

Passaic County

Division of Economic and Demographic Research
Office of Research & Information
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

February 2026

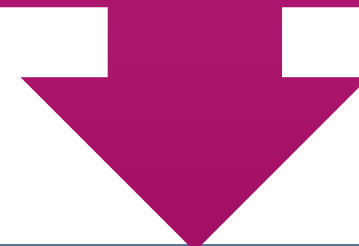


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**WHO ARE
WE?**

New Jersey Department of Labor
Office of Research and Information



Division of Economic and Demographic
Research

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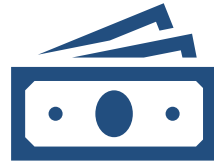
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Highlights



Passaic County has a **lower median age and a greater share of foreign-born residents** than New Jersey.



Passaic County's real GDP ranks 13th among all New Jersey counties.



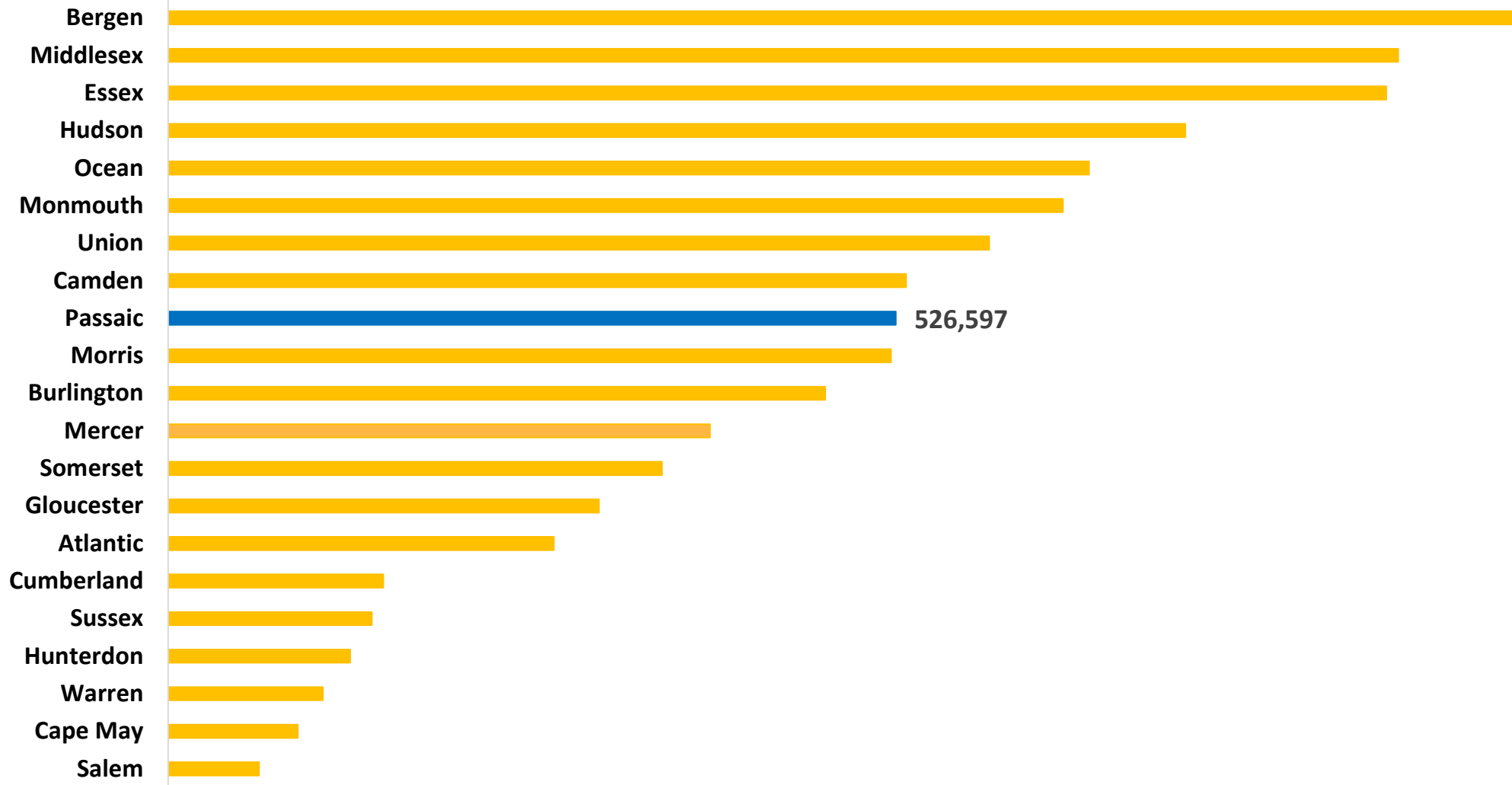
The **top** occupations in demand in Passaic include Registered Nurses, Retail Salespersons, and Home Health Aides.



DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Passaic County's population was 526,597 in 2024.

Population Estimates by County in New Jersey, 2024



Passaic County has a lower median age and a greater share of foreign-born residents than New Jersey.

Demographic Characteristics

Indicator	Passaic County	New Jersey
Median Age	38.1	40.1
% of Older Population (65+)	16.6%	18.0%
% of Language Other Than English Spoken at Home	54.1%	34.3%
% of Foreign-Born Population	35.9%	25.0%
% of Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	46.0%	23.5%

The share of Passaic County residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is 12.9 percentage points below the state.

Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older)

Indicator	Passaic County	New Jersey
High School or Equivalent Degree	30.8%	24.7%
Some College, No Degree	15.5%	14.5%
Associate's Degree	7.3%	6.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31.7%	44.6%
High School Degree or Higher	85.3%	90.3%

Passaic County has a lower median household income and a higher poverty rate compared to New Jersey.

Income & Poverty

Indicator	Passaic County	New Jersey
Median Household Income	\$87,351	\$104,294
% of Poverty	11.8%	9.2%

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

Passaic County residents pay lower rent and have a lower homeownership rate compared to the state.

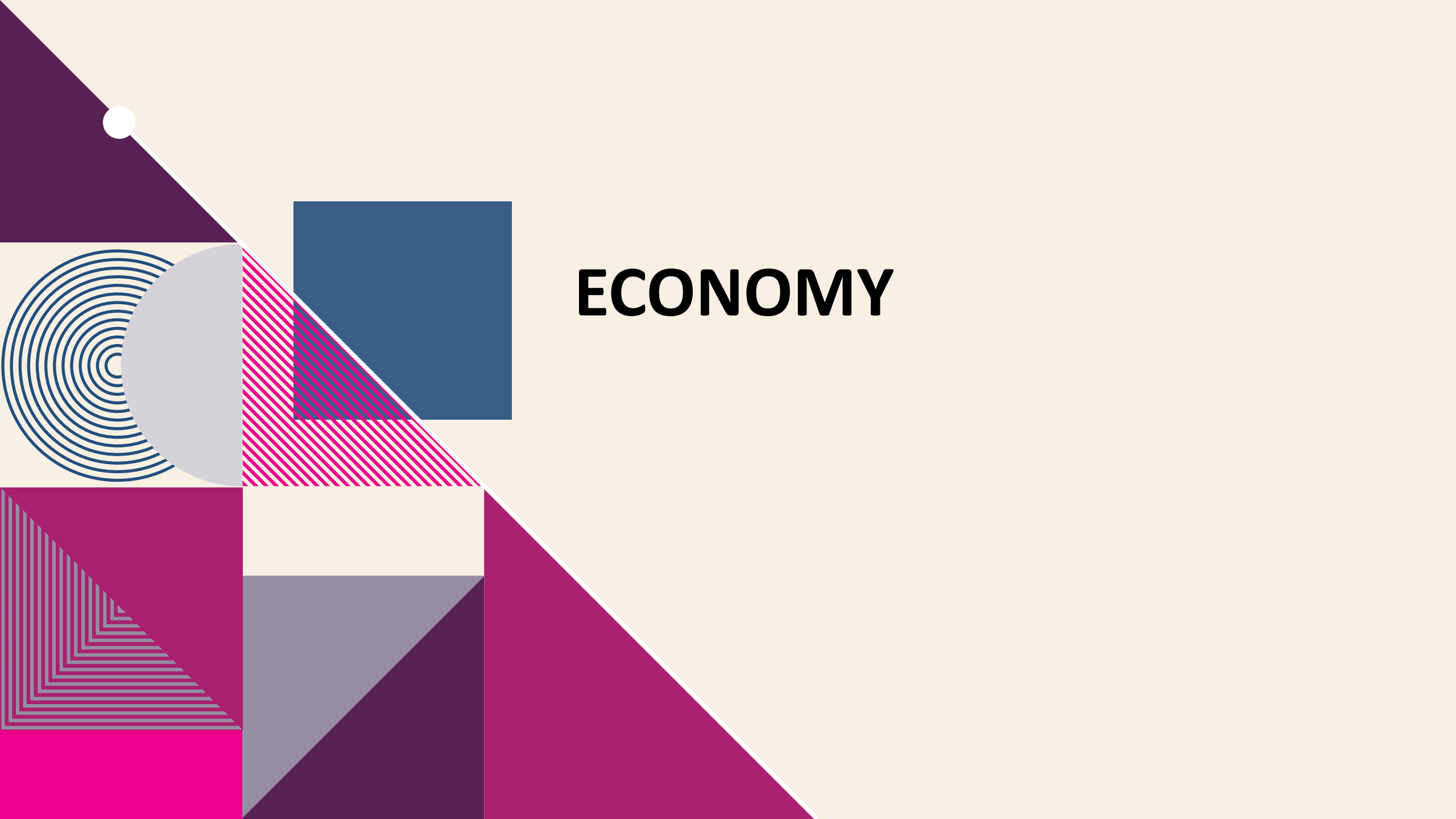
Housing Characteristics

Indicator	Passaic County	New Jersey
Total Households	179,501	3,543,944
Median Gross Rent	\$1,679	\$1,800
Homeownership Rate	55.3%	63.9%
% of Housing Value of Owner Occupied (≥\$300,000)	84.8%	80.7%

Passaic County residents are less likely to use public transportation or work from home than the state average.

Commuting Characteristics

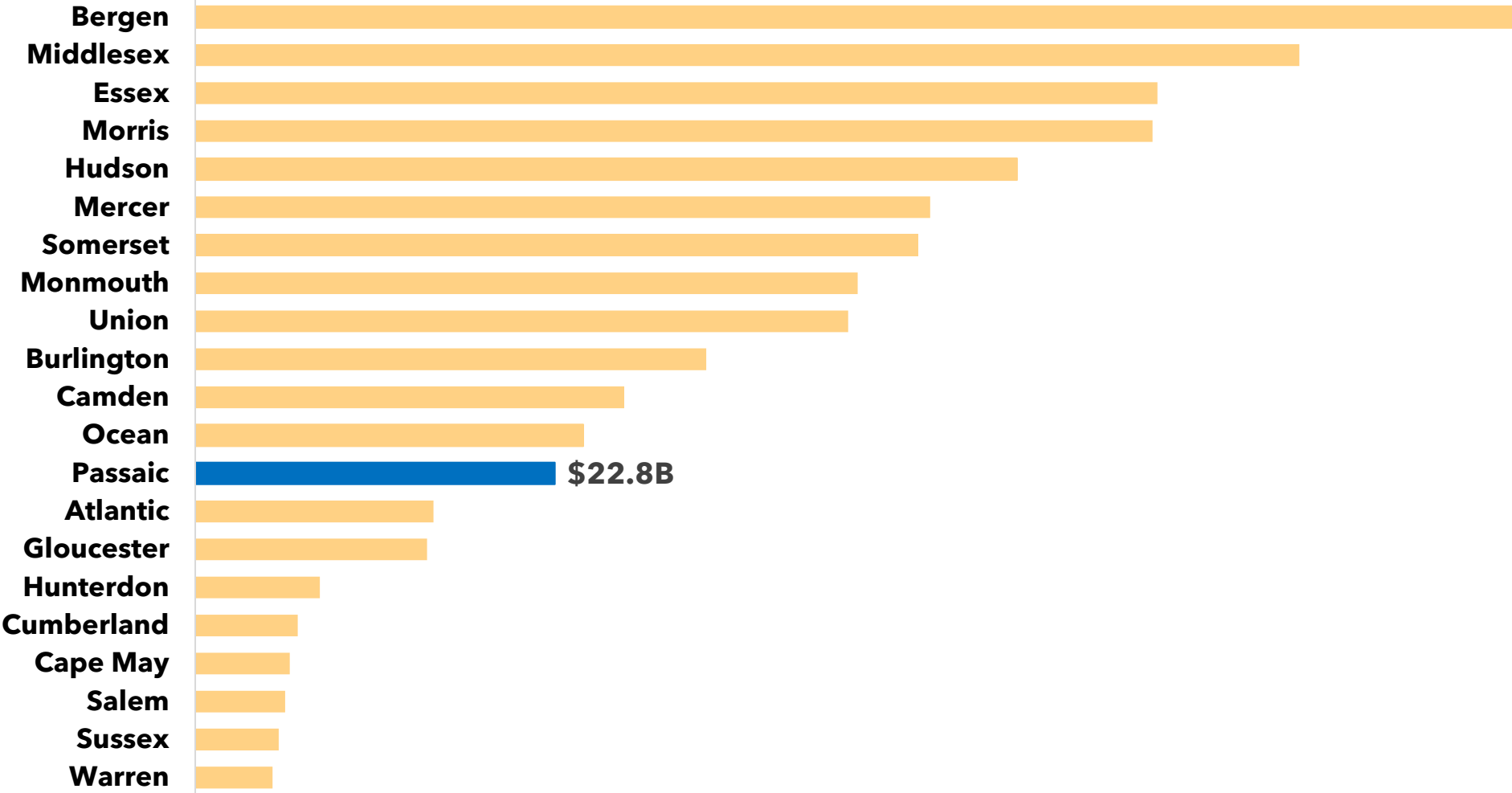
Indicator	Passaic County	New Jersey
Average Travel Time to Work (in Minutes)	27.4	31.9
% of Public Transportation	6.2%	9.7%
% of Working From Home	10.5%	13.5%



ECONOMY

In 2024, Passaic County's real GDP was \$22.8 billion, ranking 13th among all New Jersey counties.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by County in New Jersey, 2024



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "[CAGDP1 County and MSA gross domestic product \(GDP\) summary](#)" (accessed Wednesday, November 28, 2025).



Establishments and Employment

Passaic 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.

28.2% of Passaic County establishments are in health care and social assistance.

Passaic 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	4,237	30,652	28.2%
Retail trade	1,687	22,494	11.2%
Construction	1,197	7,858	8.0%
Other services, except public administration	1,145	6,937	7.6%
Professional and technical services	1,065	6,370	7.1%
Accommodation and food services	1,027	11,400	6.8%
Administrative and waste services	872	12,993	5.8%
Wholesale trade	714	9,162	4.8%
Manufacturing	662	18,323	4.4%
Transportation and warehousing	416	5,108	2.8%
Real estate and rental and leasing	403	2,094	2.7%
Finance and insurance	399	3,468	2.7%
Educational services	138	2,888	0.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	135	1,869	0.9%
Information	107	919	0.7%

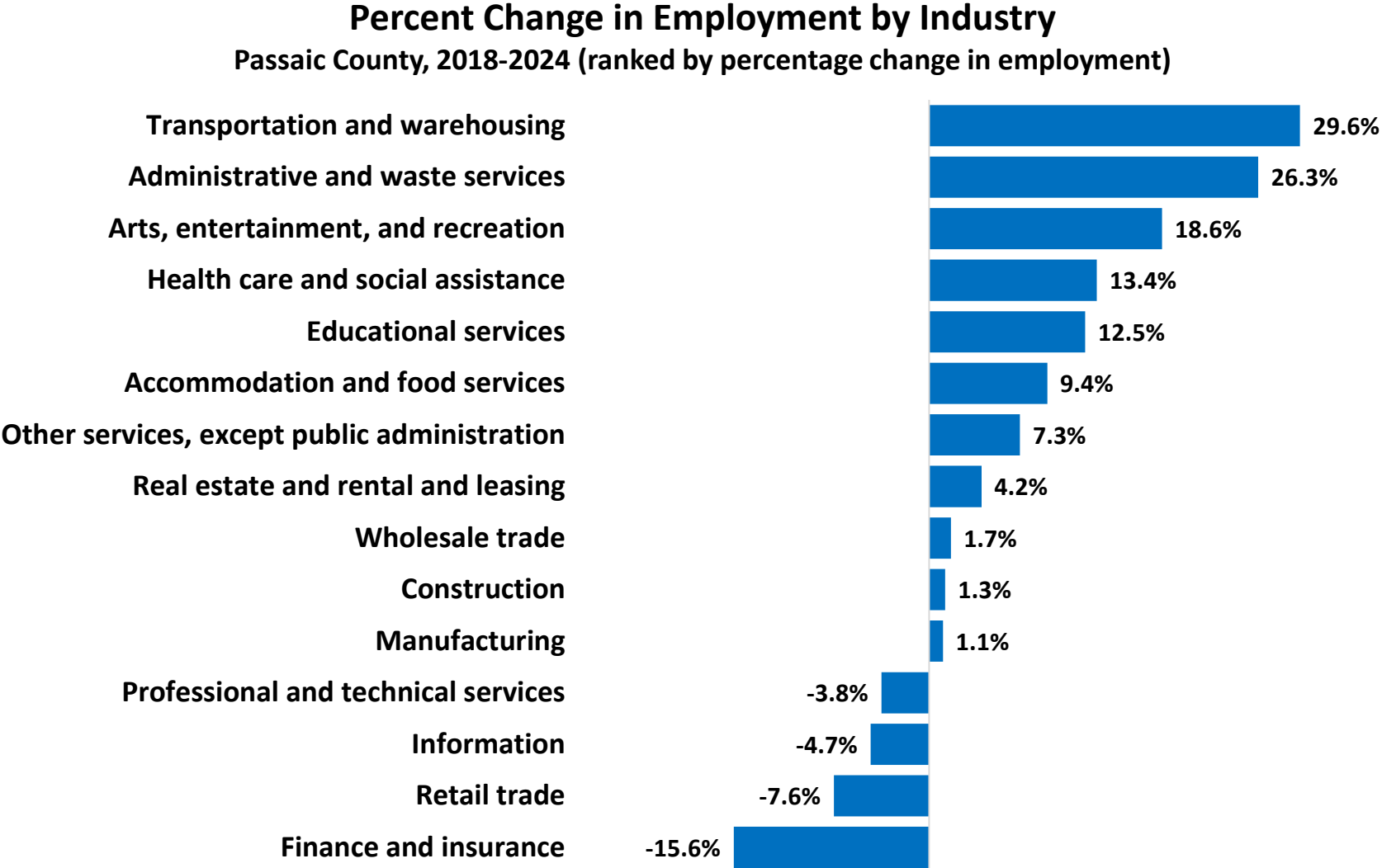
Note: Full list of establishments in Monmouth County is available in [Appendix](#).

In Passaic County, manufacturing, retail trade and health care and social assistance have a higher employment share compared to state averages.

**Private Employment
Passaic County vs. New Jersey, 2024**

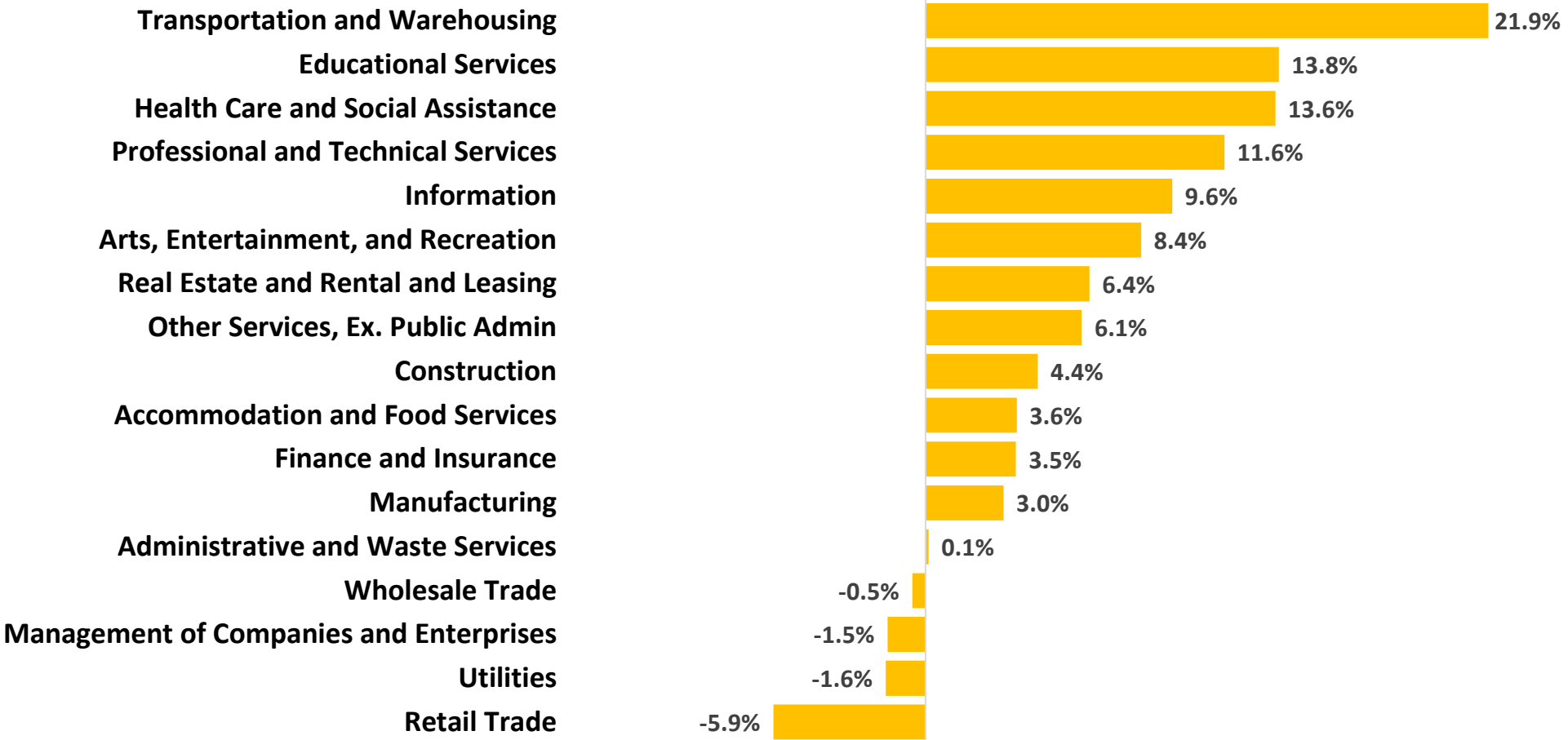
Industry	Passaic County		New Jersey		Difference between
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total	
Construction	7,858	5.4%	164,014	4.5%	0.9%
Manufacturing	18,323	12.6%	253,054	6.9%	5.7%
Wholesale Trade	9,162	6.3%	213,549	5.8%	0.5%
Retail Trade	22,494	15.5%	427,521	11.6%	3.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	5,108	3.5%	233,943	6.4%	-2.8%
Information	919	0.6%	76,199	2.1%	-1.4%
Finance and Insurance	3,468	2.4%	189,987	5.2%	-2.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,094	1.4%	63,263	1.7%	-0.3%
Professional and Technical Services	6,370	4.4%	336,105	9.1%	-4.8%
Administrative and Waste Services	12,993	8.9%	286,750	7.8%	1.1%
Educational services	2,888	2.0%	90,018	2.4%	-0.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	30,652	21.1%	656,356	17.8%	3.2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,869	1.3%	73,699	2.0%	-0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	11,400	7.8%	328,905	8.9%	-1.1%
Other Services	6,937	4.8%	144,086	3.9%	0.8%

Between 2018 and 2024, transportation and warehousing saw the largest employment growth in Passaic County, increasing by 29.6%.



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

Percent Change in Employment by Industry
New Jersey, 2018-2024 (ranked by percentage change in employment)





Unemployment Trend

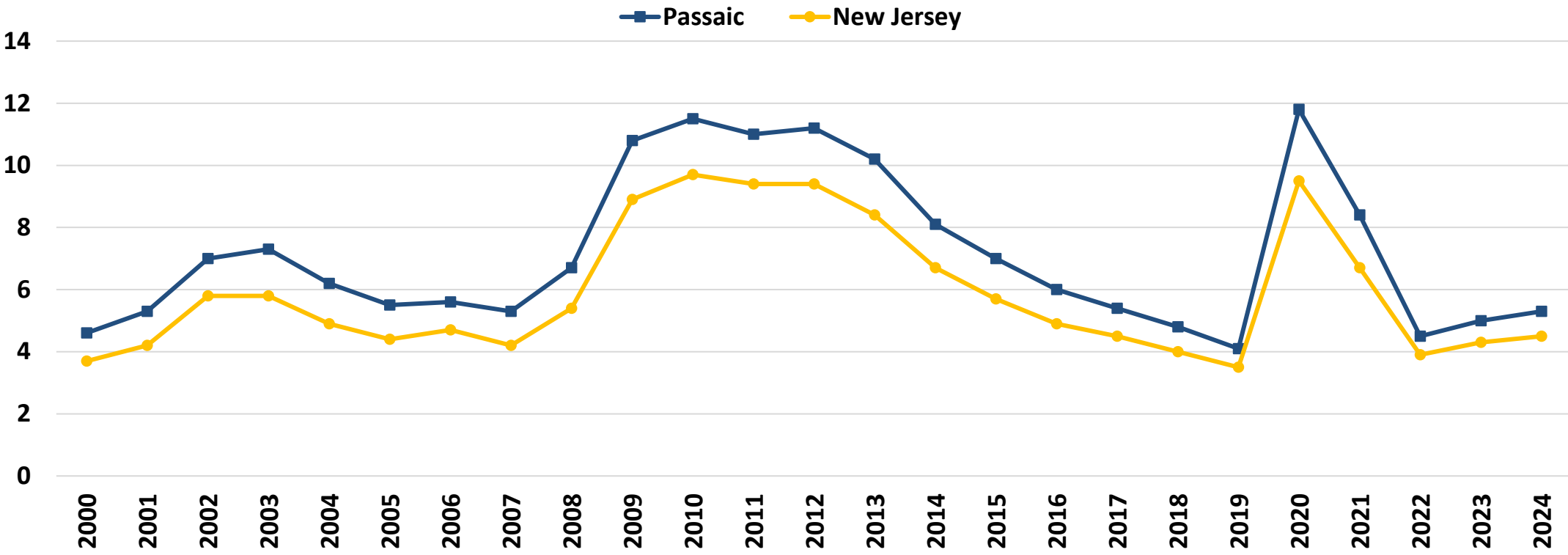
Passaic County vs. New Jersey

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2024

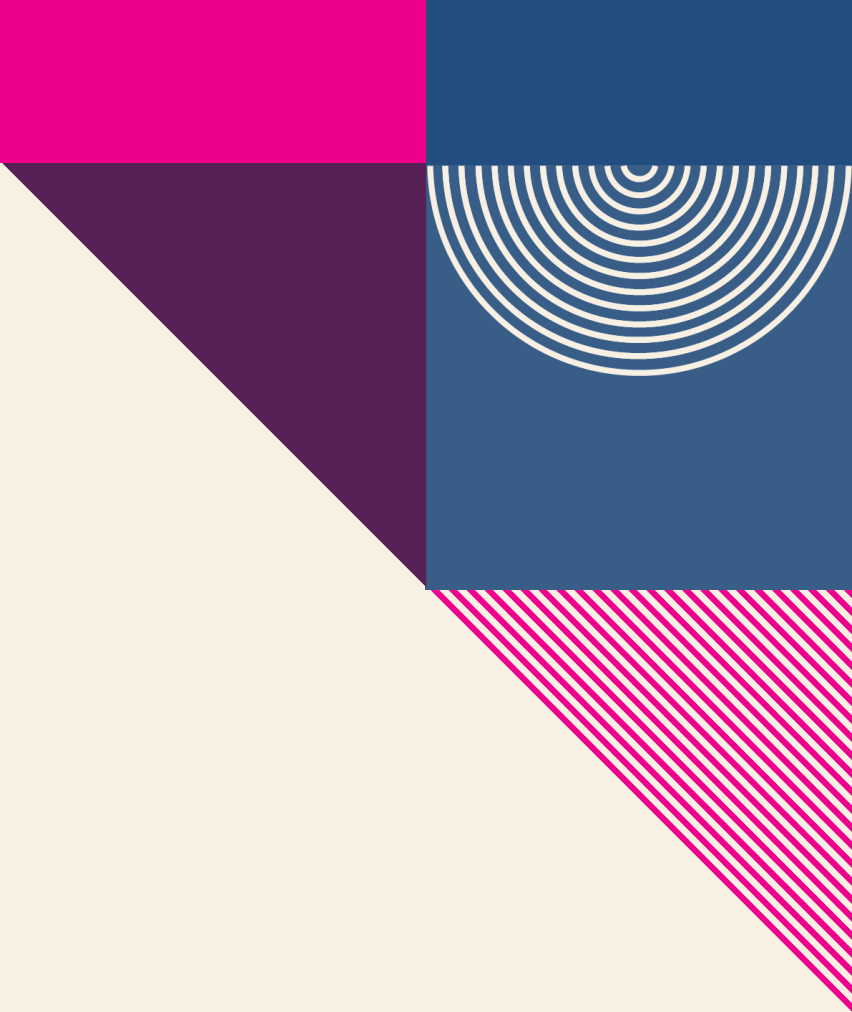
The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

The unemployment rate in Passaic County follows state trends but was higher than New Jersey's average.

Unemployment Rate
Passaic County vs. New Jersey, 2000-2024



Source: ORI-EDR, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, 2024



Occupational Employment and Wages

Passaic 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.

23.1% of Passaic County's total employment is concentrated in the top 10 occupations.

Top 10 Occupations, Ranked by Employment Passaic County, 2024

Occupation	Employment	% of Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	6,280	3.6%	\$17.65
Retail Salespersons	5,240	3.0%	\$17.21
Cashiers	4,540	2.6%	\$16.02
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	4,510	2.6%	\$17.42
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,710	2.1%	\$16.34
Registered Nurses	3,690	2.1%	\$49.35
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	3,260	1.9%	ND
Office Clerks, General	3,140	1.8%	\$23.22
Stockers and Order Fillers	3,040	1.8%	\$17.20
General and Operations Managers	2,520	1.5%	\$64.79
Top 10 Occupations, Total	39,930	23.1%	
All Occupations, Total	173,210	100.0%	\$24.70

Note: OEWS collects the data for 2024.

In New Jersey, the top 10 occupations account for 20.1% 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
Top 10 Occupations, Total	855,910	20.1%	
All Occupations, Total	4,250,430	100.0%	\$27.51

Note: OEWS collects the data for 2024.

Between 2022 and 2032 in Passaic County, the healthcare support occupational group is projected to see the largest growth (+1,400).

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

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Office and Administrative Support	23,550	21,950	-1,600	-6.7%
Transportation and Material Moving	19,100	20,200	1,100	5.9%
Sales and Related	19,050	18,450	-600	-3.3%
Educational Instruction and Library	14,850	14,650	-200	-1.1%
Management	12,450	13,050	600	5.0%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	10,950	11,850	900	8.2%
Production	11,350	11,050	-300	-2.4%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	10,850	10,950	100	1.1%
Healthcare Support	9,200	10,600	1,400	15.1%
Business and Financial Operations	9,500	9,750	250	2.6%

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



JOB POSTINGS



Job Postings

Passaic 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 Passaic County, 2024

- **Saint Joseph Health**
- **Paterson Public Schools**
- **Swing Education**
- **Catholic Charities USA**
- **St. Mary's General Hospital**

Top 5 Occupations Passaic County, 2024

- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons
- Home Health Aides
- First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses



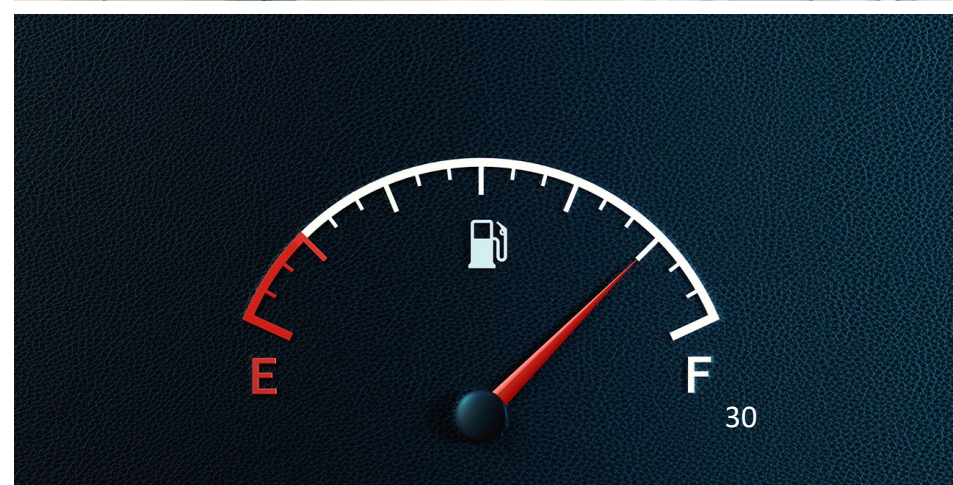
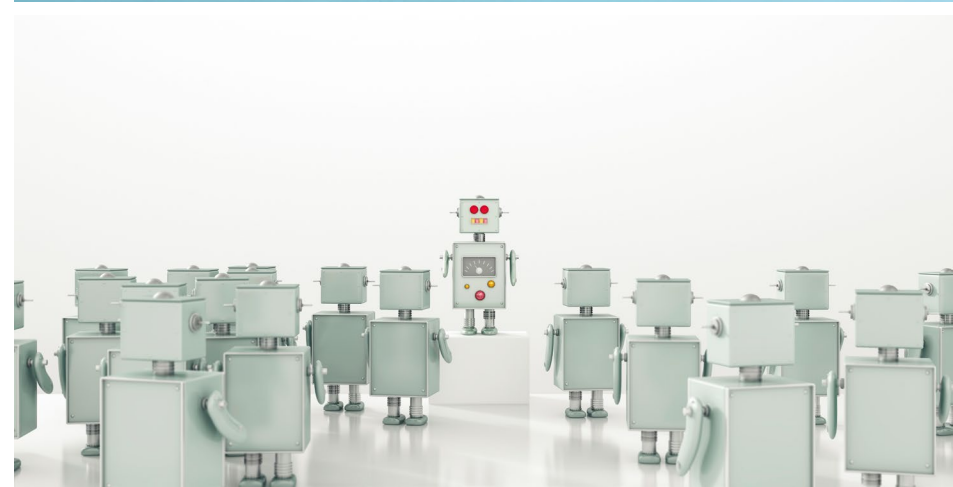


Top 5 Specialized Skills Passaic County, 2024

- Nursing
- Merchandising
- Selling Techniques
- Auditing
- Marketing

Top 5 Software Skills Passaic County, 2024

- Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Programming Language (e.g., Python, R and SQL)
- Google Workspace
- QuickBooks (Accounting Software)
- Epic EMR

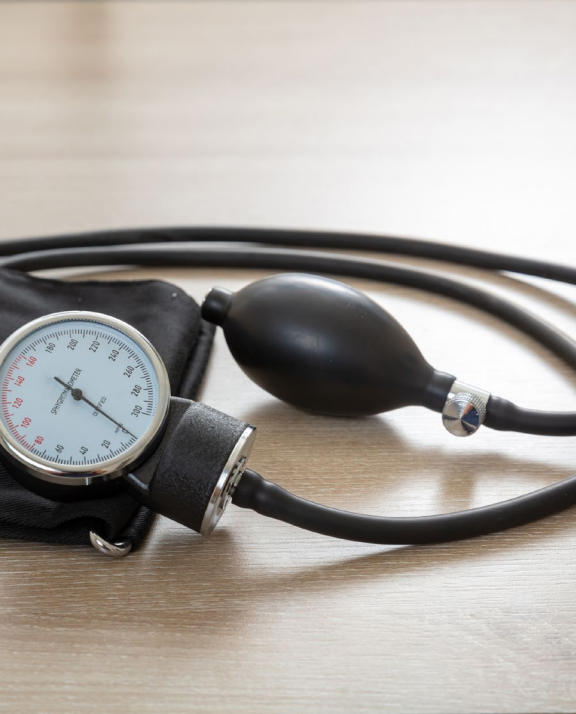




Top 5 Soft Skills Passaic County, 2024

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





Top 5 Certificates Passaic County, 2024

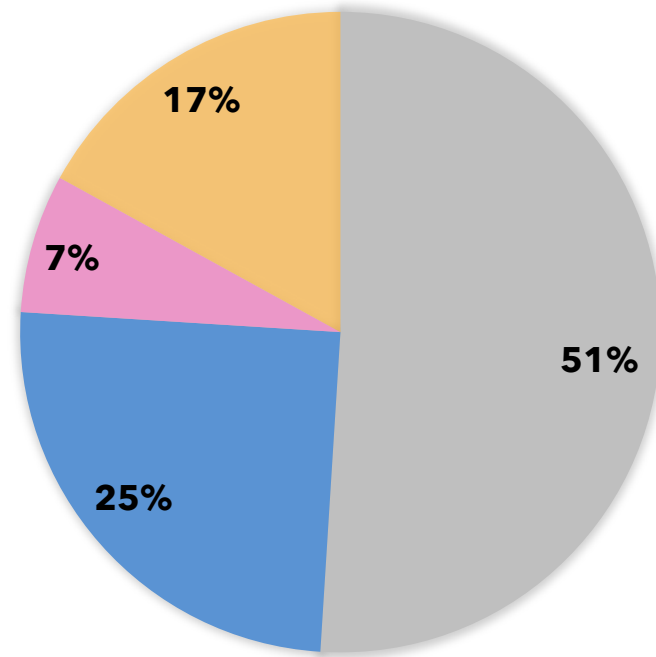
- **Valid Driver's License**
- **Registered Nurse (RN)**
- **Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification**
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification**
- **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**



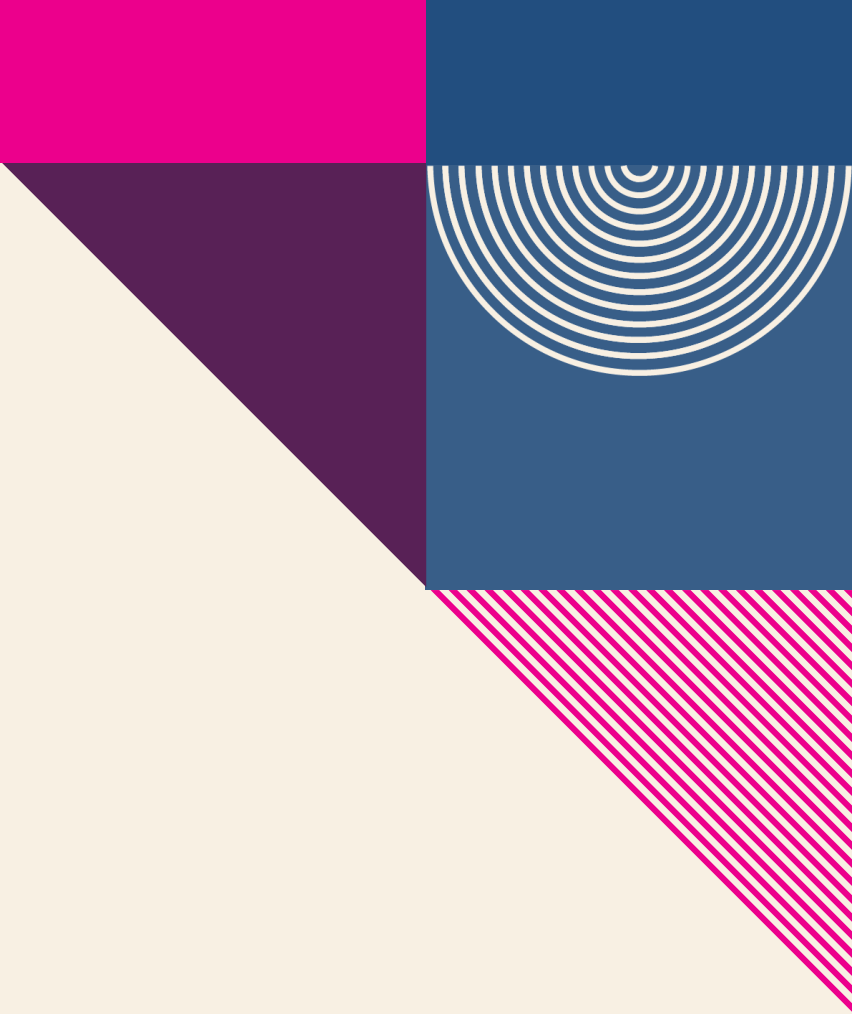
17 percent of job postings in Passaic County require a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**Job Postings by Educational Attainment
Passaic 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.



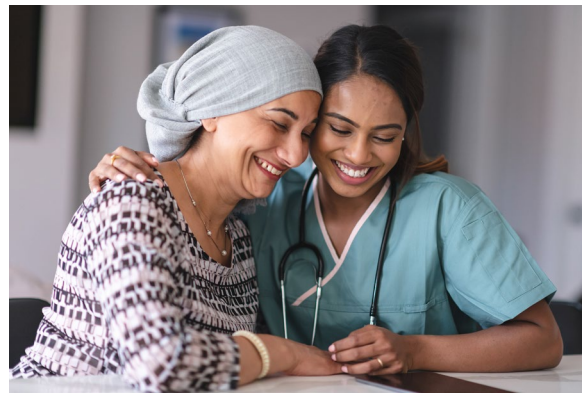
AI-related Job Postings

Passaic 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.

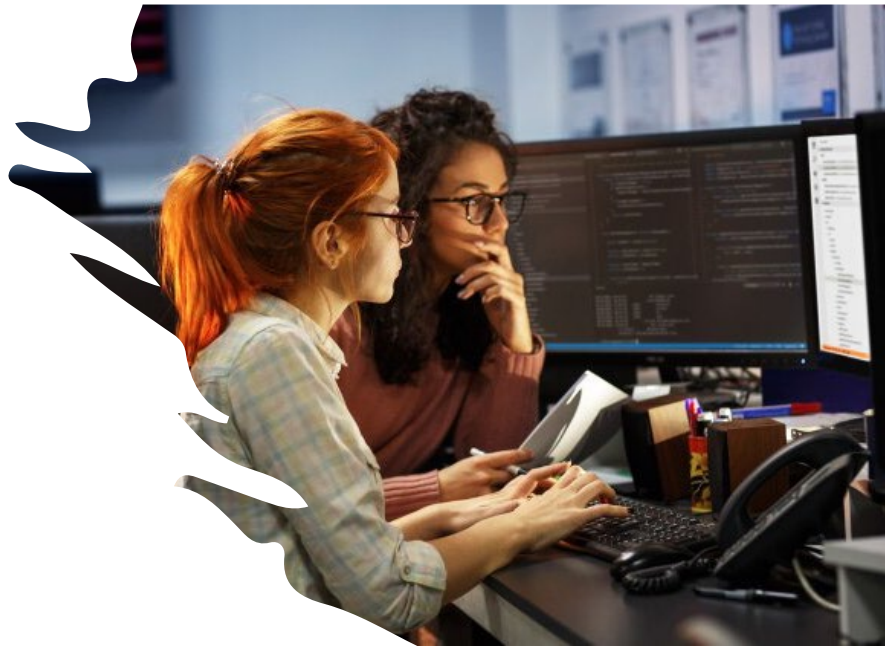
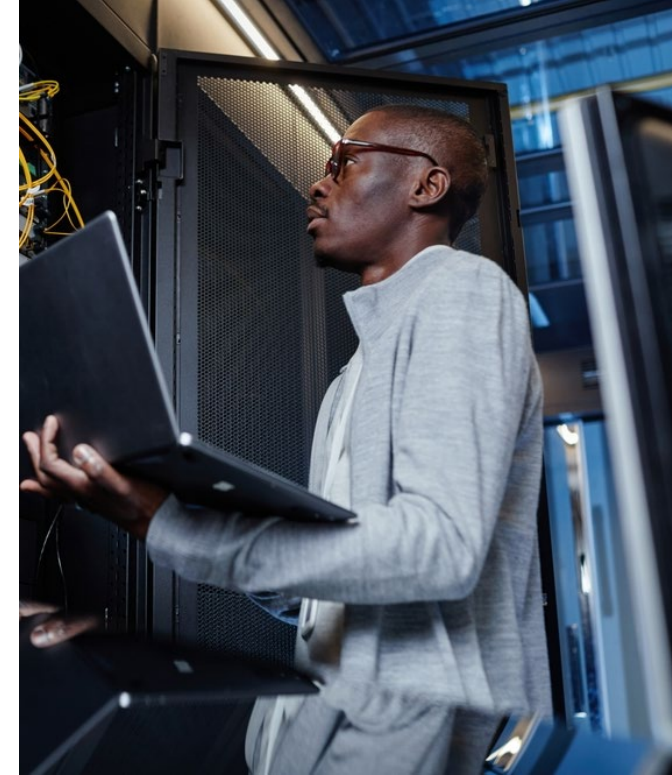


Top 5 AI-related Hiring Companies Passaic County, 2024

- BAE Systems
- L3Harris Technologies
- Actalent
- Getinge
- Paterson Public Schools

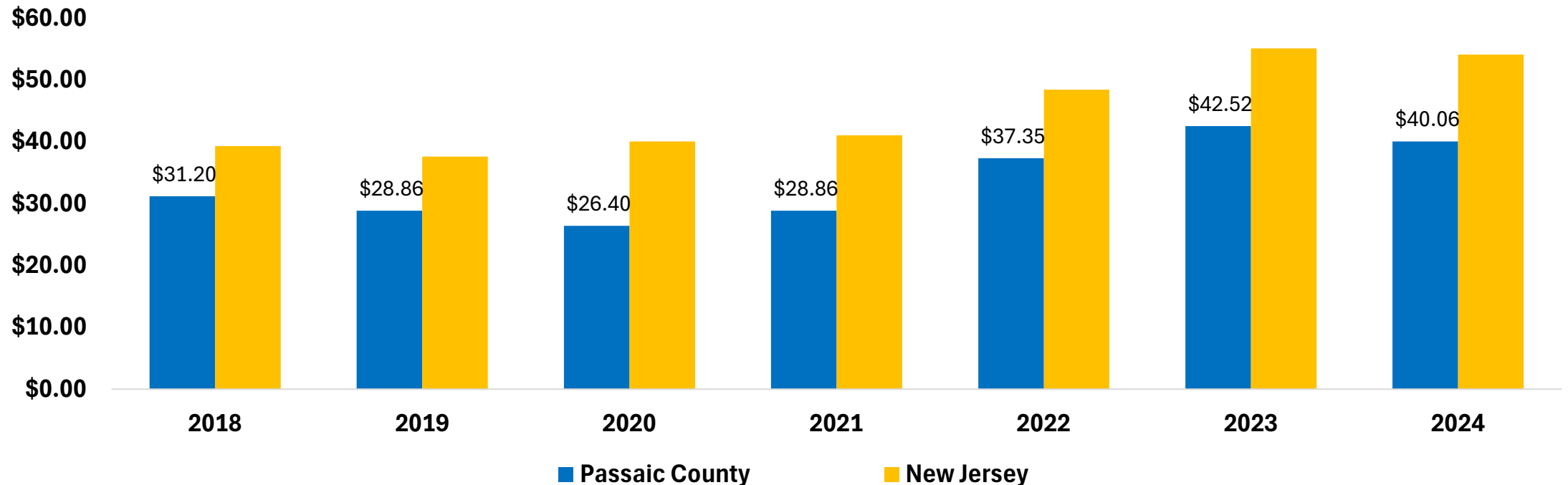
Top 5 AI-related Occupations Passaic County, 2024

- Project Management Specialists
- Software Developers
- Computer Occupations, All Other
- Counselors, All Other
- Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education



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

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





TAKEAWAYS

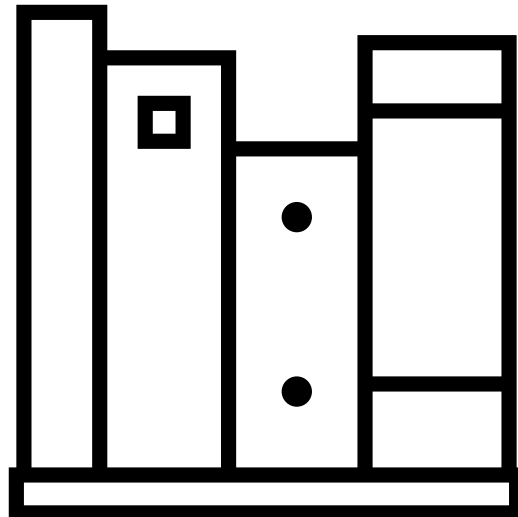


- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Passaic County**
 - **Demographics**
 - Passaic County’s population is younger and more diverse than the state.
 - The proportion of Passaic County residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 12.9 percentage points below the state.



- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Passaic County (Continued)**
 - **Industry Composition**
 - 28.2% of business establishments are in health care and social assistance.
 - The manufacturing, retail trade, and health care and social assistance sectors have higher employment shares compared to the state.

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)

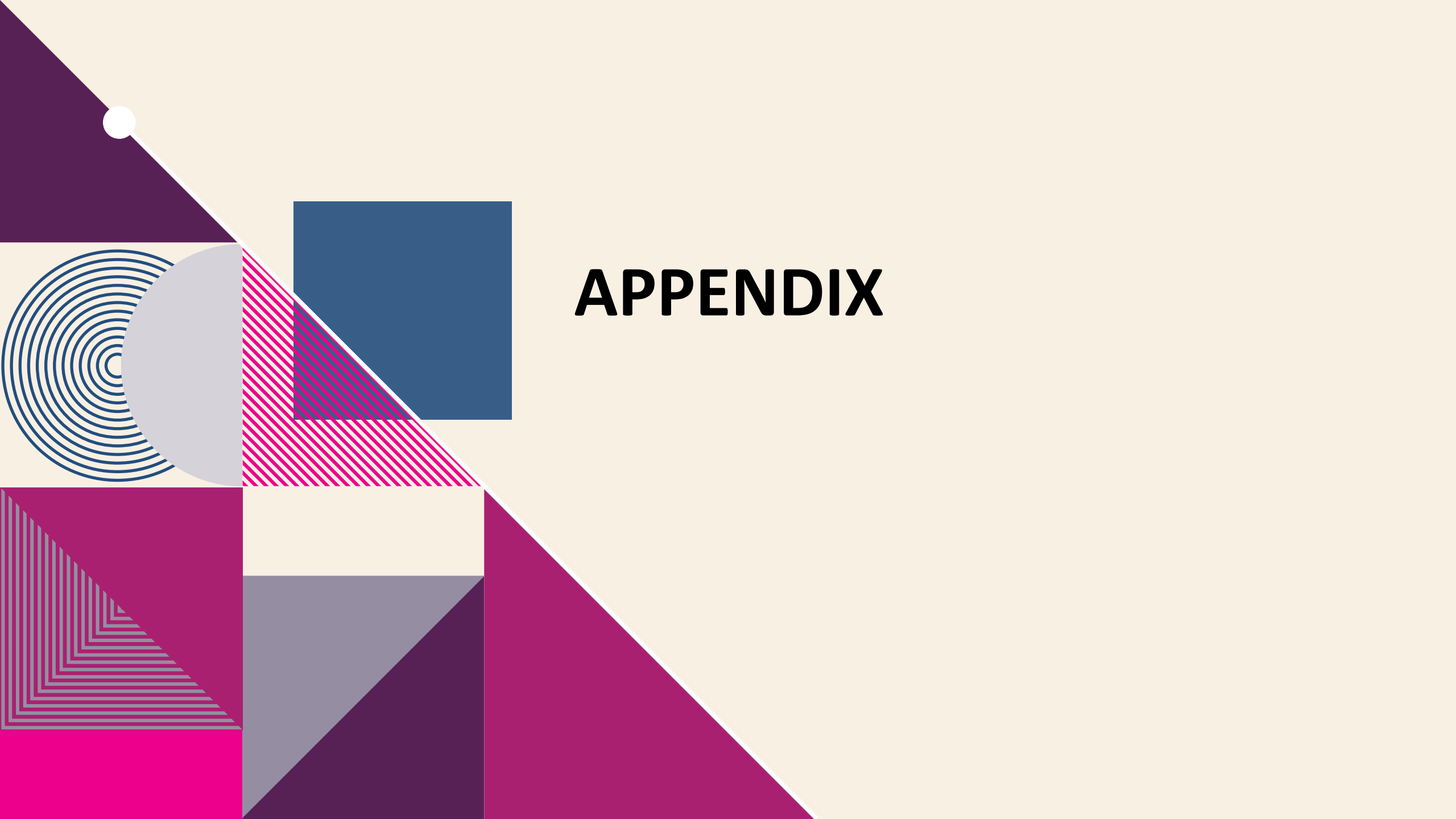
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THANK YOU!



APPENDIX

Passaic 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	4,237	30,652	28.2%
Retail trade	1,687	22,494	11.2%
Construction	1,197	7,858	8.0%
Other services, except public administration	1,145	6,937	7.6%
Professional and technical services	1,065	6,370	7.1%
Accommodation and food services	1,027	11,400	6.8%
Administrative and waste services	872	12,993	5.8%
Unclassified	753	882	5.0%
Wholesale trade	714	9,162	4.8%
Manufacturing	662	18,323	4.4%
Transportation and warehousing	416	5,108	2.8%
Real estate and rental and leasing	403	2,094	2.7%
Finance and insurance	399	3,468	2.7%
Educational services	138	2,888	0.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	135	1,869	0.9%
Information	107	919	0.7%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	172	0.1%
Total	15,011	145,537	100.0%

*Source: ORI-EDR,QCEW, 2024

** Data are suppressed

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, Passaic County
Top 15 Occupations ranked by 2032 Employment Projections

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Office and Administrative Support	23,550	21,950	-1,600	-6.7%
Transportation and Material Movings	19,100	20,200	1,100	5.9%
Sales and Relateds	19,050	18,450	-600	-3.3%
Educational Instruction and Librarys	14,850	14,650	-200	-1.1%
Managements	12,450	13,050	600	5.0%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technicals	10,950	11,850	900	8.2%
Productions	11,350	11,050	-300	-2.4%
Food Preparation and Serving Relateds	10,850	10,950	100	1.1%
Healthcare Supports	9,200	10,600	1,400	15.1%
Business and Financial Operationss	9,500	9,750	250	2.6%
Construction and Extractions	7,250	7,450	200	3.3%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repairs	7,100	7,350	250	3.7%
Personal Care and Services	6,800	7,200	400	6.3%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenances	6,800	6,750	-50	-0.8%
Computer and Mathematics	4,500	4,900	400	9.4%