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The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report, Quarter 2, 2016

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THE PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

SURVEY SHOWS MAJORITY OF JOBS IN PITTSBURG FILLED BY COMMUTERS

PITTSBURG is a regional center for business services in Southeast Kansas, including technical consulting, bookkeeping and payroll services, management services, and office administrative services. Many regional companies have some type of functional services locally, including NPC International (owns and manages over 1,263 Pizza Hut and 143 Wendy's restaurants). Furthermore, many major companies have their headquarters in Pittsburg, including Miller's Professional Imaging, Jake's Fireworks, and Watco Mechanical Services.

There are plenty of opportunities for people in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area and the greater region to find a good job in Pittsburg and indeed many people have taken advantage of that. The Census Bureau

states that 65.4 percent of Pittsburg jobs in 2014 were filled by people not living in the city. Kelce College of Business conducted a survey in April 2016 of the major employers in Pittsburg to determine why so many people who work in Pittsburg don't live in the city. The survey revealed that 70.9 percent of the jobs were filled by commuters, of which 41.2 percent commuted from other places in Crawford County, 13.2 percent from other Kansas counties, and 16.5 percent from outside the state. This represents a significant leakage of sales and property taxes lost to the city.

Approximately 53.2 percent of all commuters identified housing issues as the reason they don't live in Pittsburg, 38.8 percent said it was because they like to live in

their hometown or in a rural setting, and 8.0 percent indicate other reasons. The higher the income the more likely it was that the respondent commuted. About 59.2 percent of respondents with an annual income of \$30,000 or less commuted, with 52.9 percent stating the reason had to do with housing issues; 67.4 percent of respondents with an annual income of \$30,000-\$60,000 commuted, with 48.4 percent stating housing issues; 82 percent of respondents with an annual income of \$60,000-\$90,000 commuted, with 55.7 percent stating housing issues; and 74.5 percent of respondents with an annual income of \$90,000 or more commuted, with 55.6 percent identifying housing issues as the reason they don't live in Pittsburg.

INSIDE

- Total Employment and Output
- Unemployment
- Job Growth by Industry
- Payroll by Industry
- Labor Force
- Taxable Sales
- Residential and Commercial Permits
- Office Space Market
- Commercial Land Values
- Retail Space Market
- Bankruptcies and More



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Percent of Jobs Filled by Commuters by Income Range City of Pittsburg



Source: Kelce College of Business

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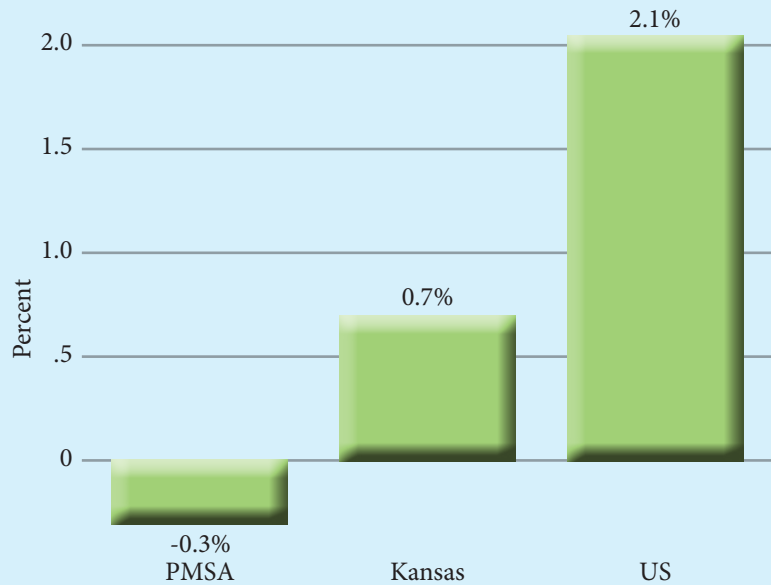
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TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT

During the first quarter of 2016 real (inflation adjusted) U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased a paltry 0.8 percent, and it seems that the path to stable economic growth for the national economy is elusive. Real GDP has to increase at a faster rate than population growth in order for living standards to rise nationwide. Historically, the long run annual rate of growth for the U.S. real GDP has been more than three percent; however, this rate has not been attained since the December 2007 – June 2009 recession. Advance estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that the number of jobs nationwide increased 1.9 percent during the first five months of 2016 (compared to the same period last year), and the ratio of part-time jobs to full-time jobs remains high.

The most recent numbers available from the BLS show that there were 16,843 jobs in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area in 2015, down 47 jobs (0.3 percent) from 2014. However local job growth is picking up and increased 0.5 percent during the fourth quarter of 2015. In 2016, some companies (including Eagle Picher Technologies) are adding jobs locally. The number of jobs increased 0.7 percent statewide in 2015 and 2.1 percent nationwide.

Percent Job Growth 2015



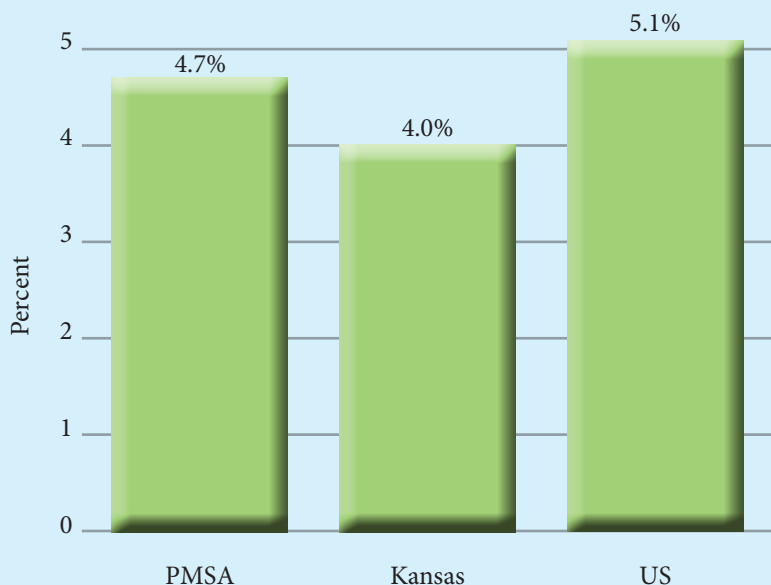
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Brookings Institution predicts increasing employment opportunities in trade and technical jobs (such as warehouses, power plants, construction, logistics, etc.) because of likely infrastructure investment in areas such as transportation and communication, including broadband and fiber optic cable systems. These jobs typically have competitive wages and low barriers to entry and are relatively stable. The nationwide unemployment rate declined to 4.5 percent in May 2016, down from 5.3 percent in May 2015, according to the BLS. However, the adult population continues to increase faster than the labor force, resulting in a decline in the labor force participation rate.

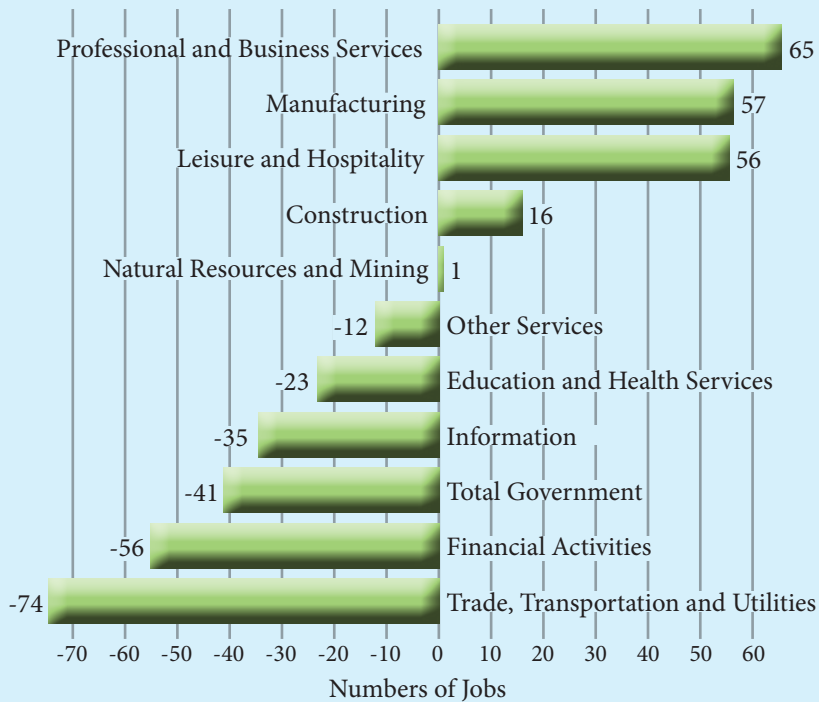
The BLS reports that in April of 2016 the unemployment rate declined to 4.1 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (latest information available), 3.4 percent statewide, and 4.7 percent nationwide. The average unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area during the first four months of 2016 (down from 5.5 percent from the first four months in 2015), 4.0 percent statewide (down from 4.6 percent), and 5.1 percent nationwide (down from 5.6 percent).

Unemployment Average Jan-Apr 2016



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Number of Jobs Added 2015 Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



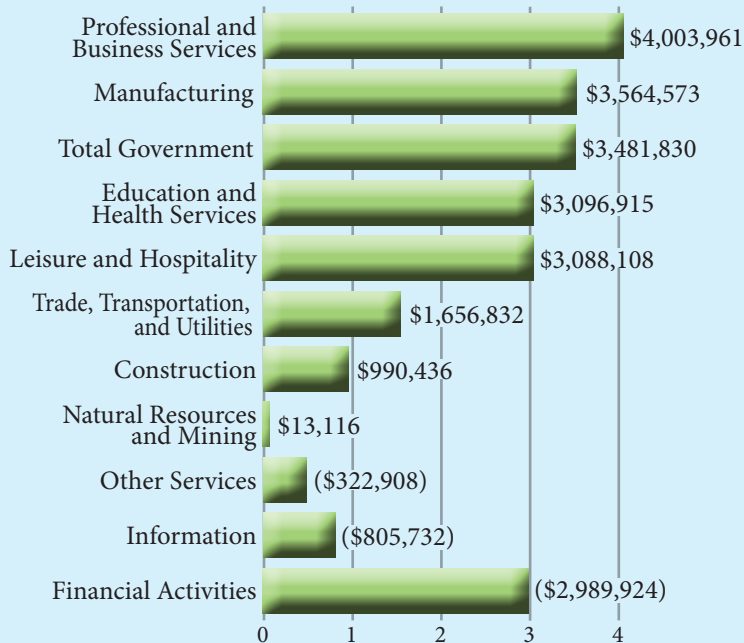
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

In 2015, goods-producing industries in the micropolitan area added 73 jobs, service-producing industries lost 78 jobs, and government lost 41 jobs. Five industries added jobs during 2015. The Professional and Business Services industry had the highest increase in the number of jobs, posting 1,099 jobs (up 65 jobs) and \$42,041 in average annual wages followed by Manufacturing, with 2,539 jobs (up 57 jobs) and \$38,786 in average wages; Leisure and Hospitality, with 2,015 jobs (up 56 jobs) and \$11,799 in average wages; Construction with 440 jobs (up 16 jobs) and \$34,321 in average wages; and Natural Resources and Mining with 95 jobs (up one job) and average \$43,549 in wages.

Six industries lost jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities posted 2,973 jobs (down 74 jobs) and \$31,195 in average wages followed by Financial Activities, with 496 jobs (down 10 jobs) and \$35,450 in average wages; total government, with 4,270 jobs (down 41 jobs) and \$35,122 in average wages; Information, with 259 jobs (down 35 jobs) and \$47,916 in average wages; Education and Health Services, with 2,399 jobs (down 23 jobs) and \$34,797 in average wages; and other services (maintenance, beauty care, etc), with 259 jobs (down 12 jobs) and \$22,162 in average wages.

Value of Payroll Added 2015 Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

PAYROLL BY INDUSTRY

Total payroll in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area increased to \$549.6 million in 2015, up by \$15.8 million (3.0 percent). Seven industries contributed to the increase during the year. The industry with the highest increase in payroll was Professional and Business Services, posting \$46.2 million in annual payroll, up \$4 million (9.5 percent), followed by Manufacturing with \$98.5 million, up \$3.6 million (3.8 percent); Government, with \$150 million, up \$3.5 million (2.4 percent); Education and Health Services, with \$83.5 million, up \$3.1 million, (3.9 percent); Leisure and Hospitality, with \$23.8 million, up 3.1 million (14.9 percent); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, \$92.7 million, up \$1.6 million, (1.8 percent); Construction, with \$15.1 million, up \$990,436 (7.0 percent); and Natural Resources and Mining, with \$4.1 million, up \$13,116 (0.3 percent).

The industry with the biggest decline was Financial Activities, which posted \$17.6 million in annual payroll, down \$3 million or 14.5 percent, followed by Information, with \$12.4 million, down \$805,732 (6.1 percent), and other services (maintenance, beauty care, etc), with \$5.7 million, down \$322,908 (5.3 percent).

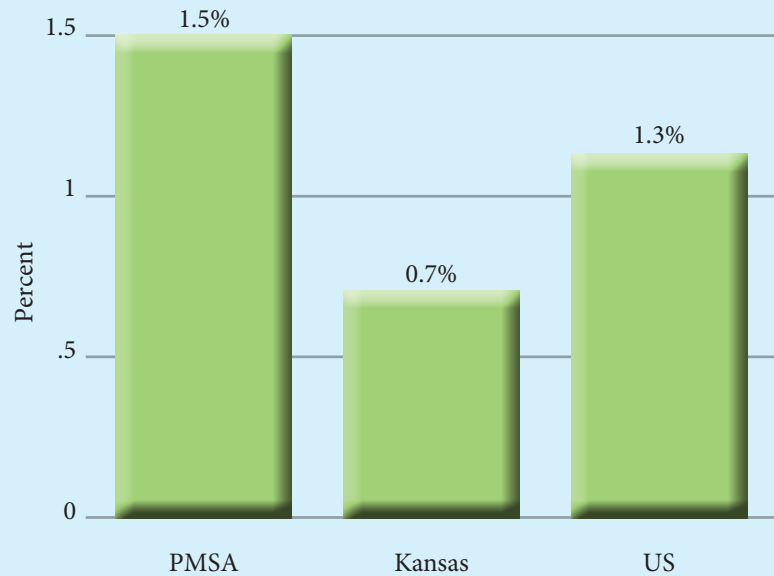
LABOR FORCE

In April of 2016, the labor force participation rate was 62.7 percent, down from 65.7 percent in April of 2007 (just before the beginning of the recession). The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports in 2015 that 19.7 percent of all families in the U.S. had no one employed, reflecting the relatively low labor participation rate nationwide. Approximately 19.9 percent of all white families had no one working, 22.3 of African American families, 11.4 percent of Asian families, and 13.6 percent of Hispanic or Latino families. Of married-couple families, 18.6 percent had no one working, compared to 17.1 percent for families headed by men and 25 percent for families headed by women.

The average labor force for the first four months of 2016 increased to 158.2 million nationwide (up 1.3 percent from the first four months in 2015), 1.5 million in Kansas (up 0.7 percent) and 19,183 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 1.5 percent). The healthy rate of increase for the local labor force indicates that economic conditions are improving and people feel more confident that they will find a job.

Labor Force Growth

Jan-Apr 2015 to Jan-Apr 2016



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

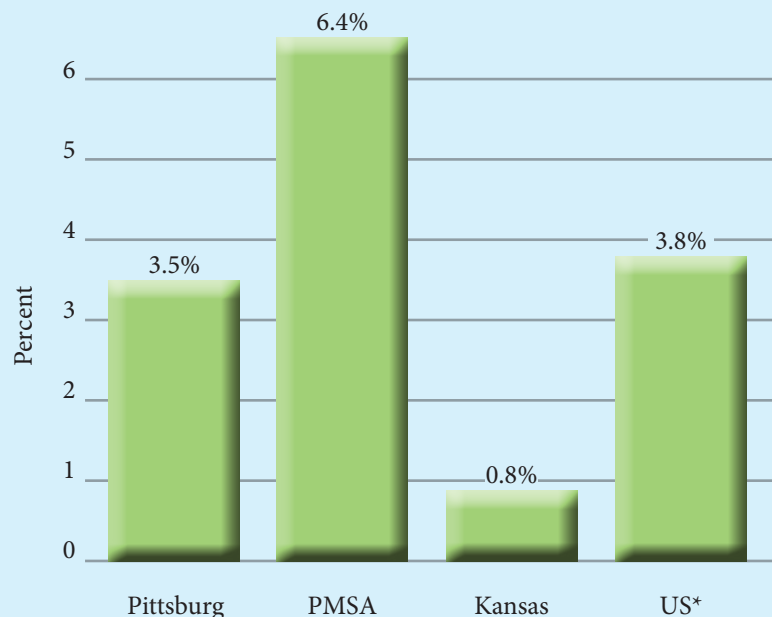
TAXABLE SALES

The Wall Street Journal reports that consumer spending and retail sales are increasing, with the greatest increase in online sales. This trend impacts large retailers more than small retailers, and major retailers may respond by closing some stores. Merchandise categories most affected are apparel, books, hardware, and music. Overall, retail sales nationwide increased to \$1.3 trillion during the first quarter of 2016, up a healthy 3.8 percent from the first quarter of 2015.

Local retail spending is also very healthy in 2016, which is good news for local city governments that derive most of their income from sales taxes. Taxable sales (retail and some taxable services like lodging) in the City of Pittsburgh increased to \$78.6 million during the first quarter of 2016 (up 3.5 percent) and sales tax collections increased to \$5.1 million (up 9.3 percent). Taxable sales increased to \$108.5 million in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area during the first quarter (up 6.4 percent), sales tax collections by cities in the area increased to \$7 million (up 12.4 percent), taxable sales increased to \$9.8 billion statewide (up 0.8 percent), and sales tax collections by cities statewide increased to \$638.1 million (up 6.6%).

Growth in Taxable Sales

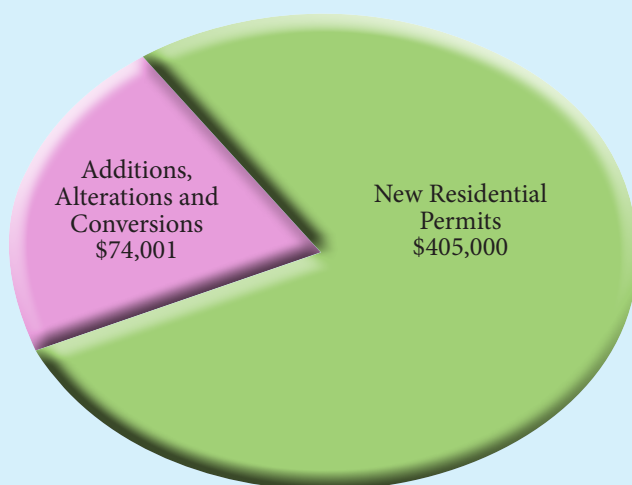
Q1 2015 - Q1 2016



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue and US Census Bureau

* Retail sales because taxable sales are not available

Value of Residential Permits - Q1 2015 City of Pittsburgh



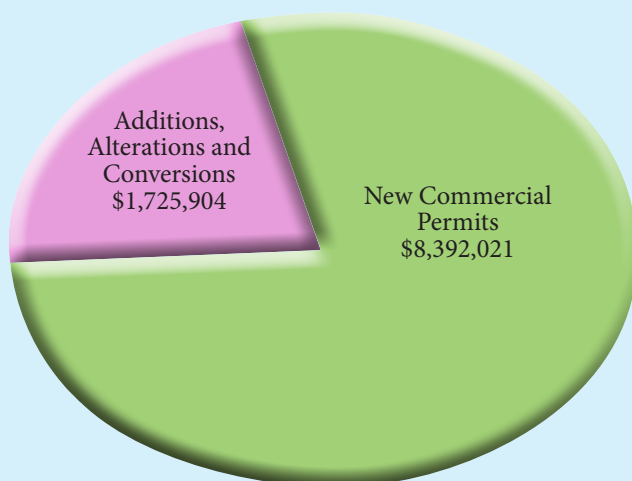
Source: City of Pittsburgh

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

According to the Pittsburgh Area Realtors Association, home sales in the Pittsburgh area were flat in May, with 55 homes sold (same as May 2015) for an average price of \$94,413 (down 6.6 percent) and a median price of \$83,000 (up 25.8 percent). However, the number of homes listed for sale is declining, and homes are selling faster. The average home sold in May 2016 had been on the market 141 days, down significantly from 166 days in May 2015. During the first five months of 2016, 173 homes were sold in the Pittsburgh area (down 0.6 percent from the same period in 2015), for an average price of \$99,061 (up 18.7 percent) and a median price of \$67,000 (up 6.8 percent).

The City of Pittsburgh reports that four permits were issued for new residential construction during the first quarter of 2016, with a stated value of \$405,000 (down 68.9 percent from the first quarter of 2015), and 15 residential permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$74,001 (down 77.6 percent). Overall, 19 residential building permits were issued during the quarter, with a stated value of \$479,001 (down 70.6 percent).

Value of Commercial Permits - Q1 2015 City of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

The Federal Reserve's decision not to increase interest rates during its May meeting was a relief to businesses that are investing or planning to expand. New business investment is usually risky and expensive, and higher interest rates can make a significant difference in the ability of a borrower to service a loan, especially during times of economic uncertainty.

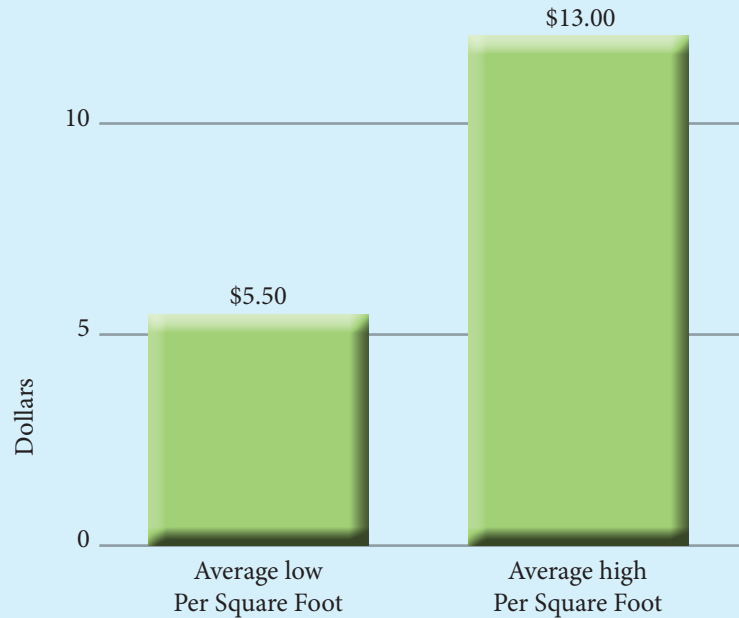
Local businesses seem optimistic about the future. The City of Pittsburgh reports that 26 new commercial building permits were issued during the first quarter of 2016, with a stated value of \$8.4 million (up 1,289 percent from the first quarter of 2015), and 20 commercial permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$1.7 million (up 323.5 percent). Overall, 46 commercial permits were issued, for a stated value of \$10.1 million, up 900.3 percent. This bodes well for the local construction industry. Furthermore, jobs in the construction trades pay relatively well, with an average wage of \$34,321 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, which is well above the average wage of \$32,631 in the area.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

Pittsburg is the regional center for all business and professional services in southeast Kansas, and the local office market is relatively stable, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. Office space rentals currently start at an average low of \$2.50 per square foot (on a gross basis), increasing to an average high of \$10 per square foot.

Office rental rates for high visibility space on North Broadway, which is the prime office market and has the highest traffic counts in Pittsburg, range from \$8 - \$9 per square foot, while high-end medical offices sometimes reach \$13 - \$15 per square foot (for top quality medical space containing elaborate plumbing and mechanical systems) with owners attempting to negotiate at least partial reimbursement for taxes. Mid-size units in the 2,000 square feet to 4,000 square feet range have average rates of \$5.50 - \$13 per square foot for higher-end facilities. There are currently 77 health service establishments in the city. The rental market is expected to grow slowly but steadily in 2016 as it did in 2015.

Mid-Size Gross Rental Space Rates Pittsburg - June 2016



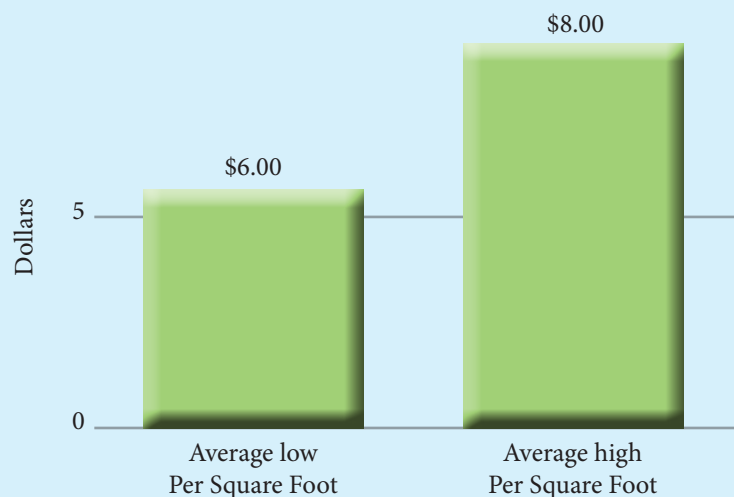
Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

COMMERCIAL LAND VALUES

Commercial land values remain fairly constant in the Pittsburg area. Prices on North and South Broadway are in the \$6 - \$8 per square foot range for better locations, with South Broadway on the lower end of the scale. Only the Centennial and Rouse area in the immediate vicinity of the Walmart Neighborhood Market has exceeded these rates. A few isolated areas have exceeded \$9 per square foot.

However, the federal reserve interest rate is expected to decline (see the banking section below), and low and declining interest rates can be expected to have a positive impact on real estate development in the area. Commercial building permits are already increasing at a fast pace due to construction of the Kansas Crossing Casino. The \$70 million casino at US-400 and US-69 will have 16 gaming tables, 625 slot machines, a 123-bed Hampton Inn hotel and a 600-seat entertainment complex. The Casino is expected to contribute 238 direct jobs and \$14.2 million in payroll annually, resulting in ripple effects of 173 additional jobs and \$8.3 million in additional payroll statewide, with the majority of the impact locally.

Commercial Land Values, Broadway Pittsburg - June 2016



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

Net Retail Space Rental Rates Pittsburg - June 2016



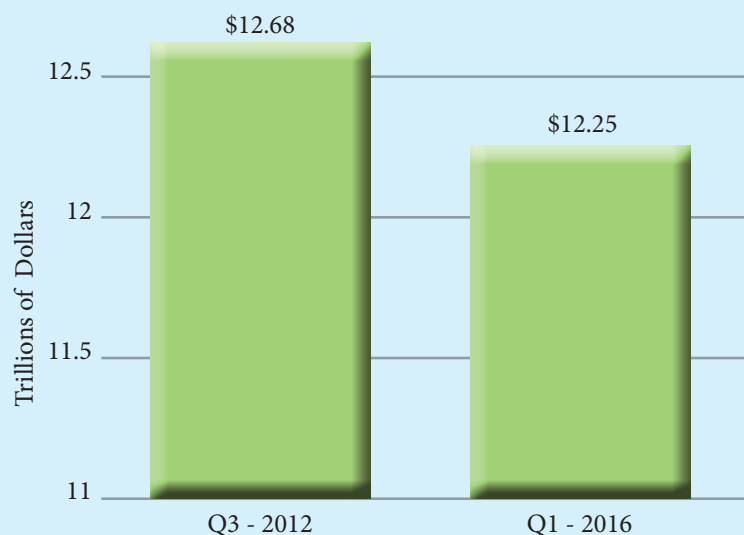
Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

RETAIL SPACE MARKET

Retail and downtown average rental rates remain fairly consistent, with average-size older units in the \$5 - \$8 per square foot range, depending on size and condition. These are generally gross leases of shorter duration. Leases on newer North Broadway units are in the \$8 - \$12 range, depending mostly on size and quality. Net leases sometimes exceed \$15 per square foot for newer small units, with property owners in the current market attempting to negotiate net leases and many tenants reluctant to do so. The primary reason for this is high property taxes, which in many cases exceed 30 to 35% of rental value on a per-square-foot-per-year basis.

Numerous national and regional retail chains have expanded into the Pittsburg area recently or are in the process of doing so, including Buffalo Wild Wings, Colton's Steakhouse, Denny's, Guadalajara Mexican Grill, Gusano's Pizzeria, Jimmy Johns, the Jolly Fox Brewery, Rib Crib, and Walmart Neighborhood Market, and the Meadowbrook Mall is expanding to accommodate new tenants, including two national retailers

Household Debt Nationwide



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

BANKRUPTCIES

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reports that consumer spending is strong, while the total household indebtedness (all types of debt) was \$12.25 trillion at the end of the first quarter of 2016, a \$136 billion (1.1%) increase from the fourth quarter of 2015. However, overall household debt is 3.3% below its third quarter peak of \$12.68 trillion.

A total of 833,515 bankruptcies (all types) were filed nationwide during the first quarter of 2016 (down 8.5 percent from the first quarter 2015), including 808,718 personal bankruptcies (down 8.6 percent) and 24,797 business bankruptcies (down 5.1 percent). Statewide, a total of 6,650 personal bankruptcies were filed (down 10.1 percent), including 6,486 personal bankruptcies (down 9.9 percent) and 164 business bankruptcies (down 18.8 percent). However, total bankruptcies in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area increased to 47 (up from 45), including 44 personal bankruptcies (flat from last year) and 3 business bankruptcies (up from one). A total of 39 of the bankruptcies locally were Chapter 7 bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out), one was Chapter 12 bankruptcy (reorganization of debt for family farms), and seven were Chapter 13 bankruptcies (total liquidation with some repayments).



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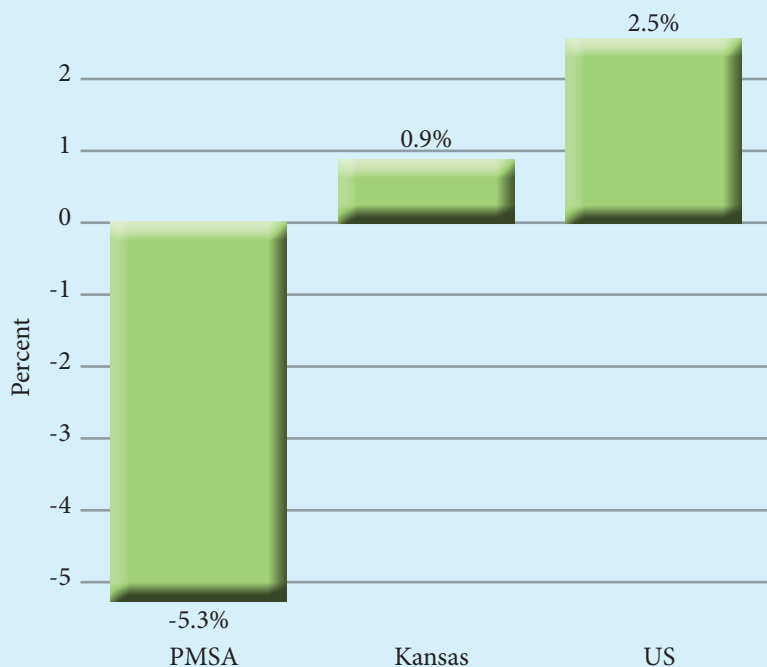
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Value of Assets Growth Q1-2015 to Q1-2016



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

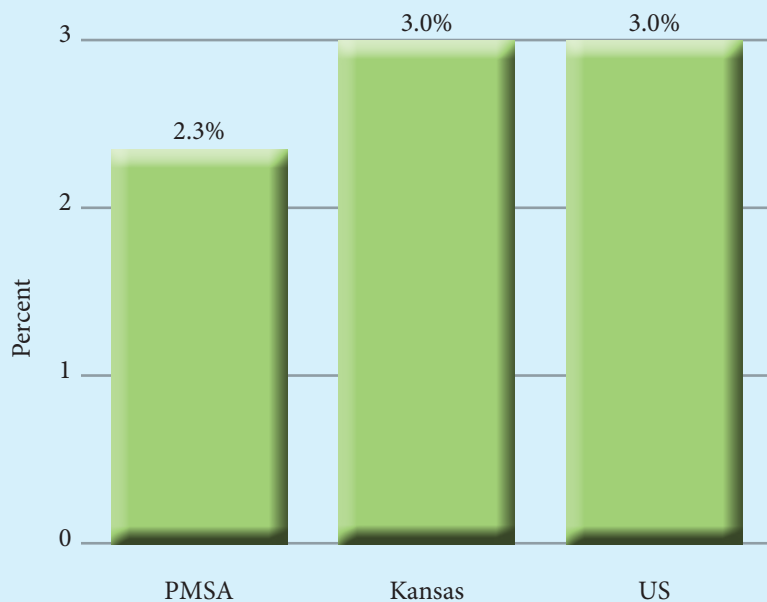
BANKING INDUSTRY

Due to Britain's planned exit from the European Union, it is expected that many investors will buy government bonds to shield themselves from the negative impact on stocks. This increase in demand for bonds will push down the interest rate, which is already low due to the current Federal Reserve monetary policy, and will consequently limit the earnings potential for the financial industry.

During the first quarter of 2016, the national banking industry posted \$16.3 trillion in total assets (up 2.5 percent from the first quarter last year), \$8.8 trillion in net loans and leases (up 6.5 percent), \$39 billion in net income (up slightly), and \$141.2 billion in noncurrent loans and leases (down 7.7 percent).

The statewide banking industry reported total assets of \$67.4 billion (up 0.9 percent), \$41.7 billion in net loans and leases (up 7.7 percent), \$176.1 million in net income (up 6.4 percent), and \$340.3 million in noncurrent loans and leases (down 14.6 percent). Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area banks with local headquarters posted \$736 million in total assets (down 5.3 percent), \$491.9 million in net loans and leases (up 2.1 percent), \$1.9 million in net income (down 2.6 percent), and \$5.5 million in noncurrent loans and leases (down 15.2 percent).

Value of Assets Growth Q1-2015 to Q1-2016



Source: National Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

The national credit union industry did relatively well during the first quarter of 2016 according to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), with membership increasing to 103.7 million (up 3.8 percent from first quarter of 2015) and return on average assets of 0.75 percent (down 0.3 basis points). Overall, larger institutions did better than smaller institutions.

During the first quarter of 2016, the national credit union industry posted \$1.3 trillion in total assets (up 3 percent from the first quarter of 2015), \$809 billion in net loans and leases (up 1.6 percent), \$5.7 billion in noncurrent loans and leases (down 11.4 percent), and \$2.3 billion in net operating income (down 73.8 percent). The statewide industry posted total assets of \$9.1 billion (up 3.0 percent), \$6.1 billion in net loans and leases (up 1.4 percent), noncurrent loans and leases of \$38.6 million (down 15.5 percent), and net operating income of \$13.7 million (down 76.7 percent). The Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area industry posted total assets of \$86 million (up 2.3 percent), \$52.5 million in net loans and leases (up 1.8 percent), \$355,510 in noncurrent loans and leases (up 51 percent), and net operating income of \$153,704 (down 71.6 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

Transient Guest Tax Collections

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau

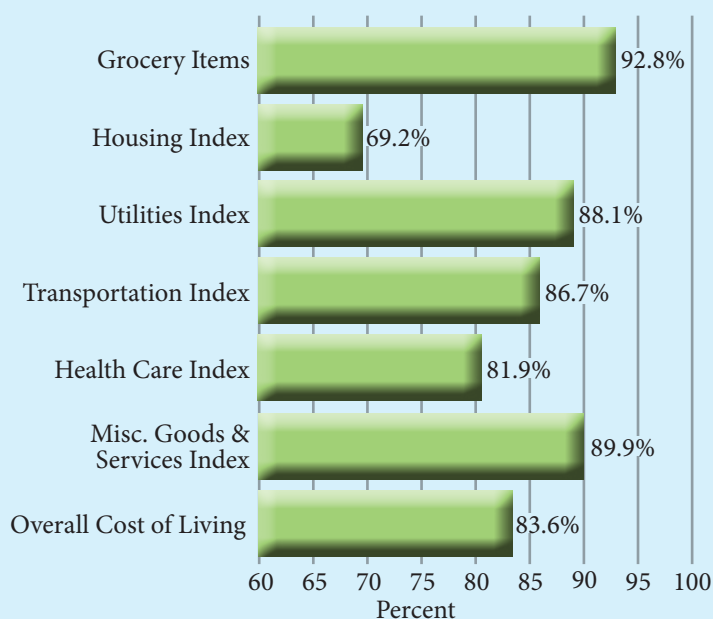
LODGING INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that approximately 19.2 percent of direct spending by tourists is on accommodations, 14.9 percent on food and beverage services, 41.5 percent on transportation, 10.5 percent on recreation and entertainment, and 13.8 percent on shopping. Smith Travel Research reports that the average occupancy rate nationwide was 62.5 percent during the first four months of 2016 (down from 62.4 percent during the first four months of 2015), with an average room rate of \$121.7 (up 3.1 percent). Average occupancy was 52.3 percent statewide (down from 55.1 percent), with an average room rate of \$84.3 (up 5.7 percent). In Southeast Kansas the average occupancy was 45.7 percent (down from 48.6 percent) with an average room rate of \$70.5 (up 7.9 percent).

The Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau reports that the Pittsburg area lodging industry is doing very well in 2016, with occupancy rates in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area increasing to 56.6 percent during the four months (up from 53.4 percent), with an average room rate of \$80. Additionally, lodging tax revenues for local governments increased to \$113 million during the period, up a significant 57.8 percent.

Average Cost of Living - Q1 2015

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that inflation is picking up in the Midwest and reports that the Consumer Price Index-Urban in the region increased 0.8 percent in May of 2016 (compared to May 2015), which is a significant change from the decline of 0.8 percent from May 2014 to May 2015. The consumer spending category with the highest increase during the period was medical care services at 3.8 percent, followed by rent of primary residence (2.9 percent), food away from home (2.9 percent), owners' equivalent rent of residence (2.7 percent), other goods and services (automobile repair, etc.) 2.1 percent, housing maintenance costs (1.8 percent), medical care commodities (1.6 percent), apparel (1.0 percent), and recreation (1.0 percent). The biggest decline in prices during the period was for gasoline, which declined 14.2 percent.

The cost of living continues to be relatively low in the southeast Kansas region, and the cost of living in the Pittsburg area in the first quarter of 2016 was 83.6 percent of the national average. The cost of groceries was 92.8 percent of the national average, housing was 69.2 percent, utilities 88.1 percent, transportation 86.7 percent, health care 81.9 percent, and miscellaneous goods and services 89.9 percent.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

EAGLEPICHER CUTS 90 JOPLIN JOBS, ADDS 20 IN PITTSBURG

EaglePicher Technologies announced a workforce reduction affecting about 90 Joplin employees in production, engineering and administrative departments at plants in the Joplin area. Twenty jobs will be added at its Pittsburg, KS plant, where thermal batteries are made for defense contracts. Employees affected will be given priority consideration for those positions. The cuts come as the company is evaluating its plants, process, technology and talent.

EaglePicher has gone through two executive management changes and last month was subject to a successful vote to decertify Local 812 of the United Steelworkers, a longtime union with about 230 members in the bargaining unit.

The company is expected to complete work this summer on a 100,000 square foot expansion at its plant in the Crossroads Center Business and Distribution Park. EaglePicher Technologies has a \$22 million Department of Defense contract to produce a new generation of lithium-ion batteries in Joplin.
Andy Ostmeyer, The Joplin Globe, May 26, 2016

FREEMAN CEO TALKS PITTSBURG EXPANSION

Freeman Health System plans to continue and grow in Pittsburg, according to President and CEO, Paula Baker.

Freeman's tracks in Pittsburg began several years ago, offering specialized medical care which was not available. In 2015 an outpatient surgery center and sports medicine clinic were added. Baker said Freeman is constantly looking to fill other voids.

Expanded services include the Freeman Physician Group of Pittsburg, 1201 Centennial Drive, offering care for diabetes, pulmonary and pain management with plans to add gastrointestinal, neurosurgery and nephrology. The outpatient surgery center offers care for podiatry, ear, nose & throat, gynecology, and gastrointestinal. Dr. Michael Zafuta, director of the sports medicine clinic, has been the team physician for PSU athletics for 14 years, making Freeman "the exclusive sports medicine provider for Pitt State."

Michael Stavola, The Morning Sun, May 21, 2016

KANSAS CROSSING CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE

Spokesman for Kansas Crossing Casino south of Pittsburg, Garion Masterson

said in an e-mail, "We're humming along on construction and are tracking on schedule so far for the same March 2017 open," He also said there are 51 workers on-site--excavation crews, surveyors, a testing firm, concrete companies, a pool company, plumbing companies and electrical contractors.

"The big story here is we are focused on seeing steel arrive within the first week of July," Masterson said. "After that, we'll start to see some really big leaps in construction."

He said some 380 mostly-local construction workers will be involved, and will employ between 250 and 300 people once construction is complete.
Patrick Richardson, The Morning Sun, June 13, 2016

HIGHWAY 69 PROJECT RESTORED

"We are going to do this project (Highway 69)," Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Mike King said. "And that's the bottom line." King said the first phase of the project — estimated at \$25 million — will begin next spring and finish winter, 2018. The six-mile section will be north from the border of Crawford and Bourbon counties.

The other projects are slated to follow with a total estimated price of \$75 million. The three projects together will come as far south as K-47, making the entire route from Crawford County to Kansas City four lanes.

King said the \$25 million comes from \$10 million KDOT has left over from this fiscal year and another \$10 million in projected savings for the next. The other \$5 million would come from other savings.

"This is a great day for Southeast Kansas, we desperately need this project and now it is going to happen," he said. "I really feel the people hired me to fight for Southeast Kansas and I've done that and I am going to keep doing that."

Michael Stavola, The Morning Sun, June 3, 2016

REVITALIZED VISION FOR DOWNTOWN

Pittsburg and Pittsburg State University engaged the Springfield development specialist Vecino Group about renovating four historic downtown buildings: Commerce Building, the former National Bank Building, and two other neighboring dwellings, into mixed-use housing, commercial space and business incubator facilities.

Pittsburg native Mat Burton, COO of Vecino, conversations turned to matters of scale, whether renovating several buildings would lead to the most efficient and beneficial outcome. "Four buildings help

the economy of scale for the developer, but on us it's a bigger footprint of stuff that's getting redone," said City Manager Daron Hall.

It also builds stronger potential for one of the project incentives: economic development. Chamber President Blake Benson notes the opportunity to bring more residents and "a steady stream" of foot traffic downtown bodes well for the city's growth as it creates a need to establish more retail and commercial businesses. The plan is to anchor the project with a long-term lease with the university for housing units and potential business incubator space.

Shawn Naccarato, PSU Director of Government and Community Relations and Executive Director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development, said potential living units would fill a university housing void. The university hopes to put a PSU presence in the renovated buildings with an economic development and innovation center that would focus on business development, business incubation and connecting students to such projects.

The estimated \$15 million project has a \$1.5 million contribution solidified from the Revolving Loan Fund, putting the city in planning mode. PSU is continuing conversations with Vecino to make an informed decision about proceeding with the project by late spring or early summer.

Stacey Lindsay, Joplin Regional Business Journal, April 11-24, 2016

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	2014 Average Employment	2014 Average Wages	2015 Average Employment	2015 Average Wages	Growth Avg. Employment	Growth Avg. Wages
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	16,890	\$31,605	16,843	\$32,631	-0.3%	3.2%
Administration of conservation programs	2	\$62,893	2	\$63,631	0.0%	1.2%
Administration of general economic programs	2	\$11,913	2	\$13,981	0.0%	17.4%
Agricultural market and commodity regulation	13	\$55,133	12	\$61,180	-7.7%	11.0%
Automotive parts and accessories stores	57	\$17,833	59	\$17,501	3.5%	-1.9%
Beer, wine, and liquor stores	49	\$9,170	48	\$10,460	-2.0%	14.1%
Business associations	10	\$38,149	9	\$42,272	-10.0%	10.8%
Child day care services	106	\$18,727	110	\$18,864	3.8%	0.7%
Civic and social organizations	18	\$6,185	16	\$7,204	-11.1%	16.5%
Commercial banking	187	\$40,494	176	\$42,759	-5.9%	5.6%
Commercial building construction	37	\$36,163	54	\$33,368	45.9%	-7.7%
Convenience stores	14	\$10,030	15	\$8,960	7.1%	-10.7%
Elementary and secondary schools	1,892	\$27,053	1,858	\$26,898	-1.8%	-0.6%
Executive and legislative offices, combined	455	\$28,226	448	\$30,194	-1.5%	7.0%
Exterminating and pest control services	19	\$22,077	20	\$21,386	5.3%	-3.1%
Family clothing stores	26	\$10,003	26	\$9,903	0.0%	-1.0%
Fuel dealers	17	\$25,981	16	\$26,588	-5.9%	2.3%
Full-service restaurants	663	\$10,521	818	\$12,815	23.4%	21.8%
Furniture stores	25	\$34,107	26	\$26,557	4.0%	-22.1%
Grain and field bean merchant wholesalers	53	\$39,848	53	\$44,659	0.0%	12.1%
Home health care services	35	\$29,229	44	\$26,696	25.7%	-8.7%
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels	93	\$14,930	89	\$14,048	-4.3%	-5.9%
Industrial supplies merchant wholesalers	17	\$28,453	14	\$30,077	-17.6%	5.7%
Janitorial services	72	\$24,691	81	\$26,349	12.5%	6.7%
Landscaping services	28	\$17,390	26	\$18,058	-7.1%	3.8%
Lessors of nonresidential buildings	15	\$21,266	12	\$23,903	-20.0%	12.4%
Lessors of residential buildings	48	\$23,461	49	\$23,871	2.1%	1.7%
Limited-service restaurants	861	\$9,838	772	\$10,745	-10.3%	9.2%
National security	3	\$51,178	3	\$53,436	0.0%	4.4%
Nursery, garden, and farm supply stores	11	\$19,330	15	\$18,641	36.4%	-3.6%
Nursing care facilities	398	\$21,591	375	\$23,584	-5.8%	9.2%
Office administrative services	129	\$52,683	148	\$53,849	14.7%	2.2%
Offices of chiropractors	7	\$16,363	5	\$22,214	-28.6%	35.8%
Offices of dentists	121	\$51,421	124	\$50,351	2.5%	-2.1%
Offices of optometrists	34	\$23,629	35	\$25,231	2.9%	6.8%
Offices of physicians, except mental health	132	\$41,687	133	\$44,740	0.8%	7.3%
Offices of real estate agents and brokers	11	\$22,506	10	\$23,769	-9.1%	5.6%
Other accounting services	28	\$26,347	37	\$30,286	32.1%	15.0%
Other building material dealers	22	\$40,350	16	\$29,815	-27.3%	-26.1%
Other residential care facilities	65	\$22,723	59	\$22,165	-9.2%	-2.5%
Pharmacies and drug stores	75	\$32,165	72	\$33,077	-4.0%	2.8%
Postal service	64	\$44,751	62	\$48,138	-3.1%	7.6%
Private households	26	\$11,757	22	\$11,834	-15.4%	0.7%
Residential electrical contractors	15	\$31,904	17	\$36,719	13.3%	15.1%
Residential property managers	30	\$18,907	37	\$21,375	23.3%	13.1%
Services for the elderly and disabled	235	\$18,007	233	\$18,590	-0.9%	3.2%
Solid waste collection	25	\$21,954	29	\$21,557	16.0%	-1.8%
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	265	\$18,643	263	\$19,862	-0.8%	6.5%
Tire dealers	38	\$34,182	36	\$36,297	-5.3%	6.2%
Water supply and irrigation systems	37	\$15,885	20	\$21,895	-45.9%	37.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



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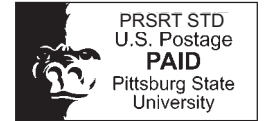
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