

Southern Regional Community Fact Book

Atlantic County Edition

New Jersey Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Division of Labor Market and
Demographic Research

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF

LWD

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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February 2010

Preface

The Regional Community Fact Book for Atlantic County provides a snapshot of its people and its economy. Included are facts and figures on current industry trends, population, unemployment and income. The Fact Book also provides a look into the future and provides the latest population, labor force, industry and occupational projections.

The Regional Community Fact Book series is meant to be a reference for use in local and regional economic development planning and for employment and training providers. Fact Books will be published annually for New Jersey's 21 counties, grouped into three regions (northern, central and southern).

Acknowledgements

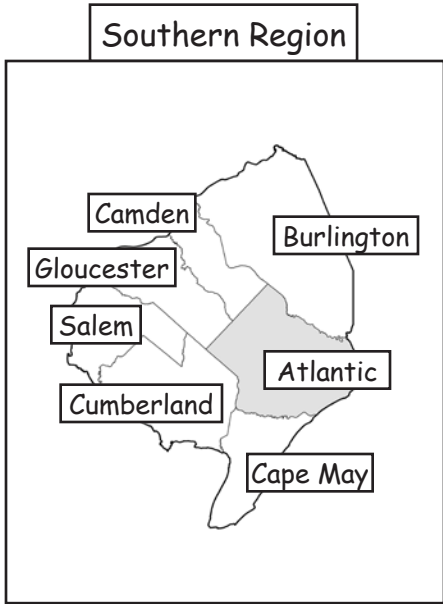
This publication was prepared by Chester Sherman and Frank Ferdetta of the Bureau of Labor Market Information, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research. Layout was done by JoAnne Caramelo.

Questions regarding information contained in this publication should be directed to Chester Sherman by phone at (609) 292-7281 or by e-mail: chester.sherman@dol.state.nj.us.

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County Snapshot



Population (2008 estimate): 270,681
Change from Census 2000: +18,129 or +7.2%
Percent of New Jersey Total: 3.1%

Total Private Sector Employment (2008): 122,498
Percent of New Jersey Total: 3.7%
Change from 2003: +296

Largest Industry (2008): Leisure and Hospitality
Employment: 53,570
Percent of Total County Employment: 43.7%

Private Sector Wage (2008 annual average): \$37,335
Percent of New Jersey Average: 68.0%
Change From 2003: +\$5,101

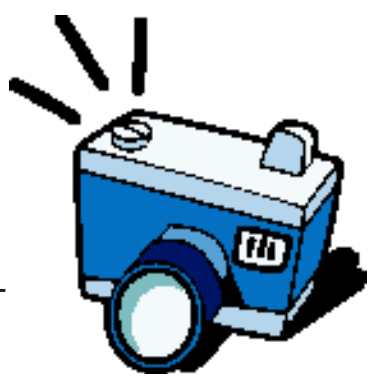
Industry With Highest Average Annual Wage (2008): Construction: \$61,148

Per Capita Personal Income (2007): \$36,325
Percent of New Jersey Per Capita Income: 73.4%

Number of Unemployment Insurance Claimants (2008 annual average): 3,976

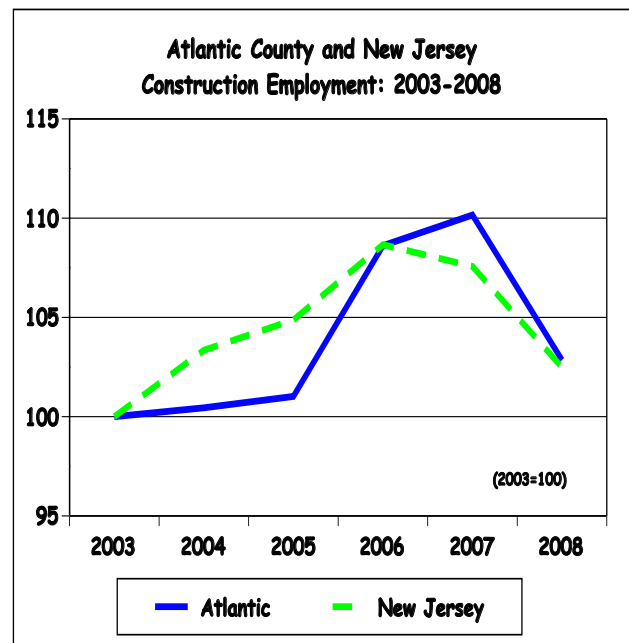
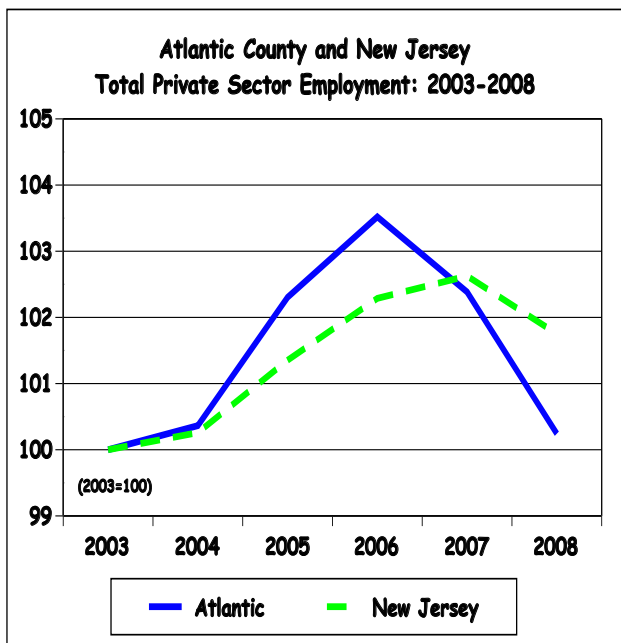
Unemployment Rate (2008 annual average): 7.0%
5-year High (2008): 7.0%
5-year Low (2005): 5.4%
New Jersey Rate (2008): 5.5%

Building Permits (single-family residential, 2008): 690
Rank Among New Jersey Counties: 4



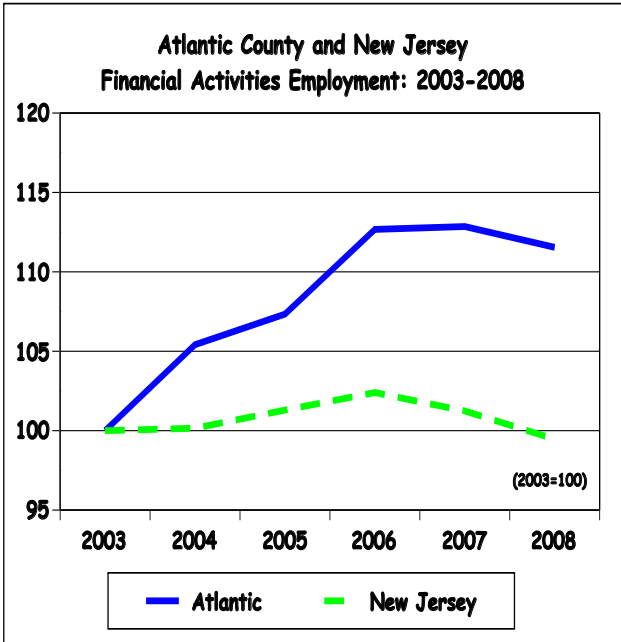
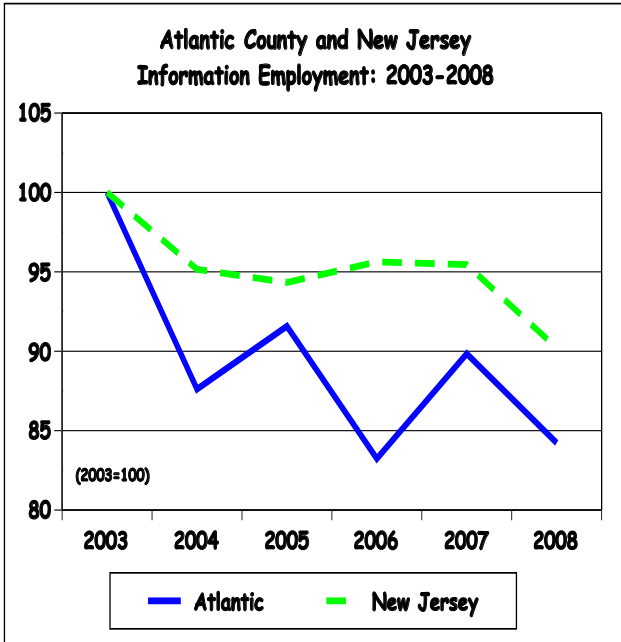
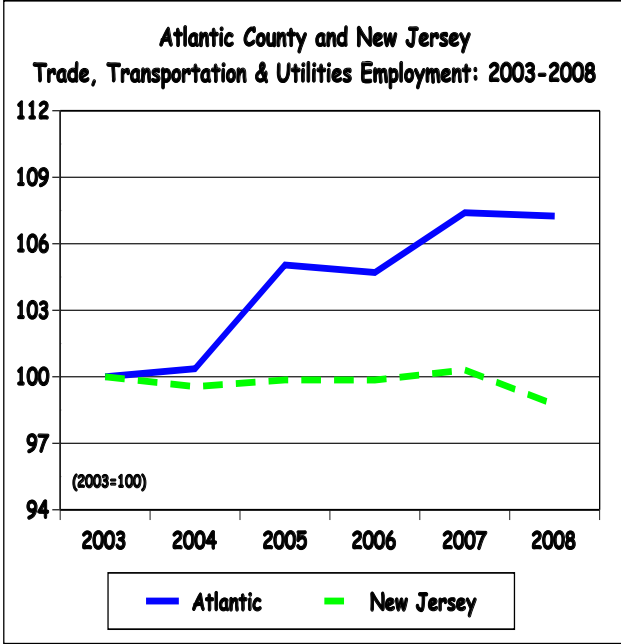
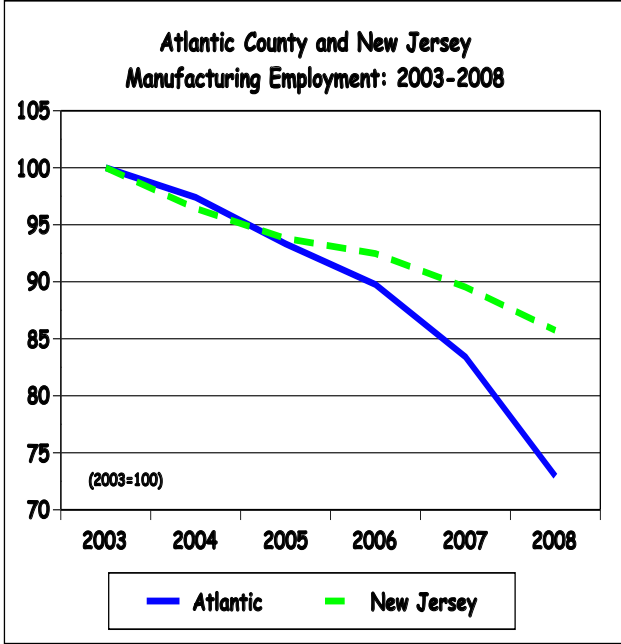
Industry Trends, Atlantic vs. New Jersey

- Atlantic County posted its largest employment gain in the education and health services sector (+1,668), which expanded nearly as fast as statewide (11.0% vs. 11.4%) from 2003 to 2008. Nearly all of the county's new jobs were created in the health services segment.
- Atlantic County's trade, transportation & utilities sector added (+1,478) jobs during this period far outpacing a small state decline (7.2% vs. -1.3%). Most of the county's new jobs were concentrated in retail and wholesale trade. Notable retail developments during the period included the Hamilton Commons shopping center (Hamilton Township), Ocean Heights Plaza (Somers Point), and The Walk, The Quarter and The Pier at Caesars in Atlantic City.
- The county's professional and business services sector posted the third largest employment increase (+667) from 2003 to 2008 and expanded about as fast as the state overall during the 5-year period (7.3% vs. 7.0%). Firms providing professional and technical services accounted for more than half (53.4%) of the new jobs.
- Led by losses at hotel casinos that eclipsed a significant job gain in the food services and drinking places component, Atlantic County's leisure and hospitality sector recorded the largest employment decline from 2003 to 2008 (-3,347, or -5.9 %). Although the 2003 opening of the Borgata hotel casino and the development of other new gaming, hospitality and dining attractions were positive developments during this period, gaming industry payrolls were negatively impacted by: new competitive pressures; mergers and other management restructurings; technological advances (e.g. coinless slots); the closing of the Sands hotel casino in November 2006; and more recently, a recessionary economy.

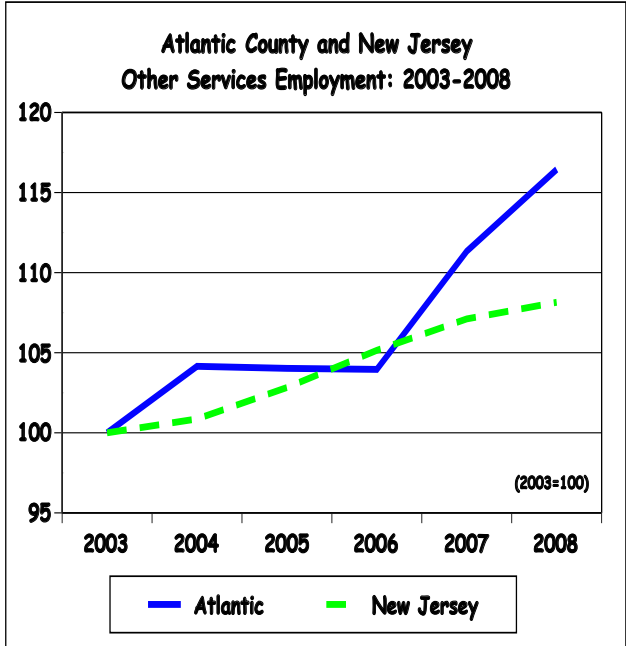
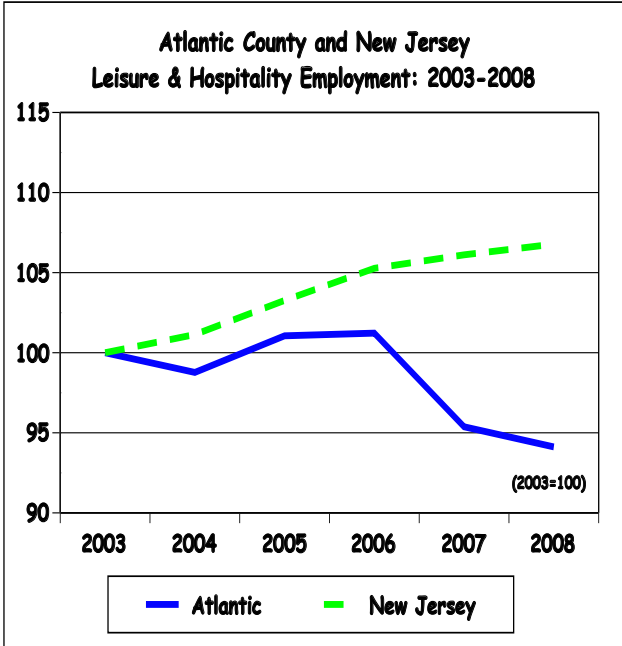
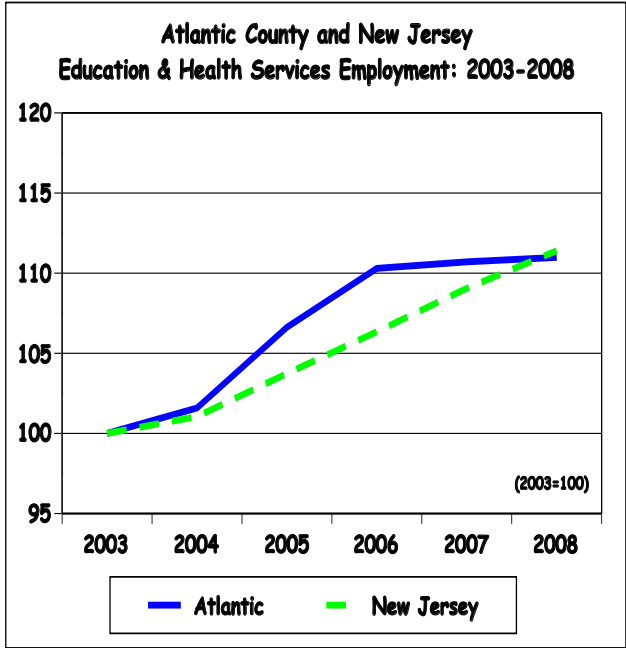
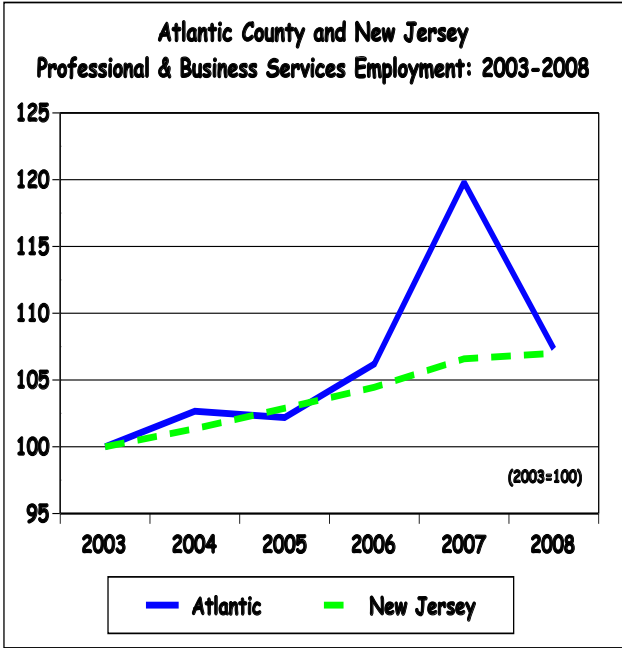


Note: Use of an index facilitates comparison between two separate data elements.

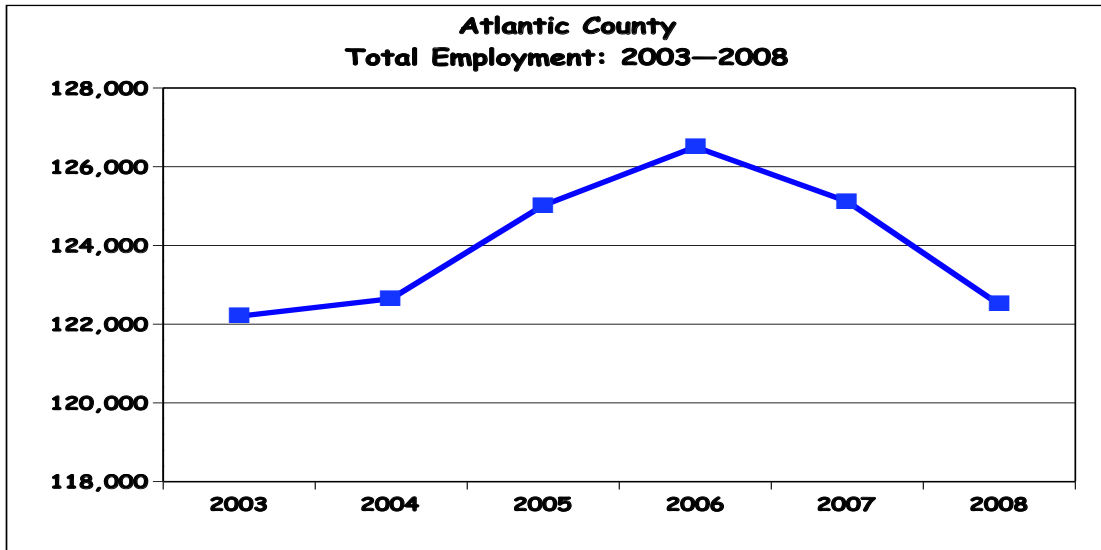
Industry Trends, Atlantic vs. New Jersey



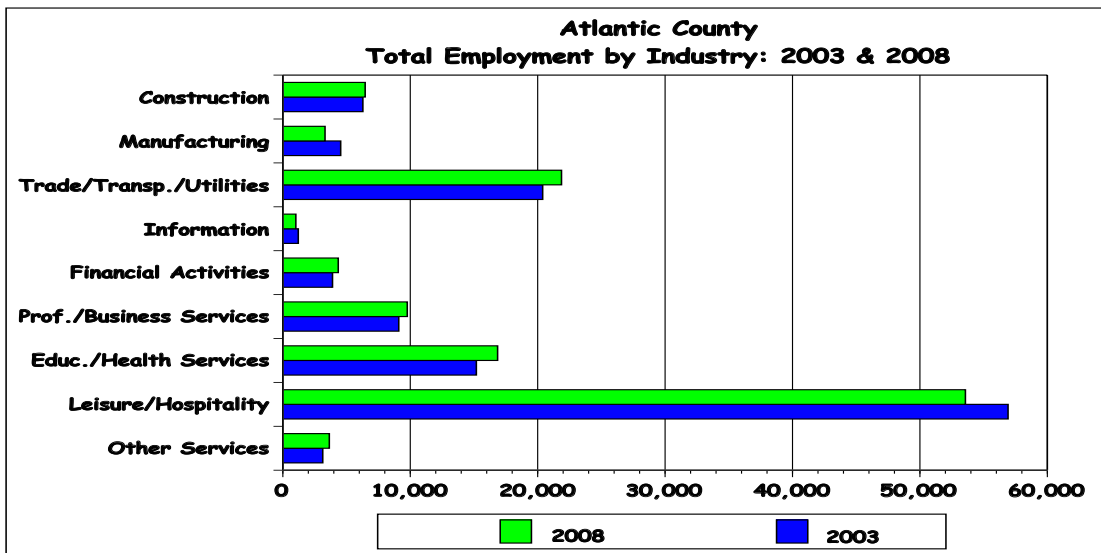
Industry Trends, Atlantic vs. New Jersey



Employment

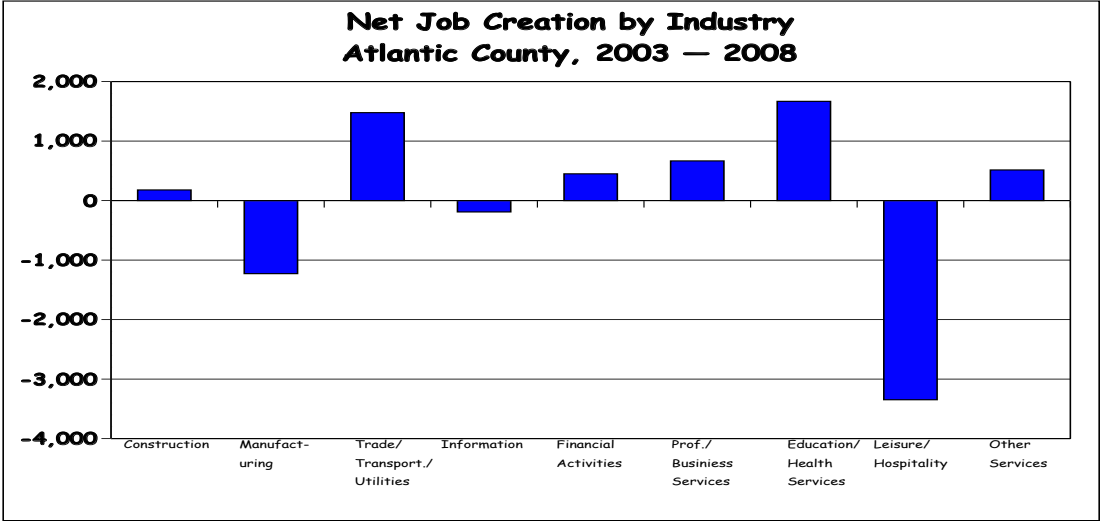


- Atlantic County's private-sector employment grew much slower than the state's from 2003 to 2008 (0.2% vs. 1.8%). The county's private sector payrolls increased from 2003 to 2006, but declined in 2007 largely due to layoffs in the hotel-casino industry — most notably the 2,100 workers idled by the November 2006 closing of the Sands hotel casino. Private-sector employment recorded its largest decline in 2008 (-2,618) due to the onset of a national recession in December 2007.

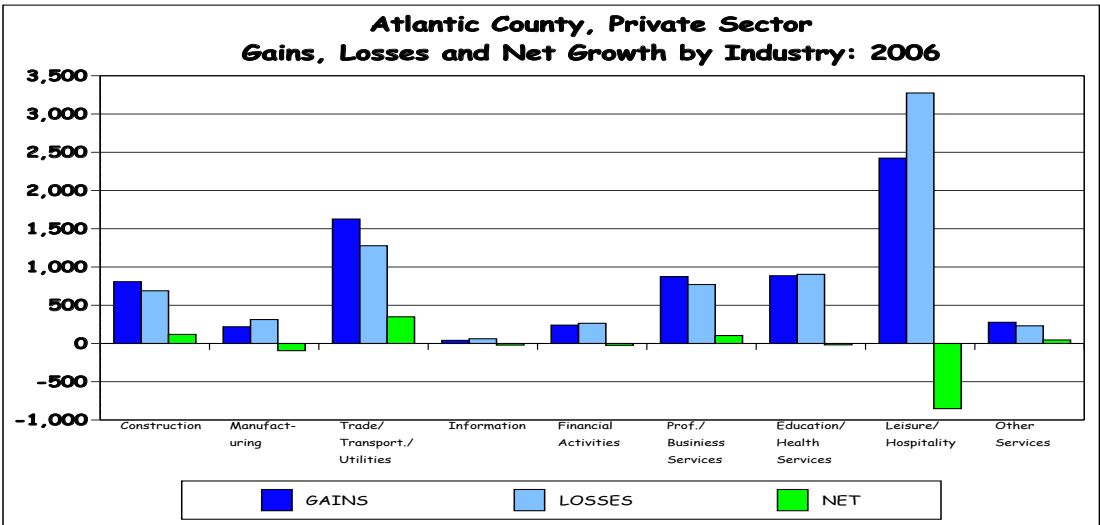


- Atlantic County's largest employment sector is leisure and hospitality (53,570) largely due to the concentration of hotel casinos in Atlantic City. Leisure and hospitality accounted for 43.7 percent of all private-sector jobs in the county during 2008.

Employment Gains and Losses

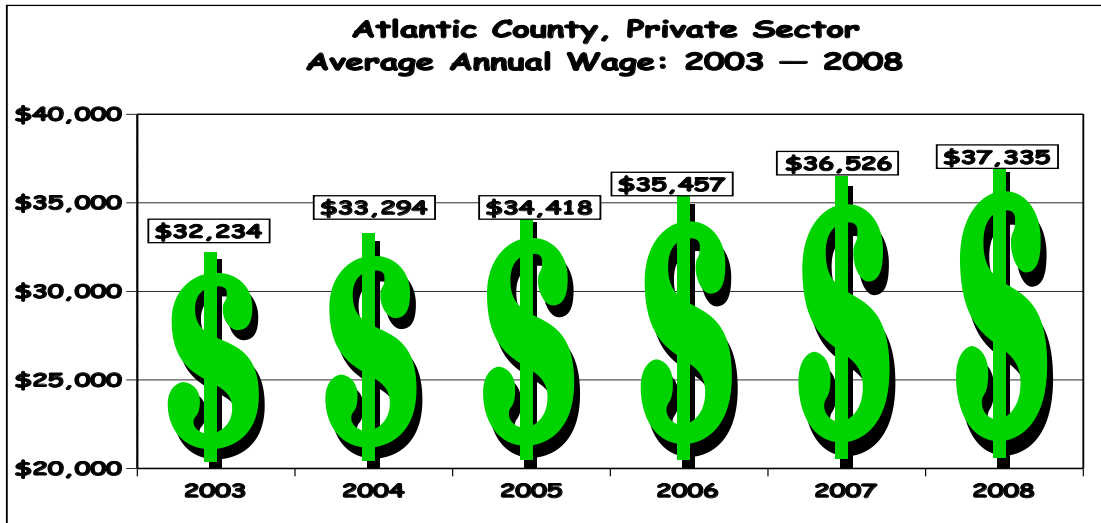


- Most of Atlantic County's new jobs were concentrated in education/health services (+1,668), trade/transportation/utilities (+1,478) and professional and business services (+667) from 2003 to 2008. Most of the county's job losses were in the leisure and hospitality sector (-3,347) — in particular the hotel casino industry.

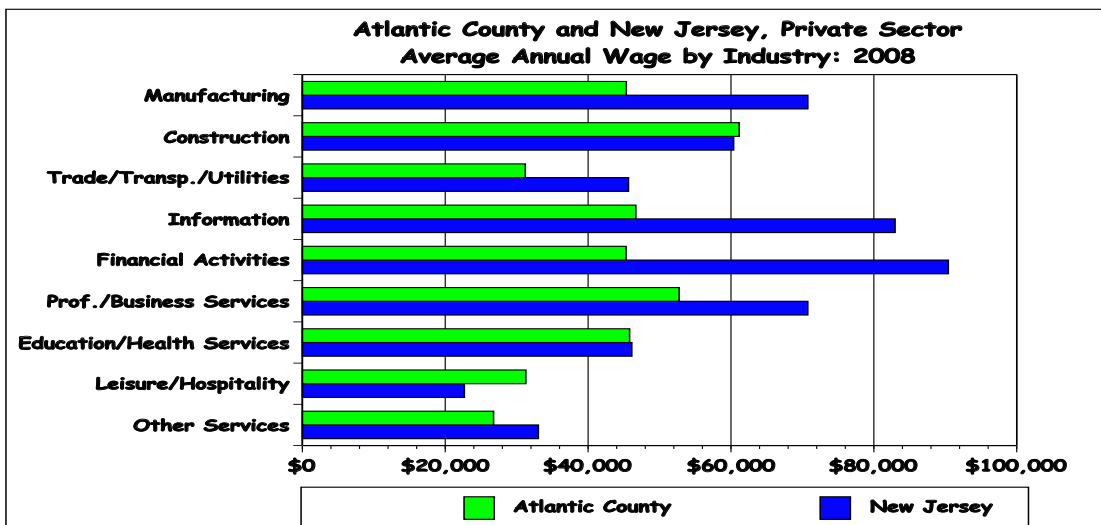


- Among private sector employers in 2006, Atlantic County's leisure and hospitality sector had the most job gains. However, the closing of the Sands hotel casino, which eliminated 2,100 jobs in November 2006, and layoffs/turnover elsewhere in the gaming industry, resulted in a net job loss for the year.

Wages



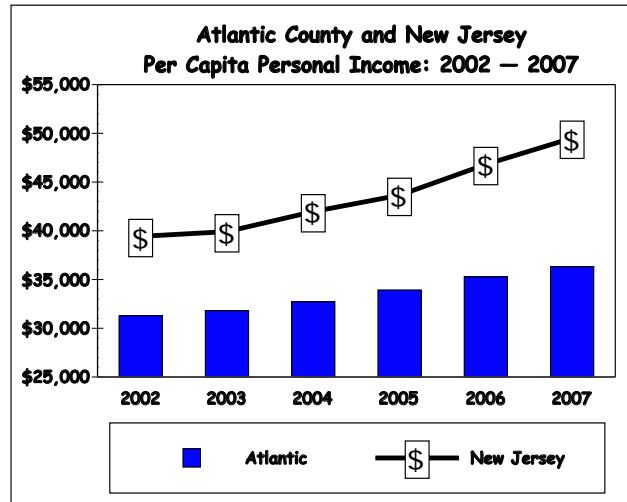
- Atlantic County's private sector annual average wage reached \$37,335 in 2008, a gain of 15.8 percent from 2003. In comparison, the state's annual average wage increased by 19.5 percent during the period.
- Atlantic County's private sector annual average wage ranged from 68-to-70 percent of state's level during the 5-year period. Atlantic County's lower annual wage is due at least in part to its greater concentration of employment in leisure and hospitality and retail trade, where average wages are lower. Seasonal and part-time workers also help dilute the annual average wage in retail trade and leisure and hospitality.



- Interestingly, leisure and hospitality is the only industry sector where Atlantic County's annual average wage significantly exceeded the statewide average (\$31,288 vs. \$22,679) in 2008. The county's higher annual wage can be traced to the gaming industry's unionized hotel and restaurant workers, higher tipping rates and a greater proportion of higher paying jobs compared to similar nongaming establishments.

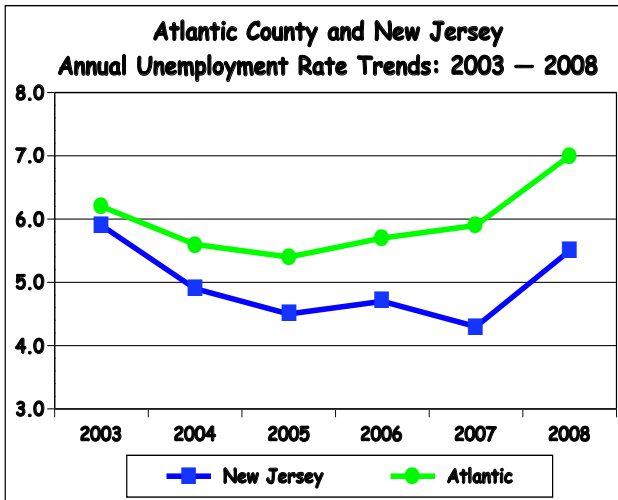
Per Capita Personal Income

- During the 2002-2007 period, Atlantic County's per capita personal income increased by 16.1 percent to total \$36,325. The county's percent increase during this period was well below that of the state (25.6%) and nation (25.2%).
- At just 73.4 percent of the state's level (\$49,511) in 2007, Atlantic County's per capita income ranked 19th among New Jersey's 21 counties. In 1997, Atlantic County's per capita personal income ranked 11th in the state.



- In 2007, transfer payments (such as social security, welfare and unemployment benefits) accounted for a greater proportion of Atlantic County's personal income than either the state or nation (18.8% vs. 12.2% and 14.7%, respectively). A higher average unemployment rate due to its seasonal tourism and agriculture industries contributes to the county's greater dependence on transfer payments such as unemployment insurance. Conversely, Atlantic County derived less of its personal income from dividends/interest/rent than the state or nation in 2007 (11.9% vs. 15.9% and 17.5%, respectively).

Unemployment Rates



- Although Atlantic County's annual average unemployment rate was just 0.3 percentage points higher than the state's unemployment rate in 2003, the gap increased to 1.5 percentage points in 2008. The loss of 6,500 gaming industry jobs impacted the county's rate of unemployment during this 5-year period.
- Historically, the county's unemployment rate has remained above that of the state largely due to the seasonal nature of its tourism and agricultural industries, as well as, high employee turnover rates in the accommodation and food services industry.

Characteristics of the Unemployed

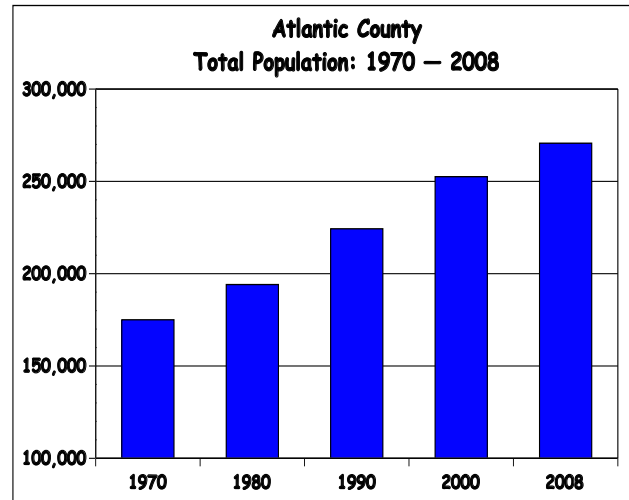
Characteristics of the Unemployed New Jersey vs. Atlantic County: 2008

Category	Atlantic County		New Jersey	
	Annual Average 2008	Percent of Total	Annual Average 2008	Percent of Total
Total Insured Unemployed	3,967	100.0%	90,232	100.0%
By Gender				
Male	2,398	60.3%	52,249	57.9%
Female	1,578	39.7%	37,983	42.1%
By Race				
White	2,430	61.1%	53,989	59.8%
Black	896	22.5%	18,932	21.0%
Asian	116	2.9%	2,858	3.2%
Other	534	13.4%	14,453	16.0%
By Ethnicity				
Hispanic	602	15.1%	17,774	19.7%
Not Hispanic	3,119	78.4%	65,495	72.6%
Chose Not To Answer	255	6.4%	6,963	7.7%
By Age of Claimant				
Under 25	490	12.3%	9,184	10.2%
25 through 34 years	903	22.7%	20,829	23.1%
35 through 44 years	920	23.1%	20,961	23.2%
45 through 54 years	928	23.3%	21,126	23.4%
55 through 64 years	521	13.1%	13,030	14.4%
65 years and over	214	5.4%	5,102	5.7%
By Industry				
Construction	636	16.0%	11,201	12.4%
Manufacturing	146	3.7%	7,669	8.5%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	693	17.4%	19,472	21.6%
Wholesale Trade	103	2.6%	5,010	5.6%
Retail Trade	478	12.0%	10,138	11.2%
Information	33	0.8%	1,829	2.0%
Financial Activities	140	3.5%	5,353	5.9%
Professional & Business Services	427	10.7%	15,944	17.7%
Educational and Health Services	330	8.3%	8,810	9.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,038	26.1%	7,503	8.3%
Other Services	89	2.2%	2,268	2.5%

- While in percent terms Atlantic County's unemployment insurance claimants in 2008 differed only slightly from the state as a whole in the gender, race and age categories, more than three times as many county claimants were previously employed in the leisure and hospitality sector (26.1% vs. 8.3%).
- An Atlantic County resident that filed a claim for unemployment benefits in 2008 was more likely to be a white, non-Hispanic male between the ages 25-54 formerly employed in the leisure and hospitality industry.

Population

- From 1970 to 2008, Atlantic County ranked 7th among New Jersey's 21 counties for population growth. The county's 54.6 percent population increase was more than two and one half times the state's rate of 21.1 percent.
- While greater than statewide population gains were recorded each decade, and so far in the new millennium, the county's population grew fastest in the 1980s (15.6%) - more than three times faster than the state overall (5.0%).



Atlantic County Racial/Hispanic Origin: 2000 - 2008		
Race	Percent in 2008	Percent in 2000
White	73.7	74.3
Black	17.6	18.7
Asian	6.6	5.3
Multiracial	1.7	1.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.3	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1
Total*	100.0	100.0
Hispanic Origin (may be of any race)	14.9	12.2

* May not add to 100% due to rounding

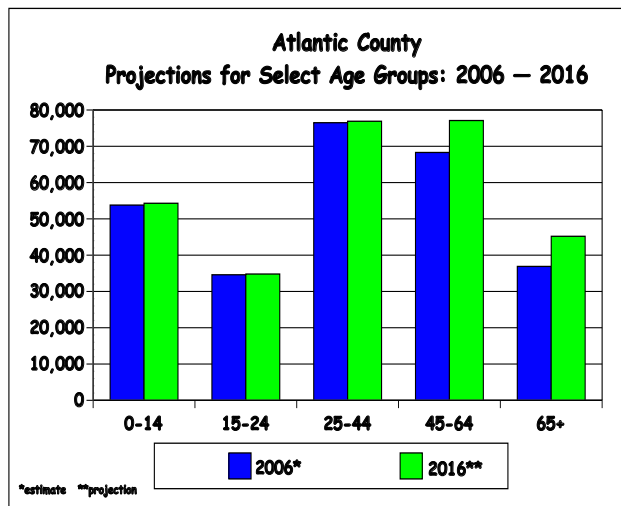
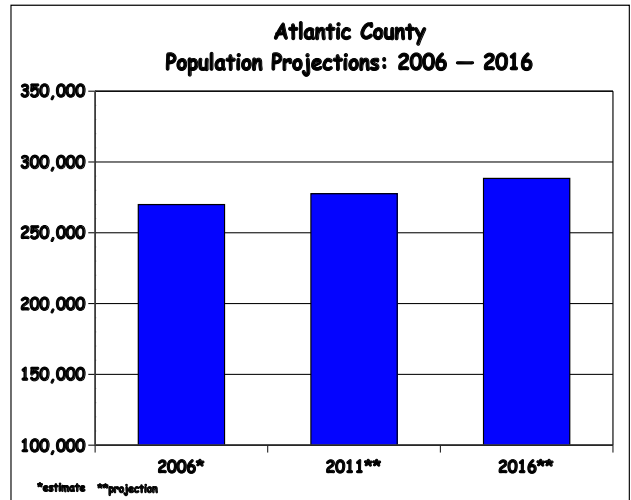
- Although whites accounted for 11,829 or 65.2 percent of Atlantic County's population growth from 2000 to 2008, their proportion of the county's total population declined slightly to 73.7 percent.
- Asians accounted for 4,470 or 24.7 percent of the county's population growth during this period. Overall, the number of Asians increased by 33.7 percent from 2000 to 2008, the largest percentage of any racial category.

- Combined, the three mainland townships of Egg Harbor, Galloway and Hamilton have accounted for 79.6 percent of the county's total population increase since 1970. Since 2000, Egg Harbor's population increase of +9,137 ranks third among the state's 566 municipalities.
- After declining during the 1970s and 1980s, Atlantic City's population posted an increase of 2,500 or 6.7 percent during the 1990s. The city's 2008 population estimate declined by -1,109 from its Census 2000 level.

Atlantic County Ten Largest Municipalities		
Rank	Municipality	Population
1	Egg Harbor township	39,863
2	Atlantic City city	39,408
3	Galloway township	36,450
4	Hamilton township	24,397
5	Pleasantville city	18,853
6	Hammontown town	13,424
7	Brigantine city	12,647
8	Ventnor City city	12,187
9	Somers Point city	11,343
10	Margate City city	8,501

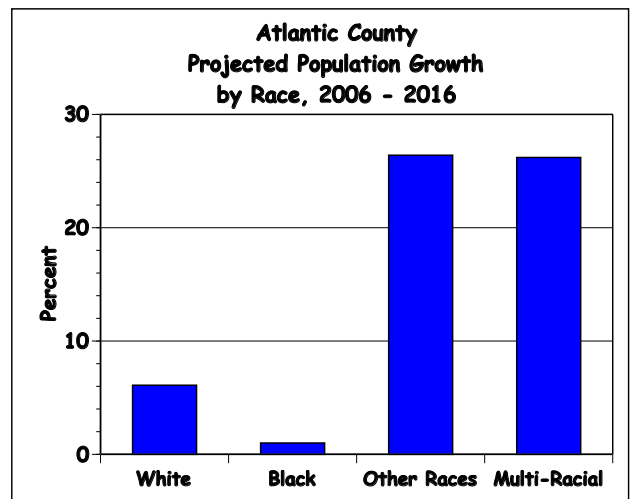
Population Projections

- Atlantic County's population is projected to grow by 18,500 from 2006 to 2016. The county's projected rate of growth (6.9%) is greater than the state's (4.6%) and ranks 6th among New Jersey's 21 counties.



- Due to the aging of the baby boomer generation (those born between 1946 and 1964), the county's 45-to-64-year-old age cohort is projected to realize the largest numerical (+8,800) increase from 2006 to 2016. The 65+ age category is projected to have the greatest percentage increase (22.5%) during the 10-year period.

- Although whites are projected to account for nearly two thirds (65.9%) of the county's population growth from 2006 to 2016, the "other" and "multiracial" categories are projected to grow the fastest at 26.4 percent and 26.2 percent respectively.



Industry Projections

Atlantic County, 2006 - 2016

Ten Industries with the Greatest Employment Growth

Industry Title	2006 Jobs	2016 Jobs	Change: 2006-2016		
			Number	Percent	
				Total	Annual
Ambulatory Health Care Services	5,230	6,987	1,757	33.6	2.9
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	5,001	6,240	1,239	24.8	2.2
Food Services and Drinking Places	11,690	12,923	1,233	10.5	1.0
Social Assistance	2,586	3,725	1,139	44.0	3.7
Amusement, Gambling, Recreational	1,892	2,757	865	45.7	3.8
Admin. Support/Waste Mgmt./Remediation Svcs.	4,592	5,376	784	17.1	1.6
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,918	3,653	735	25.2	2.3
Religious, Civic, Professional Organizations	1,730	2,325	595	34.4	3.0
Specialty Trade Contracting	4,385	4,947	561	12.8	1.2
Accommodation	45,147	45,671	524	1.2	0.1

- Atlantic County is projected to add 11,784 new jobs from 2006 to 2016, an increase of 7.6 percent.
- Three of the top ten industries are important to the county's economic base (tourism and gambling) and are projected to account for 2,622 or 22.3 percent of all new jobs over the 10-year period.

Atlantic County, 2006 - 2016

Ten Industries with the Greatest Employment Decline

Industry Title	2006 Jobs	2016 Jobs	Change: 2006-2016		
			Number	Percent	
				Total	Annual
Durable Goods Manufacturing, All Other	962	601	-361	-37.5	-4.6
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing, All Other	1,003	755	-248	-24.7	-2.8
Federal Jobs (except USPS)	2,185	1,970	-216	-9.9	-1.0
Local government (except education)	6,966	6,807	-158	-2.3	-0.2
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	483	376	-107	-22.2	-2.5
Rental and Leasing Services	599	534	-65	-10.9	-1.1
Retail Trade, All Other	1,912	1,851	-61	-3.2	-0.3
Telecommunications	264	204	-60	-22.7	-2.5
Utilities	617	573	-45	-7.2	-0.7
Machinery Manufacturing	142	97	-44	-31.3	-3.7

- Four of the top ten industries with the projected greatest employment declines from 2006 to 2016 were manufacturing-related.
- Two of the top four industries with the projected greatest employment declines from 2006 to 2016 fell under the broader heading of government.

Projected Occupational Demand

Atlantic County Occupations with the Most Projected Job Openings, 2006-2016

Occupation	Annual Average Job Openings			2006	Skill Level ²	Outlook
	Total ¹	Growth	Replacements	Annual Wage ³		
Waiters and Waitresses	370	20	340	\$22,980	Low	Stable
Cashiers	250	10	240	19,050	Low	Stable
Retail Salespersons	190	50	140	24,590	Low	Growing
Gaming Dealers	160	40	120	N/A	Moderate	Growing
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	120	10	110	19,520	Low	Growing
Registered Nurses	110	60	50	65,900	High	Growing
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	110	50	60	18,270	Low	Growing
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	110	30	80	19,820	Low	Growing
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	100	30	70	27,110	Low	Growing
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	90	30	60	56,140	High	Growing
Security Guards	90	20	70	21,390	Low	Growing
Cooks, Restaurant	90	20	70	23,440	Moderate	Growing
Bartenders	80	10	60	25,240	Low	Growing
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	80	0	80	19,290	Low	Stable
Dishwashers	70	0	70	17,130	Low	Stable
Gaming Change Persons and Booth Cashiers	70	0	70	N/A	Low	Declining
Office Clerks, General	70	20	40	25,540	Low	Growing
Gaming Supervisors	60	0	60	N/A	Moderate	Stable
Child Care Workers	60	30	40	20,770	Low	Growing
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	60	10	50	39,470	Low	Growing

1. "Growth" and "Replacements" may not add to "Total" due to rounding.

2. High Skills: Associate's degree or higher.

Moderate Skills: Long-term on-the-job training, work experience or post secondary/vocational/technical training.

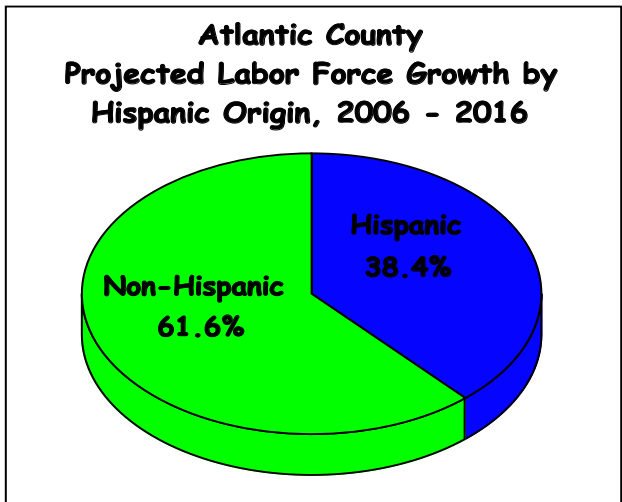
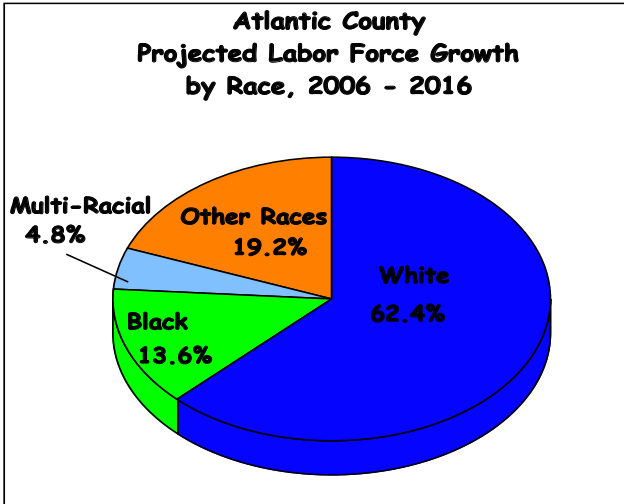
Low Skills: Short-term or moderate-term on-the-job training, including up to 12 months of on-the-job experience and informal training.

3. N/A: data not published due to statistical or quality control reasons.

- For Atlantic County, projections to the year 2016 were made for 609 occupations that combined are projected to create 5,460 job openings annually.
- The county's top twenty occupations ranked by annual average job openings are projected to account for 2,340 or 42.9 percent of the total job openings each year. (Note: About two thirds (68.3%) or 416 of these occupations are projected to have fewer than 5 openings each year during the projection period.)
- A clear majority of these twenty occupations are found in significant numbers in hotel-casinos, and other restaurant/hospitality/tourism-related industries. Many also require only moderate or short-term on the job training.

Labor Force Projections

- Like its population, Atlantic County's labor force is projected to increase faster than the state's from 2006 to 2016 (8.9% vs. 6.0%). Whites will make the largest contribution to the labor force (+7,800) and account for 62.4 percent of all new entrants. Persons of "other races" (mostly Asian) will compose an additional 2,400 or 19.2 percent.
- Note: Multi-racial refers to persons who are of two or more races. "Other races" includes Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.



- Hispanics (which can be of any race) are projected to account for 38.4 percent of the increase in Atlantic County's labor force from 2006 to 2016. Overall, the Hispanic labor force is projected to grow much faster than the Non-Hispanic labor force during this period (25.4% vs. 6.4%, respectively).

- Males will account for a greater share (54.8%) of all new entrants to Atlantic County's labor force through 2016.

