

Berks County Labor Force Outlook

Berks County

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	215,900	208,300	7,500	3.5%
Last Month	216,400	208,900	7,500	3.5%
Previous Year	215,300	207,900	7,400	3.4%

- **Berks County tied with 10 counties with the 16th lowest unemployment rate of 67 counties in PA**
- **Nonfarm Jobs:** 181,800 (seasonally adjusted, unchanged from July). Annual change: +2,400 (MSA ↑1.3% compared to ↑1.7% statewide)

City/Twp. Unemployment % (NSA)

- Exeter Township: 2.8%
- Muhlenberg Township: 3.3%
- Reading City: 5.9%
- Spring Township: 3.2%

Berks County Employment by Key Industry Sector (NSA)

Industry	August 2024 Employment	July 2024 Employment	August 2023 Employment	Year Over Year Net Change
Manufacturing	31,900	32,000	31,800	100
Healthcare & Social Assistance	30,300	30,200	29,200	1,100
Construction	8,500	8,500	8,500	0
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	9,300	9,300	9,200	100

Pennsylvania

Unemployment

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Current	6,581,000	6,358,000	223,000	3.4%
Last Month	6,603,000	6,378,000	224,000	3.4%
Previous Year	6,517,000	6,305,000	213,000	3.3%

- **PA Nonfarm Jobs:** 6,200,000 Annual change: 102,600 (↑1.7%)
- **PA U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 6.4% (BLS, 2023Q3 through 2024Q2 Avg.)
- **PA tied with AZ, CT & OK with the 22nd highest unemployment rate across the nation**

United States

Unemployment

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Current	168,549,000	161,434,000	7,115,000	4.2%
Last Month	168,429,000	161,266,000	7,163,000	4.3%
Previous Year	167,840,000	161,500,000	6,340,000	3.8%

- **US Nonfarm jobs (p):** 158,779,000 Monthly change: 142,000
- **US U-6 Unemployment Rate:** 7.9% (BLS Table A-15, 9/6/2024)

Seasonally Adjusted data: A seasonally adjusted (SA) 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).

(p): BLS preliminary data

U-6: total unemployed (U-3) plus discouraged workers (U-4), plus all other marginally attached workers (U-5), plus total employed part time for economic reasons (U-6)