



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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## **Oct-17-07 New Jersey Employers Added 4,900 Jobs in September; Unemployment Rate at 4.3 Percent Remained Below National Rate**

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**TRENTON, October 17, 2007** – Employment in New Jersey advanced in September while the unemployment rate, at 4.3 percent, was unchanged and remained below the national rate of 4.7 percent.

Private-sector job gains pushed nonfarm wage and salary employment in New Jersey to a new record high of 4,105,000 in September as employers added 4,900 workers to their payrolls, according to preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers. The previously released August estimate was revised lower by 900 to 4,100,100, based on more complete reporting.

The majority of September's gain was achieved through private sector job growth (+4,600) as public sector jobholding advanced only slightly (+300). Professional and business services experienced the largest monthly employment increase (+2,700) with growth centered in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation component.

"In the most recent five months since May, New Jersey employers have added 17,700 jobs, a significant turnaround from the slow job growth in the first four months of 2007," said New Jersey Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "We have a solid foundation in key sectors of our economy and have experienced significant growth in professional and business services and education and health services."

Over the month, educational and health services added 1,900 jobs while leisure and hospitality also was up 1,800. All of the new positions in education and health services were in the health care and social assistance sector (+2,100). In leisure and hospitality, the gain was mainly due to hiring in the accommodation and food services segment (+1,300). Supersectors recording smaller gains were construction (+600) and trade, transportation and utilities (+500).

Total employment gains were offset by job losses in financial activities (-1,500) and manufacturing (-800). The contraction in financial activities occurred mostly in the finance and insurance sector (-1,000) and may be related to the recent downturn in mortgage lending. Manufacturing employment declined in both the durable (-300) and non-durable components (-500).

Professional and business services, and education and health services surpassed the state's overall employment growth rate with gains of 12,400 and 11,400, respectively, over the past twelve months. However, manufacturing is off 6,300 from a year ago while information payrolls are down 1,300 from September 2006.

Over the month, the unadjusted workweek for manufacturing workers was unchanged at 41.0 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.04 to \$17.24 and weekly earnings fell by \$1.64 to \$706.84. Compared with September of last year, the unadjusted workweek fell by 1.4 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.71 and weekly earnings rose by \$5.97.

#### Press Release Tables

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