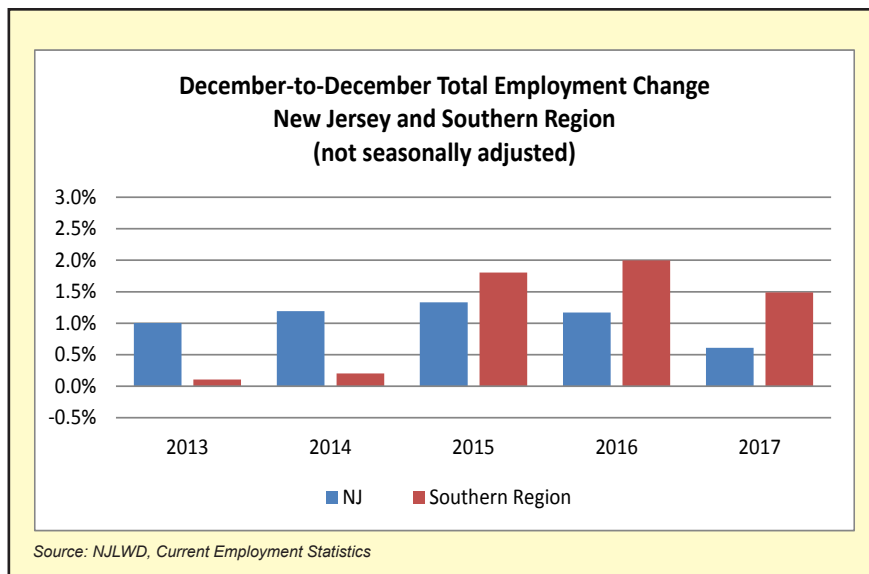
In the Atlantic City Labor Area, payrolls advanced to 133,000 in December 2017. Leisure and hospitality was the area's job growth leader (+4,400 or 12.6%) with much of the gain concentrated in accommodation (+2,700 or +13.1%). TTU was reduced by 1,200 or 5.1 percent with nearly all of the decline occurring in retail trade (-1,200 or -6.8%). Wholesale trade was also lower by 100 jobs. The labor area's jobholding in most remaining sectors was either level or changed little from the same month a year ago.

In the VB Labor Area, the unadjusted total nonfarm employment level rose to 62,300 in December 2017, up from 60,700 in December 2016. Much of the increase occurred in TTU (+1,400 or +9.5%). Education and health services added an estimated 800 workers (+7.5%). Manufacturing was the biggest detractor of area jobs reducing levels by 400 or 4.4 percent.

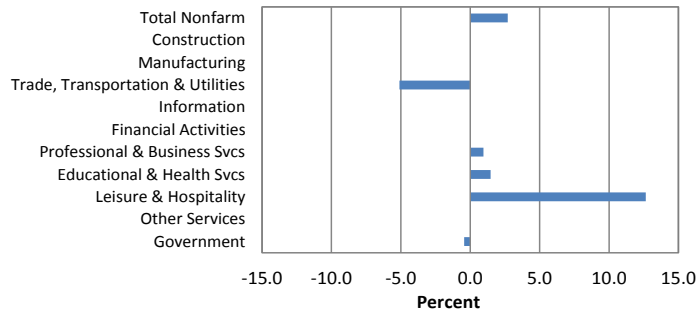
In the Camden Labor Area, total nonfarm payroll rose to 549,200 due to gains in manufacturing (+2,400 or +6.5%), leisure and hospitality (+2,100 or +4.6%), education and health services (+1,600 or +1.7%), and TTU (+700 or +0.6%). Within the leisure and hospitality sector, accommodations and food services added the most jobs (+1,100). Gains in health care and social assistance (+1,500 jobs) boosted employment in education and health services. Financial activities (-1,400 or -4.5%) and construction (-800 or -3.5%) shed the most jobs from the same month a year ago.

| Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted December data, employment in thousands) | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| New Jersey | 3,952.3 | 3,991.9 | 4,039.5 | 4,093.3 | 4,141.2 | 4,166.4 |
| Southern Region | 740.8 | 741.6 | 743.1 | 756.5 | 771.6 | 783.1 |
| Atlantic City-Hammonton Labor Area (Atlantic County) | 135.5 | 135.2 | 128.8 | 129.1 | 129.5 | 133.0 |
| Camden Labor Area (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester counties) | 513.1 | 513.2 | 520.1 | 531.8 | 544.7 | 549.2 |
| Ocean City Labor Area (Cape May County) | 34.5 | 35.3 | 35.9 | 36.6 | 36.7 | 38.6 |
| Vineland-Bridgeton Labor Area (Cumberland County) | 57.7 | 57.9 | 58.3 | 59.0 | 60.7 | 62.3 |

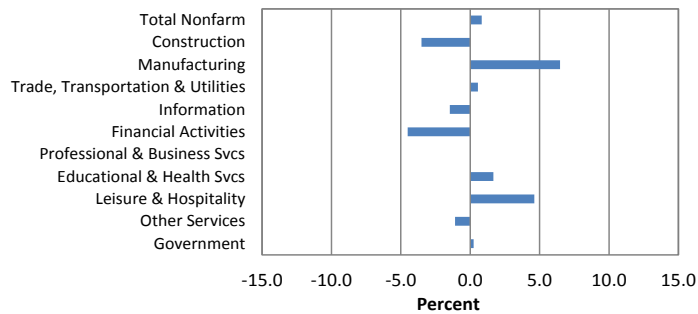
Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



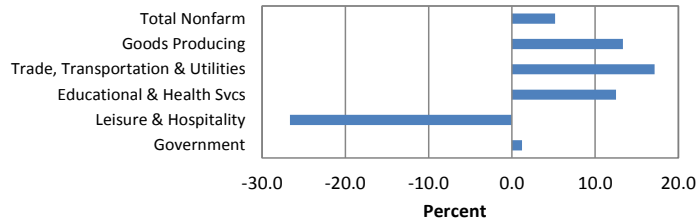
**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Atlantic City Labor Area (not seasonally adjusted)**



**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Camden Labor Area (not seasonally adjusted)**

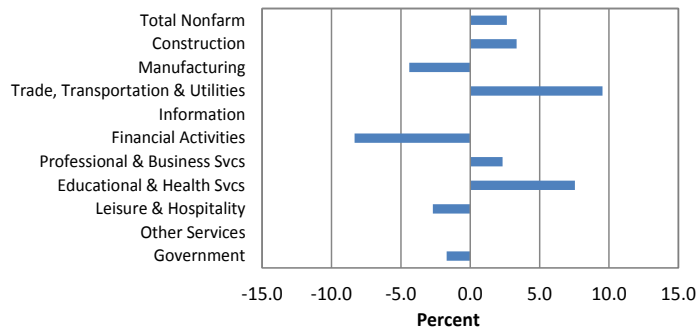


**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Ocean City Labor Area (not seasonally adjusted)**



Note: A complete breakout of employment data by industry is not produced for the Ocean City Labor Area due to guidelines from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

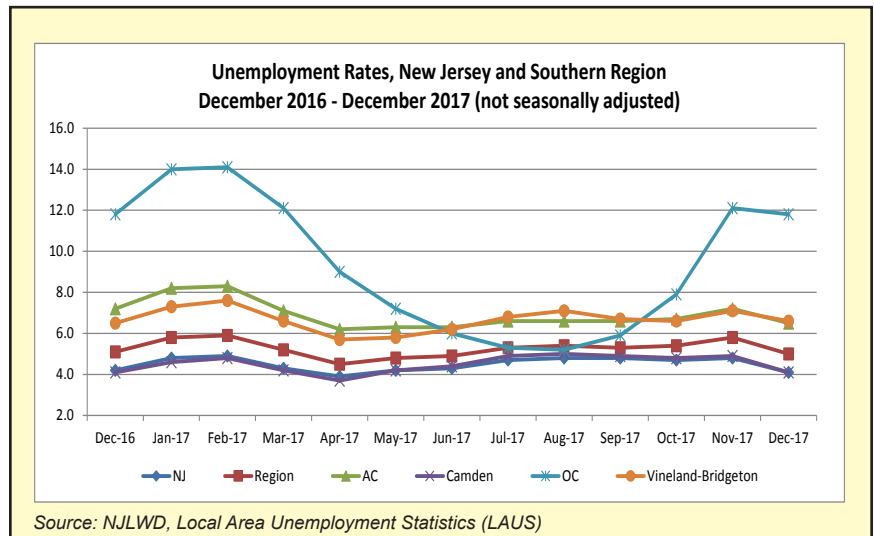
**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Vineland-Bridgeton Labor Area (not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

LABOR FORCE DATA

- The Southern Region's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in December 2017, down by just 0.1 percentage point from December 2016. In comparison, the state's December 2017 unadjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent and was also lower by 0.1 percentage point from the same month a year ago.
- Among the counties, Burlington had the lowest unemployment rate in the Southern Region (3.6%). Cape May County had the highest rate (11.3%). The county's economy is highly seasonal; therefore, unemployment tends to trend up in winter months and downward during the summer tourist season.

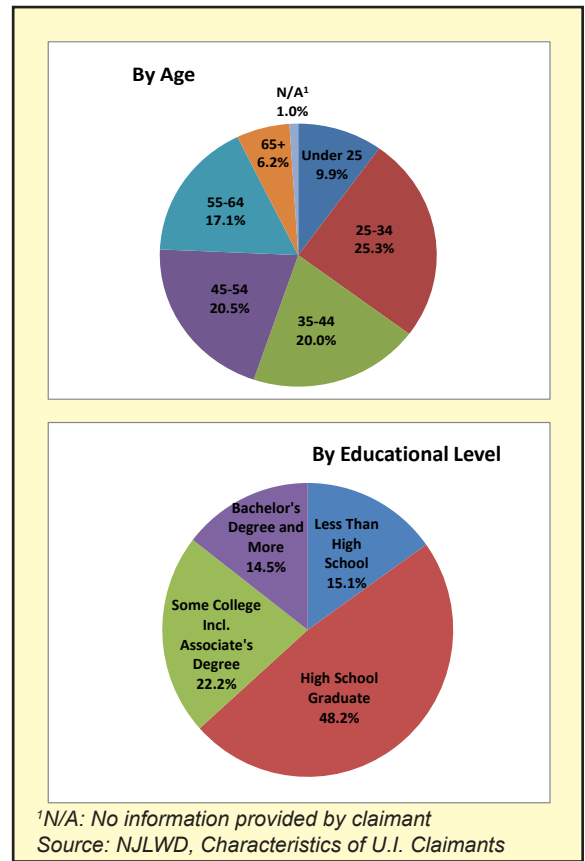


More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED SOUTHERN REGION, FOURTH QUARTER 2017

| CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Management | 2,989 | 6.8 |
| Business and financial | 1,309 | 3.0 |
| Professional and related | 4,071 | 9.3 |
| Services | 10,814 | 24.8 |
| Sales and related | 3,104 | 7.1 |
| Office and administrative support | 5,181 | 11.9 |
| Farming, fishing and forestry | 532 | 1.2 |
| Construction and extraction | 4,944 | 11.3 |
| Installation, maintenance and repair | 1,767 | 4.0 |
| Production | 3,440 | 7.9 |
| Transportation and material moving | 5,351 | 12.3 |
| Military | 134 | 0.3 |

- During the fourth quarter of 2017, there were 43,643 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Southern Region. This represented 27.7 percent of claimants statewide. Regional claims activity was down by 1,143 claims or 2.6 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 3,850 or 2.4 percent since the fourth quarter of 2016.



REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK OCTOBER 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

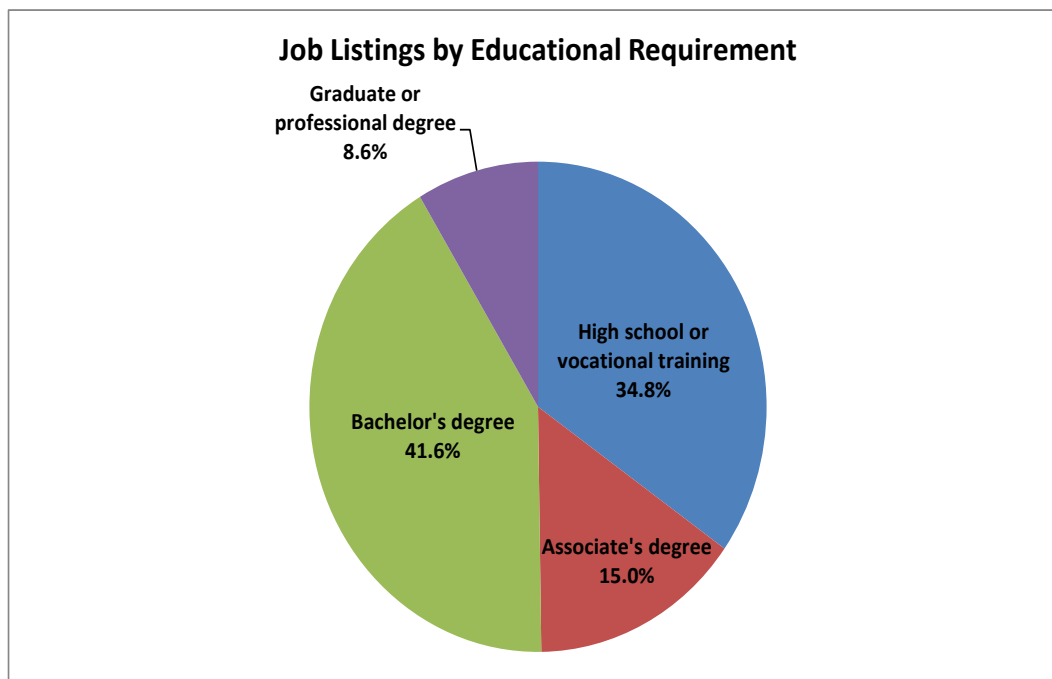
The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development through its agreement with Burning Glass Technologies is able to provide the the following labor market information aggregated from online employer job listings during the quarter. This data provides valuable insight regarding current demand for characteristics such as skills and educational requirements. Note that this data is not meant to represent all available employment opportunities but rather should be viewed in terms of analysis of labor market demand.

| JOB LISTINGS BY COUNTY | |
|------------------------|----------|
| County | Listings |
| Burlington | 7,516 |
| Camden | 7,099 |
| Gloucester | 3,201 |
| Atlantic | 2,886 |
| Cumberland | 1,627 |
| Cape May | 738 |
| Salem | 624 |

During the third quarter of 2017, Southern Region employers in the hospitals, ambulatory health care services, credit intermediation, professional, scientific and technical services, and food services and drinking places industries exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

Concentrated in the region's two most populous counties, Burlington and Camden, employers indicated they were interested in filling positions for retail salespersons, registered nurses, wholesale sales representatives, and retail sales supervisors. Skills that were actively sought by area employers included customer service, sales, scheduling, retail setting, supervisory skills, and proficiency in Microsoft Office programs.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 34.8 percent require only a high school degree or vocational training.



| TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Skill | Listings |
| Customer Service | 3,959 |
| Sales | 2,728 |
| Microsoft Excel | 2,254 |
| Scheduling | 2,127 |
| Microsoft Office | 2,028 |
| Retail Setting | 1,765 |
| Supervisory Skills | 1,732 |
| Customer Contact | 1,603 |
| Repair | 1,403 |
| Budgeting | 1,358 |
| Inspection | 1,082 |
| Store Management | 1,028 |

| EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT JOB LISTING ACTIVITY | |
|---|----------|
| Employer | Listings |
| TD Bank | 458 |
| Cooper University Health Care | 362 |
| Virtua Health | 340 |
| Bayada Home Health Care | 327 |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc | 318 |
| Berkshire Hathaway | 317 |
| The Home Depot Incorporated | 293 |
| Cooper University Hospital | 237 |
| Pep Boys | 212 |
| CVS Caremark | 207 |
| Lockheed Martin Corporation | 175 |
| Kennedy Health System | 173 |

| INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS | |
|---|----------|
| Industry | Listings |
| Hospitals | 1,330 |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 1,113 |
| Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 1,112 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,088 |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 960 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 915 |
| Educational Services | 762 |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 696 |
| Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers | 678 |
| Administrative and Support Services | 646 |
| Health and Personal Care Stores | 558 |
| Truck Transportation | 468 |

| OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS | |
|--|----------|
| Occupation | Listings |
| Retail Salespersons | 1,402 |
| Registered Nurses | 1,357 |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 781 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | 734 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 592 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 558 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 533 |
| Software Developers, Applications | 409 |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General | 332 |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 307 |
| Combined Food Prep and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 301 |
| Managers, All Other | 288 |

Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Bureau of Labor Market Information

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