

Montgomery County Employment Update

August 2014

Unemployment Data:

Time Period	County Labor Force	County Employment	County Unemployment	Montgomery County	State of PA	US (August 2014)
August 2014	435,100	413,900	21,200	4.9%	5.7%	6.1%
July 2014	434,800	414,900	19,900	4.6%	5.6%	6.2%
August 2013	439,500	411,800	27,700	6.3%	7.5%	7.2%

Perspective:

The economic recovery stalled slightly in Montgomery County, with the unemployment rate increasing .3% to 4.9% which is still almost 1.5 points lower than last year. The Pennsylvania unemployment rate rose .1% to 5.7% while the national unemployment rate decreased .1% to 6.1%.

Trends:

Top Industries with new hires above year-ago levels – Social Assistance; Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods; Specialty Trade Contractors; Couriers and Messengers

Top industries that have new hires below year-ago levels – Personal and Laundry Services; Credit Intermediation and Related Activities; Insurance Carriers and Related Activities; Accommodation

Township/Borough	Unemployment Rate
Abington	5.2%
Cheltenham	5.9%
Horsham	5.0%
Lower Merion	4.2%
Lower Providence	6.0%
Montgomery	4.9%
Norristown	6.6%
Pottstown	7.5%
Upper Dublin	4.6%
Upper Merion	4.1%
Upper Moreland	5.5%

Workforce Performance Metrics:

Program Year (7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015)	New Participants			New Hires			Average Earnings		
	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA* Training	EARN
August 2014	934	24	20	5	11	7	\$15.42	\$17.76	\$9.50
Year-to-Date	2,126	42	45	17	18	21	\$15.26	\$17.55	\$9.05

WIA – Workforce Investment Act; EARN – Employment Advancement Retention Network
PA CareerLink® data is taken from RPT052

Success Stories:

Kenya came to the PA CareerLink® Montgomery County after being laid off. She was struggling with a lack of income while trying to raise two young children, one of whom has special needs. She was approved for WIA funding and attended Star Academy to obtain her Medical Assistant certificate. She used the built in externship as a stepping stone to secure more permanent employment with Doctors Express in Philadelphia. Despite being employed full time at \$18 per hour, Kenya continues to strive to enhance her skills and has recently attended another resume workshop and a math refresher course at the PA CareerLink®

Sara had been unemployed since May when she was laid off from hibu, where she had worked as a web content writer. A Career Counselor visited hibu and invited them all to a transition workshop at the PA CareerLink® Montgomery County. She attended the two day intensive workshop, perfected her resume and went over some interview techniques to alleviate her anxiety. Soon after, she interviewed and tested for a position with Vanguard and landed the job as a full time Web Content Writer earning \$22 per hour.

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

PA and Montgomery County data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted July, 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.