

## WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

CONTACT: DAVE HAND  
INDUSTRY & BUSINESS ANALYST  
[dhand@pa.gov](mailto:dhand@pa.gov) (717) 772-1373

### **ALTOONA MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.0% IN FEBRUARY**

**HARRISBURG (APRIL 2) –** The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) declined two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 3.0 percent in February. The statewide rate was unchanged at 3.4 percent and the national rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent.

For a list of county and MSA rankings by unemployment rate, please see the [Civilian Labor Force](#) packet.

*Note: Annual revisions to the historical (pre-2024) labor force series have not been completed and are not reflected in this news release. Historical labor force revisions are expected to be completed by the release of March data in late April 2024. For more information on the benchmarking process and revisions to historical data, please contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 1-877-4WF-DATA or visit [www.paworkstats.pa.gov](http://www.paworkstats.pa.gov).*

**Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the Altoona MSA increased 300 over the month to 61,500 in February.** Over the year, jobs were up 1.8 percent (+1,100) in the MSA, while statewide jobs rose 1.2 percent from February 2023.

#### **February Not Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs Detail (see Table 2)**

Over the month, all ten supersectors were essentially unchanged. Over the year, leisure and hospitality gained the most, adding 700 jobs. Mining, logging, and construction built up by 300 jobs and 400 jobs were added in education and health services.

**TABLE 1**  
**ALTOONA METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**  
(Blair County)

TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE<sup>1</sup>

TIME PERIOD	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED <sup>4</sup>			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>
February 2024	59,400	57,400	2,000	3.4	59,200	57,400	1,800	3.0
January	59,100	57,200	2,000	3.3	59,100	57,200	1,900	3.2
December 2023	58,800	57,100	1,700	2.8	59,000	57,000	2,000	3.4
February 2023	58,700	55,900	2,800	4.7	59,000	56,500	2,500	4.2

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES  
February 2024

AREA NAME	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED <sup>4</sup>			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>
Allentown-Beth.-East. PA-NJ MSA	463,500	445,200	18,300	3.9	459,100	442,300	16,800	3.7
Altoona MSA	59,400	57,400	2,000	3.4	59,200	57,400	1,800	3.0
Bloomsbu rg-Berw ick MSA	44,600	42,900	1,700	3.8	43,900	42,400	1,500	3.3
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	76,400	74,100	2,300	3.0	77,400	75,200	2,200	2.8
East Stroudsbu rg MSA	82,900	79,100	3,800	4.6	82,600	79,100	3,500	4.3
Erie MSA	128,200	122,900	5,200	4.1	126,400	121,800	4,600	3.6
Gettysburg MSA	55,000	53,400	1,500	2.8	55,200	53,800	1,400	2.5
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	311,300	301,900	9,300	3.0	313,300	304,500	8,800	2.8
Johnstown MSA	56,100	53,700	2,400	4.3	55,200	53,100	2,100	3.8
Lancaster MSA	288,900	281,000	8,000	2.8	293,200	285,500	7,700	2.6
Lebanon MSA	75,500	73,300	2,200	2.9	75,700	73,700	2,000	2.7
Philadelphia MSA	3,283,000	3,157,200	125,800	3.8	3,283,400	3,164,100	119,300	3.6
Pittsburgh MSA	1,185,800	1,142,900	42,900	3.6	1,180,600	1,142,300	38,300	3.2
Reading MSA	215,500	207,400	8,100	3.7	215,200	207,900	7,400	3.4
Scranton--W-B--Hazleton MSA	284,300	271,700	12,700	4.5	281,300	270,200	11,100	3.9
State College MSA	82,800	80,600	2,200	2.6	80,400	78,300	2,100	2.6
Williamsport MSA	56,200	54,000	2,300	4.0	55,500	53,700	1,900	3.4
York-Hanover MSA	243,000	235,500	7,500	3.1	241,900	234,700	7,200	3.0
PENNSYLVANIA	6,568,000	6,331,000	237,000	3.6	6,558,000	6,338,000	220,000	3.4
UNITED STATES	167,285,000	160,315,000	6,970,000	4.2	167,426,000	160,968,000	6,458,000	3.9

ALL STATEWIDE AND CURRENT YEAR DATA ARE ON 2023 BENCHMARK; ALL OTHER DATA ARE ON 2022 BENCHMARK.

SOURCE: Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA), Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

**FOOTNOTES**

- 1) Estimate of workers by place of residence. These data are controlled to state Current Population Survey (CPS) data which adjusts for commuting and dual job-holding. Workers are counted where they live only once regardless of the number of jobs they may hold. All in-depth inquiries relative to the estimating methodology should be addressed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. All data are subject to revision during annual benchmarking.
- 2) Includes wage and salary workers (including agriculture), self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers (including agriculture), domestic workers, and persons involved in labor-management disputes.
- 3) Unemployed as percent of civilian labor force, computed using unrounded data.
- 4) Seasonally adjusted MSA level data (and their equivalent) is developed by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); seasonal adjustment for all other sub-state areas are developed by CWIA.

TABLE 2

## ALTOONA METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Blair County)

February 2024

NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>60,500</b>	60,400	61,900	59,300	100	1,200
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>52,500</b>	52,400	53,800	51,300	100	1,200
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>9,900</b>	9,900	10,100	9,700	0	200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,900	2,900	3,000	2,600	0	300
Manufacturing	7,000	7,000	7,100	7,100	0	-100
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>50,600</b>	50,500	51,800	49,600	100	1,000
<b>PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>42,600</b>	42,500	43,700	41,600	100	1,000
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	13,800	13,900	14,500	13,900	-100	-100
Wholesale Trade	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	-100	-100
Retail Trade	7,900	7,900	8,300	8,000	0	-100
Information	800	800	900	900	0	-100
Financial Activities	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Professional and Business Services	5,500	5,400	5,600	5,500	100	0
Education and Health Services	12,200	12,100	12,200	11,800	100	400
Leisure and Hospitality	5,900	5,800	6,000	5,200	100	700
Other Services	2,700	2,800	2,800	2,700	-100	0
<b>Government</b>	<b>8,000</b>	8,000	8,100	8,000	0	0
Federal Government	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State Government	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,200	0	0
Local Government	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	0	0
Data benchmarked to March 2023	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

TABLE 2A

# SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL NONFARM JOBS FOR PENNSYLVANIA and SELECT MSAs & AREAS

## February 2024

AREA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>6,131,700</b>	6,125,900	6,115,100	6,060,700	5,800	71,000
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	<b>395,000</b>	395,000	395,000	390,700	0	4,300
Altoona MSA	<b>61,500</b>	61,200	61,300	60,400	300	1,100
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	<b>44,500</b>	44,200	44,300	44,000	300	500
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	<b>60,700</b>	60,900	60,900	61,400	-200	-700
East Stroudsburg MSA	<b>58,000</b>	57,700	58,100	57,400	300	600
Erie MSA	<b>126,100</b>	126,200	125,600	124,700	-100	1,400
Gettysburg MSA	<b>33,900</b>	33,800	34,000	34,300	100	-400
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	<b>363,000</b>	362,900	362,700	357,800	100	5,200
Johnstown MSA	<b>51,600</b>	51,700	51,700	51,400	-100	200
Lancaster MSA	<b>264,700</b>	264,400	265,100	262,200	300	2,500
Lebanon MSA	<b>57,100</b>	57,000	56,800	55,300	100	1,800
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	<b>3,097,400</b>	3,095,100	3,094,600	3,056,900	2,300	40,500
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	<b>1,120,300</b>	1,120,100	1,122,300	1,117,500	200	2,800
Philadelphia Metro Division	<b>1,015,500</b>	1,013,200	1,013,900	997,000	2,300	18,500
Philadelphia City	<b>775,300</b>	774,600	774,900	758,600	700	16,700
Pittsburgh MSA	<b>1,168,400</b>	1,168,500	1,166,400	1,154,900	-100	13,500
Reading MSA	<b>180,100</b>	179,900	180,400	178,900	200	1,200
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA	<b>269,500</b>	269,300	268,400	264,000	200	5,500
State College MSA	<b>81,500</b>	81,500	81,300	79,700	0	1,800
Williamsport MSA	<b>52,400</b>	52,300	52,400	51,800	100	600
York-Hanover MSA	<b>194,800</b>	194,400	194,000	191,800	400	3,000
Data benchmarked to March 2023	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

For more information contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 877-4WF-DATA or by email at [workforceinfo@pa.gov](mailto:workforceinfo@pa.gov).