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Unemployment in the Philadelphia Area by County – December 2014

Unemployment Rates in All Area Counties Declined Over the Year

In December, Chester County, Pa., had the lowest unemployment rate in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area at 3.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Salem County, N.J. (6.7 percent) had the highest unemployment rate among the 11 counties that make up the metropolitan area. Three other counties had jobless rates greater than the U.S. average of 5.4 percent, while four others had rates lower than the U.S. rate. The remaining two counties had jobless rates equal to the U.S. average. (See [chart 1](#) and [chart 2](#). The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

From December 2013 to December 2014, all 11 counties in the Philadelphia metropolitan area had unemployment rate declines, with Philadelphia, Pa., having the largest at 2.1 percentage points. Salem, N.J., and Gloucester, N.J., had the smallest rate decreases, at 0.5 and 1.0 percentage point, respectively, and were the only two counties with smaller decreases than the U.S. decline of 1.1 points. (See [table A](#).)

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted














Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾	Dec 2012 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾
United States.....		7.6	6.5	5.4	-2.2	-1.1
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area.....		8.1	6.4	5.0	-3.1	-1.4
Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division.....		7.9	6.3	4.7	-3.2	-1.6
Bucks County, Pa.....		7.0	5.6	4.2	-2.8	-1.4
Chester County, Pa.....		5.7	4.6	3.4	-2.3	-1.2
Delaware County, Pa.....		7.7	5.9	4.5	-3.2	-1.4

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted - Continued

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾	Dec 2012 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾
Montgomery County, Pa.....		6.4	5.1	3.8	-2.6	-1.3
Philadelphia County, Pa.....		10.2	8.3	6.2	-4.0	-2.1
Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division.....		9.2	7.0	5.9	-3.3	-1.1
Burlington County, N.J.....		8.5	6.6	5.4	-3.1	-1.2
Camden County, N.J.....		9.9	7.4	6.3	-3.6	-1.1
Gloucester County, N.J.....		9.2	7.0	6.0	-3.2	-1.0
Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. Metropolitan Division.....		7.1	5.9	4.7	-2.4	-1.2
New Castle County, Del.....		6.5	5.7	4.4	-2.1	-1.3
Cecil County, Md.....		8.2	6.6	5.4	-2.8	-1.2
Salem County, N.J.....		10.6	7.2	6.7	-3.9	-0.5

(1) Data for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

Unemployment rates in the 11 Philadelphia-area counties were lower in December 2014 than in December 2012. Philadelphia County, Pa., had the largest two-year jobless rate decrease at 4.0 percentage points. New Castle County, Del., had the smallest decrease at 2.1 percentage points, and was the only county with a smaller decline than the national decrease (-2.2 points).

The December 2014 unemployment rates for the three metropolitan divisions in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington metropolitan area were 4.7 percent in the Philadelphia, Pa., division and the Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J., division; and 5.9 percent in the Camden, N.J., division. Since December 2013, the Philadelphia division had an unemployment rate decrease of 1.6 percentage points; the Wilmington division had a decline of 1.2 points, followed closely by the Camden division's rate decrease of 1.1 points.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 20, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

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.

Methods of Estimation. The LAUS program is a hierarchy of non-survey methodologies for indirectly estimating employment and unemployment in states and local areas. Statewide data are produced through a modeling technique that uses estimates of payroll jobs from the Current Employment Statistics survey and unemployment insurance claims counts from the state workforce agencies to mitigate volatility in the direct CPS tabulations of employment and unemployment, respectively. Data for labor market areas, such as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions, are produced through a building block approach and adjusted proportionally to state model-based totals. Data for counties within labor market areas are produced through a disaggregation technique. A detailed description of the LAUS estimation procedures is available in chapter 4 of the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch4.htm.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year, usually implemented with January estimates. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. All substate estimates are reestimated and adjusted to add to the revised model-based estimates.

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 **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden,

Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

The **Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division** includes Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey.

The **Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania.

The **Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. Metropolitan Division** includes New Castle County in Delaware, Cecil County in Maryland, and Salem County in New Jersey.

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

