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## **- News Release -**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Jersey Unemployment Rate Dips to 5.9 Percent; Lowest Level in Seven Years**

**TRENTON, August 20, 2015** – New Jersey’s unemployment rate fell for the second consecutive month down 0.2 percentage points in July to 5.9 percent – the state’s lowest unemployment level since September 2008 and down from a high of 9.8% in January 2010 when the Christie Administration entered office, according to preliminary data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The long-term BLS data for New Jersey remains positive, with the BLS employer survey showing 19,900 jobs added over the past year (July 2014 – July 2015) and private sector employment growing by 174,900 jobs since February 2010, the recessionary low point for private sector employment. The preliminary report for July was mixed with the BLS employer survey showing private and public sector employment contracted over the month, (private -12,300; public -1,300), while the BLS resident household survey showed 45,900 more New Jersey residents reporting to be employed than a year ago.

The July data showed a seasonally adjusted total nonfarm wage and salary employment level in New Jersey at 3,986,000. The Garden State’s labor force participation rate, which measures the number of people employed or actively seeking work, continued to best the national rate, 63.9 percent to 62.6 percent.

The BLS preliminary estimates for July show gains in trade, transportation and utilities (+4,300) and education and health services (+300). Industries registering contractions include leisure and hospitality (-7,400), professional and business services (-5,200) and financial activities (-2,700). Smaller contractions were in information (-1,200), other services (-200) and construction (-100). Manufacturing remained unchanged.

Based on additional reporting from employers, estimates for June were revised to an over-the-month total nonfarm level of -12,500.

### 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.

The benchmark data, which presents a more complete picture of the New Jersey economy for the entire calendar year of 2015, will be released in March 2016.