

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
Labor & Workforce Development
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jobs Reach Historic Peak in New Jersey
Private Sector Employment is Higher Than Ever Before

TRENTON, December 21, 2017 – Private sector employment in New Jersey reached an historic high in November and is now 86,400 jobs higher than the peak employment point before the last recession, with 334,400 more jobs reported now than in February 2010, the low point during the recession, according to data released by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Preliminary estimates from the BLS show employers in the Garden State reporting 4,136,700 jobs, the highest level in New Jersey history. The data for November also show total nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 6,400, with the majority of the gains recorded in the private sector (+6,300) of the state's economy (+100 in the public sector).

Longer term data show New Jersey's private sector employers have added 45,400 jobs over the past year (November 2016 – November 2017). In the first 11 months of 2017, private sector employment was up by 35,900 jobs.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released October estimates were revised higher, up by 4,600, for an over-the-month (September-October) gain of 7,000 private sector jobs. Total nonfarm jobs for October actually increased by 6,300. Preliminary estimates had initially showed an over-the-month increase of 1,700 total nonfarm jobs, with only a 2,600 rise in the private sector.

The November preliminary estimates also showed New Jersey's labor participation rate continued to best the national rate, 63.3 percent vs. 62.7 percent. The unemployment rate, however, also ticked up by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1 percent in November from 4.9 percent in October, according to preliminary estimates from BLS.

In November, job gains were posted in five of nine major private industry sectors. Sectors that increased were education and health services (+3,300), financial activities (+2,100), leisure and hospitality (+1,600), construction (+900), and information (+200). Sectors that recorded a loss

included trade, transportation and utilities (-1,400), manufacturing (-300), and professional and business services (-200).

[PRESS TABLES](#)

Technical Notes: Estimates of industry employment and unemployment levels are arrived at through the use of two different monthly surveys.

Industry employment data are derived through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 5,000 business establishments conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the “establishment” survey).

Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the New Jersey portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the “household” survey).

Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by BLS. In addition, these estimates are benchmarked (revised) annually based on actual counts from New Jersey’s Unemployment Compensation Law administrative records and more complete data from all New Jersey employers.