

# Regional Focus: Central Jersey

Issue #25C  
Data through June 2018

Data and analysis for the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas

(Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)

## Central Region Leads Statewide Job Growth

Nonfarm employment in the Central Region totaled 1,219,900 in June 2018, a gain of 19,700 jobs or 1.6 percent from the same month a year ago. Jobholding statewide increased at a slightly slower pace over the year (+1.3%). The Central Region contributed the most to New Jersey's employment increase; jobholding was up by 12,500 in the Southern Region and 4,800 in the Northern Region.

Employment growth in the Central Region was concentrated in the service-providing sectors. The most significant job gains were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000 or +2.8%), education and health services (+5,700 or +2.8%), leisure and hospitality (+5,100 or +4.4%), and professional and business services (+5,000 or +2.5%). Jobholding in construction (-3,200 or -6.9%), manufacturing (-1,000 or -1.8%), information (-800 or -3.5%) and financial activities (-300 or -0.5%) was down over the year.

The state posted significant job gains in the trade, transportation and utilities (+18,700 or +2.1%), professional and business services (+18,300 or +2.7%), education and health services (+13,100 or +1.9%), manufacturing (+8,000 or +3.2%) and the leisure and hospitality (+4,300 or +1.0%) sectors. Trade, transportation and utilities was up due to an increase in warehousing and storage (+13,200 or +27.5%). Amazon's expanding presence in the state is one contributor to the job gain in this industry. Advances in professional and business services were aided by gains in the administrative and support services (+16,200 or +5.5%) industry. Construction (-5,00 or -3.1%), financial activities (-2,400 or -0.9%) and information (-1,000 or -1.4%) shed jobs over the year.

## Trenton Labor Area Gains Outpace Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean

Employment gains occurred in both of the region's labor areas over the year. The

Trenton Labor Area expanded jobholding by 2.5 percent (+6,800) while the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area added jobs at a rate of 1.4 percent (+12,900).

In the Trenton Labor Area, the job growth leader was professional and business services which posted a gain of 2,700 jobs or 6.2 percent. Increases in professional, scientific and technical services (+1,700 or +6.9%) and administrative, support, waste management and remediation services (+1,400 or +9.3%) contributed to employment growth in the sector.

### Change in Nonfarm Employment June 2017 - June 2018 final (not seasonally adjusted, 2017 benchmark)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>55,400</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Private Sector	17,600	1.8	54,800	1.5
Construction	-3,200	-6.9	-5,000	-3.1
Manufacturing	-1,000	-1.8	8,000	3.2
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	7,000	2.8	18,700	2.1
Information	-800	-3.5	-1,000	-1.4
Financial Activities	-300	-0.5	-2,400	-0.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	5,000	2.5	18,300	2.7
Ed. & Health Svcs.	5,700	2.8	13,100	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	5,100	4.4	4,300	1.0
Other Services	100	0.2	800	0.4
Government	2,100	1.0	600	0.1

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



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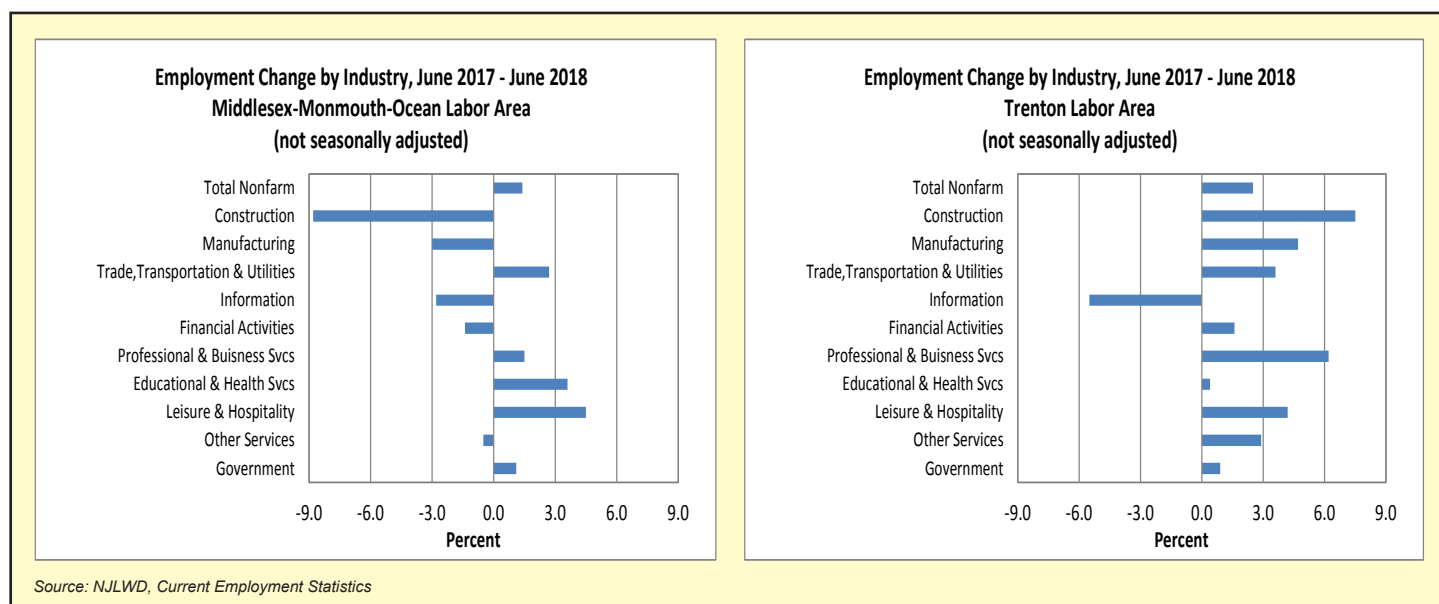
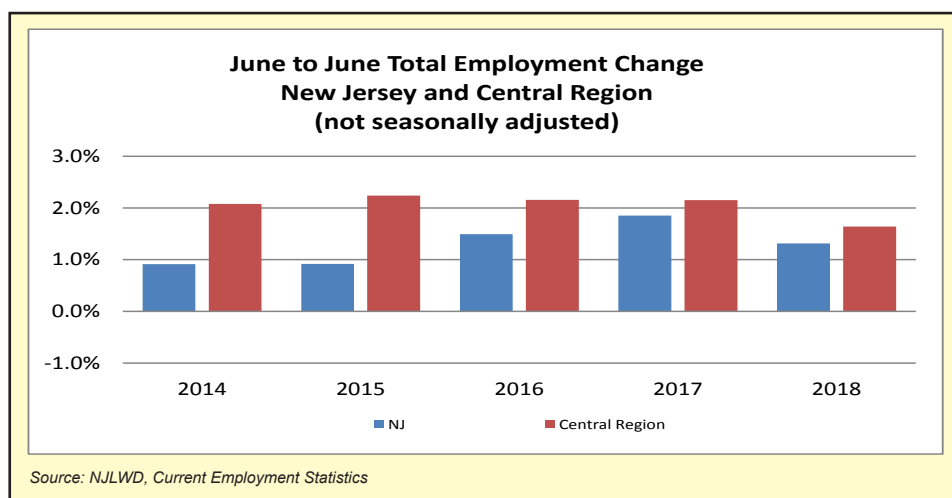


Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted June data, employment in thousands)						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Jersey	4,008.2	4,044.9	4,082.1	4,143.0	4,219.8	4,275.2
Central Region	1,102.0	1,124.9	1,150.1	1,174.9	1,200.2	1,219.9
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	853.1	873.1	889.6	908.8	929.4	942.3
Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County)	248.9	251.8	260.5	266.1	270.8	277.6

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

Trade, transportation and utilities (+1,400 or +3.6%) was up from the same month a year ago due largely to an increase of 1,300 jobs or 11.4 percent in transportation, warehousing and utilities. Leisure and hospitality (+700 or +4.2%), construction (+400 or +7.5%), manufacturing (+400 or +4.7%), financial activities (+300 or +1.6%), other services (+300 or +2.9%), and education and health services (+200 or +0.4%) also posted gains. Jobholding in information (-300 or -5.5%) was down over the year.

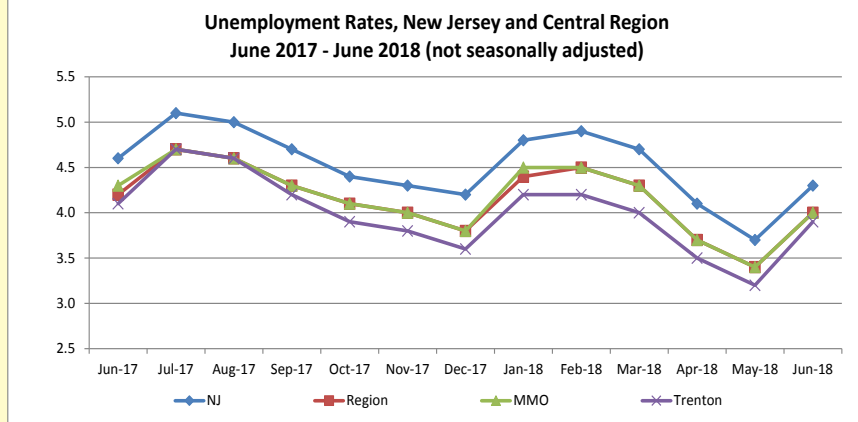
In the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area, trade, transportation and utilities (+5,600 or +2.7%) and education and health services (+5,500 or +3.6%) added the most jobs over the year. In trade, transportation and utilities increases in transportation, warehousing and utilities (+6,000 or +12.5%) and retail trade (+900 or +0.8%) offset a reduction in wholesale trade (-1,300 or -2.7%). Employment growth in education and health services was concentrated in health care and social assistance (+4,100 or +3.1%). The largest jobs contractions occurred in construction (-3,600 or -8.8%) and manufacturing (-1,400 or -3.0%).



More detailed data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program can be found at: [http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces\\_index.html](http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces_index.html)

## LABOR FORCE DATA

- In June 2018 the Central Region had a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.0 percent, down slightly from a June 2017 rate of 4.2 percent. In comparison, the region's June 2018 rate was lower than the statewide unadjusted rate of 4.3 percent.
- By county, the June 2018 unemployment rates in the region were: Monmouth at 3.8 percent, Mercer at 3.9 percent, Middlesex at 3.9 percent, and Ocean at 4.3 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

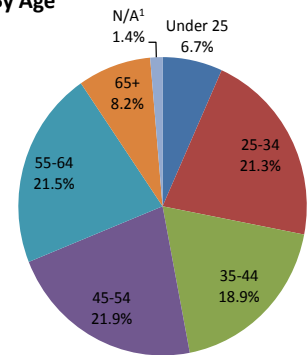
More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at:  
[http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest\\_index.html](http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html)

## CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED CENTRAL REGION, SECOND QUARTER 2018

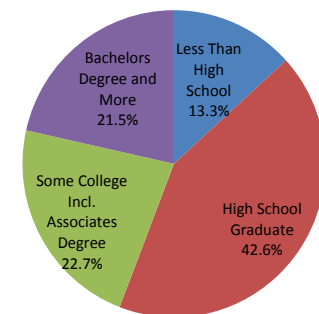
CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP		
	Number	Percent
Management	3,611	8.8
Business and financial	1,591	3.9
Professional and related	5,053	12.3
Services	7,231	17.6
Sales and related	2,966	7.2
Office and administrative support	5,255	12.8
Farming, fishing and forestry	138	0.3
Construction and extraction	5,303	12.9
Installation, maintenance and repair	1,576	3.8
Production	2,825	6.9
Transportation and material moving	5,521	13.4
Military	73	0.2

- During the second quarter of 2018, there were 41,157 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Central Region, a figure which represented 25.2 percent of the claimants statewide. The region's claims activity was down by 1,957 claims or 4.5 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 9,971 or 5.8 percent since the second quarter of 2017.

### By Age



### By Educational Level



<sup>1</sup>N/A: No information provided by claimant

Source: NJLWD, Characteristics of UI Claimants

## REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK APRIL 2018 - JUNE 2018

*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
Middlesex	22,470
Mercer	12,694
Monmouth	10,460
Ocean	4,399

### INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

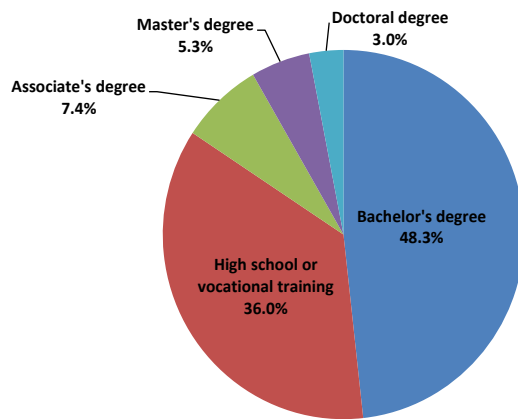
Industry	Listings
Educational Services	4,030
Hospitals	3,339
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,067
Food Services and Drinking Places	1,949
Chemical Manufacturing	1,694
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,669
Administrative and Support Services	1,588
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	1,476
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,307
General Merchandise Stores	1,251
Truck Transportation	1,095
Health and Personal Care Stores	647

During the second quarter of 2018, Central Region employers in the educational services hospitals, professional, scientific and technical services, food services and drinking places, and chemical manufacturing exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

Concentrated in Middlesex and Mercer counties, employers indicated they were interested in filling positions for software developers, registered nurses, retail salespersons, wholesale sales representatives, and tractor trailer drivers. Skills that were actively sought by area employers included customer service, sales, scheduling, project management, and budgeting.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 36.0 percent require only high school or vocational training.

Job Listings by Educational Requirement



OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS	
Occupation	Listings
Software Developers, Applications	2,081
Registered Nurses	1,986
Retail Salespersons	1,722
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	1,422
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,247
Managers, All Other	1,096
Customer Service Representatives	1,029
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	941
Medical and Health Services Managers	733
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	660
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	601
Computer Systems Engineers/Architects	559

TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND	
Skill	Listings
Customer Service	7,314
Sales	5,817
Scheduling	4,560
Project Management	3,318
Budgeting	3,235
Customer Contact	2,991
Retail Industry Knowledge	2,613
SQL	2,378
Repair	2,336
Teaching	2,284
Occupational Health and Safety	2,118
Quality Assurance and Control	2,028

EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY	
Employer	Job Postings
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey	979
Bristol-Myers Squibb	737
Anthem Blue Cross	731
Hackensack University Health Network, Inc	685
Palisades Medical Center	621
Meridian Health System	537
Newark Beth Israel	442
HMSHost	401
Saint Barnabas Health Care System	395
Covance Incorporated	387
Princeton University	387
Lowe's Companies, Inc	286

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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