



# New Jersey Economic Update

October 21, 2016

## Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in New Jersey increased by 2,700 jobs, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## New Jersey Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in New Jersey was unchanged at 5.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 409 in September to 243,112, while the labor force grew by 3,092 to 4,562,522. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than New Jersey. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in New Jersey stood at 5.2 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in New Jersey was 9.8 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in New Jersey occurred in January 1977 when the unemployment rate reached 10.7 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in New Jersey was 4.2 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in New Jersey occurred in May 2000 when the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## New Jersey Payroll Employment

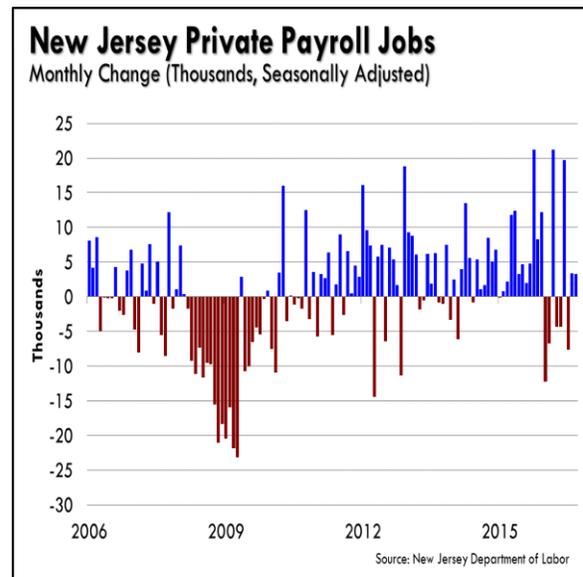
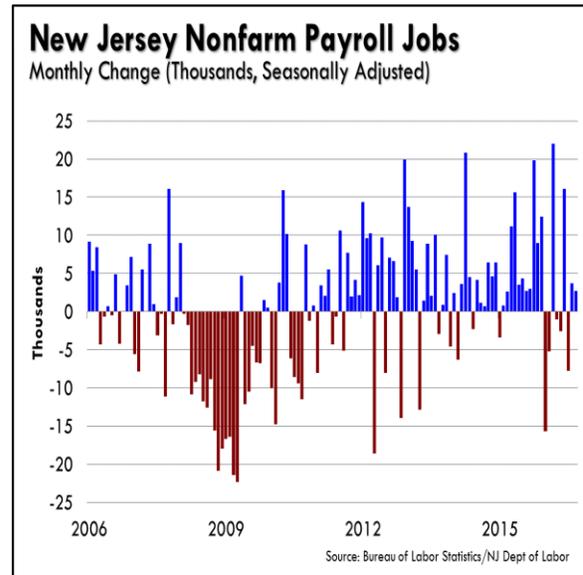
New Jersey nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,700 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,700. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in New Jersey increased by 53,400, or 1.32 percent. New Jersey nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 156,000 jobs in September, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending September 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. New Jersey ranks 31st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, New Jersey private-sector payrolls increased by 3,300, or 0.10 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 3,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in New Jersey increased by 54,200, or 1.59 percent. New Jersey private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 167,000 jobs in September, or 0.14 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,302,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.91 percent. New Jersey ranks 29th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, total government payroll employment in New Jersey declined by 600, or 0.10 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.20 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.42 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 0.26 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 800, or 0.13 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,500, or 1.05 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 3,100, or 0.73 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Professional & Business Services (+8,800) and Educational & Health Services (+4,500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-8,100) and Other Services (-4,100).

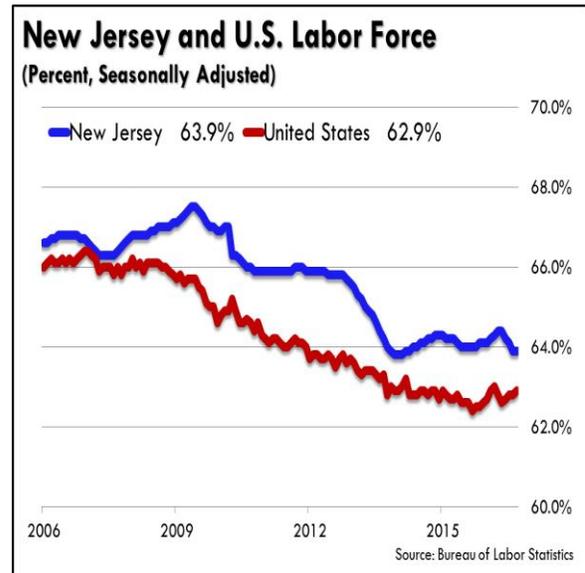
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+17,300) and Professional & Business Services (+12,400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-800) and Other Services (-700).

#### Other New Jersey Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in New Jersey was unchanged at 63.9 percent in September. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 23 have a higher labor force participation rate than New Jersey. The labor force participation rate in New Jersey is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey was 67.5 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey occurred in March 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.8 percent in February 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 60.9 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in September, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Jersey civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 60.5 percent in September. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 have higher employment-to-population ratios than New Jersey. The employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey was 63.8 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in December 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 54.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.8 percent in September. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for October is scheduled for release on November 18, 2016. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 4, 2016.

