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The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report, Quarter 3, 2015

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THE PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

New Local Economic Development Effort Focusing on Internal Growth

IN ECONOMICS, endogenous growth theory emphasizes internal causes of economic growth and suggests that internal investments within a locality produce technological growth, higher productivity, and higher local incomes.

The City of Pittsburg and Pittsburg State University are cooperating to develop a program to facilitate internal growth by providing support for the full lifecycle of business development needs from conceptualization to product development to production and marketing. PSU, working with the City, recently received a grant to plan for expansion of its research park – with the goal of establishing a system that cultivates technical and scientific discoveries and translates them into locally-based businesses that capitalize on the region's resources.

Among the local success stories that highlight the opportunities and economic impact associated with internal growth is Miller's Professional Imaging, which provides photographic printing and lab services. This Pittsburg company started with one person in the 1960s and has grown to be a major corporate anchor in the region, with locations in Pittsburg, Kansas and Columbia, Missouri. Total sales were \$128,368,534 in 2014, with sales of \$94,223,268 by the Pittsburg location and \$34,145,266 by the Columbia location.

The company provides well-paying jobs, and the industry is becoming increasingly high-tech, requiring digital technicians and other professional occupations. The number of jobs peaked at 625 in 2014, with 419 jobs in Pittsburg and 206 jobs in

Columbia. Companies in the industry spend on average over 39.9 percent of revenues on purchases of inputs from other industries. An input-output analysis suggests that the overall economic impact of the company in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area is \$132 million in total sales, \$35.2 million in payroll, and 933 jobs.

Miller's Professional Imaging is very competitive and has been able to adopt new technologies, as well as develop a niche in the market which allowed it to be prosperous and grow during a period of decline in the overall industry. Total industry sales in the greater industry nationwide declined 3.8 percent in the 2011-2014 period, but increased a significant 17.1 percent for Miller's Professional Imaging.

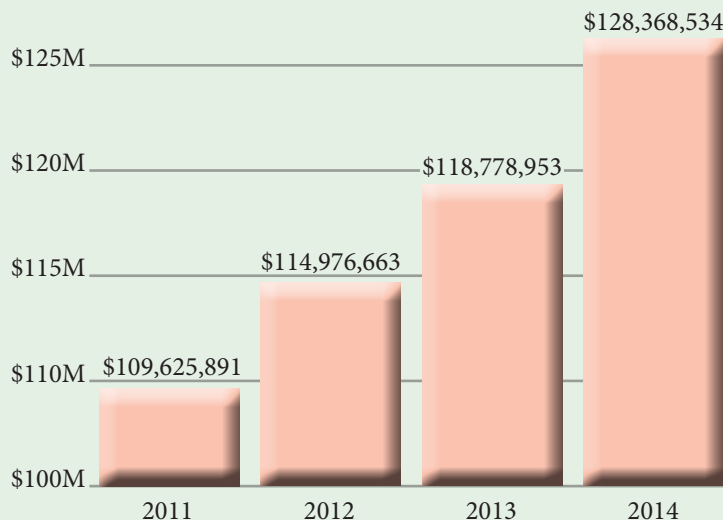
INSIDE

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Total Sales Miller's Professional Imaging



Source: Miller's Professional Imaging



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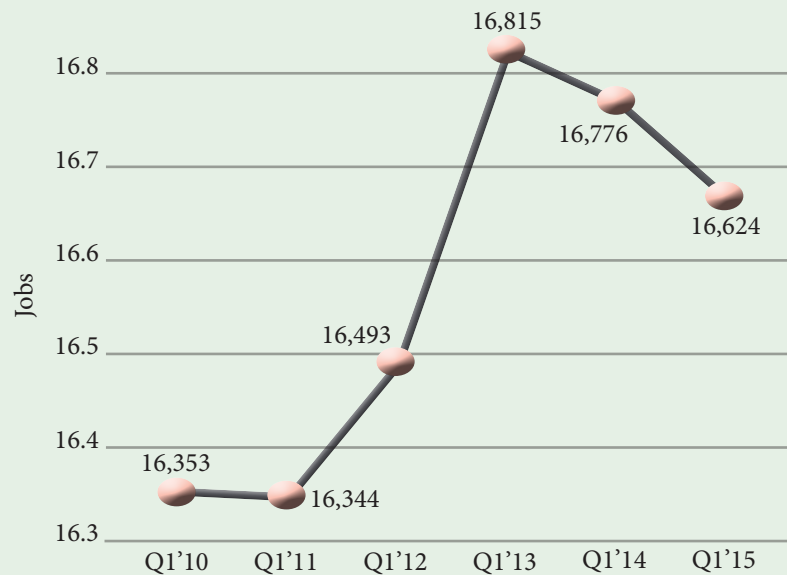
TOTAL JOB GROWTH

Jobs are increasing nationwide at a healthy rate, with over 3,051,267 jobs (up 2.3 percent) added during the first quarter of 2015 compared with the same quarter last year. Approximately 4.2 percent of the new jobs were added by government (all levels), 18.4 percent by the goods producing industries, and 77.4 percent by the service producing industries. Average monthly wages during the quarter were \$4,542 nationwide (up 2.1 percent). The number of jobs increased to 1,351,098 statewide during the period (up 1.3 percent). Interestingly, almost all the jobs (98 percent) were added by the service producing industries, 1.2 percent in the goods producing industries, and 0.8 percent by government. Average monthly wages during the quarter were \$3,687 statewide (up 1.4 percent).

The number of jobs in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area declined during the quarter to 16,624 jobs (down 0.9 percent or 152 jobs). Approximately 166 jobs were lost in the service producing industries and 30 jobs were lost in government. However, the goods producing industries added 44 jobs. Average monthly wages during the quarter were \$2,672 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 0.9 percent).

Average Number of Jobs

The Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

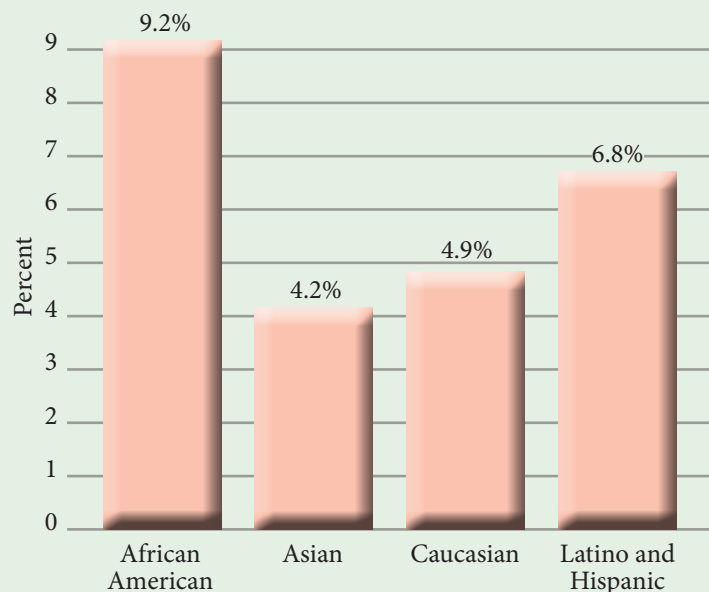
UNEMPLOYMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate is declining in 2015 for African Americans but holding steady for Caucasians, Asians, and Hispanics and Latinos. The unemployment rate was 9.2 percent for African Americans nationwide in July 2015, 4.2 percent for Asians, 4.9 percent for Caucasians, and 6.8 percent for Latinos and Hispanics. Unemployment has declined throughout the year, with unemployment in July 2015 declining from July 2014 in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Unemployment increased in 14 states, and 12 states had no change.

The nationwide unemployment rate has also declined significantly from last year, registering 5.6 percent in July 2015 (down from 6.5 percent in July 2014). The unemployment rate was 5.1 percent statewide in July 2015 (no change since July 2014) and 6.2 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up from 5.9 percent). The average unemployment rate for the first seven months of the year was 5.6 percent nationwide (down from 6.5 percent), 4.5 percent statewide (down from 5.9 percent), and 5.5 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down from 5.6 percent).

Unemployment By Ethnic Group

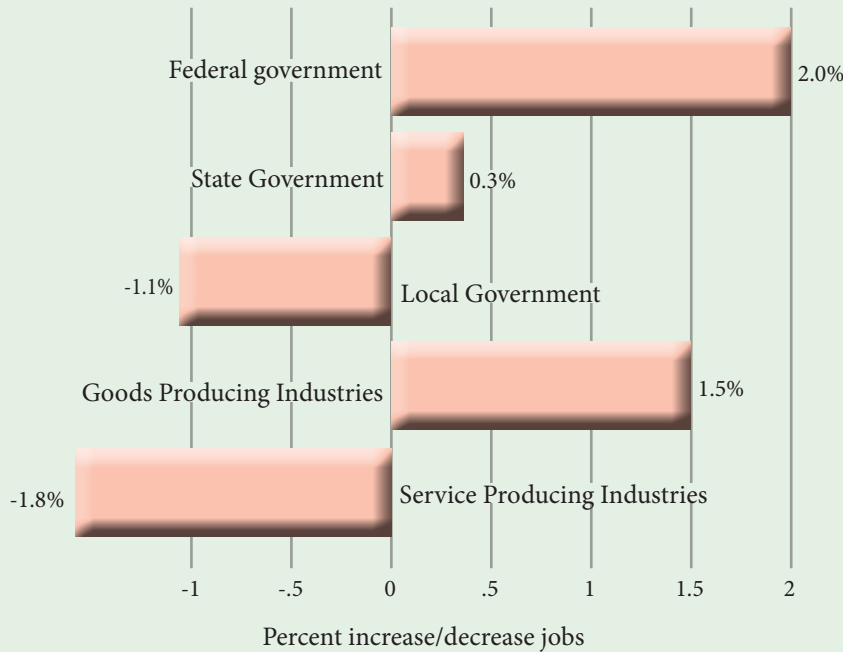
Nationwide, July 2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Growth

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, Q1'14 - Q1'15



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

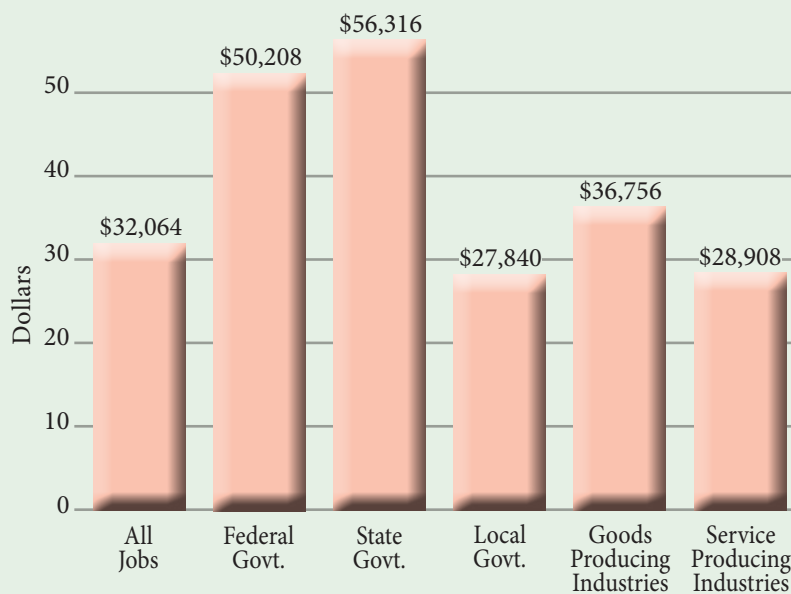
Six Pittsburg Micropolitan Area industries added jobs during the first quarter of 2015, compared to the first quarter 2014. The number of jobs increased 4.4 percent in the Leisure and Hospitality Industry (88 jobs), followed by Manufacturing (2.8 percent, 71 jobs); the Federal Government (2.0 percent, 2 jobs); Professional and Business Services (1.7 percent, 18 jobs); Natural Resources and Mining (0.8 percent, 1 job) and the State Government (0.3 percent, 3 jobs).

Seven industries lost jobs. Education and Health Services saw the number of jobs decline 1.1 percent (25 jobs), followed by the Local Government down 1.1 percent (35 jobs); Other Services such as repair, maintenance and beauty care reported loss of 3.0 percent (8 jobs); Trade Transportation and Utilities down 4.9 percent (141 jobs); Construction down 7.0 percent (28 jobs); Information down 9.6 percent (26 jobs); and Financial Activities down 15.2 percent (72 jobs).

The sub industry with the most losses was Ambulatory Services with a loss of 72 jobs, followed by Rental and Leasing Services (down 47 jobs) and Electronics and Appliance Stores (down 37 jobs).

Average Annual Wages

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area
Based on Q1'15



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

INCOMES BY INDUSTRY

The industry with the fastest growing payroll in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the Q1'14-Q1'15 period was the Leisure and Hospitality Industry, which posted a payroll of \$5,828,916 during the first quarter of 2015 (up 20.3 percent), followed by Manufacturing, with \$23,208,280 in quarterly payroll (up 2.6 percent); State Government, with \$15,790,752 in quarterly payroll (up 2.4 percent); Education and Health Services, with \$20,345,862 in quarterly payroll (up 1.6 percent); Trade, Transportation and Utilities, with \$22,728,255 in quarterly payroll (up 0.4 percent); and the Federal Government, with \$1,041,847 in quarterly payroll (up 0.1 percent).

All other industries saw a decline in payroll. The industry with the largest decline in payroll was the Financial Activities industry, with a quarterly payroll of \$4,119,468 (down 23.7 percent); followed by Information, with a quarterly payroll of \$3,084,674 (down 8.6 percent); Other Services, with a quarterly payroll of \$1,373,501 (down 7.4 percent); Natural Resources and Mining, with a quarterly payroll of \$814,484 (down 7.1 percent); Professional Business Services, with a quarterly payroll of \$10,119,541 (down 6.4 percent); Construction, with a quarterly payroll of \$3,251,599 (down 4.3 percent); and Local Government, with \$21,566,718 (down 1.7 percent).

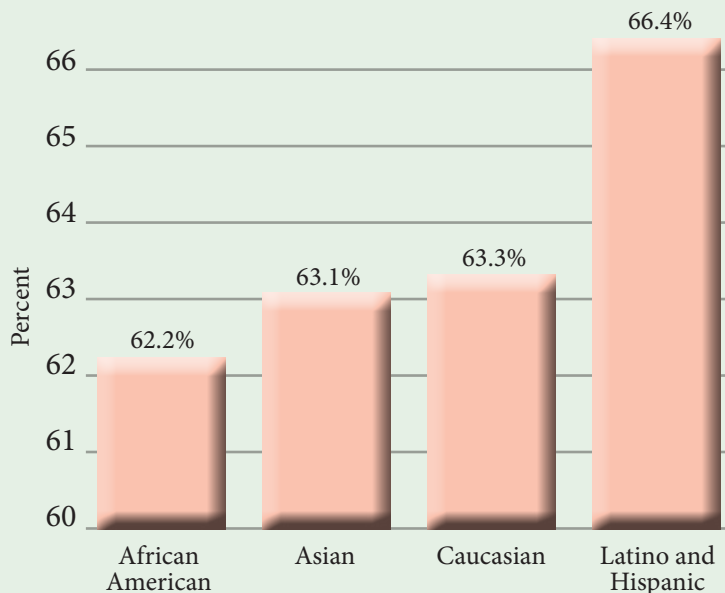
LABOR FORCE

There were 158,527,000 people in the labor force nationwide in July 2015, up 0.6 percent from July 2014, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In July 2015, the labor force participation rate was 62.2 percent for African Americans nationwide, 63.1 percent for Asians, 63.3 percent for Caucasians, and 66.4 percent for Latinos and Hispanics. However, the population is growing faster than the labor force because some people are leaving the labor force (discouraged workers). The overall labor participation rate was 63.2 percent nationwide in July, down from 63.5 percent in July 2014. There were 1,493,222 people in the labor force statewide in July (down 1.9 percent) and 19,009 people in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down 1.7 percent).

Approximately 23.1 percent of the people who live in the City of Pittsburgh and work are employed in Service Occupations (inside or outside the city), 13.8 percent in Office and Administrative Support, 13.4 percent in Education or Law, 11.3 percent in Sales and related services, 7.8 percent in Management, Business and Finance, 4.8 percent in Health Care and Technical, and 12.5 percent in other occupations.

Labor Force Participation By Ethnic Group

Nationwide, July 2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

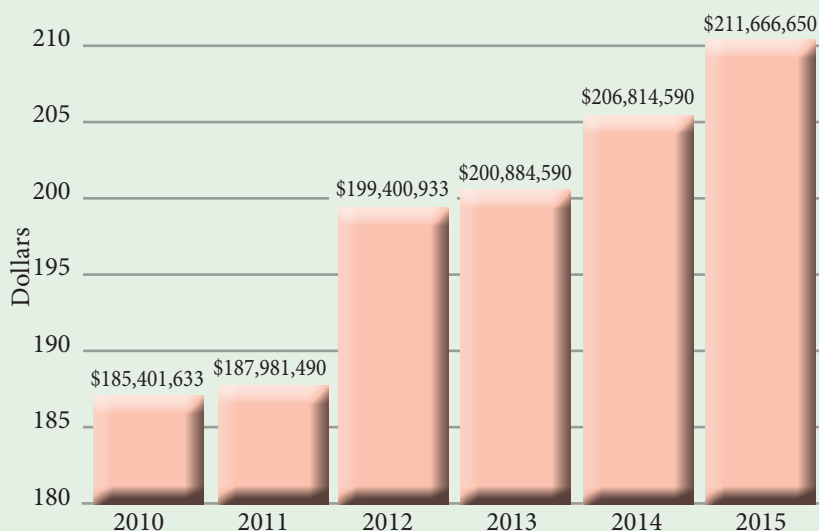
TAXABLE SALES

Household spending on goods and services accounts for almost 70 percent of annual expenditure nationwide, which makes it a very important indicator for production and economic activity. Total retail sales (including food services) increased to over \$2.5 trillion nationwide during the first six months of the year, up 2.1 percent from the same period last year. This is significantly less than the 3.4 percent increase during the first six months in the 2013-2014 period, implying that perhaps consumer sentiment is weakening. Furthermore, if you exclude sales of motor vehicles and automobile parts, then total sales declined by 0.6 percent during the first six months. This is one of the reasons why the Federal Reserve is not increasing interest rates.

Total taxable sales (retail, food service, lodging and some other taxable services) increased to \$20.3 billion statewide during the period (up one percent), \$211,666,650 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 2.3 percent), and \$155,547,561 in the City of Pittsburgh (up one percent). The biggest category of local spending is on general merchandise, due to a large student population.

Taxable Sales

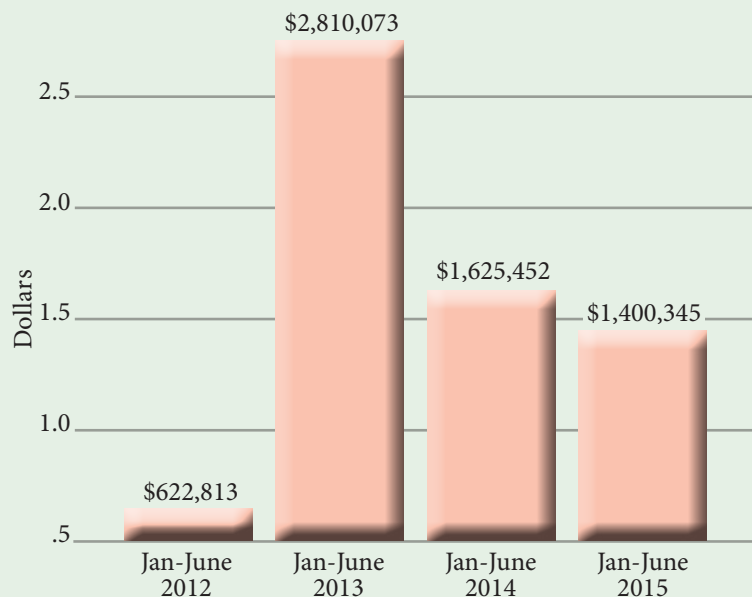
Pittsburg Micropolitan Area
First Six Months - 2015



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue

Value of New Residential Permits

City of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

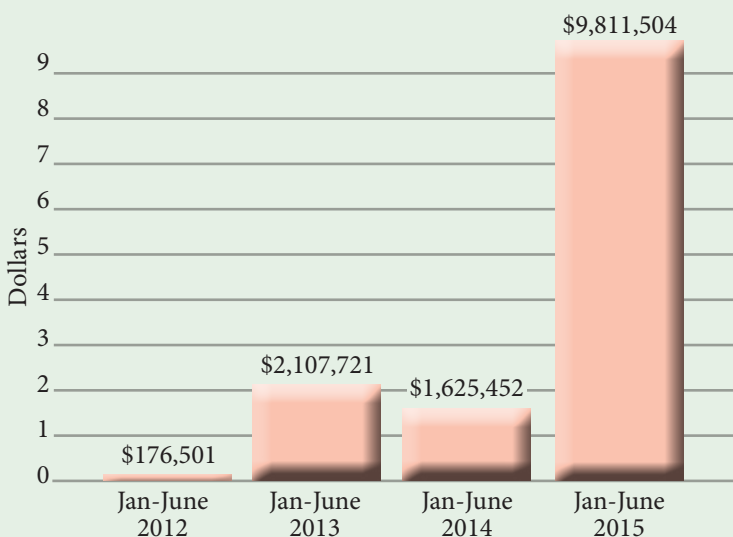
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Housing sales are up significantly in the Pittsburgh area in 2015, according to the Pittsburgh Area Realtors Association. The typical home is staying on the market almost 40 days less before it is sold compared to last year, and people seem to be buying more expensive homes. During the first seven months of the year, 301 homes were sold, up 28.6 percent from the same period last year. The average home price was \$94,668 (up 12.8 percent), and the median sales price was \$73,000 (up 12.7 percent). In August 36 homes were sold, for an average price of \$119,736 (up 33.8 percent from August 2014) and median price of \$97,750 (up 26.1 percent).

Eight new residential permits were issued by the City of Pittsburgh during the first two quarters of the year, for a stated value of \$1,400,345 (down 40.6 percent from the same period last year), and 42 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, for a stated value of \$571,688 (up 24.6 percent).

Value of New Commercial Permits

City of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

Commercial permit activity is up significantly in the City of Pittsburgh in 2015, with 41 commercial permits issued during the first two quarters for a stated value of \$14,171,830, up over 372 percent from the first two quarters last year.

Nine new commercial and industrial permits were issued during the period, with a stated value of \$9,811,504, up 613.6 percent from the \$1,625,452 during the same period in 2014. Most of the value in the new permits was accounted for by three commercial permits issued in June, for the Walmart Neighborhood Market, a new apartment complex, and a new fuel station. There were also 32 permits issued for additions, alterations, and conversions of existing commercial buildings, for a stated value of \$4,360,326 (up 168.3 percent).

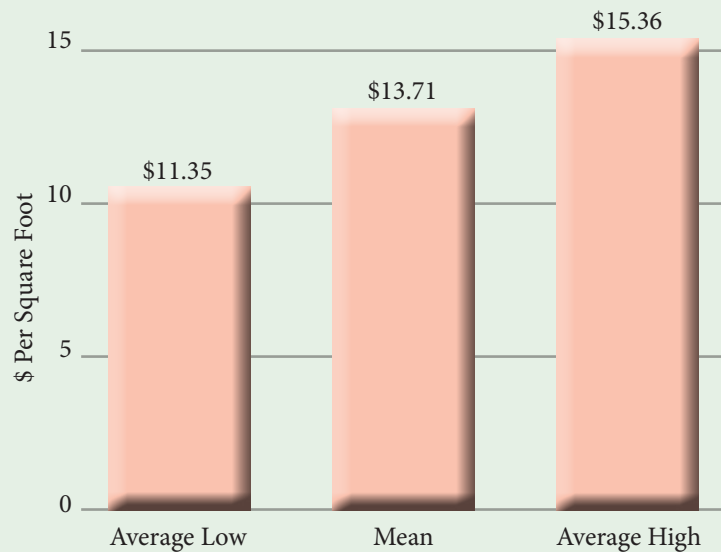
There are more commercial permits in the pipeline in Pittsburgh according to the Joplin Globe. The two biggest are Miller's Professional Imaging which plans to expand their space by 32,000 sq. ft. and Craw-Kan Telecommunications company, which plans to build a new building.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

The health care industry is the fastest growing industry nationwide in 2015, according to Forbes Magazine. Pittsburg, the seat of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, is the center for healthcare services in Southeast Kansas and the home of Via Christi Hospital, with 98 hospital beds in a 401,000 sq. ft. facility which features a Level III Trauma Center and a 40,000 sq. ft. surgery center. Approximately 8.2 percent of people living in the City of Pittsburg and 9.5 percent of people living in the Micropolitan Area work in health care occupations.

A vibrant medical office space market with high quality medical office space featuring elaborate plumbing and mechanical systems at affordable rents is vital for continued growth of the industry in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area. According to Jones Heritage Realtors, the average low for medical office space is \$11.35 per sq. ft. on gross bases (owner pays basic taxes, insurance, major maintenance, and exterior maintenance). Rents for medical office space can go as high as \$15.36 per sq. ft., with the mean office space rent being \$13.71 per sq. ft.

Gross Medical Space Rental Rates Pittsburg Area, 2015



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

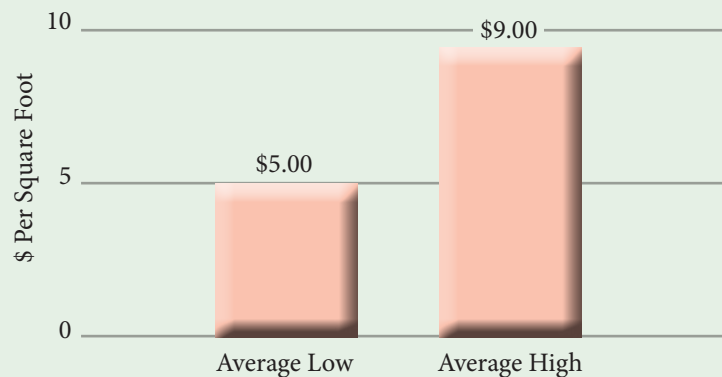
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL LAND VALUES

According to Jones Heritage Realtors, commercial land prices are edging up in South Pittsburg, partly due to the Walmart Corporation's purchase for \$1,916,000 of land at the corner of Centennial and Rouse for the construction of a new Walmart Neighborhood Market, and due to Huff Jones Management's \$442,900 purchase of land for the 72 unit Edge Apartment Complex, which is now completed. Recently, another parcel of land was purchased for commercial development in the Centennial and Rouse area for a very high price of \$14.49 per sq. ft.

Furthermore, a parcel of land recently sold on South Broadway for commercial development for \$1,517 per front foot and \$9.89 per square foot, which is among the highest sale prices recorded in the area. The South Broadway commercial land market has historically lagged behind North Broadway, with land values on South Broadway considerably less than on North Broadway. Perhaps these recent developments indicate that South Broadway is beginning to catch up to North Broadway in commercial frontage values.

The warehouse space market is showing lackluster prices in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, with large warehouse properties selling for \$5.00 to \$9.00 per sq. ft.

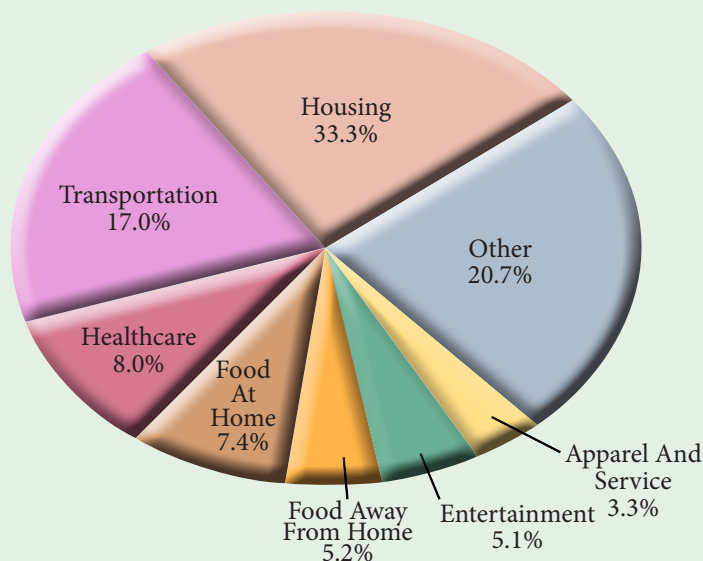
Warehouse & Light Industrial Space Prices Pittsburg Area, 2015



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

Composition of Average Annual Expenditures

Nationwide, 2014



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

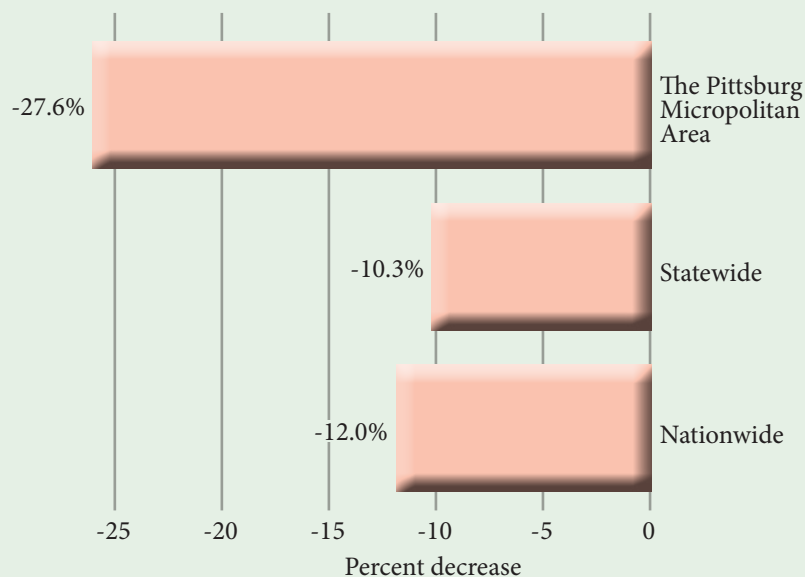
RETAIL SPACE MARKET

Pittsburg, the seat of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area and a center for retail and services in Southeast Kansas, has a significant potential for growth in retail sales, which is the foundation for a healthy retail space market. A 2013 study by the Hoffman Strategy Group/Jeff Green Partners found that the Pittsburg Retail and Restaurant industry could capture another \$62 million in annual retail sales from the Pittsburg retail trade area, and concluded that an additional 164,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space is supportable in Pittsburg. Among the areas in the city that the study recommended for additional retail space development were the corner of Centennial and Rouse and the vicinity of the route 69 bypass and North Broadway. Both of these areas have recently seen significant development, with major anchors moving in including Walmart Neighborhood Market, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Rib Crib. Most recently the Colton Steakhouse announced a location on North Broadway at the route 69 bypass.

Households nationwide spend approximately 5.2 percent of their budget on restaurants (food away from home) and 12.6 percent on food in general.

Growth In Number Of Bankruptcies

Year ending June 2015 compared with year ending June 2014



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

BANKRUPTCIES

Bankruptcies have declined considerably nationwide, with 879,736 bankruptcy cases filed during the 12 month period ending in June 2015 (down 12 percent from the 12 month period ending in June 2014), including 25,046 business bankruptcies cases filed (down 16.8 percent) and 854,690 personal bankruptcy cases (down 11.9 percent). Statewide, 7,215 bankruptcy cases were filed during the period (down 10.3 percent), with 195 business bankruptcy cases (down 2.6 percent) and 7,020 personal bankruptcies (down 10.6 percent). In the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 42 bankruptcy cases were filed during the period (down a significant 27.6 percent), with 2 business bankruptcy cases filed (up from one bankruptcy last year) and 40 personal bankruptcies (down 29.8 percent).

The state with the highest per capita rate of bankruptcy filing was Tennessee, with 5.65 per 1000 population; Alaska had the lowest per capita rate, with 0.59 filings per 1000 population. The State of Kansas had 2.48 filings per 1000 population (ranked 27th highest among the states); the US average (includes territories) was 2.72 filings per 1000 population.

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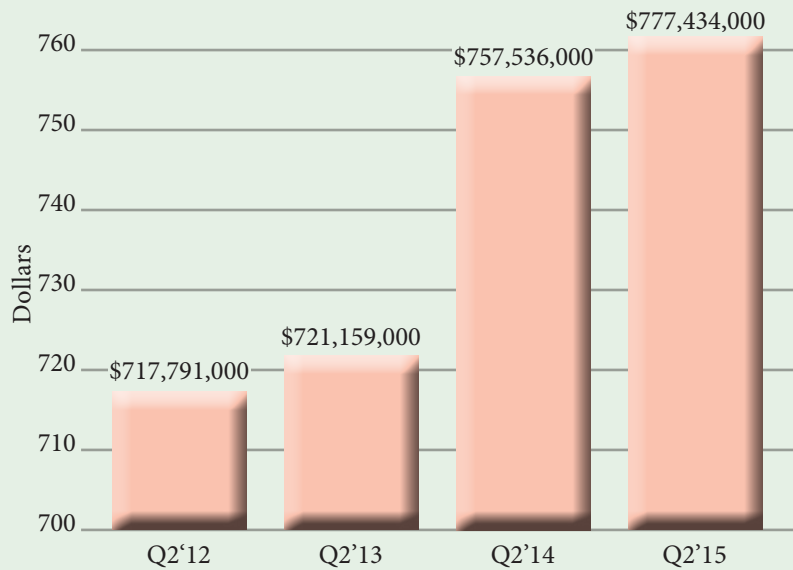
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Total Assets

The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Banking Industry



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

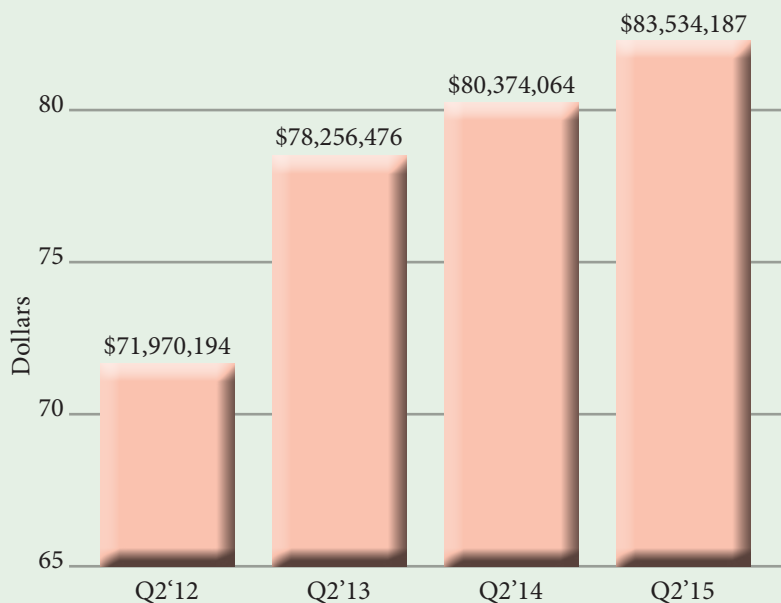
BANKING INDUSTRY

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRI) provides eligibility for companies in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area to tap into a federal fund for certain local projects. That is because eight of the 11 census tracts in Crawford County are classified by the Federal Reserve Bank as being distressed. The CRI provides funds to companies and organizations for investment or grants or loans for projects that focus on distressed areas in these tracts. These projects include asset building/financial education, community facilities, small business development/micro lending, neighborhood stabilization/affordable housing, and workforce development. This program has funded more than \$24 million for projects in the 10th Federal Reserve district. The Kansas City Fed provides screening for eligibility. For more information, interested parties can go to <https://www.kansascityfed.org/community/investmentconnection> for information.

According to the Federal Depositary Insurance Corporation (FDIC), The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area banking industry continues to improve, posting total assets of \$777,434,000 during the second quarter 2015 (up 2.6 percent from the second quarter in 2014), \$481,623,000 in net loans and leases (up 3.0 percent), \$6,512,000 in non-current loans and leases (down 15.9 percent), and net income of \$1,921,000 (down 44.1 percent).

Total Assets

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Credit Union Industry



Source: National Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

According to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), local credit unions with headquarters in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area posted \$83,534,187 in total assets in June 2015 (up 3.9 percent from June 2014), \$49,882,587 in net loans and leases (up 6.5 percent), \$282,704 in net operating income (up 35.1 percent), and \$188,640 in non-current loans and leases (up 14 percent). The statewide industry posted \$8,468,713,711 in total assets (up 11.4 percent), \$5,678,667,972 in net loans and leases (up 14.3 percent), net operating income of \$28,273,331 (up 17.0 percent), and non-current loans and leases of \$43,107,893 (up 19.1 percent).

The national credit union industry saw membership in federally insured credit unions grow to 101,084,138 at the end of June 2015, up more than three million from the end of June 2014. The national industry posted \$1.2 trillion in total assets in June 2015 (up 5.9 percent from June 2014), \$754.1 billion in net loans and leases (up 10.6 percent), \$4.7 billion in net operating income (up 5.0 percent), and \$5.6 billion in non-current loans and leases (down 3.8 percent).

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Business Summary

| | 2014 Employees | Percent | 2014 Establishments | Percent | Average Employee size |
|--|-------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Forestry, & Fishing | 35 | 0.4% | 2.5 | 1.8% | 2.6 |
| Mining | 11 | 0.1% | 5.6 | 0.3% | 5.3 |
| Construction | 169 | 1.7% | 5.8 | 3.8% | 6.0 |
| Manufacturing | 730 | 7.5% | 26.3 | 4.2% | 23.2 |
| Transportation, Communications, Elec., Gas, Etc. | 753 | 7.8% | 14.7 | 4.3% | 23.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 504 | 5.2% | 8.6 | 6.2% | 10.9 |
| Retail Trade | 1,789 | 18.4% | 10.1 | 20.6% | 11.7 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 284 | 2.9% | 4.0 | 9.4% | 4.1 |
| Services | 5,124 | 52.7% | 11.8 | 47.2% | 14.6 |
| Public Administration | 317 | 3.3% | 14.0 | 2.2% | 19.0 |

Source: Demographics Now

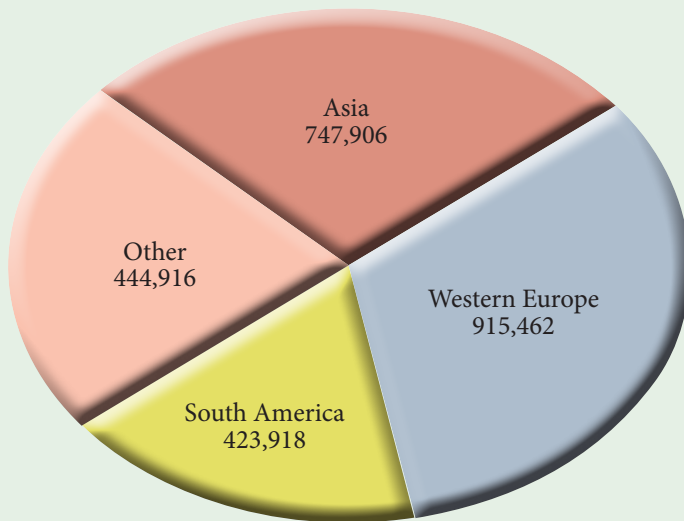
Crawford County Annual Median Base Salaries - 2014

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Accountants & Auditors | \$53,615 | Landscaping & Grounds Keeping Workers | \$17,938 |
| Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics | \$23,521 | Lawyers | \$64,206 |
| Bill & Account Collectors | \$28,064 | Librarians | \$49,411 |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks | \$33,855 | Loan Officers | \$87,968 |
| Cashier | \$18,058 | Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners | \$17,833 |
| Chief Executives | \$113,917 | Maintenance & Repair Workers, General | \$32,710 |
| Civil Engineers | \$59,637 | Medical & Health Service Managers | \$66,086 |
| Computer & Information Systems Managers | \$85,200 | Nursing Assistants | \$18,680 |
| Computer Programmers | \$49,165 | Pharmacists | \$135,833 |
| Construction Trade Workers | \$36,699 | Photographers | \$28,030 |
| Customer Service Representative | \$23,663 | Police & Sheriffs Patrol Officers | \$36,485 |
| Detectives & Criminal Investigators | \$53,165 | Postal Service Mail Carriers | \$51,418 |
| Education Administrators, Elem. & Sec. Schools | \$82,406 | Receptionists & Information Clerks | \$20,571 |
| Electricians | \$36,785 | Registered Nurses | \$48,058 |
| Financial Clerk | \$27,602 | Sales Representatives | \$56,423 |
| Financial Managers | \$96,827 | School Bus Driver | \$24,095 |
| Food Preparation Workers | \$17,739 | Secretary | \$27,157 |
| Food Service Managers | \$45,543 | Teacher Assistants | \$21,945 |
| Graphic Designers | \$37,671 | Waiters & Waitresses | \$17,640 |
| Industrial Engineers | \$59,918 | Welders | \$34,523 |

Source: Kansas Labor Information Systems

Number of Overseas Travelers to the USA by Region of Residence

March 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA, National Travel and Tourism Office

LODGING INDUSTRY

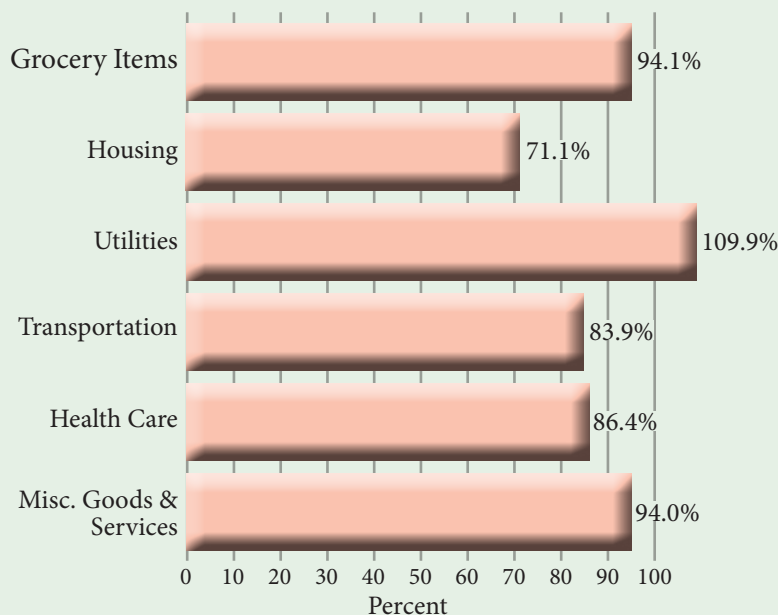
The average occupancy in the lodging industry nationwide increased to 66.7 percent for the first seven months of 2015 (up from 65.2 percent from the same period last year) according to Smith Travel Research. Interestingly, upper upscale properties had the highest occupancy rate of 74 percent, followed by upscale properties (73.8 percent), luxury properties (72 percent), upper midscale properties (68.1 percent), midscale properties (61.2 percent), and economy properties (59.7 percent). The highest occupancy was in the Pacific region (74.1 percent).

The US Office of Travel and Tourism Industries reports that the latest information this year shows that most of the overseas travelers to the US come from Western Europe (36 percent), followed by Asia (29.5 percent), and South America (16.7 percent). The average room revenue for the national industry was \$119.90, up 5.0 percent.

The statewide lodging industry posted average occupancy of 60 percent during the period (unchanged from last year), with the average room rent increasing to \$80.40 (up 3.1 percent). Occupancy in the southeast Kansas lodging industry was 52.4 percent (down from 56.8 percent), with the average room rent increasing to \$66.50 (up 3.9 percent).

Cost of Living - Percent of the National Average

The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area - Q2'15



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING

A recent survey by the Council of Community and Economic Research shows that the overall cost of living in Pittsburg was in the lowest quintile of cities of similar size. The overall cost of living in Pittsburg was 87.7 percent of the national average during the second quarter of 2015, 94.1 percent for grocery items, 71.1 percent for housing, 83.9 percent for transportation, 86.4 percent for healthcare, and 94 percent for miscellaneous expenses (beauty care, alcohol, etc.). However, the cost of utilities in Pittsburg is 109.9 percent of the national average.

The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area is the most cosmopolitan city in southeast Kansas. The City of Pittsburg is the seat of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, a regional center for retail sales, consumer services, business services, and education. Pittsburg State University (home of the Gorillas) is located in Pittsburg on a 630-acre campus and offers 150 academic programs for a student population of about 7,500. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine says, "Nothing matches the vibe of a college town."

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

STEAKHOUSE FRANCHISE CHOOSES PITTSBURG FOR NEXT RESTAURANT

Justin Mitchell is an outsider who wants to invest \$3 million in a steak house. Justin Mitchell could have picked any town, but he chose Pittsburg, Kansas. His proposal went before the Planning and Zoning Commission to build a Colton's Steak House & Grill on the site of the former Jay Hatfield business at Atkinson & Parkview. Mitchell described the relationship that the City of Pittsburg, Crawford County, Pittsburg State University, and businesses have as "exceptional." "The people in Pittsburg are the most accommodating, friendliest, nicest people," said Justin Mitchell.

The site is south of several hotels and north of Home Depot.

Andra Bryan Stefanoni, The Joplin Globe, June 28, 2015

PITTSBURG INTERNET SERVICE UPGRADES

Everyone always wants better internet service for a lower price, right? There will now be five telecommunication companies customers can choose from. Three new telecommunication companies will now be allowed to do business in Pittsburg. Jay Byers, Pittsburg Assistant City Manager expects the new companies to start laying their fiber optic cables right away.

Byers adds internet service in Pittsburg will be completely different a year from now.

Bryan McLoone, Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., July 28, 2015

CRAWFORD COUNTY LEADERS DISCUSS REOPENING HISTORIC MUSEUM

A plan is being established to help fund the museum in Pittsburg. Through the county general fund and transient guest tax, \$25,000 a year will be available, but with a catch.

"Serve the traveling public and make your goal to be a tourist destination in Crawford County. To be open five days a week, six hours a day is going to be difficult for some," said B.J. Harris, Crawford County CVB. Harris says it may take a few months, pending on interest, to reopen the Crawford County Historical Museum.

Bryan McLoone, Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., August 4, 2015

JIMMY JOHNS COMING TO PITTSBURG

On the west side of South Broadway, Tri-State Construction has begun

groundwork right next to Daylight Donuts to prepare the area to bring Pittsburg its own Jimmy Johns sub sandwich restaurant.

"We think it's a good location, good place to be in, nice university, so we think Jimmy Johns will be successful there," said franchisee Scott Hinz, who owns 26 Jimmy Johns in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Having the restaurant in a college town is beneficial to Jimmy Johns, Hinz said, and they hope to gain core customers from Pittsburg State University students.

"That's kind of where Jimmy Johns started is on college campuses and it kind of spread from there," Hinz said. Hinz said the store would most likely operate from 10 a.m. to 3 or 4 a.m. The store will add about 25 new jobs to the area, including three shift manager positions who would work about 50 hours per week.

Jesse Brown, The Morning Sun, August 1, 2015

PITTSBURG ZONING PANEL OKS FOUR-STORY HOTEL PLAN FOR CASINO

Kansas Crossing Casino and Hotel plans to build a 123-room Hampton Inn & Suite. The \$70.2 million development is expected to have 625 slot machines and 16 gaming tables, and attract an estimated 500,000 visitors a year, according to developers. The Pittsburg Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously approved the developer's request to build a hotel that is higher than the restrictions of 35 feet, or three stories, said Bill Beasley, the director of public works for Pittsburg. The new casino will be located on the northwest corner of U.S. 69 and 400 and it could be open in June 2016.

Sarah Okeson, The Joplin Globe, August 8, 2015

MORE BUSINESSES SET TO OPEN, EXPAND IN PITTSBURG

There are several businesses in Pittsburg opening or expanding. The Pittsburg Planning and Zoning Commission met on August 24 and had on their agenda a review of three site plans either for new construction or additions to existing businesses. Miller's Professional Imaging plans an addition of 32,000 square feet. Kannar Eye Care plans a 2,100 square foot addition, doubling its occupancy, adding four additional exam rooms, and to have the ability to add a third doctor. Craw-Kan Telecommunications plans

to add a new building on the southeast corner of Fifth and Elm streets.

Andra Bryan Stefanoni, The Joplin Globe, August 24, 2015

GROWING OR SHRINKING? KANSAS EMPLOYMENT STATS CREATE MUDDLED PICTURE

The data on employment in Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas are behaving in puzzling ways, making it unclear whether their employment pictures are getting better or worse, according to an economist at Wichita State University. Jeremy Hill, director of WSU's Center for Economic Development and Business Research said that the results are even more puzzling because unemployment usually increases when employment decreases, because people who are laid off generally search for a new job before giving up, but that didn't happen in Kansas. The nationwide results are following the normal pattern, with unemployment declining as employment increases. "Because most of the people surveyed are leaving employment but not entering unemployment, it appears they are leaving employment for personal reasons, i.e., retirement, going to school, choosing not to work," he said in an email.

Megan Hart, CJ Online, August 27, 2015

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Q1 2014

Q1 2015

| INDUSTRY TITLE | Avg Number of Jobs | Avg. Wkly Earnings | Avg Number of Jobs | Avg. Wkly Earnings | Growth in Jobs | Growth Avg Weekly Earnings |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Accommodation | 96 | \$252 | 91 | \$251 | -6% | 0% |
| Administration of economic programs | 14 | \$945 | 13 | \$1,201 | -7% | 27% |
| Administration of human resource programs | 73 | \$856 | 60 | \$804 | -17% | -6% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 131 | \$228 | 127 | \$228 | -3% | 0% |
| Ambulatory health care services | 527 | \$750 | 612 | \$734 | 16% | -2% |
| Administrative and waste services | 537 | \$496 | 380 | \$565 | -29% | 14% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 131 | \$228 | 127 | \$228 | -3% | 0% |
| Building material and garden supply stores | 182 | \$507 | 173 | \$516 | -5% | 2% |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 78 | \$229 | 73 | \$242 | -7% | 6% |
| Construction of buildings | 71 | \$517 | 62 | \$535 | -13% | 3% |
| Credit intermediation and related activities | 275 | \$764 | 277 | \$758 | 1% | -1% |
| Construction | 387 | \$599 | 423 | \$616 | 9% | 3% |
| Educational services | 30 | \$417 | 34 | \$406 | 13% | -3% |
| Electrical equipment and appliance mfg. | 184 | \$714 | 195 | \$774 | 6% | 8% |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 109 | \$355 | 102 | \$348 | -7% | -2% |
| Executive, legislative and general government | 874 | \$650 | 849 | \$571 | -3% | -12% |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 343 | \$715 | 367 | \$708 | 7% | -1% |
| Food and beverage stores | 378 | \$320 | 383 | \$328 | 2% | 2% |
| Food services and drinking places | 1717 | \$194 | 1694 | \$180 | -1% | -7% |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores | 81 | \$458 | 78 | \$501 | -4% | 9% |
| Gasoline stations | 149 | \$258 | 165 | \$242 | 11% | -6% |
| General merchandise stores | 476 | \$419 | 483 | \$387 | 1% | -8% |
| Health and personal care stores | 108 | \$473 | 103 | \$454 | -4% | -4% |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 103 | \$681 | 114 | \$714 | 11% | 5% |
| Insurance carriers and related activities | 46 | \$746 | 52 | \$675 | 13% | -10% |
| Justice, public order, and safety activities | 36 | \$913 | 43 | \$987 | 19% | 8% |
| Machinery manufacturing | 70 | \$649 | 76 | \$670 | 8% | 3% |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 288 | \$1,790 | 365 | \$1,155 | 27% | -35% |
| Membership associations and organizations | 68 | \$345 | 68 | \$393 | 0% | 14% |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 119 | \$937 | 131 | \$811 | 11% | -13% |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 371 | \$732 | 368 | \$934 | -1% | 28% |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 39 | \$378 | 36 | \$392 | -7% | 4% |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 197 | \$554 | 199 | \$541 | 1% | -2% |
| National security and international affairs | 2 | \$832 | 3 | \$915 | 29% | 10% |
| Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing | 43 | \$1,033 | 35 | \$1,307 | -18% | 27% |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 194 | \$542 | 198 | \$561 | 2% | 4% |
| Nursing and residential care facilities | 691 | \$428 | 678 | \$390 | -2% | -9% |
| Personal and laundry services | 75 | \$381 | 73 | \$409 | -2% | 7% |
| Postal service | 70 | \$907 | 63 | \$933 | -10% | 3% |
| Printing and related support activities | 442 | \$693 | 415 | \$718 | -6% | 4% |
| Private households services | 20 | \$259 | 26 | \$274 | 28% | 6% |
| Professional and technical services | 288 | \$655 | 285 | \$672 | -1% | 3% |
| Publishing industries, except internet | 165 | \$955 | 166 | \$889 | 0% | -7% |
| Real estate | 104 | \$380 | 108 | \$401 | 4% | 6% |
| Rental and leasing services | 91 | \$727 | 90 | \$754 | -1% | 4% |
| Repair and maintenance | 129 | \$555 | 105 | \$475 | -19% | -14% |
| Securities, commodity contracts, investments | 19 | \$1,810 | 20 | \$1,759 | 9% | -3% |
| Specialty trade contractors | 214 | \$586 | 248 | \$591 | 16% | 1% |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores | 43 | \$334 | 42 | \$333 | -2% | 0% |
| Telecommunications | 89 | \$1,036 | 84 | \$1,082 | -6% | 4% |
| Truck transportation | 79 | \$674 | 101 | \$706 | 28% | 5% |
| Utilities | 30 | \$364 | 28 | \$379 | -6% | 4% |
| Waste management and remediation services | 47 | \$556 | 43 | \$492 | -9% | -12% |
| Wood product manufacturing | 140 | \$682 | 135 | \$822 | -3% | 21% |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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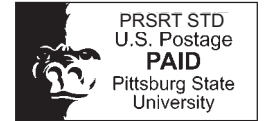
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