

Mercer County, NJ Pertinent Economic & Demographic Data and Trends 2021

Mercer County Office of Economic Development
Anthony P. Carabelli Jr., Director
County Executive Brian M. Hughes

Photo: NJ State House via NJ.gov

The background features a large, semi-transparent seal of Mercer County, New Jersey. The seal is circular with a yellow center and a teal border. Inside the seal, the words "MERCER COUNTY" are written in teal at the top and "NEW JERSEY" at the bottom. The central image depicts a landscape with a large tree in the foreground, a building with a dome in the middle ground, and a sun or moon in the sky.

Mercer County Government
County Executive Brian M. Hughes

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Sources

[FRED \(Federal Reserve Economic Data\) Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#)

[US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[US Bureau of Economic Analysis - US Department of Commerce](#)

[US Census Bureau](#)

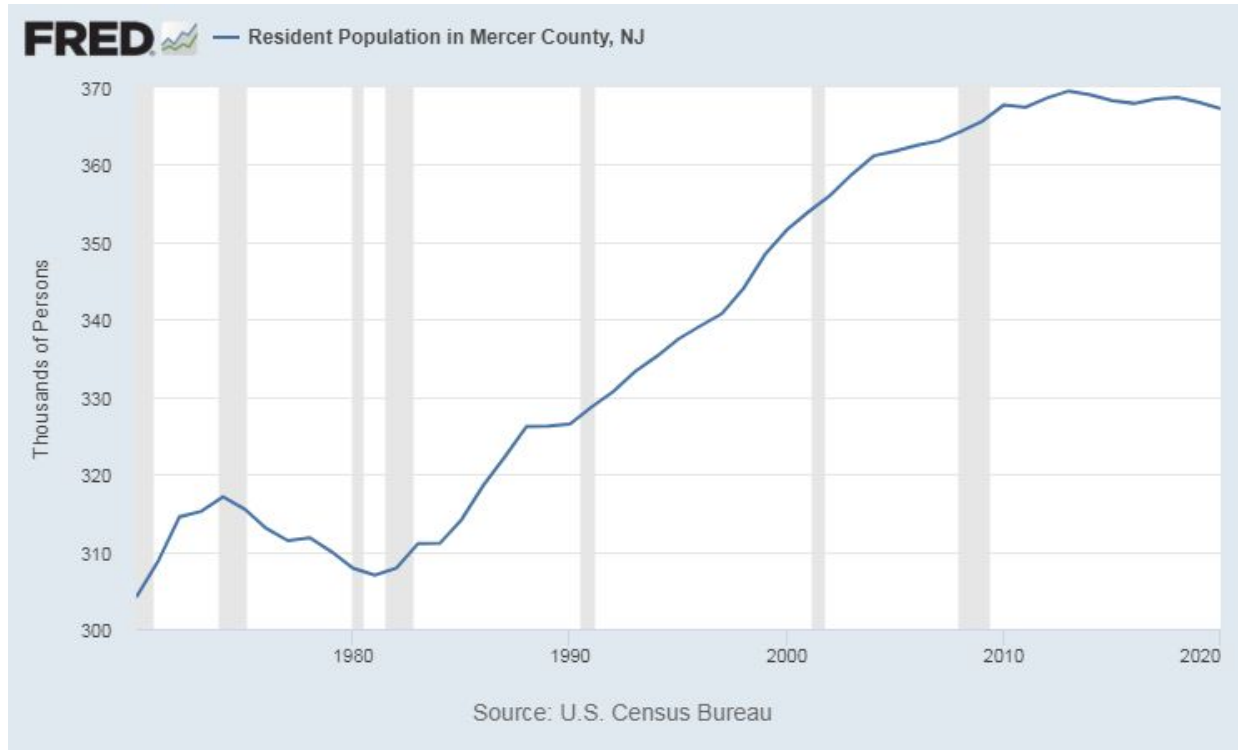
[NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development](#)





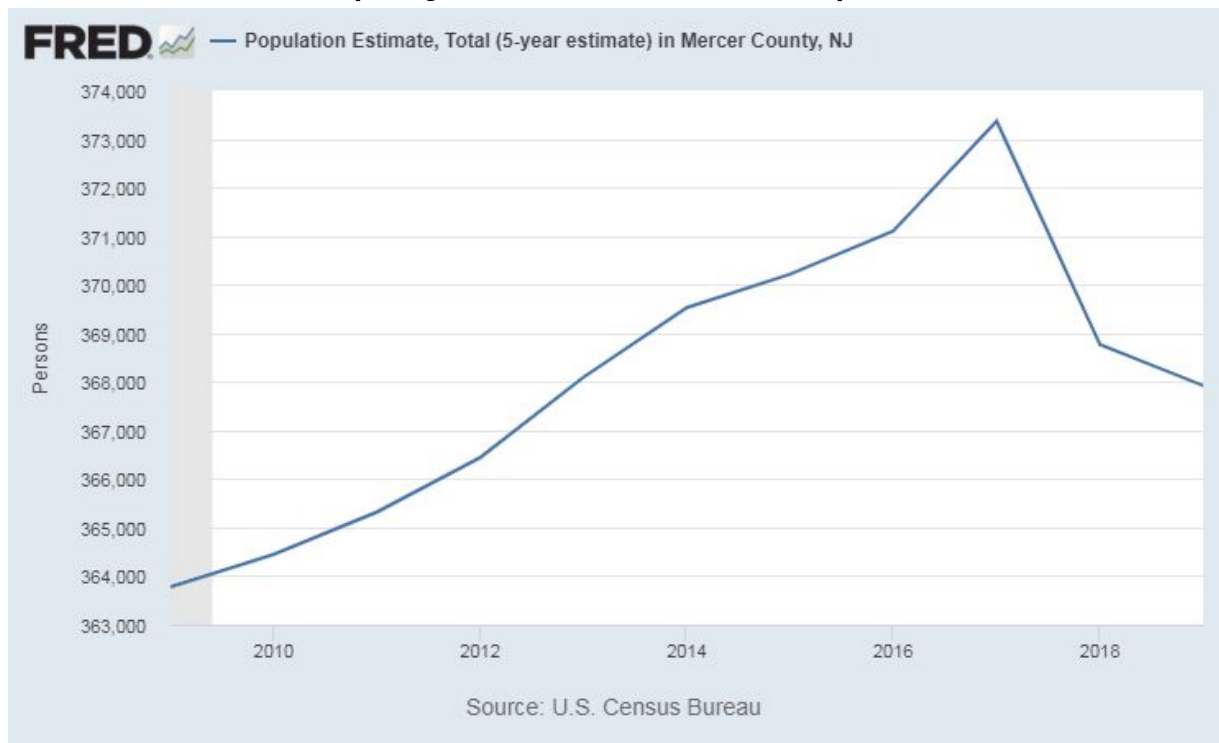
POPULATION

2020 Estimated Resident Population: 367,239



The Mercer County population increased steadily from the 1980's into the late 2000's. Since then, throughout the 2010's and into the 2020's, the resident population has largely plateaued. Mercer's resident population reached a peak of approximately 369,534 in 2013. The estimated resident population for 2020 was 367,239, a decrease of over 808 residents from the prior year's estimation.

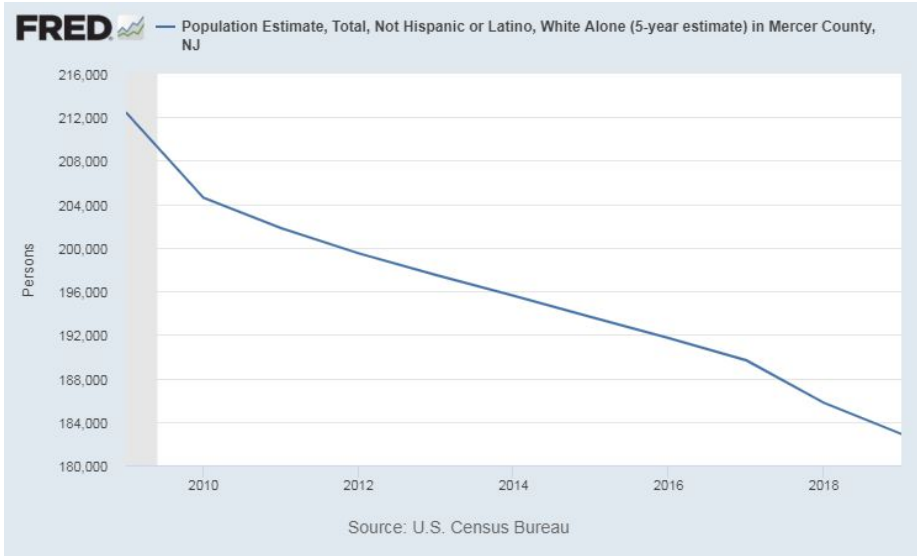
Population Estimate (5-year Estimate) 2009-2019



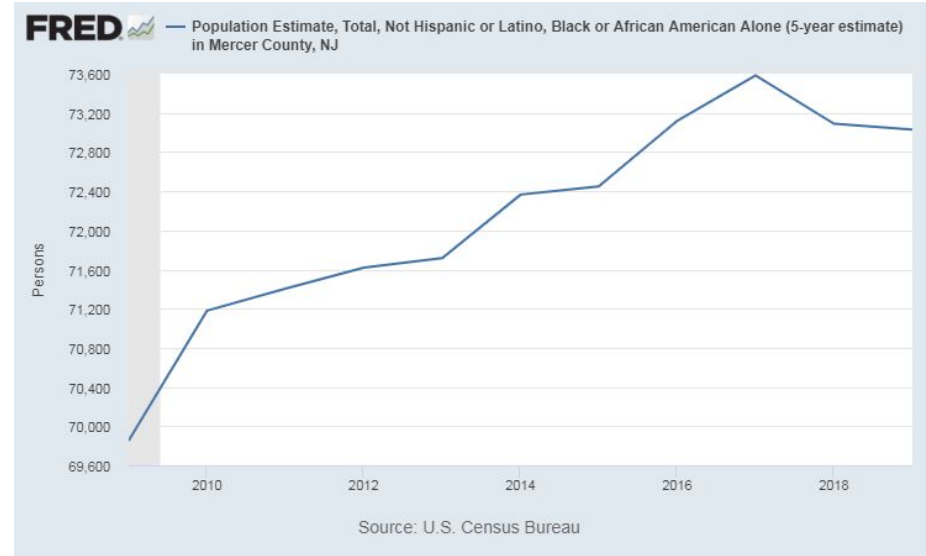
The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's population increased from 2009 until it hit a peak of 373,362 in 2017. It decreased since then.

Population Estimate (5-year Estimate) 2009-2019

Racial Breakdown



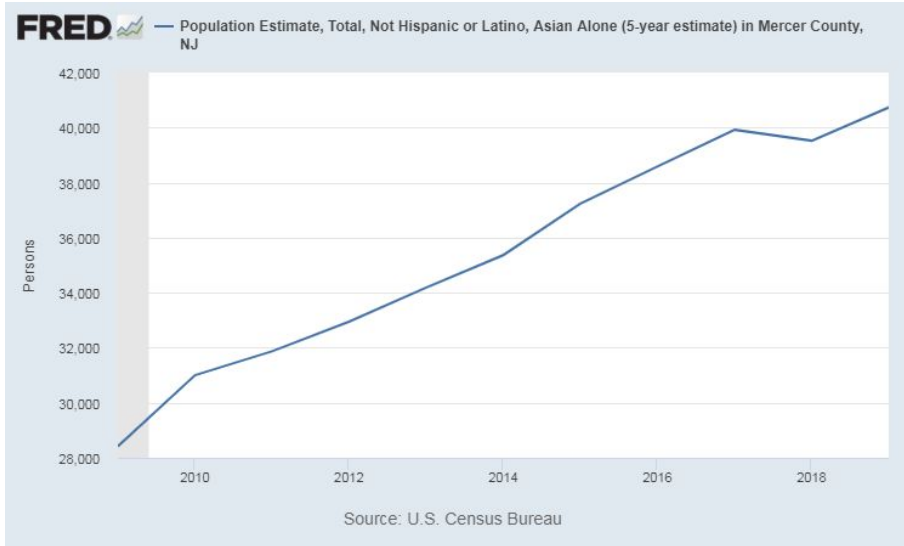
The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's White population decreased steadily over the 2009-2019 period



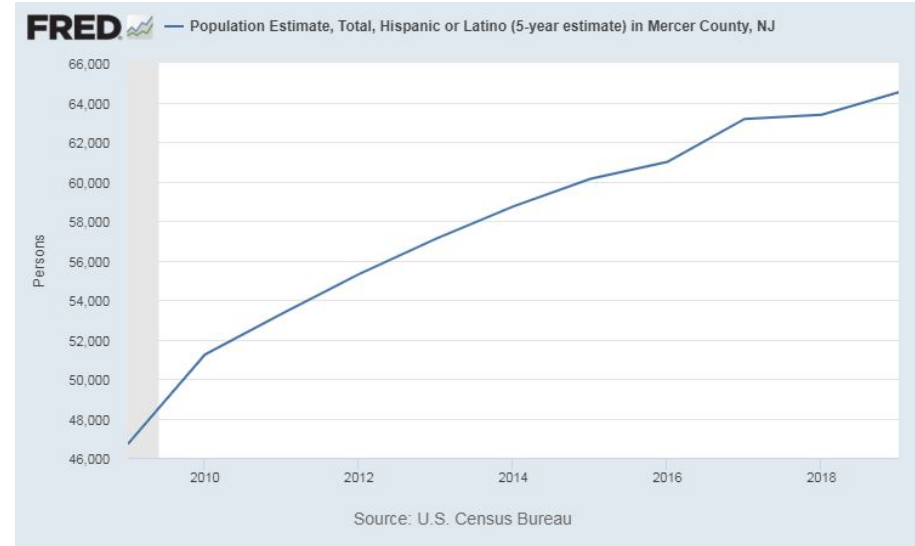
The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's Black or African American population increased steadily over the 2009-2017 period. It hit its peak in 2017 and decreased since then. By 2019, it dipped to a level similar to that of 2016

Population Estimate (5-year Estimate) 2009-2019

Racial Breakdown



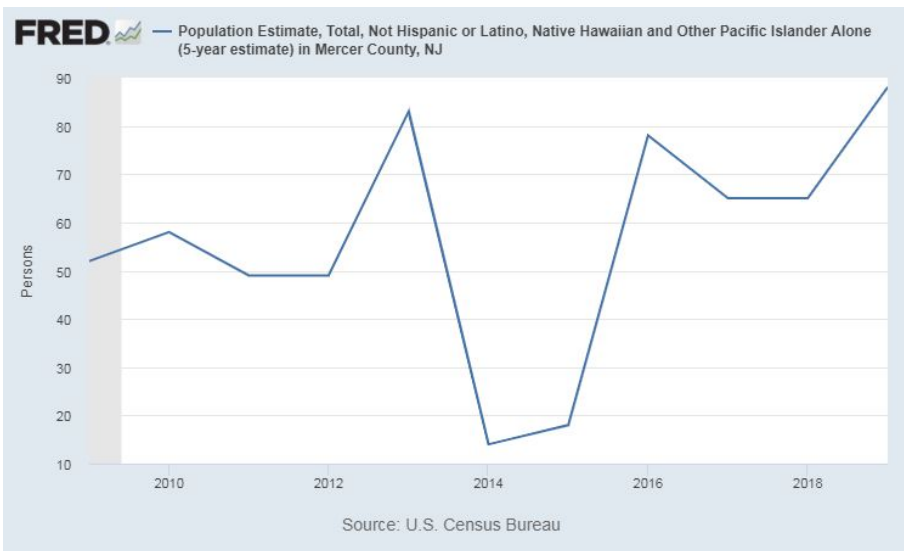
The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's Asian population largely increased over the 2009-2019 period.



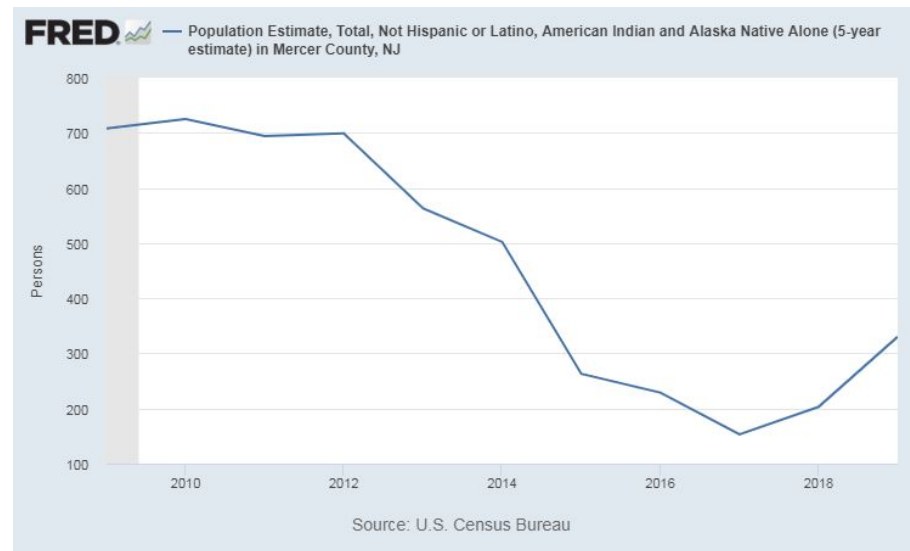
The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's Hispanic or Latino population increased steadily over the 2009-2019 period.

Population Estimate (5-year Estimate) 2009-2019

Racial Breakdown



The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population largely fluctuated over the 2009-2019 period.



The 5-year estimate of Mercer County's American Indian and Alaska Native population decreased steadily over the 2009-2017 period. It increased since 2017.

2019 Population Racial Breakdown



White (alone): 63.3%

Black or African American (alone):
21.5%

American Indian and Alaska Native
(alone): 0.6%

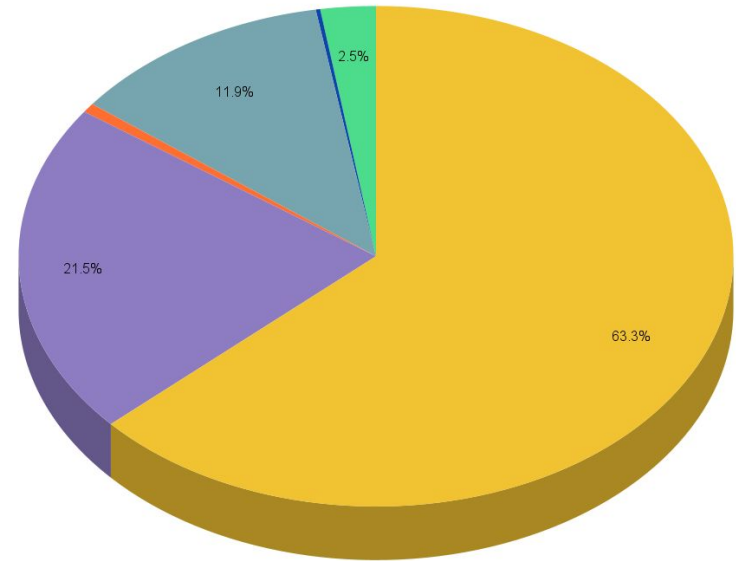
Asian (alone): 11.9%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific
Islander (alone): 0.2%

Two or More Races (alone): 2.5%

Hispanic or Latino: 18.5%

White, not Hispanic or Latino (alone):
48.2%



according to the US census 'Hispanics may be of any race, so are included in applicable race categories

Other Population Characteristics

Households (2015-2019): 129,936

Persons per Household (2015-2019): 2.70

High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+ (2015-2019): 88.5%

Bachelor's degree, percent of persons age 25 years+ (2015-2019): 42.6%

Households with a computer (2015-2019): 91.5%

Households with broadband Internet (2015-2019): 83.0%

Foreign-born persons: 22.9%

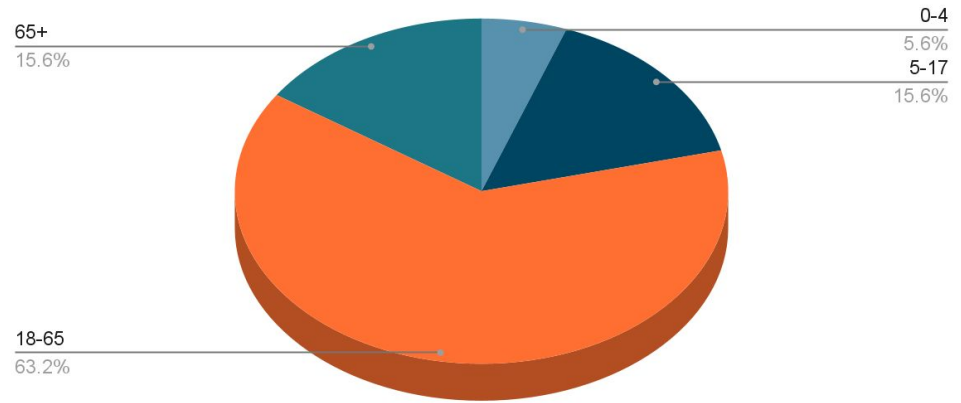
Persons under 5 years: 5.6%

Persons under 18 years: 21.2%

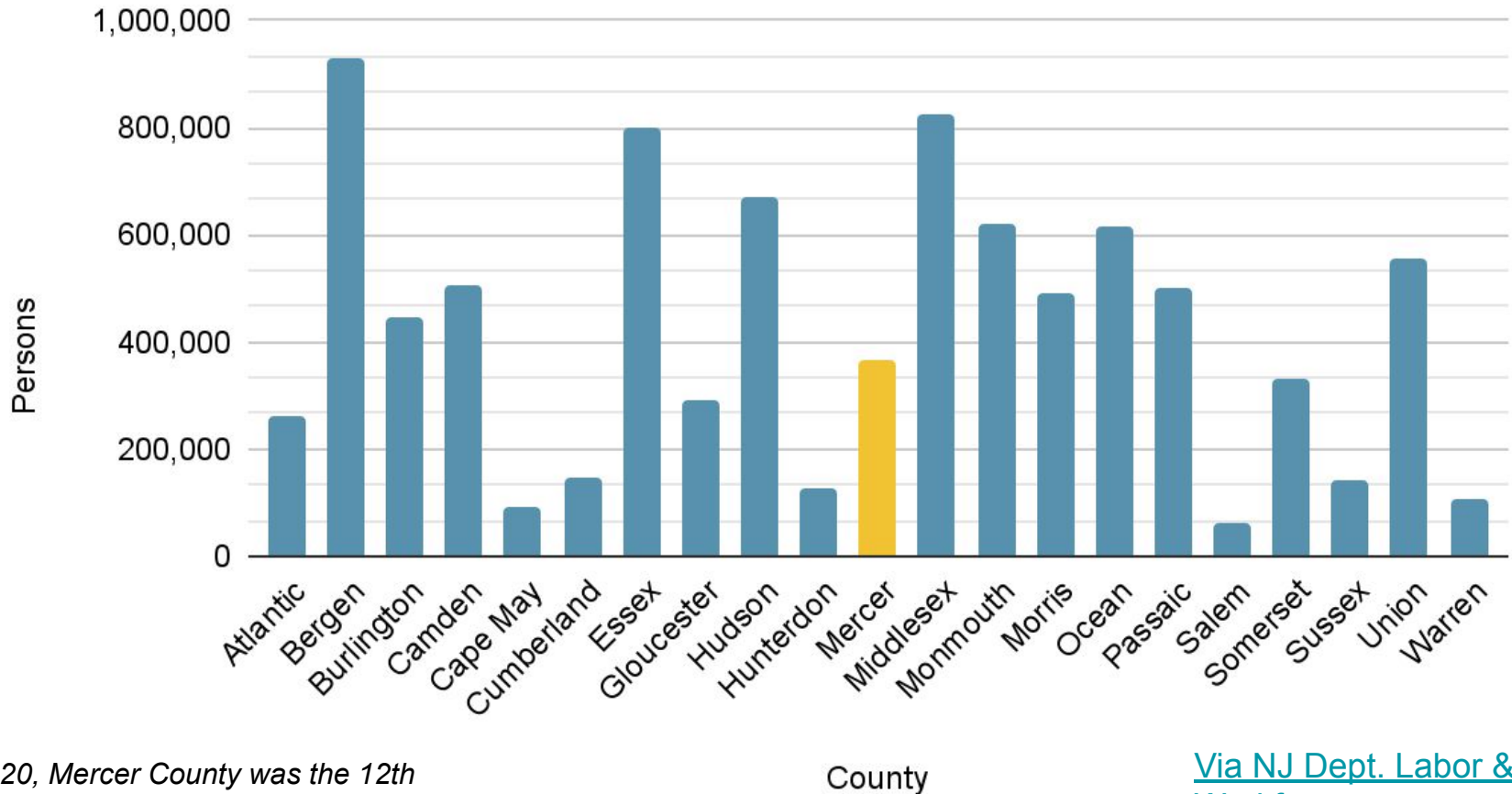
Persons 65 years and over: 15.6%

Female persons: 51.1%

Years of Age



2020 Population Estimates for NJ Counties



As of 2020, Mercer County was the 12th most populous county in the State of NJ.

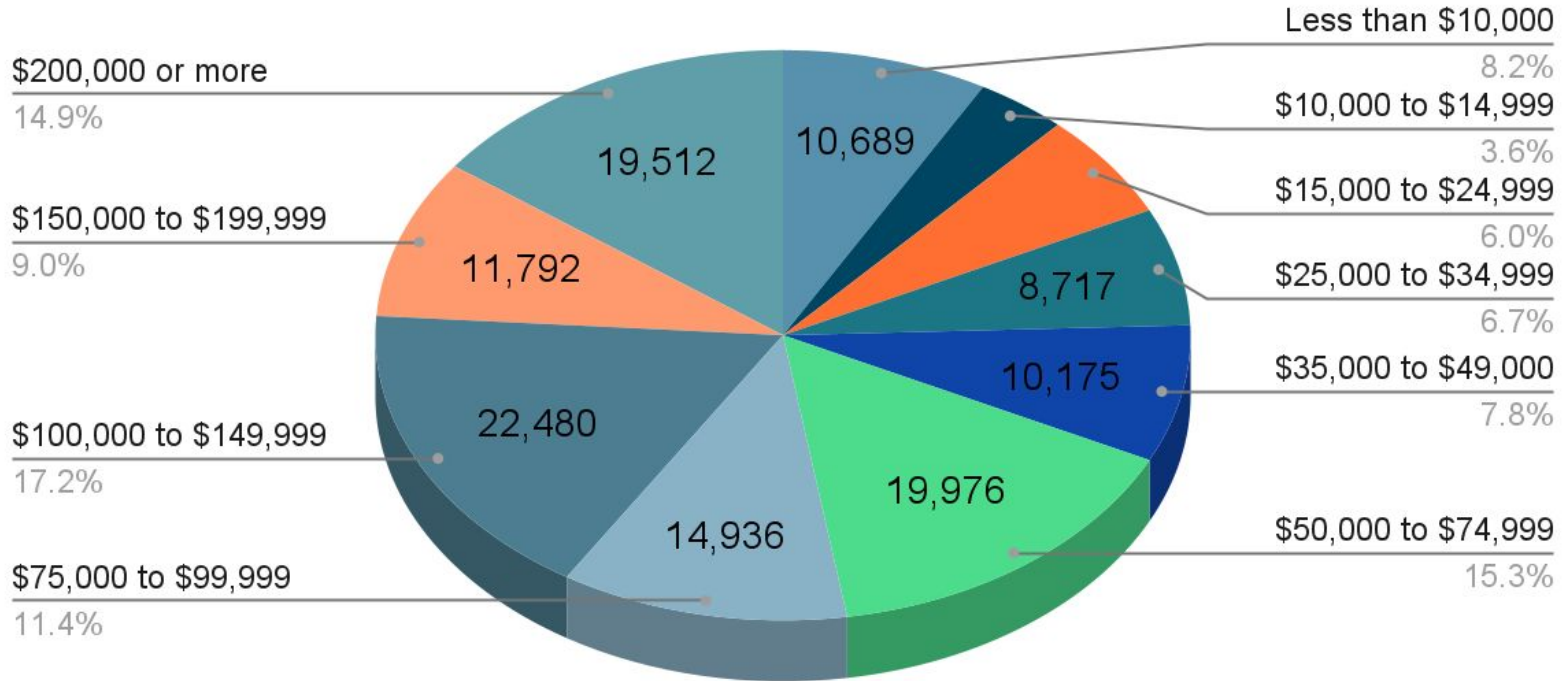
[Via NJ Dept. Labor & Workforce](#)



Income

Household Income (includes those living alone)	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
Less than \$10,000	10,689	±2,093	8.2%	±1.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4,735	±1,346	3.6%	±1.0
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7,839	±1,333	6.0%	±1.0
\$25,000 to \$34,999	8,717	±2,348	6.7%	±1.8
\$35,000 to \$49,000	10,175	±1,798	7.8%	±1.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19,976	±2,342	15.3%	±1.8
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14,936	±2,011	11.4%	±1.5
\$100,000 to \$149,999	22,480	±2,563	17.2%	±1.9
\$150,000 to \$199,999	11,792	±1,777	9.0%	±1.3
\$200,000 or more	19,512	±1,794	14.9%	±1.4

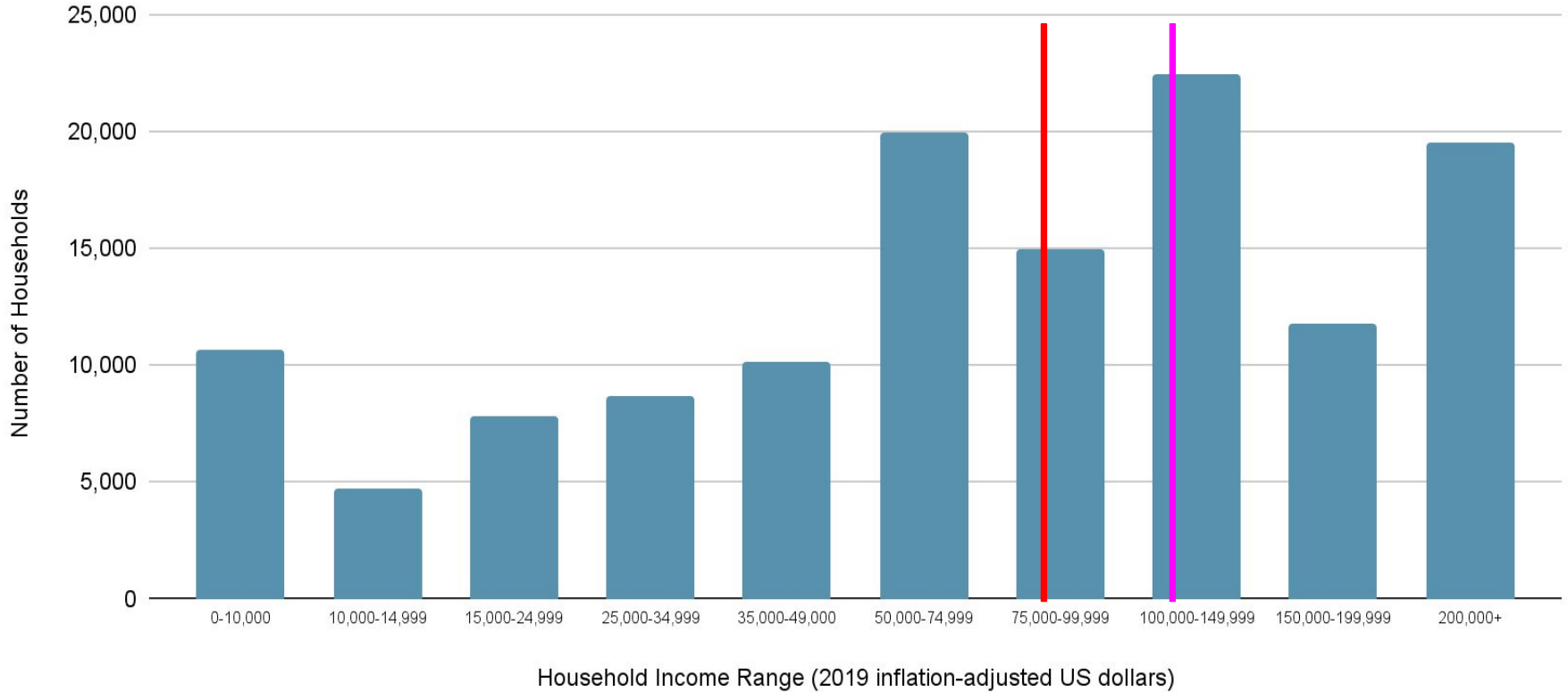
Household Incomes



Household Incomes

Median household
income (2019
inflation-adjusted
dollars): \$79,492

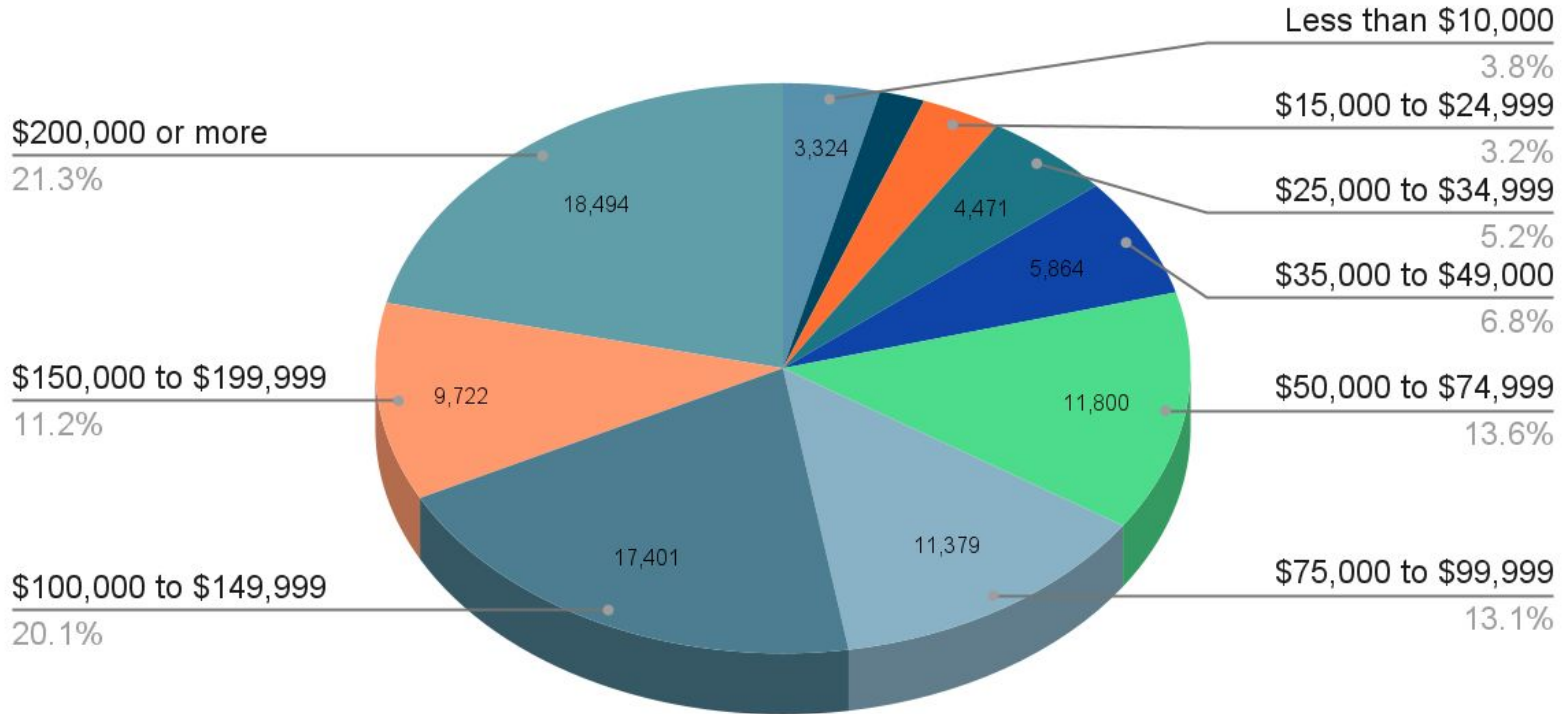
Mean household
income (2019
inflation-adjusted
dollars): \$115,317



Family Income (excludes those living alone)	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
Less than \$10,000	3,324	±1,146	3.8%	±1.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,562	±768	1.8%	±0.9
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,745	±1,164	3.2%	±1.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	4,471	±1,593	5.2%	±1.8
\$35,000 to \$49,000	5,864	±1,557	6.8%	±1.8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11,800	±1,769	13.6%	±1.9
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11,379	±1,777	13.1%	±1.9
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17,401	±2,342	20.1%	±2.5
\$150,000 to \$199,999	9,722	±1,420	11.2%	±1.6
\$200,000 or more	18,494	±1,859	21.3%	±2.1

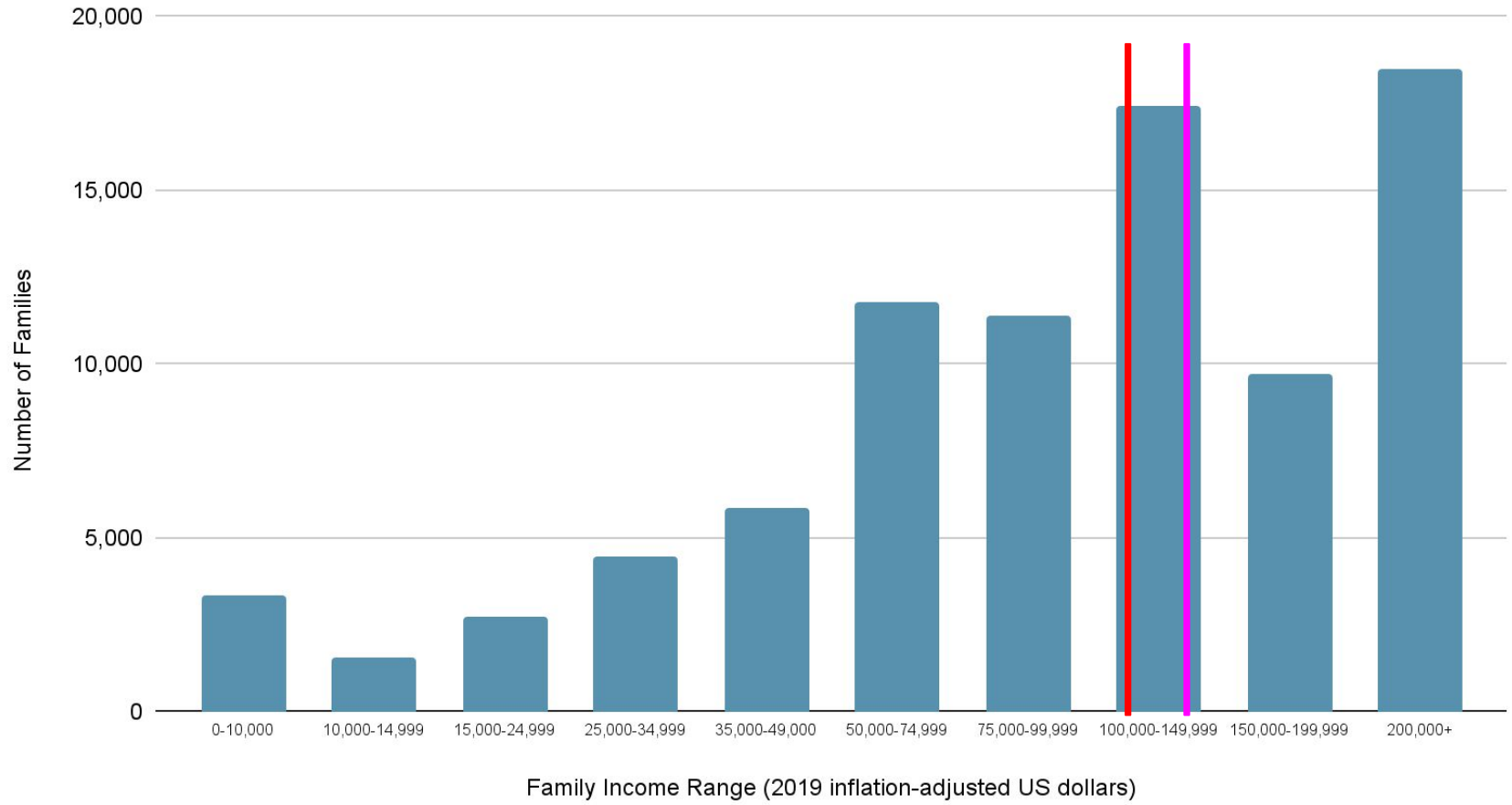
[Via US Census Bureau](#)

Family Incomes



Family Incomes

Median family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$107,209
Mean family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$144,037



Income

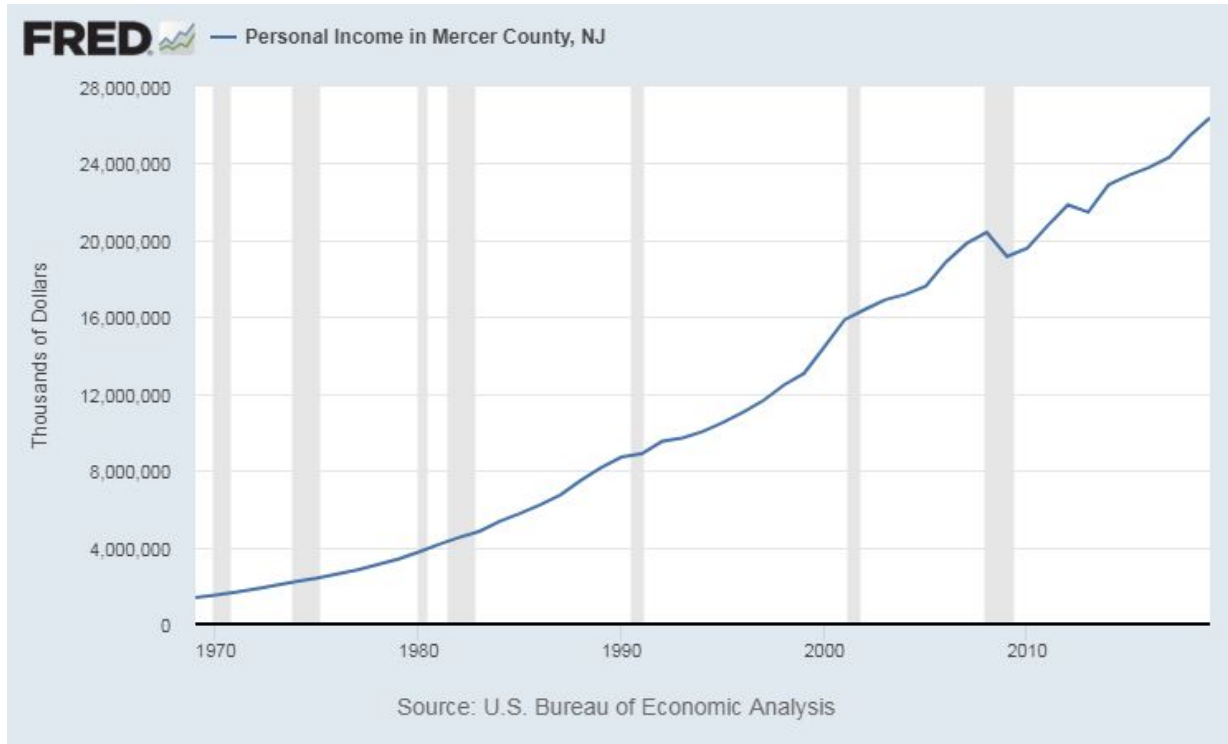
Key Statistics:

- Median household income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$79,492
- Mean household income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$115,317
- Median family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$107,209
- Mean family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$144,037
- Median non-family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$39,162
- Mean non-family income (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$55,722
- Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$65,744
- Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars): \$53,136

Takeaways:

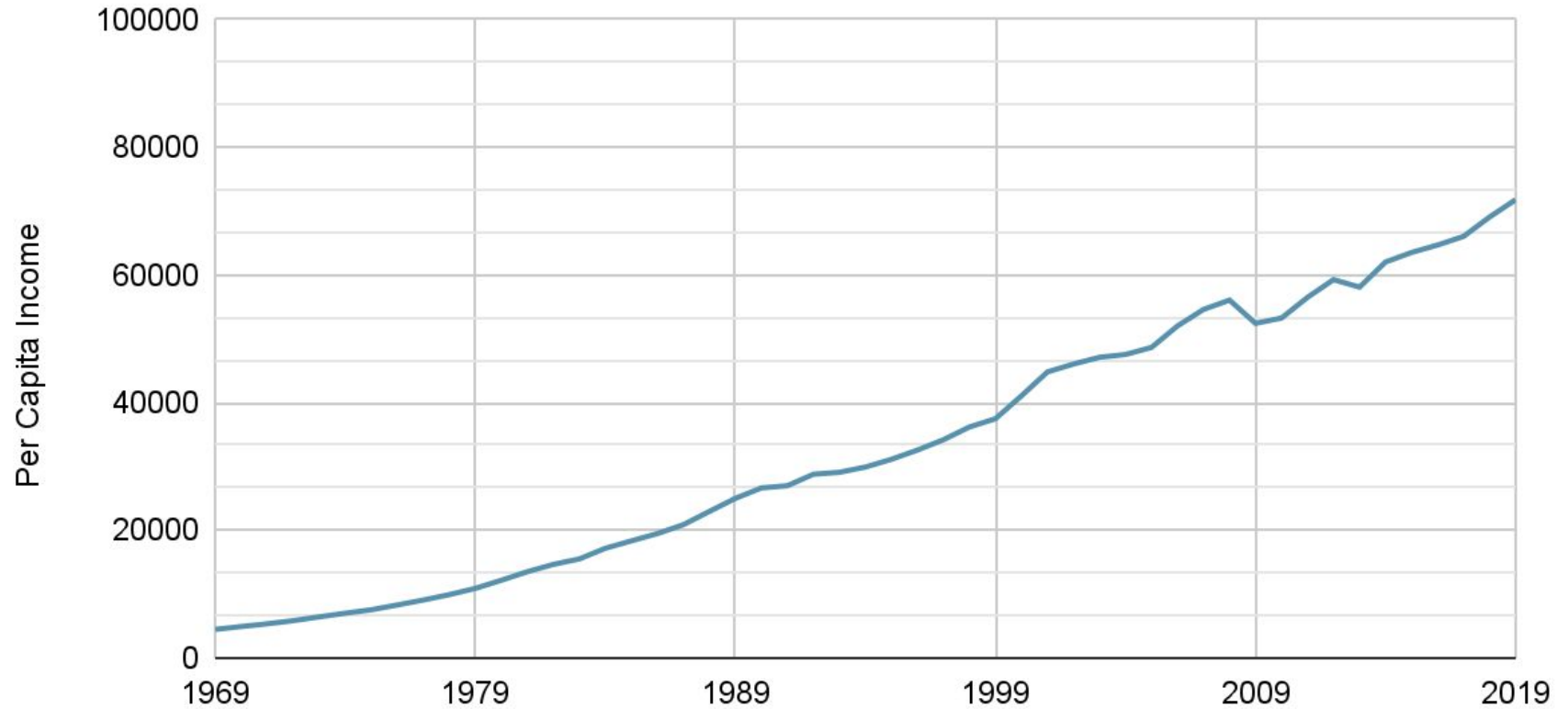
- Mean and median household income are lower than mean and median family income respectively. This is due to the fact that non-family income (single-person households) is included as household income.
- The Mercer County income distribution is right-skewed (positively skewed). It would appear thusly on a histogram if the x-axis was extended past \$200,000. A large number of outliers in the rightward direction pull the mean income up.
- Median earnings for male full-time, year round workers is \$12,608 (23.7%) higher than that for female workers.

Personal Income



The graph above shows total personal income for Mercer County from 1969 to 2019. Total personal income is defined as the income received by all persons from all sources in an area. Personal income has largely increased over this period with its largest fall occurring during the Great Recession. As of 2019, the personal income in Mercer County, NJ was 26,377,963,000 U.S. dollars.

Mercer County Per Capita Personal Income (1969-2019)



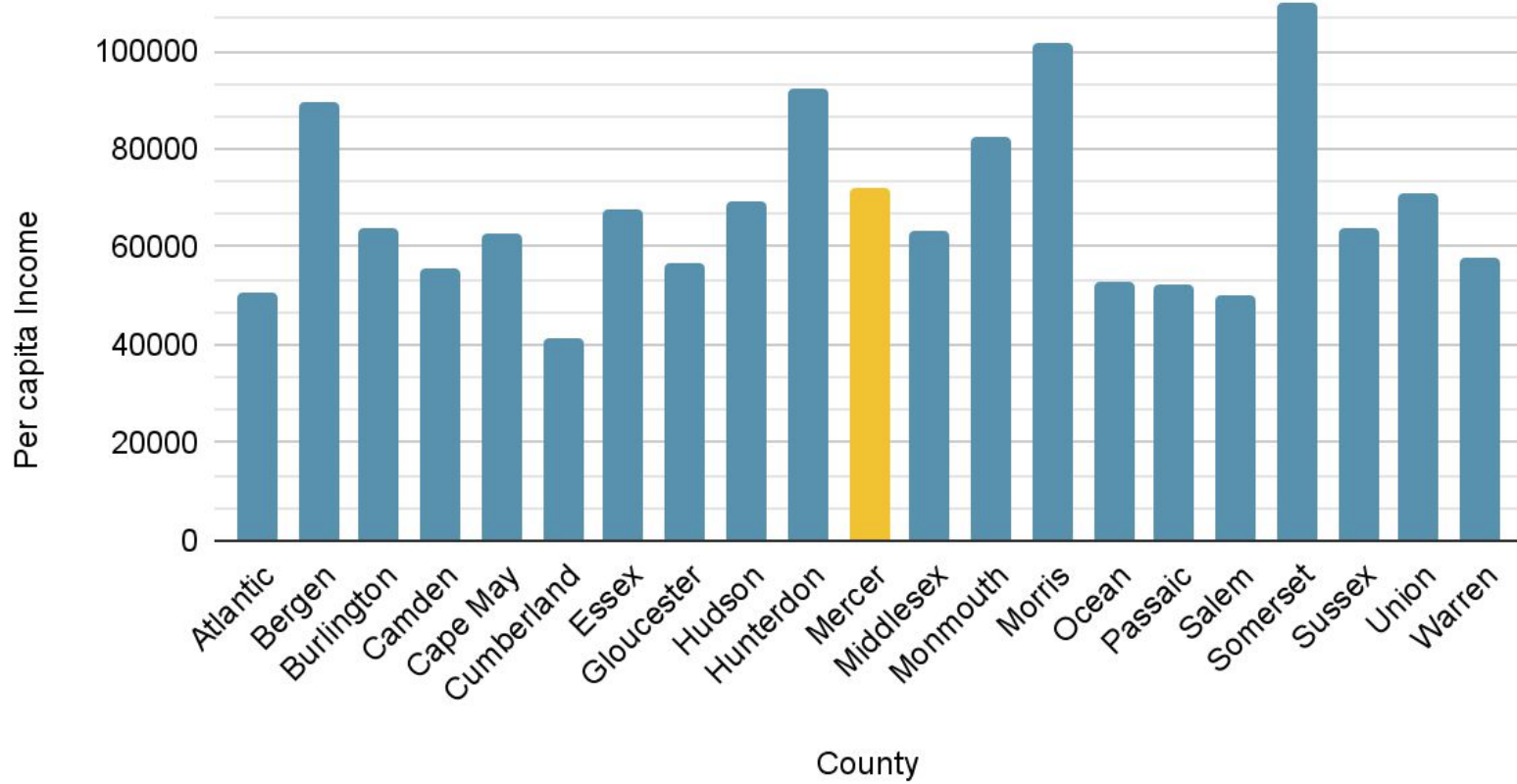
Per capita personal income was computed using Census Bureau mid-year population estimates. Estimates for 2010-2019 reflect county population estimates available as of March 2020.

Year

[Via NJ Dept. Labor & Workforce](#)

2019 per Capita Income for NJ Counties

[Via NJ Dept. Labor & Workforce](#)



Mercer County has the 6th highest per capita income in the State of New Jersey at \$71,790

Income Inequality



The above graph represents the ratio of the mean income for the highest quintile (top 20%) of earners over the mean income of the lowest quintile (bottom 20%). Over the decade from 2010-2020, income inequality (as defined by this ratio) in Mercer County has steadily increased.



Employment

Unemployment Rate

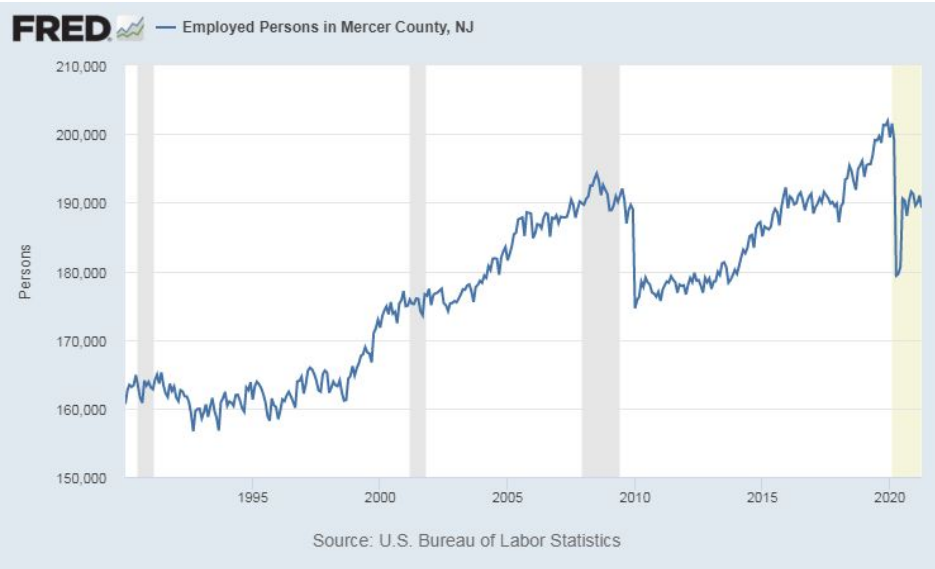


The unemployment rate has fluctuated countercyclically over the period from 1990 to 2020. After hitting a peak unemployment rate of over 11.7% in June of 2020 (during the COVID-19 pandemic) (an unemployment rate higher than that during the Great Recession), the unemployment rate dropped throughout the summer and into the fall. The current unemployment rate has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels (2%-4%). It sat at 5.7% as of April, 2021.

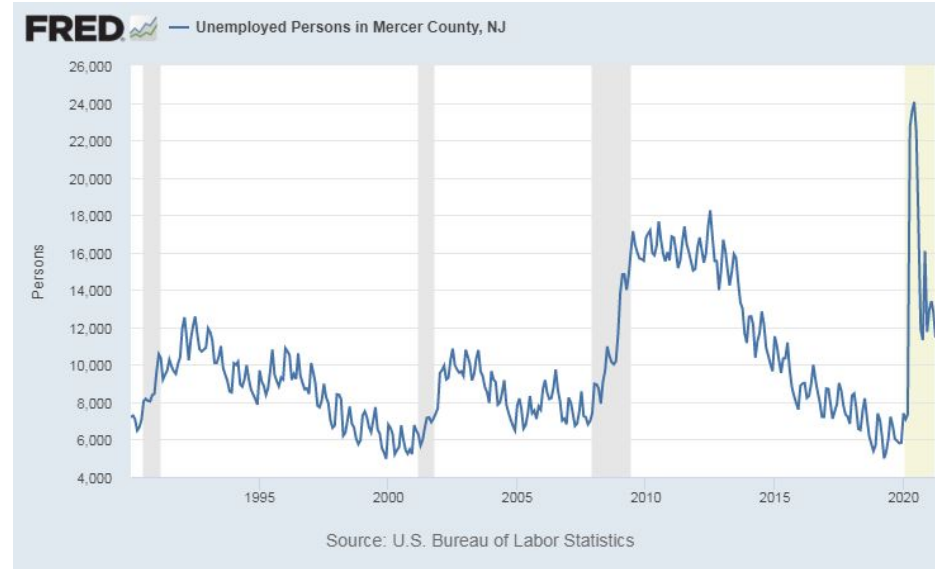
[Via FRED](#)

Employed and Unemployed Persons

Note: to qualify as an unemployed person, one must not have a job, must have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and must be currently available to work.

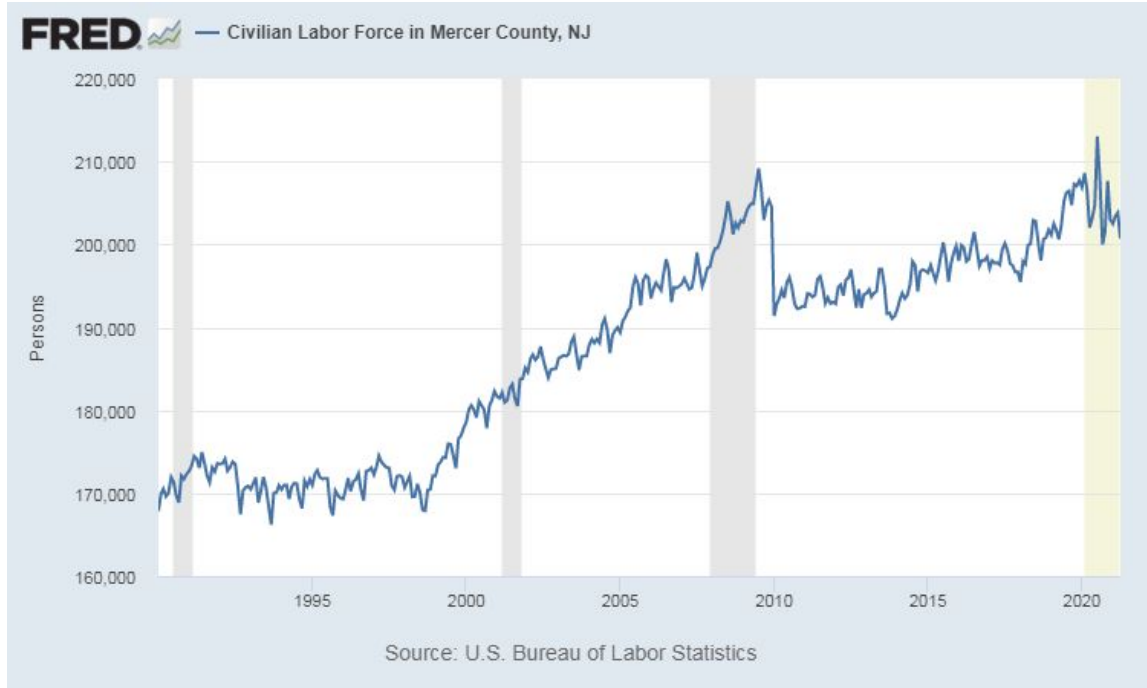


Though the number of employed persons has largely risen (though has been procyclical) in the period since the 1990's, there were sharp drops in the number of employed persons during/following the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic. The number of employed persons in Mercer County as of April, 2021 was estimated to be 189,255 people.



Though the number of unemployed persons in Mercer County largely fluctuated (countercyclical) from 1990 to 2020, there were spikes in the number of unemployed persons during/following the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic. The number of unemployed persons in Mercer County as of April, 2021 was estimated to be 11,445 people.

Civilian Labor Force



The civilian labor force in Mercer County has largely increased throughout the period from 1990 to 2020. It did, however, drop during the Great Recession and slightly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rise in the civilian labor force has coincided with the rise in employment throughout the same period. The civilian labor force was estimated to be 200,700 as of April, 2021.

Mercer County Labor Force Statistics (April, 2021 Estimates)

Civilian Labor Force	200,700
Employed Persons	189,255
Unemployed Persons	11,445
Unemployment Rate	5.7%

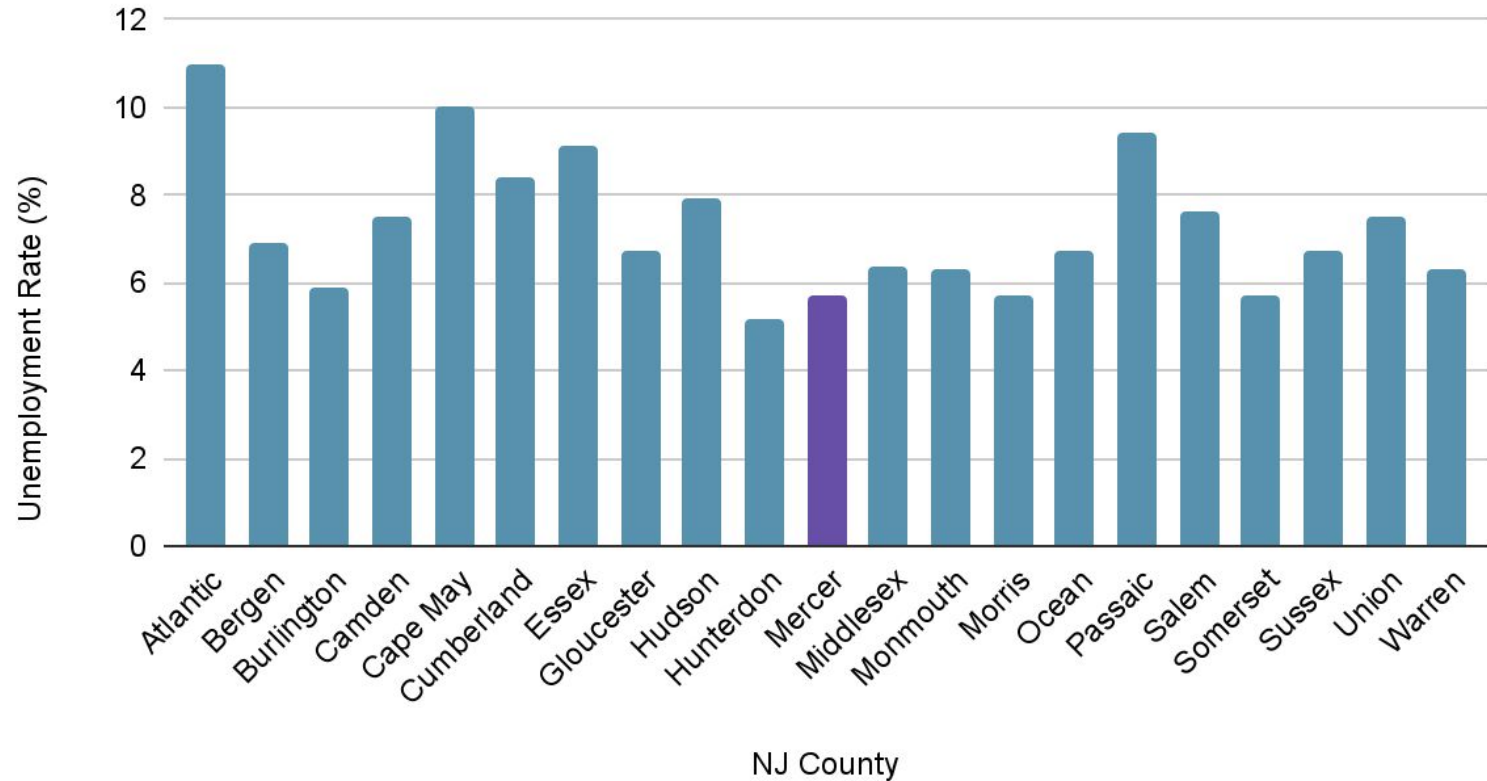
Please note that the above labor force statistics are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which is largely based on the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 60,000 households. The American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the US Census Bureau, also provides one-year estimates of the Mercer County labor force (in addition to other demographic and economic estimates). There are large differences in the labor force estimates between these two sources. Due to the greater detail in the CPS, our office has chosen to present the data from the LAUS program. More information on the distinction and differences between these surveys can be found [here](#).

[Via US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Labor Statistics for NJ Counties (April, 2021 Estimates)

County	Civilian Labor Force	Employed Persons	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate
Atlantic	116,603	103,826	12,777	11.0
Bergen	464,828	432,626	32,202	6.9
Burlington	227,991	214,607	13,384	5.9
Camden	252,369	233,455	18,914	7.5
Cape May	46,398	41,760	4,638	10.0
Cumberland	64,651	59,248	5,403	8.4
Essex	363,318	330,149	33,169	9.1
Gloucester	148,970	138,951	10,019	6.7
Hudson	350,448	322,861	27,587	7.9
Hunterdon	61,817	58,632	3,185	5.2
Mercer	200,700	189,255	11,445	5.7
Middlesex	431,149	403,390	27,759	6.4
Monmouth	322,065	301,818	20,247	6.3
Morris	246,803	232,837	13,966	5.7
Ocean	272,917	254,584	18,333	6.7
Passaic	236,948	214,720	22,228	9.4
Salem	29,218	26,988	2,230	7.6
Somerset	164,277	154,873	9,404	5.7
Sussex	71,606	66,802	4,804	6.7
Union	269,091	248,961	20,130	7.5
Warren	55,098	51,649	3,449	6.3

Unemployment Rates for NJ Counties (April, 2021 Estimates)

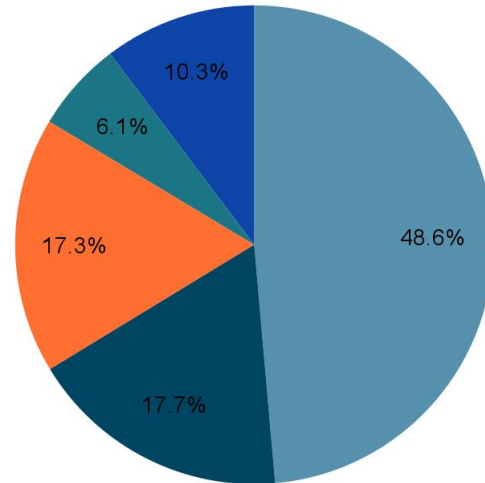


Based on the April, 2021 estimates from BLS's LAUS program, Mercer County is tied for the second lowest unemployment rate in the state of NJ at 5.7%.

Other Employment Information

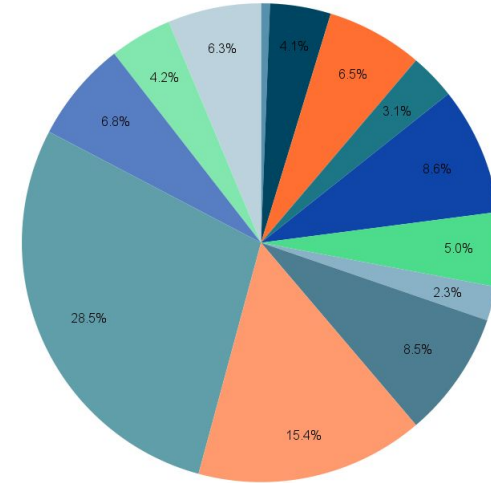
Occupational Breakdown (2019 ACS)

- Management, business, science, and arts occupations
- Service occupations
- Sales and office occupations
- Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations
- Production, transportation, and material moving occupations



Industry Breakdown

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting,
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Transportation and warehousing, and
- Information
- Finance and insurance, and real estate
- Professional, scientific, and management,
- Educational services, and health care and
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and
- Other services, except public
- Public administration



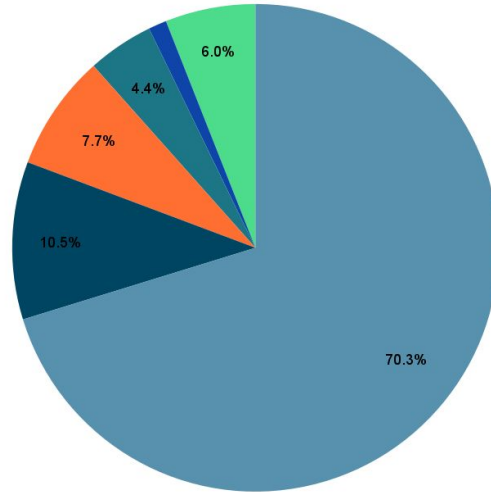
[Via US Census Bureau if not otherwise stated](#)

Other Employment Information

Mean travel time to work: 29.6 minutes

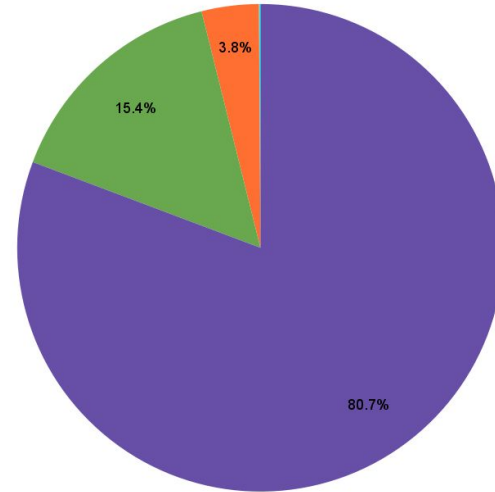
Transportation to Work

- Car, truck, or van -- drove alone
- Car, truck, or van -- carpooled
- Public transportation (excluding taxicab)
- Walked
- Other means
- Worked from home



Class of Worker

- Private wage and salary workers
- Government workers
- Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers
- Unpaid family workers

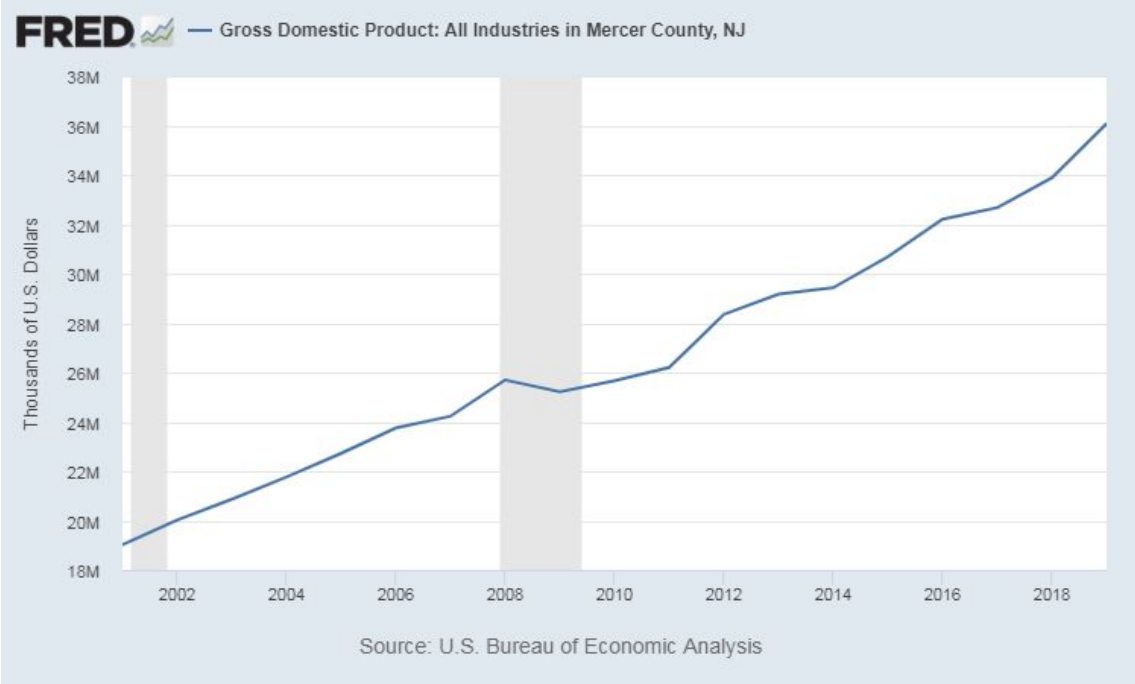


[Via US Census Bureau if not otherwise stated](#)



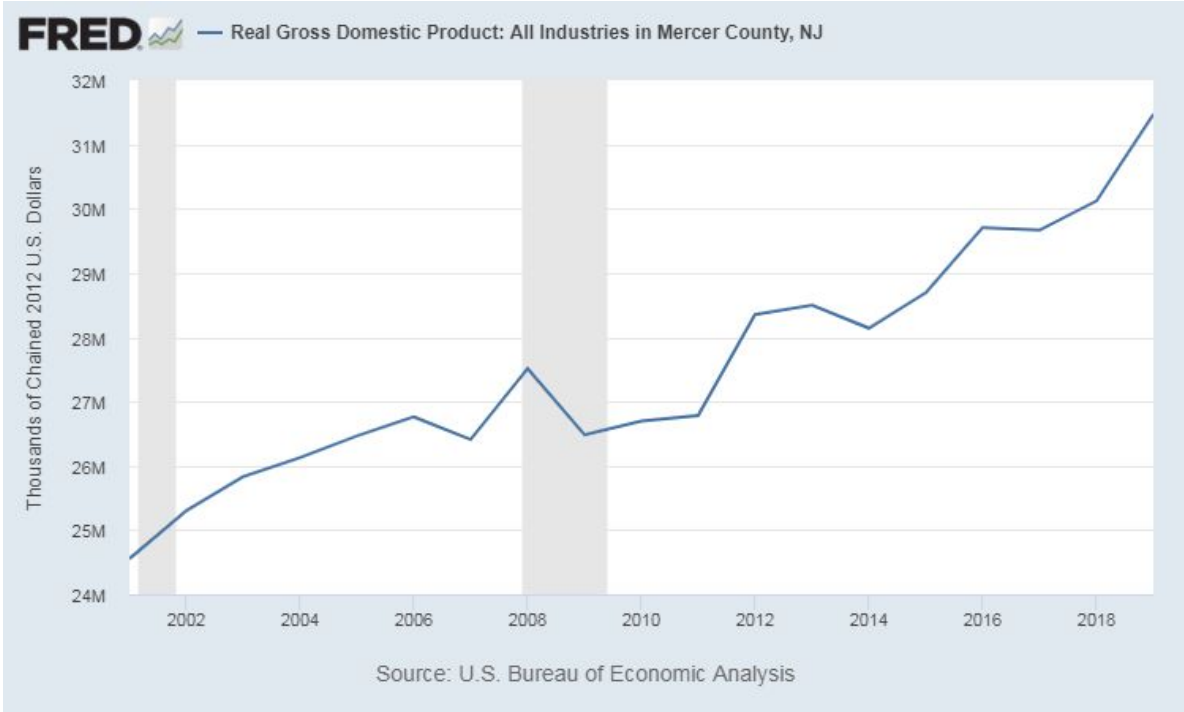
Production

Mercer County Nominal GDP



The overall nominal gross domestic product for all industries in Mercer County, NJ largely increased during the period from 2000 to 2019. The only decrease from year to year came between 2008 and 2009, coinciding with the Great Recession. Please note that the GDP data presented represents nominal GDP for the county and does not take inflation into account. The nominal GDP as of 2019 was 36,074,135,000 U.S. dollars.

Mercer County Real GDP



The overall real gross domestic product for all industries in Mercer County NJ also largely increased during the period from 2000 to 2019, though with more fluctuation than the nominal figure. Similar to nominal GDP, the largest drop in real GDP occurred during the Great Recession. The real GDP as of 2019 was 31,467,636,000 chained 2012 U.S. dollars.

Note: Data point from 2007 missing

[Via FRED](#)

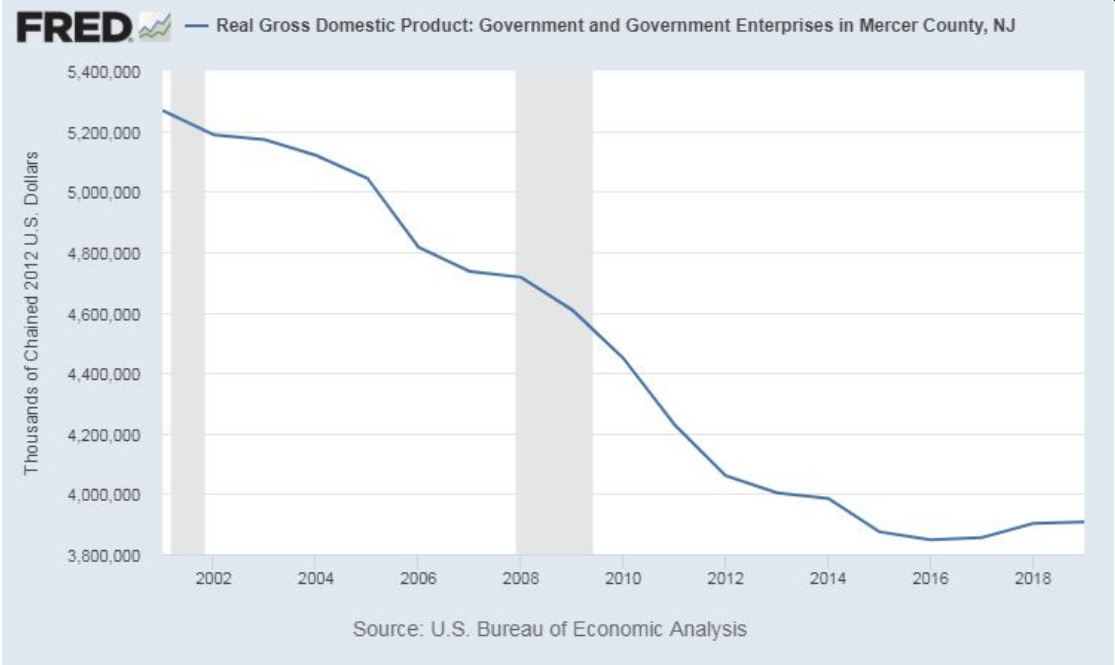
Real GDP - Industries Providing Private Goods & Services



The real GDP for private goods-producing industries in Mercer County, NJ largely increased over the period from 2001 to 2019, though with a dip during and following the Great Recession. The real GDP for private goods-producing industries as of 2019 was 3,450,629,000 chained 2012 U.S. dollars.

The real GDP for private services-producing industries in Mercer County, NJ largely increased over the period from 2001 to 2019, though with a dip during and following the Great Recession. Private services industries rebounded faster than private goods industries following the Recession. The real GDP for private services-producing industries as of 2019 was 24,077,500,000 chained 2012 U.S. dollars.

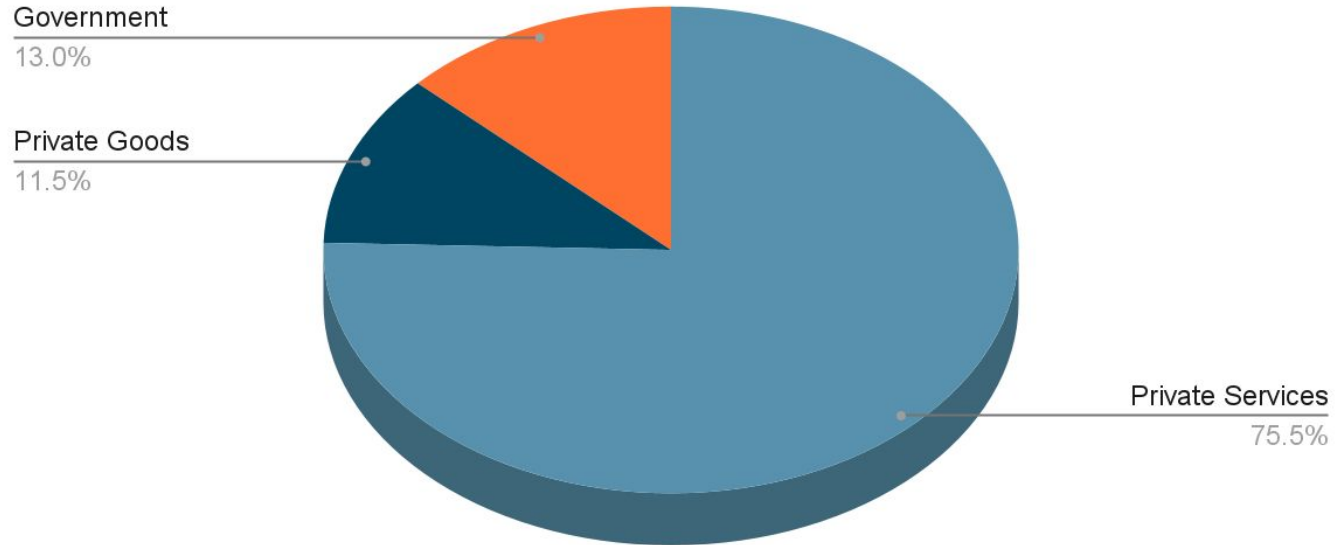
Real GDP - Government and Government Enterprises



The real GDP for government and government enterprises in Mercer County, NJ steadily decreased during the period from 2001 to 2015 before plateauing at a value just below \$4 Billion. Given the largely steady increase over the same period for the GDP of industries providing private goods and services, the overall increase in real GDP over the period was driven by private industry and despite a decrease in government GDP. The real GDP for government and government enterprises in Mercer County as of 2019 was 3,906,830,000 chained 2012 U.S. dollars.

2019 Nominal GDP Breakdown by Industry

2019 GDP Breakdown

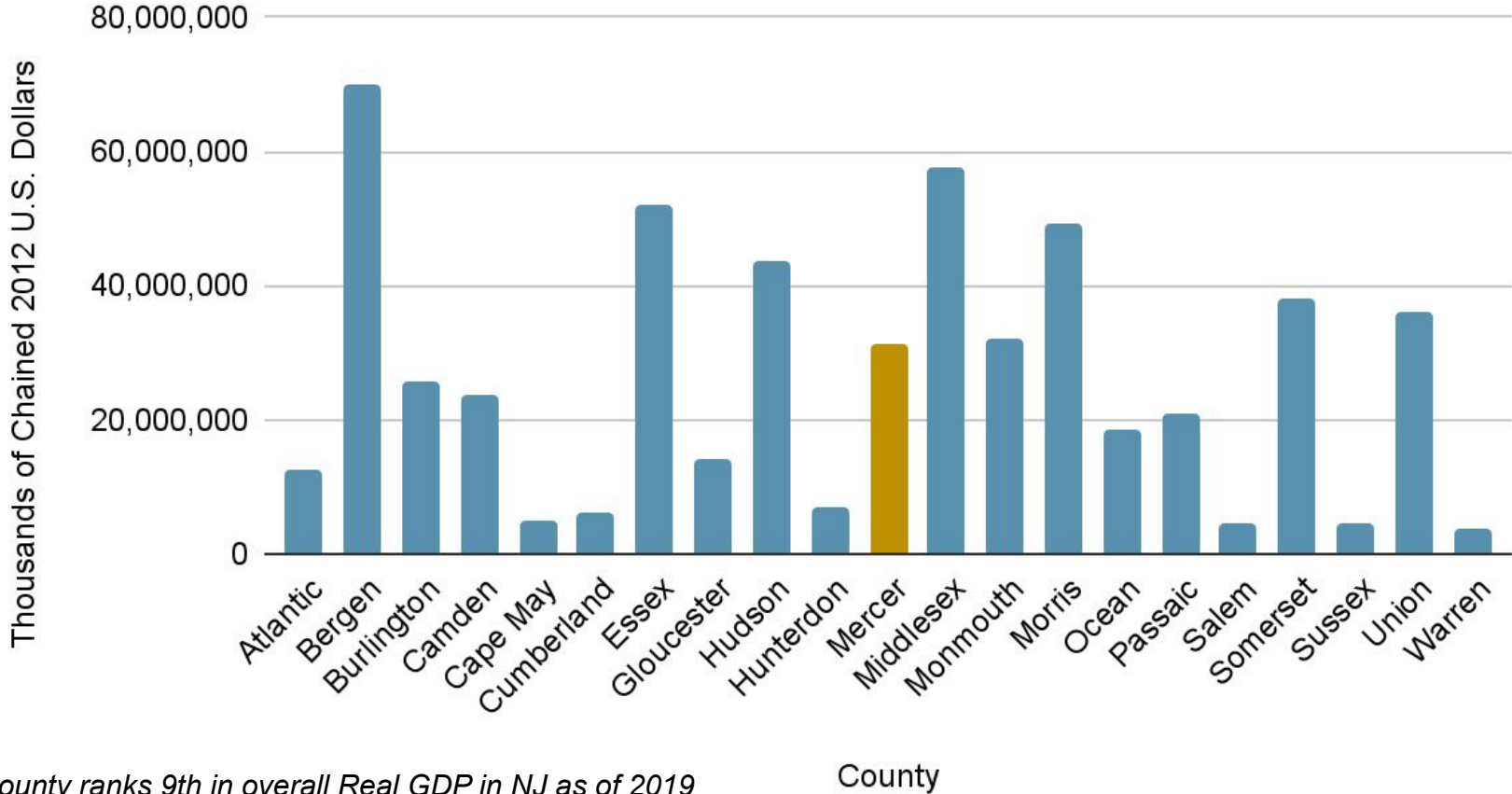


Private services-providing industries made up the majority of Mercer County's GDP as of 2019

Real GDP for NJ Counties (2019 Estimates)

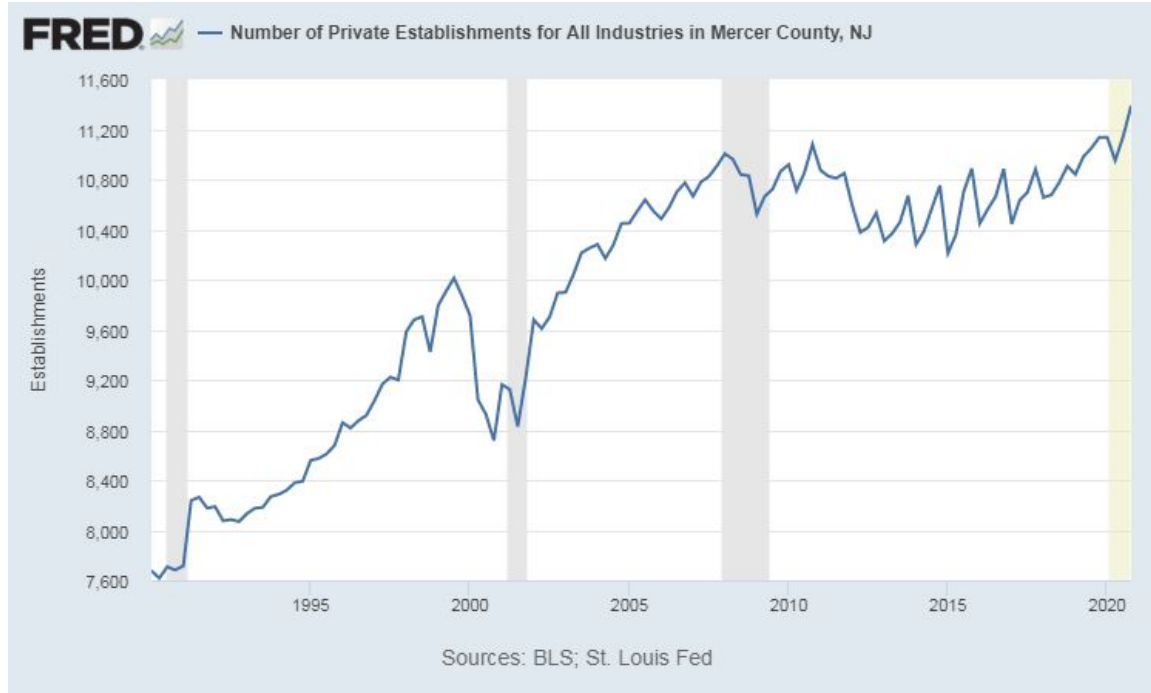
County	Thousands of Chained 2012 U.S. Dollars	Percent Change from 2018
Atlantic	12,593,490	1.5
Bergen	70,158,193	0.8
Burlington	25,725,252	1.9
Camden	23,558,717	2.1
Cape May	5,070,716	7.1
Cumberland	6,007,622	1.7
Essex	52,070,494	1.1
Gloucester	14,017,096	4.8
Hudson	43,847,173	-2.6
Hunterdon	6,820,939	1.3
Mercer	31,467,636	4.5
Middlesex	57,745,463	0.7
Monmouth	32,123,913	1.7
Morris	49,285,606	2.4
Ocean	18,511,055	1.5
Passaic	20,744,966	-0.3
Salem	4,729,720	0.1
Somerset	38,123,619	3.3
Sussex	4,438,507	2.3
Union	35,935,725	1.3
Warren	3,911,548	2.9

2019 Real GDP for NJ Counties



Mercer County ranks 9th in overall Real GDP in NJ as of 2019 (despite being the 12th most populated)

Number of Private Establishments for All Industries



The number of private establishments for all industries in Mercer County, NJ largely increased over the period from 1990 to 2020, though it has somewhat leveled off since 2010. The number of private establishments for all industries in Mercer County as of the 4th quarter of 2020 was 11,388.

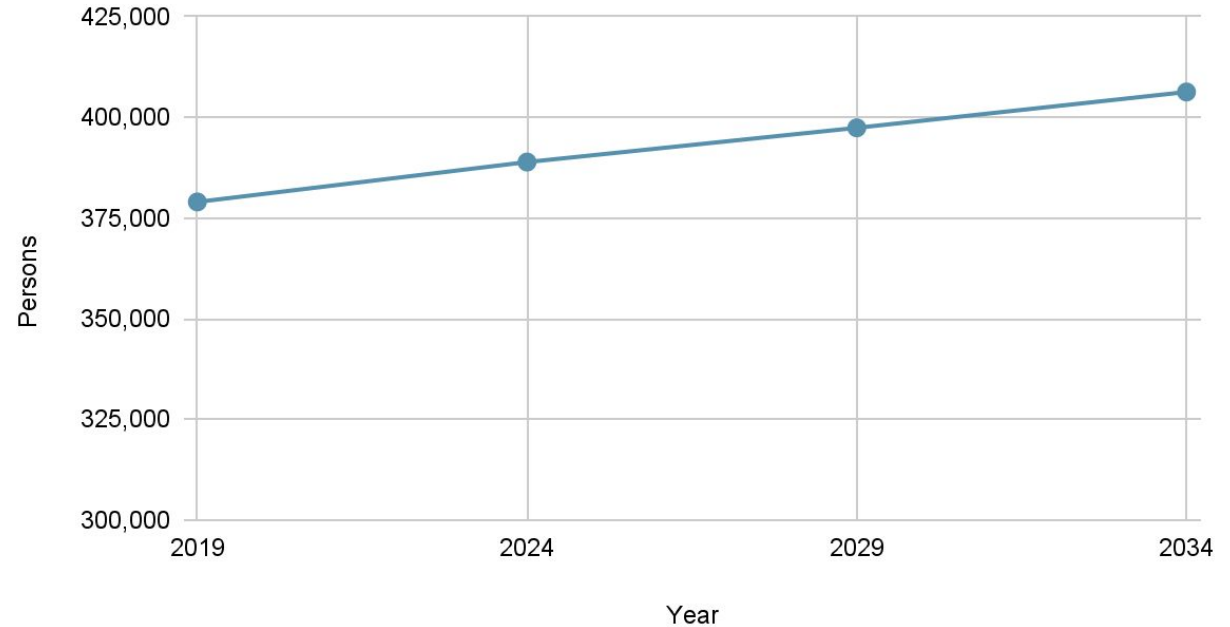


Population & Labor Force Projections

Mercer County Overall Population Projections

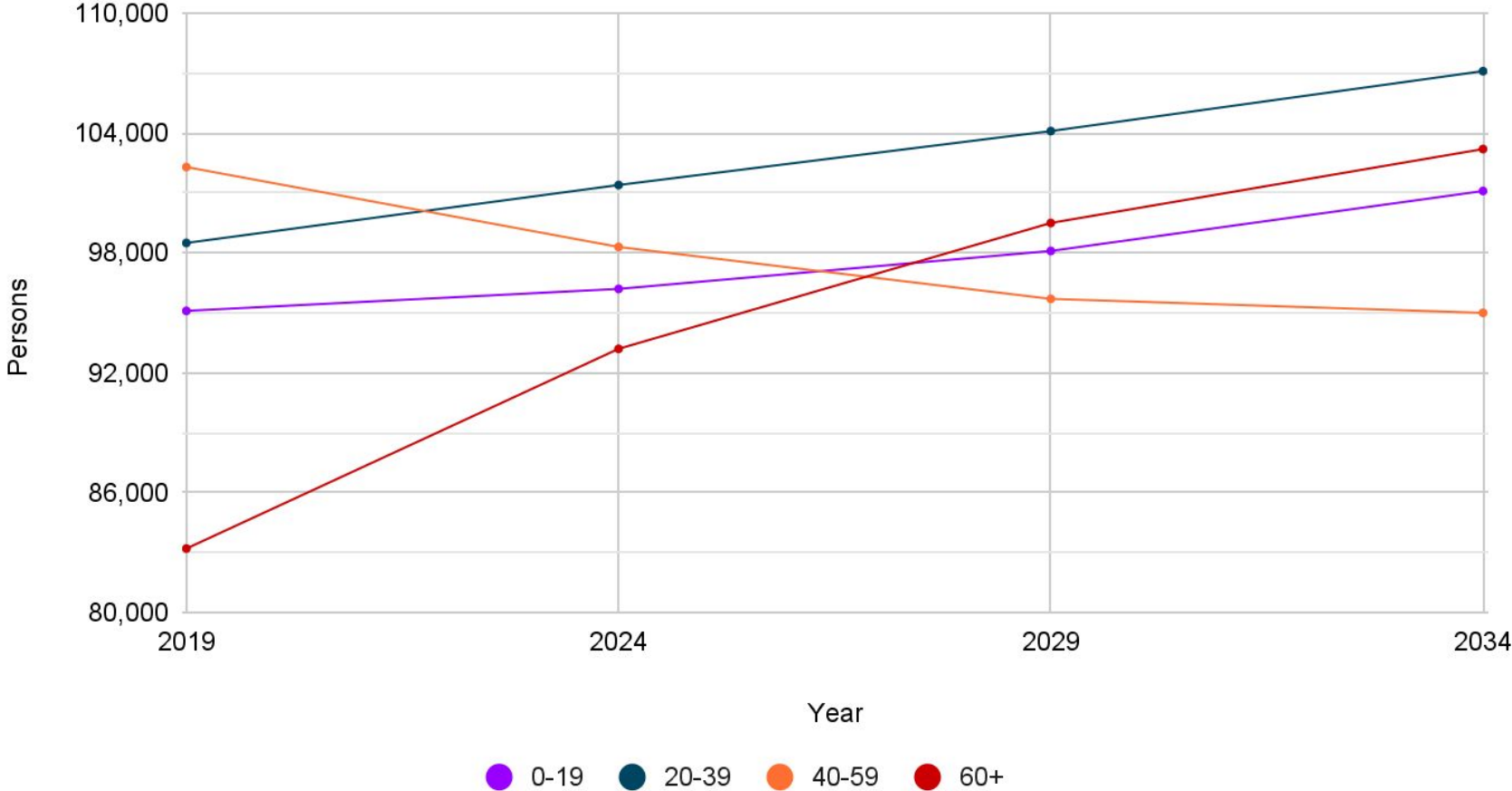
Year	Projected Population (July 1)
2019	379,000
2024	388,900
2029	397,400
2034	406,300

Projection of Total Mercer County Population



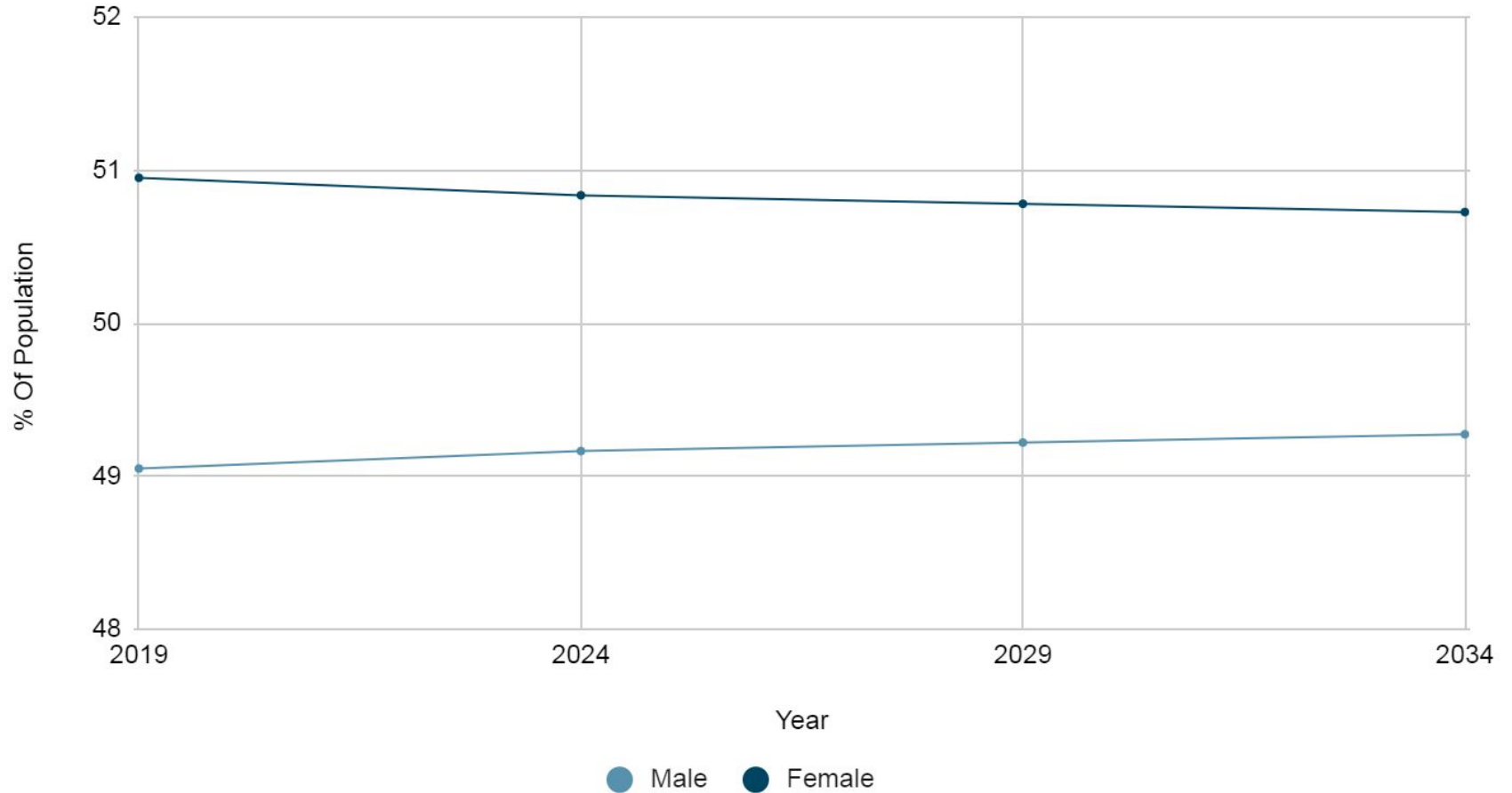
[Click here for data tables \(first sheet\) breaking down population projections by age, sex, and race](#)

Mercer County Population Projection by Age

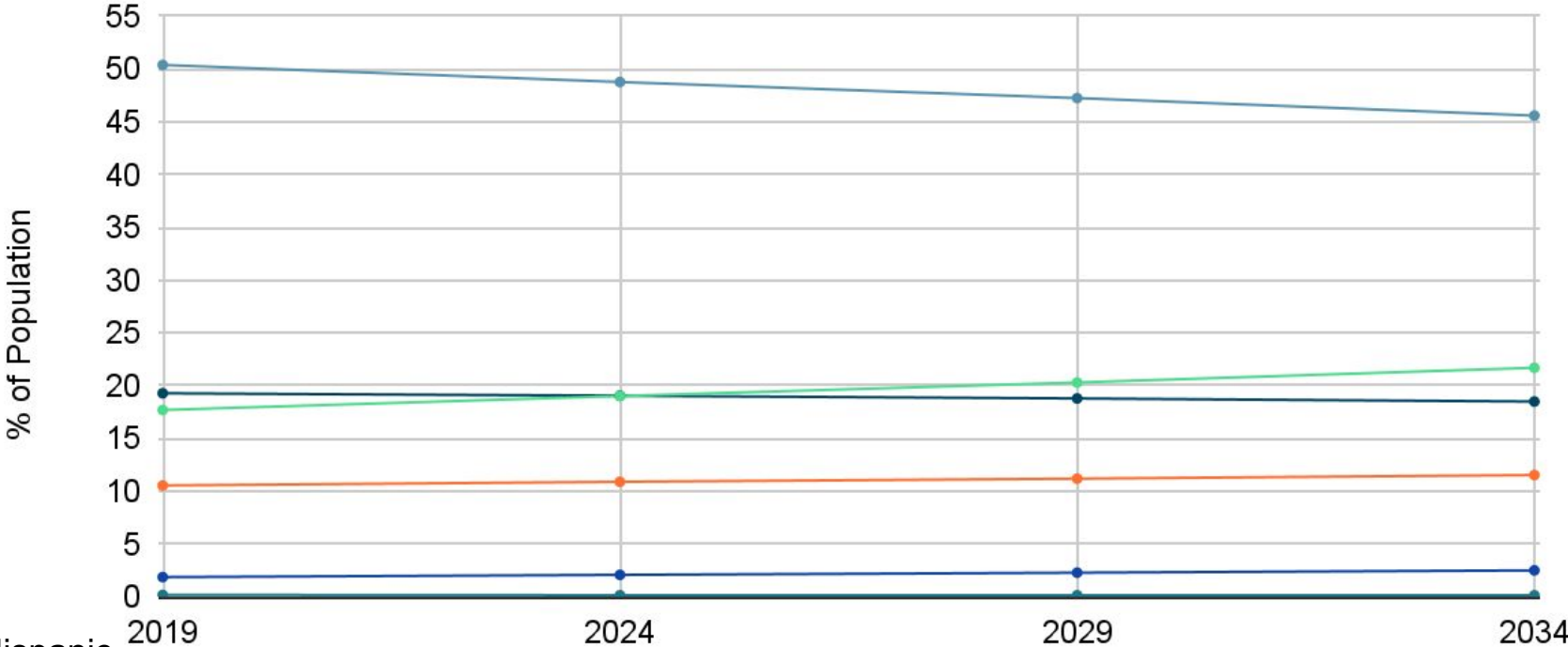


Mercer County Population Projection by Sex

[Via NJ Dept. Labor & Workforce](#)



Mercer County Population Projections By Race



Note: Hispanic population included as different racial group

- White
- Black
- Asian
- Others
- Multiracial
- Hispanic Origin

Overall Population Projections for % Change Between 2019 & 2034

	Total	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	7.203	4.291	7.798	6.278	6.859	4.498	9.243	13.65	8.658	1.652	-6.666	-8.846	-13.90	-4.979	11.51	35.61	63.63	65.67	35.22
	16622	84549	16513	02690	20577	26989	69747	63876	00865	89256	66666	15384	97744	25311	83246	64383	63636	16417	72727
	7	4	8	6	6	6	9	7	8	2	7	6	4	2	1	6	4	9	3

	Total	Male	Female
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	7.203166227	7.692307692	6.732263076

	Total	White	Black	Asian	Others	Multiracial	Hispanic Origin
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	7.229551451	-2.984293194	2.872777018	17.25	-14.28571429	43.66197183	31.44560358

Note: Hispanic population included as different racial group

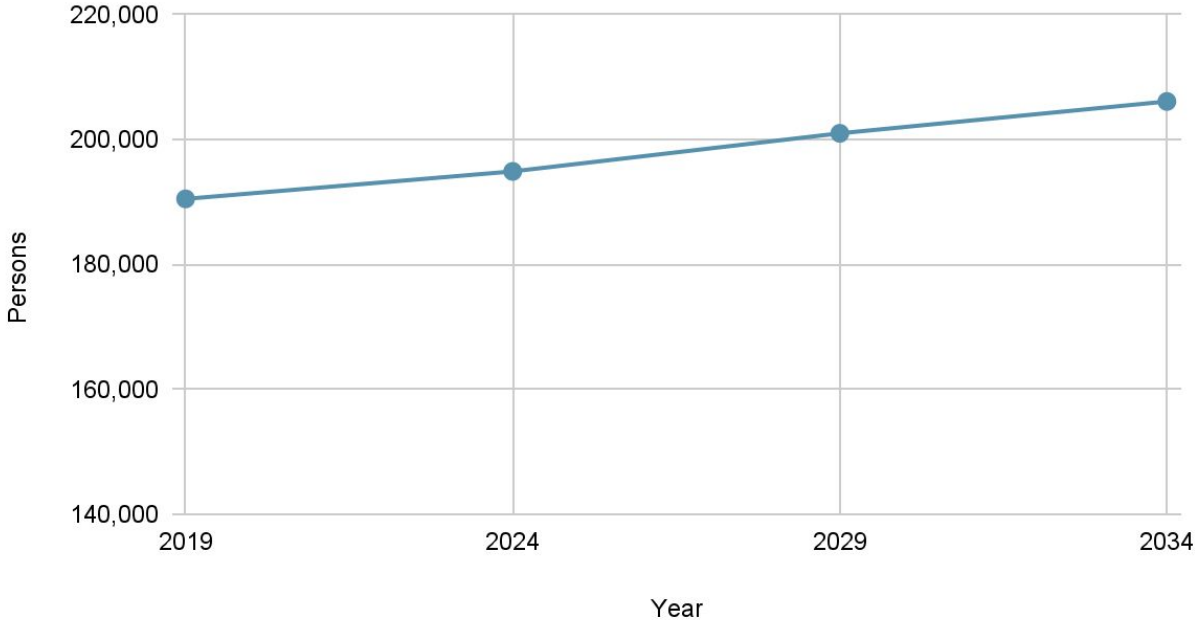
Population Projections Takeaways

- The overall Mercer County population is projected to grow by about 7.203% from 2019 to 2034.
- The number of people aged 40-59 is expected to fall between 2019 and 2034 while the number of people in all other age groups is projected to rise, particularly those 60+.
- The male population is expected to increase by 7.69% while the female population is expected to increase by just 6.73%. The percentage of the population that is female is expected to drop from 50.95% in 2019 to 50.73% in 2034.
- Between 2019 and 2034, the multiracial population is expected to increase by 43.66%, the Hispanic population by 31.45%, the Asian population by 17.25%, the Black population by 2.87%, while the white population is expected to decrease by 2.98%. The percentage of the population that is White is expected to drop from 50.40% in 2019 to 45.60% in 2034.
- The percentage of the population that is Black is expected to fall along with the percentage of the population that is white from 19.29% to 18.50%. The percentage of the population is Hispanic, Asian, and Multiracial is expected to rise for each individual group.

Mercer County Civilian Labor Force Projections

Year	Projected Civilian Labor Force (July 1)
2019	190,500
2024	194,900
2029	201,000
2034	206,100

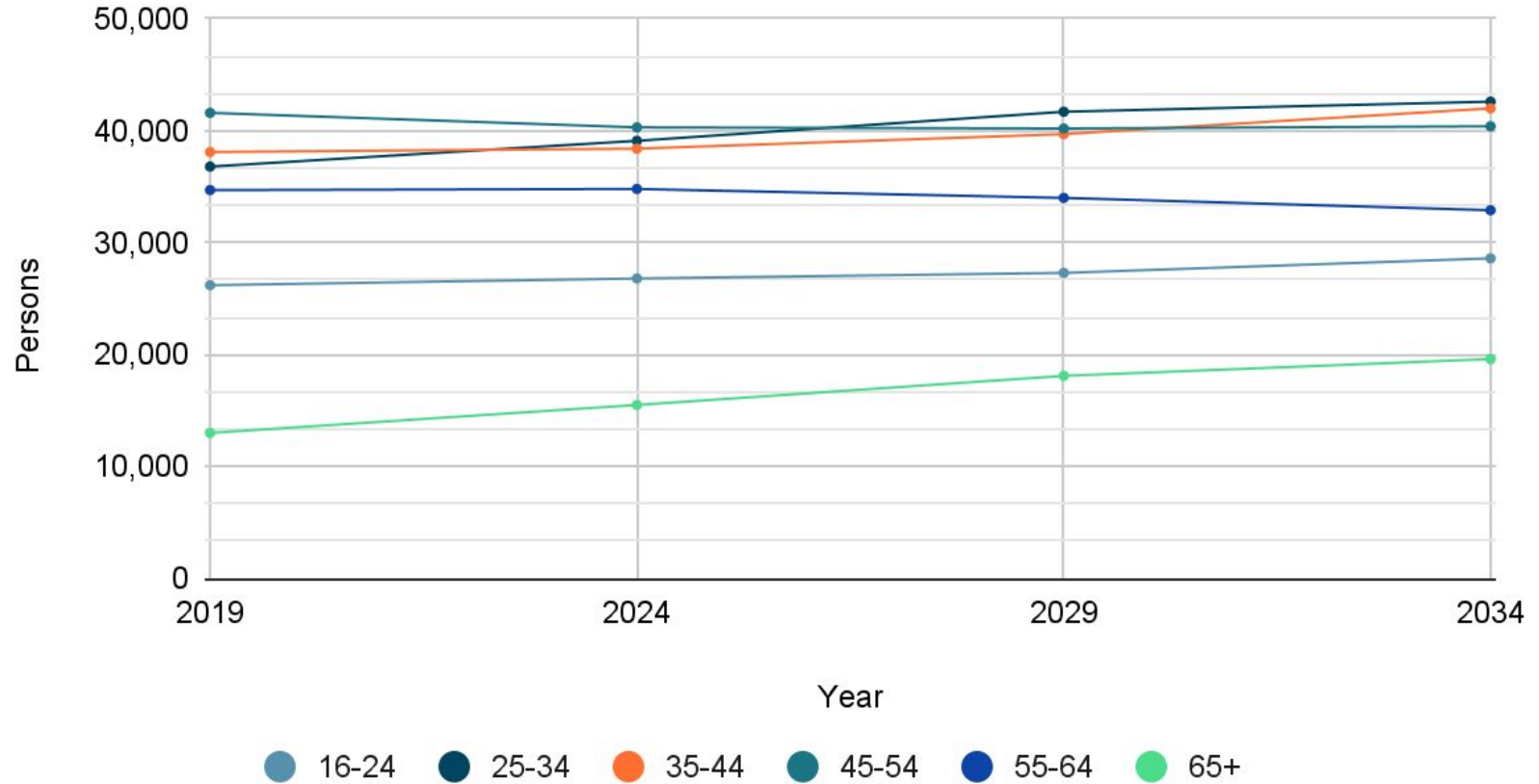
Projections of Mercer County Civilian Labor Force



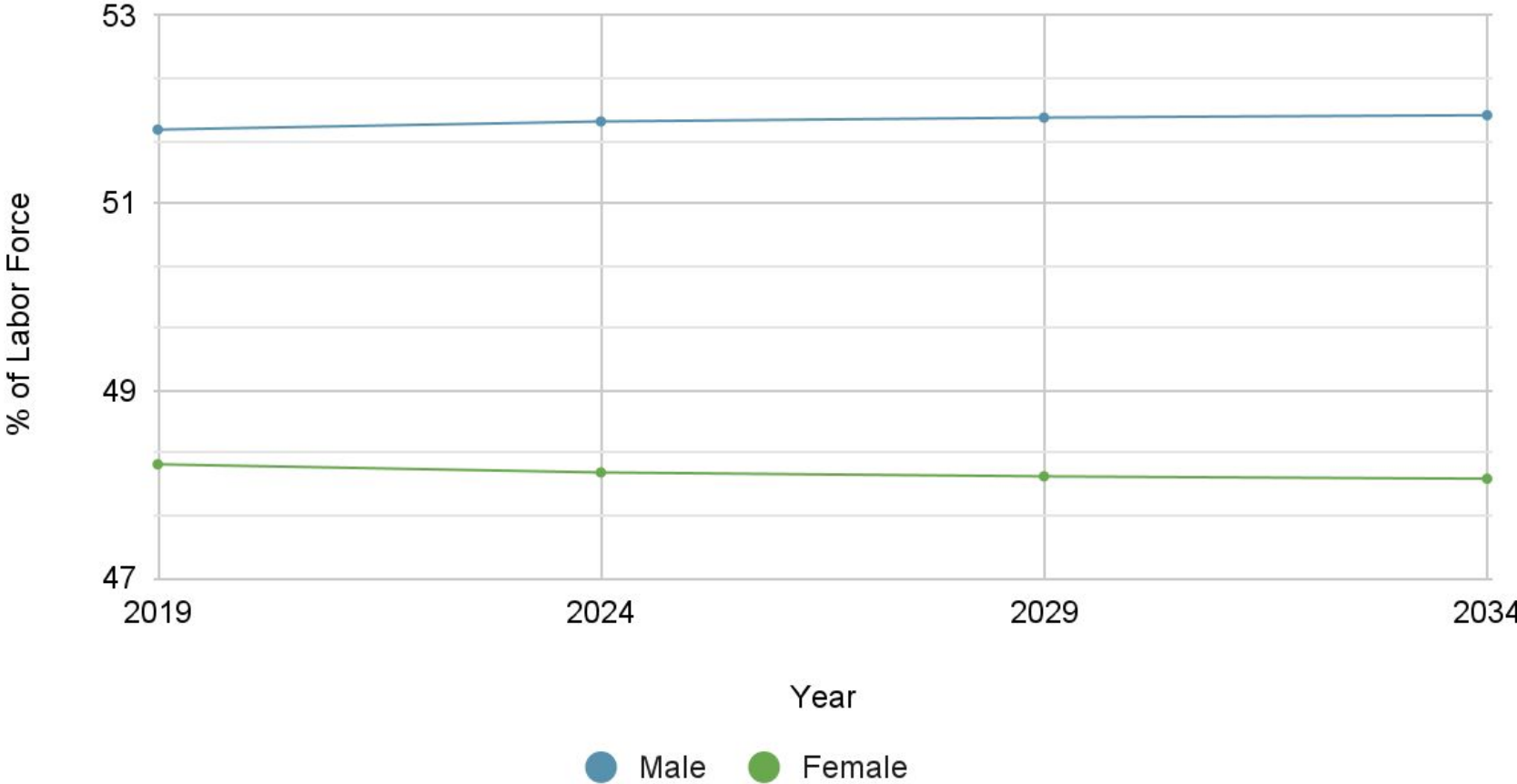
[Click here for data tables \(second sheet\) breaking down labor force projections by age, sex, and race](#)

Mercer County Labor Force Projections By Age

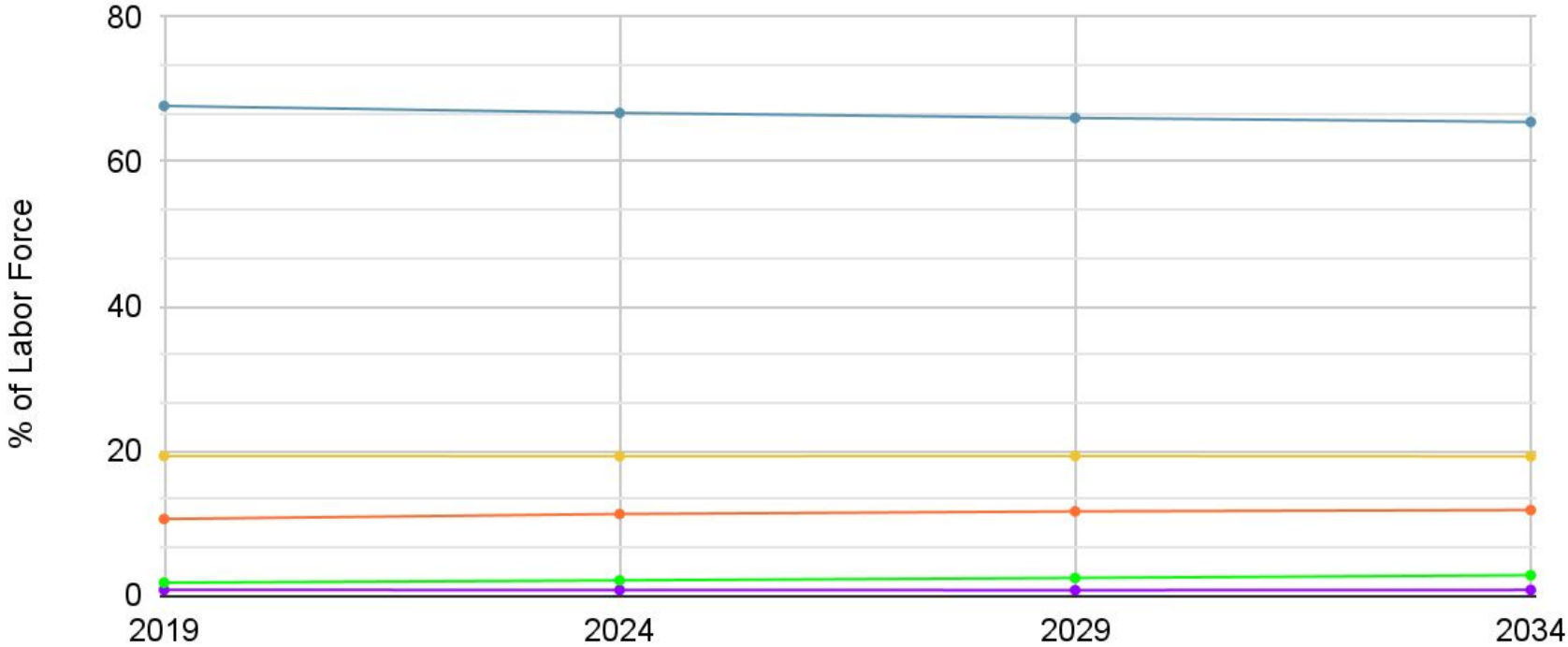
[Via NJ Dept. Labor & Workforce](#)



Mercer County Labor Force Projections By Age



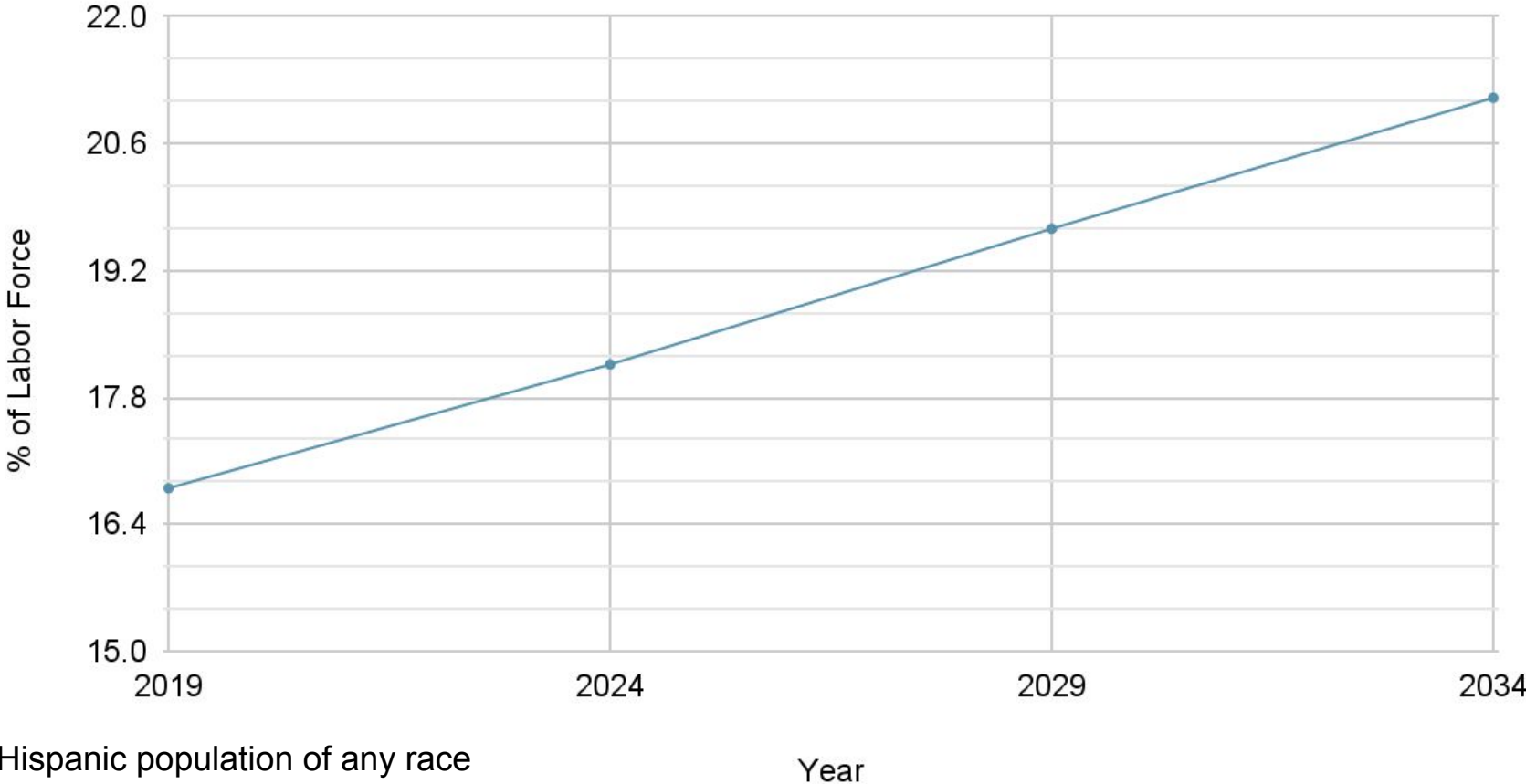
Mercer County Labor Force Projections By Race



Note: Hispanic population included in count for identified racial group

● White ● Black ● Asian ● Others ● Multiracial

Mercer County Labor Force Projections - Hispanic Origins



Note: Hispanic population of any race represented in the above graph

Overall Labor Force Projections for % Change Between 2019 & 2034

	Total	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	8.245798319	9.160305344	15.76086957	10.23622047	-2.884615385	-5.187319885	50.76923077

	Total	Male	Female
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	8.298319328	8.620689655	7.952069717

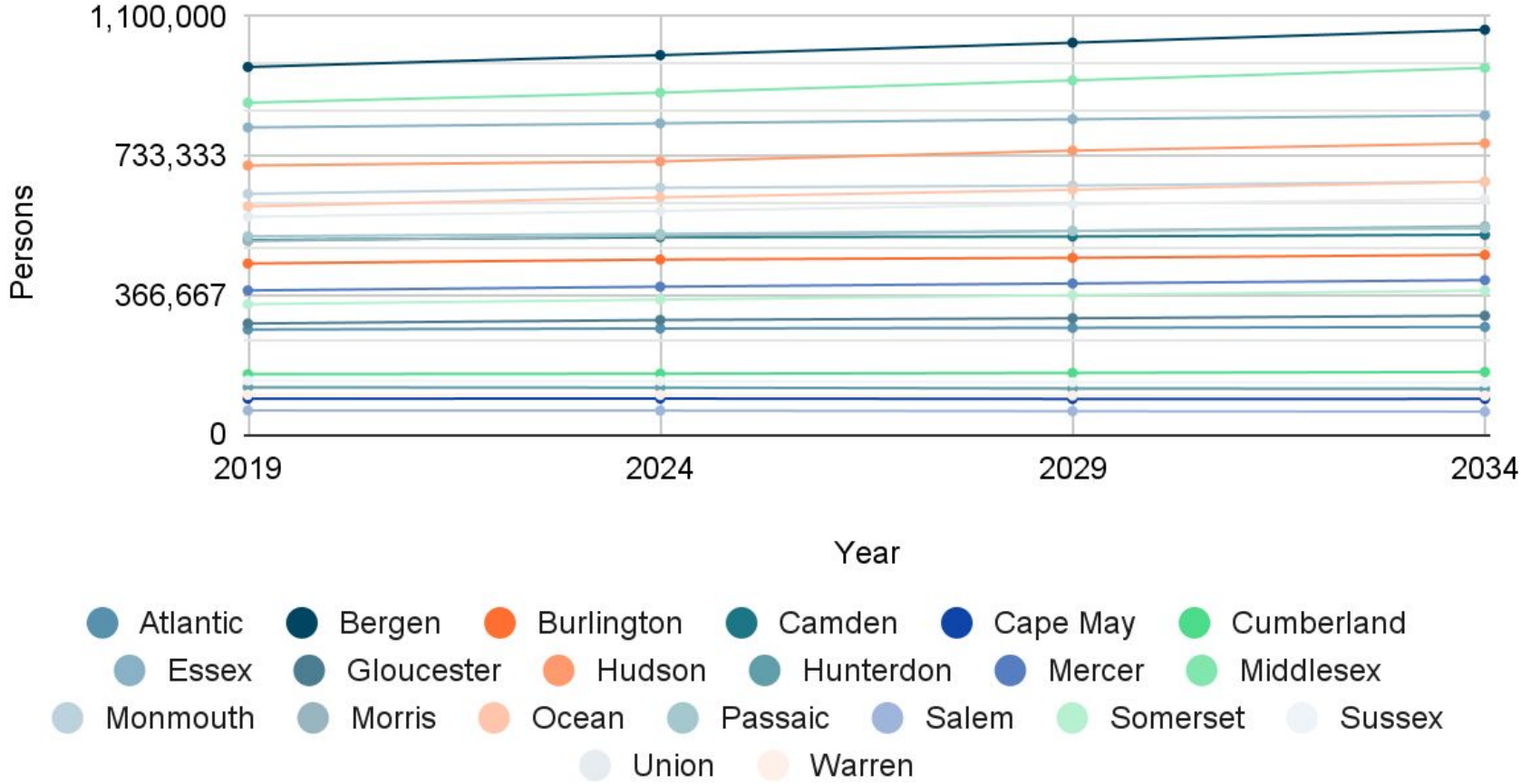
	Total	White	Black	Asian	Others	Multiracial
Overall % Change (2019-2034)	8.188976378	4.651162791	7.901907357	20.89552239	7.142857143	72.72727273

Note: Hispanic population included in count for identified racial group

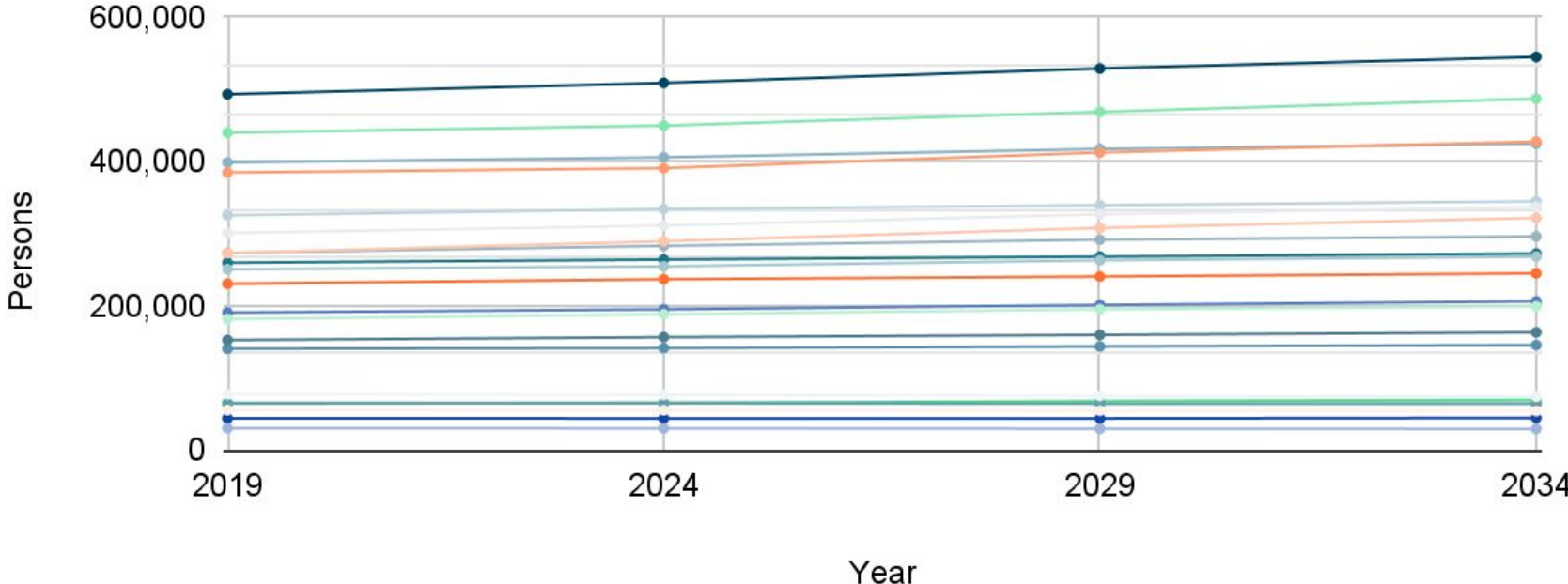
Labor Force Projections Takeaways

- The overall Mercer County labor force is expected to increase by 8.25% from 2019 to 2034.
- The increase in the labor force is projected to outpace the increase in overall population.
- The number of people aged 45-64 in the labor force is expected to fall while the number of people in the labor force for all other age groups is expected to rise, particularly those 65+.
- The number of males in the labor force is expected to increase by 8.62% while the number of females in the labor force is expected to increase by just 7.95%. The percentage of the labor force that is male is expected to rise modestly from 51.79% in 2019 to 51.94% in 2034.
- Between 2019 and 2034, the number of people in the labor force that are White is expected to increase by 4.65%, that are Black is expected to increase by 7.90%, that are Asian is expected to increase by 20.90%, that are multiracial is expected to increase by 72.73%, and are other is expected to increase by 7.14%.
- Between 2019 and 2034, the number of people in the labor force that are Hispanic (of any race) is expected to increase by 35.94%, from 16.80% of the labor force in 2019 to 21.11% of the labor force in 2034.
- While the percent of the labor force that is white and the percent that is Black are both expected to decrease between 2019 and 2034, the percent of the labor force that is Asian and the percent that is multiracial are both expected to increase.

NJ Counties Population Projections

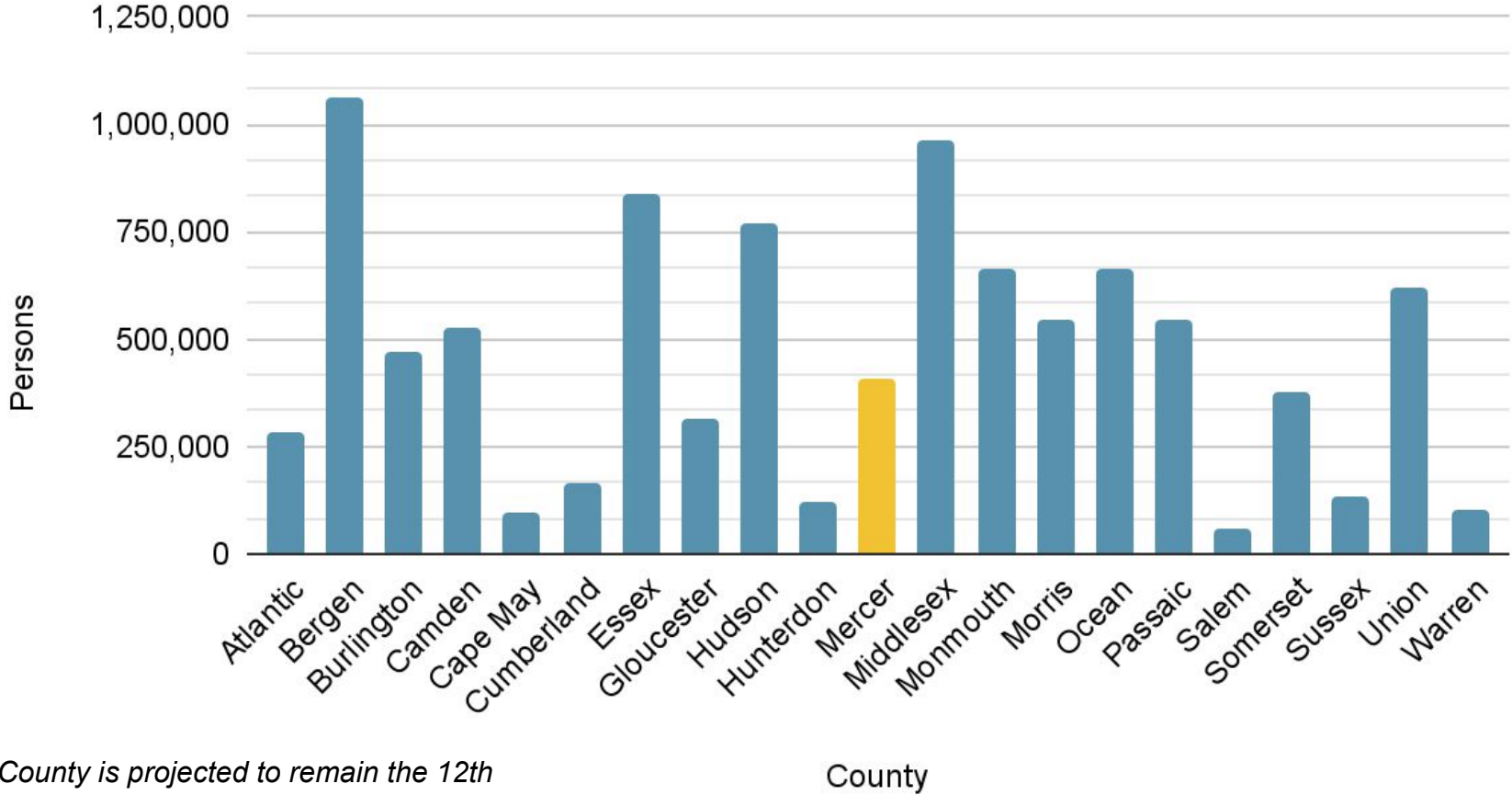


NJ Counties Labor Force Projections



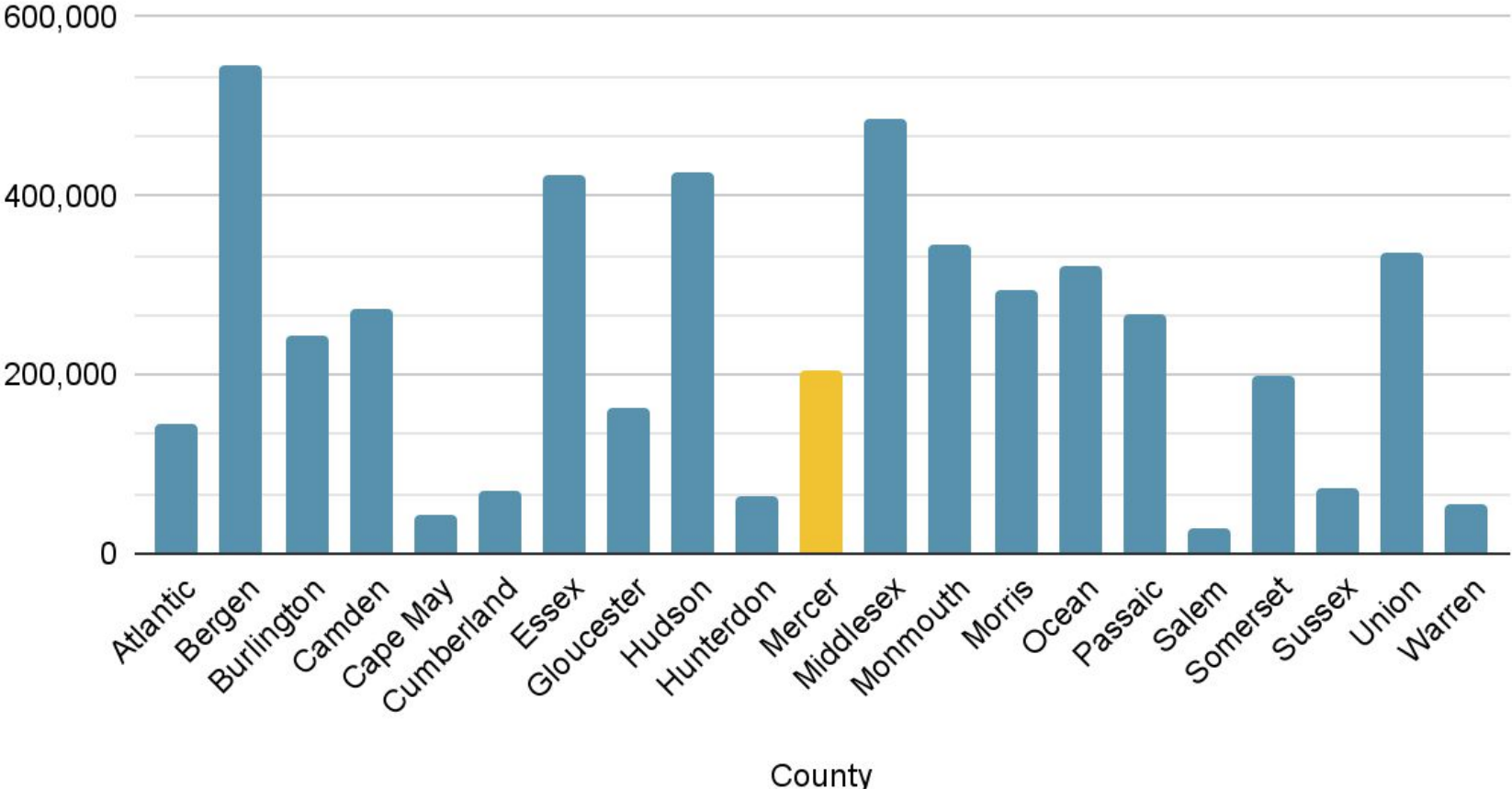
- Atlantic
- Bergen
- Burlington
- Camden
- Cape May
- Cumberland
- Essex
- Gloucester
- Hudson
- Hunterdon
- Mercer
- Middlesex
- Monmouth
- Morris
- Ocean
- Passaic
- Salem
- Somerset
- Sussex
- Union
- Warren

Projected 2034 Populations for NJ Counties



Mercer County is projected to remain the 12th most populous county in the State of NJ.

2034 Labor Force Projections for NJ Counties



Further Inquiry

With questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Mercer County Office of Economic Development at (609) 989-6555.

Mercer County is not responsible for the data in this presentation. The data sources are listed earlier in this presentation.

This report is unofficial and may contain certain inaccuracies. Please contact the Office of Economic Development if you identify any inaccuracies.

