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# - News Release -

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## **New Jersey Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.9 Percent Lowest Level Since Fall 2008**

TRENTON, May 15, 2014 – New Jersey’s unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in April, its lowest level since the fall of 2008, as Garden State employers added 4,500 workers to their payrolls, according to preliminary data released by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The state’s unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points over the month, from March’s 7.2 percent to 6.9 percent in April, as job gains were recorded in both the private (+3,300) and public (+1,200) sectors of the state’s economy to reach a seasonally adjusted level of 3,932,400, as measured by the BLS through its monthly employer survey. Since February 2010, the recessionary low point for private sector employment, private sector employment has increased by 125,700 jobs.

“The strong gain in resident employment and the increase in the labor force, along with the drop in the unemployment rate, indicates that the labor market continues to heal. We appear to be starting some progress on the job front after the recent soft months,” said Charles Steindel, Chief Economist for the New Jersey Department of Treasury.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released estimates from the BLS were revised higher, up by 1,000 jobs, to show a slight increase in private sector employment that month of 300 jobs. The over-the-month (February – March) loss of 600 public sector jobs remained unchanged, showing a total nonfarm employment loss of 300 jobs for March, not 1,300 jobs as the preliminary BLS data initially indicated.

In April, private sector job growth was posted in five of nine major industry sectors, including leisure and hospitality (+3,200), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,800), professional and business services (+1,500), education and health services (+200), and financial activities (+200). Industries that saw job contraction included construction (-2,800), manufacturing (-600), and information (-200).

Over the month, public sector employment was higher by 1,200. Modest gains were recorded at all three levels of government: federal (+400), state (+600), and local (+200).

The three month average of preliminary and revised BLS data for New Jersey from February through April 2014 indicates a 7.1 percent average unemployment rate, with average monthly dips of 200 in total nonfarm jobs.

**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 business establishments conducted by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the US 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 US 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 BLS. In addition, these estimates are benchmarked (revised) annually based on actual counts from New Jersey’s Unemployment Compensation Law administrative records and other data.

**Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey**  
**Seasonally Adjusted (thousands)**  
**2013 Benchmark**

<b>Labor Force Data (resident)</b>					
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>One Year Ago</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
	<b>April 14 (P)</b>	<b>March 14 (R)</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
Civilian Labor Force	4,482.5	4,476.2	4,560.9	6.3	-78.4
Employment	4,172.4	4,155.0	4,172.0	17.4	0.4
Unemployment	310.1	321.2	389.0	-11.1	-78.9
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	7.2%	8.5%	-0.3 ppt	-1.6 ppt
<b>Employment Data (establishment)</b>					
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>One Year Ago</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
	<b>April 14 (P)</b>	<b>March 14 (R)</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>over the Month</b>	<b>over the Year</b>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	3,932.4	3,927.9	3,927.7	4.5	4.7
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	3,317.3	3,314.0	3,318.2	3.3	-0.9
<b>Goods Producing</b>	370.8	374.2	382.1	-3.4	-11.3
Mining & Logging	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.1
Construction	128.0	130.8	137.3	-2.8	-9.3
Manufacturing	241.4	242.0	243.5	-0.6	-2.1
<b>Service-Providing</b>	3,561.6	3,553.7	3,545.6	7.9	16.0
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	2,946.5	2,939.8	2,936.1	6.7	10.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	836.0	834.2	826.3	1.8	9.7
Information	72.5	72.7	75.6	-0.2	-3.1
Financial Activities	251.0	250.8	254.8	0.2	-3.8
Professional and Business Services	637.2	635.7	629.9	1.5	7.3
Education and Health Services	636.2	636.0	631.5	0.2	4.7
Leisure and Hospitality	347.2	344.0	352.3	3.2	-5.1
Other Services	166.4	166.4	165.7	0.0	0.7
<b>Public Sector</b>	615.1	613.9	609.5	1.2	5.6
<b>Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*</b>					
Manufacturing	40.5	41.1	40.2	-0.6	0.3
Durable Goods	41.2	41.2	41.8	0.0	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	39.9	41.1	38.9	-1.2	1.0
<b>Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*</b>					
Manufacturing	\$19.67	\$19.53	\$19.07	\$0.14	\$0.60
Durable Goods	\$22.98	\$23.17	\$23.03	-\$0.19	-\$0.05
Nondurable Goods	\$16.74	\$16.46	\$15.50	\$0.28	\$1.24
<b>Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**</b>					
Manufacturing	\$796.64	\$802.68	\$766.61	-\$6.04	\$30.03
Durable Goods	\$946.78	\$954.60	\$962.65	-\$7.82	-\$15.87
Nondurable Goods	\$667.93	\$676.51	\$602.95	-\$8.58	\$64.98

May 15, 2014 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 Labor Market and Demographic Research.

**Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends (thousands)**  
2013 Benchmark

	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	April 14 (P)	March 14 (R)	April 13	April 14 (P)	March 14 (R)	April 13
Civilian Labor Force	4,463.9	4,477.9	4,535.7	4,482.5	4,476.2	4,560.9
Resident Employment	4,180.5	4,137.2	4,165.1	4,172.4	4,155.0	4,172.0
Unemployment	283.4	340.7	370.6	310.1	321.2	389.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3%	7.6%	8.2%	6.9%	7.2%	8.5%
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.3%	63.6%	64.8%	63.6%	63.5%	65.2%
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	59.3%	58.7%	59.5%	59.2%	59.0%	59.6%
New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1993 - 2013 (thousands)						
Year	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)	
1993	4,034.6		3,727.3	307.3	7.6	
1994	4,067.5		3,790.0	277.5	6.8	
1995	4,111.8		3,846.3	265.5	6.5	
1996	4,184.1		3,925.8	258.3	6.2	
1997	4,257.4		4,031.0	226.4	5.3	
1998	4,242.4		4,047.1	195.3	4.6	
1999	4,284.6		4,092.7	191.8	4.5	
2000	4,287.8		4,130.3	157.5	3.7	
2001	4,302.3		4,117.5	184.8	4.3	
2002	4,370.8		4,117.3	253.5	5.8	
2003	4,363.9		4,108.4	255.5	5.9	
2004	4,358.9		4,144.2	214.7	4.9	
2005	4,404.5		4,207.7	196.7	4.5	
2006	4,465.1		4,257.9	207.2	4.6	
2007	4,456.3		4,264.6	191.7	4.3	
2008	4,508.6		4,261.8	246.7	5.5	
2009	4,544.7		4,135.9	408.8	9.0	
2010	4,545.6		4,108.7	436.9	9.6	
2011	4,535.8		4,112.2	423.6	9.4	
2012	4,561.8		4,136.9	424.8	9.3	
2013	4,537.8		4,166.0	371.8	8.2	
Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey (thousands) 2013-2014						
Date	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate %	
Jan 2013	4,574.4		4,165.1	409.4	8.9	
Feb	4,570.9		4,168.4	402.6	8.8	
Mar	4,566.3		4,170.7	395.5	8.7	
Apr	4,560.9		4,172.0	389.0	8.5	
May	4,554.3		4,170.4	383.9	8.4	
Jun	4,546.5		4,166.7	379.8	8.4	
Jul	4,537.8		4,162.8	375.0	8.3	
Aug	4,528.0		4,160.8	367.2	8.1	
Sep	4,517.3		4,160.8	356.5	7.9	
Oct	4,507.3		4,162.4	344.8	7.7	
Nov	4,498.0		4,164.5	333.4	7.4	
Dec	4,490.8		4,167.4	323.3	7.2	
Jan 2014	4,474.9		4,157.7	317.1	7.1	
Feb	4,473.0		4,154.9	318.1	7.1	
Mar (R)	4,476.2		4,155.0	321.2	7.2	
Apr (P)	4,482.5		4,172.4	310.1	6.9	
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research.  
May 15, 2014. P - preliminary, R - revised.

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for April 2014  
Not Seasonally Adjusted (thousands) 2013 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	April 14 (P)	March 14 (R)	April 13	over the Year
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>3,913.7</b>	<b>3,875.4</b>	<b>3,914.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Total Private Sector	3,287.9	3,249.0	3,291.4	-3.5
Goods Producing	367.4	363.3	379.7	-12.3
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>125.3</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>136.0</b>	<b>-10.7</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>240.7</b>	<b>241.3</b>	<b>242.4</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Durable Goods	109.7	109.5	110.3	-0.6
Fabricated Metal Products	21.3	21.3	21.9	-0.6
Machinery Manufacturing	14.2	14.2	14.0	0.2
Computer and Electronic Products	22.8	22.8	24.1	-1.3
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	17.9	17.9	17.9	0.0
Nondurable Goods	131.0	131.8	132.1	-1.1
Food Manufacturing	30.4	30.4	30.2	0.2
Paper Manufacturing	10.1	10.2	10.5	-0.4
Printing and Related Support	15.0	15.1	15.4	-0.4
Chemical Manufacturing	47.6	48.0	49.4	-1.8
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	26.1	26.3	27.2	-1.1
Service-Providing	3,546.3	3,512.1	3,534.7	11.6
Private Service-Providing	2,920.5	2,885.7	2,911.7	8.8
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>826.7</b>	<b>820.7</b>	<b>814.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Wholesale Trade*	213.9	214.0	211.9	2.0
Retail Trade*	445.3	439.5	436.5	8.8
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	31.8	28.6	32.3	-0.5
Food and Beverage Stores	111.4	109.4	106.6	4.8
Health and Personal Care Stores	35.3	35.0	34.6	0.7
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	51.5	52.1	51.5	0.0
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book and Music Stores	15.5	15.4	15.9	-0.4
General Merchandise Stores	72.2	72.1	70.7	1.5
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	167.5	167.2	165.8	1.7
Utilities*	13.6	13.5	13.8	-0.2
Transportation & Warehousing*	153.9	153.7	152.0	1.9
<b>Information</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	19.3	19.4	20.3	-1.0
Telecommunications	31.0	30.8	31.5	-0.5
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Proc. Svcs.	7.2	7.2	7.4	-0.2
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>249.6</b>	<b>254.2</b>	<b>-4.4</b>
Finance and Insurance*	195.9	196.9	200.7	-4.8
Securities, Commodity Contracts and Other Fin. Investment	40.5	40.9	43.0	-2.5
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	88.5	89.0	88.2	0.3
Real Estate and Rental/Leasing*	53.9	52.7	53.5	0.4
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>633.6</b>	<b>621.2</b>	<b>625.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	287.5	287.3	284.3	3.2
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	81.0	80.8	82.1	-1.1
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	265.1	253.1	259.4	5.7
<b>Education, Health and Social Assistance Services</b>	<b>638.8</b>	<b>638.1</b>	<b>634.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Educational Services*	104.8	104.6	101.1	3.7
Health Care and Social Assistance*	534.0	533.5	533.8	0.2
Hospitals	153.8	154.3	154.6	-0.8
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	93.2	92.5	93.4	-0.2
Social Assistance	78.5	78.3	77.6	0.9
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>335.1</b>	<b>319.6</b>	<b>342.1</b>	<b>-7.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation*	48.9	42.4	53.3	-4.4
Accommodation and Food Services*	286.2	277.2	288.8	-2.6
Food Services and Drinking Places	237.3	229.6	233.2	4.1
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>163.9</b>	<b>165.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Repair and Maintenance	33.1	33.5	32.9	0.2
Personal and Laundry Services	57.3	56.5	55.1	2.2
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	74.4	73.9	77.2	-2.8
<b>Government</b>	<b>625.8</b>	<b>626.4</b>	<b>623.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

May 15, 2014 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series, \* denote sector series.

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

**Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment (in thousands) 2013 Benchmark**

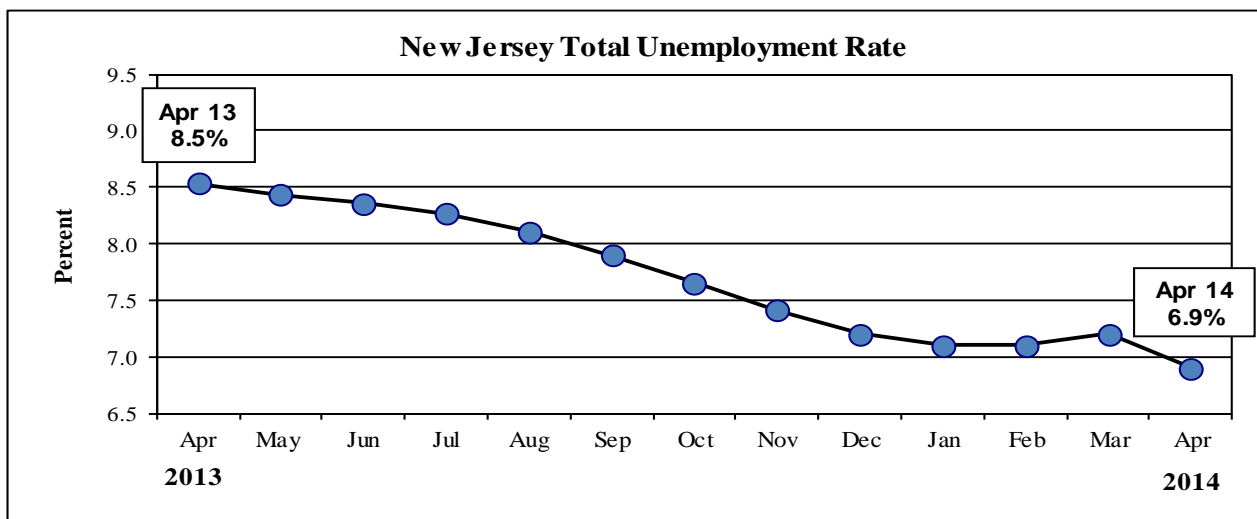
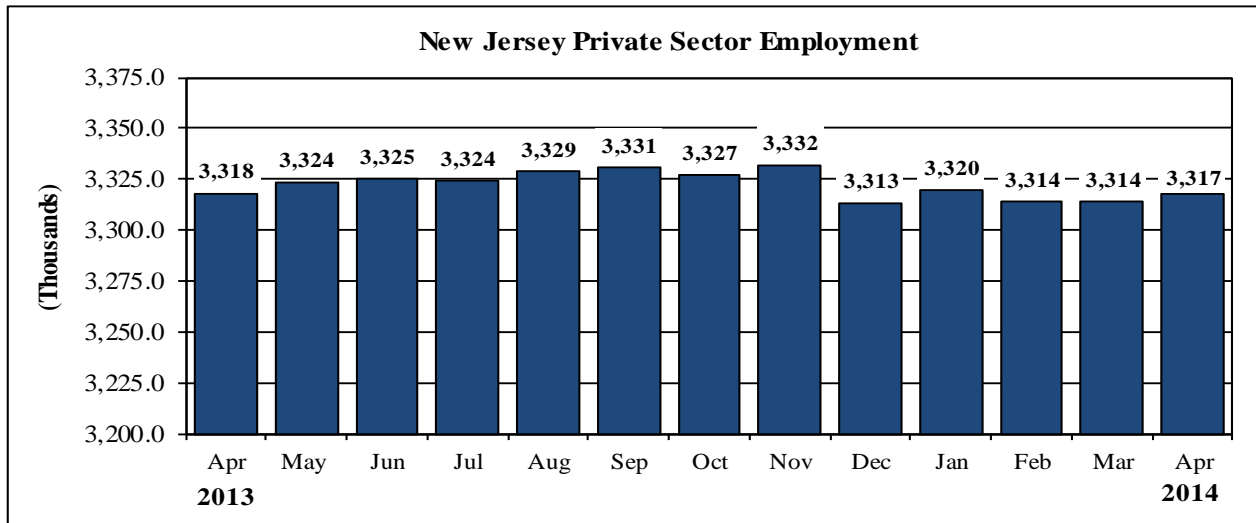
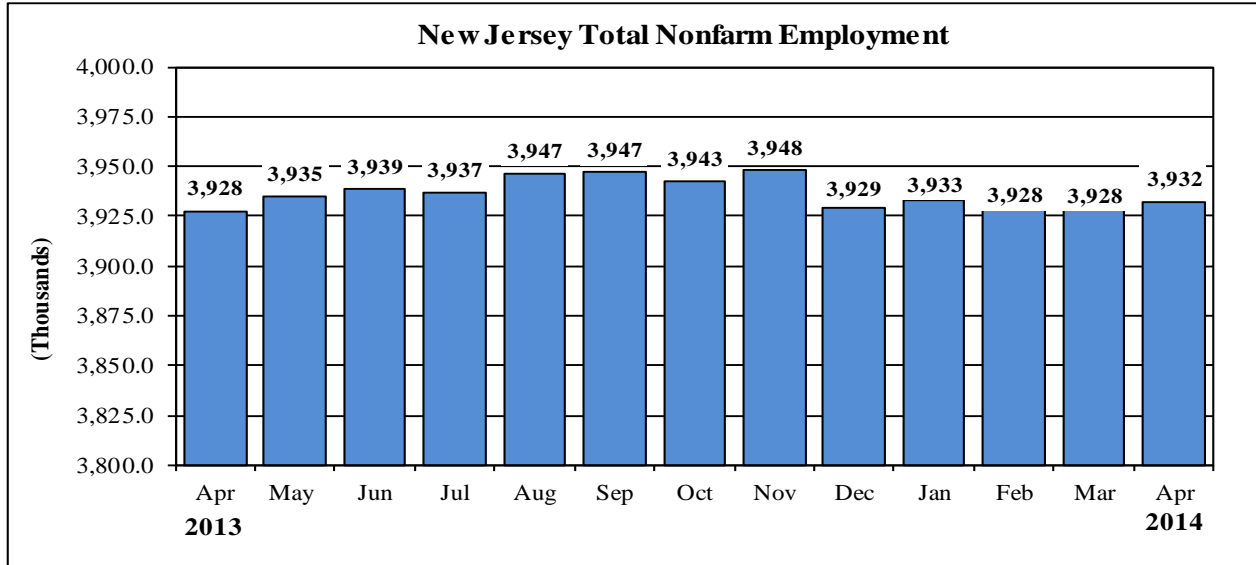
Annual Averages						
	Total	Private Sector			Public	
Year		Total	Manufacturing	Construction	Service-Providing	
1993	3,493.0	2,922.3	462.9	116.3	2,340.8	570.7
1994	3,552.8	2,979.4	456.0	121.7	2,399.4	573.4
1995	3,600.6	3,027.2	448.6	123.3	2,453.0	573.4
1996	3,638.9	3,068.3	437.4	125.0	2,503.8	570.6
1997	3,724.5	3,154.3	435.4	131.8	2,584.9	570.3
1998	3,801.3	3,229.6	429.4	136.1	2,661.8	571.7
1999	3,901.1	3,323.5	422.5	143.6	2,755.3	577.6
2000	3,994.5	3,405.7	421.6	149.6	2,832.6	588.9
2001	3,996.8	3,394.2	401.2	158.8	2,832.5	602.6
2002	3,983.5	3,370.0	367.5	162.6	2,838.4	613.5
2003	3,977.1	3,355.2	350.4	160.5	2,842.7	621.9
2004	3,997.8	3,364.3	338.2	165.9	2,858.6	633.4
2005	4,038.2	3,396.6	330.4	169.1	2,895.4	641.6
2006	4,069.5	3,422.2	323.8	174.9	2,921.8	647.3
2007	4,076.9	3,429.2	311.3	172.3	2,944.0	647.7
2008	4,048.2	3,399.0	298.8	164.5	2,934.1	649.2
2009	3,893.9	3,241.5	266.3	138.6	2,835.1	652.4
2010	3,848.4	3,208.4	257.2	129.5	2,820.4	640.0
2011	3,847.5	3,228.6	251.5	129.9	2,846.0	618.9
2012	3,890.8	3,274.8	245.3	130.4	2,897.8	616.0
2013	3,934.8	3,319.5	243.4	136.5	2,938.3	615.4
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2013						
Jan	3,919.3	3,301.2	243.4	135.8	2,920.7	618.1
Feb	3,924.7	3,304.4	243.6	135.7	2,923.9	620.3
Mar	3,928.8	3,310.8	243.5	136.1	2,929.9	618.0
Apr	3,927.7	3,318.2	243.5	137.3	2,936.1	609.5
May	3,934.9	3,323.7	243.1	137.9	2,941.4	611.2
Jun	3,938.6	3,325.0	242.9	137.9	2,942.9	613.6
Jul	3,937.0	3,324.1	242.8	137.9	2,942.0	612.9
Aug	3,946.5	3,328.7	243.1	138.7	2,945.5	617.8
Sep	3,947.1	3,330.6	242.9	139.2	2,947.1	616.5
Oct	3,942.5	3,326.9	242.8	136.4	2,946.3	615.6
Nov	3,947.9	3,332.1	244.3	136.6	2,949.8	615.8
Dec	3,928.8	3,313.4	243.8	128.8	2,939.4	615.4
2014						
Jan	3,933.0	3,319.7	244.2	134.9	2,939.1	613.3
Feb	3,928.2	3,313.7	243.7	133.4	2,935.3	614.5
Mar (R)	3,927.9	3,314.0	242.0	130.8	2,939.8	613.9
Apr (P)	3,932.4	3,317.3	241.4	128.0	2,946.5	615.1
May						
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Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research.

## Key Economic Indicators: April 2014

(Seasonally Adjusted)



May 15, 2014

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