



# New Jersey Employment Report

## Joint Economic Committee

Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

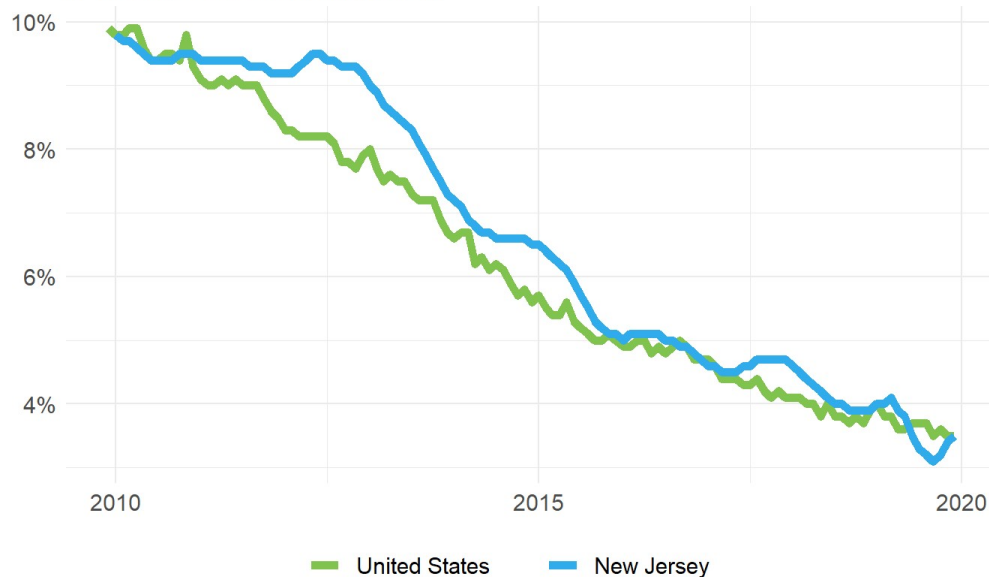
January 24, 2020

### Summary

- **New Jersey added 6,500 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, New Jersey added 39,000 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point from 3.9 percent.
- **In December, New Jersey's private sector added 5,700 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 41,400 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed rose by 9,085 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 141,416.
- New Jersey's **labor force participation rate rose to 64 percent** in December from 63.6. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose by 1.6 percentage points.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

### New Jersey and U.S. Unemployment Rates

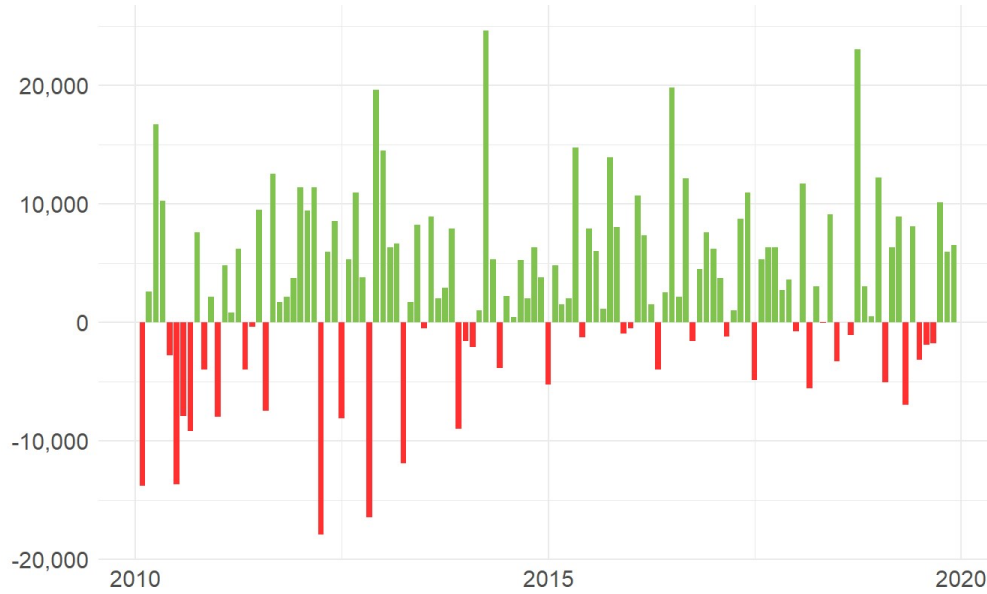
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### New Jersey Payroll Employment

## New Jersey Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

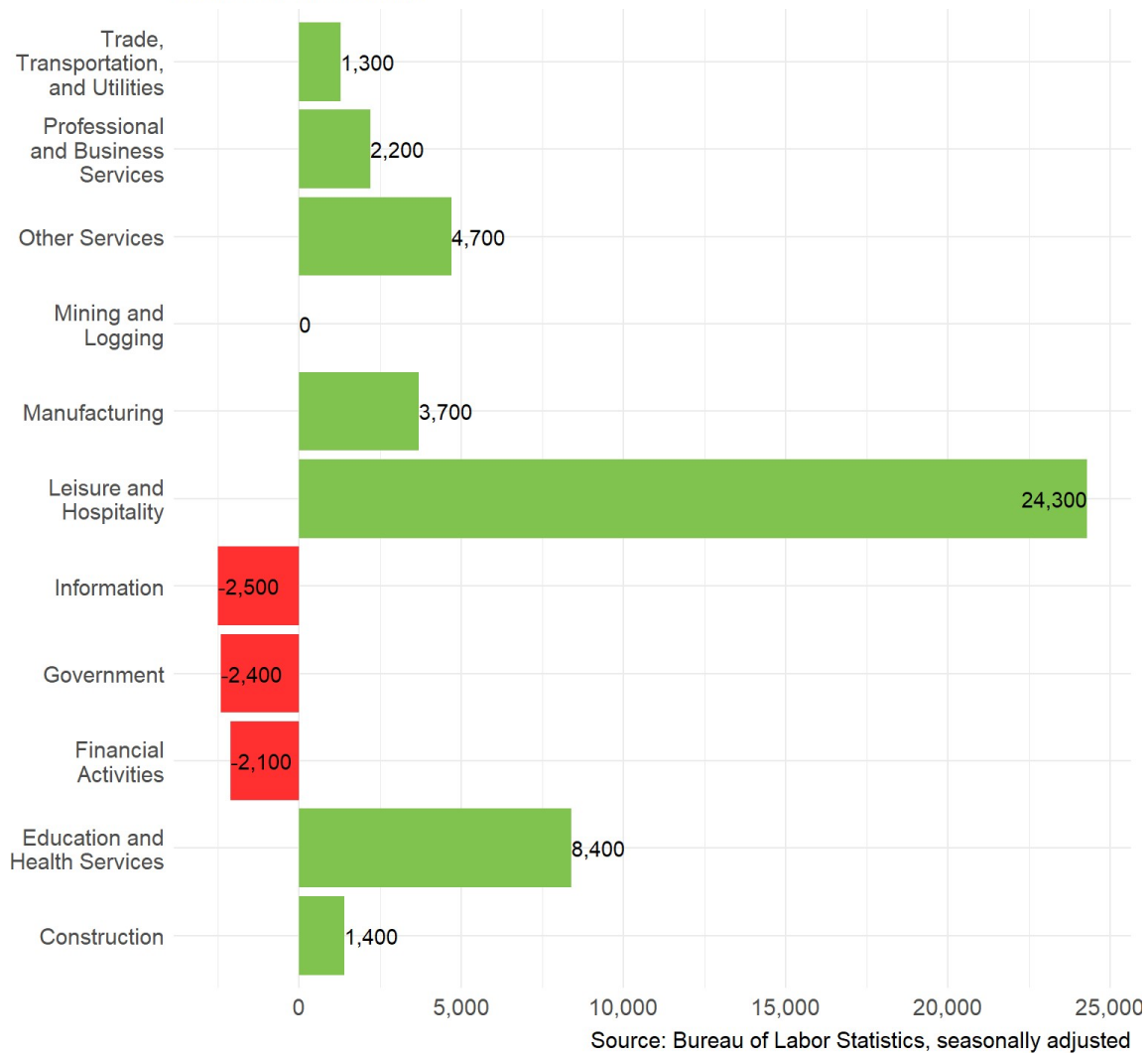
New Jersey added 6,500 net payroll jobs, or 0.2 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, New Jersey added 5,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, New Jersey added 39,000 payroll jobs, or 0.9 percent. New Jersey nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. New Jersey is tied for 28th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, New Jersey's private-sector added 5,700 jobs, or approximately 0.2 percent. The private-sector in New Jersey added 6,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in New Jersey added 41,400, or 1.2 percent. New Jersey private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. New Jersey is tied for 26th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

## Change in New Jersey Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Leisure and Hospitality (3,400) and Professional and Business Services (2,700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-500) and Construction (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure and Hospitality (24,300) and Education and Health Services (8,400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Government (-2,400) and Information (-2,500).

## New Jersey Labor Force Statistics

### Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in New Jersey rose to 64 percent in December from 63.6 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 64 percent, New Jersey is tied for 24th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in New Jersey rose by 1.6 percentage points 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 67.1 percent in March 2010. 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 62.3 percent in August 2018. The series low for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey last occurred in March 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 61.2 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September

2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

### Employment-to-Population Ratio

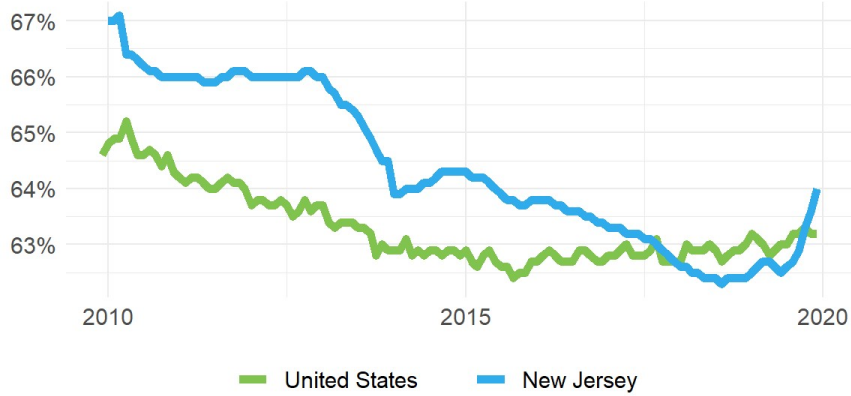
The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Jersey civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 61.7 from 61.5 percent in the prior month. At 61.7 percent, New Jersey ranks 25th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey rose by 1.8 percentage points from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey was 61.7 percent in December 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey last 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 59.3 percent in January 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey last occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a

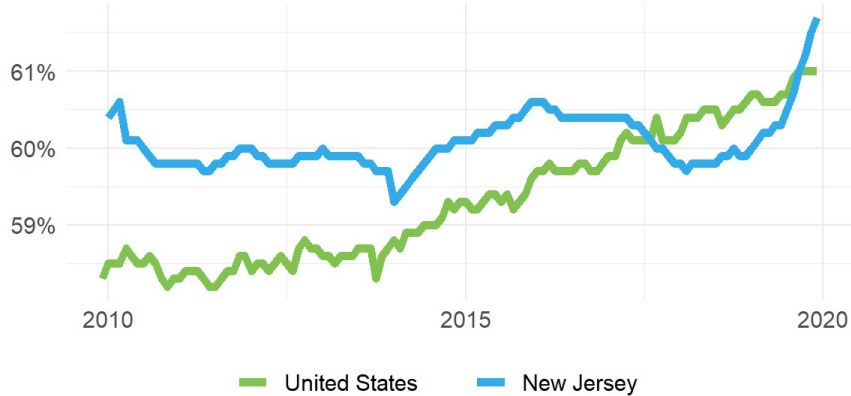
year earlier. The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

## New Jersey and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## New Jersey and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics