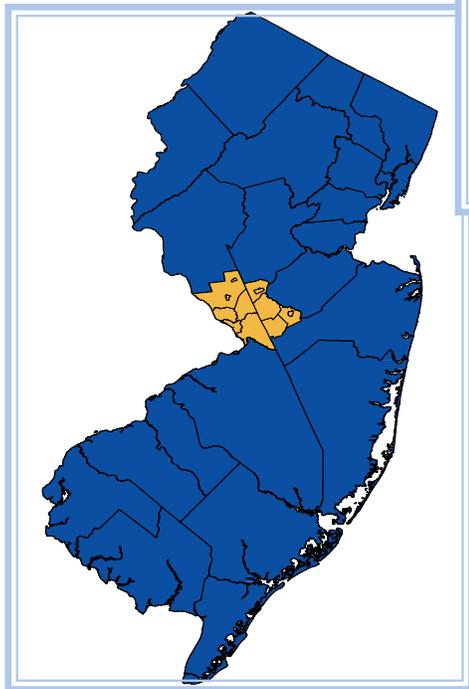
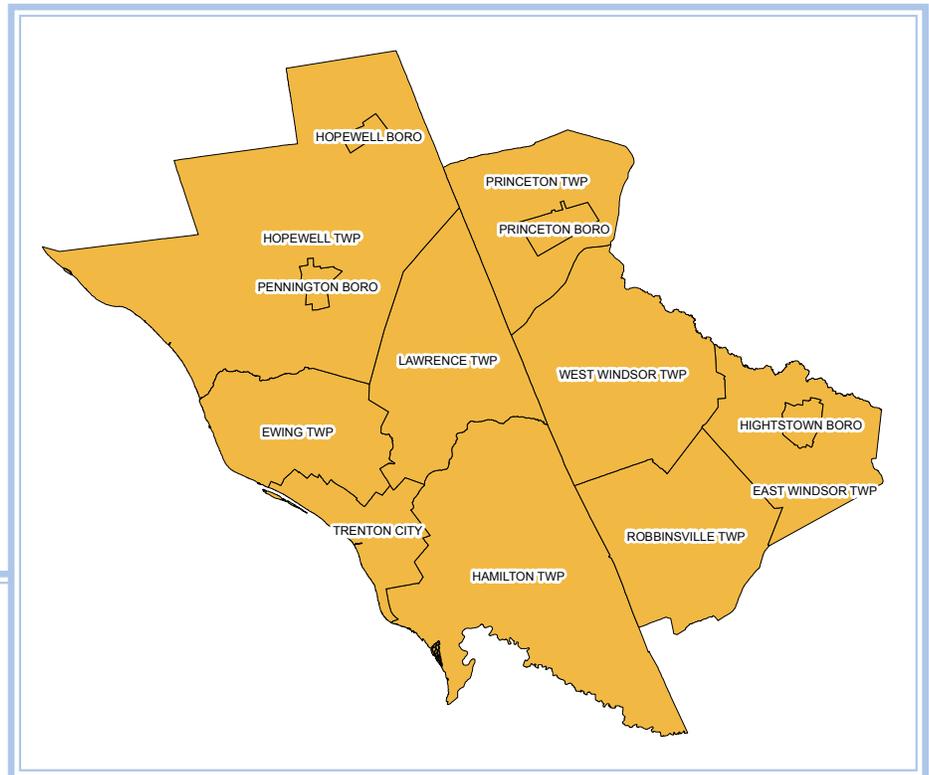


# County Community Fact Book



## Mercer County Edition

## *Preface*

The Regional Community Fact Book for Mercer 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 by providing 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 Vin Samuel, Scott Paken 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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**Population (July 1, 2012 estimate): 368,303**

Change from Census 2010: 17,542 or 5.0%

Percent of New Jersey Total: 4.2%

**Total Private Sector Employment (2012 Average): 162,046**

Percent of New Jersey Total: 5.1%

Change From 2007: 2,264

**Largest Industry (2012 Average): Educational and Health Services**

Employment: 40,899

Percent of Total County Employment: 25.2%

**Private Sector Wage (2012 Average Annual): \$66,135**

Percent of New Jersey Average Annual Wage: 113.8%

Change From 2007: \$9,778

**Industry With Highest Average Annual Wage (2012):  
Financial Activities: \$97,738**

**Per Capita Personal Income (2011): \$54,445**

Percent of New Jersey Per Capita Income: 103.8%

Rank Among New Jersey Counties: 6

**Number of Unemployment Insurance  
Claimants (2012 Annual Average): 3,104**

**Unemployment Rate: (2012 Annual Average): 7.8%**

5-Year High (2010): 7.9%

5-Year Low (2007): 3.9%

New Jersey Rate (2012): 9.5%

**Building Permits (Total, 2012): 444**

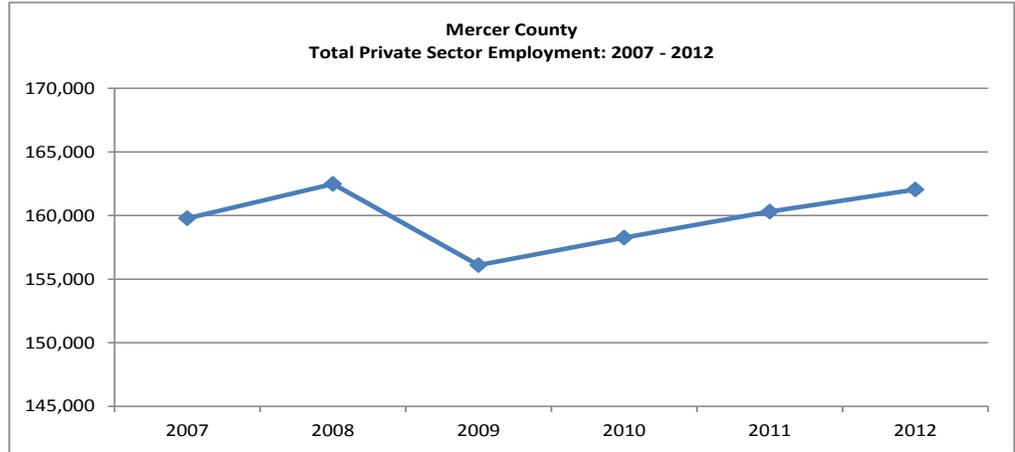
Rank Among New Jersey Counties: 15

**Building Permits (Single-Family Residential, 2012): 110**

Rank Among New Jersey Counties: 18

*County  
Snapshot*

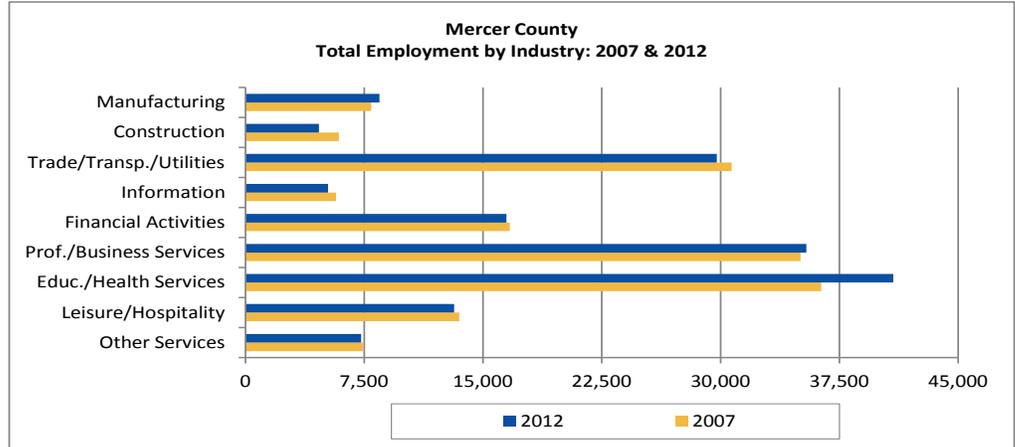
# Mercer County Community Fact Book



Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- From 2007 to 2012, total private sector employment increased by 2,264 jobs or 1.4 percent in Mercer County. In comparison, private sector employment declined by 155,997 jobs or 4.7 percent at the statewide level.

## Employment

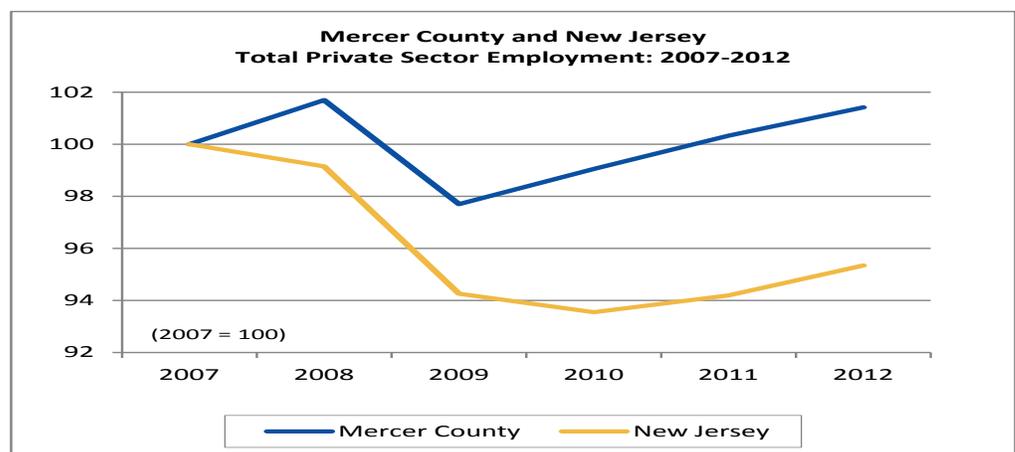


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- With 40,899 jobs, educational and health services was the largest private employment sector in Mercer County during 2012 due to the number of large private educational institutions and hospitals located within the county. This was followed by professional and business services (35,420 jobs), while trade, transportation and utilities took third place with 29,765 jobs.

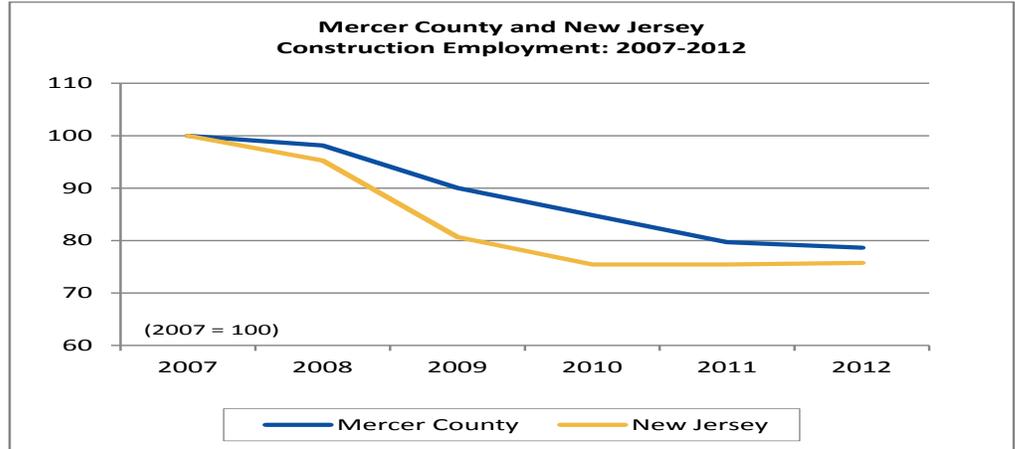
## Industry Trends

- From 2007 to 2012 total employment in Mercer County increased by 1.4 percent. This compared with a 4.7 percent decline statewide. With a an employment gain of 12.5 percent or 4,540 jobs, educational and health services was the fastest-growing industry sector in Mercer County over the five-year period.
- Manufacturing posted a notable employment increase of 517 or 6.5 percent in Mercer County from 2007 through 2012. In comparison, at the state level manufacturing declined by 21.7 percent over the period.
- Professional and business services, the second largest employment sector in Mercer County, posted a 1.1 percent increase in employment from 2007 to 2012. After declining in 2009 and 2010, this sector expanded robustly by 2,309 jobs or 7.0 percent during 2011 and 2012. Professional and technical services is Mercer County's largest professional and business services industry accounting for 62.1 percent of employment within the sector in 2012. Component industries scientific research and development services (5,302 jobs), computer systems design and related services (4,356) and management and technical consulting services (3,353) accounted for 59.1 percent of the employment in professional and technical services.
- The county's two smallest employment sectors, information and construction, postes the sharpest employment declines during the period. Construction posted the largest percentage decline in employment, (-21.4% or 1,262 jobs) followed by the information sector (-8.8% or 504 jobs) in the county.
- Trade, transportation and utilities, the third largest employment sector in Mercer County, was down by 932 jobs or 3.0 percent from 2007 to 2012. Much of the sector's 2007-2009 recessionary job loss (-2,611) was recovered in 2010 and 2011 (+2,125). In 2012, employment declined slightly. At the state level, employment in trade, transportation and utilities declined by 6.3 percent or 54,575 during the 2007-2012 period.



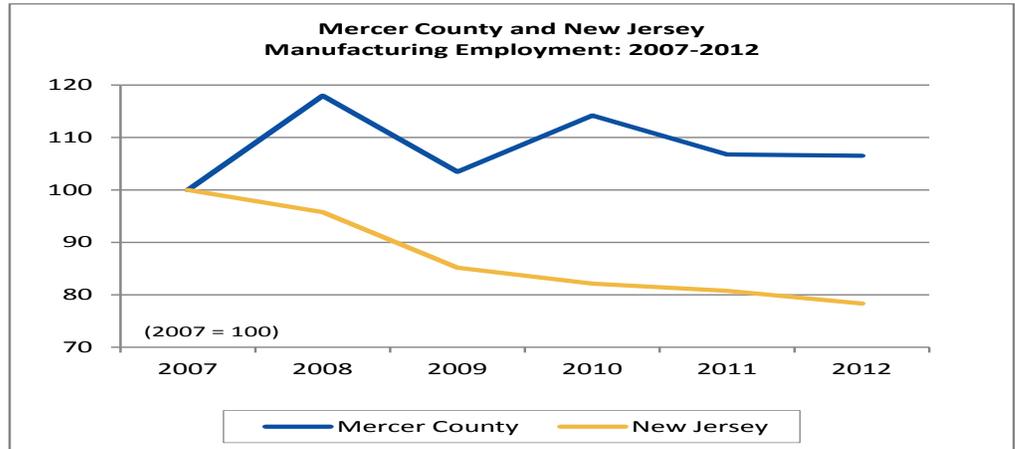
Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

# Mercer County Community Fact Book

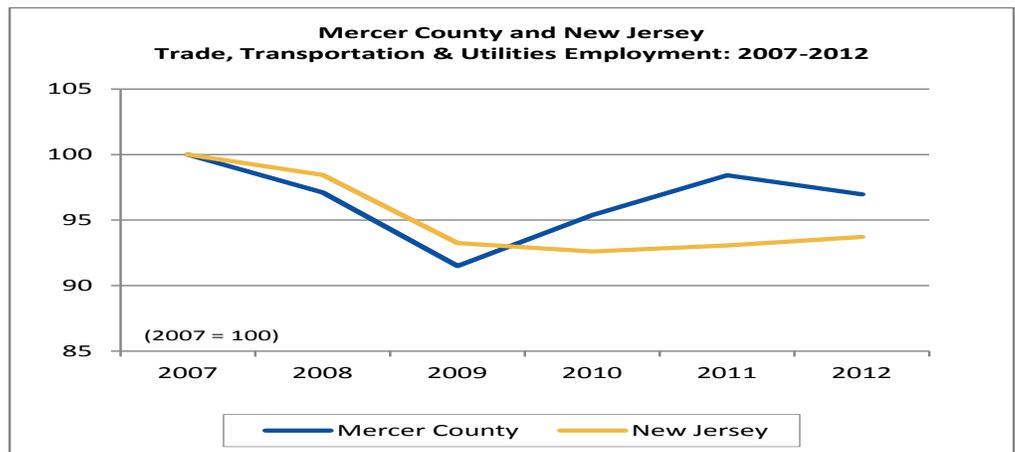


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

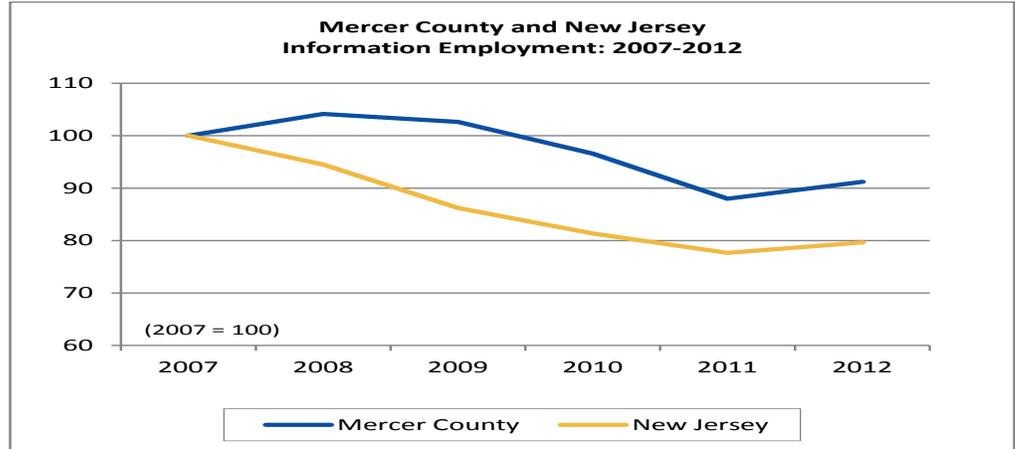
## Industry Trends



Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

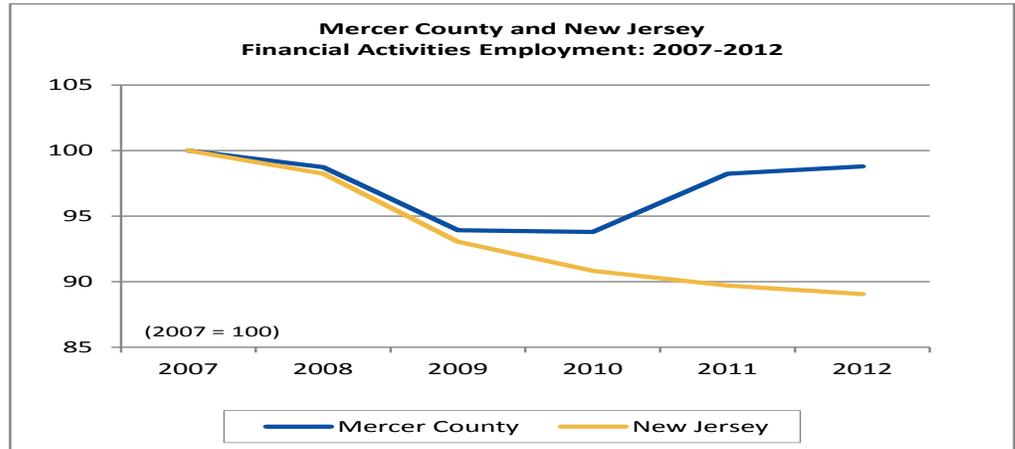


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

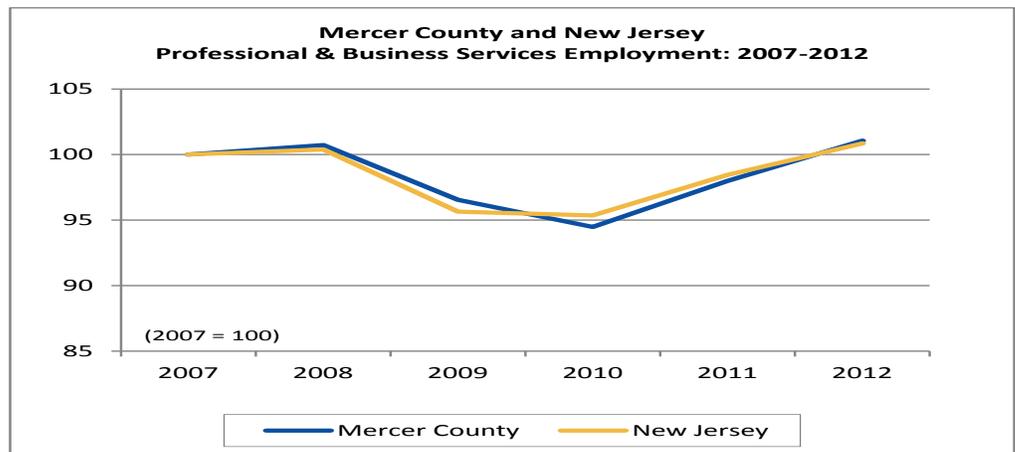


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

**Industry Trends**

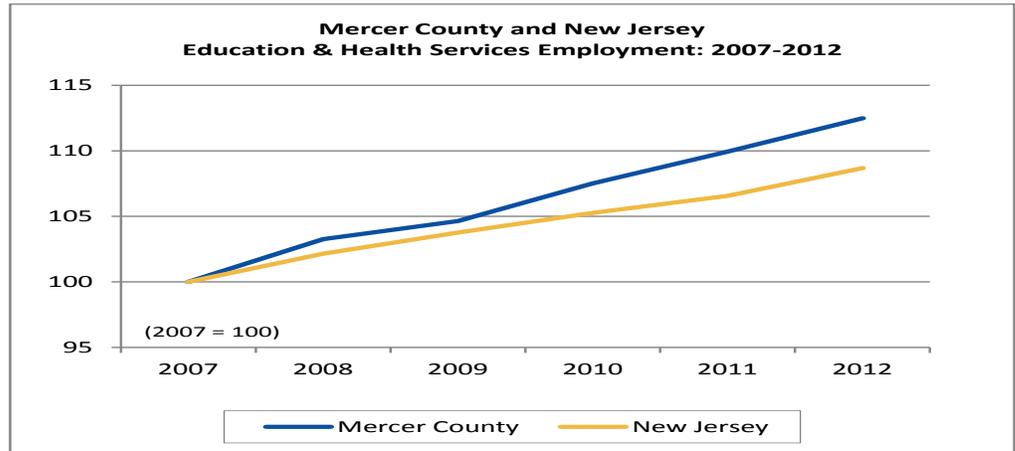


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

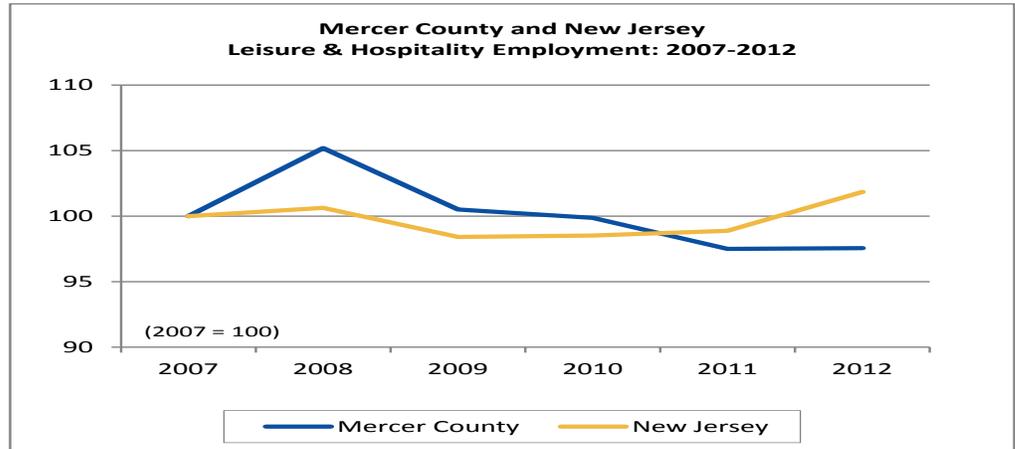


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

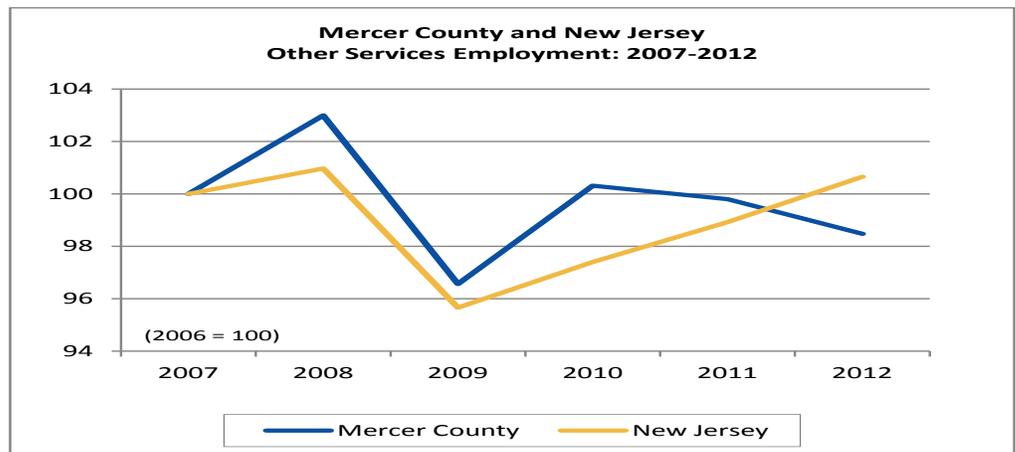
**Industry Trends**



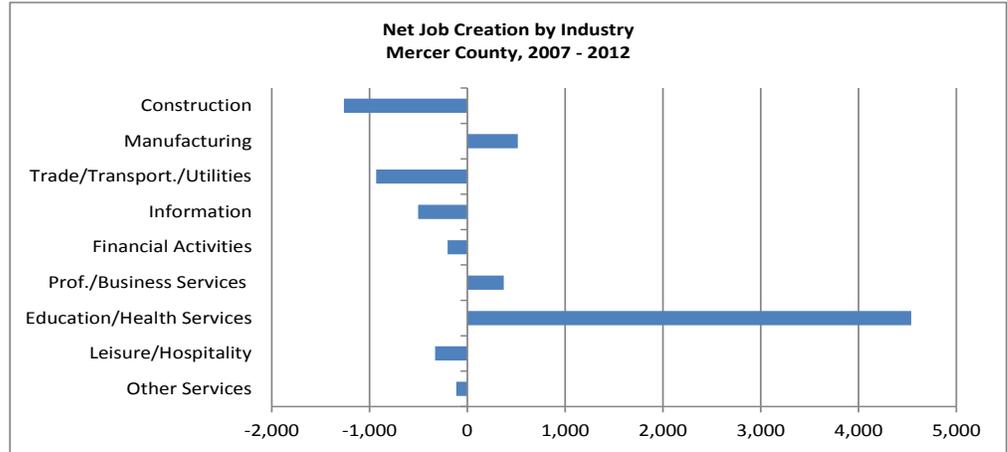
Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



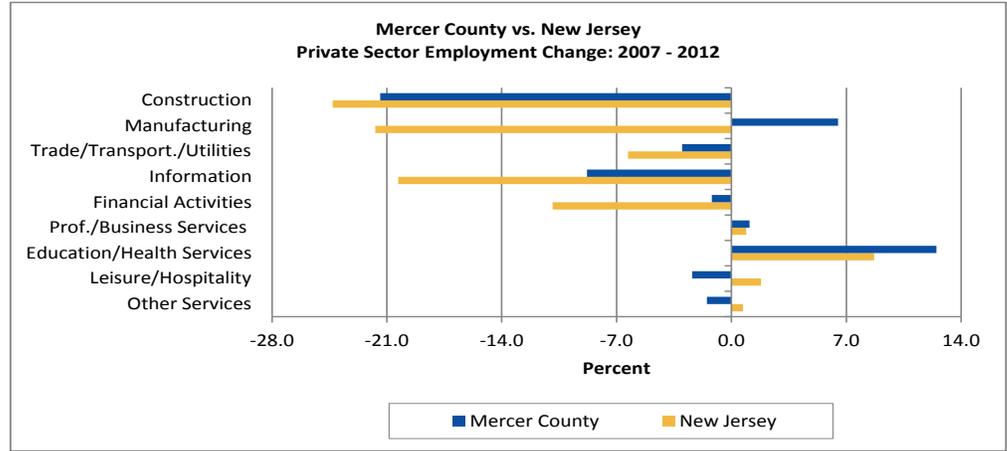
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Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

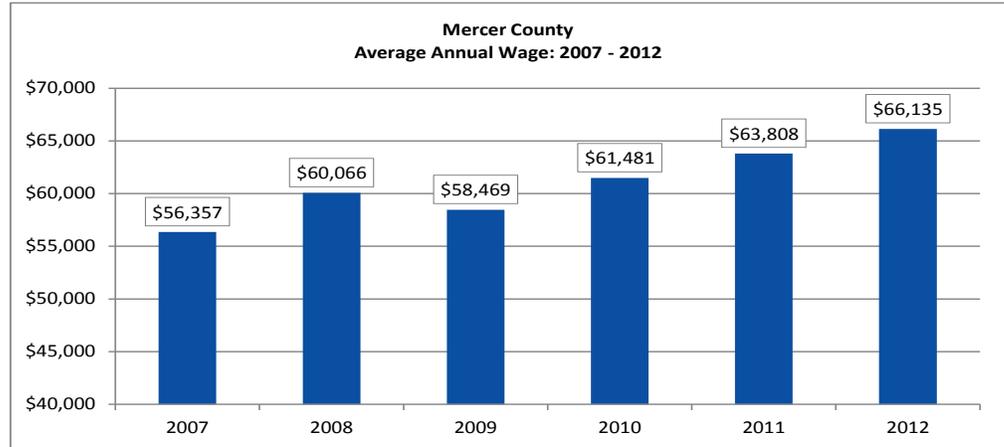
- Educational and health services was the leader in employment growth (+4,540 jobs) in Mercer County from 2007 through 2012. Other industries posting employment increases were manufacturing (+517) and professional and business services (+373). Construction (-1,262), trade, transportation and utilities (-932), information (-504), leisure and hospitality (-329), and financial activities (-201) posted the largest losses in employment over the period.

**Employment  
Gains and  
Losses**



Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

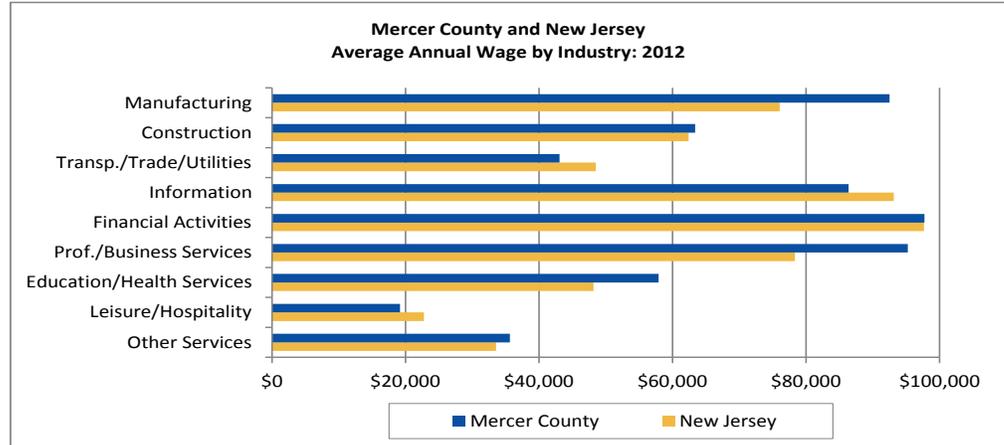
- On a percentage basis, educational and health services posted the largest percentage increase in both Mercer County (+12.5%) and the state (+8.7%) from 2007 to 2012. Educational and health services persevered during the recessionary period as it provided vital health and educational services required by Mercer County and statewide residents. Educational and health services is the largest private sector industry in Mercer County accounting for 25.2 percent of employment in 2012. Statewide, this sector ranks third comprising 18.2 percent of jobs.



Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- Since 2007, the annual average wage in Mercer County increased by \$9,778 to reach \$66,135 in 2012. The county's annual average wage increased by 6.6 percent from 2007 to 2008, but then faced a recessionary decline of 2.7 percent in 2009. Since 2009, Mercer County's annual average wage increased each year for a total gain of \$7,666 or 13.1 percent.

## Wages

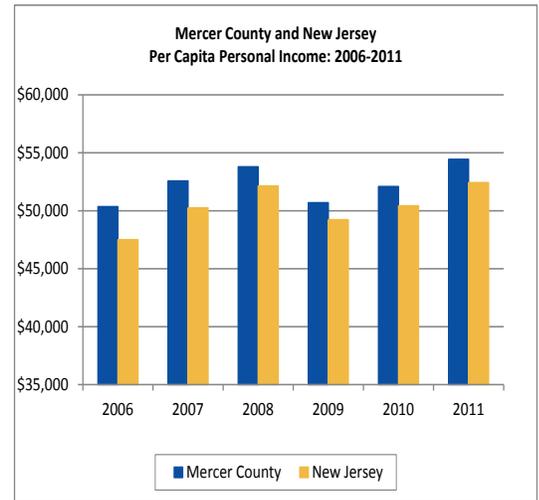


Source: NJLWD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- In 2012 the sectors which paid the highest average annual wages in Mercer County were financial activities (\$97,338) and professional and business services (\$95,224). With an average annual wage of \$19,166 in 2012, leisure and hospitality was the sector with the lowest average wage in Mercer County.
- Mercer County's average annual wage in the professional and business services and manufacturing sectors were most above the state average in 2012. The sector in which Mercer's annual average wage most lagged the state average was information.

## Per Capita Personal Income

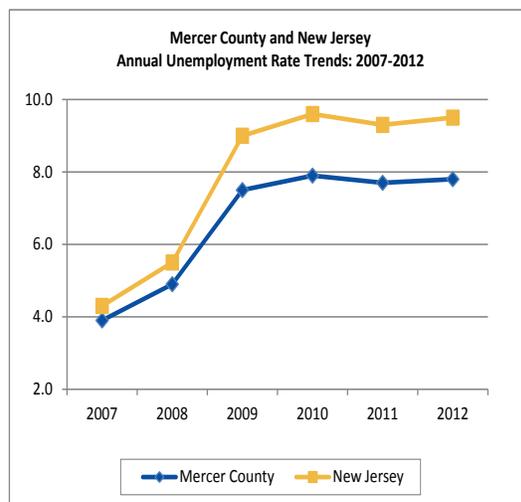
- During the 2006-2011 period, Mercer County's per capita personal income (PCPI) increased by 8.1 percent to reach \$54,445 in 2011. The rate of change in the county's PCPI since 2006 was slightly lower than that of the state (+8.1% vs. +10.4%, respectively).
- The county's PCPI ranked sixth highest among New Jersey's 21 counties, at 103.8 percent of the statewide average of \$52,430 during 2011. It has remained higher than the state's since 1969. At the national level, Mercer County PCPI ranked 122<sup>nd</sup> among the nation's 3,113 counties during 2011.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- Personal income is made up of three components: net earnings, dividends/interest/rent, and transfer payments (welfare benefits, unemployment insurance, and retirement/other including social security and veteran's benefits). In Mercer County, 69.0 percent of total personal income (TPI) comes from net earnings, 16.0 percent comes from dividends/interest/rent, and 15.0 percent comes from transfer payments.

## Unemployment Rates



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

- In 2012 the average annual unemployment rate in Mercer County was 7.8 percent. During the 2007-2012 period, the unemployment rate in Mercer County ranged from a low of 3.9 percent in 2007 to a high of 7.9 percent in 2010. Due to the most recent national recession, Mercer County's unemployment rate rose sharply from 2007 to 2010. Since 2010 the county's unemployment rate has been little changed.
- In comparison, the unemployment rate statewide followed the same trend as the county rate; however, the state's unemployment rate ranged from a low of 4.3 percent in 2007 to a high of 9.6 percent in 2010. Historically, Mercer County's unemployment rate has remained below that of the state since 1990 (earliest data available).
- Mercer County's labor force expanded by 13,023 or 6.6 percent between 2007 and 2012. In comparison, the state's labor force grew by 139,200 or 3.1 percent since 2007.

**Characteristics  
of the  
Unemployed**

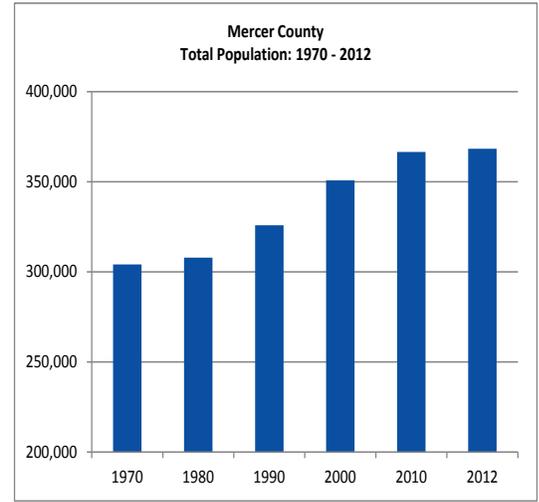
Characteristics of the Unemployed New Jersey vs. Mercer County: 2012				
Category	Mercer County		New Jersey	
	Annual Average 2012	Percent of Total	Annual Average 2012	Percent of Total
Total Insured Unemployed	3,104	100.0%	87,332	100.0%
By Gender				
Male	1,726	55.6%	49,754	57.0%
Female	1,378	44.4%	37,578	43.0%
By Race				
White	1,457	46.9%	54,838	62.8%
Black	1,108	35.7%	16,115	18.5%
Asian	114	3.7%	3,076	3.5%
Other	425	13.7%	13,303	15.2%
By Ethnicity				
Hispanic	501	16.1%	17,752	20.3%
Not Hispanic	2,263	72.9%	60,239	69.0%
Chose Not To Answer	340	11.0%	9,341	10.7%
By Age of Claimant				
Under 25	317	10.2%	8,387	9.6%
25 through 34 years	753	24.3%	19,828	22.7%
35 through 44 years	654	21.1%	17,891	20.5%
45 through 54 years	726	23.4%	20,649	23.6%
55 through 64 years	472	15.2%	14,415	16.5%
65 years and over	182	5.9%	6,162	7.1%
By Industry				
Construction	275	8.9%	10,292	11.8%
Manufacturing	189	6.1%	6,088	7.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	523	16.8%	18,475	21.2%
Wholesale Trade	106	3.4%	4,284	4.9%
Retail Trade	286	9.2%	9,735	11.1%
Information	61	2.0%	1,445	1.7%
Financial Activities	141	4.5%	3,928	4.5%
Professional & Business Services	709	22.8%	16,595	19.0%
Educational and Health Services	514	16.6%	11,025	12.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	262	8.4%	9,227	10.6%
Other Services	93	3.0%	2,342	2.7%

Source: NJLWD

- The number of persons filing for unemployment compensation benefits in Mercer County increased by 0.2 percent between 2011 and 2012, while the statewide number decreased by 11.2 percent. While the professional and business services sector accounted for the largest number (709) of claims in the county during 2012, trade, transportation, and utilities had the largest number (18,475) of claimants statewide. However on a percentage basis, claimants who were formerly employed in construction increased by 14.6 percent in Mercer County, while the number of claimants statewide declined in every industry including manufacturing which saw a 12.6 percent decline.

# Mercer County Community Fact Book

- With an estimated total of 368,303 residents in 2012, Mercer County ranked 12th among New Jersey's 21 counties for total population. From 2000 to 2012, Mercer County ranked 11th among New Jersey's 21 counties for population growth. The county's 5.0 percent population increase was slightly lower than the state's growth rate of 5.4 percent. From 1970 to 2012, the county population increased by 21.1 percent which was lower than the statewide population increase of 23.6 percent.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census and Population Estimates

## Population

Mercer County Racial/Hispanic Origin: 2002 - 2012		
Race	Percent in 2012	Percent in 2002
White	66.5	71.7
Black	21.0	20.6
Asian	9.7	6.0
Multiracial	2.0	1.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.6	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1
Hispanic Origin (may be of any race)	15.9	10.7

\* May not add to 100% due to rounding

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Population Estimates

- Mercer County's proportion of white population declined by 5.2 percentage points to account for 66.5 percent of the county's total population in 2012 as compared with a decade earlier. The county's black population increased marginally, moving from 20.6 percent in 2002 to 21.0 percent in 2012. The Asian racial category claimed 9.7 percent of the county's population in 2012.
- Persons of Hispanic origin saw their share of the county population increase to 15.9 percent in 2012, up from 10.7 percent a decade earlier.

- The county's three largest municipalities are Hamilton Township (88,794), Trenton City (84,477) and Ewing Township (36,252) in 2012. These three municipalities accounted for 56.9 percent of the county's population in 2012. The City of Trenton is the most densely-populated municipality in the county with 11,045 persons per square mile in 2012. Since 1970 Trenton's population has been on the decline losing 19.4 percent of its population base.

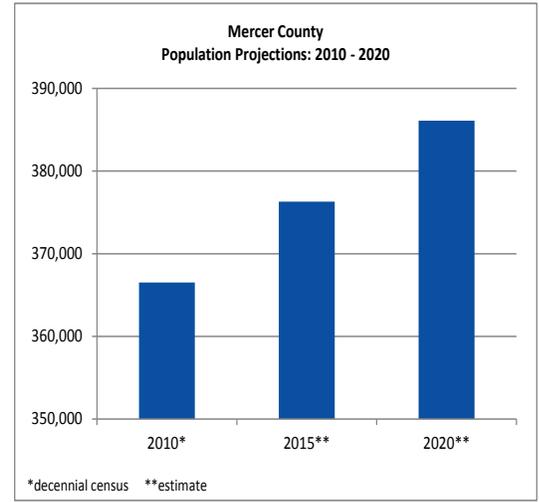
Mercer County Ten Largest Municipalities		
Rank	Municipality	Population
1	Hamilton township	88,794
2	Trenton city	84,477
3	Ewing township	36,252
4	Lawrence township	33,219
5	West Windsor township	28,193
6	East Windsor township	27,452
7	Hopewell township	17,290
8	Princeton township	16,298
9	Robbinsville township	13,936
10	Princeton borough	12,339

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Population Estimates

Note: The merger of Princeton Township and Princeton Borough is effective January 2013. Data on the combined municipality will be available with the release of the 2013 population estimates.

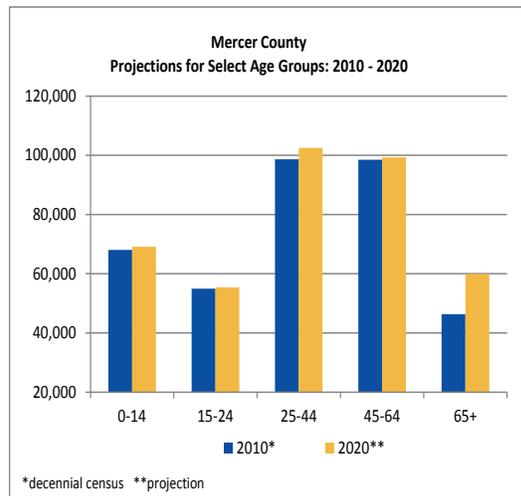
# Mercer County Community Fact Book

- Mercer County's population is projected to add 19,589 persons from 2010 to 2020. The projected rate of growth (+5.3%) for the county is slightly above the state's (+5.1%) and ranks 8th among New Jersey's 21 counties. The county's population gain is expected to account for 4.4 percent of the statewide population gain.



Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

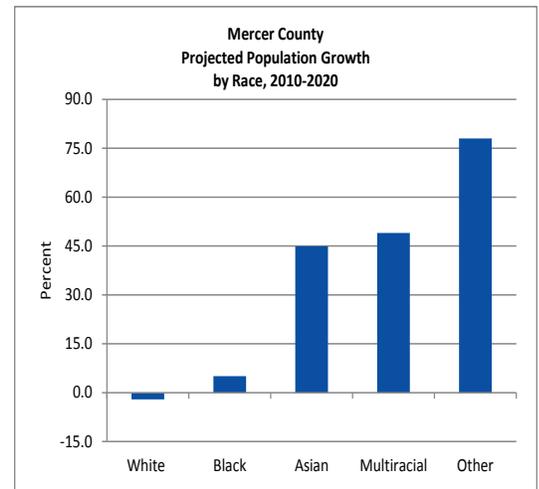
## Population Projections



Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

- With a projected decline of 5,043 or 2.0 percent, whites are the only group expected to lose population. The number of Asians is expected to increase by almost 45 percent (+15,032 persons). The county's smallest racial category, persons of other races, is projected to be Mercer County's fastest-growing racial group by 2020 (+78.0%). This group is comprised of American Indian/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.

- All of Mercer County's age cohorts are expected to gain population over the projection period. However, the prime working age population, 25-64 year-olds, are only projected to gain 4,661 persons (+2.4%) while the county's oldest age group (65+) is anticipated to show a 29.2 percent gain (+13,555).



Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

# Mercer County Community Fact Book

## Mercer County, 2010 - 2020 Projected Employment Change By Industry

Industry Title	2010 Jobs	2020 Jobs	Change: 2010-2020		
			Number	Percent	
				Total	Annual
Total Nonfarm Employment	243,650	265,800	22,150	9.1	0.9
Healthcare and Social Services	26,800	33,200	6,400	23.8	2.2
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	21,700	26,850	5,150	23.7	2.2
Retail Trade	19,550	21,750	2,200	11.4	1.1
Administrative and Waste Services	10,300	12,450	2,150	20.5	1.9
Other Services	9,850	11,650	1,800	18.0	1.7
Finance and Insurance	15,100	16,700	1,600	10.7	1.0
Construction	5,250	6,750	1,500	28.3	2.5
Educational Services	17,650	18,850	1,200	6.6	0.6
Accommodation and Food Services	10,950	12,050	1,100	9.9	0.9
Wholesale Trade	5,600	6,100	500	8.3	0.8
Transportation and Warehousing	4,450	4,950	500	11.0	1.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,400	3,900	500	14.1	1.3
Manufacturing	9,200	9,550	350	3.9	0.4
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,850	2,200	350	19.1	1.8
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,700	2,900	200	7.5	0.7
Natural Resources and Mining	0	50	50	49.0	4.1
Utilities	600	650	50	9.4	0.9
Information	5,900	5,550	-350	-5.8	-0.6
Government	72,700	69,800	-2,900	-4.0	-0.4

Note: Total nonfarm employment excludes self-employed and unpaid family workers  
Percent Changes are based on unrounded data

Source: NJLWD, *Industry and Occupational Projections*

### Industry Projections

- Total nonfarm employment in Mercer County is projected to grow by 22,150 jobs or 9.1 percent from 2010 to 2020. With a projected increase of 6,400 jobs healthcare and social services is anticipated to be the county's job growth leader through 2020. Professional, scientific and technical services (+5,150) claims second place while retail trade (+2,200) and administrative and waste services (+2,150) are projected to claim the third and fourth places, respectively.
- Helped by the presence of state government offices in Trenton, Ewing and Hamilton, Mercer County hosted 72,700 government jobs during 2010. Consequently, Mercer County is projected to lose 2,900 public sector jobs from 2010 to 2020.

# Mercer County Community Fact Book

## Mercer County Occupations with the Most Projected Job Openings, 2010-2020

Occupation	Annual Average Job Openings			2011	Skill Level <sup>2</sup>	Outlook
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Growth	Replacements	Annual Wage		
Retail Salespersons	270	90	180	28,800	Low	Growing
Cashiers	250	30	220	20,580	Low	Growing
Registered Nurses	160	80	80	71,800	High	Growing
Customer Service Representatives	140	50	90	36,550	Low	Growing
Office Clerks, General	140	40	100	34,260	Low	Growing
Receptionists and Information Clerks	130	60	80	28,660	Low	Growing
Waiters and Waitresses	130	20	110	24,990	Low	Growing
Home Health Aides	120	100	20	24,610	Low	Growing
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	120	40	90	27,800	Low	Growing
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	110	40	70	20,660	Low	Growing
Management Analysts	110	40	70	98,680	High	Growing
Accountants and Auditors	100	20	80	79,030	High	Stable
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative	100	20	80	57,120	Low	Growing
Child Care Workers	70	20	50	20,680	Low	Growing
Computer Systems Analysts	70	30	40	87,580	High	Growing
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	70	40	30	28,890	Low	Growing
Teacher Assistants	70	20	50	26,070	Low	Growing
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	60	30	30	41,300	Low	Growing
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	60	10	50	61,530	High	Stable
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	60	20	50	46,520	Low	Growing
Lawyers	60	10	50	116,040	High	Stable
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	60	0	60	78,730	Low	Declining
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education	60	0	60	68,130	High	Declining
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	60	0	60	24,940	Low	Declining
Carpenters	50	20	30	53,010	Low	Growing

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. INA = Information not available.

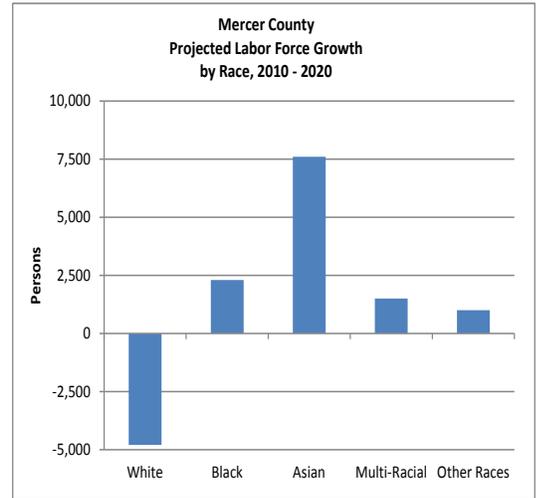
Source: NJLWD, Industry and Occupational Projections and Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey

- With projected annual average job openings of 270 jobs during the next ten years, retail salespersons is expected to be the leading occupation in Mercer County in terms of annual job openings. Retail salesperson positions pay relatively low wages (\$25,120 in 2011) and typically require only a high school diploma or less. Among the top ten occupations ranked by annual job openings, registered nurses, which are projected to have 160 annual openings over the decade, is the only one to require high skills.
- The occupations with the highest annual salaries include: lawyers (\$116,040), management analysts (\$98,680), computer systems analysts (\$87,580), and police and sheriff's patrol officers (\$78,730). With the exception of police and sheriff's patrol officers, these occupations typically have higher skills requirements.

**Projected  
Occupational  
Demand**

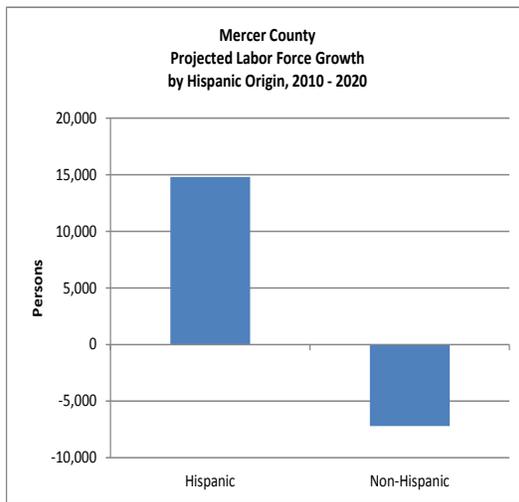
- By 2020 Mercer County's labor force is projected to reach 201,400 workers, an increase of 7,600 or 3.9 percent from the 2010 level of 193,800. With a gain of 7,600 persons or 44.4 percent the Asians will make the greatest contribution to the county's labor force gain. The number of whites in the labor force is expected to decline by 4,800 or 3.5 percent over the decade.

*Note: Multi-racial refers to persons of two or more races. "Other races" includes American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.*



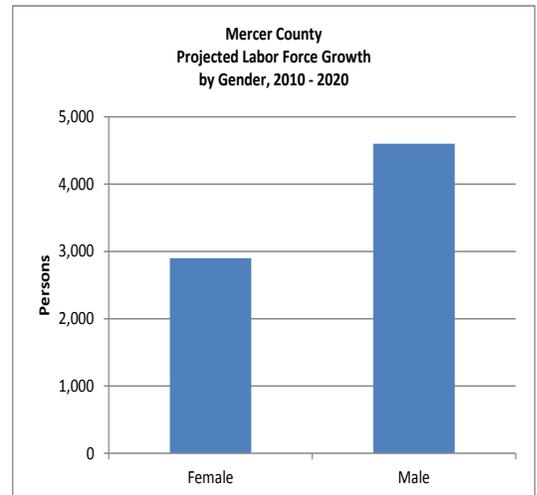
Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

- With an increase of 14,800 or 50.3 percent, persons of Hispanic origin are expected to account for all of the increase in Mercer County's labor force by 2020. The number of non-Hispanics Mercer County's labor force is expected to decline by 7,200 or 4.4 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

- By gender, males are projected to account for the largest proportion of the increase in Mercer County's labor force by 2020 (60.5%). The county's male labor force (+4.5%) is also expected to expand at a higher rate than the female labor force (+3.2%).



Source: NJLWD, Population & Labor Force Projections

## Labor Force Projections