

Montgomery County Employment Update

September 2014

Unemployment Data:

| Time Period | County Labor Force | County Employment | County Unemployment | Montgomery County | State of PA | US (September 2014) |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| September 2014 | 434,400 | 412,300 | 22,100 | 5.1% | 5.8% | 5.9% |
| August 2014 | 435,100 | 413,800 | 21,300 | 4.9% | 5.7% | 6.1% |
| September 2013 | 437,800 | 410,600 | 27,200 | 6.2% | 7.4% | 7.2% |

Perspective:

In Montgomery County the unemployment rate increasing .2% to 5.1% which is still more than a point below last year at this time. The Pennsylvania unemployment rate rose .1% to 5.8% while the national unemployment rate decreased .2% to 5.9%.

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 | 6.1% |
| Horsham | 5.1% |
| Lower Merion | 4.4% |
| Lower Providence | 6.2% |
| Montgomery | 5.0% |
| Norristown | 6.6% |
| Pottstown | 7.9% |
| Upper Dublin | 4.8% |
| Upper Merion | 4.2% |
| 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 |
| September 2014 | 905 | 22 | 18 | 8 | 10 | 12 | \$13.02 | \$16.43 | \$10.79 |
| Year-to-Date | 3,046 | 64 | 63 | 25 | 28 | 34 | \$14.55 | \$18.30 | \$9.61 |

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

Success Stories:

Karl came to the PA CareerLink® Montgomery County after having spent the past 5 years going from temp job to temp job. He wanted to put an end to this cycle because he did not feel like it could provide him a stable career. After taking career and aptitude assessments, he decided to pursue WIA funded training in Medical Billing & Coding at the Montgomery County Community College. His decision paid off and he was hired for a full-time position with Reimbursement Technologies, Inc. as a Hospitalist Correspondence Representative with a starting wage of \$12 per hour. He will be eligible for a raise and benefits as soon as he completes his training period.

Carmen enrolled in the EARN program in January of 2014 with two young children, an unsteady housing situation and an out-of-date resume. She was referred to the Your Way Home Program and was able to find stable housing. Through the assistance of her EARN Career Counselor, she was able to update her resume but still had difficulty finding employment. She volunteered for a community service position as the Commerce Department's Receptionist to establish more work experience on her resume. She was also able to use her bilingual skills to assist in the Health Department's immunization program. These opportunities paid off and she was hired full-time as a Receptionist at Accurate Care Services making \$10 per hour. She is flourishing in her new role.

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

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