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THE PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

The State Of Local Banking

The local banking industry is doing well in 2020. The Federal Deposit and Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reports that total local deposits in the 11 FDIC insured institutions in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area increased to \$851.8 million in June 2020, up a significant 12.0 percent from 2019.

The institution with the most bank deposits in the micropolitan area is GN Bank, National Association (Girard National Bank), with four local branches and local deposits of \$257.3 million, up 10.5 percent, accounting for 30.2 percent of all bank deposits in the micropolitan area, followed by Community National Bank & Trust with four local branches and local deposits of \$142.0 million, up 11.6 percent, accounting for 16.7 percent of all local bank deposits;

Commerce Bank with one local branch and local deposits of \$135.8 million, up 22.7 percent, accounting for 16.0 percent of local deposits; Labette Bank with four local branches and local deposits of \$104.5 million, up 14.2 percent, accounting for 12.3 percent of local deposits; BMO Harris Bank National Association with two local branches and deposits of \$52.4 million, up 4.9 percent, accounting for 6.2 percent of local deposits; Arvest Bank with one local branch and deposits of \$41.2 million, up 25.5 percent, accounting for 4.8 percent of local deposits; US Bank National Association, with one local branch and deposits of \$29.1 million, up 7.9 percent, accounting for 3.4 percent of local deposits; Goppert State Service Bank

with three local branches and local deposits of \$28.2 million, up 11.8 percent, and accounting for 3.3 percent of local deposits; The Exchange State Bank of St. Paul, Kansas with one local branch and local deposits of \$23.1 million, up 13.0 percent, accounting for 2.7 percent of local deposits; Equity Bank with one local branch and deposits of \$19.1 million, down 20.8 percent, accounting for 2.3 percent of local deposits; and Landmark National Bank with one local branch and \$19.0 million in local deposits, up 1.9 percent, accounting for 2.2 percent of local deposits.

Three banks are growing faster in the micropolitan area than they are nationwide: Labette Bank, Arvest Bank, and the Exchange State Bank of St. Paul, Kansas.

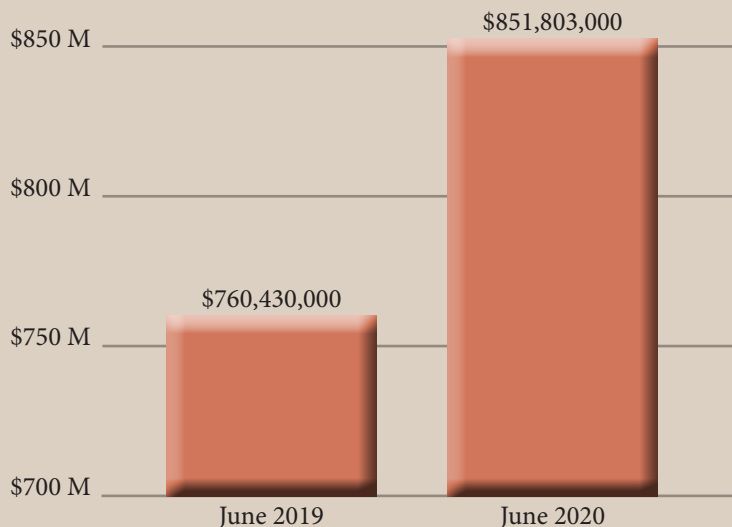
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KELCE
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Pittsburgh State University

Total Bank Deposits Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: FDIC



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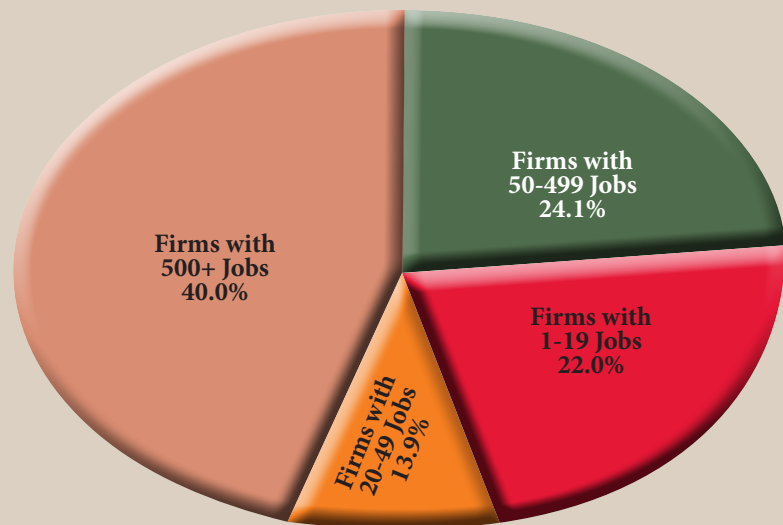
JOB GROWTH NATIONWIDE

The national economy continues to improve steadily, adding 517,000 jobs in November (245,000 seasonally adjusted) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In April the jobs declined by 19,756,000 nationwide, but 13,688,000 jobs have since been gained back.

Private industries contributed all of the job growth between April and November, adding 13,912,000 jobs, while government lost 224,000 jobs. However, we are still 6,068,000 jobs below the 150,073,000 jobs we had in March (8,461,000 seasonally adjusted). More than half of the jobs created since April were created by small and mid-size firms, according to the ADP Research Institute.

Approximately 22 percent of all jobs created since April were created by firms with 19 or fewer employees, 13.9 percent by firms with 20-49 employees, 24.1 percent by firms with 50-499 employees, and 40.0 percent were created by firms with 500 or more employees. However, the COVID-19 recession did more than just destroy jobs, it is also changing how we do office work. Only 18 percent of office workers nationwide were working in the office in November, according to Kastle Systems. This is a decline from summer when the economy reopened, and the lowest level it has been since April.

Share Of Job Growth By Size Of Business April 2020 to November 2020



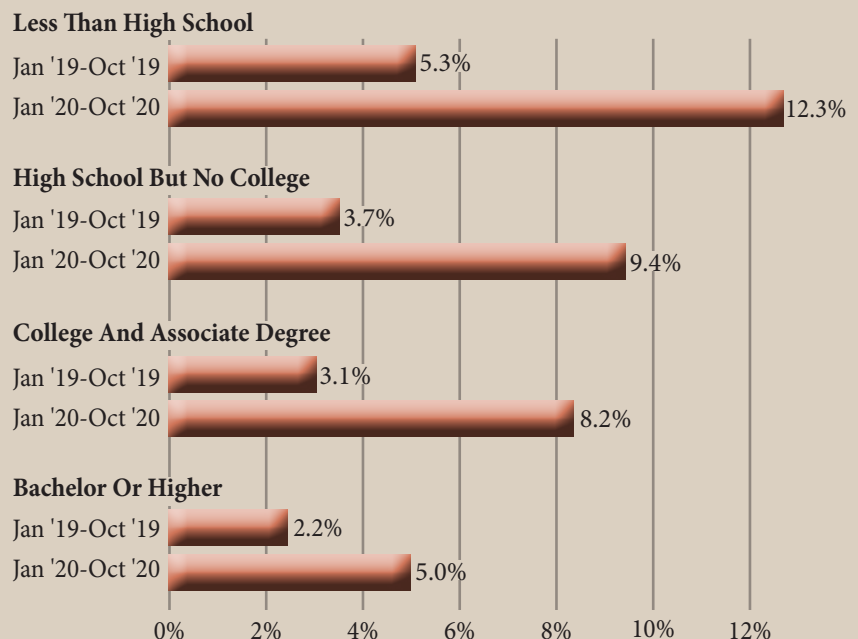
Source: Bureau Of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area declined to 4.7 percent in October (latest available), down from 9.0 percent in April. This is especially good news because the local labor force is actually up 2.1 percent from April. The average unemployment rate during the first 10 months of 2020 was 5.9 percent in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area (up from 3.9 percent during the first 10 months 2019), compared to 6.4 percent statewide (up from 3.2 percent) and 8.4 percent nationwide (up from 3.7 percent).

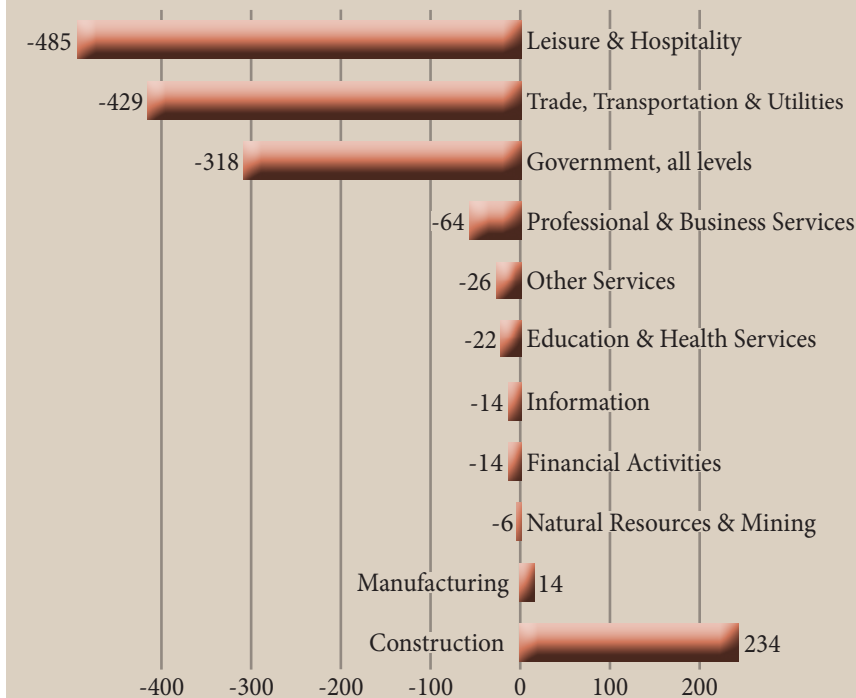
Nationwide, the average unemployment rate during the first 10 months of 2020 was 12.3 percent for people with less than a high school diploma (up from 5.3 percent from the first 10 months of 2019), 9.4 percent for high school graduates with no college (up from 3.7 percent), 8.2 percent for people with some college or an associate's degree (up from 3.1 percent), and 5.0 percent for people with a bachelor's degree (up from 2.2 percent). Blacks had the highest unemployment rate during the period (11.9 percent, up from 6.2 percent), followed by Hispanics (10.8 percent, up from 4.3 percent), Asians (9.2 percent, up from 2.7 percent) and Whites (7.7 percent, up from 3.4 percent).

Unemployed By Educational Attainment Nationwide



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Growth In Jobs By Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, Q2 '19-Q2 '20



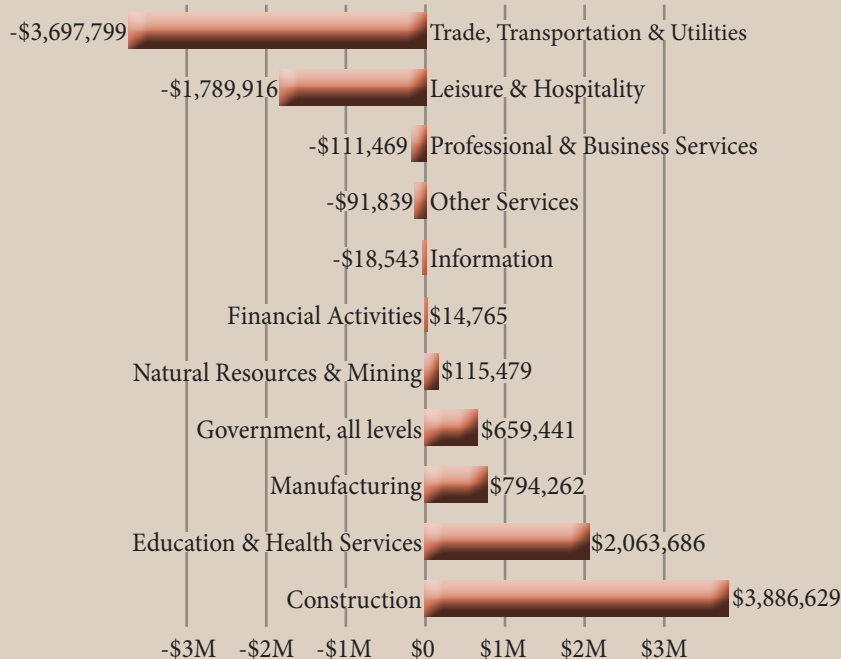
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

LOCAL JOBS BY INDUSTRY

The service-producing industries lost 1,053 jobs in the Pittsburg micropolitan area during the second quarter of 2020 compared to the second quarter 2019, but the goods-producing industries added 242 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality, with 94 establishments, posted 1,516 jobs during the second quarter, down 485 jobs (down 24.2 percent), followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, with 227 establishments and 2,698 jobs, down 429 jobs (down 13.7 percent); Government (all levels) with 71 establishments and 4,024 jobs, down 318 jobs (down 7.3 percent); Professional and Business Services with 137 establishments and 1,264 jobs, down 64 jobs (down 4.8 percent); Other Services with 66 establishments and 204 jobs, down 26 jobs (down 11.2 percent); Education and Health Services with 124 establishments and 2,313 jobs, down 22 jobs (down 0.9 percent); Information Services with 16 establishments and 286 jobs, down 14 jobs (down 4.6 percent); Financial Activities with 101 establishments and 450 jobs, down 14 jobs (down 3.0 percent); Natural Resources and Mining with 23 establishments and 97 jobs, down 6 jobs (down 5.5 percent); Manufacturing with 45 establishments and 2,550 jobs, up 14 jobs (up 0.5 percent); and Construction with 77 establishments and 660 jobs, up 234 jobs (up 54.8 percent).

Growth In Payroll By Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, Q2 '19-Q2 '20



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

LOCAL PAYROLL BY INDUSTRY

Payroll in the goods producing industries in the Pittsburg micropolitan area increased a significant 14.0 percent during the second quarter of 2020 (compared to the second quarter 2019) but declined 4.6 percent in the service producing industries. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, reported the largest decline in payroll, posting a total payroll of \$23,772,290, down \$3,697,799 (down 13.5 percent), followed by Leisure and Hospitality with a payroll of \$5,665,746, down \$1,789,916 (down 24.0 percent); Professional and Business Services with a payroll of \$12,411,747, down \$111,469 (down 0.9 percent); Other Services with a payroll of \$1,410,141, down \$91,839 (down 6.1 percent); Information Services with a payroll of \$3,319,164, down \$18,543 (down 0.6 percent).

Six industries added payroll, including Financial Activities with a payroll of \$4,485,121, up \$14,765 (0.3 percent); Natural Resources and Mining with \$1,027,647 in payroll, up \$115,479 (up 12.7 percent); Government (all levels) with \$39,785,929, up \$659,441 (up 1.7 percent); Manufacturing with \$29,957,723 in payroll, up \$794,262 (up 2.7 percent); Education and Health Services with \$23,992,068 in payroll, up \$2,063,686 (up 9.4 percent); and Construction with \$8,011,596 in payroll, up \$3,886,629 (up 94.2 percent).

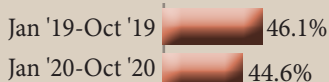
LABOR FORCE

The average labor force during the first 10 months of 2020 was 19,117 in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area (up 2.1 percent from the first ten months of 2019), 1,497,902 statewide (up 0.9 percent), and 160.8 million nationwide (down 1.6 percent). In October 2020, the local labor force stood at 19,524 in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area (up 4.7 percent from October last year), 1,519,494 statewide (up 1.7 percent), and 161.1 million nationwide (down 2.1 percent).

The average labor force participation rate nationwide during the first 10 months was 44.6 percent for people without a high school diploma (down from 46.1 percent during the same period last year), 56.0 percent for people with a high school diploma but no college (down from 57.8 percent), 63.7 percent for people with some college or an associate's degree (down from 65.1 percent), and 72.5 percent for people with a bachelor's degree or higher (down from 73.7 percent). The labor force participation rate was highest for Hispanics during the period (65.6 percent, down from 66.7 percent), 62.8 percent for Asians (down from 64.0 percent), 61.9 percent for Whites (down from 63.0 percent), and 60.6 percent for Blacks (down from 62.4 percent).

Labor Force Participation By Educational Attainment Nationwide

Less Than High School



High School But No College



College And Associate Degree



Bachelor Or Higher



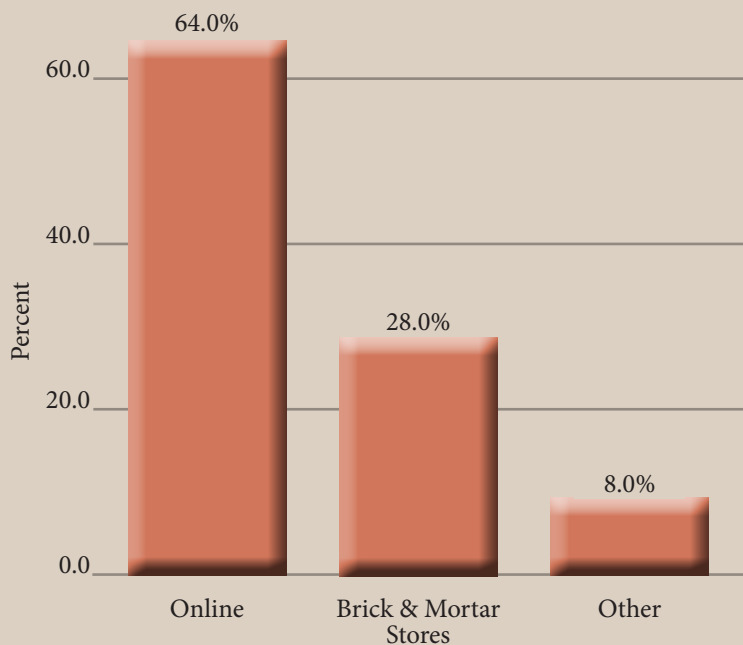
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TAXABLE SALES

Local taxable sales (retail sales plus some taxable service sales such as hotel room taxes) have been healthy during the pandemic according to the Kansas Department of Revenue. Total taxable sales increased to \$230.4 million during the first eight months of 2020 (latest available) in the City of Pittsburgh (up 2.3 percent from the first eight months of 2019), and \$314.2 million in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area (up 2.9 percent). During the same period, total retail sales declined to \$28.2 billion statewide, down 0.9 percent.

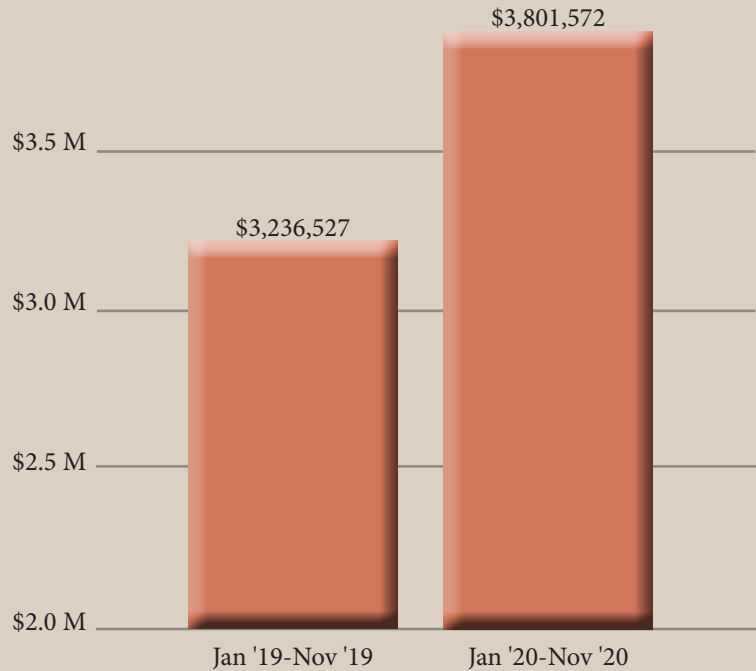
Total retail sales (taxable sales not available) were \$4 trillion nationwide during the first eight months of 2020 (down 1.7 percent). Moreover, the pandemic has accelerated the shift toward online retail sales. A new Deloitte survey finds that 64 percent of all shoppers expect to do their holiday spending online, 28 percent in brick and mortar stores, and 8 percent other (catalog, etc.). Indeed, that seems to be happening: Adobe Digital Insights estimates that online sales increased 20.3 percent during the Thanksgiving weekend with online sales increasing 21.4 percent on Thanksgiving Day, 21.6 percent on Black Friday, 30.5 percent on Small Business Saturday, and 14.9 percent on Cyber Monday.

Expected Holiday Sales By Channel Nationwide 2020



Source: Deloitte

Value Of Residential Permits City Of Pittsburgh



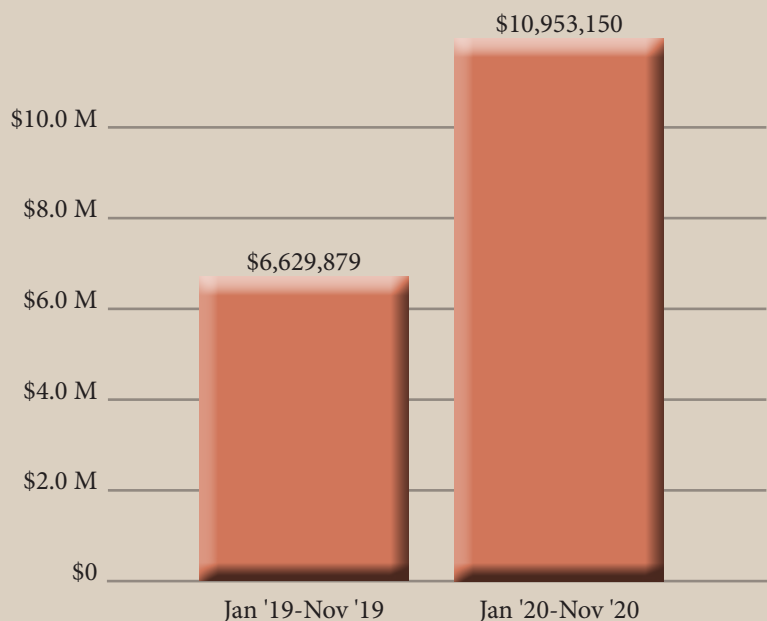
Source: City of Pittsburgh

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Local home sales are really taking off, with 56 homes sold in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area in October, up 124 percent from October 2019, according to the Pittsburgh Area Association of Realtors. Overall, 431 homes sold in the micropolitan area during the first 10 months of 2020 with a median value of \$87,000, down 0.4 percent from the first 10 months of 2019. Of these, 415 were existing homes with a median value of \$82,500 (down 2.7 percent), and 16 were new homes with a median value of \$169,597 (up 12.9 percent).

The City of Pittsburgh reports that during the first 11 months of 2020, 14 permits were issued for new residential construction, with a stated value of \$2,348,410 (down 1.2 percent from the same period last year), and 98 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$1,453,162 (up 69.0 percent). Overall, 112 permits were issued during the period, with a stated value of \$3,801,572, up 17.5 percent. Statewide, 6,417 permits were issued for new residential construction during the first 10 months of 2020 (latest available) for a stated value of \$1.5 billion, up 10.0 percent from the same period last year.

Value Of Commercial Permits City Of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

A total of six permits were issued for new commercial construction during the first 10 months of 2020, according to the City of Pittsburgh, with a stated value of \$2,084,241 (up 115.8 percent from the first 10 months of last year), and 62 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$8,868,909 (up 56.6 percent). Overall, 68 permits were issued during the period, with a stated value of \$10,953,150, up 65.2 percent. The biggest permit was for a new building for Security 1st Title Agency, located at 910 S Broadway, with a stated value of \$678,000.

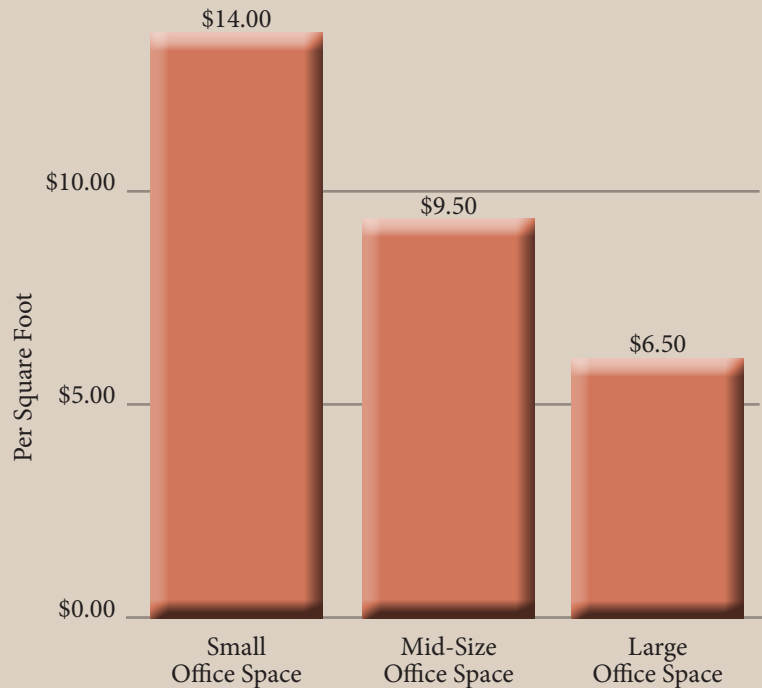
Several permits were also issued for medical space, including a \$400,000 remodeling of 1117 W 4th Street for Riggs Chiropractic; a new medical building at 2425 Bradshaw, with a stated value of \$1,200,000; three construction projects for Via Christi, with stated values of \$174,000, \$261,000, and \$220,358; and two remodeling projects for medical offices with a stated value of \$586,000. The Bureau of the Census reports that the total value of non-residential construction nationwide was \$1.4 trillion during the first nine months of 2020, down 51.0 percent from the first nine months of 2019.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

Most offices in the Pittsburg market are leased on a gross basis, with the owner paying basic taxes, insurance, exterior maintenance, and major maintenance. Pittsburg is a regional business center.

The Pittsburg micropolitan area has 51 business services establishments, employing 525 people; 26 communications and utilities establishments, employing 648 people; 31 depository institutions and non-depository credit establishments, employing 242 people; 37 engineering, accounting, research, and management service establishments, employing 267 people; 141 health service establishments, employing 2,033 people; 29 insurance agent, broker, and insurance carrier establishments, employing 74 people; 26 legal services establishments, employing 160 people; 57 personal services establishments, employing 146 people; 44 real estate establishments, employing 181 people; 8 security and commodity broker, dealer, exchange, and services establishments, employing 17 people; and 45 social services establishments employing 748 people. Jones Heritage Realtors (a local authority on the commercial real estate market) reports that average office gross rental rate \$14.00 per square foot in the Pittsburg area for small office space, \$9.50 for mid-size office space, and \$6.50 for large office space.

Average Gross Office Rent Pittsburg Area 2019



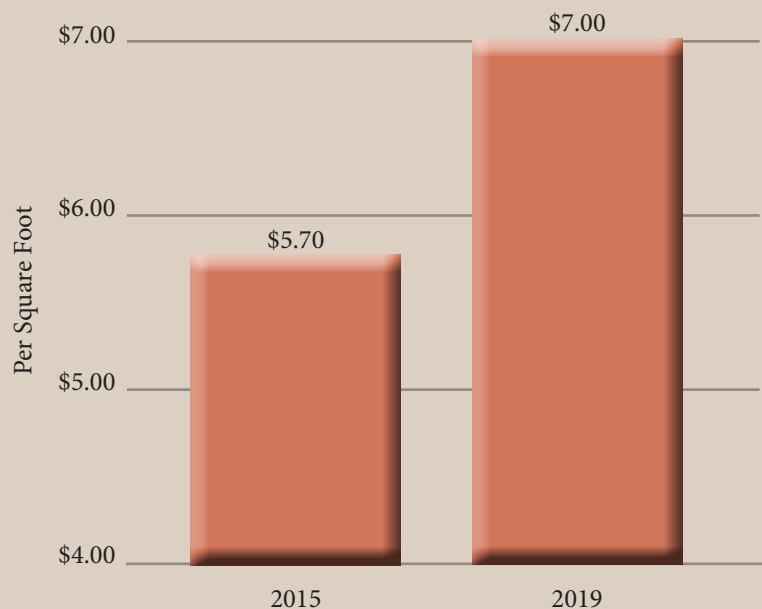
Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

COMMERCIAL MARKET

The Pittsburg area is an important commercial and industrial hub in Southeast Kansas, and over the past few years there has been significant economic development work in the city. Almost \$477.3 million has been invested in the City of Pittsburg in the last five years (most of it private), which has to be a national record for a city with a population of 21,000. This includes \$74.9 million in housing infrastructure, \$67.0 million in medical infrastructure, \$63.9 million in industry infrastructure, \$50.0 million in entertainment infrastructure, \$43.3 million in public infrastructure, \$42.7 million in retail infrastructure, \$31.3 million in education infrastructure, \$17.8 million in hospitality infrastructure, \$10 million in fiber optic cable and internet infrastructure, and \$83.5 million in other infrastructure.

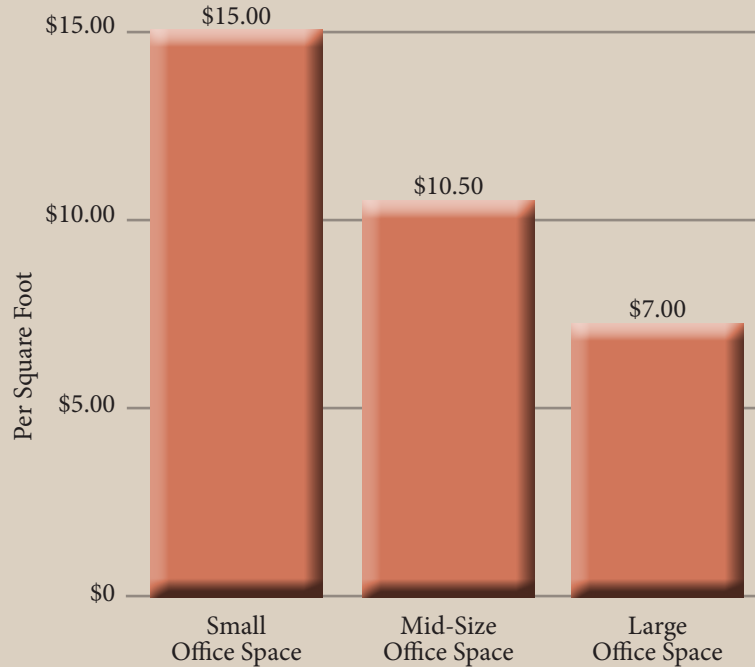
It should not be a surprise that the median price of commercial land in the area increased from \$5.70 per square foot in 2015 to \$7.00 per square foot in 2019, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. The future of the Pittsburg area commercial land market looks good due to improvement in the local economy and the widening of US Highway 69 from Fort Scott to Arma, which will provide for a four-lane highway all the way to Kansas City.

Median Commercial Land Prices Pittsburg Area



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

Average Net Office Rent Pittsburg Area 2019



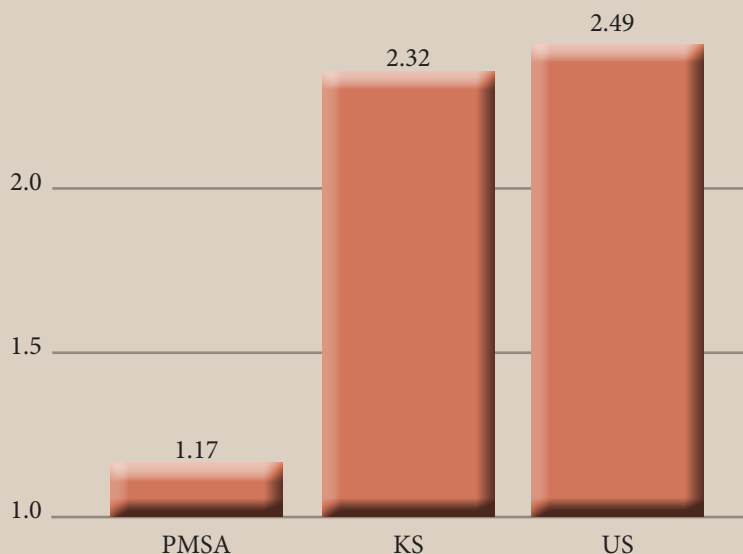
Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

RETAIL SPACE MARKET

Pittsburg is a regional center for retail and consumer services in Southeast Kansas. The Pittsburg micropolitan area has 15 apparel and accessory retail establishments, employing 80 people; 32 automotive dealers and gasoline service establishments, employing 569 people; 15 building materials, hardware, and garden supply retail establishments, employing 218 people; and 84 eating and drinking establishments, employing 1,239 people, according to Demographics Now (latest information available); 25 food store establishments, employing 193 people; 9 general merchandise retail establishments, employing 530 people; 12 home furniture, furnishings, and equipment retail establishments, employing 102 people; 69 miscellaneous retail establishments, employing 271 people; and 63 wholesale establishments, employing 684 people.

There are over 40 small specialty retailers in downtown Pittsburg, including boutiques and specialty clothing stores, jewelry stores, specialty candy and ice cream stores, bridal shops, sporting goods stores, specialty foods and art shops, and recreational activity centers, including axe throwing. Jones Heritage Realtors reports that the average net retail rent is \$15.00 per square foot in the Pittsburg area for small retail space, \$10.50 for mid-size retail space, and \$7.00 for large retail space.

Per Capita Bankruptcies Twelve Month Period Ending In September 2020



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

BANKRUPTCIES

A total of 5002 bankruptcies were filed statewide during the 12-month period ending in September 2020 (down 27.3 percent from the previous 12-month period). Of those, 4,805 were personal bankruptcies (down 27.8 percent), with a total of 2,789 Chapter 7 personal bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out), down 22.5 percent; 6 Chapter 11 personal bankruptcies (reorganization of personal debt and temporary protection from creditors), down 50.0 percent; and 2,010 Chapter 13 personal bankruptcies (some debt wiped out and some repayments), down 34.1 percent.

A total of 197 business bankruptcies were filed (down 12.4 percent), including 107 Chapter 7 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with no repayments), down 13.7 percent; 26 Chapter 11 business bankruptcies (reorganization of business debt and temporary protection from creditors), down 40.9 percent; 35 Chapter 12 business bankruptcies (reorganization of debt for family farms), down 5.4 percent; and 29 Chapter 13 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with some repayments), up 45.0 percent.

A total of 34 bankruptcies were filed in the Pittsburg Micropolitan area during the period (down 17.1 percent) and 612,561 bankruptcies (590,170 personal and 22,391 business) were filed nationwide.



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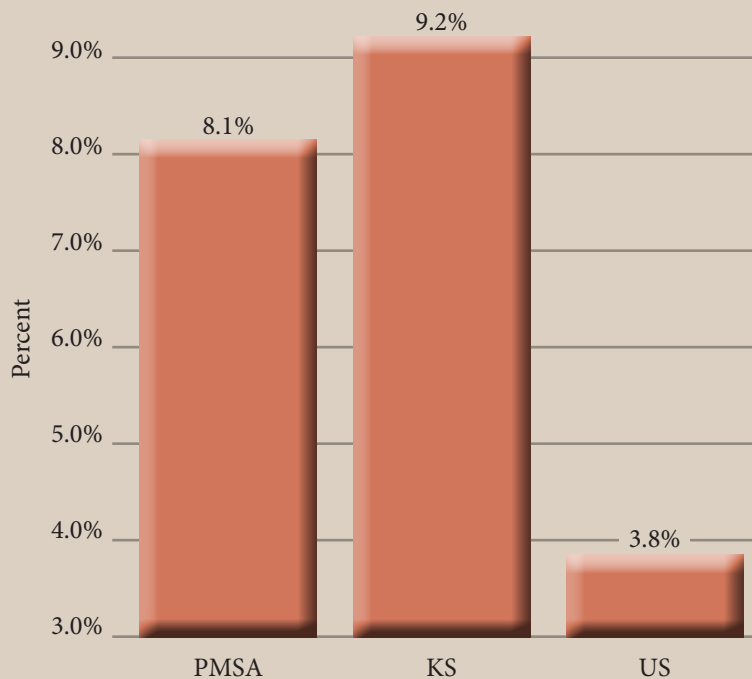
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Banking Industry

Growth In Net Loans And Leases, Q3 '19-Q3 '20



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

BANKING INDUSTRY

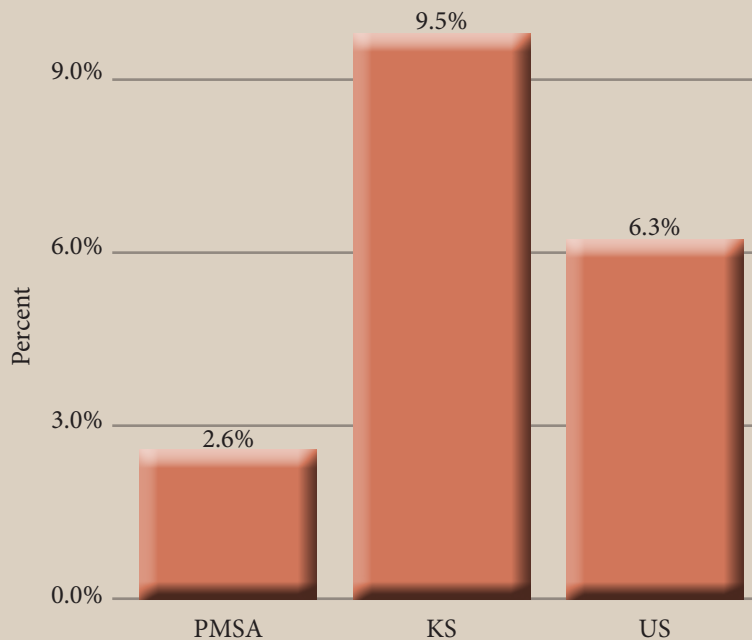
During the third quarter of 2020, the performance of the national banking industry was mixed, posting the largest percent decrease in net interest income on record, down 7.2 percent from the third quarter 2019. However, non-interest income increased 4.5 percent due increases in loan activity which increased significantly due to COVID-19 programs administrative fees.

The Pittsburg micropolitan area banking industry (banks with local headquarters) posted \$839.0 million in total assets during the third quarter of 2020 (up 16.5 percent from same quarter last year), \$510 million in net loans and leases (up 8.1 percent), \$12.3 million in non-current loans and leases (up 162.1 percent), and \$6.5 million in net income (up 11.5 percent).

Banks with headquarters in Kansas posted \$83.9 billion in total assets (up 13.3 percent), \$54.2 billion in net loans and leases (up 9.2 percent), \$548.8 million in non-current loans and leases (up 17.8 percent), and net income of \$614.6 million (down 7.1 percent). The national industry posted \$21.2 trillion in total assets (up 14.8 percent), \$10.7 trillion in net loans and leases (up 3.8 percent), \$127.6 billion in non-current loans and leases (up 33.5 percent), and \$88.4 billion in net income (down 51.0 percent).

Credit Union Industry

Growth In Net Loans And Leases, Q3 '19-Q3 '20



Source: Nation Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

The Pittsburg micropolitan area credit union industry (credit unions with local headquarters) posted \$116.5 million in total assets during the third quarter of 2019 (up 16.0 percent from same quarter last year), \$73.1 million in net loans and leases (up 2.6 percent), \$551,183 in non-current loans and leases (up 48.9 percent), and \$480,183 in net income (down 43.6 percent).

Credit unions with headquarters in Kansas posted \$12.6 billion in total assets (up 16 percent), \$8.7 billion in net loans and leases (up 9.5 percent), \$43.4 million in non-current loans and leases (down 16.5 percent), and net income of \$63.1 million (down 6.5 percent). The national industry posted \$1.8 trillion in total assets (up 16.1 percent), \$1.2 trillion in net loans and leases (up 6.3 percent), \$6.4 billion in non-current loans and leases (down 13.5 percent), and \$8.3 billion in net income (down 25.1 percent).

The number of federally insured credit union members nationwide was 123.7 million in September 2020, up 4.2 million members from September last year. Overall, 50 percent of the credit unions nationwide had less than \$41.3 million in assets and 10 percent had more than \$660.7 million.

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Demographic Summary 2020

	70 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	100 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	130 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas
Total Population	658,720	2,270,478	6,937,977
Population Density (per Sq. Mi.)	42.8	72.2	98.1
Total Households	260,591	885,128	2,733,194

Population By Gender

Male Population	326,245	1,123,482	3,424,016
Female Population	332,475	1,146,996	3,513,961

Population Percentage By Race and Ethnicity

White	86.8%	84.6%	78.5%
Black	1.6%	2.2%	7.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.9%	3.4%	3.3%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.3%	2.4%	2.7%
Some Other Race	2.6%	3.6%	4.1%
Two or More Races	3.8%	3.8%	4.2%
Hispanic Ethnicity	5.7%	7.6%	9.3%
Not of Hispanic Ethnicity	94.3%	92.4%	90.8%

Households By Income

Average Household Income	\$60,747	\$72,872	\$75,773
Median Household Income	\$45,869	\$53,327	\$54,794
Per Capita Income	\$24,296	\$28,653	\$30,109

Employment

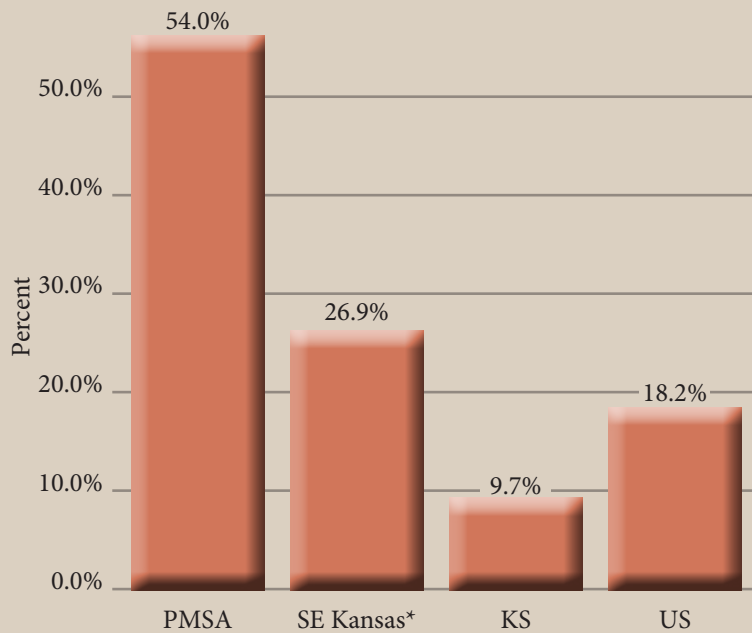
Total Population 16+	521,908	1,792,322	5,469,361
% Blue Collar	49.1%	42.6%	41.2%
% White Collar	50.9%	57.4%	58.8%

Educational Attainment

Total Population Age 25+	446,233	1,510,265	4,637,734
Grade K - 8	3.5%	3.2%	2.9%
Grade 9 - 11	8.9%	7.6%	7.2%
High School Graduate	35.5%	32.2%	30.0%
Some College, No Degree	24.0%	23.4%	23.2%
Associates Degree	8.5%	7.7%	7.8%
Bachelor's Degree	12.4%	16.6%	18.1%
Graduate Degree	6.2%	8.7%	9.9%
No Schooling Completed	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%

Source: Demographics Now

Growth In Total Revenues 2015-2019



Source: Smith Travel Research

* Includes the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area (PMSA)

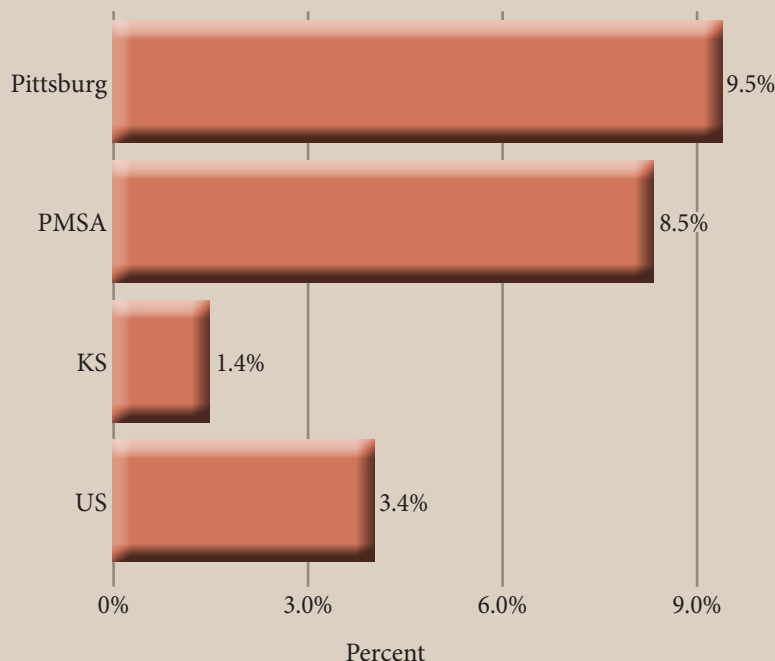
LODGING INDUSTRY

The World Travel Organization (a UN organization) states that tourism could decline 60-80 percent worldwide in 2020, and the outlook for the national lodging industry is uncertain. Most of the firms in the leisure and hospitality industry are small, and 63.5 percent are owned by women and/or minorities.

The lodging industry is the backbone of the overall tourism industry, and it was doing well in the Pittsburg micropolitan area before COVID-19, with total revenues increasing an incredible 54 percent during the 2015-2019 period (well above the 26.9 percent in Southeast Kansas, which includes the Pittsburg industry, the 9.7 percent increase statewide, and the 18.2 percent increase nationwide), benefiting local restaurants and other tourism businesses with a fresh injection of cash.

Total room revenue during the first 10 months of 2020 was \$5,044,851 in the Pittsburg micropolitan area (down 36.3 percent from the same period last year), \$12,660,033 in Southeast Kansas (down 24.4 percent), \$731,335,056 statewide (down 37.3 percent), and \$144.1 billion nationwide (down 48.9 percent). Nationwide, luxury properties had an occupancy rate of 36.5 percent in October, upper upscale 34.1 percent; upscale 48.1 percent, upper midscale 52.5 percent, midscale 50.7 percent, and economy 52.7 percent.

Growth In Middle Income Households 2019-2020



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING & QUALITY OF LIFE

A new report by Smart Asset ranked Pittsburg number nine in the top 10 cities nationwide for retirees to live, if you can save up one million dollars. Relatively low local cost of living, high quality of life and the significant economic improvements during the last few years makes Pittsburg an attractive city. Numerous studies in the regional economic literature have found that people 55 and older, especially professionals, want to move out of big cities to cities in rural settings that have both urban and natural amenities. Furthermore, US News and World Report finds that the Pittsburg micropolitan area has 36.1 percent better access to hospital beds than 835 similar communities in the study, 15.4 percent less violent crime, and 85.4 percent better access to food outlets.

Pittsburg has a community orchestra, a student opera, and a revitalized downtown with over 40 specialty stores. There are currently 29 revitalization programs downtown that have been recently completed or are still in the pipeline. Additionally, Demographics Now states that 9.5 percent of all households in the city of Pittsburg were added to the middle-income bracket during the last nine years, seven times more than statewide and three times more than nationwide.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ALLOW BUSINESS FINES UP TO \$500 FOR VIOLATING MASK ORDERS

Crawford County citizens and business owners have wondered how mask mandates would be enforced since they began. With recent spikes in Covid-19, “public health officials urged the commission and other county officials to come up with a better enforcement strategy than the one that was currently in place.”

County Counselor Jim Emerson announced in a recent commission meeting, “through talks with the county sheriff, county attorney and public health officials, an enforcement strategy had finally been created.”

Mask mandate violations will fall under “a criminal statute that talks about public nuisance and violation of public nuisance being a violation of the public health, safety and welfare of the county citizens.” Although fines of up to \$500 can be charged to businesses, the focus is really on gaining compliance for public safety. “Before tickets are handed out, businesses will be issued warning letters and outlines of how they can change their practices to match up with what the law requires”

Jordan Meier, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

PITTSBURG’S NEW ‘FUN DEPOT’ PREPARES FOR GRAND OPENING

An old historic building on North Locust St is one of the newest of the revitalization projects in Pittsburg. It is the second project for city commissioner Larry Fields who also owns the Frisco Event Center on 4th St. Fun Depot “was set to open in the spring of 2020, but Covid-19 pushed their opening back to the end of the year.”

According to Darcie Shultz, general manager, the site will have a “gaga pit, when it opens the depot is planned to have a myriad of arcade games, a climbing wall, other fun inflatables, an interactive floor projector and a bar where drinks and light food will be served.

But some of those things aren’t going to be permanent fixtures.” Future attractions may include a golf simulator, an escape room, and even seasonal activities such as a “haunted house during Halloween”.

Jordan Meier, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

CRAWFORD COUNTY SMALL BUSINESSES GRANTED MORE COVID-19 RELIEF MONEY

On November 17th Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly announced “that nearly 2,000 Kansas small businesses will be granted a total of \$37.5 million to help them recover from

the economic impact of COVID-19.” 11 business in Crawford County “were awarded the grants ranging in amounts from \$6,000 to \$25,000 for a total of \$193,054 between all of them.” Colton Nichols of Massage by Colton stated he used his grant funds to “purchase a work vehicle, so I could start doing house calls for elderly and at-risk people, so they don’t have to worry about getting out with the pandemic.”

“The other entities awarded grants are C&A Investments LLC, the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation, Girard Area Chamber of Commerce, Kim Kravitz Photo, Osage Township Rural Fire Dept District No. 1, Pittsburg Lodging LLC, Stem-Activ, The Menghini Law Firm and Vision Realty Group LLC.”

“The Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Task force and the Kansas Department of Commerce will continue to maintain the Small Business Working Capital grant program and the PPE Procurement and Connectivity Emergency Response Grant programs, should more federal CARES Act funding become available.”

Jordan Meier, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON THIRD CASEY’S LOCATION IN PITTSBURG

There will soon be a Casey’s General Store right off the 69 bypass on the south end of town. The property on the corner of Langdon Lane and Centennial Drive was once planned to be an extension of Meadowbrook Mall. Now it will have a “new 4,160 square foot store.” In addition to “six gas pumps and a diesel island, along with a convenience store,” behind the store there will also be a car wash.

This is good news as “the City of Pittsburg paid more than \$80,000 to extend sewer service to the lot” for the development of “Meadowbrook Mall West” that never took place.

Jonathan Riley, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

DAIRY QUEEN BRE3AKS GROUND ON PITTSBURG LOCATION

On October 30th Raj and Al Patel broke ground at 2109 North Broadway, the site of their new Dairy Queen location. Although construction had been planned to begin in March they were required by Dairy Queen corporate to delay.

The new restaurant will be “a new design for the franchise, the first of its kind in Kansas and only the second in the entire country, following the opening of the first in Minnesota.” Construction on the restaur-

ant is planned for completion in March of 2021 and it should open soon after that. “In the last seven years, Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce President Blake Benson said, Pittsburg has seen over \$500 million in economic development projects.”

“Those are projects at manufactures, healthcare sector, everything is booming, but do you know what people get most excited about? Dairy Queen,” Benson said.” This is not the first Dairy Queen to be in Pittsburg. One was open at 1314 South Broadway, currently the location to Freddy’s. It was closed in September of 2007 by the Kansas Department of Revenue due to charges of unpaid taxes.

Jonathan Riley, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

CRAWFORD COUNTY ADOPTS CDC, KDHE GUIDELINES FOR SHORTENED QUARANTINES

Crawford County is adopting new state and federal guidelines that allow for shortened quarantine times in an effort to reduce the number of potentially sick people who may be avoiding COVID-19 testing.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced Wednesday that, in conjunction with a new plan for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, it will now allow counties to opt into shorter quarantine times of either seven or ten days for people who have come in contact with positive coronavirus cases but are asymptomatic themselves.

Jonathan Riley, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	Average No. of Monthly Jobs, Q2 '20	Average Monthly Wages, Q2 '20	Average no. of Monthly Jobs, Q2 '19	Average Monthly Wages, Q2 '19	Percent Job Growth	Percent Wage Growth
Full-service restaurants	544	\$1,023	752	\$1,035	-27.67%	-1.2%
Printing	407	\$3,409	433	\$3,922	-6.08%	-13.1%
Managing offices	325	\$4,287	316	\$4,043	2.85%	6.0%
Nursing care facilities, skilled nursing	322	\$2,658	355	\$2,083	-9.20%	27.6%
Misc. nondurable goods merchant wholesalers	182	\$3,925	186	\$3,736	-2.33%	5.1%
Commercial banking	176	\$3,905	186	\$3,622	-5.56%	7.8%
Home health care services	119	\$2,830	122	\$2,398	-2.73%	18.0%
Child day care services	118	\$2,250	118	\$1,790	-0.28%	25.7%
Offices of dentists	111	\$4,900	105	\$4,591	6.37%	6.7%
Wired telecommunications carriers	102	\$5,258	101	\$5,057	0.66%	4.0%
Repair and maintenance	88	\$2,685	93	\$2,600	-5.36%	3.3%
Legal services	80	\$3,404	85	\$3,881	-5.91%	-12.3%
Electronics and appliance stores	76	\$2,198	88	\$2,290	-14.02%	-4.0%
General freight trucking	75	\$3,912	54	\$3,868	38.65%	1.2%
Power and communication system construction	75	\$4,057	78	\$3,324	-3.86%	22.0%
All other general merchandise stores	74	\$1,505	74	\$1,268	0.45%	18.7%
Janitorial services	71	\$1,808	68	\$1,889	3.90%	-4.3%
Personal and laundry services	67	\$1,935	81	\$1,809	-17.28%	7.0%
Postal service	67	\$4,346	67	\$4,253	-0.50%	2.2%
Health and personal care stores	65	\$2,526	87	\$2,062	-24.62%	22.5%
Accounting and bookkeeping services	60	\$3,262	96	\$3,316	-37.72%	-1.6%
Motorcycle, boat, and other vehicle dealers	55	\$3,861	53	\$3,270	5.06%	18.1%
Pharmacies and drug stores	55	\$2,710	56	\$2,744	-2.37%	-1.2%
Landscaping services	55	\$2,042	40	\$1,527	36.36%	33.7%
Grain and field bean merchant wholesalers	54	\$4,550	55	\$4,010	-2.41%	13.4%
Automotive parts and accessories stores	52	\$1,897	50	\$1,914	4.67%	-0.9%
Solid waste collection	50	\$3,427	36	\$2,623	36.70%	30.7%
Automotive mechanical and electrical repair	42	\$2,577	44	\$2,585	-6.02%	-0.3%
Nursery, garden, and farm supply stores	40	\$1,781	39	\$1,520	4.31%	17.2%
Death care services	39	\$2,240	45	\$1,896	-14.07%	18.2%
Tire dealers	37	\$2,950	39	\$2,715	-4.27%	8.6%
Farm supplies merchant wholesalers	36	\$5,414	38	\$4,793	-5.31%	13.0%
Offices of optometrists	35	\$2,962	38	\$2,424	-7.08%	22.2%
Insurance agencies and brokerages	33	\$2,863	43	\$3,244	-23.44%	-11.8%
Sports, hobby, music instrument, book stores	31	\$2,330	45	\$1,982	-29.85%	17.5%
Oilseed and grain combination farming	27	\$3,421	33	\$2,894	-19.19%	18.2%
Management consulting services	24	\$4,522	28	\$4,201	-13.10%	7.6%
Hair, nail, and skin care services	24	\$1,665	29	\$1,928	-17.05%	-13.6%
Furniture stores	21	\$2,812	23	\$2,952	-7.25%	-4.8%
Beef cattle ranching and farming	19	\$3,230	21	\$2,252	-6.45%	43.4%
Other specialized trucking, local	19	\$2,285	28	\$2,418	-30.12%	-5.5%
Residential poured foundation contractors	17	\$3,452	17	\$3,402	-1.92%	1.5%
Offices of real estate agents and brokers	16	\$2,010	13	\$1,596	26.32%	26.0%
Women's clothing stores	15	\$811	18	\$911	-14.81%	-10.9%
Offices of chiropractors	14	\$2,443	12	\$2,613	20.00%	-6.5%
Water supply and irrigation systems	13	\$3,423	14	\$3,050	-9.52%	12.2%
Water, sewage and other systems	13	\$3,423	14	\$3,050	-9.52%	12.2%
Sports and recreation instruction	11	\$1,092	11	\$913	3.13%	19.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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