

# Regional Focus: Central Jersey

Issue #28C  
Data through June 2019

Data and analysis for the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas

(Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)

## Central Region Employment Advances Over the Year

From June 2018 to June 2019, total nonfarm employment in the Central Region (Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean and Trenton labor areas) increased by 6,800 jobs or 0.6 percent, to reach a non-seasonally adjusted level of 1,223,600 jobs. In comparison, the state's payrolls increased were up by 1.1 percent, adding 47,600 jobs from the same month a year ago.

Over the year, the leisure and hospitality sector (+5,400 or +4.7%) was the regional job growth leader. Professional and business services was up by 4,400 jobs or 2.4 percent. Education and health services (+1,000 or +0.5%) and other services (+600 or +1.5%) were also up over the period. Jobholding in financial activities (-3,300 or -5.4%), information (-1,400 or -6.2%), trade, transportation and utilities (TTU, -1,300 or -0.5%), government (-1,000 or -0.5%) and construction (-300 or -0.6%) was down from the same month a year ago.

Statewide, leisure and hospitality (+20,400 or 4.8%) added the most jobs. Growth was concentrated in food services and drinking places (+11,500, 4.0%) due to hiring in restaurants and other eating places (+8,200 or +3.4%). Notable gains also occurred in professional and business services (+12,400 or 1.8%), educational and health services (+10,100 or 1.4%) construction (+8,300 jobs or 5.1%), and manufacturing (+3,100 or 1.2%). The employment gain in the construction sector was due largely to an increase of 7,400 or 7.1 percent in specialty trade contractors. Employment levels decreased in financial activities (-6,700 or -2.6%), information (-3,600 or -5.0%), and TTU (-1,200 or -0.1%). In TTU a gain of 1,700 or 8.0 percent in transportation, warehousing and utilities offset losses in wholesale trade (-2,400 or -1.1%) and retail trade (-500 or -0.1%).

### Change in Nonfarm Employment June 2018 - June 2019 final (not seasonally adjusted, 2018 benchmark)

	Region		State	
	Net	%	Net	%
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>45,900</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Private Sector	7,800	0.8	43,900	1.2
Construction	-300	-0.6	8,300	5.1
Manufacturing	-1,000	-1.8	3,100	1.2
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	-1,300	-0.5	-1,200	-0.1
Information	-1,400	-6.2	-3,600	-5.0
Financial Activities	-3,300	-5.4	-6,700	-2.6
Prof. & Business Svcs.	4,400	2.4	12,400	1.8
Ed. & Health Svcs.	1,000	0.5	10,100	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality	5,400	4.7	20,400	4.8
Other Services	600	1.5	1,100	0.6
Government	-1,000	-0.5	2,000	0.3

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

### Trenton Labor Area Leads Regional Job Growth

Over the year, total nonfarm payrolls increased in both the region's labor areas. The Trenton Labor Area led the region in employment growth, with an increase of 5,600 jobs or 2.0 percent to total 283,300 jobs in June 2019. The Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area added 1,200 jobs or 0.1 percent to total 940,300 jobs in June 2019.

In the Trenton Labor Area, professional and business



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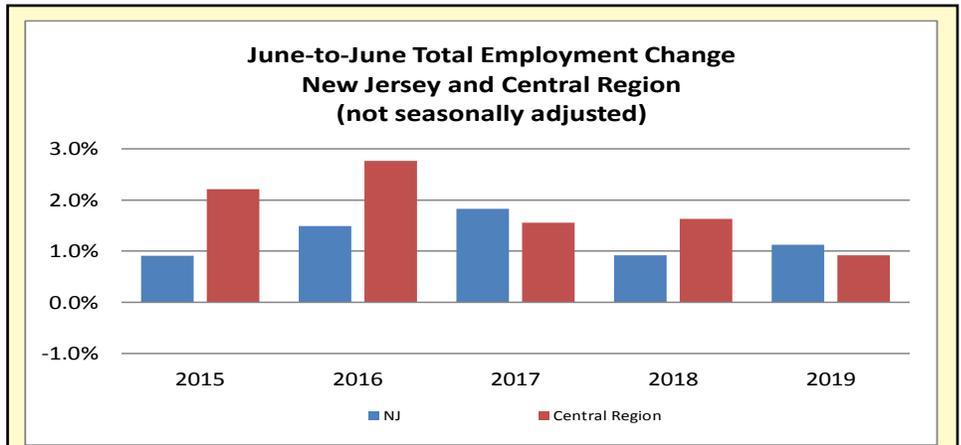
**Total Nonfarm Employment (unadjusted June data, employment in thousands)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New Jersey	4,032.8	4,069.6	4,130.1	4,205.7	4,244.2	4,291.8
Central Region	1,120.4	1,145.5	1,169.8	1,195.3	1,216.8	1,223.6
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	869.1	885.5	904.3	925.6	939.1	940.3
Trenton Labor Area (Mercer County)	251.3	260.0	265.5	269.7	277.7	283.3

Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

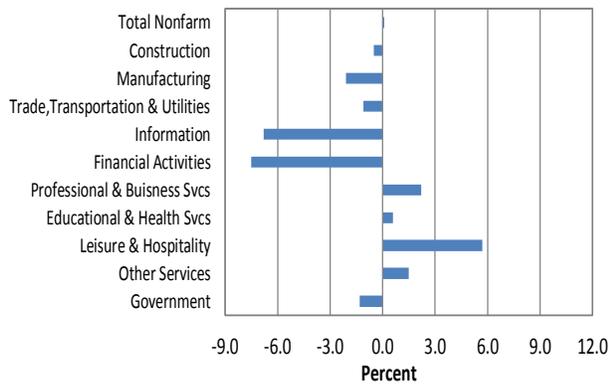
services (+3,300 or +6.8%), TTU (+1,100 or +2.9%) and education and health services (+900 or +1.8%) posted the largest job gains. Within professional and business services, the professional, scientific and technical services industry (+900) added the most jobs. Transportation, warehousing and utilities increased by 900 jobs accounting for a majority of the gain in TTU. Government services (+600) posted a moderate gain, while leisure and hospitality (+100) and other services (+100) were virtually unchanged over the past year. Information (-200 or -4.1%), financial activities (-200 or -1.0%) and construction (-100 or -1.8%) employment levels were down since 2018.

In the Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area, leisure and hospitality (+5,700 or +5.7%), professional and business services (+3,500 or +2.2%), and education and health services (+900 or +0.6%) were the job growth leaders from the same month a year ago. Employment in other services (+600 or +1.5%) was also up over the year. A gain of 2,500 in accommodation and food services contributed to job growth in leisure and hospitality. The majority of the increase in education and health services occurred in educational services (+600). Payrolls in financial activities (-3,100 or -7.5%), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,400 or -1.1%) government (-1,600 or -1.3%), manufacturing (-1,000 or -2.1%), and construction (-200 or -0.5%) were down over the period.



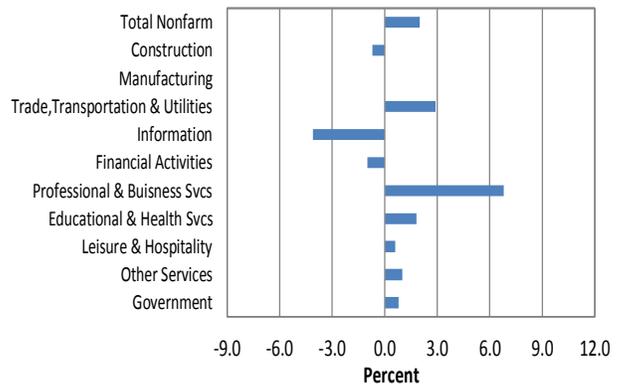
Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

**Employment Change by Industry, Jun 2018 - Jun 2019  
Middlesex-Monmouth-Ocean Labor Area  
(not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: NJLWD, Current Employment Statistics

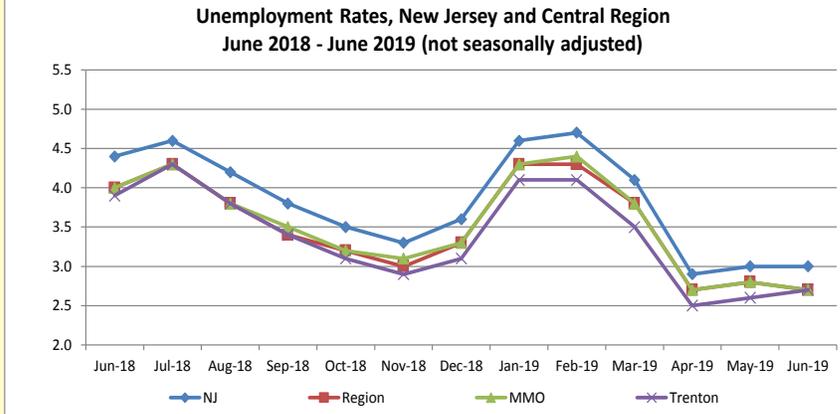
**Employment Change by Industry, Jun 2018 - Jun 2019  
Trenton Labor Area  
(not seasonally adjusted)**



More detailed data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program can be found at: [http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces\\_index.html](http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/ces/ces_index.html)

## LABOR FORCE DATA

- In June 2019 the Central Region had a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.7 percent, down from a June 2018 rate of 4.0 percent. In comparison, the region's June 2019 rate was just below the statewide unadjusted rate of 3.0 percent.
- By county, the March 2019 unemployment rates in the region were: Middlesex at 2.6 percent, Monmouth at 2.6 percent, Mercer at 2.7 percent, and Ocean at 3.0 percent.



Source: NJLWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

More detailed data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program can be found at: [http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest\\_index.html](http://nj.gov/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html)

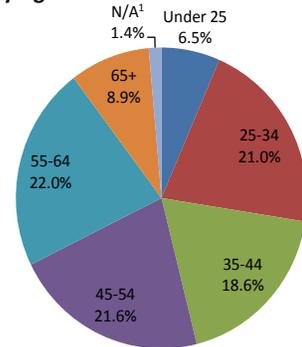
## CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW JERSEY'S INSURED UNEMPLOYED CENTRAL REGION, SECOND QUARTER 2019

### CLAIMANTS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

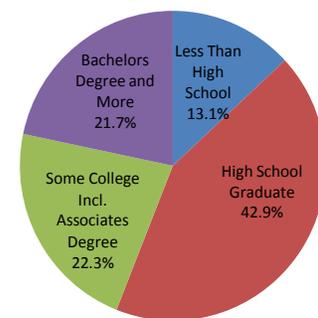
	Number	Percent
Management	3,525	9.0
Business and financial	1,455	3.7
Professional and related	4,845	12.4
Services	6,865	17.8
Sales and related	2,768	7.1
Office and administrative support	4,933	12.8
Farming, fishing and forestry	133	0.3
Construction and extraction	4,640	11.9
Installation, maintenance and repair	1,413	3.6
Production	2,950	7.6
Transportation and material moving	5,403	13.8
Military	65	0.2

- During the second quarter of 2019, there were 39,014 residents claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the Central Region, a figure which represented 25.2 percent of the claimants statewide. The region's claims activity was down by 2,143 claims or 5.2 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Statewide, claims activity declined by 8,503 or 5.2 percent since the second quarter of 2018.

### By Age



### By Educational Level



<sup>1</sup>N/A: No information provided by claimant

Source: NJLWD, Characteristics of UI Claimants

## REGIONAL JOB OUTLOOK APRIL 2019 - JUNE 2019

*The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development through its agreement with Burning Glass Technologies is able to provide the following labor market information aggregated from online employer job listings during the quarter. This data provides valuable insight regarding current demand for characteristics such as skills and educational requirements. Note that this data is not meant to represent all available employment opportunities but rather should be viewed in terms of analysis of labor market demand.*

### JOB LISTINGS BY COUNTY

County	Listings
Middlesex	18,974
Mercer	9,205
Monmouth	8,805
Ocean	4,005

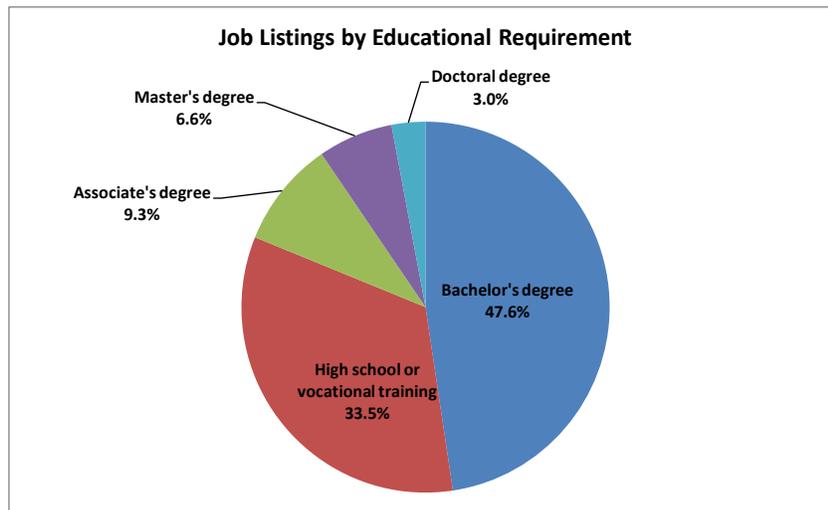
### INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB LISTINGS

Industry	Listings
Hospitals	5,251
Educational Services	2,580
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,383
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,483
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,363
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	1,333
Chemical Manufacturing	1,323
Administrative and Support Services	1,299
Food Services and Drinking Places	1,296
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	961
Truck Transportation	926
General Merchandise Stores	911

During the first quarter of 2019, Central Region employers in the hospitals, educational services, professional, scientific and technical services, ambulatory health care services, and credit intermediation exhibited the most labor demand based on online job listing activity.

Concentrated in Middlesex and Mercer counties, employers indicated they were interested in filling positions for registered nurses, software developers, retail salespersons, wholesale sales representatives, management positions, and customer service representatives. Skills that were actively sought by area employers included customer service, sales, scheduling, occupational health and safety, and long term and home patient care.

Of those job listings for which educational requirements are advertised, 33.5 percent require only high school or vocational training.



**OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST LISTINGS**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Listings</b>
Registered Nurses	2,214
Software Developers, Applications	1,607
Retail Salespersons	1,361
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	996
Managers, All Other	879
Customer Service Representatives	808
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	725
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	683
Medical and Health Services Managers	632
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	610
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	519
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	450

**TOP SKILLS IN DEMAND**

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Listings</b>
Customer Service	6,363
Sales	4,550
Scheduling	4,322
Occupational Health and Safety	3,779
Long-Term Care	3,517
Home Care	3,390
Patient Care	3,272
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	2,972
Project Management	2,875
Budgeting	2,784
Customer Contact	2,692
Teaching	2,442

**EMPLOYERS WITH SIGNIFICANT ONLINE JOB LISTING ACTIVITY**

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Job Postings</b>
Hackensack University Medical Center	1,108
Meridian Health System	1,073
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey	1,046
Palisades Medical Center	986
Hackensack University Health Network, Inc	940
Saint Barnabas Health Care System	492
Princeton University	379
Cynet Systems Inc	296
Lowe's Companies, Inc	291
Anthem Blue Cross	284
Bank of America	278
The Home Depot Incorporated	263

Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight

Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Bureau of Labor Market Information

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