

PA MONTHLY WORKSTATS

LABOR FORCE • JOBS • UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

PA Monthly WorkStats presents the most up-to-date labor market highlights and happenings in the commonwealth. Information herein is produced and published monthly and includes data on the labor force, jobs, and unemployment compensation for both the state and select sub-state areas as well as relevant media reports. Additional details and historical information are available on our website: workstats.dli.pa.gov.

2017



February 2017 Big Numbers

5.0% ↓ Unemployment Rate
 5,941,600 ↑ Statewide Job Count
 15,162 ↓ Initial Claims (4-week average)

- ▶ Which supersectors were near either record highs or record lows in February? ----- **Page 2**
- ▶ A subset of the labor force known as “the marginally attached” is discussed ----- **Page 4**
- ▶ What types of employment are covered by the UC Program? ----- **Page 6**
- ▶ The legalization of marijuana was the subject of recent media reports on labor in Pennsylvania. For more information, please see ----- **Page 7**
- ▶ To learn more about terminology related to the Current Population Survey discussed on Page 4, please see ----- **Back Page**

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

JOBS BY SUPERSECTOR

MARCH 2017 EDITION • FEBRUARY 2017 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Industry	Jobs	Change from February 2016		
		Volume	Percent	Trend
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,941,600	74,000	1.3%	
Goods-Producing Industries	829,200	1,700	0.2%	
<i>Mining & Logging</i>	23,500	(3,100)	(11.7%)	
<i>Construction</i>	248,600	9,300	3.9%	
<i>Manufacturing</i>	557,100	(4,500)	(0.8%)	
Service-Providing Industries	5,112,400	72,300	1.4%	
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,133,900	7,100	0.6%	
Information	83,600	(1,100)	(1.3%)	
Financial Activities	317,600	1,000	0.3%	
Professional & Business Services	797,100	7,500	0.9%	
<i>Education & Health Services</i>	1,249,500	41,500	3.4%	
Leisure & Hospitality	571,100	15,300	2.8%	
Other Services	260,800	4,300	1.7%	
Government	698,800	(3,300)	(0.5%)	

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement

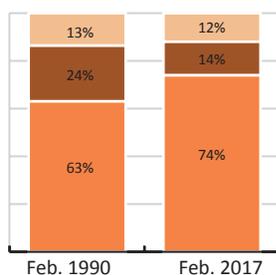
** Highlighting signifies an all-time high

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Jobs were up 12,500 from January. This was the eighth consecutive monthly gain and the 14th in the past 16 months with each increase setting a new record high.
- Jobs were up 74,000 over the past 12 months. This was the 82nd consecutive over-the-year gain and the largest since December 2014. Gains from last February were concentrated in service providing industries, although goods-producers posted an over-the-year gain for the first time since August 2015.
- Two supersectors were at record high levels in February and three others were less than 10,000 jobs below their highest levels on record (trade, transportation & utilities, professional & business services, and other services). However, four other supersectors were within 10,000 jobs of their lowest points on record (records begin January 1990)- information, manufacturing, mining & logging, and financial activities. Information was at its second lowest level since records began. Manufacturing jobs, while up in February, were only 3,500 above their record low set in November 2016. Government jobs fell below 700,000 for the first time since March 1993.

HOW HAVE JOBS CHANGED OVER THE LONG TERM?

Percent of Total Nonfarm Jobs

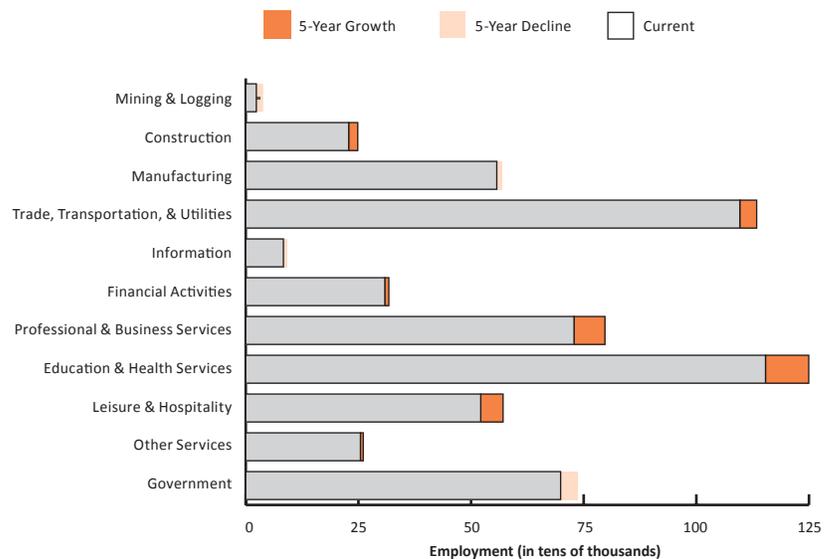


■ Government
■ Goods Producers
■ Private Service Providers

Education & health services led private service-providing growth over the past 26 years.

Today, goods producers make up a smaller portion of total nonfarm jobs due to large declines in manufacturing.

CHANGE IN SUPERSECTOR VOLUME



Over the past five years, total nonfarm jobs have grown 3.8% with seven of the 11 supersectors adding jobs. While four supersectors were up by at least eight percent from February 2012, only one supersector fell by more than eight percent (mining & logging). The five-year gain in education & health services alone (+96,000) was larger than the combined loss of all four supersectors that declined in the same timeframe (-72,100).

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

JOBS BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)

MARCH 2017 SUPPLEMENT • FEBRUARY 2017 DATA

MSA OVER-THE-YEAR JOB CHANGE (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

MSA	Jobs	Change from February 2016		
		Volume	Percent	Trend
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	363,800	0	0.0%	
Altoona	60,900	(400)	(0.7%)	
Erie	128,400	(600)	(0.5%)	
Harrisburg-Carlisle	342,300	6,100	1.8%	
Johnstown	55,700	(500)	(0.9%)	
Lancaster	251,300	3,200	1.3%	
Lebanon	51,800	500	1.0%	
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	2,909,800	62,000	2.2%	
Pittsburgh	1,177,700	14,300	1.2%	
Reading	178,700	2,200	1.2%	
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton	260,100	0	0.0%	
State College	78,600	1,200	1.6%	
Williamsport	53,200	(700)	(1.3%)	
York-Hanover	184,900	1,600	0.9%	

Please note the four newly defined MSAs are not shown as they do not yet have seasonally adjusted data.

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement

** Highlighting signifies an all-time high

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST (MSA industry data are not seasonally adjusted)

- Eight of the 14 MSAs had positive over-the-year job growth, while four had over-the-year job losses. Total overall jobs in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton and Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton MSAs remained unchanged over the year.
- Total jobs in four MSAs reached all-time highs in February 2017. These were the Harrisburg-Carlisle, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pittsburgh, and Reading MSAs.
- While the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA ranked highest in terms of both volume and percentage over-the-year job increases, the second largest volume increase occurred in the Pittsburgh MSA, and the second largest percentage increase was seen in the Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA.
- In the Pittsburgh MSA, while jobs down over the year in goods-producing industries, there were still notable gains within iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing. Overall jobs were up due to larger increases in service-providing industries.
- In the Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA, jobs were up over the year in both service-providing and goods-producing industries, with the bulk of the gains occurring in service-providing industries. The largest gains were seen in trade, transportation, & utilities, while the largest decreases occurred in administrative & waste services.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST (based on non seasonally adjusted MSA industry data)

- Fourteen of the 18 MSAs saw increases in total private jobs over the past five years, while only two MSAs saw increases in total government jobs.
- The largest volume decrease in total government jobs over the past five years occurred in the Pittsburgh MSA. The majority of government jobs lost in the Pittsburgh MSA were in local government, with a smaller amount lost in state government. Pittsburgh MSA jobs in federal government were essentially unchanged.
- The largest percentage decrease in total government jobs over the past five years occurred in the East Stroudsburg MSA. In the East Stroudsburg MSA, the majority of government jobs were lost in federal government, with slightly fewer jobs lost in local government. Jobs in state government were essentially unchanged.
- The largest volume increase in private jobs over the past five years occurred in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA. Private jobs were up in both private service-providing and goods-producing industries. Education & health services and professional & business services accounted for the largest volume growth in private service-providing industries, while mining, logging, & construction was the driver for job growth in goods-producing industries.

MSA FIVE-YEAR JOB CHANGE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE INDUSTRIES



* Data are not seasonally adjusted

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

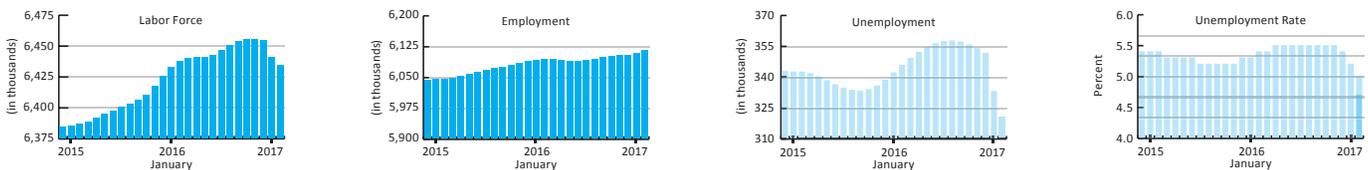
LABOR FORCE FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2017 EDITION • FEBRUARY 2017 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths to 5.0 percent this month.
- This was the third consecutive decrease and was the lowest rate since it was matched in April 2008. PA's rate has decreased by one-half of a percentage point over the past three months.
- PA's rate was 0.3 percentage points above the U.S. rate, which decreased one-tenth in February to 4.7 percent. This was the smallest difference since it was matched in December 2015.
- Employment was up 7,000 from last month to 6,114,000 setting a new record high. This was the ninth consecutive month without a decrease.
- Unemployment decreased 12,000 in February to 321,000, the lowest level since April 2008.

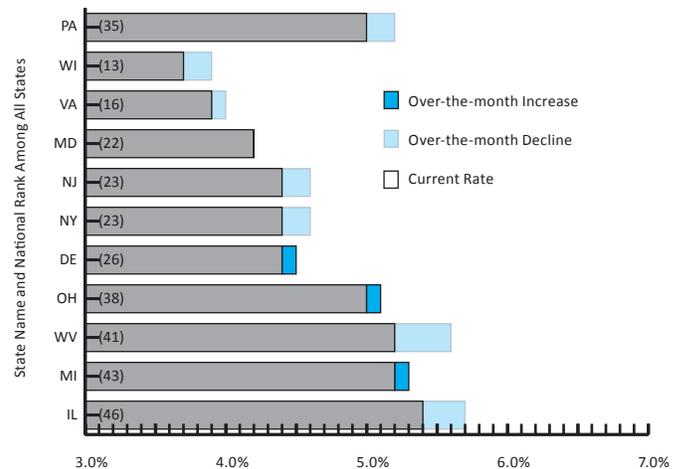


CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Unemployment Rate: 12-Month Moving Average (by Percent)

	Feb. 2017	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2016
Total	5.5	5.5	5.2
Gender			
Female	5.0	5.2	5.3
Male	5.9	5.7	5.1
Race			
Black	11.0	11.0	10.4
White	4.9	4.9	4.5
Age			
16 - 19	16.3	16.1	10.4
20 - 24	8.6	8.4	9.7
25 - 54	4.7	4.7	4.6
55+	4.1	4.2	3.8
Education			
Less than HS	7.6	8.0	9.7
HS Diploma	5.8	5.7	5.2
AD / Some College	4.9	4.9	5.0
BD or Higher	2.9	2.9	2.5
People with Disabilities	10.9	10.6	9.5
Veterans	5.9	5.6	4.9
Participation Rate	63.1%	63.2%	62.9%
Employment/Population Ratio	59.7%	59.7%	59.7%
Underemployment Rate (U-6)	10.3%	10.5%	10.6%
Discouraged Workers	21,600	21,900	21,700
Part-Time for Economic Reasons	243,200	253,700	282,000
Avg. Duration of Unemployment (weeks)	24.1	23.9	29.9
Long-term Unemployed (>26 weeks)	77,800	77,500	93,500

SELECT STATES' UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (RANK)



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Although the number of discouraged workers has generally been trending downward over the past three years, the February count remains approximately 50 percent higher than the level 10 years ago.
- However, of the people who want a job but are not in the labor force, discouraged workers were a greater relative share 10 years ago than they were this month. This effect was due entirely to men, women saw no such consistent difference.
- Since the end of the recession, discouraged workers comprised a much smaller relative share of people aged 55 and older who want a job than they did prior to the recession.
- Among the marginally attached – those who want and are available for a job and have looked in the past year but not the past four weeks – the relative share of all people who want a job but are not in the labor force has fallen since the recession. Like the discouraged workers, which are a subset of the marginally attached, the change in relative share is due primarily to men.

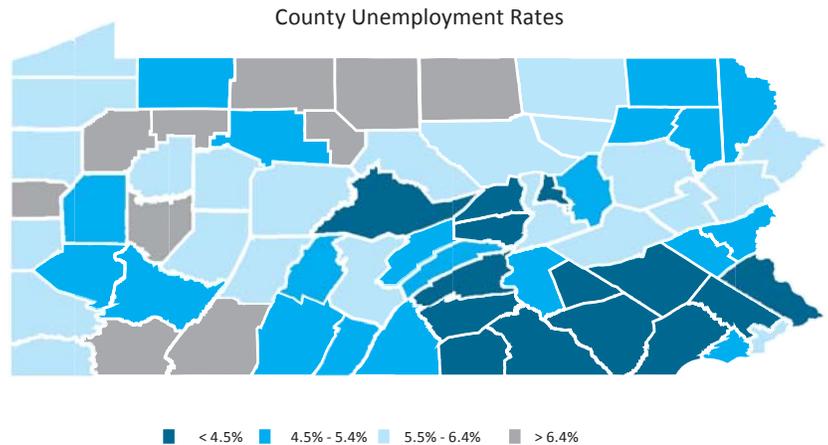
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

LABOR FORCE FOR SELECT LOCAL AREAS

MARCH 2017 SUPPLEMENT • FEBRUARY 2017 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

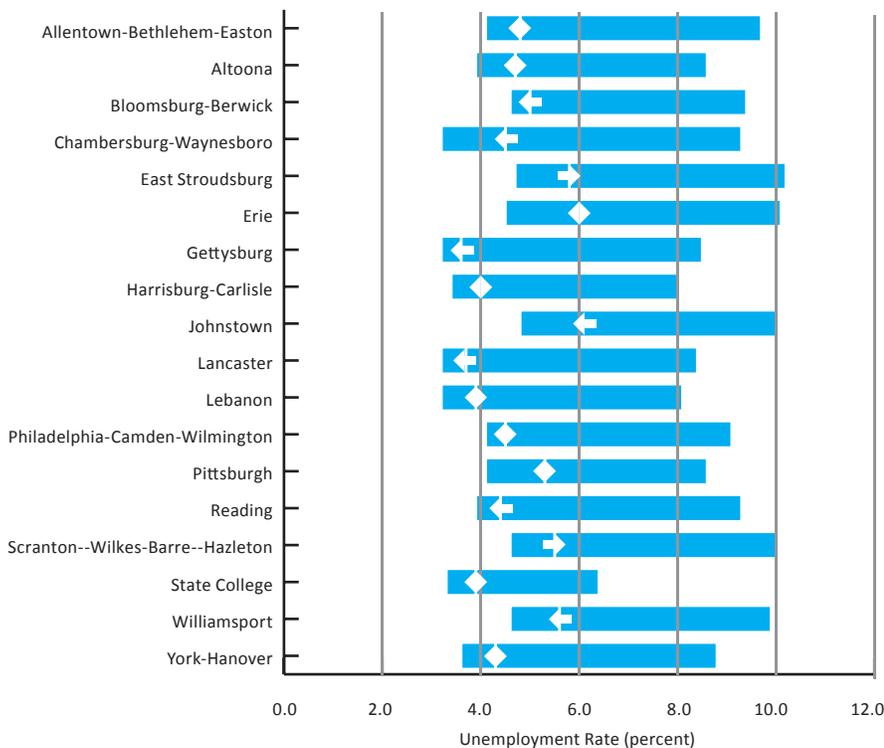
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- In February, 41 counties experienced an over-the-year increase in the unemployment rate, while the unemployment rate decreased in 19 counties and was unchanged in seven counties. Clarion and McKean counties experienced the largest over-the-year increase in unemployment rate (+0.8 percentage points), while the largest decrease was in Forest County (-1.0 percentage points).
- Pennsylvania's labor market exhibited few positive signs in February, as only 29 counties experienced an over-the-year decrease in the volume of unemployment and five counties experienced an increase in the volume of employment. This was a slight improvement from January when only 23 counties experienced a decrease in the volume of unemployment. In both months, the only counties with an increase in labor force were the five counties with an employment increase.
- Philadelphia County had the largest over-the-year volume increases in labor force (+3,600) and employment (+3,600), while Bradford County had the largest volume decrease in unemployment (-300). Allegheny County had the largest over-the-year decreases in labor force (-3,900) and employment (-5,200), and the largest increase in the level of unemployment (+1,300).



Unemployment Rate by MSA

Over-the-month direction of change and 10-year maximum and minimum range



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

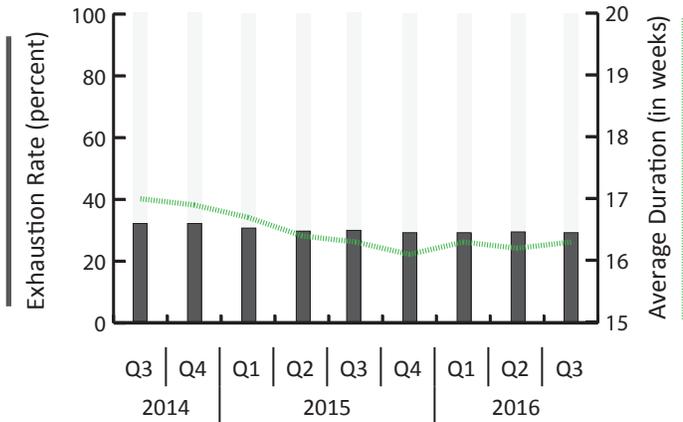
- Fourteen MSAs saw over-the-year increases in unemployment rates. The Johnstown and Williamsport MSAs experienced over-the-year decreases, while rates in the Lebanon and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSAs were unchanged. The largest increase in the rate was in the Erie MSA (+0.5 percentage points), while the Williamsport MSA had the largest decrease (-0.2 percentage points).
- The volume of unemployment increased in 14 MSAs over the year, decreased in three MSAs and was unchanged in the Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA. The largest volume decreases in unemployment were in the Johnstown and Williamsport MSAs (-200), while Williamsport had the largest percentage decrease in unemployment (5.7 percent). The largest over-the-year percentage increase in the volume of unemployment was in the Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA (+10.0 percent), while the Pittsburgh MSA had the largest absolute increase (+3,000).
- Over the year, employment levels declined in 16 MSAs and were unchanged in the East Stroudsburg and State College MSAs. These two MSAs were also the only ones to experience increases in their labor forces. The Pittsburgh MSA had the largest decrease in the volume of employment (-13,500), as well as the largest decrease in the volume of labor force (-12,600).

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

CLAIMS AND BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION • JANUARY 2016 DATA (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

DURATION OF CLAIMS AND EXHAUSTION RATE



NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED UC BENEFITS (REGULAR UC ONLY)

For the week ending February 25, 2017: 124,961
 For the week ending January 28, 2017: 130,478
 For the week ending February 27, 2016: 153,117

DID YOU KNOW?

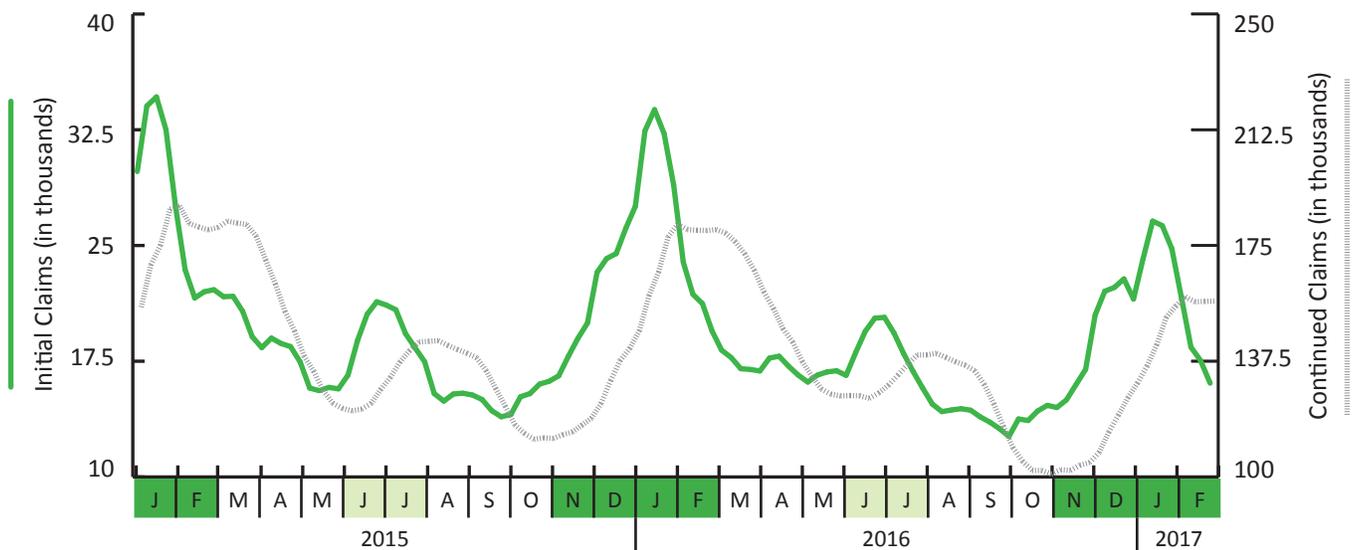
What types of employment are covered by the UC Program?

In Pennsylvania, most employment is covered by the UC program. Exceptions include some agricultural and seasonal workers, persons who are self-employed, officers of a corporation, professional athletes, and persons who are incarcerated. Civilian employees of the federal government are covered by the UCFE program, and ex-military personnel are covered by the UCX program.

How long can someone collect UC benefits?

The duration of regular UC benefits in Pennsylvania varies from 18 to 26 weeks. During periods of high unemployment, claimants may be eligible for extended benefits (EB) or emergency unemployment compensation (EUC).

INITIAL AND CONTINUED CLAIMS OVER THE PAST 26 MONTHS



PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYER ACTIVITY

PRESS UPDATE

MARCH 2017 EDITION

PA MONTHLY WORKSTATS PRESS UPDATE

The update below is part of a series of Press Updates corresponding to PA Monthly WorkStats labor force data. Each update includes a summary of media trends along with article quotes illustrative of the month's workforce trends. Please note that while these updates may cover particular attempts made by reporters to explain industry trends, CWIA and L&I serve to report these numbers and cannot endorse any trend explanations that may or may not be included below.

Recent legalization of medical marijuana in Pennsylvania could promise job creation and an improved economic outlook, in communities that have seen dwindling industry for decades. Looking beyond medical marijuana, officials speculate that legalized recreational marijuana could have a positive impact on jobs and the statewide economy

Entrepreneur.com, Mar. 28, 2017

Can Marijuana Replace Lost Steel Jobs? Pennsylvania Town Has High Hopes.

"City leaders in Braddock, located east of Pittsburgh, have submitted an application with the state in hopes to land a license that will allow for a new cannabis cultivation facility. The goal is for legal medical marijuana to bring back jobs lost over the past decades by the decline in the steel industry.

...

Braddock has been decimated by the jobs lost with cutbacks in the steel industry since the late 1980s. The city's economic state landed it on the Pennsylvania Act 47 roll of financially distressed cities. Braddock has been on the list since 1988.

In numerous media appearances, Mayor John Fetterman thinks a large medical marijuana cultivation center can change the town's fortunes. As many as 70 new jobs would be created at the outset, and the city would reap the tax benefits of having the facility in town."

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/291960>

Philadelphia Magazine, March 6, 2017

Pa. Auditor General: Legalizing Marijuana Would Create Jobs, Generate Tax Revenue

Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale says the legalized sale of marijuana will create jobs and generate substantial tax revenues; and, if quickly passed, would put a major dent in the state's \$2 to \$3 billion budget deficit.

"Other states are already taking advantage of the opportunity for massive job creation and savings from reduced arrests and criminal prosecutions,' [said DePasquale.] 'In addition, it would generate hundreds of millions of dollars each year that could help tackle Pennsylvania's budget problems.'"

<http://www.phillymag.com/news/2017/03/06/pennsylvania-auditor-general-legalize-marijuana/>

BEHIND THE DATA

DEFINITIONS • SOURCES • WEB RESOURCES

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS)

This program measures employment and unemployment by place of residence. The LAUS program does not produce estimates for any demographic groups.

Employment: All persons who (a) did any work as paid employees, self-employed, agricultural workers, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid family workers, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. **Each employed person is counted only once, even if the person holds more than one job.**

Unemployment: All persons aged 16 years and older who had no employment, were available for work, and had made specific efforts to find employment. Includes persons who were waiting to be recalled to jobs from which they had been laid off.

Labor Force: All persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment Rate: The number of unemployed divided by the labor force.

LAUS data is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES)

This collaborative effort between the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the states produces a count of jobs, not of people.

Nonfarm Jobs: The total number of persons on establishment payrolls employed full or part time. **Persons on the payroll of more than one establishment are counted in each establishment.** Data exclude proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers, and domestic workers. Persons on layoff, strike, or leave without pay for the entire period, or who have not yet reported for work are not counted as employed. Government employment covers only civilian employees.

Seasonal Adjustment: Removes the change in employment that is due to normal seasonal hiring or layoffs (holidays, weather, etc.) thus leaving an over-the-month change that reflects only employment changes due to trend and irregular movements.

Note - Agricultural employment is excluded due to the relative difficulty of gathering timely employment information in the rural farming sector. Many agricultural workers are exempt from unemployment insurance and many are self-employed. As such, there is not a good source of data to verify the accuracy and reliability of the sample-based survey data.

CES data is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)

Discouraged Workers: Persons not in the labor force who want and are available for a job and who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months, but who are not currently looking because they believe there are no jobs available or there are none for which they would qualify. Discouraged workers are not included in the unemployment count.

Duration of Unemployment: The length of time in weeks that an unemployed person has been looking for work.

Labor Force Participation Rate: The labor force divided by the civilian non-institutional population.

Employment to Population Ratio: The proportion of the civilian non-institutional population aged 16 years and over that is employed.

Part Time for Economic Reasons: Persons who would like to work full time but were working part time because of an economic reason such as decreased working hours or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

Long-term Unemployed: Persons who have been unemployed for greater than 26 weeks.

Underemployment Rate (U6): The number of unemployed plus those people working part time who would like full-time jobs plus those who have dropped out of the labor market entirely and still want a job divided by the labor force plus those who have dropped out of the labor market entirely and still want a job.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (UC)

The Federal-State Unemployment Compensation (UC) Program provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own and meet other eligibility requirements of State law.

Regular UC: Provides up to 26 weeks of benefits.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC): A temporary, federally-funded extension of unemployment benefits for those who have exhausted their Regular UC benefits.

Extended Benefits (EB): A temporary extension of unemployment benefits available to individuals who have exhausted their Regular UC benefits and any temporary EUC.

Initial Claims: The count of notices of unemployment requesting a determination of eligibility and entitlement for UC benefits. A person can file multiple claims.

Continued Claims: The number of weeks that claimants are requesting payment of unemployment benefits. These claims include "waiting weeks" which do not receive payment and claims that are subsequently denied benefits.

Individual Payments: The distinct count of individuals who received unemployment compensation benefits.

Exhaustees: The count of individuals who have drawn the maximum entitled amount of benefits.

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*