

Unemployment Claims Data Summary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region

Periods covering January 2020 to July 2021

September 10, 2021



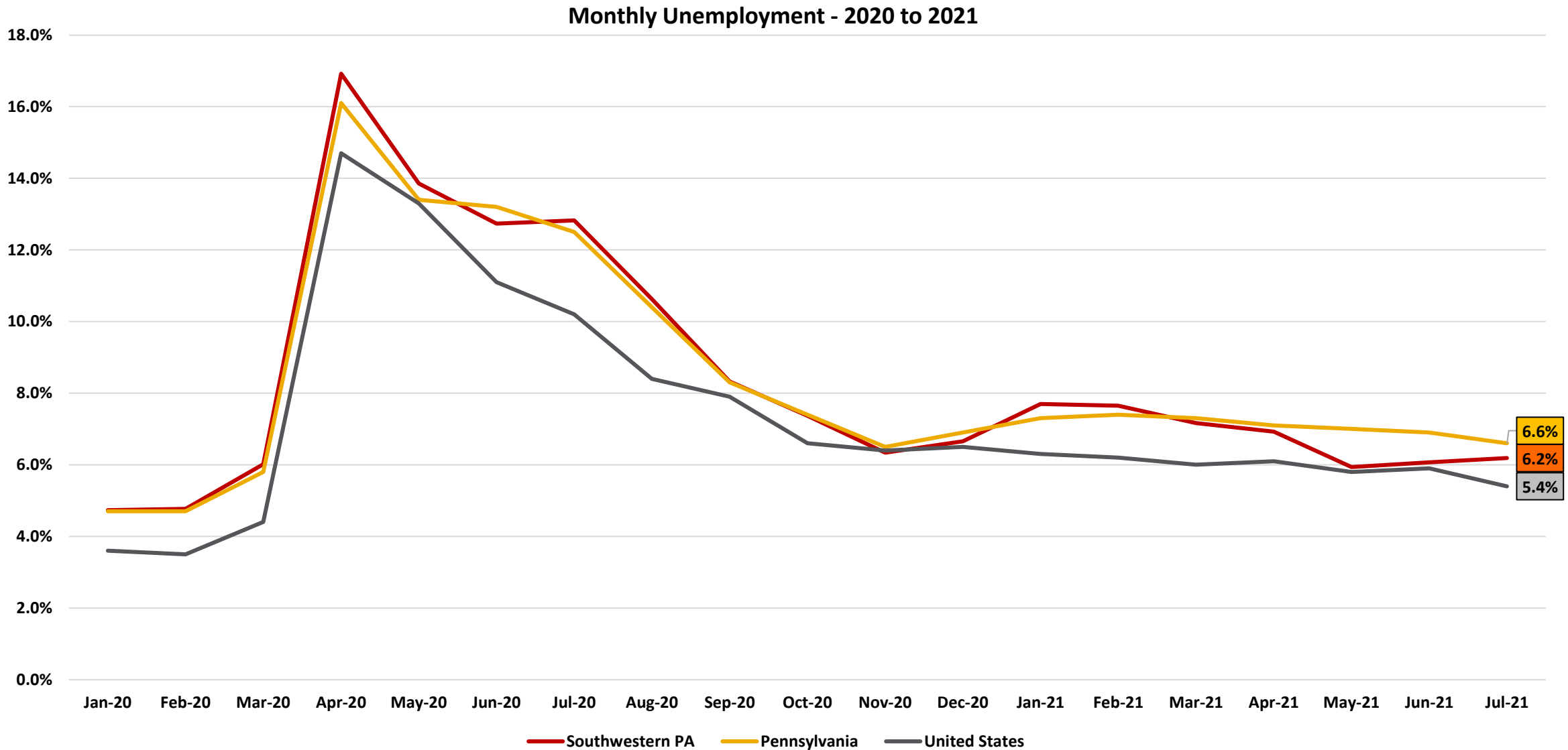
**Pennsylvania Economy League
of Greater Pittsburgh**

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

Key Takeaways

- The unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania increased slightly in July for the second consecutive month, although it remains below the state average. The gap between the region and the nation, however, has increased..
- The Labor Force increased in Southwestern Pennsylvania for a second consecutive month, albeit as a very small rate, falling below the nation's slight increase. Statewide, the Labor Force dropped for the second consecutive month.
- The number of unemployed individuals in the region also grew in July for the second consecutive month, while dropping both statewide and regionally.
- The unemployment rate in the region is just 1.4 percentage points higher than it was in February 2020, a one-half percentage point smaller than the U.S. or state. The gap between the last pre-pandemic unemployment rate and the current one is smallest in Greene County (0.9 percentage points) and largest in Armstrong County (1.9). Unemployment rates vary by county from a low of 5.7% in Butler County to a high of 8.3% in Fayette County.
- Continuing unemployment claims have dropped to levels to not seen since the pandemic began, with a four-week average in late-July of just 25,287. They totaled just 23,336, the week ended August 28th. The region's drop seems to be paralleling the state's as Southwestern Pennsylvania's share has remained consistent in the 19% to 20% range since the beginning of the year.
- Regionally, for the week ended 8/28/21, the top five most impacted industries are Transportation and Warehousing; Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Accommodation and Food Services; and Manufacturing.
- Unemployment is not affecting demographic groups equally, and the 35-44 age segment and Black population are suffering more.

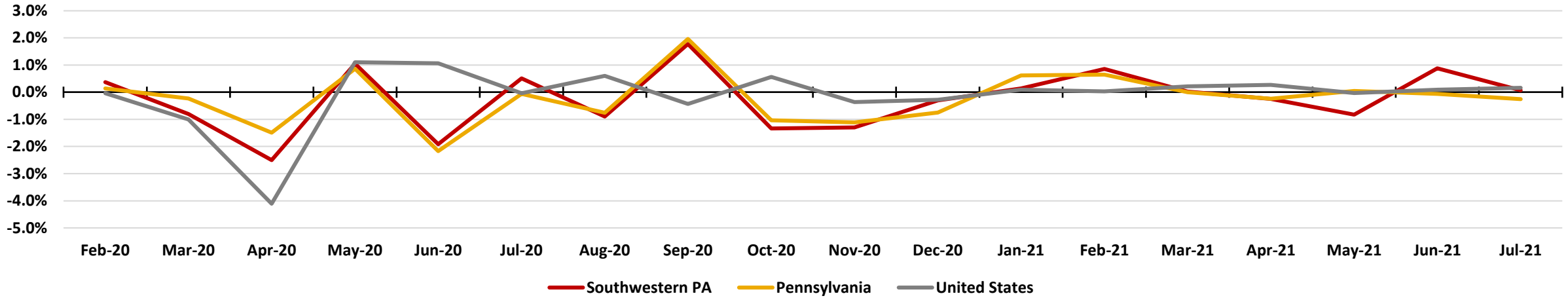
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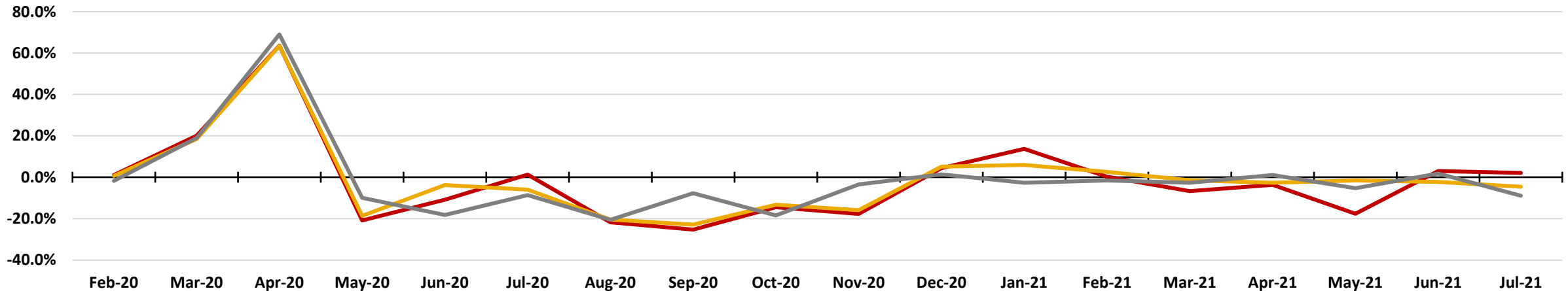
Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

The Labor Force increased in Southwestern Pennsylvania for a second consecutive month, albeit as a very small rate, falling below the nation's slight increase. Statewide, the Labor Force dropped for the second consecutive month. However, the number of unemployed individuals in the region also grew in July for the second consecutive month, while dropping both statewide and regionally.

Month-to-Month Change in Labor Force - February 2020 to June 2021

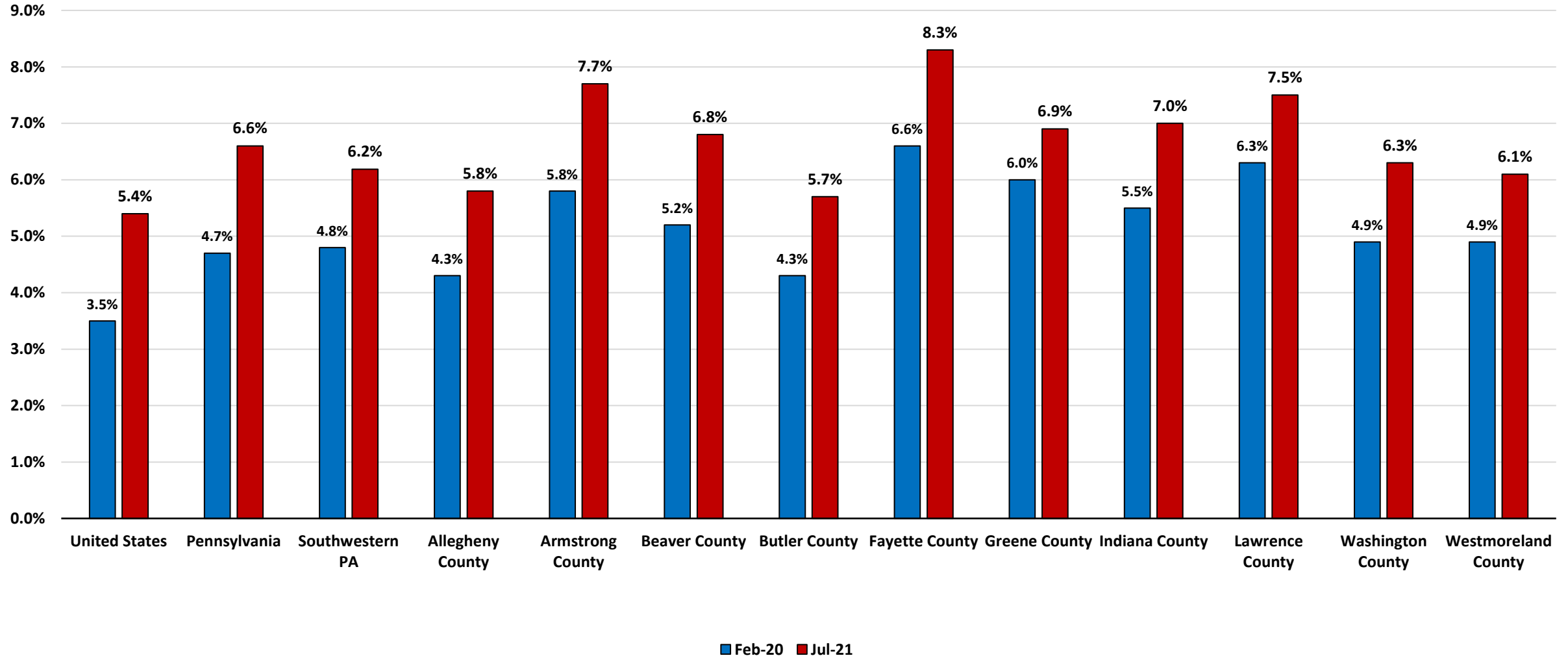


Month-to-Month Change in Unemployed - February 2020 to June 2021



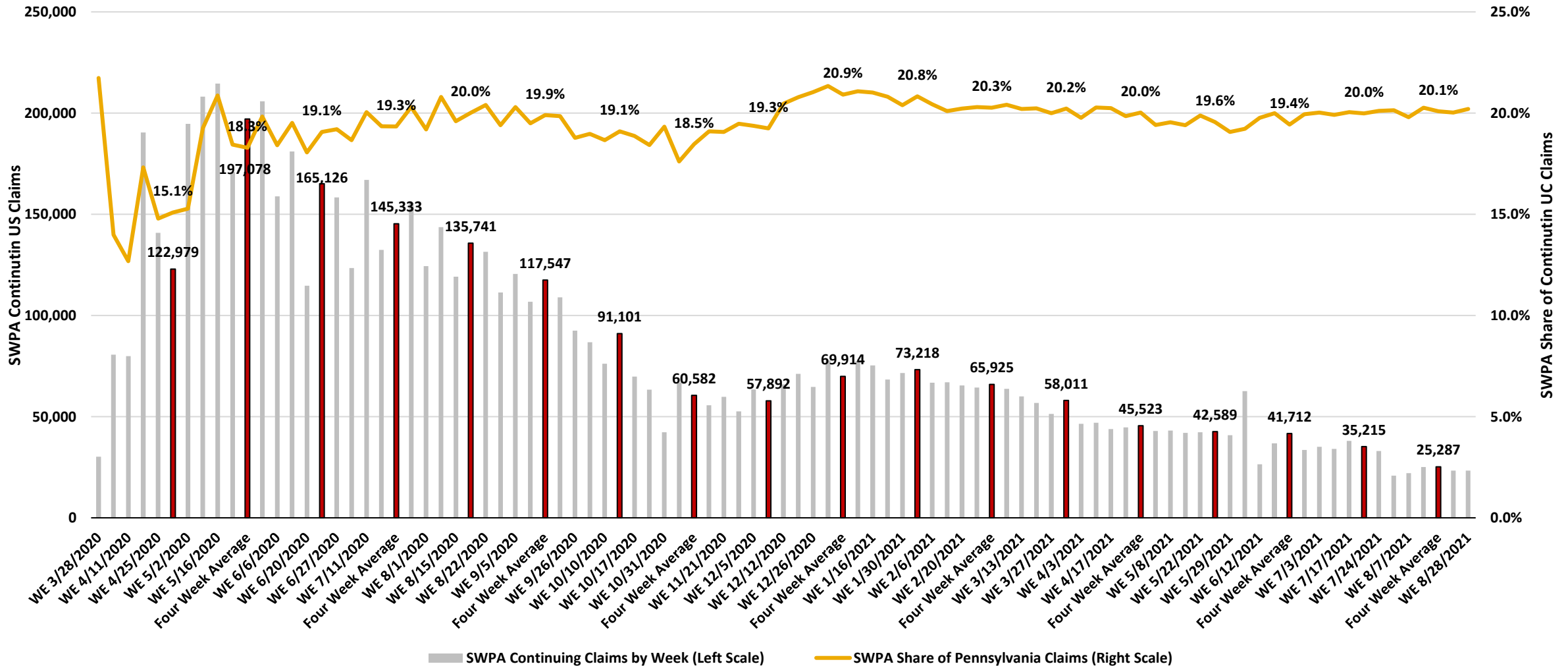
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Unemployment Rate Comparison - February 2020 vs. July 2021



Continuing unemployment claims have dropped to levels to not seen since the pandemic began, with a four-week average in late-July of just 25,287. They totaled just 23,336, the week ended August 28th. The region's drop seems to be paralleling the state's as Southwestern Pennsylvania's share has remained consistent in the 19% to 20% range since the beginning of the year.

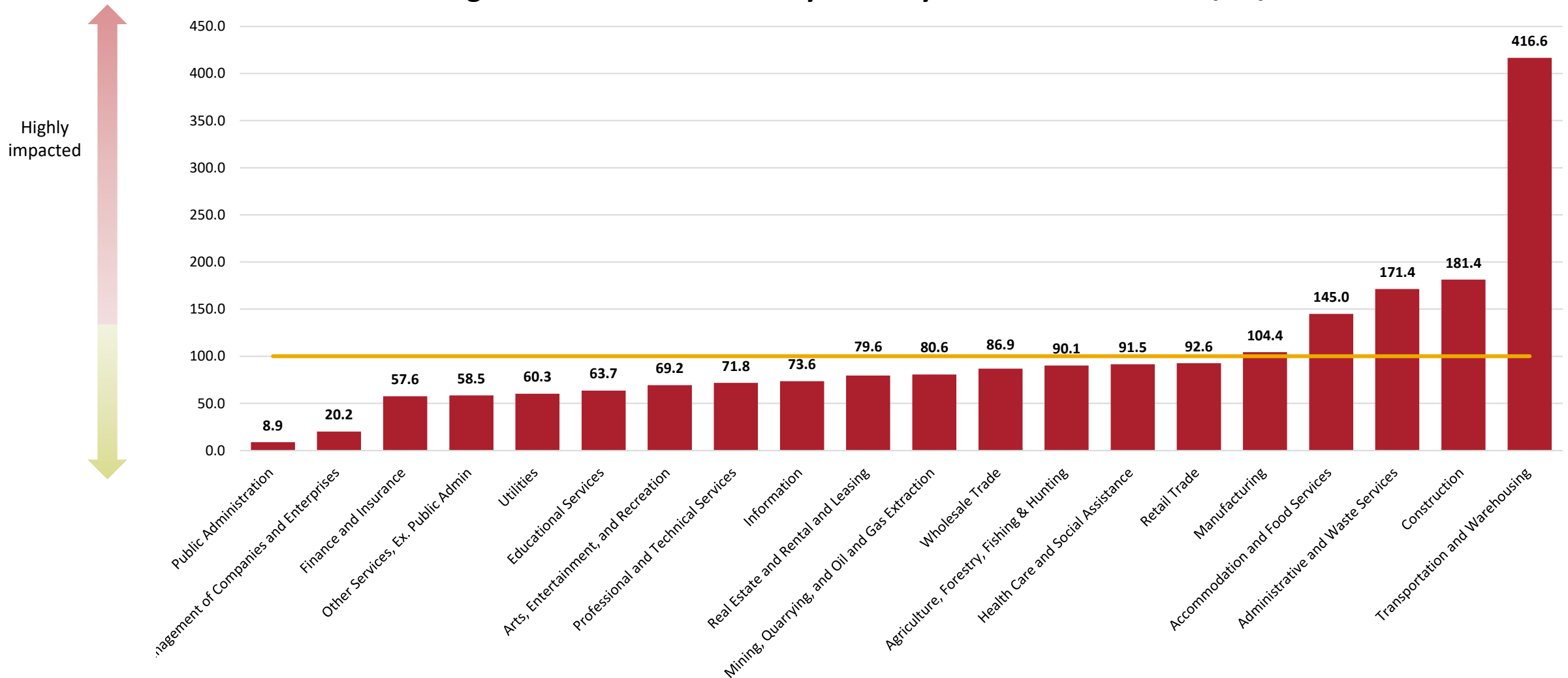
Southwestern Pennsylvania Continuing UC Claim Trends



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

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

Regional Continued Claims by Industry Index: Week Ended 8/28/21



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 45-54 segment and 55-64 segment. By race, the Black population is disproportionately impacted compared to other demographic groups.

Regional Continued Claims by Age		
	Week ended 8/28/21	Indexed
16-19 *	0.4%	7.4
20-24	4.7%	76.4
25-34	18.3%	139.7
35-44	19.7%	172.7
45-54	19.6%	149.7
55-64	22.6%	149.6
65 and older	14.5%	73.8
Unknown	0.2%	N/A
Grand Total	23,326	
* Used 15 – 19 age group from American Community Survey		

Regional Continued Claims by Race		
	Week ended 8/28/21	Indexed
Black	12.6%	163.6
Hispanic	1.2%	72.1
Pacific Islander or Asian	0.7%	31.6
Unknown	5.7%	N/A
White	79.4%	91.1
Grand Total	23,326	

Regional Continued Claims by Sex		
	Week ended 8/28/21	Indexed
Female	50.5%	98.7
Male	49.5%	101.4
Grand Total	23,326	

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 and Bureau of Labor Statistics

For more information, please contact Jim Futrell at jfutrell@alleghenyconference.org