

WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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READING MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.5% IN MAY

HARRISBURG (JULY 2) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.5 percent in May, an increase of one-tenth of a percentage point from April. The statewide rate was unchanged over the month at 3.4 percent. The national rate rose by one-tenth of a point from its April rate to 4.0 percent. Since last May, both the MSA's rate and the state's rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, and the national rate was up three-tenths of a point.

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 Reading MSA were essentially unchanged over the month at 180,400 in May. Over the year, jobs rose by 0.6 percent (+1,000) in the MSA, while statewide jobs increased by 1.6 percent. Detailed industry data for the MSA is not seasonally adjusted.

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

Among supersectors, the only significant over-the-month employment change was a seasonal gain in leisure & hospitality (up 700 jobs). The remaining supersectors were either flat or had minor movements. Since last May, employment grew in both goods-producing and service-providing industries. Among supersectors, education & health services had the largest gain (up 1,400 jobs), while professional & business services had the largest decline (down 600 jobs).

TABLE 1
READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Berks 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	217,000	209,800	7,200	3.3	216,600	209,100	7,500	3.5
April	216,100	209,800	6,300	2.9	216,500	209,100	7,500	3.4
March	216,200	208,600	7,600	3.5	216,300	208,800	7,500	3.5
May 2023	215,400	208,400	7,000	3.3	214,400	207,100	7,300	3.4

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

READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Berks 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	181,300	180,100	179,100	180,300	1,200	1,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	161,300	160,000	159,000	160,500	1,300	800
GOODS-PRODUCING	39,900	39,600	39,300	39,700	300	200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,100	8,000	7,700	8,100	100	0
Manufacturing	31,800	31,600	31,600	31,600	200	200
Durable Goods	22,300	22,200	22,100	22,000	100	300
Non-Durable Goods	9,500	9,400	9,500	9,600	100	-100
SERVICE-PROVIDING	141,400	140,500	139,800	140,600	900	800
PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING	121,400	120,400	119,700	120,800	1,000	600
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	34,200	34,100	34,000	34,500	100	-300
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,500	0	-100
Retail Trade	18,500	18,400	18,300	18,400	100	100
Grocery and convenience retailers	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,300	9,300	9,300	9,600	0	-300
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
Financial Activities	6,800	6,800	6,800	7,000	0	-200
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities including Money Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,500	0	-200
Professional and Business Services	22,500	22,500	22,300	23,100	0	-600
Education and Health Services	33,400	33,300	33,200	32,000	100	1,400
Health care and social assistance	30,000	29,800	29,700	28,800	200	1,200
Leisure and Hospitality	15,700	15,000	14,600	15,400	700	300
Other Services	7,800	7,700	7,800	7,700	100	100
Government	20,000	20,100	20,100	19,800	-100	200
Federal Government	900	900	900	900	0	0
State Government	3,600	3,800	3,800	3,500	-200	100
Local Government	15,500	15,400	15,400	15,400	100	100
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.