

Middlesex County

Division of Economic and Demographic Research

Office of Research & Information

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

February 2026

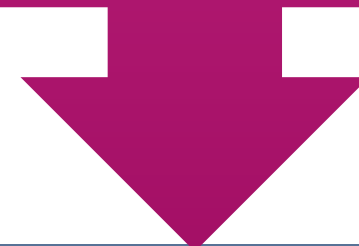


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**WHO ARE
WE?**

New Jersey Department of Labor
Office of Research and Information



Division of Economic and Demographic
Research

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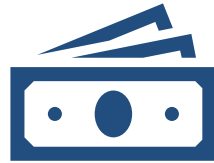
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The purpose of this report is to highlight the key demographic and economic trends in the county



Middlesex County's population is **younger and more diverse** than the state average, with a higher proportion of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher.



Middlesex County's real GDP ranks 2nd among all New Jersey counties. **Unemployment** follows state trends but stays slightly below the New Jersey average.



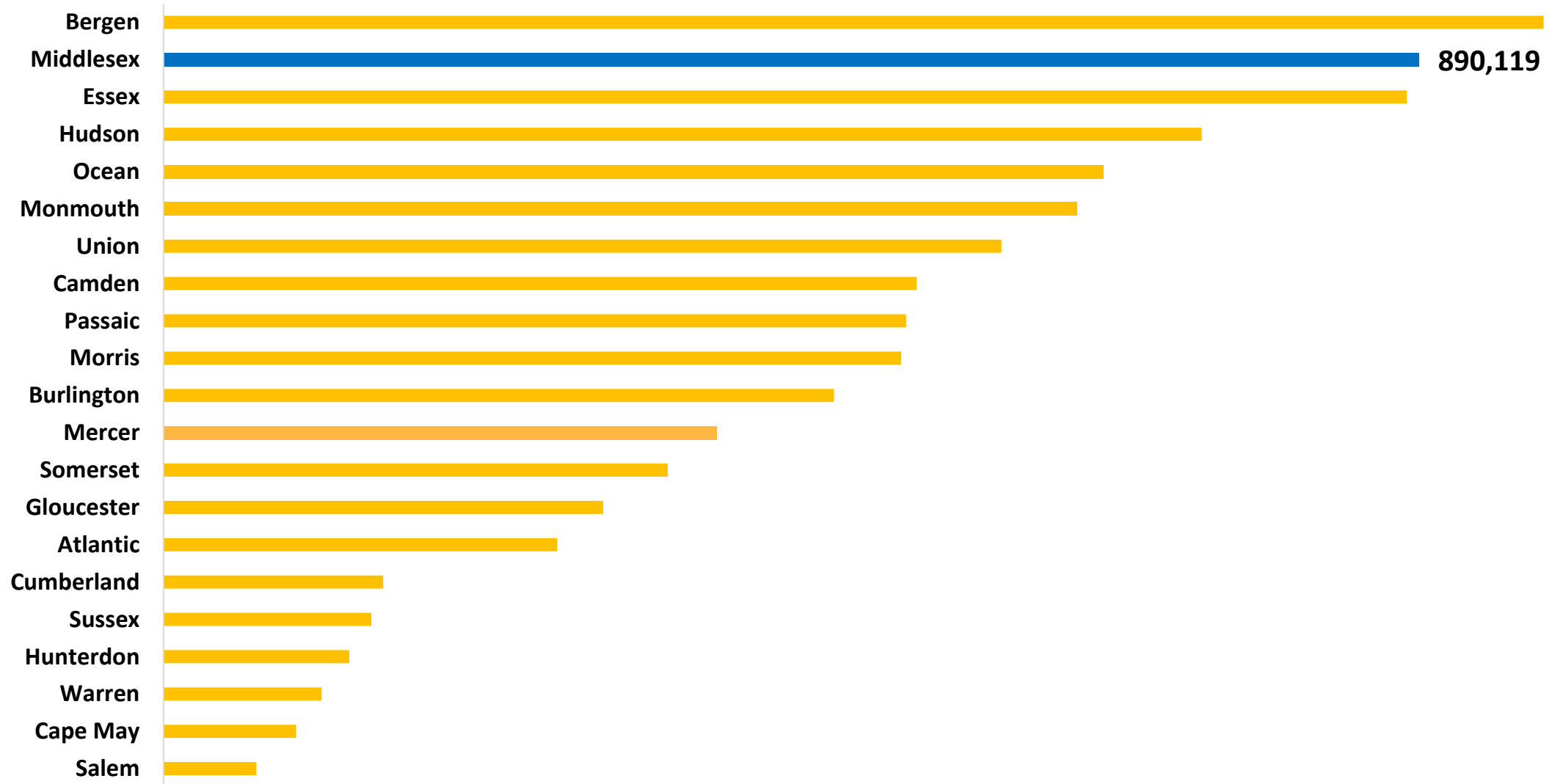
The **top** occupations in demand include Registered Nurses, Retail Salespersons and Software Developers.



DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Middlesex County's population was 890,119 in 2024.

Population Estimates by County in New Jersey, 2024



Middlesex County’s population is younger and more diverse than the state overall.

Demographic Characteristics		
Indicator	Middlesex County	New Jersey
Median Age	39.4	40.1
% of Older Population (65+)	16.9%	18.0%
% of Language Other Than English Spoken at Home	48.2%	34.3%
% of Foreign-Born Population	36.4%	25.0%
% of Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	24.8%	23.5%

The share of Middlesex County residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 3 percentage points above the state average.

Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older)

Indicator	Middlesex County	New Jersey
High School or Equivalent Degree	21.4%	24.7%
Some College, No Degree	13.7%	14.5%
Associate's Degree	6.1%	6.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	47.5%	44.5%
High School Degree or Higher	88.7%	90.4%

Middlesex County has a higher median household income and a lower poverty rate compared to the state overall.

Income & Poverty

Indicator	Middlesex County	New Jersey
Median Household Income	\$115,040	\$104,294
% of Poverty	8.4%	9.2%

Note: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

Middlesex County residents pay higher rent and have a higher homeownership rate compared to the state average.

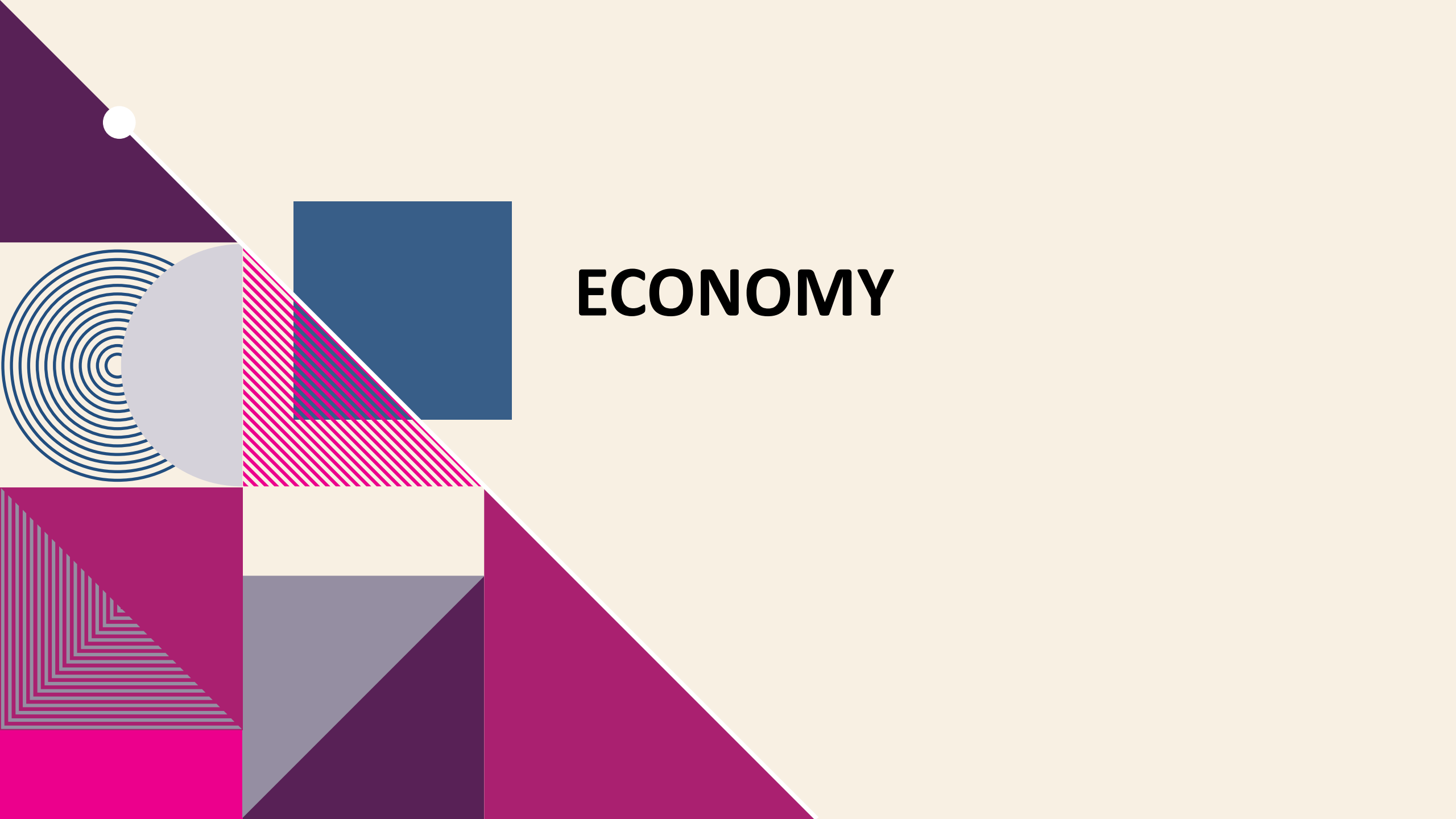
Housing Characteristics

Indicator	Middlesex County	New Jersey
Total Households	310,450	3,543,944
Median Gross Rent	\$1,947	\$1,800
Homeownership Rate	73.6%	63.9%
% of Housing Value of Owner Occupied (≥\$300,000)	88.0%	80.7%

Middlesex County residents have longer commute times, and a lower percentage of commuters using public transportation compared to the state average.

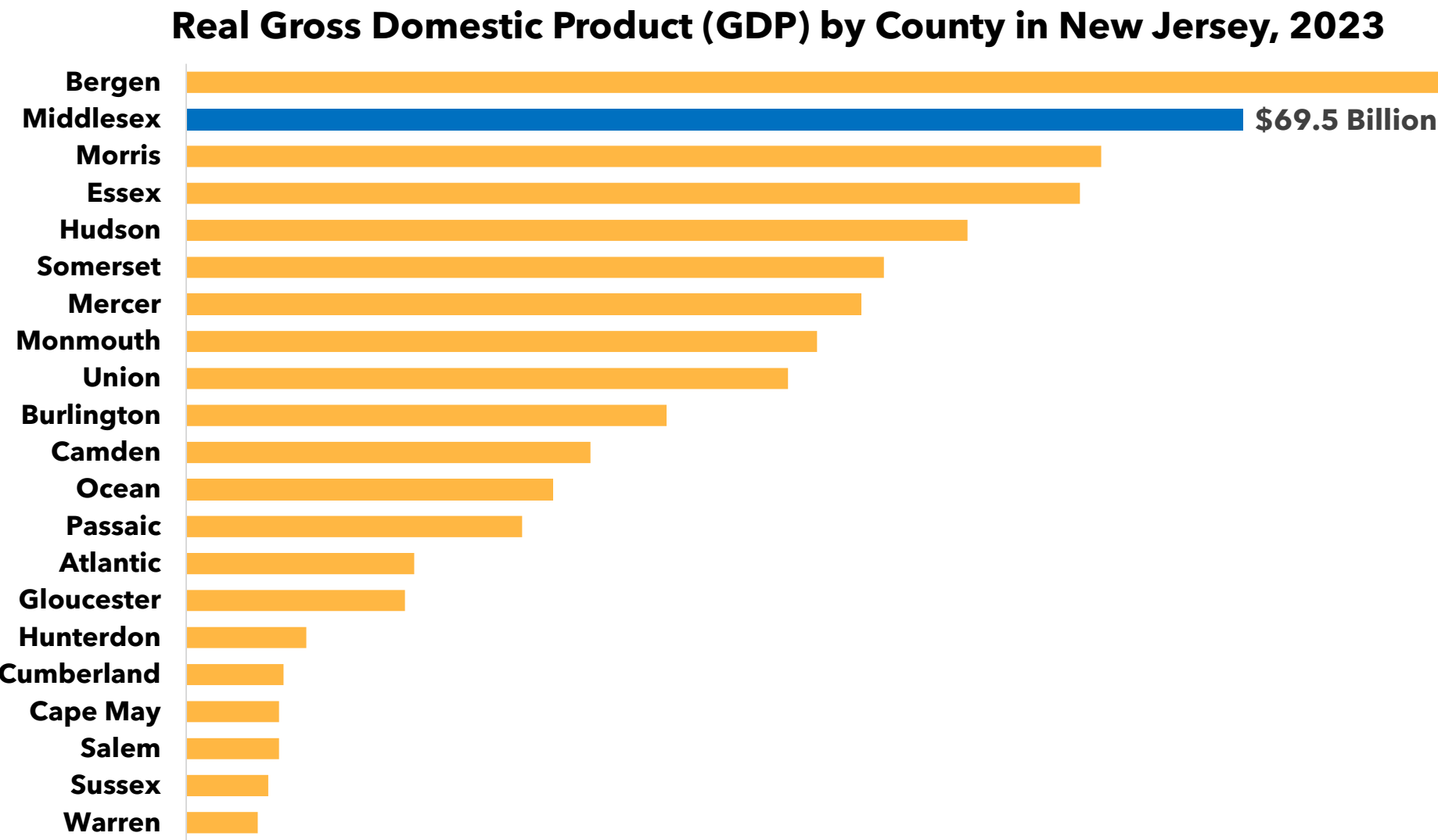
Commuting Characteristics

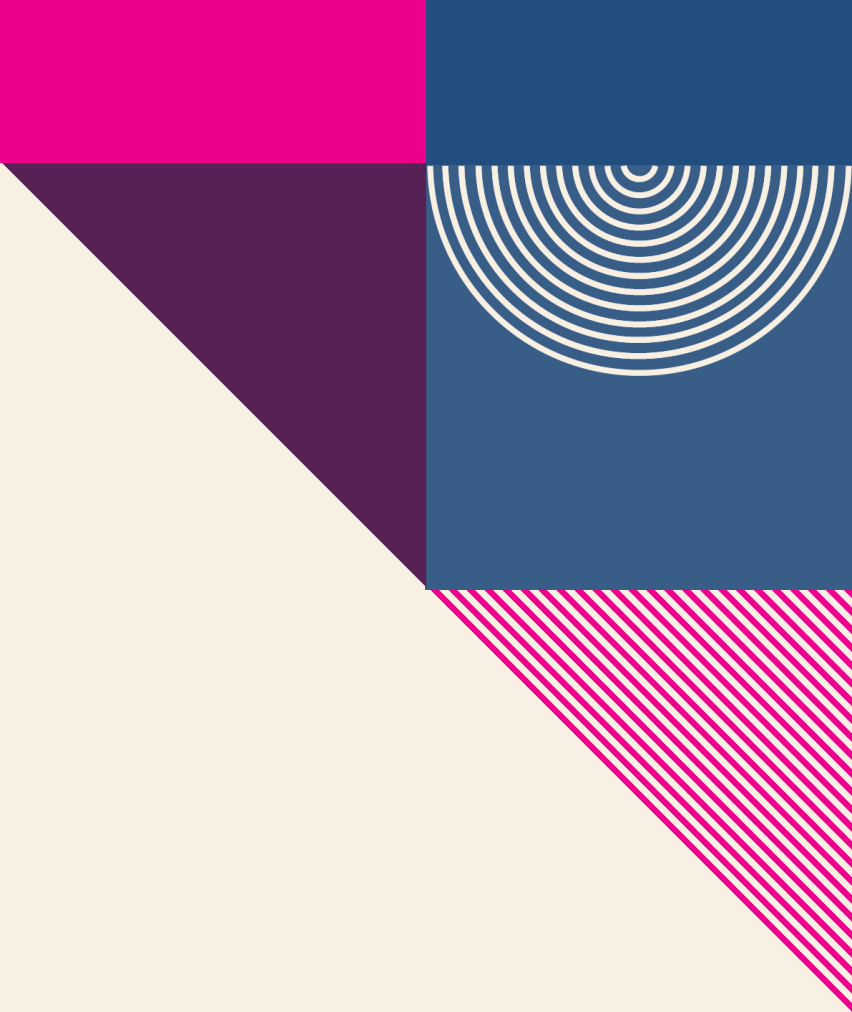
Indicator	Middlesex County	New Jersey
Average Travel Time to Work (in Minutes)	32.7	31.4
% of Public Transportation	7.0%	9.6%
% of Working From Home	14.0%	14.0%



ECONOMY

In 2023, Middlesex County’s real GDP was \$69.5 billion, ranking 2nd among all New Jersey counties.





Establishments and Employment

Middlesex 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.

20.1% of Middlesex County establishments are in the health care and social assistance.









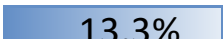





















Middlesex County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments All Ownerships

Industry	Total Number of Establishments	Total Number of Employees	% of Total Establishments
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,036	57,733	20.1%
Professional and Technical Services	3,813	40,492	15.2%
Retail Trade	2,282	37,019	9.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,752	24,124	7.0%
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	1,710	12,941	6.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,507	29,555	6.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	1,454	36,307	5.8%
Construction	1,450	15,208	5.8%
Unclassified	1,307	1,527	5.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,305	49,911	5.2%
Finance and Insurance	848	11,924	3.4%
Manufacturing	824	30,862	3.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	706	5,787	2.8%
Information	334	5,906	1.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	207	4,330	0.8%
MGT of Companies and Enterprises	122	7,626	0.5%

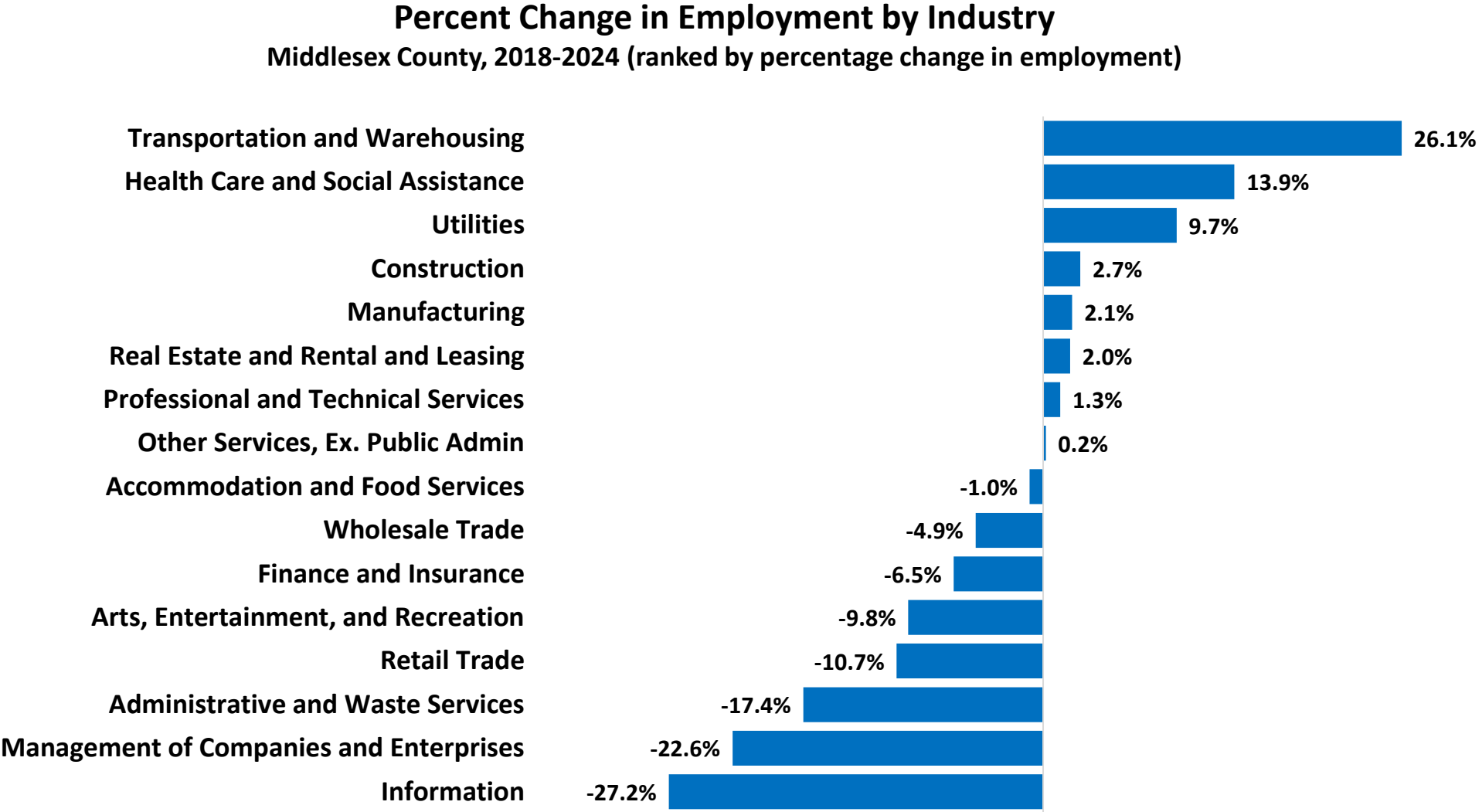
Note: Full list of establishments in Middlesex County is available in [Appendix](#).

In Middlesex County, transportation and warehousing has a higher employment share compared to state averages.

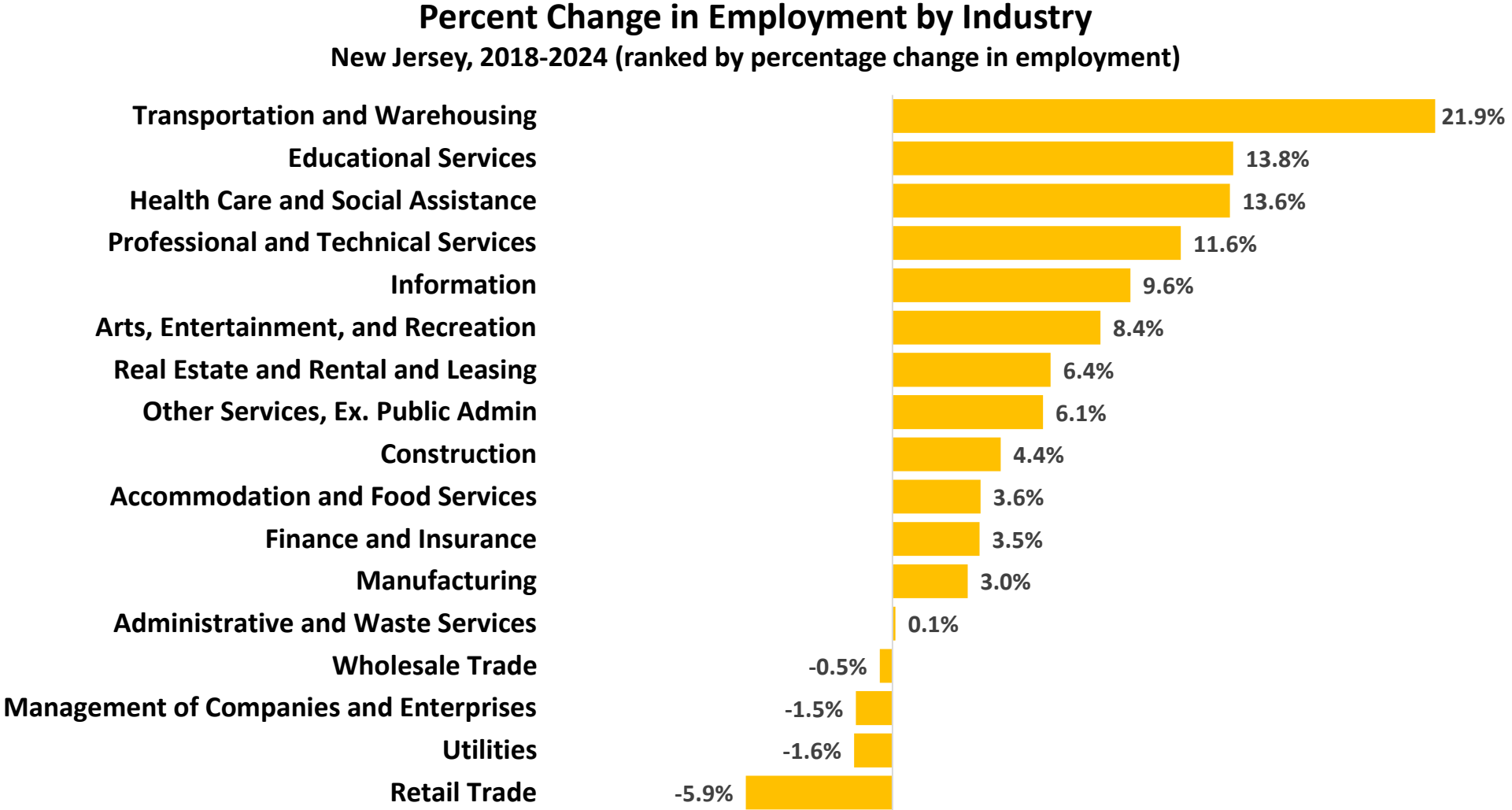
Private Employment Middlesex County vs. New Jersey, 2024

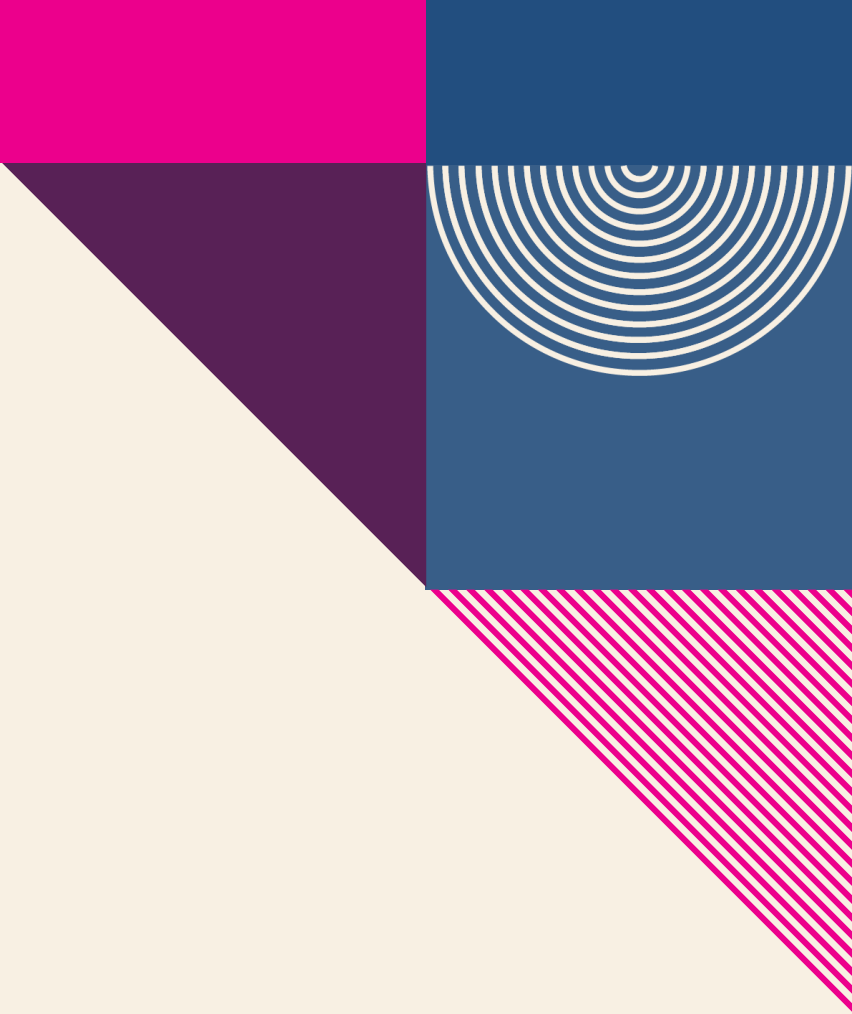
Industry	Middlesex County		New Jersey		Difference between
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total	
Construction	15,208	 4.0%	164,014	 4.5%	-0.4%
Manufacturing	30,862	 8.2%	253,054	 6.9%	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	29,555	 7.9%	213,549	 5.8%	2.0%
Retail Trade	37,019	 9.8%	427,521	 11.6%	-1.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	49,911	 13.3%	233,943	 6.4%	6.9%
Information	5,906	 1.6%	76,199	 2.1%	-0.5%
Finance and Insurance	11,924	 3.2%	189,987	 5.2%	-2.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5,787	 1.5%	63,263	 1.7%	-0.2%
Professional and Technical Services	40,492	 10.8%	336,105	 9.1%	1.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7,626	 2.0%	82,588	 2.2%	-0.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	36,307	 9.6%	286,750	 7.8%	1.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	57,733	 15.3%	656,356	 17.8%	-2.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4,330	 1.2%	73,699	 2.0%	-0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	24,124	 6.4%	328,905	 8.9%	-2.5%
Other Services	12,941	 3.4%	144,086	 3.9%	-0.5%

Between 2018 and 2024, transportation and warehousing saw the largest employment growth in Middlesex County, increasing by 26.1%.



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





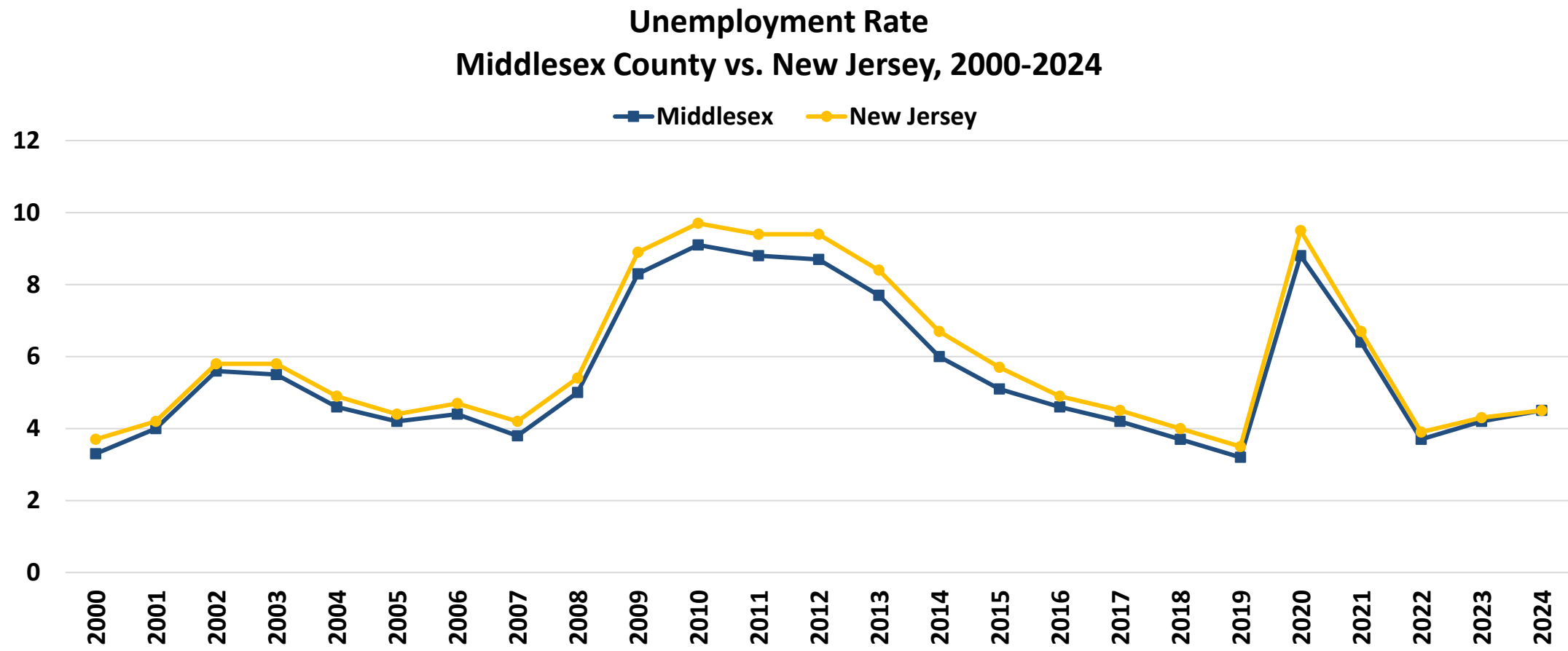
Unemployment Trend

Middlesex 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 Middlesex County follows state trends but was slightly lower than the New Jersey average.





Occupational Employment and Wages

Middlesex 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.

24.3% of Middlesex County's total employment is concentrated in the top 10 occupations.

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

Occupation	Employment	% of Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Packers and Packagers, Hand	20,990	4.8%	\$20.56
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	19,210	4.4%	\$19.09
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	10,300	2.4%	\$17.56
Registered Nurses	8,960	2.0%	\$50.48
Stockers and Order Fillers	7,990	1.8%	\$18.18
Cashiers	7,980	1.8%	\$16.30
Fast Food and Counter Workers	7,800	1.8%	\$16.24
Software Developers	7,760	1.8%	\$61.37
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	7,660	1.8%	\$33.45
Retail Salespersons	7,510	1.7%	\$17.29
Top 10 Occupations, Total	106,160	24.3%	
All Occupations, Total	473,290	100.0%	\$27.55

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%	\$18.30
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	101,720	2.4%	\$20.17
Registered Nurses	95,150	2.2%	\$51.44
Cashiers	93,270	2.2%	\$16.66
Retail Salespersons	87,760	2.1%	\$19.87
Fast Food and Counter Workers	86,980	2.0%	\$16.42
Packers and Packagers, Hand	76,060	1.8%	\$19.42
Office Clerks, General	71,140	1.7%	\$24.23
Stockers and Order Fillers	70,780	1.7%	\$18.87
Janitors and Cleaners	67,590	1.6%	\$19.23
Top 10 Occupations, Total	855,910	20.1%	
All Occupations, Total	4,250,430	100.0%	\$36.69

Note: OEWS collects the data for 2024.

Between 2022 and 2032 in Middlesex County, transportation and material moving occupation group are projected to see the largest growth (+13,600).

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

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Transportation and Material Moving	76,350	89,950	13,600	17.8%
Office and Administrative Support	67,800	68,150	350	0.5%
Sales and Related	41,150	42,400	1,250	3.1%
Management	35,200	39,300	4,100	11.6%
Educational Instruction and Library	30,900	32,950	2,050	6.6%
Business and Financial Operations	30,400	33,100	2,700	8.9%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	24,550	27,400	2,850	11.7%
Production	22,950	23,650	700	3.1%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	22,250	24,700	2,450	10.9%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	19,850	22,050	2,200	11.0%

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 left is a dark purple triangle. The background is a light beige color.

JOB POSTINGS



Job Postings

Middlesex 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 Middlesex County, 2024

- Rutgers University
- Hackensack Meridian Health
- RWJ Barnabas Health
- Novo Nordisk
- Saint Peter's Healthcare System

Top 5 Occupations Middlesex County, 2024

- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons
- Software Developers
- Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers
- First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers





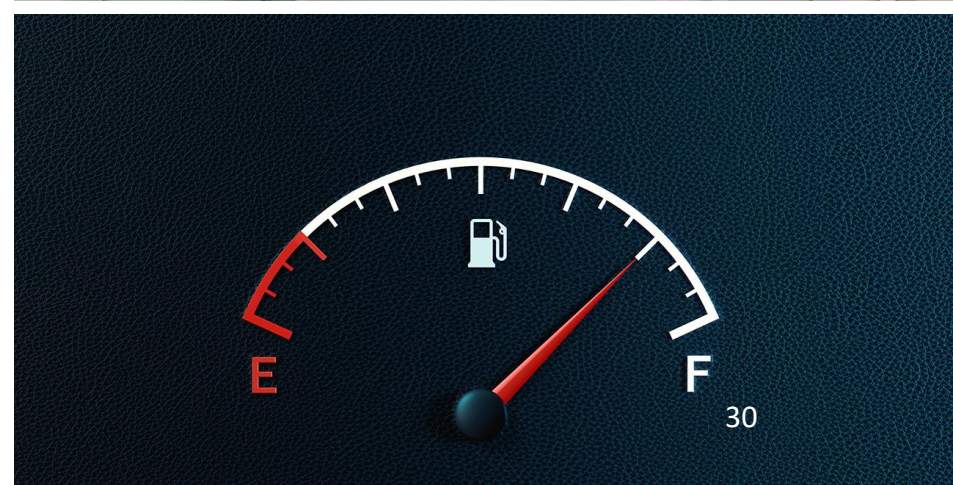
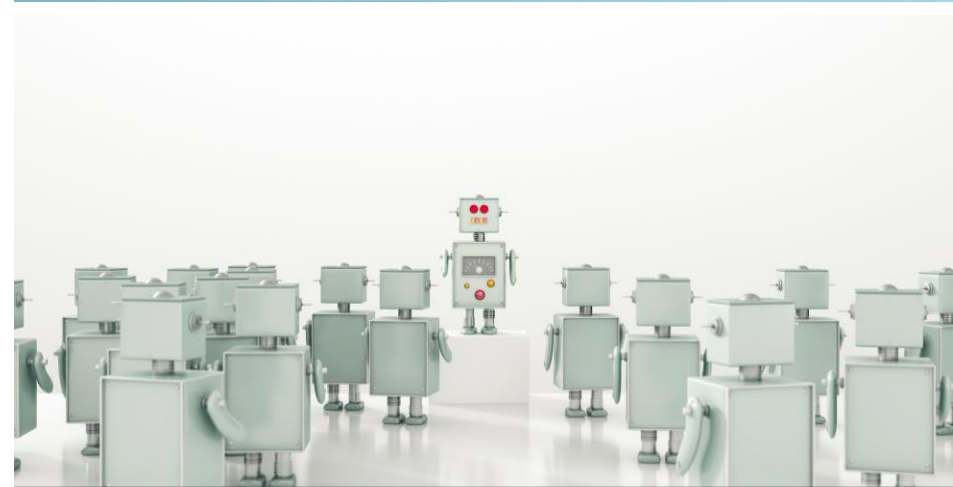
Top 5 Specialized Skills Middlesex County, 2024

- Nursing
- Infection Control
- Project Management
- Warehousing
- Auditing



Top 5 Software Skills

- Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Programming Language (e.g., SQL, Python, and R)
- PeopleSoft Applications
- SAP Applications
- Application Programming Interface (API)





Top 5 Soft Skills Middlesex County, 2024

- **Communication**
- **Management**
- **Customer Service**
- **Operations**
- **Sales**





Top 5 Certificates

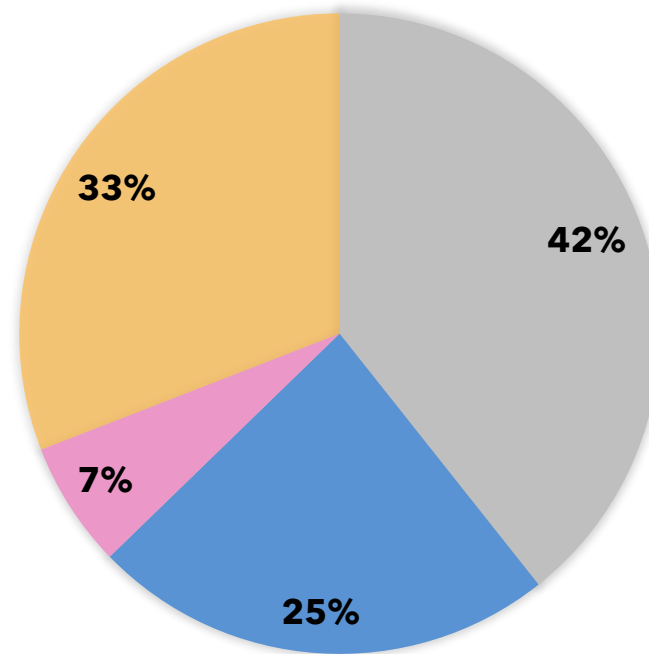
- **Valid Driver's License**
- **Registered Nurse (RN)**
- **Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification**
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification**
- **Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification**



33% of all job postings in Middlesex County require a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Job Postings by Educational Attainment
Middlesex 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 42% of job postings did not specify educational attainment, this does not necessarily mean there are no requirements for it.



AI-related Job Postings

Middlesex 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.

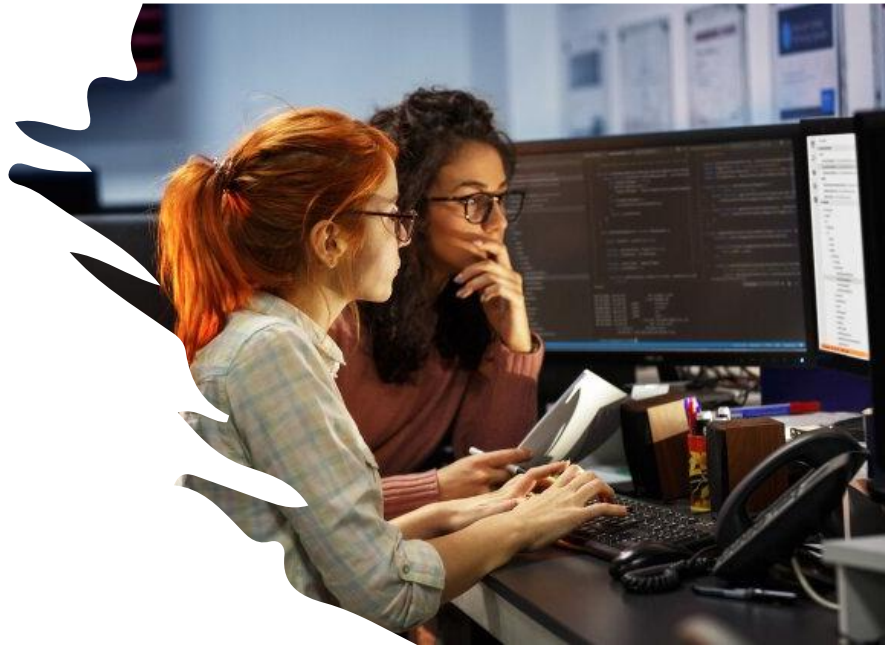
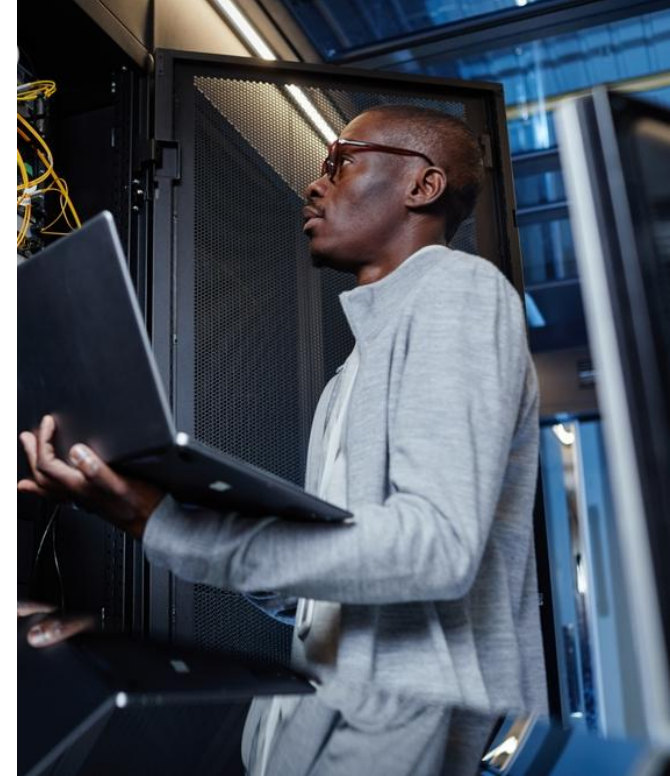


Top 5 AI-related Hiring Companies Middlesex County, 2024

- **Rutgers University**
- **Hackensack Meridian Health**
- **Novo Nordisk**
- **Johnson and Johnson**
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb**

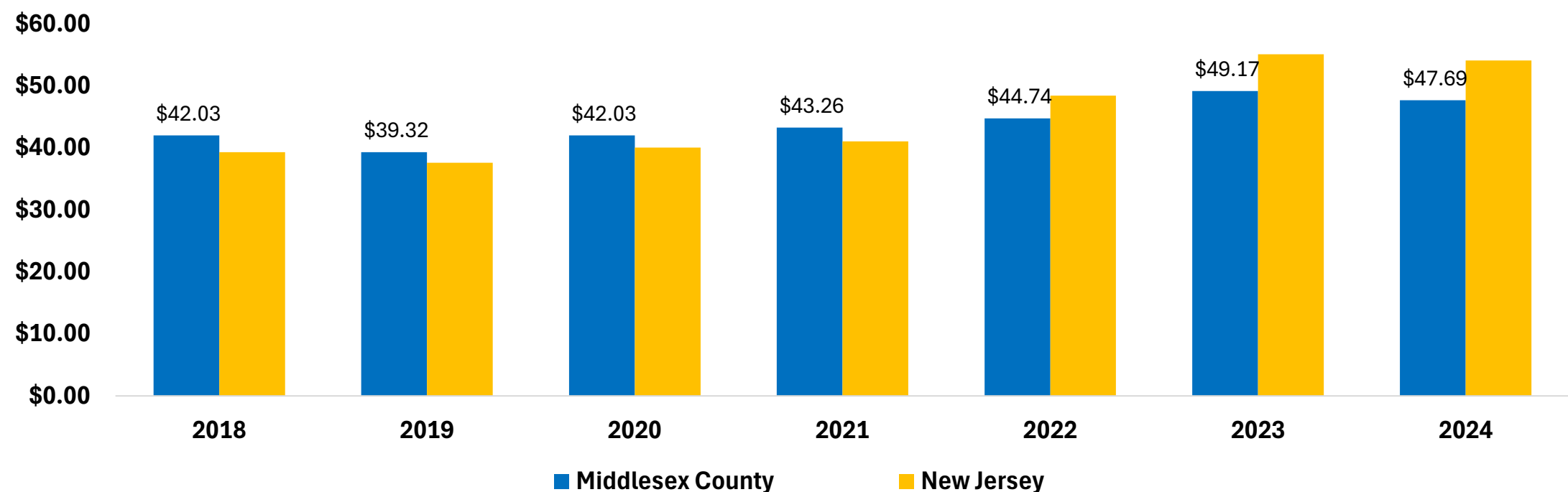
Top 5 AI-related Occupations Middlesex County, 2024

- Software Developers
- Project Management Specialists
- Information Technology Project Managers
- Business Intelligence Analyst
- Management Analysts




In Middlesex County, the median hourly wage for AI-related job postings has been lower than the state average since 2022.

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






TAKEAWAYS

- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Middlesex County**
 - **Demographics**
 - Middlesex County's population is comparable in age but and more diverse than the New Jersey average.
 - Middlesex County's population is more educated than the state overall. The proportion of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is 3 percentage points higher than the state average.
 - **Regional Variation**
 - There are differences in economic and housing characteristics across Middlesex County's municipalities.

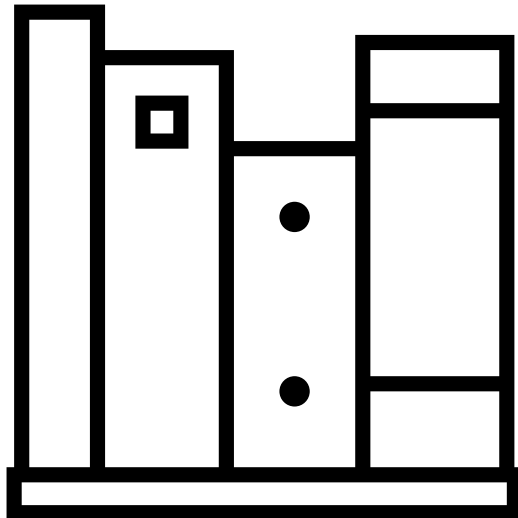


- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Middlesex County (Continued)**
 - **Industry Composition**
 - 20% of business establishments are in health care and social assistance.
 - Transportation and warehousing, and wholesale trade have higher employment shares in Middlesex County compared to state average.

- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Middlesex County (Continued)**
 - **Occupational Demand in the County**
 - **Top Projected Occupations by 2032**
 - Transportation and Material Moving
 - Management
 - Computer and Mathematical
 - Health Care Support
 - Health Care Practitioners and Technical

- 
- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Middlesex County (Continued)**
 - **Occupational Demand in the County**
 - **Top Occupations by Job Postings**
 - Registered Nurses
 - Retail Salespersons
 - Software Developers
 - Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers
 - First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers

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)

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THANK YOU!



APPENDIX

Middlesex County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments All Ownerships

Industry	Total Number of Establishments	Total Number of Employees	% of Total Establishments
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Educational Services	313	3,726	1.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	207	4,330	0.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	122	7,626	0.5%
Utilities	38	961	0.2%
Total	25,042	376,330	100.0%

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, Middlesex County
Top 15 Occupations ranked by 2032 Employment Projections

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Transportation and Material Moving	76,350	89,950	13,600	17.8%
Office and Administrative Support	67,800	68,150	350	0.5%
Sales and Related	41,150	42,400	1,250	3.1%
Management	35,200	39,300	4,100	11.6%
Educational Instruction and Library	30,900	32,950	2,050	6.6%
Business and Financial Operations	30,400	33,100	2,700	8.9%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	24,550	27,400	2,850	11.7%
Production	22,950	23,650	700	3.1%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	22,250	24,700	2,450	10.9%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	19,850	22,050	2,200	11.0%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	19,700	23,000	3,300	16.5%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	16,800	18,500	1,700	10.2%
Healthcare Support Occupations	16,500	19,550	3,050	18.5%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	14,050	15,850	1,800	12.8%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	13,950	15,100	1,150	8.6%