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ANOTHER MONTH OF PROGRESS

Jersey City Continues to Grow Jobs and Reduce Unemployment Faster than State and Region as Construction Expands Throughout City and Small Businesses Continue to Open

Fulop Administration Policies Creating Sustained and Long-term Job Growth

JERSEY CITY – According to February statistics released by the **U.S. Bureau of Labor** on Wednesday, **Jersey City continues its rapid and steep decline in unemployment** as the Fulop Administration aggressively and strategically focuses on job creation by implementing policies and programs that support long-term job growth.

Jersey City’s unemployment rate is currently 6.1 percent, down 4.4 percentage points from 10.5 percent when Mayor Fulop took office in June of 2013, the largest decline of any city in the region.

But the story is more than the numbers, it's the people who are working in the small businesses or on construction sites throughout the city who are the face of Jersey City's jobs story.

“We see the numbers, and we see continued job growth, but we see it best when we look at what’s happening across Jersey City,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Last week, we broke ground on a new residential development in Bergen Lafayette that is creating dozens of construction jobs and which will be a magnet for more investment in the area. We also cut the ribbon on three new small businesses, something we are doing nearly every week now.

“These are examples of how our policies are creating real jobs for all of our residents,” added **Mayor Fulop**. “What is happening in Jersey City is not happening by accident.”

Jersey City’s **sustained growth in employment** is due directly to a comprehensive Fulop Administration approach to **attract residential development and new businesses**, creating **more than 9,000 thousand jobs** ranging from new small businesses to construction jobs to corporate jobs. Incentive policies to grow development in all neighborhoods has led to Jersey City currently experiencing the greatest construction activity in its history, **with 6,000 units under construction and another 18,000 approved**.

Since Mayor Fulop took office, more than **150 small businesses have opened in Jersey City, including over 50 restaurants**, due to an unprecedented small business investment by the Fulop Administration to improve the Jersey City Building Department to expedite approvals.

Last week, the city broke ground on an 83-unit residential project in Bergen-Lafayette, the largest in Ward F in decades creating dozens of construction jobs, and on 44-story tower in Ward E in addition to announcing the employment of 1,000 young people as part of the Jersey City summer employment program.

In addition to these hundreds of small businesses, national and international companies from a variety of industries such as Nautica and Timberland, RBC, JPMorgan Chase, Imperial Bag, Peapod/Ahold, Forbes, Charles Komar & Sons, and

Actavis are relocating to Jersey City or expanding their presence.

To further administration policies to attract both new businesses and residential development to Jersey City, this week, the Fulop Administration launched the second wave of a **\$1.2 million marketing campaign through a public/private partnership** - with ads on NYC subways and buses, PATH trains, and online.

The focus on growing jobs is also part of two new initiatives being rolled out by the Fulop Administration, through a long-term plan for workforce and community development.

This week, **Mayor Fulop announced a new City Hall AmeriCorps VISTA project** funded through a three-year, \$550,000 federal investment that will promote economic opportunity and youth development among low-income Jersey City residents, including a focus on job creation and job placement. The city's new Innovation Team, a program funded through a three year, **\$2.25 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, will develop solutions** to specifically address Jersey City's most complex and challenging issues with an initial focus on the revitalization of main street business districts - which are home to hundreds of local jobs.

While growing jobs and attracting business, the Fulop Administration has also enacted ordinances to protect workers and has expanded the city's project labor agreements with stricter abatement compliance to ensure that all of Jersey City shares in the city's progress.

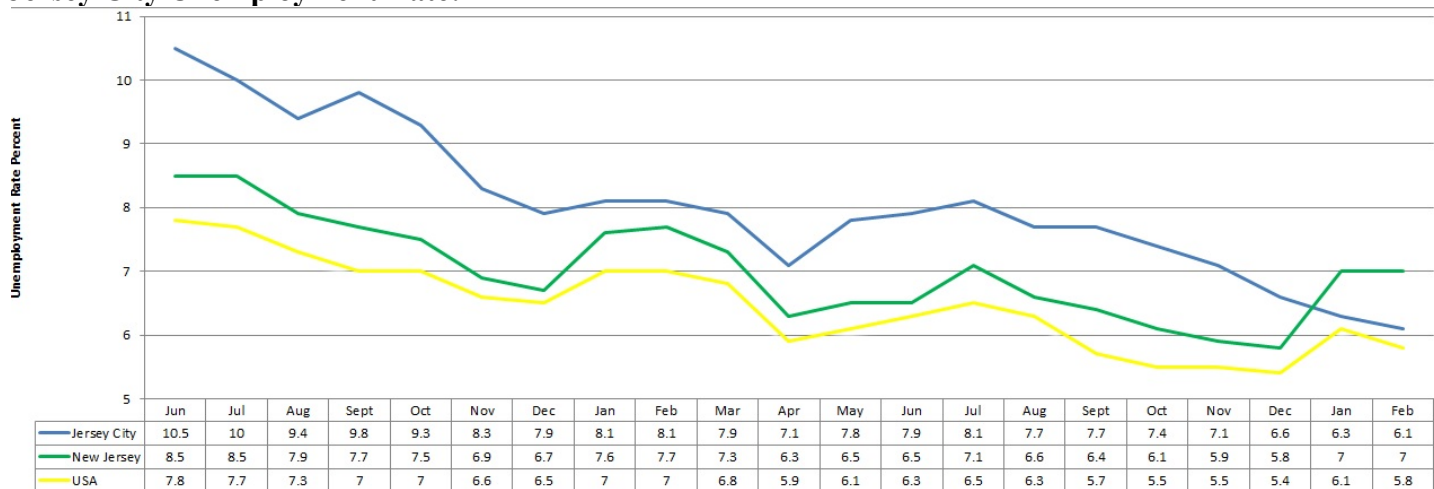
For example, in 2013, Jersey City was the first city in the state - and the sixth in the nation to enact an Earned Sick Leave policy. A study released last week by the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers University found that in its first year, Jersey City's Earned Sick Leave ordinance has been a success with 80 percent of Jersey City companies providing paid or earned sick days to their employees. Further, 42 percent of employers who changed their policies due to the law found business better in one or more categories, reporting an increase in productivity, a reduction in employee turnover, and/or an improved quality of new hires due to the law.

Under Mayor Fulop, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP), has expanded to offer a variety of new training and vocational programs, including an EMT certification course with the Jersey City Medical Center-Barnabas Health, CDL and logistics training, and a construction skills apprenticeship program with the Hudson County Building Trades. The Fulop Administration has also created a model prisoner reentry program, known as Martin's Place, that in its first year, enrolled 178 residents, with 115 already gaining employment.

JCETP has also grown partnerships with the business community, establishing employment opportunities with such companies as Ahold, Blue Apron, Eastern Millwork, Goldman Sachs, Schuster, KRE, and Kushner Realty, as well as with dozens of hospitality and food and beverage establishments across the city.

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

Jersey City Unemployment Rate:



Unemployment Rates June 2013-Feb 2015 Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics at www.bls.gov/data. Chart reflects the most updated BLS metric data.