

Targeted Employment Areas

A Targeted Employment Area (TEA) is defined as: A **rural** or **non-rural area** that has experienced a high unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate during a comparable 12-month period.

New Jersey contains no rural areas that are both outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and outside a city or town with a population of 20,000 or more.

Metropolitan, micropolitan, and combined statistical areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget. A map of MSAs that include parts of New Jersey can be found on the [U.S. Census Bureau website](#). To learn more about statistical areas, please visit the [Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas](#) website.

Any area designated as a TEA within New Jersey must have a calendar year 2018 unemployment rate 150 percent or higher than the national average unemployment rate for the same time period. As such, a minimum unemployment rate of 5.9 percent is necessary for an area to qualify as a TEA. The following areas meet these criteria based on 2018 annual average data:

County:

Atlantic County	118,969	111,968	7,001	5.9%
Cape May County	45,785	41,945	3,840	8.4%
Cumberland County	64,289	60,128	4,161	6.5%

Municipality:

Audubon Park Borough	489	448	41	8.4
Bass River Township	708	660	48	6.8
Brooklawn Borough	1,043	973	70	6.7
Camden City	25,349	23,096	2,253	8.9
Carneys Point Township	3,428	3,222	206	6.0
Chesilhurst Borough	720	676	44	6.1
City of Orange Township	13,680	12,804	876	6.4
East Orange City	28,984	27,066	1,918	6.6
Hillside Township	9,379	8,818	561	6.0
Irvington Township	24,402	22,773	1,629	6.7
Lawnside Borough	1,176	1,088	88	7.5
New Hanover Township	1,126	1,058	68	6.0
Newark City	114,544	106,530	8,014	7.0
Paterson City	59,849	55,261	4,588	7.7
Paulsboro Borough	2,592	2,408	184	7.1
Penns Grove Borough	1,919	1,771	148	7.7
Perth Amboy City	24,634	23,052	1,582	6.4
Quinton Township	1,166	1,091	75	6.4
Salem City	1,637	1,459	178	10.9
Seaside Heights Borough	1,140	1,065	75	6.6
South Toms River Borough	1,693	1,592	101	6.0
Trenton City	38,413	36,008	2,405	6.3
Walpack Township	8	7	1	12.5
Woodlynne Borough	1,398	1,305	93	6.7

Note: All municipalities within the three counties listed above are designated as TEA's

Certification Process:

An alien entrepreneur seeking to do business in areas of high unemployment may choose, along with the petition, to include a letter from NJLWD which certifies that the commercial enterprise is or will be located in a "targeted employment area." This letter may be obtained by writing to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Section, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), Division of Economic and Demographic Research, P.O. Box 383, Trenton NJ 08625-0383, by e-mailing: Paul.Tattory@dol.nj.gov, or by calling (609) 292-2548.

For investment in any of the qualified areas listed above, a letter indicating the area is a TEA will be sent to the individual requesting the designation.

Special Tabulations:

If the area of investment is not listed above, NJLWD can verify that special tabulations of contiguous Census Tracts (including the tract of the investment property), submitted by the interested investor (or the investor's representative), meet the minimum unemployment rate requirement for TEA designation. The aggregate unemployment rate for the proposed contiguous Census Tract area must be 5.9 percent or greater. These tabulations will be verified in accordance with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics approved methodology for Local Area Unemployment Statistics data. NJLWD cannot guarantee that the area will meet the criteria of a TEA.

Please contact Paul Tattory via telephone (609) 292-2548 or via email Paul.Tattory@dol.nj.gov for more information on special tabulation verifications.

Please note: While the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development indicates that an area meets the qualifying unemployment rate, the final designation as a Targeted Employment Area will be made by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

More information about the EB-5 Investor Visa Program can be found on the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov).

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Economic and Demographic Research, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

(Updated April 11, 2019)