

Unemployment Claims Data Summary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region

Periods covering January 2020 to March 2021

March 23, 2021



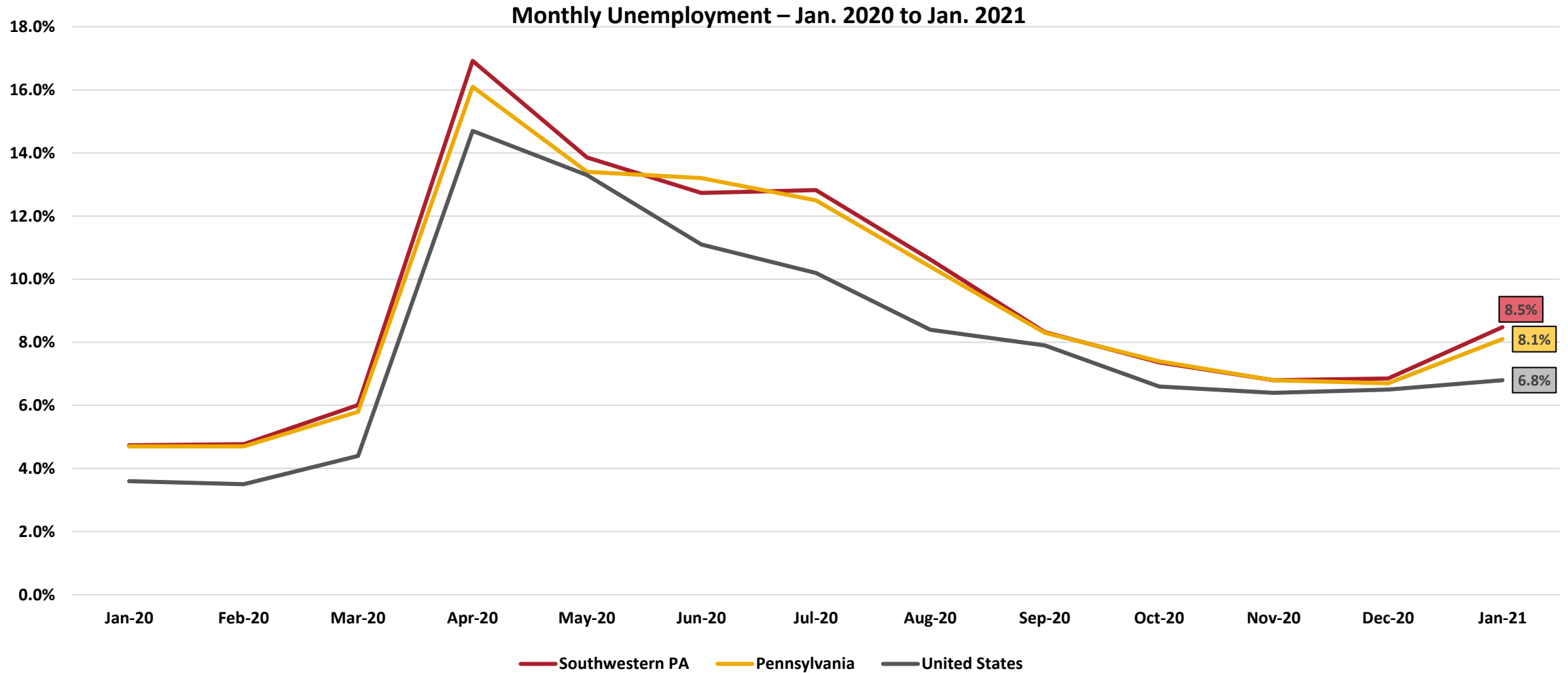
**Pennsylvania Economy League
of Greater Pittsburgh**

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

Key Takeaways

- The unemployment rate in Southwestern Pennsylvania was 8.5% in January 2021, well above the national rate of 6.8%
- The increase in the unemployment rate was driven by a 21.6% increase in the number of unemployed individuals as industries such as Construction, Retail, Educational Services and Government shed employees.
- The unemployment rate in the region varies by county from a low of 7.4% in Butler County to a high of 11.4% in Fayette County.
- After falling steadily from 197,078 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, but has dropped slightly in February.
- Regionally, the top five most impacted industries are Construction; Administrative and Waste Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation.
- Unemployment is not affecting demographic groups equally, and the 25-34 age segment and Black population are suffering more.

After bottoming out in November and December, the unemployment rate increased in both Southwestern Pennsylvania and the state, with both being well above the nation.



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

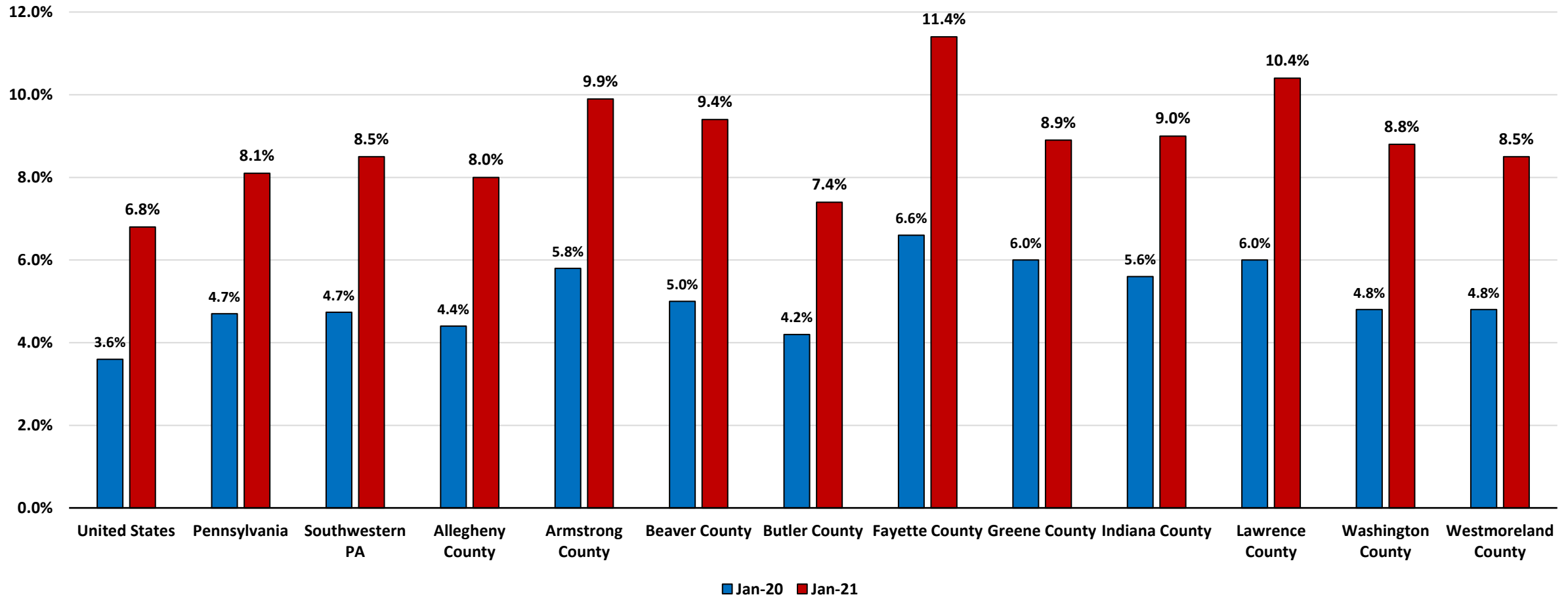
The region's labor force did not change between December 2020 and January 2021 with the increase in the unemployment rate being driven by a 21.6% increase in the number of unemployed individuals as industries such as Construction, Retail, Educational Services and Government shed employees.

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	Jan. 2021
Southwestern PA	4.7%	4.8%	6.0%	16.9%	13.9%	12.7%	12.8%	10.6%	8.3%	7.4%	6.3%	6.7%	8.5%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.7%	5.8%	16.1%	13.4%	13.2%	12.5%	10.4%	8.3%	7.4%	6.5%	6.9%	8.1%
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%	6.8%
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. 2021	Jan. 2020 to Jan. 2021
Southwestern PA	0.4%	-0.8%	-2.5%	1.1%	-1.9%	0.5%	-0.9%	1.8%	-1.3%	-1.3%	-0.3%	0.0%	-5.1%
Pennsylvania	0.1%	-0.2%	-1.5%	0.9%	-2.2%	-0.1%	-0.8%	2.0%	-1.0%	-1.1%	-0.8%	-0.1%	-4.6%
United States	0.0%	-1.0%	-4.1%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	-0.4%	0.6%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-3.3%
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. 2021	Jan. 2020 to Jan. 2021
Southwestern PA	1.1%	20.0%	63.6%	-20.9%	-10.9%	1.2%	-21.8%	-25.4%	-14.5%	-17.7%	4.4%	21.6%	70.0%
Pennsylvania	0.6%	18.5%	63.5%	-18.6%	-3.8%	-6.0%	-20.5%	-22.9%	-13.3%	-15.9%	5.1%	14.9%	64.5%
United States	-1.8%	18.9%	69.1%	-10.0%	-18.2%	-8.6%	-20.6%	-7.7%	-18.5%	-3.5%	1.3%	4.1%	84.2%

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

The unemployment rate in the region varies by county from a low of 7.4% in Butler County to a high of 11.4% in Fayette County. Most counties had rates well above the nation, with the gap in Fayette County, Lawrence, Armstrong and Beaver being the largest. Fayette County had the largest increase in the unemployment rate between January 2020 and January 2021, while Greene County had the smallest.

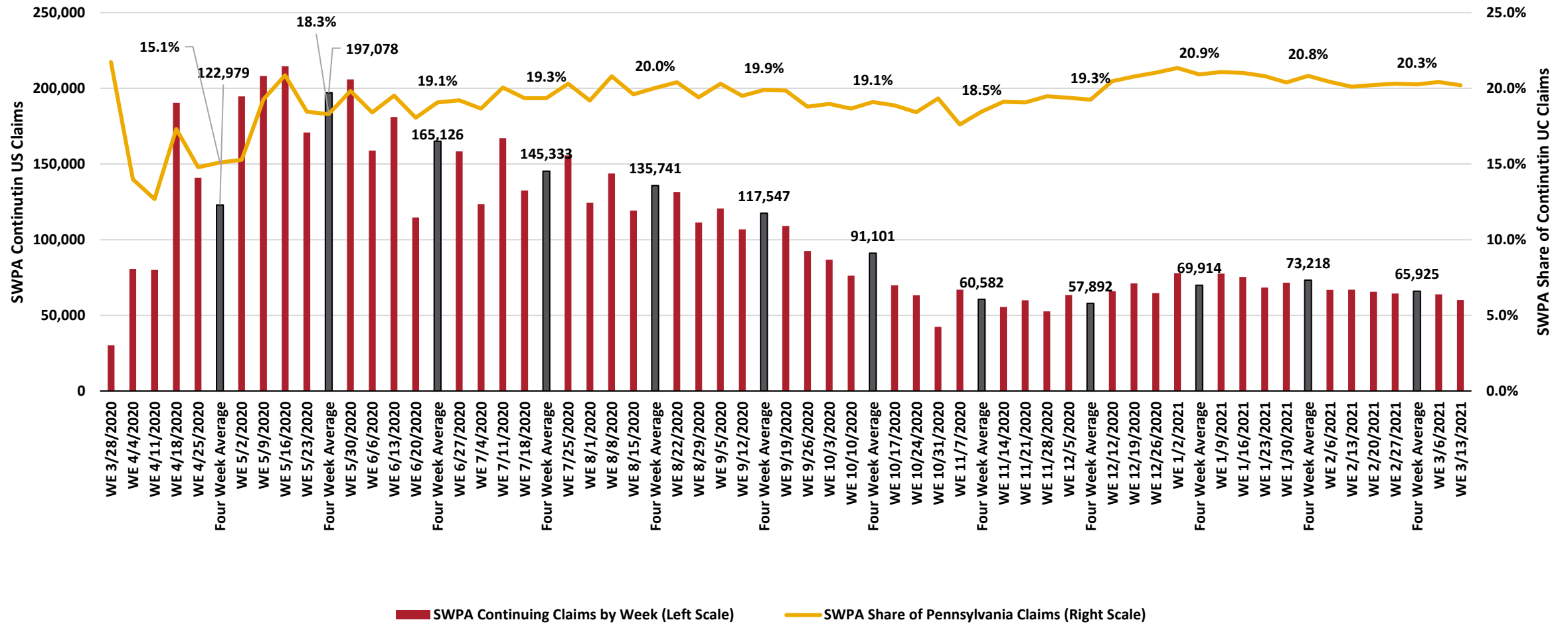
Unemployment Rate Comparison - January 2020 vs. January 2021



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

After falling steadily from 197,078 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, but has dropped slightly in February. However, the region's share of the state has been slowly trending downward.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Continuing UC Claim Trends



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

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; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation. Unlike other industries, Construction is impacted by seasonal slowdowns.

Regional Continued Claims by Industry			
NAICS	Industry	Week Ended 3/13/21	Indexed to % Employment by Industry
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	0.3%	161.4
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1.2%	101.1
22	Utilities	0.1%	28.6
23	Construction	19.2%	323.6
31-33	Manufacturing	7.7%	106.3
42	Wholesale Trade	2.5%	81.4
44-45	Retail Trade	9.2%	92.4
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	5.7%	164.2
51	Information	0.8%	60.4
52	Finance and Insurance	2.2%	45.8
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.2%	87.2
54	Professional and Technical Services	4.1%	60.5
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	0.6%	19.6
56	Administrative and Waste Services	9.9%	219.7
61	Educational Services	2.4%	49.4
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	12.4%	73.5
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3.1%	158.7
72	Accommodation and Food Services	12.1%	150.9
81	Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	3.2%	66.6
92	Public Administration	1.0%	10.3
Grand Total		100.0%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; Emsi

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 3/13/21	Indexed
16-19 *	1.3%	21.6
20-24	8.6%	140.3
25-34	23.4%	178.6
35-44	20.1%	176.4
45-54	18.5%	141.1
55-64	19.4%	128.2
65 and older	8.4%	43.1
Unknown	0.4%	N/A
Grand Total	60,030	
* Used 15 – 19 age group from American Community Survey		

Regional Continued Claims by Race		
	Week ended 3/13/21	Indexed
Black	14.3%	185.6
Hispanic	1.7%	98.9
Pacific Islander or Asian	0.8%	36.8
Unknown	3.7%	N/A
White	79.3%	90.9
Grand Total	60,030	

Regional Continued Claims by Sex		
	Week ended 3/13/21	Indexed
Female	40.7%	79.5
Male	59.3%	121.6
Grand Total	60,030	

Report produced by the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh,
an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

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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