



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



[LWD Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2008](#) > Jan-16-08 New Jersey Employment Increased in December for Fourth Consecutive Month; State Unemployment Rate at 4.5 Percent in December

## Jan-16-08 New Jersey Employment Increased in December for Fourth Consecutive Month; State Unemployment Rate at 4.5 Percent in December

- [2008 News Releases](#)
- [2007 News Releases](#)
- [2006 News Releases](#)
- [2005 News Releases](#)
- [2004 News Releases](#)
- [2003 News Releases](#)
- [2002 News Releases](#)

### Contact:

**Marcela Ospina**

TEL: 609.292.0306

FAX: 609.777.3634

- News Release -

### Contact:

**Kevin Smith**

TEL: 609.984.2841

FAX: 609.777.3634

**Trenton, January 16, 2008** – New Jersey gained 3,700 jobs in December, nearly all in the private sector. The State's unemployment rate moved to 4.5 percent, up from the November rate of 4.2 percent. New Jersey's rate remained well below the national rate which rose to 5.0 percent in December.

New Jersey's December employment gains were concentrated in the private sector as firms added 3,500 jobs to their payrolls. Public sector employment recorded a modest gain of 200.

According to preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers, the December increase in nonfarm wage and salary employment in the Garden State raised employment to 4,114,900, a record-high level. Based on more complete reporting from employers, the previously released November estimate was revised higher by 1,400 jobs for a gain of 3,500 over the month.

From December 2006 to December 2007, employment in New Jersey increased by 29,400 jobs with the bulk of the hiring coming after a slow start to the year. Since April, New Jersey employers have added 27,600 jobs. Unemployment in New Jersey averaged a preliminary 4.3 percent during 2007, down from an annual average of 4.6 percent in 2006.

"New Jersey ended the year strongly with a fourth consecutive month of job growth," said Commissioner Socolow. "In December, 3,500 jobs were added in the private sector. And over the year, the strongest growth came in professional and business services led by employment in professional, scientific and technical services," Socolow added.

The 2007 estimates showed 13,100 jobs added in the professional and business service industries, the largest gains over the year. Of these jobs, 8,100 were in the professional, scientific and technical services sector. Manufacturing employment was down by 4,800 jobs over the year.

It should be noted that the employment figures released each month are estimates from surveys and are subject to annual revisions. This annual process, or benchmarking, is required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and incorporates more complete data from all New Jersey employers. The benchmarked data, which will provide a more accurate picture of the New Jersey economy for the entire calendar year,

will be released on February 27, 2008.

The December estimates showed significant job gains were recorded in the education and health services (+1,600), leisure and hospitality (+1,400), and professional and business services (+1,200) industry supersectors. Employment increases in the health and social assistance segment (+1,400) were responsible for the majority of the gain in education and health services. In leisure and hospitality, hiring in the accommodation and food services component (+1,200) led to the advance, while nearly the entire gain in professional and business services was due to growth in professional, scientific and technical services (+1,100). Other supersectors recording job improvement in December were information (+400), trade, transportation and utilities (+300) and other services (+100).

December job losses occurred in construction (-800), financial activities (-500) and manufacturing (-300). The contraction in construction was reflective of typical seasonal slowdowns in the industry, while employment in financial activities was impacted by the lack of activity in the mortgage industry.

Over the month, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing workers increased by 0.3 hours to 42.1 hours, average hourly earnings rose by \$0.20 to \$17.62 and weekly earnings were up by \$13.64 to \$741.80. Compared with December of last year, the unadjusted workweek was up by 0.1 hours, average hourly earnings rose by \$0.54 and weekly earnings advanced by \$40.81.

*Note: With the release of January data on February 27, LWD is scheduled to introduce revisions to the nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings data to reflect adjustments for the March 2007 benchmark and updated seasonal adjustment factors. Unadjusted data will be revised from 2005 forward and seasonally adjusted data from 2003 through 2007 will be updated. Historical labor force and unemployment estimates will also be revised for prior years reflecting updated seasonal adjustment factors and revised data inputs to the estimation procedure.*

#### [Press Release Tables](#)

---

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.

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 2007  
Department of Labor and Workforce Development: 1 John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 110 Trenton, NJ 08625-0110  
Email: [Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us)

---