WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

READING MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.4% IN FEBRUARY

HARRISBURG (APRIL 2) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.4 percent in February, a decrease of one-tenth of a percentage point from January. The statewide rate was unchanged over the month at 3.4 percent while the national rate rose by 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-2023) 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 Reading MSA rose 0.1 percent (+200) over the month to 180,100 in February. Over the year, jobs rose by 0.7 percent (+1,200) in the MSA, while statewide jobs increased by 1.2 percent. Detailed industry data for the MSA is not seasonally adjusted.

February's Not Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs Detail (see Table 2)

Over the month, job movements among supersectors were seasonal in nature with many supersectors essentially unchanged from January levels. The largest movement was in government (+1,300) which along with education & health services (+300) rose due to the end of winter break at local educational institutions. Employment grew in both service-providing and goods-producing industries since February 2023.

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TABLE 1
READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Berks County)

TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE[1]

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	215,500	207,400	8,100	3.7	215,200	207,900	7,400	3.4
January	213,900	206,200	7,700	3.6	215,100	207,500	7,600	3.5
December 2023	213,500	207,100	6,400	3.0	215,100	207,300	7,900	3.7
February 2023	213,500	203,800	9,700	4.5	214,600	205,800	8,800	4.1

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

READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Berks 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	**178,800**	177,500	182,000	177,500	1,300	1,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	**158,800**	158,800	161,900	157,700	0	1,100
GOODS-PRODUCING	**39,200**	39,300	39,700	39,000	-100	200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**7,600**	7,600	8,000	7,600	0	0
Manufacturing	**31,600**	31,700	31,700	31,400	-100	200
Durable Goods	**22,100**	22,200	22,100	21,700	-100	400
Non-Durable Goods	**9,500**	9,500	9,600	9,700	0	-200
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**139,600**	138,200	142,300	138,500	1,400	1,100
PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING	**119,600**	119,500	122,200	118,700	100	900
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**34,100**	34,400	35,800	34,500	-300	-400
Wholesale Trade	**6,400**	6,400	6,500	6,400	0	0
Retail Trade	**18,300**	18,500	19,400	18,300	-200	0
Grocery and convenience retailers	**3,600**	3,600	3,700	3,700	0	-100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	**9,400**	9,500	9,900	9,800	-100	-400
Information	**1,000**	1,000	1,100	1,100	0	-100
Financial Activities	**6,800**	6,800	6,800	6,900	0	-100
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities including Monet	**2,300**	2,300	2,300	2,500	0	-200
Professional and Business Services	**22,300**	22,300	23,000	22,600	0	-300
Education and Health Services	**33,200**	32,900	33,100	31,700	300	1,500
Health care and social assistance	**29,600**	29,600	29,600	28,200	0	1,400
Leisure and Hospitality	**14,500**	14,300	14,600	14,300	200	200
Other Services	**7,700**	7,800	7,800	7,600	-100	100
Government	**20,000**	18,700	20,100	19,800	1,300	200
Federal Government	**900**	800	900	800	100	100
State Government	**3,800**	2,900	3,800	3,700	900	100
Local Government	**15,300**	15,000	15,400	15,300	300	0

Data benchmarked to March 2023   ***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***

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.