

# WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

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## **A-B-E UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.7% IN FEBRUARY**

**HARRISBURG (APRIL 2) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.7 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](http://www.paworkstats.pa.gov).***

**Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the A-B-E MSA were unchanged over the month, remaining at their record high of 395,000 in February. Over the year, jobs rose by 1.1 percent (+4,300) 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, the largest employment gains were in education & health services (+2,100) and government (+700) due to the return from winter break at local schools, colleges, and universities. Over the year, six of the ten supersectors added jobs with the largest increase in education & health services, up 4,500 jobs.

**TABLE 1**  
**ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM - EASTON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**  
(Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA; Warren County, NJ)

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	463,500	445,200	18,300	3.9	459,100	442,300	16,800	3.7
January	459,200	441,200	18,000	3.9	457,700	440,500	17,200	3.8
December 2023	456,500	441,700	14,800	3.3	456,900	439,300	17,700	3.9
February 2023	455,100	434,300	20,900	4.6	455,400	436,600	18,800	4.1

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
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 1A**  
**ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM - EASTON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**  
(Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA; Warren County, NJ)

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>
CARBON COUNTY								
February 2024	33,200	31,800	1,400	4.1	33,100	32,000	1,100	3.4
January	32,900	31,500	1,300	4.1	32,800	31,800	1,000	3.1
December 2023	32,600	31,500	1,100	3.3	32,900	31,500	1,400	4.1
February 2023	32,600	30,800	1,800	5.5	32,600	31,000	1,500	4.7
LEHIGH COUNTY								
February 2024	202,200	194,400	7,800	3.8	202,400	195,400	7,100	3.5
January	200,300	192,700	7,600	3.8	201,400	194,000	7,400	3.7
December 2023	198,500	192,200	6,300	3.2	200,300	192,900	7,400	3.7
February 2023	197,500	188,300	9,200	4.6	197,800	189,300	8,400	4.3
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY								
February 2024	168,400	162,200	6,200	3.7	169,300	163,700	5,600	3.3
January	166,900	160,800	6,100	3.7	168,100	162,700	5,500	3.3
December 2023	165,400	160,300	5,000	3.0	166,500	160,100	6,300	3.8
February 2023	164,700	157,100	7,600	4.6	165,600	158,700	7,000	4.2

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

# ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM-EASTON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton PA counties; Warren County, NJ)

**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>391,300</b>	389,500	399,800	387,200	1,800	4,100
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>352,400</b>	351,300	360,400	348,200	1,100	4,200
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>54,100</b>	54,100	54,700	54,000	0	100
Mining, Logging, and Construction	12,800	12,800	13,200	13,100	0	-300
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>41,300</b>	41,300	41,500	40,900	0	400
Durable Goods	23,900	23,900	24,000	23,500	0	400
Non-Durable Goods	17,400	17,400	17,500	17,400	0	0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>337,200</b>	335,400	345,100	333,200	1,800	4,000
<b>PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>298,300</b>	297,200	305,700	294,200	1,100	4,100
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>91,500</b>	92,600	96,500	93,500	-1,100	-2,000
Wholesale Trade	15,200	15,300	15,400	14,800	-100	400
Retail Trade	38,200	38,700	40,200	38,700	-500	-500
Food and beverage retailers	10,400	10,500	10,600	10,600	-100	-200
General merchandise retailers	7,100	7,200	7,800	6,900	-100	200
Department stores	3,600	3,700	4,200	3,500	-100	100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	38,100	38,600	40,900	40,000	-500	-1,900
Transportation and Warehousing	37,000	37,500	39,800	38,900	-500	-1,900
<b>Information</b>	<b>6,100</b>	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>13,000</b>	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Finance and insurance	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,700	0	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>49,800</b>	49,800	51,800	49,700	0	100
Professional and technical services	17,200	17,100	17,300	16,900	100	300
Management of companies and enterprises	9,900	9,800	9,900	9,600	100	300
Administrative and waste services	22,700	22,900	24,600	23,200	-200	-500
Employment services	8,300	8,400	9,400	10,000	-100	-1,700
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>88,400</b>	86,300	88,200	83,900	2,100	4,500
Educational services	13,700	11,800	13,700	13,400	1,900	300
Health care and social assistance	74,700	74,500	74,500	70,500	200	4,200
Hospitals	24,100	24,000	24,000	22,800	100	1,300
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>35,200</b>	34,900	35,700	34,300	300	900
Accommodation and food services	28,600	28,200	28,900	28,200	400	400
Food services and drinking places	24,800	24,500	25,100	24,600	300	200
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>14,300</b>	14,500	14,400	14,000	-200	300
<b>Government</b>	<b>38,900</b>	38,200	39,400	39,000	700	-100
Federal Government	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
State Government	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,400	0	100
Local Government	33,900	33,200	34,300	34,200	700	-300
Local government educational services	22,200	21,500	22,400	22,200	700	0
Local government excluding educational services	11,700	11,700	11,900	12,000	0	-300
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).