



Research Brief

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State's Total Business Establishments, Employees, and Annual Payroll Increased in 1997

MIDDLETOWN, PA—The Commonwealth had a total of 292,118 business establishments in 1997. This was a 1.8 percent increase over 1996. In that time period, the number of people employed in the state grew by 111,173, or 2.4 percent, and total payroll increased by 6 percent to \$137.3 billion.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that service and retail trade establishments led the state in 1997 with the greatest number of establishments at 110,539 and 72,044, respectively. Health services accounted for 22.2 percent of the total service establishments in the Commonwealth in that year while 13.1 percent were membership organizations, 12.9 percent were business services, 10.0 percent were engineering and management services, and 9.1 percent were personal services. The greatest number of retail trade establishments in Pennsylvania were eating and drinking places at 31 percent followed by administrative and auxiliary stores at 24.1 percent, automotive dealers and service stations at 12.1 percent, and food stores at 10.7 percent. The mining industry had the fewest establishments in the state at 1,004 followed by agricultural services, forestry, and fishing at 4,593, and transportation and public utilities at 11,177.

Service, retail trade, and manufacturing industries employed the greatest number of people in the state in 1997. Service establishments employed 1.8 million workers in that year, which was a 3.8 percent increase over 1996. Health services and business services accounted for the largest percentages of these workers at 34.1 and 16.5 percent, respectively. Retail trade establishments accounted for 977,878 of the workers employed in the Commonwealth in 1997. Eating and drinking places employed 31.8 percent of those working in the retail trade industry while food stores accounted for 16.5 percent and miscellaneous retail accounted for 14.2 percent. Manufacturing establishments employed 929,187 Pennsylvanians in 1997. Industrial machinery and equipment



manufacturers employed 10.0 percent of the Pennsylvanians working in manufacturing while fabricated metal producers and printing and publishing companies employed 9.4 and 9.1 percent of the state's manufacturing workers, respectively. The fewest number of Pennsylvanians worked in the mining industry with 19,654 followed by agricultural services, forestry, and fishing at 22,880.

The greatest total annual payroll in the Commonwealth in 1997 was paid by the service industry at \$48.1 billion followed by manufacturing at \$34.3 billion. However, the mining and finance, insurance, and real estate industries paid the highest average annual salaries in the state in that year. Mining industry employees were paid the greatest average annual wages in the state in 1997 at \$40,960 per worker followed by the finance, insurance, and real estate industry at \$37,560. Administrative and auxiliary staff in the mining industry made the highest average annual salaries in 1997 at \$55,951 followed by coal mining workers at \$42,220. Insurance carriers made the greatest annual wages in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry at \$78,445 followed by real estate administrative and auxiliary staff at \$62,919 and employees of holding and other investment offices at \$60,825. The retail trade industry had the lowest average annual salary in the state at \$14,311 followed by the service industry at \$26,936.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics and services. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's national State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact Amy Jonas at the Data Center's State Capital Office, (717) 772-2710, or for faculty comment on this topic contact the Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office, (717) 948-6029.

Source of Information: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns: 1997