



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

CITY OF JERSEY CITY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL | 280 GROVE STREET | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
P: 201 547 5500 | F: 201 547 5442



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MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill

Press Secretary

201-547-4836

201-376-0699

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Show Jersey City Outpacing State & Nation in Reducing Unemployment & Reaching New York City; Jersey City Also Has Lowest Unemployment Rate of Any Large City in New Jersey

Mayor Fulop Points to Aggressive Construction & Focus on Job Creation

JERSEY CITY – **U.S. Bureau of Labor** statistics for the first year of the Fulop administration show Jersey City has outpaced both the nation and state in **reducing the unemployment rate with a decline that doubles the national average.** At 7.8 percent, Jersey City also has the lowest unemployment rate of any large city in New Jersey.

From June 2013 through June 2014, Jersey City's unemployment rate dropped from 10.6 percent to 7.8 percent, representing a 2.8 percent decline, while New Jersey's only dropped 1.8 percent during the same period and the nation's unemployment rate dropped 1.4 percent.

Jersey City has also closed the gap with New York City, as New York City had a 7.7 percent unemployment rate as of June 2014.

Contributing to Jersey City's drop in unemployment is the administration's focus on attracting new jobs to Jersey City. In the last 12 months, Jersey City added 1,565 new jobs to its economy, while in the 12 months prior only 706 jobs were added. In other words, Jersey City had more than doubled the job growth, something that is not a global or regional phenomenon. Newark, by comparison, added only 1,061 during the same time period even though its population is greater.

“Job creation has been a focus of this administration and something we approach from a variety of angles with every project,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We have encouraged development that creates jobs, expanded opportunities for youth employment and grown our employment and training program. Good jobs are at the center of all positive growth and we will continue to make this a priority as we develop Jersey City into a national model for job creation.”

For example, Jersey City has been focusing on attracting new hotels as they provide hundreds of quality, local jobs for residents. Just yesterday, Mayor Fulop and city officials participated in a ceremonial ground breaking for a new Hyatt hotel, which will create 350 construction jobs, as well as 80 permanent and 60 part-time hotel jobs.

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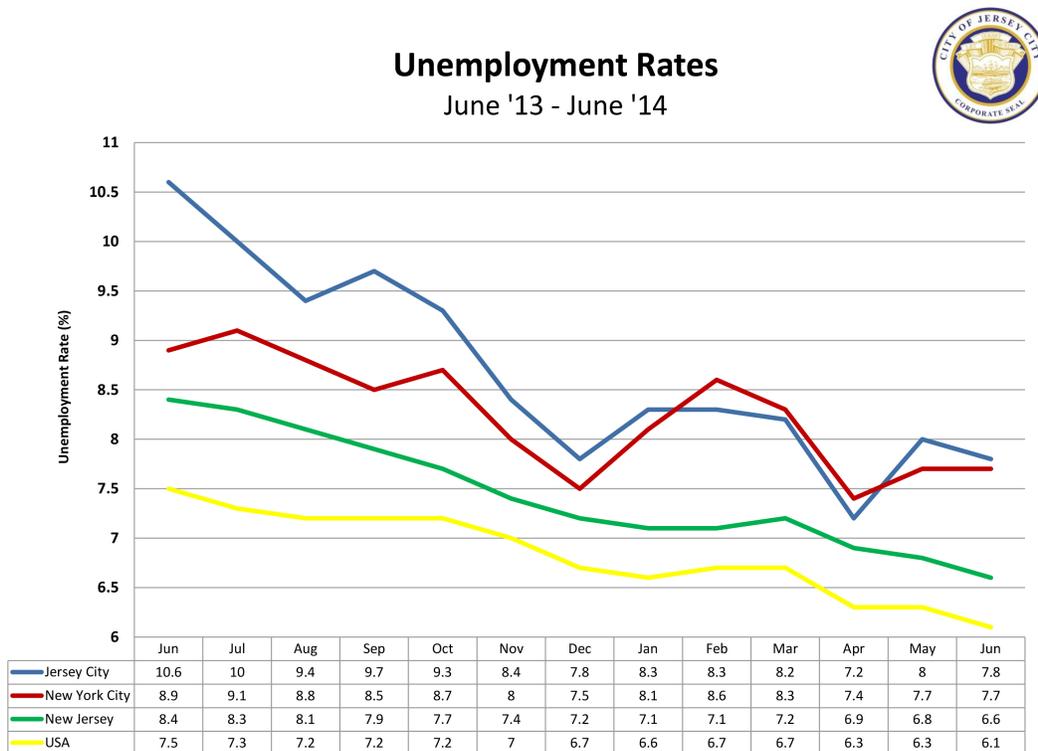
Jersey City anticipates thousands of additional new jobs with the announcements by several firms that they are relocating or opening facilities in Jersey City, such as JPMorgan Chase, RBC, Forbes, Imperial Bag, Nautica and Ahold.

“The Chamber applauds Jersey City's efforts to attract new business and grow the local employment base,” said **Maria Nieves, President and CEO of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce**. “The firms locating to the City bring not only new job opportunities but an existing employee base that will spend dollars at local businesses and help drive further growth and support this downward trend on the unemployment rate.”

While growing jobs and attracting business, Jersey City has also enacted ordinances such as earned paid sick leave, prevailing wage, stricter abatement compliance, and project labor agreements to ensure that all Jersey City shares in the benefit.

Additionally, due to Jersey City being the leader in the state for construction projects, Jersey City has also seen an increase in construction jobs with more than 4,000 construction jobs either underway or planned as part approved projects.

The administration, through the Jersey City Employment and Training Program has also been focused on matching Jersey City residents with available jobs and offering apprenticeship and training programs. The City has also stepped up its efforts at compliance with construction projects so local residents and minorities are offered the opportunity to work on Jersey City construction projects.



Source: www.bls.gov/data. United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Web August 11th 2013

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ////