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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

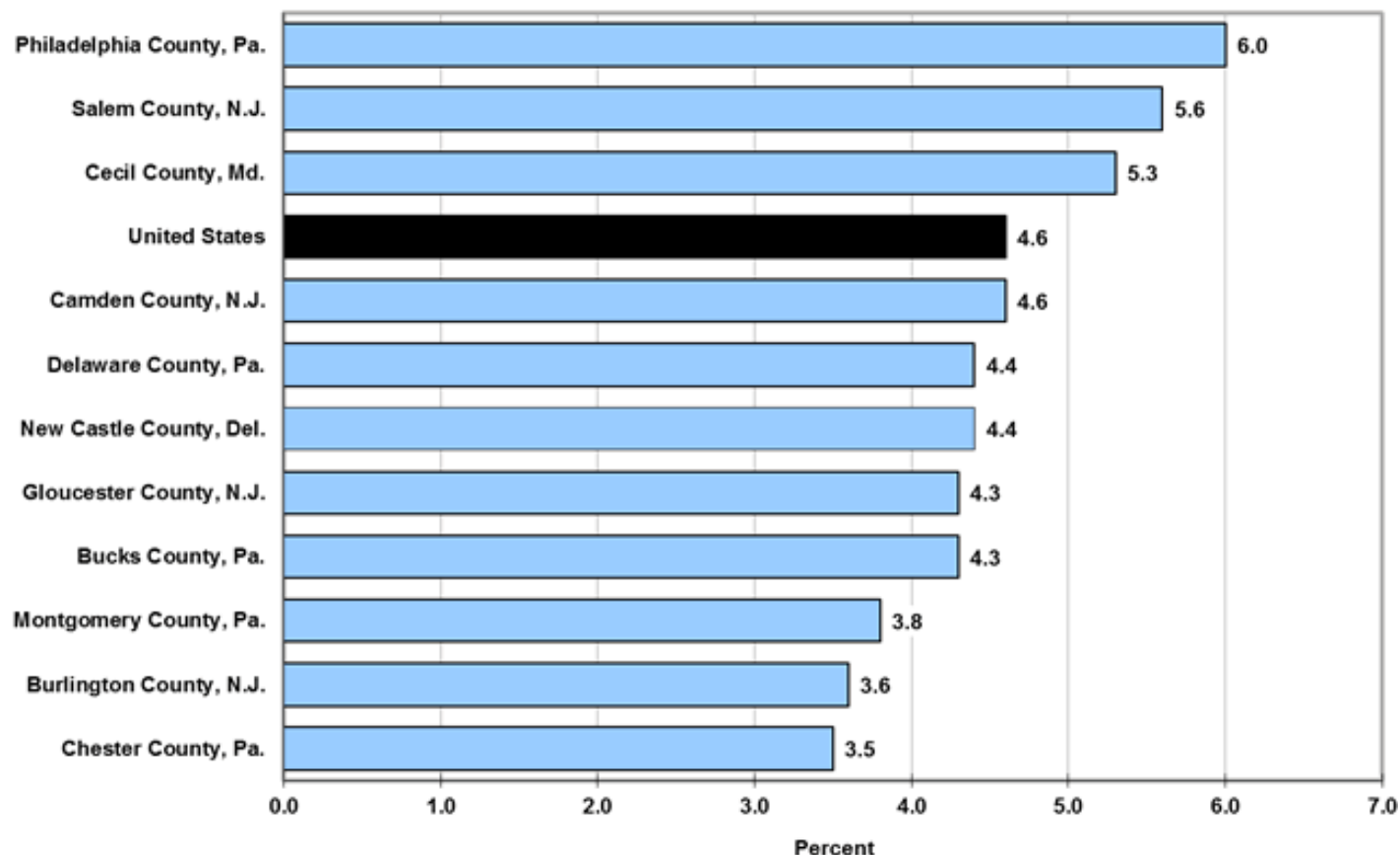
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Unemployment in the Philadelphia Area by County – March 2017

Unemployment Rates in 10 Area Counties Decreased Over the Year

In March, Chester County, Pa., had the lowest unemployment rate in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area at 3.5 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that at 6.0 percent, Philadelphia County, Pa., had the highest unemployment rate among the 11 counties that make up the metropolitan area. Salem, N.J., had the second highest jobless rate in the area at 5.6 percent, followed by Cecil County, Md., at 5.3 percent. Camden County, N.J., had a jobless rate equal to the 4.6 percent U.S. average. The remaining six counties had rates ranging from 4.4 percent in Delaware, Pa., and New Castle, Del., to 3.6 percent in Burlington, N.J. (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.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area, March 2017, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.





From March 2016 to March 2017, 8 of the 11 counties in the Philadelphia metropolitan area had unemployment rate decreases which matched or exceeded the national rate decline of 0.5 percentage point. The largest rate decrease was in Camden, N.J. (-1.3 percentage points). New Castle, Del., was the only area county to have a rate increase, up 0.1 percentage point. (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	
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017(1)	Mar 2015 to Mar 2017(1)	Mar 2016 to Mar 2017(1)
United States.....		5.6	5.1	4.6	-1.0	-0.5
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area		5.7	5.3	4.6	-1.1	-0.7
Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division		6.5	6.4	5.5	-1.0	-0.9
Delaware County, Pa.		4.9	5.0	4.4	-0.5	-0.6
Philadelphia County, Pa.		7.2	6.9	6.0	-1.2	-0.9
Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa. Metropolitan Division		4.4	4.4	3.9	-0.5	-0.5
Montgomery County, Pa.		4.3	4.3	3.8	-0.5	-0.5
Bucks County, Pa.		4.9	4.9	4.3	-0.6	-0.6
Chester County, Pa.		3.8	3.9	3.5	-0.3	-0.4
Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division		6.7	5.4	4.2	-2.5	-1.2
Burlington County, N.J.		6.0	4.8	3.6	-2.4	-1.2
Camden County, N.J.		7.3	5.9	4.6	-2.7	-1.3
Gloucester County, N.J.		6.9	5.4	4.3	-2.6	-1.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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	
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017(1)	Mar 2015 to Mar 2017(1)	Mar 2016 to Mar 2017(1)
Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. Metropolitan Division		5.2	4.6	4.6	-0.6	0.0
New Castle County, Del.		4.7	4.3	4.4	-0.3	0.1
Cecil County, Md.		6.5	5.4	5.3	-1.2	-0.1
Salem County, N.J.		8.5	6.8	5.6	-2.9	-1.2

Footnotes(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 all Philadelphia-area counties were lower in March 2017 than in March 2015. Salem County, N.J., had the largest two-year jobless rate decrease at 2.9 percentage points. Five additional counties—Camden, N.J.; Gloucester, N.J.; Burlington, N.J.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Cecil, Md.—had two-year rate declines that exceeded the nation’s decrease of 1.0 percentage point.

The March 2017 unemployment rates for the four metropolitan divisions in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington metropolitan area were 3.9 percent in the Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa., division; 4.2 percent in the Camden, N.J., division; 4.6 percent in the Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J., division; and 5.5 percent in the Philadelphia, Pa., division. From March 2016 to March 2017, three divisions had jobless rate decreases: Camden (-1.2 percentage points), Philadelphia (-0.9 point), and Montgomery (-0.5 point). The jobless rate in the Wilmington division was unchanged over the year.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for April is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, 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/pdf/homch4.pdf.

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 July 15, 2015. 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 **Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa. Metropolitan Division** includes Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania.

The **Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division** includes Delaware 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.

Chart 2. Unemployment rates for counties in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, March 2017

