

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.

September 2023 Big Numbers

3.4% ↓ Unemployment Rate

6,171,600 ↑ Statewide Job Count

33,750 ↓ Initial Claims

Note: arrows indicate increase, decrease, or no change from the previous month

- ▶ What supersectors had the largest volume movements from August levels? ----- **Page 2**
- ▶ Find unemployment statistics by gender, race, age, and educational attainment. ----- **Page 4**
- ▶ View recent Unemployment Compensation trends. ----- **Page 6**
- ▶ Read snapshots from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries. ----- **Page 7**
- ▶ What is the Employment to Population Ratio? ----- **Page 6**

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

JOBS BY SUPERSECTOR

SEPTEMBER 2023 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Industry	Jobs	Change from September 2022		
		Volume	Percent	Trend
Total Nonfarm Jobs	6,171,600	148,700	2.5%	
Goods-Producing Industries	858,100	9,800	1.2%	
Mining & Logging	23,500	800	3.5%	
Construction	266,500	8,600	3.3%	
<i>Manufacturing</i>	568,100	400	0.1%	
Service-Providing Industries	5,313,500	138,900	2.7%	
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,163,800	15,300	1.3%	
Information	96,300	2,200	2.3%	
Financial Activities	340,200	4,200	1.3%	
Professional & Business Services	873,500	21,800	2.6%	
<i>Education & Health Services</i>	1,327,900	54,900	4.3%	
Leisure & Hospitality	565,400	24,000	4.4%	
Other Services	259,600	7,300	2.9%	
Government	686,800	9,200	1.4%	

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement

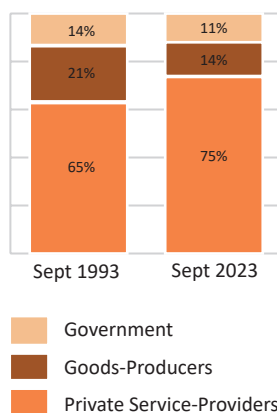
** Highlighting signifies an all-time high

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs were up 8,300 (0.1 percent) over the month to a record high of 6,171,600 in September. Pennsylvania jobs have set a new record high every month so far in 2023. U.S. jobs expanded 0.2 percent from August and were also at a record high in September. This was the state's 33rd consecutive jobs gain, and the 40th increase in the past 41 months.
- Among supersectors, eight of the 11 added jobs over the month with four rising to record high levels. The record highs were in Construction; Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Professional & Business Services; and Education & Health Services. The largest over-the-month volume movements were an increase of 6,100 in Education & Health Services, and a drop of 4,700 jobs from Leisure & Hospitality. Despite having the largest monthly decline, the longer-term trend is upward in Leisure & Hospitality which had the largest percentage gain among supersectors over the year.
- Total nonfarm jobs in PA were up 148,700 from last September. This was an increase of 2.5 percent in the commonwealth compared to 2.1 percent nationally. All 11 supersectors added jobs from September 2022, with four adding more than 15,000 jobs each. Those four supersectors accounted for more than three-quarters of the 12-month jobs gain. Education & Health Services had the largest volume gain (54,900) among supersectors.

HOW HAVE JOBS CHANGED OVER THE LONG TERM?

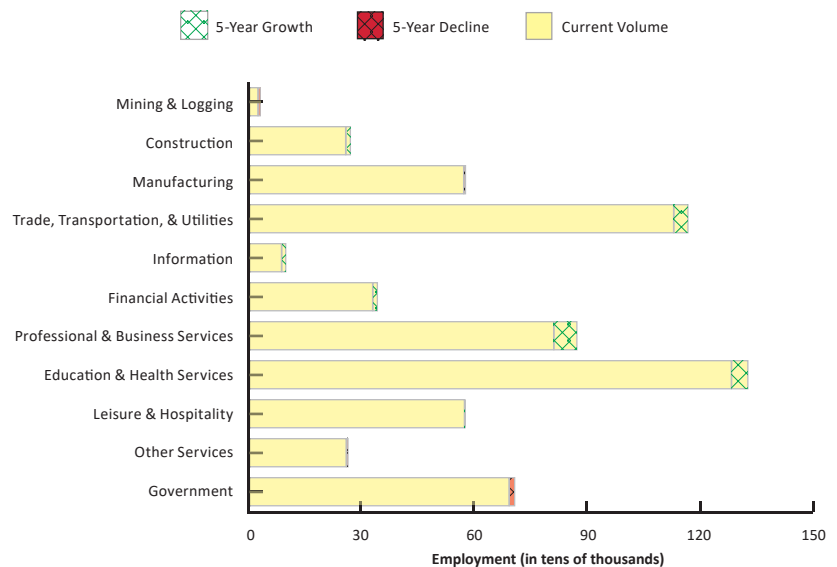
Percent of Total Nonfarm Jobs



Today, private service-providers make up a larger portion of total nonfarm jobs than they did 30 years ago, while goods-producers and government's share of jobs shrunk.

Thirty years ago, more than one out of every five jobs in Pennsylvania were in goods-producing industries compared to about one in every seven jobs now.

CHANGE IN SUPERSECTOR VOLUME (CURRENT VOLUME INCLUDES 5-YEAR GROWTH BUT NOT THE DECLINE)



Total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania have expanded 2.4 percent over the last five years with gains in six of the 11 supersectors. Professional & Business Services had the largest volume change from September 2018 among supersectors (64,600) while Government had the largest volume decrease (18,200).

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

JOBS BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)

SEPTEMBER 2023 DATA

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

MSA	Jobs	Change from September 2022		
		Volume	Percent	Trend
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	395,900	8,300	2.1%	
Altoona	61,400	1,400	2.3%	
Bloomsburg-Berwick	43,800	500	1.2%	
Chambersburg-Waynesboro	62,800	800	1.3%	
East Stroudsburg	58,800	1,100	1.9%	
Erie	125,100	3,000	2.5%	
Gettysburg	34,400	700	2.1%	
Harrisburg-Carlisle	369,400	13,800	3.9%	
Johnstown	51,300	500	1.0%	
Lancaster	268,900	7,000	2.7%	
Lebanon	56,600	2,100	3.9%	
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	3,127,900	87,700	2.9%	
Pittsburgh	1,170,000	18,200	1.6%	
Reading	179,700	1,500	0.8%	
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton	270,300	8,100	3.1%	
State College	79,300	1,600	2.1%	
Williamsport	52,100	700	1.4%	
York-Hanover	194,000	3,300	1.7%	

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement

** Highlighting signifies an all-time high

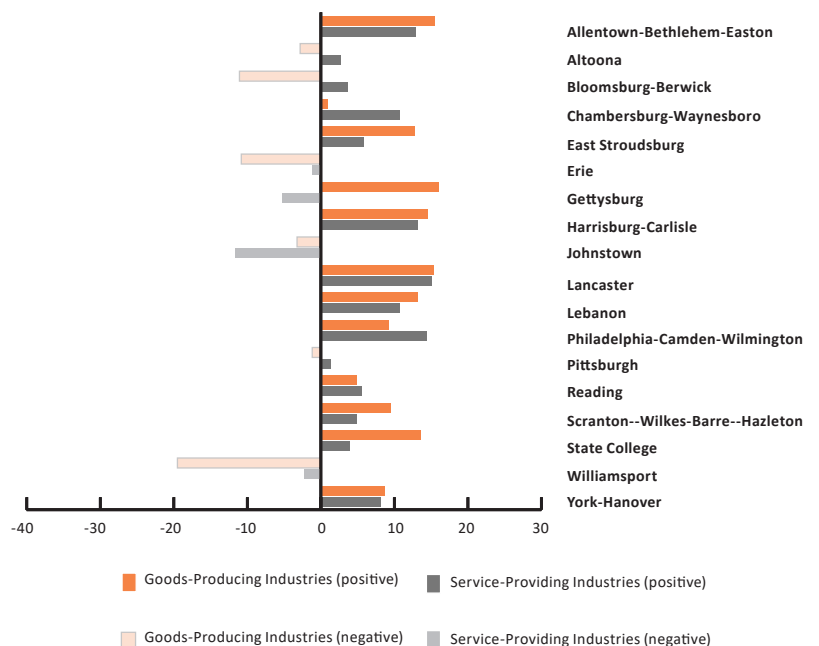
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST (MSA industry data are not seasonally adjusted)

- Jobs increased over the year statewide and in all MSAs for the 30th consecutive month after at least 12 consecutive months of decline, except for the Williamsport MSA where jobs declined only in September 2021.
- In September, five MSAs exceeded the state's over-the-year percentage job increase of 2.5 percent, the Erie MSA equaled the state's increase, while the remaining 12 MSAs had a lower increase. The Reading MSA had the smallest over-the-year percentage increase (0.8 percent), while the Harrisburg and Lebanon MSAs had the largest increases (3.9 percent).
- The largest volume increase in jobs over the past year occurred in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA. Jobs increased in both the service-providing and goods-producing industries as well as in both the private and public sectors. Private sector jobs rose in all supersectors, sectors, and industry groups reported. Private sector jobs accounted for 95.0 percent of the MSA's increase in jobs over the year. Public sector jobs increased by 1.3 percent, led by increases in local government jobs which accounted for almost 84 percent of the increase in government jobs. Federal government jobs also increased, while state government jobs decreased.
- Service-providing industries garnered the lion's share of the job gains (92.3 percent). The largest percentage increase among supersectors was in Leisure & Hospitality which rose by 6.0 percent. Job gains in Education & Health Services accounted for 40.5 percent of the total over-the-year job gains in the MSA, with the Health Care & Social Assistance sector alone accounting for 38.2 percent of the total.

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

- Over the last 10 years, statewide jobs grew in the private sector and in both service-providing and goods-producing industries while declining in the public sector. The same result occurred statewide in both the first five years of the decade and the most recent five years except that jobs in the goods-producing industries fell in the last five years. At the MSA level, more insight can be gleaned by dividing the period into its two component half-decades. The changes over the 10-year period blend the results of the two periods and mask the differences between those periods.
- The performance of private sector jobs over the last decade across the 18 MSAs is an example of how performance masks different trajectories over its two halves. Over the whole period, private jobs increased in 15 MSAs and declined in the Erie, Johnstown, and Williamsport MSAs. In the first half-decade, private jobs decreased in two of the same three MSAs (Johnstown and Williamsport, while remaining constant in the Erie MSA) and also in the Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA. Private sector job growth in the last five years was worse, with jobs increasing only in 11 MSAs, remaining constant in the Altoona MSA, and decreasing in the remaining six MSAs.
- Since most service-providing jobs are in the private sector, it is not surprising that job creation in both was similar. In the first five years of the last decade, only the Bloomsburg-Berwick, Gettysburg, and Johnstown MSAs ended the half decade with fewer service-providing jobs than when they began. Conversely, in the most recent five years, service-providing jobs decreased in seven MSAs.
- Combining those disparate results led to service-providing jobs increasing in 14 MSAs over the decade and decreasing in four MSAs. The decreases in service-providing jobs in the last five years have been dissipating.

MSA 10-YEAR JOB CHANGE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) GOODS-PRODUCING VERSUS SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES



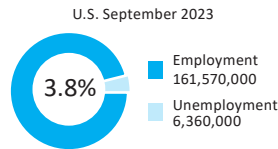
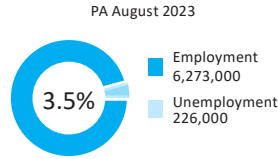
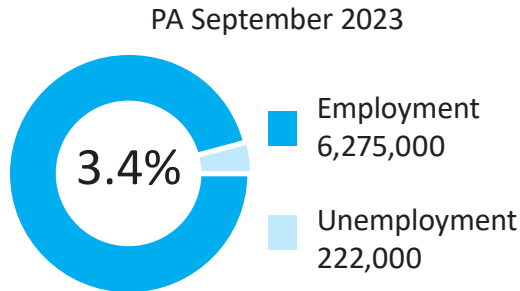
* Data are not seasonally adjusted, scale indicates percentage

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

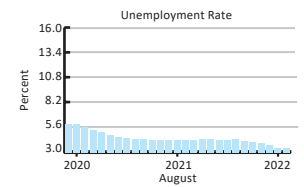
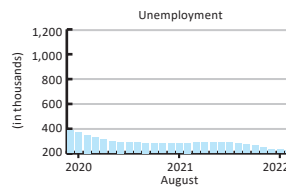
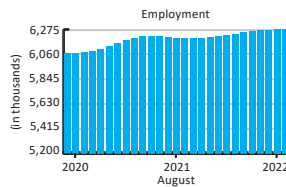
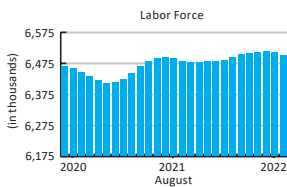
LABOR FORCE FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 2023 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST



- Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in September, the lowest rate on record (since 1976).
- PA's rate is four-tenths lower than the U.S. rate, which stayed the same at 3.8 percent in September.
- Seasonally adjusted labor force decreased by 2,000 in September to 6,497,000, the first increase since August 2023.
- Employment was up 2,000 from last month to 6,275,000. This was the 11th consecutive increase. It is employment's highest level since January 2020.
- Unemployment decreased 4,000 to 222,000 persons, the seventh consecutive over-the-month decrease.

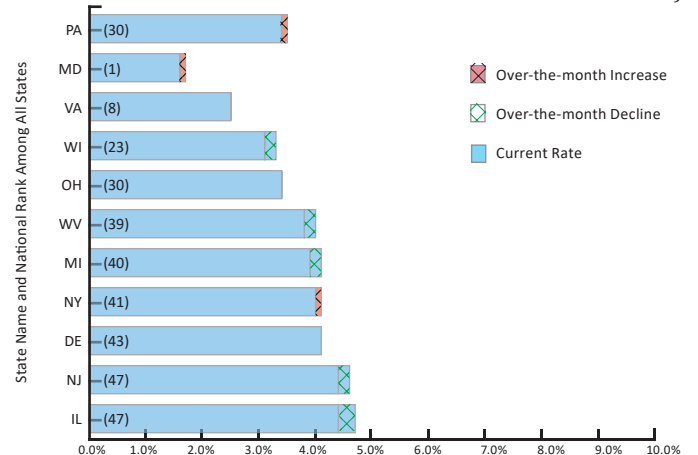


CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS) DATA

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

	Sept 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2022
Total	3.3	3.3	4.4
Gender			
Female	3.4	3.4	4.2
Male	3.2	3.3	4.7
Race			
Black	4.3	3.5	8.7
White	3.1	3.2	3.9
Age			
16 - 19	8.5	8.3	8.5
20 - 24	5.4	5.6	7.8
25 - 54	3.0	3.1	4.1
55+	2.4	2.4	3.4
Education			
Less than HS	5.4	5.4	5.1
HS Diploma	3.8	3.8	5.2
AD / Some College	3.7	3.9	5.6
BD or Higher	1.7	1.6	2.1
People with Disabilities	9.4	9.9	12.2
Veterans	1.8	1.8	3.9
Participation Rate	61.8%	61.7%	61.4%
Employment/Population Ratio	59.7%	59.7%	58.6%
Underemployment Rate (U-6)	6.3%	6.4%	7.8%
Discouraged Workers	15,400	15,300	18,500
Part-Time for Economic Reasons	138,200	142,600	144,800
Avg. Duration of Unemployment (weeks)	20.1	20.3	26.1
Long-term Unemployed (>26 weeks)	41,800	42,200	71,800

SELECT STATES' UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (RANK) (CURRENT VOLUME INCLUDES 5-YEAR GROWTH BUT NOT THE DECLINE)



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- PA's 12-month average unemployment rate from the Current Population Survey (CPS) stayed the same at 3.3 percent in September.
- The Employment-Population Ratio stayed the same at 59.7 percent.
- The U-6 rate was 6.3 percent in September, which decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from last month.
- The unemployment rate for veterans stayed the same at 1.8 percent.
- The Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.8 percent.

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

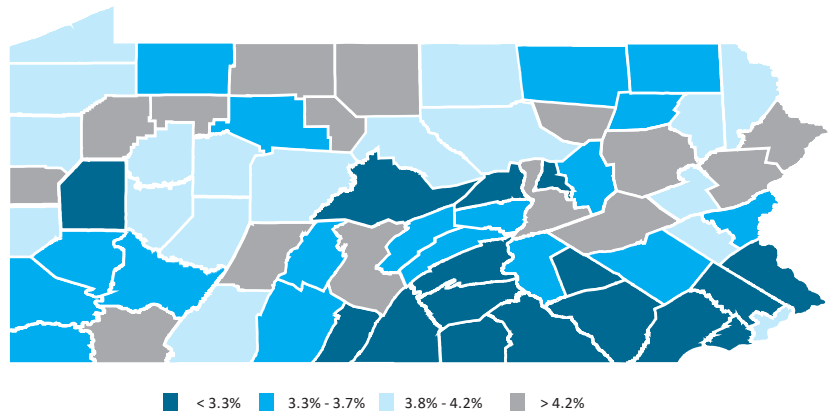
LABOR FORCE FOR SELECT LOCAL AREAS

SEPTEMBER 2023 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

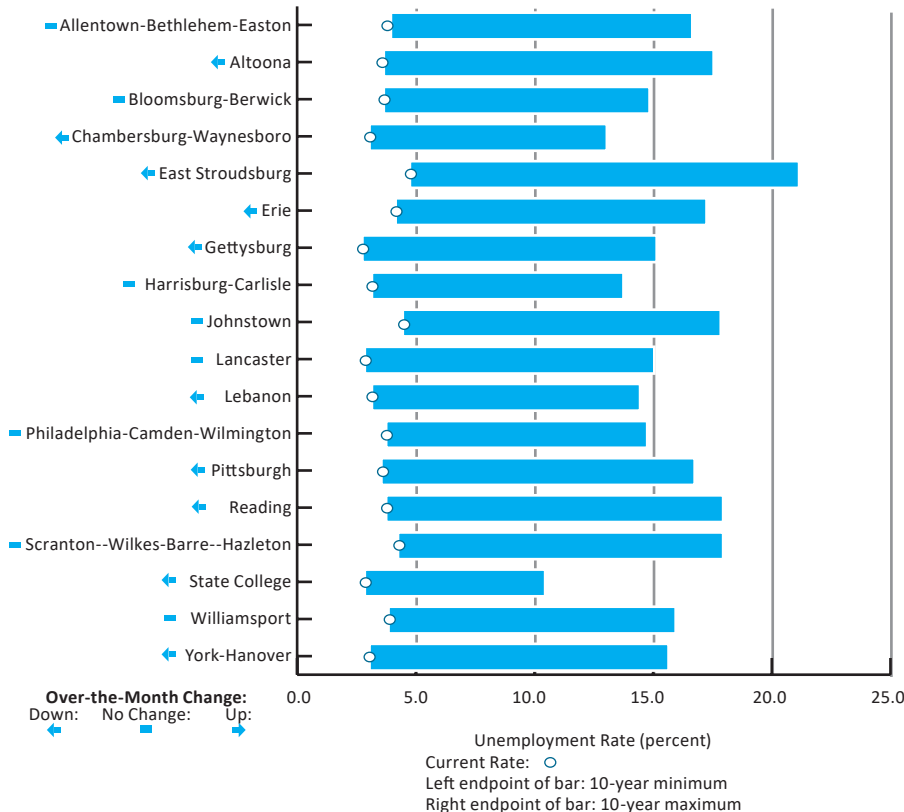
- The state's unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points from the year prior, while 62 of 67 counties had decreases in their rates and rates in four other counties were unchanged. The largest over-the-year decreases were in Cambria and Fayette counties (1.1 percentage points), while Cameron County, where the rate increased by 0.4 percent, was the only county with an over-the-year increase.
- In September, the volume of unemployment fell over the year in 64 counties and increased marginally in the other three. The decreases in Chester, Forest, Fulton, Juniata, Montour, Potter, Sullivan, and Venango counties were marginal as were all the increases. The largest volume decrease in unemployment over the year (5,200) was in Philadelphia County, while Elk County had the largest percentage decrease (25.1 percent). Cameron County which had the smallest of the marginal increases in volume, had the largest percentage increase (6.7 percent).
- Labor force volume increased over the year in 28 counties and decreased in the remaining 39 counties. The largest volume increase in labor force over the year was in Philadelphia County (13,600), while the largest percentage increase was in Sullivan County (3.5 percent). The largest volume decrease in labor force over the year was in Allegheny County (9,200) while Clarion County had the largest percentage decrease over the year (6.8 percent).
- July monthly unemployment rates ranged from a low of 2.6 percent in Chester County to a high of 5.6 percent in Forest County. The state's unemployment rate (3.4 percent) was equaled by by Bradford, Mifflin, Snyder, and Susquehanna counties and exceeded by 45 counties, while the remaining 18 counties had a rate lower than the state's rate.

County Unemployment Rates



Unemployment Rate by MSA

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



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

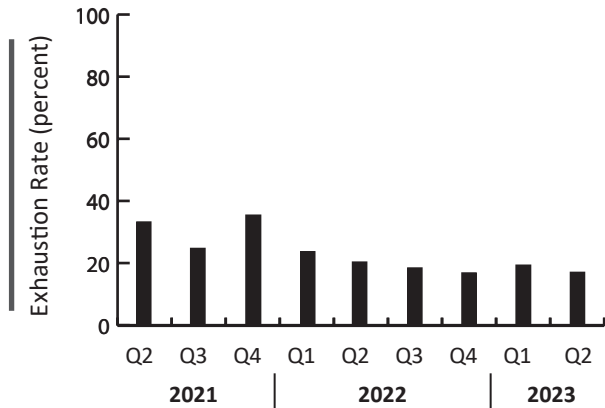
- In September, all 18 MSAs experienced over-the-year decreases in their unemployment rates. The largest decreases were in the Johnstown MSA (1.1 percentage points), while the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSAs had the smallest decreases (0.3 percentage points). The rate decreases of the Erie and the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSAs equaled that of the state (0.9 percentage points), while there were six MSAs whose over-the-year decreases were larger than the state's decrease and the remaining 10 MSAs had smaller decreases.
- The volume of unemployment fell over the year in all 18 MSAs. The largest decrease in the volume of unemployment was 11,400 in the Pittsburgh MSA, while the largest percentage decrease was in the State College MSA (22.5 percent). The Lebanon MSA had the smallest volume decrease (300), while the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA, had the smallest percentage decrease (6.5 percent).
- Employment over the year increased in all 18 MSAs. The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA had the largest over-the-year increase in employment (46,200), while the Lebanon MSA had the largest percentage increase (2.4 percent). The East Stroudsburg MSA had the smallest volume increase in employment (100) over the year and percentage increase (0.1 percent).
- In September, unemployment rates among the 18 MSAs ranged from a low of 2.7 percent in the Gettysburg MSA to 4.7 percent in the East Stroudsburg MSA. The state's unemployment rate of 3.4 percent was exceeded by 11 MSAs, while the remaining seven MSAs had rates below the state's rate. Both the highest and lowest MSA rates in September were lower than their corresponding rates in August.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

CLAIMS AND BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2023 DATA (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

REGULAR UC EXHAUSTION RATE



DID YOU KNOW?

What are weeks claimed/continued claims?

The number of weeks of benefits claimed, including weeks for which a waiting period or fixed disqualification period is being served.

What are weeks paid/weeks compensated?

The number of weeks claimed for which UI benefits are paid. Weeks compensated for partial unemployment are included. Interstate claims are counted in the paying state.

What types of employment are covered by the UC program?

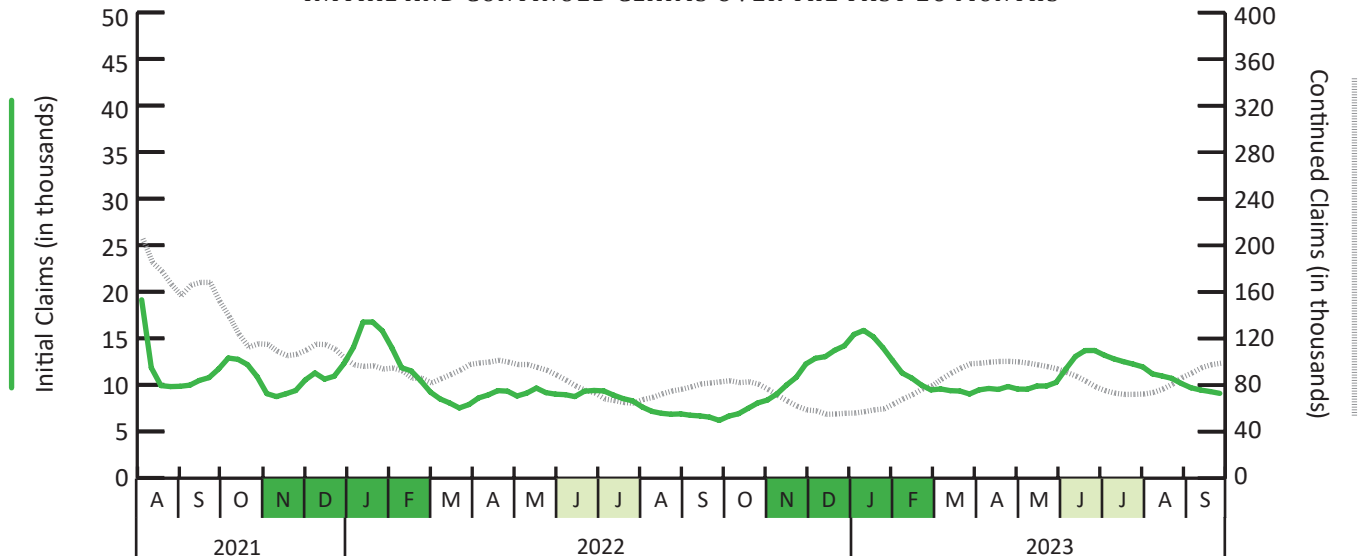
In Pennsylvania, most employment is covered by the UC program. Exceptions include some agricultural and seasonal workers, persons who are self-employed, officers of a corporation, professional athletes, and persons who are incarcerated. Civilian employees of the federal government are covered by the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

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED UC BENEFITS

REGULAR UC:

For the week ending Sep 30, 2023:	53,182
For the week ending Aug 26, 2023:	68,934
For the week ending Sep 24, 2022:	43,239

INITIAL AND CONTINUED CLAIMS OVER THE PAST 26 MONTHS



PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYER ACTIVITY

PRESS UPDATE

PA MONTHLY WORKSTATS PRESS UPDATE

The update below presents blurbs from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries. Please note that while these updates may cover reporters' (or other) attempts to explain labor market data, CWIA and L&I serve to report these numbers and do not endorse any explanations that may or may not be included below.

pennwatch.org September 6, 2023

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ranked as Top Employer in Pennsylvania

Governor Josh Shapiro announced the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was ranked among the top employers in PA by workers in a new survey conducted by Forbes Magazine and Statista. The Commonwealth was one of only four government entities to make the list of 97 Pennsylvania employers.

In another recent survey by Forbes and Statista, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was ranked nationally as a top employer by recent college graduates. These results are consistent with research showing that many younger workers prioritize working for an employer that has a positive impact on the world.

<https://pennwatch.org/commonwealth-of-pennsylvania-ranked-as-top-employer-in-pennsylvania/>

cbsnews.com September 23, 2023

Over 80 UAW members in Bucks County joined nationwide strike

Friday is the eighth day of the United Auto Workers strike. More workers join the picket lines against major automakers.

This time union members in Bucks County walked off the job.

Eighty-three members of the United Auto Workers Union Local 21-77 went on strike at noon. They left the General Motors Distribution and Customer Care Center in Langhorne.

UAW President Shawn Fain said GM and Stellantis still refuse adequate cost of living raises to union workers on Friday.

"Both companies are still offering a deficient cost of living allowance that is projected to provide zero increases over the next four years," Fain said.

Local 21-77 President Charmian Leslie-Hughes said inflated prices and raises do not keep up with inflation which has her struggling to pay bills.

UAW Region 9 Assistant Director Raymond Jensen said with current agreements, some union employees will not have healthcare once they retire.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/uaw-strike-announcement-united-auto-workers-bucks-county/>

cityandstatepa.com September 25, 2023

Alternatives to college are creating a new career pipeline

There may be no issue in Pennsylvania that's more bipartisan than workforce development.

During a time when the commonwealth is navigating through a storm of interconnected challenges – an aging population, workforce shortages and a rapidly evolving economy, just to name a few – policymakers have largely rallied around initiatives to invest in and train the next generation of workers, whether it be in the trades, in health care or in technology.

Workforce development initiatives can take a variety of shapes – from apprenticeship programs and career and technical institutions to on-the-job training.

Alex Halper, vice president of government affairs at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, said collaboration between schools and educational institutions, businesses and the public sector can often wield the best results when it comes to meeting workforce challenges.

One institution that has stood out for its efforts to align its curriculum with the economy and workforce needs is Thaddeus Stevens College, a two-year, residential technical college offering 24 associate degree programs in everything from computer-integrated machining to welding and masonry.

<https://www.cityandstatepa.com/policy/2023/09/alternatives-college-are-creating-new-career-pipeline/390503/>

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 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 (U-6): 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.

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

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*