



New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unemployment Rate Edges Lower in August to 3.2%

TRENTON, September 19, 2019 – New Jersey's unemployment rate continued its downward trend in August, moving lower for the fifth consecutive month, while employment levels in the Garden State were essentially unchanged, according to estimates produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state's unemployment rate edged lower by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.2 percent – the lowest monthly rate since state-level records began in 1976 – and remained below the national unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in the state increased by 1,100 to reach a seasonally adjusted level of 4,200,400.

Looking at the longer term, over the year, August 2018 – August 2019, employment in New Jersey was higher by 46,700 jobs, with gains recorded in both the private (+44,000) and public (+2,700) sectors of the New Jersey economy. Since February 2010 (the low point of the last recession), New Jersey's private sector employers have added 404,400 jobs.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, the previously released total nonfarm employment estimate for July was revised lower by 2,700 to show an over-the-month (June – July) decrease of 3,200 jobs. Preliminary estimates had indicated an over-the-month decrease of 500 jobs. The state's revised July unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3 percent.

In August, employment increases were recorded in four out of nine major private industry sectors. Industry sectors that gained jobs include education and health services (+2,300), other services (+1,500), financial activities (+900), and professional and business services (+300). Industry sectors that lost jobs include leisure and hospitality (-3,700), information (-1,000), manufacturing (-600), trade, transportation, and utilities (-500), and construction (-400). Over the month, public sector employment was higher by 2,300 jobs, mainly at the local level (+1,500).

Preliminary BLS data for September 2019 will be released on October 17, 2019.

Technical Notes: 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 businesses 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
2018 Benchmark

Labor Force Data (resident)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Aug. 19 (P)	July 19 (R)	Aug. 18	over the Month	over the Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,457,100	4,445,700	4,417,500	11,400	39,600
Employment	4,315,200	4,298,800	4,242,800	16,400	72,400
Unemployment	141,900	146,900	174,800	-5,000	-32,900
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.3	4.0	-0.1	-0.8
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Aug. 19 (P)	July 19 (R)	Aug. 18	over the Month	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	4,200,400	4,199,300	4,153,700	1,100	46,700
Total Private Sector	3,595,200	3,596,400	3,551,200	-1,200	44,000
Goods Producing	417,900	418,900	404,600	-1,000	13,300
Mining and Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Construction	165,000	165,400	156,200	-400	8,800
Manufacturing	251,500	252,100	247,000	-600	4,500
Service-Providing	3,782,500	3,780,400	3,749,100	2,100	33,400
Private Service-Providing	3,177,300	3,177,500	3,146,600	-200	30,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	887,400	887,900	885,100	-500	2,300
Information	66,100	67,100	69,900	-1,000	-3,800
Financial Activities	246,500	245,600	251,300	900	-4,800
Professional and Business Services	677,200	676,900	671,400	300	5,800
Education and Health Services	722,900	720,600	705,600	2,300	17,300
Leisure and Hospitality	401,200	404,900	391,400	-3,700	9,800
Other Services	176,000	174,500	171,900	1,500	4,100
Public Sector	605,200	602,900	602,500	2,300	2,700
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	2,000	-700	1,900	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	1,000	-1,200	600	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	41.0	40.9	40.8	0.1	0.2
Durable Goods	41.9	42.0	40.1	-0.1	1.8
Nondurable Goods	40.2	40.1	41.3	0.1	-1.1
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	\$24.31	\$24.14	\$22.52	\$0.17	\$1.79
Durable Goods	\$26.94	\$26.99	\$25.78	-\$0.05	\$1.16
Nondurable Goods	\$22.14	\$21.75	\$20.04	\$0.39	\$2.10
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	\$996.71	\$987.33	\$918.82	\$9.38	\$77.89
Durable Goods	\$1,128.79	\$1,133.58	\$1,033.78	-\$4.79	\$95.01
Nondurable Goods	\$890.03	\$872.18	\$827.65	\$17.85	\$62.38

September 19, 2019. 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						
2018 Benchmark						
	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug. 19 (P)	July 19 (R)	Aug. 18	Aug. 19 (P)	July 19 (R)	Aug. 18
Civilian Labor Force	4,527,100	4,537,100	4,432,700	4,457,100	4,445,700	4,417,500
Resident Employment	4,371,400	4,379,500	4,246,700	4,315,200	4,298,800	4,242,800
Unemployment	155,700	157,600	186,000	141,900	146,900	174,800
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.4	3.5	4.2	3.2	3.3	4.0
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.7	63.8	62.6	62.7	62.6	62.3
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	61.5	61.6	59.9	60.7	60.5	59.9
New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1998 - 2018						
Year	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)	
1998	4,247,400		4,055,100	192,300	4.5	
1999	4,288,700		4,096,300	192,400	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	4,489,000		4,229,200	259,800	5.8	
2016	4,474,700		4,252,100	222,600	5.0	
2017	4,453,500		4,247,500	206,000	4.6	
2018	4,422,900		4,239,600	183,400	4.1	
Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2018-2019						
Date	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate %	
Jan 2018	4,429,800		4,226,400	203,400	4.6	
Feb	4,425,500		4,226,100	199,300	4.5	
Mar	4,422,900		4,227,800	195,200	4.4	
Apr	4,421,000		4,230,100	190,900	4.3	
May	4,418,900		4,232,200	186,700	4.2	
Jun	4,417,100		4,234,700	182,300	4.1	
Jul	4,416,700		4,238,600	178,100	4.0	
Aug	4,417,500		4,242,800	174,800	4.0	
Sep	4,419,900		4,247,500	172,400	3.9	
Oct	4,422,800		4,251,400	171,400	3.9	
Nov	4,424,300		4,252,200	172,100	3.9	
Dec	4,424,800		4,252,000	172,800	3.9	
Jan 2019	4,434,900		4,259,300	175,600	4.0	
Feb	4,444,300		4,265,000	179,300	4.0	
Mar	4,451,700		4,271,100	180,600	4.1	
Apr	4,449,500		4,274,800	174,700	3.9	
May	4,447,100		4,279,800	167,400	3.8	
Jun	4,443,400		4,286,900	156,500	3.5	
Jul (R)	4,445,700		4,298,800	146,900	3.3	
Aug (P)	4,457,100		4,315,200	141,900	3.2	
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

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

September 19, 2019. P - preliminary, R-revised.

Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for August 2019 Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2018 Benchmark				
Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	Aug. 19 (P)	July 19 (R)	Aug. 18	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	4,216,300	4,233,500	4,154,500	61,800
Total Private Sector	3,650,700	3,660,400	3,590,000	60,700
Goods Producing	425,400	426,600	411,900	13,500
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0
Construction	171,000	171,800	162,100	8,900
Manufacturing	253,000	253,400	248,400	4,600
Durable Goods*	117,400	117,800	116,000	1,400
Fabricated Metal Products	22,000	22,100	21,800	200
Machinery Manufacturing	14,200	14,100	14,100	100
Computer and Electronic Products	25,200	25,200	24,600	600
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	19,000	18,900	18,800	200
Nondurable Goods*	135,600	135,600	132,400	3,200
Food Manufacturing	36,800	36,700	36,000	800
Printing and Related Support	12,700	12,700	13,200	-500
Chemical Manufacturing	43,500	44,000	42,900	600
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	22,200	22,400	22,100	100
Service-Providing	3,790,900	3,806,900	3,742,600	48,300
Private Service-Providing	3,225,300	3,233,800	3,178,100	47,200
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	884,000	885,200	881,700	2,300
Wholesale Trade*	215,500	214,500	216,800	-1,300
Retail Trade*	458,700	460,700	458,900	-200
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	34,700	35,000	33,100	1,600
Food and Beverage Stores	117,700	119,100	115,200	2,500
Health and Personal Care Stores	38,900	38,900	38,400	500
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	47,800	48,200	50,600	-2,800
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Inst., and Book Stores	12,700	12,700	13,400	-700
General Merchandise Stores	71,400	71,300	72,900	-1,500
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	209,800	210,000	206,000	3,800
Utilities*	16,200	16,200	15,600	600
Transportation & Warehousing*	193,600	193,800	190,400	3,200
Information	66,300	67,600	70,700	-4,400
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	16,600	16,700	17,300	-700
Telecommunications	24,000	24,200	25,900	-1,900
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	10,600	10,600	10,200	400
Financial Activities	250,200	249,100	254,100	-3,900
Finance and Insurance*	188,300	188,000	192,700	-4,400
Financial Investments and Related Activities	39,200	38,800	38,900	300
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	77,500	77,700	80,500	-3,000
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*	61,900	61,100	61,400	500
Professional and Business Services	682,500	685,200	677,200	5,300
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*	309,100	308,900	303,200	5,900
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	83,800	84,100	84,800	-1,000
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	289,600	292,200	289,200	400
Education and Health Services	709,500	709,200	688,600	20,900
Educational Services*	104,200	106,700	97,400	6,800
Health Care and Social Assistance*	605,300	602,500	591,200	14,100
Hospitals	165,500	165,500	162,300	3,200
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	98,400	98,000	96,300	2,100
Social Assistance	98,800	97,200	94,500	4,300
Leisure and Hospitality	454,100	458,800	431,600	22,500
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation*	98,200	97,100	89,500	8,700
Accommodation and Food Services*	355,900	361,700	342,100	13,800
Food Services and Drinking Places	290,500	295,600	281,400	9,100
Other Services	178,700	178,700	174,200	4,500
Repair and Maintenance	34,500	34,200	33,700	800
Personal and Laundry Services	64,200	64,000	63,600	600
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	80,000	80,500	76,900	3,100
Government	565,600	573,100	564,500	1,100

September 19, 2019 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series, * denote sector series.

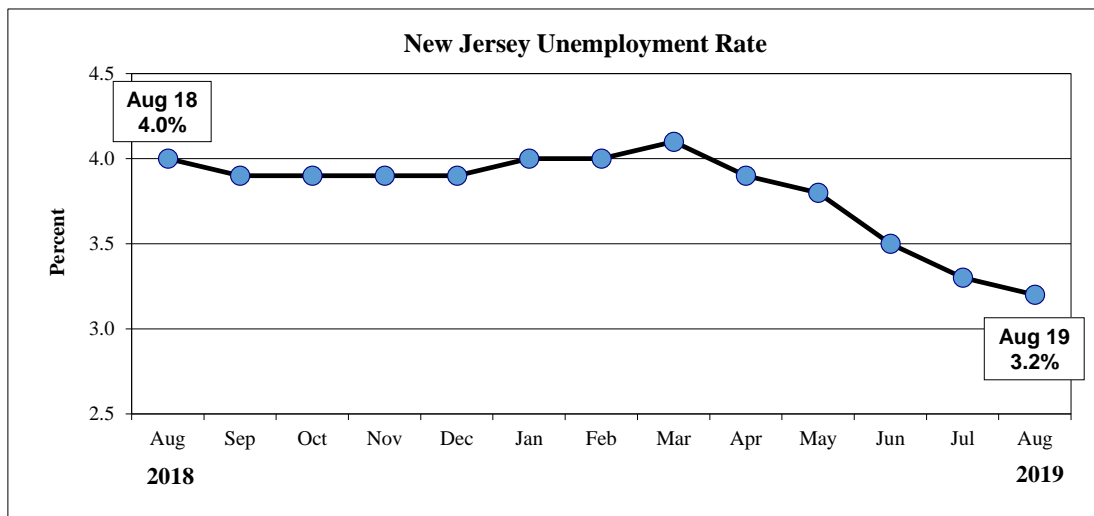
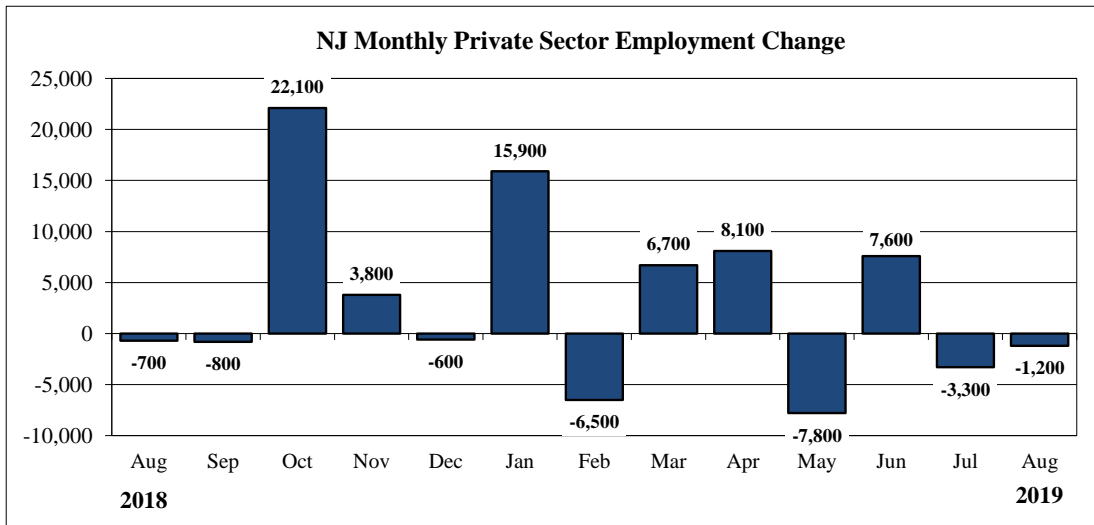
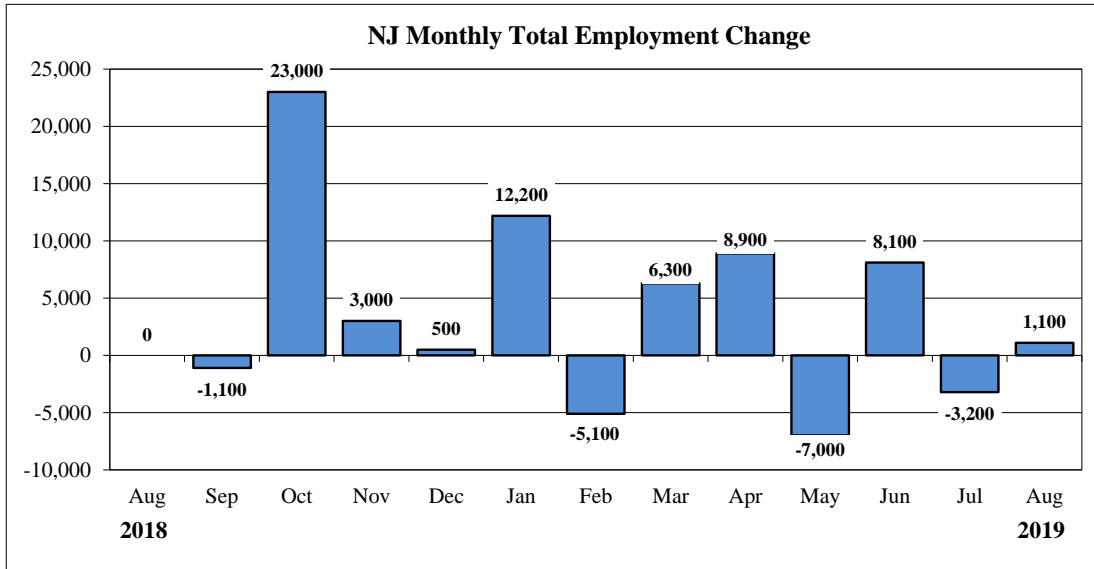
Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment 2018 Benchmark						
Annual Averages						
	Total	Private Sector				Public
Year		Total	Manufacturing	Construction	Service-Providing	
1998	3,797,000	3,228,800	427,400	136,100	2,663,000	568,300
1999	3,896,500	3,322,600	420,500	143,600	2,756,300	573,900
2000	3,989,400	3,404,600	419,600	149,600	2,833,400	584,800
2001	3,991,200	3,392,900	399,200	158,800	2,833,200	598,400
2002	3,977,500	3,368,300	365,100	162,600	2,839,100	609,100
2003	3,970,600	3,353,400	348,000	160,500	2,843,300	617,300
2004	3,990,800	3,362,400	335,800	165,900	2,859,100	628,400
2005	4,030,700	3,394,600	327,800	169,100	2,896,000	636,100
2006	4,061,500	3,420,100	321,100	174,900	2,922,400	641,400
2007	4,068,400	3,427,000	308,400	172,300	2,944,700	641,400
2008	4,039,300	3,396,900	295,400	164,500	2,935,300	642,500
2009	3,884,600	3,239,300	260,900	138,600	2,838,200	645,300
2010	3,838,500	3,206,000	252,200	129,500	2,823,000	632,500
2011	3,837,000	3,225,900	246,900	129,900	2,847,800	611,100
2012	3,879,500	3,271,700	241,000	130,400	2,899,000	607,800
2013	3,923,800	3,317,000	238,800	137,600	2,939,300	606,800
2014	3,955,900	3,348,000	238,800	141,600	2,966,100	607,900
2015	4,000,100	3,397,800	238,800	148,400	3,009,200	602,300
2016	4,060,400	3,459,400	242,100	153,500	3,062,500	601,000
2017	4,117,200	3,515,600	244,600	156,100	3,113,500	601,600
2018	4,154,800	3,554,200	247,400	157,900	3,147,600	600,500
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2018						
Jan	4,138,900	3,540,500	246,300	156,200	3,136,600	598,400
Feb	4,150,600	3,551,700	246,600	159,300	3,144,400	598,900
Mar	4,145,000	3,547,500	246,700	159,500	3,139,900	597,500
Apr	4,148,000	3,549,800	247,300	157,200	3,143,900	598,200
May	4,147,900	3,549,500	246,900	156,900	3,144,300	598,400
Jun	4,157,000	3,556,300	247,400	157,100	3,150,400	600,700
Jul	4,153,700	3,551,900	246,800	156,400	3,147,300	601,800
Aug	4,153,700	3,551,200	247,000	156,200	3,146,600	602,500
Sep	4,152,600	3,550,400	246,700	156,500	3,145,800	602,200
Oct	4,175,600	3,572,500	248,600	158,400	3,164,100	603,100
Nov	4,178,600	3,576,300	249,100	160,400	3,165,400	602,300
Dec	4,179,100	3,575,700	249,200	161,200	3,163,900	603,400
2019						
Jan	4,191,300	3,591,600	249,500	163,200	3,177,500	599,700
Feb	4,186,200	3,585,100	249,800	162,500	3,171,400	601,100
Mar	4,192,500	3,591,800	249,900	163,700	3,176,800	600,700
Apr	4,201,400	3,599,900	250,500	164,100	3,183,900	601,500
May	4,194,400	3,592,100	250,000	164,400	3,176,300	602,300
Jun	4,202,500	3,599,700	251,000	164,900	3,182,400	602,800
Jul (R)	4,199,300	3,596,400	252,100	165,400	3,177,500	602,900
Aug (P)	4,200,400	3,595,200	251,500	165,000	3,177,300	605,200
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: August 2019 (Seasonally Adjusted)



September 19, 2019

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