

Montgomery County Employment Update

December 2014

Unemployment Data:

Time Period	County Labor Force	County Employment	County Unemployment	Montgomery County	State of PA	US (December 2014)
December 2014	431,300	412,900	18,400	4.3%	5.1%	5.6%
November 2014	432,700	414,300	18,400	4.3%	5.4%	5.8%
December 2013	436,900	411,400	25,500	5.8%	6.9%	6.7%

Perspective:

Montgomery County has the 3rd lowest Unemployment Rate (4.3%) in the state of Pennsylvania and remained steady since last month. The Unemployment Rate dropped by .3% in Pennsylvania to 5.1% and fell to 5.6% nationally.

Trends:

Top Industries with new hires above year-ago levels – Administrative and Support Services; Educational Services; Social Assistance; Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores

Top industries that have new hires below year-ago levels – Food Services and Drinking Places; Credit Intermediation and Related Activities; Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries; Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers

Workforce Performance Metrics:

Township/Borough	Unemployment Rate
Abington	3.9%
Cheltenham	4.4%
Horsham	3.6%
Lower Merion	3.1%
Lower Providence	4.0%
Montgomery	3.3%
Norristown	5.3%
Pottstown	5.4%
Upper Dublin	3.6%
Upper Merion	3.1%
Upper Moreland	4.0%

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
December 2014	879	2	19	2	13	5	\$14.44	\$15.28	\$9.85
Year-to-Date	5,633	132	119	38	68	70	\$14.46	\$15.37	\$10.38

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

Success Stories:

Mark came to the PA CareerLink® in Montgomery County after having a disappointing experience in a different county. Mark struggled for about six months to find a job. He had been a Real Estate Agent and found himself in a tough spot once the market shifted. He took part in workshops for resume writing, interviewing, strategies for business success, and LinkedIn to help refine and polish his skills. He found all of them and the staff to be incredibly helpful. Mark was hired as a Fiber Optics Foreman with KB Satellite in Harleysville, Pa. earning \$57,000 per year.

Justin joined the Reentry program after a referral from the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. He and his Case Manager worked to clear several barriers including transportation, housing, obtaining ID for employment as well as a weak job history. The Reentry Case Manager had established a relationship with Liberty Thrift and they were more than willing to hire Justin. The cost for getting the identification needed for employment was covered by the Reentry Program so that he could get started. He has excelled after gaining confidence and has shown that he is a good and reliable employee. Liberty Thrift has changed him from a part-time employee to full-time. Justin has also begun the process of rebuilding family relationships and has been accepted into his sister's home for temporary but safe housing.

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

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