

Pennsylvania Employment on the Move: 2001-17



Two Recessions! Two Recoveries! Two Pennsylvanias?

Counties – Metro Areas – Regions
Winners & Losers

A Graphic Update 2001-17: Big Picture and In Detail

Prepared by:

Theodore R. Alter, Regional Economist

Theodore E. Fuller, Development Economist

Gretchen Seigworth, Research Associate

Tessa Sontheimer, Research Associate

Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education



PennState
College of
Agricultural Sciences

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Why This Report?

Statewide - Pennsylvania was hit hard by the “Great Recession.” Over 300,000 jobs were lost from peak (June 2008) to trough (December 2009), while unemployment rose from 5.2 to 8.6 percent. Slow recovery from the recession prolonged the state’s job woes. At the state level, employment and unemployment did not return to their pre-recession levels until early in 2017.

At the sub-state level, the Great Recession had widely varying impacts – especially compared to the preceding 2001-08 business cycle, with its mild recession in 2001. During 2008-16 a few counties, metro areas, and regions added jobs, more however slid from growth to decline, while still others continued to decline.

This report takes a graphic look - big picture and detailed - at the changing geography of jobs in Pennsylvania during the 2001-08 and 2008-16 business cycles. Particular focus is on shifts in the location of employment associated with the Great Recession. These shifts may continue to shape the state’s economy and demand a continuous re-evaluation of development strategies statewide.

About This Report

The Graphics: This report seeks to tell the story of employment change in Pennsylvania concisely and accurately by minimizing text and maximizing graphics. “Highlights” are noted for each graphic.

Geographic Areas of Pennsylvania in Report:

- PA – Statewide
- Counties
- Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs): At least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population
- Micropolitan Areas: At least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population
- Small Center Areas: No urban cluster of over 10,000 population

Time Frames in Report:

- 2001-08: Business cycle of mild 2001-02 recession
- 2008-16: Business cycle of Great Recession
- November 2014-17: Post-recovery of Great Recession

Data in Report

Source: “Local Area Unemployment Statistics” – PA. Department of Labor & Industry, Harrisburg, PA.

- “Local Area Unemployment Statistics” (LAUS) are based on a time-tested sampling procedure –not a census. Data for MSAs, counties etc. with a large employment base may be more accurate over time than those with a small base.
- Employment defined: Data in report are “resident employment” – which is the number of employed residents in a geographic area. Employment is not a count of private/public sector jobs in an area

Please Note: The authors welcome any comments/questions on content or format.

Dr. Ted Alter – tra2@psu.edu

Dr. Ted Fuller – tef4@psu.edu

Cover graphic designed by John Iffert

Photos: top (left to right) – Pubdog; Hunter Kahn; Penn State, bottom (left to right) – Penn State; fishhawk; Kevin Burkett

Pennsylvania Jobs on the Move, 2001-17: A Summary

“Bigger is better” – Anonymous

“Location–location–location” – Old real estate maxim

Two Recessions & Two Recoveries: Two Pennsylvanias?

Pennsylvania has been hit by two recessions since 2000. The first, 2001-02, was mild with a rapid recovery. The second, the Great Recession 2008-10, was deep with a very slow recovery. Both recessions – especially the Great Recession – impacted employment of Pennsylvanians across the state. The “big picture” of employment change 2001-16 is one of two Pennsylvanias: the Southeast with job growth during both recessions/recoveries (2001-08 and 2008-16), and the rest of PA with a mix of slow employment growth and decline 2001-08 and widespread decline 2008-16.

PA Jobs on the Move 2001-16: Major Trends

67 Counties:

- 2001-08: Employment growth in 53 counties – Decline in 14
- 2008-16: Employment growth in 16 counties – Decline in 51
- Location 2001-16: Counties in Southeast PA most likely to grow jobs
- Bigger is better, 2001-16: Counties with employment over 100,000 most likely to grow jobs

18 MSAs:

- 2001-08: Employment growth in 18 MSAs – Decline in 0
- 2008-16: Employment growth in 7 MSAs – Decline in 11
- Location 2001-16: MSAs in Southeast PA most likely to grow jobs
- Bigger is better? 2001-16: MSAs with employment over 100,000 most likely to grow jobs

Philadelphia MSA:

- Philadelphia (core county): Employment – 2001-08: Decline **-12,100**
2008-16: Gain **73,400**
- Suburban counties: Employment – 2001-08: Gain **64,500**
2008-16: Gain **14,200**
- Location 2001-16: Shift of employment from suburban counties to Philadelphia Co.

Southeast PA (8 MSAs – excluding Philadelphia)

- Employment – 2001-08: Gain **104,600**
- Employment – 2008-16: Gain **30,600**
- Location 2001-16: Shift of Employment from Southeast MSAs to Philadelphia MSA

Pittsburgh MSA:

- Allegheny (core county): Employment – 2001-08: Decline **-100**
2008-16: Gain **3,300**
- Suburban counties: Employment – 2001-08: Gain **16,500**
2008-16: Decline **-21,200**
- Location 2001-16: Shift of employment from suburban counties to Allegheny Co.

Interior PA (44 counties including 8 MSAs)

- Employment – 2001-08: Gain **60,600**
- Employment – 2008-16: Decline **-89,900**
- Big Picture – Counties & MSAs: 2001-08 – mix of slow-growth and decline, 2008-16 – mainly decline

“Post-Recovery 2014-17” – Where To?

Post Recovery data – November 2014-17 – indicate 2008-16 employment trends continuing in many counties, MSAs, and regions across the state. This suggests a continuing of the story of “Two Pennsylvanias”, a shift in employment to Southeast PA, and slow growth or decline in the rest of the state at least in the near future.

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Pennsylvania Resident Employment: 2001-16

Jobs on the Move - Statewide: 2001-08 & 2008-16

Highlights – Fig 1: The “Great Recession” hit PA hard

- **269,000** jobs lost in 2009-10 vs. **60,000** in the previous mild and short-lived 2001-02 recession
- Employment statewide did not return to pre-recession high until early 2016

Highlights – Fig 2: PA Lagged U.S. & Neighbors

- 2001-08: Nearly kept pace with the U.S. in rate of job growth – but lagged most neighbor states
- 2008-16: PA’s negligible **0.1%** job growth – was far outpaced by the U.S. and most neighbor states

Fig. 1 Annual Number and Percent Change in Resident Employment: Pennsylvania, 2001-16

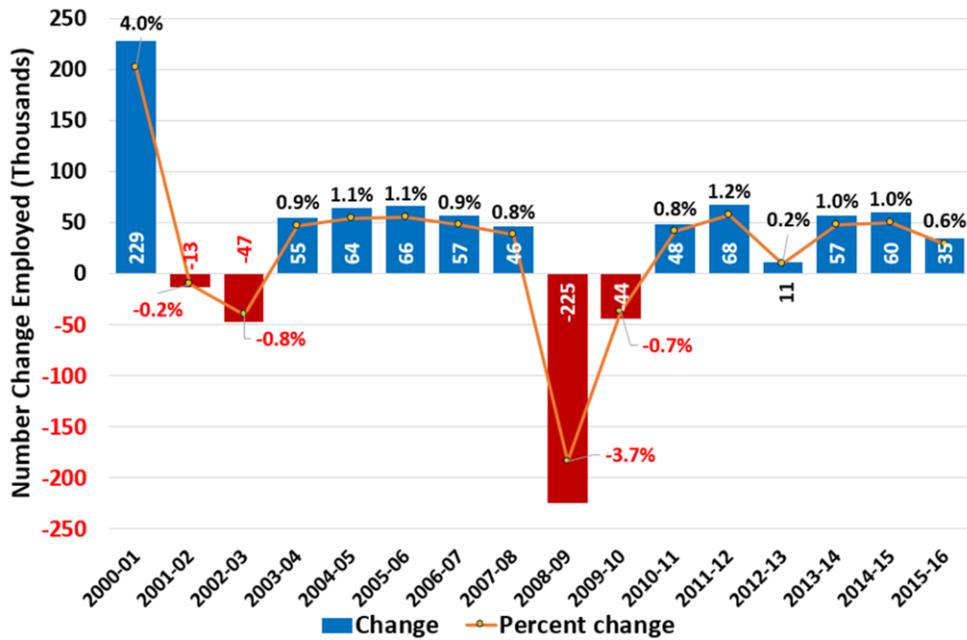
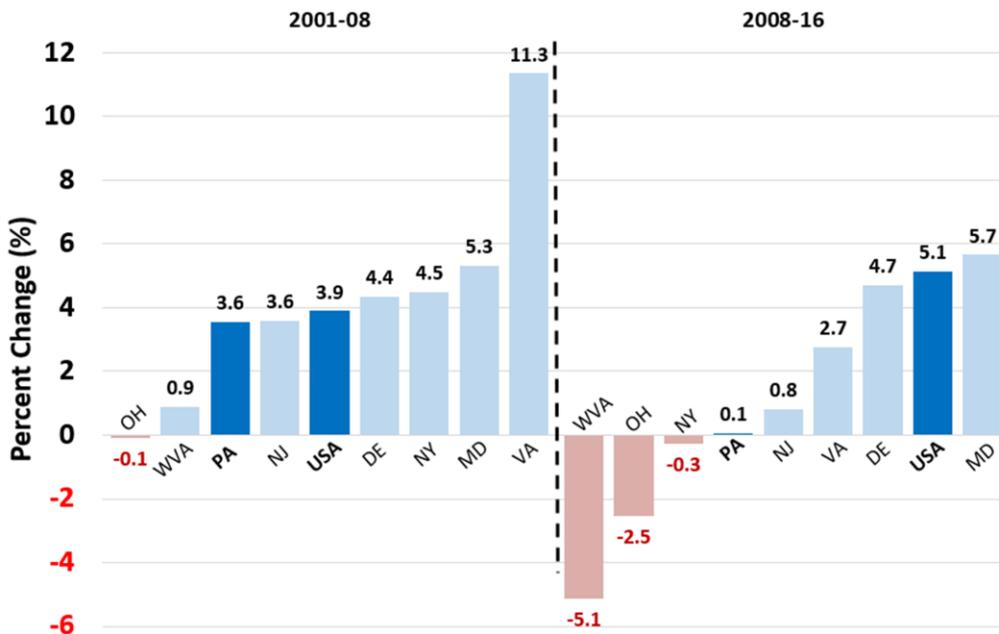


Fig. 2 Percent Change in Resident Employment: PA, U.S. and Neighboring States, 2001-08 & 2008-16



Jobs on the Move – 67 PA Counties: 2001-08 & 2008-16

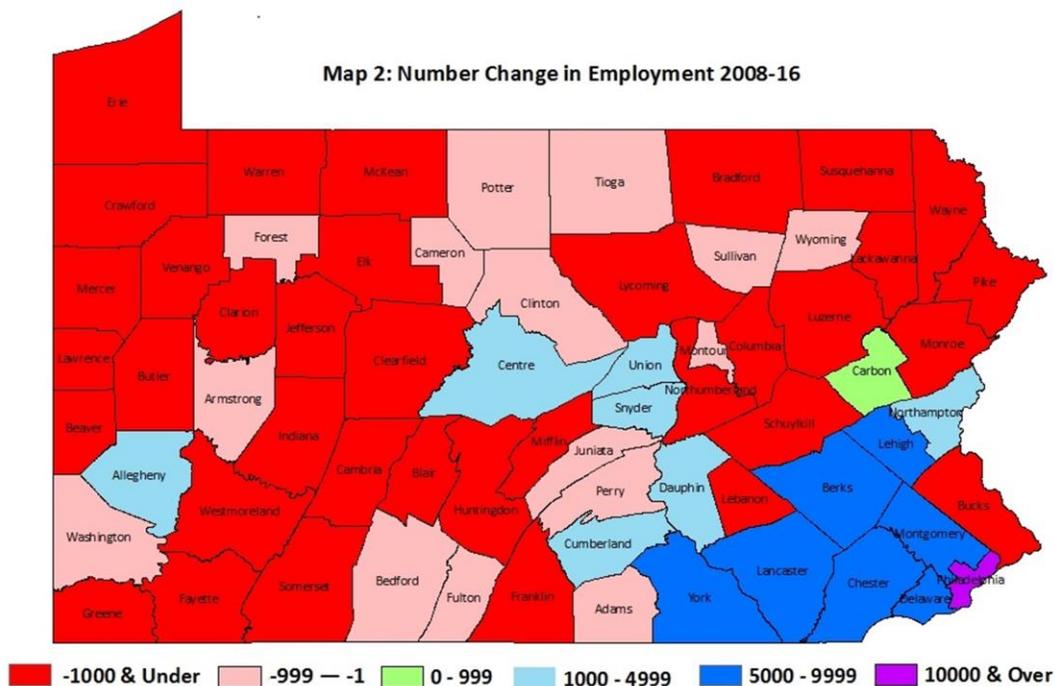
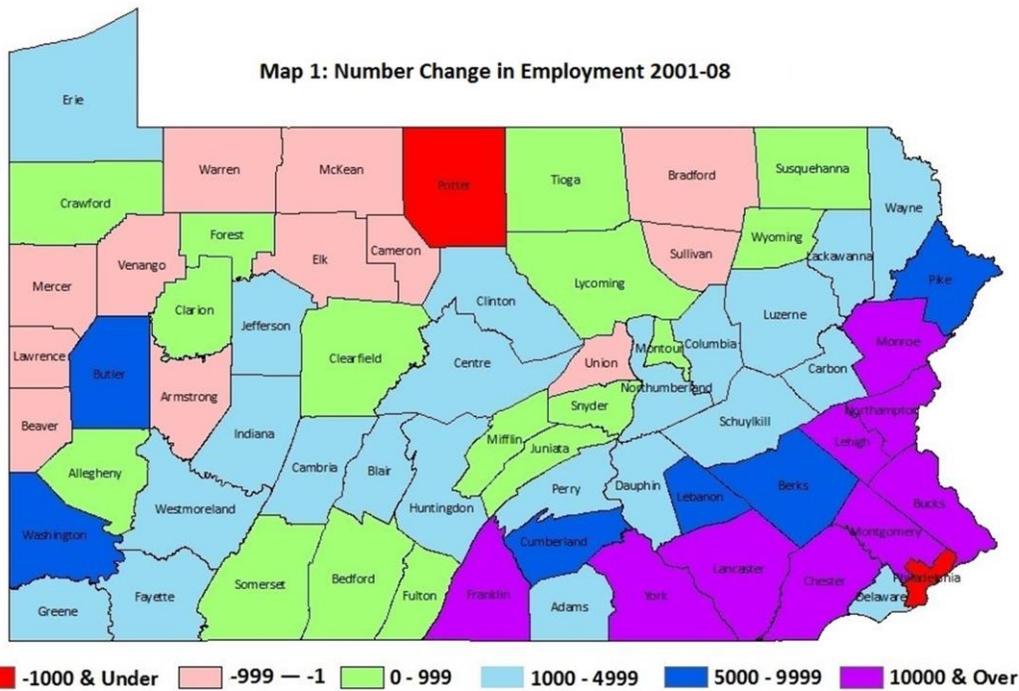
Highlights – Map 1: 67 PA Counties

“Location-Location-Location”

- Job growth widespread among counties, 2001-08
- **53 counties (79%)** expanded employment – including **15 of 16** counties in Southeast PA
- Only **14 (21%)** counties had a decline in employment – notably Philadelphia Co. with loss of over **12,000** jobs

Highlights – Map 2: 67 PA Counties

- Job decline widespread among counties, 2008-16: **52 (78%)** counties experienced job loss
- Only **15 (22%)** counties had job growth 2008-16. **11** of **15** with job gain were in Southeast PA



Jobs on the Move – Top-5 Counties Job Gains & Losses: 2001-08 & 2008-16

Highlights – Fig. 3: Top-5 counties – 2001-08

- The top-5 PA counties in job gain 2001-08 were all in the Southeast. Job gains ranged from **14,400** in Franklin to **29,700** in Chester County
- Allegheny and Philadelphia – core counties of PA’s two “mega”-MSAs - led in job loss.

Highlights – Fig. 4: Top-5 counties – 2008-16

- The top-5 PA counties in job gain 2008-16 were all in the Southeast, similar to 2001-08
- Philadelphia Co. – in a complete reversal led in job gain 2008-16 after leading job decline 2001-08.
- Allegheny Co. – also moved from job decline in 2001-08 to growth 2008-16

Fig. 3 Number Change in Resident Employment: Top Five Counties in Gains and Losses, 2001-08

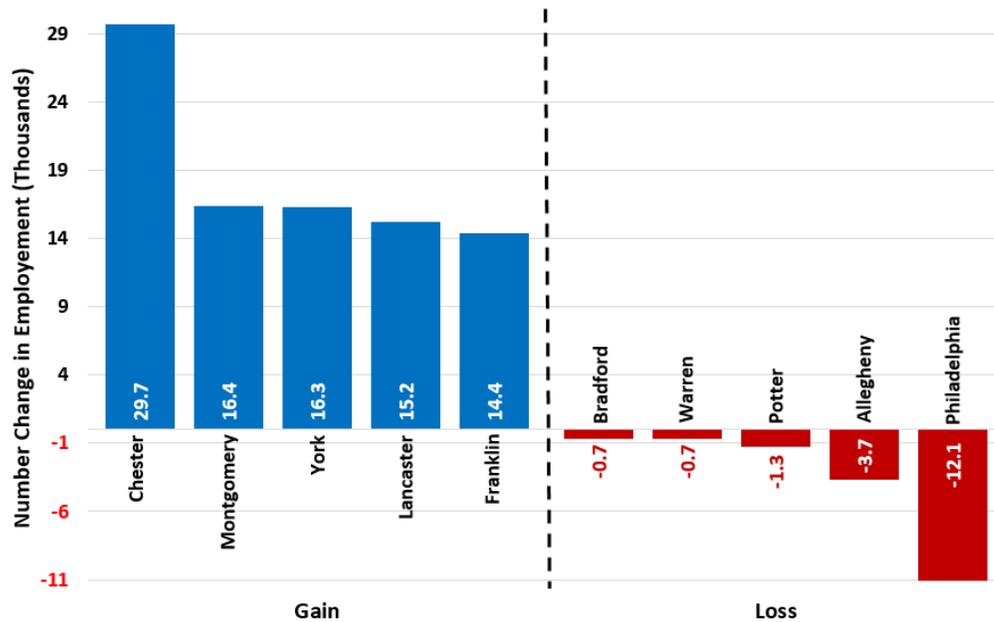
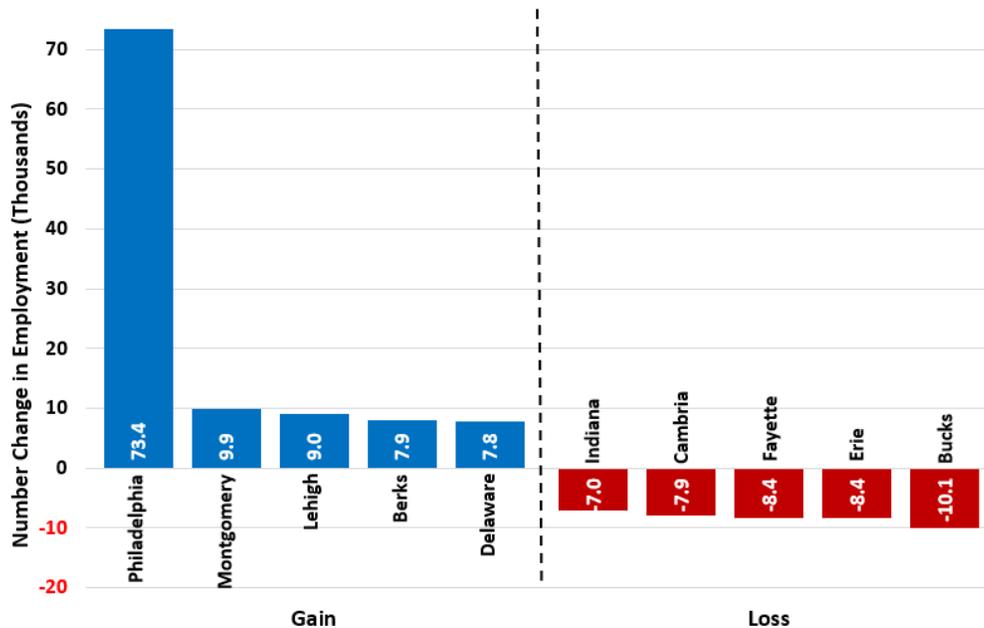


Fig. 4 Number Change in Resident Employment: Top Five Counties in Gains and Losses, 2008-16



Jobs on the Move – Metro, Micropolitan, and Small Center Areas: 2001-08 2008-16

Highlights – Fig. 5: MSAs, Micros, & Small Center Areas “Bigger is Better?” – 2008-16

- 2001-08: PA’s MSAs added **207,000** jobs vs **13,000** for Micropolitan areas, and **12,000** for Small Center areas
“Bigger is Better” – 2008-16 Yes!
- 2008-16: PA’s MSAs added over **69,900** jobs vs losses of **41,100** jobs in Micropolitan areas, and **18,300** in Small Center Areas

Highlights – Fig. 6: MSAs, Micros, & Small Center Areas

- 2001-16: The 18 MSAs – embracing **34 (51%)** of PA’s **67** counties increased their share of PA resident employment from **88.1%** in 2001 to **89.2%** in 2016
- 2001-16: The **16** Micropolitan areas share of total PA employment shrank from **8.4%** in 2001 to **7.5%** in 2016, and Small Center areas share from **3.6%** to **3.4%**

Fig. 5 Number (Thousands) and Percent Change in Resident Employment: MSAs, Micropolitan, and Small Center Areas in Interior Pennsylvania, 2001-08 & 2008-16

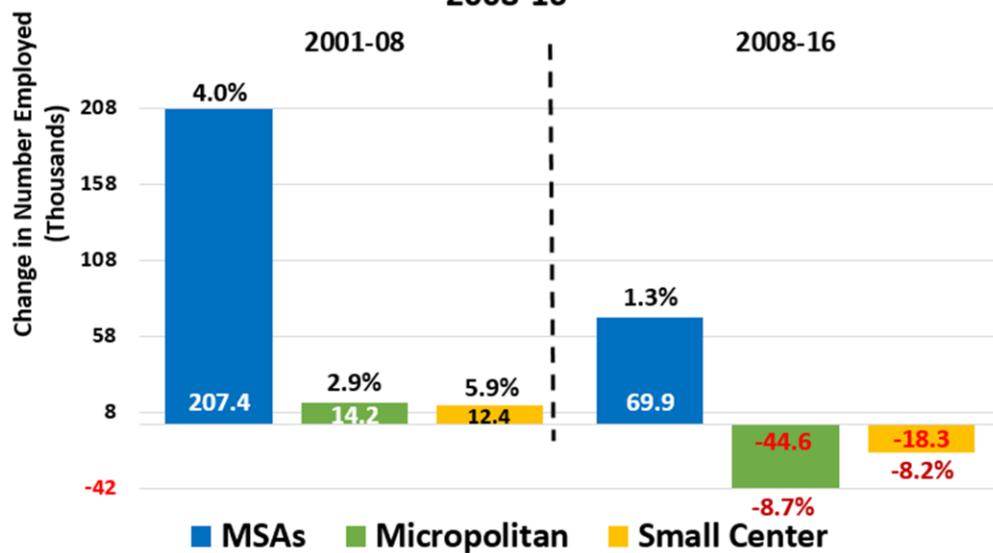
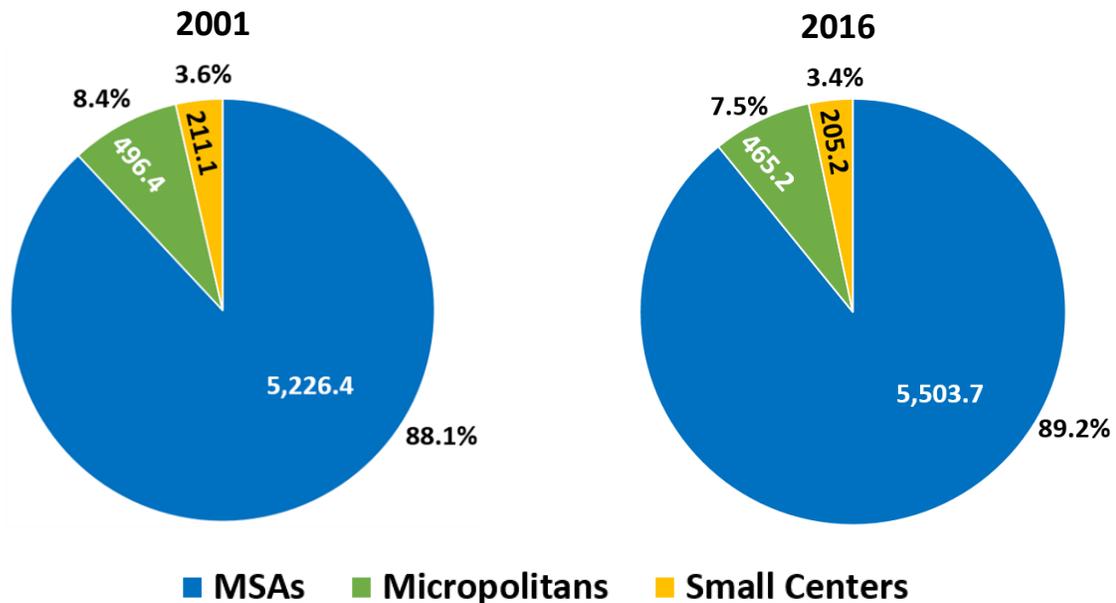


Fig. 6 Number (Thousands) and Percent of PA Resident Employment: MSA, Micropolitan, and Small Center Areas, 2001 & 2016



Jobs on the Move – Metro, Micropolitan & Small Center Areas (Cont.)

Highlights – Table 1: Job Change 2001-16 – MSAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 of 18 MSAs had net job gain during 2001-16 - and 5 a net loss. 9 of the 13 were located in Southeast PA • 6 of 7 MSAs with job gain in both 2001-08 & 2008-16 located in Southeast PA - and had an employment base of over 100,000 • 5 MSAs with job loss 2001-16 were outside Southeast 	Highlights – Table 1: Job Change 2001-16 – Micros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 16 Micropolitan areas were located outside S.E. PA • Only 3 of 16 Micropolitan areas had a net job gain during 2001-16 – 13 experienced net job loss • 8 of the 13 Micro areas with net job loss 2001-16 added jobs during 2001-08 –but lost jobs 2008-16 • 5 Micro areas lost jobs in 2001-08 & 2008-16
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Table 1. Percent Change in Resident Employment MSAs & Micropolitan Areas, 2001-16

Gain 2001-16: Gain 2001-08 & 2008-16							
MSA*	01-16	01-08	08-16	Micropolitan	01-16	01-08	08-16
State College (67.9**)	11.6	6.5	4.8	Selinsgrove (18.3)	7.1	1.6	5.4
YORK (202.2)	10.9	8.1	2.6				
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM (376.2)	9.6	6.3	3.1				
LANCASTER (246.7)	9.0	6.6	2.2				
HARRISBURG (261.5)	8.4	5.5	2.8				
READING (187.6)	8.4	4.2	4.0				
PHILADELPHIA – PA PART (1,826.2)	7.7	2.9	4.7				
Gain 2001-16: Gain 2001-08 – Loss 2008-16							
MSA*	01-16	01-08	08-16	Micropolitan	01-16	01-08	08-16
Chambersburg (64.8)	14.0	22.2	-6.7	Lock Haven (17.3)	0.6	5.8	-4.9
Stroudsburg (68.0)	12.9	16.2	-2.8				
Gettysburg (49.1)	8.6	10.0	-1.3				
Bloomsburg (38.4)	6.3	12.8	-5.8				
Lebanon (63.5)	6.3	10.7	-4.0				
Scranton-Wilkes Barre (259.6)	1.4	3.0	-1.6				
Gain 2001-16: Loss 2001-08 – Gain 2008-16							
MSA*	01-16	01-08	08-16	Micropolitan	01-16	01-08	08-16
				Lewisburg (16.8)	11.9	-0.6	12.6
Loss 2001-16: Gain 2001-08 – Loss 2008-16							
MSA*	01-16	01-08	08-16	Micropolitan	01-16	01-08	08-16
Pittsburgh (1,153.5)	-0.4	1.1	-1.5	Pottsville (65.2)	-2.3	7.2	-8.9
Williamsport (57.0)	-3.3	0.2	-3.5	Dubois (20.5)	-5.9	7.3	-12.3
Altoona (60.2)	-4.0	3.3	-7.1	Lewistown (20.6)	-4.4	3.4	-7.5
Erie (132.5)	-5.3	1.1	-6.3	Meadville (40.3)	-4.5	2.0	-6.3
Johnstown (62.3)	-7.9	4.8	-12.1	Sunbury (43.1)	-4.6	4.2	-8.5
				Huntingdon (19.9)	-8.0	6.0	-13.3
				Indiana (40.8)	-8.1	9.1	-15.7
				Somerset (36.0)	-11.7	2.5	-13.5
Loss 2001-16: Loss 2001-08 & 2008-16							
MSA*	01-16	01-08	08-16	Micropolitan	01-16	01-08	08-16
				Sayre (30.2)	-6.3	-2.3	-4.1
				Dubois (20.5)	-7.2	-1.7	-5.6
				Lewistown (20.6)	-12.3	-1.2	-11.2
				Meadville (40.3)	-13.0	-3.7	-9.7
				Sunbury (43.1)	-16.7	-1.4	-15.5

*MSAs in **bold print** and CAPITALIZED are in Southeast Pennsylvania

** (000's) Resident Employment - 2001

Resident Employment – Philadelphia & Pittsburgh MSAs: 2001-08 & 2008-16

Highlights – Fig. 7: Philadelphia MSA

Big Turnaround: 2001-08 to 2008-16

- 2001-08: Philadelphia - core county of MSA – lost **12,100** jobs and the suburban counties added **64,000**
- 2008-16: Philadelphia County added over **87,000** jobs and the suburban counties only **14,000**

Highlights – Fig. 8: Pittsburgh MSA

A “Mini” Turnaround

- 2001-08: Allegheny - core county of the MSA – lost only **100** jobs while **6** suburban added gained **16,000**
- 2008-16: Allegheny County added **3,300** jobs and the suburban counties lost over **21,000** jobs

Fig. 7 Number (Thousands) and Percent Change in Resident Employment: Philadelphia MSA, 2001-08 & 2008-16

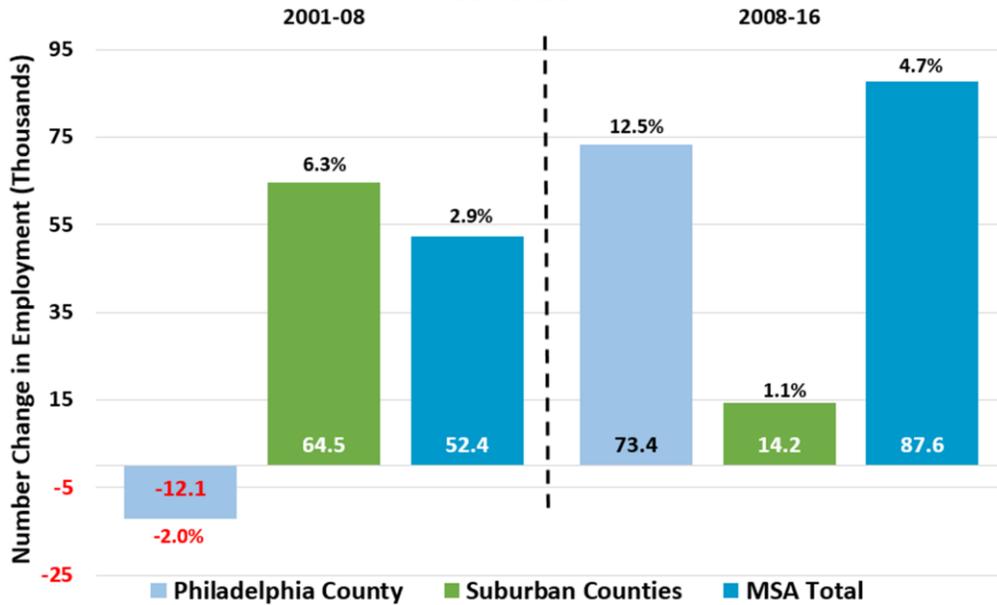
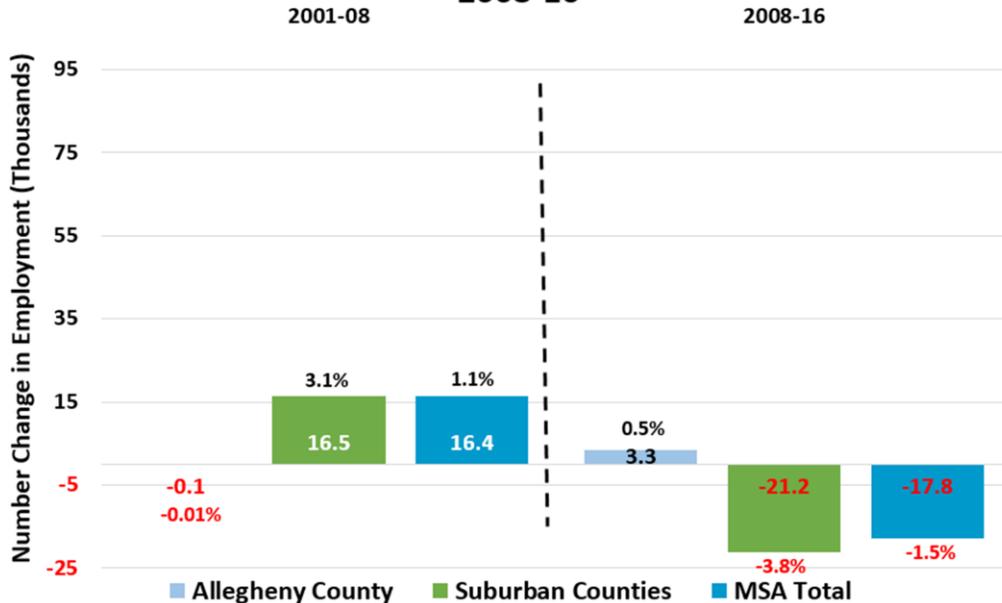


Fig. 8 Number (Thousands) and Percent Change in Resident Employment: Pittsburgh MSA, 2001-08 & 2008-16



Resident Employment – Four PA Regions: 2001-08 & 2008-16

Highlights – Fig. 9: Four PA Regions – 2001-08 & 2008-16

- 2001-08: All four regions experienced job growth – but the two regions in the Southeast PA combined added over **157,000** jobs vs **77,000** gain in the two regions outside the Southeast during 2008-16
- 2008-16: The two Regions in Southeast PA. added over **118,000** jobs versus a combined loss of over **111,000** jobs in the two regions outside the S.E.

Highlights – Fig. 10: Four PA Regions – 2001 & 2016

- Job gains in the Philadelphia MSA and the Southeast region during both 2001-08 and 2008-16 upped their share of total PA employment from **55.6%** in 2001 to **57.9%** in 2016
- Spotty job gains during 2001-08 and widespread job loss during 2008-16 in both Pittsburgh MSA and Interior PA reduced their share PA jobs from **44.4%** in 2001 to **42.1%** in 2016

Fig. 9 Number (Thousands) and Percent Change in Resident Employment: Four Regions in Pennsylvania, 2001-08 & 2008-16

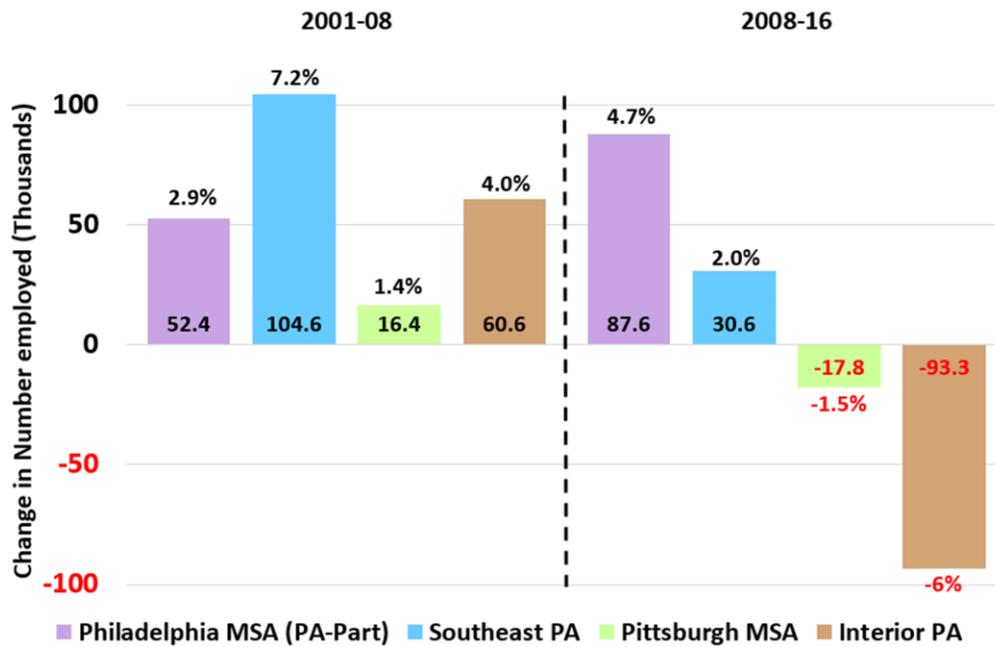
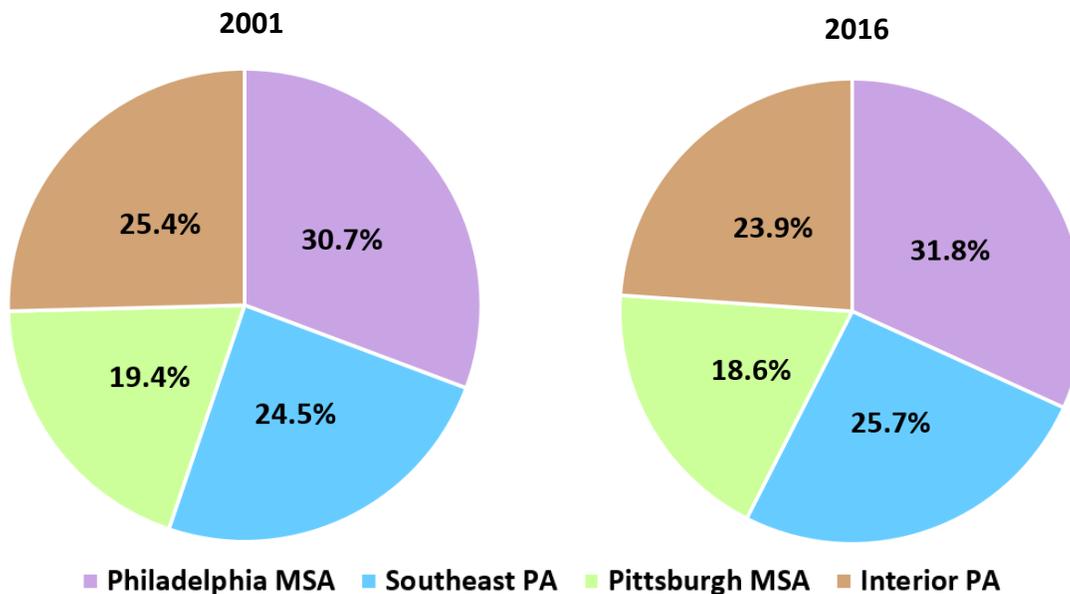


Fig. 10 Percent of PA Resident Employment: Four Regions, 2001 & 2016



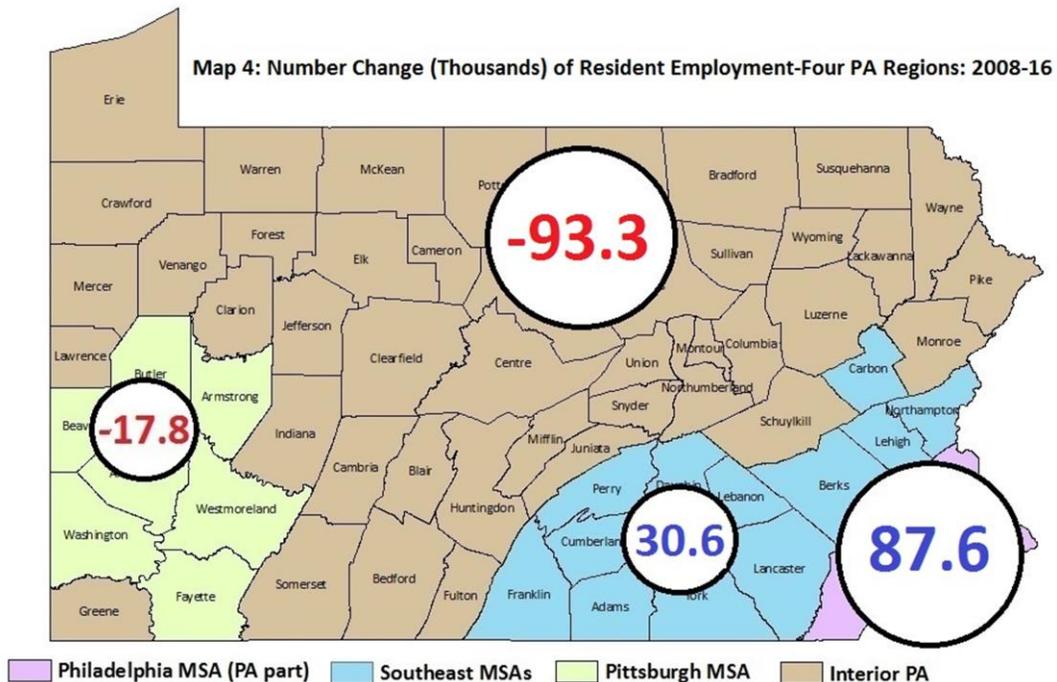
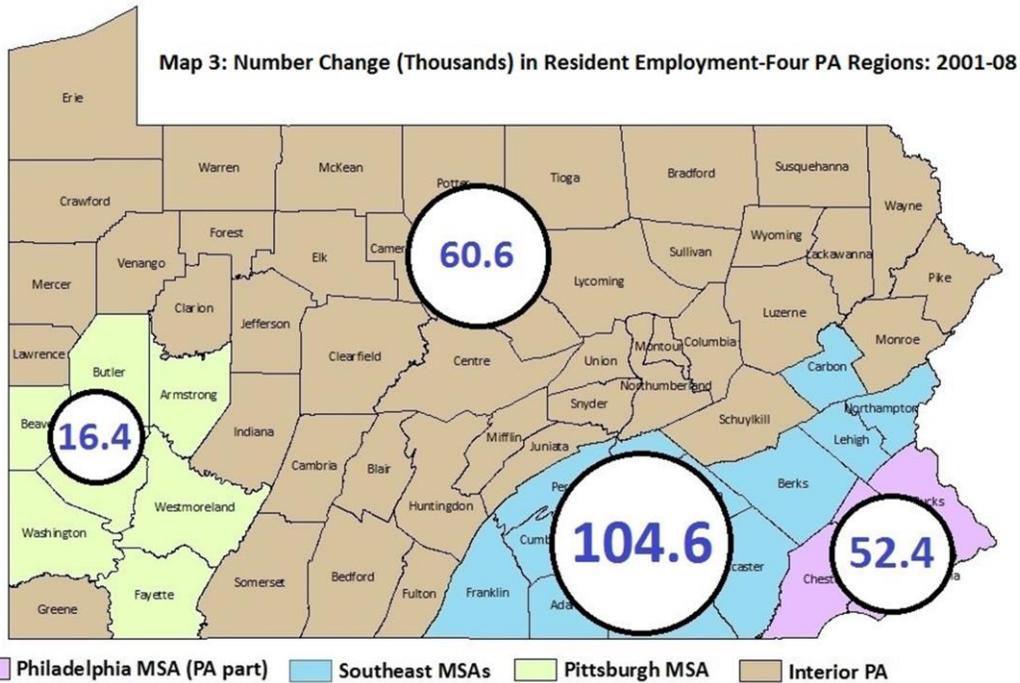
Resident Employment – Four PA Regions: 2001-08 & 2008-16 Continued

Highlights – Map 3: Four PA Regions – 2001-08

- Job gains in all four Regions –largest gain in Southeast Region
- Southeast PA. double the job gain in Philadelphia MSA

Highlights – Map 4: Four PA Regions – 2008-16

- Job gains only in the Philadelphia MSA and Southeast regions
- Job gain in Philadelphia MSA over double the job gain in Southeast PA
- Minor job loss Pittsburgh MSA but large loss in Interior region



Pennsylvania Unemployment: 2001-16

Unemployment – Statewide: 2001-16

Highlights – Fig. 11: Statewide – 2001-16

The Great Recession hit PA hard

- Statewide unemployment jumped from 4.4% in 2007 to 8.5% in 2010 – adding over 260,000 to the number unemployed

Highlights – Fig. 12: PA vs. U.S. 7 neighbors

- In 2008 at the peak of the 2001-08 business cycle PA's 5.5% unemployment lower than the U.S., but higher than most neighboring states.
- In 2016 after recovery from Great Recession at PA's 5.5% PA's rate was above the U.S. and most neighbor states

Fig. 11 Percent Unemployed: Pennsylvania, 2001-16

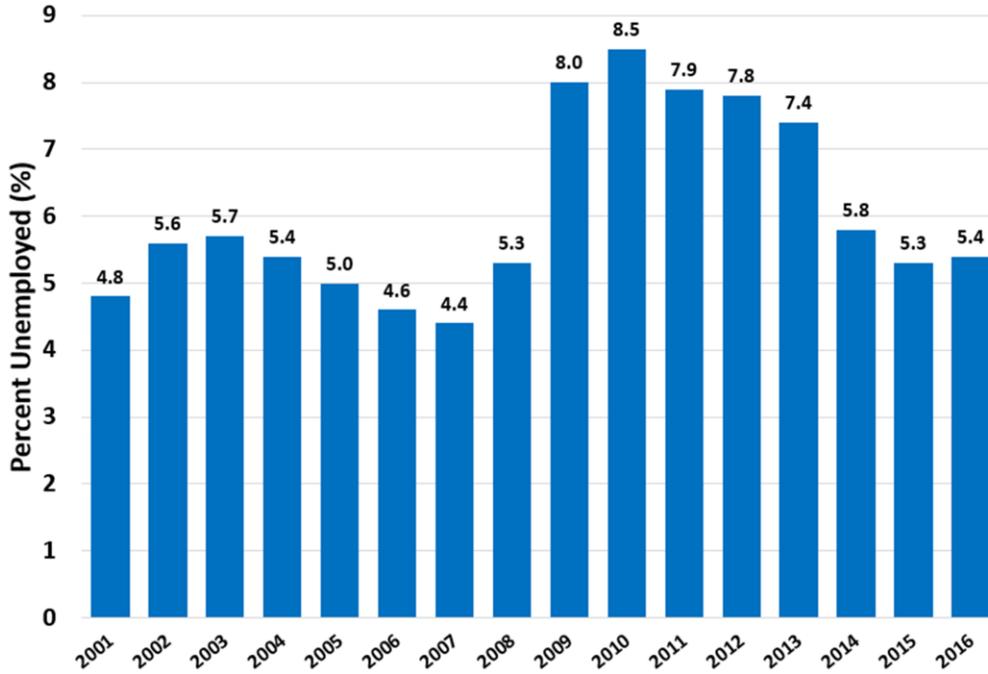
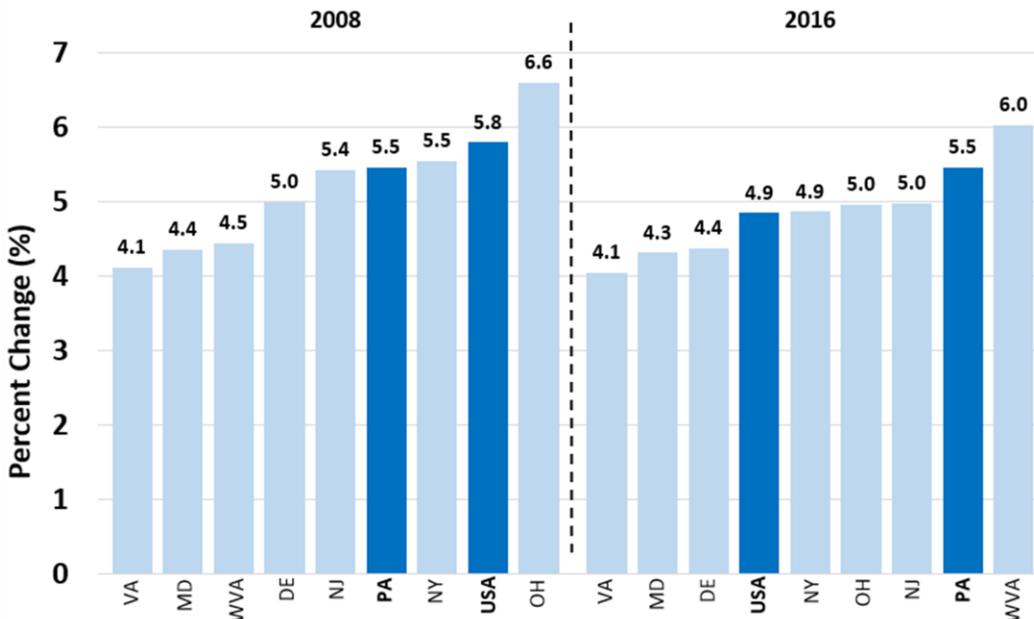
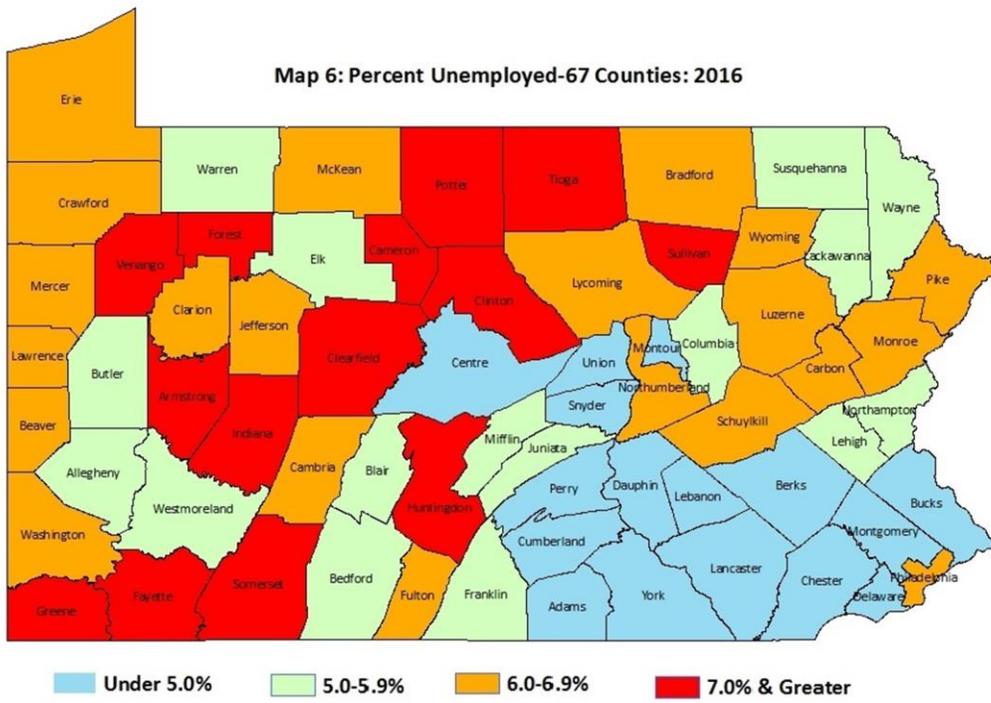
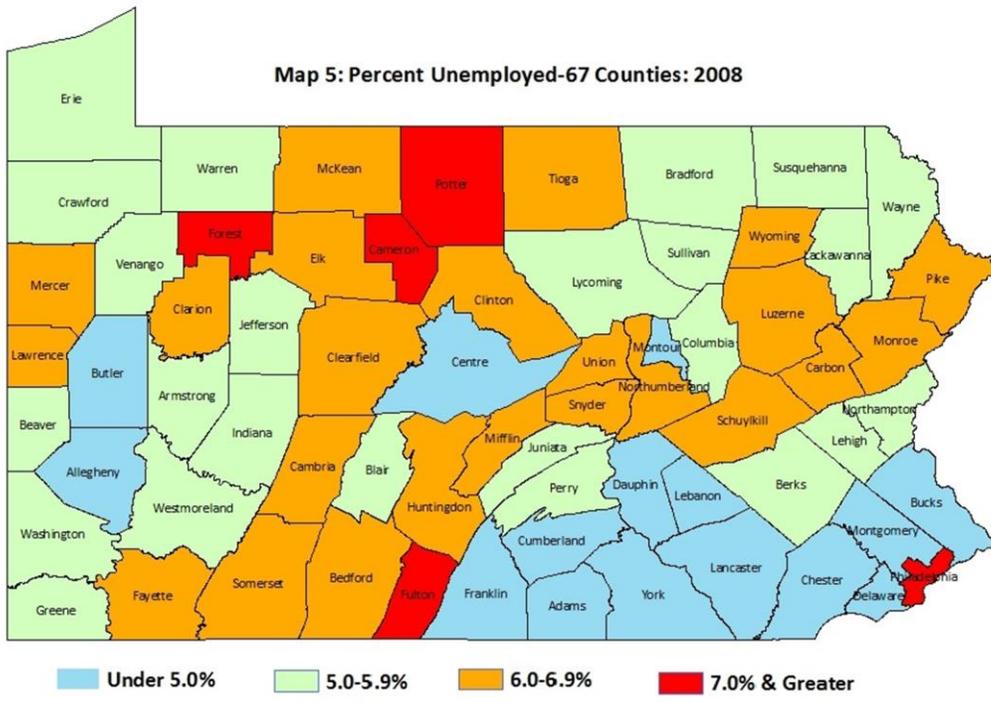


Fig. 12 Percent Unemployed: PA, U.S. and Neighboring States, 2008 & 2016



Unemployment – 67 PA Counties: 2008 & 2016

<p>Highlights – Map 5: 67 Counties 2008 2008: Just before start of Great Recession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 counties – under 5.0% unemployment. 11 of 15 located in Southeast PA • 23 counties unemployment 6.0-6.9% - located mainly in Interior PA • 5 counties unemployment 7.0% & over 	<p>Highlights – Map 6: 67 Counties 2016 2016: After Great Recession AND Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 counties under 5.0% unemployment. 12 of 16 located in Southeast PA • 20 counties unemployment 6.0-6.9% • 14 counties unemployment 7.0% & over
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Unemployment – 67 PA Counties: 2008 & 2016 Continued

Highlights – Table 2

“Big Picture” – 2008 & 2016:

- Most counties, due to the Great Recession, had higher unemployment in 2016 than 2008

“Big Picture” – 2016:

- **15** counties had unemployment under **5.0%**, **11** of which were in Southeast PA
- **17** counties had unemployment between **1.0-5.9%**, **4** of which were in Southeast PA
- **35** counties had unemployment at or above **6.0%**, none of which were in Southeast PA

Table 2. Percent Unemployed – 67 PA. Counties: 2008 & 2016*

2016**

		< 5.0%	5.0 – 5.9%	6.0 – 6.9%	≥ 7.0%
2008**	< 5.0%	4.3 – ADAMS – 4.0 4.7 – BUCKS – 4.6 4.3 – Centre – 4.2 3.9 – CHESTER – 3.9 4.2 – CUMBERLAND – 4.1 4.7 – DAUPHIN – 4.8 4.3 – LANCASTER – 4.2 4.1 – LEBANON – 4.5 4.3 – MONTGOMERY – 4.2 4.8 – Montour – 4.3 4.7 – YORK – 4.7	4.8 – Allegheny – 5.2 4.6 – Butler – 5.1 4.3 – FRANKLIN – 5.2		
	5.0 – 5.9%	5.3 – DELAWARE – 4.9 5.2 – PERRY – 4.7	5.3 – BERKS – 5.0 5.2 – Blair – 5.3 5.3 – Juniata – 5.4 5.8 – Lackawanna – 5.7 5.6 – LEHIGH – 5.4 5.5 – NORTHAMPTON – 5.2 5.7 – Susquehanna – 5.7 5.2 – Warren – 5.5 5.2 – Wayne – 5.9 5.3 – Westmoreland – 5.9 5.9 – Columbia – 5.6	5.5 – Beaver – 6.3 5.3 – Bradford – 6.6 5.6 – Crawford – 6.0 5.6 – Erie – 6.6 5.5 – Jefferson – 6.9 5.9 – Lycoming – 6.7 5.2 – Washington – 6.2	5.9 – Armstrong – 7.6 5.3 – Indiana – 7.3 5.8 – Greene – 7.8 5.7 – Sullivan – 7.2 5.7 – Venango – 7.3
	6.0 – 6.9%	6.1 – Snyder – 4.7 6.3 – Union – 4.8	6.8 – Bedford – 5.9 6.0 – Elk – 5.6 6.5 – Mifflin – 5.8	6.1 – Cambria – 6.9 6.7 – CARBON – 6.0 6.2 – Clarion – 6.4 6.2 – Luzerne – 6.4 6.2 – Lawrence – 6.8 6.1 – McKean – 6.7 6.7 – Mercer – 6.0 6.0 – Monroe – 6.3 6.5 – Northumberland – 6.3 6.0 – Pike – 6.4 6.2 – Schuylkill – 6.2 6.0 – Wyoming – 6.2	6.2 – Clinton – 7.1 6.5 – Fayette – 8.2 6.7 – Clearfield – 7.4 6.6 – Huntington – 7.1 6.3 – Somerset – 7.3 6.1 – Tioga – 7.2
	≥ 7.0%			7.1 – PHILADELPHIA – 6.6 7.2 – Fulton – 6.4	7.1 – Potter – 7.9 9.0 – Cameron – 7.5 7.7 – Forest – 8.0

*Counties in **bold** and CAPITALIZED are in Southeast Pennsylvania

**Percent to left of county name are 2008 and to the right are 2016

*** County names in color remained in the same percentage category in both years

Pennsylvania Resident Employment - Post Recovery: 2014-17

Jobs on the Move – Statewide: Post-recovery, November 2014-17

Highlights – Fig. 13

- Statewide unemployment under **5.0%** and employment gains tapering off suggests PA economy in “post recovery” from November 2014-17

Highlights – Fig. 14

- PA’s **0.5%** employment growth from November 2014-17 seriously lagged USA (**4.4%**) and all neighboring states except WV

Fig. 13 Number (Thousands) Change in Resident Employment and Percent Unemployed: Pennsylvania, November 2014-17

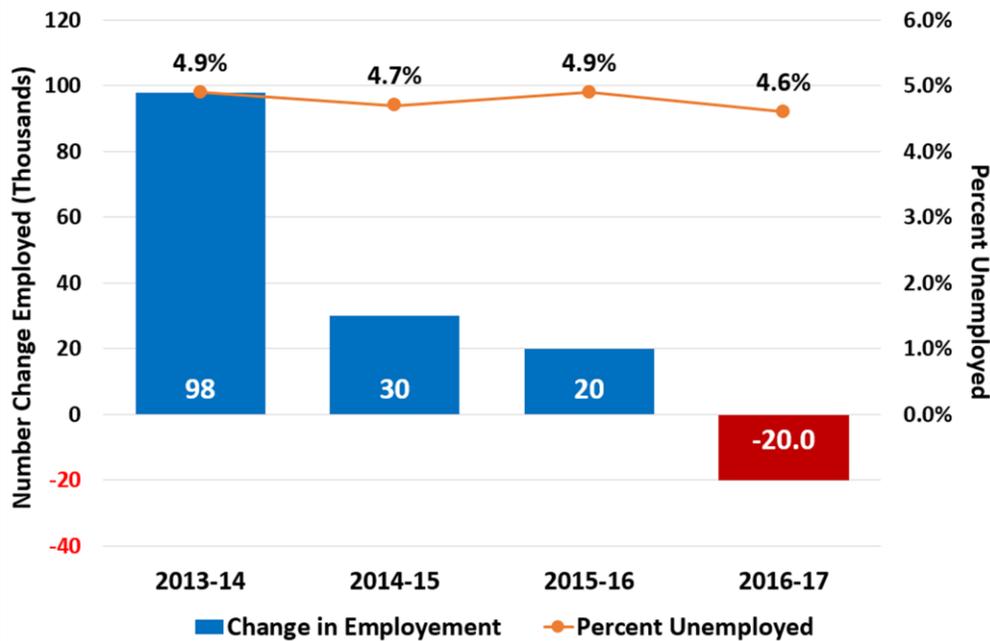
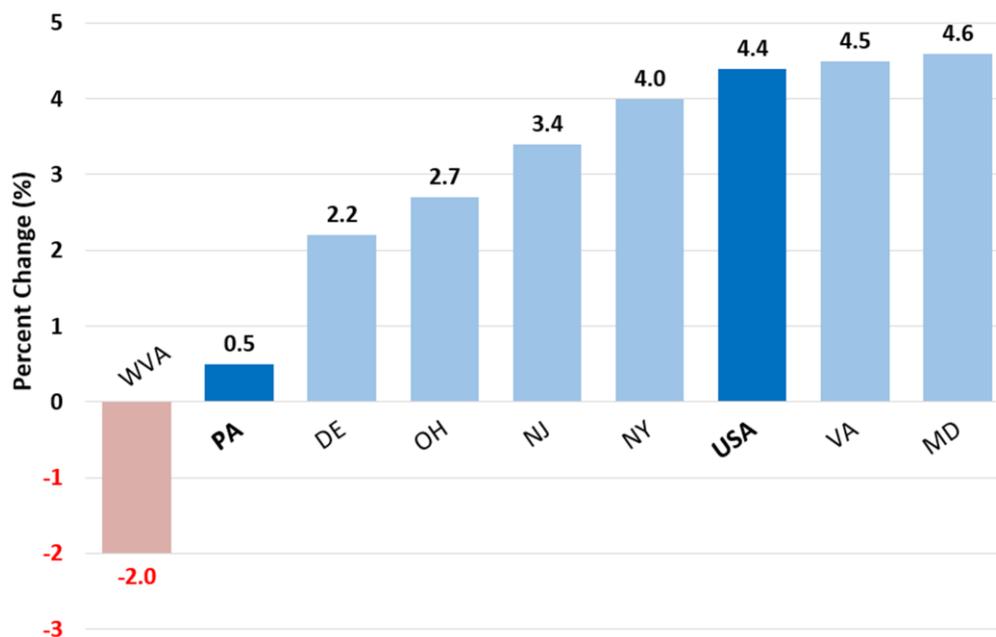


Fig. 14 Percent Change in Resident Employment: PA, U.S. and Neighboring States, November 2014-17



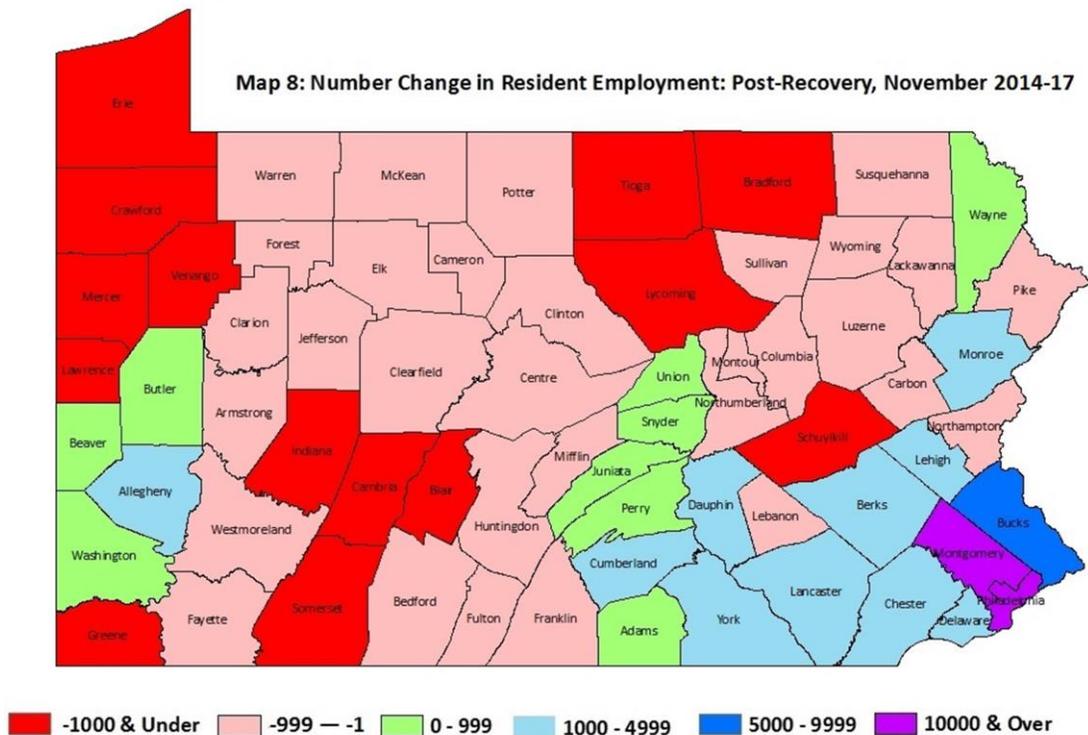
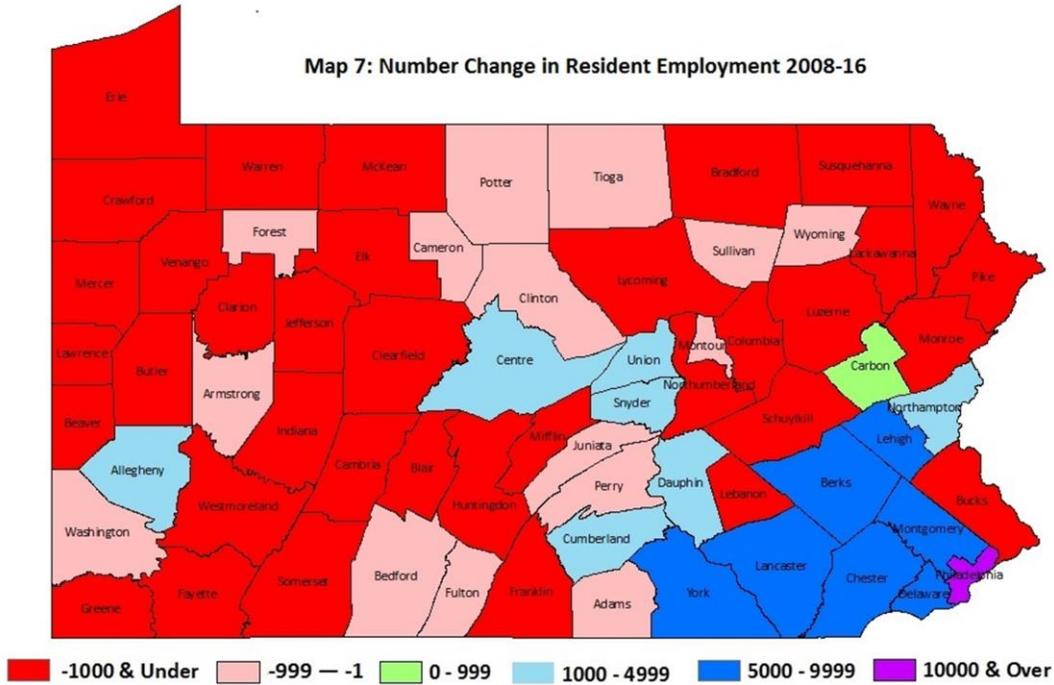
Jobs on the Move - 67 PA Counties: Post-Recovery, November 2014-17

Highlights – Map 7

- Repeat of Map 2 to compare with Map 8 to show county employment change from November 2014-17 vs 2008-16.

Highlights – Map 8

- **Big Picture:** Employment Change in the 67 counties from November 2014-17 suggests a continuation of 2008-16 trends into the “post-recovery” in PA
- **In Detail:** Continued employment growth from November 2014-17 for most counties in Southeast PA
- Spotty growth outside Southeast PA



Jobs on the Move – Four PA Regions: Post-Recovery, November 2014-17

Highlights – Map 9

- Repeat of Map 4 to compare with Map 9 to show regional employment change from November 2014-17 vs 2008-16

Highlights – Map 10

- **Big Picture:** November 2014-17 continues shift of employment to Southeast PA from other regions
- **In Detail:** November 2014-17 continues employment growth in Philadelphia MSA and rest of Southeast PA
- Pittsburgh MSA had employment gain from November 2014-17 vs loss in 2008-16

