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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

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

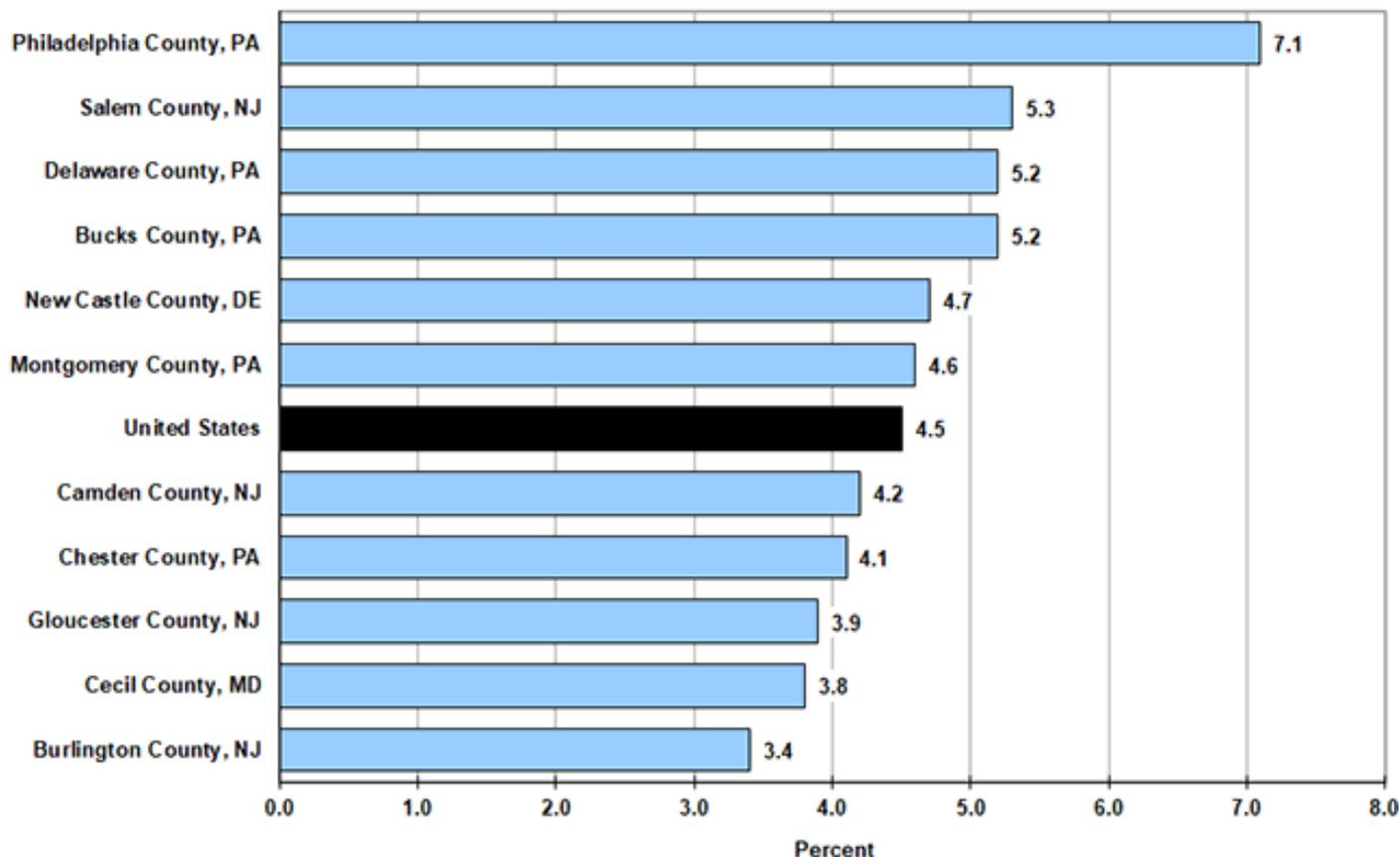
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Unemployment in the Philadelphia Area by County – March 2020

Unemployment Rate in Ten Area Counties Increased Over the Year

In March, Burlington County, NJ, had the lowest unemployment rate in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metropolitan Statistical Area at 3.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that at 7.1 percent, Philadelphia County, PA, had the highest unemployment rate among the 11 counties that make up the metropolitan area. Salem County, NJ, had the second-highest jobless rate in the area at 5.3 percent. Four other area counties had jobless rates above the 4.5-percent U.S. average. (See [chart 1](#). 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-NJ-DE-MD Metropolitan Statistical Area, March 2020, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From March 2019 to March 2020, one county in the Philadelphia metropolitan area—Cecil County, MD—had an unemployment rate decrease (-0.6 percentage point). Nationally, the unemployment rate increased 0.6 percentage point. Ten area counties had jobless rate increases since March 2019. Philadelphia County, PA, had the largest rate increase at 1.9 percentage points. Among the other nine counties, jobless rate increases ranged from 1.4 percentage points each in Delaware and Bucks Counties, PA, to 0.1 point each in Burlington and Camden Counties, NJ. (See [table A.](#))

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020(1)	Mar 2018 to Mar 2020(1)	Mar 2019 to Mar 2020(1)
United States.....		4.1	3.9	4.5	0.4	0.6
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area.....		4.3	3.9	5.1	0.8	1.2
Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division.....		5.2	4.7	6.6	1.4	1.9
Delaware County, PA.....		4.0	3.8	5.2	1.2	1.4
Philadelphia County, PA.....		5.6	5.2	7.1	1.5	1.9
Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa. Metropolitan Division.....		3.5	3.4	4.7	1.2	1.3
Montgomery County, PA.....		3.5	3.4	4.6	1.1	1.2
Bucks County, PA.....		3.9	3.8	5.2	1.3	1.4
Chester County, PA.....		3.1	3.0	4.1	1.0	1.1
Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division.....		4.5	3.7	3.8	-0.7	0.1
Burlington County, NJ.....		4.0	3.3	3.4	-0.6	0.1
Camden County, NJ.....		5.0	4.1	4.2	-0.8	0.1
Gloucester County, NJ.....		4.5	3.7	3.9	-0.6	0.2
Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ Metropolitan Division.....		4.1	3.7	4.6	0.5	0.9
New Castle County, DE.....		3.8	3.4	4.7	0.9	1.3
Cecil County, MD.....		4.7	4.4	3.8	-0.9	-0.6
Salem County, NJ.....		6.2	5.0	5.3	-0.9	0.3

Footnotes

(1) Data for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

Unemployment rates in five Philadelphia-area counties were lower in March 2020 than in March 2018. Cecil County, MD, and Salem County, NJ, had the largest two-year jobless rate decreases at 0.9 percentage point each, followed by Camden County, NJ, at 0.8 point. The remaining six counties all had unemployment rate increases which were larger than the national increase of 0.4 percentage point.

The March 2020 unemployment rates for the four metropolitan divisions in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington metropolitan area were 3.8 percent in the Camden, NJ, division; 4.6 percent in the Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ, division; 4.7 percent in the Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, PA, division; and 6.6 percent in the Philadelphia, PA, division. All four divisions had jobless rate increases over the year.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for April is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 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 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, 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 April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-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, NJ 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, DE-MD-NJ Metropolitan Division** includes New Castle County in Delaware, Cecil County in Maryland, and Salem County in New Jersey.

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