



For Release: Thursday, February 14, 2019

19-306-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

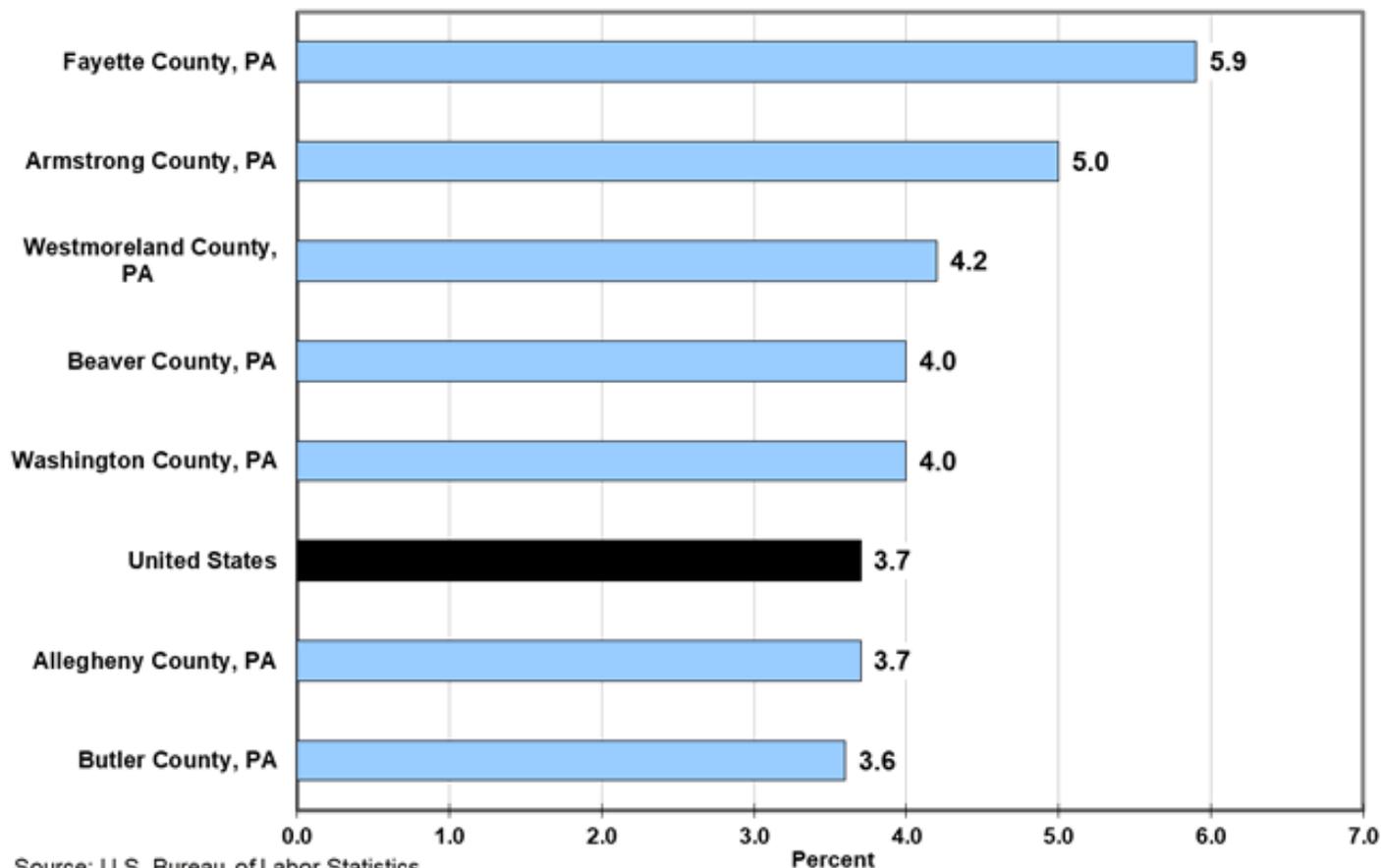
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## Unemployment in the Pittsburgh Area by County – December 2018 Unemployment Rates in All Area Counties Decreased Over the Year

In December, Butler County had the lowest unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area, at 3.6 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Fayette County had the area's highest unemployment rate at 5.9 percent, followed by Armstrong County at 5.0 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 2018, not seasonally adjusted**



In December 2018, all Pittsburgh-area counties had over-the-year unemployment rate decreases that exceeded the nation's 0.2-percentage point decline. (See [table A.](#)) The largest rate decrease was in Beaver County at 0.9 percentage point. At 0.4 percentage point, Allegheny County had the smallest unemployment rate decrease since December 2017.

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

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018(1)	Dec 2016 to Dec 2018(1)	Dec 2017 to Dec 2018(1)
United States.....		4.5	3.9	3.7	-0.8	-0.2
Pittsburgh, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area .....		5.1	4.5	3.9	-1.2	-0.6
Allegheny County, PA.....		4.6	4.1	3.7	-0.9	-0.4
Armstrong County, PA .....		7.1	5.7	5.0	-2.1	-0.7
Beaver County, PA .....		5.7	4.9	4.0	-1.7	-0.9
Butler County, PA .....		4.7	4.1	3.6	-1.1	-0.5
Fayette County, PA.....		7.8	6.5	5.9	-1.9	-0.6
Washington County, PA.....		5.5	4.6	4.0	-1.5	-0.6
Westmoreland County, PA.....		5.4	4.7	4.2	-1.2	-0.5

Footnotes

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

From December 2016 to December 2018, all seven of the Pittsburgh-area counties had unemployment rate decreases that were larger than the U.S. rate decline of 0.8 percentage point. The largest rate decrease was in Armstrong County at 2.1 percentage points, followed by Fayette County at 1.9 points. With a decline of 0.9 percentage point, Allegheny County had the smallest two-year rate decline in the Pittsburgh area.

**The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 15, 2019, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 counties are developed through a building-block approach and adjusted proportionally to state model-based totals. For multi-county areas, such as the metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions delineated by the Office of Management and Budget, estimates are summed from the data for their component counties. Estimates for cities and towns are produced through a disaggregation technique.

*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. All substate estimates are reestimated and adjusted to add to the revised model-based estimates for states.

**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](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm).

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

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 Pittsburgh, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, December 2018

