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The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report, Quarter 3, 2016

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THE PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

REGIONAL MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS AND INPUT SUPPLY

Manufacturing is heavily concentrated in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, accounting for 15 percent of all employment during the first quarter of 2016, almost twice the national average. When firms in a single or similar industries cluster, the result is greater efficiency through a process called localization economies, in which lower unit production costs are achieved through labor pooling, labor matching (which reduces training costs), R&D knowledge spillovers, and input sharing.

By using the same or similar inputs, clustering pools the demand for inputs and sometimes attracts input manufacturers to move to the area, which lowers the cost of inputs. The average manufacturing firm spends 59.3 percent of sales on material inputs. Manufacturing clusters in the southeast Kansas economic region (including the

Joplin, MO area) include fabricated pipe and metal manufacturing, food manufacturing (and processing), and plastics. In order to analyze the potential direct impact and input needs for manufacturing in the region, the Kelce College of Business undertook a study of regional manufacturing firms, using direct input requirement tables from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The study identified 51 manufacturing firms located in the region in 37 different manufacturing sub-industries. Preliminary results show these firms provided 9,774 jobs, had annual sales of \$3.1 billion, paid \$622.5 million (21.7 percent of sales) in wage-related compensation and bought \$1.8 billion worth of material inputs. The biggest input purchases of manufacturing goods were \$150.1 million for iron and steel and ferroalloy manufacturing products;

\$122.6 million for animal slaughtering and processing (includes poultry); \$91.3 million for steel product manufacturing from purchased steel; \$59.3million for plastics material and resin manufacturing products; \$28.5 million for paperboard container manufacturing products; \$25.4 million for plastics packaging materials and unlaminated film and sheet manufacturing; \$25.1 million for petroleum refinery products; \$21.6 million for paper mills manufacturing; \$20.5 million for paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing; and \$20.0 million for fabricated pipe and pipe fitting manufacturing.

This indicates that there is a significant demand for intermediate inputs in the southeast Kansas region which represents a potential opportunity for the region to recruit input suppliers.

INSIDE

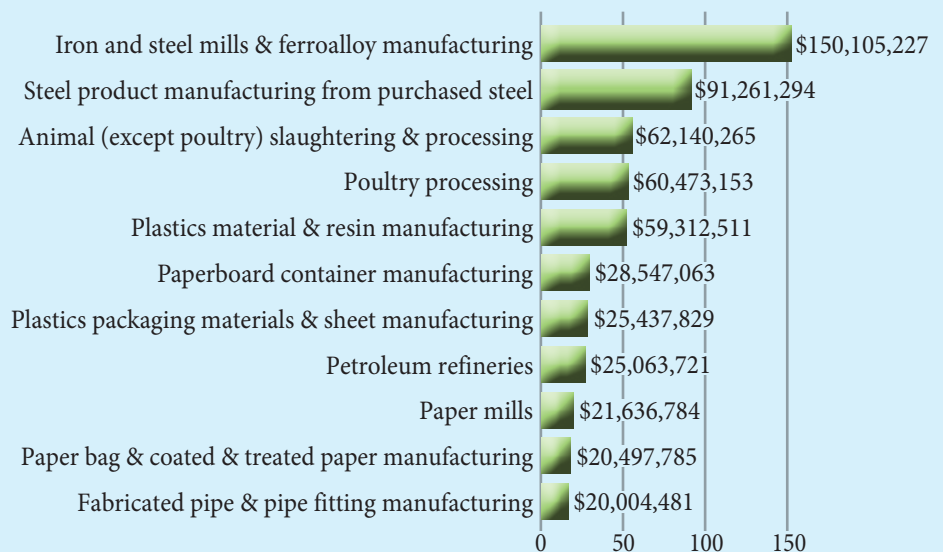
- Total Job Growth
- Unemployment
- Job Growth by Industry
- Income Growth by Industry
- Labor Force & Employment
- Taxable Sales
- Value of Residential and Commercial Permits
- Office & Industrial Space Market
- Commercial Land Values
- Retail Space Market
- Bankruptcies and More



KELCE
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Pittsburg State University

Largest Categories of Intermediate Input Purchases from Upstream Firms

By Manufacturers in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area Region (Includes the Joplin Area)



Source: Kelce College of Business



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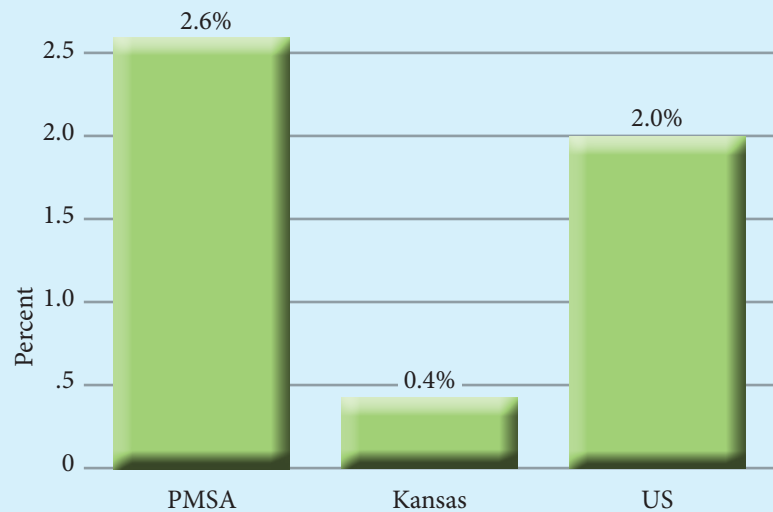


TOTAL JOB GROWTH

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that job growth is picking up in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan area, outperforming job growth both statewide and nationwide in March of 2016, with the number of jobs increasing to 17,083 (latest information available), up 2.6 percent from March 2015. The number of jobs increased to 1,362,295 statewide during the month (up 0.4 percent) and 140.1 million nationwide (up 2.0 percent). The average number of jobs during the first quarter of 2016 was 16,809 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 1.3 percent from the same quarter last year), 1,356,638 statewide (up 0.4 percent), and 139.4 million nationwide (up 2.0 percent). Total payroll during the quarter was down 0.9 percent to \$131,964,331 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, mostly because of decline in payroll at all levels of government. Total payroll was down 1.6 percent to \$14.7 billion statewide during the quarter and up 1.5 percent to \$1.9 trillion nationwide.

Interestingly, the fastest growing jobs and incomes nationwide are those that require at least a Bachelor's degree, accounting for 36 percent of all jobs, according to the Brookings Institution.

Percent Job Growth Q1 '15 - Q1 '16



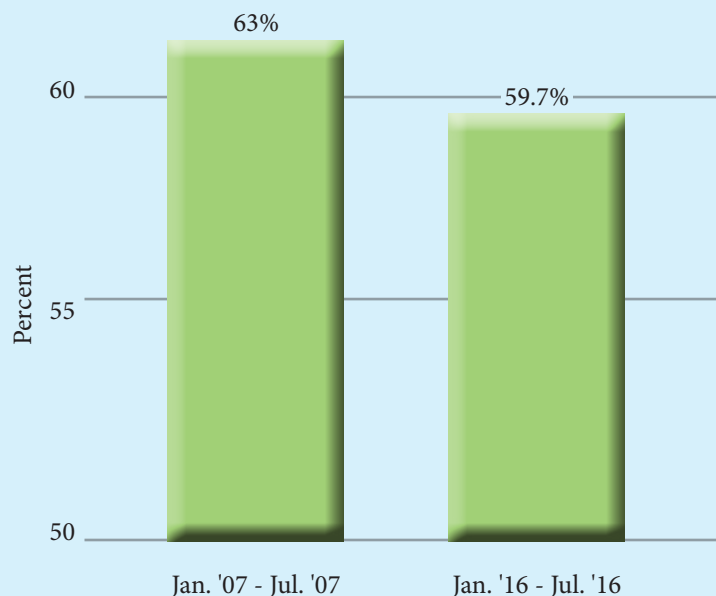
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate continues to decline in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, with average unemployment declining to 4.9 percent during the January-July period in 2016, down from 5.6 percent during the same period in 2015. Statewide unemployment declined to 4.1 percent during the period (down from 4.5 percent), and nationwide unemployment declined to 5.0 percent (down from 5.6 percent).

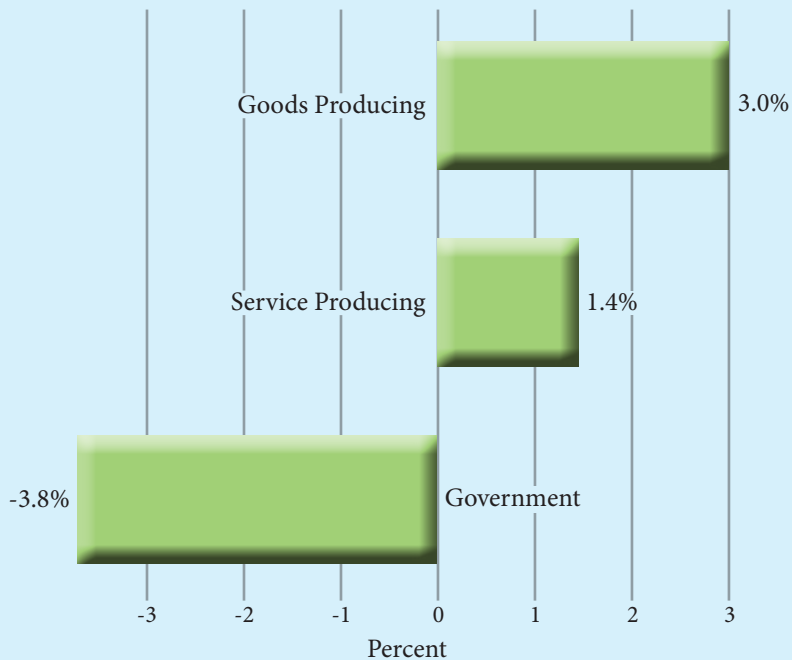
Discouraged workers leaving the labor force account for some of the decline in unemployment. The number of people not in the labor force increased from an average of 78.5 million during the first seven months of 2007 to 94.0 million during the first seven months of 2016, while the labor force participation declined from 66.1 percent to 62.8 percent, and the employment-population ratio declined from 63.0 percent to 59.7 percent. Furthermore, the segment of the unemployed classified as being unemployed short term declined from 36.0 percent in 2007 to 30.2 percent today, and the segment classified as being long-term unemployed increased from 17.1 percent in 2007 to 26.3 percent.

Employment-Population Ratio Nationwide



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Growth Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Q1 '15 - Q1 '16

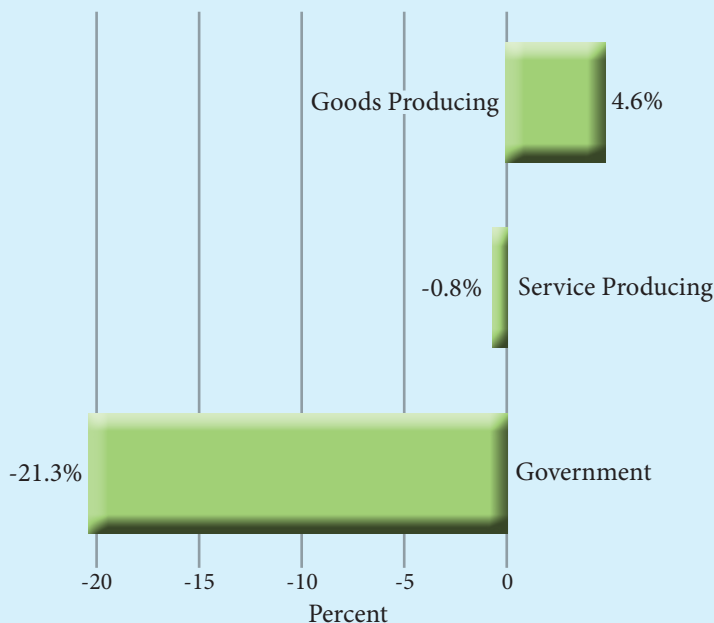


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

The industry with the largest increase in the number of jobs during the first quarter of 2016 was Professional and Business Services, with an average of 1,269 jobs, up 220 jobs (21 percent) from the first quarter of 2015, followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities, with 3,051 jobs, up 163 jobs (5.7 percent); Construction, with 455 jobs, up 59 jobs (15 percent); Financial Activities, with 511 jobs, up 36 jobs (7.7 percent); Manufacturing, with 2,514 jobs, up 30 jobs (1.2 percent). Natural Resources and Mining posted an average of 88 jobs during the first quarter, down one job (down 0.4 percent); Government (all levels) posted 4,299 jobs, down four jobs (down 3.8 percent); Other Services posted 257 jobs, down five jobs (down 1.9 percent); Information Services posted 254 jobs, down 16 jobs (down 6.0 percent); Educational and Health Services posted 2,353 jobs, down 47 jobs (down 2.0 percent); and Leisure and Hospitality Services posted 1,759 jobs, down 225 jobs (down 11.4 percent). The Trade, Transportation and Utilities industry was the fastest growing statewide (up 1.8 percent), while Education and Health Services was the fastest growing nationwide (up 2.7 percent).

Growth in Payroll Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Q1 '15 - Q1 '16



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

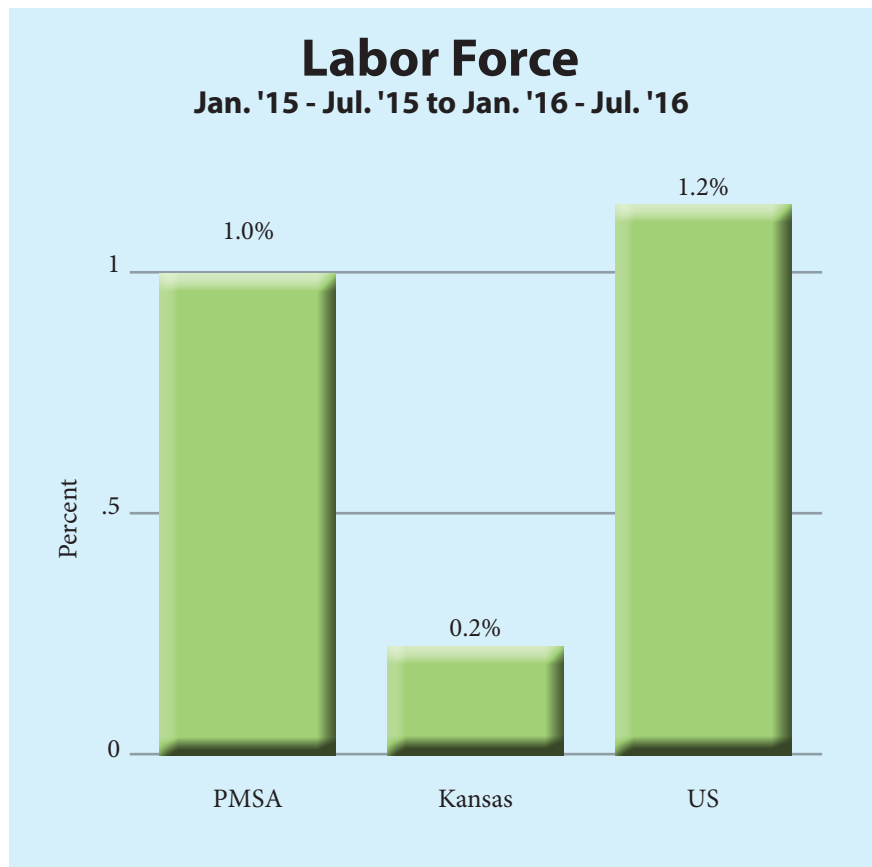
INCOMES BY INDUSTRY

The industry with the highest increase in payroll in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the first quarter of 2016 was Manufacturing, which posted a total payroll of \$23,996,112 during the quarter, up \$787,678 from the first quarter of 2015 (3.4 percent), followed by Financial Activities, posting \$4,876,781, up \$765,089 (18.6 percent); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, posting \$23,080,602, up \$458,914 (2.0 percent); Construction, posting \$3,596,681 (10.6 percent); Professional and Business Services, posting \$10,448,478, up \$328,937 (3.3 percent); Natural Resources and Mining, posting \$931,145, up \$116,661 (14.3 percent); Other Services posting \$1,400,179, up \$32,983 (2.4 percent). All other industries reported a decline in payroll during the quarter, with the biggest decline in Government (all levels), posting \$36,500,934 in total payroll, down \$1,898,910 (down 21.3 percent), followed by Education and Health Services, posting \$19,283,344, down \$1,062,459 (down 5.2 percent); Leisure and Hospitality, posting \$4,808,035, down \$1,020,881 (down 17.5 percent); and Information Services, posting \$3,042,040, down \$42,634 (down 1.4 percent).

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

During the first seven months of 2016, the average labor force in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area was 19,158 (up 1.0 percent from the first seven months of 2015); statewide, the average was 1,500,749 (up 0.2 percent), and nationwide, the average was 158.9 million (up 1.2 percent). Labor force and unemployment are estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from a household survey and include the self-employed, home-based businesses, farm employment, and domestic employment. The survey asks people if they are employed, unemployed or not in the labor force. The BLS reports that 18,212 people in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area were employed (either in the micropolitan area or somewhere else) during the period (up 1.7 percent) from last year; 1,438,855 were employed in the state (up 0.6 percent); and 151 million were employed nationwide (up 1.8 percent).

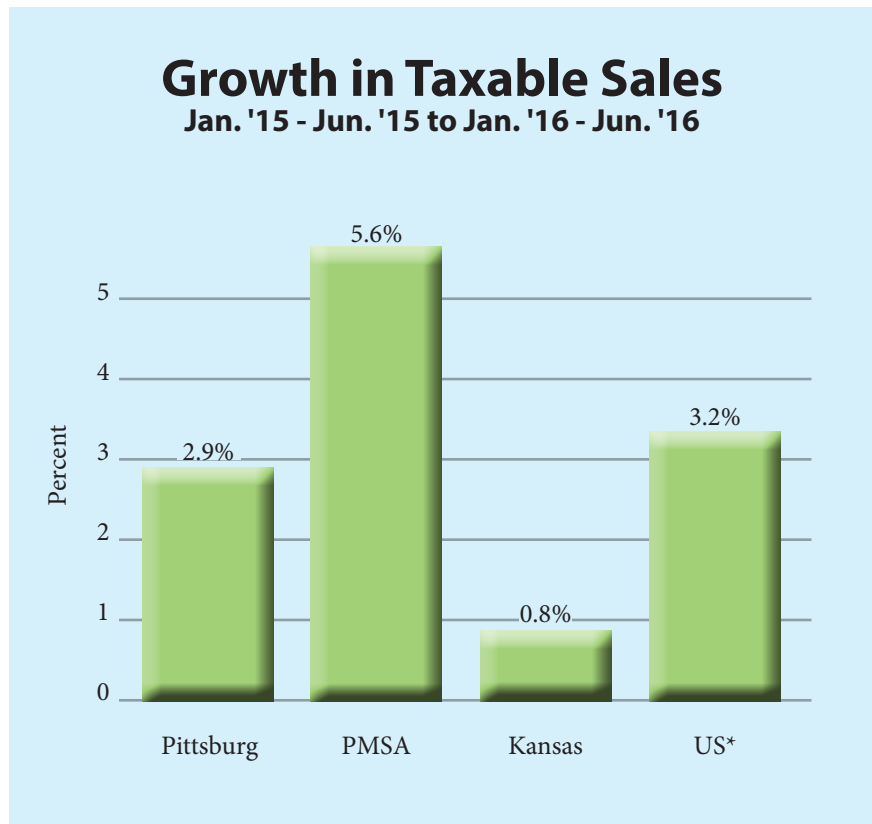
A new population study recently released by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University (CEDBR) shows that the population is currently growing at an annual average rate of 0.7 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, 0.6 percent statewide, and 0.8 percent nationwide. A copy of this study can be found on their website.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TAXABLE SALES

Local retail sales are increasing at a healthy rate, according to the Kansas Department of Revenue. Taxable sales in the City of Pittsburgh increased to \$28,059,715 in June (up 6.4 percent from July 2015), \$39,649,706 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 5.6 percent), and \$3.8 billion statewide (up 2.6 percent). Total taxable sales increased to \$160,072,205 in the City of Pittsburgh during the first two quarters of the year (up 2.9 percent from the same period last year), \$223,498,198 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 5.6 percent), and \$20.4 billion statewide (up 0.8 percent). Sales tax collections by local governments were also strong statewide, with total sales tax collections increasing to \$10,404,693 in the City of Pittsburgh during the period (up 8.8 percent), \$14,527,383 in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up 11.6 percent), and \$1.3 billion statewide (up 6.5 percent). Retail sales nationwide are also increasing at a healthy rate, with total retail sales increasing to \$463.9 billion in June (up 3.5 percent from June 2015) and \$2.7 trillion during the first 6 months (up 3.2 percent from the first six months in 2015).



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue and US Census Bureau

* Retail sales because taxable sales are not available

Value of Residential Permits City of Pittsburgh

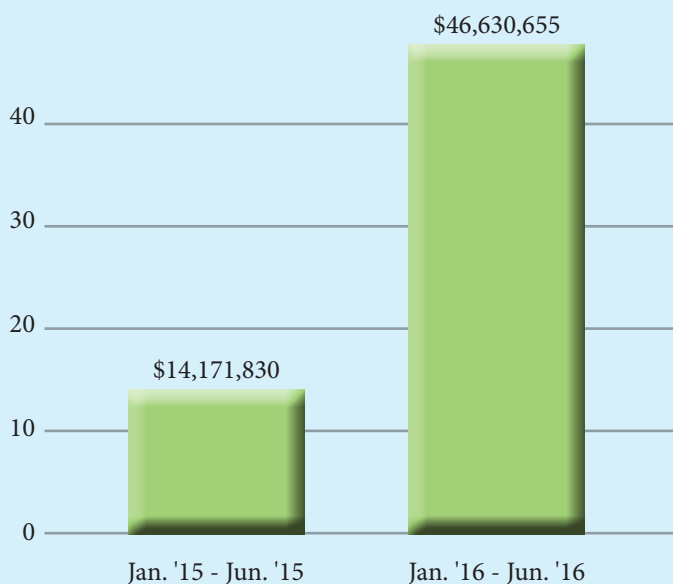


Source: City of Pittsburgh

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

A study done by Kelce College of Business found that flexible housing markets are very important for economic growth, especially population growth. To promote development of a flexible local housing supply, the City of Pittsburgh has recently introduced programs and initiatives such as a land exchange with Pittsburgh State University to gain a 72.7 acres of prime residential development land, establishment of a rural housing incentive district to promote construction of housing in local rural communities in Pittsburgh, and the establishment of a land bank to make abandoned land or properties available for neighborhood redevelopment. The value of residential building permits in the City of Pittsburgh totaled \$941,630 during the first six months of the year (down 49.7 percent from the same period last year). During the first eight months of the year, 278 homes were sold, according to the Pittsburgh Area Realtors Association (down from 301 during the same period in 2015), for an average price of \$100,449 (up 6.1 percent) and median price of \$75,000 (up 2.7 percent). The median time on the market was 99 days (up from 98 days).

Value of Commercial Permits City of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

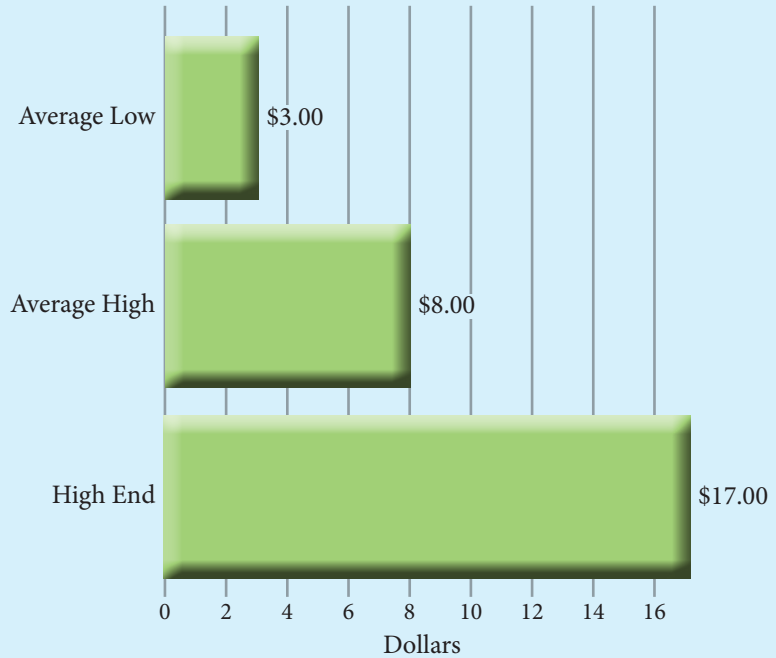
The City of Pittsburgh reports that the total value of commercial building permits increased to \$46,630,665 during the first six months of 2016 (up 229.1 percent from the first six months in 2015). This is very good news for the area. There were 43 permits issued for a new commercial construction, with a stated value of \$42,913,294 (up 337.4 percent), and 39 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$3,717,371 (down 14.8 percent).

Unsurprisingly, the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area construction industry is doing well, with average employment increasing to 455 jobs during the period (up 59 jobs), and \$3,596,681 in payroll (up 10.6 percent). Active construction projects in the area include the \$80 million Kansas Crossing Casino on the northwest corner of Highway 69 and Highway 400 (which will include 625 slot machines, 16 table games, 120 hotel rooms, a 400-seat event center, and a 125-seat restaurant), and the \$7.8 million La Quinta Inn and Suites construction on South Broadway (which will have two conference areas and an indoor pool).

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

The Pittsburgh Area non-medical office market is stable, according to Jones Heritage Realtors (the local authority on commercial real estate), with gross office rental rates starting at an average low of \$3.0 per square foot and increasing to an average high of \$8.0 per square foot for primary sites, with rates going as high as \$17.0 per square foot for high-end sites. Three major office properties sold this year, including the 11,964 square foot office complex at 3102 North Michigan, which sold for \$735,000; the 3,644 square foot office space (plus warehouse) at 320 North Locust, which sold for \$250,000; and the 2,940 square foot medical office space at 122 North Broadway, which sold for \$175,000. Pittsburgh is a center for these business services in Southeast Kansas. The office market in Pittsburgh serves an important function for the Southeast Kansas region. Many regional businesses are too small to have their own functional specialization departments, such as administrative support, payroll, tax preparation, marketing, and legal services. Recently released information by the US Census shows that 13.4 percent of the jobs in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area are in office and administrative support, and the demand for these services is growing in the region.

Gross Office Rental Rates Per Square Foot All Size Categories City of Pittsburgh - 2016



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

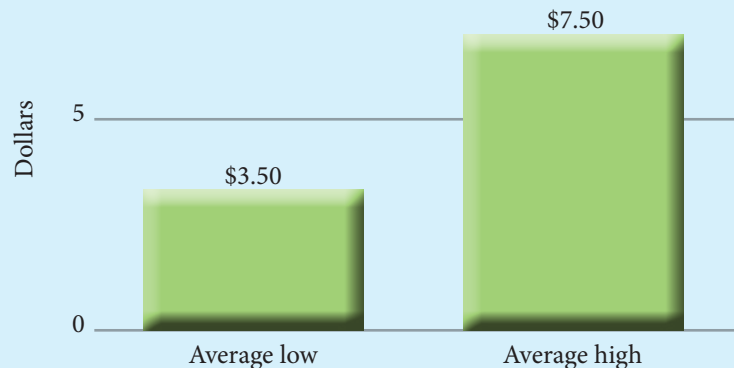
INDUSTRIAL SPACE MARKET

Three industrial properties sold in this year in the Pittsburgh area, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. A 7,500 square foot warehouse at 1206 East 530th sold for \$75,000; a 3,568 square foot industrial property on North Old Rouse sold for \$46,000; and a 1,152 square foot automotive building at 701 South Broadway sold for \$39,500.

Industries such as manufacturing and trade (wholesale and retail) are heavy users of own or third party warehouses for packaging, storage, and handling services. The future looks good for the local warehouse market due to projected improvement in the economy and the widening of the Highway 69 from Fort Scott to Arma, which means that Pittsburgh will have access to a four lane highway all the way to Kansas City. Currently, the rent for a warehouse (light industrial) space starts at an average low of \$3.5 per square foot in secondary sites and increases to an average high of \$7.5 in primary sites.

The nationwide warehouse industry is doing well, according to IBISWorld, with total revenues increasing to \$20 billion in 2015 (up 3.9 percent from 2014), and total revenues are expected to increase 2.6 percent in 2016 and 5.1 percent in 2017.

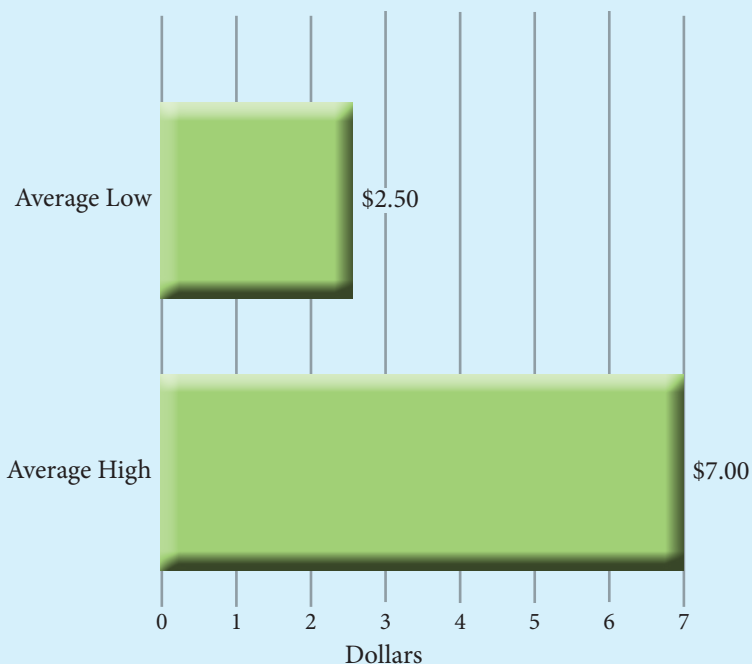
Warehouse Rental Rate Per Square Foot City of Pittsburgh - June 2016



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

Retail Space Land Costs Per Square Foot

Mid Point Estimates City of Pittsburgh - Recent Sales



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

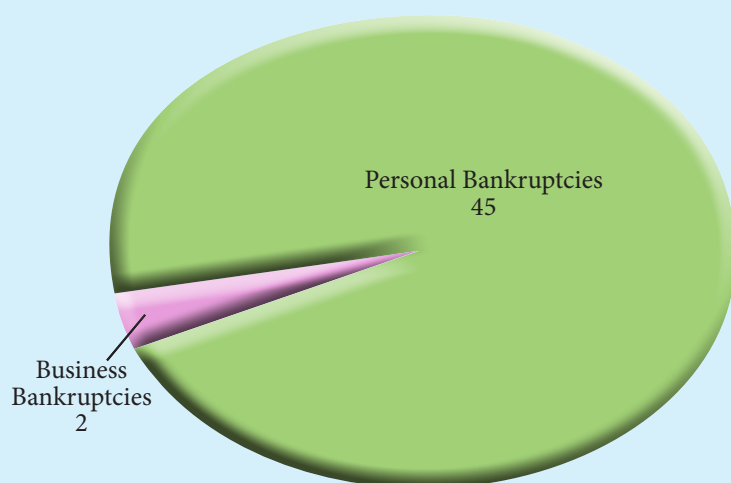
RETAIL SPACE MARKET

Commercial land values in low visibility locations (such as East and West 4th Street locations, and side streets like Locust and Walnut) have declined slightly to about \$2 to \$3 per square foot, according to Jones Heritage Realtors, but remain at \$6 to \$8 per square foot in high visibility locations, with some spot sales exceeding that amount. Three retail/restaurant properties sold so far in 2016, including an 8,500 square foot event center/restaurant at 408 North Locust for \$150,000; a 4,796 square foot adjacent restaurant space at 406 North Locust for \$150,000; and a 3,240 square foot beauty shop space at 610 North Joplin for \$132,346.

Multiple food service chains have expanded into the City of Pittsburgh recently. The newest addition to the local restaurant scene is a 3,205 square foot \$500,000 Jimmy's Egg breakfast restaurant on North Broadway, which is scheduled to open next spring. The restaurant will be open seven days a week from 6:00am – 2:00pm for breakfast and lunch. Another retail establishment in the pipeline is Tractor Supply, which will open a 19,097 square foot \$1.6 million building on West 28th Street.

Composition of Bankruptcies

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area - Jan. '16 -Jun. '16



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

BANKRUPTCIES

A total of 47 bankruptcies were filed in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the twelve month period ending in June of 2016, up 11.9 percent from the previous twelve-month period. Of those, 45 were personal bankruptcies (up 12.5 percent), and two were business bankruptcies (no change). A total of 6,520 bankruptcies were filed statewide (down 9.6 percent). Of those, 6,271 were personal bankruptcies (down 10.7 percent), with a total of 3,678 Chapter 7 personal bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out), down 7.4 percent; three Chapter 11 personal bankruptcies (reorganization of personal debt and temporary protection from creditors), down 25 percent; and 2,590 Chapter 13 personal bankruptcies (some debt wiped out and some repayments), down 14.9 percent. A total of 249 business bankruptcies were filed (up 27.7 percent), including 101 Chapter 7 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with no repayments), down 22.9 percent; 102 Chapter 11 business bankruptcies (reorganization of business debt and temporary protection from creditors), up 229 percent; 14 Chapter 12 business bankruptcies (reorganization of debt for family farms), up 75 percent; and 32 Chapter 13 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with some repayments), up 28 percent.



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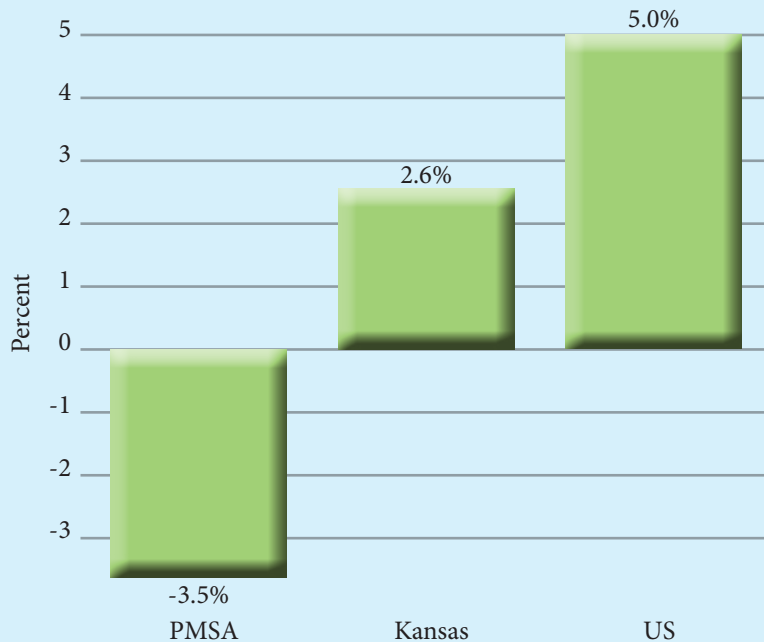
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Value of Assets

Growth Jan. '15 - Jun. '15 to Jan. '16 - Jun. '16



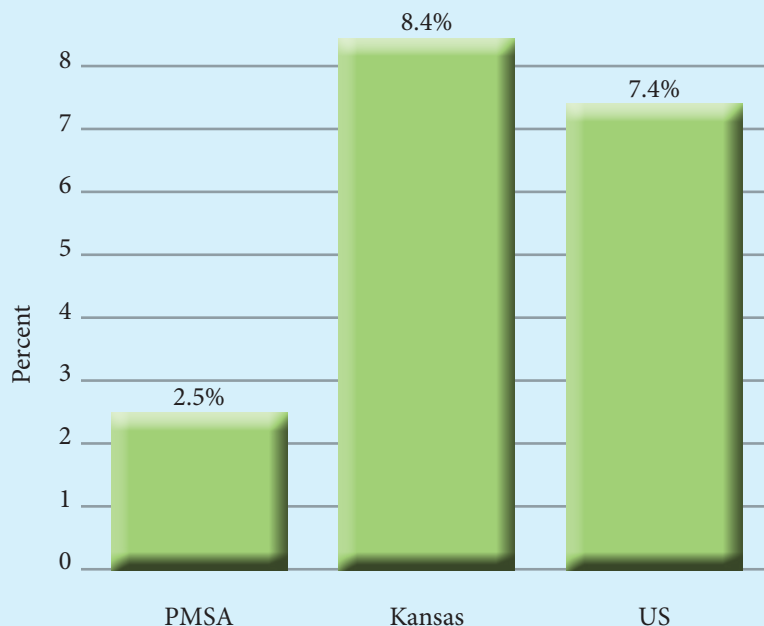
Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

BANKING INDUSTRY

The banking industry is still dealing with high-risk assets at a higher rate than in previous periods of expansion, according to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Loans are growing much faster than the Gross Domestic Product and that is worrisome. The national banking industry posted \$16.5 trillion in total assets at the end of June 2016 (up 5.0 percent from the same period last year), \$9.0 trillion in net loans and leases (up 6.8 percent), \$82.6 billion in net income for the first six months (up 1.0 percent), and \$136.4 billion in noncurrent loans and leases (down 5.7 percent). The statewide banking industry reported total assets of \$67.2 billion (up 2.6 percent), \$42.6 billion in net loans and leases (up 7.3 percent), \$368.1 million in net income (up 8.4 percent), and \$351.8 million in noncurrent loans and leases (down 6.5 percent). The Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area banks with local headquarters posted \$735.3 million in total assets (down 3.5 percent), \$492.3 million in net loans and leases (up 1.1 percent), \$3.8 million in net income (down 7.4 percent), and \$5.4 million in net loans and leases (down 13.5 percent).

Value of Assets

Growth Jan. '15 - Jun. '15 to Jan. '16 - Jun. '16



Source: National Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

The national credit union industry did relatively well during the second quarter of 2016 according to the National Credit Union Administration, with federally-insured credit unions posting a return on average assets of 77 basis points and a net worth ratio of 10.85 percent and adding 1.2 million members.

Total assets in the nationwide industry increased to \$1.3 trillion at the end of June (up 7.4 percent from the same period in 2015), net loans and leases increased to \$833.3 billion (up 10.5 percent), net operating income during the first six months increased to \$4.8 billion (up 2.9 percent), and noncurrent loans and leases increased to \$6.2 billion (up 11.4 percent).

The statewide industry posted \$9.2 billion in total assets during the period (up 8.4 percent), \$6.3 billion in net loans and leases (up 11.2 percent), \$30.8 million in net operating income (up 9.0 percent), and \$45.2 million in noncurrent loans and leases (up 4.9 percent). Credit unions with headquarters in the Pittsburgh area posted \$85.6 million in total assets during the quarter (up 2.5 percent), \$61.1 million in net loans and leases (up 22.5 percent), \$295,031 in net income (up 4.4 percent), and \$305,021 in non-current loans and leases (up 61.7 percent).

Crawford County Business Summary

	2016 Employees	Percent	2016 Establishments	Percent	Average Employee size
Forestry, & Fishing	205	1.4%	59	4.3%	3.5
Mining	27	0.2%	4	0.3%	6.8
Construction	580	3.9%	77	5.6%	7.5
Manufacturing	1,942	13.1%	62	4.5%	31.3
Transportation, Communications, Elec., Gas, Etc.	1,062	7.2%	69	5.1%	15.4
Wholesale Trade	633	4.3%	63	4.6%	10.0
Retail Trade	2,877	19.5%	261	19.1%	11.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	524	3.5%	110	8.1%	4.8
Services	5,885	39.8%	603	44.2%	9.8
Public Administration	1,048	7.1%	56	4.1%	18.7
TOTALS	14,783	100%	1,364	100%	

Source: Demographics Now

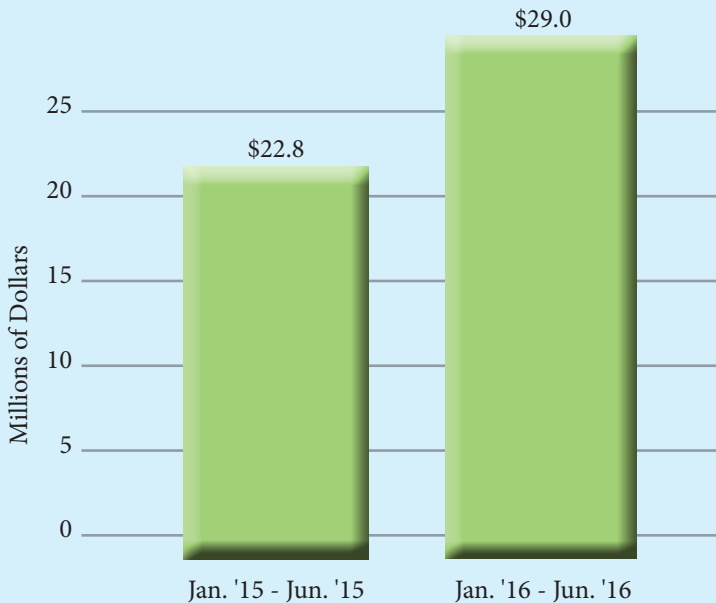
Annual Median Base Salaries Crawford County - 2015

Accountants and Auditors	\$52,069	Lawyers	\$67,773
Architecture and Engineering	\$55,647	Librarians	\$46,180
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$33,507	Maintenance and Repair Workers	\$34,551
Bookkeeping	\$33,179	Management	\$77,731
Cashiers	\$17,963	Marketing Specialists	\$50,822
Child Care Workers	\$18,275	Medical and Clinical Lab Technologists	\$53,056
Civil Engineers	\$60,893	Nursing Assistants	\$19,328
Computer Specialists	\$43,660	Office and Administrative Support	\$26,917
Construction Laborers	\$23,244	Personal Care and Services	\$19,080
Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	\$18,327	Police and Sheriffs Patrol Officers	\$35,840
Counselors	\$34,007	Primary and Secondary Teachers	\$47,080
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks	\$30,509	Production	\$27,133
Customer Service Representatives	\$24,127	Receptionists and Inform. Clerks	\$24,117
File Clerks	\$25,599	Retail Sales Workers	\$18,467
Financial Managers	\$94,789	Sales Representatives	\$24,893
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	\$18,205	Secretaries	\$28,935
Graphic Designers	\$63,176	Truck Drivers	\$31,543
Grounds Maintenance Workers	\$18,169	Vehicle Mechanics	\$32,069
Human Resources Specialists	\$52,762	Welders	\$35,295
Janitors and Cleaners	\$21,372		

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

Transient Guest Tax Collections

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau

LODGING INDUSTRY

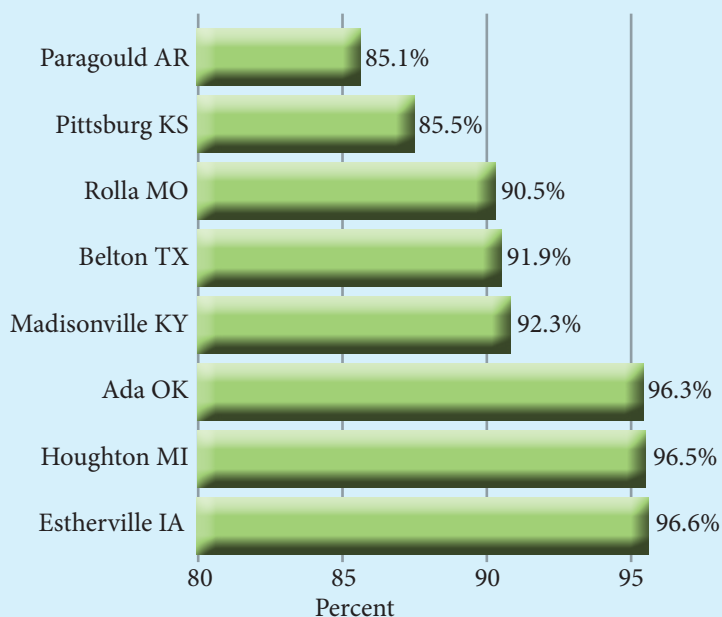
The National Travel and Tourism Office reports that expenditures by people visiting the United States increased slightly to \$143.3 billion during the first six months of 2016 (up 0.1 percent from the same period last year), with \$90.1 billion on travel spending (down 1.5 percent), \$30.4 billion on medical, education and worker spending (up 12.4 percent), and \$22.9 billion on passenger fares (down 7.0 percent). However, the price of airline tickets is expected to decline later this year, and that could result in more visitors.

The average occupancy in hotels was 65 percent nationwide during the first six months (no change), with an average daily room revenue of \$122.7 (up 3.1 percent); 56.2 percent statewide (down from 58.5 percent), with an average daily room revenue of \$85 (up 5.0 percent); 48.4 percent in Southeast Kansas (down from 51.3 percent), with an average daily room rate of \$70.6 (up 5.6 percent); and 57.6 percent in the City of Pittsburg (down from 58 percent), with an average daily room rate of \$80 (no change). However, tourism taxes are up considerably in Pittsburg, with \$28,996, 410 collected during the period, up 27 percent.

Average Cost of Living in Regional Cities

Q2 2016

Percent of the National Average



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The average cost of living in Pittsburg is in the lowest quintile among similar cities nationwide, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research. The average cost of living in Pittsburg is only 85.5 percent of the nationwide average, with grocery costs being 96.1 percent, housing costs 66.3 percent, utilities 103.3 percent, transportation 84.4 percent, health care 82.9 percent, and miscellaneous goods and services (dry cleaning, beauty care, etc.) 92.9 percent.

There are considerable local amenities in the Pittsburg area. The Pittsburg area urban amenities include 255 retail, eating, and drinking establishments; two performing arts centers (the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts and the Memorial Auditorium); a 11,910-capacity NCAA Division II football stadium; three golf courses; a philharmonic orchestra; an opera, and more. Some of the area's many natural amenities include aesthetic backdrops, such as fourteen parks, walking and biking trails, and access to eight major lakes and rivers within a one-hour drive. There are also programs in the pipeline to increase local amenities by the City of Pittsburg, including a trail system to connect parks, schools, and business hubs and laying of fiber optic cables to increase the access speed of internet networks.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

KANSAS CROSSING MAY IMPACT PITTSBURG'S CITY REVENUE

The opening of an upcoming project, the Kansas Crossing Casino, is set to open in March of next year. This will have positive effects on the city's revenue say Pittsburg city leaders.

Kansas Crossing LC has agreed with city leaders to pay for some developmental work. "We're putting in a couple miles of sewer and water. And so, sets forth that we're going to do that and we're going to pay for it. And then the city will issue bonds that will then be assessed back against our property and our property will pay those bonds over time," stated James Walker, Kansas Crossing Project Developer.

Daron Hall, Pittsburg City Manager, said, "We were pretty conservative next year on the revenue that will be generated. But, I think overall, it will be promising to know that in 2018 they'll be up for 12 months. And the revenue figure we did put down for next year is probably conservative, so we'll actually see more revenue from the casino than we budgeted, so that'll be a good thing." *Ike Ejiochi, Nexstar, July 12, 2016*

POPULAR PITTSBURG RESTAURANT REOPENING AFTER FIRE LAST SUMMER

Chatters is now back in business. New owner and previous manager, Shelly Basgall, and a few other original employees have been rehired, including previous owner Ahmad Enayati.

Basgall is a 2001 PSU graduate and mother to three here in Pittsburg. She's from Wichita originally, but she wanted to stay rather than move home. "I just love Pittsburg," Basgall said. Enayati is involved in stir-fry at night and mentoring in the kitchen.

The restaurant now offers an outdoor patio seating area, and has new additions added to the menu. Chatters still includes old favorites to their menu as well, like their famous burgers and sandwiches for lunch. For suppertime they have a great selection of pastas, steaks, shrimp, and an "Asian Kitchen" section. *Andra Bryan Stefanoni, Freelancer, August 14, 2016*

TRACTOR SUPPLY COMING TO PITTSBURG

In 2015, this company brought in over \$400 million. Tractor Supply is expecting to open in the first or second quarter of 2017 on West 28th Street behind Labette Bank.

Larry Yancey is the executive vice president of R.A. Wilson Enterprises, and the developer for Tractor Supply.

Yancey said that they are working on finalizing the last steps.

"Tractor Supply Company is always looking for potential new store locations that are a good fit as far as the target market is concerned," Rob Hoskins, media relations contact for Tractor Supply, said in an email. "Concerning a potential new location in Pittsburg, this is especially true in that much of the area is attractive due to the part-time and hobby farmers, and horse owners in the area."

The city and the landowners are working on redeveloping the land on the old smelting site. City Manager Daron Hall expects the \$255,000 in bonds to be approved to extend North Walnut Street 450 feet for a second entrance for Tractor Supply to lessen traffic on the North side of town. *Michael Stavola, The Morning Sun, August 22, 2016*

PITTSBURG LOOKS FOR FEEDBACK

Angelou Economics, an economic firm hired by the city for \$70,000 in May, is looking for feedback from the community and business owners to develop a business recruitment strategy for Pittsburg.

The survey is available for another couple of weeks online at abetterpittsburg.com. It came out last week and has already been taken over 300 times. The firm's economic consulting report will be done by October, and then the city will be given a game plan to attract new businesses that are compatible with what the area offers.

"In order to be effective and efficient in doing that we need the extra piece to tell us what we might be looking for," Blake Benson, Pittsburg Economic Development Director said. "And how to reach them."

Some of the \$1 million plus investments in Pittsburg since 2014 include: Kansas Crossings Casino and Hotel (ongoing), La Quinta Inn and Suites (ongoing), Kendall Packaging (2016), Tractor Supply (2016), Walmart Neighborhood Market (2016), Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (2016) and (2014), Robert W. Plaster Center (2015), Miller's Professional Imaging (2015), Go Configure (2014), Bicknell Center for the Performing Arts (2014), Pinamonti Physical Therapy (2014), Via Christi (2014), Southeast Kansas Career and Technical Education Center (2014).

Michael Stavola, The Morning Sun, September 18, 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING—PITTSBURG'S LAND BANK IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A new website is now available for the public. It provides comprehensive overview of opportunities for residential and economic development within Pittsburg. Over 30 parcels are available for purchase

on the website. These opportunities are a collection of parcels owned by the City of Pittsburg's Land Bank which are available for businesses and entrepreneurs to purchase from private owners. To view the parcels or buildings, visit (<http://pittsburg-ks.opportunityspace.org/>). To purchase a parcel, simply make an inquiry from the website and a representative from the Land Bank or Economic Development team will contact you and discuss potential development opportunities.

For more information, please contact Becky Gray, the Director of Housing and Community Development at becky.gray@pittks.org.

Becky Gray, City of Pittsburg, Sept. 16, 2016

U.S. NEWS: PSU AMONG THE BEST IN THE MIDWEST

U.S. News and World report selected Pittsburg State University for inclusion on its list of the best first-tier regional universities in the Midwest. U.S. News released its "2017 Best Colleges" rankings on Tuesday.

These rankings are determined by peer assessment, first-year student retention rates, graduation rates, class size, student-faculty ratio, SAT and ACT scores, acceptance rates, and alumni giving. Howard Smith, interim associate vice president for enrollment management and student success said inclusion on U.S. News list of the best universities in the Midwest is more than just a point of pride for Pittsburg State.

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	2015 Q1 Average Jobs	2015 Q1 Average Weekly Wages	2016 Q1 Average Jobs	2016 Q1 Average Weekly Wages	Growth Average Jobs	Growth Average Weekly Wages
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	16,599	\$617	16,809	\$604	1.3%	-2.1%
Accounting and bookkeeping services	61	\$584	71	\$567	15.8%	-2.9%
Automotive mechanical and electrical repair	39	\$510	39	\$552	0.9%	8.2%
Automotive parts and accessories stores	61	\$332	59	\$330	-4.3%	-0.6%
Beer, wine, and liquor stores	47	\$185	50	\$210	5.6%	13.5%
Child day care services	109	\$365	118	\$340	7.6%	-6.8%
Commercial banking	179	\$848	203	\$866	13.2%	2.1%
Commercial building construction	45	\$632	66	\$627	47.0%	-0.8%
Commercial printing (exc. screen and books)	397	\$794	401	\$821	1.1%	3.4%
Computer systems design and related services	35	\$563	30	\$703	-16.0%	24.9%
Department stores	65	\$207	60	\$252	-8.2%	21.7%
Electrical and wiring contractors	23	\$669	30	\$575	27.1%	-14.1%
Electronics and appliances stores	65	\$413	118	\$472	80.6%	14.3%
Elementary and secondary schools	1,952	\$495	1,926	\$490	-1.3%	-1.0%
Executive and legislative offices, combined	399	\$631	409	\$549	2.6%	-13.0%
Family clothing stores	26	\$188	23	\$203	-11.5%	8.0%
Full-service restaurants	813	\$260	652	\$212	-19.8%	-18.5%
Furniture stores	23	\$530	24	\$498	7.4%	-6.0%
Grain and field bean merchant wholesalers	53	\$843	55	\$809	4.4%	-4.0%
Home health care services	39	\$510	92	\$555	134.7%	8.8%
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels	85	\$264	79	\$278	-7.1%	5.3%
Insurance agencies and brokerages	49	\$519	48	\$552	-2.0%	6.4%
Janitorial services	67	\$525	109	\$456	62.7%	-13.1%
Landscaping services	23	\$238	22	\$290	-5.7%	21.8%
Lessors of residential buildings	47	\$457	44	\$446	-6.4%	-2.4%
Limited-service restaurants	793	\$194	653	\$201	-17.7%	3.6%
Management of companies and enterprises	333	\$953	320	\$939	-3.9%	-1.5%
Masonry contractors	44	\$562	51	\$617	16.7%	9.8%
Motorcycle, boat, and other vehicle dealers	31	\$536	34	\$622	9.8%	16.0%
Nursing care facilities	378	\$404	355	\$428	-6.2%	5.9%
Office administrative services	135	\$904	147	\$820	8.9%	-9.3%
Offices of dentists	126	\$848	108	\$941	-14.0%	11.0%
Offices of optometrists	34	\$452	37	\$460	10.9%	1.8%
Offices of physicians, except mental health	136	\$789	124	\$861	-8.6%	9.1%
Other accounting services	36	\$570	38	\$589	5.6%	3.3%
Other residential care facilities	63	\$452	58	\$397	-7.4%	-12.2%
Pharmacies and drug stores	73	\$569	66	\$586	-9.6%	3.0%
Plumbing and hvac contractors	58	\$646	50	\$565	-14.4%	-12.5%
Postal service	63	\$922	61	\$822	-3.2%	-10.8%
Private households	27	\$173	21	\$291	-20.0%	68.2%
Residential property managers	33	\$372	20	\$376	-39.4%	1.1%
Services for the elderly and disabled	237	\$319	229	\$344	-3.4%	7.8%
Social advocacy organizations	29	\$337	29	\$271	-1.1%	-19.6%
Solid waste collection	26	\$437	27	\$403	3.8%	-7.8%
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	250	\$363	356	\$374	42.7%	3.0%
Tire dealers	37	\$671	36	\$646	-3.6%	-3.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



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