



Unemployment Rate Edges Lower to 5.0 Percent *Employment Down in December*

TRENTON, January 18, 2018 – Preliminary monthly estimates released by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate that New Jersey total nonfarm employment decreased by 11,400 jobs in December, to a seasonally adjusted total of 4,126,600, as the state’s unemployment rate edged down by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent.

A preliminary over-the-year analysis shows that from December 2016 – December 2017, employment in New Jersey was higher by 22,900 jobs, with all the gains recorded by private sector employers (+26,700). Public sector employment was lower by 3,800 jobs over the year. Moreover, 2017 marks the eighth consecutive year that New Jersey has recorded private sector job growth. Since February 2010 (the recessionary low point for private sector employment), New Jersey’s private sector employers have added 325,200 jobs.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released total nonfarm employment estimates for November were revised higher by 1,300 jobs to show an over-the-month (October – November) gain of 7,700 jobs.

In December, employment decreases were recorded in six of nine major private industry sectors. Industries that registered employment losses included trade, transportation and utilities (-6,100), construction (-4,300), education and health services (-2,100), financial activities (-1,800), information (-1,100), and other services (-500). Employment increased in the leisure and hospitality (+2,800), manufacturing (+1,900), and professional and business services (+1,300) industry sectors. Over the month, public sector employment was lower by 1,400 jobs.

Benchmarked data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which will present a more complete picture of the New Jersey economy for the entire calendar year of 2017, will be released on March 12, 2018.

Technical Notes: Estimates of industry employment and unemployment levels are arrived at through the use of two different monthly surveys.

Industry employment data are derived through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 4,000 business establishments conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the “establishment” survey).

Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the New Jersey portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the “household” survey).

Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS. In addition, these estimates are benchmarked (revised) annually based on actual counts from New Jersey’s Unemployment Compensation Law administrative records and more complete data from all New Jersey employers.

Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey
Seasonally Adjusted
2016 Benchmark

Labor Force Data (resident)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Dec. 17 (P)	Nov. 17 (R)	Dec. 16	over the Month	over the Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,489,700	4,515,700	4,507,800	-26,000	-18,100
Employment	4,265,500	4,285,400	4,295,300	-19,900	-29,800
Unemployment	224,200	230,300	212,500	-6,100	11,700
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	4.7	-0.1	0.3
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Dec. 17 (P)	Nov. 17 (R)	Dec. 16	over the Month	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	4,126,600	4,138,000	4,103,700	-11,400	22,900
Total Private Sector	3,519,000	3,529,000	3,492,300	-10,000	26,700
Goods Producing	404,100	406,600	392,200	-2,500	11,900
Mining & Logging	1,300	1,400	1,400	-100	-100
Construction	154,300	158,600	150,900	-4,300	3,400
Manufacturing	248,500	246,600	239,900	1,900	8,600
Service-Providing	3,722,500	3,731,400	3,711,500	-8,900	11,000
Private Service-Providing	3,114,900	3,122,400	3,100,100	-7,500	14,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	870,000	876,100	875,100	-6,100	-5,100
Information	71,100	72,200	72,900	-1,100	-1,800
Financial Activities	249,000	250,800	250,100	-1,800	-1,100
Professional and Business Services	669,200	667,900	670,100	1,300	-900
Education and Health Services	696,700	698,800	686,600	-2,100	10,100
Leisure and Hospitality	389,000	386,200	375,200	2,800	13,800
Other Services	169,900	170,400	170,100	-500	-200
Public Sector	607,600	609,000	611,400	-1,400	-3,800
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	900	2,500	2,700	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	1,400	3,800	4,000	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	40.6	40.8	41.4	-0.2	-0.8
Durable Goods	40.7	40.1	41.2	0.6	-0.5
Nondurable Goods	40.5	41.3	41.5	-0.8	-1.0
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	\$21.88	\$21.78	\$22.10	\$0.10	-\$0.22
Durable Goods	\$25.89	\$25.88	\$25.98	\$0.01	-\$0.09
Nondurable Goods	\$18.79	\$18.73	\$19.06	\$0.06	-\$0.27
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	\$888.33	\$888.62	\$914.94	-\$0.29	-\$26.61
Durable Goods	\$1,053.72	\$1,037.79	\$1,070.38	\$15.93	-\$16.66
Nondurable Goods	\$761.00	\$773.55	\$790.99	-\$12.55	-\$29.99

January 18, 2018. P - preliminary, R-revised.

* Production workers.

** Weekly earnings are computed from not seasonally adjusted hourly earnings and hours of work data.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends**2016 Benchmark**

	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec. 17 (P)	Nov. 17 (R)	Dec. 16	Dec. 17 (P)	Nov. 17 (R)	Dec. 16
Civilian Labor Force	4,435,000	4,484,900	4,491,300	4,489,700	4,515,700	4,507,800
Resident Employment	4,254,000	4,267,900	4,303,700	4,265,500	4,285,400	4,295,300
Unemployment	180,900	217,000	187,600	224,200	230,300	212,500
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.8	4.2	5.0	5.1	4.7
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	62.1	62.8	63.2	62.9	63.3	63.4
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	59.6	59.8	60.6	59.7	60.0	60.4

New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1996 - 2016

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)
1996	4,205,200	3,946,700	258,600	6.1
1997	4,263,800	4,039,800	224,000	5.3
1998	4,246,400	4,051,500	194,900	4.6
1999	4,287,900	4,094,600	193,300	4.5
2000	4,282,100	4,123,700	158,400	3.7
2001	4,288,800	4,106,200	182,600	4.3
2002	4,346,200	4,095,200	251,100	5.8
2003	4,347,200	4,093,700	253,500	5.8
2004	4,349,200	4,138,800	210,300	4.8
2005	4,391,600	4,194,900	196,700	4.5
2006	4,445,900	4,236,500	209,400	4.7
2007	4,441,800	4,251,800	190,000	4.3
2008	4,504,400	4,264,000	240,500	5.3
2009	4,550,600	4,138,600	412,100	9.1
2010	4,555,300	4,121,500	433,900	9.5
2011	4,565,300	4,138,500	426,800	9.3
2012	4,588,000	4,160,000	428,000	9.3
2013	4,531,900	4,159,500	372,300	8.2
2014	4,515,800	4,211,500	304,300	6.7
2015	4,530,500	4,267,900	262,600	5.8
2016	4,524,300	4,299,900	224,300	5.0

Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2015-2016

Date	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate %
Jan 2016	4,516,900	4,290,100	226,800	5.0
Feb	4,517,400	4,289,900	227,500	5.0
Mar	4,516,700	4,287,600	229,100	5.1
Apr	4,515,700	4,284,900	230,800	5.1
May	4,515,100	4,283,300	231,700	5.1
Jun	4,514,800	4,283,600	231,200	5.1
Jul	4,514,400	4,285,600	228,800	5.1
Aug	4,514,000	4,288,600	225,400	5.0
Sep	4,513,200	4,291,300	221,900	4.9
Oct	4,511,800	4,293,200	218,600	4.8
Nov	4,510,000	4,294,600	215,400	4.8
Dec	4,507,800	4,295,300	212,500	4.7
Jan 2017	4,514,300	4,308,600	205,800	4.6
Feb	4,523,300	4,321,500	201,800	4.5
Mar	4,523,000	4,332,200	190,800	4.2
Apr	4,528,600	4,343,400	185,200	4.1
May	4,526,800	4,341,800	185,000	4.1
Jun	4,520,100	4,333,300	186,800	4.1
Jul	4,514,600	4,324,700	189,900	4.2
Aug	4,515,800	4,314,000	201,800	4.5
Sep	4,524,300	4,311,300	213,000	4.7
Oct	4,251,300	4,300,300	221,000	4.9
Nov (R)	4,515,700	4,285,400	230,300	5.1
Dec (P)	4,489,700	4,265,500	224,200	5.0

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

January 18, 2018. P - preliminary, R-revised.

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for December 2017
Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2016 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	Dec. 17 (P)	Nov. 17 (R)	Dec. 16	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	4,166,400	4,165,600	4,141,200	25,200
Total Private Sector	3,546,100	3,541,900	3,518,200	27,900
Goods Producing	406,600	409,500	395,700	10,900
Mining & Logging	1,300	1,400	1,400	-100
Construction	156,100	160,800	153,000	3,100
Manufacturing	249,200	247,300	241,300	7,900
Durable Goods*	114,200	112,600	108,400	5,800
Fabricated Metal Products	20,700	20,700	20,500	200
Machinery Manufacturing	13,400	13,400	13,500	-100
Computer and Electronic Products	22,800	22,700	22,700	100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	18,100	18,100	18,000	100
Nondurable Goods*	135,000	134,700	132,900	2,100
Food Manufacturing	34,600	34,400	34,100	500
Paper Manufacturing	9,300	9,300	9,600	-300
Printing and Related Support	14,400	14,400	14,900	-500
Chemical Manufacturing	44,700	44,300	44,300	400
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	24,600	24,400	23,300	1,300
Service-Providing	3,759,800	3,756,100	3,745,500	14,300
Private Service-Providing	3,139,500	3,132,400	3,122,500	17,000
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	899,400	891,800	901,200	-1,800
Wholesale Trade*	211,100	211,700	215,400	-4,300
Retail Trade*	479,400	476,200	478,200	1,200
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	33,300	32,800	32,000	1,300
Food and Beverage Stores	113,800	113,100	111,400	2,400
Health and Personal Care Stores	37,700	36,500	37,300	400
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	59,500	57,200	59,300	200
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	18,300	17,900	18,900	-600
General Merchandise Stores	86,600	83,200	87,400	-800
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	208,900	203,900	207,600	1,300
Utilities*	14,000	14,000	14,100	-100
Transportation & Warehousing*	194,900	189,900	193,500	1,400
Information	71,600	72,300	73,100	-1,500
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	18,200	18,200	18,200	0
Telecommunications	27,700	28,000	29,100	-1,400
Internet Service Providers, Web Portals, Data Proc. Svcs.	10,100	10,100	9,900	200
Financial Activities	249,100	250,000	251,400	-2,300
Finance and Insurance*	192,000	192,100	193,300	-1,300
Financial Investments and Related Activities	39,100	39,600	40,900	-1,800
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	81,000	80,800	81,300	-300
Real Estate and Rental/Leasing*	57,100	57,900	58,100	-1,000
Professional and Business Services	676,100	679,200	677,800	-1,700
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services*	304,100	303,000	301,800	2,300
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	81,600	81,200	82,800	-1,200
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	290,400	295,000	293,200	-2,800
Education, Health and Social Assistance Services	705,000	700,800	693,400	11,600
Educational Services*	113,200	112,800	111,200	2,000
Health Care and Social Assistance*	591,800	588,000	582,200	9,600
Hospitals	163,600	163,300	163,900	-300
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	96,000	94,700	97,200	-1,200
Social Assistance	92,400	91,400	88,600	3,800
Leisure and Hospitality	369,800	370,000	356,900	12,900
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation*	58,600	58,400	55,300	3,300
Accommodation and Food Services*	311,200	311,600	301,600	9,600
Food Services and Drinking Places	262,500	262,000	256,900	5,600
Other Services	168,500	168,300	168,700	-200
Repair and Maintenance	32,200	32,600	32,900	-700
Personal and Laundry Services	62,200	62,000	60,300	1,900
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	74,100	73,700	75,500	-1,400
Government	620,300	623,700	623,000	-2,700

January 18, 2018 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series. * denote sector series.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

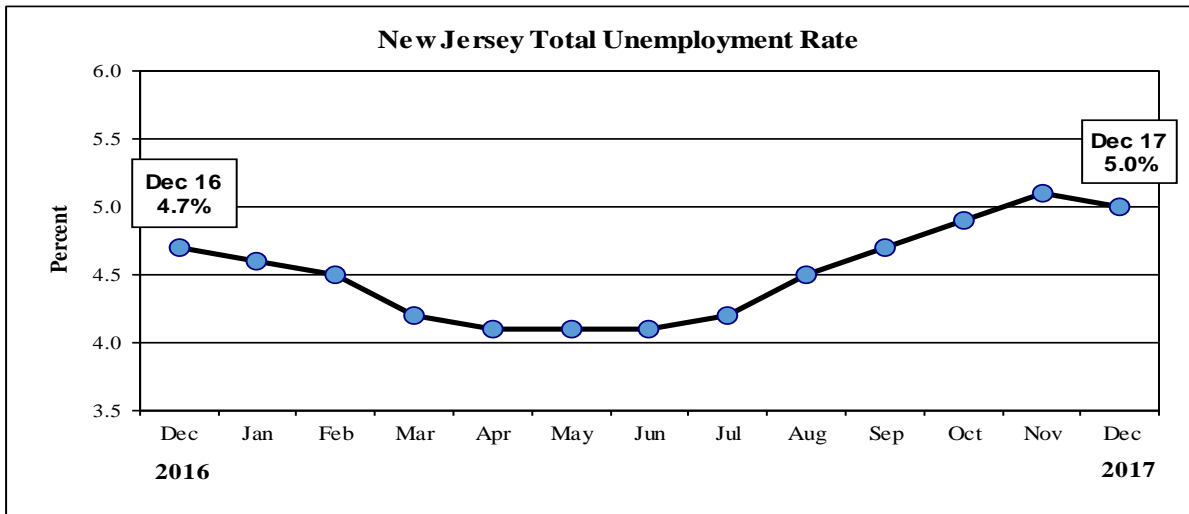
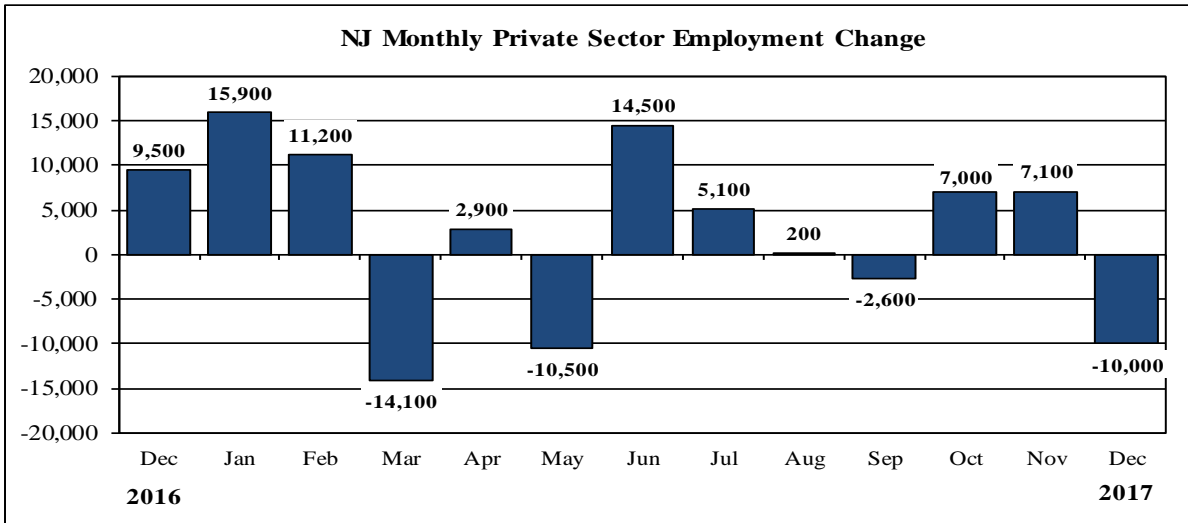
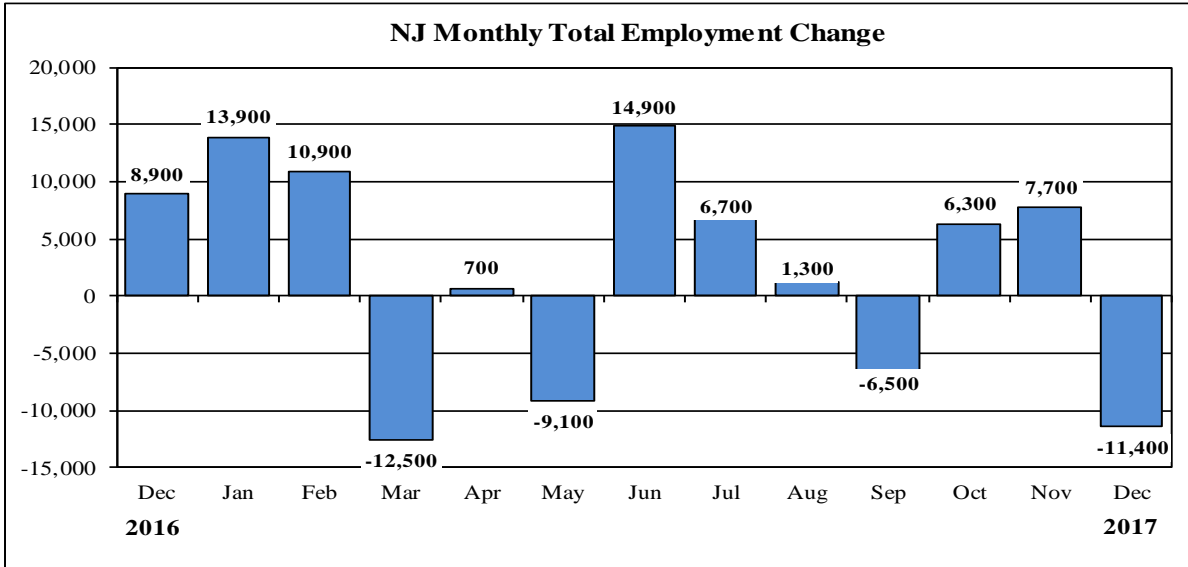
Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment 2016 Benchmark

Annual Averages						
	Total	Private Sector			Public	
Year		Total	Manufacturing	Construction	Service-Providing	
1996	3,635,100	3,064,500	430,800	125,000	2,506,600	570,600
1997	3,720,200	3,150,000	427,800	131,800	2,588,200	570,300
1998	3,801,900	3,230,200	427,300	136,100	2,664,500	571,700
1999	3,901,900	3,324,000	420,500	143,600	2,757,700	577,900
2000	3,995,500	3,406,100	419,600	149,600	2,835,000	589,400
2001	3,998,000	3,394,600	399,100	158,800	2,834,900	603,400
2002	3,984,800	3,370,200	365,100	162,600	2,841,000	614,600
2003	3,978,600	3,355,300	348,000	160,500	2,845,300	623,200
2004	3,999,400	3,364,500	335,700	165,900	2,861,300	634,900
2005	4,040,000	3,396,900	327,800	169,100	2,898,300	643,100
2006	4,071,500	3,422,600	321,100	174,900	2,924,900	648,900
2007	4,079,100	3,429,700	308,400	172,300	2,947,400	649,400
2008	4,050,600	3,399,600	295,400	164,500	2,938,100	650,900
2009	3,896,400	3,242,200	260,900	138,600	2,841,200	654,200
2010	3,851,000	3,209,100	252,100	129,500	2,826,100	642,000
2011	3,850,100	3,229,100	246,900	129,900	2,851,100	621,000
2012	3,893,300	3,275,100	240,900	130,400	2,902,400	618,300
2013	3,938,100	3,320,400	238,700	137,600	2,942,800	617,700
2014	3,970,900	3,351,500	238,800	141,600	2,969,800	619,300
2015	4,015,700	3,401,600	238,800	148,400	3,013,000	614,200
2016	4,075,500	3,461,300	241,700	153,000	3,065,200	614,200
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2016						
Jan	4,046,600	3,433,400	241,200	153,900	3,036,900	613,200
Feb	4,056,500	3,442,800	241,800	154,400	3,045,200	613,700
Mar	4,061,300	3,446,200	242,100	154,900	3,047,800	615,100
Apr	4,064,100	3,451,300	241,700	153,500	3,054,800	612,800
May	4,060,500	3,446,100	241,800	152,900	3,050,000	614,400
Jun	4,069,900	3,456,000	242,400	153,100	3,059,100	613,900
Jul	4,085,000	3,469,300	243,000	153,200	3,071,700	615,700
Aug	4,091,300	3,474,200	243,000	152,900	3,076,900	617,100
Sep	4,095,700	3,480,400	242,500	152,800	3,083,700	615,300
Oct	4,095,700	3,483,400	240,100	151,400	3,090,500	612,300
Nov	4,094,800	3,482,800	239,500	150,600	3,091,300	612,000
Dec	4,103,700	3,492,300	239,900	150,900	3,100,100	611,400
2017						
Jan	4,117,600	3,508,200	243,100	155,100	3,108,600	609,400
Feb	4,128,500	3,519,400	245,600	156,700	3,115,700	609,100
Mar	4,116,000	3,505,300	246,300	154,000	3,103,600	610,700
Apr	4,116,700	3,508,200	245,800	153,000	3,108,000	608,500
May	4,107,600	3,497,700	245,900	153,500	3,096,900	609,900
Jun	4,122,500	3,512,200	246,400	157,600	3,106,800	610,300
Jul	4,129,200	3,517,300	245,300	157,900	3,112,700	611,900
Aug	4,130,500	3,517,500	246,400	158,100	3,111,700	613,000
Sep	4,124,000	3,514,900	245,900	157,900	3,109,800	609,100
Oct	4,130,300	3,521,900	247,000	157,100	3,116,500	608,400
Nov (R)	4,138,000	3,529,000	246,600	158,600	3,122,400	609,000
Dec (P)	4,126,600	3,519,000	248,500	154,300	3,114,900	607,600

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Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

Key Economic Indicators: December 2017
(Seasonally Adjusted)



January 18, 2018

Source: New Jersey Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

