

## WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ALTOONA MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN TO 3.0% IN MARCH**

**HARRISBURG (APRIL 30) – The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) declined one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.0 percent in March.** The local area’s rate was one percentage point lower than a year ago. Over the month the statewide rate was unchanged at 3.4 percent and the national rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 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 April data in late May 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 were essentially unchanged over the month at 61,200 in March.** Over the year, jobs were up 1.5 percent (+900) in the MSA, while statewide jobs rose 1.3 percent from March 2023.

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

Over the month, all ten supersectors remained essentially unchanged. Over the year, leisure and hospitality gained the most, adding 600 jobs. Education and health services added 300 jobs while mining, logging, and construction had an addition of 200 jobs. The other eight supersectors were essentially unchanged since March of 2023.

**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>
March 2024	59,700	57,800	1,900	3.2	59,800	58,000	1,800	3.0
February	59,400	57,300	2,100	3.5	59,600	57,800	1,800	3.1
January	59,100	57,200	2,000	3.3	59,100	57,200	1,900	3.2
March 2023	58,500	56,300	2,200	3.7	59,000	56,600	2,300	4.0

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES  
March 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	466,300	449,500	16,800	3.6	462,700	445,900	16,900	3.6
Altoona MSA	59,700	57,800	1,900	3.2	59,800	58,000	1,800	3.0
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	44,700	43,100	1,600	3.6	44,100	42,700	1,400	3.3
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	76,700	74,400	2,300	3.0	76,900	74,700	2,200	2.8
East Stroudsburg MSA	83,200	79,800	3,400	4.1	83,100	79,600	3,500	4.2
Erie MSA	128,700	123,800	4,900	3.8	127,800	123,300	4,500	3.5
Gettysburg MSA	55,000	53,500	1,500	2.7	55,200	53,800	1,400	2.6
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	312,900	303,500	9,400	3.0	312,600	303,500	9,200	2.9
Johnstown MSA	56,300	54,000	2,300	4.1	55,800	53,700	2,200	3.9
Lancaster MSA	291,500	283,800	7,700	2.6	292,600	284,900	7,700	2.6
Lebanon MSA	75,800	73,700	2,100	2.8	76,200	74,100	2,100	2.8
Philadelphia MSA	3,304,800	3,184,100	120,700	3.7	3,278,500	3,159,000	119,500	3.6
Pittsburgh MSA	1,198,000	1,157,100	40,900	3.4	1,187,700	1,149,300	38,400	3.2
Reading MSA	216,200	208,600	7,600	3.5	216,300	208,800	7,500	3.5
Scranton--W-B--Hazleton MSA	285,200	273,900	11,400	4.0	282,400	271,400	11,100	3.9
State College MSA	83,400	81,100	2,300	2.8	81,800	79,700	2,100	2.6
Williamsport MSA	56,500	54,400	2,100	3.7	56,000	54,100	1,800	3.3
York-Hanover MSA	243,400	236,200	7,300	3.0	242,700	235,500	7,200	3.0
PENNSYLVANIA	6,613,000	6,388,000	225,000	3.4	6,579,000	6,356,000	223,000	3.4
UNITED STATES	167,960,000	161,356,000	6,604,000	3.9	167,895,000	161,466,000	6,429,000	3.8

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)

**March 2024**

**NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024	Mar 2023
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>60,600</b>	60,400	60,400	59,600	200	1,000
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>52,600</b>	52,400	52,400	51,600	200	1,000
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>9,900</b>	9,900	9,900	9,700	0	200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,700	0	200
Manufacturing	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>50,700</b>	50,500	50,500	49,900	200	800
<b>PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>42,700</b>	42,500	42,500	41,900	200	800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	13,800	13,800	13,900	13,900	0	-100
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	0	-100
Retail Trade	7,900	7,800	7,900	7,900	100	0
Information	800	800	800	900	0	-100
Financial Activities	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Professional and Business Services	5,500	5,400	5,400	5,500	100	0
Education and Health Services	12,200	12,200	12,100	11,900	0	300
Leisure and Hospitality	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,400	100	600
Other Services	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,700	0	0
<b>Government</b>	<b>8,000</b>	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Federal Government	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	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**

**March 2024**

AREA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024	Mar 2023
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>6,148,900</b>	6,133,600	6,125,900	6,070,700	15,300	78,200
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	<b>397,000</b>	395,700	395,000	391,300	1,300	5,700
Altoona MSA	<b>61,200</b>	61,300	61,200	60,300	-100	900
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	<b>44,400</b>	44,300	44,200	44,100	100	300
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	<b>60,800</b>	60,600	60,900	61,000	200	-200
East Stroudsburg MSA	<b>57,900</b>	57,900	57,700	57,600	0	300
Erie MSA	<b>126,000</b>	125,800	126,200	124,600	200	1,400
Gettysburg MSA	<b>33,800</b>	33,800	33,800	33,600	0	200
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	<b>362,400</b>	362,500	362,900	358,900	-100	3,500
Johnstown MSA	<b>51,800</b>	51,600	51,700	51,500	200	300
Lancaster MSA	<b>265,200</b>	264,400	264,400	262,900	800	2,300
Lebanon MSA	<b>57,000</b>	57,000	57,000	55,400	0	1,600
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	<b>3,104,400</b>	3,099,100	3,095,100	3,062,600	5,300	41,800
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	<b>1,122,600</b>	1,120,500	1,120,100	1,120,100	2,100	2,500
Philadelphia Metro Division	<b>1,018,800</b>	1,016,400	1,013,200	1,000,900	2,400	17,900
Philadelphia City	<b>778,600</b>	776,500	774,600	762,500	2,100	16,100
Pittsburgh MSA	<b>1,171,100</b>	1,169,500	1,168,500	1,157,300	1,600	13,800
Reading MSA	<b>180,000</b>	179,900	179,900	178,900	100	1,100
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA	<b>270,400</b>	269,500	269,300	264,300	900	6,100
State College MSA	<b>81,400</b>	81,400	81,500	79,700	0	1,700
Williamsport MSA	<b>52,600</b>	52,400	52,300	51,900	200	700
York-Hanover MSA	<b>193,600</b>	194,100	194,400	191,600	-500	2,000
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).