



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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### Employment in New Jersey Increased by 5,400 in July; Unemployment at 4.6 Percent

**Trenton, August 15, 2007** – New Jersey employers added 5,400 workers to their payrolls last month, the third consecutive month of job expansion. After holding steady at 4.3 percent for the past four months the New Jersey unemployment rate moved higher in July, to 4.6 percent. The national unemployment rate in July was also 4.6 percent.

"After a slow start to 2007, over the last three months we have seen a brightening picture for employment in New Jersey," said Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "It is encouraging that the New Jersey economy has recorded three consecutive months of employment growth, with a total increase of 13,600 jobs in May, June and July."

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in the Garden State increased by 5,400 in July to reach a seasonally adjusted 4,100,900 — an all-time high — based on preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers. The previously-announced June estimate was revised higher by 400 to 4,095,500, due to more complete reporting.

The majority of July's gain was achieved through private sector job expansion (+4,800) while public sector jobholding advanced modestly (+600). Furthermore, job growth occurred in both the goods producing (+1,000) and service-providing (+4,400) sectors of the New Jersey economy.

Eight out of eleven industry supersectors recorded gains in July. Significant employment advances were noted in manufacturing (+1,400), financial activities (+1,200), education and health services (+1,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+900) and professional and business services (+800). In manufacturing, the majority of the gain was in the non-durable goods component (+1,000). The

gain in financial activities was due to more hiring in the finance and insurance segment (+900). Additional hiring in the health care and social assistance component (+900) was responsible for the gain in education and health services. Advances were recorded in both the retail (+700) and wholesale (+700) segments of trade, transportation and utilities. The gain in professional and business services was mostly in the professional, scientific and technical services category (+1,300).

Job contraction was registered in the "other services" supersector (-800), which includes employers such as automotive repair and personal care services, and in construction (-400). The reduction in construction employment was largely in the residential construction segment.

Over the month, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing workers declined by 0.4 hours to 41.4 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.22 to \$17.22 and weekly earnings rose by \$2.31 to \$712.91. Compared with July of last year, the unadjusted workweek fell by 1.0 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.73 and weekly earnings rose by \$13.73.

Press Release Tables

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