



INDEPENDENT FISCAL OFFICE

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Stanley Saylor
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Saylor:

This letter and the attached table respond to a request for additional information raised at the recent budget hearing for the Independent Fiscal Office.

Representative Bullock requested data on job loss and recovery by race.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Quarterly Workforce Indicators reports quarterly employment figures by state and various demographic characteristics. The attached table summarizes the latest data for Pennsylvania employment by race and gender.

The data show that the COVID-19 pandemic had a disparate impact on employment by race. The strongest employment contraction was in 2020 Q3, with 632,000 fewer workers employed relative to the same quarter in 2019. For that quarter, Black workers recorded the largest contraction (-12.6%), followed by other races (-11.2%), Whites (-10.5%) and Asians (-9.4%). The latest employment data are from 2021 Q2, which show a recovery of total employment (+44,000) from 2020 Q2. For 2021 Q2, Black workers recorded a contraction from the prior year (-3.0%), while Whites (+1.0%), Asians (+7.7%) and other races (+4.2%) had higher employment than 2020 Q2.

The U.S. Census Bureau also publishes employment data by gender. In 2020 Q3, male employment contracted by 283,000 (-9.6%), while female employment contracted by 349,000 (-11.7%) relative to the same quarter in the prior year. For 2021 Q2, male employment was 10,000 (+0.4%) higher and female employment was 33,000 (+1.2%) higher compared to the same quarter in the prior year.

If you have further questions regarding these data, please feel free to contact my office (717-230-8293).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew J. Knittel".

Matthew J. Knittel
Director, Independent Fiscal Office

Impact of COVID-19 on Pennsylvania Workers by Race and Gender

	Number of Workers (000s)						
	White	Black	Asian	Other ¹	Male	Female	Total
2019 Q1	4,794	673	211	106	2,849	2,934	5,783
2019 Q2	4,788	666	214	106	2,847	2,927	5,774
2019 Q3	4,894	683	220	111	2,936	2,971	5,908
2019 Q4	4,835	687	220	111	2,902	2,951	5,853
2020 Q1	4,799	691	220	112	2,862	2,961	5,823
2020 Q2	4,464	628	202	101	2,686	2,710	5,395
2020 Q3	4,381	597	199	99	2,653	2,622	5,276
2020 Q4	4,479	602	211	103	2,695	2,700	5,395
2021 Q1	4,478	616	213	105	2,683	2,728	5,412
2021 Q2	4,507	609	218	106	2,696	2,743	5,439
<u>Change relative to same quarter prior year</u>							
2020 Q1	6	18	10	6	13	27	40
2020 Q2	-324	-39	-11	-5	-162	-217	-379
2020 Q3	-513	-86	-21	-12	-283	-349	-632
2020 Q4	-356	-84	-9	-8	-207	-251	-458
2021 Q1	-322	-75	-8	-7	-179	-233	-412
2021 Q2	43	-19	16	4	10	33	44
<u>Percent change</u>							
2020 Q1	0.1%	2.7%	4.6%	6.1%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%
2020 Q2	-6.8%	-5.8%	-5.3%	-4.7%	-5.7%	-7.4%	-6.6%
2020 Q3	-10.5%	-12.6%	-9.4%	-11.2%	-9.6%	-11.7%	-10.7%
2020 Q4	-7.4%	-12.3%	-4.1%	-7.5%	-7.1%	-8.5%	-7.8%
2021 Q1	-6.7%	-10.9%	-3.5%	-6.3%	-6.2%	-7.9%	-7.1%
2021 Q2	1.0%	-3.0%	7.7%	4.2%	0.4%	1.2%	0.8%

¹ Other includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and two or more races.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators Explorer. Data are not seasonally adjusted