

Unemployment Claims Data Summary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region

Periods covering January 2020 to May 2021

May 13, 2021



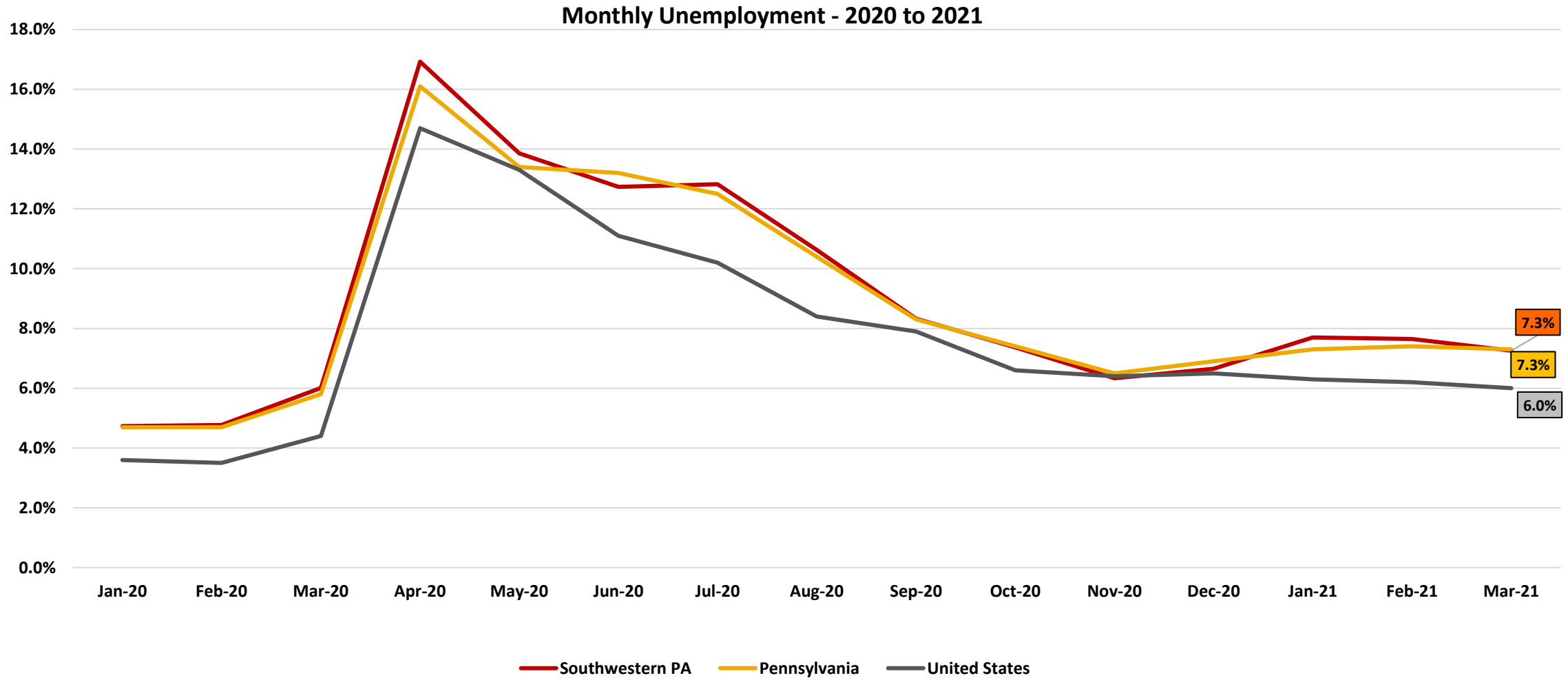
**Pennsylvania Economy League
of Greater Pittsburgh**

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

Key Takeaways

- While unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania of 7.3% in March 2021 was well above the national rate of 6.0%, the region's labor force grew by 0.2%, the same pace as the nation.
- The unemployment rate in the region varies by county from a low of 6.1% in Butler County to a high of 9.6% in Fayette County.
- After an increase at the beginning of the year in the wake of renewed dining restrictions and seasonal slowdowns, Continuing Unemployment Claims (UC) have shown a steady downward trend since the beginning of February. The region's share of the state has been slowly trending downward since the beginning of the year.
- Regionally, for the week ended 5/1/21, the top five most impacted industries are Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Accommodation and Food Services; and Manufacturing for continuing unemployment claims.
- Unemployment is not affecting demographic groups equally, and the 35-44 age segment and Black population are suffering more.

After bottoming out in November and December, the unemployment rate increased in both Southwestern Pennsylvania and the state during January but slowly dropped since. The gap between the U.S. and Southwestern Pennsylvania has widened since December.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

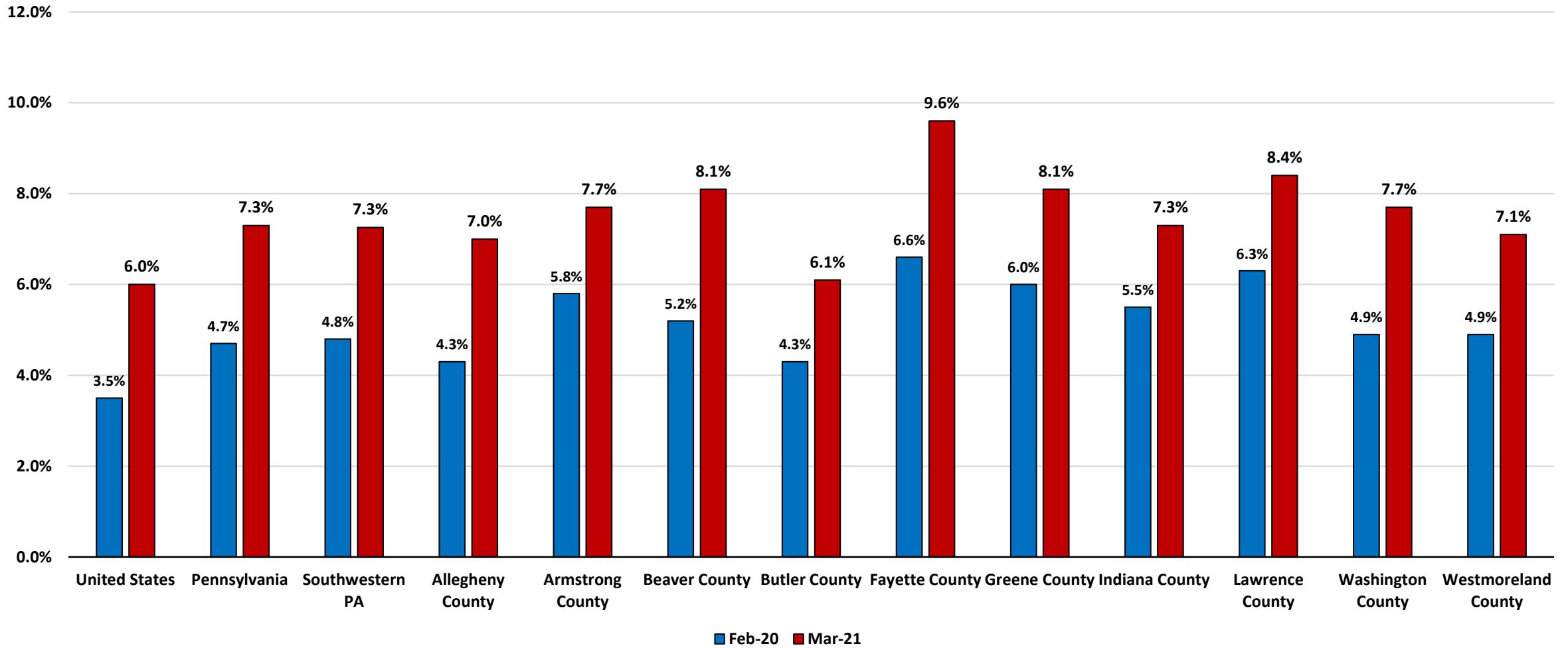
While the region's unemployment rate slowly fallen, the labor force has increased for three consecutive months and is actually outpacing the U.S. pace. Labor force growth is often an indicator of people having greater confidence in the job market. The number of unemployed people in Southwestern Pennsylvania dropped by 5.2% in March, twice the U.S. rate and more than triple the state.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE															
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Southwestern PA	4.7%	4.8%	6.0%	16.9%	13.9%	12.7%	12.8%	10.6%	8.3%	7.4%	6.3%	6.7%	7.7%	7.6%	7.3%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.7%	5.8%	16.1%	13.4%	13.2%	12.5%	10.4%	8.3%	7.4%	6.5%	6.9%	7.3%	7.4%	7.3%
United States	3.6%	3.5%	4.4%	14.7%	13.3%	11.1%	10.2%	8.4%	7.9%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.3%	6.2%	6.0%
CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH															
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2020 to Mar. 2021
Southwestern PA	0.4%	-0.8%	-2.5%	1.1%	-1.9%	0.5%	-0.9%	1.8%	-1.3%	-1.3%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.9%	0.2%	-4.4%
Pennsylvania	0.1%	-0.2%	-1.5%	0.9%	-2.2%	-0.1%	-0.8%	2.0%	-1.0%	-1.1%	-0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	-3.4%
United States	0.0%	-1.0%	-4.1%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	-0.4%	0.6%	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	-2.4%
CHANGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT FROM PREVIOUS MONTH															
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2020 to Mar. 2021
Southwestern PA	1.1%	20.0%	63.6%	-20.9%	-10.9%	1.2%	-21.8%	-25.4%	-14.5%	-17.7%	4.4%	13.7%	0.2%	-5.2%	45.5%
Pennsylvania	0.6%	18.5%	63.5%	-18.6%	-3.8%	-6.0%	-20.5%	-22.9%	-13.3%	-15.9%	5.1%	5.9%	2.6%	-1.5%	51.8%
United States	-1.8%	18.9%	69.1%	-10.0%	-18.2%	-8.6%	-20.6%	-7.7%	-18.5%	-3.5%	1.3%	-2.7%	-1.6%	-2.7%	72.3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

The unemployment rate in the region varies by county from a low of 6.1% in Butler County to a high of 9.6% in Fayette County. Most counties had rates well above the nation, with the gap in Fayette, Lawrence, Beaver, Greene and Armstrong being the largest. Fayette County had the largest difference in the unemployment rate between February 2020 and March 2021, while Butler, Indiana and Armstrong County had the smallest.

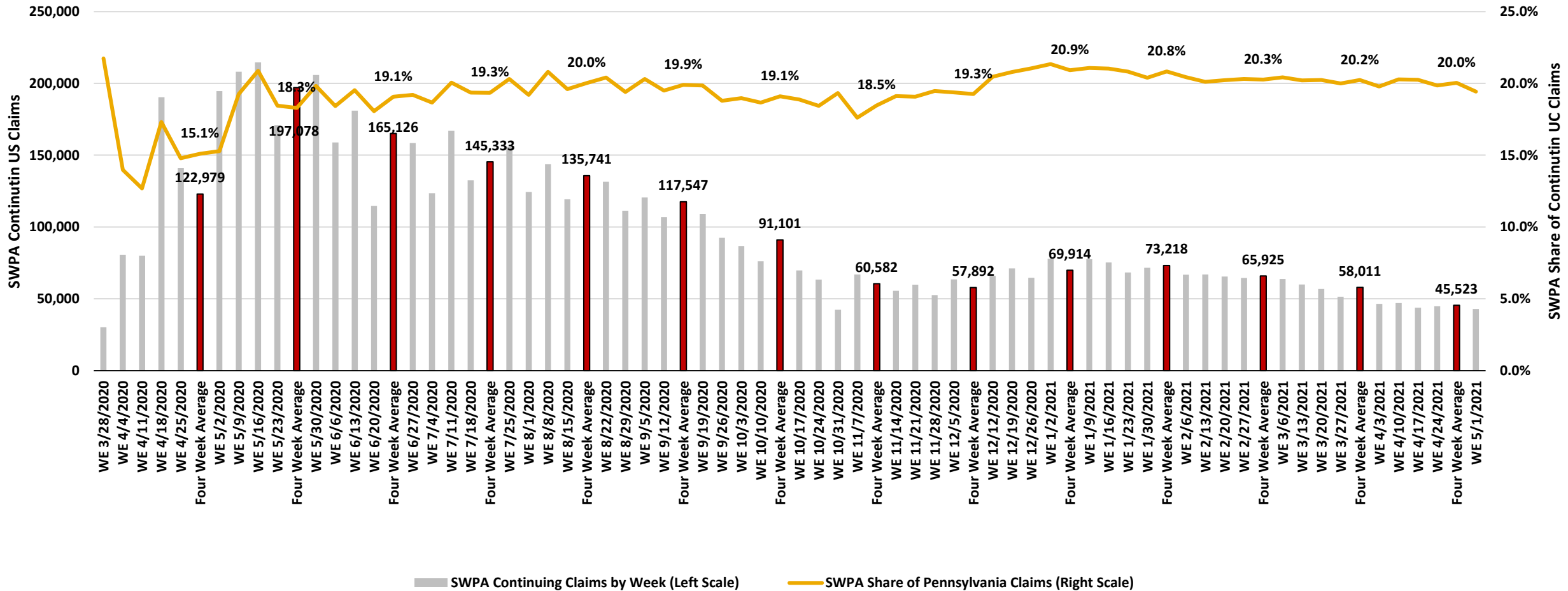
Unemployment Rate Comparison - February 2020 vs. March 2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

After an increase at the beginning of the year in the wake of renewed dining restrictions and seasonal slowdowns, Continuing Unemployment Claims (UC) have shown a steady downward trend since the beginning of February. The region's share of the state has been slowly trending downward since the beginning of the year.

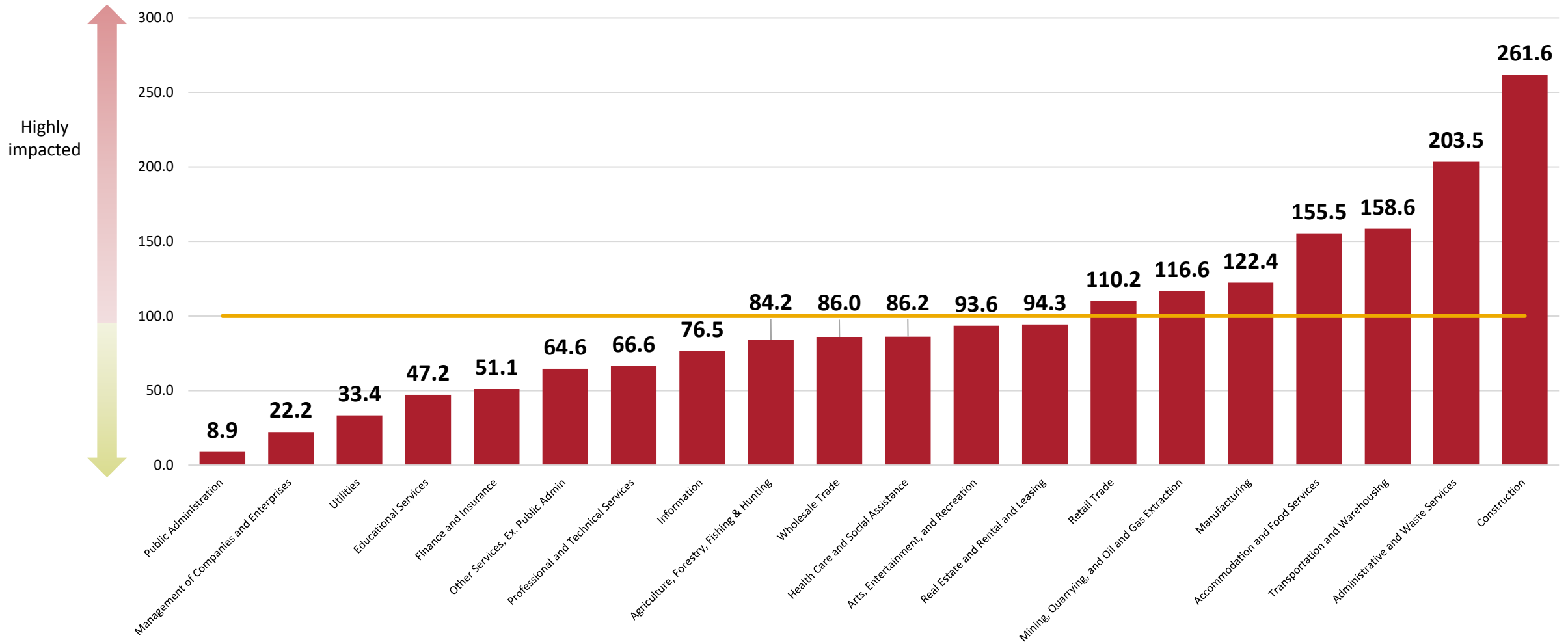
Southwestern Pennsylvania Continuing UC Claim Trends



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

By comparing percentage of claims to percentage of employment by industry, we can determine which groups are disproportionately impacted. A value above 100 indicates that the group is highly impacted. Regionally, the top five most impacted industries are Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Accommodation and Food Services; and Manufacturing. Unlike other industries, Construction is impacted by seasonal slowdowns.

Regional Continued Claims by Industry Index: Week Ended 5/1/21



By comparing percentage of claims to percentage of population by segment, we can determine which groups are disproportionately impacted. A value above 100 indicates that the group is highly impacted. By age, the 35-44 age segment is the most impacted, followed by the 25-34 segment. By race, the Black population is disproportionately impacted compared to other demographic groups.

Regional Continued Claims by Age		
	Week ended 5/1/21	Indexed
16-19 *	0.8%	12.7
20-24	7.7%	126.6
25-34	22.7%	173.4
35-44	20.7%	181.4
45-54	18.8%	143.7
55-64	20.3%	134.3
65 and older	8.8%	45.0
Unknown	0.2%	N/A
Grand Total	42,933	
* Used 15 – 19 age group from American Community Survey		

Regional Continued Claims by Race		
	Week ended 4/3/21	Indexed
Black	15.4%	199.0
Hispanic	1.6%	94.9
Pacific Islander or Asian	0.9%	39.1
Unknown	3.5%	N/A
White	78.5%	90.0
Grand Total	42,933	

Regional Continued Claims by Sex		
	Week ended 5/1/21	Indexed
Female	44.9%	87.6
Male	55.1%	113.0
Grand Total	42,933	

Report produced by the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, an
affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

Data sources include the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Center for
Workforce Information and Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Emsi, and the US
Census Bureau

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