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The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report, Quarter 1, 2016

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THE PITTSBURGH MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

The Role of the Internet in Economic Growth

THE INTERNET permeates all walks of life, and cities looking to the future need to invest in internet infrastructure in order to create a progressive atmosphere attractive to firms and an educated and skilled labor force. The internet is now 446 times faster than it was when dial-up connections were the norm, according to IBISWorld.com. In the past five years, the number of broadband connections nationwide has increased over 106 percent and the monthly internet traffic volume has tripled. Approximately 92 percent of the US population is now connected to the internet while 74 percent of all users use some type of social media, such as Twitter

and internet video feed (such as YouTube and Netflix). During the same period, the number of mobile internet connections, such as smart phones, increased 180 percent to almost 242 million mobile internet connections.

The internet also drives productivity and economic growth. The internet is crucial for companies to increase their exposure worldwide with web sites, online communication, and collaboration. Companies can also streamline operations such as supply chain management and increase efficiency by tapping into various types of cost saving services such as accounting and other data processing services, video streaming, and

cloud data storage. Corporate spending nationwide has increased 36.9 percent on hosting and data processing in the last five years, and the internet now accounts for almost 25 percent of corporate advertising expenditures.

The City of Pittsburgh, the home of Pittsburgh State University, is very proactive and determined to build a progressive ambience to facilitate economic growth in this new internet age. The city recently organized a four year public and private partnership program which involves spending \$10.5 million in building internet infrastructure to make Pittsburgh more cosmopolitan and dynamic.

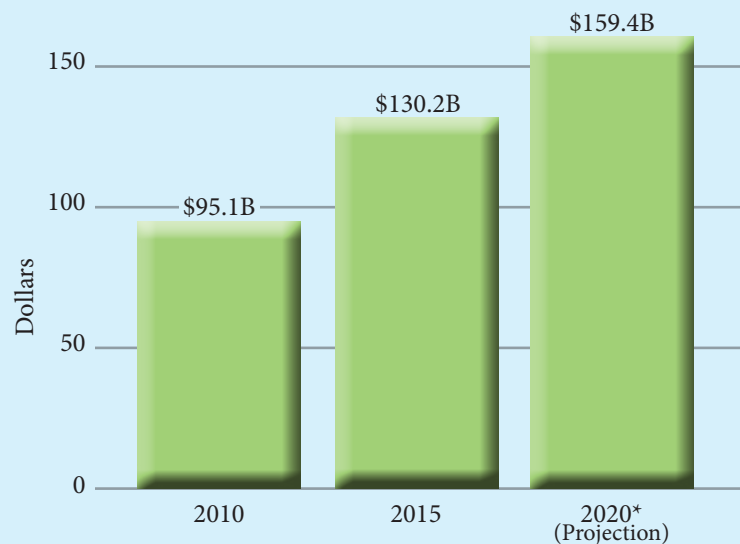
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Pittsburgh State University

Data Processing and Hosting Services Total Sales Nationwide



Source: IBISWorld Industry Report 51821 and Various Sources for Story



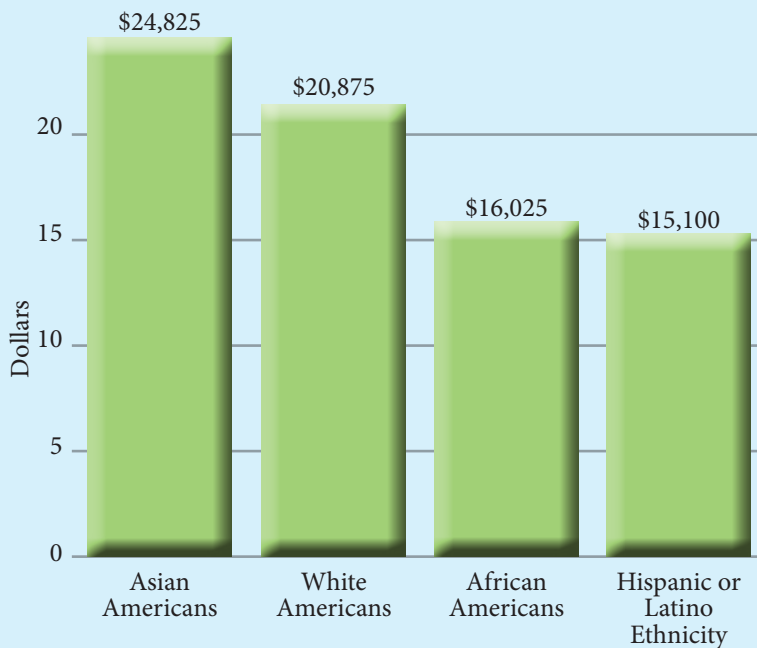
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TOTAL JOB AND WAGE GROWTH

The ratio of part-time to full-time employment remains high. Nationwide, the number of people working part-time increased 3.7 percent in 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and approximately 25.2 percent of all workers worked part-time, up from 24.7 percent in 2014. However, the median wage increased 2.3 percent. Asian Americans had the highest median wages of \$24,825 (up 4.2 percent from 2014), followed by White Americans (\$20,875, up 2.3 percent), African Americans (\$16,025, up 0.3 percent), and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (\$15,100, up 1.7 percent).

Locally, goods producing industries continue to outperform service providing industries. The latest information available shows that there were 3,063 jobs in goods producing industries in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area during the third quarter of 2015 (up 2.0 percent from the third quarter of 2014), 9,460 jobs in service providing industries (down 1.3 percent), 2,869 jobs in local government (down 1.3 percent), 1,164 jobs in state government (down 0.2 percent), and 80 jobs in the federal government (down 5.5 percent). The total number of jobs declined 0.7 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area during the period, increased 0.7 percent statewide, and increased 2.1 percent nationwide.

Median Wage by Race Nationwide, 2015



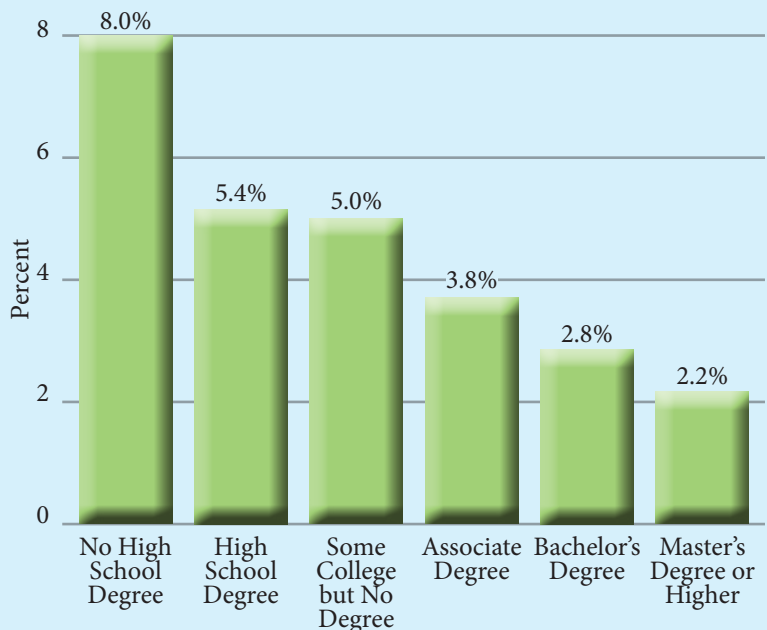
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT

In January 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down from 5.5 percent from January 2015), 4.4 percent statewide (down from 4.6 percent), and 5.3 percent nationwide (down from 6.1 percent). The average unemployment rate in 2015 was 5.2 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down from 5.3 percent in 2014), 4.2 percent statewide (down from 4.5 percent), and 5.3 percent nationwide (down from 6.2 percent).

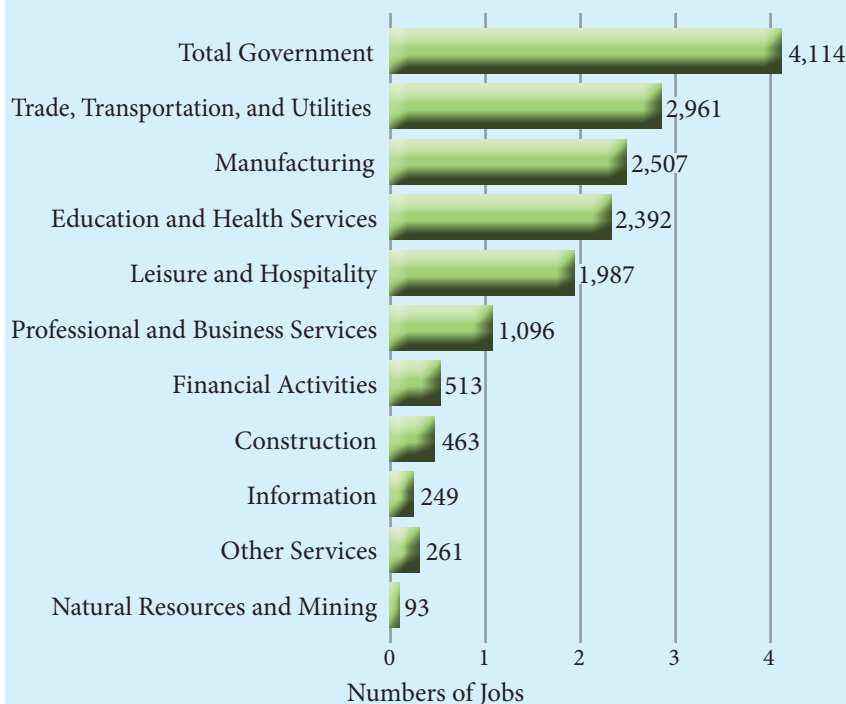
The highest unemployment rate is among people with no high school diploma (8.0 percent), followed by high school graduates (5.4 percent), some college but no degree (5.0 percent), associate degree (3.8 percent), bachelor's degree (2.8 percent), and master's degree or higher (2.2 percent). The highest unemployment rate was for people who had previously worked in farming, construction, food preparation, and cleaning and maintenance operations. Approximately 3.3 percent of all workers were paid at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage in 2015, according to the BLS, with food service having the highest concentration at 18.0 percent. Minimum wages apply mostly to workers with little or no skills and no education.

Unemployment by Degree Nationwide, 2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Average Monthly Number of Jobs Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Q3 - 2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

The latest information available from the BLS shows that only four industries added jobs in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the third quarter of 2015, compared to the third quarter of 2014. The industry with the fastest growth in jobs was Construction, with a 9.5 percent growth in jobs (up 40 jobs), followed by Professional and Business Services (up 6.4 percent or 66 jobs), Leisure and Hospitality (up 2.1 percent or 40 jobs), and Manufacturing (up 0.9 percent or 23 jobs). Seven industries lost jobs. The number of jobs declined 1.8 percent in the Education and Health Services industry (down 44 jobs); followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities (down 3.0 percent or 92 jobs); Other Services (down 3.7 percent or 10 jobs); Natural Resources and Mining (down 4.8 percent or 5 jobs); Government all levels (down 7.0 percent or 44 jobs); Financial Activities (down 8.1 percent or 45 jobs); and Information Services (down 14.9 percent or 44 jobs).

Statewide, Professional and Business Services was the fastest growing industry during the period (up 5.7 percent, 9,707 jobs), while the Construction Industry was the fastest growing industry nationwide (up 4.5 percent, 284,078 jobs).

Total Quarterly Payroll by Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Q3 - 2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

PAYROLL BY INDUSTRY

In the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, six industries added payroll and five industries saw payroll decline during the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014, according to the BLS. Leisure and Hospitality saw payroll grow 18.1 percent during the quarter (up \$952,295); followed by Professional and Business Services (up 10.7 percent or \$1,122,458); Construction (10.7 percent or \$378,933); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (3.6 percent or \$785,238); Government all levels (0.9 percent or \$204,730); and Manufacturing (0.3 percent or \$63,136). Natural Resources and Mining saw payroll decline 0.8 percent (down \$7,800); Other Services such as automotive repair, machinery repair, electrical repair, religious services, etc. (down 5.8 percent or \$88,373); Education and Health Services (down 6.9 percent or \$1,462,688); Financial Activities (down 7.2 percent or \$356,737); and Information (down 7.4 percent of \$232,485).

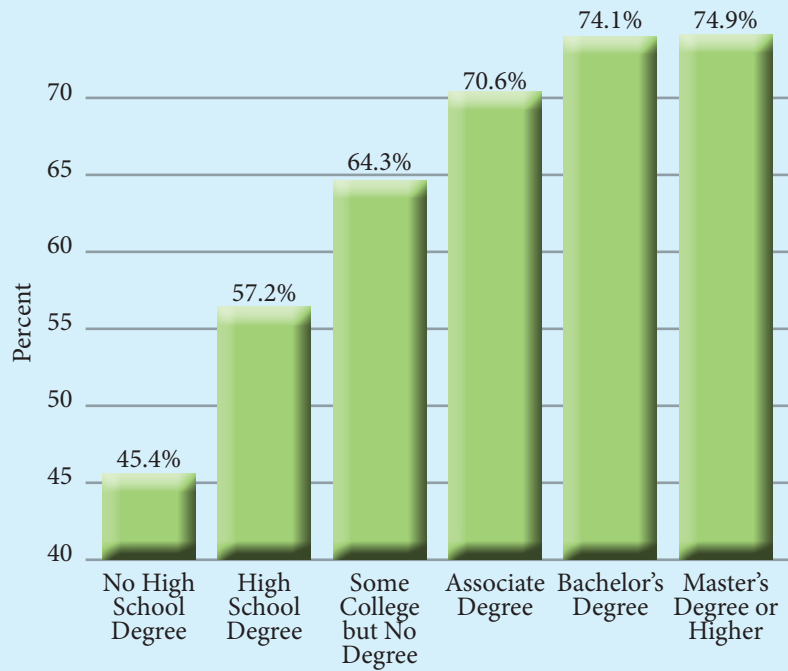
Statewide, the industry with the fastest growing payroll during the period was Professional and Business Services, with 12.1 percent growth (up \$255,369,133), while Government all levels had the highest increase nationwide, up 10.0 percent (up \$8.6 billion).

LABOR FORCE

In 2015, the average labor force was 19,169 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down 0.7 percent from 2014), 1,494,041 statewide (down 0.4 percent), and 157.1 million nationwide (up 0.8 percent). In January 2016, the labor force stood at 19,016 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down 1.3 percent from January 2015), 1,503,141 statewide (up 1.0 percent), and 157.3 million nationwide (up 0.8 percent).

While the economy is rebounding, the labor force participation rate is still well below what it was prior to the 2007-2009 recession. The overall labor force participation rate was 62.7 percent nationwide in 2015 (down from 62.9 percent in 2014), 45.4 percent for people with less than a high school education, 57.2 percent for high school graduates, 64.3 percent for people with some college but no degree, 70.6 percent for people with an Associate's degree, 74.1 percent for people with Bachelor's degree, and 74.9 percent for people with a Master's degree or higher. The labor force participation rate was 61.5 percent for African Americans nationwide in 2015, 62.8 percent for Asians, 62.8 percent for White Americans, and 65.9 percent for Hispanic and Latino ethnicity (of any race).

Labor Force Participation by Degree Nationwide, 2015



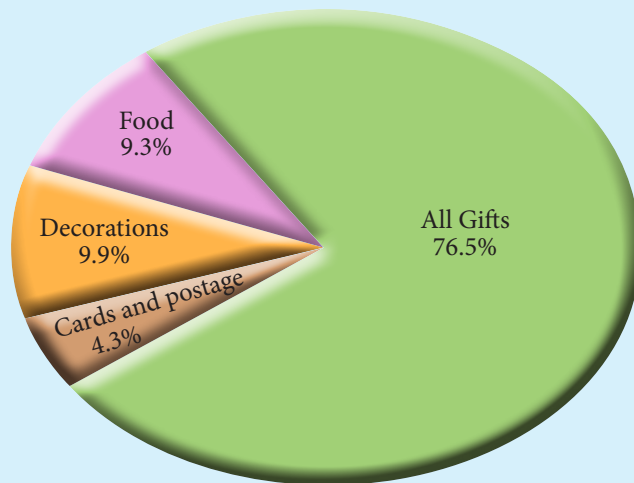
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TAXABLE SALES

Total retail sales nationwide (including restaurant and automobile sales) increased 2.4 percent during the first two months of 2016 compared to the same period last year. New estimates also show that the Christmas holiday retail season was very healthy nationwide, with total retail sales increasing 3.4 percent (\$17.2 billion) in December 2015 compared to December 2014. Preliminary estimates from IBISWorld.com also indicate that 76.5 percent of all traditional Christmas holiday spending was on gifts, 9.9 percent on decorations, 9.3 percent on food, and 4.3 percent on cards and postage. The category with the highest increase in sales was toys, sporting goods, and hobbies with a 5.2 percent increase. Overall, total retail sales increased to \$5.3 trillion in 2015, up 2.1 percent from 2014.

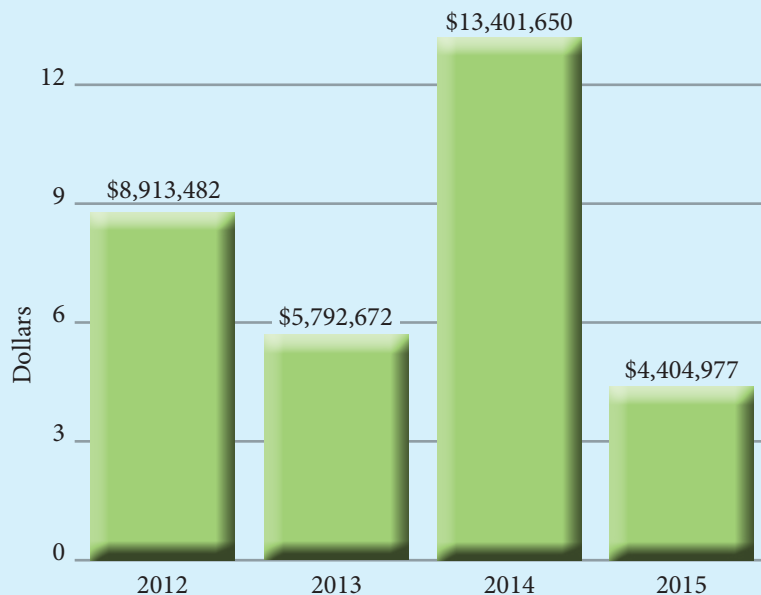
The latest information available from the Kansas Department of Revenue shows that taxable sales (retail sales and some taxable services like lodging) increased 1.9 percent in Pittsburgh in December 2015 (from December 2014), 4.2 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, and 2.3 percent statewide. Furthermore, overall taxable sales in 2015 increased to \$321.5 million in Pittsburgh (up 2.1 percent), \$436.0 million in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan area (up 2.0 percent), and \$41.7 billion statewide (up 1.1 percent).

Composition of Traditional Christmas Retail Sales Nationwide, 2015



Source: IBISWorld

Total Value of Residential Permits Pittsburg



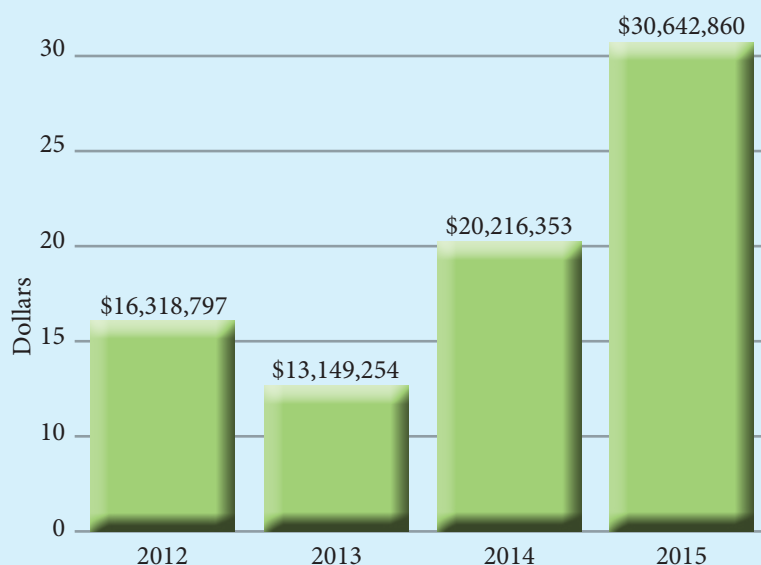
Source: City of Pittsburg

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

The City of Pittsburg reports that 111 residential building permits were issued in 2015 for a stated value of \$4.4 million, down 67.1 percent from 2014. In 2015, 17 permits were issued for new residential construction, with a stated value of \$3.0 million (down 0.9 percent), and 94 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$1.3 million (down 2.2 percent). No permits were issued for multi-family construction in 2015, but the stated value of multi-family permits issued in 2014 was \$8.9 million (mostly because of permits issued for the new Edge Apartment Complex on the corner of Centennial and Rouse).

The Pittsburg Area Realtors Association reports that 42 homes were sold during the first two months of 2016 (41 existing homes and one new home), for an average sale price of \$110,277 (up 67.4 percent from the same period in 2014) and a median price of \$64,000 (up 34.7 percent). In February 2016, 220 homes were listed for sale in the area (down from 236 in February 2015), including 144 with a list price of \$99,999 or less, 48 homes with a list price in the \$100,000-\$200,000 range, and 28 homes with a list price above \$200,000.

Total Value of Commercial Permits Pittsburg



Source: City of Pittsburg

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

The value of commercial permit activity increased significantly in the city of Pittsburg in 2015, with 104 permits issued for a stated value of \$30.6 million, up 51.6 percent from 2014. In 2015, a total of 31 new commercial permits were issued, with a stated value of \$16 million, up 490.5 percent from the total stated value of \$2.7 million in 2014, and 73 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, down 16.4 percent.

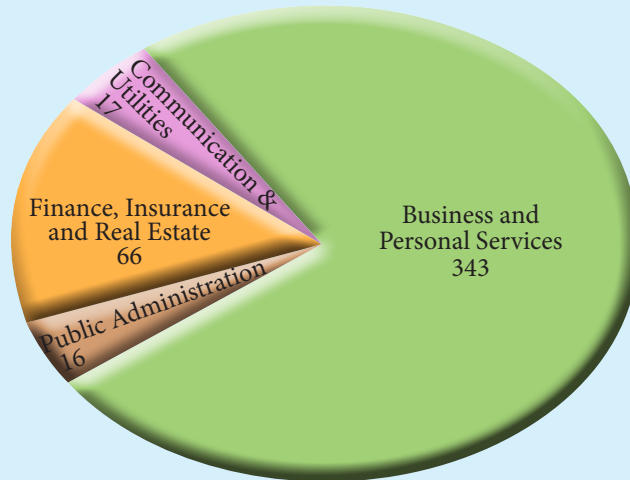
The year was also busy for Pittsburg State University, which completed three large-scale construction projects in 2015. The first was the construction of the \$33 million, 90,000 square-foot Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, featuring a 1,100-seat performance hall, a 250-seat theater, and a 3,500 square-foot art gallery. The second was the \$13 million Robert W. Plaster Center, which includes a 100-yard turf field, an 11,000 square-foot modern strength facility, a 300-meter track, and seating for up to 1,500. The third was the \$16 million expansion of the Overman Student Center.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

In Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg is the regional center for business services such as technical consulting, bookkeeping and payroll services, management services, office administrative services, and medical services. The performance of the local office market was relatively good in 2015, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. There was no major office construction during the year, but the market was stable indicating that it is on a good economic foundation.

Recent information shows that there are 21 engineering, accounting, research, and management service establishments in the city of Pittsburg, employing a total of 137 people; 30 social services establishments, employing 525 people; 19 legal service establishments, employing 54 people; 77 health service establishments, employing 1,297 people; 36 business services establishments, employing 500 people; 37 personal services establishments, employing 116 people; 24 real estate establishments, employing 89 people; 20 insurance agent, brokers, and insurance carrier establishments, employing 54 people; 17 communications and utilities establishments, employing 349 people; three security and commodity brokers and dealers, employing 15 people; and 153 establishments in other service (excluding retail), employing 3,014 people.

Main Office Users Providing Business Services in Pittsburg and the Region Number of Business Establishments in Pittsburg, 2015



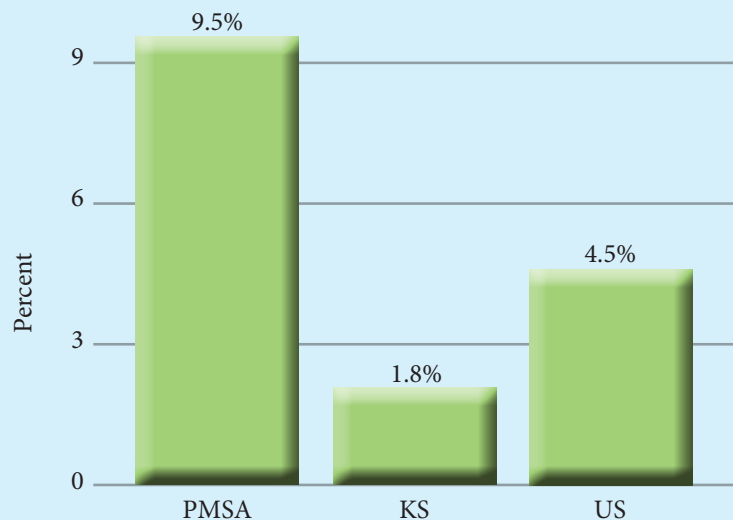
Source: Demographics Now

COMMERCIAL LAND VALUES

The commercial land market was active in the Pittsburg area in 2015, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. The area construction industry was busy, especially during the latter part of the year, with some commercial structures started, some completed, and some still in the pipeline. In June 2015, a permit was issued for the new Neighborhood Walmart with fuel station on Centennial and Rouse, valued at \$4.7 million. In July, a permit was issued for a new addition to the Summerfield Apartment complex on Springdale Road, valued at \$4.5 million. In September, Colton's Steak House took out a permit for a new location on Broadway and Highway 69, valued at \$1.8 million. In October, Kansas Crossing Casino took out a permit valued at \$6 million to lay foundation and steel. DaVita Dialysis Center on Rouse also got a permit for construction valued at \$1.8 million. In November, Miller's Professional Imaging took out a permit for a new construction valued at \$4.4 million, and in December, Via Christi took out a permit for Phase 2 of the Cath Lab, valued at \$2.5 million.

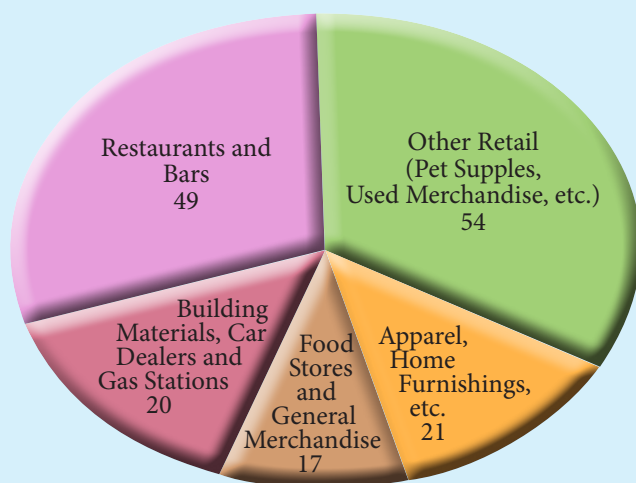
Several other permits were issued for less expensive construction throughout the year, including Kanaar Eye Care, Starbucks, and Craw-Kan Telephone.

Growth in Construction Employment Q3-2014 to Q3-2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Number of Retail Establishments Pittsburg, 2015



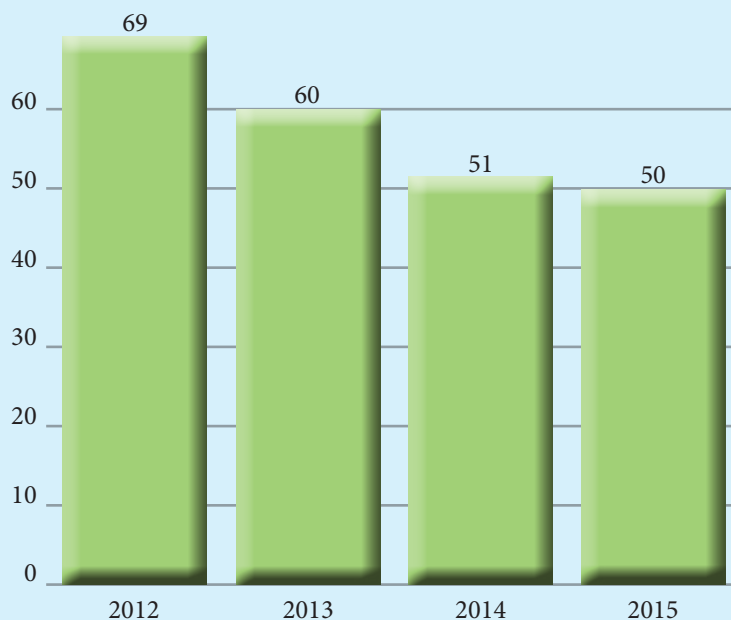
Source: Demographics Now

RETAIL SPACE MARKET

The Pittsburg retail sales market (including restaurants) was very active in 2015, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. 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. Traffic counts are the highest on Broadway going through downtown Pittsburg, but the areas with the most significant retail development activity in 2015 were centered around the intersection of Centennial and Rouse to the south and in the vicinity of the route 69 bypass and North Broadway to the north.

The city of Pittsburg is home to 49 eating and drinking establishments, employing 759 people; 11 home furniture, furnishings, and equipment retail establishments, employing 75 people; 10 apparel and accessory retail establishments, employing 57 people; 12 automotive dealers and gasoline service establishments, employing 62 people; nine food retail establishments, employing 92 people; eight general merchandise retail establishments, employing 477 people; eight building materials, hardware, and garden supply retail establishments, employing 184 people; 54 other retail establishments, employing 255 people; and 40 wholesale establishments, employing 490 people.

Total Bankruptcies Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

BANKRUPTCIES

Bankruptcies are declining nationwide. During 2015, 819,760 personal bankruptcies were filed (down 9.9 percent), with a total of 519,130 Chapter 7 personal bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out), down 13.6 percent; 1,111 Chapter 11 personal bankruptcies (reorganization of personal debt and temporary protection from creditors), down 2.6 percent; and 299,515 Chapter 13 personal bankruptcies (some debt wiped out and some repayments), down 2.7 percent. A total of 24,735 business bankruptcies were filed (down 8.3 percent), including 15,917 Chapter 7 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with no repayments), down 12.5 percent; 6,130 Chapter 11 business bankruptcies (reorganization of business debt and temporary protection from creditors), up 0.6 percent; 407 Chapter 12 business bankruptcies (reorganization of debt for family farms), up 13.1 percent; and 2,190 Chapter 13 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with some repayments), down 3.9 percent.

Statewide, personal bankruptcies declined to 6,646 in 2015 (down 9.1 percent), and business bankruptcies declined to 170 (down 15.4 percent). In the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, 47 personal bankruptcies were filed (down 7.8 percent) and three business bankruptcies (up from zero in 2014).



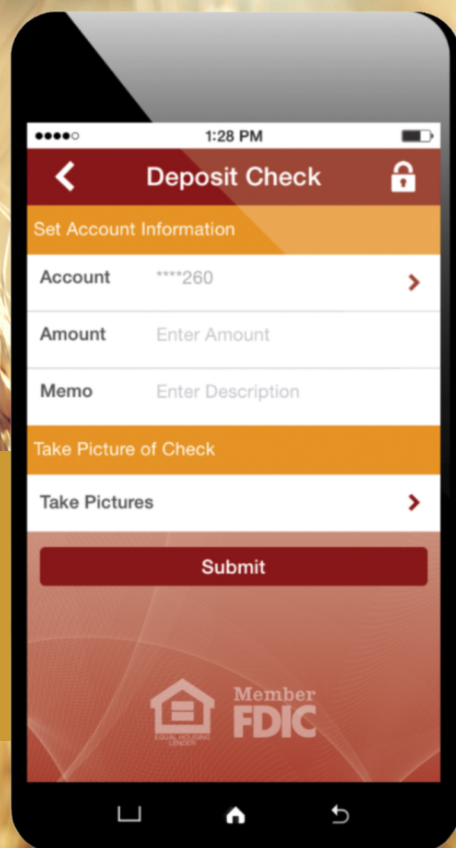
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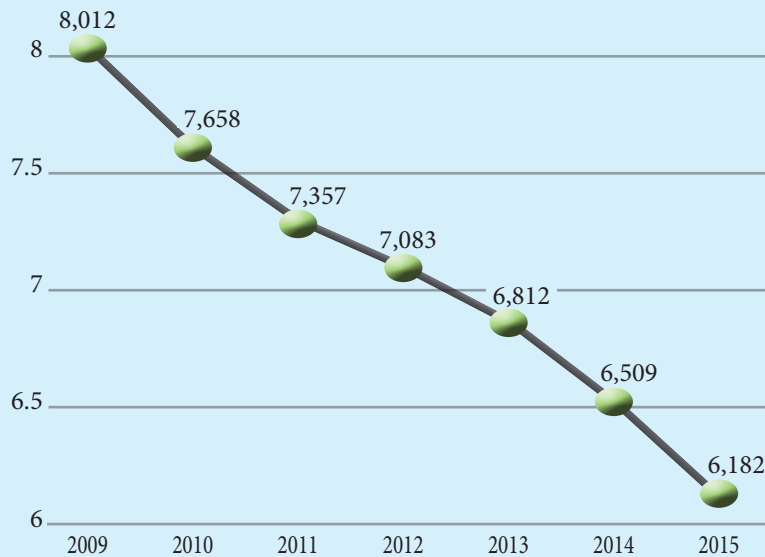


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Number of Commercial Banks and Savings Institutions Nationwide



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

BANKING INDUSTRY

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created by legislation in 1933 to improve public confidence in the national banking system. The FDIC reports that the national banking industry (commercial banks and savings institutions) did well in 2015, but the trend of consolidation of commercial banks continued. The number of insured institutions that were on the “problem list” declined to 183 institutions in 2015 (down by 20 institutions), return on assets increased to 1.04 (up from 1.01), and return on equity increased to 9.31 percent (up from 9.01). However, year over year loan losses increased for the first time since 2010.

Nationwide, the commercial banking industry posted total assets of \$16 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2015 (up 2.7 percent from the same period last year), \$8.7 trillion in net loans and leases (up 6.5 percent), \$163.7 billion in net income (up a significant 7.2 percent), and \$137.8 billion in non-current loans and leases (down 15.3 percent). The statewide industry posted \$66.7 billion in total assets (up 1.0 percent), \$41.1 billion in net loans and leases (up 6.8 percent), \$323.5 million in net income (down 49.7 percent), and \$685.1 billion in non-current loans and leases (up 88.2 percent). No local updated banking information was available in December due to the merger of the Girard National Bank and University Bank.

Number of Credit Unions by Total Deposits Nationwide, 2015



Source: National Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

The Federal Credit Union Act passed in 1934 created an agency to charter and supervise federal credit unions, and in 1970 the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) became an independent federal agency. The NCUA reports that national credit unions did well in 2015, with deposit and share accounts increasing by \$65.2 billion from 2014 (up 6.9 percent).

Credit unions with headquarters in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area area did well in 2015, posting \$84 million in total assets in the fourth quarter of 2015 (up 2.8 percent from the same period last year), net loans and leases of \$51.5 million (up 11.3 percent), non-current loans and leases of \$235,365 (up 117.3 percent), and \$542,006 in net operating income (up 10.5 percent). Credit unions with headquarters in Kansas posted \$8.8 billion in total assets (up 15.3 percent), net loans and leases of \$6.0 billion (up 16 percent), \$45.7 million in non-current loans and leases (up 17.0 percent), and net operating income of \$58.7 million (up 3.3 percent). The nationwide banking industry posted \$1.2 trillion in total assets (up 7.3 percent), \$796.5 billion in net loans and leases (up 10.5 percent), \$6.5 billion in non-current loans (up 5.5 percent), and \$8.8 billion in net operating income (down 0.3 percent).

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

	2010 Census	%	2015A Estimates	%
Total Population	39,134		39,454	
Population Density (Pop/Sq Mi)	66.36		66.31	
Total Households	15,729		15,885	
Population by Gender				
Male	19,421	49.6%	19,702	49.9%
Female	19,713	50.4%	19,752	50.1%

HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME

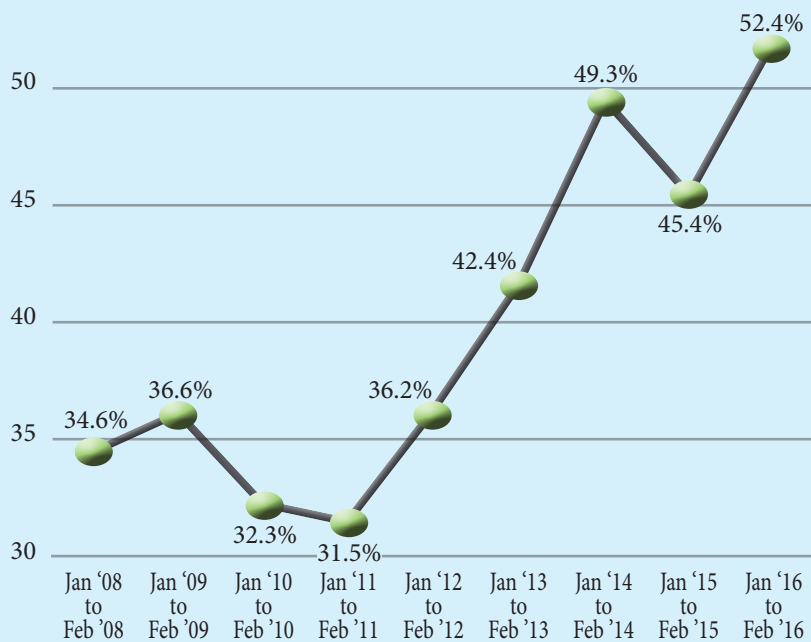
Household Income	2010 Census	%	2015A Estimates	%
\$0 - \$15,000	3,466	22.0%	3,369	21.2%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	2,027	12.9%	2,178	13.7%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	2,097	13.3%	2,079	13.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	2,760	17.5%	2,630	16.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	2,540	16.1%	2,536	16.0%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1,379	8.8%	1,499	9.4%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1,030	6.5%	1,144	7.2%
\$150,000 +	430	2.7%	450	2.8%
Average Household Income	\$49,060		\$50,238	
Median Household Income	\$36,244		\$36,561	
Per Capita Income	\$20,337		\$20,840	

EMPLOYMENT

	2010 Census	%	2015A Estimates	%
Total Population 16+	31,363		31,653	
Population 16+ : Civilian, Employed	16,824	92.0%	19,409	94.8%
Population 16+ : Civilian, Unemployed	1,463	8.0%	1,071	5.2%
Population 16+	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Population 16+ : Not In Labor Force	13,076	41.7%	11,173	35.3%

Source: Demographics Now

Average Occupancy Rates Hotels and Motels in the Pittsburgh Area



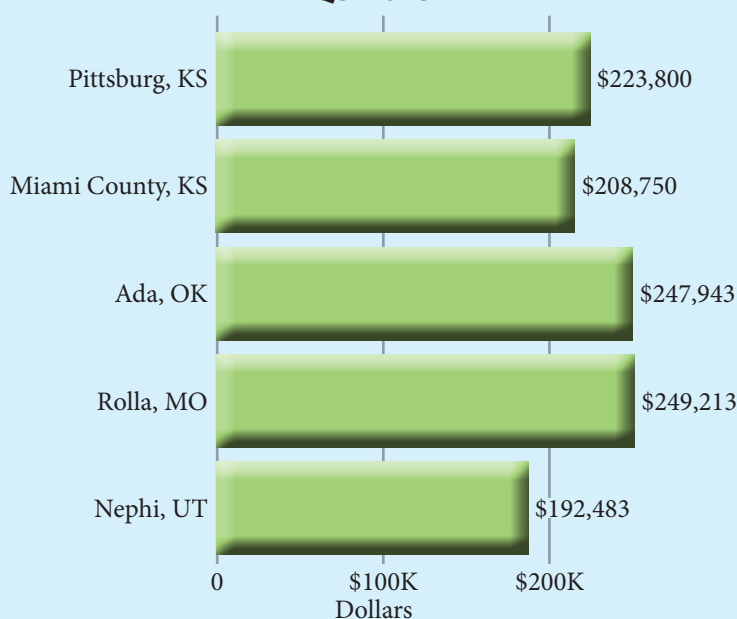
Source: Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau

LODGING INDUSTRY

The Pittsburgh area lodging industry is doing well, with average occupancy rates in local hotels and motels increasing to 52.4 percent for the first two months of 2016 (up from 45.4 percent during the same period in 2015), while lodging tax revenue increased to \$53.9 million (up 99.9 percent). The average room rate was \$80. March 2016 is expected to be a record month for the Pittsburgh area lodging industry. Thousands of people visited Pittsburgh early in March for the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships, held at the new Plaster Center, and the Women's Central Regional Basketball Championship.

In the first two months of 2016, the average occupancy rate was 40.6 percent in Southeast Kansas (down from 43.1 during the same period last year), and the average room rate was \$70.5; statewide the average occupancy rate was 47 percent (down from 48.7 percent), and the average room rate was \$81.0; and nationwide the occupancy rate was 57.6 percent (down from 58.0 percent), and the average room rate was \$118.8. Luxury properties have the highest occupancy rates nationwide (77.3 percent), followed by upscale properties (75.3 percent), and upper upscale (74.6 percent).

Average Housing Prices New 2,400 Square Foot Home on an 8,000 Square Foot lot in Upper Middle-Class Neighborhood Q3-2015



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING

Inflation is declining in the Midwest in 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, mostly due to a decline in oil prices. Cost of living is an important factor in the standard of living and quality of life for any city. Because relocating is a significant financial investment, the relative mobility of the U.S. population is somewhat constrained by the financial risk involved. Cost of living, therefore, is also an important factor in the decision to relocate to a new area. Pittsburg enjoys relatively low cost of living compared to cities of similar size.

Housing costs account for approximately 45 percent of the annual spending for the average household. A recent survey by the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness found that the cost of a new 2,400 square foot home in an upper-middle class neighborhood in Pittsburg was \$223,800, which was lower than 75 percent of cities of similar size in the survey. Furthermore, a monthly rent of a two bedroom two bath unfurnished apartment was \$640, which was lower than 68.8 percent of the cities in the survey.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

NEW FIBER OPTIC SERVICE KICKED OFF

The Southeast Kansas Career and Technical Education Center, which specializes in workforce development for the region, officially became the first business customer utilizing local company Craw-Kan Telephones "Gigabit for Business" fiber optic internet service. With the new service coming to Pittsburg and Frontenac the company will be providing voice, office phone, security monitoring, and closed circuit camera systems like those being initially provided to the Career and Technical Center. In addition, high definition video, Internet and home DVR service and an expansive television lineup are part of the services. "Everyone has the need not just for internet, but for ultra-fast internet." Said Craig Wilbert, general manager for Craw-Kan. "This is economic development. It's been proven that wherever Gigabit Internet service is offered the property values actually go up. When people do move into an area that's one of the first things that they ask."

Sarah Gooding & Mike Elswick, The Morning Sun, March 23rd and 25th, 2016

SPORTING EVENTS FILL HOTELS

Pitt State hosted the Division-2 Indoor Track and Field Championships as well as the Central Regionals of the Division 2 Women's Basketball Tournament, all in the same weekend. LaWana Johnson, general manager of Pittsburg's Holiday Inn Express said, "Having these events here is really huge for this community and I hope it comes together and really kicks it to show people they are welcome." Johnson also stated that her property had been nearly 100% booked for weeks. Blake Benson, President of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, estimated that Pittsburg has about 350-400 hotel rooms that will be filled to capacity. Tom Myers, Associate Athletics Director for facilities at Pitt State, said the championships will bring an estimated 554 student athletes and staff of almost 250 to Pittsburg. About 3,000-3,500 spectators were expected to attend over the two days. Harris said he expected a regional economic impact of between \$2 million & \$2.5 million just tied to visitors and their spending.

Mike Elswick, The Morning Sun, March 10, 2016 & Tim Spears, KOAM TV, March 7, 2016

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Four historic buildings in Pittsburg may soon see a face lift if a \$15 million project approved by the Pittsburg city Commission comes to fruition. The project would involve converting four historic downtown buildings, including the former National Bank and the building just to the north, as well as the Commerce (Crowell Pharmacy) buildings at Fourth & Broadway into a mixed-use of development featuring more than 100 student housing units, commercial space, and business incubator facilities. Economic Development Director Blake Benson said, "Bringing potentially 110 university students downtown not only spurs development, it also brings the community and the university closer together." The total cost for the project is estimated at \$15 million. The City Commission approved using \$1.5 million from the Revolving Loan Fund to support the project as had been recommended by the city's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Patrick Richardson, The Morning Sun, March 24, 2016 & Emily Younker, The Joplin Globe, March 29, 2016

CITY WORKS WITH PSU TO DEVELOP LAND

The City of Pittsburg has announced a partnership with Pittsburg State University that focuses on a major land development in the city's center than spans 350 acres between Seventh and Washington streets to the north and south, and between Rouse and Joplin streets to the east and west. The land may or may not be contaminated or polluted. The largest tract of land in the area belongs to Mission Clay, formerly known as Dickey Clay, which ceased operations about two years ago and dates to 1899. Vacant buildings, kilns, and clay pipe material remains.

As an assistant professor in economics at Pitt State, Dr. Michael Davidsson will spearhead the distribution of roughly 1,500 surveys to area residential, rental, industrial, and commercial property owners to determine a need for the area. The surveys will help to determine the demand for possible future development. The results of the survey will be turned over to Elan Planning, Design & Landscape Architecture LLC, the firm the city chose to oversee the grant. The firm then will design plans for the site based on the city's needs; they will be presented to

the City Commission for approval.

Michael Stavola, The Morning Sun, March 3, 2016 & Andra Bryan Stefanoni, The Joplin Globe, March 3, 2016

CASINO: CONSTRUCTION WILL START

Construction will move forward on the long-delayed Kansas Crossing Casino, following District Court Judge Larry Hendricks' decision not to intervene in the lawsuit between the Cherokee County Commission and the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. Kansas Crossing Casino and Hotel lead investor Bruce Christenson praised Hendricks' decision to deny judicial review as another victory for the people of Pittsburg and Southeast Kansas in a press release. "The court's decision is great news for the people of Pittsburg, Crawford County and the region. It's certainly great news for the hundreds of people who will benefit from jobs during construction and the hundreds more who will benefit from permanent jobs once Kansas Crossing opens next year."

"We will now start construction to build a fantastic project which will serve to enhance tourism in Southeast Kansas. We are excited about the future and look forward to helping grow the region's economy."

Kansas Crossing Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Swain said they expect to be open within a year.

Patrick Richardson, The Morning Sun, April 2, 2016

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Q3 2014

Q3 2015

INDUSTRY TITLE	Average Employment	Avg. Weekly Earnings	Average Employment	Avg. Weekly Earnings	Growth Avg. Employment	Growth Avg. Weekly Earnings
Accommodation	95	\$307	95	\$263	0.0%	-16.7%
Administration of economic programs	16	\$936	14	\$1,046	-14.3%	10.5%
Administration of environmental programs	2	\$1,304	2	\$1,317	0.0%	1.0%
Administration of environmental programs	5	\$536	9	\$334	44.4%	-60.5%
Administrative and support services	369	\$710	411	\$753	10.2%	5.7%
Ambulatory health care services	633	\$769	533	\$819	-18.8%	6.1%
Building material and garden supply stores	179	\$401	176	\$419	-1.7%	4.3%
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	70	\$247	67	\$253	-4.5%	2.4%
Construction of buildings	77	\$560	86	\$581	9.7%	3.6%
Credit intermediation and related activities	271	\$755	238	\$703	-13.9%	-7.4%
Crop production	23	\$692	25	\$762	7.9%	9.2%
Educational services	31	\$389	35	\$546	11.4%	28.8%
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	211	\$802	238	\$791	11.5%	-1.4%
Electronics and appliance stores	73	\$425	63	\$408	-15.3%	-4.2%
Executive, legislative and general government	949	\$537	981	\$545	3.3%	1.5%
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	383	\$816	396	\$716	3.4%	-14.0%
Food and beverage stores	364	\$354	347	\$378	-4.9%	6.3%
Food services and drinking places	1688	\$199	1733	\$241	2.6%	17.4%
Furniture and home furnishings stores	73	\$605	88	\$546	16.7%	-10.8%
Gasoline stations	177	\$265	164	\$289	-7.5%	8.3%
General merchandise stores	482	\$381	502	\$404	3.9%	5.7%
Health and personal care stores	96	\$613	94	\$565	-2.8%	-8.5%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	81	\$848	128	\$745	36.5%	-13.8%
Insurance carriers and related activities	60	\$616	51	\$640	-17.6%	3.8%
Justice, public order, and safety activities	43	\$1,019	44	\$1,035	0.8%	1.5%
Machinery manufacturing	76	\$686	81	\$633	7.0%	-8.4%
Management of companies and enterprises	332	\$995	347	\$1,023	4.4%	2.7%
Membership associations and organizations	61	\$438	58	\$357	-5.1%	-22.7%
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	123	\$742	130	\$719	5.4%	-3.2%
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	387	\$721	376	\$749	-2.8%	3.7%
Miscellaneous store retailers	49	\$349	49	\$343	0.0%	-1.7%
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	211	\$607	222	\$641	5.0%	5.3%
National security and international affairs	3	\$926	3	\$941	0.0%	1.6%
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	40	\$617	38	\$674	-5.3%	8.5%
Non-store retailers	24	\$422	20	\$445	-23.7%	5.2%
Nursing and residential care facilities	683	\$419	670	\$407	-2.0%	-2.9%
Personal and laundry services	84	\$422	86	\$397	1.9%	-6.3%
Postal service	64	\$943	61	\$984	-4.3%	4.2%
Printing and related support activities	419	\$716	427	\$695	1.9%	-3.0%
Private households	25	\$211	20	\$252	-25.0%	16.3%
Professional and technical services	286	\$671	291	\$693	1.6%	3.2%
Real estate	118	\$405	120	\$443	1.4%	8.6%
Rental and leasing services	89	\$738	88	\$876	-1.5%	15.8%
Repair and maintenance	101	\$490	97	\$519	-3.8%	5.6%
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	20	\$1,290	17	\$1,411	-19.6%	8.6%
Specialty trade contractors	264	\$611	250	\$632	-5.9%	3.3%
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	41	\$359	42	\$339	3.9%	-5.9%
Telecommunications	88	\$1,086	87	\$1,111	-0.8%	2.3%
Truck transportation	112	\$728	129	\$791	13.4%	8.0%
Utilities	42	\$280	18	\$466	-133.3%	39.9%
Waste management and remediation services	43	\$598	47	\$654	7.9%	8.6%
Wood product manufacturing	147	\$701	147	\$772	-0.2%	9.2%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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LEASING INFORMATION

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Theater Arcade.....	232-2256	Claire's Accessories.....	231-1522
Maurices.....	231-1940	Fashion Nails	231-9141
The Buckle.....	231-0210	KS Drivers License.....	231-9141
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