



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pandemic Leads to Historic Job Losses in April Unemployment Rate Surges to 15.3 Percent

TRENTON – The negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on New Jersey’s economy resulted in a record number of monthly job losses and widespread unemployment in April. The mandatory shut down of business activities and stay at home orders to prevent the spread of the virus contributed to total nonfarm employment plummeting by 757,700 jobs in April, while the state’s unemployment rate soared to 15.3 percent, according to estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Both the private (-750,100) and public (-7,600) sectors of the state’s economy recorded losses. The decrease in nonfarm payrolls and the increase in the unemployment rate both represent record-setting monthly shifts for the state.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released total nonfarm employment estimates for March were revised lower by 43,300 to show an over-the-month (February – March) decrease of 75,100 jobs. Preliminary estimates had indicated an over-the-month loss of 31,800 jobs. Over the two-month span since February, prior to the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in New Jersey, employment in the state has dropped by 832,800, nearly 20 percent of total employment.

In April, employment decreases were recorded in all nine major private industry sectors. By order of magnitude, the largest decrease was recorded in the leisure and hospitality sector (-236,500), followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (-157,500), education and health services (-113,100), professional and business services (-90,100), other services (-57,200), construction (-43,800), manufacturing (-33,900), financial activities (-12,800), and information (-5,100). Over the month, public sector employment was lower by 7,600.

Preliminary data for May will be released on June 18, 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/cps/employment-situation-covid19-faq-april-2020.pdf>*

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
	Apr. 20 (P)	Mar. 20 (R)	Apr. 19	over the Month	over the Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,469,900	4,588,200	4,455,700	-118,300	14,200
Employment	3,784,300	4,419,800	4,304,800	-635,500	-520,500
Unemployment	685,500	168,400	150,900	517,100	534,600
Unemployment Rate	15.3	3.7	3.4	11.6	11.9
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Apr. 20 (P)	Mar. 20 (R)	Apr. 19	over the Month	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,409,100	4,166,800	4,193,400	-757,700	-784,300
Total Private Sector	2,829,300	3,579,400	3,588,500	-750,100	-759,200
Goods Producing	342,900	420,700	413,400	-77,800	-70,500
Mining and Logging	1,400	1,500	1,300	-100	100
Construction	122,400	166,200	160,000	-43,800	-37,600
Manufacturing	219,100	253,000	252,100	-33,900	-33,000
Service-Providing	3,066,200	3,746,100	3,780,000	-679,900	-713,800
Private Service-Providing	2,486,400	3,158,700	3,175,100	-672,300	-688,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	732,300	889,800	885,200	-157,500	-152,900
Information	60,600	65,700	67,400	-5,100	-6,800
Financial Activities	237,800	250,600	252,700	-12,800	-14,900
Professional and Business Services	590,100	680,200	685,900	-90,100	-95,800
Education and Health Services	607,900	721,000	716,000	-113,100	-108,100
Leisure and Hospitality	143,000	379,500	394,200	-236,500	-251,200
Other Services	114,700	171,900	173,700	-57,200	-59,000
Public Sector	579,800	587,400	604,900	-7,600	-25,100
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	-277,200	-19,900	2,500	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	-267,100	-12,600	1,900	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	38.1	41.5	40.9	-3.4	-2.8
Durable Goods	39.2	42.5	41.7	-3.3	-2.5
Nondurable Goods	37.2	40.7	40.2	-3.5	-3.0
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	\$24.17	\$23.74	\$23.56	\$0.43	\$0.61
Durable Goods	\$26.03	\$25.97	\$26.77	\$0.06	-\$0.74
Nondurable Goods	\$22.66	\$21.80	\$20.91	\$0.86	\$1.75
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	\$920.88	\$985.21	\$963.60	-\$64.33	-\$42.72
Durable Goods	\$1,020.38	\$1,103.73	\$1,116.31	-\$83.35	-\$95.93
Nondurable Goods	\$842.95	\$887.26	\$840.58	-\$44.31	\$2.37

May 21, 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		
	Apr. 20 (P)	Mar. 20 (R)	Apr. 19	Apr. 20 (P)	Mar. 20 (R)	Apr. 19
Civilian Labor Force	4,455,900	4,565,500	4,422,900	4,469,900	4,588,200	4,455,700
Resident Employment	3,748,800	4,396,600	4,298,100	3,784,300	4,419,800	4,304,800
Unemployment	707,200	169,000	124,800	685,500	168,400	150,900
Unemployment Rate (%)	15.9	3.7	2.8	15.3	3.7	3.4
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.0	64.5	62.6	63.2	64.8	63.0
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	53.0	62.1	60.8	53.5	62.5	60.9
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 (R)	4,588,200		4,419,800	168,400	3.7	
Apr (P)	4,469,900		3,784,300	685,500	15.3	
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

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

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Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for April 2020
Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2019 Benchmark

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	Apr. 20 (P)	Mar. 20 (R)	Apr. 19	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,407,600	4,111,800	4,171,500	-763,900
Total Private Sector	2,813,700	3,514,700	3,556,100	-742,400
Goods Producing	340,100	410,900	410,600	-70,500
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,400	1,300	100
Construction	120,200	157,800	158,400	-38,200
Manufacturing	218,500	251,700	250,900	-32,400
Durable Goods*	99,500	118,000	116,600	-17,100
Fabricated Metal Products	18,400	22,700	22,500	-4,100
Machinery Manufacturing	11,400	13,900	14,100	-2,700
Computer and Electronic Products	19,900	24,600	24,500	-4,600
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	14,500	17,800	18,100	-3,600
Nondurable Goods*	119,000	133,700	134,300	-15,300
Food Manufacturing	33,000	36,900	37,000	-4,000
Printing and Related Support	10,200	13,000	13,200	-3,000
Chemical Manufacturing	40,600	46,100	44,800	-4,200
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	23,700	24,800	24,800	-1,100
Service-Providing	3,067,500	3,700,900	3,760,900	-693,400
Private Service-Providing	2,473,600	3,103,800	3,145,500	-671,900
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	723,600	877,600	871,200	-147,600
Wholesale Trade*	182,500	213,700	214,200	-31,700
Retail Trade*	356,600	441,800	443,900	-87,300
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	36,000	35,200	34,100	1,900
Food and Beverage Stores	99,900	109,000	110,400	-10,500
Health and Personal Care Stores	35,000	37,400	37,900	-2,900
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	19,600	47,000	45,900	-26,300
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Inst., and Book Stores	8,800	11,700	12,400	-3,600
General Merchandise Stores	61,900	69,700	68,900	-7,000
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	184,500	222,100	213,100	-28,600
Utilities*	14,200	14,300	14,700	-500
Transportation & Warehousing*	170,300	207,800	198,400	-28,100
Information	60,300	65,500	66,800	-6,500
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	16,600	16,700	16,900	-300
Telecommunications	22,000	22,600	22,600	-600
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	10,900	10,900	10,200	700
Financial Activities	235,200	248,200	251,200	-16,000
Finance and Insurance*	185,000	189,300	191,000	-6,000
Financial Investments and Related Activities	37,700	38,000	38,800	-1,100
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	79,200	81,000	79,700	-500
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*	50,200	58,900	60,200	-10,000
Professional and Business Services	588,800	666,600	682,200	-93,400
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*	283,000	301,200	305,900	-22,900
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	81,100	87,500	85,800	-4,700
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	224,700	277,900	290,500	-65,800
Education and Health Services	613,600	727,000	720,500	-106,900
Educational Services*	98,700	116,000	117,200	-18,500
Health Care and Social Assistance*	514,900	611,000	603,300	-88,400
Hospitals	164,100	167,600	163,000	1,100
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	86,500	94,100	94,600	-8,100
Social Assistance	79,200	103,600	102,300	-23,100
Leisure and Hospitality	137,800	349,500	380,600	-242,800
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation*	18,300	58,700	63,700	-45,400
Accommodation and Food Services*	119,500	290,800	316,900	-197,400
Food Services and Drinking Places	101,100	242,300	266,700	-165,600
Other Services	114,300	169,400	173,000	-58,700
Repair and Maintenance	23,200	30,800	33,900	-10,700
Personal and Laundry Services	23,800	62,500	63,500	-39,700
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	67,300	76,100	75,600	-8,300
Government	593,900	597,100	615,400	-21,500

May 21, 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.

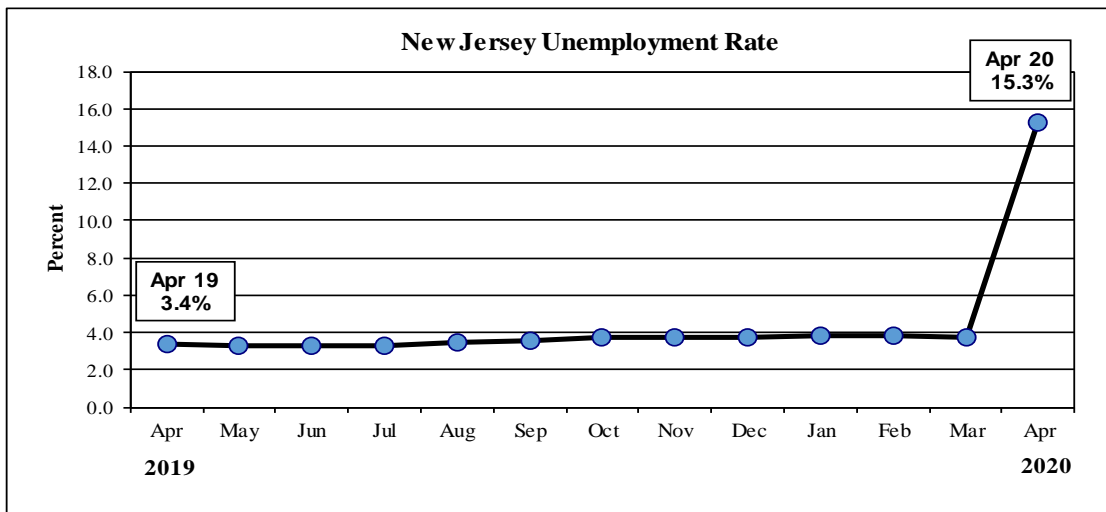
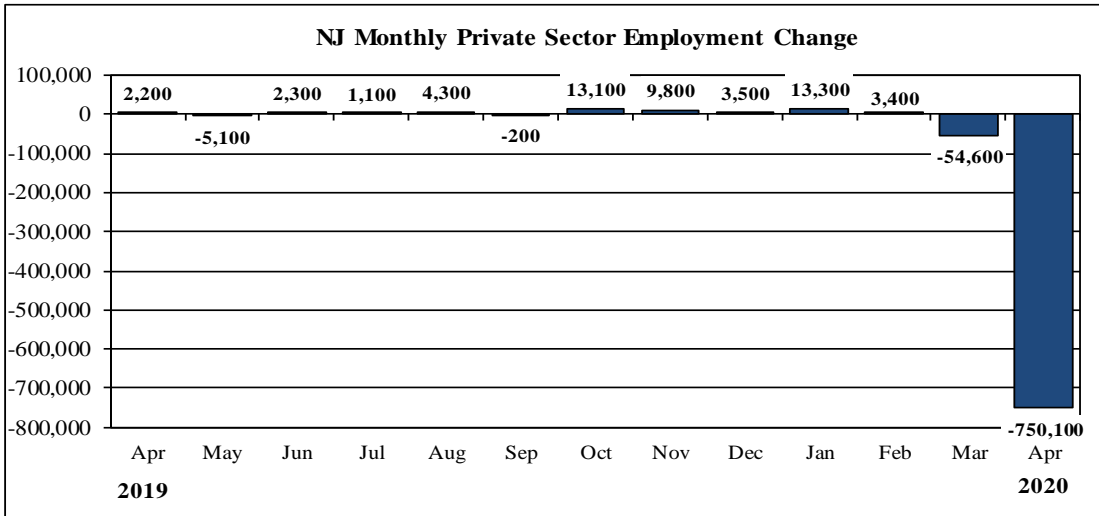
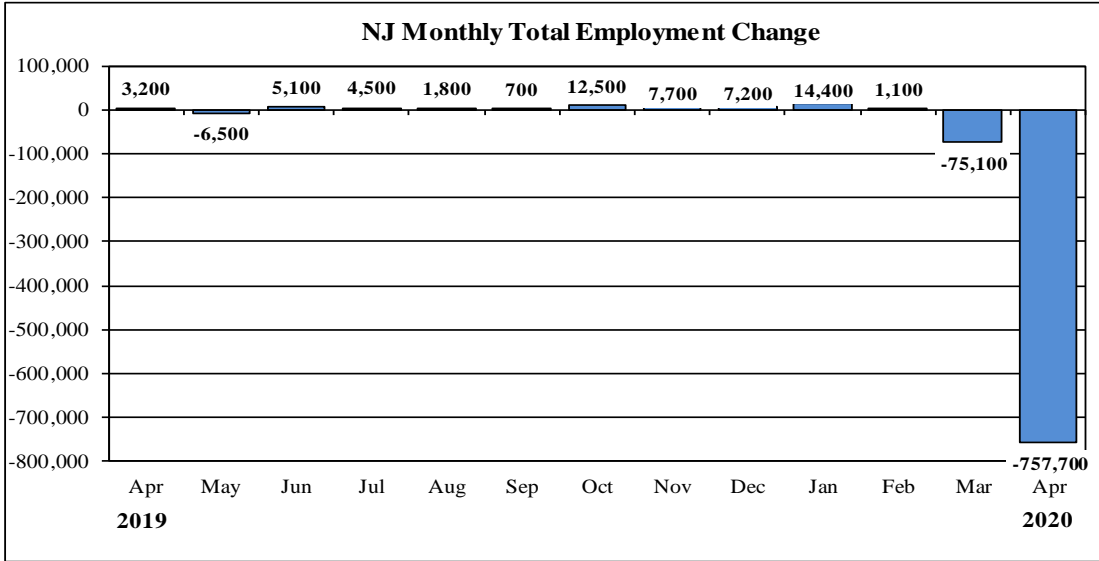
Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment, 2019 Benchmark

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 (R)	4,166,800	3,579,400	253,000	166,200	3,158,700	587,400
Apr (P)	3,409,100	2,829,300	219,100	122,400	2,486,400	579,800
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: April 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)



May 21, 2020

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

