PA Monthly WorkStats presents the most up-to-date labor market highlights and happenings in the commonwealth. Information herein is produced and published monthly and includes data on the labor force, jobs, and unemployment compensation for both the state and select sub-state areas as well as relevant media reports. Additional details and historical information are available on our website: workstats.dli.pa.gov.

April 2020 Big Numbers

- **Unemployment Rate**: 15.1%
- **Statewide Job Count**: 5,014,200
- **Initial Claims**: 768,980

Note: arrows indicate increase, decrease, or no change from the previous month.

- Did Pennsylvania jobs see widespread impacts in all supersectors? ----- Page 2
- Find unemployment statistics by gender, race, age, and educational attainment. ----- Page 4
- What is the CARES Act of 2020? ----- Page 6
- Read snapshots from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries. ----- Page 7
- What is the Current Population Survey (CPS)? ----- Back Page

Note: The April unemployment, jobs, and claims data, as presented in this publication, reflect the effects of business and school closures implemented to mitigate the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). This data is considered preliminary and is, therefore, subject to revision as it is finalized.
How Have Jobs Changed Over the Long Term?

Total nonfarm jobs have contracted 13.8% over the last five years with declines in 10 of the 11 supersectors. This was a reversal from March, in which 10 of the 11 supersectors had five-year gains. The largest volume change since April 2015 was in leisure & hospitality, which was down 311,300 jobs (-57.5%). Financial activities was the only supersector that expanded over the past five years.
**Highlighting signifies an all-time high**

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

1. Prior to April, job growth statewide and among MSAs was more vigorous and widespread in the service-providing industries than in the goods-producing industries. Recent job declines were also more pronounced in the service-providing industries. Therefore, long-term changes (e.g., from five and 10 years ago) are sensitive to how far jobs recovered. While the statewide percentage job decrease over the last 10 years was greater in the goods-producing industries, the performance among the MSAs tell a slightly different story. Over the last 10 years there was positive job growth in the goods-producing industries in the Chambersburg-Waynesboro, Gettysburg, and Lebanon MSAs, while service-providing jobs fell in all MSAs over the same period.

2. The last 10 years of job growth across the state was driven solely by private sector job gains as government jobs statewide declined. The depth of the recent decline wiped out the prior gains. Statewide, over the last 10 years, there were job declines in both the private and public sectors. Across the MSAs, jobs also declined in both the public and private sectors with the exceptions that private jobs increased marginally in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA and government jobs increased in the State College MSA.

3. Recent employment declines had a more pronounced effect on private sector jobs than on public sector jobs. Over the last five years all 18 MSAs lost private sector jobs, and in 13 of them the percentage loss was in double digits. This compared to the immediate preceding five years where private sector jobs grew in 16 of the 18 MSAs. In contrast, public sector jobs over the last five years decreased in 17 MSAs, but the percentage decrease in all of them was in single digits. In the immediately preceding five year period, all 17 of those MSAs also sustained job losses. While the public sector job losses in the last five years added to the prior losses, the more recent losses were smaller than the losses in the prior five years.

**MSA OVER-THE-YEAR JOB CHANGE (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSA</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton</td>
<td>329,200</td>
<td>(50,300)</td>
<td>(13.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona</td>
<td>53,300</td>
<td>(7,800)</td>
<td>(12.8%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomsburg-Berwick</td>
<td>38,800</td>
<td>(4,000)</td>
<td>(9.3%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chambersburg-Waynesboro</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>(7,900)</td>
<td>(12.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Stroudsburg</td>
<td>44,900</td>
<td>(15,000)</td>
<td>(25.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>107,700</td>
<td>(20,300)</td>
<td>(15.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>28,300</td>
<td>(7,100)</td>
<td>(20.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg-Carlisle</td>
<td>305,000</td>
<td>(45,800)</td>
<td>(13.1%)</td>
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<td>Johnstown</td>
<td>46,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>214,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>48,100</td>
<td>(5,600)</td>
<td>(10.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington</td>
<td>2,514,100</td>
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<td>Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>(14.3%)</td>
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<td>Scranton–Wilkes-Barre–Hazleton</td>
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<td>State College</td>
<td>71,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamsport</td>
<td>41,900</td>
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<td>York-Hanover</td>
<td>166,700</td>
<td>(21,500)</td>
<td>(11.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Italic signifies the greatest over-the-year movement

**MSA 10-YEAR JOB CHANGE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

**GOODS-PRODUCING VERSUS SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES**

- Prior to April, jobs declined over the year in all MSAs. This was the first time since December 2009, (when the labor market was still recovering from the Great Recession,) that jobs decreased in all MSAs.
- Statewide jobs declined by 17.2 percent over the year, while only four MSAs exceeded the state’s over-the-year percentage job loss. In three of those four MSAs, the over-the-year job loss exceeded 20 percent. The largest percentage decrease was in the East Stroudsburg MSA, while the smallest percentage decline was in the Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA, which was the only MSA whose percentage decrease was in single digits.
- The largest volume decrease in jobs over the past year occurred in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA. Jobs decreased in both the private and public sectors as well as in both the service-providing industries and goods-producing industries. In fact, jobs fell in all supersectors, sectors, and industry groups reported. The private sector sustained the lion’s share of the job losses (99.1 percent) and to a slightly lesser degree they were concentrated in the service-providing industries. The impact of the social distancing was felt most severely on the leisure and hospitality supersector which sustained 35.6 percent of the over-the-year job decreases. Within that supersector, 30.4 percent of the total losses came from accommodation & food service industries.

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Prior to April, job growth statewide and among MSAs was more vigorous and widespread in the service-providing industries than in the goods-producing industries. Recent job declines were also more pronounced in the service-providing industries. Therefore, long-term changes (e.g., from five and 10 years ago) are sensitive to how far jobs recovered. While the statewide percentage job decrease over the last 10 years was greater in the goods-producing industries, the performance among the MSAs tell a slightly different story. Over the last 10 years there was positive job growth in the goods-producing industries in the Chambersburg-Waynesboro, Gettysburg, and Lebanon MSAs, while service-providing jobs fell in all MSAs over the same period.

- The last 10 years of job growth across the state was driven solely by private sector job gains as government jobs statewide declined. The depth of the recent decline wiped out the prior gains. Statewide, over the last 10 years, there were job declines in both the private and public sectors. Across the MSAs, jobs also declined in both the public and private sectors with the exceptions that private jobs increased marginally in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA and government jobs increased in the State College MSA.

- Recent employment declines had a more pronounced effect on private sector jobs than on public sector jobs. Over the last five years all 18 MSAs lost private sector jobs, and in 13 of them the percentage loss was in double digits. This compared to the immediate preceding five years where private sector jobs grew in 16 of the 18 MSAs. In contrast, public sector jobs over the last five years decreased in 17 MSAs, but the percentage decrease in all of them was in single digits. In the immediately preceding five year period, all 17 of those MSAs also sustained job losses. While the public sector job losses in the last five years added to the prior losses, the more recent losses were smaller than the losses in the prior five years.
Pennsylvania’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up 9.3 percentage points to 15.1 percent in April.

PA’s rate was four-tenths of a percent above the U.S. rate, which went up 10.3 percentage points over the month (14.7 percent).

The labor force was down 91,000 in April to 6,452,000. This was the 3rd decrease in the last year.

Employment decreased 687,000 from last month to 5,476,000, the lowest level since December 1992.

Unemployment increased by 597,000, rising to 976,000 persons, the highest level on record.
In April, the unemployment rate rose over the year in all counties. Elk County had the largest over-the-year increase in the unemployment rate (+21.7 percentage points), while the smallest increase was in Centre County, where the over-the-year increase in rate was "only" 7.2 percentage points. The state's increase of 11.0 percentage points in the unemployment rate over the year was exceeded by 50 counties and equaled by Union and Delaware counties. The increase in rate in six other counties also was in double digits.

The volume of unemployment increased over the year in all counties. The largest volume increase in unemployment over the year (+88,800) was in Philadelphia County and the smallest volume increase (+200) was in Forest County. Percentage increases in the volume of unemployment ranged from 191.1 percent in Greene County to 612.1 percent in Elk County. For comparison purposes, the state's level of unemployment rose by 265.4 percent over the year. The magnitude of these percentage changes reflects the fact that in April of 2019 the labor market was essentially at full employment (with very low levels of unemployment).

In April, every county lost employment at the same time they were increasing their volumes of unemployment over the year. Allegheny County had the largest volume decrease in employment over the year (-87,700), while Elk County had the largest percentage decrease over the year (-10.0 percent).

In April, all 18 MSAs experienced over-the-year increases in their unemployment rates. The largest increase in the unemployment rate was in the East Stroudsburg MSA (+16.0 percentage points), while the smallest rate increase (+7.2 percentage points), occurred in the State College MSA.

All MSAs experienced an increase in the volume of unemployment over the year. The largest increase was +340,600 in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA, while the Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA had the smallest increase (+4,800). The largest percentage increase in the volume of unemployment was in the Gettysburg MSA (+387.5 percent), while the smallest percentage increase was in the State College MSA (+221.8 percent).

Employment over the year decreased in all MSAs. The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment (-374,800), while the East Stroudsburg MSA had the largest percentage decrease (-18.5 percent). The Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA had the distinction of having both the smallest over-the-year volume decrease in employment (-3,100), and the smallest percentage decrease (-7.5 percent).

Since labor force is the sum of the volumes of the employed and unemployed, and the volume of employment decreased in all MSAs, while the volume of unemployment increased in all MSAs, it implies that the volume of labor force will go in the same direction as the bigger size of the two changes. Over the year the labor force decreased in eight MSAs and increased in the other 10. The largest over-the-year percentage increase was in the Altoona MSA (+4.5 percent), while the Williamsport MSA had the largest percentage decrease (-5.5 percent).
The April unemployment, jobs, and claims data reflect the effects of closures implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

**What is the CARES Act of 2020?**


- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to qualifying individuals who are otherwise able to work and available for work except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work due to COVID-19 related reasons. Those eligible now include self-employed, those seeking part-time employment, individuals lacking sufficient work history, and those who otherwise do not qualify for regular UC.

- **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** provides up to 13 additional weeks of 100% Federally-funded benefits to an individual who has exhausted all rights to any regular unemployment compensation with respect to a benefit year that ended on or after July 1, 2019.

- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)** is a federally funded program that provides an additional $600 for each week of benefits. This program is set to expire on July 31, 2020.
The update below presents blurbs from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries. Please note that while these updates may cover reporters’ (or other) attempts to explain labor market data, CWIA and L&I serve to report these numbers and do not endorse any explanations that may or may not be included below.

*witf.com, May 26, 2020*

‘Incredibly disposable’: Adjuncts, the ‘gig workers’ of higher-ed, fear losing livelihoods

There is a large class of adjunct professors who make their living as itinerant instructors, cobbling together jobs at various colleges to pay the bills. Described as the “gig workers” of academia, adjuncts receive contracts on a course-by-course basis and make, on average, about $3,000 per class.

Crucially, adjuncts’ fate is tied firmly to student enrollment. Even in boom times, colleges can scrap an adjunct-taught course if enrollment in that course doesn’t meet expectations. The hook can come as the semester begins, or even a week or two in.

“We’re incredibly disposable,” said Anna Neighbor, a union activist and adjunct who teaches fine arts at the University of Pennsylvania and Moore College of Art and Design.

Universities generally say they aren’t yet sure what kind of budget cuts they’ll make. The unknown path of the virus and the uncertainty of student attendance makes it too difficult to predict, they say.


*pennlive.com, May 4, 2020*

Philadelphia-area YMCA lays off 3,400 due to coronavirus pandemic; largest in 9 years in Pa.

One organization’s mass layoff in March was the largest layoff in the state in the last nine years.

The Greater Philadelphia YMCA in Conshohocken, Montgomery County filed a WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) notice with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. The organization laid off 3,400 people on March 20 at its facilities as a result of the state’s shutdown of non-life sustaining activities.

The largest mass layoff in Pennsylvania between 2011 and 2019 happened last year when Hahnemann University Hospital and related organizations closed and 2,572 people were laid off.

In addition to the Greater Philadelphia YMCA, the two other largest mass layoffs in the state since March include OS Restaurant Services LLC/Bloomin’ Brands Inc. and Parx Casino.

The layoffs at OS Restaurant Services include 2,952 people at 46 locations in 17 counties including Dauphin, Cumberland, York and Lancaster counties. Bloomin’ Brands includes Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba’s Italian Grill, Bonefish Grill and Fleming’s. Those layoffs took place March 15 and are expected to take be temporary in nature due to the coronavirus pandemic.


*timesonline.com, May 2, 2020*

Construction resumes as state plans to reopen; Shell to add 300 more workers

An additional 300 workers will return to Beaver County’s cracker plant site next week as Gov. Tom Wolf lifts COVID-19-related bans on construction activities statewide.

Beginning Monday, Shell Chemicals expects to increase its 500-person workforce by approximately 300 for a total of 800 on-site employees. More are expected to arrive at a “measured pace” in the weeks ahead.

Shell still has “no plans” to fully ramp-up production during the COVID-19 crisis, although the company has in recent weeks reintroduced hundreds of employees to perform maintenance, security and sanitation duties.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

This program measures employment and unemployment by place of residence. The LAUS program does not produce estimates for any demographic groups.

Employment: All persons who (a) did any work as paid employees, self-employed, agricultural workers, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid family workers, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Each employed person is counted only once, even if the person holds more than one job.

Unemployment: All persons aged 16 years and older who had no employment, were available for work, and had made specific efforts to find employment. Includes persons who were waiting to be recalled to jobs from which they had been laid off.

Labor Force: All persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment Rate: The number of unemployed divided by the labor force.

Current Population Survey (CPS)

Discouraged Workers: Persons not in the labor force who want and are available for a job and who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months, but who are not currently looking because they believe there are no jobs available or there are none for which they would qualify. Discouraged workers are not included in the unemployment count.

Duration of Unemployment: The length of time in weeks that an unemployed person has been looking for work.

Labor Force Participation Rate: The labor force divided by the civilian non-institutional population.

Employment to Population Ratio: The proportion of the civilian non-institutional population aged 16 years and over that is employed.

Part-Time for Economic Reasons: Persons who would like to work full time but were working part time because of an economic reason such as decreased working hours or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

Long-term Unemployed: Persons who have been unemployed for greater than 26 weeks.

Underemployment Rate (U-6): The number of unemployed plus those people working part time who would like full-time jobs plus those who have dropped out of the labor market entirely and still want a job divided by the labor force plus those who have dropped out of the labor market entirely and still want a job.

Current Employment Statistics (CES)

This collaborative effort between the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the states produces a count of jobs, not of people.

Nonfarm Jobs: The total number of persons on establishment payrolls employed full or part time. Persons on the payroll of more than one establishment are counted in each establishment. Data exclude proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers, and domestic workers. Persons on layoff, strike, or leave without pay for the entire period, or who have not yet reported for work are not counted as employed. Government employment covers only civilian employees.

Seasonal Adjustment: Removes the change in employment that is due to normal seasonal hiring or layoffs (holidays, weather, etc.) thus leaving an over-the-month change that reflects only employment changes due to trend and irregular movements.

Note - Agricultural employment is excluded due to the relative difficulty of gathering timely employment information in the rural farming sector. Many agricultural workers are exempt from unemployment insurance and many are self-employed. As such, there is not a good source of data to verify the accuracy and reliability of the sample-based survey data.

Unemployment Compensation (UC)

The Federal-State Unemployment Compensation (UC) Program provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own and meet other eligibility requirements of State law.

Regular UC: Provides up to 26 weeks of benefits.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC): A temporary, federally-funded extension of unemployment benefits for those who have exhausted their Regular UC benefits.

Extended Benefits (EB): A temporary extension of unemployment benefits available to individuals who have exhausted their Regular UC benefits and any temporary EUC.

Initial Claims: The count of notices of unemployment requesting a determination of eligibility and entitlement for UC benefits. A person can file multiple claims.

Continued Claims: The number of weeks that claimants are requesting payment of unemployment benefits. These claims include “waiting weeks” which do not receive payment and claims that are subsequently denied benefits.

Individual Payments: The distinct count of individuals who received unemployment compensation benefits.

Exhaustees: The count of individuals who have drawn the maximum entitled amount of benefits.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program