

Unemployment Claims Data Summary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region

Periods covering January 2020 to September 2021

November 4, 2021



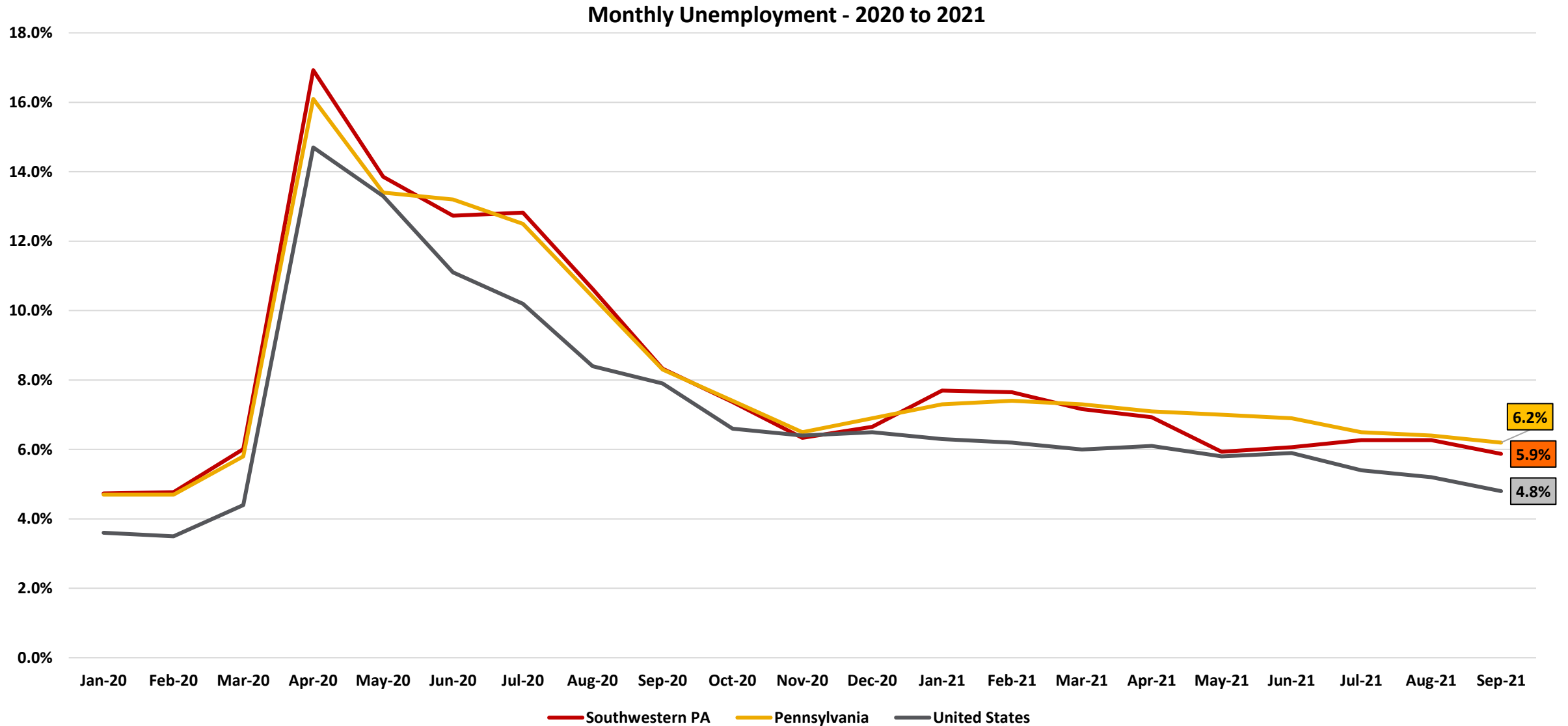
**Pennsylvania Economy League
of Greater Pittsburgh**

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

Key Takeaways

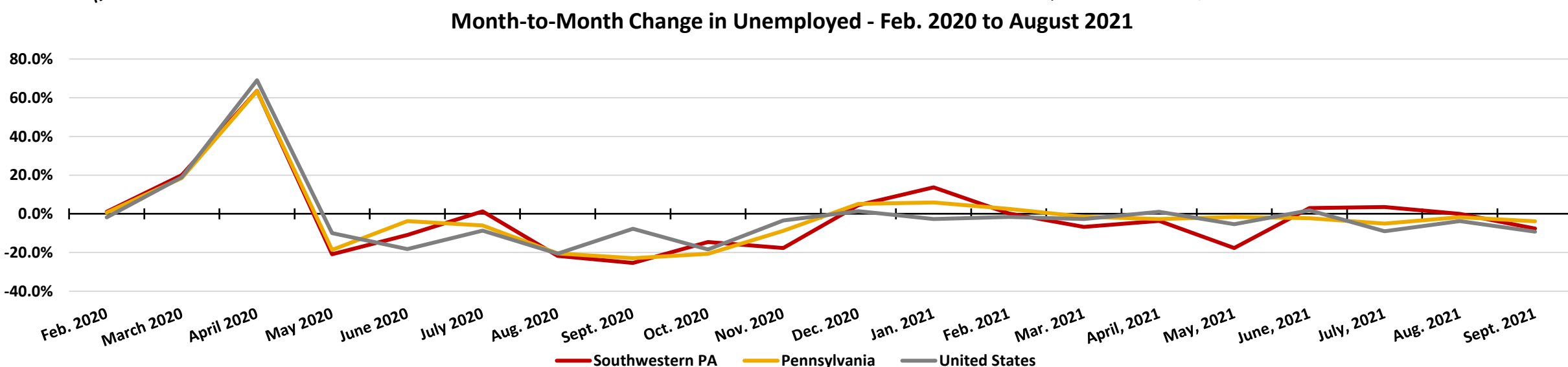
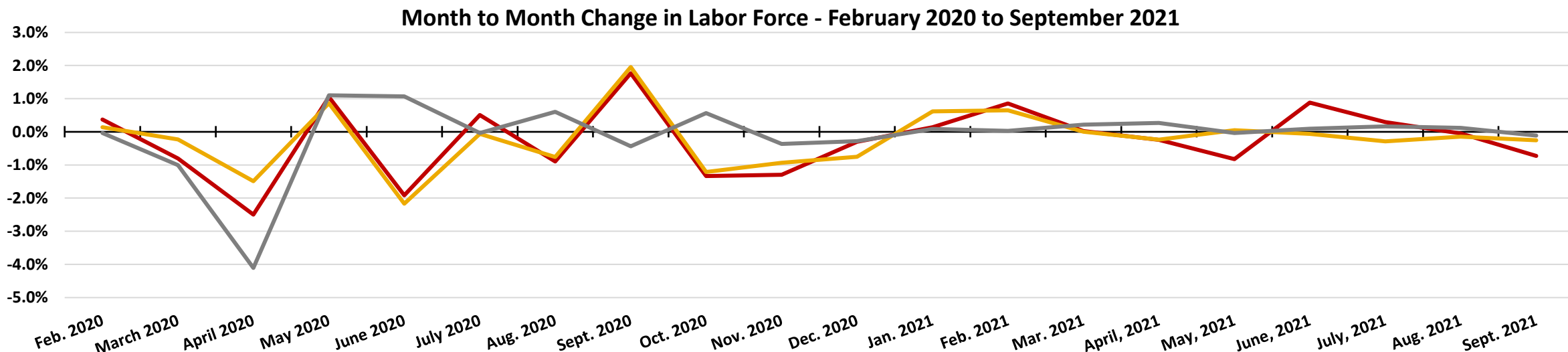
- After slowly increasing between May and August 2021, the unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania dropped in September from 6.3% to 5.9%. While below the state, the region has had a higher unemployment rate than the nation since June 2021.
- While the region's Labor Force has been dropping since fall, the 0.7% drop from August to September was the largest month-to-month drop since November 2020. The state and nation registered smaller drops, but still the largest since late-2020.
- The number of unemployed individuals also fell across the board with the national and state decreases being the largest since fall 2020. The regional drop was last exceeded in May 2021 as seasonal hiring ramped up. Given that employment growth was flat, this could indicate that as enhanced employment benefits expired early in the month, people chose to leave the workforce.
- In September, the gap between the region's February 2020 unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points, smaller than the U.S. or state. The gap between the last pre-pandemic unemployment rate and the current one is largest in Armstrong County (2.2 percentage points) while it is below the regional average in four counties including Greene, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.
- Continuing unemployment claims remain below levels not seen since the pandemic began but did fall dramatically with the expiration of enhanced unemployment benefits. The region's drop continues to parallel the state 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 10/23/21, the top five most impacted industries are Wholesale Trade; Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting.
- 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

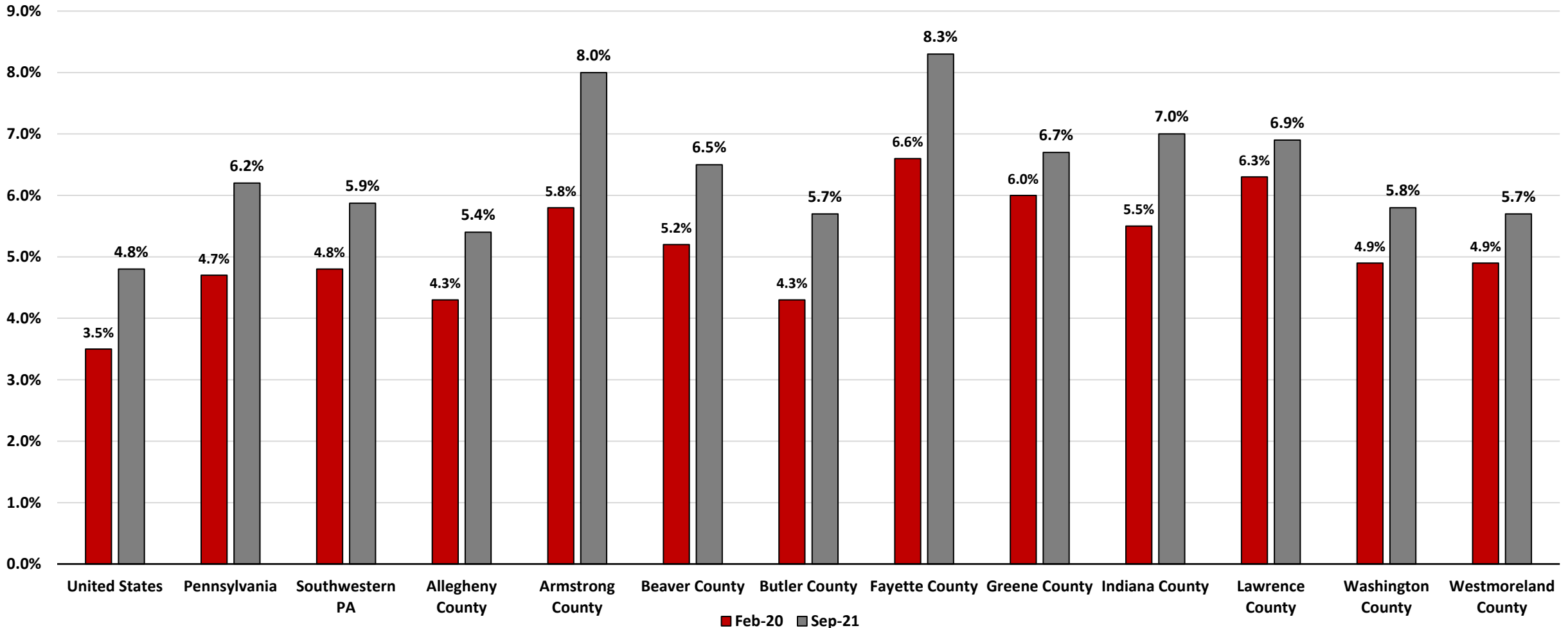
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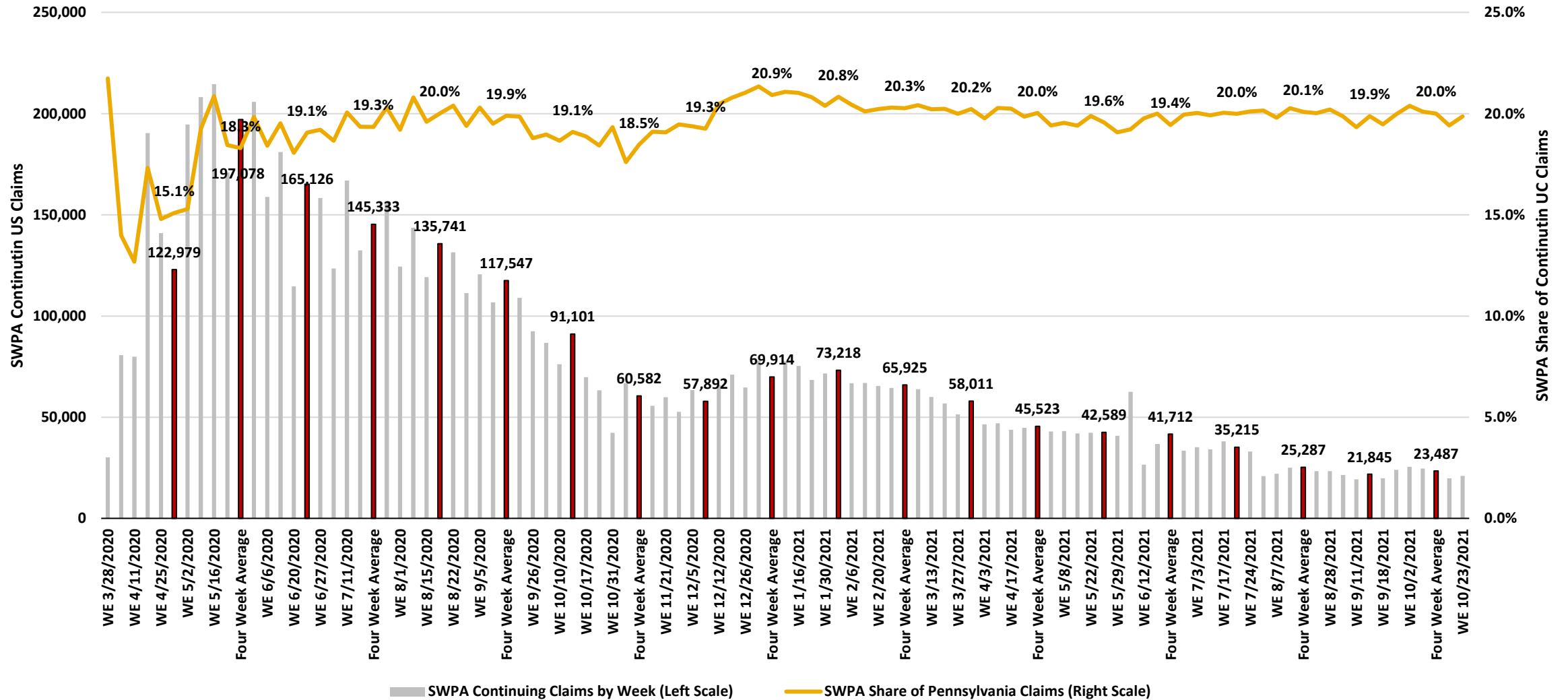
Unemployment Rate Comparison - February 2020 vs. August 2021



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

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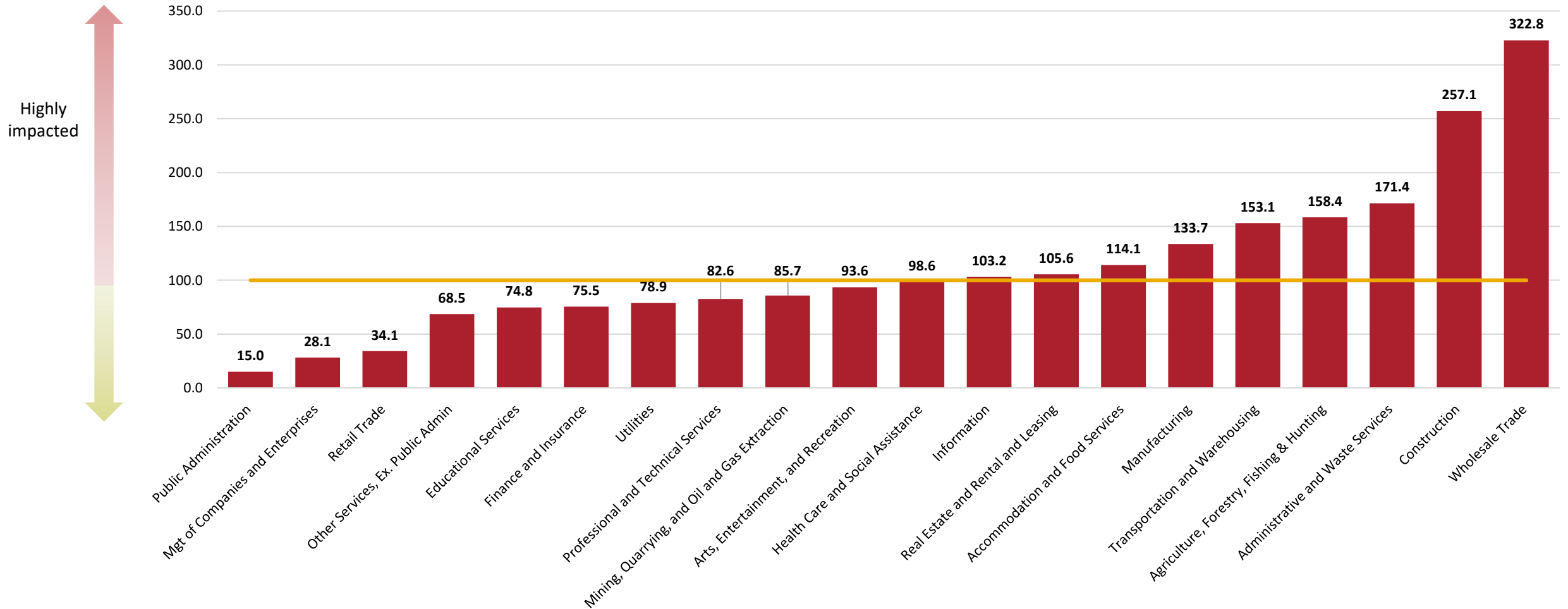
Southwestern Pennsylvania Continuing UC Claim Trends



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 Wholesale Trade; Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting. Unlike other industries, Construction is impacted by seasonal slowdowns.

Regional Continued Claims by Industry Index: Week Ended 10/23/21



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; Emsi

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

Regional Continued Claims by Age		
	Week ended 10/23/21	Indexed
16-19 *	3.8%	63.2
20-24	4.6%	75.2
25-34	17.9%	136.8
35-44	18.4%	162.0
45-54	17.0%	129.5
55-64	18.2%	120.2
65 and older	7.4%	37.8
Unknown	12.7%	N/A
Grand Total	21,012	
* Used 15 – 19 age group from American Community Survey		

Regional Continued Claims by Race		
	Week ended 10/23/21	Indexed
Black	12.1%	156.9
Hispanic	1.2%	67.7
Pacific Islander or Asian	0.6%	25.3
Unknown	13.7%	N/A
White	72.1%	82.7
Grand Total	21,012	

Regional Continued Claims by Sex		
	Week ended 10/23/21	Indexed
Female	48.1%	93.9
Male	51.9%	106.5
Grand Total	21,012	

Report produced by the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, an
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Data sources include the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Center for
Workforce Information and Analysis and Bureau of Labor Statistics

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