

WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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S-WB-H UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.9% IN FEBRUARY

HARRISBURG (APRIL 2) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Scranton--Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area (S-WB-H MSA) was 3.9 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.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the S-WB-H MSA rose 0.1 percent (+200) over the month to a record high of 269,500 in February. Over the year, jobs rose by 2.1 percent (+5,500) in the MSA, surpassing the statewide jobs' rate of change of 1.2 percent. Detailed industry data for the MSA is not seasonally adjusted.

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

Education & health services had the largest employment growth among the ten supersectors both over the month as winter break ended at local educational institutions and over the year. Trade, transportation & utilities had the largest supersettor decline from January as it continued to shed seasonal employment. Goods-producing and service-providing industries both saw gains from last February.

TABLE 1
SCRANTON - WILKES-BARRE - HAZLETON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties)

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
February 2024	284,300	271,700	12,700	4.5	281,300	270,200	11,100	3.9
January	280,900	268,800	12,100	4.3	280,400	269,200	11,200	4.0
December 2023	280,400	270,600	9,800	3.5	280,100	268,500	11,500	4.1
February 2023	279,600	263,900	15,700	5.6	278,700	264,600	14,000	5.0

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES
February 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	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
SCRANTON - WILKES-BARRE - HAZLETON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties)

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
LACKAWANNA COUNTY								
February 2024	107,800	103,600	4,300	3.9	108,100	104,300	3,800	3.6
January	106,600	102,500	4,200	3.9	107,000	103,200	3,800	3.6
December 2023	106,400	103,100	3,300	3.1	107,100	103,100	4,000	3.7
February 2023	106,000	100,600	5,400	5.1	106,300	101,300	5,000	4.7
LUZERNE COUNTY								
February 2024	162,800	154,900	7,800	4.8	163,200	156,200	7,000	4.3
January	160,600	153,300	7,400	4.6	161,500	155,000	6,500	4.0
December 2023	160,300	154,200	6,100	3.8	160,400	153,700	6,700	4.2
February 2023	160,000	150,500	9,500	6.0	160,500	151,800	8,700	5.4
WYOMING COUNTY								
February 2024	13,700	13,200	600	4.1	13,700	13,300	400	3.2
January	13,600	13,100	600	4.1	13,700	13,200	400	3.1
December 2023	13,700	13,200	400	3.2	13,800	13,300	500	3.7
February 2023	13,600	12,800	800	5.5	13,500	12,900	600	4.6

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

SCRANTON-WILKES-BARRE-HAZLETON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming counties)

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
TOTAL NONFARM	266,700	265,100	271,200	260,300	1,600	6,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	237,800	236,200	242,000	232,400	1,600	5,400
GOODS-PRODUCING	40,300	40,200	40,900	39,500	100	800
Mining, Logging, and Construction	10,100	10,100	10,600	9,600	0	500
Manufacturing	30,200	30,100	30,300	29,900	100	300
Durable Goods	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,400	0	200
Non-Durable Goods	16,600	16,500	16,700	16,500	100	100
SERVICE-PROVIDING	226,400	224,900	230,300	220,800	1,500	5,600
PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING	197,500	196,000	201,100	192,900	1,500	4,600
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	68,300	69,000	71,400	67,900	-700	400
Wholesale Trade	9,900	10,000	10,000	9,800	-100	100
Retail Trade	28,100	28,300	29,400	28,200	-200	-100
Grocery and convenience retailers	6,300	6,300	6,400	6,400	0	-100
General merchandise retailers	5,300	5,300	5,700	5,200	0	100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	30,300	30,700	32,000	29,900	-400	400
Information	2,800	2,800	2,900	2,900	0	-100
Financial Activities	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	0	0
Professional and Business Services	28,400	28,000	28,700	27,600	400	800
Education and Health Services	55,200	53,500	54,900	52,700	1,700	2,500
Educational services	10,500	8,900	10,300	9,700	1,600	800
Health care and social assistance	44,700	44,600	44,600	43,000	100	1,700
Hospitals	7,800	7,800	7,900	7,800	0	0
Leisure and Hospitality	22,300	22,100	22,700	21,500	200	800
Accommodation and food services	19,500	19,300	19,700	19,200	200	300
Food services and drinking places	17,300	17,100	17,500	16,900	200	400
Other Services	8,900	9,000	8,900	8,700	-100	200
Government	28,900	28,900	29,200	27,900	0	1,000
Federal Government	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
State Government	5,400	5,400	5,500	5,500	0	-100
Local Government	19,000	19,000	19,200	18,000	0	1,000
Local government educational services	11,600	11,600	11,700	10,800	0	800
Local government excluding educational services	7,400	7,400	7,500	7,200	0	200
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
PENNSYLVANIA	6,131,700	6,125,900	6,115,100	6,060,700	5,800	71,000
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	395,000	395,000	395,000	390,700	0	4,300
Altoona MSA	61,500	61,200	61,300	60,400	300	1,100
Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA	44,500	44,200	44,300	44,000	300	500
Chambersburg-Waynesboro MSA	60,700	60,900	60,900	61,400	-200	-700
East Stroudsburg MSA	58,000	57,700	58,100	57,400	300	600
Erie MSA	126,100	126,200	125,600	124,700	-100	1,400
Gettysburg MSA	33,900	33,800	34,000	34,300	100	-400
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	363,000	362,900	362,700	357,800	100	5,200
Johnstown MSA	51,600	51,700	51,700	51,400	-100	200
Lancaster MSA	264,700	264,400	265,100	262,200	300	2,500
Lebanon MSA	57,100	57,000	56,800	55,300	100	1,800
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	3,097,400	3,095,100	3,094,600	3,056,900	2,300	40,500
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	1,120,300	1,120,100	1,122,300	1,117,500	200	2,800
Philadelphia Metro Division	1,015,500	1,013,200	1,013,900	997,000	2,300	18,500
Philadelphia City	775,300	774,600	774,900	758,600	700	16,700
Pittsburgh MSA	1,168,400	1,168,500	1,166,400	1,154,900	-100	13,500
Reading MSA	180,100	179,900	180,400	178,900	200	1,200
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton MSA	269,500	269,300	268,400	264,000	200	5,500
State College MSA	81,500	81,500	81,300	79,700	0	1,800
Williamsport MSA	52,400	52,300	52,400	51,800	100	600
York-Hanover MSA	194,800	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.