



News

STATE EMPLOYMENT: JANUARY 2012

Changes to labor market estimates were generally positive in the three-state region from December to January. Revisions revealed significantly more jobs and lower unemployment in Delaware than was previously reported.

Employment

According to the latest release from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), seasonally adjusted payroll employment in the three-state region rose by 5,400 net jobs from December to January. Delaware and New Jersey contributed 1,100 jobs and 13,300 jobs, respectively. Employment estimates for Pennsylvania fell by 9,000 jobs. The January estimates are preliminary and will be revised when the February estimates are released. The nation added 284,000 net jobs in January.

With the release of the January data, the BLS also released new benchmark data for previous months. The new data revealed greater job growth in Delaware and Pennsylvania but less job growth in New Jersey than originally reported over the past two years. As of December 2011, the new benchmark data resulted in an additional 6,500 jobs to the Delaware estimate, 6,500 fewer jobs in New Jersey, and 13,700 more jobs in Pennsylvania. Regardless of the revisions, employment growth took a firm hold by the end of 2011. Jobs grew at a 1.4 percent rate (annualized) in all three states over the past three months – just a tick below the nation’s growth rate of 1.5 percent.

All three states have increased total payroll jobs over the past 12 months but at a slower pace than in the nation. Employment growth over the past 12 months in New Jersey (50,400 jobs) and Pennsylvania (37,200 jobs) was statistically significant.

JANUARY 2012 DATA: BLS Payroll Employment by Sector for the Third District (Seasonally Adjusted 12-Month Percent Change)

Payroll Employment Series	DE	NJ	PA	US
Total Nonfarm	0.2	1.3	0.7	1.5
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	-4.5	2.5	7.9	3.3
Manufacturing	-1.2*	-0.1	1.2	2.0
Trade-Transportation-Utilities	1.1	1.5	0.6	1.7
Information Services	-1.7*	-9.2	-2.7	-2.0
Financial Activities	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.4
Professional and Business Services	0.7	0.2	0.0	3.6
Education and Health Services	2.9	4.6	1.2	2.1
Leisure and Hospitality Services	-3.9	0.7	1.5	2.8
Other Services	-1.5	4.6	2.1	0.6
Government	1.1	0.4	-2.7	-1.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

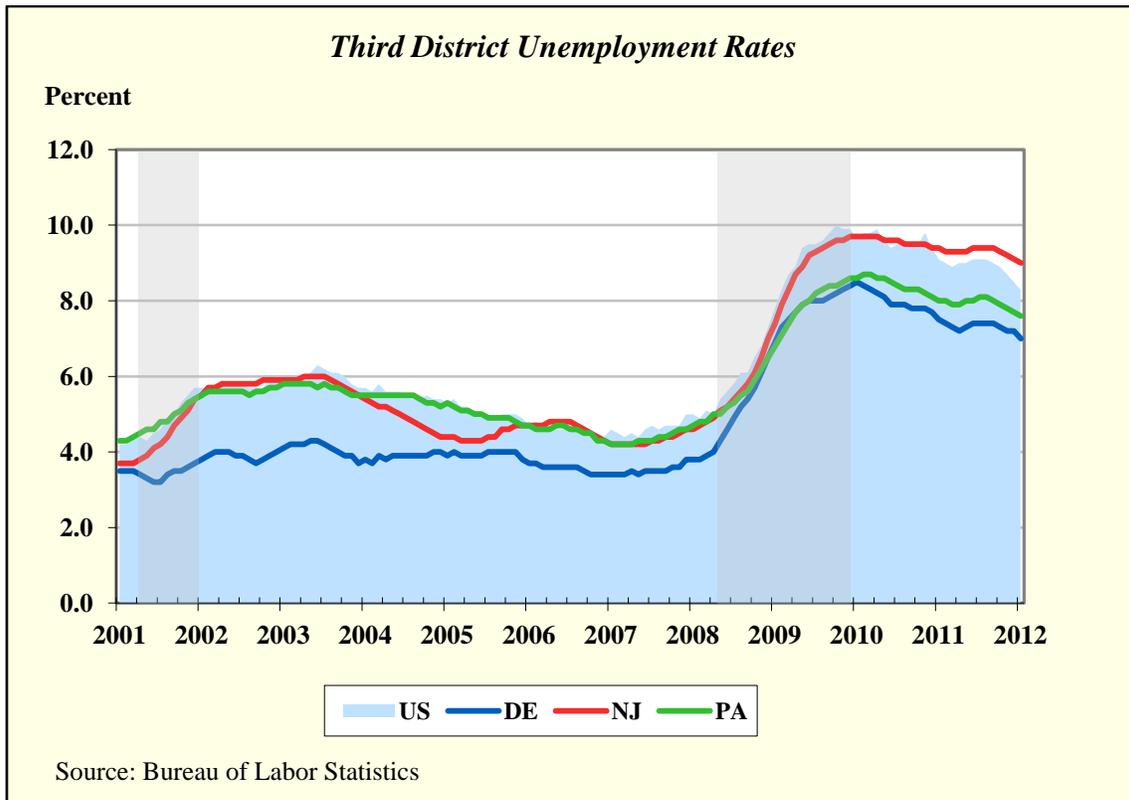
* Seasonally adjusted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The BLS does not report seasonally adjusted employment for manufacturing or information services in Delaware.

STATE EMPLOYMENT: JANUARY 2012 (cont.)

Unemployment

The unemployment picture in the three-state region improved from December 2011 to January 2012, as the unemployment rate fell from 8.2 percent to 8.1 percent – the fifth consecutive monthly decline since August 2011. The unemployment rate decreased from 9.1 percent to 9.0 percent in New Jersey, from 7.2 percent to 7.0 percent in Delaware, and from 7.7 percent to 7.6 percent in Pennsylvania. The unemployment rate for the nation overall fell from 8.5 percent to 8.3 percent in January.

With the release of the January data, the BLS also released new data for five previous years based on new seasonal adjustment factors. The revisions were significant for Delaware – shifting the state’s unemployment rate trend line downward by an average of 0.4 percentage point in 2010 and by an average of 0.7 percentage point in 2011. The changes were minor for New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



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