



Research Brief

* THE COMMONWEALTH'S OFFICIAL SOURCE OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS *

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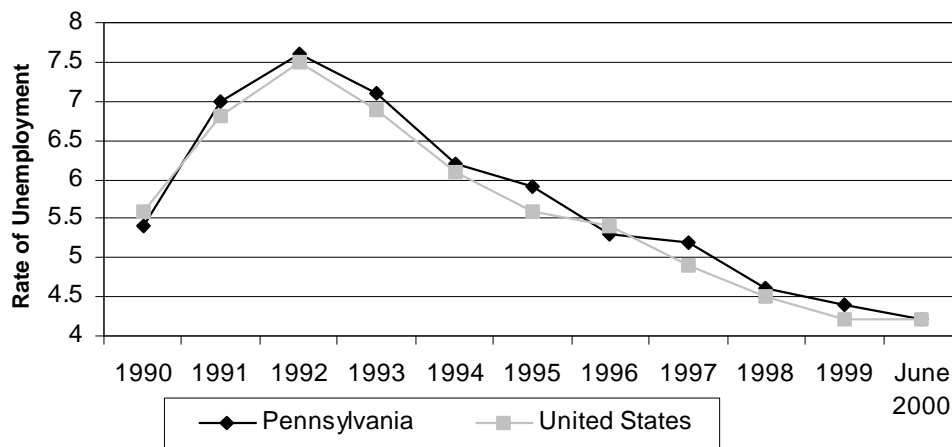
Unemployment in Pennsylvania Continues to Decrease

MIDDLETOWN, Pa— The annual unemployment rate in Pennsylvania has been decreasing since 1992. The 1999 annual rate was 4.4 which amounted to 262,000 people, compared to the 1992 decade high of 7.6, or 447,000 people.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the June 2000 rate of unemployment for the Commonwealth was still lower at 4.2. Although this represented an increase from the previous month's rate of 3.9, it is a 0.3 decrease from June of 1999. This is based on data from the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis.

Pennsylvania's rate of unemployment has been consistently very close to national figures hovering just above for the most part. In May and June 2000, Pennsylvania's rate matched that of the United States.

Unemployment Rates: Pennsylvania and the United States, Annual 1990-June 2000

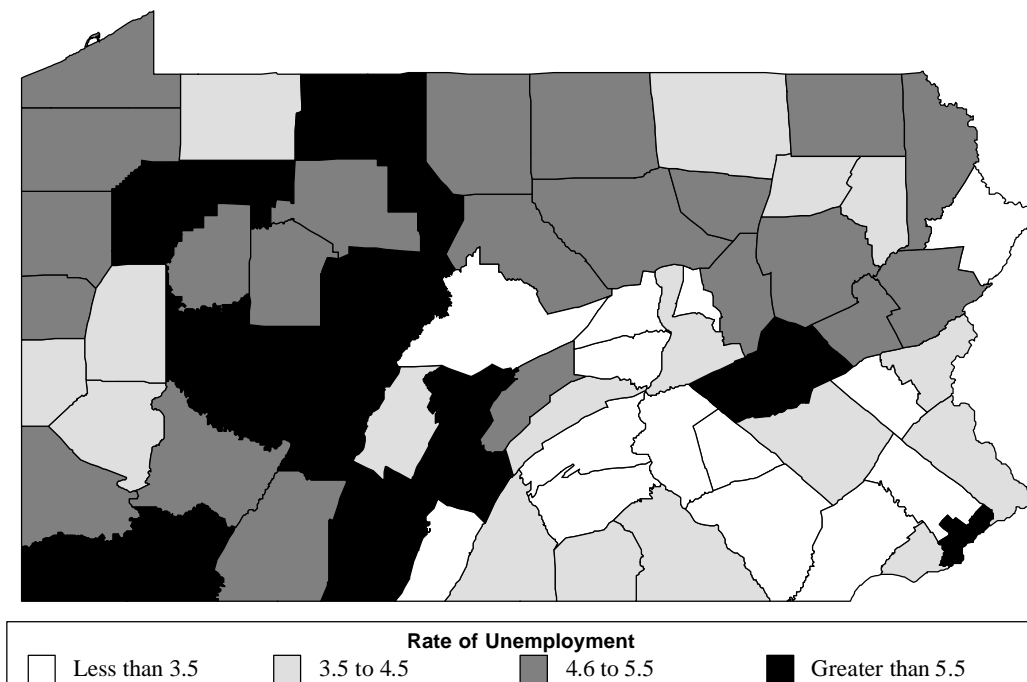


The civilian labor force of Pennsylvania was made up of 50 percent of the total population in June 2000. This is slightly lower than the nation as a whole where 52 percent of the population was in the civilian labor force.

Among Pennsylvania's counties, Cumberland had the highest percent of its population in the civilian labor force in June 2000 with 58 percent. Dauphin followed at 57 percent and Greene trailed with only 38 percent.

Unemployment rates in the counties ranged from 8.7 percent in Cameron to 2.3 percent in Union. Ten counties had rates under 3.0 while twelve had rates of 6.0 and higher.

Unemployment Rates: Pennsylvania Counties, June 2000



Most counties experienced lower unemployment rates from June 1999 to June 2000. The greatest drops were in Jefferson and Mifflin counties which each fell by 1.6. Thirteen counties did see an increase. Cambria led this group with 1.5, followed by McKean and Bedford each with increases of 0.8.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics and services. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's national State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact Amy Jonas at the Data Center's State Capital Office, (717) 772-2710, or for faculty comment on this topic contact the Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office, (717) 948-6029.

Source of Information: United States Census Bureau
Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry