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PA Unemployment Rate 4.9% in March

Labor Force Reaches Record High

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

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was up three-tenths of a percentage point from February to 4.9 percent. Pennsylvania's rate remained below that of the United States, which was up one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent. The commonwealth's rate was down four-tenths of a percentage point since March 2015 while the national rate declined by five-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force was up 30,000 in March to 6,501,000, a record high. Resident employment rose by 14,000 while the unemployment count increased by 17,000.

Total nonfarm jobs increased 15,300 to a record high of 5,891,700 in March. Seven of the eleven supersectors added jobs, with four up by at least 3,000 from February. The largest gain was in construction (+6,000), while the largest drop was in manufacturing (-800).

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 81,000 (+1.4%). All eight service-providing supersectors added jobs from March 2015, while two of the three goods-producing supersectors declined. The largest increase from last year was in education & health services (+24,600), while the largest decline was in mining & logging (-8,900).

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

Seasonally Adjusted

(in thousands)

	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	Change from February 2016		Change from March 2015	
				<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>
PA							
Civilian Labor Force	6,501	6,471	6,418	30	0.5%	83	1.3%
Employment	6,185	6,171	6,078	14	0.2%	107	1.8%
Unemployment	317	300	340	17	5.7%	-23	-6.8%
Rate	4.9	4.6	5.3	0.3	----	-0.4	----
U.S.							
Civilian Labor Force	159,286	158,890	156,890	396	0.2%	2,396	1.5%
Employment	151,320	151,074	148,333	246	0.2%	2,987	2.0%
Unemployment	7,966	7,815	8,557	151	1.9%	-591	-6.9%
Rate	5.0	4.9	5.5	0.1	----	-0.5	----

Note: April 2016 labor force and nonfarm jobs statistics will be released May 20, 2016.

Pennsylvania Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Seasonally Adjusted

(in thousands)

	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	Change from February 2016		Change from March 2015	
				<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,891.7	5,876.4	5,810.7	15.3	0.3%	81.0	1.4%
Goods Producing Industries	827.0	822.4	834.6	4.6	0.6%	-7.6	-0.9%
Mining & Logging	27.8	28.4	36.7	-0.6	-2.1%	-8.9	-24.3%
Construction	234.3	228.3	228.3	6.0	2.6%	6.0	2.6%
Manufacturing	564.9	565.7	569.6	-0.8	-0.1%	-4.7	-0.8%
Service Providing Industries	5,064.7	5,054.0	4,976.1	10.7	0.2%	88.6	1.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,136.2	1,132.4	1,117.9	3.8	0.3%	18.3	1.6%
Information	85.6	85.8	85.0	-0.2	-0.2%	0.6	0.7%
Financial Activities	320.1	319.9	315.6	0.2	0.1%	4.5	1.4%
Professional & Business Services	784.5	784.9	772.1	-0.4	-0.1%	12.4	1.6%
Education & Health Services	1,210.2	1,206.8	1,185.6	3.4	0.3%	24.6	2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	562.2	559.2	540.5	3.0	0.5%	21.7	4.0%
Other Services	260.5	260.0	255.0	0.5	0.2%	5.5	2.2%
Government	705.4	705.0	704.4	0.4	0.1%	1.0	0.1%

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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