

Montgomery County Employment Update

March 2015

Unemployment Data:

Time Period	County Labor Force	County Employment	County Unemployment	Montgomery County	State of PA	US (March 2015)
March 2015	435,200	417,700	17,600	4.0%	5.2%	5.5%
February 2015	434,900	416,900	18,000	4.1%	5.1%	5.5%
March 2015	436,500	412,900	23,700	5.4%	6.2%	6.6%

Perspective:

Montgomery County has the 2nd lowest Unemployment Rate (4.0%) in the state of Pennsylvania and dropped .1% since last month. The Unemployment Rate increased by .1% in Pennsylvania to 5.5% and remained steady at 5.5% nationally.

Trends:

Top Industries with new hires above year-ago levels – Administrative and Support Services; Social Assistance; Accommodation; Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing; Educational Services; Professional & Technical Services

Top industries that have new hires below year-ago levels – Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries; Food Services and Drinking Places; Couriers and Messengers; Miscellaneous Store Retailers

Township/Borough	Unemployment Rate
Abington	4.6%
Cheltenham	4.1%
Horsham	4.2%
Lower Merion	3.3%
Lower Providence	4.8%
Montgomery	3.6%
Norristown	5.7%
Pottstown	6.4%
Upper Dublin	3.5%
Upper Merion	3.6%
Upper Moreland	5.0%

Workforce Performance Metrics:

Program Year (7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015)	New Participants			New Hires			Average Earnings		
	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA Training	EARN	PA CareerLink®	WIA* Training	EARN
March 2015	935	16	26	6	6	13	\$17.44	\$12.52	\$9.02
Year-to-Date	8,798	201	179	55	112	110	\$15.14	\$14.97	\$10.42

WIA – Workforce Investment Act; EARN – Employment Advancement Retention Network
PA CareerLink® data is taken from RPT052

Success Stories:

Sulaiman found himself unemployed upon his arrival to the United States and was seeking a career in the shortest amount of time possible. He was referred to the PA CareerLink® by a friend. He attended the introductory session of Welcome Aboard and it was there that he realized his ambition to become a professional driver. Sulaiman completed the assessments and workshops necessary to enroll in the WIA funded Commercial Driver License (CDL) Program with Smith & Solomon to get his CDL-A license. Sulaiman completed training and was quickly hired as a full time driver for Covenant Transport. He is averaging \$22.00 per hour and has the option of benefits. Sulaiman stated, in recent correspondence, that he is “most grateful for this unique opportunity”.

Ms. Jordan was referred for Case Management and Career Path Consulting services through the Your Way Home Program. At the time she was referred, Ms. Jordan was in jeopardy of losing her apartment because she did not have an income to pay the rent. She was also in need of clothing, personal grooming items, money for transportation and assistance with “the whole job search process”, as she referred to it; all of which our program was able to assist. Ms. Jordan received a formatted resume, interview outfit, job leads, assistance with completing applications and interview prep, along with tokens to get to interviews. She had many interviews, but often was not offered employment due to having a criminal background. During her participation, Ms. Jordan reported that because of the stress of her situation, she was challenged with maintaining her sobriety. She has reconnected with a treatment program and did not have a relapse. Ms. Jordan is currently working 30 hours per week, in food prep, for an area bakery that supplies convenience stores with freshly made sandwiches and salads, earning \$8.50 per hour.

U.S. data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted March 2015 data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

PA and Montgomery County data: unless noted, seasonally adjusted February, 2015 data provided by PA Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA), the Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS) and Montgomery County Workforce Investment Area Fast Facts.