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.

November 2019 Big Numbers

- **Unemployment Rate**: 4.3% (↑)
- **Statewide Job Count**: 6,070,500 (↑)
- **Initial Claims**: 74,620 (↑)

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

- Did any supersectors reach record high job levels in November? ----- Page 2
- Find unemployment statistics by gender, race, age, and educational attainment. ----- Page 4
- How long can someone collect Unemployment Compensation benefits? ----- Page 6
- Read snapshots from recent articles related to labor market data from across the state and from various industries. ----- Page 7
- What is the Current Population Survey (CPS)? ----- Back Page

For additional information and resources, please contact:
Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA)
1-877-493-3282 | workforceinfo@pa.gov | workstats.dli.pa.gov
How Have Jobs Changed Over the Long Term?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Total Nonfarm Jobs</th>
<th>14%</th>
<th>12%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods Producers</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Service Providers</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

- Mining & Logging
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Trade, Transportation, & Utilities
- Information
- Financial Activities
- Professional & Business Services
- Education & Health Services
- Leisure & Hospitality
- Other Services
- Government

Total nonfarm jobs have expanded 4.4% over the last five years with gains in nine of the 11 supersectors. The largest volume change since November 2014 was in education & health services, which added 106,700 jobs (+9.0%), while the largest percent change was a decline of 22.9% (-8,900) mining & logging.

Special Points of Interest
- Total nonfarm jobs were up 9,500 from October to a record high of 6,070,500. This was the third month in a row at a record high level and the seventh month so far in 2019. Total nonfarm jobs had monthly gains eight times in the first 11 months of 2019.
- Jobs were up from October in six of the 11 industry supersectors, with four adding at least 1,500. The largest gain was in leisure & hospitality, up 8,000 due to gains in both component sectors. Professional & business services and education & health services reached record high levels in November. Two additional supersectors - trade, transportation & utilities and leisure & hospitality - set record high levels in 2019.
- Over the year, total nonfarm jobs were up 0.8% (+48,400) compared to a 12-month gain of 1.5% nationally. Pennsylvania’s total nonfarm job count has posted over-the-year gains in each of the past 115 months – the longest stretch on record (back to 1990). Nine of the 11 supersectors’ employment levels rose from last November. The majority of the gain was in service-providing industries which added 53,700 jobs over the year due to every service-providing supersector increasing by at least 2,000 jobs. The largest volume gain was professional & business services, up 14,300 due to expansions in all three component sectors. Four supersectors each added more than 6,000 jobs over the year.

* Italics signifies the greatest over-the-year movement
** Highlighting signifies an all-time high
The Johnstown MSA was the only MSA in which private sector jobs fell in both the most recent 10- and five-year period. Over the last five years, the decline was relatively small. Private sector jobs increased in 15 of the 18 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 five- and five-year period.

The situation with public sector jobs has improved in the most recent five-year period compared to the most recent 10-year period, both at the state and at the MSA level. Public sector jobs declined in 16 MSAs over the last 10 years, [with jobs increasing only in the Lebanon and State College MSAs] compared to job increases in 12 MSAs in the most recent five-year period.

Special Points of Interest (MSA industry data are not seasonally adjusted)

- In November, jobs grew over the year in 16 MSAs and fell in the Pittsburgh and Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton MSAs. The Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton MSA had the largest percentage decrease in jobs over the year, while the Pittsburgh MSA had the largest volume decrease. On a monthly basis, jobs have increased in the Pittsburgh MSA in only four of the last 12 months. The sizable job gains achieved in August were more than completely erased by decreases in the following three months.

- The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Chambersburg-Waynesboro, Harrisburg-Carlisle, Lancaster, Reading, and York-Hanover MSAs were at record highs for jobs in November. The Harrisburg-Carlisle and Lancaster MSAs were new to this group, while the other four MSAs had also been at record highs in October. On the other hand, jobs in the Lebanon MSA which had been at record highs in October fell slightly in November.

- 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 (94.1 percent) and among service-providing industries (96.6 percent). The increase in jobs in the goods-producing industries was primarily from mining, logging & construction jobs and to a much lesser extent from durable goods manufacturing, while non-durable manufacturing jobs declined (causing overall manufacturing jobs to decline). Professional & business services led the volume of job gains in the private service-providing industries followed by education & health services, leisure & hospitality services, financial activities, and trade, transportation & utilities. Jobs were unchanged over the year in the information and other services supersectors.
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

LABOR FORCE FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2019 EDITION • NOVEMBER 2019 DATA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pennsylvania’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up one-tenth to 4.3 percent in November.
- PA’s rate was eight-tenths of a percentage point above the U.S. rate, which was down one-tenth in November to 3.5 percent.
- The labor force was up 18,000 to 6,534,000, a record high level in the second consecutive month.
- Employment increased 8,000 from last month to 6,252,000, setting a record high for the 17th time in the last 20 months.
- Unemployment increased by 10,000, rising to 282,000 persons, the highest level since March 2018.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS) DATA

Unemployment Rate: 12-Month Moving Average (by Percent)  
Total 4.1  4.1  4.4
Gender  
Female 3.9  3.9  4.2
Male 4.3  4.3  4.6
Race  
Black 7.8  7.8  6.9
White 3.7  3.6  4.1
Age  
16 - 19 13.6  14.1  11.6
20 - 24 7.1  6.9  7.4
25 - 54 3.7  3.6  3.8
55+ 2.7  2.6  3.6
Education  
Less than HS 6.5  6.6  7.8
HS Diploma 4.4  4.3  4.7
AD / Some College 3.9  3.9  4.6
BD or Higher 2.0  1.9  2.0
People with Disabilities 7.1  7.2  8.8
Veterans 4.7  4.3  5.4

Participation Rate 63.2%  63.3%  62.5%
Employment/Population Ratio 60.6%  60.7%  59.8%
Underemployment Rate (U-6) 8.1%  8.0%  8.6%
Discouraged Workers 16,400  15,700  14,800
Part-Time for Economic Reasons 186,800  187,400  211,070
Avg. Duration of Unemployment (weeks) 19.2  19.9  25.9
Long-term Unemployed (>26 weeks) 56,200  57,000  67,900

SELECT STATES’ UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (RANK)  
(CURRENT VOLUME INCLUDES 5-YEAR GROWTH BUT NOT THE DECLINE)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The 12-month average unemployment rate from the Current Population Survey (CPS) in PA has been at or below 4.1 percent in every month of 2019.
- Women have enjoyed similarly low unemployment rates for longer than the state as a whole, having unemployment rates at or below 4.2 percent in every month except one (May 2019) since April 2018.
- This means that men have not been as fortunate, having a rate below 4.2 percent for only an eight month stretch (Feb. – Sept. 2019).
- In January, black Pennsylvanians enjoyed their lowest unemployment rate (6.5 percent) since 2007, but it had risen to as high as 8.2 percent since and currently sits at 7.8 percent.
- At 3.7 percent, the unemployment rate among white Pennsylvanians has been below 4.0 percent for a full year.
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- In November, the unemployment rate rose over the year in 63 counties, was constant in Centre, Erie, and York counties, and only fell in Adams County, where it decreased by 0.1 percentage points. Elk County had the largest over-the-year increase in the unemployment rate (+2.2 percentage points). The state’s increase of 0.1 percentage points in the unemployment rate over the year was exceeded by 59 counties.

- The volume of unemployment increased over the year in all counties except for Adams County, where it fell marginally. There were another six counties where the increases were marginal (absolute value was less than 50). The largest volume increase in unemployment over the year (+6,000) was in Philadelphia County and the largest percentage increase over the year was in Elk County (+59.9 percent). Although the absolute number of layoffs was relatively small, the small base of unemployment in Elk County leads to large percentage changes.

- Employment over the year increased in 48 counties and decreased in the remaining 19. Philadelphia County had the largest volume increase in employment over the year (+15,000), while Sullivan County had the largest percentage increase over the year (+3.4 percent). Mercer County had the largest over-the-year volume decrease in employment (-800), while Cameron County had the largest percentage decrease in employment (-4.0 percent).

- In November, county unemployment rates ranged from a low of 3.2 percent in Adams and Centre counties to a high of 6.6 percent in Fayette County. Fulton and Juniata counties equaled the state’s rate of 4.3 percent, while 13 counties had a rate lower than the state’s. Due to a sizable decrease in the high rate, the range of rates in November was less than that of October.
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.

How long can someone collect UC benefits?

The duration of regular UC benefits in Pennsylvania varies from 18 to 26 weeks. During periods of high unemployment, claimants may be eligible for extended benefits (EB) or emergency unemployment compensation (EUC).
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.

**wnep.com, December 23, 2019**

**Chewy.com Bringing Hundreds of Jobs to Lackawanna County**

The future site of a new fulfillment center for Chewy is in the Valley View Business Park in the borough of Archbald. Chewy plans to bring in about 1,000 new full-time employees, according to an announcement made Monday morning by the governor’s office.

“It continues to show that northeastern Pennsylvania, and Lackawanna County specifically, is a place where the major national players -- developers and businesses -- want to come and do business. It’s the right place for them,” Durkin said. “We have some 4,000+ people unemployed in Lackawanna County, over 9,000 in the overall region, and so this will be a great opportunity to help provide a Christmas gift at some point for a lot of individuals.”

This will be Chewy’s third fulfillment center in the state. The company operates a facility in Hanover Township in Luzerne County and one near Harrisburg.

Chewy says it will invest $35 million into the facility.


**post-gazette.com, December 10, 2019**

**A week after layoffs, Ellwood City hospital closes**

A day after its CEO resigned, Ellwood City Medical Center has effectively closed its doors, at least temporarily, raising further doubts about the future of the Lawrence County hospital.

Tuesday evening, a sign had been posted on the hospital’s main entrance saying “all clinical services are suspended until further notice effective 12.10.19.”

Ms. Annarumo announced Monday that she would resign, effective Jan. 3. That came a week after 92 staff members, representing more than half of the hospital workforce, was furloughed.


**witf.org, November 26, 2019**

**Lighting industry’s future dims as efficient LED bulbs take over**

A revolution is upsetting the lighting business as LED lightbulbs replace energy-hogging incandescent ones. This is good news for consumers and the environment; using less energy reduces the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

But this shift comes with a cost, exemplified by a century-old lightbulb factory in St. Marys in Elk County, that is the latest to shut down.

For much of its long history the LEDVANCE facility, 120 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, produced lightbulbs under the Sylvania brand. Now all it produces is scrap metal.

Jeff Anderson worked at the plant for more than 20 years. He and about 175 others lost their jobs when LEDVANCE announced the closure last April.

LEDVANCE plans to finish decommissioning the factory next summer. Anderson says he has filed for unemployment benefits and will take advantage of a retraining program.


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.

---

**Deficiencies:**

- 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.

**Unequal** and self-employed workers are counted here.

---

**Long-term Unemployed:** 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.

---

**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 and are available for work, 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 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.