

Unemployment Claims Data Summary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region

Periods covering January 2020 to January 2021

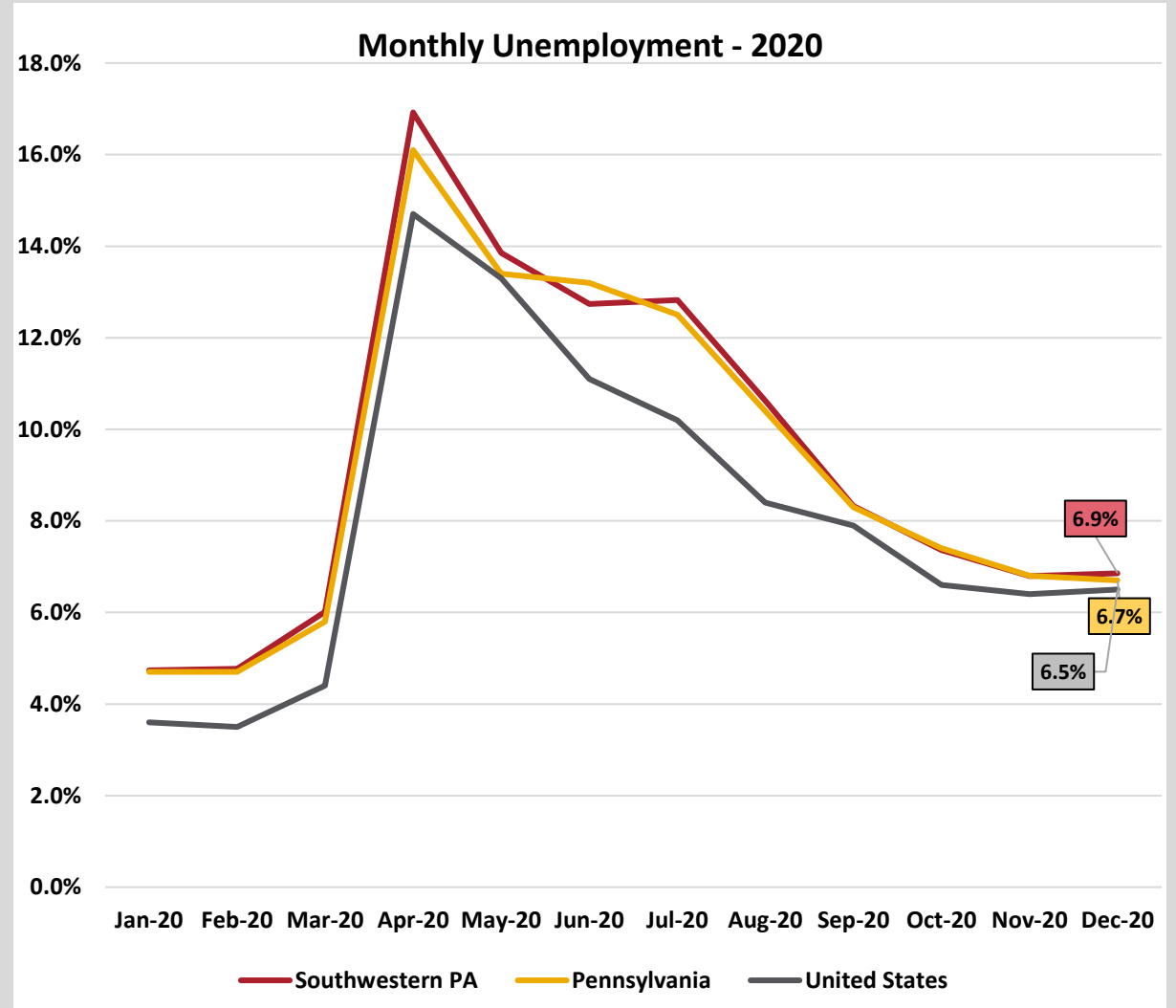
February 26, 2021

Key Takeaways

- The unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania was 6.9% in December 2020, similar to the level recorded in November.
- The unemployment rate in December in the region varies by county from a low of 5.9% in Butler County to a high of 8.6% in Fayette County.
- After falling steadily from 197,078 claims in May to 57,892 in the four-week period ended December 5, 2020, the four-week average for Continuing Unemployment Claims (UC) started increasing in December and January.
- Regionally, the top five most impacted industries are Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; and Accommodation and Food Services.
- Unemployment is not affecting demographic groups equally, and the 25-34 age segment and Black population are suffering more.
- 4.3% of the regional Black population claimed unemployment in the week ended 12/26/20, almost double the percentage of the regional white population claiming unemployment at 2.4%.

The unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania was 6.9% in December, similar to the level recorded in November. In keeping with past trends, the rate was slightly above the state and nation. The region's labor force increased slightly in December, while it dropped for the state and nation. However, while the number of unemployed people fell in Pennsylvania, it increased in the region, likely due to the reimposition of dining restrictions.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE												
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Southwestern PA	4.7%	4.8%	6.0%	16.9%	13.9%	12.7%	12.8%	10.6%	8.3%	7.4%	6.8%	6.9%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.7%	5.8%	16.1%	13.4%	13.2%	12.5%	10.4%	8.3%	7.4%	6.8%	6.7%
United States	3.6%	3.5%	4.4%	14.7%	13.3%	11.1%	10.2%	8.4%	7.9%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%
CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH												
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. to Dec. 2020
Southwestern PA	0.4%	-0.8%	-2.5%	1.1%	-1.9%	0.5%	-0.9%	1.8%	-1.3%	-1.1%	0.1%	-4.6%
Pennsylvania	0.1%	-0.2%	-1.5%	0.9%	-2.2%	-0.1%	-0.8%	2.0%	-1.0%	-1.2%	-0.2%	-4.1%
United States	0.0%	-1.0%	-4.1%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	-0.4%	0.6%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-2.8%
CHANGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT FROM PREVIOUS MONTH												
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. to Dec. 2020
Southwestern PA	1.1%	20.0%	63.6%	-20.9%	-10.9%	1.2%	-21.8%	-25.4%	-14.5%	-9.6%	0.9%	38.1%
Pennsylvania	0.6%	18.5%	63.5%	-18.6%	-3.8%	-6.0%	-20.5%	-22.9%	-13.3%	-10.8%	-1.7%	36.8%
United States	-1.8%	18.9%	69.1%	-10.0%	-18.2%	-8.6%	-20.6%	-7.7%	-18.5%	-3.5%	1.3%	76.6%

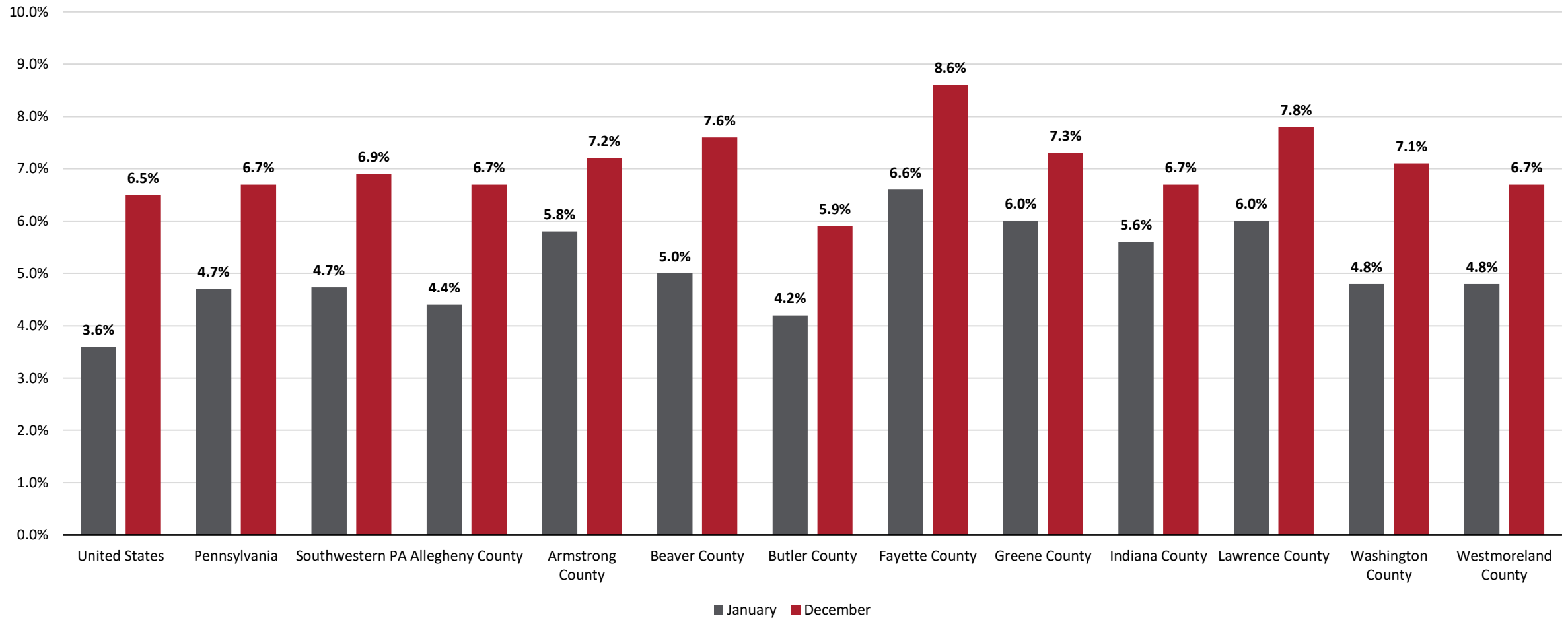


Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

2/25/21

The December unemployment rate in the region varies by county from a low of 5.9% in Butler County to a high of 8.6% in Fayette County. Like Fayette County, the unemployment rates in Beaver and Lawrence Counties also were significantly above the U.S. Regionally, the difference in unemployment rate between January and December is smaller than the national difference over the same period (2.2% to 2.9%). Butler, Armstrong, Greene and Indiana is significantly below the national change.

Unemployment Rate Comparison - January vs. December

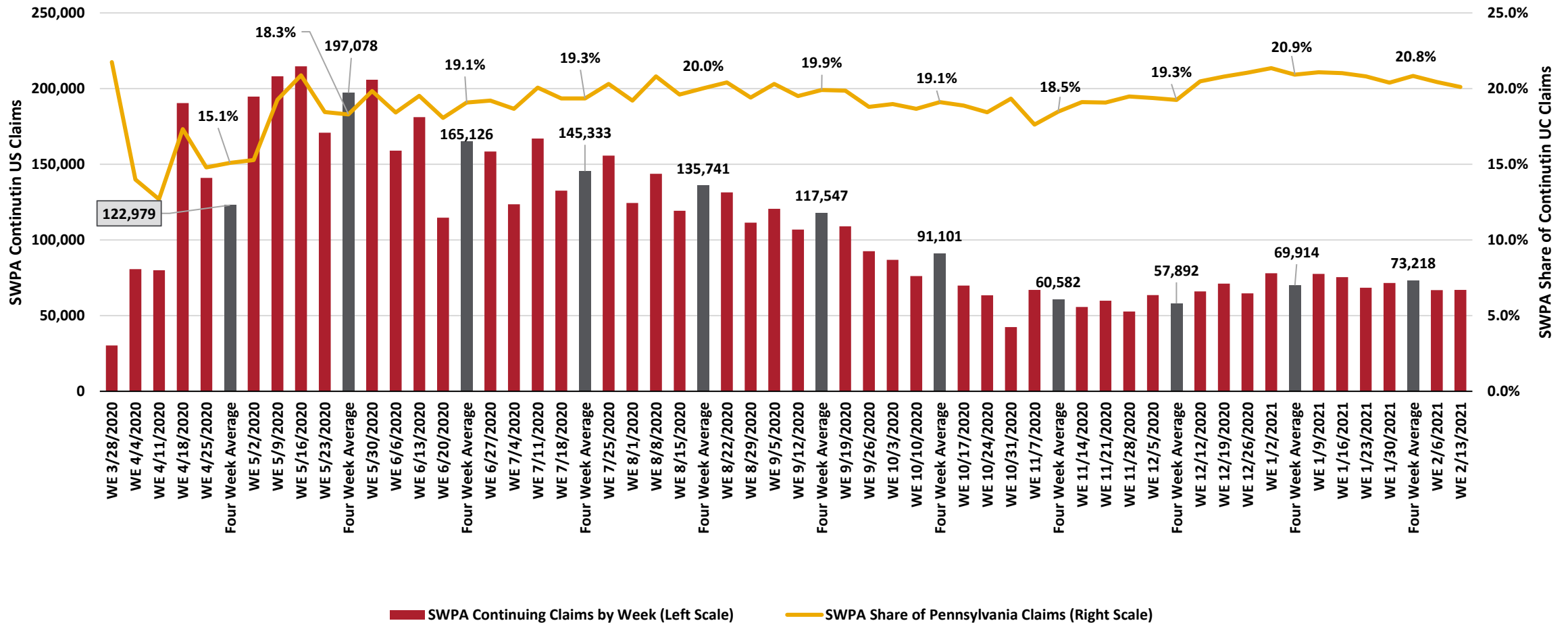


Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

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After falling steadily from 197,078 claims in the four-week period ended May 23, 2020 to 57,892 in the four-week period ended December 5, 2020, the four-week average for Continuing Unemployment Claims (UC) started increasing in December and January. This was most likely due to new restrictions on indoor dining along with seasonal contractions in the construction industry.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Continuing UC Claim Trends



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

2/25/21

By comparing percentage of claims to percentage of employment by industry, we can determine which groups are disproportionately impacted. A value above 100 indicates that the group is highly impacted. Regionally, the top five most impacted industries are Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; and Accommodation and Food Services. Unlike other industries, Construction is impacted by seasonal slowdowns.

Regional Continued Claims by Industry			
NAICS	Industry	Week Ended 2/20/21	Indexed to % Employment by Industry
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	0.3%	135.2
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1.4%	119.5
22	Utilities	0.1%	25.3
23	Construction	20.3%	341.6
31-33	Manufacturing	7.3%	101.6
42	Wholesale Trade	2.6%	87.4
44-45	Retail Trade	8.9%	89.6
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	6.2%	180.3
51	Information	0.7%	52.7
52	Finance and Insurance	1.9%	39.6
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.2%	86.1
54	Professional and Technical Services	3.8%	56.6
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	0.5%	16.6
56	Administrative and Waste Services	9.8%	215.4
61	Educational Services	2.2%	44.7
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	11.7%	68.9
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3.4%	174.3
72	Accommodation and Food Services	12.4%	154.7
81	Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	3.4%	71.0
92	Public Administration	1.1%	10.9
Grand Total		0.7%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; Emsi

2/25/21

By comparing percentage of claims to percentage of population by segment, we can determine which groups are disproportionately impacted. A value above 100 indicates that the group is highly impacted. By age, the 25-34 age segment is the most impacted, followed by the 35-44 segment. By race, the Black population is disproportionately impacted compared to other demographic groups.

Regional Continued Claims by Age		
	Week ended 2/20/21	Indexed
16-19 *	1.3%	22.1
20-24	8.2%	134.7
25-34	23.6%	180.0
35-44	20.2%	177.2
45-54	18.7%	143.1
55-64	19.2%	126.8
65 and older	8.5%	43.6
Unknown	0.2%	NA
Grand Total	65,482	
* Used 15 – 19 age group from American Community Survey		

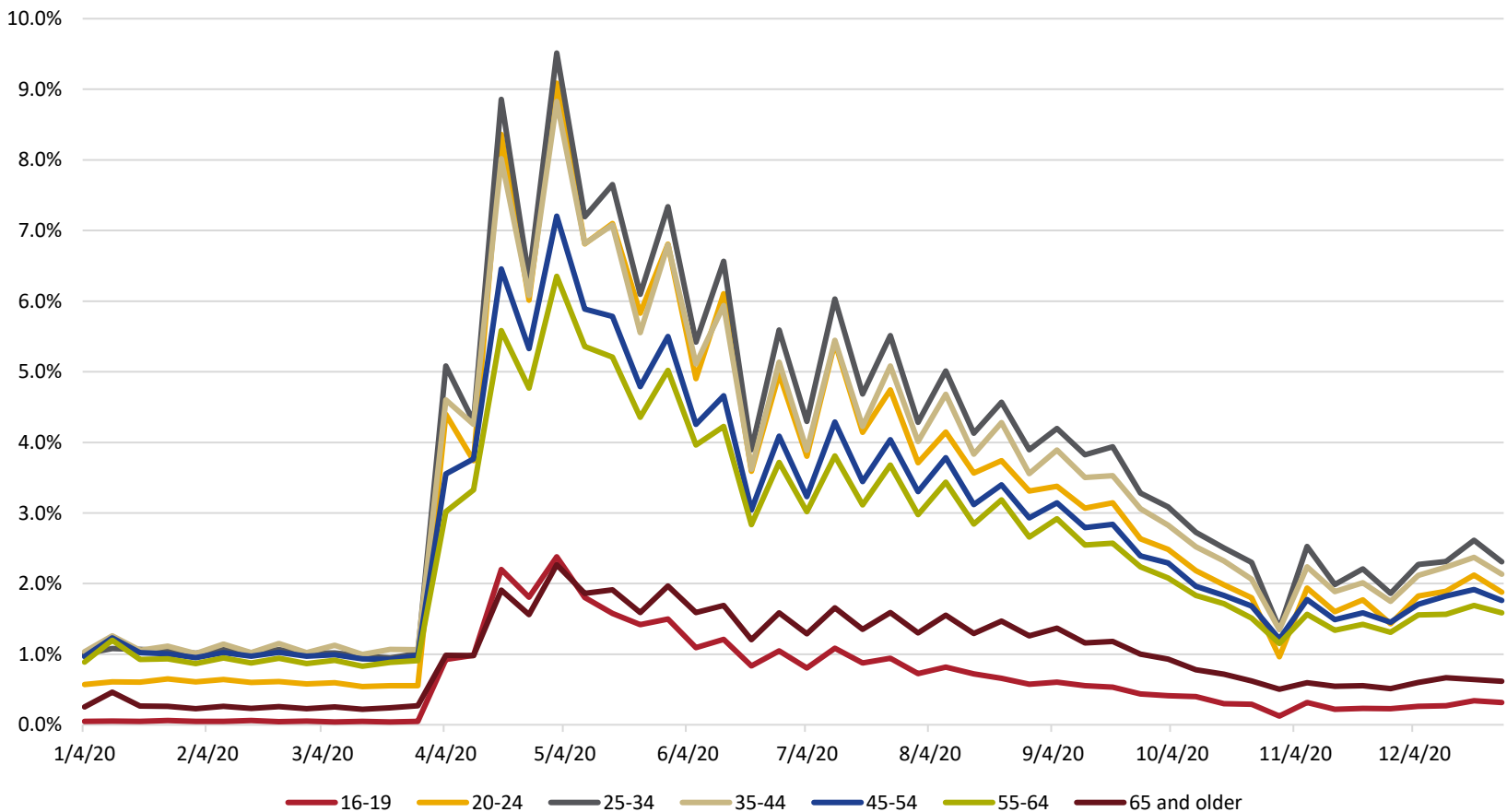
Regional Continued Claims by Race		
	Week ended 2/20/21	Indexed
Black	12.5%	162.3
Hispanic	1.6%	93.6
Pacific Islander or Asian	1.1%	49.1
Unknown	3.7%	NA
White	80.8%	92.7
Grand Total	65,482	

Regional Continued Claims by Sex		
	Week ended 2/20/21	Indexed
Female	39.8%	77.7
Male	60.2%	123.4
Grand Total	65,482	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; US Census Bureau

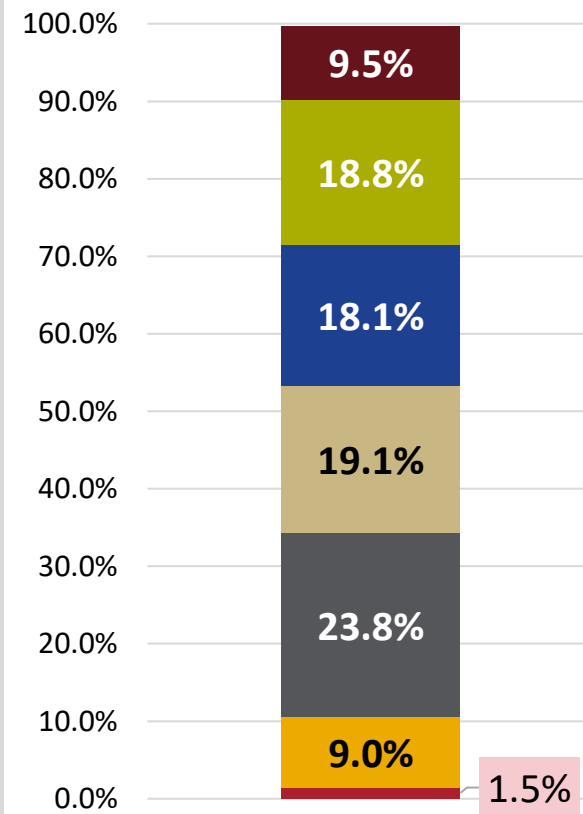
Those in the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups are more impacted than others, as a higher percentage of those age demographics are claiming unemployment. On the week ended 12/26/20, 2.3% of those aged 25-34 claimed unemployment. As seen in the column chart, the largest share of those claiming unemployment on 12/26/20 were those aged 25-34 at 23.8%, followed by those aged 35-44 at 19.1%.

**Regional Continuing Unemployment Claims
as a percentage of Age Group: 2020**



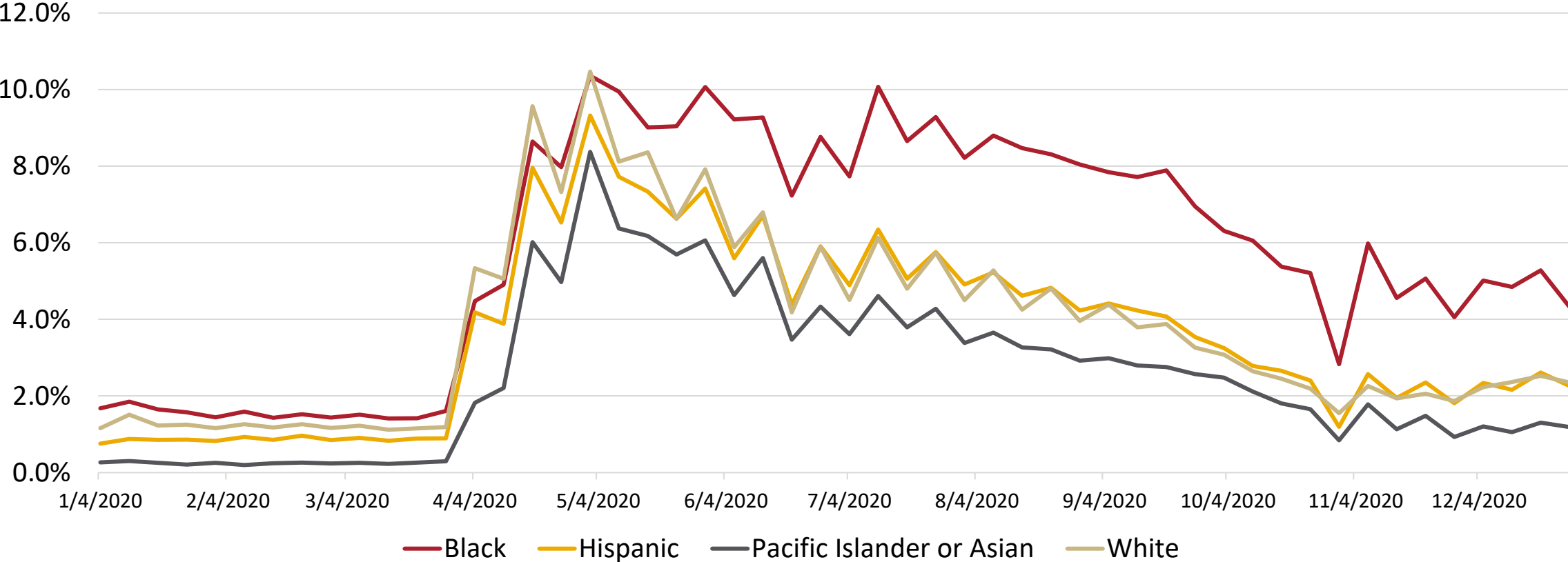
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; US Census Bureau

Regional Continuing Unemployment Claims by Age Group: 12/26/20



The Black population is experiencing the highest levels of unemployment. 4.3% of the regional Black population claimed unemployment in the week ended 12/26/20, almost double the percentage of the regional white population claiming unemployment at 2.4%.

Continuing Unemployment Claims as a percentage of Race: 2020



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; US Census Bureau

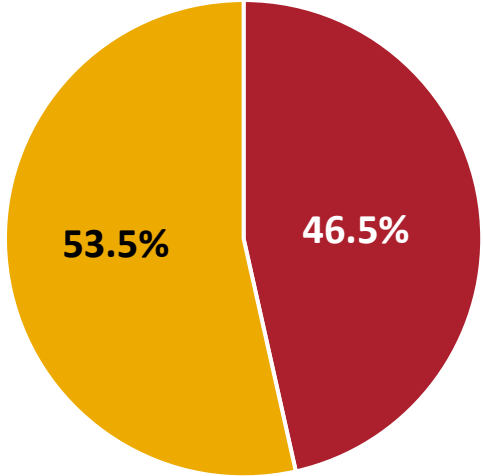
Recently, a greater share of males are claiming unemployment. However, the difference between the sexes is slight. On the week ended 12/26, 2.8% of males claimed unemployment compared to 2.3% of females.

Regional Continuing Unemployment Claims
as a percentage of Sex: 2020



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; US Census Bureau

Regional Continuing Unemployment Claims by Sex: 12/26/20



Report produced by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Data sources include the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Emsi, and the US Census Bureau

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