Challenges Remain as New Jersey Employment Continues Rebound in June

Unemployment Rate Increases to 16.6 Percent

TRENTON – New Jersey employers recalled workers in June as the partial reopening of the state’s economy from COVID-19 related closures continued. Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in New Jersey increased by 130,900 in June to a seasonally adjusted level of 3,630,400 according to estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Coupled with previously recorded gains in May, New Jersey has now recovered a total of 219,800 jobs, or about 26 percent of the job loss in March and April due to the coronavirus pandemic and measures taken in response to it.

Despite the payroll gain, the state’s unemployment rate rose by 1.2 percentage points to 16.6 percent. New Jersey’s unemployment remains higher than the United States as a whole (11.1 percent), reflective of how hard the Garden State has been hit by the pandemic compared to other parts of the nation.

The BLS continues to acknowledge the difficulty in classification of responses from the household survey, which may have resulted in understating the level of the unemployed and overstating the employed in prior months. The reduction in the misclassification between employed and unemployed people from May to June likely contributed to both the unemployment rate increase and the divergence between household and payroll employment in this month’s report for New Jersey (resident employment fell while establishment payrolls increased). Revisions to monthly estimates and again at the end of the year during annual processing may be expected. For further information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on industry employment and unemployment estimates for June please visit: [https://www.bls.gov/cps/employment-situation-covid19-faq-june-2020.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/cps/employment-situation-covid19-faq-june-2020.pdf)

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released total nonfarm employment estimates for May were revised higher by 2,100 to show an over-the-month (April – May) increase of 88,900 jobs. Preliminary estimates had indicated an over-the-month gain of 86,800. The state’s revised May unemployment rate was revised up by 0.2 percentage points to 15.4 percent.
In June, job gains were recorded in eight out of nine major private industry sectors. In order, the largest gains were recorded in trade, transportation, and utilities (+41,800), leisure and hospitality (+35,300), education and health services (+33,000), other services (+7,400), construction (+7,100), professional and business services (+6,700), manufacturing (+3,300), and information (+200). The only sector to record a loss over the month was financial activities (-700). Over the month, public sector employment was lower by 3,300, with the losses concentrated at the local level (-4,800).

Preliminary data for July will be released on August 20, 2020.

**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 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](http://www.bls.gov/sae/saeconcurrent.htm).
Table 1: Major Indicators of Labor Market Activity for New Jersey
Seasonally Adjusted
2019 Benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Force Data (resident)</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Previous Month</th>
<th>One Year Ago</th>
<th>Net Change over the Month</th>
<th>Net Change over the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Labor Force</td>
<td>4,526,000</td>
<td>4,531,200</td>
<td>4,469,500</td>
<td>-5,200</td>
<td>56,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>3,774,700</td>
<td>3,835,500</td>
<td>4,323,200</td>
<td>-60,800</td>
<td>-548,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>751,300</td>
<td>695,700</td>
<td>146,300</td>
<td>55,600</td>
<td>605,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Data (establishment)</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Previous Month</th>
<th>One Year Ago</th>
<th>Net Change over the Month</th>
<th>Net Change over the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Nonfarm</td>
<td>3,630,400</td>
<td>3,499,500</td>
<td>4,192,000</td>
<td>130,900</td>
<td>-561,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Private Sector</td>
<td>3,057,600</td>
<td>2,923,400</td>
<td>3,585,700</td>
<td>134,200</td>
<td>-528,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods Producing</td>
<td>384,500</td>
<td>374,000</td>
<td>412,200</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>-27,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining and Logging</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>136,900</td>
<td>159,100</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>-15,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>239,000</td>
<td>235,700</td>
<td>251,700</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>-12,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service-Providing</td>
<td>3,245,900</td>
<td>3,125,500</td>
<td>3,779,800</td>
<td>120,400</td>
<td>-533,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Service-Providing</td>
<td>2,673,100</td>
<td>2,549,400</td>
<td>3,173,500</td>
<td>123,700</td>
<td>-500,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</td>
<td>795,700</td>
<td>753,900</td>
<td>885,600</td>
<td>41,800</td>
<td>-89,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>61,600</td>
<td>61,400</td>
<td>67,500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Activities</td>
<td>237,700</td>
<td>238,400</td>
<td>252,900</td>
<td>-700</td>
<td>-15,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Business Services</td>
<td>605,700</td>
<td>599,000</td>
<td>683,900</td>
<td>84,900</td>
<td>-78,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Health Services</td>
<td>636,200</td>
<td>603,200</td>
<td>716,700</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>-80,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure and Hospitality</td>
<td>210,600</td>
<td>175,300</td>
<td>393,400</td>
<td>35,300</td>
<td>-182,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>125,600</td>
<td>118,200</td>
<td>173,500</td>
<td>7,400</td>
<td>-47,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>572,800</td>
<td>576,100</td>
<td>606,300</td>
<td>-3,300</td>
<td>-33,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3-Month Average Change

| Total Nonfarm | -178,800 | -247,500 | 600 | N/A | N/A |
| Private Sector | -173,900 | -236,900 | -200 | N/A | N/A |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Hours of Work (not seasonally adjusted)*</th>
<th>42.2</th>
<th>41.5</th>
<th>41.4</th>
<th>0.7</th>
<th>0.8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$23.62</td>
<td>$23.94</td>
<td>$23.62</td>
<td>-$0.32</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durable Goods</td>
<td>$25.54</td>
<td>$26.24</td>
<td>$26.35</td>
<td>-$0.70</td>
<td>$-0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondurable Goods</td>
<td>$21.94</td>
<td>$21.97</td>
<td>$21.25</td>
<td>-$0.03</td>
<td>$0.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hourly Earnings (not seasonally adjusted)*</th>
<th>646.76</th>
<th>646.76</th>
<th>646.76</th>
<th>0.7</th>
<th>2.6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$996.76</td>
<td>$993.51</td>
<td>$977.87</td>
<td>$3.25</td>
<td>$18.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durable Goods</td>
<td>$1,067.57</td>
<td>$1,075.84</td>
<td>$1,135.69</td>
<td>-$8.27</td>
<td>-$68.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondurable Goods</td>
<td>$934.64</td>
<td>$920.54</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
<td>$14.10</td>
<td>$84.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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

#### 2019 Benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 20 (P)</th>
<th>May 20 (R)</th>
<th>June 19</th>
<th>June 20 (P)</th>
<th>May 20 (R)</th>
<th>June 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Labor Force</td>
<td>4,562,000</td>
<td>4,515,800</td>
<td>4,508,800</td>
<td>4,526,000</td>
<td>4,531,200</td>
<td>4,469,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Employment</td>
<td>3,815,500</td>
<td>3,834,800</td>
<td>4,361,700</td>
<td>3,774,700</td>
<td>3,835,500</td>
<td>4,323,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>746,500</td>
<td>681,000</td>
<td>147,100</td>
<td>751,300</td>
<td>695,700</td>
<td>146,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (%)</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force Participation Rate (%)</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment/Population Ratio (%)</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>54.2</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>54.2</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New Jersey Civilian Labor Force Annual Averages 1999 - 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>4,287,900</td>
<td>4,094,600</td>
<td>193,300</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4,282,100</td>
<td>4,123,700</td>
<td>158,400</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4,288,800</td>
<td>4,106,200</td>
<td>182,600</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4,346,200</td>
<td>4,095,200</td>
<td>251,100</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4,347,200</td>
<td>4,093,700</td>
<td>253,500</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4,349,200</td>
<td>4,138,800</td>
<td>210,300</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4,391,600</td>
<td>4,194,900</td>
<td>196,700</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>4,445,900</td>
<td>4,236,500</td>
<td>209,400</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>4,441,800</td>
<td>4,251,800</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4,504,400</td>
<td>4,264,000</td>
<td>240,500</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,550,600</td>
<td>4,138,600</td>
<td>412,100</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,555,300</td>
<td>4,121,500</td>
<td>433,900</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,565,300</td>
<td>4,138,500</td>
<td>426,800</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,588,000</td>
<td>4,160,000</td>
<td>428,000</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,548,600</td>
<td>4,173,800</td>
<td>374,700</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4,487,000</td>
<td>4,183,500</td>
<td>303,500</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,487,300</td>
<td>4,227,600</td>
<td>259,700</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4,473,800</td>
<td>4,251,200</td>
<td>222,600</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4,454,700</td>
<td>4,248,700</td>
<td>205,900</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4,432,500</td>
<td>4,250,800</td>
<td>181,700</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4,493,100</td>
<td>4,333,300</td>
<td>159,800</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Seasonally Adjusted Civilian Labor Force Data for New Jersey 1999-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2019</td>
<td>4,456,600</td>
<td>4,291,200</td>
<td>165,400</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>4,457,100</td>
<td>4,295,700</td>
<td>161,500</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>4,455,800</td>
<td>4,299,600</td>
<td>156,200</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>4,455,700</td>
<td>4,304,800</td>
<td>150,900</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>4,459,800</td>
<td>4,312,700</td>
<td>147,100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>4,469,500</td>
<td>4,322,200</td>
<td>146,300</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>4,486,300</td>
<td>4,336,700</td>
<td>149,500</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>4,505,700</td>
<td>4,350,200</td>
<td>155,500</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>4,523,700</td>
<td>4,361,800</td>
<td>162,000</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>4,536,200</td>
<td>4,369,100</td>
<td>167,100</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>4,537,100</td>
<td>4,369,000</td>
<td>168,200</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>4,535,000</td>
<td>4,367,300</td>
<td>167,700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Jan 2020 | 4,551,700 | 4,379,400 | 172,300 | 3.8 |
| Feb     | 4,564,100  | 4,390,300 | 173,900 | 3.8 |
| Mar     | 4,588,200  | 4,419,800 | 168,400 | 3.7 |
| Apr     | 4,483,300  | 3,751,400 | 731,900 | 16.3 |
| May (R) | 4,531,200  | 3,835,500 | 695,700 | 15.4 |
| Jun (P) | 4,526,000  | 3,774,700 | 751,300 | 16.6 |

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Previous Month</th>
<th>One Year Ago</th>
<th>Net Change over the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Nonfarm</strong></td>
<td>3,694,200</td>
<td>3,519,800</td>
<td>4,270,800</td>
<td>-576,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Private Sector</strong></td>
<td>3,109,700</td>
<td>2,934,300</td>
<td>3,654,000</td>
<td>-544,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goods Producing</strong></td>
<td>391,400</td>
<td>375,900</td>
<td>418,400</td>
<td>-27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mining &amp; Logging</strong></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction</strong></td>
<td>149,300</td>
<td>138,500</td>
<td>163,200</td>
<td>-13,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>240,600</td>
<td>236,000</td>
<td>253,800</td>
<td>-13,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Durable Goods</strong></td>
<td>113,500</td>
<td>110,500</td>
<td>117,900</td>
<td>-4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fabricated Metal Products</strong></td>
<td>21,100</td>
<td>20,300</td>
<td>22,600</td>
<td>-1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Machinery Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>13,100</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer and Electronic Products</strong></td>
<td>25,300</td>
<td>24,800</td>
<td>24,700</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>18,200</td>
<td>-700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nondurable Goods</strong></td>
<td>127,100</td>
<td>125,500</td>
<td>135,900</td>
<td>-8,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>36,900</td>
<td>36,300</td>
<td>37,700</td>
<td>-800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Printing and Related Support</strong></td>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>-1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemical Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>44,700</td>
<td>44,300</td>
<td>45,200</td>
<td>-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pharmaceutical and Medicine</strong></td>
<td>24,200</td>
<td>23,800</td>
<td>25,100</td>
<td>-900</td>
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<tr>
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Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.
Table 4: New Jersey Nonfarm Employment, 2019 Benchmark

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<th>Year</th>
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Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data

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<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
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July 16, 2020  P - preliminary, R-revised.

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic & Demographic Research.
Key Economic Indicators: June 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)

NJ Monthly Total Employment Change

NJ Monthly Private Sector Employment Change

New Jersey Total Unemployment Rate

July 16, 2020
Source: New Jersey Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.