



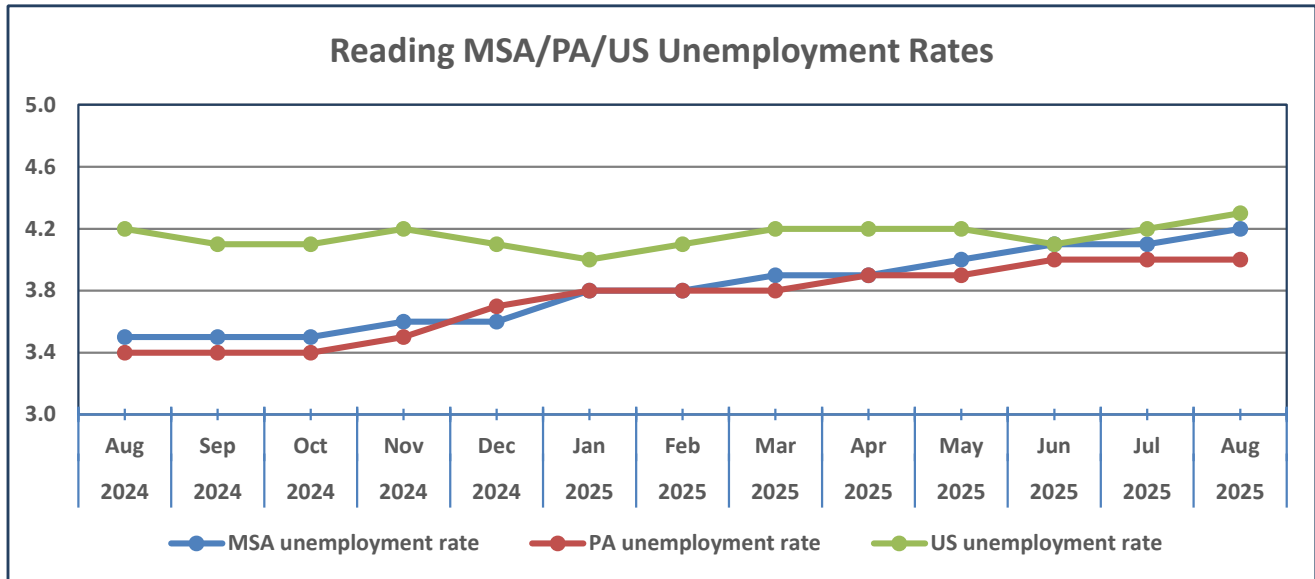
Labor Force Outlook

August 2025

Reading MSA (Berks County)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	217,400	208,300	9,100	4.2%
Last Month	217,700	209,800	9,000	4.1%
Previous Year	219,200	211,100	8,100	3.7%

Reading City = 5.8%



Berks County Employment by Key Industry Sector (NSA)

Industry	August 2025 Employment	July 2025 Employment	August 2024 Employment	Year Over Year Net Change
Manufacturing	31,800	31,700	31,500	300
Healthcare & Social Assistance	31,500	31,200	30,000	1,500
Construction	8,500	8,600	8,400	100
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11,300	11,200	11,100	200

SA: Seasonally Adjusted. A seasonally adjusted (SA) data time series is a monthly or quarterly time series that has been modified to eliminate the effect of seasonal and calendar influences.

NSA: Not Seasonally Adjusted. A "raw" data time series equivalent to the SA series before seasonal adjustment. Estimates of the actual level of employment in a particular period (the number of people working), or in the period-to-period changes in these actual employment levels, obtained directly from surveys without any seasonal adjustment.

U.S. and PA data: unless otherwise indicated, seasonally adjusted data provided by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Reading MSA (Berks County) data: unless otherwise indicated, seasonally adjusted data provided by PA Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA).

WORKFORCE INFORMATION NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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READING MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.2% IN AUGUST

HARRISBURG (SEPTEMBER 30, 2025) - The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was up one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 4.2 percent in August. The statewide rate was unchanged from July at 4.0 percent. The national rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3 percent. Since last August, the MSA's rate rose five-tenths of a percentage point, the statewide rate was up four-tenths of a point, and the national rate was up one-tenth.

For a list of county and MSA rankings by unemployment rate, please see the [Civilian Labor Force](#) packet.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in the Reading MSA were essentially unchanged over the month at 184,400 in August. Over the year, jobs increased 1.0 percent (+1,900) in the MSA, while the statewide jobs' rate of change was 1.6 percent. Detailed industry data for the MSA is not seasonally adjusted.

August Not Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs Detail (see Table 2)

Job levels in eight of the ten supersectors were essentially unchanged over the month in August. Education & health services added 300, setting a record high 34,400 jobs. Leisure & hospitality fell 300 as summer activities slowed. Over the year, seven of the ten supersectors added jobs. The largest gain from last August was in education & health services (+1,900), while leisure & hospitality had the largest decline (-400).

TABLE 1
READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(Berks County)

TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE¹

TIME PERIOD	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ⁴			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³
August 2025	219,000	207,700	11,300	5.2	217,400	208,300	9,100	4.2
July	219,600	209,200	10,500	4.8	217,700	208,800	9,000	4.1
June	217,700	207,700	10,000	4.6	218,100	209,200	8,800	4.1
August 2024	221,000	210,900	10,100	4.5	219,200	211,100	8,100	3.7

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES
August 2025

AREA NAME	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ⁴			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT ²	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) ³
Allentown-Beth.-East, PA-NJ MSA	454,000	430,900	23,100	5.1	451,700	432,500	19,300	4.3
Altoona MSA	57,700	55,000	2,700	4.7	56,800	54,600	2,200	3.9
Chambersburg MSA	76,800	73,300	3,500	4.5	76,300	73,600	2,700	3.6
Erie MSA	126,400	120,300	6,100	4.9	125,400	120,200	5,200	4.1
Gettysburg MSA	51,300	49,100	2,200	4.4	50,800	49,000	1,800	3.5
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	316,200	301,900	14,300	4.5	310,900	299,500	11,500	3.7
Johnstown MSA	56,500	53,300	3,300	5.8	56,100	53,500	2,600	4.6
Lancaster MSA	291,900	280,000	12,000	4.1	287,800	278,500	9,300	3.2
Lebanon MSA	73,900	70,500	3,300	4.5	73,000	70,300	2,600	3.6
Philadelphia MSA	3,301,500	3,132,200	169,300	5.1	3,290,000	3,149,300	140,700	4.3
Pittsburgh MSA	1,237,400	1,179,800	57,600	4.7	1,228,600	1,180,500	48,200	3.9
Reading MSA	219,000	207,700	11,300	5.2	217,400	208,300	9,100	4.2
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA	279,400	264,100	15,200	5.4	278,000	265,200	12,800	4.6
State College MSA	73,800	70,700	3,100	4.2	75,600	73,200	2,400	3.1
Williamsport MSA	52,800	50,200	2,600	5.0	52,500	50,200	2,300	4.4
York-Hanover MSA	238,700	227,500	11,100	4.7	237,000	228,000	9,000	3.8
PENNSYLVANIA	6,572,000	6,255,000	317,000	4.8	6,530,000	6,267,000	263,000	4.0
UNITED STATES	171,035,000	163,288,000	7,747,000	4.5	170,778,000	163,394,000	7,384,000	4.3

ALL DATA ARE ON 2024 BENCHMARK

SOURCE: Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA), Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

FOOTNOTES

1) Estimate of workers by place of residence. These data are controlled to state Current Population Survey (CPS) data which adjusts for commuting and dual job-holding. Workers are counted where they live only once regardless of the number of jobs they may hold. All in-depth inquiries relative to the estimating methodology should be addressed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. All data are subject to revision during annual benchmarking.

2) Includes wage and salary workers (including agriculture), self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers (including agriculture), domestic workers, and persons involved in labor-management disputes.

3) Unemployed as percent of civilian labor force, computed using unrounded data.

4) Seasonally adjusted MSA level data (and their equivalent) is developed by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); seasonal adjustment for all other sub-state areas are developed by CWIA.

TABLE 2

READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Berks County)

August 2025

NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Aug 2025	Jul 2025	Jun 2025	Aug 2024	Jul 2025	Aug 2024
TOTAL NONFARM	183,800	183,900	184,500	180,700	-100	3,100
TOTAL PRIVATE	165,400	165,600	165,500	162,400	-200	3,000
GOODS-PRODUCING	40,300	40,300	40,100	39,900	0	400
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,500	8,600	8,400	8,400	-100	100
Manufacturing	31,800	31,700	31,700	31,500	100	300
Durable Goods	22,500	22,400	22,400	22,200	100	300
Non-Durable Goods	9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300	0	0
SERVICE-PROVIDING	143,500	143,600	144,400	140,800	-100	2,700
PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING	125,100	125,300	125,400	122,500	-200	2,600
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	36,400	36,300	36,500	36,000	100	400
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,300	0	-100
Retail Trade	18,900	18,900	19,000	18,600	0	300
Grocery and convenience retailers	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	11,300	11,200	11,300	11,100	100	200
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
Financial Activities	6,300	6,400	6,300	6,200	-100	100
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities including Monetary Services	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Professional and Business Services	23,700	23,800	23,900	23,000	-100	700
Education and Health Services	34,400	34,100	33,900	32,500	300	1,900
Health care and social assistance	31,500	31,200	30,900	30,000	300	1,500
Leisure and Hospitality	15,200	15,500	15,600	15,600	-300	-400
Other Services	8,100	8,200	8,200	8,100	-100	0
Government	18,400	18,300	19,000	18,300	100	100
Federal Government	900	900	900	900	0	0
State Government	3,300	3,100	3,000	3,300	200	0
Local Government	14,200	14,300	15,100	14,100	-100	100
Data benchmarked to March 2024	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

TABLE 2A

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL NONFARM JOBS FOR PENNSYLVANIA and SELECT MSAs & AREAS

August 2025

AREA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Aug 2025	Jul 2025	Jun 2025	Aug 2024	Jul 2025	Aug 2024
PENNSYLVANIA	6,249,100	6,236,900	6,230,100	6,147,900	12,200	101,200
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	402,700	401,600	401,600	396,300	1,100	6,400
Altoona MSA	62,000	62,100	62,100	61,400	-100	600
Chambersburg MSA	62,800	62,900	63,000	62,700	-100	100
Erie MSA	127,600	127,700	127,700	126,200	-100	1,400
Gettysburg MSA	33,900	33,800	33,700	33,500	100	400
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	369,600	369,400	369,700	365,400	200	4,200
Johnstown MSA	51,800	51,700	51,700	51,200	100	600
Lancaster MSA	268,300	268,800	268,600	266,500	-500	1,800
Lebanon MSA	58,500	58,200	57,900	57,200	300	1,300
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	3,150,200	3,146,500	3,141,300	3,104,700	3,700	45,500
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	1,145,800	1,144,600	1,140,600	1,130,300	1,200	15,500
Philadelphia Metro Division	1,031,500	1,031,200	1,029,700	1,014,300	300	17,200
Pittsburgh MSA	1,218,400	1,216,600	1,214,000	1,201,100	1,800	17,300
Reading MSA	184,400	184,500	184,400	182,500	-100	1,900
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA	270,400	270,400	270,300	267,800	0	2,600
State College MSA	79,700	79,500	79,600	77,000	200	2,700
Williamsport MSA	53,500	53,300	53,200	52,400	200	1,100
York-Hanover MSA	194,200	194,300	194,300	193,800	-100	400
Data benchmarked to March 2024	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

For more information contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 877-4WF-DATA or by email at workforceinfo@pa.gov.