

Regional Focus: Central Jersey

Issue #23C
Data through Dec 2017

Data and analysis for the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas

(Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)

Jobholding Dips in the Central Region

Total nonfarm employment in the Central Region was 1,179,500 in December 2017 based on not seasonally adjusted estimates. The region's level of employment was slightly below the December 2016 level of 1,180,400 (-900 jobs or -0.1%). In comparison, unadjusted nonfarm employment statewide inched up by 0.6 percent.

In the region, jobholding in the trade, transportation and utilities (TTU, -3,000 or -1.2%), leisure and hospitality (-1,600 or -1.7%), construction (-1,500 or -3.5%), information (-500 or -2.2%), and manufacturing (-300 or -0.5%) sectors was down compared to the same month a year ago. A decline of 3,600 jobs or 2.7 percent in retail trade was the main contributor to the employment loss in TTU. Despite the overall job loss, TTU did add jobs in the transportation, warehousing and utilities industry (+1,900 jobs).

Several sectors experienced notable job growth in the region. Professional and business services (+1,500 or 0.7%), other services (+1,300 or +2.6%), financial activities (+800 or +1.3%), and education and health services (+400, or +0.2%) added jobs within the private sector over the same month a year ago.

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 the education and health services sector, ambulatory health care services added 7,300 jobs.

Sectors which were down 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%).

MMO Adds Jobs Over the Year

Unadjusted total nonfarm employment in the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (MMO) was up slightly since December 2016 (+1,300 or +0.1%). Employment gains in professional

Change in Nonfarm Employment Dec 2016 - Dec 2017 prelim (not seasonally adjusted, 2017 benchmark)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Employment	-900	-0.1	25,200	0.6
Private Sector	-2,900	-0.3	27,900	0.8
Construction	-1,500	-3.5	3,100	2.0
Manufacturing	-300	-0.5	7,900	3.3
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	-3,000	-1.2	-1,800	-0.2
Information	-500	-2.2	-1,500	-2.1
Financial Activities	800	1.3	-2,300	-0.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	1,500	0.7	-1,700	-0.3
Ed. & Health Svcs.	400	0.2	11,600	1.7
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,600	-1.7	12,900	3.6
Other Services	1,300	2.6	-200	-0.1
Government	2,000	1.0	-2,700	-0.4

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics



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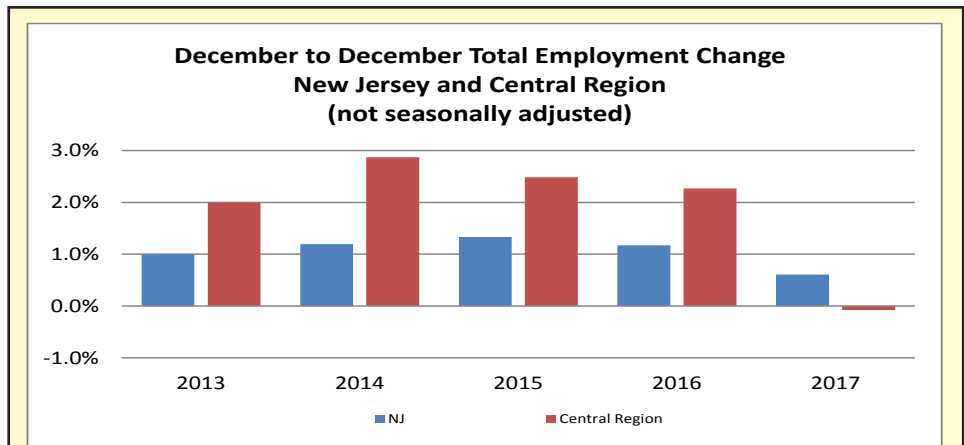
Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted December data, employment in thousands)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Jersey	3,952.3	3,991.9	4,039.5	4,093.3	4,141.2	4,166.4
Central Region	1,073.4	1,094.8	1,126.2	1,154.2	1,180.4	1,179.5
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	828.4	844.9	866.5	885.9	908.3	909.6
Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County)	245.0	249.9	259.7	268.3	272.1	269.9

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

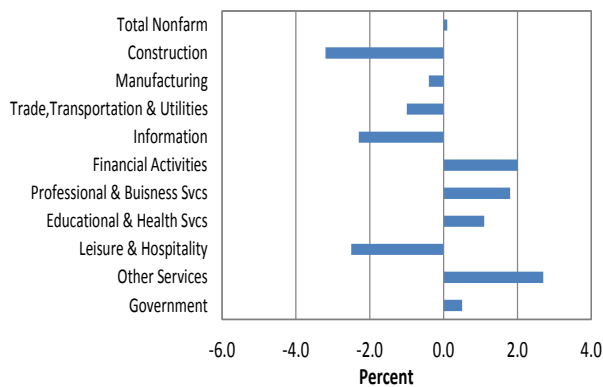
and business services (+2,900 or +1.8%), education and health services (+1,700 or +1.1%), other services (+1,100 or +2.7%), and financial activities (+800 or +2.0%) contributed to the job gain. Within professional and business services, an increase of 5,800 in administrative and support and waste management and remediation services was softened by declines in professional, scientific and technical services (-2,600) and management of companies and enterprises (-300). Job gains in health care and social assistance (+1,100) helped boost jobholding in education and health services. Employment levels in leisure and hospitality (-2,000 or -2.5%), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,000 or -1.0%), construction (-1,200 or -3.2%) information (-400 or -2.3%) and manufacturing (-200 or -0.4%) were lower over the year.

Nonfarm employment in the Trenton Labor Area was down over the year (-2,200 or -0.8%) with job loss concentrated in the private sector. Jobholding decreased in professional and business services (-1,400 or -3.1%), education and health services (-1,300 or -2.5%), TTU (-1,000 or -2.5%), construction (-300 or -5.8%), information (-100 or -2.0%), and manufacturing (-100 or -1.2%). Leisure and hospitality (+400 or +2.5%) and other services (+200 or +2.0%) posted small employment gains.



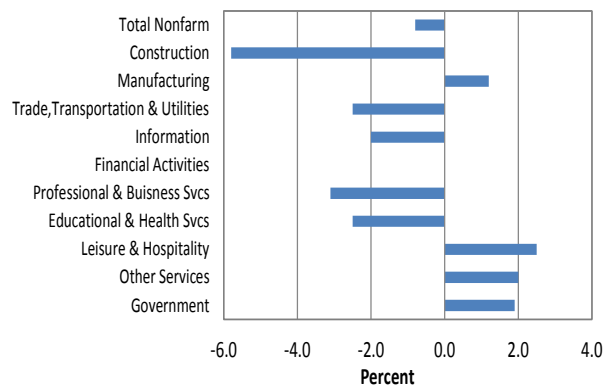
Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area
(not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

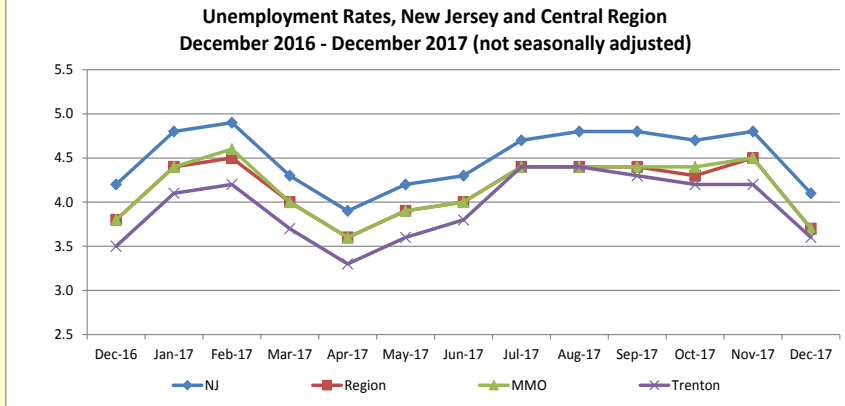
**Employment Change by Industry, Dec 2016 - Dec 2017
Trenton Labor Area
(not seasonally adjusted)**



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 Central Region had a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.7 percent, down slightly from a December 2017 rate of 3.8 percent. In comparison, the region's December 2017 rate was lower than the statewide unadjusted rate of 4.1 percent.
- By county, the December 2017 unemployment rates in the region were: Mercer at 3.6 percent, Middlesex at 3.5 percent, Monmouth at 3.6 percent, and Ocean at 4.4 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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

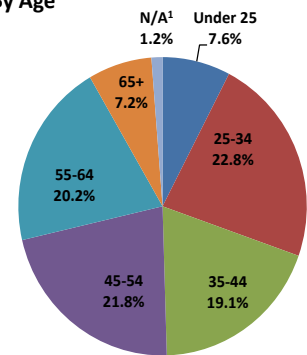
CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED CENTRAL REGION, FOURTH QUARTER 2017

CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

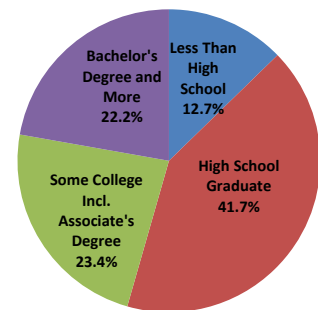
	Number	Percent
Management	3,604	9.0
Business and financial	1,516	3.8
Professional and related	5,404	13.5
Services	6,864	17.2
Sales and related	3,039	7.6
Office and administrative support	5,424	13.6
Farming, fishing and forestry	136	0.3
Construction and extraction	4,805	12.0
Installation, maintenance and repair	1,634	4.1
Production	2,783	7.0
Transportation and material moving	4,609	11.5
Military	105	0.3

- During the fourth quarter 2017, there were 39,928 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Central Region, a figure which represented 25.4 percent of the claimants statewide. The region's claims activity was little changed from the same quarter a year ago (-256 claims or -0.6%). Statewide, claims activity declined by 3,850 or 2.4 percent since the fourth quarter of 2016.

By Age



By Educational Level



¹N/A: No information provided by claimant

Source: NJLWD, Characteristics of UI Claimants

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 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	17,107
Mercer	12,174
Monmouth	8,192
Ocean	4,303

INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

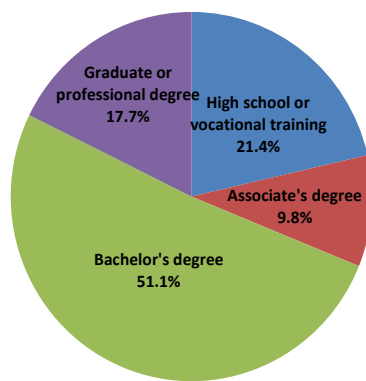
Industry	Listings
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,878
Hospitals	2,597
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,704
Food Services and Drinking Places	1,687
Educational Services	1,590
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,348
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	1,319
General Merchandise Stores	1,134
Administrative and Support Services	1,085
Chemical Manufacturing	938
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	853
Health and Personal Care Stores	789

During the fourth quarter of 2017, Central Region employers in the professional, scientific and technical services, hospitals, credit intermediation, food services and drinking places, and educational services industries exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

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

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 68.6 percent require a Bachelor's, Graduate, or professional degree.

Job Listings by Educational Requirement



OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS

Occupation	Listings
Registered Nurses	1,783
Retail Salespersons	1,743
Software Developers, Applications	1,510
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	1,403
Customer Service Representatives	911
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	884
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	777
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	759
Managers, All Other	726
Management Analysts	644
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	565
Medical and Health Services Managers	543

TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND

Skill	Listings
Customer Service	5,808
Microsoft Excel	4,984
Sales	4,328
Microsoft Office	4,294
Scheduling	3,561
Project Management	3,140
Budgeting	3,076
Customer Contact	2,650
Supervisory Skills	2,478
Retail Setting	2,249
Microsoft Word	2,063
Microsoft Powerpoint	2,025

EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY

Employer	Job Postings
Meridian Health System	902
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey	783
Anthem Blue Cross	556
The Home Depot Incorporated	486
Bristol-Myers Squibb	373
Bank of America	333
Lowe's Companies, Inc	332
Saint Barnabas Health Care System	298
Johnson & Johnson	268
Princeton University	268
Target	255
Compass Group	250

Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

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

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