

WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

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ALTOONA MSA UNEMPLOYMENT AT 3.1% IN MAY

HARRISBURG (JULY 2) – The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.1 percent in May. Since April the statewide rate was unchanged at 3.4 percent and the national rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent. Over the year, the local area's rate was two-tenths of a percentage point lower while Pennsylvania's rate was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than May of 2023. The national rate increased three-tenths of a percentage point since May of last year.

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

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the Altoona MSA increased over the month by 200 to 61,600 in May. Over the year, jobs were up by 1,100 (+1.8%) in the MSA, while statewide jobs rose 1.6 percent from May 2023.

May Not Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs Detail (see Table 2)

Over the month, nine of the ten supersectors remained essentially unchanged; however, there was a seasonal increase of 400 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Over the year, education and health services grew by 500 jobs while mining, logging, and construction as well as leisure and hospitality both expanded by 200. Professional and business services came in lower by 200 jobs. The other six supersectors were essentially unchanged since May of 2023.

TABLE 1
ALTOONA METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Blair 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 |
| May 2024 | 60,000 | 58,300 | 1,800 | 2.9 | 59,900 | 58,000 | 1,800 | 3.1 |
| April | 59,600 | 58,100 | 1,500 | 2.6 | 59,900 | 58,100 | 1,800 | 3.0 |
| March | 59,700 | 57,800 | 1,900 | 3.2 | 59,800 | 58,000 | 1,800 | 3.0 |
| May 2023 | 59,100 | 57,300 | 1,800 | 3.0 | 58,800 | 56,800 | 1,900 | 3.3 |

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES
May 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 | 465,700 | 450,000 | 15,700 | 3.4 | 464,100 | 447,500 | 16,600 | 3.6 |
| Altoona MSA | 60,000 | 58,300 | 1,800 | 2.9 | 59,900 | 58,000 | 1,800 | 3.1 |
| Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA | 44,600 | 43,100 | 1,500 | 3.3 | 44,400 | 42,900 | 1,500 | 3.3 |
| Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA | 78,000 | 75,900 | 2,100 | 2.7 | 77,400 | 75,200 | 2,200 | 2.8 |
| East Stroudsburg MSA | 83,200 | 80,000 | 3,200 | 3.8 | 83,400 | 80,000 | 3,400 | 4.1 |
| Erie MSA | 128,200 | 124,000 | 4,200 | 3.3 | 128,200 | 123,700 | 4,400 | 3.5 |
| Gettysburg MSA | 55,500 | 54,200 | 1,400 | 2.5 | 55,400 | 53,900 | 1,400 | 2.6 |
| Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA | 314,000 | 304,800 | 9,200 | 2.9 | 313,800 | 304,400 | 9,400 | 3.0 |
| Johnstown MSA | 56,100 | 54,000 | 2,100 | 3.7 | 56,000 | 53,800 | 2,200 | 3.9 |
| Lancaster MSA | 293,700 | 286,200 | 7,500 | 2.6 | 293,100 | 285,400 | 7,700 | 2.6 |
| Lebanon MSA | 77,000 | 74,900 | 2,100 | 2.7 | 76,500 | 74,400 | 2,100 | 2.8 |
| Philadelphia MSA | 3,283,200 | 3,165,900 | 117,300 | 3.6 | 3,285,500 | 3,165,900 | 119,600 | 3.6 |
| Pittsburgh MSA | 1,198,600 | 1,160,500 | 38,100 | 3.2 | 1,192,900 | 1,153,800 | 39,100 | 3.3 |
| Reading MSA | 217,000 | 209,800 | 7,200 | 3.3 | 216,600 | 209,100 | 7,500 | 3.5 |
| Scranton--W-B--Hazleton MSA | 282,500 | 272,200 | 10,300 | 3.6 | 283,400 | 272,400 | 11,000 | 3.9 |
| State College MSA | 83,400 | 81,300 | 2,100 | 2.5 | 82,200 | 80,100 | 2,100 | 2.6 |
| Williamsport MSA | 56,300 | 54,500 | 1,800 | 3.2 | 56,200 | 54,300 | 1,900 | 3.3 |
| York-Hanover MSA | 243,700 | 236,500 | 7,200 | 3.0 | 243,400 | 236,100 | 7,300 | 3.0 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 6,614,000 | 6,401,000 | 212,000 | 3.2 | 6,605,000 | 6,382,000 | 223,000 | 3.4 |
| UNITED STATES | 167,576,000 | 161,341,000 | 6,235,000 | 3.7 | 167,732,000 | 161,083,000 | 6,649,000 | 4.0 |

ALL DATA ARE ON 2023 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)

May 2024

NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

| ESTABLISHMENT DATA | Industry Employment | | | | Net Change From: | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | May 2024 | Apr 2024 | Mar 2024 | May 2023 | Apr 2024 | May 2023 |
| TOTAL NONFARM | 62,000 | 61,200 | 60,700 | 61,200 | 800 | 800 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 54,000 | 53,200 | 52,700 | 53,300 | 800 | 700 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING | 10,200 | 10,000 | 9,900 | 9,900 | 200 | 300 |
| Mining, Logging, and Construction | 3,100 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 100 | 200 |
| Manufacturing | 7,100 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 100 | 100 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 51,800 | 51,200 | 50,800 | 51,300 | 600 | 500 |
| PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING | 43,800 | 43,200 | 42,800 | 43,400 | 600 | 400 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 13,900 | 13,900 | 13,800 | 14,000 | 0 | -100 |
| Wholesale Trade | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Retail Trade | 8,000 | 8,000 | 7,900 | 8,000 | 0 | 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 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,700 | 0 | -200 |
| Education and Health Services | 12,400 | 12,300 | 12,300 | 11,900 | 100 | 500 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 6,700 | 6,300 | 6,000 | 6,500 | 400 | 200 |
| Other Services | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,800 | 100 | 0 |
| Government | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 7,900 | 0 | 100 |
| Federal Government | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 100 | 100 |
| State Government | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,100 | -100 | 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

May 2024

| AREA | Industry Employment | | | | Net Change From: | |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------|
| | May 2024 | Apr 2024 | Mar 2024 | May 2023 | Apr 2024 | May 2023 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 6,167,700 | 6,147,900 | 6,146,900 | 6,070,600 | 19,800 | 97,100 |
| Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA | 399,000 | 397,700 | 396,800 | 392,500 | 1,300 | 6,500 |
| Altoona MSA | 61,600 | 61,400 | 61,300 | 60,500 | 200 | 1,100 |
| Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA | 44,600 | 44,600 | 44,400 | 44,000 | 0 | 600 |
| Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA | 61,600 | 61,400 | 61,000 | 61,100 | 200 | 500 |
| East Stroudsburg MSA | 58,300 | 58,300 | 58,100 | 57,800 | 0 | 500 |
| Erie MSA | 126,900 | 126,700 | 126,300 | 125,000 | 200 | 1,900 |
| Gettysburg MSA | 34,100 | 34,000 | 33,900 | 33,900 | 100 | 200 |
| Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA | 363,200 | 362,600 | 362,200 | 360,200 | 600 | 3,000 |
| Johnstown MSA | 51,800 | 51,700 | 51,800 | 51,400 | 100 | 400 |
| Lancaster MSA | 266,200 | 265,500 | 265,100 | 262,800 | 700 | 3,400 |
| Lebanon MSA | 57,400 | 57,100 | 57,000 | 56,000 | 300 | 1,400 |
| Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA | 3,112,600 | 3,102,300 | 3,102,700 | 3,070,200 | 10,300 | 42,400 |
| Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division | 1,127,000 | 1,123,600 | 1,123,500 | 1,121,600 | 3,400 | 5,400 |
| Philadelphia Metro Division | 1,018,900 | 1,018,000 | 1,018,000 | 1,003,100 | 900 | 15,800 |
| Philadelphia City | 779,300 | 777,800 | 777,600 | 763,700 | 1,500 | 15,600 |
| Pittsburgh MSA | 1,170,300 | 1,166,900 | 1,169,700 | 1,157,200 | 3,400 | 13,100 |
| Reading MSA | 180,400 | 180,300 | 179,900 | 179,400 | 100 | 1,000 |
| Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA | 270,200 | 269,900 | 270,300 | 264,400 | 300 | 5,800 |
| State College MSA | 81,600 | 81,300 | 81,400 | 74,100 | 300 | 7,500 |
| Williamsport MSA | 52,900 | 52,700 | 52,500 | 51,700 | 200 | 1,200 |
| York-Hanover MSA | 194,300 | 193,900 | 193,800 | 191,700 | 400 | 2,600 |
| 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.