

Regional Focus: North Jersey

Data and analysis for the Bergen-Hudson-Passaic and Newark labor areas
(Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties)

Regional Employment is Steady Over the Year

Total nonfarm employment in the Northern Region stood at a not seasonally adjusted level of 2,142,300 in December 2017, up by just 600 jobs from the same month a year ago. In comparison, unadjusted statewide nonfarm employment inched up by 0.6 percent during the period. Leisure and hospitality (+7,500 or +4.5%), manufacturing (+5,200 or +3.9%), and education and health services (+3,800 or +1.1%) were the regional job growth leaders over the year.

Employment contractions in trade, transportation and utilities (TTU, -4,100 or -0.9%), professional and business services (-3,900 or -1.1%), financial activities (-2,700 or -1.8%), and construction (-2,000 or -2.6%) were factors that dampened regional job growth. A decline of 1,100 jobs or 0.5 percent in retail trade contributed to the decline in TTU.

At the statewide level, sectors that experienced significant not seasonally adjusted employment gains since December 2016 included leisure and hospitality (+12,900 or +3.6%), education and health services (+11,600 or +1.7%), manufacturing (+7,900 or +3.3%), and construction (+3,100 or +2.0%). Much of the gain in leisure and hospitality occurred in restaurants which added 5,100 jobs (+2.4%). Within education and health services, ambulatory health care services added 7,300 jobs.

Sectors in decline over the year included government (-2,700 or -0.4%), financial activities (-2,300 or -0.9%), TTU (-1,800 or -0.2%), professional and business services (-1,700 or -0.3%) and information (-1,500 or -2.1%).

BHP Advances to Boost Regional Jobholding

Unadjusted total nonfarm employment in the Bergen-Hudson-Passaic Labor Area (BHP) advanced to 948,500 in December 2017, up by 9,900 or 1.1 percent from the same month a year ago. The labor area's gain accounts for all of the employment growth within the region.

BHP's employment levels were up due primarily to gains in the leisure and hospitality (+6,100 or +8.2%), education and health services (+2,400 or +1.5%), and professional and business services (+2,300 or +1.6%) sectors. Health care

Change in Nonfarm Employment Sept 2016 - Sept 2017 final (not seasonally adjusted, 2016 benchmark)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Employment	600	0.0	25,200	0.6
Private Sector	3,400	0.2	27,900	0.8
Construction	-2,000	-2.6	3,100	2.0
Manufacturing	5,200	3.9	7,900	3.3
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	-4,100	-0.9	-1,800	-0.2
Information	-500	-1.2	-1,500	-2.1
Financial Activities	-2,700	-1.8	-2,300	-0.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	-3,900	-1.1	-1,700	-0.3
Ed. & Health Svcs.	3,800	1.1	11,600	1.7
Leisure & Hospitality	7,500	4.5	12,900	3.6
Other Services	100	0.1	-200	-0.1
Government	-2,800	-0.9	-2,700	-0.4

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



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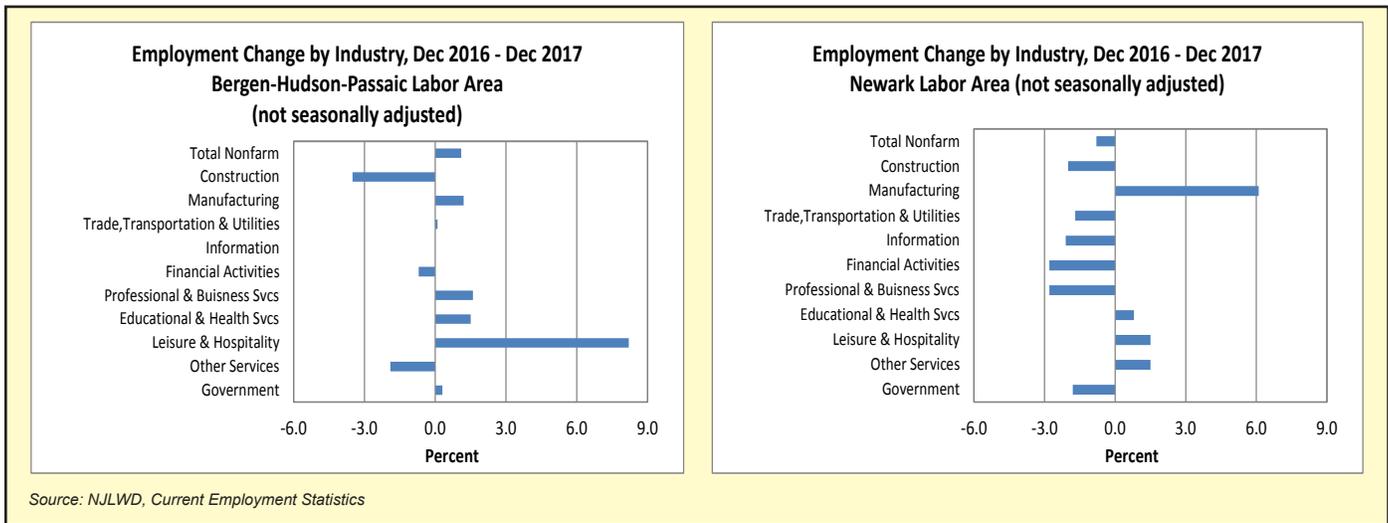
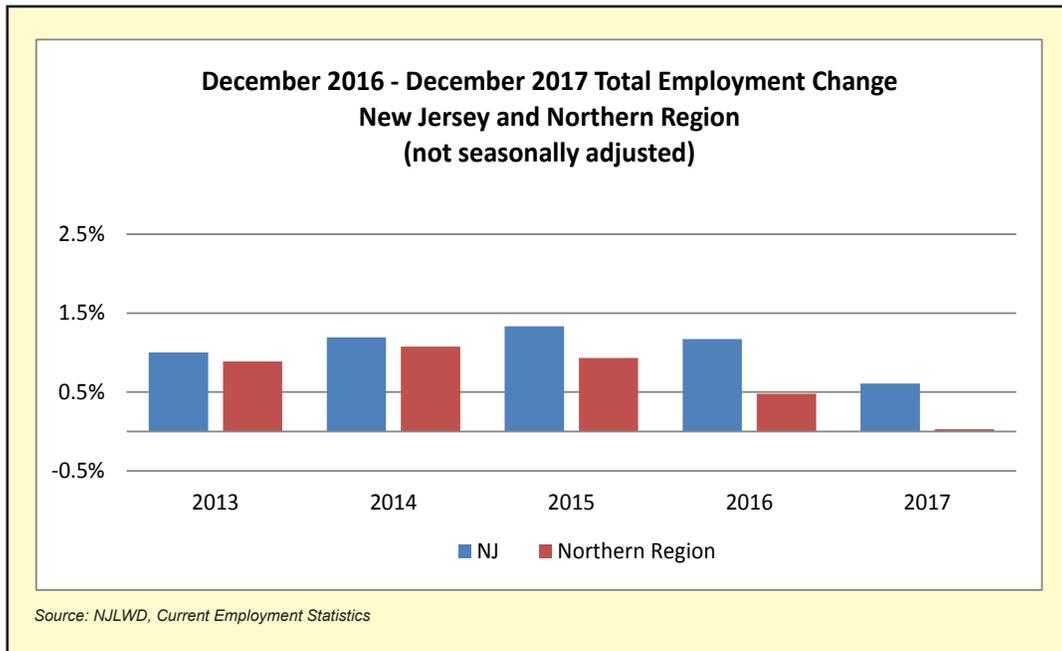
was the main contributor to the gain in education and health services with hiring occurring in ambulatory health care (+2,300 or +3.6%) and hospitals (+300 or +0.9%). In Professional and business services, increases in management of companies and enterprises (+1,900 or +8.3%) and administration and support and waste management and remediation services (+2,300 or -3.9%) offset a decrease in professional, scientific and technical services (-1,900 or -3.0%). Manufacturing (+700 or -1.2%), government (+400 or +0.3%) and TTU (+300 or +0.1%) were also up slightly over the year. In TTU, retail trade advanced by 1,500 jobs or 1.3 percent while wholesale trade (-600 or -1.0%) and transportation, warehousing and utilities (-600 or -1.4%) were down over the year. Jobholding in construction (-1,100 or -3.5%), financial activities (-500 or -0.7%), and other services (-700 or -1.9%) was down from the same month a year ago.

Unadjusted total nonfarm employment in the Newark Labor Area dipped to 1,193,800 in December 2017, down by 9,300 jobs or 0.8 percent from the same month a year ago. Despite overall job loss, the manufacturing (+4,500 or +6.1%), education and health services (+1,400 or +0.8%) and leisure and hospitality (+1,400 or +1.5%) sectors posted significant gains over the period. Within the manufacturing sector, durable goods increased by 3,500 jobs or 10.4 percent. Much of the increase in education and health care occurred in health care and offices of physicians (+1,600 or +7.5%) experienced the fastest growth in the sector. Other services (+800 or +1.5%) posted a modest gain over the past year.

Professional and business services (-6,200 or -2.8%) and TTU (-4,400 or -1.7%) experienced the most job losses over the last year. Within professional and business services, administrative and support services (-6,000 or -7.8%) accounted for the majority of the jobs lost in the sector. Retail trade (-2,600 or -2.1%) experienced the most job losses in TTU. Despite the loss in retail trade, grocery stores gained 1,400 jobs or 5.5 percent thanks in part to the continued expansion of ALDI's which now has 37 stores in New Jersey. Its newest grocery store opened in Bloomfield in June. The new store is at the site of a former Hartz pet food manufacturing facility which closed in 2011. Whole Foods has also been expanding in the state and added a store in downtown Newark in March 2017. The store is located along Broad Street and part of a redevelopment project at a long shuttered Hahne and Company department store.

Government (-3,200 or -1.8%), financial activities (-2,200 or -2.8%), construction (-900 or -2.0%), and information (-500 or -2.1%) also experienced losses over the year.

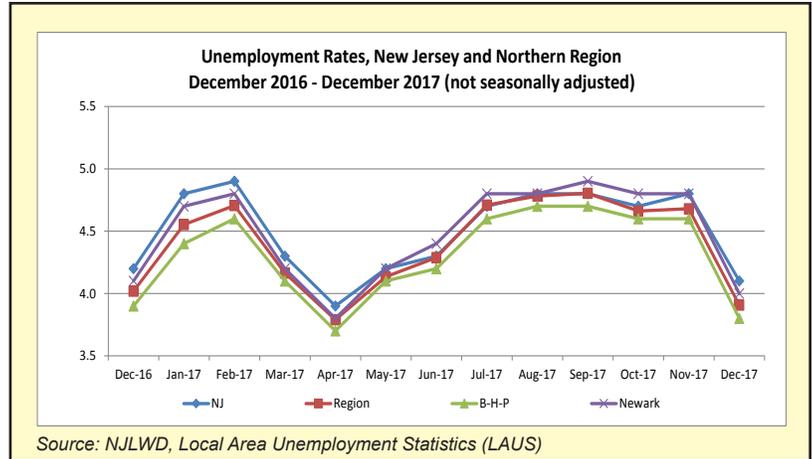
Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted December data, employment in thousands)						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Jersey	3,952.3	3,991.9	4,039.5	4,093.5	4,141.2	4,166.4
Northern Region	2,070.9	2,089.3	2,111.8	2,131.5	2,141.7	2,142.3
Bergen-Hudson-Passaic Labor Area (Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties)	891.6	902.7	915.6	926.6	938.6	948.5
Newark Labor Area (Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties)	1,179.3	1,186.6	1,196.2	1,204.9	1,203.1	1,193.8
<i>Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics</i>						



More detailed data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program can be found at: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces_index.html

LABOR FORCE DATA

- In December 2017, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Northern Region was 3.9 percent, a rate just 0.2 percentage point below the statewide rate of 4.1 percent and just below the December 2016 regional rate of 4.0 percent.
- In the Newark Labor Area the unadjusted unemployment rate during December 2017 was 4.0 percent. Among the counties in the labor area, unemployment rates ranged from a high of 5.1 percent in Essex County to a low of 3.1 percent in Hunterdon and Morris counties. The Bergen-Hudson-Passaic Labor Area's December 2017 unadjusted unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. By county, the area's unemployment rates for December 2017 were: Passaic County at 4.9 percent, Hudson County at 3.8 percent, and Bergen County at 3.2 percent.

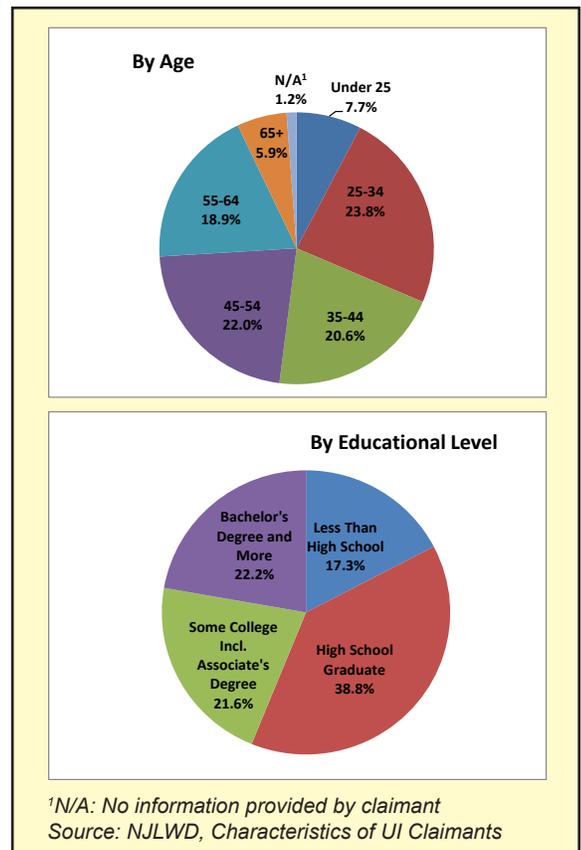


More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED NORTHERN REGION, FOURTH QUARTER 2017

CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP		
	Number	Percent
Management	6,269	8.8
Business and financial	3,010	4.2
Professional and related	9,411	13.1
Services	12,681	17.7
Sales and related	5,109	7.1
Office and administrative support	10,230	14.3
Farming, fishing and forestry	202	0.3
Construction and extraction	6,715	9.4
Installation, maintenance and repair	2,436	3.4
Production	6,170	8.6
Transportation and material moving	9,170	12.8
Military	176	0.2

- During the fourth quarter of 2017, there were 71,595 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Northern Region. This represented 45.5 percent of claimants statewide. Regional claims activity was down by 2,129 claims or 2.9 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 3,850 or 2.4 percent since the fourth quarter of 2016.



REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK OCTOBER 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

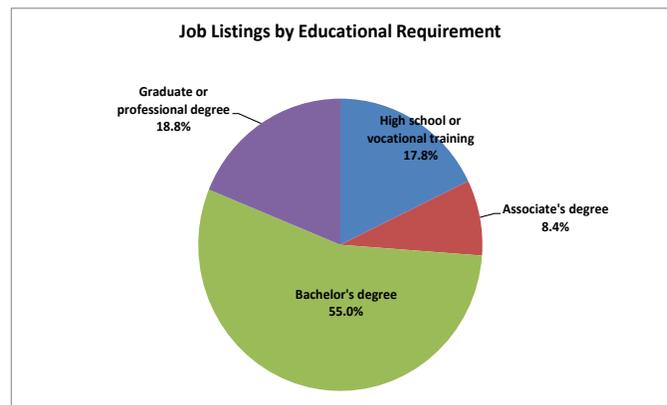
The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development through its agreement with Burning Glass Technologies is able to provide the following labor market information aggregated from online employer job listings during the quarter. This data provides valuable insight regarding current employer 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.

During the fourth quarter of 2017, Northern Region employers in the professional, scientific and technical services, credit intermediation, chemical manufacturing, food service and drinking places, insurance carriers, ambulatory health care services, and hospitals industries exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

Concentrated in Bergen, Hudson, and Morris counties, employers indicated that they were most interested in filling positions for software developers, registered nurses, retail salespersons, and wholesale sales representatives. Skills that were actively sought by regional employers included customer service, project management, sales, budgeting, scheduling, and proficiency in Microsoft Office programs.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements were advertised, the majority required an Associate's degree or higher.

JOB LISTINGS BY COUNTY	
County	Listings
Bergen	14,623
Morris	13,774
Hudson	12,847
Essex	10,645
Somerset	10,302
Union	7,135
Passaic	4,545
Hunterdon	1,528
Warren	1,115
Sussex	962



OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS	
Occupation	Listings
Software Developers, Applications	3,962
Registered Nurses	3,055
Retail Salespersons	2,545
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	2,098
Managers, All Other	1,720
Customer Service Representatives	1,470
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,453
Management Analysts	1,450
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,357
Computer Systems Engineers/Architects	1,143
Marketing Managers	1,131
Computer Systems Analysts	1,114
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1,032
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,017
General and Operations Managers	977

INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

Industry	Listings
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,078
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3,446
Chemical Manufacturing	3,043
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,903
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	2,585
Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,479
Hospitals	2,372
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	1,943
Financial Investments and Related Activities	
Administrative and Support Services	1,801
Educational Services	1,478
General Merchandise Stores	1,420
Truck Transportation	1,271
Health and Personal Care Stores	1,152
Accommodation	964
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	963

TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND

Skill	Listings
Microsoft Excel	10,154
Customer Service	9,639
Microsoft Office	8,118
Project Management	7,591
Sales	6,921
Budgeting	6,491
Scheduling	6,233
Microsoft Powerpoint	4,765
Customer Contact	4,620
SQL	4,600
Supervisory Skills	3,841
JAVA	3,724
Retail Setting	3,657
Microsoft Word	3,618
Accounting	3,286

EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY

Employer	Listings
JP Morgan Chase Company	1,043
Accenture	841
Honeywell	698
The Home Depot Incorporated	626
Verizon Communications Incorporated	595
Saint Barnabas Health Care System	490
Compass Group	476
United Parcel Service Incorporated	464
Merck & Company	459
Prudential	442
Johnson & Johnson	441
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	418
Atlantic Health	411
CVS Caremark	387
Deloitte	370

Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

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