



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



LWD Home > Press Releases > 2007 > May-16-07 New Jersey's Unemployment Rate Remained at 4.3 Percent in April Employment Declined by 3, 600 over the Month

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- 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

New Jersey's Unemployment Rate Remained at 4.3 Percent in April Employment Declined by 3,600 Over the Month

Trenton, May 16, 2007 – Employment in New Jersey declined in April while the unemployment rate was unchanged. The New Jersey economy, although alternating monthly employment gains and losses over the first four months of 2007, by and large has remained stable. The New Jersey unemployment rate, at 4.3 percent in April, remained below the national rate, which was 4.5 percent last month.

According to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers, total nonfarm employment in the Garden State fell by 3,600 in April to 4,085,800. The decline was all in the private sector as government employment was unchanged over the month. Based on more complete reporting, the previously released March estimate was revised downward by 500 to 4,089,400.

"The recent data about New Jersey's economy reflect the national economic trend and so far, we are experiencing slow employment growth in 2007," said New Jersey Labor Commissioner David. J. Socolow.

Over-the-month losses were noted in both the goods producing (-1,600) and service providing sectors of the economy (-2,000).

Despite the overall loss, there were several supersectors that recorded over-the-month employment gains. Payrolls were up in professional and business services (+1,300), construction (+400), financial activities (+200) and "other" services (+200). The gain in professional and business services was reflected in the management of companies and enterprises (+700) and administrative support and waste management and remediation services (+800) components.

Employment moved lower in the manufacturing (-2,000), trade, transportation and

utilities (-1,900) and leisure and hospitality (-1,200) supersectors. In manufacturing, job losses were recorded in both the durable (-700) and nondurable (-1,300) goods components. Trade, transportation and utilities employment was lower mainly due to contraction in the transportation, warehousing and utilities segment, which was down by 1,500. Job loss in leisure and hospitality was concentrated in the accommodations and food services industry (-1,100).

Compared with April of last year, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing workers fell by 0.8 hour to 41.0 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.55 to \$17.05 and weekly earnings rose by \$9.35 to \$699.05. Over the month, the workweek fell by 0.1 hour, hourly earnings increased by \$0.22 and weekly earnings were up by \$7.34.

Press Release Tables

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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
