

## **WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **READING MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.1% IN NOVEMBER**

**HARRISBURG, PA (JANUARY 3, 2019) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.1 percent in November.** The state rate rose by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent, while the national rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent. The MSA's rate decreased by one-half of a percentage point over the year, the state rate fell six-tenths of a point, and the national rate was down by four-tenths of a point.

The Reading MSA's rate was the ninth-lowest among the state's 18 MSAs in November. Rates ranged from 3.2 percent in the Gettysburg and State College MSAs to 5.3 percent in the East Stroudsburg MSA. Berks County's rate was the 22<sup>nd</sup> lowest among the state's 67 counties. County rates ranged from 3.1 percent in Chester County to 6.0 percent in Forest County.

**The Reading MSA's *seasonally adjusted* total nonfarm jobs were unchanged at 181,300 in November (see Table 2A).** This was the fourth month at a record high. Over the year, jobs in the MSA were up 1.9 percent (+3,300), while the state grew at a rate of 1.3 percent. Detailed industry data for the MSA is not seasonally adjusted.

Goods-producing and service-providing jobs were up from October as well as from last November. Over the month, mining, logging, & construction saw a marginal seasonal decline, while trade, transportation & utilities continued hiring for the coming holidays. Among supersectors, professional & business services and education & health services were at record highs. Wide-spread gains across numerous industries helped drive service-providing jobs to a new record high.

**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/
November 2018	214,200	206,200	8,000	3.7	214,600	205,700	8,900	4.1
October	213,200	204,900	8,300	3.9	214,000	204,800	9,200	4.3
September	213,300	205,100	8,300	3.9	213,400	204,300	9,100	4.3
November 2017	210,400	201,600	8,800	4.2	211,300	201,700	9,600	4.6

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES  
 November 2018

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	436,800	419,700	17,100	3.9	437,300	418,100	19,300	4.4
Altoona MSA	59,900	57,600	2,200	3.7	60,300	57,700	2,500	4.2
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	42,700	41,100	1,600	3.7	42,500	40,600	1,900	4.4
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	77,200	74,700	2,500	3.2	77,500	74,800	2,700	3.5
East Stroudsburg MSA	81,600	77,600	4,000	4.9	82,200	77,800	4,400	5.3
Erie MSA	128,900	123,600	5,200	4.1	128,900	122,900	6,000	4.6
Gettysburg MSA	56,300	54,800	1,600	2.8	56,400	54,600	1,800	3.2
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	297,700	287,800	9,800	3.3	299,100	288,200	10,900	3.7
Johnstown MSA	59,200	56,600	2,600	4.4	59,300	56,300	3,000	5.1
Lancaster MSA	281,800	273,400	8,400	3.0	283,000	273,500	9,500	3.4
Lebanon MSA	70,500	68,100	2,400	3.4	70,700	68,100	2,700	3.8
Philadelphia MSA	3,118,800	3,007,000	111,800	3.6	3,118,300	2,993,500	124,700	4.0
Pittsburgh MSA	1,211,200	1,166,600	44,600	3.7	1,213,500	1,163,000	50,500	4.2
Reading MSA	214,200	206,200	8,000	3.7	214,600	205,700	8,900	4.1
Scranton--W-B--Hazleton MSA	283,300	270,600	12,700	4.5	281,700	267,500	14,200	5.0
State College MSA	80,800	78,600	2,200	2.8	78,600	76,100	2,500	3.2
Williamsport MSA	56,000	53,600	2,400	4.3	56,100	53,400	2,700	4.8
York-Hanover MSA	237,100	229,200	8,000	3.4	237,300	228,500	8,800	3.7
PENNSYLVANIA	6,458,000	6,213,000	245,000	3.8	6,441,000	6,172,000	269,000	4.2
UNITED STATES	162,665,000	157,015,000	5,650,000	3.5	162,770,000	156,795,000	5,975,000	3.7

ALL DATA ARE ON 2017 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)

November 2018

NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Sep 2018	Nov 2017	Oct 2018	Nov 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>183,900</b>	182,700	181,800	180,700	1,200	3,200
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>161,500</b>	160,400	159,800	158,300	1,100	3,200
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>41,100</b>	41,000	41,000	39,400	100	1,700
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,600	8,700	8,700	8,200	-100	400
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>32,500</b>	32,300	32,300	31,200	200	1,300
Durable Goods	23,300	23,300	23,300	22,300	0	1,000
Non-Durable Goods	9,200	9,000	9,000	8,900	200	300
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>142,800</b>	141,700	140,800	141,300	1,100	1,500
<b>PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>120,400</b>	119,400	118,800	118,900	1,000	1,500
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>34,200</b>	33,600	33,000	34,000	600	200
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600	0	0
Retail Trade	18,900	18,500	18,100	19,200	400	-300
Grocery stores	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	-100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	8,700	8,500	8,300	8,200	200	500
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,100</b>	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>5,800</b>	5,800	5,900	5,900	0	-100
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities including Money	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>25,400</b>	25,300	25,100	24,600	100	800
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>30,800</b>	30,700	30,500	30,600	100	200
Health care and social assistance	27,700	27,600	27,500	27,400	100	300
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>15,000</b>	14,900	15,200	14,600	100	400
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>8,100</b>	8,000	8,000	8,000	100	100
<b>Government</b>	<b>22,400</b>	22,300	22,000	22,400	100	0
Federal Government	900	900	900	900	0	0
State Government	4,700	4,700	4,400	4,700	0	0
Local Government	16,800	16,700	16,700	16,800	100	0
Data benchmarked to March 2017	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

TABLE 2A

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL NONFARM JOBS  
FOR PENNSYLVANIA and SELECT MSAs & AREAS**

**November 2018**

AREA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Sep 2018	Nov 2017	Oct 2018	Nov 2017
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>6,055,500</b>	6,060,900	6,044,900	5,976,800	-5,400	78,700
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	<b>376,800</b>	377,500	375,700	372,900	-700	3,900
Altoona MSA	<b>62,100</b>	61,800	61,700	61,300	300	800
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	<b>42,700</b>	42,600	42,700	42,500	100	200
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	<b>61,900</b>	61,600	61,600	60,900	300	1,000
East Stroudsburg MSA	<b>58,800</b>	58,800	58,600	58,300	0	500
Erie MSA	<b>127,300</b>	127,700	127,800	127,600	-400	-300
Gettysburg MSA	<b>36,400</b>	36,200	36,200	35,500	200	900
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	<b>349,500</b>	348,500	348,000	343,100	1,000	6,400
Johnstown MSA	<b>55,300</b>	55,600	55,500	55,200	-300	100
Lancaster MSA	<b>258,700</b>	258,600	257,700	253,800	100	4,900
Lebanon MSA	<b>52,600</b>	52,700	52,600	52,400	-100	200
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	<b>2,966,900</b>	2,969,400	2,968,200	2,924,700	-2,500	42,200
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	<b>1,080,000</b>	1,079,900	1,078,000	1,067,200	100	12,800
Philadelphia Metro Division	<b>969,700</b>	969,700	969,200	949,600	0	20,100
Philadelphia City	<b>732,000</b>	731,800	732,000	713,200	200	18,800
Pittsburgh MSA	<b>1,193,800</b>	1,193,500	1,191,100	1,183,700	300	10,100
Reading MSA	<b>181,300</b>	181,300	181,200	178,000	0	3,300
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA	<b>269,000</b>	268,100	268,200	265,600	900	3,400
State College MSA	<b>78,700</b>	78,800	78,400	78,300	-100	400
Williamsport MSA	<b>52,200</b>	52,500	52,700	53,100	-300	-900
York-Hanover MSA	<b>190,600</b>	190,000	188,900	187,000	600	3,600
Data benchmarked to March 2017	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

**Note:** Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs data back to 1990 is now available for the Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA, Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA, Gettysburg MSA, East Stroudsburg MSA, and Montgomery-Bucks-Chester and Philadelphia Metropolitan Divisions.

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).