

# Somerset County

Division of Economic and Demographic Research

Office of Research & Information

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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**WHO ARE  
WE?**

New Jersey Department of Labor  
Office of Research and Information



Division of Economic and Demographic  
Research

**SDC**

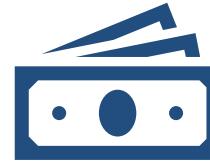
**BLS**

**LMI**

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



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



Somerset County's real GDP ranks 6th among all New Jersey counties. **Unemployment** follows state trends but stays below the New Jersey average.



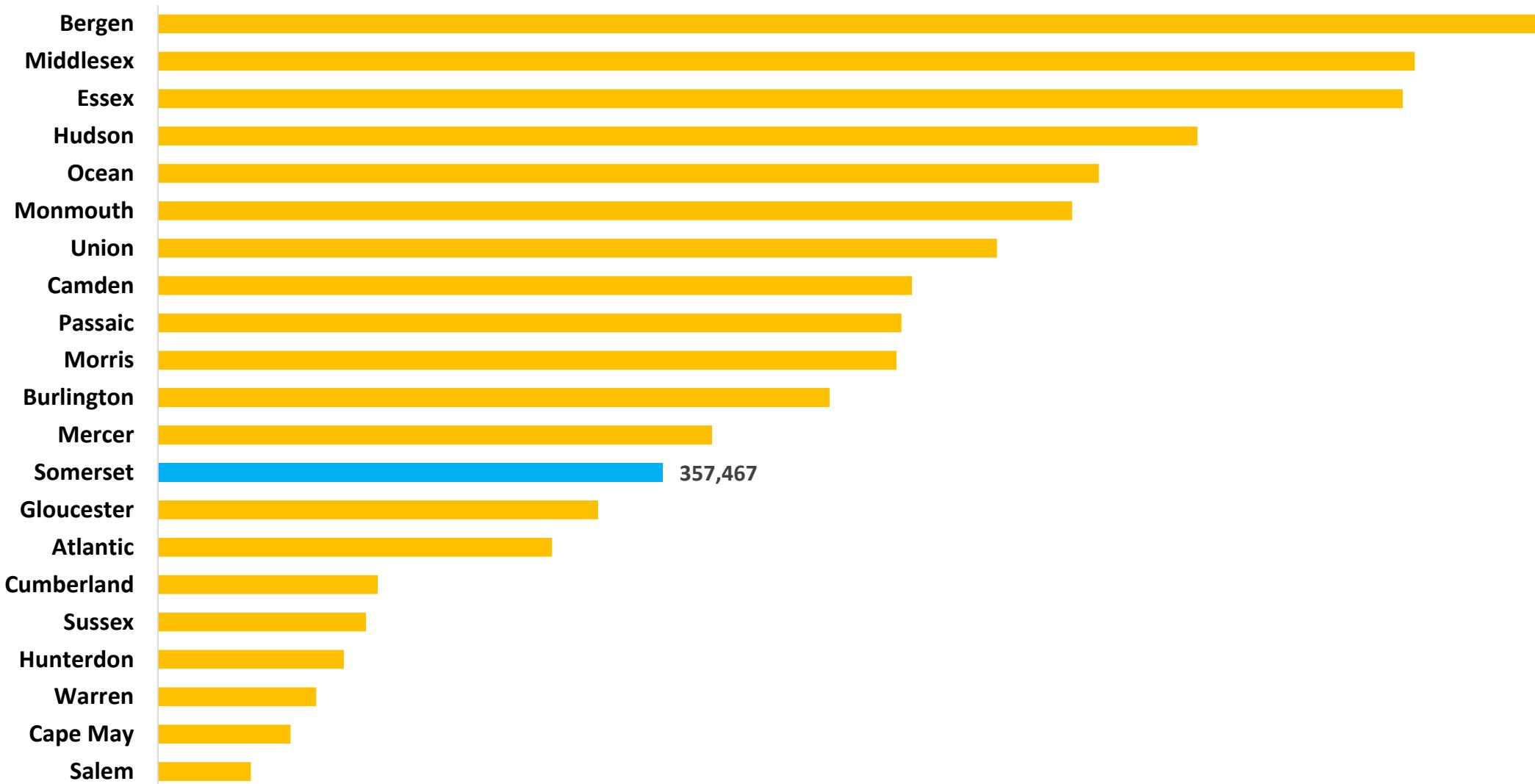
The **top** occupations in demand include Registered Nurses, Software Developers, Medical and Health Services Managers, Home Health and Personal Care Aides, and Retail Salespersons.



# **DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS**

**Somerset County's population was 357,467 in 2024.**

**Population Estimates by County in New Jersey, 2024**



**Somerset County's population is younger and more diverse than the state overall.**

### **Demographic Characteristics**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Somerset County</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	41.7	40.1
<b>% of Older Population (65+)</b>	16.6%	18.0%
<b>% of Language Other Than English Spoken at Home</b>	36.9%	34.3%
<b>% of Foreign-Born Population</b>	29.3%	25.0%
<b>% of Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)</b>	18.6%	23.5%

**The share of Somerset County residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is 1.4 percentage points above the state average.**

### **Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older)**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Somerset County</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>High School or Equivalent Degree</b>	17.2%	24.7%
<b>Some College, No Degree</b>	13.3%	14.5%
<b>Associate's Degree</b>	5.4%	6.6%
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	58.3%	44.5%
<b>High School Degree or Higher</b>	94.2%	90.4%

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

### **Income & Poverty**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Somerset County</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$134,524	\$104,294
<b>% of Poverty</b>	5.8%	9.2%

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

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

### Housing Characteristics

Indicator	Somerset County	New Jersey
<b>Total Households</b>	132,802	3,543,944
<b>Median Gross Rent</b>	\$2,187	\$1,800
<b>Homeownership Rate</b>	75.1%	63.9%
<b>% of Housing Value of Owner Occupied (<math>\geq \\$300,000</math>)</b>	92.0%	80.7%

**Somerset County residents have shorter commute times, and a higher percentage of remote workers compared to the state average.**

### Commuting Characteristics

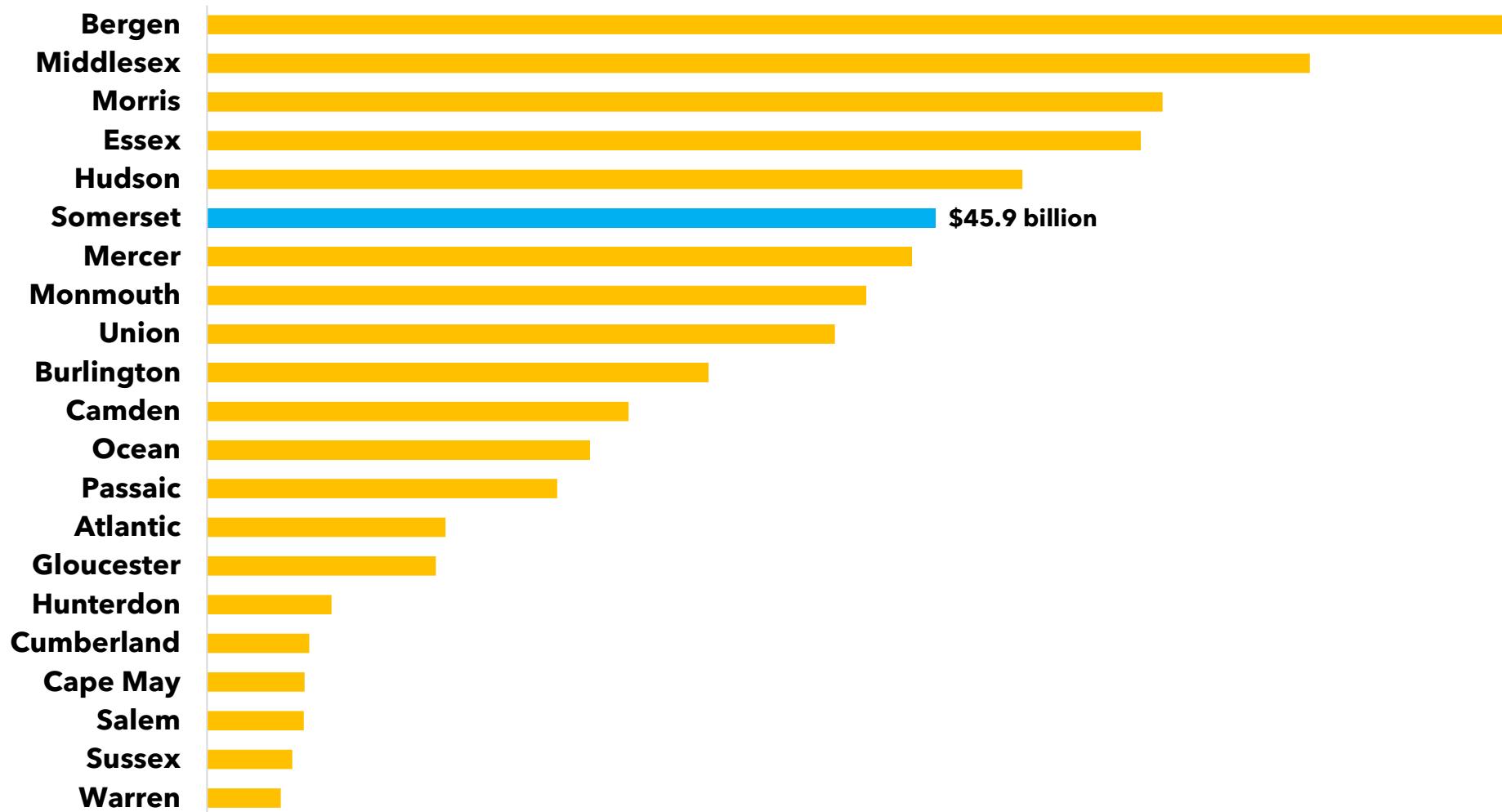
Indicator	Somerset County	New Jersey
Average Travel Time to Work (in Minutes)	33.6	31.9
% of Public Transportation	4.5%	9.7%
% of Working From Home	16.6%	13.5%

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page features a large, light beige triangle pointing towards the right. Inside this triangle is a dark purple triangle pointing upwards. To the left of the purple triangle is a white circle. Below the purple triangle is a dark blue square. To the left of the square is a grey circle with blue concentric lines. Below the grey circle is a red square with white diagonal stripes. To the left of the red square is a pink square with white diagonal stripes. At the bottom left is a red square with white horizontal stripes. To the right of the red square is a grey triangle pointing downwards. To the right of the grey triangle is a dark red triangle pointing upwards.

# ECONOMY

In 2023, Somerset County's real GDP was \$45.9 billion, ranking 6th among all New Jersey counties.

### Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by County in New Jersey, 2023





# Establishments and Employment

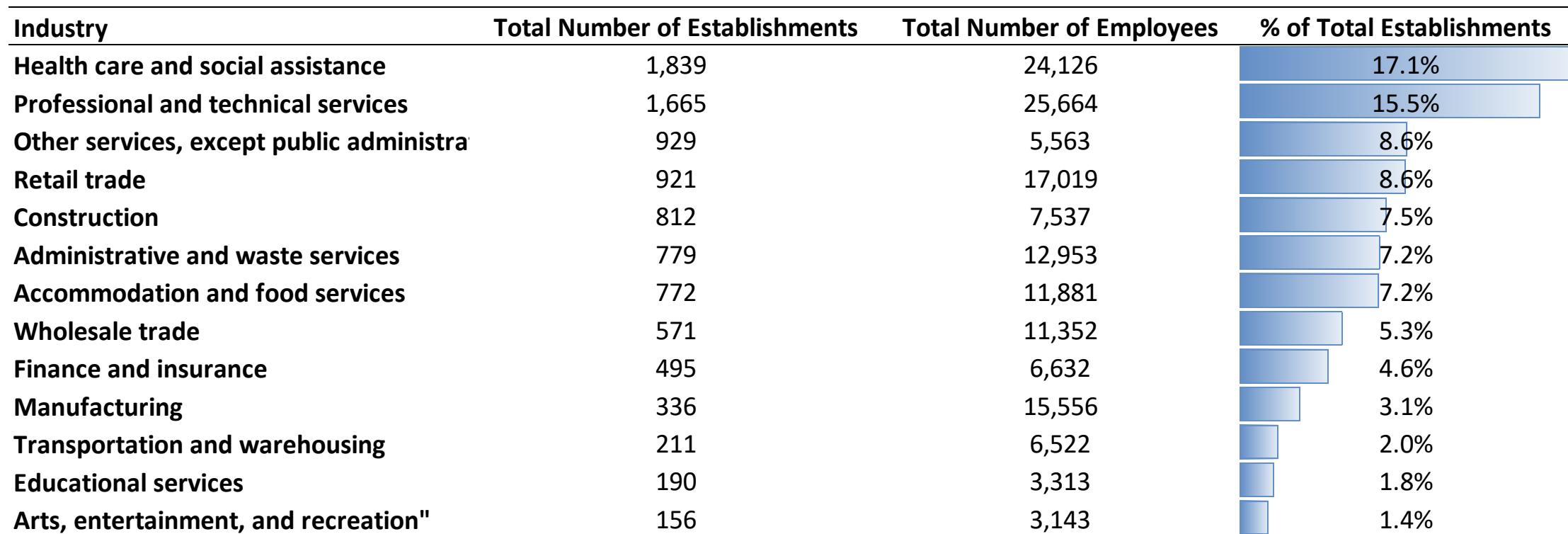
## Somerset County

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

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.

**17.1% of Somerset County establishments are in the health care and social assistance.**

**Somerset County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments**  
**Private Ownerships**  
**All Ownerships**



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

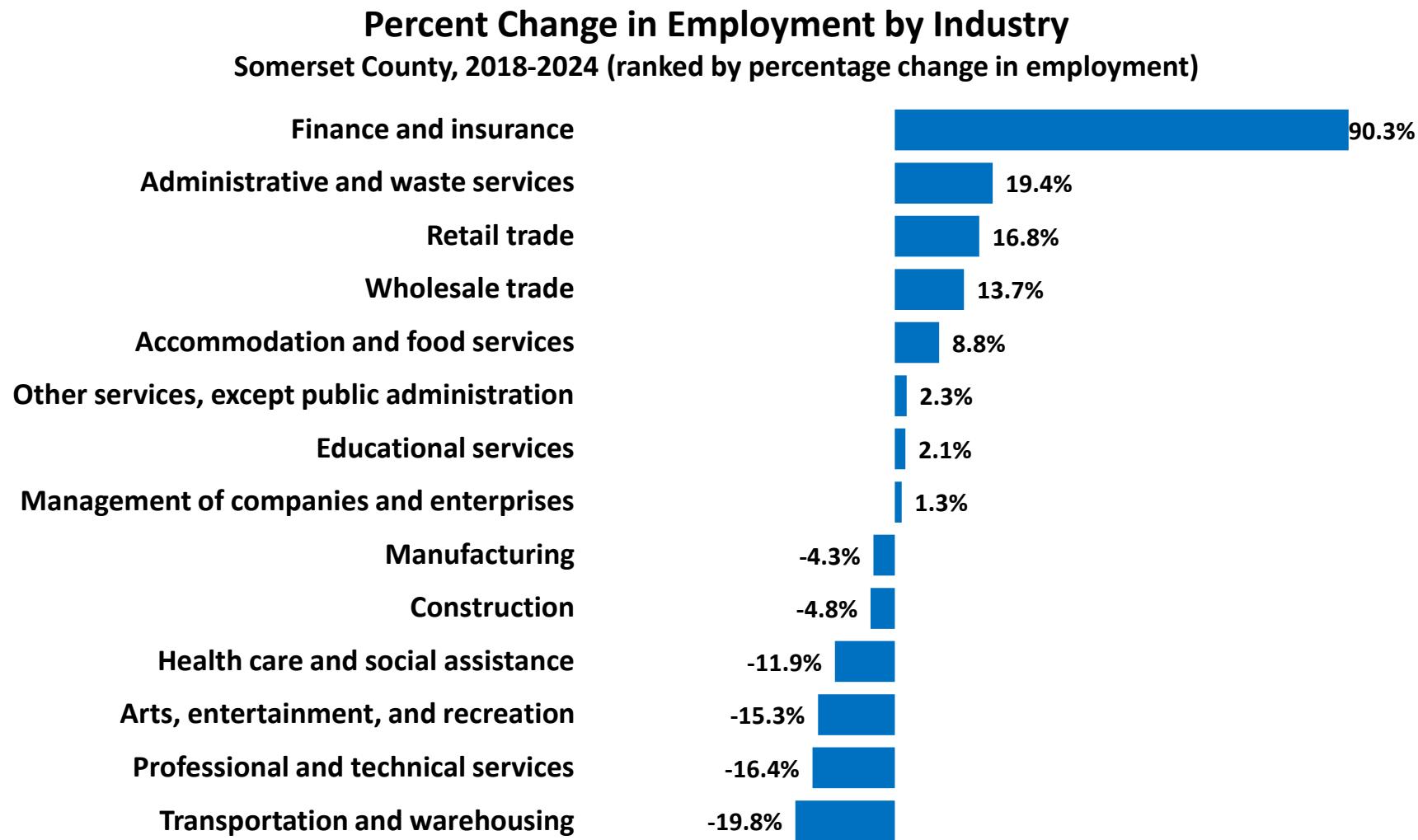
In Somerset County, private professional and technical services have higher employment shares compared to state averages.

**Employment by Private Industry**  
**Somerset County vs. New Jersey, 2024**

Industry	Somerset County		New Jersey		Difference between
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total	
Utilities	328	0.2%	14,941	0.4%	-0.2%
Construction	7,537	4.3%	164,014	4.5%	-0.1%
Manufacturing	15,556	8.9%	253,054	6.9%	2.0%
Wholesale trade	11,352	6.5%	213,549	5.8%	0.7%
Retail trade	17,019	9.7%	427,521	11.6%	-1.9%
Transportation and warehousing	6,522	3.7%	233,943	6.4%	-2.6%
Finance and insurance	6,632	3.8%	189,987	5.2%	-1.4%
Professional and technical services	25,664	14.7%	336,105	9.1%	5.6%
Management of companies and enterprises	11,261	6.4%	82,588	2.2%	4.2%
Administrative and waste services	12,953	7.4%	286,750	7.8%	-0.4%
Educational services	3,313	1.9%	90,018	2.4%	-0.6%
Health care and social assistance	24,126	13.8%	656,356	17.8%	-4.0%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation"	3,143	1.8%	73,699	2.0%	-0.2%
Accommodation and food services	11,881	6.8%	328,905	8.9%	-2.1%
Other services, except public administration	5,563	3.2%	144,086	3.9%	-0.7%

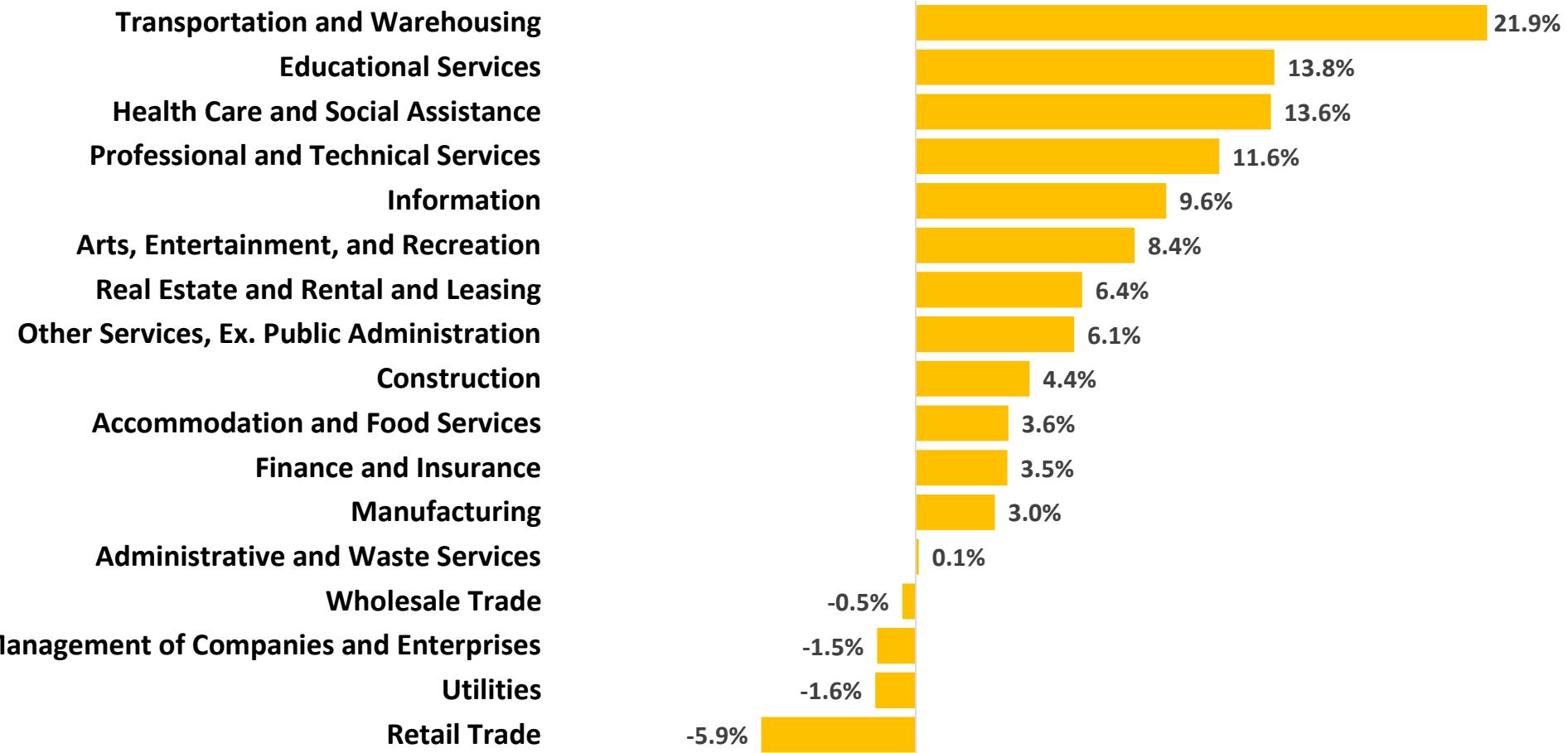
Full list of employment by industry is available in [Appendix](#).

**Between 2018 and 2024, transportation and warehousing saw the largest employment growth in Somerset County, increasing by 90.3%.**



**Transportation, warehousing, and utilities 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)





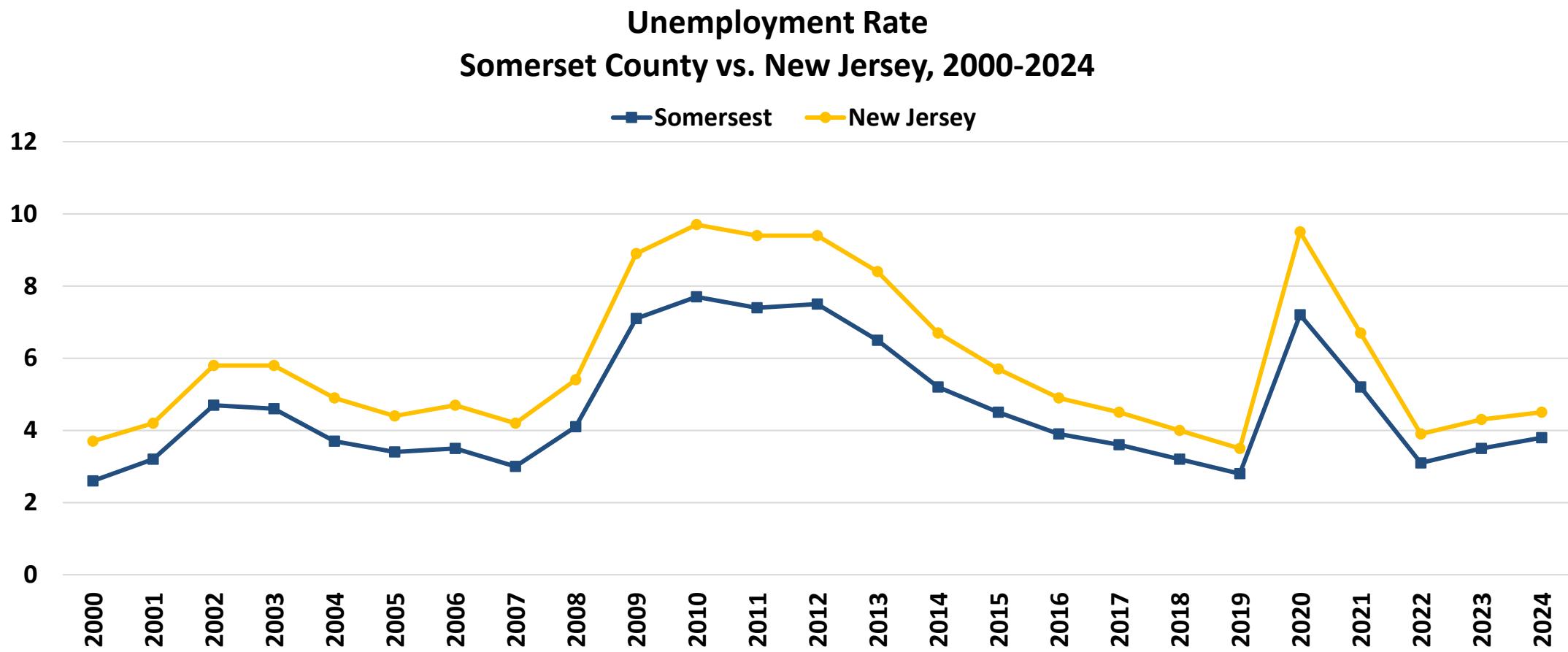
# Unemployment Trend

## Somerset 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 Somerset County follows state trends but was slightly lower than the New Jersey average.**





# Occupational Employment and Wages

## Somerset County vs. New Jersey

Source: 2023 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.

**19.2% of Somerset County's total employment is concentrated in the top 10 occupations.**

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

Occupation	Employment	% of Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Software Developers	5,010	2.6%	\$64.57
Packers and Packagers, Hand	4,150	2.2%	\$20.70
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	3,960	2.1%	\$18.81
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	3,650	1.9%	\$19.15
Cashiers	3,480	1.8%	\$16.31
Computer and Information Systems Managers	3,410	1.8%	\$92.27
Retail Salespersons	3,410	1.8%	\$17.39
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,210	1.7%	\$16.22
Customer Service Representatives	3,150	1.7%	\$22.70
Office Clerks, General	3,130	1.6%	\$24.02
<b>Top 10 Occupations, Total</b>	<b>36,560</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	
<b>All Occupations, Total</b>	<b>190,680</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$29.97</b>

*Note:* OES 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
<b>Top 10 Occupations, Total</b>	855,910	20.1%	
<b>All Occupations, Total</b>	4,250,430	100.0%	\$27.51

*Note:* OEWS collects the data for 2024.

Between 2022 and 2032 in Somerset County, the computer and mathematical occupations group is projected to see the largest net growth (+1,350).

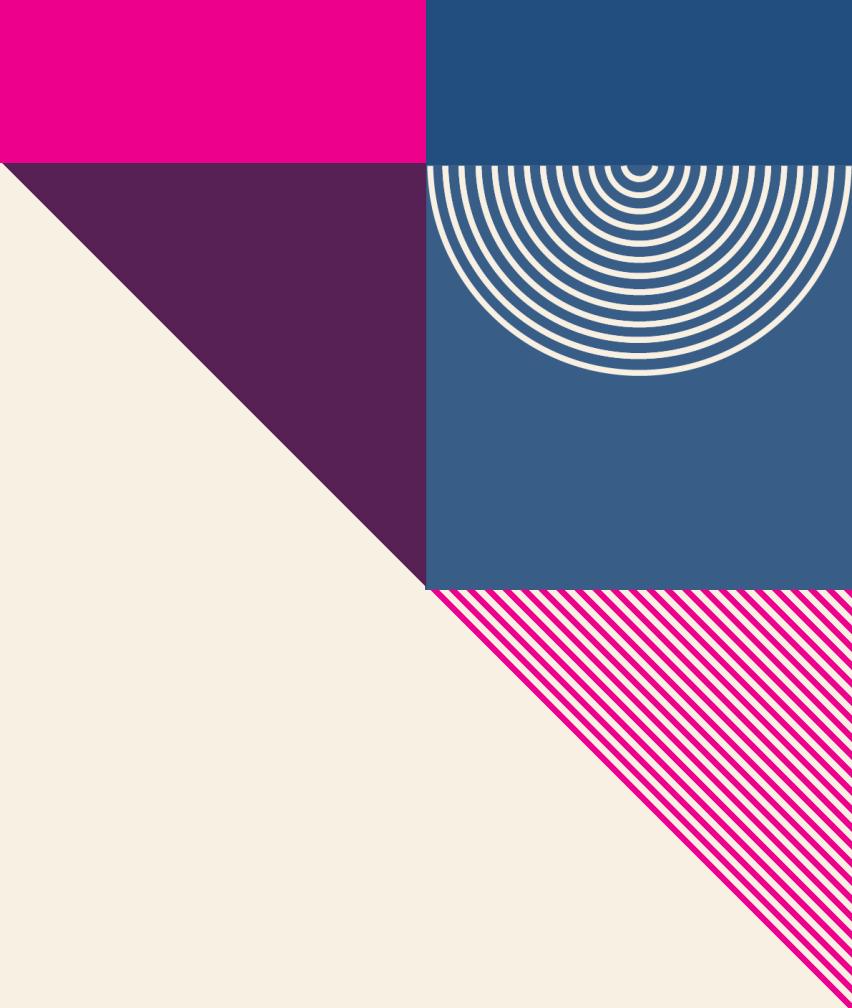
**Actual and Projected Employment by Occupation Group, Somerset County**  
**Top 10 Occupation groups ranked by 2032 Employment Projections**

Occupational Group	2022 Actual	2032 Projected	Net Change	Percent Change
Office and Administrative Support	29,100	26,850	-2,250	-7.7%
Transportation and Material Moving	21,650	22,950	1,300	6.0%
Management	19,750	20,750	1,000	5.1%
Sales and Related	19,550	19,300	-250	-1.3%
Business and Financial Operations	17,850	18,250	400	2.2%
Computer and Mathematical	12,850	14,200	1,350	10.5%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	10,650	11,550	900	8.5%
Production	10,800	10,700	-100	-0.9%
Educational Instruction and Library	10,250	10,700	450	4.4%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	9,450	10,300	850	9.0%

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

A complex abstract graphic on the left side of the page, composed of several overlapping and nested geometric shapes. It includes a large purple triangle at the top left, a white circle with a black outline, a blue circle with a black outline, a blue square, a pink square with diagonal lines, a red square with diagonal lines, a grey square, a purple square, a maroon square with diagonal lines, and a grey square at the bottom left. The graphic is set against a light beige background.

# JOB POSTINGS



# Job Postings

## Somerset County vs. New Jersey

Source: Lightcast

Lightcast collects raw data on postings from more than 160,000 online sources, then synthesizes and interprets 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 Somerset County, 2024

- Johnson & Johnson
- Verizon Communications
- RWJBarnabas Health
- Daiichi Sankyo
- Hackensack Meridian Health

## Top 5 Occupations Somerset County, 2024

- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons
- Home Health and Personal Care Aides
- Medical and Health Services Managers
- Software Developers





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

- **Project Management**
- **Marketing**
- **Pharmaceuticals**
- **Finance**
- **Auditing**

## Top 5 Software Skills

- Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Programming Language (e.g., SQL, Python, and R)
- Salesforce
- Dashboard
- Amazon Web Services



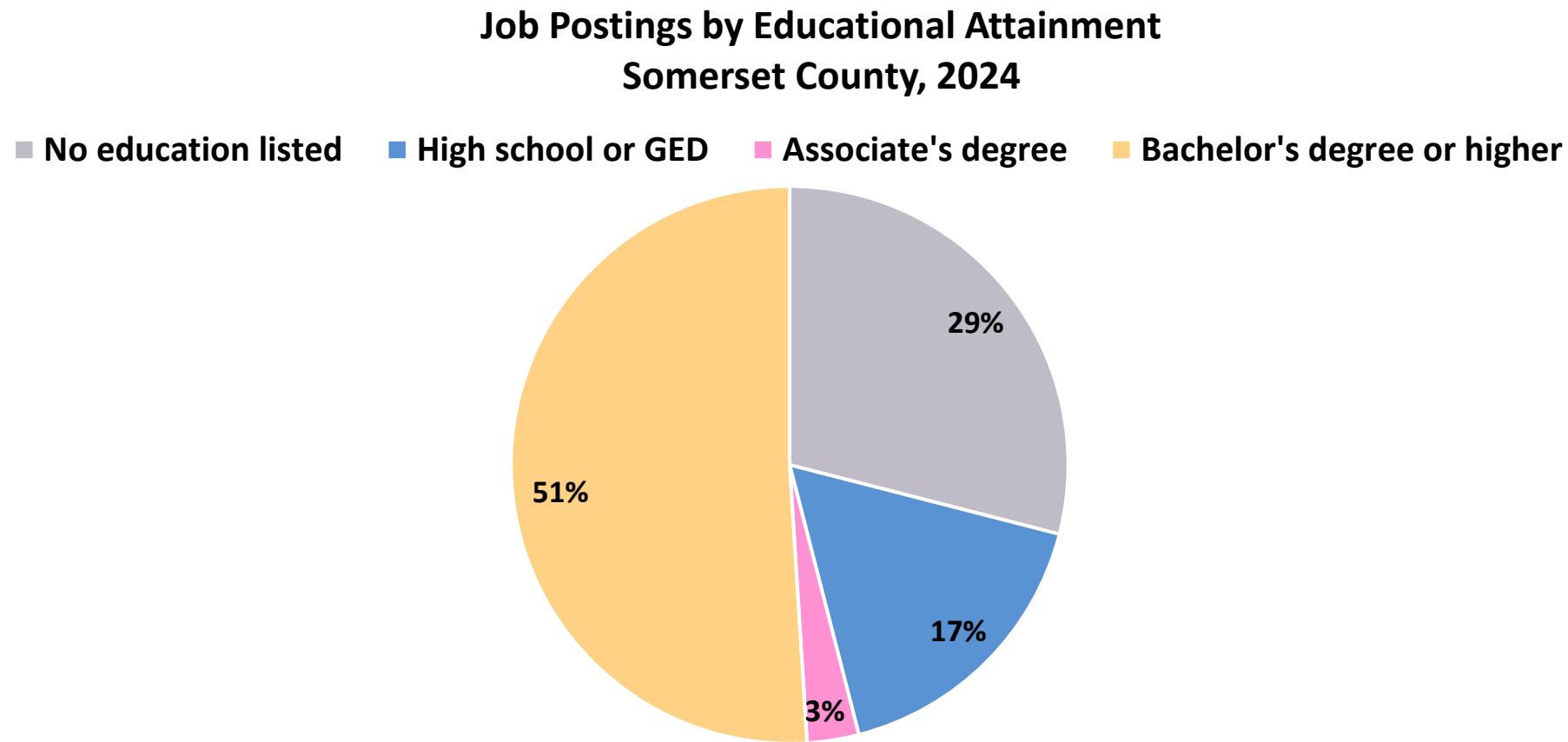


## **Top 5 Soft Skills Somerset County, 2024**

- **Communication**
- **Management**
- **Customer Service**
- **Leadership**
- **Operations**



**Half of all job postings in Somerset County require a bachelor's degree or higher.**



*Note:* Bachelor's degree or higher includes Bachelor's Degree, Master. Ph.D. or Professional Degree. While 29% of job postings did not specify educational attainment, this does not necessarily mean there are no requirements for it.



# AI-related Job Postings

## Somerset 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.



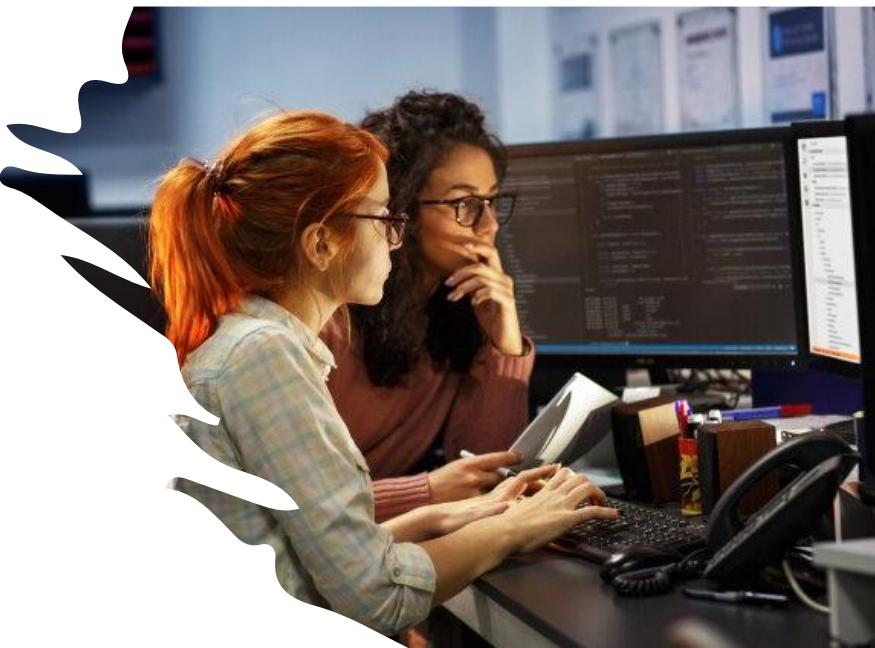
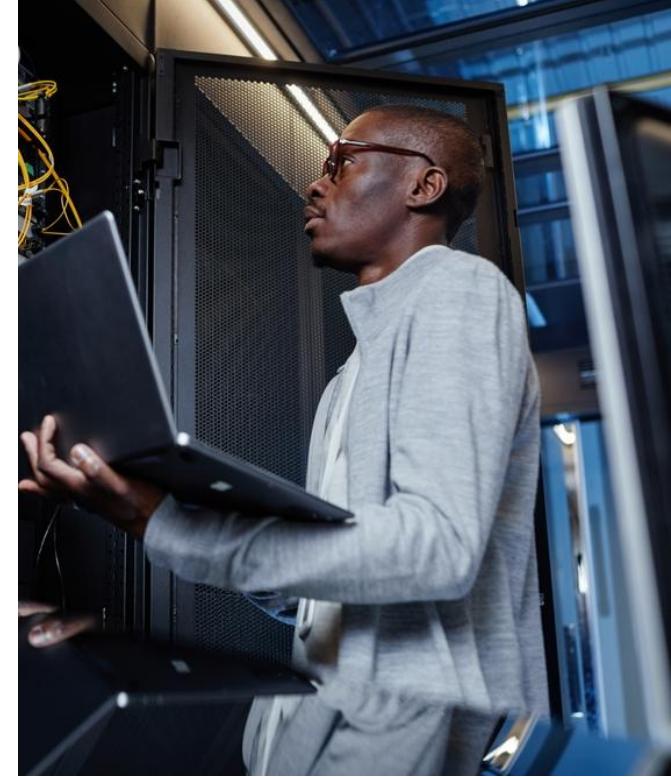
## **Top 5 AI-related Hiring Companies Somerset County, 2024**

- Johnson & Johnson
- Verizon Communications
- Daiichi Sankyo
- Sanofi
- Kenvue Brands LLC

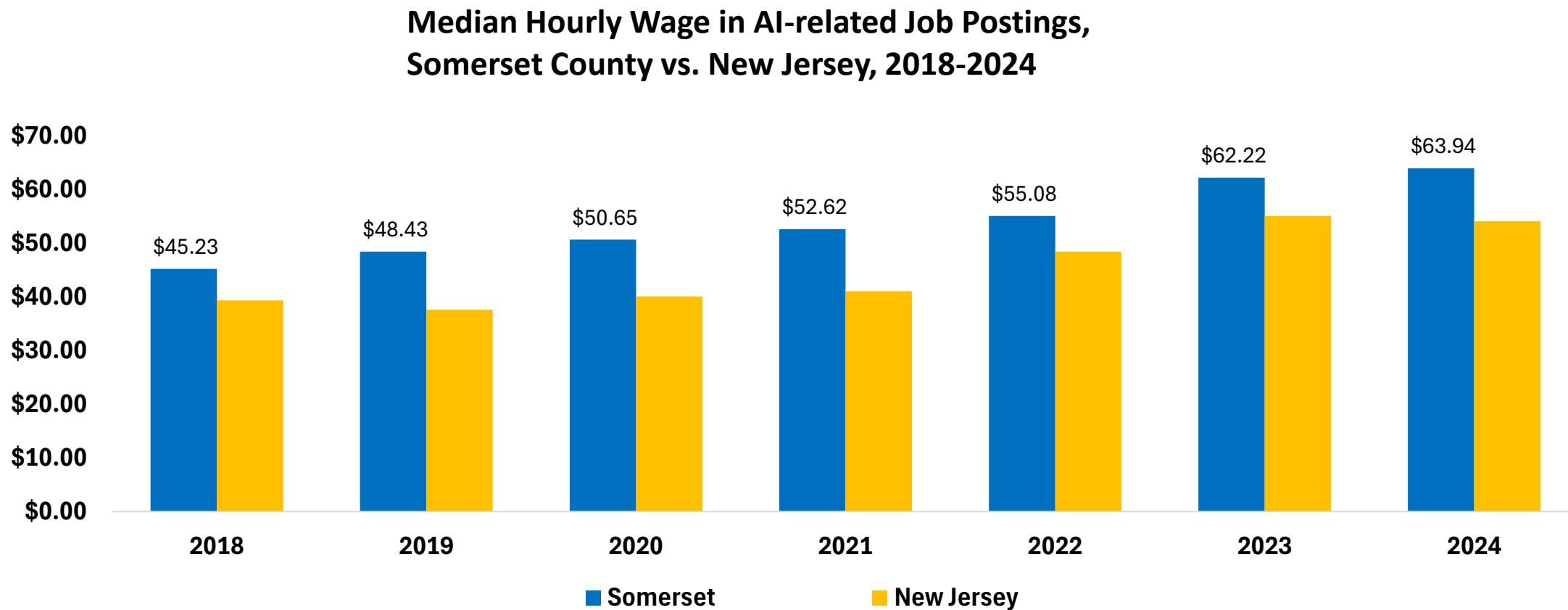
# Top 5 AI-related Occupations

## Somerset County, 2024

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



**In Somerset County, the median hourly wage for AI-related job postings is consistently higher than the state average.**





# TAKEAWAYS



- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Somerset County**

- **Demographics**

- Somerset County's population is comparable in age but more diverse than the New Jersey average.
- Somerset County's education level is much higher than the state overall, where the proportion of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is 13.8 percentage points higher than the state average.

- **Regional Variation**

- There are differences in economic and housing characteristics across Somerset County's municipalities.



- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Somerset County (Continued)**

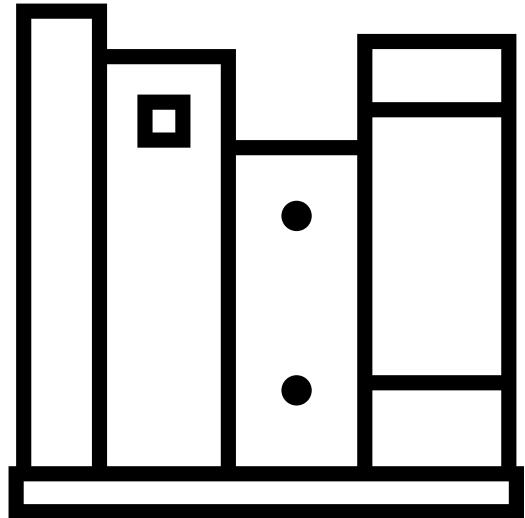
- **Industry Composition**

- More than 17% of business establishments are in health care and social assistance.
- Private professional and technical services and manufacturing sectors have higher employment shares in Somerset County compared to state average.

- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Somerset County (Continued)**
  - **Occupational Demand in the County**
    - **Top Projected Occupations by 2032 (Net Change)**
      - Computer and Mathematical
      - Transportation and Material Moving
      - Healthcare Support
      - Management
      - Food Preparation and Serving Related

- **Key Economic and Workforce Insights: Somerset County (Continued)**
  - **Occupational Demand in the County**
    - **Top Occupations by Job Postings**
      - Registered Nurses
      - Retail Salespersons
      - Home Health and Personal Care Aides
      - Medical and Health Services Managers
      - Software Developers

# 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)

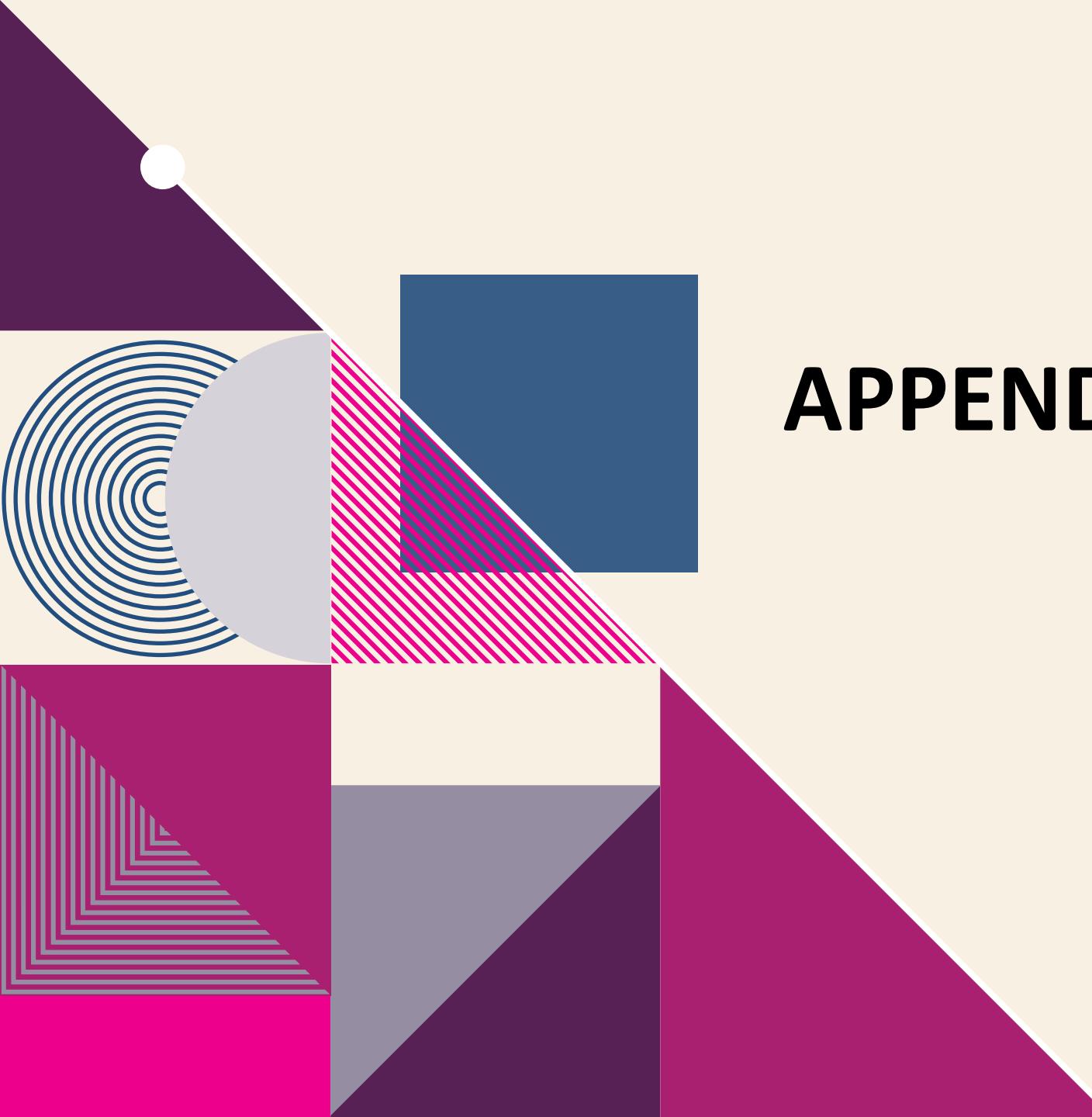
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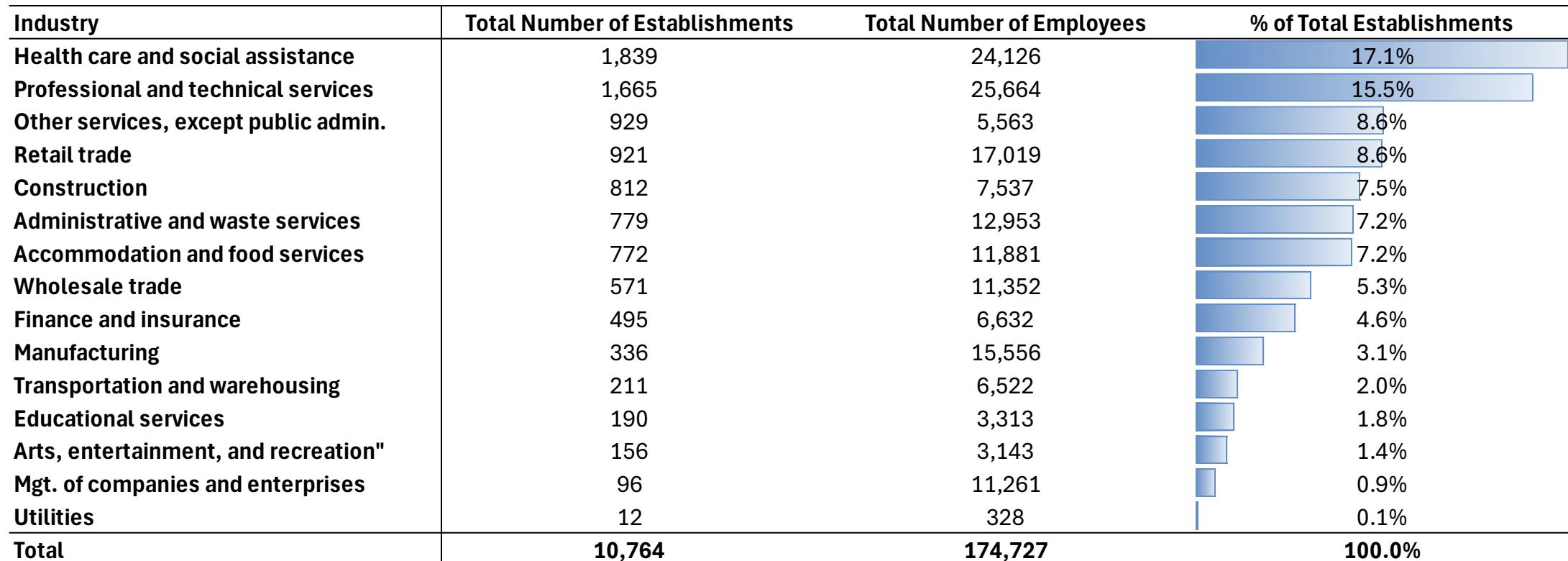


THANK YOU!



# APPENDIX

## Somerset County Establishments, Ranked by Percent of the Total Establishments All Ownerships



*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, Somerset County**  
**Top 15 Occupations ranked by 2032 Employment Projections**

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>		
<b>Office and Administrative Support</b>	29,100	26,850	-2,250	-7.7%
<b>Transportation and Material Moving</b>	21,650	22,950	1,300	6.0%
<b>Management</b>	19,750	20,750	1,000	5.1%
<b>Sales and Related</b>	19,550	19,300	-250	-1.3%
<b>Business and Financial Operations</b>	17,850	18,250	400	2.2%
<b>Computer and Mathematical</b>	12,850	14,200	1,350	10.5%
<b>Food Preparation and Serving Related</b>	10,650	11,550	900	8.5%
<b>Production</b>	10,800	10,700	-100	-0.9%
<b>Educational Instruction and Library</b>	10,250	10,700	450	4.4%
<b>Healthcare Practitioners &amp; Technical</b>	9,450	10,300	850	9.0%
<b>Healthcare Support</b>	8,050	9,200	1,150	14.3%
<b>Installation, Maintenance, and Repair</b>	7,350	7,700	350	4.8%
<b>Building and Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</b>	7,200	7,300	100	1.4%
<b>Personal Care and Service</b>	6,250	7,000	750	12.0%
<b>Construction and Extraction</b>	6,650	6,850	200	3.0%