

# Northern Regional Community Fact Book

## Hunterdon County Edition

New Jersey Department of Labor  
and Workforce Development

Division of Labor Market and  
Demographic Research

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF

**LWD**

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## Preface

The Regional Community Fact Book for Hunterdon County provides a snapshot of its people and its economy. Included are facts and figures on current industry trends, population, unemployment and income. The Fact Book also provides a look into the future and provides the latest population, labor force, industry and occupational projections.

The Regional Community Fact Book series is meant to be a reference for use in local and regional economic development planning and for employment and training providers. Updates to the Fact Book series will be published as more current data becomes available.

## Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared by Jason Timian and Frank Ferdetta of the Bureau of Labor Market Information, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research. Layout was done by JoAnne Caramelo.

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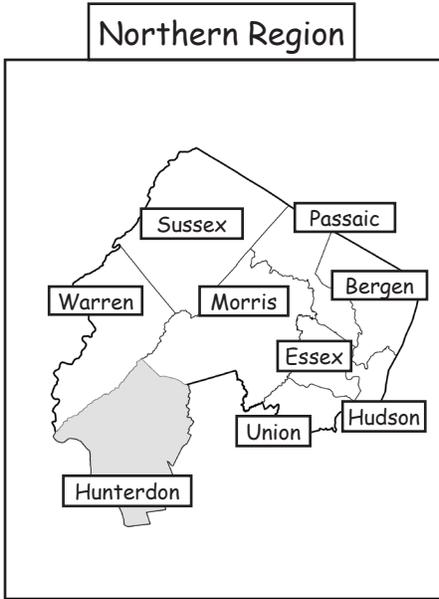
# Table of Contents

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County Snapshot .....	1
Industry Trends, Hunterdon vs. New Jersey.....	2
Employment .....	5
Employment Gains and Losses .....	6
Wages .....	7
Per Capita Personal Income.....	8
Unemployment Rates.....	8
Characteristics of the Unemployed .....	9
Population.....	10
Population Projections .....	11
Industry Projections.....	12
Projected Occupational Demand.....	13
Labor Force Projections .....	14

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# County Snapshot



**Population (2009 estimate): 130,034**  
Change from Census 2000: +8,045 or +6.6%  
Percent of New Jersey Total: 1.5%

**Total Private Sector Employment (2009): 38,546**  
Percent of New Jersey Total: 1.2%  
Change from 2004: -2,059

**Largest Industry (2009): Trade, Transportation and Utilities**  
Employment: 9,101  
Percent of Total County Employment: 23.6%

**Private Sector Wage (2009 annual average): \$56,127**  
Percent of New Jersey Average: 102.9%  
Change From 2004: +\$4,449

**Industry With Highest Average Annual Wage (2009): Professional and Business Services: \$107,239**

**Per Capita Personal Income (2008): \$68,785**  
Percent of New Jersey Per Capita Income: 133.6%

**Number of Unemployment Insurance Claimants (2009 annual average): 2,313**

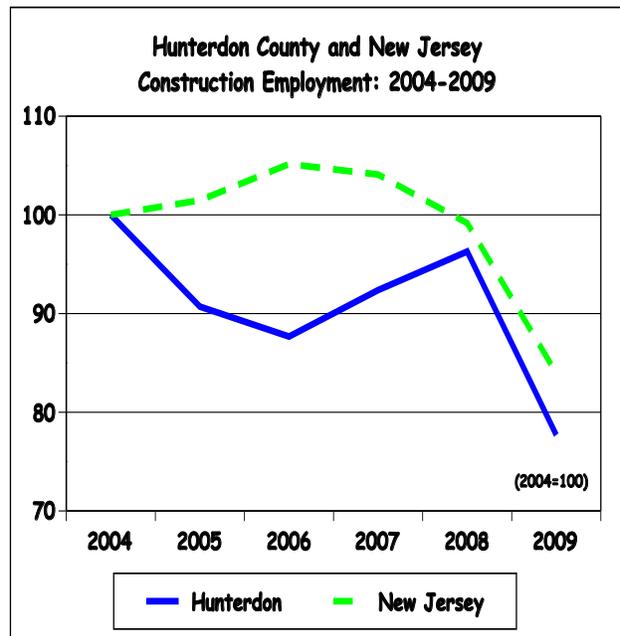
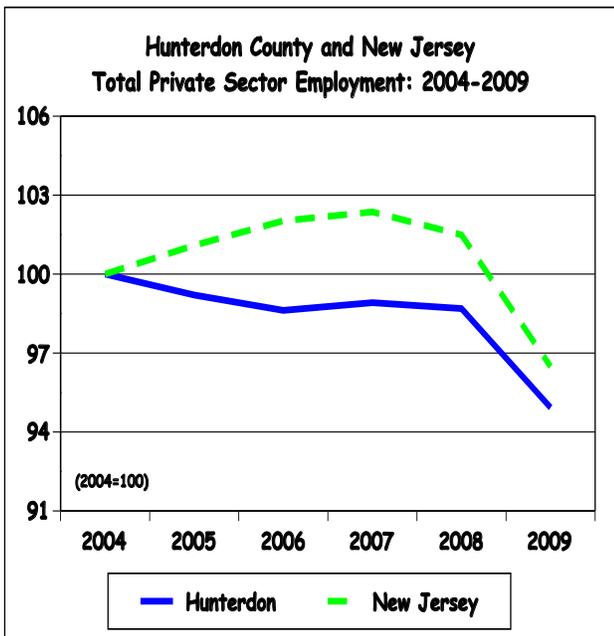
**Unemployment Rate (2009 annual average): 6.8%**  
5-year High (2009): 6.8%  
5-year Low (2007): 2.8%  
New Jersey Rate (2009): 9.2%

**Building Permits (single-family residential, 2009): 189**  
Rank Among New Jersey Counties: 15



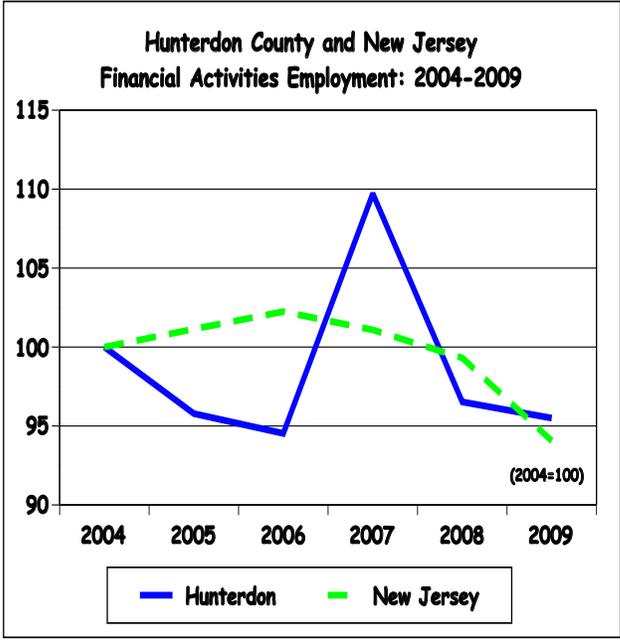
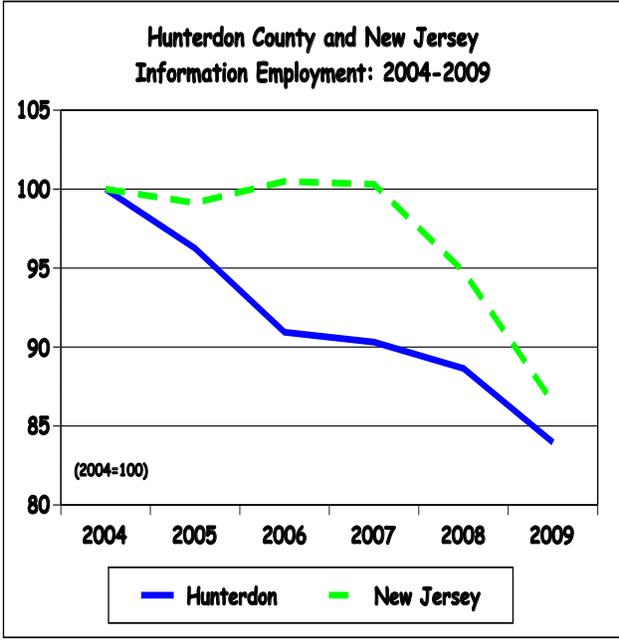
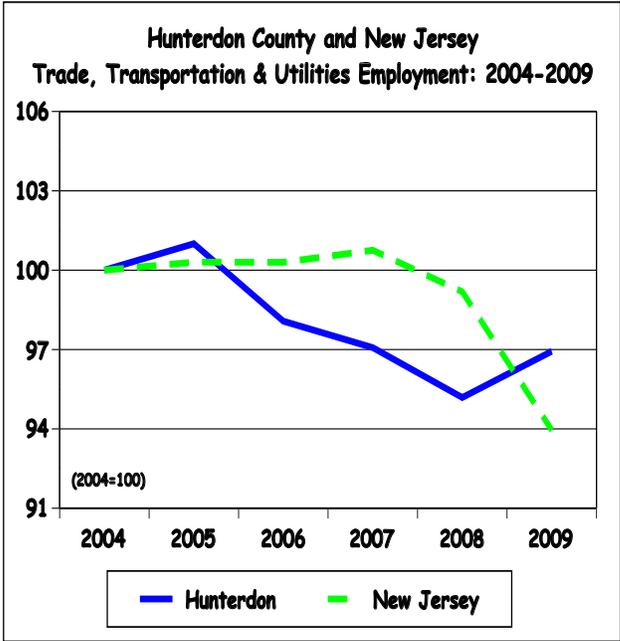
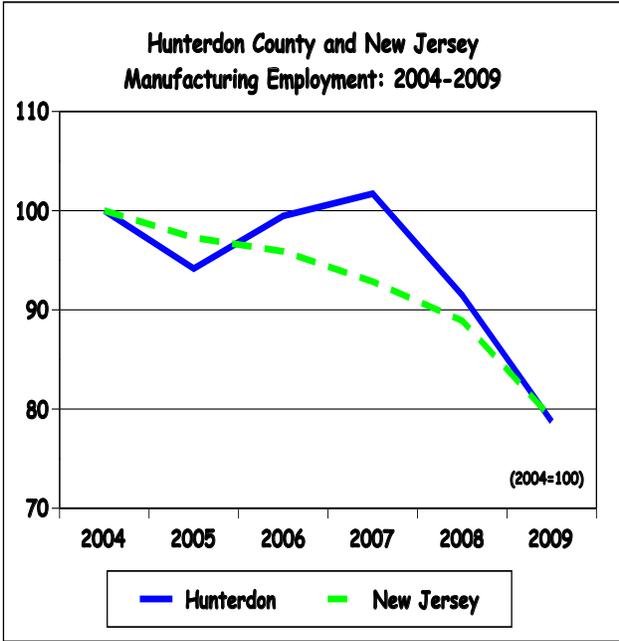
## Industry Trends, Hunterdon vs. New Jersey

- Over the 2004-2009 period, total private sector payrolls in Hunterdon County decreased by 5.1 percent. In comparison, the county lost jobs at a faster rate than the state since 2004 (-3.5%). Over the period Hunterdon's employment levels peaked in 2004 at 40,605.
- The sectors that posted the greatest job gains were leisure and hospitality (+703) and educational and health services (+920). These gains can be linked to an increase in demand to meet the needs of the county's growing population. Hunterdon County has become popular with commuters and young families and is within an hour and half or less drive from major employment centers to the east, including Morris, Essex and Hudson counties in New Jersey and in New York City.
- Over the 2004-2009 period employment in Hunterdon County's manufacturing sector shrank at a faster pace than the state (21.3% vs. 20.9%). The largest single-year decline occurred in 2007 when the manufacturing workforce was reduced by 779 or 22.6 percent of the employment base.
- Over the five-year period employment in the professional and business services sector has declined by 1,844 or 21.6 percent compared to the state which was able to increase its payrolls slightly by 0.6 percent. County jobholding in this sector has been declining at a steady pace since employment peaked in 2006 at 8,377. However, the professional and business services sector remains the second largest provider of jobs in 2009 with a total employment of 6,702, accounting for 17 percent of the county's employment base.

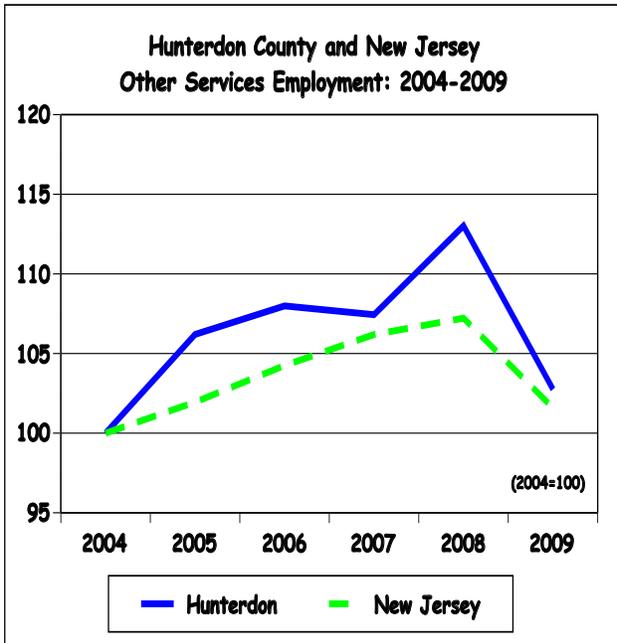
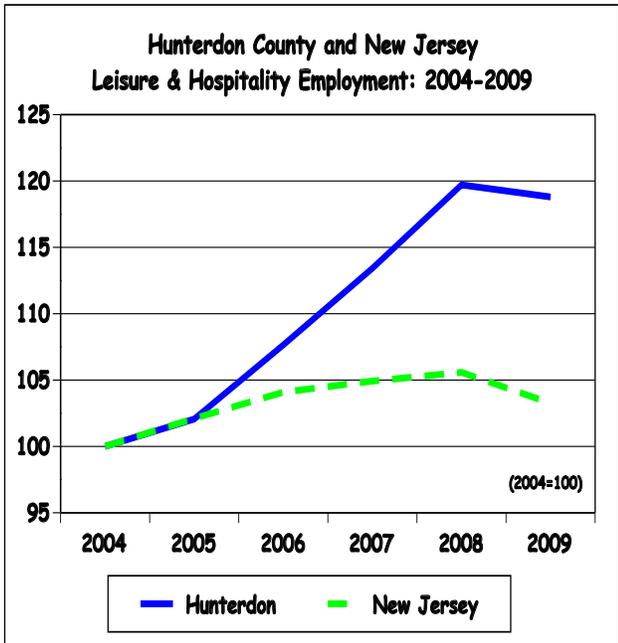
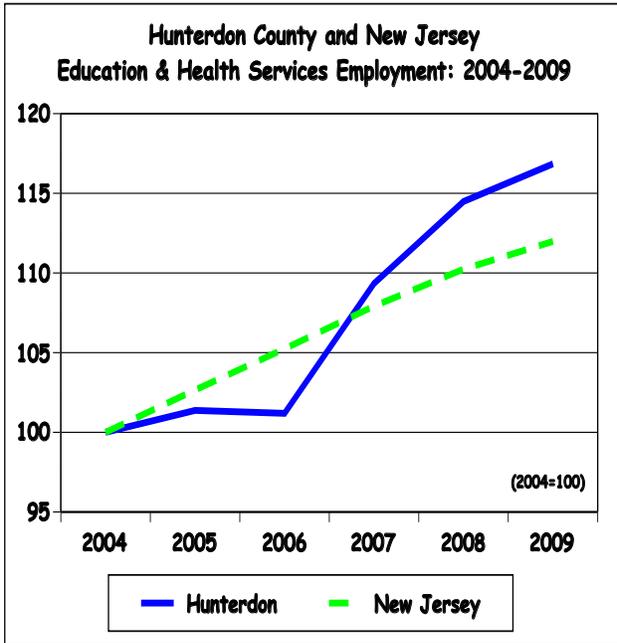
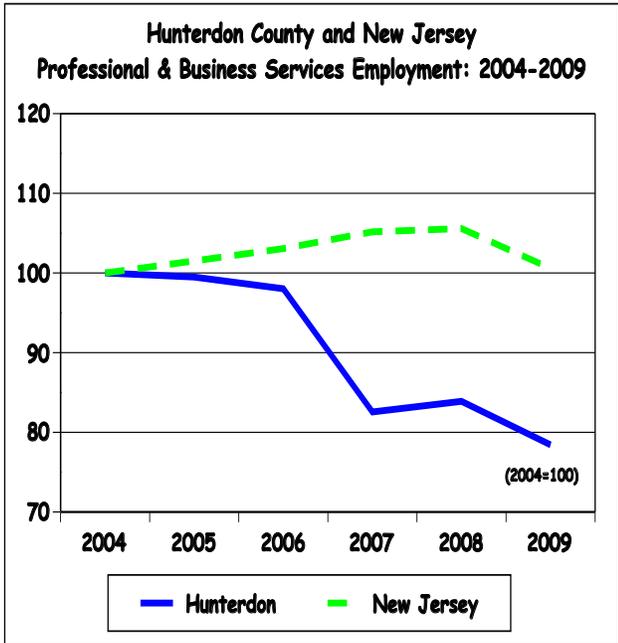


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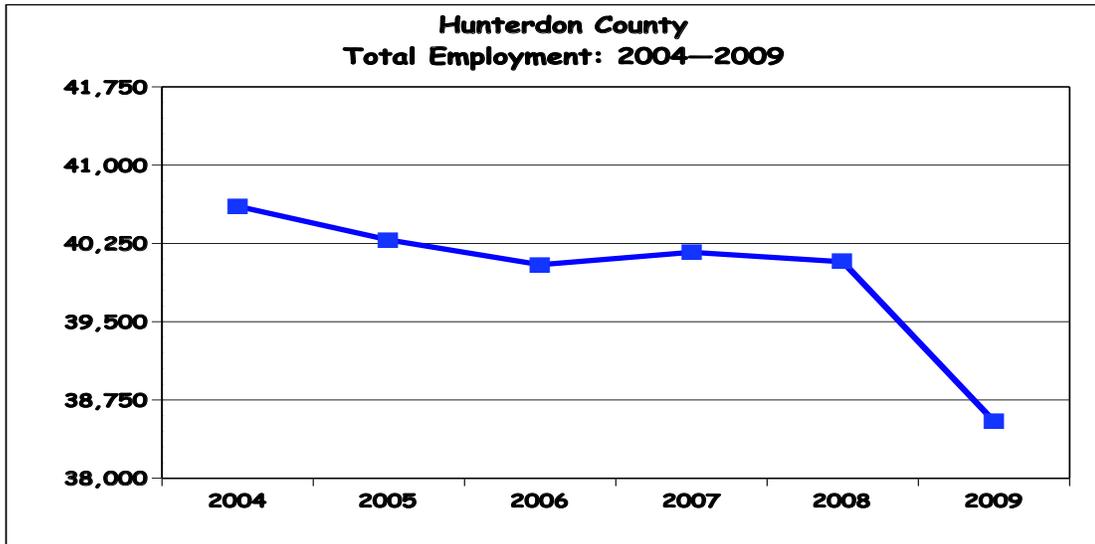
# Industry Trends, Hunterdon vs. New Jersey



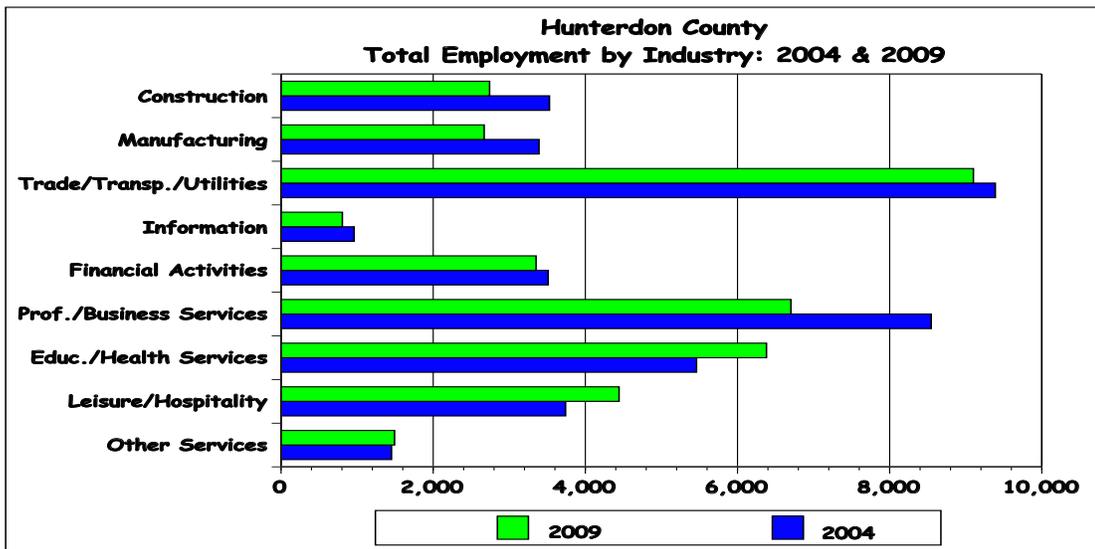
# Industry Trends, Hunterdon vs. New Jersey



# Employment

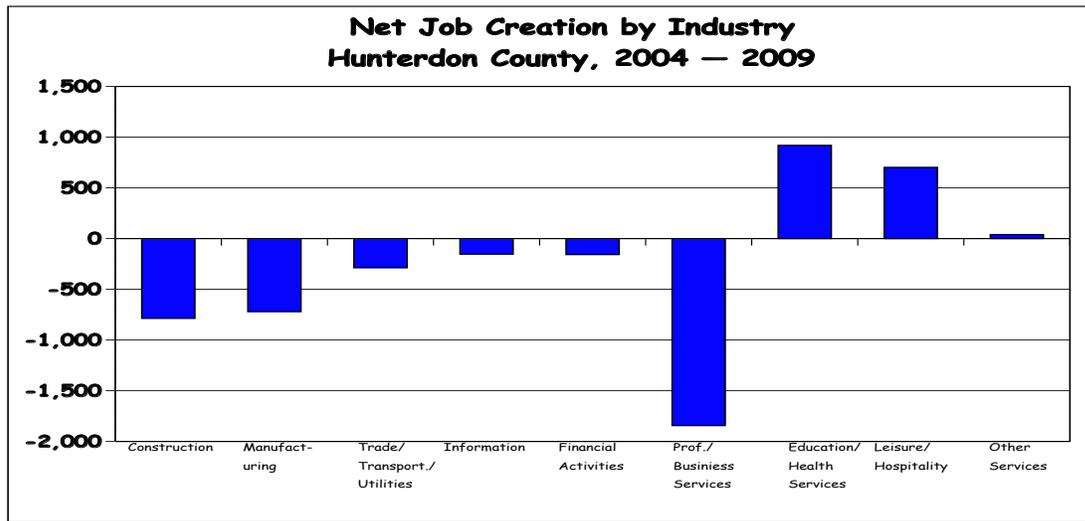


- Total private sector employment in Hunterdon County was down by 2,059 from 2004 to 2009. During the period, the county's payroll level remained relatively stable through 2008 and suffered a recessionary loss of 1,528 in 2009.

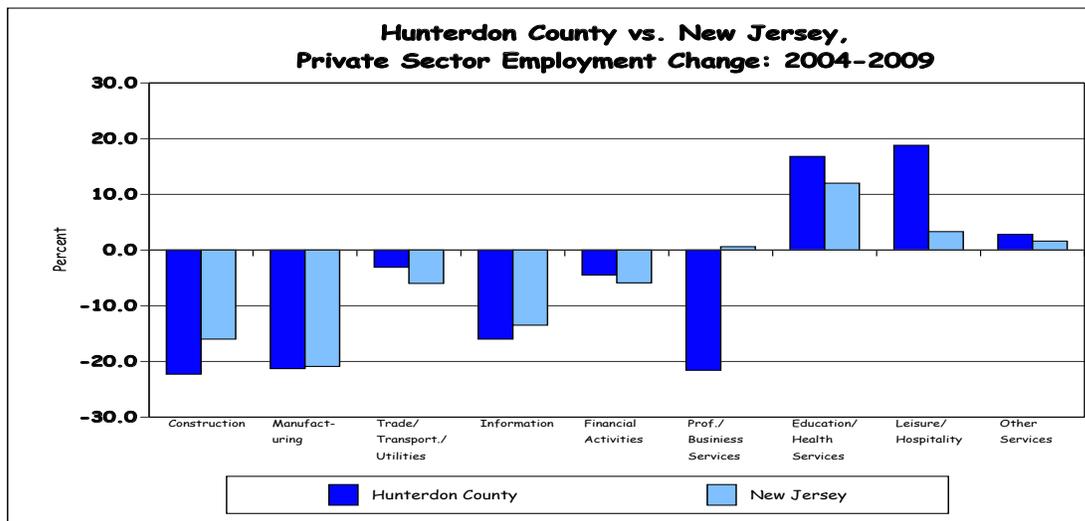


- In 2009, the two largest employment sectors in Hunterdon County were trade, transportation and utilities (9,101 jobs) and professional and business services (6,702). Within trade, transportation and utilities, retail trade accounted for the most jobs (6,502) and professional and technical services was the largest component industry within professional and business services (4,333).

## Employment Gains and Losses

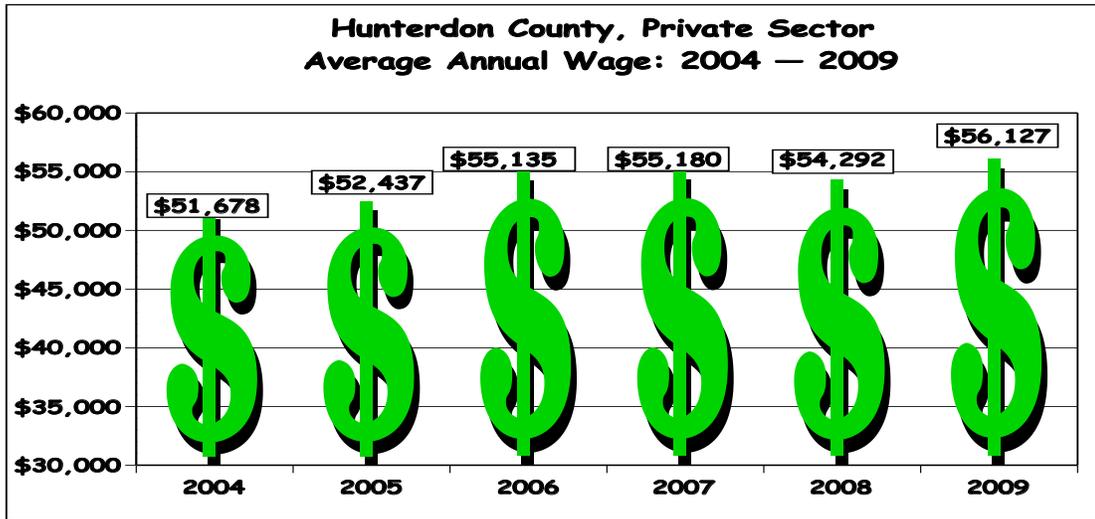


- Between 2004 and 2009, three sectors added employment in Hunterdon County: educational and health services (+920 or +16.8%), leisure and hospitality (+703 or +18.8%) and other services (+40 or +2.8%). The majority of the jobs lost in the county since 2004 were in the professional and business services sector (-1,844 or -21.6%), which lost jobs each year of the period.

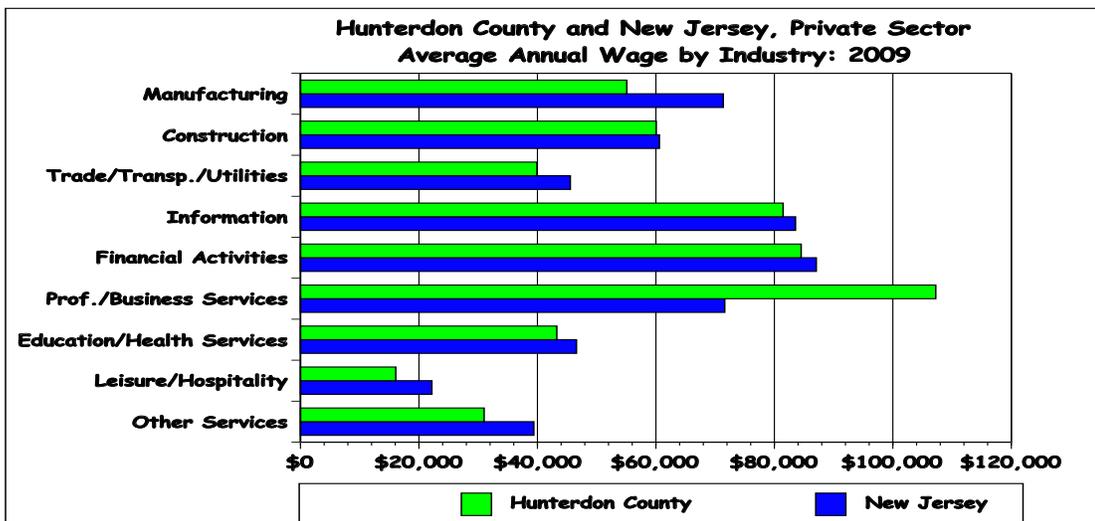


- Since 2004, educational and health services was the fastest growing employment sector in both the county (+16.8%) and the state (+12.0%). Construction posted the steepest payroll decline in the county (-22.3%) during the period followed by professional and business services (-21.6%) and manufacturing (-21.3%).

# Wages



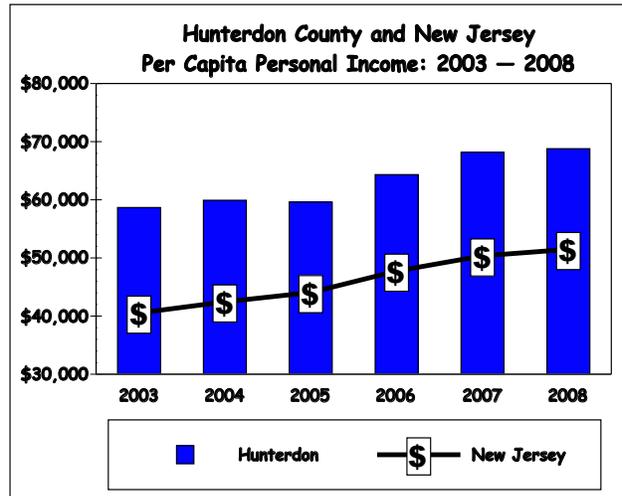
- From 2004 to 2009, Hunterdon County's annual average private sector wage increased by \$1,835 or 8.6 percent to reach \$56,127.
- The county's annual average private sector wage for 2009 was higher than the state's annual average wage of \$54,542.



- At \$107,239, professional and business services paid the county's highest annual average wage in 2009. County workers employed in the professional and business services sector earned an average wage 33.2 percent higher than their statewide counterparts. Leisure and hospitality had the lowest average wage in the county (\$16,090).

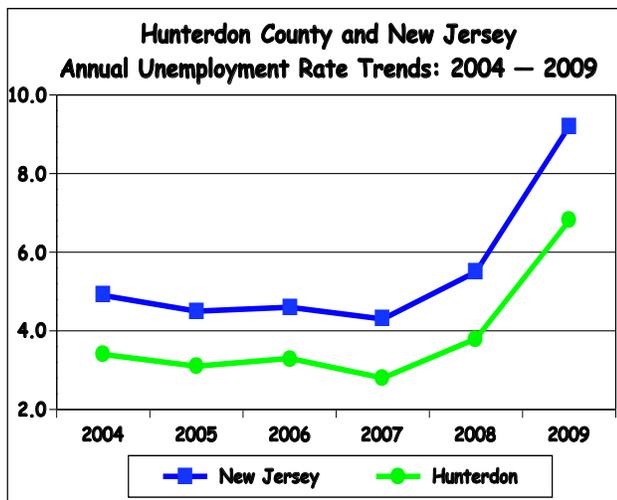
## Per Capita Personal Income

- Hunterdon County's per capita personal income reached \$68,785 in 2008. Between 2003 and 2008, the county's per capita personal income increased by 17.2 percent, while the state's per capita personal income increased at a faster rate of 27.0 percent.
- In 2008, Hunterdon County's per capita personal income was the third highest among New Jersey's 21 counties and ranked 16th highest among the 3,111 counties in the United States.



- Of the three components of total personal income, residents of Hunterdon in 2008 derived a higher percentage of total income from wage earnings (75.9% vs. 70.6%, respectively) and a lower percentage from transfer payments (such as welfare benefits, social security, and veterans benefits) (7.0% vs. 12.6%, respectively) than statewide residents as a whole. Dividends/interest/rent accounted for a similar proportion of total personal income in the county and in the state (17.1% vs. 16.8%, respectively).

## Unemployment Rates



- In 2009, Hunterdon County's annual average unemployment rate jumped from a low of 2.8 percent in 2007 to 6.8 percent in 2009. However, Hunterdon's average unemployment rate has historically been below that of the state and in 2009 was still well below the state's rate of 9.2 percent. Hunterdon County's unemployment rate was the lowest in the state even though area residents are feeling the effects of the recession as labor force estimates are affected by what goes on beyond the county and a significant number of residents worked

outside the county in industries that suffered the largest employment losses.

- A contributing factor to the low unemployment rate is the fact that county residents are relatively highly educated and are easily able to commute to areas outside the county for employment via the Interstate highway system.

# Characteristics of the Unemployed

## Characteristics of the Unemployed New Jersey vs. Hunterdon County: 2009

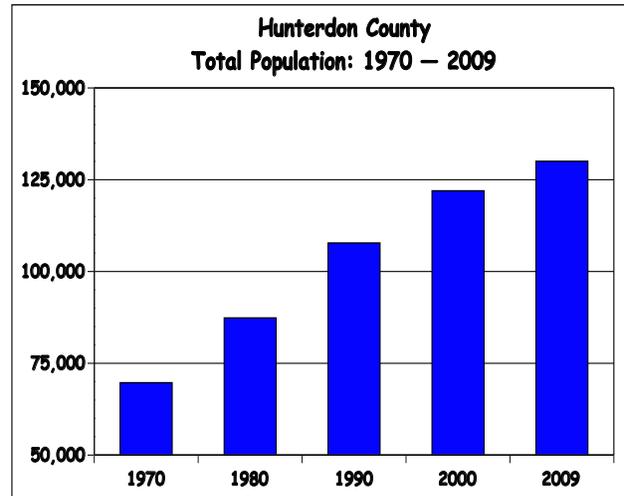
Category	Hunterdon County		New Jersey	
	Annual Average 2009	Percent of Total	Annual Average 2009	Percent of Total
Total Insured Unemployed	2,131	100.0%	138,988	100.0%
<b>By Gender</b>				
Male	1,324	62.1%	83,187	59.9%
Female	807	37.9%	55,801	40.1%
<b>By Race</b>				
White	1,664	78.1%	85,512	61.5%
Black	221	10.4%	24,948	17.9%
Asian	58	2.7%	5,658	4.1%
Other	188	8.8%	22,870	16.5%
<b>By Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic	157	7.4%	27,561	19.8%
Not Hispanic	1,717	80.6%	96,532	69.5%
Chose Not To Answer	257	12.1%	14,895	10.7%
<b>By Age of Claimant</b>				
Under 25	162	7.6%	14,145	10.2%
25 through 34 years	366	17.2%	31,354	22.6%
35 through 44 years	434	20.4%	30,939	22.3%
45 through 54 years	610	28.6%	33,058	23.8%
55 through 64 years	423	19.8%	21,434	15.4%
65 years and over	136	6.4%	8,058	5.8%
<b>By Industry</b>				
Construction	346	16.2%	17,210	12.4%
Manufacturing	241	11.3%	13,716	9.9%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	435	20.4%	30,560	22.0%
Wholesale Trade	127	6.0%	8,236	5.9%
Retail Trade	242	11.4%	15,348	11.0%
Information	64	3.0%	3,088	2.2%
Financial Activities	119	5.6%	8,131	5.9%
Professional & Business Services	403	18.9%	25,717	18.5%
Educational and Health Services	157	7.4%	12,138	8.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	122	5.7%	10,987	7.9%
Other Services	57	2.7%	3,307	2.4%

Note: Data includes claimants claiming Regular UI benefits only. Extended benefit programs are not included.

- The age group with the largest number of unemployment claimants in Hunterdon County in 2009 was the 45-to-54 year old segment. In the county, persons who were 55 and over accounted for 26.2 percent of the total number of claimants compared to 21.2 percent statewide.
- In 2009, a majority of Hunterdon County residents who were collecting unemployment insurance benefits were previously employed in the trade, transportation and utilities, professional and business services or construction sectors. The sector with the least number of claimants was other services.

## Population

- Hunterdon has been New Jersey's third fastest growing county since 1970, increasing by 86.5 percent or 60,316 residents to reach 130,034 in 2009. The county's rate of growth was the fastest (25.3%) in the 1970s, but the largest number of new residents (20,415) came in the 1980s after the opening of the eastern portion of Interstate 78. The road provides for a relatively easy commute from Hunterdon to the eastern counties of New Jersey and to New York City via the Holland Tunnel.



Hunterdon County Racial/Hispanic Origin: 2000 - 2009		
Race	Percent in 2009	Percent in 2000
White	92.1	94.8
Black	3.1	2.4
Asian	3.6	2.0
Multiracial	0.9	0.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2	0.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0
Total*	99.9	100.0
Hispanic Origin (may be of any race)	4.7	2.8

\* May not add to 100% due to rounding

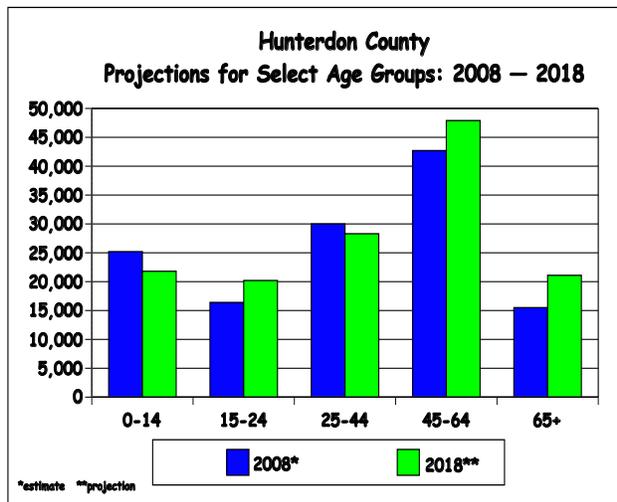
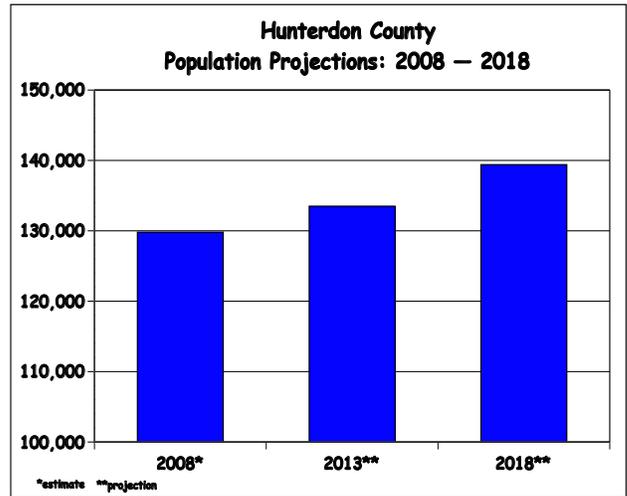
- Although whites increased by 3.5 percent from 2000 to 2009, their proportion of the county's population declined slightly as minority races grew at faster rates. However, Hunterdon's white population still accounted for over 50 percent of the total population gain in the county over the period.
- Hunterdon had the third-fastest growing Hispanic population among New Jersey's counties (+82.3%). Numerically Hunterdon County had the third lowest number of Hispanic residents (6,146) of any county in the state.

- Between 1970 and 2009, nine of Hunterdon County's 26 municipalities more than doubled in size, while four lost population.
- Residents of Raritan Township, the most populous of Hunterdon County's municipalities, accounted for 17.3 percent of the county's total population.
- Since 1970, Raritan has seen its population increase by over 224 percent to register 22,516 in 2009.

Hunterdon County Ten Largest Municipalities		
Rank	Municipality	Population
1	Raritan township	22,516
2	Readington township	16,169
3	Clinton township	13,897
4	Lebanon township	6,215
5	Union township	6,204
6	Tewksbury township	6,076
7	Holland township	5,268
8	Alexandria township	5,145
9	Delaware township	4,708
10	East Amwell township	4,485

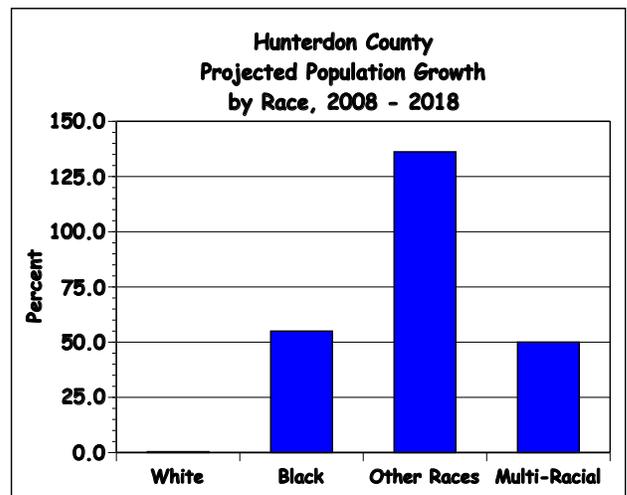
# Population Projections

- Hunterdon County's population is projected to grow from 129,800 in 2008 to 139,400 in 2018. This increase of 9,600 people reflects total growth of 7.4 percent, nearly double the state rate of 3.9 percent.



- In 2008, the residents of Hunterdon County aged 45 and above accounted for 45 percent of the total population. As these residents continue to age, with expected growth of 18.6 percent among this cohort by 2018, their share of total population will increase to 49 percent. Coupled with this trend, those aged 0-14 are projected to decrease by 3,400, a drop of 13.5 percent.

- From 2008 to 2018, people of other races are projected be the fastest-growing racial group in Hunterdon County more than doubling to 11,100. With a gain of 6,400, they will make the largest contribution to county's population increase. However, despite remaining nearly level, whites will still account for over 86 percent of total residents.



# Industry Projections

## Hunterdon County, 2008 - 2018 Projected Employment Change by Industry

Industry Title	2008 Jobs	2018 Jobs	Change: 2008-2018		
			Number	Total Percent	Annual
Total Nonfarm Employment	56,550	59,150	2,600	4.6	0.5
Healthcare and Social Services	6,200	7,800	1,600	25.8	2.3
Accommodation and Food Services	3,050	3,450	400	13.1	1.2
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,500	1,800	300	20.0	1.8
Other Services	2,100	2,400	300	14.3	1.3
Administrative and Waste Services	1,450	1,700	250	17.2	1.6
Construction	3,600	3,800	200	5.6	0.5
Government	9,750	9,950	200	2.1	0.2
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5,000	5,150	150	3.0	0.3
Educational Services	500	650	150	30.0	2.7
Wholesale Trade	1,850	1,900	50	2.7	0.3
Retail Trade	6,400	6,450	50	0.8	0.1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	450	500	50	11.1	1.1
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Utilities	100	50	-50	-50.0	-6.7
Transportation and Warehousing	900	850	-50	-5.6	-0.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,200	1,150	-50	-4.2	-0.4
Information	900	750	-150	-16.7	-1.8
Finance and Insurance	3,200	2,900	-300	-9.4	-1.0
Manufacturing	3,150	2,500	-650	-20.6	-2.3

\*Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

- Hunterdon County is projected to add 2,600 jobs from 2008 through 2018, and is expected to expand its employment base at a faster rate than the state (+5.1% vs +3.1%, respectively).
- The healthcare and social services industry is projected to grow particularly fast, increasing by 1,600 jobs or 2.3 percent per year.
- The manufacturing, finance and insurance, and information sectors are each projected to experience employment declines, together losing over 1,000 jobs.

# Projected Occupational Demand

## Hunterdon County Occupations with the Most Projected Job Openings, 2008-2018

Occupation	Annual Average Job Openings			2008	Skill Level <sup>2</sup>	Outlook
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Growth	Replacements	Annual Wage <sup>3</sup>		
Waiters and Waitresses	60	10	50	24,320	Low	Growing
Cashiers	60	0	60	19,670	Low	Stable
Retail Salespersons	40	10	30	25,680	Low	Growing
Registered Nurses	30	20	10	78,010	High	Growing
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge and Coffee Shop	30	0	30	20,690	Low	Growing
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	30	20	10	30,790	Moderate	Growing
Receptionists and Information Clerks	30	10	20	27,510	Low	Growing
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	30	0	20	24,080	Low	Stable
General and Operations Managers	20	0	20	162,480	High	Declining
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	20	0	20	77,540	Moderate	Stable
Cooks, Restaurant	20	10	10	29,350	Moderate	Growing
Food Preparation Workers	20	0	20	21,650	Low	Growing
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	20	10	10	19,220	Low	Growing
Dishwashers	20	10	10	19,520	Low	Growing
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	20	10	10	28,690	Low	Growing
Customer Service Representatives	20	0	10	36,620	Low	Growing
Medical Secretaries	20	20	10	37,870	Low	Growing
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical and Executive	20	0	20	36,870	Low	Declining
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer	20	0	20	44,060	Low	Stable
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	20	0	20	27,850	Low	Declining

1. "Growth" and "Replacements" may not add to "Total" due to rounding.

2. High Skills: Associate's degree or higher.

Moderate Skills: Long-term on-the-job training, work experience or post secondary/vocational/technical training.

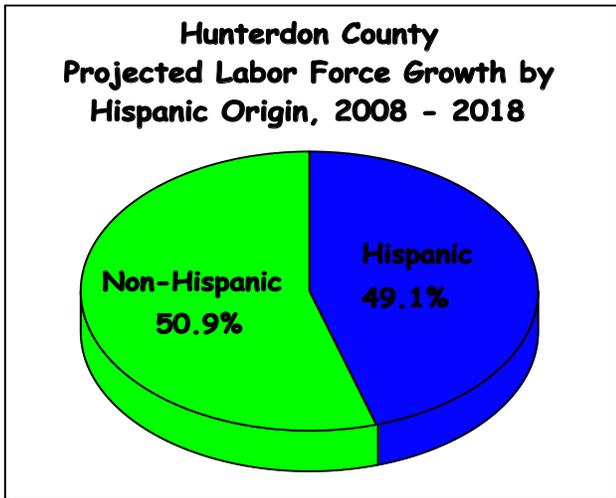
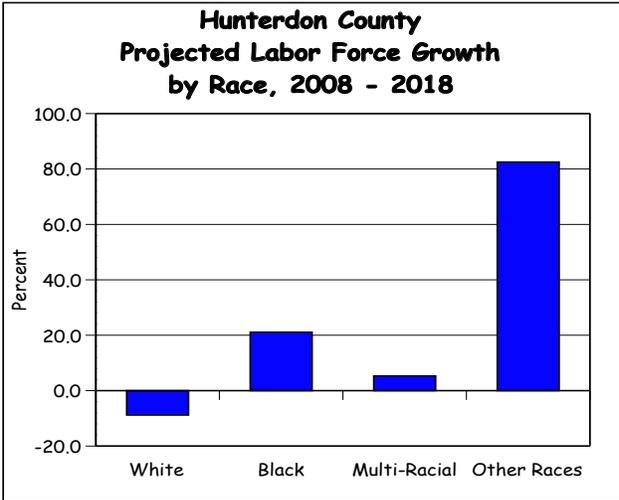
Low Skills: Short-term or moderate-term on-the-job training, including up to 12 months of on-the-job experience and informal training.

3. NP: data not published due to statistical or quality control reasons.

- Hunterdon County is projected to have 1,670 average job openings annually during the 2008-2018 period. The top twenty occupations ranked by annual openings listed above will account for nearly one-third of that total.
- Nearly all of the top twenty occupations based on projected job openings will require low to moderate skills for entrance, and as a result, typically earn lower wages. Two of the top ranking occupations, registered nurses and general and operations managers, have high skills requirements and pay higher wages.

# Labor Force Projections

- Between 2008 and 2018, Hunterdon's labor force is projected to grow by 8.0 percent, a rate nearly three times that of the state (+3.2%). People of "other races" are projected to account for 82.5 percent of the 5,700 new entrants to the labor force, while whites are projected to decline by 500.
- Note: Multi-racial refers to persons that are of two or more races. "other races" includes Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.



- Hispanics accounted for less than 5.0 percent of Hunterdon County's labor force in 2008. However, the number of Hispanic labor force participants is projected to nearly double by 2018 and they will account for 49.1 of the county's total labor force growth.

- From 2008 through 2018, males will account for 57.9 percent of Hunterdon County's labor force growth, increasing their share to over 54 percent.

