

Regional Focus: Central Jersey

Data and analysis for the Edison and Trenton-Ewing labor areas

Regional Payroll Gains Equal Statewide Pace

The five-county (Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset counties) Central Region posted a net employment increase of 20,800 jobs or 1.6 percent over-the-year from June 2012 to June 2013. In comparison, job gains statewide occurred at the same pace as in the region (+1.6% or +63,600 jobs). Hiring in the region's private sector (+24,400) accounted for the employment gain in the Central Region. With the exception of the manufacturing sector which declined by 400 jobs, all other industry sectors posted regional increases in employment from the same month a year ago. While education and health services added the most jobs (+6,500), the information sector posted the steepest payroll increase (+4.3%). At the state level, education and health services (+22,200 jobs) was also the leader in employment gains over the year. This was followed by professional and business services (+16,200 jobs) and trade transportation and utilities (+8,100). In the public sector, the Central Region contracted by 3,600 or 1.7 percent during the year ending June 2013. With a drop of 2,300, state government was the prime contributor to this regional public sector decline.

Payrolls Rise in Edison and Trenton-Ewing Labor Areas

In the Edison Labor Area (Monmouth, Middlesex, Ocean & Somerset counties), total employment increased by 14,800 jobs or 1.4 percent. After a small increase of 1.0 percent in 2007, employment in the Edison labor area posted recessionary declines over the next four years before recovering to show gains in 2012 and 2013. Financial activities was the fastest growing sector with a robust 4.6 percent employment increase (+2,600 jobs) in 2013. Educational and health services (+4,000 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (+2,600) posted increases of 2.6 percent each. Trade, transportation and utilities was up by 2.5 percent (+5,700 jobs) on the strength of a 2.7 percent increase in retail trade (+3,500) and a 1.9 percent increase in wholesale trade.

Employment in professional and business services rose by 2.0 percent (+3,700). In this sector, employment services continued to see substantial increases, posting a 7.1 percent over-the-year increase. As was stated in the previous newsletter, this upward movement in employment services might indicate that employers are opting to hire temporary workers as the economy improves. Government employment was down by 3.0 percent (-4,200 jobs).

Over the year, June 2012-June 2013, employment in the Trenton-Ewing Labor Area increased by 6,000 jobs,



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Change in Nonfarm Employment
June 2012 - June 2013 (p)
(not seasonally adjusted)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Employment	20,800	1.6	63,600	1.6
Private Sector	24,400	2.3	57,400	1.7
Construction	700	1.7	7,500	5.7
Manufacturing	-400	-0.6	-400	-0.2
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	5,900	2.3	8,100	1.0
Information	1,300	4.3	-4,300	-5.5
Financial Activities	2,900	4.0	1,800	0.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	4,000	1.8	16,200	2.6
Ed. & Health Svcs.	6,500	3.2	22,200	3.6
Leisure & Hospitality	2,800	2.4	5,700	1.5
Other Services	700	1.25	600	0.4
Government	-3,600	-1.7	6,200	1.0

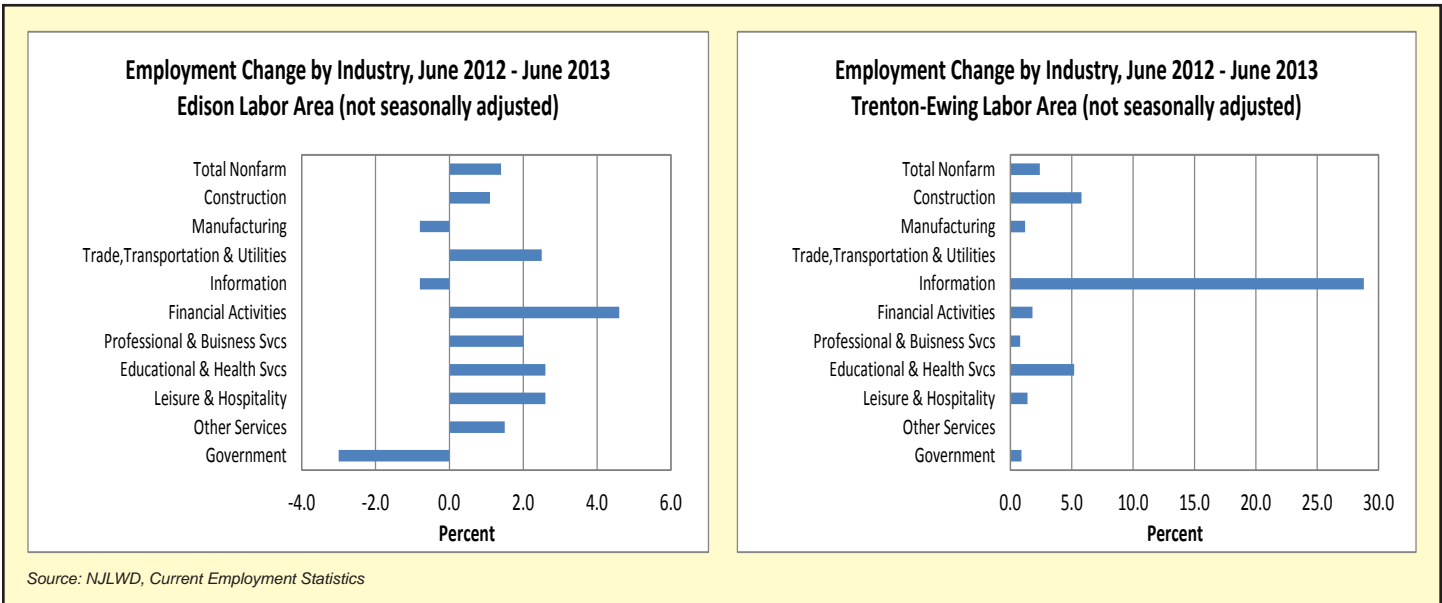
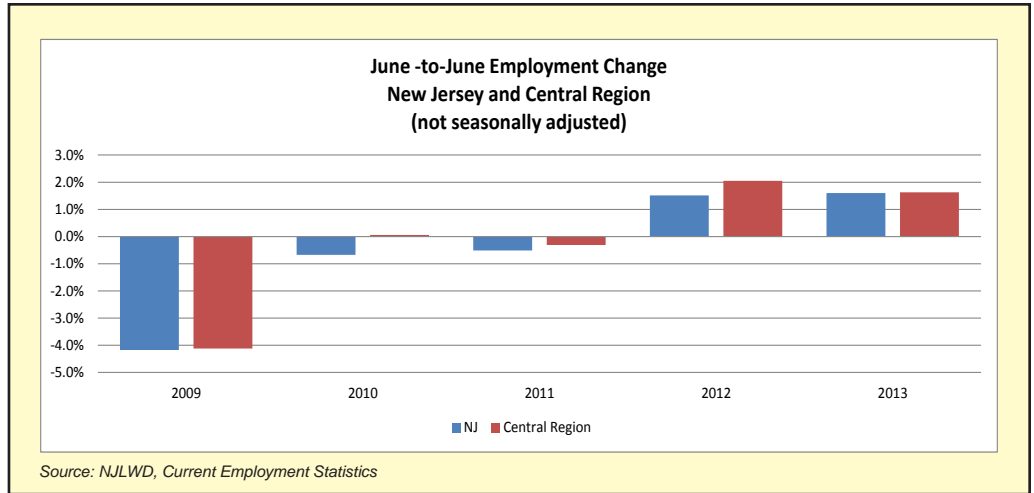
Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



or 2.4 percent. The greatest contributor to this net increase was the educational and health services sector, posting a gain of 2,500 jobs or 5.2 percent over the year. The largest contribution to the rise in payrolls in this sector came from educational services (+2,000 jobs or 9.8%). The health care and social assistance component increased by 500 jobs or 1.8 percent; 100 of these jobs were in hospitals. Although the information sector posted the largest percentage increase (28.8%) this represented only a 1,500 increase in employment. Public sector employment in the Trenton-Ewing Labor Area rose by 600 jobs.

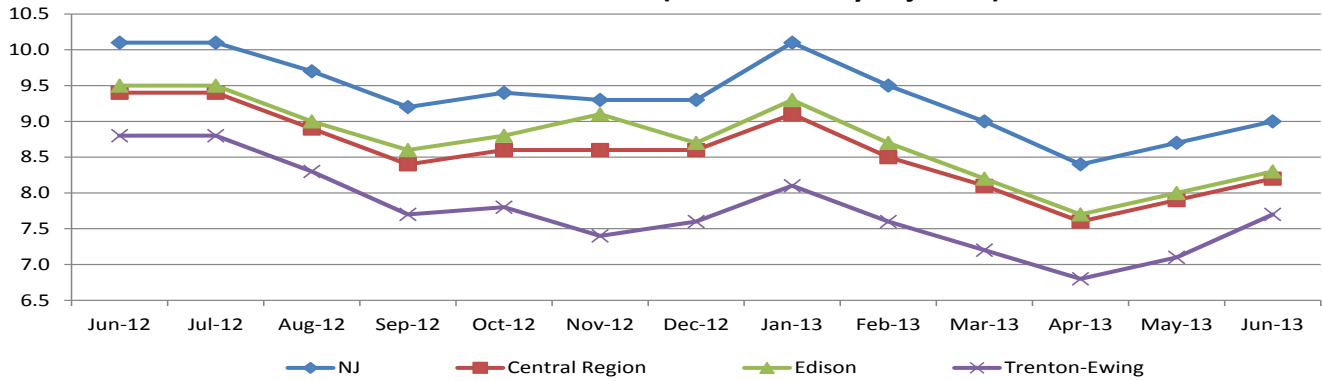
Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted June data, employment in thousands)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
New Jersey	4,135.8	3,963.3	3,936.7	3,916.6	3,976.0	4,039.6
Central Region	1,307.0	1,253.2	1,253.9	1,250.0	1,275.6	1,296.4
Edison Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset counties)	1,059.7	1,011.5	1,009.6	1,006.5	1,029.3	1,044.1
Trenton-Ewing Labor Area (Mercer County)	247.3	241.7	244.3	243.5	246.3	252.3

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



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

**Unemployment Rates, New Jersey and Central Region
 June 2012 - June 2013 (not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

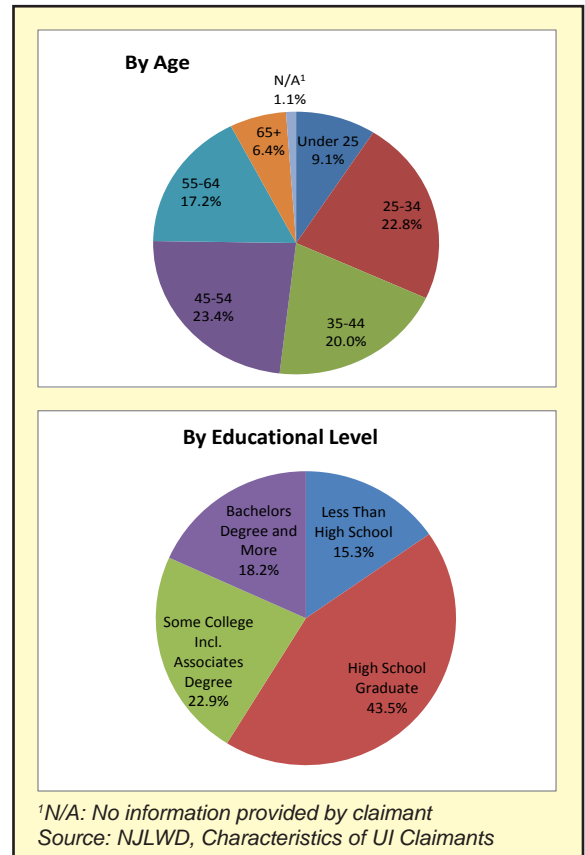
- From June 2012 to June 2013 the unadjusted unemployment rate in New Jersey declined by 0.8 percentage point, from 9.8 percent to 9.0 percent. The unadjusted unemployment rate for the Central Region declined at the same pace during the period, falling from 9.0 percent in June 2012 to 8.2 percent in June 2013 remaining lower than the statewide rate throughout the year.
- Since June 2012 the resident employment situation improved at both the state (+75,100 employed residents) and the regional (+27,000 employed residents) level. The number of unemployed residents declined by 30,600 statewide and 9,900 in the Central Region.
- As of June 2013, the unemployment rate in the Trenton-Ewing Labor Area (7.7%) continues to be lower than the rate in the Edison Labor Area (8.3%).

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
 CENTRAL REGION, SECOND QUARTER 2013**

CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP		
	Number	Percent
Management	8,757	10.2
Business and Financial	3,327	3.9
Professional and Related	10,950	12.8
Services	13,575	15.9
Sales and Related	7,060	8.2
Office and Administrative Support	13,745	16.1
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	195	0.2
Construction and Extraction	7,213	8.4
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	3,315	3.9
Production	6,829	8.0
Transportation and Material Moving	9,950	11.6
Military	541	0.6

- During the second quarter of 2013, residents previously employed in the office and administrative support occupations group represented the largest group of unemployment benefit claimants (13,745, down from 17,239 in the second quarter of 2012) and accounted for 16.1 percent of the claimants in the Central Region.



Intercensal Population Estimates for New Jersey and the Central Region: 2010 to 2012				
	Population		Change	
	2010	2012	Number	Percent
New Jersey	8,791,894	8,864,590	72,696	0.8%
Central Region	2,706,762	2,728,905	22,143	0.8%
Mercer County	366,513	368,303	1,790	0.5%
Middlesex County	809,858	823,041	13,183	1.6%
Monmouth County	630,380	629,384	-996	-0.2%
Ocean County	576,567	580,470	3,903	0.7%
Somerset County	323,444	327,707	4,263	1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Intercensal population estimates reconcile the postcensal estimates (2000-based estimates, prepared prior to the 2010 Census) with the 2010 Census counts and provide a consistent time series of population estimates that reflect the most recent census results. Detailed intercensal population data can be found at: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/dmograph/est/est_index.html

- With 2.73 million persons in 2012, the combined population of all Central Region counties represented 30.8 percent of New Jersey population.
- Between 2010 and 2012 the population in the Central Region increased at a rate equal to the rate of population growth statewide. Monmouth County was the only county in the Central Region to realize a decline in the number of residents from 2010 to 2012 (-996 persons or -0.2%)
- Due to the growing Asian and African American population groups, Middlesex County's minority population increased from 50.5 percent in 2010 to 52.5 percent in 2012 and made it a "minority-majority" county, or a county where the minority population accounts for more than half of the total population.
- Elderly persons, or persons age 65 and over account for over one fifth of Ocean County's total population (21.5%). In 2010 this age group made up 21.0 percent of total residents in Ocean County.

REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK APRIL 2013 - JUNE 2013

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

JOB LISTINGS BY COUNTY	
County	Listings
Middlesex	13,752
Mercer	8,683
Somerset	8,597
Monmouth	5,902
Ocean	2,922

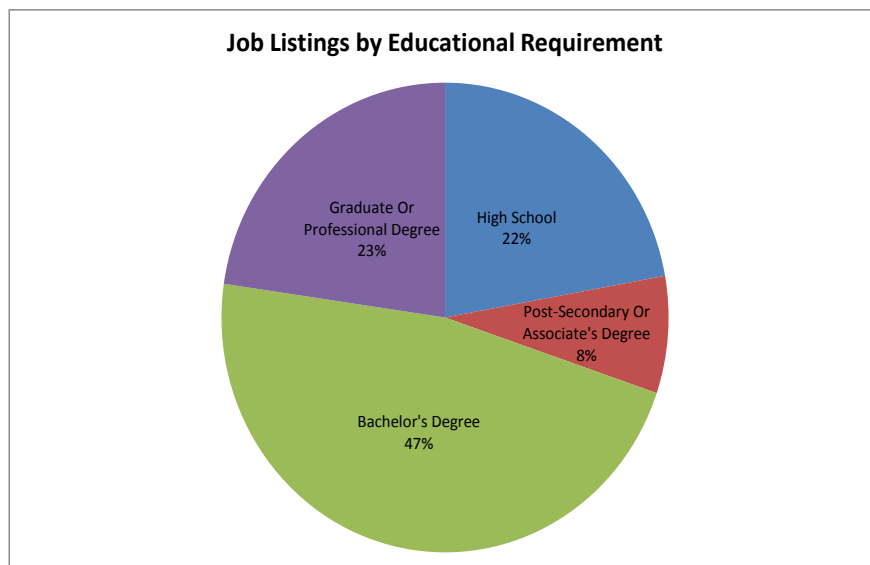
In the Central Region during the most recent quarter employers in the professional, scientific and technical services, educational services, chemical manufacturing and hospitals exhibited the most occupational demand based on online job listing activity. Regional job listing activity was concentrated in Middlesex, Mercer and Somerset counties. Employers indicated that they were interested in filling positions for software developers, retail salespersons, sales representatives, medical and health service managers and customer service representatives. Skills that were actively sought by employers included sales, accounting, scheduling and IT-related skills such as Oracle and SQL.

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS	
Occupation	Listings
Software Developers, Applications	2,106
Retail Salespersons	1,284
Sales Reps, Wholesale & Mfg, Excl. Technical And Scientific Products	1,014
Medical And Health Services Managers	910
Customer Service Representatives	778
Computer Systems Analysts	740
First-Line Supervisors Of Retail Sales Workers	708
Managers, All Other	690
Registered Nurses	688
Lawyers	614
Sales Managers	586
Marketing Managers	581
Secretaries & Admin Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive	543
Human Resources Specialists	528

INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS	
Industry	Listings
Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services	4,105
Educational Services	2,520
Chemical Manufacturing	2,188
Hospitals	1,466
Administrative And Support Services	1,278
Credit Intermediation And Related Activities	1,217
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,210
Insurance Carriers And Related Activities	1,139
Food Services And Drinking Places	1,028
Telecommunications	890
General Merchandise Stores	603
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	430
Social Assistance	394
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, And Similar Organizations	346
Nursing And Residential Care Facilities	332

TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND	
Skill	Listings
Sales	2,558
Accounting	2,028
Scheduling	1,724
Oracle	1,674
SQL	1,662
JAVA	1,641
Repair	1,360
Business Development	1,238
SAP	1,127
Product Sale and Delivery	1,114
Business Process	1,086
Mathematics	1,083
Extensible Markup Language (XML)	1,068
Contract Management	1,037
Validation	1,032

EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY	
Employer	
Johnson & Johnson	
Verizon Communications Inc	
Bristol-Myers Squibb	
Princeton University	
inVentiv Health	
Novo Nordisk	
Sears	
Barnabas Health	
Educational Testing Service	
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc	
Rutgers University	
Princeton Healthcare System	
Lowe's Companies, Inc	
AT&T	



Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Bureau of Labor Market Information

Somerset County Group Releases Economic Development Strategy

Somerset County Business Partnership recently released the final draft of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Somerset County. This report which is also referenced as a 'collaborative blueprint for economic success' was jointly developed by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the United States Economic Development Administration, and the Somerset County Business Partnership over an 18-month period. The plan aims to stimulate and promote job creation and private sector investments in the county and the central New Jersey region. Primary focus areas targeted for realization of the goals of the CEDS are: Business Resources, the Re-use of Significant Properties, Reducing the Regulatory Burden, Workforce Delivery, and Transportation and Commuting. Additionally, Hazard Mitigation, Quality of Life, Tourism, and Agriculture Development were addressed in the CEDS plan of action, but with lower priority than the top five areas.

Somerset County's approach in developing strategies for future economic development involves stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, and non-profit organizations. It recognizes the need to direct limited public sector resources for maximization of job creation and the enhancement of private sector investments. While the plan does not replace the role of other existing economic development and regulatory entities it is felt that the CEDS can be a vital contributor to the overall redevelopment of the Central Jersey region through the support of businesses to create private sector jobs.

The full text of the CEDS can be found at: <http://www.scbp.org/economic-development/ceds>

Monmouth County Highlights

As one of the counties that suffered severe damage from Hurricane Sandy, Monmouth County is presently engaged in the rebuilding process which is still generating demand for skilled construction workers, especially carpenters and masons. Redevelopment efforts after the closing of Fort Monmouth are creating opportunities for resource reallocation and job creation. Among the developments targeted at re-use of Fort Monmouth are plans by Acute Care Health Services to renovate and refurbish the army hospital and bring 50 -100 new jobs to the area. The company currently has operations in Lakewood and Long Branch. Commvault, a software and data management firm located in Oceanport Borough plans to purchase a former army housing property for re-location and expansion.

Other economic development activities in the county include plans to convert a former Borders bookstore located at the Freehold Raceway Mall into a new 25,000-sq.ft. L.L. Bean retail store which is expected to create about 100 jobs. The Ocean Place Resort and Spa (Long Branch) is undergoing an \$18.0 million renovation with hopes of increasing its wedding and corporate business. Upon completion, the owners expect to hire about 150 additional employees.

Middlesex County Developments

Land has been cleared for a new retail strip mall along Texas Avenue in Old Bridge. In nearby Monroe Township, work has commenced on a new single-family housing development along Applegarth Road, while construction of luxury housing continues at the Regency along Route 522 East.

Lightning Source, a printer of paperback books plans to close its Edison Township location and shift production to a plant in Tennessee by the end of July 2013. This closing will idle 20 employees.

Mercer County Developments

Mercer County is enjoying a spurt in short-term construction jobs from the construction of new warehouses and the renovation of commercial spaces. In Robbinsville, the new Amazon warehouse is under construction as well as an additional warehouse which is expected to be utilized by a major tire manufacturer. Meanwhile, in Lawrence Township, major renovation work continues at Quakerbridge Mall.

The initial phase of Princeton's Arts and Transit project began with the demolition of existing buildings along Alexander Street. The project, which is designed to expand Princeton University's engagement in the arts, includes new public plazas, university facilities, retail space, improved traffic flow, and a new Princeton train station.

Sparta Systems recently opened a new global headquarters in Hamilton Township. The company is a provider of quality management software to pharmaceuticals, medical, biotech, consumer products, electronic manufacturing and other companies. It increased its workforce from 175 employees a year ago to an estimated 215 workers today. The River Horse Brewing Company relocated its operations to Ewing Township from Lambertville (Hunterdon County). Additionally, the New Jersey Association of Realtors' plans to move its headquarters from Edison (Middlesex County) to a vacant lot at the corner of South Broad Street and Hamilton Avenue in Trenton (Mercer County).