JOBSEQ

Economic Overview

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

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Attracting Quality Employers to Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Demographic Profile

The population in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was 143,555 per American Community Survey data for 2014-2018.

The region has a civilian labor force of 66,841 with a participation rate of 56.4%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, 18.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 32.9% in the nation.

The median household income in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is $49,190 and the median house value is $97,400.

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	USA	Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	143,555	12,791,181	322,903,030
Male	51.1%	49.0%	49.2%	73,333	6,263,189	158,984,190
Female	48.9%	51.0%	50.8%	70,222	6,527,992	163,918,840
Median Age[2]	—	—	—	44.2	40.7	37.9
Under 18 Years	19.8%	20.9%	22.8%	28,373	2,675,330	73,553,240
18 to 24 Years	7.2%	9.3%	9.6%	10,273	1,194,488	30,903,719
25 to 34 Years	11.8%	13.0%	13.8%	16,998	1,667,748	44,567,976
35 to 44 Years	12.3%	11.7%	12.6%	17,630	1,495,222	40,763,210
45 to 54 Years	14.5%	13.5%	13.2%	20,835	1,731,294	42,589,573
55 to 64 Years	14.8%	14.1%	12.8%	21,183	1,797,238	41,286,731
65 to 74 Years	10.8%	9.7%	8.8%	15,555	1,236,019	28,535,419
75 Years, and Over	8.9%	7.8%	6.4%	12,708	993,842	20,703,162
Race: White	93.6%	80.8%	72.7%	134,386	10,341,442	234,904,818
Race: Black or African American	3.0%	11.1%	12.7%	4,322	1,423,319	40,916,113
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	303	24,847	2,699,073
Race: Asian	0.5%	3.3%	5.4%	736	427,892	17,574,550
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	15	4,107	582,718
Race: Some Other Race	1.2%	2.0%	4.9%	1,692	258,694	15,789,961
Race: Two or More Races	1.5%	2.4%	3.2%	2,101	310,880	10,435,797
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4.1%	7.1%	17.8%	5,870	905,156	57,517,935
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates)[4]	—	—	—	141,359	12,801,989	328,239,523
Population Annual Average Growth[4]	-0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	-700	13,513	2,146,799
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	181.5	286.1	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)[5]	56.4%	62.6%	63.2%	66,841	6,531,763	162,248,196
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)[5]	76.1%	82.7%	81.8%	42,207	4,044,281	104,136,254
Armed Forces Labor Force[5]	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	70	5,083	1,028,133
Veterans, Age 18-64[5]	5.5%	4.3%	4.7%	4,792	340,814	9,398,789
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64[5]	69.3%	76.8%	76.3%	3,321	261,619	7,168,168
Median Household Income[2,5]	—	—	—	$49,190	$59,445	$60,293
Per Capita Income[5]	—	—	—	$26,070	$32,889	$32,621
Mean Commute Time (minutes)[5]	—	—	—	26.2	26.9	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation[5]	0.6%	5.6%	5.0%	372	337,633	7,602,145
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	9.4%	8.1%	11.2%	7,172	540,364	18,885,967
High School Graduate	43.7%	32.4%	25.8%	33,513	2,169,402	43,699,272
Some College, No Degree	16.9%	16.6%	21.0%	12,919	1,113,849	35,525,113

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Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	USA	Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	USA
Associate's Degree	12.0%	9.4%	9.1%	9,211	629,316	15,389,737
Bachelor's Degree	12.2%	20.8%	20.8%	9,313	1,395,023	35,261,652
Postgraduate Degree	5.9%	12.6%	12.1%	4,518	843,548	20,445,749
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	69,804	5,673,599	136,384,292
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)[2]	—	—	—	$97,400	$174,100	$204,900
Homeowner Vacancy	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	793	57,564	1,304,850
Rental Vacancy	5.2%	5.8%	6.0%	814	96,671	2,822,053
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	24.6%	31.0%	36.2%	14,458	1,557,665	43,285,318
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)[5]	9.0%	11.0%	8.7%	5,313	552,690	10,424,934
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)[5]	12.7%	12.8%	14.1%	17,294	1,578,949	44,257,979
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	15.8%	13.2%	12.2%	9,291	663,466	14,635,287
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	2,052	161,007	4,442,295
Disconnected Youth[3,5]	2.3%	2.2%	2.6%	140	15,031	438,452
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)[5]	36.6%	34.6%	34.3%	9,981	883,096	23,973,249
Uninsured	6.1%	6.2%	9.4%	8,328	785,624	29,752,767
With a Disability, Age 18-64[5]	14.6%	11.3%	10.3%	11,854	877,368	20,240,504
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size[5]	38.9%	42.1%	41.6%	4,608	368,954	8,421,018
Foreign Born	1.8%	6.8%	13.5%	2,637	865,720	43,539,499
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	1.3%	4.3%	8.5%	1,740	515,501	25,647,781

Source: JobsEQ®

1. American Community Survey 2014-2018, unless noted otherwise
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
4. Census 2019, annual average growth rate since 2009
5. See Rio Arriba errata note in the Data Dictionary.

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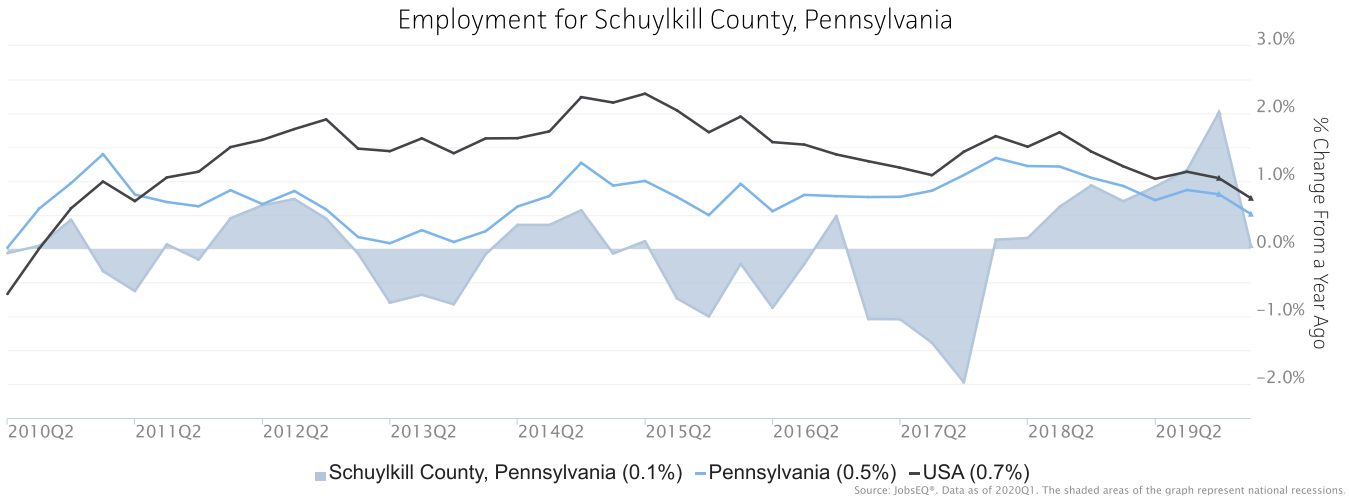
Employment Trends

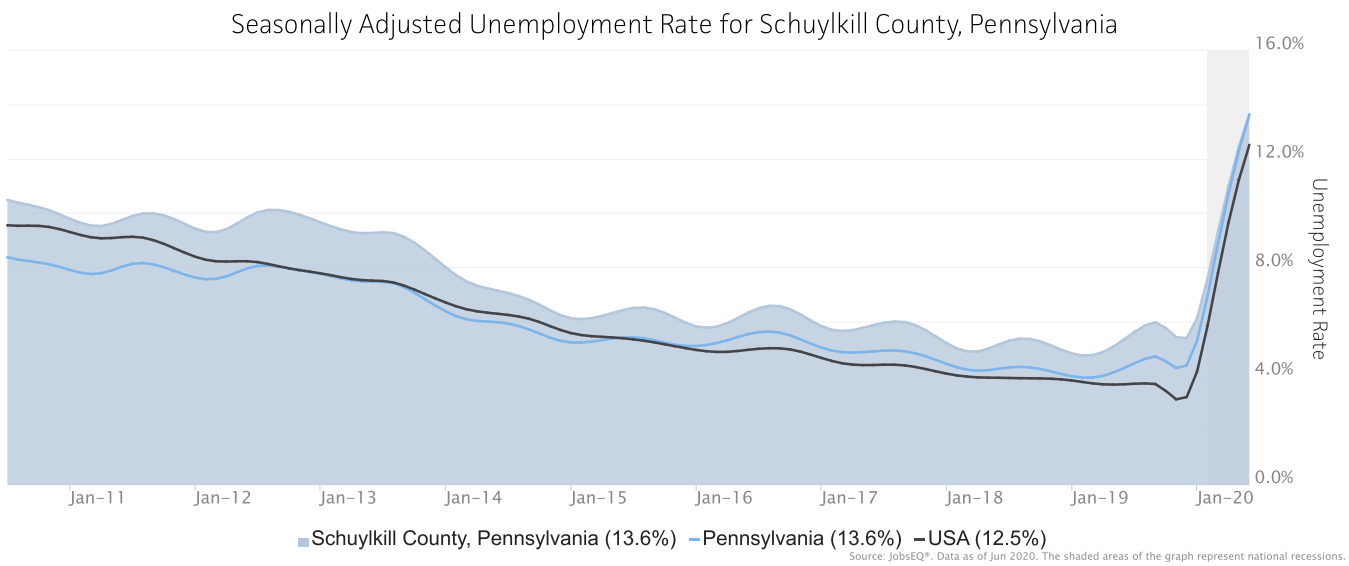
As of 2020Q1, total employment for Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was 53,302 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2020Q1, employment increased 0.1% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2019Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1.

Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was 13.6% as of June 2020. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 12.5%. One year earlier, in June 2019, the unemployment rate in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was 5.3%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through June 2020.

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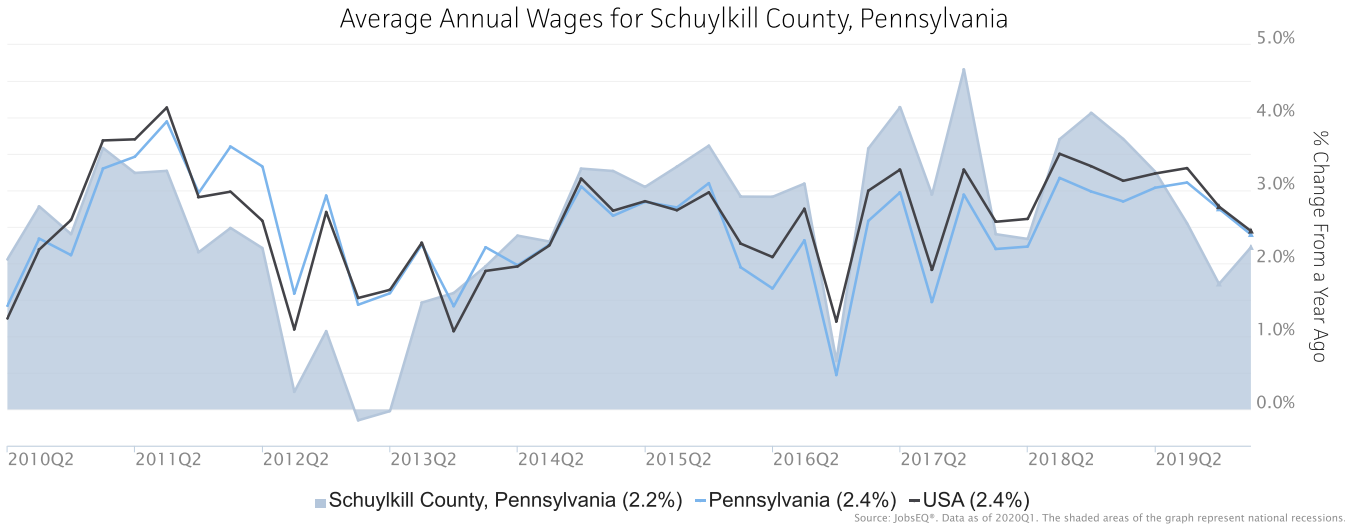
Wage Trends

The average worker in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania earned annual wages of $43,311 as of 2020Q1. Average annual wages per worker increased 2.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were $57,624 in the nation as of 2020Q1.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2019Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1.

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Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 17.5% lower in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	$43,311	82.5	$52,518
Pennsylvania	$56,141	106.5	$52,727
USA	$57,624	100.0	$57,624

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2020Q1
Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2020q1, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

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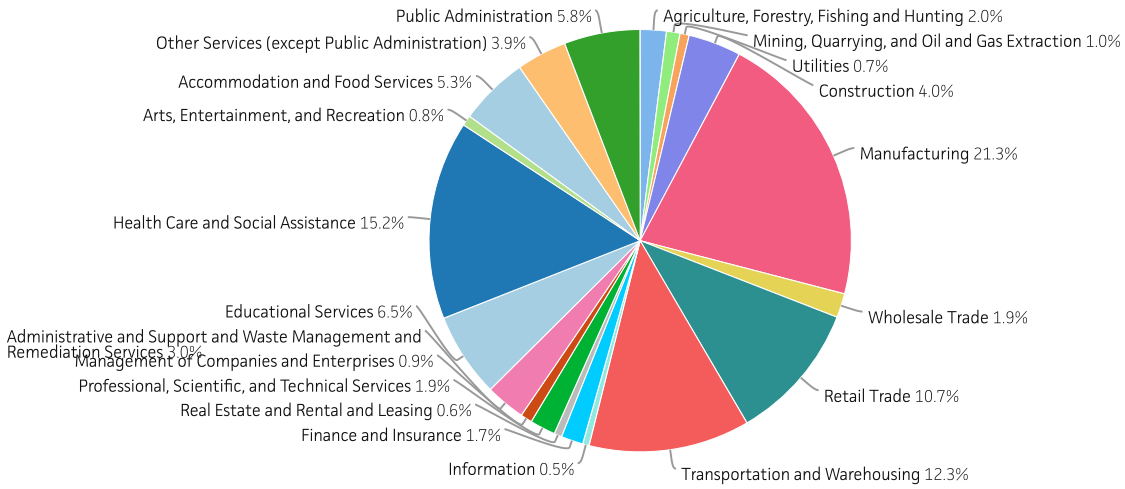
Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is Manufacturing, employing 11,342 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (8,103 workers) and Transportation and Warehousing (6,572). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Transportation and Warehousing (LQ = 2.68), Manufacturing (2.59), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (2.41).

Total Workers for Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®,Data as of 2020Q1

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2019Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1.

Sectors in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises ($79,638), Utilities ($70,185), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction ($58,936). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Transportation and Warehousing (+792 jobs), Manufacturing (+712), and Construction (+139).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is projected to contract by 384 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +0.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+41 jobs), Construction (0), and Accommodation and Food Services (-1).

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			Current		5-Year History			1-Year Forecast			
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31	Manufacturing	11,342	$56,683	2.59	712	1.3%	973	433	741	-201	-1.8%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	8,103	$42,398	1.05	-222	-0.5%	805	375	388	41	0.5%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	6,572	$43,461	2.68	792	2.6%	694	297	402	-5	-0.1%
44	Retail Trade	5,681	$27,038	1.04	-338	-1.1%	685	334	421	-70	-1.2%
61	Educational Services	3,447	$43,809	0.79	-346	-1.9%	276	153	165	-41	-1.2%
92	Public Administration	3,103	$53,575	1.24	41	0.3%	251	120	163	-32	-1.0%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	2,824	$15,893	0.59	-87	-0.6%	455	202	254	-1	0.0%
23	Construction	2,150	$47,749	0.70	139	1.3%	210	76	135	0	0.0%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,052	$23,499	0.87	4	0.0%	215	106	127	-18	-0.9%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	1,622	$28,640	0.48	-315	-3.5%	177	79	108	-9	-0.6%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,067	$40,829	1.52	-40	-0.7%	105	49	66	-10	-0.9%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,039	$56,228	0.29	-129	-2.3%	84	33	56	-5	-0.5%
42	Wholesale Trade	991	$50,029	0.49	-94	-1.8%	91	39	65	-12	-1.2%
52	Finance and Insurance	902	$52,373	0.43	-126	-2.6%	75	32	52	-9	-1.0%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	550	$58,936	2.41	48	1.9%	43	18	37	-12	-2.3%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	475	$79,638	0.59	-57	-2.2%	40	16	27	-3	-0.6%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	427	$17,730	0.40	4	0.2%	59	27	33	-1	-0.3%
22	Utilities	375	$70,185	1.38	-24	-1.2%	29	12	21	-4	-1.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	318	$49,827	0.34	-28	-1.7%	30	15	17	-2	-0.6%
51	Information	261	$43,828	0.25	-99	-6.2%	19	9	16	-6	-2.2%
	Total - All Industries	**53,302**	**$43,311**	**1.00**	**-166**	**-0.1%**	**5,404**	**2,475**	**3,313**	**-384**	**-0.7%**

Source: JobsEQ®

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2019Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

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Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is Transportation and Material Moving Occupations, employing 8,155 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Production Occupations (6,686 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (6,012). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Production Occupations (LQ = 2.13), Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.86), and Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (1.60).

Occupation groups in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations ($98,800), Legal Occupations ($83,700), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations ($78,100). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.8% among Legal Occupations to 12.9% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.1% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+29 jobs) and Community and Social Service Occupations (+4). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1,018 jobs) and Production Occupations (720).

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, 2020Q1[1]

		Current						5-Year History			1-Year Forecast			
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages[2]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads[3]	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	8,155	$35,700	1.86	783	7.8%	646	514	1.3%	981	362	656	-37	-0.5%
51-0000	Production	6,686	$40,000	2.13	505	6.3%	239	215	0.7%	592	243	477	-128	-1.9%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	6,012	$37,100	0.89	329	4.6%	161	-420	-1.3%	568	273	379	-85	-1.4%
41-0000	Sales and Related	4,308	$34,500	0.83	357	6.8%	282	-320	-1.4%	548	240	356	-47	-1.1%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	3,268	$23,500	0.72	364	8.5%	214	-120	-0.7%	557	228	333	-3	-0.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	2,793	$78,100	0.92	70	2.1%	298	-154	-1.1%	161	73	88	1	0.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	2,720	$48,000	0.91	107	3.9%	34	-225	-1.6%	203	104	125	-26	-1.0%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	2,700	$28,800	1.16	173	4.9%	186	19	0.1%	372	167	176	29	1.1%
11-0000	Management	2,645	$98,800	0.77	52	2.1%	150	55	0.4%	205	75	144	-14	-0.5%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	2,395	$43,700	1.17	137	3.9%	125	106	0.9%	201	73	149	-21	-0.9%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	2,335	$43,900	0.95	209	7.0%	72	59	0.5%	243	75	179	-11	-0.5%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	1,680	$62,100	0.58	45	3.2%	44	65	0.8%	145	45	111	-11	-0.7%
33-0000	Protective Service	1,427	$57,500	1.24	50	3.5%	27	3	0.0%	122	62	77	-16	-1.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,278	$28,000	0.70	120	7.4%	122	-35	-0.5%	157	69	95	-6	-0.5%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	1,077	$26,700	0.71	74	5.3%	35	27	0.5%	155	70	87	-2	-0.1%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	987	$43,200	1.09	22	2.4%	158	32	0.7%	109	35	70	4	0.4%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	715	$73,200	0.79	20	2.9%	25	43	1.2%	46	16	37	-7	-1.0%

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Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, 2020Q1[1]

		Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages[2]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads[3]	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	541	$69,100	0.34	13	2.9%	41	-25	-0.9%	37	9	30	-3	-0.5%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	540	$28,600	1.60	60	12.9%	1	6	0.2%	79	21	64	-5	-1.0%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	477	$41,200	0.49	20	4.8%	24	-30	-1.2%	44	18	32	-6	-1.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	291	$63,400	0.64	7	2.8%	19	15	1.1%	23	6	19	-2	-0.7%
23-0000	Legal	274	$83,700	0.61	5	1.8%	4	3	0.2%	16	7	10	-1	-0.5%
	Total - All Occupations	**53,302**	**$44,300**	**1.00**	**3,521**	**5.6%**	**2,908**	**-166**	**-0.1%**	**5,579**	**2,270**	**3,694**	**-384**	**-0.7%**

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2020Q1 unless noted otherwise
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.
1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.
2. Wage data are as of 2019 and represent the average for all Covered Employment
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list).
Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2019Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1. Wages by occupation are as of 2019 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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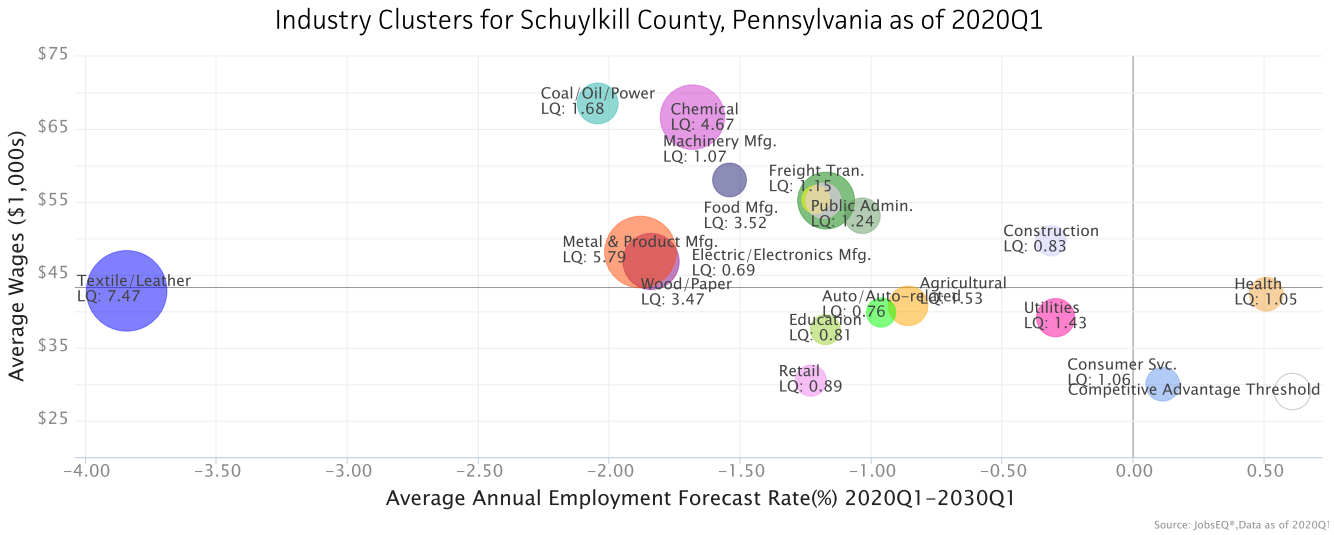
Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 7.47. This cluster employs 950 workers in the region with an average wage of $42,835. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to contract in the region about 3.8% per year over the next ten years.



Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2019Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2020Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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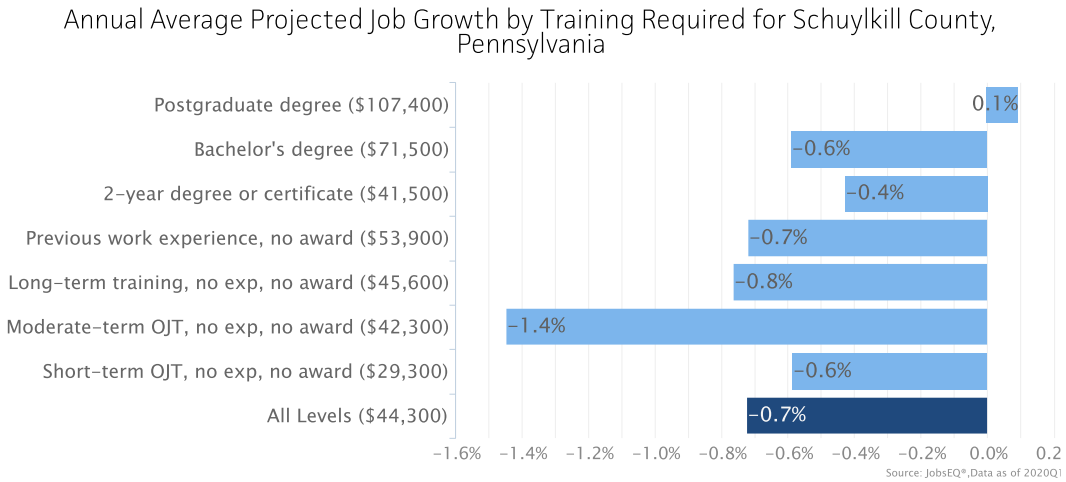
Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is projected to contract 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.6% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.4% per year.



Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2020Q1. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

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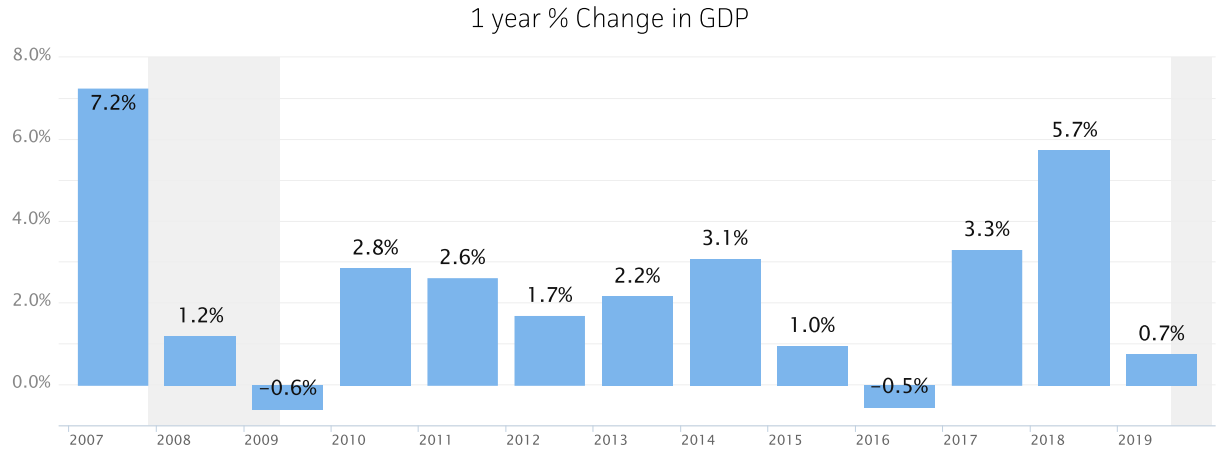
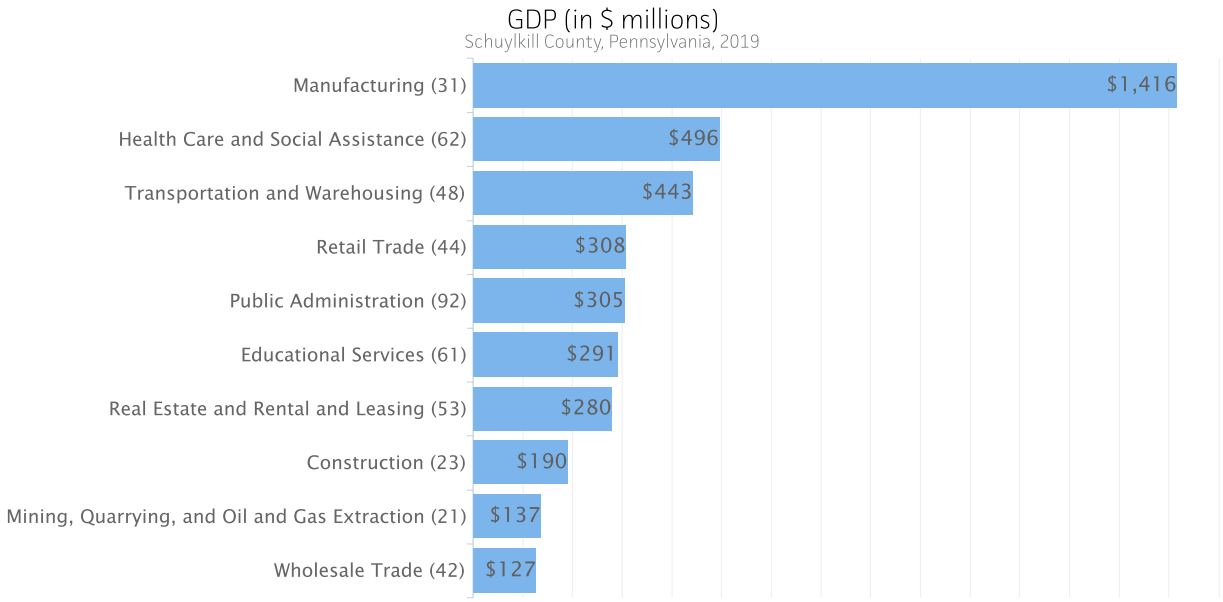
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2019, nominal GDP in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania expanded 0.7%. This follows growth of 5.7% in 2018. As of 2019, total GDP in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was $4,868,433,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2019.

Of the sectors in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2019, $1,416,366,000 The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance ($496,137,000); Transportation and Warehousing ($442,751,000); and Retail Trade ($308,105,000).



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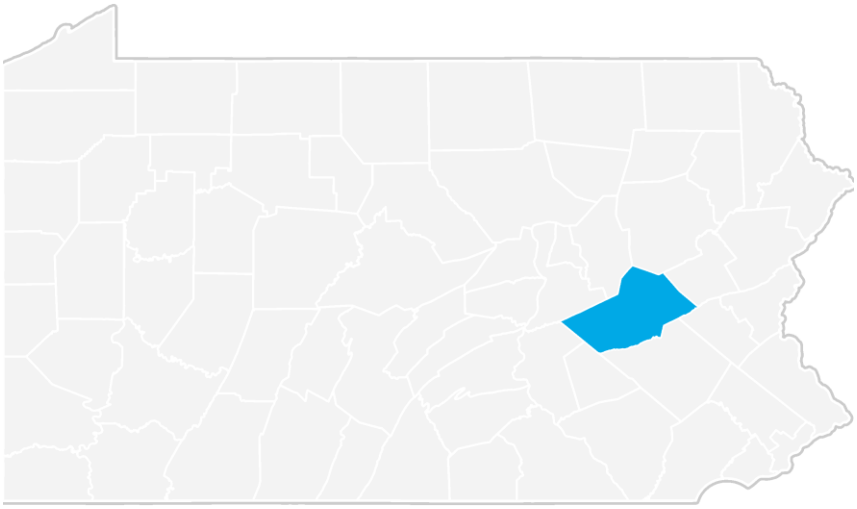
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania Regional Map



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FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

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