Berks County Labor Force Outlook

Berks County

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	215,200	207,900	7,400	3.4%
Last Month	215,100	207,500	7,600	3.5%
Previous Year	214,600	205,800	8,800	4.1%

➤ **Berks County tied with 6 counties with the 33rd lowest unemployment rate of 67 counties in PA**

➤ **Nonfarm Jobs**: 180,100 (seasonally adjusted, +200 from January). Annual change: +1,200 (MSA ↑0.7% compared to ↑1.2% statewide)

City/Twp. Unemployment % *(NSA)*

➤ Exeter Township: 2.4%

➤ Muhlenberg Township: 3.1%

➤ Reading City: 5.2%

➤ Spring Township: 2.6%

Berks County Employment by Key Industry Sector *(NSA)*

Industry	February 2024 Employment	January 2024 Employment	February 2023 Employment	Year Over Year Net Change
Manufacturing	**31,600**	**31,700**	**31,400**	**200**
Healthcare & Social Assistance	**29,600**	**29,600**	**28,200**	**1,400**
Construction	**7,600**	**7,600**	**7,600**	**0**
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	**9,400**	**9,500**	**9,800**	**(400)**

Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	6,558,000	6,338,000	220,000	3.4%
Last Month	6,544,000	6,324,000	221,000	3.4%
Previous Year	6,501,000	6,262,000	239,000	3.7%

➤ **PA Nonfarm Jobs**: 6,131,700 Annual change: 71,000 (↑1.2%)

➤ **PA U-6 Unemployment Rate**: 6.2% *(BLS, 2023 Annual Avg.)*

➤ **PA tied with ME & MT with the 24th highest unemployment rate across the nation**

United States

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	167,426,000	160,968,000	6,458,000	3.9%
Last Month	167,276,000	161,152,000	6,124,000	3.7%
Previous Year	166,263,000	160,301,000	5,962,000	3.6%

➤ **US Nonfarm jobs** *(p)*: 157,808,000 Monthly change: 275,000

➤ **US U-6 Unemployment Rate**: 7.3% *(BLS Table A-15, 3/8/2024)*

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)