



United States Congress

# Joint Economic Committee

EST. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



## Pennsylvania Employment Update



August 2025 | Released September 19, 2025

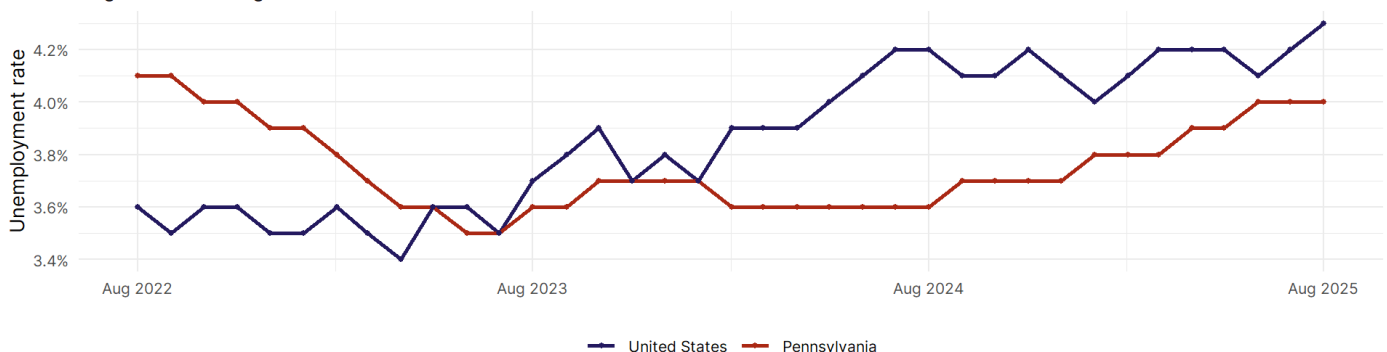
### United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 13, rose in 12, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.9 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 32 states and fell in 18.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **Utah**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.7 percent in **District of Columbia**.

### Pennsylvania Employment Snapshot

- In August, **Pennsylvania added 12,200 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4 percent.** In the prior month, Pennsylvania added 6,800 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Pennsylvania added 101,200 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points from 3.6 percent.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent.** Pennsylvania is **tied for 5th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **Pennsylvania's private sector added 9,500 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 99,400 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, Pennsylvania added 6,700 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in Pennsylvania **fell by 6,665**, and over the past 12 months it fell by 54,592.
- **Pennsylvania's labor force participation rate fell to 61.3 percent** in August from 61.4 percent and **ranks 35th** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has fallen by 0.6 percentage points.

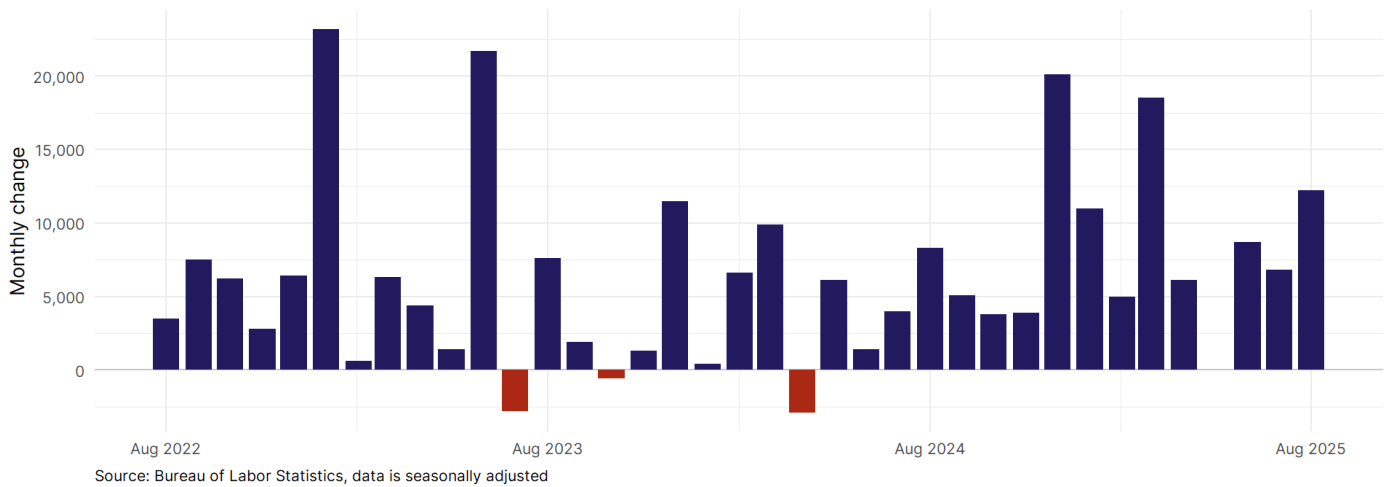
Unemployment Rate in Pennsylvania  
August 2022 to August 2025



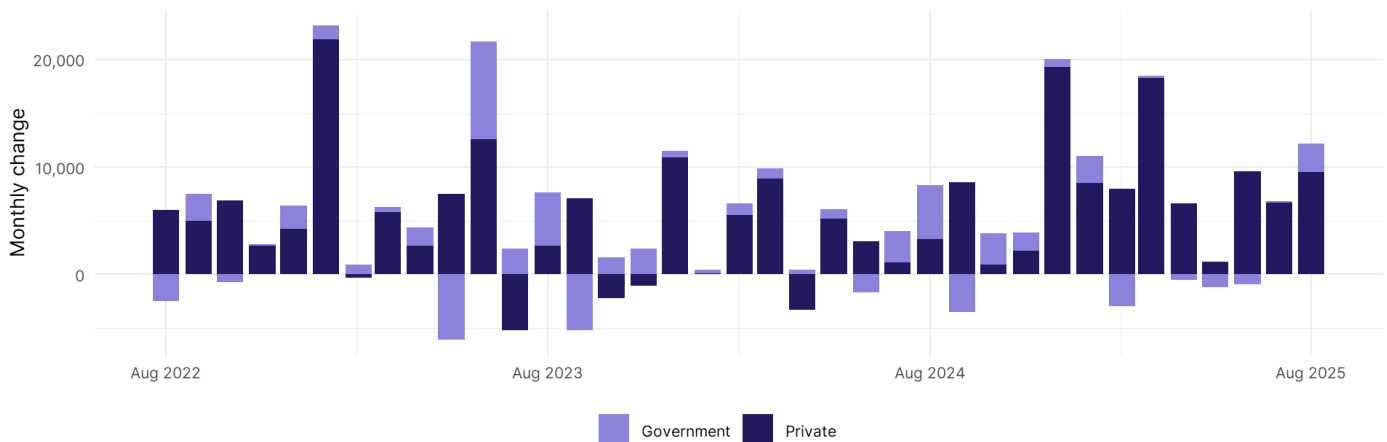
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

## Pennsylvania Payroll employment

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls in Pennsylvania  
August 2022 to August 2025



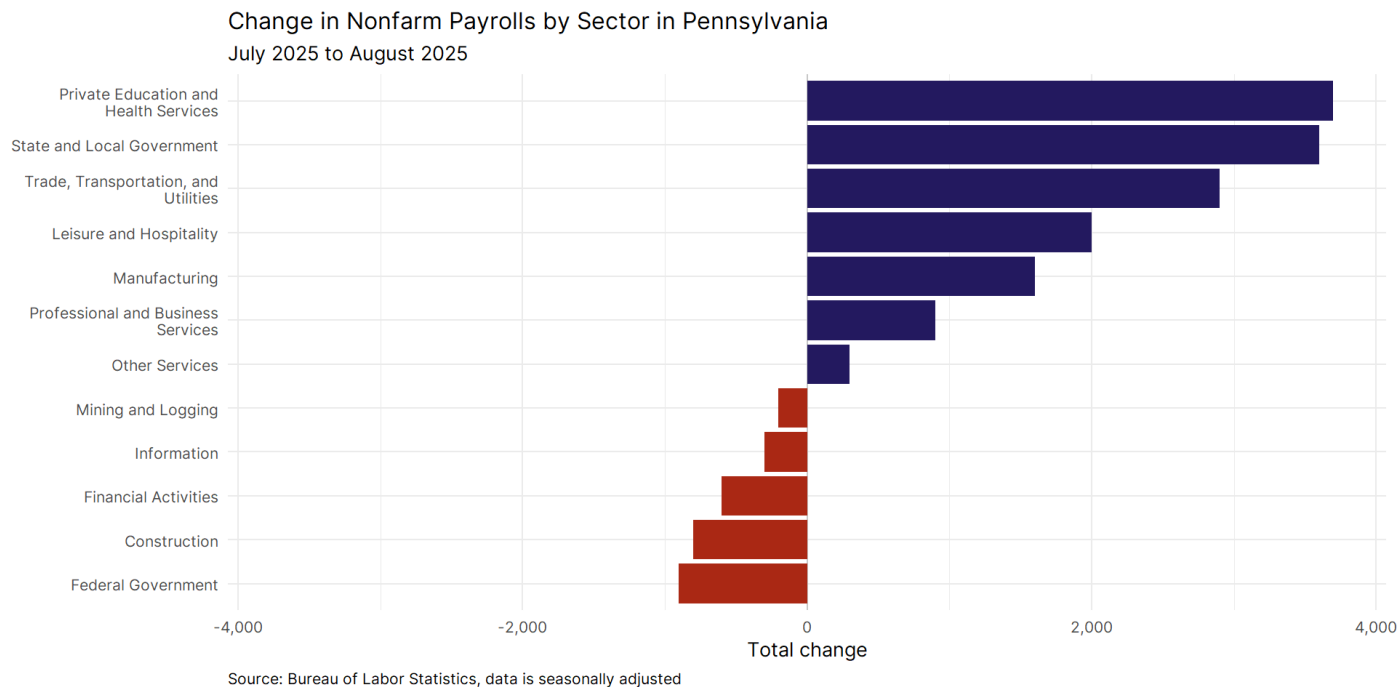
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls by Sector in Pennsylvania  
August 2022 to August 2025



- Pennsylvania added 12,200 net payroll jobs, or 0.2 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Pennsylvania added 6,800 jobs. Pennsylvania nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **11 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. Pennsylvania is tied for 5th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- Pennsylvania added 9,500 private sector jobs, or 0.2 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Pennsylvania added 6,700 jobs. Pennsylvania private sector payroll employment has increased in **each of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 38,000 jobs in August, or 0 percent**. Pennsylvania is tied for 4th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

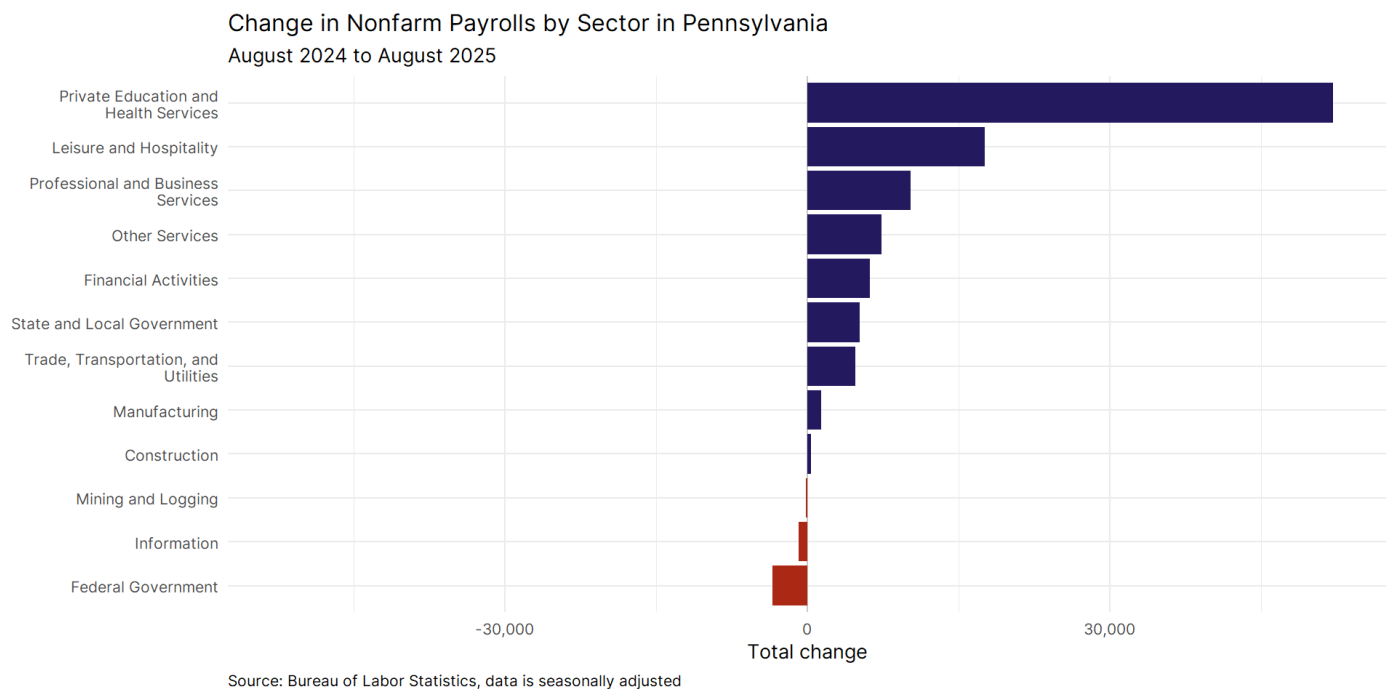
From July 2025 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+3,700) and **State and Local Government** (+3,600).
- The worst performing sectors were **Federal Government** (-900) and **Construction** (-800).



From August 2024 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+52,200) and **Leisure and Hospitality** (+17,600).
- The worst performing sectors were **Federal Government** (-3,400) and **Information** (-800).



## Pennsylvania Labor force

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

- The labor force participation rate in **Pennsylvania fell to 61.3 percent in August from 61.4 percent in the prior month.**
- **Pennsylvania ranks 35th** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania was **63.4 percent** occurring in March 2016, and the 10-year low was **60.8 percent** in April 2020.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.3 percent** in August.

