Economic Outlook
December 2015

United States

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	157,833,000	149,929,000	7,904,000	5.0%
Last Month	157,367,000	149,444,000	7,924,000	5.0%
Previous Year	156,142,000	147,439,000	8,704,000	5.6%

o Long-term unemployed: 2.085M, increase of 31,000 since last month *(unemployed for more than 26 weeks)*
o U-6 Unemployment Rate: 9.9% (**U-6**: *total unemployed (U-3) plus discouraged workers (U-4), plus all other marginally attached workers (U-5), plus total employed part time for economic reasons (U-6))*
o There are 5.431M job openings *(November 2015 preliminary)*. This equates to 1.5 unemployed persons per job opening, or 2.9 persons using the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Nonfarm jobs: 143.242M (84.6% private, 15.4% public)
o Monthly change: +292,000 (+275,000 private, +17,000 public)
o Largest industry growth: Administrative and support services (+57,600), Health care and social assistance (+52,600), and Construction (+45,000)
o Average monthly job growth (total nonfarm jobs) since December 2014: +221,000
o Compared to December 2007: 4.892M more jobs
The recession began in December 2007

Initial Claims: 277,000
o Weekly change: -10,000
o Annual change: -18,000
Advanced January 2 seasonally adjusted regular UC program data; Provided by U.S. Department of Labor

Initial Claims: The count of notices of unemployment requesting a determination of eligibility and entitlement for Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits. A person can file multiple claims.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment:
o Less than a high school diploma: 6.7%
o High school diploma: 5.6%
o Some College or Associate Degree: 4.1%
o Bachelor's degree and higher: 2.5%
As educational attainment levels increase, unemployment rates decrease.

Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	6,429,000	6,108,000	321,000	5.0%
Last Month	6,415,000	6,085,000	330,000	5.1%
Previous Year	6,352,000	6,029,000	323,000	5.1%

o 26th lowest unemployment rate across the nation
o **Nonfarm Jobs**: 5.856M (87.9% private, 12.1% public; annual change: +0.7%)
o **Regular UC Initial Claims**: 88,500 (annual change: +0.1%)
o PA U-6 unemployment rate: 10.9% *(BLS, 2014Q4-2015Q3)*
o There are 222,100 job openings *(Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) dataset for November 2015)*. This equates to 1.4 unemployed persons per job opening, or 3.3 persons when considering the U-6 Unemployment Rate.

Central Pennsylvania

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Current	305,500	290,900	14,700	4.8%
Last Month	305,000	289,700	15,300	5.0%
Previous Year	305,300	290,000	15,200	5.0%

o 9th lowest rate by WDA in PA
o Berwick borough: 5.8%
o Bloomsburg town: 4.2%
o Lewisburg borough: 3.4%
o Lewistown borough: 5.7%
o Lock Haven city: 5.7%
o Selinsgrove borough: 4.1%
o State College borough: 3.8%
o Sunbury city: 7.2%
o Williamsport city: 6.2%
(Boroughs, Townships, and Cities are not seasonally adjusted)
o **Nonfarm Jobs**: 275,700 (76.8% private, 23.2% public; annual change: +0.1%) *(NSA)*
o **Regular UC Initial Claims**: 6,600 (annual change: +10.4%)

o There are 10,100 online job postings *(Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) dataset for November 2015)*. This equates to 1.5 unemployed persons per online job posting, or 3.3 using an estimated U-6 unemployment rate of 10.5%.

Top Online Job Postings by Occupation:
o Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
o Registered Nurses
o Retail Salespersons

Top Online Job Postings by Employer:
o Geisinger Health System
o Bayada
o Knight Transportation