



Pennsylvania Jobs Brief

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The Pennsylvania Jobs Brief is our monthly check-in on the health of Pennsylvania's labor market. For our annual review of economic conditions as well as our recommendations for improving the performance of the economy see the latest edition of State of Working Pennsylvania <https://goo.gl/fFpu8r>

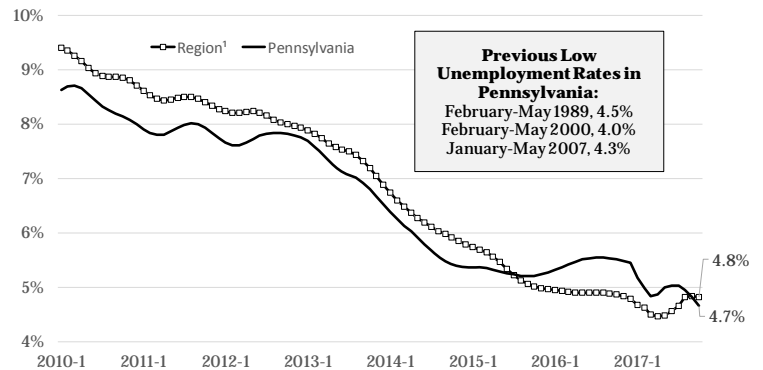
The unemployment rate in October was down a tenth of a percentage point to 4.7% (Figure 1) as both total nonfarm payrolls and resident employment declined slightly from their September levels.¹

Looking back at the best period in the last three economic expansions, the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania reached a low of 4.5% from February to May 1989, 4% from February to May 2000, and 4.3% from January to May 2007. The unemployment rate as of this October is therefore within a percentage point of these previous lows and signals that the Pennsylvania labor market is healthier today than it has been in years.

Data tracking the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population with employment (Figure 2) does however reveal further room for improvement as October's employment rate of 59.4% is still a little over a percentage point below its level reached prior to the start of the recession (2007).² Our analysis of employment rates in the latest addition of the State of Working Pennsylvania released in September also revealed additional room for improvement in the labor market for prime-age workers (workers aged 25 to 54), as their employment rates remained as of 2016 just over a percentage point below their pre-recession levels.³

Figure 1. The Pennsylvania Unemployment Rate at 4.7% is Within A Percentage Point of Previous Lows

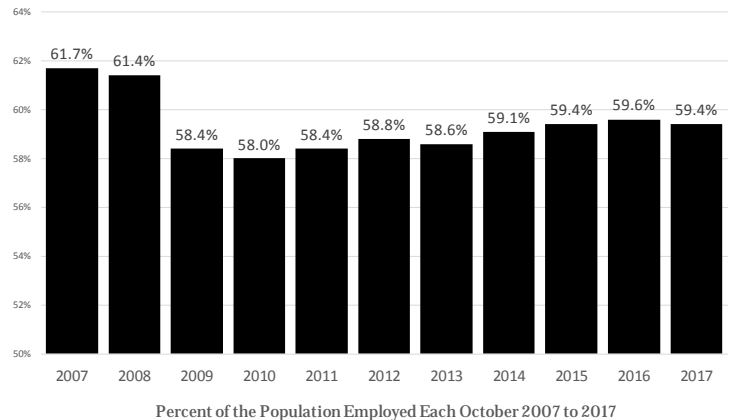
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate, Pennsylvania and the Region



¹ Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia

Source: Keystone Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistics data

Figure 2. Although it has Improved the Percentage of the Population Employed has not yet Fully Recovered to it's Pre-Recession Levels



Source: Keystone Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Employment Status of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population data. <https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/ststdsadata.txt>

¹ See the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry "Pennsylvania's October Unemployment Rate Down to 4.7 Percent" <https://goo.gl/WpSprk>

² If the employment rate this October were the same as October 2007 (61.7%) there would be another 232,329 workers employed in Pennsylvania. Some caution is warranted here as some of the decline in the employment rate may be due to rising share of people in Pennsylvania age 65 and older.

³ See Unemployment, Underemployment, and Employment Rates on pages 6-8 of State of Working Pennsylvania <https://goo.gl/MpFZcr>

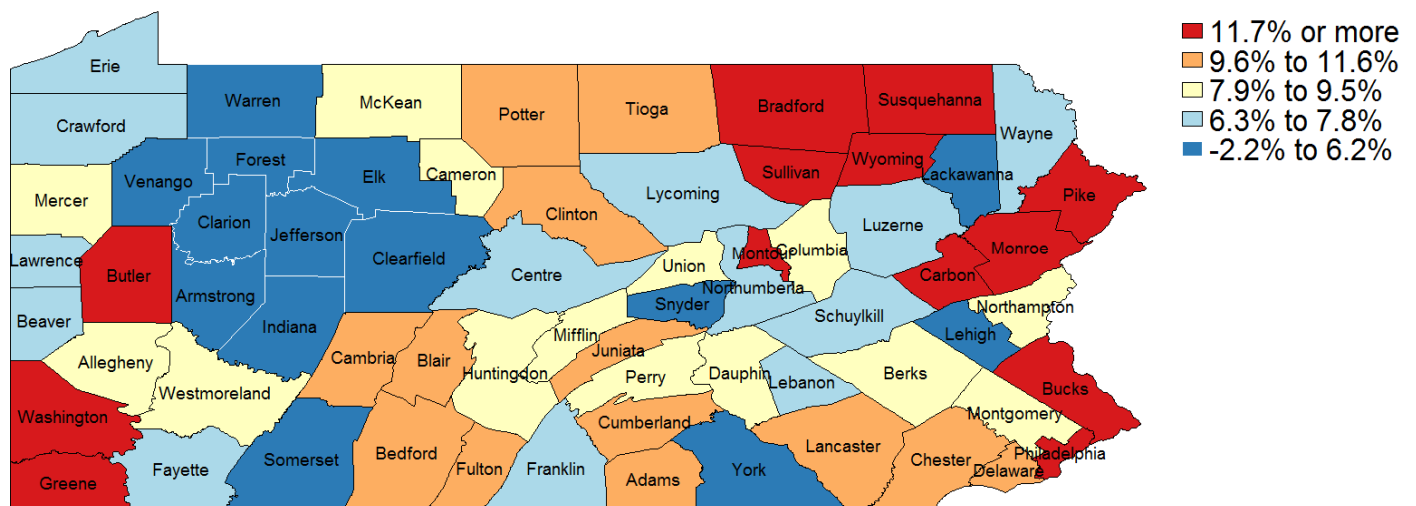
County Trends in Real Per Capita Personal Income Growth

Initially in the recovery from the Great Recession, income growth was highly concentrated among high income earners, but over time falling unemployment has broadened the distribution of income growth in Pennsylvania. For example, our analysis from September of statewide data observed the healthiest growth in real hourly wages in the most recent twelve months for workers making less than \$15 per hour.⁴

Comparable recent data at the county level is not yet available, but last week the Bureau of Economic Analysis released estimates of [personal income](#), which provides a snapshot of total income at the county level from sources such as wages and profits as well as transfer incomes like social security payments.⁵ Table 1 (next page) ranks the percent change in real per capita personal income growth since 2010 (the start of the employment recovery from the Great Recession) by county.⁶ Keep in mind that per capita income is an average measure – income per person – and thus does not indicate how the income of typical families is changing.

Since the start of the recovery the top 10 counties in terms of the growth in real per capita personal incomes were Susquehanna (17.1%), Wyoming (16.4%), Carbon (15.9%), Sullivan (15%), Philadelphia (14.9%), Greene (14.6%), Washington (13.8%), Bucks (13.4%), Butler (12.5%), and Bradford (12.4%).

Map 1. Percent Change in Real Per Capita Personal Income 2010 to 2016 by County



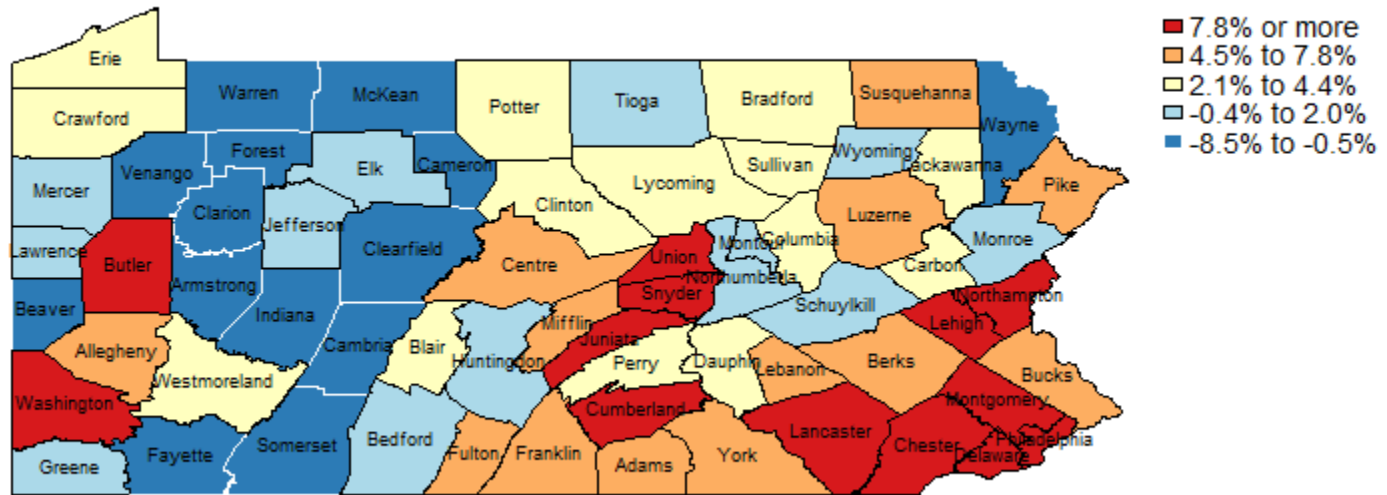
Source: Keystone Research Center analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data on Per Capita Personal Income

⁴ See the Wage Growth in the Last 12 Months on page 10 of the State of Working Pennsylvania <https://goo.gl/MpFZcr>

⁵ One drawback of data on personal income is that it does not include capital gains income which is an important income source for the top 1% of families.

⁶ Follow this link <https://goo.gl/M3Wppi> to download Table A1 which includes real per capita personal income in 2010, 2016 and the change over this period.

Map 2. Percent Change in Total Employment 2010 to 2016 by County



Note: Total employment is a count of full-time and part-time jobs including wage and salary jobs and sole proprietorships.
 Source: Keystone Research Center analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data on Total Full-time and Part-time Employment

Table 1.
 Percent Change in Total Employment and Real Per Capita Personal Income 2010 to 2016 in Pennsylvania

| County | Percent Change in Total Employment | Rank of Percent Change in Total Employment ¹ (1=highest, 67=lowest) | Percent Change in Real Per Capita Personal Income ² | Rank of Percent Change in Real Per Capita Personal Income (1=highest, 67=lowest) |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Pennsylvania | 6.6% | | 9.8% | |
| Susquehanna | 6.5% | 21 | 17.1% | 1 |
| Wyoming | 0.9% | 49 | 16.4% | 2 |
| Carbon | 3.0% | 35 | 15.9% | 3 |
| Sullivan | 4.0% | 31 | 15.0% | 4 |
| Philadelphia | 10.5% | 6 | 14.9% | 5 |
| Greene | 1.0% | 48 | 14.6% | 6 |
| Washington | 9.1% | 10 | 13.8% | 7 |
| Bucks | 7.0% | 19 | 13.4% | 8 |
| Butler | 9.0% | 11 | 12.5% | 9 |
| Bradford | 4.2% | 29 | 12.4% | 10 |
| Pike | 7.8% | 14 | 12.2% | 11 |
| Montour | 1.3% | 45 | 12.0% | 12 |
| Monroe | 1.1% | 47 | 11.9% | 13 |
| Clinton | 2.6% | 37 | 11.6% | 14 |
| Fulton | 7.8% | 15 | 11.4% | 15 |
| Delaware | 10.7% | 4 | 10.9% | 16 |
| Lancaster | 10.9% | 3 | 10.9% | 17 |
| Chester | 9.4% | 9 | 10.9% | 18 |
| Tioga | 1.5% | 43 | 10.8% | 19 |
| Adams | 7.7% | 17 | 10.7% | 20 |
| Potter | 4.4% | 27 | 10.2% | 21 |
| Cumberland | 11.4% | 2 | 10.1% | 22 |
| Juniata | 8.4% | 13 | 10.0% | 23 |
| Cambria | -5.4% | 63 | 9.8% | 24 |
| Blair | 2.8% | 36 | 9.7% | 25 |
| Bedford | 1.2% | 46 | 9.6% | 26 |
| Mercer | 2.0% | 41 | 9.5% | 27 |

Table 1 (cont).

Percent Change in Total Employment and Real Per Capita Personal Income 2010 to 2016 in Pennsylvania

| County | Percent Change in Total Employment | Rank of Percent Change in Total Employment ¹ (1=highest, 67=lowest) | Percent Change in Real Per Capita Personal Income ² | Rank of Percent Change in Real Per Capita Personal Income (1=highest, 67=lowest) |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Berks | 6.4% | 22 | 9.2% | 28 |
| Cameron | -8.3% | 66 | 9.2% | 29 |
| Northampton | 14.4% | 1 | 9.0% | 30 |
| Mifflin | 5.0% | 26 | 8.9% | 31 |
| Huntingdon | -0.5% | 53 | 8.6% | 32 |
| Montgomery | 8.4% | 12 | 8.5% | 33 |
| Dauphin | 4.2% | 28 | 8.3% | 34 |
| Westmoreland | 3.2% | 34 | 8.3% | 35 |
| Union | 9.6% | 8 | 8.2% | 36 |
| Perry | 3.4% | 33 | 8.1% | 37 |
| Columbia | 4.1% | 30 | 8.1% | 38 |
| Allegheny | 6.0% | 24 | 8.0% | 39 |
| McKean | -2.4% | 58 | 8.0% | 40 |
| Beaver | -2.6% | 60 | 7.8% | 41 |
| Crawford | 3.6% | 32 | 7.7% | 42 |
| Erie | 2.4% | 39 | 7.6% | 43 |
| Northumberland | -0.5% | 52 | 7.6% | 44 |
| Wayne | -1.1% | 56 | 7.6% | 45 |
| Fayette | -0.6% | 55 | 7.3% | 46 |
| Schuylkill | 1.6% | 42 | 7.1% | 47 |
| Lycoming | 2.4% | 40 | 7.1% | 48 |
| Lebanon | 5.3% | 25 | 7.0% | 49 |
| Franklin | 7.4% | 18 | 6.9% | 50 |
| Lawrence | -0.3% | 51 | 6.9% | 51 |
| Luzerne | 6.9% | 20 | 6.3% | 52 |
| Centre | 7.8% | 16 | 6.2% | 53 |
| Warren | -0.5% | 54 | 6.2% | 54 |
| Snyder | 9.9% | 7 | 6.0% | 55 |
| Elk | 1.4% | 44 | 5.5% | 56 |
| Clearfield | -1.6% | 57 | 5.0% | 57 |
| Forest | -8.5% | 67 | 5.0% | 58 |
| Armstrong | -3.7% | 62 | 4.9% | 59 |
| Lackawanna | 2.5% | 38 | 4.9% | 60 |
| York | 6.2% | 23 | 3.1% | 61 |
| Indiana | -5.6% | 64 | 3.0% | 62 |
| Venango | -7.1% | 65 | 2.7% | 63 |
| Lehigh | 10.6% | 5 | 2.4% | 64 |
| Jefferson | 0.2% | 50 | 1.8% | 65 |
| Somerset | -2.9% | 61 | 0.4% | 66 |
| Clarion | -2.5% | 59 | -2.2% | 67 |

Note: Dollar figures are adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers.

¹ Total employment is a count of full-time and part-time jobs including wage and salary jobs and sole proprietorships.

² Personal income includes income from wages, rents, interest, and profits but it does not include capital gains income. Personal income also includes transfer income (items such as social security payments, unemployment compensation and public assistance).

Source: Keystone Research Center analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data on Per Capita Personal Income and Total Full-time and Part-time Employment