



## Labor Force Outlook

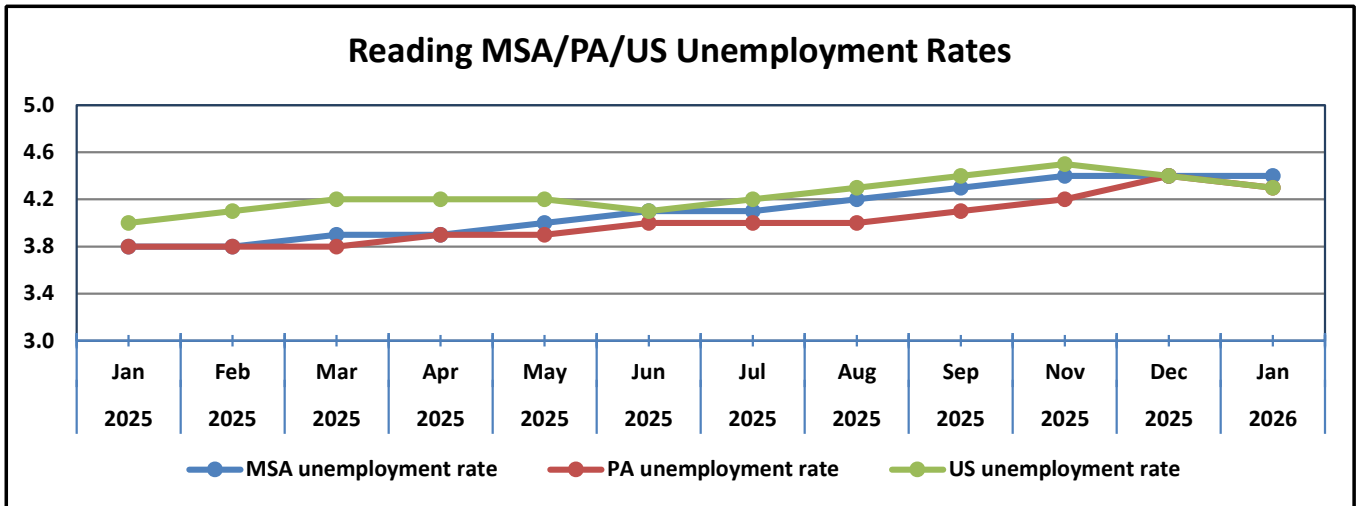
January 2026

### Reading MSA (Berks County)\*

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
<b>Current</b>	219,500	209,900	9,600	4.4%
<b>Last Month</b>	218,700	209,100	9,700	4.4%
<b>Previous Year</b>	218,600	210,300	8,200	3.8%

\*Estimate of workers by place of residence  
Data may not sum total due to rounding

Reading City = 6.6% (NSA)



Local Area Unemployment Statistics data for October 2025 were not collected due to the federal government shutdown and will not be collected retroactively.

### Berks County Employment by Key Industry Sector (NSA)

Industry	January 2026 Employment	December 2025 Employment	January 2025 Employment	Year Over Year Net Change
Manufacturing	30,900	30,800	31,500	(600)
Healthcare & Social Assistance	30,400	30,400	30,100	300
Construction	7,900	8,200	7,800	100
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11,800	12,300	11,900	(100)

**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**

**APRIL 14, 2026**

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**TABLE 1**  
**READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**  
(Berks County)

TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE<sup>1</sup>

TIME PERIOD	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED <sup>4</sup>			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>
January 2026	219,800	210,000	9,800	4.4	219,500	209,900	9,600	4.4
December 2025	219,200	211,000	8,200	3.7	218,700	209,100	9,700	4.4
November	219,500	210,900	8,500	3.9	218,000	208,400	9,600	4.4
January 2025	216,500	207,400	9,100	4.2	218,600	210,300	8,200	3.8

PENNSYLVANIA MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UNITED STATES  
January 2026

AREA NAME	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED <sup>4</sup>			
					LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT <sup>2</sup>	UNEMPLOY- MENT	RATE (%) <sup>3</sup>
Allentown-Beth.-East. PA-NJ MSA	458,500	437,500	21,000	4.6	456,100	435,500	20,600	4.5
Altoona MSA	57,100	54,600	2,500	4.3	57,200	54,900	2,300	4.1
Chambersburg MSA	78,000	75,200	2,800	3.6	76,800	74,000	2,900	3.7
Erie MSA	126,400	120,300	6,100	4.8	126,600	121,000	5,600	4.5
Gettysburg MSA	51,100	49,300	1,700	3.4	51,400	49,600	1,800	3.6
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	310,000	298,300	11,700	3.8	314,500	302,400	12,100	3.9
Johnstown MSA	55,700	52,800	2,900	5.2	56,100	53,400	2,700	4.9
Lancaster MSA	290,100	281,000	9,100	3.2	291,400	281,900	9,500	3.3
Lebanon MSA	73,800	71,100	2,700	3.7	74,100	71,300	2,800	3.8
Philadelphia MSA	3,298,800	3,150,800	148,000	4.5	3,313,900	3,162,900	151,000	4.6
Pittsburgh MSA	1,225,500	1,172,400	53,100	4.3	1,235,600	1,185,400	50,200	4.1
Reading MSA	219,800	210,000	9,800	4.4	219,500	209,900	9,600	4.4
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA	280,900	266,500	14,400	5.1	280,000	266,400	13,600	4.8
State College MSA	77,000	74,600	2,300	3.0	76,100	73,600	2,500	3.3
Williamsport MSA	52,900	50,300	2,500	4.8	52,900	50,600	2,400	4.5
York-Hanover MSA	238,800	229,600	9,200	3.9	238,700	229,200	9,500	4.0
PENNSYLVANIA	6,552,000	6,269,000	283,000	4.3	6,583,000	6,301,000	282,000	4.3
UNITED STATES	169,612,000	161,670,000	7,942,000	4.7	170,465,000	163,097,000	7,368,000	4.3

ALL STATEWIDE AND CURRENT YEAR DATA ARE ON 2025 BENCHMARK; ALL OTHER 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.

TABLE 2

## READING METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

(Berks County)

January 2026

NONFARM JOBS - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2025
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>183,000</b>	186,100	185,800	182,400	-3,100	600
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>163,300</b>	165,500	165,200	162,500	-2,200	800
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>38,800</b>	39,000	39,100	39,300	-200	-500
Mining, Logging, and Construction	7,900	8,200	8,400	7,800	-300	100
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>30,900</b>	30,800	30,700	31,500	100	-600
Durable Goods	21,700	21,600	21,500	22,300	100	-600
Non-Durable Goods	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200	0	0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>144,200</b>	147,100	146,700	143,100	-2,900	1,100
<b>PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVDING</b>	<b>124,500</b>	126,500	126,100	123,200	-2,000	1,300
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>36,800</b>	38,100	37,400	37,000	-1,300	-200
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,400	6,400	6,500	-100	-200
Retail Trade	18,700	19,400	19,000	18,600	-700	100
Grocery and convenience retailers	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,600	-100	0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	11,800	12,300	12,000	11,900	-500	-100
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,100</b>	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>6,300</b>	6,300	6,300	6,300	0	0
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities including Money	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>23,900</b>	24,400	24,400	23,900	-500	0
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>34,200</b>	34,000	34,200	33,100	200	1,100
Health care and social assistance	30,400	30,400	30,400	30,100	0	300
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>14,500</b>	14,800	14,900	13,900	-300	600
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>7,700</b>	7,800	7,800	7,900	-100	-200
<b>Government</b>	<b>19,700</b>	20,600	20,600	19,900	-900	-200
Federal Government	800	800	800	900	0	-100
State Government	3,400	4,000	4,000	3,500	-600	-100
Local Government	15,500	15,800	15,800	15,500	-300	0
Data benchmarked to March 2025	***Data changes of 100 may be due to rounding***					

TABLE 2A

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

**January 2026**

AREA	Industry Employment				Net Change From:	
	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2025
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>6,201,900</b>	6,184,000	6,174,000	6,166,400	17,900	35,500
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton MSA	<b>405,300</b>	404,500	403,500	399,200	800	6,100
Altoona MSA	<b>61,600</b>	61,500	61,500	61,700	100	-100
Chambersburg MSA	<b>64,200</b>	63,900	63,700	63,200	300	1,000
Erie MSA	<b>126,700</b>	126,300	126,100	126,700	400	0
Gettysburg MSA	<b>33,800</b>	33,800	33,700	33,400	0	400
Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA	<b>365,500</b>	365,200	364,900	364,800	300	700
Johnstown MSA	<b>50,400</b>	50,300	50,100	50,800	100	-400
Lancaster MSA	<b>270,200</b>	268,700	268,600	267,000	1,500	3,200
Lebanon MSA	<b>58,300</b>	58,100	57,700	57,100	200	1,200
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA	<b>3,143,300</b>	3,136,200	3,130,300	3,129,600	7,100	13,700
Montgomery-Bucks-Chester Metro Division	<b>1,137,500</b>	1,135,500	1,135,100	1,133,200	2,000	4,300
Philadelphia Metro Division	<b>1,029,600</b>	1,027,300	1,023,600	1,023,000	2,300	6,600
Pittsburgh MSA	<b>1,210,600</b>	1,208,000	1,206,800	1,203,200	2,600	7,400
Reading MSA	<b>185,100</b>	184,300	184,100	184,300	800	800
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA	<b>270,600</b>	269,700	269,000	269,000	900	1,600
State College MSA	<b>81,500</b>	81,500	81,400	78,800	0	2,700
Williamsport MSA	<b>52,600</b>	52,700	52,400	52,300	-100	300
York-Hanover MSA	<b>194,300</b>	193,300	193,600	193,400	1,000	900
Data benchmarked to March 2025	***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](mailto:workforceinfo@pa.gov).

*NOTE: Because the data included in each month's press release (primarily civilian labor force and nonfarm jobs data) are sample based, the data are subject to revisions. Once each year, estimates are adjusted to new levels based on additional or revised information collected after the initial release of the data (called a benchmark). Additionally, seasonal adjustment factors for historical labor force and nonfarm jobs data are updated. Revisions to the nonfarm jobs series through 2025 have been completed and are reflected in the January news release. **Revisions to the historical labor force series have not been completed and are not yet reflected in the January news release.** Historical labor force revisions are expected to be completed by the release of April data in early June 2026. For more information on the benchmarking process and revisions to historical data please contact the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at 1-877-4WF-DATA, or visit [www.paworkstats.pa.gov](http://www.paworkstats.pa.gov)."*