



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate At 13.0 Percent in June

On July 17, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) released its employment situation report for June 2020. Data collected for the June employment situation report was for the reference week of June 7 to 13.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down four-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 13.0 percent in June. The national rate fell 2.2 percentage points from May's level to 11.1 percent. The commonwealth's unemployment rate increased by 8.7 percentage points from June 2019 while the national rate was up 7.4 points over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – was down 175,000 over the month due to declines in both resident employment and unemployment.

Pennsylvania's total nonfarm jobs were up 231,500 over the month, the largest single-month increase on record, to 5,433,000 in June. Jobs increased in 8 of the 11 industry supersectors. The

largest gain was in leisure & hospitality which added 76,100 jobs from May.

Over the past two months, Pennsylvania has recovered nearly 40 percent of the total nonfarm jobs lost in March and April.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were down 620,300 with declines in each of the 11 supersectors. The largest 12-month change among supersectors was a decline of 215,500 jobs in leisure & hospitality.

Additional information is available on the L&I website at www.dli.pa.gov.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry, 7/17/2020

Former Pennsylvania Governors Voice Support for Wolf Administration Response to COVID-19

Three former Pennsylvania governors today voiced their support for how Governor Tom Wolf and his administration have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, including endorsing statewide mitigation efforts and mask-wearing.

"As a former Governor of Pennsylvania, I know all too well the importance of swift action to keep Pennsylvanians safe during a crisis," former Gov. Mark Schweiker said. "Governor Wolf has worked throughout this pandemic to both safeguard our citizens and keep our economy moving during this hard time. Yesterday's executive order is meant to help us all avoid the public health issues which we faced this past spring. These summer measures, as I see it, are part of a strategy to help us avoid a second public health and economic crisis later in the year. Wearing your mask amounts to saying let's beat the virus now, not later when it might be too late."

"All Pennsylvanians should heed the Wolf Administration's directives to wear a mask when out of the home," former Gov. Tom Ridge said. "Like all Pennsylvanians, Gov. Wolf and Secretary Levine are hoping to avoid the COVID-19 spikes impacting other states so that we can get our economy back up and running as soon as possible. Wearing a mask is a simple, selfless act all of us should support."

"A global pandemic like this requires leadership and swift action to prevent devastating effects on our citizens and our society," former Gov. Ed Rendell said. "Governor Wolf's mitigation efforts have been both effective and strong, and, as a result has saved the lives of countless Pennsylvanians. The recent spike means we must pull together again as a Commonwealth to stop the spread of this disease and keep our citizens and communities safe. The Governor's new executive order on mitigation is the right thing to do, is measured and Pennsylvania will be better and safer for it. I encourage all of my fellow Pennsylvanians to stay safe, to wear a mask, to practice social distancing, and to help stop the spread of this disease."

The governor's most recent order on mitigation efforts can be found **here** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200715-TWW-targeted-mitigation-order.pdf>.

The secretary's order on mask-wearing can be found **here** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>.

FAQs on mask-wearing can be found **here** <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 7/16/2020

Burns unveils ‘American Made Jobs Plan’ to bring back manufacturing Game-changing legislation would induce rebound of ‘Made in USA’ goods

In a move that swiftly gained bipartisan traction, state Rep. Frank Burns has unveiled game-changing legislation to benefit U.S. workers by inducing the return of long-lost domestic manufacturing and steel jobs.

Burns, D-Cambria, said his “American Made Jobs Plan” is a three-bill package designed to end our economy’s heavy reliance on China and other countries and reverse decades of unfair trade policies, driven by corporate greed and special interests, that have helped wipe out the middle class in Pennsylvania and Cambria County.

“For too many years, we’ve been fed the lie – by big-monied interests and their elected enablers – that trade pacts which stripped millions of jobs from our manufacturing base would be good economic policy in the long run,” Burns said. “Well, when I look around, I sure don’t see it. Either I need a bigger magnifying glass, or we need to do something really big to reverse this trend.”

In a nutshell, Burn’s legislation seeks to restore manufacturing jobs by requiring use of U.S.-made steel in construction or repair of all underground pipelines, and in any private project that receives taxpayer funding.

To further assist in the repatriation of jobs, Burns wants to give a 2% bid discount to companies that agree to use American-made materials on publicly funded projects, such as those carried out by school districts, municipalities and state agencies.

“This is one way to bring back good-paying, family-sustaining jobs – by leveling the playing field for hardworking people and industries that were economically steamrolled by unfair competition,” Burns said. “It’s time to take off the gloves and fight bare-knuckled for the forgotten, which I’m not afraid to do.”

Burns is particularly encouraged at the early bipartisan support received by his proposals, which in more detail are:

House Bill 2716

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2716>, to amend the Underground Utility Line Protection Act to require American-made steel to be used in all construction and repair of underground pipelines. Per current state law, steel is considered American-made if at least 75 percent of the raw material and production occurs in the United States.

House Bill 2715

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2715>, to require any construction or repair projects done by a private entity that receives any taxpayer funding to use American-made steel. Per current state law, steel is considered American-made if at least 75 percent of the raw material and production occurs in the United States.

House Bill 2714

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2714>, to provide a 2% bid discount on bids for public projects (such as those carried out by school districts, municipalities, and state agencies) when American-made materials are used in the price quote.

“With more than one-in-ten people in PA unemployed, we cannot afford to wait to take action,” Burns said. “Since 2001 our state has lost more than 300,000 manufacturing jobs to corporate

profitability and one-way trade deals, a statistic that should sicken any American. It’s well past time for this legislature to take bold, decisive action to bring those jobs back, to rebuild the middle class, and to bring PA back as an industrial powerhouse.”

Source: Rep. Burns Press Release, 7/17/2020

PFBC Quarterly Meeting to be held Virtually on July 20

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) will hold its quarterly business meeting on **Monday, July 20 beginning at 10:00 a.m.** Due to the continued public health concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting will be held online with Commissioners and PFBC staff participating remotely.

The public may view a **live stream** of the meeting by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/PaFishandBoat>.

Because this meeting is being held in a virtual format, the process for accepting public comment will be different than an in-person gathering. Public comments pertaining to the agenda can be submitted by calling (717) 705-7846 on Thursday, July 16 at 8:00 a.m. until Friday, July 17 at 12:00 p.m. Recorded comments will be limited to 5 minutes and will be presented to Commissioners prior to the meeting.

A complete copy of the meeting schedule and the **full agenda** <https://www.fishandboat.com/AboutUs/MinutesAgendas/Documents/agendasDocs/2020-07-Agenda.pdf> for the meeting can be found on the PFBC's website.

Source: PFBC Press Release, 7/13/2020

CBF Calls for Greater Investments to Reduce Water Pollution as Number

of Impaired Streams Increases in PA

On July 13, Shannon Gority, executive director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Pennsylvania, said that an increase in the number of miles of impaired waters listed in the Department of Environmental Protection's **Draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Report** <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=50300&SubjectID=8> sends a clear message that not enough is being done to clean and protect Commonwealth rivers and streams.

DEP's latest biennial report lists 25,468 miles of Pennsylvania waters, **5,500 miles more than in its 2016 report** <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=42240>, as being harmed by pollution.

The report found that nearly 30 percent of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams do not meet water quality standards for water supply, aquatic life, recreation, or fish consumption.

The top three major sources of water quality impairment identified in the 2020 report are: agricultural runoff, 5,765 miles; abandoned mine runoff, 5,559 miles; and stormwater, 3,206 miles.

In response to DEP's latest report, Shannon Gority said:

"As the number of polluted waters continues to grow in Pennsylvania, it is past time for elected leaders at the state and federal levels to provide the leadership, funding, and technical support needed to get the Keystone State back on track toward reaching its Clean Water Blueprint goals by 2025.

"Farmers in Pennsylvania recognize the value of keeping soil on the land and not in the water, but they cannot pay for it all themselves. "Meanwhile, the Commonwealth's watershed implementation plan would achieve only 73 percent of its nitrogen-reduction commitment and has a funding shortfall of \$324 million a year.

"Following through on the commitment to clean and protect our rivers and streams is vital to our health and economic well-being."

[DEP is accepting public comments <http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-26/814.html> on the draft Water Quality Monitoring Report until August 11.]

For more on Chesapeake Bay-related issues in Pennsylvania, visit the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA webpage** <https://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/locations/pennsylvania/>.

Also visit the **Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership** <http://www.tenmilliontrees.org/> to learn how you can help clean water grow on trees.

[How Clean Is Your Stream?](#)

DEP's **Interactive Report Viewer** <https://www.depgis.state.pa.us/IRViewer2020/> allows you to zoom in on your own stream or watershed to find out how clean your stream is or if it has impaired water quality using the latest information in the draft 2020 Water Quality Report.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 7/20/2020

Sen. Yaw Plans to Introduce Bill To Fund On-Farm Conservation Measures thru State Conservation Commission, Conservation Districts

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, last week announced plans to introduce legislation funding on-farm conservation measures through a program administered by the **State Conservation Commission** https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/Pages/default.aspx .

The proposed Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program is modeled after the successful **Dirt and Gravel Roads Program** https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/DGRMP/Pages/default.aspx also administered by the Commission and implemented by county conservation districts.

“(Almost one-third of our Commonwealth’s streams <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=50300&SubjectID=88> do not meet standards for drinking, fishing or recreation, and agriculture remains one of the largest sources of impairment.”

"Agricultural practices are some of the most cost-effective ways to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution, and they have the double-benefit of improving soil health, nutrient efficiency, and the long-term viability of farm operations."

"This legislation is modeled after the successful Dirt and Gravel Roads program, administered by the State Conservation Commission. Funding is apportioned to local conservation districts based on a formula that considers relative volumes of dirt roads and impaired streams in each district.

“The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program would apply similar criteria in driving targeted dollars to areas with the highest need for improvement. Districts would work with participating farmers and landowners to determine the best management practices that will work best for their area.

“This legislation was developed by a collaborative effort of governmental and non-governmental representatives, including the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

“Given the challenges of meeting a 2025 deadline to have all practices in place to meet the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan, now is the time for Pennsylvania to enact legislation that will provide a roadmap for meeting those goals.”

Last year, Sen. Yaw promoted legislation as part of the **PA Farm Bill** <https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/PA-Farm-Bill.aspx> that was signed into law creating the **Conservation Excellence Grant Program** <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=50257&SubjectID=29> targeted to the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

This new – statewide – program would be a companion to that effort.

Click here for a **sponsor summary of the proposal** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20190&columnId=32111>.

[How Clean Is Your Stream?](#)

DEP’s **Interactive Report Viewer** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20190&columnId=32111> allows you to zoom in on your own stream or watershed to find out how clean your stream is or if it has impaired water quality using the latest information in the draft 2020 Water Quality Report.

[**Note:** Another farm conservation funding program -- the Resource Enhancement & Protection Program Tax Credit -- tentatively plans to start accepting FY 2020 applications in August. **Click here for more information** https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx.]

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 7/20/2020

Senate Committee Moves Bill Requiring Pipeline Companies to Make Emergency Plans Available

On July 15, the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee reported out **House Bill 2293** (Quinn-R-Delaware)

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2293> that requires pipeline companies to make emergency response plans available to the Public Utility Commission, the PA Emergency Management Agency and county emergency management director where the pipeline is located.

The bill was introduced – along with a companion **Senate Bill 284** (Killion-R- Delaware) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=284> – after the owners of the Mariner East Pipelines – Energy Transfer Partners – *only* provided local emergency officials with heavily redacted copies of their emergency plans that were basically unusable, according to Sen. Tom Killion’s explanation before the Committee.

This legislation, along with legislation introduced by Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester) – **Senate Bill 258** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0258> which would also address emergency response to a pipeline explosion or leak – have been languishing in the House and Senate for a long time.

Sen. Dinniman told the Committee he would be attempting to amend his bill into House Bill 2293 as it moves through the full Senate.

There are no fewer than 20 House and Senate bills stuck in the General Assembly – all of them bipartisan – to address a variety of pipeline issues. And they’ve been stuck for years. Read more here <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=47460&SubjectID=216>.

Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks) serves as Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5072 or sending email to: rtomlinson@pasen.gov. Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh) serves as Minority Chair and can be

contacted by calling 717-787-4236 or sending email to: boscola@pasenate.com.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 7/20/2020

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