

Regional Focus: Central Jersey

Data and analysis for the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas
(Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)

Payrolls in Central Region Increase

Over-the-year from March 2018 to March 2019, total nonfarm employment in the Central Region (Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas) increased by 10,700 jobs (+0.9%) to reach a non-seasonally adjusted level of 1,169,700 jobs. In comparison, the state's payrolls increased 1.2 percent (+48,700) from the same month a year ago.

Over the year, professional and business services (+7,100 or +3.7%) and educational and health services (+4,400 or +2.1%) posted the largest payrolls gains in the region. Health care and social assistance (+2,400) accounted for the majority of gains in the education and health services sector. Other services (+2,100 or +4.3%), leisure and hospitality (+1,400 or +1.5%) and government (+1,100 or +0.6%) also posted significant payroll gains. Financial activities (-3,100 or -5.1%) recorded the largest job loss in the region. Manufacturing (-1,100 jobs or -2.0%) was also down over the last year. Trade, transportation and utilities (TTU) was unchanged from a year ago.

At the state level, significant job gains occurred in education and health services (+16,600 or +2.3%) and leisure and hospitality (+12,900 or +3.6%). Accommodations and food services (+12,800) accounted for nearly all of gain in leisure and hospitality. Employment in education and health services was bolstered by gains in its health care and social assistance (+9,700 jobs) and educational services (+6,900 jobs). Payrolls in professional and business services (+7,500 or +1.1%), government (+4,600 or +0.8%), construction (+4,500 or +3.0%), other services (+3,800 or +2.3%), manufacturing (+3,400 or +1.4%) and TTU (+3,400, 0.4%) were also up over the year. Job levels in financial activities (-5,100 or -2.0%) and information (-2,900 or -4.1%) were down from the same month a year ago.



Change in Nonfarm Employment March 2018 - March 2019 final (not seasonally adjusted, 2018 benchmark)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Employment	10,700	0.9	48,700	1.2
Private Sector	9,600	1.0	44,100	1.3
Construction	-500	-1.2	4,500	3.0
Manufacturing	-1,100	-2.0	3,400	1.4
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	0	0.0	3,400	0.4
Information	-700	-3.2	-2,900	-4.1
Financial Activities	-3,100	-5.1	-5,100	-2.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	7,100	3.7	7,500	1.1
Ed. & Health Svcs.	4,400	2.1	16,600	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1,400	1.5	12,900	3.6
Other Services	2,100	4.3	3,800	2.3
Government	1,100	0.6	4,600	0.8

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

Trenton Labor Area Leads Region in Job Growth

Over the year, total nonfarm payrolls in the Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County, +8,600 or +3.2%) increased to 274,800 jobs in March 2019. Payrolls in the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (+2,100 or +0.2%) were also up over the year, reaching a March 2019 level of 894,900. As a whole the Central Region accounts for roughly 28.0 percent of job-holding in the state.

In the Trenton Labor Area, professional and business services (+4,800 or +11.4%)

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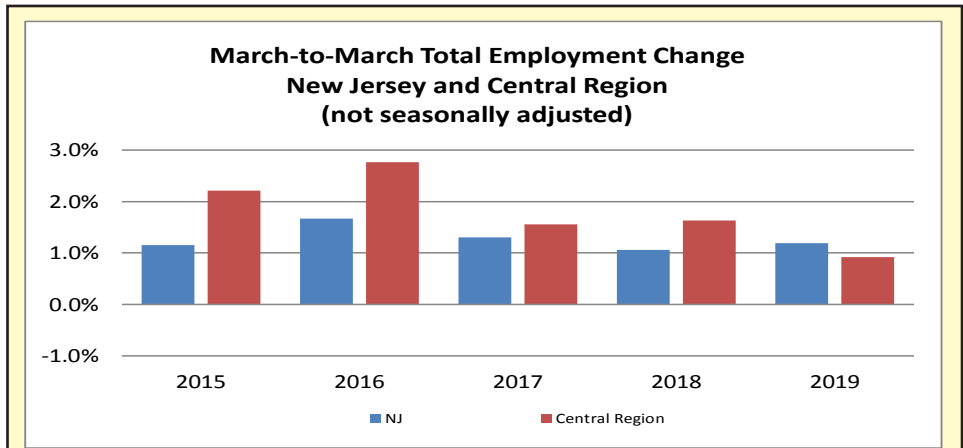
Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted March data, employment in thousands)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New Jersey	3,882.4	3,927.0	3,992.5	4,044.5	4,087.5	4,136.2
Central Region	1,069.1	1,092.7	1,122.9	1,140.4	1,159.0	1,169.7
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	822.6	839.0	863.0	878.6	892.8	894.9
Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County)	246.5	253.7	259.9	261.8	266.2	274.8

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

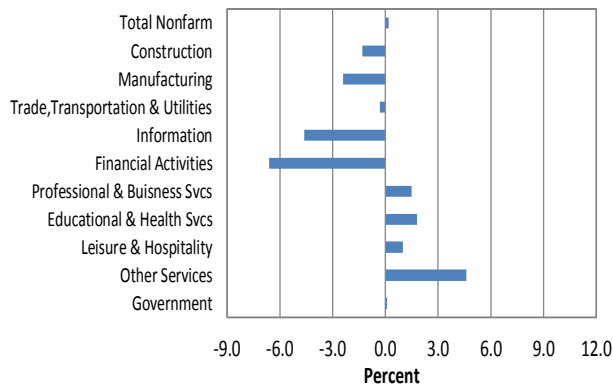
and education and health services (+1,600 or +3.3%) added the most jobs from the same month a year ago. Administrative support and waste management/remediation services (+4,000 or +29.0%) accounted for the majority of growth in professional and business services sector. Educational services (+1,100 or +5.1%) accounted for the majority of the job growth in the education and health services sector. Government payrolls (+1,000 or +1.3%) and trade, transportation and utilities (+600 or +1.6%) also posted significant gains over the period. The information sector was little changed (+100 or 2.2%), while the construction and manufacturing sectors remained level over the year.

In the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area, the education and health services sector (+2,800 or +1.8%) was the job growth leader from the same month a year ago due to employment gains in health care and social assistance (+1,900 or +1.4%) and educational services (+900 or +4.1%). Professional and business services (+2,300 or +1.5%) and leisure and hospitality (+800 or + 1.0%) also posted significant gains over the period. Professional, scientific and technical (+3,000 or +4.2%) accounted for the majority of the gains in the professional and business services sector. With an increase of 4.6 percent, other services (+1,800) was the fastest growing sector over the past year. Financial activities (-2,700 or -6.6%) recorded the most job losses during the period with finance and insurance (-1,000) accounted for the majority of the decline. Information (-800 or -4.6%) and trade, transportation and utilities (-600 or -0.3%) were also down during the period.



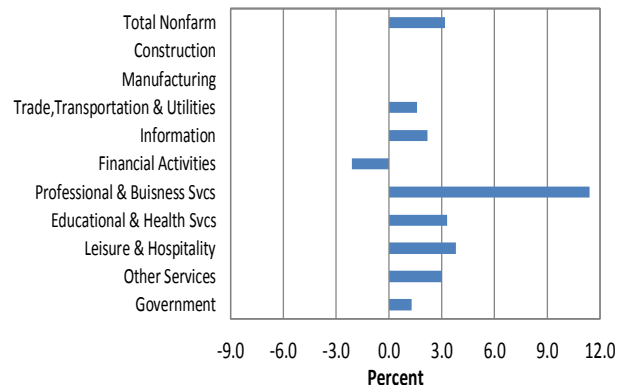
Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

**Employment Change by Industry, Mar 2018 - Mar 2019
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area
(not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

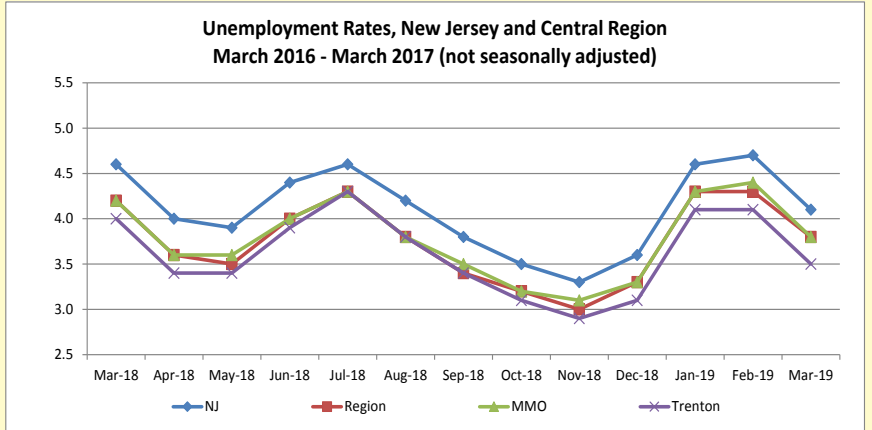
**Employment Change by Industry, Mar 2018 - Mar 2019
Trenton Labor Area
(not seasonally adjusted)**



More detailed data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program can be found at: http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces_index.html

LABOR FORCE DATA

- In March 2019 the Central Region had a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, down from a March 2018 rate of 4.2 percent. In comparison, the region's March 2019 rate was just below the statewide unadjusted rate of 4.1 percent.
- By county, the March 2019 unemployment rates in the region were: Mercer at 3.5 percent, Middlesex at 3.5 percent, Monmouth at 3.7 percent, and Ocean at 4.5 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at: http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html

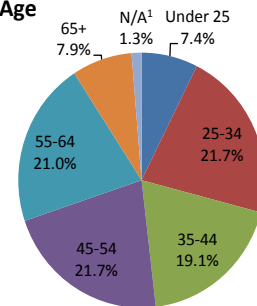
CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED CENTRAL REGION, FIRST QUARTER 2019

CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

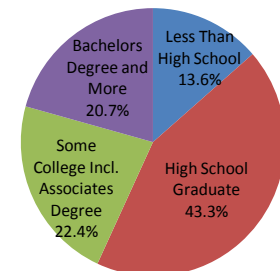
	Number	Percent
Management	3,863	8.6
Business and financial	1,508	3.4
Professional and related	5,156	11.5
Services	8,213	18.3
Sales and related	2,926	6.5
Office and administrative support	5,404	12.1
Farming, fishing and forestry	197	0.4
Construction and extraction	6,467	14.4
Installation, maintenance and repair	1,831	4.1
Production	3,452	7.7
Transportation and material moving	5,744	12.8
Military	69	0.2

- During the first quarter of 2019, there were 44,844 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Central Region, a figure which represented 25.5 percent of the claimants statewide. The region's claims activity was down by 191 claims or 0.4 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 7,386 or 4.0 percent since the first quarter of 2018.

By Age



By Educational Level



¹N/A: No information provided by claimant

Source: NJLWD, Characteristics of UI Claimants

REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK JANUARY 2019 - MARCH 2019

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development through its agreement with Burning Glass Technologies is able to provide the following labor market information aggregated from online employer job listings during the quarter. This data provides valuable insight regarding current demand for characteristics such as skills and educational requirements. Note that this data is not meant to represent all available employment opportunities but rather should be viewed in terms of analysis of labor market demand.

JOB LISTINGS BY COUNTY

County	Listings
Middlesex, NJ	18,974
Mercer, NJ	9,205
Monmouth, NJ	8,805
Ocean, NJ	4,005

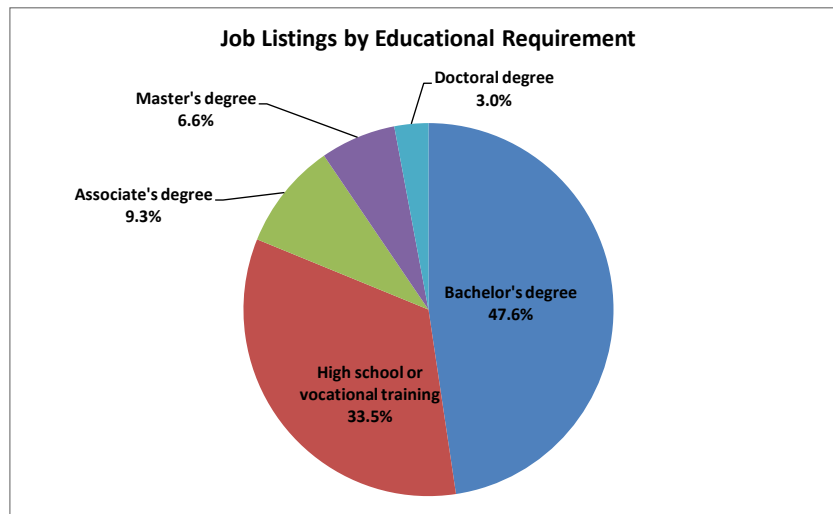
INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

Industry	Listings
Hospitals	5,128
Educational Services	3,125
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,389
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,309
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,193
Chemical Manufacturing	1,085
Administrative and Support Services	988
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	980
Food Services and Drinking Places	961
General Merchandise Stores	755
Truck Transportation	697
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	600

During the first quarter of 2019, Central Region employers in the hospitals, educational services, professional, scientific and technical services, credit intermediation, and ambulatory health care services exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

Concentrated in Middlesex and Mercer counties, employers indicated they were interested in filling positions for registered nurses, software developers, retail salespersons, wholesale sales representatives, management positions, and customer service representatives. Skills that were actively sought by area employers included customer service, sales, scheduling, occupational health and safety, and long term and home patient care.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 33.5 percent require only high school or vocational training.



OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS

Occupation	Listings
Registered Nurses	2,214
Software Developers, Applications	1,607
Retail Salespersons	1,361
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	996
Managers, All Other	879
Customer Service Representatives	808
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	725
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	683
Medical and Health Services Managers	632
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	610
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	519
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	450

TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND

Skill	Listings
Customer Service	6,363
Sales	4,550
Scheduling	4,322
Occupational Health and Safety	3,779
Long-Term Care	3,517
Home Care	3,390
Patient Care	3,272
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	2,972
Project Management	2,875
Budgeting	2,784
Customer Contact	2,692
Teaching	2,442

EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY

Employer	Job Postings
Hackensack University Medical Center	1,108
Meridian Health System	1,073
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey	1,046
Palisades Medical Center	986
Hackensack University Health Network, Inc	940
Saint Barnabas Health Care System	492
Princeton University	379
Cynet Systems Inc	296
Lowe's Companies, Inc	291
Anthem Blue Cross	284
Bank of America	278
The Home Depot Incorporated	263

Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

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