



News for Immediate Release

PA Unemployment Rate Down in December to 4.8%

Harrisburg – Today, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released its employment situation report for December 2014.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate declined by three-tenths of a percentage point in December to 4.8 percent, the commonwealth's lowest rate since March 2008. This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline in the state unemployment rate and the ninth decline in 2014. Pennsylvania's rate was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. rate of 5.6 percent. The commonwealth's rate was down by 2.0 percentage points from last December while the national rate declined by 1.1 points over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force contracted slightly in December, down 1,000 to 6,367,000. Resident employment was up 13,000 while unemployment was down 14,000.

Total nonfarm jobs were up by 8,300 to 5,812,300, the highest level since June 2008. Private sector jobs rose 8,300 to a record high of 5,098,200. Within industries, the largest increase in December was 4,700 in education & health services. Construction had the largest decline, down 4,800.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 54,200 (+0.9%). The growth was almost entirely within private industries, with the largest gains in trade, transportation & utilities, education & health services and construction. Only two of the eleven supersectors declined from last December – information and government.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

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Editor's Note: A breakdown of Pennsylvania's employment statistics follows.

Current Labor Force Statistics
Seasonally Adjusted
(in thousands)

	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	Change from November 2014		Change from December 2013	
				volume	percent	volume	percent
PA							
Civilian Labor Force	6,367	6,368	6,424	-1	0.0%	-57	-0.9%
Employment	6,058	6,045	5,990	13	0.2%	68	1.1%
Unemployment	309	323	434	-14	-4.3%	-125	-28.8%
Rate	4.8	5.1	6.8	-0.3	----	-2.0	----
U.S.							
Civilian Labor Force	156,129	156,402	155,047	-273	-0.2%	1,082	0.7%
Employment	147,442	147,331	144,671	111	0.1%	2,771	1.9%
Unemployment	8,688	9,071	10,376	-383	-4.2%	-1,688	-16.3%
Rate	5.6	5.8	6.7	-0.2	----	-1.1	----

Pennsylvania Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
Seasonally Adjusted
(in thousands)

	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	Change from November 2014		Change from December 2013	
				volume	percent	volume	percent
Total Nonfarm Jobs	5,812.3	5,804.0	5,758.1	8.3	0.1%	54.2	0.9%
Goods Producing Industries	834.3	837.2	820.3	-2.9	-0.3%	14.0	1.7%
Mining & Logging	37.9	38.0	36.5	-0.1	-0.3%	1.4	3.8%
Construction	231.2	236.0	222.4	-4.8	-2.0%	8.8	4.0%
Manufacturing	565.2	563.2	561.4	2.0	0.4%	3.8	0.7%
Service Providing Industries	4,978.0	4,966.8	4,937.8	11.2	0.2%	40.2	0.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,124.1	1,120.8	1,110.1	3.3	0.3%	14.0	1.3%
Information	86.6	86.4	87.7	0.2	0.2%	-1.1	-1.3%
Financial Activities	314.2	313.4	312.3	0.8	0.3%	1.9	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	758.7	760.7	755.2	-2.0	-0.3%	3.5	0.5%
Education & Health Services	1,171.2	1,166.5	1,159.4	4.7	0.4%	11.8	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	549.8	546.4	542.2	3.4	0.6%	7.6	1.4%
Other Services	259.3	258.5	253.4	0.8	0.3%	5.9	2.3%
Government	714.1	714.1	717.5	0.0	0.0%	-3.4	-0.5%

For a more detailed breakdown of seasonally adjusted jobs data at the sector level, please contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 1-877-4WF-DATA, or visit www.paworkstats.pa.gov

Note: January 2015 labor force and nonfarm jobs statistics will be released March 6, 2015.