



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Robert Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner
mediacalls@dol.nj.gov | 609.984.2841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2020

New Jersey Employers Begin to Recall Workers in May *COVID Job Losses Start to Come Back; Unemployment at 15.2%*

TRENTON – Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in New Jersey increased by 86,800 in May to a seasonally adjusted level of 3,497,400, according to estimates produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This gain represents a little over 10 percent of the number of jobs lost in March and April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken in response to it.

All of the gains were recorded in the private sector (+92,200) of the state's economy as public sector employment contracted (-5,400). The state's unemployment rate declined by 1.1 percentage points to 15.2 percent, down from a revised 16.3 percent in April. It should be noted these estimates were based on surveys taken for the week including May 12, prior to the start of the relaxation of major measures that had been taken in response to the epidemic. See the technical notes at the end of this release for further information about the impact of the pandemic on this month's estimates.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released total nonfarm employment estimates for April were revised higher by 1,500 to show an over-the-month (March – April) decrease of 756,200 jobs. Preliminary estimates had indicated an over-the-month loss of 757,700 jobs. These revisions mean that nonfarm employment losses for March and April totaled 831,300. The state's revised April unemployment rate was revised higher by 1.0 percentage point to 16.3 percent.

In May, employment increases were recorded in eight out of nine major private industry sectors. Sectors that recorded an increase include leisure and hospitality (+30,500), manufacturing (+18,500), trade, transportation, and utilities (+16,700), construction (+14,100), professional and business services (+5,800), other services (+4,600), education and health services (+3,400), and financial activities (+200). The only sector to record a loss over the month was information (-1,600). Over the month, public sector employment was lower by 5,400, mainly due to losses at the local level (-7,000).

Preliminary data for June will be released on July 16, 2020.

Technical Notes: For further information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on industry employment and unemployment estimates please visit: <https://www.bls.gov/ces/notices/2020/covid-19-may-2020.htm>

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 New Jersey 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.

Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey
Seasonally Adjusted
2019 Benchmark

Labor Force Data (resident)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	May 20 (P)	Apr. 20 (R)	May 19	over the Month	over the Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,522,100	4,483,300	4,459,800	38,800	62,300
Employment	3,833,100	3,751,400	4,312,700	81,700	-479,600
Unemployment	688,900	731,900	147,100	-43,000	541,800
Unemployment Rate	15.2	16.3	3.3	-1.1	11.9
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	May 20 (P)	Apr. 20 (R)	May 19	over the Month	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,497,400	3,410,600	4,186,900	86,800	-689,500
Total Private Sector	2,921,800	2,829,600	3,583,400	92,200	-661,600
Goods Producing	372,500	339,900	412,700	32,600	-40,200
Mining and Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Construction	136,000	121,900	159,400	14,100	-23,400
Manufacturing	235,100	216,600	251,900	18,500	-16,800
Service-Providing	3,124,900	3,070,700	3,774,200	54,200	-649,300
Private Service-Providing	2,549,300	2,489,700	3,170,700	59,600	-621,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	754,100	737,400	884,400	16,700	-130,300
Information	60,600	62,200	67,400	-1,600	-6,800
Financial Activities	237,800	237,600	252,600	200	-14,800
Professional and Business Services	597,900	592,100	683,200	5,800	-85,300
Education and Health Services	603,400	600,000	715,600	3,400	-112,200
Leisure and Hospitality	175,600	145,100	393,900	30,500	-218,300
Other Services	119,900	115,300	173,600	4,600	-53,700
Public Sector	575,600	581,000	603,500	-5,400	-27,900
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	-248,200	-276,700	600	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	-237,400	-267,000	800	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	40.2	38.6	40.3	1.6	-0.1
Durable Goods	40.6	39.9	42.1	0.7	-1.5
Nondurable Goods	39.9	37.6	38.8	2.3	1.1
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	\$23.90	\$23.95	\$24.14	-\$0.05	-\$0.24
Durable Goods	\$26.25	\$25.80	\$27.00	\$0.45	-\$0.75
Nondurable Goods	\$21.81	\$22.48	\$21.73	-\$0.67	\$0.08
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	\$960.78	\$924.47	\$973.25	\$36.31	-\$12.47
Durable Goods	\$1,065.75	\$1,029.42	\$1,136.70	\$36.33	-\$70.95
Nondurable Goods	\$870.22	\$845.25	\$843.12	\$24.97	\$27.10

June 18, 2020. 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						
2019 Benchmark						
	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	May 20 (P)	Apr. 20 (R)	May 19	May 20 (P)	Apr. 20 (R)	May 19
Civilian Labor Force	4,505,900	4,454,500	4,443,300	4,522,100	4,483,300	4,459,800
Resident Employment	3,832,700	3,744,200	4,310,300	3,833,100	3,751,400	4,312,700
Unemployment	673,200	710,300	133,000	688,900	731,900	147,100
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.9	15.9	3.0	15.2	16.3	3.3
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.7	62.9	62.9	63.9	63.4	63.1
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	54.2	52.9	61.0	54.2	53.0	61.0
New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1999 - 2019						
Year	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)	
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	4,548,600		4,173,800	374,700	8.2	
2014	4,487,000		4,183,500	303,500	6.8	
2015	4,487,300		4,227,600	259,700	5.8	
2016	4,473,800		4,251,200	222,600	5.0	
2017	4,454,700		4,248,700	205,900	4.6	
2018	4,432,500		4,250,800	181,700	4.1	
2019	4,493,100		4,333,300	159,800	3.6	
Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2019-2020						
Date	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate %	
Jan 2019	4,456,600		4,291,200	165,400	3.7	
Feb	4,457,100		4,295,700	161,500	3.6	
Mar	4,455,800		4,299,600	156,200	3.5	
Apr	4,455,700		4,304,800	150,900	3.4	
May	4,459,800		4,312,700	147,100	3.3	
Jun	4,469,500		4,323,200	146,300	3.3	
Jul	4,486,300		4,336,700	149,500	3.3	
Aug	4,505,700		4,350,200	155,500	3.5	
Sep	4,523,700		4,361,800	162,000	3.6	
Oct	4,536,200		4,369,100	167,100	3.7	
Nov	4,537,100		4,369,000	168,200	3.7	
Dec	4,535,000		4,367,300	167,700	3.7	
Jan 2020	4,551,700		4,379,400	172,300	3.8	
Feb	4,564,100		4,390,300	173,900	3.8	
Mar	4,588,200		4,419,800	168,400	3.7	
Apr (R)	4,483,300		3,751,400	731,900	16.3	
May (P)	4,522,100		3,833,100	688,900	15.2	
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

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

June 18, 2020. P - preliminary, R-revised.

Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for May 2020 Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2019 Benchmark				
Industry	Current Month May 20 (P)	Previous Month Apr. 20 (R)	One Year Ago May 19	Net Change over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,518,000	3,408,700	4,204,400	-686,400
Total Private Sector	2,932,900	2,813,400	3,594,200	-661,300
Goods Producing	374,400	336,800	414,600	-40,200
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0
Construction	137,600	119,600	161,600	-24,000
Manufacturing	235,400	215,800	251,600	-16,200
Durable Goods*	111,800	96,500	116,900	-5,100
Fabricated Metal Products	20,600	19,200	22,600	-2,000
Machinery Manufacturing	13,100	12,700	14,100	-1,000
Computer and Electronic Products	24,200	23,200	24,500	-300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	17,400	15,300	18,000	-600
Nondurable Goods*	123,600	119,300	134,700	-11,100
Food Manufacturing	36,200	34,400	37,200	-1,000
Printing and Related Support	10,900	10,500	13,200	-2,300
Chemical Manufacturing	44,500	44,200	44,800	-300
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	24,700	23,600	24,900	-200
Service-Providing	3,143,600	3,071,900	3,789,800	-646,200
Private Service-Providing	2,558,500	2,476,600	3,179,600	-621,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	751,700	728,800	878,000	-126,300
Wholesale Trade*	194,300	185,700	214,700	-20,400
Retail Trade*	371,500	360,800	447,600	-76,100
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	36,400	36,000	34,800	1,600
Food and Beverage Stores	103,600	98,900	111,600	-8,000
Health and Personal Care Stores	32,300	35,400	38,100	-5,800
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	21,800	18,800	46,400	-24,600
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Inst., and Book Stores	9,200	7,700	12,400	-3,200
General Merchandise Stores	56,500	61,900	69,100	-12,600
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	185,900	182,300	215,700	-29,800
Utilities*	14,000	14,100	14,700	-700
Transportation & Warehousing*	171,900	168,200	201,000	-29,100
Information	60,400	61,900	67,600	-7,200
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	16,600	16,600	17,000	-400
Telecommunications	21,300	22,400	22,900	-1,600
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	11,000	10,900	10,200	800
Financial Activities	236,800	235,000	252,100	-15,300
Finance and Insurance*	183,900	185,200	190,800	-6,900
Financial Investments and Related Activities	38,000	37,700	38,900	-900
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	77,000	79,000	79,500	-2,500
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*	52,900	49,800	61,300	-8,400
Professional and Business Services	602,600	590,600	683,400	-80,800
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*	278,700	280,600	303,600	-24,900
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	81,200	81,500	85,700	-4,500
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	242,700	228,500	294,100	-51,400
Education and Health Services	608,500	605,700	722,200	-113,700
Educational Services*	96,300	97,800	116,600	-20,300
Health Care and Social Assistance*	512,200	507,900	605,600	-93,400
Hospitals	160,800	163,400	163,400	-2,600
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	87,100	88,900	94,600	-7,500
Social Assistance	83,200	81,000	102,900	-19,700
Leisure and Hospitality	178,100	139,700	401,800	-223,700
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation*	19,300	18,900	71,800	-52,500
Accommodation and Food Services*	158,800	120,800	330,000	-171,200
Food Services and Drinking Places	138,800	101,100	277,800	-139,000
Other Services	120,400	114,900	174,500	-54,100
Repair and Maintenance	27,300	24,200	34,000	-6,700
Personal and Laundry Services	25,900	23,600	64,400	-38,500
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	67,200	67,100	76,100	-8,900
Government	585,100	595,300	610,200	-25,100

June 18, 2020 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series, * denote sector series.

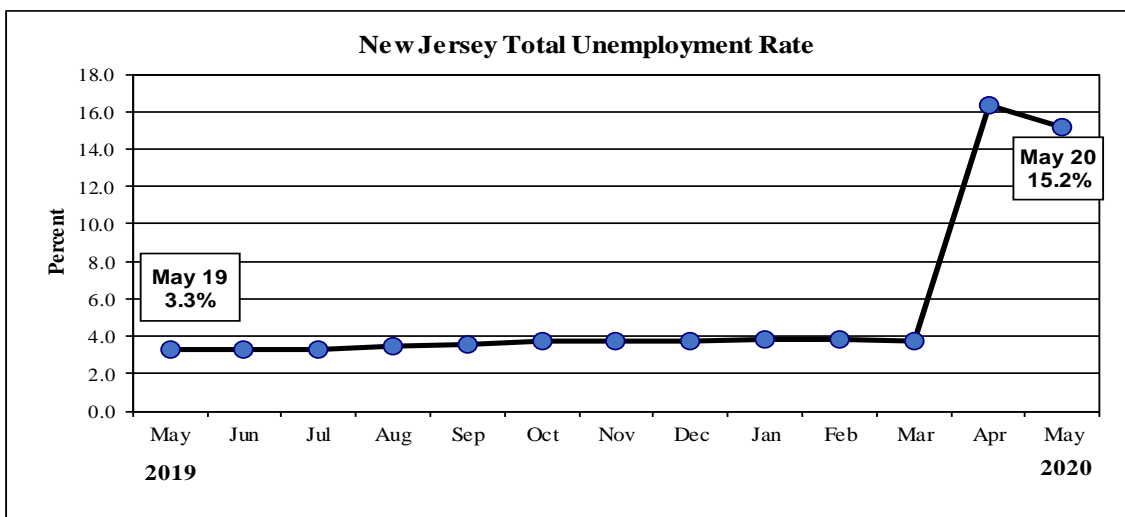
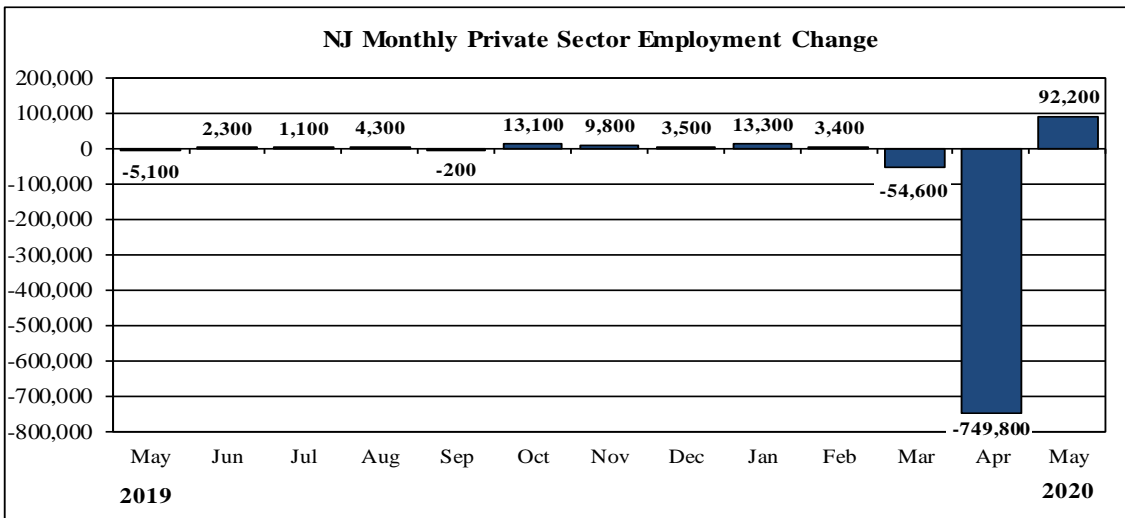
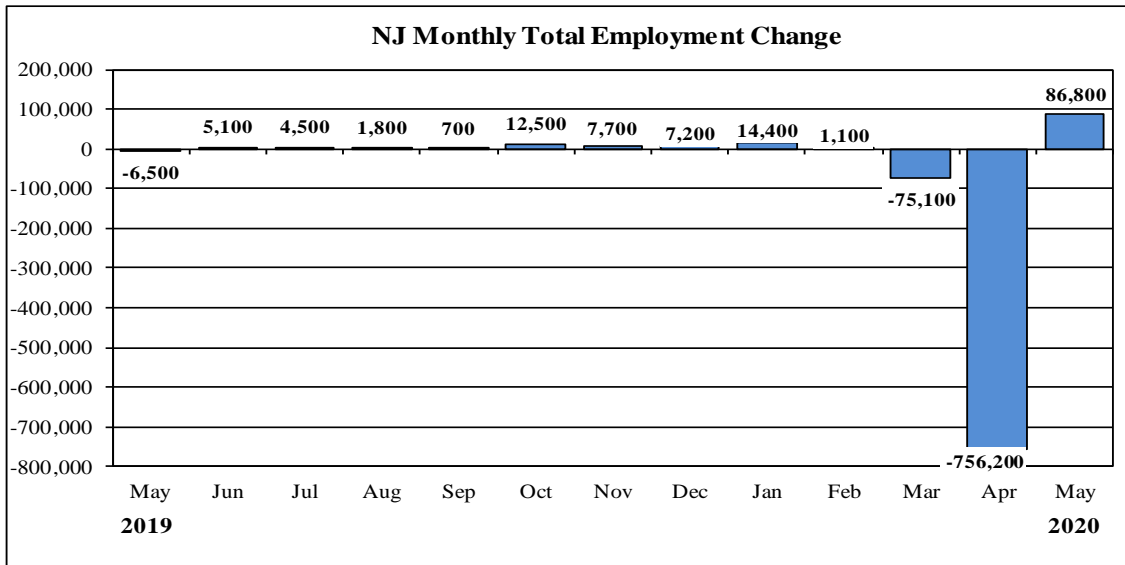
Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment, 2019 Benchmark						
Annual Averages						
	Total	Private Sector				Public
Year		Total	Manufacturing	Construction	Service - Providing	
1999	3,897,400	3,323,600	421,300	143,600	2,756,500	573,900
2000	3,990,400	3,405,500	420,500	149,600	2,833,500	584,800
2001	3,999,200	3,393,900	400,100	158,800	2,833,200	605,300
2002	3,983,300	3,370,300	366,200	162,600	2,840,000	613,100
2003	3,975,600	3,354,300	349,200	160,500	2,843,100	621,300
2004	3,995,900	3,363,400	337,000	165,900	2,858,900	632,600
2005	4,036,100	3,395,600	329,100	169,100	2,895,700	640,500
2006	4,067,000	3,421,200	322,500	174,900	2,922,000	645,800
2007	4,073,800	3,428,100	309,900	172,300	2,944,300	645,700
2008	4,044,700	3,398,000	297,000	164,500	2,934,900	646,700
2009	3,889,900	3,240,500	262,500	138,600	2,837,900	649,400
2010	3,843,800	3,207,400	253,900	129,500	2,822,600	636,500
2011	3,842,200	3,227,400	248,700	129,900	2,847,500	614,900
2012	3,884,700	3,273,200	242,900	130,400	2,898,600	611,500
2013	3,928,900	3,318,500	240,800	137,600	2,938,900	610,400
2014	3,961,000	3,349,500	240,900	141,600	2,965,700	611,500
2015	4,005,000	3,399,400	240,900	148,400	3,008,700	605,600
2016	4,065,400	3,461,200	244,400	153,500	3,062,000	604,200
2017	4,121,600	3,516,700	246,900	156,100	3,112,300	604,900
2018	4,158,700	3,555,200	249,800	158,000	3,146,200	603,500
2019	4,194,900	3,589,000	251,500	159,800	3,176,300	605,900
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2019						
Jan	4,186,000	3,582,800	251,500	159,800	3,170,100	603,200
Feb	4,185,200	3,581,000	251,500	158,900	3,169,200	604,200
Mar	4,190,200	3,586,300	252,200	159,600	3,173,200	603,900
Apr	4,193,400	3,588,500	252,100	160,000	3,175,100	604,900
May	4,186,900	3,583,400	251,900	159,400	3,170,700	603,500
Jun	4,192,000	3,585,700	251,700	159,100	3,173,500	606,300
Jul	4,196,500	3,586,800	251,800	159,500	3,174,100	609,700
Aug	4,198,300	3,591,100	250,800	160,400	3,178,400	607,200
Sep	4,199,000	3,590,900	251,000	160,700	3,177,700	608,100
Oct	4,211,500	3,604,000	250,000	160,600	3,191,900	607,500
Nov	4,219,200	3,613,800	252,500	160,400	3,199,400	605,400
Dec	4,226,400	3,617,300	252,100	159,500	3,204,200	609,100
2020						
Jan	4,240,800	3,630,600	252,600	162,900	3,213,600	610,200
Feb	4,241,900	3,634,000	253,000	166,600	3,212,900	607,900
Mar	4,166,800	3,579,400	253,000	166,200	3,158,700	587,400
Apr (R)	3,410,600	2,829,600	216,600	121,900	2,489,700	581,000
May (P)	3,497,400	2,921,800	235,100	136,000	2,549,300	575,600
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

June 18, 2020 P - preliminary, R-revised.

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

Key Economic Indicators: May 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)



June 18, 2020

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

