



NEWS RELEASE



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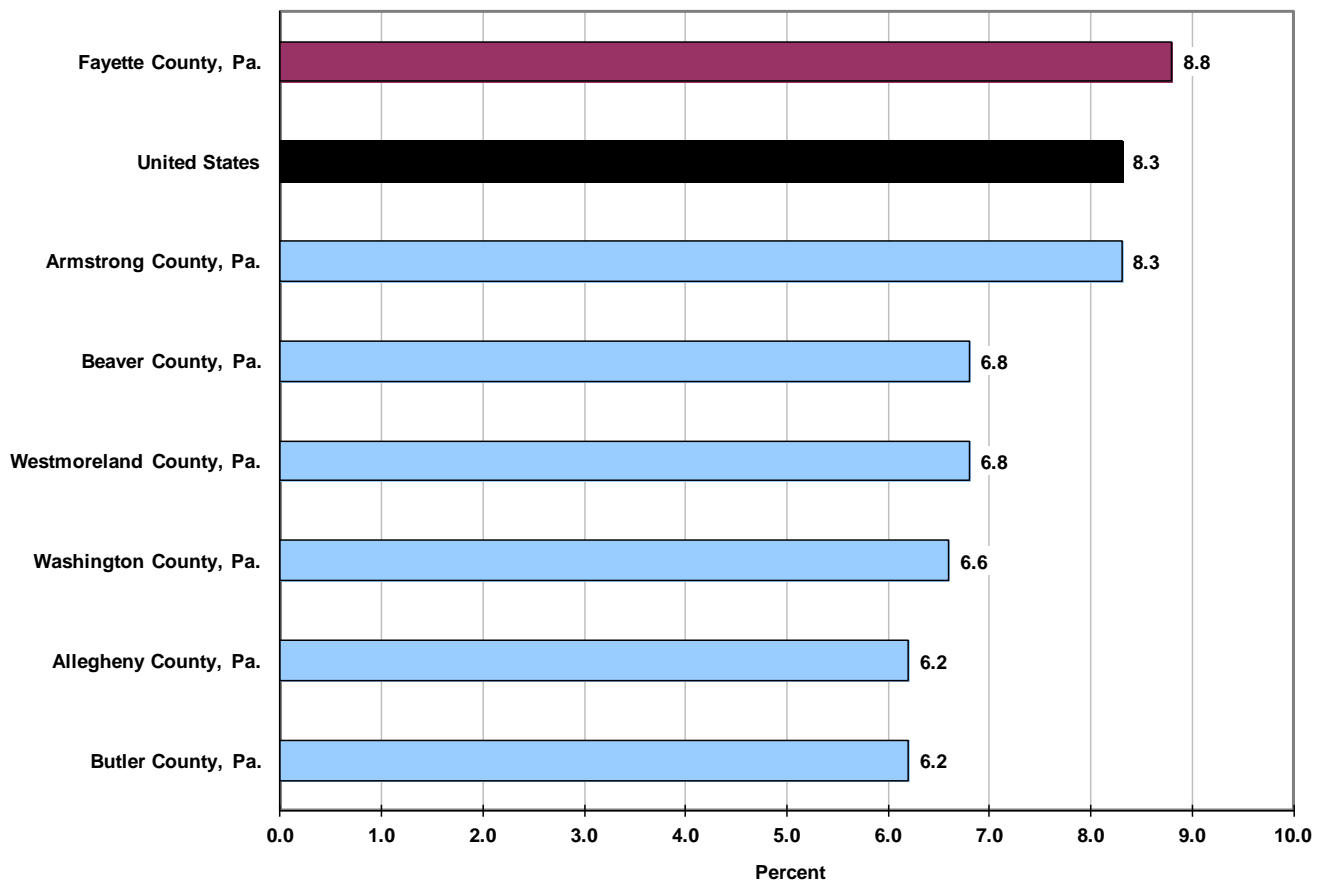
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UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA BY COUNTY – DECEMBER 2011

All Counties Posted Lower Unemployment Rates than the Previous Year

In December, Butler and Allegheny Counties reported the lowest unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) at 6.2 percent each, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Fayette County registered an unemployment rate of 8.8 percent, the highest among the seven counties that make up the metropolitan area. Armstrong County's unemployment rate matched the national rate of 8.3 percent, while the three remaining counties recorded lower unemployment rates, ranging from 6.8 to 6.6 percent. (See chart 1 and chart 2. The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definition. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, December 2011, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

All seven counties in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area had unemployment rates that were lower in December 2011 than the previous year. (See table A.) Fayette County had the largest over-the-year unemployment rate decrease, down 1.4 percentage points. Five other counties posted unemployment rate declines that were equal to or larger than the U.S. average decline of 0.8 percentage point. Beaver County recorded the smallest 12-month unemployment rate decrease of 0.7 point.

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted

Area	Unemployment rate			Net change from	
	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011 ¹	Dec 2009 to Dec 2011 ¹	Dec 2010 to Dec 2011 ¹
United States	9.7	9.1	8.3	-1.4	-0.8
Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area	7.6	7.5	6.6	-1.0	-0.9
Allegheny County, Pa.	7.0	7.1	6.2	-0.8	-0.9
Armstrong County, Pa.	9.9	9.5	8.3	-1.6	-1.2
Beaver County, Pa.	8.0	7.5	6.8	-1.2	-0.7
Butler County, Pa.	7.2	7.0	6.2	-1.0	-0.8
Fayette County, Pa.	10.1	10.2	8.8	-1.3	-1.4
Washington County, Pa.	8.0	7.7	6.6	-1.4	-1.1
Westmoreland County, Pa.	8.1	7.9	6.8	-1.3	-1.1

¹ Data for the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

In December 2011, all seven area counties posted lower jobless rates than two years ago. Armstrong County recorded the largest decrease since December 2009, down 1.6 percentage points. The second-largest decline, 1.4 percentage points, was recorded in Washington County and matched that for the nation. The five remaining counties in the Pittsburgh area posted declines ranging from 1.3 to 0.8 percentage points.

Technical Note

This release presents unemployment rate data for states and counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for the substate areas in this release are prepared through indirect estimation procedures using a building-block approach. Employment estimates, which are based largely on “place of work” estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment insurance (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force data from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment, which geographically exhaust the entire state, are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated state or balance-of-state totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to or coincident with the release of January estimates.

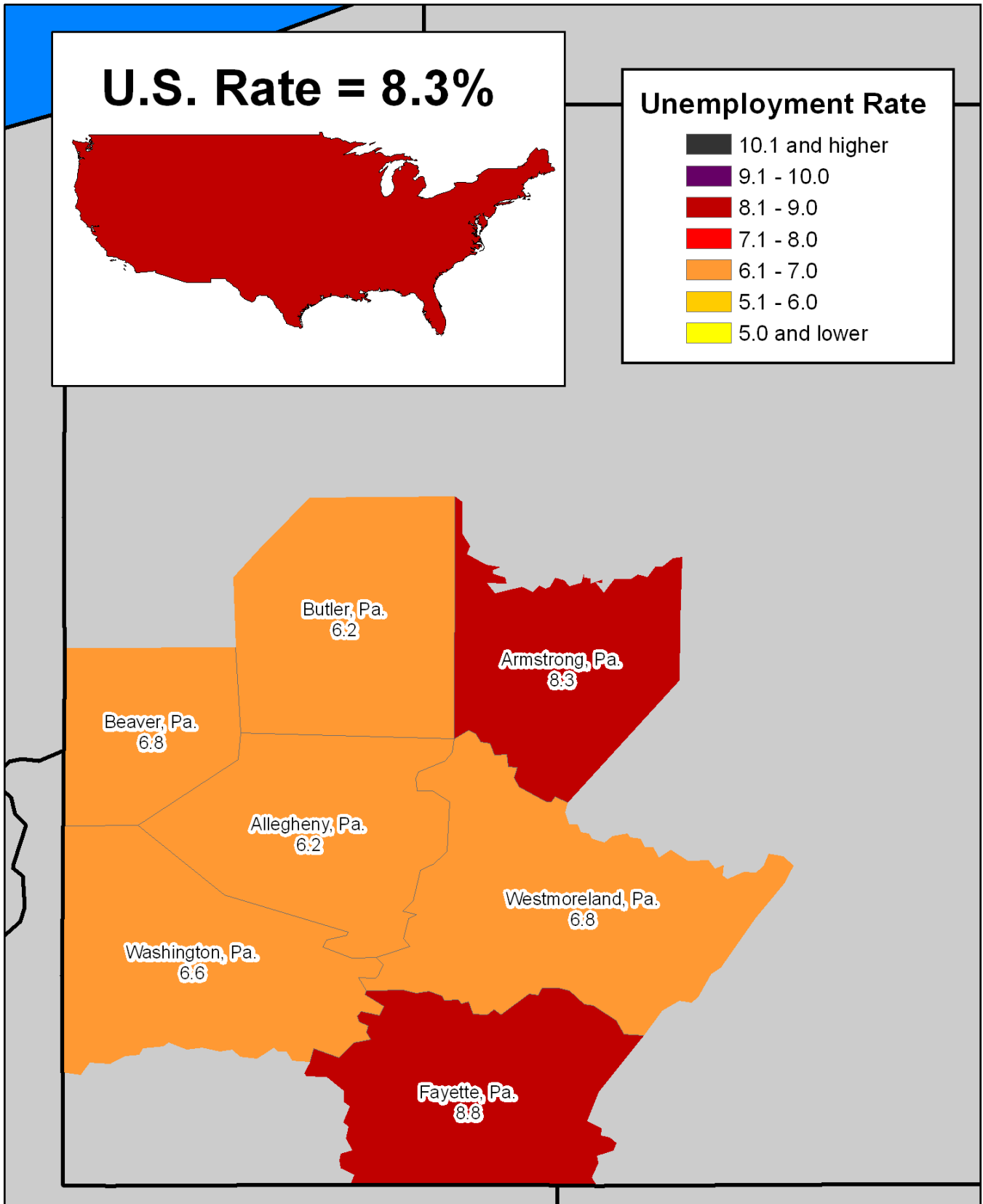
Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program and other surveys and programs is available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro3/.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania.

Chart 2. Unemployment rates for counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, December 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics