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PA Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.6% in January

Harrisburg – Today, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released its employment situation report for January 2016.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point in January to 4.6 percent, the lowest rate since September 2007. Pennsylvania's rate remained below that of the United States, which also declined one-tenth of a percentage point from December to 4.9 percent. The commonwealth's rate was down seven-tenths of a percentage point since January 2015 while the national rate declined by eight-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force was up 11,000 in January to 6,448,000. Resident employment rose by 16,000 while the unemployment count declined by 5,000.

Total nonfarm jobs were down 16,100 from December's record high level to 5,852,000 in January. The largest drop was in education & health services, which fell 11,200 from a record high in December. The largest gain was in manufacturing, which increased for the third consecutive month.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 34,500 (+0.6%). All eight service-providing supersectors added jobs from January 2015, while all three goods-producing supersectors declined. The largest increase from last year was in leisure & hospitality (+16,600), while the largest decline was in mining & logging (-9,300).

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

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Editor's Note: A breakdown of Pennsylvania's employment statistics follows.

Current Labor Force Statistics							
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>							
(in thousands)							
	January	December	January	Change from	Change from		
	2016	2015	2015	December 2015	January 2015		
				<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>
PA							
Civilian Labor Force	6,448	6,437	6,415	11	0.2%	33	0.5%
Employment	6,153	6,137	6,073	16	0.3%	80	1.3%
Unemployment	295	300	342	-5	-1.7%	-47	-13.7%
Rate	4.6	4.7	5.3	-0.1	----	-0.7	----
U.S.							
Civilian Labor Force	158,335	157,833	157,025	502	0.3%	1,310	0.8%
Employment	150,544	149,929	148,104	615	0.4%	2,440	1.6%
Unemployment	7,791	7,904	8,920	-113	-1.4%	-1,129	-12.7%
Rate	4.9	5.0	5.7	-0.1	----	-0.8	----

Note: February 2016 labor force and nonfarm jobs statistics will be released March 18, 2016.

Pennsylvania Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Seasonally Adjusted

(in thousands)

			Change from		Change from		
	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	December 2015	January 2015	January 2015	
				<i>volume percent</i>	<i>volume percent</i>		
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,852.0	5,868.1	5,817.5	-16.1	-0.3%	34.5	0.6%
Goods Producing Industries	828.8	828.8	842.3	0.0	0.0%	-13.5	-1.6%
Mining & Logging	29.7	30.7	39.0	-1.0	-3.3%	-9.3	-23.8%
Construction	229.5	231.7	233.1	-2.2	-0.9%	-3.6	-1.5%
Manufacturing	569.6	566.4	570.2	3.2	0.6%	-0.6	-0.1%
Service Providing Industries	5,023.2	5,039.3	4,975.2	-16.1	-0.3%	48.0	1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,124.6	1,130.2	1,117.8	-5.6	-0.5%	6.8	0.6%
Information	85.8	85.6	84.6	0.2	0.2%	1.2	1.4%
Financial Activities	318.5	315.8	315.2	2.7	0.9%	3.3	1.0%
Professional & Business Services	776.7	778.3	773.3	-1.6	-0.2%	3.4	0.4%
Education & Health Services	1,195.0	1,206.2	1,185.2	-11.2	-0.9%	9.8	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	557.3	557.5	540.7	-0.2	0.0%	16.6	3.1%
Other Services	260.1	258.9	254.4	1.2	0.5%	5.7	2.2%
Government	705.2	706.8	704.0	-1.6	-0.2%	1.2	0.2%

For a more detailed breakdown of seasonally adjusted jobs data at the sector level, please contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 1-877-4WF-DATA, or visit www.paworkstats.pa.gov

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