

UPDATE: The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program will undergo its annual benchmarking processing beginning February 2018 through March 2018. During this time, all Targeted Employment Area (TEA) requests are temporarily suspended. Once the revised labor force data are calculated, all previously received TEA requests will be reviewed in the order in which they were received. It is anticipated that requests received during the temporary suspension will be completed between March 31, 2018 and April 30, 2018.

Targeted Employment Areas

A Targeted Employment Area (TEA) is defined as: A **rural** or **non-rural area** that has experienced a high unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate during a comparable 12-month period.

New Jersey contains no rural areas that are both outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and outside a city or town with a population of 20,000 or more.

Metropolitan, micropolitan, and combined statistical areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget. A map of MSAs that include parts of New Jersey can be found on the [U.S. Census Bureau website](#). To learn more about statistical areas, please visit the [Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas](#) website.

Any area designated as a TEA within New Jersey must have a calendar year 2016 unemployment rate 150 percent or higher than the national average unemployment rate (4.9 percent) for the same time period. Presently, the minimum unemployment rate of 7.4 percent is necessary for an area to qualify as a TEA. The following areas meet these criteria based on 2016 annual average data:

Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
<u>County:</u>				
Atlantic County	124,251	115,053	9,198	7.4
Cape May County	47,219	42,585	4,634	9.8
Cumberland County	67,209	62,184	5,025	7.5
<u>Municipality:</u>				
Audubon Park Borough	501	455	46	9.2
Bass River Township	731	676	55	7.5
Beach Haven Borough	539	497	42	7.8
Camden City	26,635	23,932	2,703	10.1
Chesilhurst Borough	739	684	55	7.4
East Orange City	29,840	27,530	2,310	7.7
Elsinboro Township	475	438	37	7.8
Irvington Township	25,131	23,195	1,936	7.7
Lawnside Borough	1,199	1,104	95	7.9
New Hanover Township	1,253	1,158	95	7.6
Newark City	117,053	107,846	9,207	7.9
Paterson City	62,144	56,456	5,688	9.2
Paulsboro Borough	2,699	2,468	231	8.6
Penns Grove Borough	2,054	1,869	185	9.0
Perth Amboy City	25,198	23,238	1,960	7.8

Salem City	1,753	1,541	212	12.1
Seaside Heights Borough	1,164	1,073	91	7.8
South Toms River Borough	1,732	1,595	137	7.9
Teterboro Borough	38	35	3	7.9
Westville Borough	2,242	2,075	167	7.4
* - All municipalities within the three counties listed are designated as TEA's				

Certification Process:

An alien entrepreneur seeking to do business in areas of high unemployment may choose, along with the petition, to include a letter from NJLWD which certifies that the commercial enterprise is or will be located in a "targeted employment area." This letter may be obtained by writing to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Section, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), Division of Economic and Demographic Research, P.O. Box 383, Trenton NJ 08625-0383, by e-mailing: Paul.Tattory@dol.nj.gov, or by calling (609) 292-2548.

For investment in any of the qualified areas listed above, a letter indicating the area is a TEA will be sent to the individual requesting the designation.

Special Tabulations:

If the area of investment is not listed above, NJLWD can perform a special tabulation for the area in question utilizing calendar year 2016 and/or the most recent 12 months of data for the area. This tabulation will be performed in accordance with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics approved methodology for Local Area Unemployment Statistics data. NJLWD cannot guarantee that the area will meet the criteria of a TEA.

Please contact Paul Tattory via telephone (609) 292-2548 or via email Paul.Tattory@dol.nj.gov for more information on special tabulations.

Please note: While the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development indicates that an area meets the qualifying rate, the final designation as a Targeted Employment Area will be made by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

More information about the EB-5 Investor Visa Program can be found on the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov).

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Economic and Demographic Research, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

(Updated January 31, 2018)