

# In Brief: Verizon employs over 17,000 in New Jersey

May 5 2006

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More than 17,000 people are employed in the state of New Jersey by Verizon, the company said.

The telecommunications group has become one of the state's biggest private-sector employers, having added more than 1,900 new jobs since last year, with more jobs expected to come. The company announced in 2005 that it would create its new operations center in Basking Ridge.

"New Jersey is a major employment center for our company," said Dennis Bone, president of Verizon New Jersey. "We're in the midst of bringing 3,300 jobs to our new operations center in Basking Ridge, and nearly half of them are new jobs for New Jersey."

"Verizon is doing the right thing in New Jersey," said Raymond Pocino, vice president and eastern regional manager of the Laborers International Union of North America. "Verizon's fiber-related activities will stimulate New Jersey's economy, create jobs, generate more competition and give the consumer more choices."

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Citation: In Brief: Verizon employs over 17,000 in New Jersey (2006, May 5) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-05-verizon-jersey.html>

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