



PROGRAM YEAR 2021

Annual Report

MIDDLESEX COUNTY QUICK FACTS

Data from Lightcast:

- 65.2% Labor Force Participation Rate
- 2016 to 2021 growth: +2,392 jobs (0.5% growth)
- 44.9% have Bachelor's degree or higher; 9.9% lacking high school diploma
- Top 3 industries: Employment Services, Warehousing and Storage, and Education and Hospitals (Local Government)



822,953
Total Population



447,101
Total Regional Employment



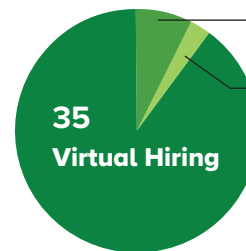
3.17%
Unemployment rate
by June 2022



\$91,731.00
Median Household Income

- Top growing occupations by # jobs: Transportation and Material Moving (+13,045); Management (+3,749); Business and Financial Operations (+1,843); Healthcare Support (+1,472); Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (+727)
- Top Occupations by earnings: Management (median hourly earnings \$70.35); Legal (\$50.84); Computer and Mathematical (\$50.67); Architecture and Engineering (\$45.94); Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (\$44.99)
- Top Specialized skills: Warehousing, Merchandising, Nursing, Auditing, Marketing

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TEAM PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



39 Total Events
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

861 Attendees
2777 Registrants

Business Solutions continue to be offered virtually except for an in-person, joint job fair with the City of Perth Amboy. Program strengths include employer job matching, resume assistance, and employer and business outreach, while weaknesses include staff retention, jobseeker connections, marketing, and conversion and employee retention rates. The Business Solutions Team looks forward to adding new staff to the department, expanding the relationship with businesses, and forming new partnerships in PY 2022.

The BST has begun offering Work-Based Learning (WBL) programs to Middlesex County Employers. Included services are:

- Transitional Jobs
- On-The-Job Training
- Incumbent Worker Training

These Work-Based Learning Strategies give job seekers the opportunity to “Earn while they Learn”. Companies are able to train employees and build a competitive workforce. WBL is the key to developing Career Pathways that provide economic mobility and career growth.

Annual Report

PROGRAM FUNDING

Funding for programs and services is provided through grants from the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Additional funding is provided by the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

WIOA PERFORMANCE

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

PROGRAM	EMPLOYED/ EXITED	GOAL	ACTUAL
ADULT			
Employment Rate Q2	21/38	66.70%	55.26%
Employment Rate Q4	28/49	65.90%	57.14%
Median Earnings Q2			\$3900.00
Credential Attainment Q4	21/32	60.50%	65.63%
Measurable Skills Gain	62/92	41.00%	67.39%
DISLOCATED WORKER			
Employment Rate Q2	81/246	60.20%	32.93%
Employment Rate Q4	88/242	58.20%	36.36%
Median Earnings Q2			\$9228.42
Credential Attainment Q4	53/80	68.10%	66.25%
Measurable Skills Gain	123/181	41.00%	67.96%
YOUTH			
Employment Rate Q2	45/58	67.10%	77.59%
Employment Rate Q4	38/46	58.90%	82.61%
Median Earnings Q2			\$2956.04
Credential Attainment Q4	12/39	51.00%	30.77%
Measurable Skills Gain	68/99	42.70%	68.69%
WAGNER PEYSER			
Employment Rate Q2	1393/ 3344	51.80%	41.66%
Employment Rate Q4	1055/ 2449	54.40%	43.08%
Median Earnings Q2			\$7585.20

WDB PROGRAM FUNDING

PY 2021

PROGRAM	FUNDING
Adult	\$1,307,755
Youth	\$1,391,156
Dislocated Worker	\$1,937,026
Workforce Learning Link	\$156,000
Work First New Jersey	\$2,042,551

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIR AND DIRECTOR MESSAGE

LOURDES VALDES, CHAIR
KEVIN KURDZIEL, DIRECTOR & CEO

Program Year 2021 highlights the recovery from COVID-19. Although the first half of the program year presented many challenges, the second half of the year pointed toward a return to normalcy. Unprecedented high unemployment rates began to fall, with a reinvigoration of the economy, with people returning to the workforce. PY 2021 also marked the resumption of in-person services at our American Job Centers. Services continue to be provided through a “hybrid model” to provide virtual access to our services for job seekers who are unable to come to one of locations.

The abundance of employment opportunities that exist in Middlesex County depicts a different picture than what was conveyed in our last annual report. While inflation is adversely impacting our economy, job growth remains strong. It is anticipated that this trend will continue, as we continue the path toward full recovery from the public health emergency.

PROGRAM YEAR 2021

Annual Report

WDB STAFF

Kevin Kurdziel, *Director*

Margo Weiss, *Chief Fiscal Officer*

Jasmina Dizdarevic, *Planner*

Dana Jordan, *Policy Analyst*

Melinda Walton, *Executive Coordinator*

WDB COMMISSIONER LIAISON

Chanelle Scott McCullum, *Middlesex County Commissioner*

AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(732) 745-3955

161 New Brunswick Avenue, 3RD Floor
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(732) 826-3200