

Economic Outlook

September 2021



United States

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	161,354,000	153,680,000	7,674,000	4.8%
Last Month	161,537,000	153,154,000	8,384,000	5.2%
Previous Year	160,078,000	147,543,000	12,535,000	7.8%

- **Long-Term Unemployed:** 2.683M, decrease of -496,000 since last month (*unemployed for 27 weeks and over*)
- **U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 8.5% (*U-6: total unemployed (U-3) plus discouraged workers (U-4), plus all other marginally attached workers (U-5), plus total employed part time for economic reasons (U-6)*)
- **Job Openings:** 10.439M (*August 2021 preliminary*). This equates to 0.7 unemployed persons per job opening, or 1.3 persons using the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Nonfarm jobs: 147.553M (85.1% private, 14.9% public)

- Monthly change: 194,000 (+317,000 private, -123,000 public)
- Largest industry **increases:** Trade, transportation, and utilities (+120,000), Leisure and hospitality (+74,000), and Retail trade (+56,100)
- Average monthly job change (total nonfarm jobs) since last year: +474,000
- Job change from 5 years ago: +2.600M more jobs

Initial Claims: 326,000

- Weekly change: -38,000
- Annual change: -456,000

Advance October 2 seasonally adjusted regular UC program data; U.S. Department of Labor

Initial Claims: The count of notices of unemployment requesting a determination of eligibility and entitlement for Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits. A person can file multiple claims.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment: *As educational attainment levels increase, unemployment rates decrease.*

- Less than a high school diploma: 7.9%
- High school graduates, no college: 5.8%
- Some college or associate degree: 4.5%
- Bachelor's degree and higher: 2.5%

Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	6,295,000	5,889,000	406,000	6.4%
Last Month	6,302,000	5,890,000	412,000	6.5%
Previous Year	6,252,000	5,614,000	638,000	10.2%

- 41st lowest state unemployment rate across the nation
- **Nonfarm Jobs:** 5.743M (88.1% private, 11.9% public; annual change: +3.4%)
- **Regular UC Initial Claims:** 39,200 (annual change: -65.4%)
- **U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 11.9% (*BLS, 2020Q3 – 2021Q2*)
- **Online Job Postings:** 618,100 (*EMSI, August 2021*). This equates to 0.7 unemployed persons per online job posting, or 1.2 persons when considering the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Central Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	291,500	273,600	17,800	6.1%
Last Month	292,800	276,000	16,800	5.7%
Previous Year	289,100	266,600	22,500	7.8%

- 7th lowest rate by WDA in PA
- Berwick borough: 7.7%
- Bloomsburg town: 5.9%
- Lewisburg borough: 5.4%
- Lewistown borough: 7.4%
- Lock Haven city: 7.9%
- Selinsgrove borough: 6.9%
- State College borough: 6.3%
- Sunbury city: 9.0%
- Williamsport city: 8.1% (*Boroughs, Townships, and Cities are not seasonally adjusted*)
- **Nonfarm Jobs:** 254,100 (79.4% private, 20.6% public; annual change: +2.0%) (*NSA*)
- **Regular UC Initial Claims:** 1,800 (annual change: -63.7%)
- **Online Job Postings:** 57,900 (*EMSI, August 2021*). This equates to 0.3 unemployed persons per online job posting, or 0.6 using an estimated U-6 unemployment rate of 11.3%.
- **Top Online Job Postings by Occupation:**
 - Registered Nurses
 - Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
 - First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
- **Top Online Job Postings by Employer:**
 - Pennsylvania State University
 - Geisinger Inc
 - Soft Solutions

U.S. data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted September 2021 data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

PA and Central PA data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted August 2021 data provided by PA Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)

NSA: Not seasonally adjusted

Updated: October 2021