

WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANCASTER MSA UNEMPLOYMENT AT 2.6% IN FEBRUARY

HARRISBURG (APRIL 2) – The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was down one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 2.6 percent in **February**. The state unemployment was unchanged over the month at 3.4 percent in February while 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.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the Lancaster MSA were up 300 over the month to 264,700 in February. Over the year, jobs were up 1.0 percent (+2,000) in the MSA as statewide jobs rose 1.2 percent over that time.

February Not Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs Detail

Over the month, jobs in half of the ten supersectors were essentially unchanged while the other half experienced seasonal movements. The largest movements were in government (+800) and education & health services (+700) as winter break ended at local educational institutions. Over the year, five of the ten supersectors added jobs and four declined with the largest movement in education & health services (+2,200).

TABLE 1
LANCASTER METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Lancaster County)

TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE¹

TIME PERIOD	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ⁴			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³
February 2024	288,900	281,000	8,000	2.8	293,200	285,500	7,700	2.6
January	287,600	279,900	7,700	2.7	293,600	285,700	7,900	2.7
December 2023	291,800	285,100	6,600	2.3	294,100	286,000	8,100	2.8
February 2023	287,100	277,100	10,000	3.5	291,200	281,600	9,600	3.3

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

AREA NAME	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ⁴			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³
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
Bloomsburg-Berwick 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 Stroudsburg 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

LANCASTER METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Lancaster 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
TOTAL NONFARM	261,300	259,900	265,800	259,100	1,400	2,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	241,300	240,700	245,900	239,400	600	1,900
GOODS-PRODUCING	55,600	55,700	56,700	56,800	-100	-1,200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	18,300	18,300	19,100	18,900	0	-600
Manufacturing	37,300	37,400	37,600	37,900	-100	-600
Durable Goods	21,000	21,100	21,100	21,000	-100	0
Non-Durable Goods	16,300	16,300	16,500	16,900	0	-600
Food mfg.	8,500	8,500	8,600	8,500	0	0
SERVICE-PROVIDING	205,700	204,200	209,100	202,300	1,500	3,400
PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING	185,700	185,000	189,200	182,600	700	3,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	58,700	59,300	61,100	59,000	-600	-300
Wholesale Trade	13,800	13,800	14,000	13,500	0	300
Retail Trade	29,100	29,400	30,400	29,500	-300	-400
General merchandise retailers	3,300	3,300	3,600	3,300	0	0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15,800	16,100	16,700	16,000	-300	-200
Information	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Financial Activities	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,500	0	100
Professional and Business Services	25,800	25,400	26,300	26,600	400	-800
Education and Health Services	51,200	50,500	50,800	49,000	700	2,200
Health care and social assistance	43,900	43,900	43,900	41,900	0	2,000
Hospitals	10,000	9,900	9,900	9,900	100	100
Leisure and Hospitality	24,100	23,800	25,000	22,400	300	1,700
Accommodation and food services	20,000	19,700	20,400	18,700	300	1,300
Food services and drinking places	16,800	16,600	17,200	15,900	200	900
Other Services	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,400	-100	200
Government	20,000	19,200	19,900	19,700	800	300
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
State Government	3,100	2,400	3,000	3,000	700	100
Local Government	15,600	15,500	15,600	15,400	100	200
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
PENNSYLVANIA	6,131,700	6,125,900	6,115,100	6,060,700	5,800	71,000
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	395,000	395,000	395,000	390,700	0	4,300
Altoona MSA	61,500	61,200	61,300	60,400	300	1,100
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	44,500	44,200	44,300	44,000	300	500
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	60,700	60,900	60,900	61,400	-200	-700
East Stroudsburg MSA	58,000	57,700	58,100	57,400	300	600
Erie MSA	126,100	126,200	125,600	124,700	-100	1,400
Gettysburg MSA	33,900	33,800	34,000	34,300	100	-400
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	363,000	362,900	362,700	357,800	100	5,200
Johnstown MSA	51,600	51,700	51,700	51,400	-100	200
Lancaster MSA	264,700	264,400	265,100	262,200	300	2,500
Lebanon MSA	57,100	57,000	56,800	55,300	100	1,800
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	3,097,400	3,095,100	3,094,600	3,056,900	2,300	40,500
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	1,120,300	1,120,100	1,122,300	1,117,500	200	2,800
Philadelphia Metro Division	1,015,500	1,013,200	1,013,900	997,000	2,300	18,500
Philadelphia City	775,300	774,600	774,900	758,600	700	16,700
Pittsburgh MSA	1,168,400	1,168,500	1,166,400	1,154,900	-100	13,500
Reading MSA	180,100	179,900	180,400	178,900	200	1,200
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA	269,500	269,300	268,400	264,000	200	5,500
State College MSA	81,500	81,500	81,300	79,700	0	1,800
Williamsport MSA	52,400	52,300	52,400	51,800	100	600
York-Hanover MSA	194,800	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.