

Economic Outlook

December 2021



United States

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	162,294,000	155,975,000	6,319,000	3.9%
Last Month	162,126,000	155,324,000	6,802,000	4.2%
Previous Year	160,671,000	149,883,000	10,789,000	6.7%

- **Long-Term Unemployed:** 2.008M, decrease of -185,000 since last month (*unemployed for 27 weeks and over*)
- **U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 7.3% (*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:** 10.562M (*November 2021 preliminary*). This equates to 0.6 unemployed persons per job opening, or 1.1 persons using the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Nonfarm jobs: 148.951M (85.3% private, 14.7% public)

- Monthly change: 199,000 (+211,000 private, -12,000 public)
- Largest industry **increases:** Food services and drinking places (+42,600), Professional and technical services (+36,700), and Trade, transportation, and utilities (+30,000)
- Average monthly job change (total nonfarm jobs) since last year: +537,000
- Job change from 5 years ago: +3.536M more jobs

Initial Claims: 207,000

- Weekly change: +7,000
- Annual change: -574,000

Advance January 1 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: 5.2%
- High school graduates, no college: 4.6%
- Some college or associate degree: 3.6%
- Bachelor's degree and higher: 2.1%

Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	6,259,000	5,899,000	359,000	5.7%
Last Month	6,269,000	5,893,000	377,000	6.0%
Previous Year	6,311,000	5,865,000	446,000	7.1%

- 40th lowest state unemployment rate across the nation
- **Nonfarm Jobs:** 5.782M (88.3% private, 11.7% public; annual change: +2.6%)
- **Regular UC Initial Claims:** 39,300 (annual change: -63.5%)
- **U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 10.4% (*BLS, 2020Q4 – 2021Q3*)
- **Online Job Postings:** 660,400 (*EMSI, November 2021*). This equates to 0.5 unemployed persons per online job posting, or 1.0 persons when considering the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Central Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	288,800	276,300	12,400	4.3%
Last Month	291,900	277,500	14,300	4.9%
Previous Year	291,000	273,800	17,200	5.9%

- 6th lowest rate by WDA in PA
- Berwick borough: 4.8%
- Bloomsburg town: 3.4%
- Lewisburg borough: 2.6%
- Lewistown borough: 4.4%
- Lock Haven city: 4.2%
- Selinsgrove borough: 3.6%
- State College borough: 3.0%
- Sunbury city: 5.8%
- Williamsport city: 4.9% (*Boroughs, Townships, and Cities are not seasonally adjusted*)
- **Nonfarm Jobs:** 264,000 (77.1% private, 22.9% public; annual change: +3.0%) (*NSA*)
- **Regular UC Initial Claims:** 2,400 (annual change: -62.5%)
- **Online Job Postings:** 56,400 (*EMSI, November 2021*). This equates to 0.2 unemployed persons per online job posting, or 0.4 using an estimated U-6 unemployment rate of 7.8%.

Top Online Job Postings by Occupation:

- Registered Nurses
- Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
- Home Health and Personal Care Aides

Top Online Job Postings by Employer:

- Geisinger Health System
- Pennsylvania State University
- BAYADA Home Health Care

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

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

NSA: Not seasonally adjusted

Updated: January 2022