

Montgomery County Employment Update

February 2014

Unemployment Data:

Time Period	County Labor Force	County Employment	County Unemployment	Montgomery County	State of PA	US (February 2014)
February 2014	435,700	412,500	23,300	5.3%	6.4%	6.7%
January 2014	432,400	408,500	23,800	5.5%	6.8%	6.6%
February 2013	441,600	409,300	32,300	7.3%	7.8%	7.7%

Perspective:

The Montgomery County unemployment rate declined 0.2% to 5.3% in February. The Montgomery County WIA holds the 3rd lowest unemployment rate in the state. The Pennsylvania unemployment rate declined 0.4% to 6.4% last month while the national unemployment rate increased slightly to 6.7%.

Trends:

Top Industries with new hires above year-ago levels – Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries; Educational Services; Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries; Nonstore Retailers

Top industries that have new hires below year-ago levels – Administrative and Support Services; Food Services and Drinking Places; Credit Intermediation and Related Activities; Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

Workforce Performance Metrics:

Program Year (7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014)	New Participants			New Hires			Average Earnings		
	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA* Training	EARN
February 2014	1,205	11	13	48	6	4	\$10.18	\$13.83	\$7.62
Year-to-Date	7,884	139	143	818	64	86	\$9.85	\$15.60	\$9.66

WIA – Workforce Investment Act; EARN – Employment Advancement Retention Network

PA CareerLink® data is taken from RPT052

Success Stories:

James was a skilled machinist at the same company for 10 years prior to being laid off. He had great references and a strong work ethic, but was having trouble finding employment. James came to the PA CareerLink® for assistance. He received training on the JobGateway system, computer application process and was enrolled in a welding training program. After countless applications and interviews, James is now employed at Pratt Industries making \$16/hr. James was named employee of the month and also has perfect attendance.

Faith enrolled in the EARN program in December 2013. She was looking for employment in the hospitality industry. Our career counselor and recruiter worked with her by helping her update her resume, providing her with interview clothes and paying for her state ID. The EARN team received a job lead at the Valley Forge Casino and Hotel. Faith applied online and received a rejection response. Our career counselor worked with her on her application and with the help of our recruiter she was called in for an interview. Faith was hired as a full time supervisor with benefits.

U.S. data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted February 2014 data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

PA and Montgomery County data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted January 2014 data provided by PA Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA), the Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS) and Montgomery County Workforce Investment Area Fast Facts.

Success Stories Continued:

On Saturday, March 15th, the annual GETT conference was held at Phoenixville High School. Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) is an organization that aims to address the underrepresentation of young women in the fields of computer and information technology.

Montgomery County Youth Services had over 100 young women register for the event. The individuals in the picture below woke up early on a Saturday to catch a 7:30 am bus to the conference. They were able to attend Helicopter and Aviation Science exhibits, Roller Coaster Design Presentations, Computer Writing Code Presentations, and many other workshops.



Nicole J. Mitchell, a Secondary School Counselor, from the Norristown Area High School sent the following comments in response to the GETT conference:

"At the end of the day, the ladies gave us a run down of their day, the workshops they attended and were very descriptive and detailed about what they saw and heard. They smiled from ear to ear and were beaming as they talked. They also said that they wanted to start a "Coding Club" at our school. I was shocked. They are really dead set on having this Coding Club and will be getting something together to make a proposal."

"All that to say, whoever recommended these young ladies, you literally changed their lives. I have been on a ton of field trips over the years and the kids have a good time, but when these young ladies spoke, you saw the wheels churning and their eyes beamed. The energy and passion that poured from these young ladies was very moving. They found themselves that day and it was very refreshing to see. It reminded me of why we do what we do as educators."



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