

# Bergen County

Division of Economic and Demographic Research

Office of Research & Information

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

February 2026

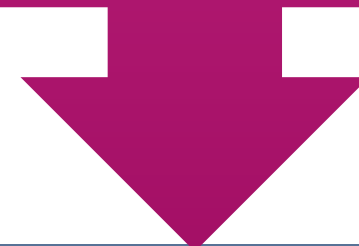


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**WHO ARE  
WE?**

New Jersey Department of Labor  
Office of Research and Information



Division of Economic and Demographic  
Research

**SDC**

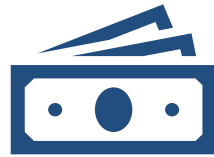
**BLS**

**LMI**

# The purpose of this report is to highlight the key demographic and economic trends in the county



Bergen County is the most populous county in New Jersey. Known for its diverse population, the county is one of the most densely populated in the state, with a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas that contribute to varying population densities across its municipalities.



Bergen County has a diverse economy with strong sectors in healthcare, retail, manufacturing, and services. The presence of numerous corporate headquarters and businesses contributes significantly to the local economy. Its location provides economic advantages.

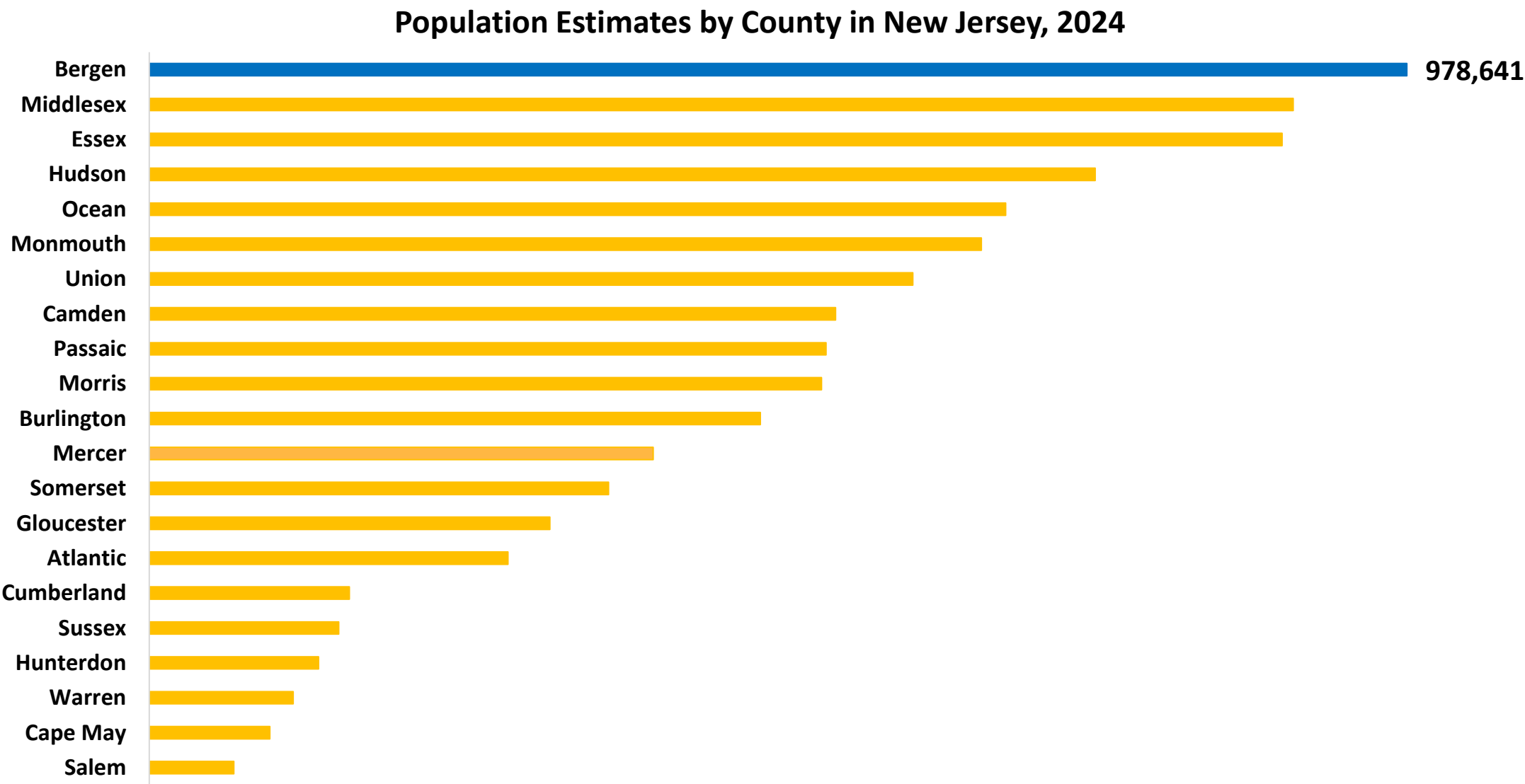


Bergen County has a diverse occupational landscape driven by a strong healthcare sector supporting major medical centers, along with significant retail employment needed for its prominent shopping centers. Other sectors further enhance the economy, offering varied occupational opportunities.



# DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

# Bergen County: New Jersey's most populous county in 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in New Jersey (2024)

**Bergen County’s population is older and more diverse than the state overall.**

**Demographic Characteristics**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Bergen County</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	42.0	40.1
<b>% of Older Population (65+)</b>	18.9%	18.0%
<b>% of Language Other Than English Spoken at Home</b>	44.4%	34.3%
<b>% of Foreign-Born Population</b>	33.2%	25.0%
<b>% of Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)</b>	23.9%	23.5%

The share of Bergen County residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 8.8 percentage points above the state average.

Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older)

Indicator	Bergen County	New Jersey
High School or Equivalent Degree	20.7%	24.7%
Some College, No Degree	12.2%	14.5%
Associate's Degree	6.4%	6.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	53.4%	44.6%
High School Degree or Higher	92.8%	90.4%



Bergen County exhibits a higher median household income and a lower poverty rate compared to New Jersey overall.

Income & Poverty

Indicator	Bergen County	New Jersey
Median Household Income	\$122,232	\$104,294
% of Poverty	6.7%	9.2%

*Note:* Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

**Bergen County residents pay higher rent and have a slightly lower homeownership rate compared to the state average.**

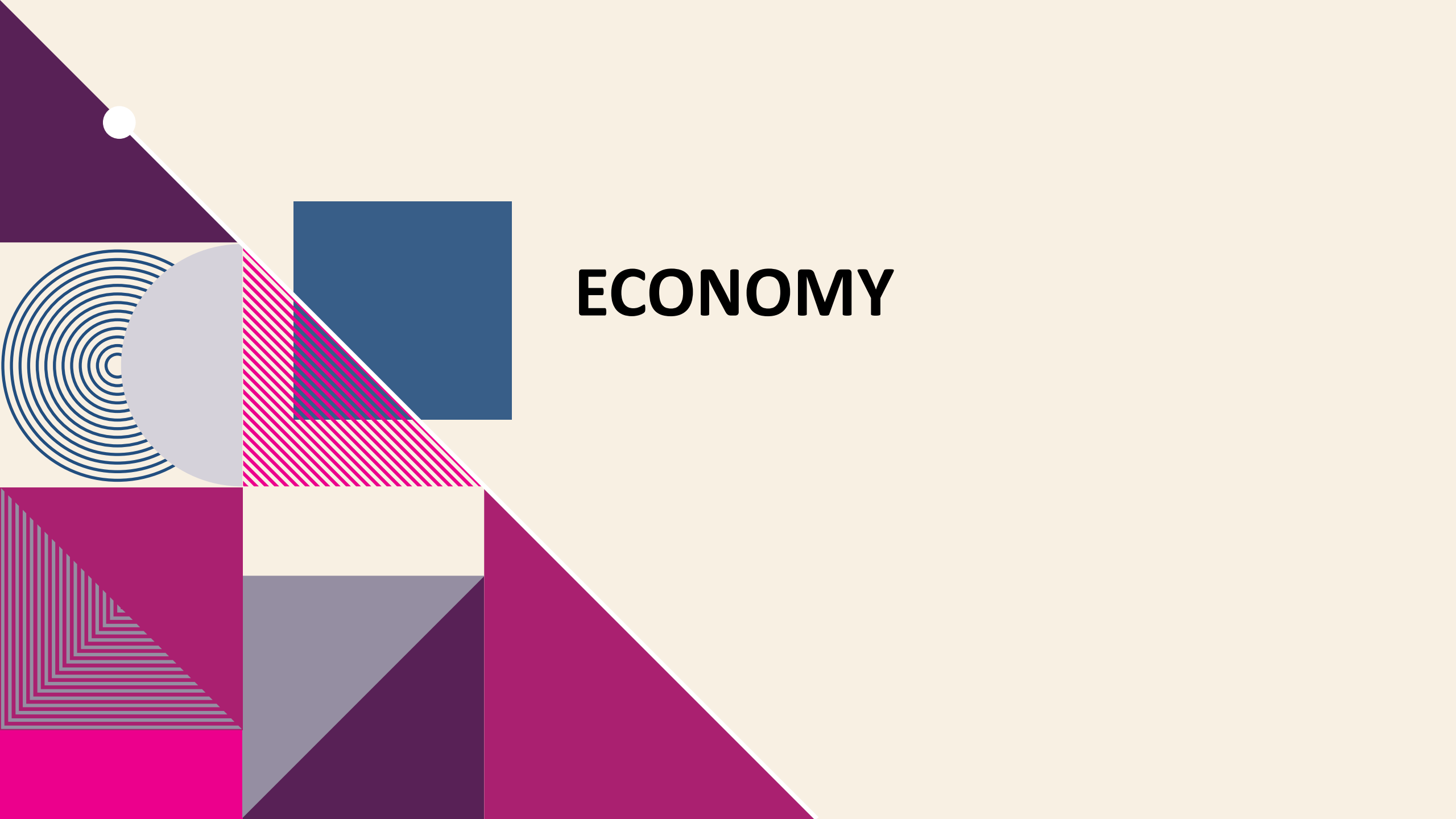
**Housing Characteristics**

Indicator	Bergen County	New Jersey
Total Households	358,164	3,543,944
Median Gross Rent	\$1,992	\$1,800
Homeownership Rate	63.7%	63.9%
% of Housing Value of Owner Occupied (≥\$300,000)	91.8%	80.7%

**Bergen County residents are more likely to use public transportation and work from home more than the state average.**

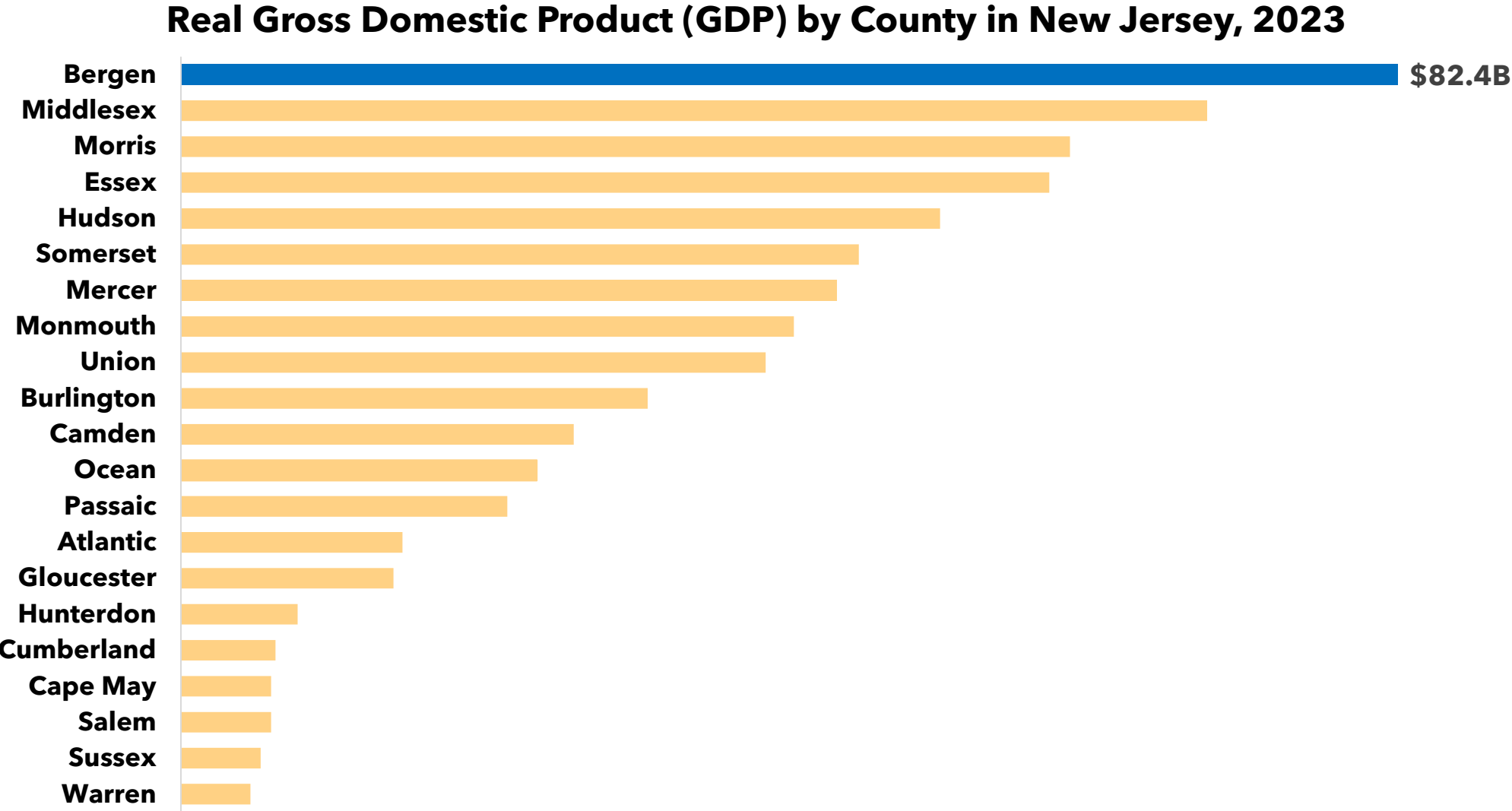
**Commuting Characteristics**

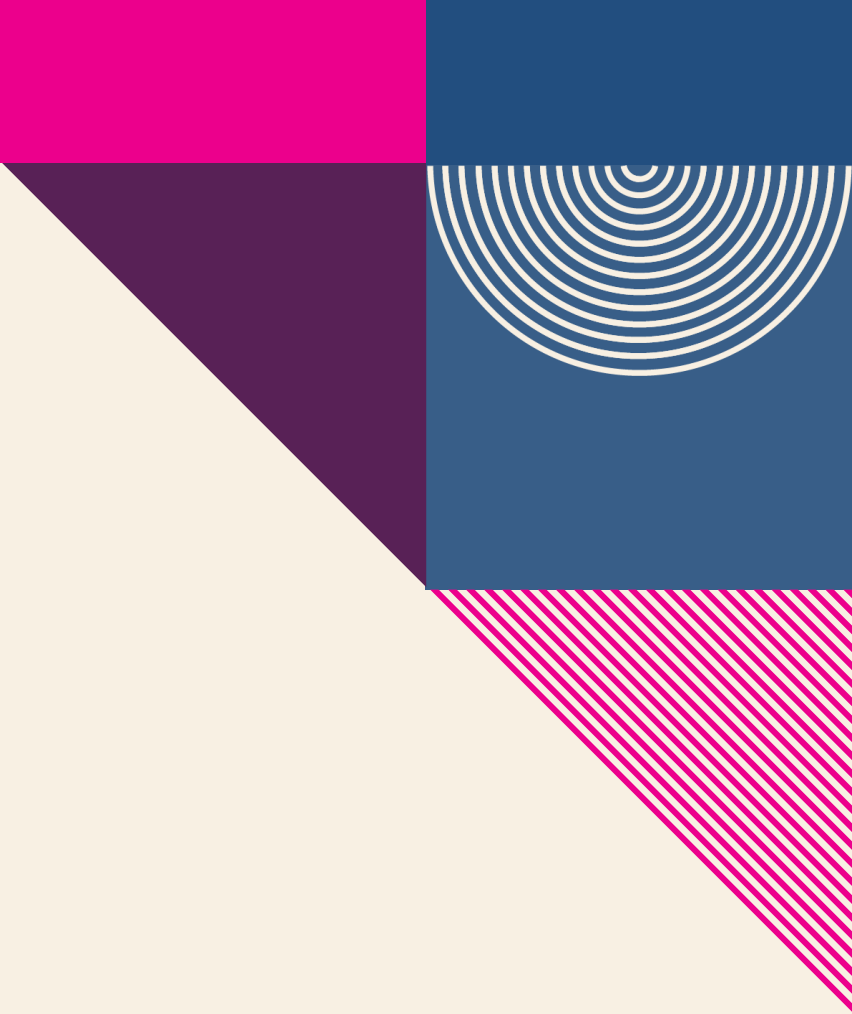
Indicator	Bergen County	New Jersey
Average Travel Time to Work (in Minutes)	34.0	31.9
% of Public Transportation	13.1%	9.7%
% of Working From Home	15.2%	13.5%



# ECONOMY

In 2023, Bergen County’s real GDP was \$82.4 billion, ranking 1<sup>st</sup> among all New Jersey counties.





# Establishments

## Bergen County

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, 2024

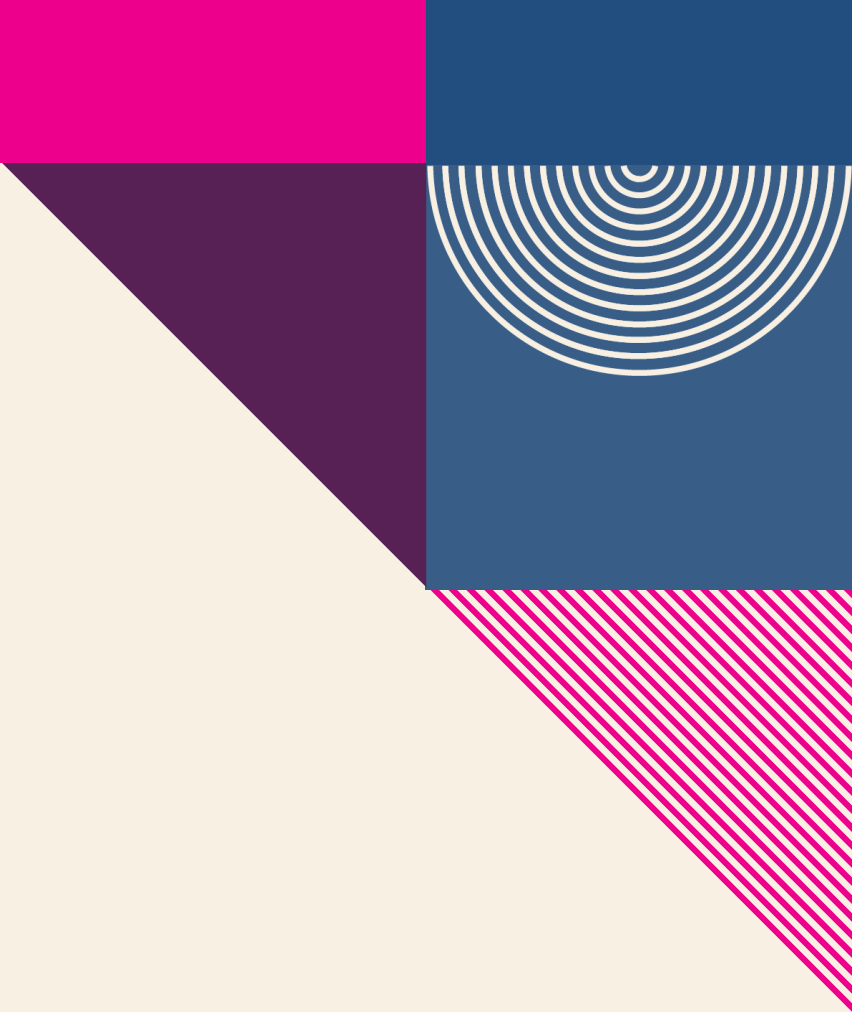
The QCEW program produces quarterly and annual data on the number of establishments, total employment, and wages for workers covered by New Jersey unemployment insurance (UI) laws, as well as federal employees under the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program. This data is published at various geographical and industry levels.

# 19.0% of Bergen County establishments are in the Health Care and Social Assistance.

## Bergen County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments Private Sector

Industry	Total Number of Establishments	Total Number of Employees	% of Total Establishments
Health care and social assistance	6,765	83,489	19.0%
Professional and technical services	4,071	28,768	11.5%
Other services, except public administra	3,318	15,999	9.3%
Retail trade	3,293	47,697	9.3%
Accommodation and food services	2,648	34,625	7.5%
Wholesale trade	2,546	32,175	7.2%
Construction	2,517	15,796	7.1%
Administrative and waste services	2,013	23,389	5.7%
Unclassified	1,512	1,637	4.3%
Finance and insurance	1,467	13,539	4.1%
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,323	9,041	3.7%
Manufacturing	1,217	29,613	3.4%
Transportation and warehousing	998	17,693	2.8%
Information	565	8,131	1.6%
Educational services	552	10,621	1.6%
Management of companies and enterpr	180	9,770	0.5%

Note: Full list of establishments in Bergen County is available in [Appendix](#).



# Unemployment Trend

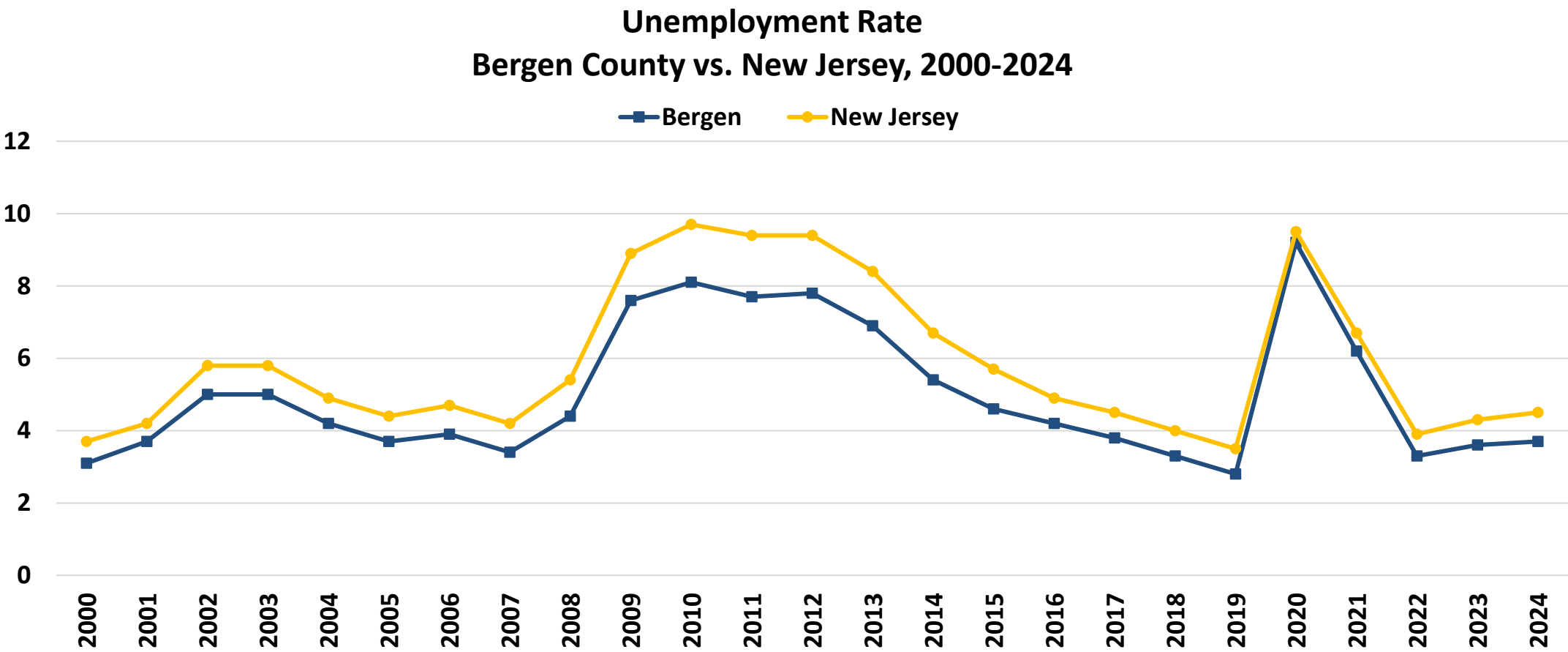
## Bergen County vs. New Jersey

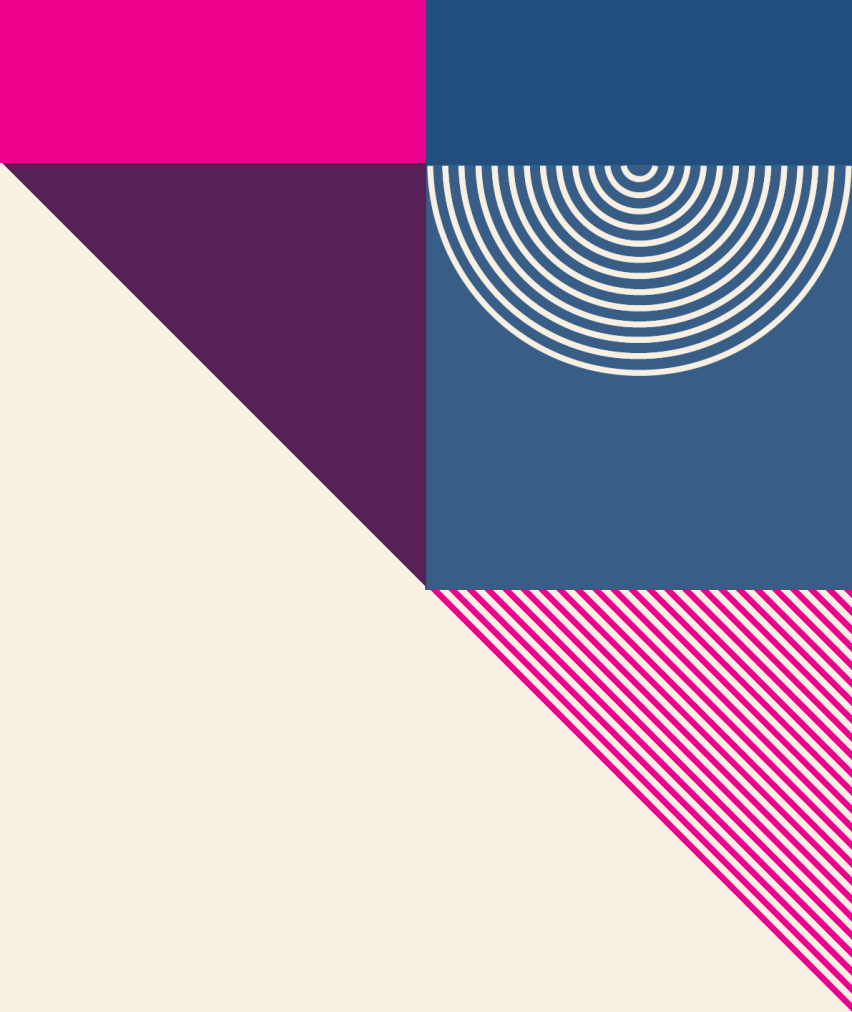
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2024

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.



Unemployment in Bergen County followed state trends however has been consistently lower than New Jersey's average.





# Employment Situation







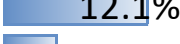










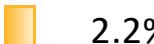






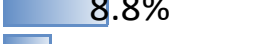





## Bergen County vs. New Jersey

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, 2024

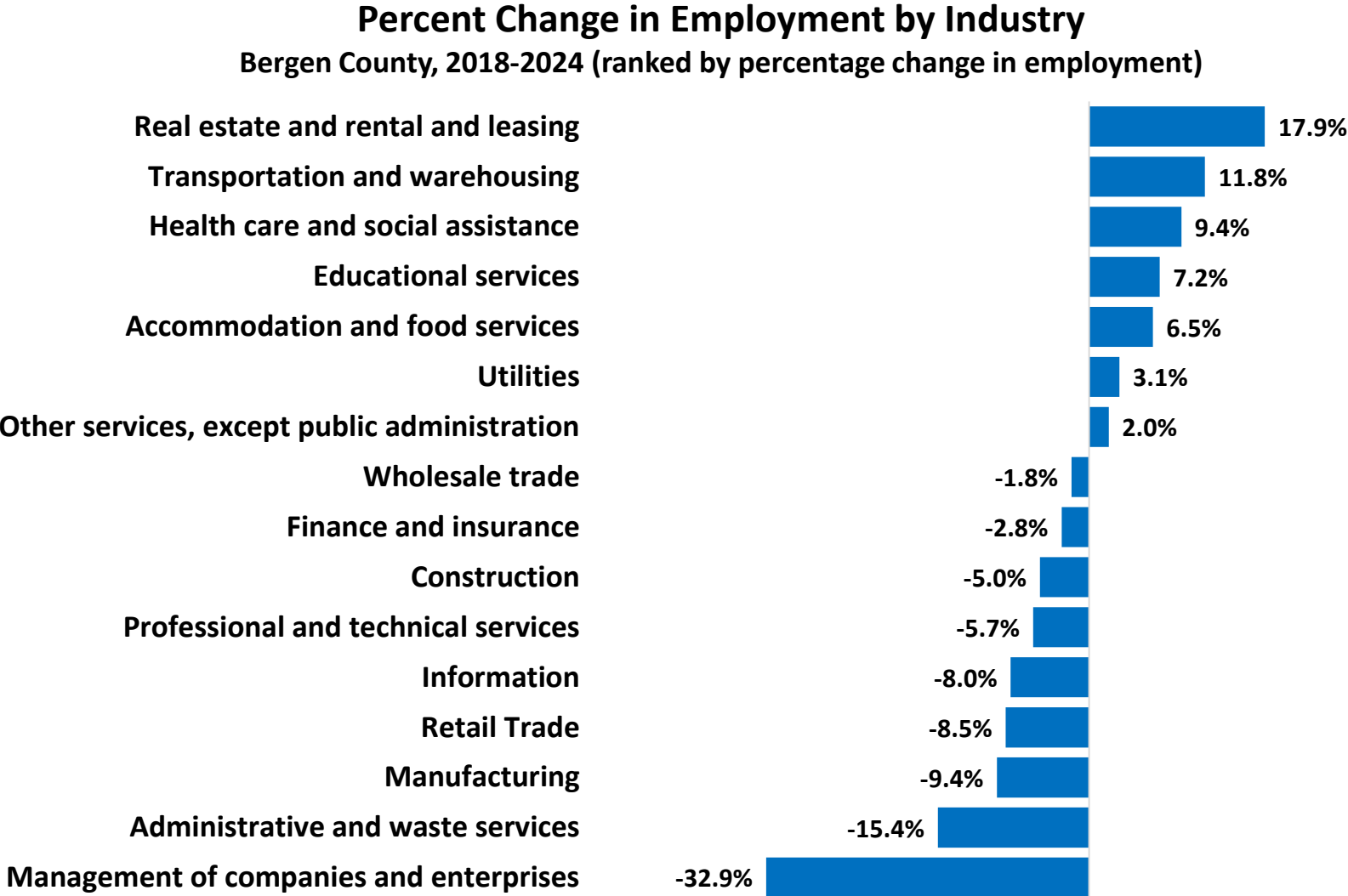
The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces detailed industry estimates of nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings of workers on payrolls. CES National Estimates produces data for the nation, and CES State and Metro Area produces estimates for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.

# In Bergen County, Health Care and Social Assistance has a higher employment share compared to state averages.

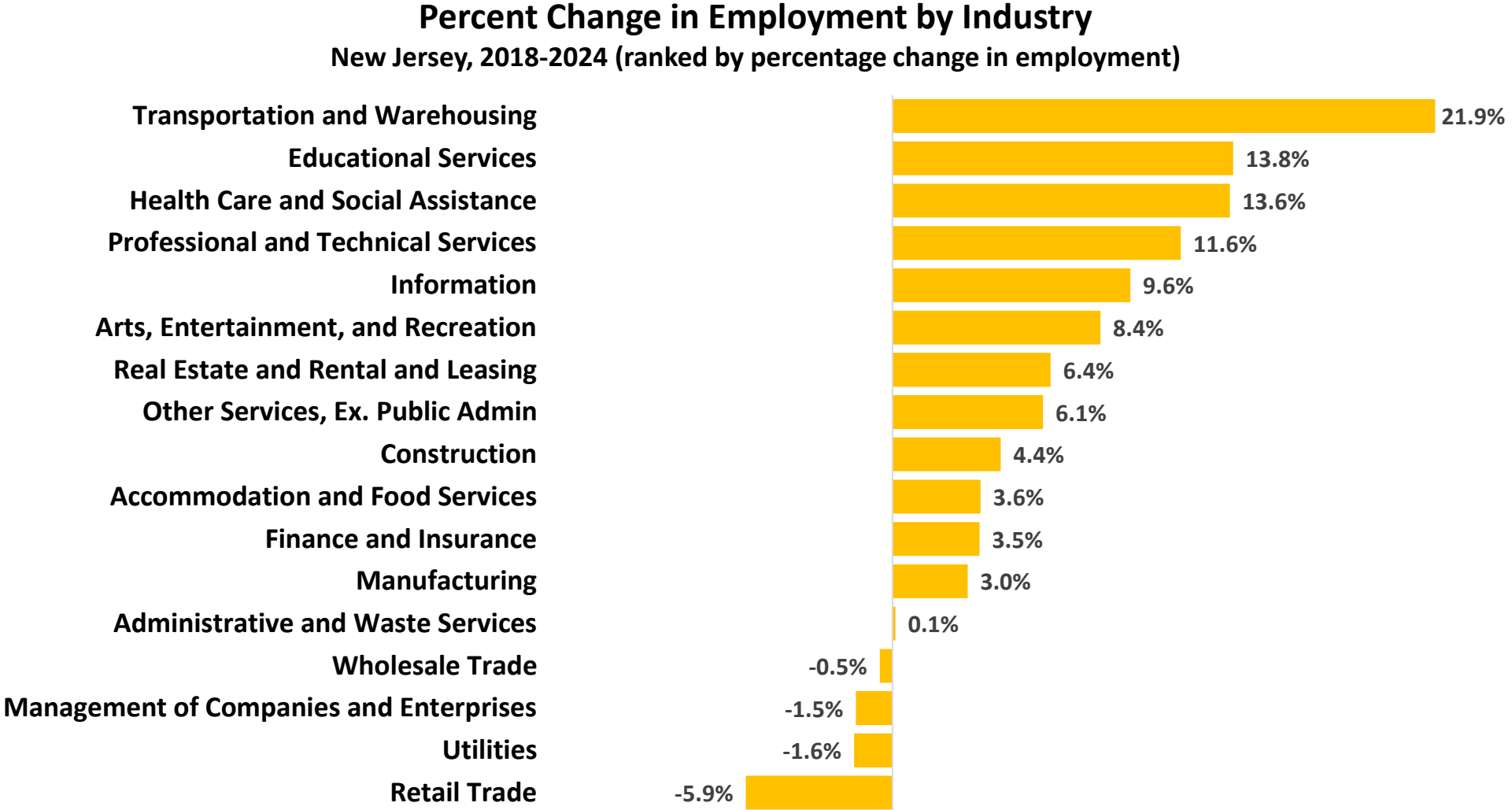
## Private Employment Bergen County vs. New Jersey, 2024 Private Sector

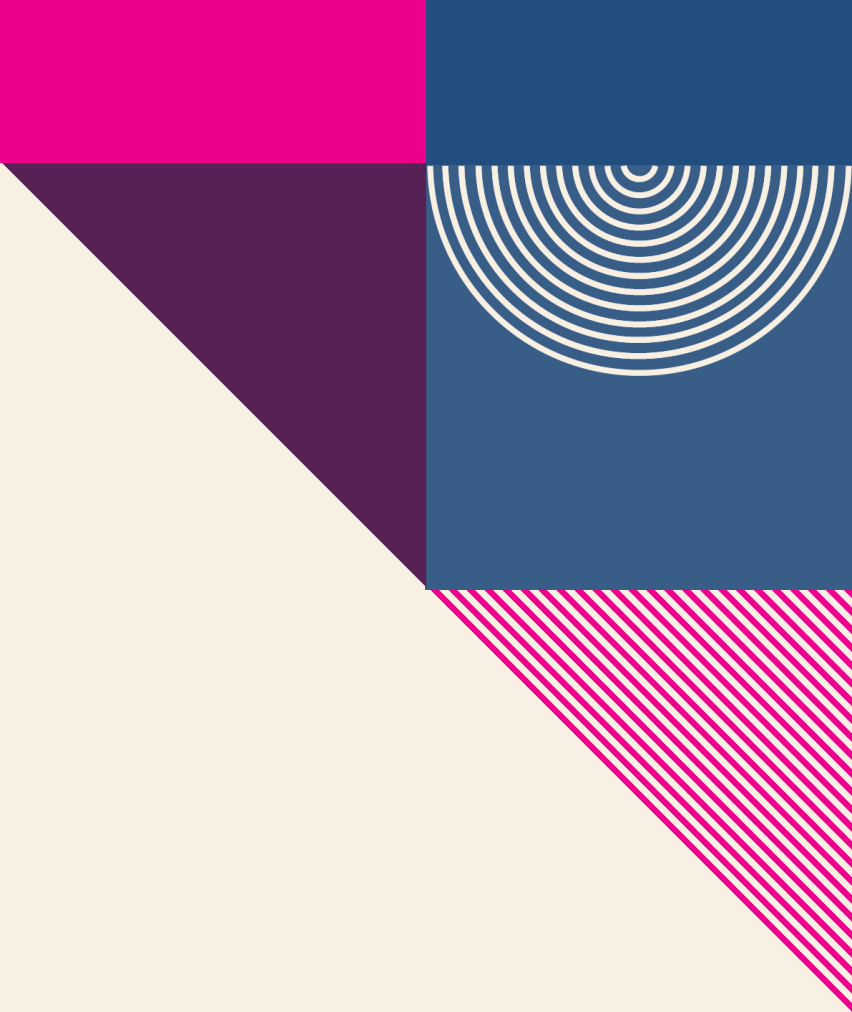
Industry	Bergen County		New Jersey		Difference between
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total	
Construction	15,796	 4.0%	164,014	 4.5%	-0.4%
Manufacturing	29,613	 7.5%	253,054	 6.9%	0.7%
Wholesale trade	32,175	 8.2%	213,549	 5.8%	2.4%
Retail trade	47,697	 12.1%	427,521	 11.6%	0.5%
Transportation and warehousing	17,693	 4.5%	233,943	 6.4%	-1.9%
Information	8,131	 2.1%	76,199	 2.1%	0.0%
Finance and insurance	13,539	 3.4%	189,987	 5.2%	-1.7%
Real estate and rental and leasing	9,041	 2.3%	63,263	 1.7%	0.6%
Professional and technical services	28,768	 7.3%	336,105	 9.1%	-1.8%
Management of companies and enterprises	9,770	 2.5%	82,588	 2.2%	0.2%
Administrative and waste services	23,389	 6.0%	286,750	 7.8%	-1.8%
Educational services	10,621	 2.7%	90,018	 2.4%	0.3%
Health care and social assistance	83,489	 21.2%	656,356	 17.8%	3.4%
Accommodation and food services	34,625	 8.8%	328,905	 8.9%	-0.1%
Other services, except public administration	15,999	 4.1%	144,086	 3.9%	0.2%

Between 2018 and 2024, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing saw the largest employment growth in Bergen County, increasing by 17.9%.



# Transportation and Warehousing saw strong growth in New Jersey, expanding by 21.9% from 2018 to 2024.





# Occupational Employment and Wages

## Bergen County vs. New Jersey

Source: 2024 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates (OEWS)

The Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program produces employment, and wage estimates annually for approximately 830 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; national occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

**20.8% of Bergen County's total employment is concentrated in the top 10 occupations.**

**Top 10 Occupations, Ranked by Employment  
Bergen County, 2024**

Occupation	Employment	% of Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	12,240	2.8%	\$17.64
Cashiers	10,810	2.4%	\$16.46
Registered Nurses	10,420	2.4%	\$49.39
Retail Salespersons	10,360	2.3%	\$17.28
Fast Food and Counter Workers	9,420	2.1%	\$16.21
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	8,280	1.9%	\$19.05
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	8,090	1.8%	\$17.82
Stockers and Order Fillers	7,960	1.8%	\$17.80
Office Clerks, General	7,670	1.7%	\$23.36
General and Operations Managers	7,020	1.6%	\$72.44
<b>Top 10 Occupations, Total</b>	<b>92,270</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	
<b>All Occupations, Total</b>	<b>442,920</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$26.90</b>

*Note:* OES collects the data for 2024.

In New Jersey, the top 10 occupations account for 20% of total employment.

**Top 10 Occupations, Ranked by Employment  
New Jersey, 2024**

Occupation	Employment	% of Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	105,460	2.5%	\$17.83
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	101,720	2.4%	\$18.78
Registered Nurses	95,150	2.2%	\$49.39
Cashiers	93,270	2.2%	\$15.96
Retail Salespersons	87,760	2.1%	\$17.13
Fast Food and Counter Workers	86,980	2.0%	\$16.01
Packers and Packagers, Hand	76,060	1.8%	\$20.56
Office Clerks, General	71,140	1.7%	\$23.07
Stockers and Order Fillers	70,780	1.7%	\$17.69
Janitors and Cleaners	67,590	1.6%	\$17.94
<b>Top 10 Occupations, Total</b>	<b>855,910</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	
<b>All Occupations, Total</b>	<b>4,250,430</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$27.51</b>

Note: OEWS collects the data for 2024.



Between 2022 and 2032 in Bergen County, the Healthcare Support occupation group is projected to see the largest growth (+3,700).

**Actual and Projected Employment by Occupation Group, Bergen County**  
**Top 10 Occupation groups ranked by 2032 Employment Projections**

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Office and Administrative Support	66,850	62,400	-4,450	-6.6%
Transportation and Material Moving	50,500	53,000	2,500	5.0%
Sales and Related	47,300	45,450	-1,850	-3.9%
Management	36,350	38,300	1,950	5.2%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	32,400	35,700	3,300	10.3%
Educational Instruction and Library	30,550	32,100	1,550	5.0%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	30,100	30,950	850	2.7%
Business and Financial Operations	29,600	30,200	600	2.0%
Healthcare Support	24,000	27,700	3,700	15.4%
Production	21,300	20,800	-500	-2.2%

Note: Employment data for Top 15 occupational groups is available in the [Appendix](#).

An abstract geometric design on the left side of the slide. It features a dark purple triangle in the top-left corner with a small white circle. Below it is a light grey semi-circle next to a series of concentric blue circles. To the right of these is a blue square. Further down is a pink square with diagonal lines, and below that is a solid pink square. At the bottom are several triangles in shades of purple and pink, some with concentric line patterns. The background is a solid light beige color.

# **JOB POSTINGS**



# Job Postings

## Bergen County vs. New Jersey

Source: Lightcast

Lightcast collect raw data on postings from more than 160,000 online sources, then synthesize and interpret those findings to provide meaningful insight in near real time. Job posting analytics can identify supply and demand for workers, skills, and jobs all over the world, as well as important contextual details like compensation trends.

Limitations: One job posting does not necessarily equal one actual job opening. Some companies may post jobs to signal growth to investors or advertise positions in multiple states. Additionally, a decline in job postings doesn't always indicate reduced demand; it could simply mean that companies have already filled their positions and are no longer actively recruiting. We treat this data as directional, offering insights into employer demand rather than exact measurements.



## **Top 5 Hiring Companies Bergen County, 2024**

- **Hackensack Meridian Health**
- **Swing Education**
- **Englewood Health PLLC**
- **Valley Health System**
- **Jag Physical Therapy**



# Top 5 Occupations Bergen County, 2024

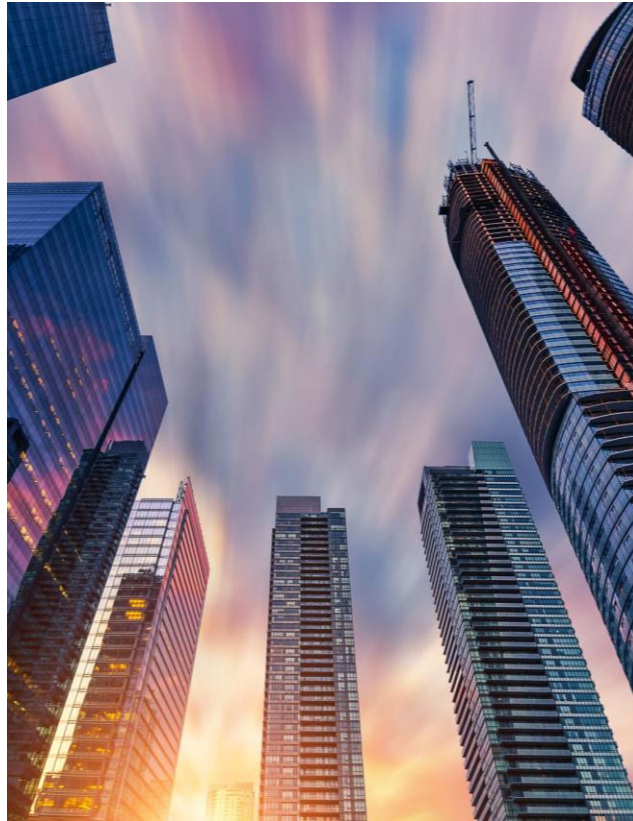
- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons
- First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales
- Home Health and Personal Care Aides
- Substitute Teachers, Short-Term





## **Top 5 Specialized Skills Bergen County, 2024**

- **Marketing**
- **Nursing**
- **Project Management**
- **Merchandising**
- **Auditing**

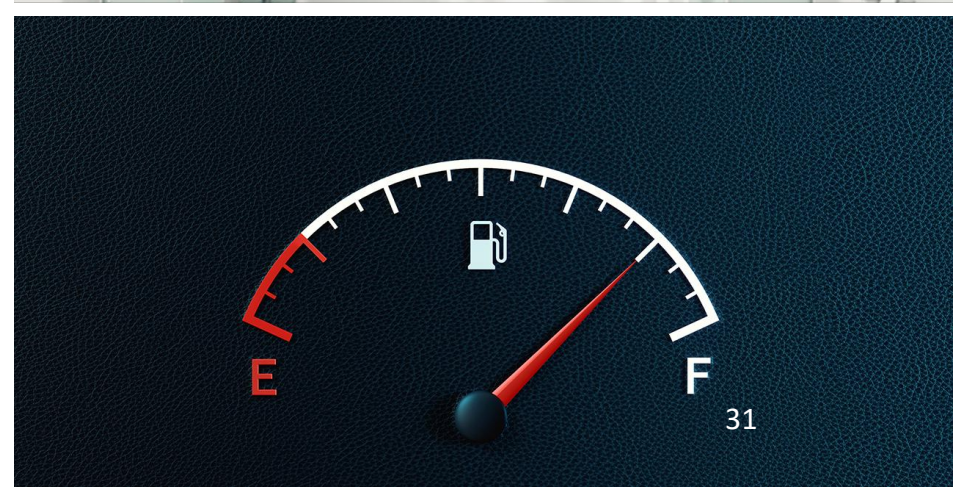
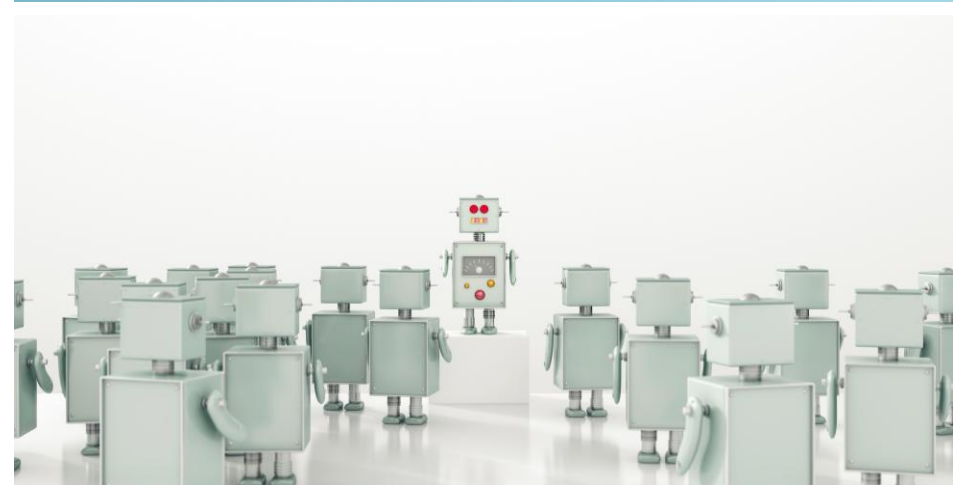




# Top 5 Software Skills

Bergen County, 2024

- Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Programming Language (e.g., SQL, Python, and JavaScript)
- Google Workspace
- Epic EMR
- Dashboard





## **Top 5 Soft Skills Bergen County, 2024**

- **Communication**
- **Customer Service**
- **Management**
- **Sales**
- **Detail Oriented**







## **Top 5 Certificates Bergen County, 2024**

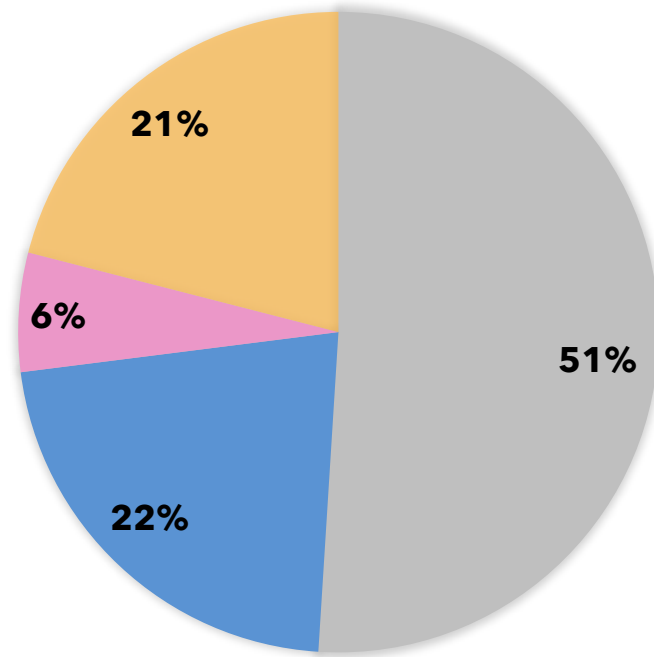
- **Valid Driver's License**
- **Registered Nurse (RN)**
- **Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification**
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification**
- **Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification**



**21% of job postings in Bergen County require a bachelor's degree or higher.**

**Job Postings by Educational Attainment  
Bergen County, 2024**

■ No education listed ■ High school or GED ■ Associate's degree ■ Bachelor's degree or higher



*Note:* Bachelor's degree or higher includes Bachelor's Degree, Master, Ph.D. or Professional Degree. While 51% of job postings did not specify educational attainment, this does not necessarily mean there are no requirements for it.



# AI-related Job Postings

## Bergen County vs. New Jersey

Source: Lightcast

To identify AI-related job postings, ORI-EDR compiled a curated list of 130 specific terms. A job listing is deemed AI-related if any of these terms appear in the skills section. A job listing is classified as AI-related if any of these terms are present in the skills section. This includes, but is not limited to, terms such as "AI/ML Inference," "Conversational AI," "Machine Learning Algorithms," "Supervised Learning," and "Deep Learning."

Limitations: One job posting does not necessarily equal one actual job opening. Some companies may post jobs to signal growth to investors or advertise positions in multiple states. Additionally, a decline in job postings doesn't always indicate reduced demand; it could simply mean that companies have already filled their positions and are no longer actively recruiting. We treat this data as directional, offering insights into employer demand rather than exact measurements.



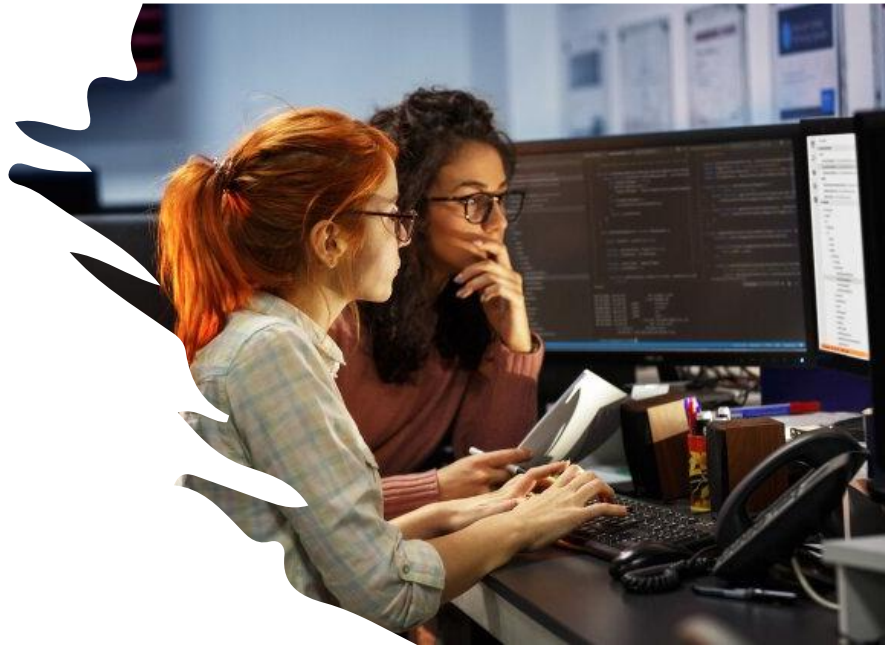
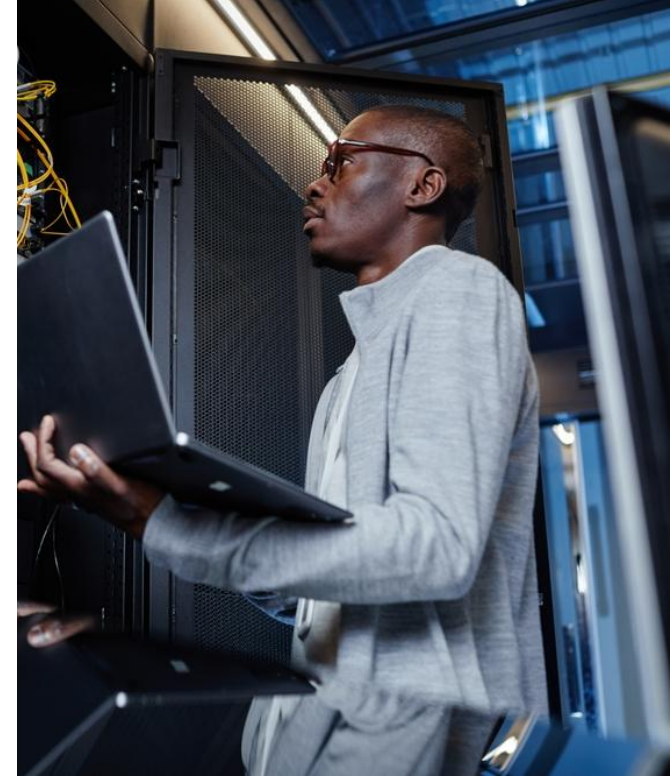
## Top 5 AI-related Hiring Companies Bergen County, 2024

- NBC
- BD
- Hackensack Meridian Health
- Transdev
- Unilever



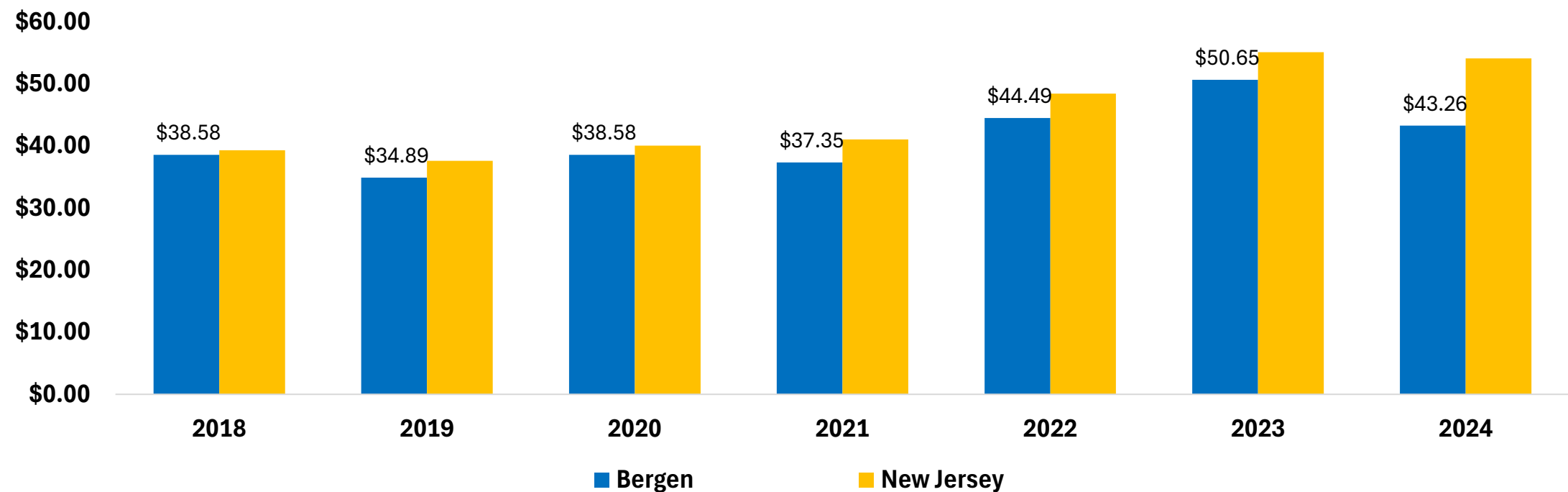
# Top 5 AI-related Occupations Bergen County, 2024

- Software Developers
- Project Management Specialists
- Computer Occupations, All Other
- Data Scientists
- Marketing Managers



In Bergen County, the median hourly wage for AI-related job postings is lower than the state average.


Median Hourly Wage in AI-related Job Postings,  
Bergen County vs. New Jersey, 2018-2024






# TAKEAWAYS




- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Bergen County**
    - **Demographics**
      - Bergen County's population is older and more diverse than the state overall.
      - Bergen County's education level is comparable to the state overall, but the proportion of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 8.8 percentage points higher than the state average.
    - **Regional Variation**
      - There are differences in economic and housing characteristics across Bergen County's municipalities.

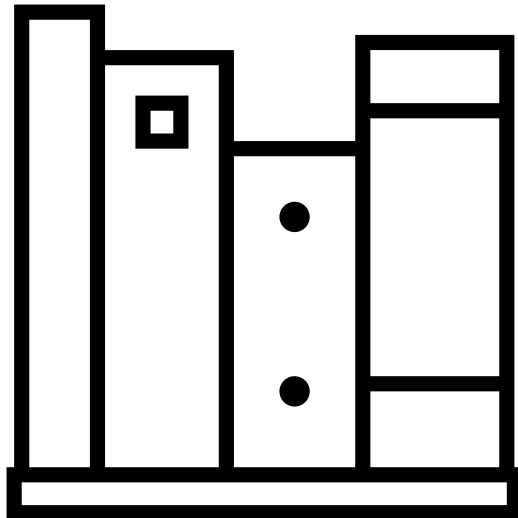


- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Bergen County (Continued)**
  - **Industry Composition**
    - Nearly 19% of business establishments are in Health Care and Social Assistance.
    - Health Care and Social Assistance has higher employment shares in Bergen County compared to state average.

- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Bergen County (Continued)**
    - **Occupational Demand in the County**
      - **Top Projected Occupational groups by 2032**
        - Office and Administrative Support
        - Transportation and Material Moving
        - Sales and Related
        - Management
        - Healthcare Practitioners and Technical

- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Bergen County (Continued)**
    - **Occupational Demand in the County**
      - **Top Occupations by Job Postings**
        - Registered Nurses
        - Retail Salespersons
        - First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales
        - Home Health and Personal Care Aides
        - Substitute Teachers, Short-Term

# 2025 Report Overview and Subscription Information



This report was prepared by the Office of Research and Information, Division of Economic & Demographic Research. This division collects and disseminates vital data on employers, employees, and population demographics.

# 2025-2026 NJDOL PUBLICATIONS

- [Real-Time Insights: Analysis of Job Posting Data in New Jersey for 2025](#) (January 2026)
- [Identifying and Tracking Emerging Occupations in New Jersey's Key Sectors](#) (January 2026)
- [New Jersey's Manufacturing Sector](#) (Winter 2025)
- [County Brief: Labor Market Facts](#) (December 2025)
- [Labor Market Spotlight - Celebrating New Jersey's Veterans](#) (Issue No. 28, Volume 3: November 2025)
- [Labor Market Spotlight - New Jersey's Waterways Help Keep the Economy Flowing](#) (Issue No. 27, Volume 3: October 2025)
- [New Jersey Employment Situation](#) (September 2025)
- [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey \(JOLTS\)](#) (August 2025)
- [New Jersey Building Permits](#) (August 2025)
- [New Jersey's Life Sciences Sector](#) (Fall 2025)
- [Labor Market Spotlight - The Industries Powering New Jersey's Special Moments](#) (Issue No. 26, Volume 3: August 2025)
- [New Jersey's Health Care Sector](#) (June 2025)
- [New Jersey Business Employment Dynamics](#) (May 2025)
- [Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses \(SOII\)](#) (April 2025)
- [Labor Market Spotlight - Fortune 500 Companies](#) (Issue No. 25, Volume 3: March 2025)
- [Labor Market Spotlight - Young Adult Workforce](#) (Issue No. 24, Volume 3: January 2025)

# JOIN OUR LIST

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**THANK YOU!**



# APPENDIX

## Bergen County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments Private Sector

Industry	Total Number of Establishments	Total Number of Employees	% of Total Establishments
Health care and social assistance	6,765	83,489	19.0%
Professional and technical services	4,071	28,768	11.5%
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Wholesale trade	2,546	32,175	7.2%
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Manufacturing	1,217	29,613	3.4%
Transportation and warehousing	998	17,693	2.8%
Information	565	8,131	1.6%
Educational services	552	10,621	1.6%
Management of companies and enterprises	180	9,770	0.5%
Utilities	38	1,416	0.1%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	29	316	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,512</b>	<b>392,949</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Source: ORI-EDR, QCEW, 2024

*Note:* An establishment is considered unknown when there is insufficient detail to accurately determine its primary industry at that location. It will be assigned an industry code once the program can verify its main business activity.

**Actual and Projected Employment by Occupation Group, Bergen County**  
**Top 15 Occupations ranked by 2032 Employment Projections**

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2032 Projected</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>Office and Administrative Support Occupations</b>	66,850	62,400	-4,450	-6.6%
<b>Transportation and Material Moving Occupations</b>	50,500	53,000	2,500	5.0%
<b>Sales and Related Occupations</b>	47,300	45,450	-1,850	-3.9%
<b>Management Occupations</b>	36,350	38,300	1,950	5.2%
<b>Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations</b>	32,400	35,700	3,300	10.3%
<b>Educational Instruction and Library Occupations</b>	30,550	32,100	1,550	5.0%
<b>Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations</b>	30,100	30,950	850	2.8%
<b>Business and Financial Operations Occupations</b>	29,600	30,200	600	2.0%
<b>Healthcare Support Occupations</b>	24,000	27,700	3,700	15.4%
<b>Production Occupations</b>	21,300	20,800	-500	-2.2%
<b>Computer and Mathematical Occupations</b>	18,000	19,750	1,750	9.8%
<b>Personal Care and Service Occupations</b>	17,300	19,150	1,850	10.6%
<b>Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations</b>	17,500	18,000	500	2.8%
<b>Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations</b>	15,850	16,100	250	1.7%
<b>Construction and Extraction Occupations</b>	15,000	15,700	700	4.8%