



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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TRENTON, October 17, 2006 – New Jersey saw its unemployment rate drop slightly in September and added 3,000 jobs over the month for a new record high employment level. The State's September unemployment rate at 5.2 percent was down slightly from the August rate of 5.3 percent. The U.S. rate in September was 4.6 percent.

According to preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers, the number of persons working on nonfarm payrolls rose by 3,000 from August to 4,084,500 in September.

Based on additional data provided by employers, August's over-the-month increase was revised upward by 800 and brought the August employment level to 4,081,500.

"In September, New Jersey continued to experience the moderate job growth we have seen all year. We had employment gains in finance; trade, transportation and utilities, and in education and health services," said Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "Our unemployment rate was relatively stable, declining 0.1 percentage point over the month."

The trade/transportation/utilities supersector increased by 1,100 jobs from the August level.

The education and health services supersector continued to add jobs with employment rising by 1,000 to 573,700. Both the education and health care/social assistance sectors shared in the increase.

The financial activities supersector rose by 700 to 284,200 with the finance and insurance sector showing the most strength. Employment in the "other services" supersector (includes automotive and equipment repair firms, personal care services, religious organizations and grant-making institutions) increased by 400 to 160,800.

Employment in both the construction and professional/business services supersectors showed little movement as each increased by only 200 jobs.

The manufacturing supersector had the largest loss of jobs as employment fell 700 to 315,300 with small cutbacks noted in several industries.

The leisure and hospitality supersector job estimate dropped by 500 to 345,400 with the

arts/entertainment/recreation sector contributing most to the loss. The information supersector fell by 300 to 94,000.

Government payrolls rose by 900 to 647,700 with the local government component contributing the most to the increase.

Compared with September 2005, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing production workers was down by 0.5 hour to 42.2 hours. Average hourly earnings were up by \$0.15 over the year while weekly earnings were down by \$1.93 to \$703.05. Over the month, the workweek rose by 0.3 hour, hourly earnings increased by \$0.17 and weekly earnings were up by \$12.12.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal employment opportunity employer and provides equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to assist individuals with disabilities.

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