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.

2019

August 2019 Big Numbers

3.9% Unemployment Rate

6,051,700 Statewide Job Count

47,950 Initial Claims

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

➤ How many times have total nonfarm jobs hit a record high level so far in 2019?  ----- Page 2

➤ Find unemployment statistics by gender, race, age, and educational attainment.  ----- Page 4

➤ What are initial and continued Unemployment Compensation claims?  ----- Page 6

➤ Read snapshots from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries.  ----- Page 7

➤ What does it mean to be working “part time for economic reasons”?  ----- Back Page
How Have Jobs Changed Over the Long Term?

Increases in education & health services have led private service-providing growth over the past 25 years.

Today, goods producers make up a smaller portion of total nonfarm jobs due to large declines in manufacturing.

Change in Supersector Volume
(current volume includes 5-year growth but not the decline)

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs were up 16,500 from July to a record high of 6,051,700. Although the August gain followed three monthly declines, it was the fifth increase so far in 2019. Total nonfarm jobs have set new record high jobs levels five times thus far in 2019.

Eight of the 11 supersectors added jobs over the month. The largest supersector gain was in education & health services, which rose by 8,100. Professional & business services, up 2,000 from July, was the only supersector to reach a record high in August.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs were up 0.6% (+38,400) in the commonwealth compared to a 12-month gain of 1.4% nationally. Pennsylvania’s total nonfarm job count has posted over-the-year gains in each of the past 112 months – the longest stretch on record (back to 1990).

Ten of the 11 supersectors’ employment levels rose from last August. The majority of the gain was in service-providing industries, which added 38,100 jobs over the year, while goods-producing employment was little changed (+300). The largest volume supersector 12-month gain was education & health services, up 14,500 due to gains in the health care & social assistance which reached a record high in August.
**Current Employment Statistics**

Jobs by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

**September 2019 Edition • August 2019 Data**

### MSA Over-the-Year Job Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSA</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Change from August 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton</td>
<td>377,600</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona</td>
<td>61,600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomsburg-Berwick</td>
<td>43,600</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambersburg-Wayneboro</td>
<td>63,000</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Stroudsburg</td>
<td>59,300</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>128,800</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>35,600</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg-Carlisle</td>
<td>347,100</td>
<td>(1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnstown</td>
<td>54,300</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>258,500</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>54,200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington</td>
<td>2,978,700</td>
<td>33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>1,194,100</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>182,100</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton</td>
<td>262,100</td>
<td>(1,400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State College</td>
<td>81,900</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsport</td>
<td>53,900</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York-Hanover</td>
<td>186,700</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement
** Highlighting signifies an all-time high

### MSA 10-Year Job Change (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

#### Good-producing Versus Service-providing Industries

- **In August, jobs grew over the year in 14 MSAs and fell in four MSAs. The Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton MSA had the largest decrease in jobs over the year measured by both volume and percentage change. Despite having the fifth largest monthly job gain among MSAs in August, the job decreases in the prior three months in the Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton MSA accounted for its large over-the-year decrease in jobs.**

- **The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Chambersburg-Wayneboro, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and Reading MSAs were at record highs in August. The Reading MSA was the only one of the four that also was at a record high in July. In fact, August was the seventh consecutive month and eighth month in the last 12 in which the Reading MSA was at a record high for jobs. It was also the eighth month in the last 12 that the Chambersburg-Wayneboro and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSAs were also at record highs.**

- **The largest volume increase in jobs over the past year occurred in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA. While jobs increased in both the private and public sectors and in both goods-producing and service-providing industries, the lion’s share of the increase occurred in the private sector (88.7 percent) and among service-providing industries (83.4 percent). The increase in jobs in the goods-producing industries was primarily from mining, logging & construction jobs and, to a lesser extent, from durable goods manufacturing, while non-durable manufacturing jobs declined. Education & health services led the volume of job gains in the private service-providing industries followed by professional & business services, leisure & hospitality services, and other services, while jobs fell over the year in trade, transportation & utilities (due to a decline of jobs in wholesale & retail trade). Public sector jobs also increased due to a sizable gain in local government and to a lesser extent by gains in the federal government, while jobs in state government fell.**

- **Over the last 10 years, job growth among MSAs was more widespread in the service-providing industries than in the goods-producing industries. The Johnstown MSA was the only one to have fewer service-providing jobs than it did 10 years ago, while the remaining 17 MSAs had more. Over the same period, only 13 MSAs experienced job growth in the goods-producing industries, while jobs declined in the Altoona, East Stroudsburg, Erie, and the York-Hanover MSAs. Goods-producing jobs in the Williamsport MSA were unchanged over the decade.**

- **Over the last five years, the performance of goods-producing jobs was about the same as it had been for the most recent 10 years, as they increased in 14 MSAs and decreased in four MSAs. The Altoona and Erie MSAs had job declines in goods-producing jobs as they did over the past decade, but were joined by the Chambersburg-Wayneboro and Williamsport MSAs. Over the most recent five-year period, the Gettyburg, Johnstown, and Williamsport MSAs were the only ones with a decrease in service-providing jobs.**

- **Over the last 10 years, job growth across the Commonwealth was driven solely by private sector job gains as government jobs statewide declined, while over the last five years the vast majority of job gains came from the private sector. Private sector jobs increased in 15 MSAs over the last five years, with the Erie, Johnstown, and Williamsport MSAs the sole decliners. The Johnstown MSA was the only MSA in which private sector jobs fell in both the most recent 10- and five-year period.**

- **Despite increasing somewhat over the last five years, public sector jobs declined statewide in the most recent 10 years. This decrease was prevalent in 14 of the 18 MSAs over the last 10 years, while over the last five years only six MSAs experienced a decline in government jobs and in another three MSAs they were unchanged. The Bloomsburg-Berwick and State College MSAs were the only MSAs in which government jobs grew in both periods, while public sector jobs in the Gettyburg MSA grew in the last five years, while being unchanged over the last 10 years.**

### Special Points of Interest

- **(based on non-seasonally adjusted MSA industry data)**

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Pennsylvania’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.9 percent in August, two-tenths of a percentage point above the U.S. rate.

The labor force was up 9,000 in August to 6,479,000, the eighth increase of the last 12 months and the largest since January.

Employment increased 5,000 from last month to 6,225,000, setting a record high for the 15th time in the last 17 months.

Unemployment increased by 5,000, rising to 255,000 persons, the highest level since March. August was the second consecutive unemployment increase and only the third since June 2016.

People working 34 hours or less for economic reasons, though up from last month, is down from last August and well below its peak (318,000) in 2012.

In August, those working part-time for economic reasons made up 15.7 percent of all people who worked 34 or fewer hours. This is down from a series (since 2005) peak of 21.1 percent in 2012, but up from the low of 10.1 percent in 2007.

The number of people working 34 hours or fewer for economic reasons was almost evenly split between genders in August, with 94,800 men and 96,000 women meeting the criteria.

Among people working 34 hours or less in August data, white workers had the smallest proportion (11.1 percent) working those hours for economic reasons. By comparison, the proportion of black (19.3 percent) and Hispanic (19.7 percent) workers approached double the proportion of white workers.
In August, the unemployment rate fell over the year in 44 counties, increased in 15, and was constant in eight. Clarion County had the largest over-the-year decrease (-0.6 percentage points), while Snyder County had the largest over-the-year increase (+2.3 percentage points). The state’s over-the-year decrease of 0.3 percentage points was exceeded by 13 counties, and was equaled in five counties.

The volume of unemployment decreased over the year in 44 counties and rose in the remaining 23. There were 27 counties where the increases and decreases were marginal (absolute value was less than 50). The largest volume decrease in unemployment over the year (-900) was in York County and the largest percentage decrease was in Clarion County (-11.5 percent). Snyder County had both the largest volume and percentage increases in unemployment.

Employment over the year increased in 62 counties and decreased in the remaining five. Philadelphia County had the largest volume increase in employment (+18,400), while Sullivan County had the largest percentage increase over (+3.2 percent). Snyder County had the largest volume decrease (-400) and the largest percentage decrease in employment (-2.1 percent).

Over the year, the labor force increased in 65 counties and fell in Cameron and Mercer counties. Philadelphia County had the largest over-the-year increase in labor force (+18,000), on the strength of its increase in employment and despite its large decrease in the volume of unemployment, while Lycoming County had the largest over-the-year percentage increase (+3.3 percent). Mercer County had the largest over-the-year decrease in the volume of the labor force (-200), while Cameron County, due to its small base labor force had the largest percentage decrease (-2.0 percent).

In August, all 18 MSAs experienced over-the-year decreases in unemployment rates and volumes of unemployment. The largest decrease in the unemployment rate was in the Erie MSA (-0.5 percentage points), while the smallest decreases (-0.1 percentage points), occurred in the Lancaster and Reading MSAs. The unemployment rate decline in eight MSAs exceeded the state’s decline (-0.3 percent), while three MSAs equaled the state’s decline.

The decreases in the volume of unemployment in MSAs ranged from a low of 100 in the Altoona, Chambersburg-Waynesboro, and Lebanon MSAs to a high of 9,500 in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA. The state’s volume of unemployment fell by 5.6 percent in August compared to a year prior and 11 MSAs had a larger percentage decrease in unemployment than that of the state.

The volume of labor force increased over the year in all 18 MSAs. Since labor force is the sum of the volumes of the employed and unemployed, and the volume of unemployment decreased while employment increased in all the MSAs, it implies that employment increased by more than unemployment decreased. The largest over-the-year percentage increase was in the State College MSA (2.1 percent), while the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre–Hazleton MSA had the smallest percentage increase (0.0 percent, due to rounding).

In August, unemployment rates among the 18 MSAs were less dispersed and generally lower than rates among the counties and ranged from a low of 2.9 percent in the Gettysburg and State College MSAs to 4.9 percent in the East Stroudsburg MSA. The August unemployment rate in nine MSAs exceeded the state’s rate of 3.9 percent, while eight MSAs had a lower rate and the unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh MSA equaled the state’s rate.
**UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

**CLAIMS AND BENEFITS AT A GLANCE**

SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION • AUGUST 2019 DATA (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

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### Duration of Claims and Exhaustion Rate

**Exhaustion Rate (percent)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
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<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>162.5</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>162.5</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>107.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Duration (in weeks)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Did You Know?

**What are initial claims?**

Any notice of unemployment filed

- to request a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or
- to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**What are weeks claimed/continued claims?**

The number of weeks of benefits claimed, including weeks for which a waiting period or fixed disqualification period is being served.

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### Number of Individuals Who Received UC Benefits (Regular UC Only)

For the week ending August 31, 2019: 74,769
For the week ending July 27, 2019: 95,211
For the week ending August 25, 2018: 90,675

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### Initial and Continued Claims Over the Past 26 Months

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**Initial Claims (in thousands)**

**Continued Claims (in thousands)**

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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.

**businessfacilities.com, September 17, 2019**

**Keurig Dr Pepper Creating 378 Jobs In Pennsylvania**

Keurig Dr Pepper will invest $219.7 million in a new state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution facility at the site of the former Kraft-Heinz plant in Upper Macungie Township, PA. The project will create 378 new jobs in the Lehigh Valley over the next three years. The 1.5 million square-foot facility is located in the Park 100 Logistics Center.

Keurig Dr Pepper is focused on building an integrated, best-in-class manufacturing network that supports the production of all beverages in all categories, according to Fernando Cortes, the company’s Chief Supply Chain Officer.

When Kraft-Heinz closed its 908,000 square-foot facility in 2016, the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) was optimistic that the site would find another use quickly. The site is in the prime food and beverage corridor with quick access to Interstate 78, rail service and access to pre-treatment wastewater facilities.

“We welcome Keurig Dr Pepper to the ....Lehigh Valley home,” said Don Cunningham, President & CEO. LVEDC. “With the growing demand in the Lehigh Valley market, we had little doubt that the Kraft property would be quickly reused after its closure due to the Heinz merger.”


**post-gazette.com, September 11, 2019**

**Bayer notifies state that it’s cutting 487 jobs by year’s end**

Bayer has notified the state that it will permanently furlough 487 employees by the end of December, nearly a year after announcing the closure of the German company’s North American headquarters in Robinson Township.

In January, the company, which makes pharmaceuticals, consumer health and other products, said it would shutter its operations in Robinson over the next two years following its $63 billion acquisition of St. Louis agricultural seed maker Monsanto.

About 600 people worked at the Robinson site and a Sept. 4 letter to the state Department of Labor and Industry stated that 487 employees will lose their jobs by year’s end.

A Bayer official said Wednesday the layoffs would not affect employment at its other Pittsburgh-area operations.


**local21news.com, September 2, 2019**

**Innovation center plan could bring thousands of new jobs to York**

On this Labor Day, the City of York is moving forward with plans for an innovation district that could add thousands of jobs. The development in the Northwest Triangle would house new, sustainable jobs that could mean a boom for the city and all of its resident.

“This is probably the most excited I’ve ever been in my entire life,” said York Exponential CEO John McElligott. Pushing the envelope is what the York Exponential CEO does every day. His York based company is leading the change in the digital revolution. This project is just another step.

Over three developmental phases, the York Plan 2.0 Innovation District will build out on the Northwest Triangle. When finished, it plans to house both technology and manufacturing jobs, hopefully bringing with it over 2,000 new, sustainable jobs.

BEHIND THE DATA
DEFINITIONS • SOURCES • WEB RESOURCES

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.

LAUS data is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

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.

CES data is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

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.

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.