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Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate at 4.7 Percent in December

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

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point from November to 4.7 percent, the first monthly increase since May 2017. The commonwealth's rate remained above that of the United States, which was unchanged in December at 4.1 percent. Over the year, the Pennsylvania unemployment rate declined by seven-tenths of a percentage point.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force was down 5,000 over the month to 6,392,000. The decline was due to a drop in employment. Resident unemployment increased for the first time in the past six months. Over the year, employment and unemployment were down by 10,000 and 53,000, respectively.

Pennsylvania's nonfarm jobs count increased 14,600 to a record high of 5,994,700 in December. Jobs were up in seven of the 11 supersectors. The largest supersector movement over the month was a gain of 7,300 leisure & hospitality jobs, while the largest drop was in trade, transportation & utilities (-4,300). Both education & health services and leisure & hospitality reached new record high levels in December.

Total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 1.3 percent from December 2016, similar to the United States over-the-year gain of 1.4 percent. Eight supersectors in the commonwealth added jobs over the year. The largest increase over the past 12 months was in education & health services, up 25,600. Two other supersectors also added more than 20,000 jobs from last December.

Additional information is available on the L&I website at www.dli.pa.gov or by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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)

	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016	Change from November 2017		Change from December 2016	
				<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>
PA							
Civilian Labor Force	6,392	6,397	6,454	-5	-0.1%	-62	-1.0%
Employment	6,093	6,101	6,103	-8	-0.1%	-10	-0.2%
Unemployment	299	296	352	3	1.0%	-53	- 15.1%
Rate	4.7	4.6	5.4	0.1	----	-0.7	----
U.S.							
Civilian Labor Force	160,597	160,533	159,736	64	0.0%	861	0.5%
Employment	154,021	153,917	152,233	104	0.1%	1,788	11.2%
Unemployment	6,576	6,616	7,502	-40	-0.6%	-926	- 12.3%
Rate	4.1	4.1	4.7	0.0	----	-0.6	----

Note: January 2018 labor force and nonfarm jobs statistics will be released March 9, 2018.

Pennsylvania Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Seasonally Adjusted
(in thousands)

	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016	Change from November 2017		Change from December 2016	
				<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>percent</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,994.7	5,980.1	5,916.3	14.6	0.2%	78.4	1.3%
Goods Producing Industries	830.5	824.9	821.2	5.6	0.7%	9.3	1.1%
Mining & Logging	23.5	23.6	22.8	-0.1	-0.4%	0.7	3.1%
Construction	254.0	249.2	240.9	4.8	1.9%	13.1	5.4%
Manufacturing	553.0	552.1	557.5	0.9	0.2%	-4.5	-0.8%
Service Providing Industries	5,164.2	5,155.2	5,095.1	9.0	0.2%	69.1	1.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,127.6	1,131.9	1,125.9	-4.3	-0.4%	1.7	0.2%
Information	83.0	81.8	85.2	1.2	1.5%	-2.2	-2.6%
Financial Activities	319.4	318.9	317.9	0.5	0.2%	1.5	0.5%
Professional & Business Services	820.5	822.4	797.3	-1.9	-0.2%	23.2	2.9%
Education & Health Services	1,268.1	1,264.2	1,242.5	3.9	0.3%	25.6	2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	588.1	580.8	565.1	7.3	1.3%	23.0	4.1%
Other Services	260.0	256.7	258.1	3.3	1.3%	1.9	0.7%
Government	697.5	698.5	703.1	-1.0	-0.1%	-5.6	-0.8%

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

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