

# Regional Focus: Central Jersey

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 1,171,000 in March 2018, a gain of 23,500 jobs or 2.1 percent from the same month a year ago. Jobholding statewide increased at a slightly slower pace over the year (+1.6%). The Central Region contributed the most to New Jersey's employment increase; jobholding was up by 17,500 in the Southern Region and 9,300 in the Northern Region.

Over the year, the job growth leader in the Central Region was trade, transportation and utilities (TTU; +10,300 or +4.4%) where most of the gain occurred in the transportation, warehousing and utilities industry (+9,300 or +16.9%). Employment gains were also posted in education and health services (+5,700 or +2.8%), professional and business services (+5,600 or +2.9%), leisure and hospitality (+2,000 or +2.2%), government (+1,500 or +0.8%), and other services (+600 or +1.2%). Construction (-1,200 or -2.9%), information (-500 or -2.2%), manufacturing (-400 or -1.7%), and financial activities (-100 or -0.2%) declined.

At the state level, not seasonally adjusted employment in TTU (+27,000 or +3.1%), education and health services (+19,400 or +2.8%), professional and business services (+11,700 or +1.8%), manufacturing (+6,600 or +2.7%), other services (+2,400 or +1.4%), government (+2,000 or +0.3%), and leisure and hospitality (+1,800 or +0.5%) was up from the same month a year ago. The construction (-2,300 or -1.6%) information (-1,400 or -2.0%) and financial activities (-1,100 or -0.4%) sectors 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. Jobholding in the Trenton Labor Area expanded by 3.0 percent (+7,800) while the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area added jobs at a rate of 1.8 percent (+15,700).

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

|                                 | Region        |            | State         |            |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|                                 | Net           | %          | Net           | %          |
| <b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b> | <b>23,500</b> | <b>2.1</b> | <b>66,100</b> | <b>1.6</b> |
| Private Sector                  | 22,000        | 2.3        | 64,100        | 1.9        |
| Construction                    | -1,200        | -2.9       | -2,300        | -1.6       |
| Manufacturing                   | -400          | -0.7       | 6,600         | 2.7        |
| Trade, Trans. & Utilities       | 10,300        | 4.4        | 27,000        | 3.1        |
| Information                     | -500          | -2.2       | -1,400        | -2.0       |
| Financial Activities            | -100          | -0.2       | -1,100        | -0.4       |
| Prof. & Business Svcs.          | 5,600         | 2.9        | 11,700        | 1.8        |
| Ed. & Health Svcs.              | 5,700         | 2.8        | 19,400        | 2.8        |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 2,000         | 2.2        | 1,800         | 0.5        |
| Other Services                  | 600           | 1.2        | 2,400         | 1.4        |
| Government                      | 1,500         | 0.8        | 2,000         | 0.3        |

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

In the Trenton Labor Area, the private sector job growth leader was TTU which posted a gain of 2,800 jobs or 7.5 percent. Nearly all of the gain occurred in the transportation, warehousing and utilities industry (+2,600 or +26.8%).

Private sector jobholding was also up in leisure and hospitality (+1,000 or +6.6%), education and health services (+800 or +1.7%), financial activities (+500 or +2.7%), professional and business



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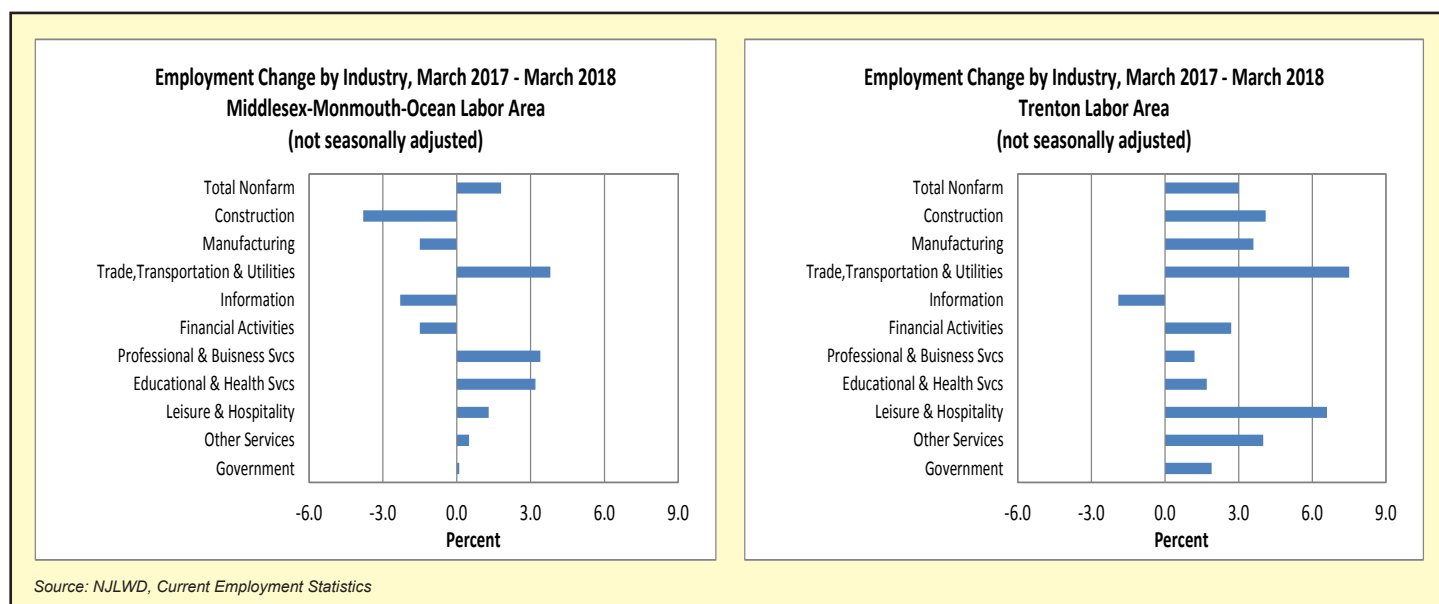
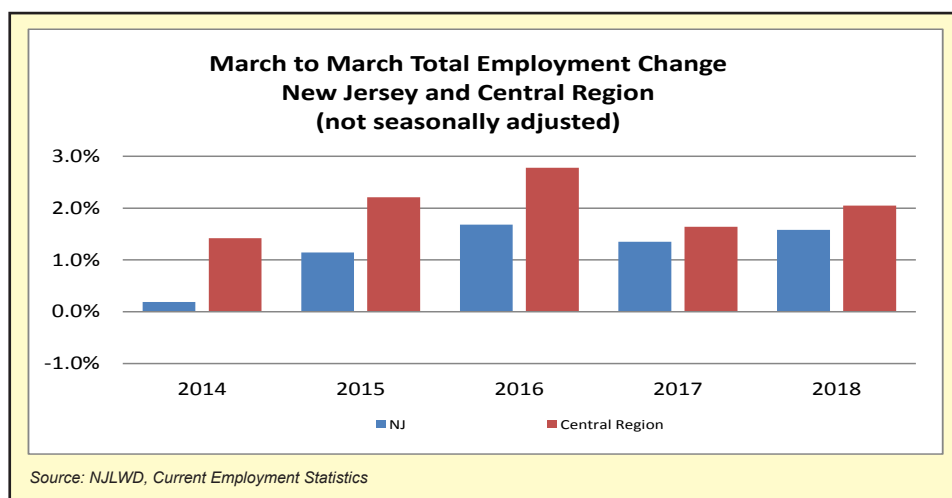


| Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted March data, employment in thousands)     |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    |
| New Jersey  | 3,887.2 | 3,894.5 | 3,939.1 | 4,005.3 | 4,059.3 | 4,123.5 |
| Central Region  | 1,058.5 | 1,073.5 | 1,101.3 | 1,127.7 | 1,146.2 | 1,169.7 |
| Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties) | 816.4   | 826.6   | 843.0   | 867.3   | 883.7   | 899.4   |
| Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County)  | 242.1   | 246.9   | 254.2   | 260.4   | 262.5   | 270.3   |

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

services (+500 or +1.2%), other services (+400 or +4.0%), manufacturing (+300 or +3.6%), and construction (+200 or +4.1%). Information (-100 or -1.9%) was down over the year.

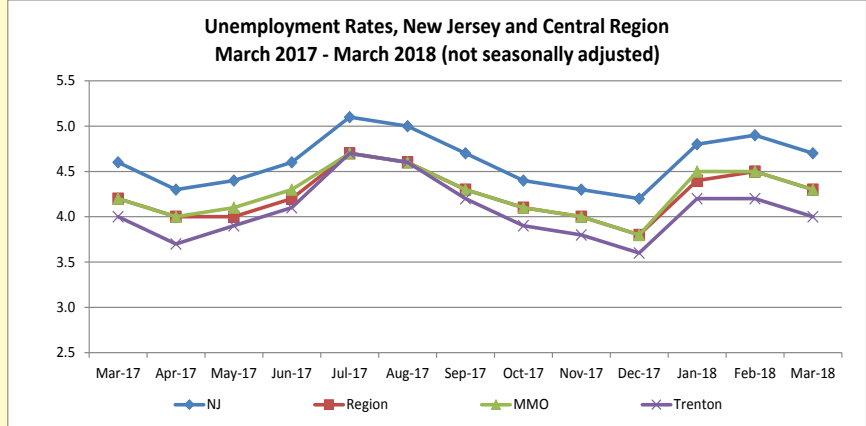
In the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area, TTU added the most jobs (+7,500 or +3.8%) due primarily to an increase in transportation, warehousing and utilities (+6,700 or +14.8%). Jobholding in the professional and business services (+5,100 or +3.4%), education and health services (+4,900 or +3.2%), and leisure and hospitality (+1,000 or 1.3%) sectors was also up from the same month a year ago. Construction (-1,400 or -3.8%), manufacturing (-700 or -1.5%), financial activities (-600 or -1.5%) and information (-400 or -2.3%) posted declines over the year.



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 March 2018 the Central Region had a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.3 percent, up slightly from a March 2017 rate of 4.2 percent. In comparison, the region's March 2018 rate was lower than the statewide unadjusted rate of 4.7 percent.
- By county, the March 2018 unemployment rates in the region were: Mercer at 4.0 percent, Middlesex at 4.0 percent, Monmouth at 4.1 percent, and Ocean at 5.0 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

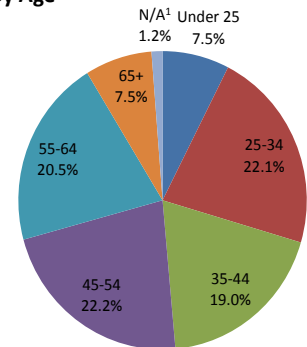
More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at:  
[http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfst\\_index.html](http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfst_index.html)

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

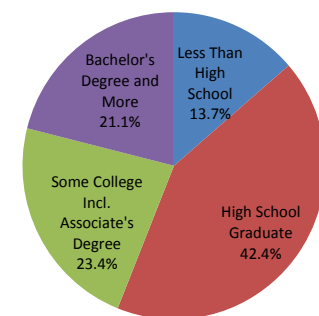
| CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP      |        |         |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|
|                                      | Number | Percent |
| Management                           | 3,905  | 8.0     |
| Business and financial               | 1,555  | 3.2     |
| Professional and related             | 5,784  | 11.8    |
| Services                             | 9,012  | 18.4    |
| Sales and related                    | 3,523  | 7.2     |
| Office and administrative support    | 6,082  | 12.4    |
| Farming, fishing and forestry        | 184    | 0.4     |
| Construction and extraction          | 6,664  | 13.6    |
| Installation, maintenance and repair | 2,016  | 4.1     |
| Production                           | 3,589  | 7.3     |
| Transportation and material moving   | 6,472  | 13.2    |
| Military                             | 158    | 0.3     |

- During the first quarter of 2018, there were 44,653 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Central Region, a figure which represented 24.4 percent of the claimants statewide. The region's claims activity was down by 4,304 claims or 8.9 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 10,224 or 5.3 percent since the first quarter of 2017.

### By Age



### By Educational Level



¹N/A: No information provided by claimant  
 Source: NJLWD, Characteristics of UI Claimants

## REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 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 | 19,441   |
| Mercer    | 13,375   |
| Monmouth  | 9,968    |
| Ocean     | 4,747    |

### INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

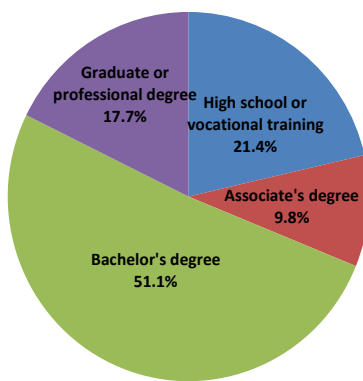
| Industry   | Listings |
|--|----------|
| Hospitals  | 3,554    |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 3,474    |
| Educational Services                             | 1,801    |
| Food Services and Drinking Places                | 1,695    |
| Chemical Manufacturing                           | 1,615    |
| Credit Intermediation and Related Activities     | 1,591    |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services                  | 1,475    |
| Truck Transportation                             | 1,382    |
| Publishing Industries (except Internet)          | 1,337    |
| Administrative and Support Services              | 1,320    |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities        | 1,037    |
| General Merchandise Stores                       | 1,032    |

During the first quarter of 2018, Central Region employers in the hospitals, professional, scientific and technical services, educational 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 registered nurses, software developers, wholesale sales representatives, tractor trailer drivers, and retail salespersons. Skills that were actively sought by area employers included teamwork/collaboration, customer service, sales, scheduling, project management, and budgeting.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 68.6 percent require a Bachelor's, Graduate, or professional degree.

**Job Listings by Educational Requirement**



| OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS   |          |
|--|----------|
| Occupation   | Listings |
| Registered Nurses  | 2,118    |
| Software Developers, Applications  | 1,864    |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 1,585    |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers  | 1,581    |
| Retail Salespersons  | 1,564    |
| Managers, All Other  | 1,089    |
| Customer Service Representatives   | 1,014    |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers   | 879      |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand                                       | 688      |
| Medical and Health Services Managers   | 667      |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses  | 647      |
| Management Analysts  | 611      |

| TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND          |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Skill                         | Listings |
| Teamwork / Collaboration      | 7,184    |
| Customer Service              | 6,992    |
| Sales                         | 6,048    |
| Scheduling                    | 4,377    |
| Project Management            | 3,770    |
| Budgeting                     | 3,308    |
| Customer Contact              | 2,901    |
| Retail Industry Knowledge     | 2,487    |
| SQL                           | 2,365    |
| Oracle                        | 2,359    |
| Repair                        | 2,212    |
| Quality Assurance and Control | 2,162    |

| EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY |              |
|--|--------------|
| Employer   | Job Postings |
| Meridian Health System                                 | 899          |
| Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey            | 783          |
| Anthem Blue Cross                                      | 555          |
| The Home Depot Incorporated                            | 486          |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb                                   | 368          |
| Bank of America  | 333          |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc                                  | 332          |
| Saint Barnabas Health Care System                      | 298          |
| Johnson & Johnson                                      | 268          |
| Princeton University                                   | 268          |
| Target   | 254          |
| Compass Group  | 250          |

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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