

## JOBLESS RATE IN BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY DROPS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH



The estimated unemployment rate for Burlington County, New Jersey has dropped to six percent for the month of April, which is the lowest monthly rate in over five years. The latest data comes from the New Jersey Department of Labor.

In the county there are 234,600 eligible workers and in April there were just 14,200 unemployed, according to The Burlington County Times. The rate in March was 7.2, so it represents a drop of 1.2 percent.

Unemployment dropped in all four of the county's largest towns; Evesham, Mount Laurel, Pemberton and Willingboro.

In Evesham, the rate dropped to 4.7 in April from 5.8 in March. In Mount Laurel, the rate dropped to 5.1 percent from 5.9 percent. In Pemberton Township, the rate dropped from 10 percent to 7.9 percent and in Willingboro, the rate dropped from 9.8 percent to 8.5 percent. These rates are not seasonally adjusted.

This is the second straight month that the county saw a drop in the unemployment rate. The rate increased to 7.3 percent in January and then to 7.4 percent in February, but it dropped to 7.2 percent in March.

The 6 percent rate is the lowest in Burlington County since November of 2008 when it hit 5.3 percent.

"The strong gain in resident employment and the increase in the labor force, along with the drop in the unemployment rate, indicates that the labor market continues to heal," said Charles Steindel, of the New Jersey Department of Treasury. "We appear to be starting some progress on the job front after the recent soft months."

The largest job gains in the most recent report for the state came in the trade, leisure and hospitality, utilities and transportation, and professional and business services sectors. Losses occurred in manufacturing, construction and information. Job gains in the public sector occurred at the federal, state and local levels.

The unemployment rate of 6 percent in Burlington County ranks it as ninth lowest out of the state's 21 counties. The highest is Cape May County, with 11.4 percent unemployed. The lowest is a tie at 4.7 percent for Hunterdon and Morris counties.

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