



LWD Home > Press Releases > 2007 > Jan-17-07 New Jersey Added 2,000 Jobs in December; Unemployment Rate Dropped to 4.2 Percent

Jan-17-07 New Jersey Added 2,000 Jobs in December; Unemployment Rate Dropped to 4.2 Percent

- 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 Added 2,000 Jobs in December; Unemployment Rate Dropped to 4.2 Percent

Trenton, January 17, 2007 – December estimates show that New Jersey employers added 2,000 jobs from November to December and the unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent.

According to preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers, the number of persons working on nonfarm payrolls rose to 4,085,000 in December, an increase of 2,000. Based on additional data provided by employers, November's originally reported over-the-month gain of 900 was revised downward to 200 for a November employment level of 4,083,000.

"New Jersey continued to add jobs in December, with the private sector reaching record high employment. The private sector added 2,400 net jobs while the public sector lost 400 jobs over the month," said Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "The unemployment rate was again below the national rate at 4.2 percent."

New Jersey's private sector employment reached 3,438,000 in December.

The largest job improvement was in the leisure and hospitalities supersector as employment increased by 1,800 to 345,400. This increase followed three consecutive months of losses and brought employment in this supersector to just below the record level of 345,900, which occurred in August 2006. The accommodation and food services sector (includes casino hotels) contributed most to the improvement.

The construction supersector added 900 jobs since November and reached a level of 171,800. The specialty trade contractors segment demonstrated the most strength. Construction payrolls remained high in December due, in part, to favorable weather conditions throughout the State.

The manufacturing supersector, up by 500 to 312,400, had the first over-the-month increase since May to June of this year. The durable goods sector contributed most to the increase.

The "other services" supersector (which includes employers such as automotive repair, personal care services, and religious organizations) increased by 400 to 160,500. Education and health services rose by 300 to 577,300 while the information supersector edged upwards by 200 to 94,100.

The financial activities supersector remained unchanged at 284,300 since November.

On the downside, the professional and business supersector fell by 1,100 jobs to 606,600. The trade/transportation/utilities supersector decreased by 600 jobs to 883,700. Weakness was particularly noted in clothing and clothing accessories stores as well as sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores.

Employment in the public sector dropped by 400 to 647,000.

Compared with December of last year, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing production workers fell by 0.3 hour to 42.2 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$.66 to \$17.10 and weekly earnings rose by \$22.92 to \$721.62. Over the month, the workweek increased by 0.4 hour, hourly earnings by \$0.26, and weekly earnings by \$17.71.

The employment figures released each month are estimates from surveys and are subject to annual revisions during the benchmarking process required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics using more complete data from all employers. The benchmarked data, which will provide a more accurate picture of the New Jersey economy during the entire calendar year, will be released on February 28, 2007.

However, before the benchmarking, the preliminary estimates of over-the-year nonfarm payroll employment indicate that 20,500 jobs were added between December 2005 and December 2006.

The education and health services supersector had the largest over-the-year increase (11,400) due largely to expansion in the healthcare and social assistance sector.

The professional and business services supersector had the next largest increase (9,800) since December 2005 with the administrative/support and waste management/remediation services sector contributing for most of the gain.

The leisure and hospitality supersector added 5,900 jobs over the year due to sizeable growth in food services and drinking places establishments.

Smaller increases were noted in "other services" (1,900), financial activities (1,000), construction (800), and natural resources/ mining (100).

Government added 4,600 jobs since December 2005 with most of the increase occurring in local government.

Supersectors with declines since December 2005 were manufacturing (10,800), information (3,000), and trade/transportation/utilities (1,200).

Note: With the release of January data on February 28, LWD is scheduled to introduce revisions to the nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings data to reflect adjustments for March 2006 and updated seasonal adjustment factors. Unadjusted data will be revised from 2004 forward and seasonally adjusted data from 2002 through 2006 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.

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
