



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION  
P.O. Box 820  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0820

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GOVERNOR

LT. GOVERNOR TAHESHA L. WAY  
SECRETARY OF STATE

THOMAS K. WRIGHT  
CHAIRMAN

DONNA A. RENDEIRO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

Resolution No. 2024-06  
Page 1 of 2

Date: November 6, 2024  
Patron: Thomas K. Wright

**RESOLUTION**  
**APPROVING THE METHODOLOGIES FOR POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 to -207, the State Planning Commission (the Commission) has prepared and adopted a State Development and Redevelopment Plan (the State Plan) which includes a State Plan Policy Map; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:18A-199(a), among the duties of the Commission is a requirement to revise and readopt the State Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant N.J.A.C 15:30-1.1 through -5.5, the process to revise and readopt the State Plan is extensive and detailed and requires significant collaboration among State, county and local planning entities, and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, an integral part of the process of updating the State Plan involves understanding where future population and employment opportunities will be located over the time horizon of the State Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a policy board that is responsible for transportation planning and managing federal transportation funding for urbanized areas with populations over 50,000; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is expedient and consistent to utilize the projections of New Jersey's three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as a basis for determining population and employment projections; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes sensible and equitable growth, redevelopment, and infrastructure investments to foster healthy, strong, resilient communities; protect natural lands and waterways; increase transportation choices beyond cars; provide access to safe, affordable, and aging-friendly neighborhoods; and fuel a strong economy for everyone. New Jersey Future does this through original research, innovative policy development, coalition-building, advocacy, and hands-on strategic assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, it is prudent to review the methodologies utilized by the MPOs for population and employment projections to determine their relevancy for State Plan purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Planning Advocacy procured the services of NJ Future to perform that review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Planning Advocacy supports the recommendations of NJ Future that were presented to the Commission (Exhibit A) and supports Commission approval of the recommendations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission hereby approves the methodologies presented by NJ Future to the Commission (Exhibit A); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission authorizes the Executive Director to take all actions to implement the proposed methodologies with regular updates at each Commission meeting.

I hereby certify that this resolution was  
duly adopted by the State Planning  
Commission at its meeting on  
November 6, 2024



Donna A Rendeiro,  
Secretary State  
Planning Commission  
Date: November 6,  
2024



## State of New Jersey

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*BAC Executive Director*

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*Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM TO: State Planning Commission

FROM: Donna Rendeiro

RE: Population and Employment Projections

DATE: November 6, 2024

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As we have been discussing in previous Commission meetings, part of the State Plan update process is to develop population and employment projections for the time horizon of the updated Plan (2050). It had previously been determined that the Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA) would review the population and employment projections of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as a basis for determining whether their projections can be utilized for State Plan purposes.

OPA secured the services of NJ Future to analyze the methodologies and provide recommendations regarding the MPO projections and possible adjustments that should be made.

In summary, utilizing the MPO methodologies for population projections are recommended. However, for employment projections an alternative method of utilizing an historical ratio of jobs per 100 residents provides a more accurate and likely scenario, so that methodology is recommended.

Please see the attached document from NJ Future that details approaches, concerns, and rationales that support these recommendations. I recommend approving the methodologies as detailed in that document.



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## State Development and Redevelopment Plan Update Population and Employment Projections Status

### Background

Population and Employment projections are important to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan update process. Together with land use data, climate data, requirements for affordable housing, infrastructure capacity and condition, and other land use factors, population and employment projections are key to forming policies regarding where and what to develop, where to conserve and preserve farmland and open space, and where to provide economically sustainable activities.

The most recent full census, 2020, was completed recently so the data that we have is relatively recent. However, given the COVID health crises during the three years of 2020, 2021, and 2022, some of the data may not be reflective of actual trends going forward, are likely skewed, and may need some adjustments.

Additionally, the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are currently updating the Long Range Plans required to be eligible for federal funding. As part of that process, they are required to complete population projections and the Department of Labor has actual historical employment data against which employment projections can be compared.

Rather than “reinventing the wheel” and creating duplicative work, it has been determined that in recommending population and employment projections, the Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA) would utilize these sources for the basis of recommending projections, review the methodologies used by the MPOs, and determine whether it is appropriate to utilize those projections for State Plan purposes.

All counties in New Jersey fall under one of three MPOs, as follows:

- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA): Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties.
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC): Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer Counties.
- South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO): Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties.

All three MPOs had prepared population and employment projections out to 2050 prior to the 2020 decennial Census, which New Jersey Future has reviewed and found to be consistent with recent trends and patterns among counties and municipalities. Revised projections by all three MPOs to reflect the results of the 2020 Census are currently under development, with SJTPO having completed their projections, which have been approved by their board. NJTPA has completed revisions to its statewide and county-level projections and is still in the process of updating municipal-level numbers. DVRPC has completed its initial revisions for both counties and municipalities but these have not yet undergone its internal approval process. There are, however, two issues of



concern about the underlying data series on which revisions are based, one regarding population and one regarding employment, that have arisen post-2020, as will be discussed below.

It should also be noted that none of the three MPOs' projections, neither the original pre-2020 numbers nor the post-2020 revisions, reflect any assumptions about changing migration and settlement patterns in reaction to the potential effects of climate change.

#### Concerns about the Census Bureau's Annual Population Estimates in Light of the 2020 Census

Based on results from the 2020 decennial Census, it appears that the Census Bureau's annual [Population Estimates Program](#) – which uses administrative data about births, deaths, and migration to produce annual population estimates for states, counties, and county subdivisions (the general term for what in New Jersey are known as municipalities) – had been underestimating actual population growth in New Jersey in the 2010s, particularly in the more urbanized counties. Actual growth in the 2010s, as measured by the 2020 Census, dramatically exceeded the trajectory that had been described by the annual estimates<sup>1</sup>. What's more, annual estimates for 2021 through 2023 appear not to have corrected for this pattern, indicating statewide population losses in both 2021 and 2022<sup>2</sup>, and a small gain from 2022 to 2023 bringing the statewide total up to only slightly above where it stood in 2020.



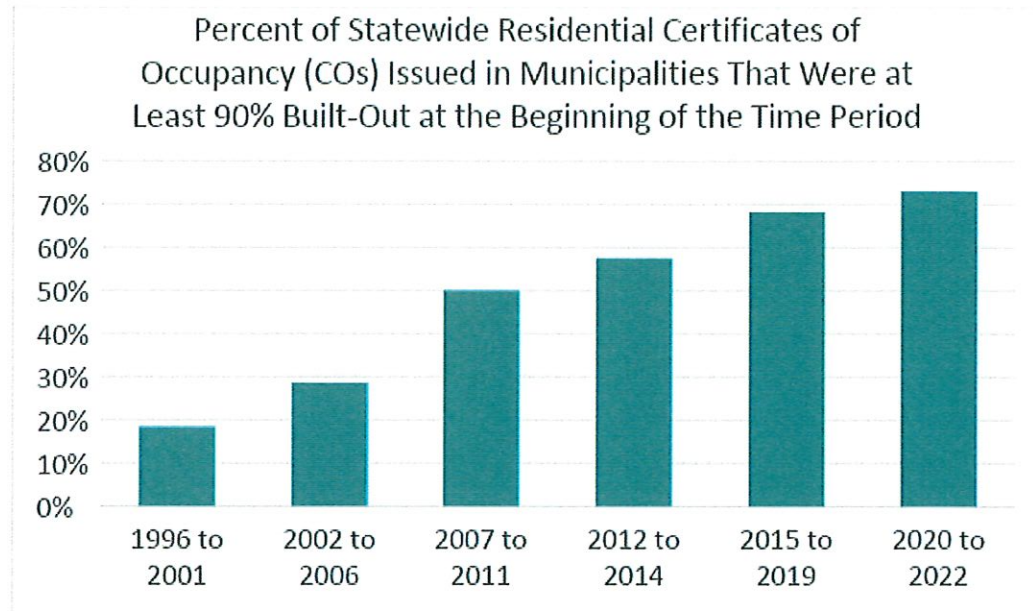
*The Census Bureau's annual population estimates for New Jersey in the 2010s were clearly underestimating actual population growth, as revealed by the 2020 Census results, and may be continuing to do so into the new decade.*

The growth patterns implied by the annual estimates raise questions at the county level as well, where almost all of the urban counties that grew the fastest in the 2010s, as measured by the 2020 Census – Hudson, Essex, Union, Mercer, Passaic – turn around

<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau has indicated that it plans to release a final version of the 2011 through 2019 annual estimates in the fall of 2024 that will smooth out the trend in the 2010s and remove the irregularity between 2019 and 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Given that the COVID-19 pandemic led to what amounts to a front-loading of several years' worth of deaths, with deaths that likely would have otherwise played out over a series of years being compressed into the span of a few months, it is not

and nominally experience losses from 2020 to 2023, while the fastest-growing counties from 2020 to 2023 look like the same suburban counties that had dominated growth in the 1990s and early 2000s but fell toward the bottom of the list in the 2010s. Both of these phenomena seem unlikely, given recent trends in population and housing growth in which most growth is taking place in already-built places (see graph of residential certificates of occupancy over time), and given the decennial Census numbers from 2020 and 2010.



*The continued growth in the issuance of residential building permits in built-out places is inconsistent with the suggestion, implicit in the Census Bureau's annual population estimates, that New Jersey's more urbanized counties have been losing population since the 2020 Census.*

The uncertain reliability of the annual estimates in recent years raises concerns about the option of using a data year from the annual estimates series, as one of the MPOs proposes, instead of the more accurate 2020 Census, as the base year for projecting future growth.

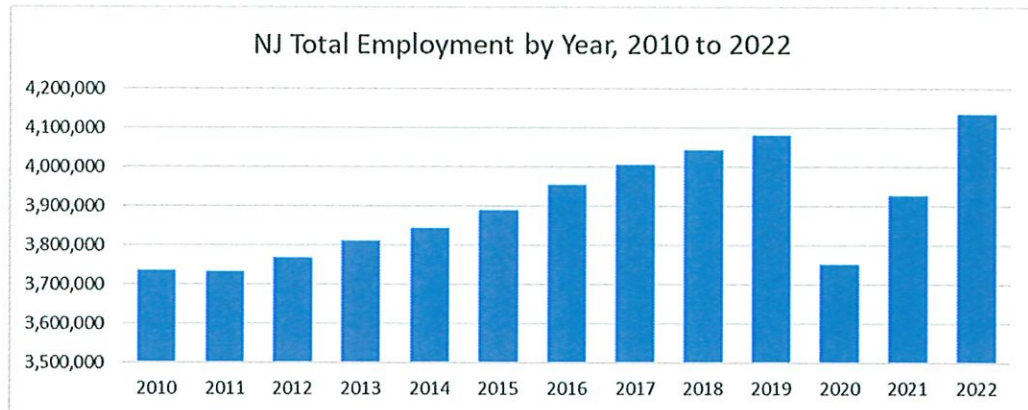
#### Concerns about COVID-19's Effects on Employment Data Series

Employment statistics for 2020 and 2021, though accurately reflecting real-world conditions, are likely to be unrepresentative of longer-term underlying trends due to short-term effects of COVID-19, with many people unable to perform in-person jobs due to social distancing requirements in the early months of the pandemic. By 2022, after vaccines had become widely available and social distancing was no longer necessary, employment totals had returned to a level roughly consistent with the trajectory of total employment from 2010 up through 2019.

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entirely inconceivable that the statewide population might have ticked downward from 2020 to 2021. The loss from 2021 to 2022 seems less likely, however, since deaths dropped off dramatically after vaccines were introduced in early 2021, especially in high-vaccination-rate states like New Jersey.





*The COVID-19 pandemic had a dramatic – but temporary – effect on total employment in New Jersey. By 2022, total employment had returned to a level consistent with the pre-COVID trajectory.*

The unrepresentative nature of employment data for 2020 and 2021 raises concerns about their use as a base year in projecting future employment, possibly resulting in projections that are destined to be underestimates of true employment totals because they proceed from an artificially low baseline.

#### MPO Methodology and Status

The three MPOs are each approaching their projections and post-2020 revisions differently. To be consistent Statewide for the State Plan perspective, an analysis of the methodology used by each MPO was required to determine whether the assumptions utilized by the MPOs were appropriate for use in the State Plan.

OPA utilized the services of New Jersey Future for research and analysis of population and employment data as well as other demographic information to assist in developing recommendations for the State Plan. This data is critical not only in the Plan document and the projections but also in the preparation of the Infrastructure Needs Assessment and the Impact Assessment.

As a follow-up to the earlier review of the 2050 projections prepared prior to the 2020 Census, the following details the MPO methodologies for revising their population and employment projections, the concerns related to those methodologies, and the recommendations to address those concerns.

**NJTPA:** NJTPA's population and employment projections are derived from county-level projections prepared for the entire New York metropolitan region by NYMTC, the MPO for New York City, Long Island, and the lower Hudson Valley. NYMTC has prepared updated county-level projections to reflect the results of the 2020 Census, which NJTPA will allocate to the municipal level for their region.

The NYMTC/NJTPA projections use 2022 data, for both population and employment, as the basis for revising their 2050 projections that they prepared before the 2020 Census. In both cases, the county-level trendlines from the earlier projections are simply shifted upward by a constant increment equal to the amount by which the original projections had underestimated the county's actual 2022 growth.

**DVRPC:** DVRPC uses 2020 as the base year for updating its population projections, relying on the results from the 2020 Census. It has decided against using any more recent data, from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program, for some of the same reasons described above. For employment, rather than rely on actual present-day employment statistics as the basis for projecting future growth, DVRPC instead derives its employment projections from the population projections by multiplying the working-age population estimate for a given year by a ratio of jobs to working-age population.

The ratio is computed using 2022 data, after the employment data series had roughly returned to a level consistent with the trend up through 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, and is assumed to remain constant going forward. The 2050 employment projection for a county in the DVRPC region, for example, is then simply the product of 1) the 2050 population projection for working ages and 2) the 2022 ratio of jobs to working-age population. Deriving the employment projections from the population projections, using an adjustment factor *not* computed from one of the outlier years of 2020 or 2021, avoids the issue of 2020 and 2021 employment having been temporarily depressed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SJTPO:** SJTPO's updated projections used the 2020 decennial Census as the baseline for projecting population, both because of concerns about the annual population estimates not accurately capturing recent growth as compared to the 2020 Census and also because the 2020 Census provides critical detailed data about demographic components of the population that SJTPO's growth model takes as inputs but that are not available from the annual estimates program. For employment, SJTPO kept 2020 as the base year for the updated projections but used 2022 results to calibrate growth in the 2020-2025 period, to account for actual 2020 employment having been depressed by COVID and therefore not representative of underlying longer-term trends. This 'hybrid' approach, with 2020 as a base but with 2022 reflecting the rate of increase to 2025, thus attempts to correct for 2020 being a real but temporary downward departure from the background trend in employment change.

#### Recommendations for State Planning Commission Methodology

**Population:** For population, New Jersey Future recommends that the State Planning Commission adopt projections that utilize population data from the 2020 decennial Census as the baseline for estimating future growth. Using a baseline year from the less-reliable Population Estimates Program risks underestimating future growth both statewide and in certain types of counties and overestimating growth in other counties, based on discrepancies between the recent annual estimates and the actual 2020 Census results.

DVRPC and SJTPO have both based their population projections on the 2020 Census as the baseline year, avoiding unresolved issues with the annual estimates from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

NJTPA, in contrast, is relying on 2022 population data from the Population Estimates Program, rather than the 2020 decennial Census, for revising the 2050 population



projections it had prepared prior to the 2020 Census. As indicated by NJTPA's interim 2030 population projections at the county level, the issue of the annual estimates tending to understate growth in the more urban counties appears to persist through the remainder of the 2020s, with the result that implied growth rates from 2020 to 2030 are smaller for more urban counties and larger for suburban and rural counties than would be suggested by the actual results from the 2010 and 2020 Censuses and by recent trends in housing growth. However, by 2040 and especially by 2050, the projections indicate the more urbanized counties once again dominating population growth, with the North Jersey urban core counties having the highest growth rates from 2020 to 2050. Whatever potential inaccuracies may be introduced into the projections through the use of the annual estimate from 2022 rather than the 2020 Census as the baseline by 2050 have been rendered moot by other factors and assumptions. While we could contemplate potential further adjustment to the NJTPA numbers to correct for the Population Estimates Program's recent underestimation of growth in the urban counties, such a step would be attempting to solve a problem that no longer exists by 2050, the timeframe of interest to the State Plan.

With DVRPC and SJTPO basing their population projections on the 2020 Census results, and with any inconsistencies resulting from NJTPA's use of 2022 data to adjust its earlier projections largely evaporating in the numbers beyond 2030, **New Jersey Future therefore recommends that the State Planning Commission adopt the population projections from all three MPOs as-is, without need for any further adjustments.**

**Employment:** For employment, New Jersey Future recommends that the State Planning Commission adopt a set of projections that rely on a baseline year other than 2020 or 2021 for capturing recent trends in growth that can be projected forward. This will mitigate the risk of underestimating future growth that could otherwise result from starting with initial estimates that are unrepresentative of recent growth patterns due to the real but temporary effects of COVID-19 on employment.

All three MPOs have implemented steps to correct for the temporary effects of COVID-19 on employment in 2020 and 2021, so that their projections are based on the underlying trend in jobs that was present up through 2019 and now appears to be resuming as of 2022. However, upon further review, it has been determined that a more accurate estimate of employment projections can be achieved by utilizing a ratio of historical jobs per 100 residents. **New Jersey Future therefore recommends that the State Planning Commission adopt the employment projections that use this ratio.**

The attached Excel file shows county-level population and employment projections, along with recent years of actual data, grouped by MPO service area; DVRPC's county projections are still awaiting internal approval.

All three MPOs are also preparing updated municipal-level projections. SJTPO has completed the process, while DVRPC and NJTPA are still in the process of revising and approving their municipal projections.



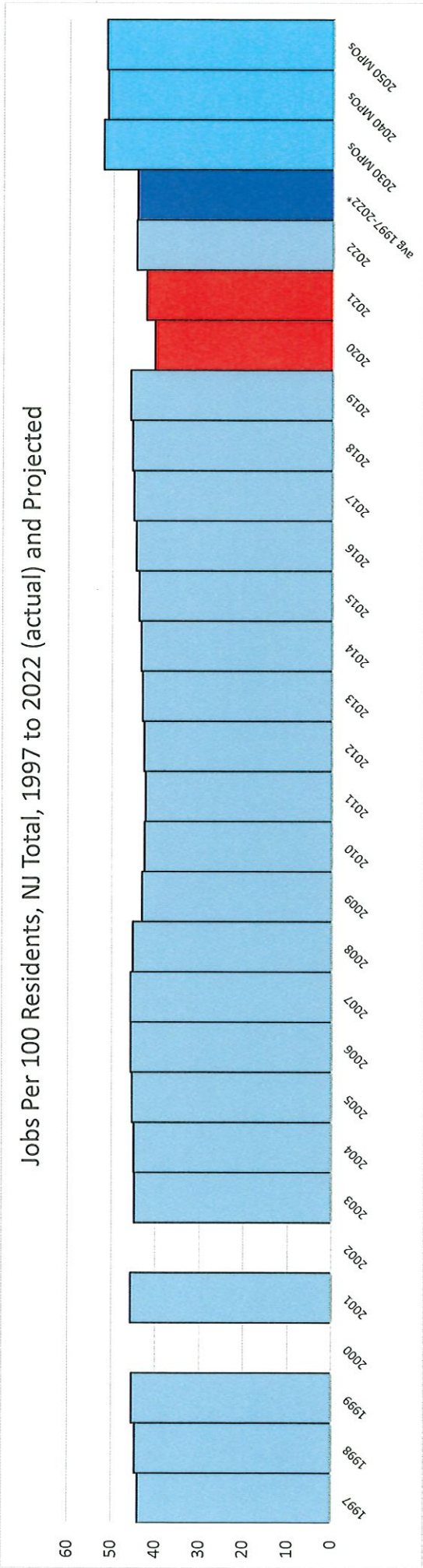
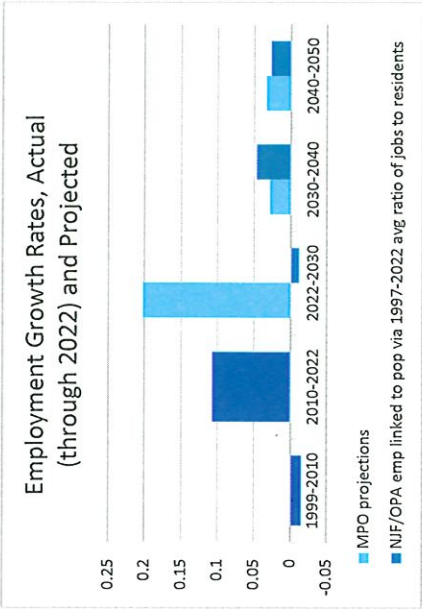
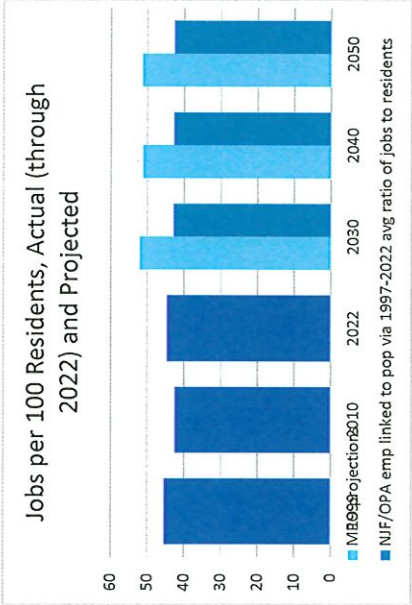
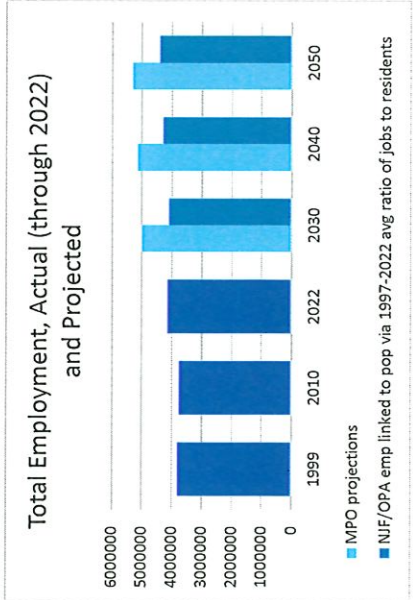
county name	MPO	Actual Employment				Employment Projections								jobs per 100 residents avg. 1997 to 2022	Percent Change from 2022									
		NJDOJ actual employment				MPO projections				using 1997-2022 avg ratio					MPO projections					using 1997-2022 avg ratio				
		1999	2001 (BLS)	2010	2022	2030	2040	2050	2030	2040	2050	2030	2040		2050	2030	2040	2050						
Bergen	NITPA	441,233	453,626	422,297	429,610	529,946	549,546	568,497	471,698	501,927	528,567	45.1	48.0	23.33%	27.92%	32.33%	9.80%	16.83%	23.03%					
Essex	NITPA	333,338	361,569	335,152	333,476	445,317	464,874	483,584	374,223	399,177	416,655	39.2	43.2	12.22%	39.40%	45.01%	12.22%	19.70%	24.94%					
Hudson	NITPA	228,628	237,253	228,023	269,491	341,686	365,625	387,500	276,685	304,590	328,019	38.4	37.5	26.79%	35.67%	43.79%	2.67%	13.02%	21.72%					
Hunterdon	NITPA	43,602	47,048	46,671	44,570	63,889	65,725	67,216	48,462	49,582	50,404	34.3	37.2	43.35%	47.46%	50.81%	8.75%	11.69%	13.09%					
Middlesex	NITPA	372,488	399,332	373,988	431,464	458,613	474,080	490,589	438,763	460,270	472,376	50.1	49.4	6.29%	9.88%	13.70%	1.69%	6.68%	9.48%					
Monmouth	NITPA	225,615	240,757	242,908	263,966	313,464	323,032	333,760	268,878	272,972	277,972	41.0	40.0	18.75%	22.38%	26.44%	-2.09%	1.86%	3.41%					
Morris	NITPA	267,653	277,653	267,383	294,440	370,377	380,001	388,031	254,542	302,341	307,972	57.6	57.2	25.79%	29.06%	31.79%	0.03%	2.68%	4.60%					
Ocean	NITPA	125,522	133,657	145,874	177,029	213,933	222,025	230,402	182,631	195,224	206,128	27.0	26.5	20.85%	25.42%	30.19%	3.16%	10.28%	16.44%					
Passaic	NITPA	171,371	175,108	168,385	166,917	211,024	219,223	227,171	179,154	192,633	200,967	32.5	33.8	26.42%	31.34%	36.10%	7.34%	15.41%	20.40%					
Somerset	NITPA	165,120	176,713	164,695	188,604	211,139	219,068	227,464	193,527	201,313	203,055	54.3	54.6	11.95%	16.15%	20.60%	2.61%	7.66%	7.66%					
Sussex	NITPA	34,119	35,886	37,919	37,253	53,177	54,503	56,323	38,217	39,451	39,641	25.6	26.0	42.74%	46.31%	51.19%	2.59%	5.90%	6.41%					
Union	NITPA	229,321	236,609	218,296	226,293	299,767	311,817	321,614	242,990	259,759	274,508	39.7	41.3	32.47%	37.79%	42.12%	7.38%	14.79%	21.31%					
Warren	NITPA	33,275	35,301	34,996	31,643	41,031	42,980	44,253	36,079	37,075	37,315	28.5	32.1	29.67%	35.83%	39.85%	14.02%	17.17%	17.93%					
NITPA total	NITPA	2,676,171	2,810,512	2,686,587	2,894,756	3,553,363	3,692,499	3,826,403	3,035,435	3,212,420	3,338,578	41.4	42.3	22.75%	27.56%	32.18%	4.86%	10.97%	15.33%					
Burlington	DVRPC	174,879	187,398	191,090	203,392	297,093	293,384	304,810	211,031	212,589	209,207	43.6	44.0	46.07%	44.25%	49.86%	3.76%	4.52%	2.86%					
Camden	DVRPC	197,343	199,869	193,032	202,161	289,958	289,606	299,050	208,399	209,212	205,718	38.5	39.1	43.43%	43.26%	47.93%	3.09%	3.49%	1.76%					
Gloucester	DVRPC	83,662	89,603	96,932	120,805	169,419	167,858	173,114	110,664	114,112	115,661	39.4	35.5	40.24%	38.95%	43.30%	-8.39%	-5.54%	-4.26%					
Mercer	DVRPC	159,751	215,524	224,945	260,830	303,685	305,709	309,670	259,601	266,055	268,959	68.5												



## Historical Employment Projections Methodology Comparison

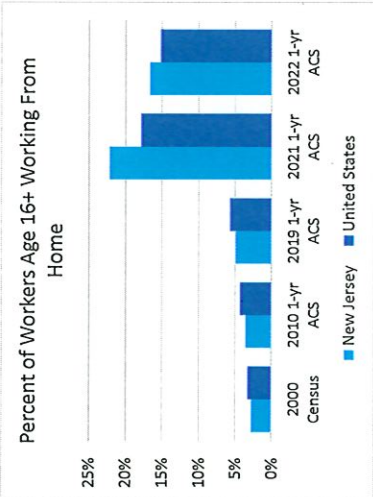
		Historical Data - 1999-2022, based on NJ Department of Labor							differences from 2019 actual:							
County	MPO	1999 NIDOL	2001	2010	2019	2020	2022	Change 1999- 2019	Percent Change	2001 SDRP Employment Projections	NJ/OPA pop- linked emp projection for 2020	2001 SDRP for 2020	Percent Difference 2001 SDRP	Pop-linked emp	Percent Difference Population Based	jobs per 100 residents - avg, 1997 to 2001
Bergen	NJTPA	441,233	453,626	422,297	444,111	397,711	429,610	2,878	0.65%	540,996	445,167	96,885	21.8%	1056	0.2%	50.6%
Essex	NJTPA	338,338	361,569	335,152	345,294	310,318	333,476	6,956	2.06%	402,638	350,809	57,344	16.6%	5515	1.6%	44.2%
Hudson	NJTPA	228,628	237,253	228,023	269,575	247,720	269,491	40,947	17.91%	276,663	238,014	7,088	2.6%	-31561	-11.7%	38.2%
Hunterdon	NJTPA	43,602	47,048	46,671	48,067	43,321	44,570	4,465	10.24%	76,687	66,736	28,620	59.5%	18669	38.8%	37.0%
Middlesex	NJTPA	372,488	399,332	373,988	429,679	398,508	431,464	57,191	15.35%	470,007	431,965	40,328	9.4%	2886	0.5%	51.3%
Monmouth	NJTPA	225,615	240,757	242,908	264,831	240,894	263,966	39,216	17.38%	289,292	261,008	24,461	9.2%	-3823	-1.4%	37.9%
Morris	NJTPA	267,539	277,653	267,383	294,048	271,188	294,440	26,509	9.91%	394,554	283,799	100,506	34.2%	-10249	-3.5%	57.9%
Ocean	NJTPA	125,522	133,657	145,874	171,985	157,811	177,029	46,463	37.02%	199,659	165,932	27,674	16.1%	-6053	-3.5%	25.2%
Passaic	NJTPA	171,371	175,108	168,385	165,697	150,017	166,917	-5674	-3.31%	213,513	176,038	47,816	28.9%	10341	6.2%	35.3%
Somerset	NJTPA	165,120	176,713	164,695	189,753	175,324	188,604	24633	14.92%	244,901	214,979	55,148	29.1%	25226	13.3%	57.4%
Sussex	NJTPA	34,119	35,886	37,919	37,958	34,655	37,253	3839	11.25%	63,131	43,564	25,173	66.3%	5606	14.8%	24.2%
Union	NJTPA	229,321	236,609	218,296	228,240	210,719	226,293	-1081	-0.47%	257,109	233,629	28,869	12.6%	5389	2.4%	44.5%
Warren	NJTPA	33,275	35,301	34,996	32,768	29,694	31,643	-507	-1.52%	49,432	43,698	16,664	50.9%	10930	33.4%	33.2%
NJTPA total	NJTPA	2,676,171	2,810,512	2,686,587	2,922,006	2,667,880	2,894,756	245,835	9.19%	3,478,582	2,955,338	556,576	19.0%	33332	1.1%	43.4%
Burlington	DVRPC	174,879	187,398	191,090	201,381	189,132	203,392	26,502	15.15%	289,619	215,884	88,238	43.8%	14503	7.2%	42.6%
Camden	DVRPC	197,343	199,869	193,032	205,083	186,621	202,161	7,740	3.92%	235,228	217,406	30,145	14.7%	12323	6.0%	39.1%
Gloucester	DVRPC	83,662	89,603	96,932	114,003	107,120	120,805	30,341	36.27%	135,532	108,179	21,529	18.9%	-5824	-5.1%	33.9%
Mercer	DVRPC	159,751	215,524	224,945	259,842	246,722	260,830	100,091	62.65%	240,717	205,070	-19125	-7.4%	-54772	-21%	53.4%
DVRPC total	DVRPC	615,635	692,394	705,999	780,309	729,595	787,188	164,674	26.75%	901,096	746,540	120,787	15.5%	-33769	-4.3%	42.5%
Atlantic	SITPO	136,847	141,240	133,642	128,996	108,233	123,339	-7851	-5.74%	204,145	174,444	75,149	58.3%	45448	35.2%	54.9%
Cape May	SITPO	36,590	39,873	40,247	42,075	37,174	41,946	5485	14.99%	47,526	46,611	5,451	13.0%	4536	10.8%	37.5%
Cumberland	SITPO	53,163	57,915	58,777	59,214	55,790	59,799	6051	11.38%	73,527	65,729	14,313	24.2%	6515	11.0%	37.9%
Salem	SITPO	21,442	21,412	21,371	20,580	19,563	21,086	-862	-4.02%	28,332	24,731	7,752	37.7%	4151	20.2%	33.3%
SITPO total	SITPO	248,042	260,440	254,037	250,865	220,760	246,170	2823	1.14%	353,530	311,515	102,665	40.9%	60650	24.2%	44.9%
Undistributed		250,535	112,848	88,000	129,746	134,599	206,900	-120789	-48.21%							
NJ Total		3,790,383	3,876,194	3,734,623	4,082,926	3,752,834	4,135,014	292,543	7.72%	4,733,208	4,013,393	650,282	15.9%	-69533	-1.7%	
FINDINGS:																
The 2001 SDRP population projections for 2020 from the 2001 SDRP came pretty close to the actual 2020 Census population, missing by only about 33,000 people, or 0.4%																
At the county level, the 2001 SDRP substantially overestimated growth in the SITPO region and in Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex counties, and underestimated somewhat less notably in the urban core of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union counties.																
For employment, however, the 2001 SDRP's 2020 projection at the state level overestimated the actual 2019 number (a better comparison than actual 2020 because of the effects of COVID-19) by 15.9%, or about 650,000 jobs.																
In contrast, using NJ/OPA's suggested method, linking projected employment growth to population growth, ends up overestimating 2019 employment by only about 101,000 jobs, or 2.5% -- less than one-sixth the amount by which the 2001 SDRP overshoot.																
Using the proposed method of using county-level jobs-to-residents factors to create employment projections at the county level and then summing them to a state total, the proposed NJ/OPA method would have slightly underestimated the 2019 total by only 1.7%, or about 70,000 jobs																





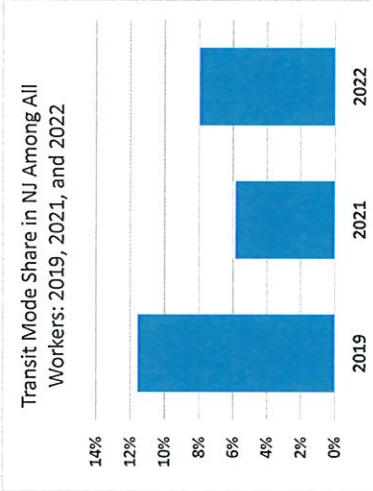
	2000 Census	2010 1-yr ACS	2019 1-yr ACS	2021 1-yr ACS	2022 1-yr ACS
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New Jersey	2.7%	3.6%	4.9%	22.1%	16.7%
United States	3.3%	4.3%	5.7%	17.9%	15.2%



transit ridership among all workers (NJ):

	2019	2021	2022
New Jersey	11.6%	5.9%	8.0%



just commuters (not working from home):

	2019	2021	2022	2019-2021	2021-2022
New Jersey	12.2%	7.5%	9.6%	-4.6%	2.0%
United States	5.3%	3.0%	3.7%	-2.3%	0.7%
New York	29.1%	21.5%	25.1%	-7.6%	3.6%

