



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Robert Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner
mediacalls@dol.nj.gov | 609.984.2841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2021

New Jersey Employment Increases in March *Unemployment Rate Edges Lower*

TRENTON – New Jersey employers added to their payrolls in March while the unemployment rate dipped lower. Preliminary estimates produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that total nonfarm wage and salary employment in New Jersey increased in March by 20,800 to reach a seasonally adjusted level of 3,897,300. The gains were concentrated in the private sector (+20,000) of the state’s economy. New Jersey has now recovered 384,900 jobs, or about 54 percent of the number lost in March and April 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and measures taken in response to it. The state’s unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point in March to 7.7 percent. See the technical notes at the end of this release for further information about the impact of the coronavirus on this month’s employment estimates.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released total nonfarm employment estimates for February were revised slightly higher by 100 to show an over-the-month (February – March) increase of 10,800 jobs. Preliminary estimates had indicated an over-the-month gain of 10,700 jobs. The state’s February unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.8 percent.

In March, employment increases were recorded in eight out of nine major private sectors. Sectors that recorded employment increases include leisure and hospitality (+5,700), education and health services (+4,200), construction (+3,800), trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,300), manufacturing (+2,100), information (+800), financial activities (+400), and professional and business services (+200). The only private sector to record a loss for March was other services (-500). Over the month, public sector employment increased by 800 jobs.

Preliminary BLS data for April 2021 will be released on May 20, 2021.

Technical Notes: For further information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on industry employment and unemployment estimates please visit: <http://https://www.bls.gov/covid19/employment-situation-covid19-faq-march-2021.htm>

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 4,000 New Jersey 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 the 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.

Effective with the release of January 2018 estimates, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program has converted to concurrent seasonal adjustment, which uses all available estimates, including those for the current month, in developing seasonal factors. Previously, the CES program developed seasonal factors once a year during the annual benchmark process. For more information on concurrent seasonal adjustment in the CES State and Area program, see www.bls.gov/sae/saeconcurrent.htm.

Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey
Seasonally Adjusted
2020 Benchmark

Labor Force Data (resident)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Mar. 21 (P)	Feb. 21 (R)	Mar. 20	over the Month	over the Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,422,200	4,400,700	4,576,200	21,500	-154,000
Employment	4,083,600	4,058,900	4,404,200	24,600	-320,600
Unemployment	338,600	341,800	172,100	-3,200	166,500
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.8	3.8	-0.1	3.9
Employment Data (establishment)					
	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change	Net Change
	Mar. 21 (P)	Feb. 21 (R)	Mar. 20	over the Month	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,897,300	3,876,500	4,197,200	20,800	-299,900
Total Private Sector	3,331,000	3,311,000	3,592,300	20,000	-261,300
Goods Producing	392,600	386,700	414,600	5,900	-22,000
Mining and Logging	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Construction	148,900	145,100	163,400	3,800	-14,500
Manufacturing	242,300	240,200	249,800	2,100	-7,500
Service-Providing	3,504,700	3,489,800	3,782,600	14,900	-277,900
Private Service-Providing	2,938,400	2,924,300	3,177,700	14,100	-239,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	846,600	843,300	889,700	3,300	-43,100
Information	66,300	65,500	70,500	800	-4,200
Financial Activities	249,700	249,300	251,600	400	-1,900
Professional and Business Services	653,500	653,300	687,000	200	-33,500
Education and Health Services	673,800	669,600	723,800	4,200	-50,000
Leisure and Hospitality	304,800	299,100	386,200	5,700	-81,400
Other Services	143,700	144,200	168,900	-500	-25,200
Public Sector	566,300	565,500	604,900	800	-38,600
3-Month Average Change					
Total Nonfarm	10,800	1,800	-3,100	N/A	N/A
Private Sector	11,400	3,000	-2,800	N/A	N/A
Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	41.9	41.7	41.5	0.2	0.4
Durable Goods	40.4	40.0	42.5	0.4	-2.1
Nondurable Goods	43.0	43.1	40.7	-0.1	2.3
Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*					
Manufacturing	\$24.24	\$23.91	\$23.71	\$0.33	\$0.53
Durable Goods	\$26.22	\$26.49	\$25.97	-\$0.27	\$0.25
Nondurable Goods	\$22.77	\$22.02	\$21.80	\$0.75	\$0.97
Weekly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)**					
Manufacturing	\$1,015.66	\$997.05	\$983.97	\$18.61	\$31.69
Durable Goods	\$1,059.29	\$1,059.60	\$1,103.73	-\$0.31	-\$44.44
Nondurable Goods	\$979.11	\$949.06	\$887.26	\$30.05	\$91.85

April 15, 2021. P - preliminary, R-revised.

* Production workers.

** Weekly earnings are computed from not seasonally adjusted hourly earnings and hours of work data.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

Table 2: New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Trends						
2020 Benchmark						
	Not Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Mar. 21 (P)	Feb. 21 (R)	Mar. 20	Mar. 21 (P)	Feb. 21 (R)	Mar. 20
Civilian Labor Force	4,436,700	4,403,200	4,560,300	4,422,200	4,400,700	4,576,200
Resident Employment	4,092,700	4,040,100	4,370,400	4,083,600	4,058,900	4,404,200
Unemployment	344,000	363,100	189,900	338,600	341,800	172,100
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	8.2	4.2	7.7	7.8	3.8
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	62.8	62.3	64.4	62.5	62.2	64.6
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	57.9	57.1	61.7	57.8	57.4	62.2
New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 2000 - 2020						
Year	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate (%)	
2000	4,287,600		4,130,800	156,800	3.7	
2001	4,294,400		4,112,100	182,300	4.2	
2002	4,345,300		4,094,400	250,900	5.8	
2003	4,344,400		4,091,500	252,900	5.8	
2004	4,348,000		4,134,100	214,000	4.9	
2005	4,387,300		4,192,400	194,900	4.4	
2006	4,436,600		4,231,800	204,800	4.6	
2007	4,436,100		4,249,000	187,100	4.2	
2008	4,495,900		4,251,500	244,500	5.4	
2009	4,540,300		4,133,400	406,900	9.0	
2010	4,559,800		4,119,000	440,800	9.7	
2011	4,561,800		4,134,700	427,100	9.4	
2012	4,576,300		4,147,200	429,100	9.4	
2013	4,528,000		4,147,700	380,400	8.4	
2014	4,493,900		4,191,300	302,600	6.7	
2015	4,494,600		4,237,900	256,700	5.7	
2016	4,492,800		4,271,200	221,600	4.9	
2017	4,476,100		4,274,100	202,000	4.5	
2018	4,455,400		4,278,300	177,200	4.0	
2019	4,522,200		4,367,300	154,900	3.4	
2020	4,495,200		4,055,300	439,900	9.8	
Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 2020-2021						
Date	Labor Force		Employment	Unemployment	Rate %	
Jan 2020	4,580,800		4,413,400	167,400	3.7	
Feb	4,578,800		4,408,600	170,200	3.7	
Mar	4,576,200		4,404,200	172,100	3.8	
Apr	4,477,700		3,735,400	742,300	16.6	
May	4,479,700		3,741,600	738,200	16.5	
Jun	4,484,500		3,754,700	729,800	16.3	
Jul	4,604,600		4,001,100	603,500	13.1	
Aug	4,519,500		4,020,500	499,000	11.0	
Sep	4,376,600		4,035,400	341,300	7.8	
Oct	4,378,800		4,043,300	335,400	7.7	
Nov	4,500,400		4,042,000	458,400	10.2	
Dec	4,377,300		4,039,600	337,700	7.7	
Jan 2021	4,403,600		4,059,900	343,700	7.8	
Feb (R)	4,400,700		4,058,900	341,800	7.8	
Mar (P)	4,422,200		4,083,600	338,600	7.7	
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

April 15, 2021. P - preliminary, R-revised.

**Table 3: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment by Industry for March 2021
Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2020 Benchmark**

Industry	Current Month	Previous Month	One Year Ago	Net Change
	Mar. 21 (P)	Feb. 21 (R)	Mar. 20	over the Year
Total Nonfarm	3,846,800	3,806,500	4,145,000	-298,200
Total Private Sector	3,269,400	3,232,600	3,530,300	-260,900
Goods Producing	383,400	373,200	406,300	-22,900
Mining & Logging	1,400	1,300	1,400	0
Construction	140,800	133,400	155,600	-14,800
Manufacturing	241,200	238,500	249,300	-8,100
Durable Goods*	107,500	106,200	115,000	-7,500
Fabricated Metal Products	20,100	20,200	22,400	-2,300
Machinery Manufacturing	13,100	13,100	13,400	-300
Computer and Electronic Products	23,500	23,500	24,400	-900
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	15,600	15,500	17,200	-1,600
Nondurable Goods*	133,700	132,300	134,300	-600
Food Manufacturing	35,900	35,600	37,500	-1,600
Printing and Related Support	11,600	11,400	13,100	-1,500
Chemical Manufacturing	46,900	46,600	45,100	1,800
Pharmaceutical and Medicine	26,600	26,400	25,200	1,400
Service-Providing	3,463,400	3,433,300	3,738,700	-275,300
Private Service-Providing	2,886,000	2,859,400	3,124,000	-238,000
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	834,200	831,400	874,300	-40,100
Wholesale Trade*	196,600	195,400	214,200	-17,600
Retail Trade*	420,400	416,000	437,700	-17,300
Building Material & Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	35,400	32,800	32,900	2,500
Food and Beverage Stores	112,400	112,300	111,000	1,400
Health and Personal Care Stores	37,700	37,300	37,700	0
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	36,900	36,200	43,600	-6,700
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Inst., and Book Stores	10,000	10,000	12,300	-2,300
General Merchandise Stores	65,300	65,500	68,400	-3,100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	217,200	220,000	222,400	-5,200
Utilities*	14,000	14,000	13,900	100
Transportation & Warehousing*	203,200	206,000	208,500	-5,300
Information	66,000	65,100	70,300	-4,300
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	16,800	16,800	17,400	-600
Telecommunications	23,100	23,100	24,800	-1,700
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	10,800	10,600	11,100	-300
Financial Activities	248,000	247,900	249,700	-1,700
Finance and Insurance*	193,400	193,400	189,000	4,400
Financial Investments and Related Activities	40,700	40,700	38,500	2,200
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	78,700	78,600	79,400	-700
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*	54,600	54,500	60,700	-6,100
Professional and Business Services	641,000	636,900	673,500	-32,500
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*	303,600	301,600	308,100	-4,500
Management of Companies and Enterprises*	85,300	84,500	87,200	-1,900
Administrative Support & Waste Management/Remediation*	252,100	250,800	278,200	-26,100
Education and Health Services	678,700	670,400	729,300	-50,600
Educational Services*	109,200	107,400	116,500	-7,300
Health Care and Social Assistance*	569,500	563,000	612,800	-43,300
Hospitals	164,200	163,500	166,300	-2,100
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	84,500	84,400	94,200	-9,700
Social Assistance	84,700	83,600	107,400	-22,700
Leisure and Hospitality	277,400	266,300	360,400	-83,000
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation*	41,400	38,300	57,700	-16,300
Accommodation and Food Services*	236,000	228,000	302,700	-66,700
Food Services and Drinking Places	205,900	198,800	254,200	-48,300
Other Services	140,700	141,400	166,500	-25,800
Repair and Maintenance	31,400	31,700	34,200	-2,800
Personal and Laundry Services	52,000	52,100	62,500	-10,500
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Org.	57,300	57,600	69,800	-12,500
Government	577,400	573,900	614,700	-37,300

April 15, 2021 P - preliminary, R-revised. Shaded rows denote supersector series, * denote sector series.

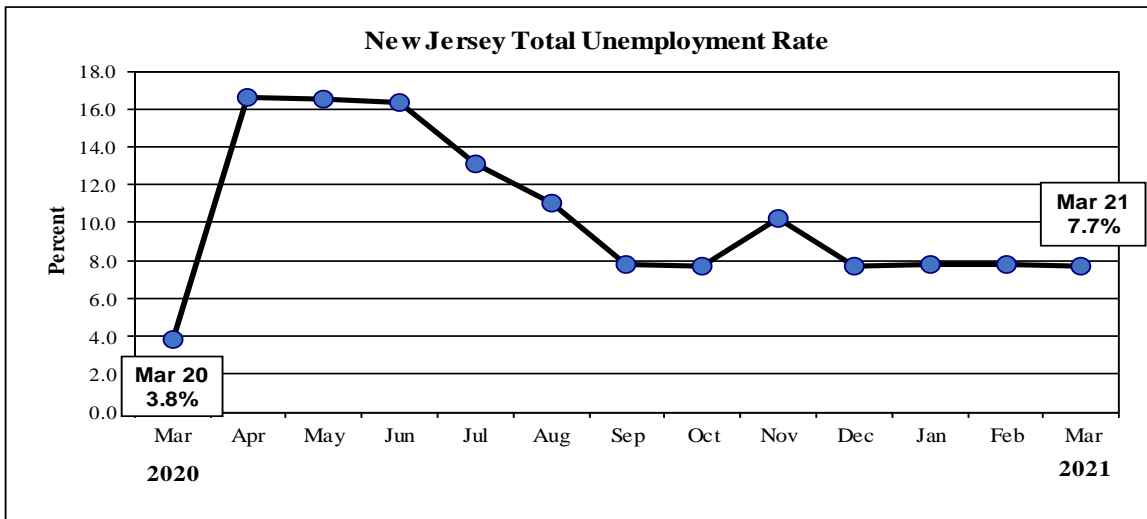
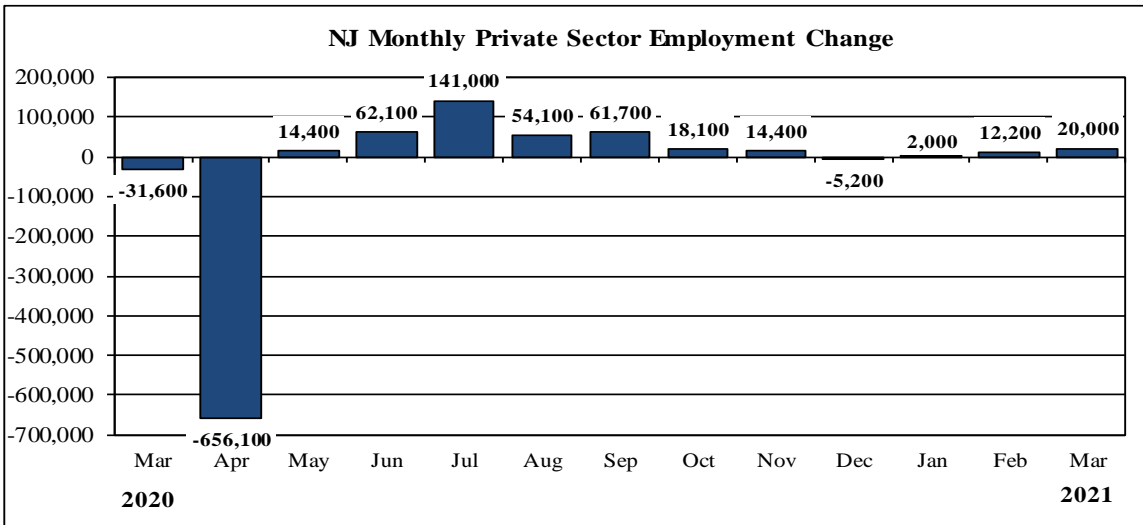
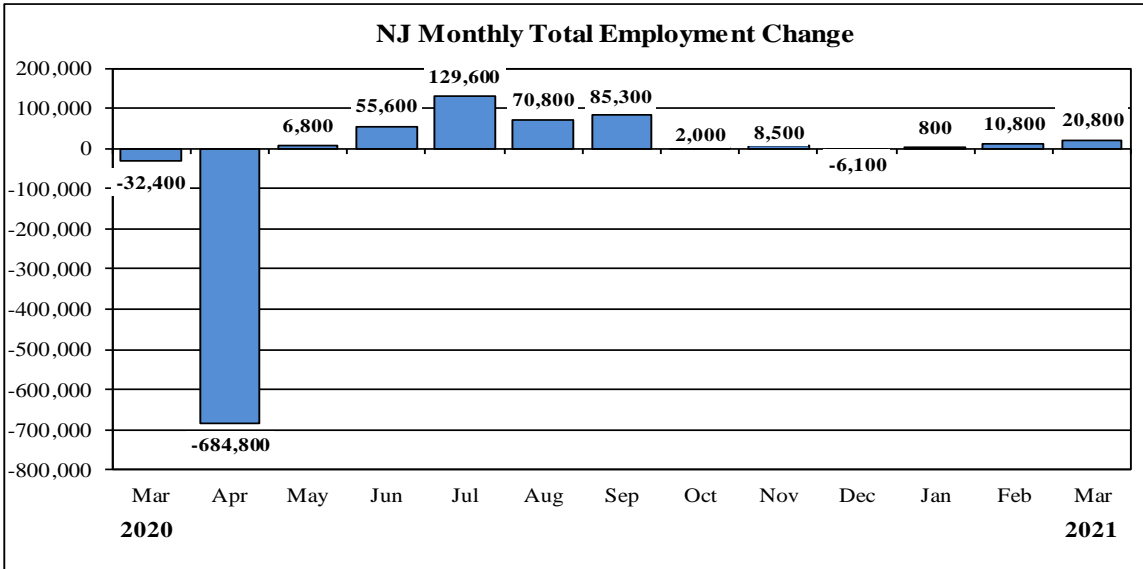
Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment, 2020 Benchmark						
Annual Averages						
	Total	Private Sector			Public	
Year		Total	Manufacturing	Construction	Service-Providing	
2000	3,990,400	3,405,600	420,500	149,600	2,833,600	584,800
2001	3,999,300	3,394,000	400,100	158,800	2,833,300	605,300
2002	3,983,400	3,370,300	366,200	162,600	2,840,000	613,100
2003	3,975,600	3,354,300	349,200	160,500	2,843,100	621,300
2004	3,995,900	3,363,400	337,000	165,900	2,858,900	632,600
2005	4,036,100	3,395,600	329,100	169,100	2,895,700	640,500
2006	4,067,000	3,421,200	322,500	174,900	2,922,000	645,800
2007	4,073,800	3,428,200	309,900	172,300	2,944,300	645,700
2008	4,044,700	3,398,000	297,000	164,500	2,934,900	646,700
2009	3,889,900	3,240,500	262,500	138,600	2,837,900	649,400
2010	3,843,800	3,207,300	253,900	129,500	2,822,600	636,500
2011	3,842,200	3,227,400	248,700	129,900	2,847,500	614,900
2012	3,884,700	3,273,200	242,900	130,400	2,898,700	611,500
2013	3,929,300	3,318,900	240,800	137,600	2,939,300	610,400
2014	3,961,400	3,349,900	240,900	141,600	2,966,100	611,500
2015	4,005,300	3,399,700	240,900	148,400	3,009,100	605,600
2016	4,065,700	3,461,500	244,400	153,500	3,062,300	604,200
2017	4,121,800	3,517,000	246,900	156,100	3,112,600	604,900
2018	4,159,200	3,555,800	249,800	158,000	3,146,700	603,500
2019	4,197,400	3,591,600	251,200	160,700	3,178,300	605,800
2020	3,846,600	3,268,000	237,600	151,000	2,878,100	578,600
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data						
2020						
Jan	4,227,100	3,621,500	251,000	162,900	3,206,100	605,600
Feb	4,229,600	3,623,900	251,300	163,500	3,207,600	605,700
Mar	4,197,200	3,592,300	249,800	163,400	3,177,700	604,900
Apr	3,512,400	2,936,200	220,400	131,700	2,582,800	576,200
May	3,519,200	2,950,600	226,500	140,000	2,582,700	568,600
Jun	3,574,800	3,012,700	231,700	146,800	2,632,800	562,100
Jul	3,704,400	3,153,700	233,900	149,000	2,769,400	550,700
Aug	3,775,200	3,207,800	235,900	150,800	2,819,700	567,400
Sep	3,860,500	3,269,500	237,000	152,500	2,878,600	591,000
Oct	3,862,500	3,287,600	237,700	151,600	2,896,900	574,900
Nov	3,871,000	3,302,000	238,500	150,700	2,911,400	569,000
Dec	3,864,900	3,296,800	238,800	151,500	2,905,100	568,100
2021						
Jan	3,865,700	3,298,800	239,000	149,500	2,908,900	566,900
Feb	3,876,500	3,311,000	240,200	145,100	2,924,300	565,500
Mar	3,897,300	3,331,000	242,300	148,900	2,938,400	566,300
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						
Nov						
Dec						

April 15, 2021 P - preliminary, R-revised.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.

Key Economic Indicators: March 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)



April 15, 2021

Source: New Jersey Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.