



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PA Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.8% in March

Harrisburg – Today the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released its employment situation report for March 2017.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in March. This was the fourth consecutive decline, resulting in the lowest rate since February 2008. The commonwealth's rate remained above that of the United States (4.5%), which also decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from February. Over the year, the Pennsylvania unemployment rate declined by six-tenths of a percentage point.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force was up 7,000 over the month to 6,442,000. Resident employment increased by 17,000 while the unemployment count declined by 9,000. March was the seventh consecutive month that posted both an increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment.

Pennsylvania's nonfarm jobs count was down 16,100 to 5,934,200 in March. Six of the eleven supersectors declined from February, with the largest drop in leisure & hospitality (-8,200). The largest volume gain was in professional & business services (+3,600).

Total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 1.0 percent (+60,600) from last March while nationally jobs were up 1.5 percent. Eight supersectors added jobs over the year. The largest increase in the past 12 months was in education & health services (+40,800), while the largest decline was in manufacturing (-6,800).

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 2017	February 2017	March 2016	Change from February 2017		Change from March 2016	
				volume	percent	volume	percent
PA							
Civilian Labor Force	6,442	6,435	6,440	7	0.1%	2	0.0%
Employment	6,132	6,115	6,091	17	0.3%	41	0.7%
Unemployment	311	320	349	-9	-2.8%	-38	-10.9%
Rate	4.8	5.0	5.4	-0.2	----	-0.6	----
U.S.							
Civilian Labor Force	160,201	160,056	159,278	145	0.1%	923	0.6%
Employment	153,000	152,528	151,301	472	0.3%	1,699	1.1%
Unemployment	7,202	7,528	7,977	-326	-4.3%	-775	-9.7%
Rate	4.5	4.7	5.0	-0.2	----	-0.5	----

Pennsylvania Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Seasonally Adjusted
(in thousands)

	March 2017	February 2017	March 2016	Change from February 2017		Change from March 2016	
				volume	percent	volume	percent
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,934.2	5,950.3	5,873.6	-16.1	-0.3%	60.6	1.0%
Goods Producing Industries	824.5	828.3	827.2	-3.8	-0.5%	-2.7	-0.3%
Mining & Logging	23.5	23.5	26.1	0.0	0.0%	-2.6	-10.0%
Construction	246.6	248.3	239.9	-1.7	-0.7%	6.7	2.8%
Manufacturing	554.4	556.5	561.2	-2.1	-0.4%	-6.8	-1.2%
Service Providing Industries	5,109.7	5,122.0	5,046.4	-12.3	-0.2%	63.3	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,128.9	1,134.9	1,127.3	-6.0	-0.5%	1.6	0.1%
Information	83.5	83.1	84.4	0.4	0.5%	-0.9	-1.1%
Financial Activities	318.5	317.7	316.4	0.8	0.3%	2.1	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	802.1	798.5	791.4	3.6	0.5%	10.7	1.4%
Education & Health Services	1,251.0	1,252.5	1,210.2	-1.5	-0.1%	40.8	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	564.1	572.3	557.2	-8.2	-1.4%	6.9	1.2%
Other Services	258.7	261.2	256.7	-2.5	-1.0%	2.0	0.8%
Government	702.9	701.8	702.8	1.1	0.2%	0.1	0.0%

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.workstats.dli.pa.gov

Note: April 2017 labor force and nonfarm jobs statistics will be released May 19, 2017.