

# THE PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

## Local Retailers Fared Well In 2025

**R**ETAIL INDUSTRIES (including restaurants) are very important for local quality of life, and they contribute significantly to the local economy.

According to Implan, retail industries in the Pittsburg micropolitan area (including eating and drinking places) employ 4,481 people, pay \$145.3 million in labor income, \$24.2 million in local taxes (county, city, and special district jurisdictions), and account for 13.6 percent of the local gross domestic product.

Pittsburg is the seat of the Pittsburg micropolitan area and the regional center for consumer services and retail sales in the Southeast Kansas region. The Kansas Department of Revenue states that 41.2 percent of all retail sales in Pittsburg are

to people who do not live in Pittsburg.

Pittsburg's total retail sales were healthy in 2025, according to preliminary estimates by Woods & Poole, which indicate that total retail sales in the Pittsburg micropolitan area increased to \$726.2 million during 2025 (up 4.8 percent).

Food and beverage stores had the most sales during the year, posting \$132.4 million in total sales, up \$4.3 million (3.3 percent), followed by motor vehicles and parts, posting \$128.5 million, up \$2.4 million (1.9 percent); general merchandise, posting \$128.2 million, up \$5.2 million (4.2 percent); eating and drinking places, posting \$90.8 million, down \$7.0 million (7.2 percent); gasoline stations, posting \$84.8 million, up \$18.4 million (27.6 percent); building material and

garden supplies, posting \$72.5 million, up \$9.4 million (14.9 percent); health and personal care, posting \$29.5 million, down \$0.9 million (2.8 percent); sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, posting \$16.1 million, up \$1.4 million (9.5 percent); non-store retailers, posting \$13.0 million, down \$1.3 million (8.9 percent); clothing and clothing accessory stores, posting \$11.3 million, up \$0.2 million (2.2 percent); furniture and home furnishing stores, posting \$8.7 million, up \$1.3 million (17.5 percent); miscellaneous retail stores (florists, art stores, pet supplies, etc.) posting \$6.6 million, down \$0.02 million (0.3 percent); and electronics and appliance stores, posting \$3.2 million, up \$0.2 million (5.6 percent).

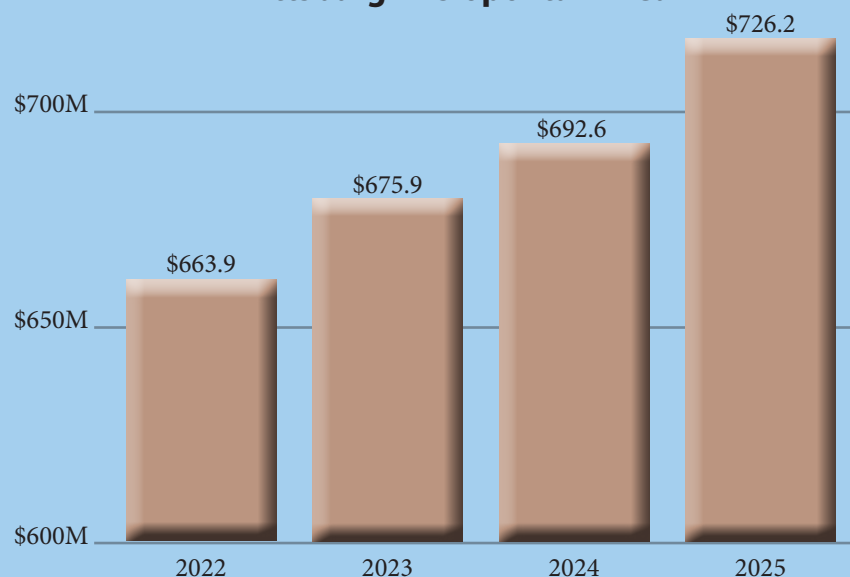
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## Total Retail Sales Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: Woods & Poole

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LOCAL ECONOMY

The latest information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that during the first six months of 2025, all new private industry jobs in the Pittsburg micropolitan area were in the goods-producing industries (mostly manufacturing), which posted a total of 3,790 jobs (up 2.2 percent from the same period in 2024), while the service-producing industries posted 8,874 jobs (down 5.4 percent).

Government at all levels posted 4,425 jobs, up 1.5 percent. Overall, the number of local jobs declined 2.1 percent.

Local manufacturing relies on the national economy and the national economy is doing well, posting a 3.8 percent growth in GDP in the second quarter of 2025 and a 4.3 percent growth in the third quarter.

Local manufacturing also seems likely to do well. One indication of this is the recently announced expansion of EaglePicher Technologies which will include \$7 million in construction and is expected to add a total of 93 annual jobs (direct, supplier and other industries), \$5.8 million in labor income, and \$170,194 in local (county, city, and special district jurisdictions) taxes, as well as a one-year boost to the local construction industry of 40 jobs, \$2.4 million in labor income, and \$69,825 in local taxes.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate in the Pittsburg micropolitan area was 7.2 percent in food preparation and serving related occupations in the second quarter of 2025, followed by 6.8 percent in computer and mathematical occupations; 6.6 percent in transportation and material moving occupations; 6.0 percent in sales and related occupations; 5.7 percent in construction and extraction occupations; 5.5 percent in production occupations; 4.3 percent in health-care support occupations; 3.8 percent in life, physical, and social science occupations; 3.8 percent in community and social service occupations; 3.8 percent in office and administrative support occupations; 3.5 percent in protective service occupations; 3.3 percent in business and financial operations occupations; 3.3 percent in installation, maintenance, etc. occupations; 3.2 percent in educational instruction, etc. occupations; 2.4 percent in architecture and engineering occupations; 2.0 percent in management occupations; 1.7 percent in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; and 1.6 percent in legal occupations. There are also plenty of local job openings. The Kansas Labor Market Information Center reports that 279 job openings were advertised online in December 2025 in the Pittsburg micropolitan area.

Preliminary Economic Impact  
EaglePicher New Plant

Estimated Economic Impact from Construction  
(Assuming One Year of Construction)

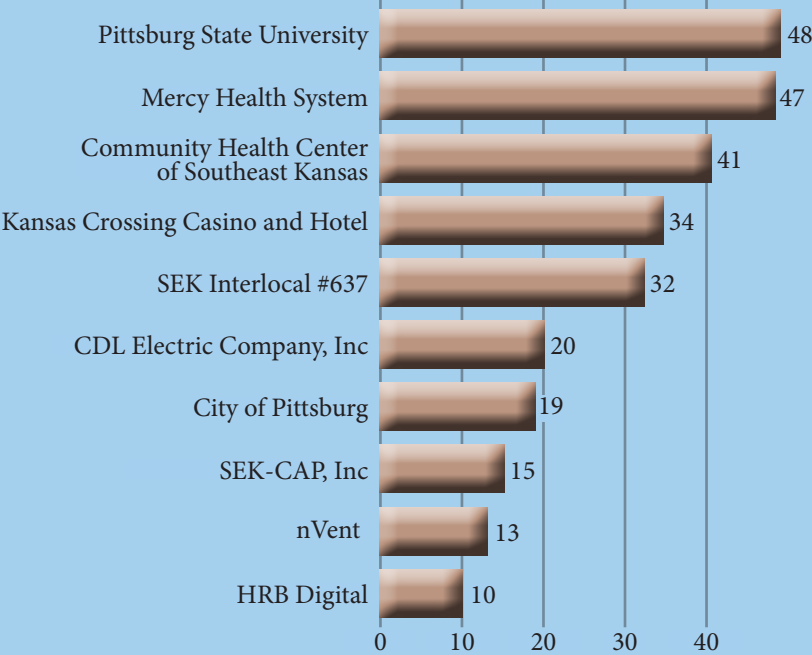
Impact by Source	Employment	Labor Income	Local Taxes
Building Construction	28	\$1,778,590	\$15,710
Supplier Industries	6	\$397,621	\$25,142
Labor Spending on Retail & Services	6	\$263,484	\$28,973
All Industries	40	\$2,439,695	\$69,825

Estimated Annual Impact From Operations  
(While Plant in Operation)

Impact by Source	Employment	Labor Income	Local Taxes
Annual Operations	50	\$3,746,740	\$19,409
Supplier Industries	28	\$1,476,110	\$122,677
Labor Spending on Retail & Services	14	\$608,247	\$66,926
All Industries	93	\$5,831,097	\$170,194

Source: Kelce Business and Economic Research Center

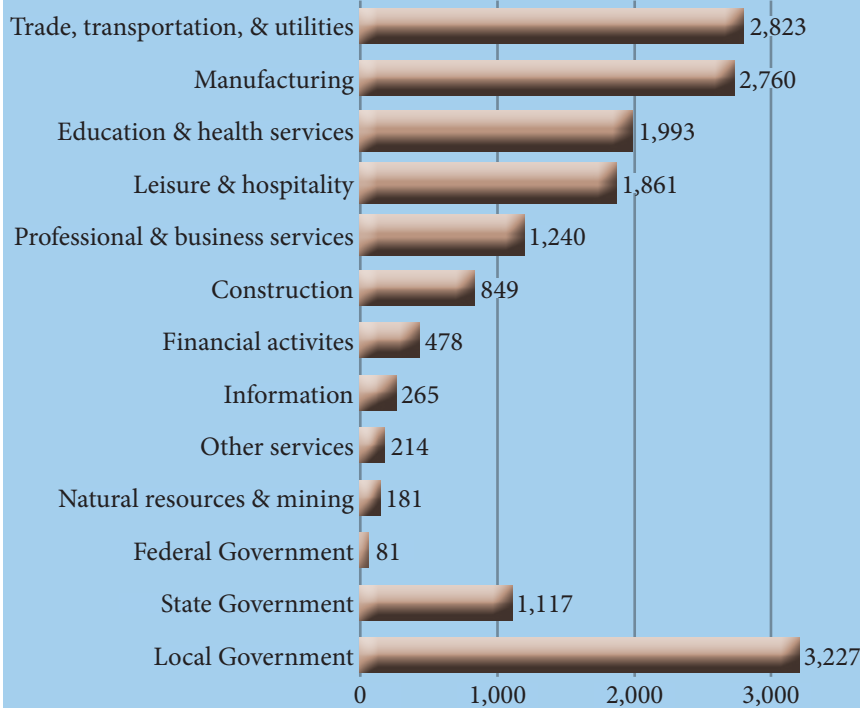
Open Jobs Advertised Online  
Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, December 2025



Source: Kansas Labor Market Information System



## Average Monthly Jobs by Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area - Average Jan '25 - Jun '25

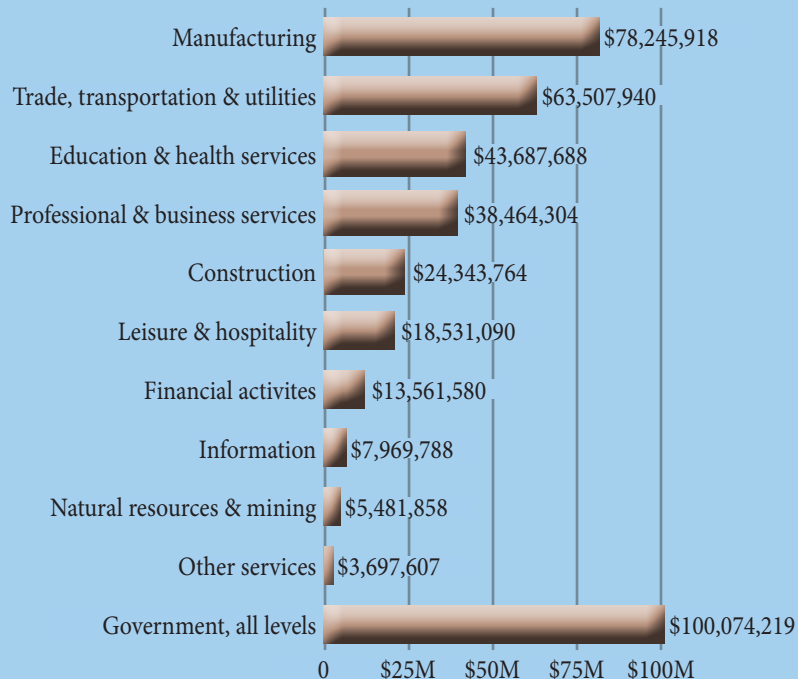


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## JOBS BY INDUSTRY

Trade, transportation, and utilities was the largest employer among the private (wealth-creating) industries in the Pittsburg micropolitan area during the first six months of 2025 (latest available), with a monthly average of 224 establishments and 2,823 jobs (down 1.3 percent from the first six months in the previous year) followed by manufacturing, with 51 establishments and 2,760 jobs (up 1.4 percent); education and health services, with 143 establishments and 1,993 jobs (down 18.5 percent); leisure and hospitality services, with 106 establishments and 1,861 jobs (down 0.1 percent); professional and business services, with 189 establishments and 1,240 jobs (up 0.8 percent); construction, with 103 establishments and 849 jobs (up 0.1 percent); financial activities, with 101 establishments and 478 jobs (up 0.6 percent); information services, with 22 establishments and 265 jobs (down 6.0 percent); other services (dry cleaners, automobile repair, etc.), with 63 establishments and 214 jobs (down 5.8 percent); and natural resources and mining, with 31 establishments and 181 jobs (up 29.5 percent). The federal government posted 81 jobs during the period (down 4.7 percent), the state government posted 1,117 jobs (up 2.3 percent); and local governments posted 3,227 jobs (up 1.4 percent).

## Payroll by Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area - Average Jan '25 - Jun '25



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## PAYROLL BY INDUSTRY

During the first six months of 2025, manufacturing had the largest payroll of all the private industries in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, posting a quarterly payroll of \$78.2 million (up 2.9 percent from the first six months of 2024) and an average monthly wage of \$4,724, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities, with a payroll of \$63.5 million (up 4.8 percent) and a monthly wage of \$3,749; education and health services, with a payroll of \$43.7 million (down 25.4 percent) and a monthly wage of \$3,653; professional and business services, with a payroll of \$38.5 million (up 10.8 percent) and a monthly wage of \$5,171; construction, with a payroll of \$24.3 million (up 14.2 percent) and a monthly wage of \$4,781; leisure and hospitality, with a payroll of \$18.5 million (up 3.0 percent) and a monthly wage of \$1,660; financial activities, with a payroll of \$13.6 million (up 10.3 percent) and a monthly wage of \$4,734; information services, with a payroll of \$8.0 million (down 4.7 percent) and a monthly wage of \$5,022; natural resources, with a payroll of \$5.5 million (up 69.2 percent) and a monthly wage of \$5,038; and other services, with a payroll of \$3.7 million (up 3.0 percent) and a monthly wage of \$2,875. Government (all levels) posted \$101.1 million in payroll (up 8.3 percent) and a monthly wage of \$3,769.

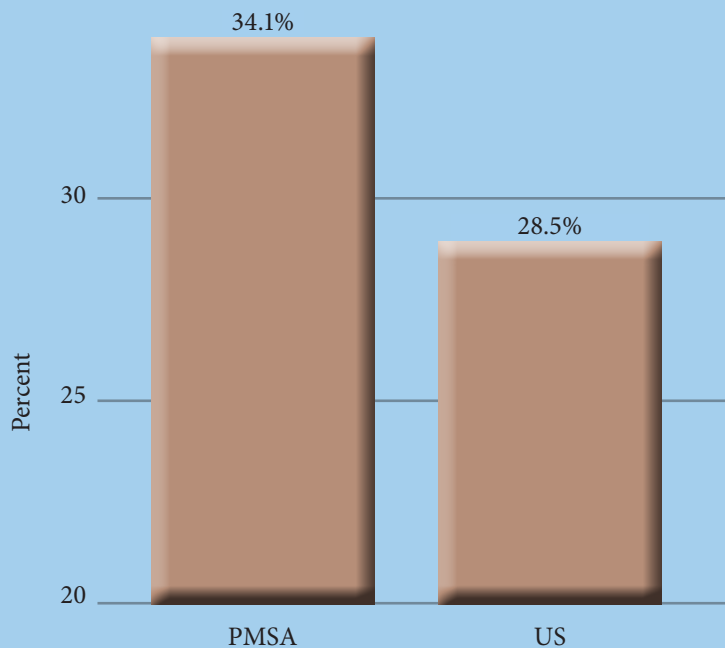


## LOCAL LABOR FORCE

Approximately 10.5 percent of the Pittsburgh micropolitan area workforce was in office and administrative support occupations in the second quarter of 2025, followed by 10.1 percent in production occupations; 9.3 percent in food preparation occupations; 9.1 percent in educational instruction and library occupations; 8.2 percent in transportation and material moving occupations; 7.9 percent in sales and related occupations; 6.7 percent in management occupations; 5.0 percent in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; 4.9 percent in construction and extraction occupations; 4.4 percent in business and financial occupations; 4.3 percent in healthcare support occupations; 4.1 percent in installation and maintenance, etc., occupations; 2.5 percent in building and grounds cleaning, etc., occupations; 2.5 percent in personal care, etc., occupations; 2.3 percent in community and social service occupations; 2.2 percent in protective service occupations; 1.6 percent in arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations; 1.5 percent in computer and mathematical occupations.

The local skilled labor force is relatively well educated, according to *Demographics Now*, with 34.1 percent having some college or an associate degree compared to 28.5 percent nationwide.

### Skilled Labor With Some College or Associate Degree



Source: *Demographics Now*

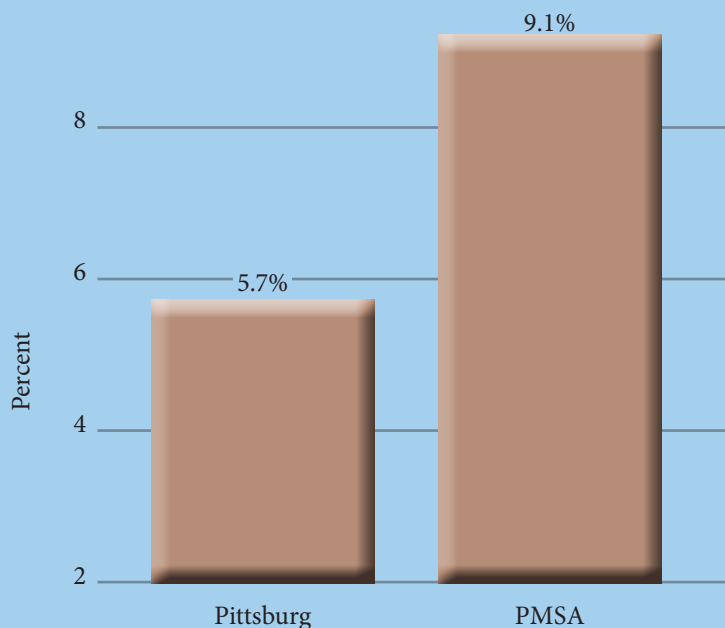
## TAXABLE SALES

Local households are on a good financial footing, according to *Demographics Now*, which reports that during the period from 2015 to 2024, the number of households in the middle-income bracket increased 18.0 percent in Pittsburgh and 5.2 percent in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area, while declining 3.3 percent statewide and 3.5 percent nationwide.

Local taxable sales (retail sales plus some taxable service sales and tourism taxes, such as on hotels and rental cars) are up significantly according to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), which reports that during the first nine months of 2025 (latest available), taxable sales were \$345.3 million in the City of Pittsburgh (up 5.7 percent from the same period in 2024) and \$468.8 million in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area (up 9.1 percent).

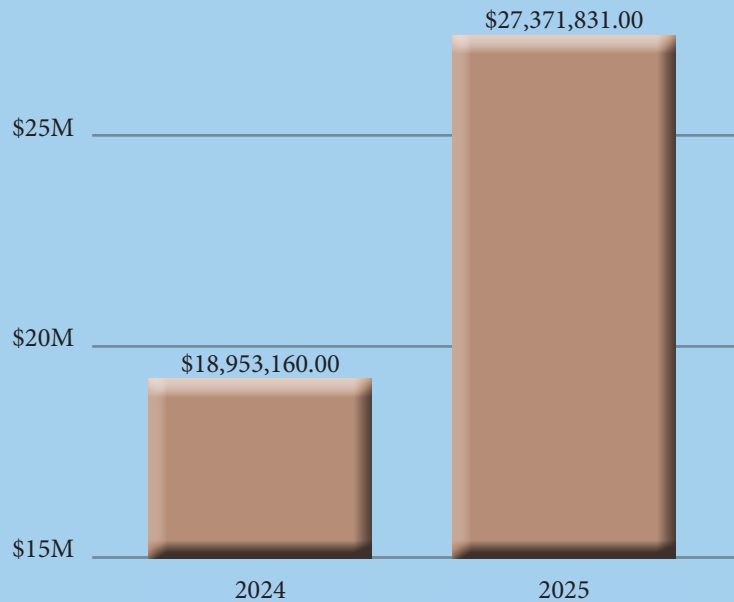
Pittsburg is home to the Meadowbrook Mall (184,000 sq. ft. of enclosed space and 241,000 sq. ft. of total retail space). Placer.ai reports that there were 881.2 thousand visits to Pittsburgh during the full 12 months of 2025 with the average visit time being 61 minutes. Approximately 38.6 percent of the visits were by people living in Pittsburgh, 56.1 percent of visits were by people living in the Pittsburgh micropolitan area, and 82.6 percent of visits were from within Kansas.

### Taxable Sales Jan'24-Sep'24 to Jan'25-Sep'25



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue & BLS

## Value of Residential Building Permits City of Pittsburgh



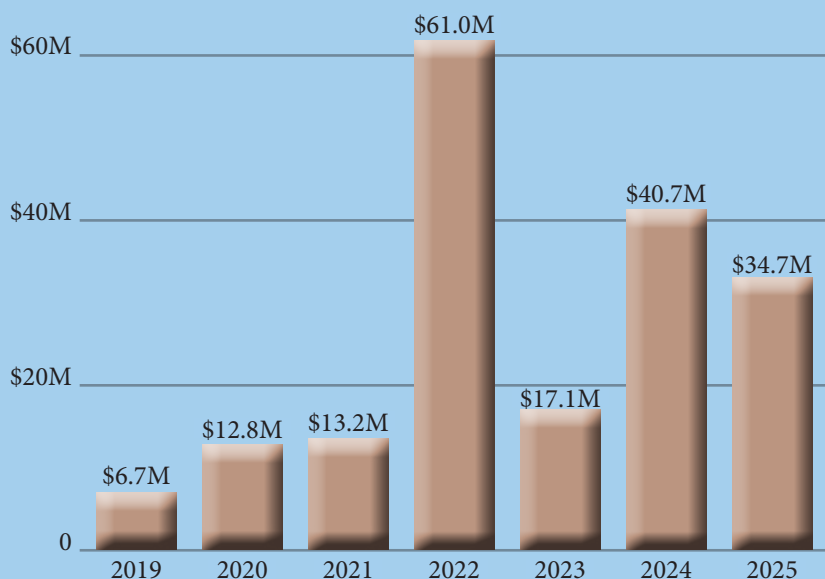
Source: City of Pittsburgh

## RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Housing price increases are slowing nationwide, up roughly 1.4 percent in 2025, according to Case-Shiller, and interest rates on a thirty-year mortgage ended the year at just over 6 percent, providing some relief to home buyers. However, housing markets nationwide are recovering slowly, and housing affordability is unlikely to return to pre-COVID rates any time soon, according to Fannie Mae. For that to happen, the mortgage interest rate would have to fall to 2.35 percent, or the median price of a single-family home would need to fall 38.0 percent, or the median household income would have to rise more than 60.0 percent. First estimates show that building permits nationwide declined in 2025.

A total of 131 residential building permits were issued by the City of Pittsburgh in 2025, with a stated value of 27.4 million, (up 44.4 percent from 2024). Thereof, 26 permits were for new, single-family homes, with a stated value of \$3.8 million (down 38.7 percent), one permit was issued for multi-family construction with eight units, with a stated value of \$1.7 million (up from zero last year), and 104 permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$21.9 million (up 72.3 percent).

## Value of Commercial Building Permits City of Pittsburgh



Source: City of Pittsburgh

## COMMERCIAL PERMITS

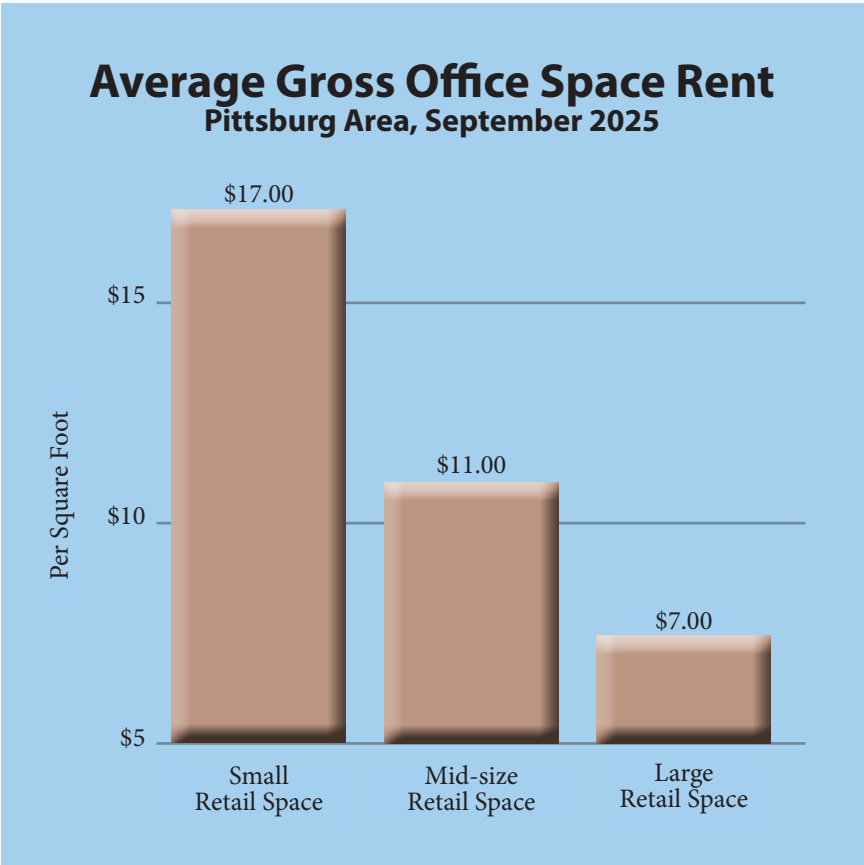
A total of 72 commercial building permits were issued by the City of Pittsburgh in 2025, with a stated value of \$34.7 million, (down 14.9 percent from 2024), including five permits for new construction, with a stated value of \$8.7 million (down 22.1 percent), and 67 permits for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$26.0 million (down 12.2 percent).

The largest commercial building permit during the 2025 was issued to Freeman Health Systems for a new cancer center with a stated value of \$8.5 million, followed by CHC-SEK for a new building with a stated value of \$5.9 million; Apex Stages for an addition with a stated value of \$1.4 million; Wildcat Data Infrastructure for new industrial construction with a stated value of \$1.3 million; USD 250 for a parking lot (new construction) with a stated value of \$928,000; PRG Professional for an addition with a stated value of \$777,000; Watco for roofing with a stated value of \$707,788; CHC-Hospice Private Road for remodeling with a stated value of \$580,000; Walmart for remodeling with a stated value of \$576,535; and Ulta for remodeling with a stated value of \$540,000.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

The Pittsburgh micropolitan area had 696 service establishments employing 8,181 people in 2024, including 26 depository institution establishments employing 160 people; 9 brokers, dealers, and exchange establishments employing 29 people; 26 insurance agents and brokers establishments employing 116 people; 49 real estate establishments employing 208 people; 7 hotels and lodging establishments employing 127 people; 45 personal services establishments employing 133 people; 57 business services establishments employing 682 people; 41 automotive repair establishments employing 149 people; 21 amusement and recreation services establishments employing 150 people; 133 health services establishments employing 2,426 people; 26 legal services establishments employing 120 people; 51 educational services establishments employing 2,308 people; 49 social services establishments employing 735 people; 79 member organization establishments employing 304 people; and 36 engineering, accounting and related establishments employing 244 people.

Jones Heritage Realtors, reports that average gross rental rates started at \$17.00 per square foot in the Pittsburgh area for small spaces, \$11.00 per square foot for mid-size space, and \$7.00 per square foot for large spaces



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AND INVESTMENT

Jones Heritage Realtors reports that average commercial land prices start at \$1.02 per square foot for secondary sites, increasing to an average of \$6.80 per square foot for primary sites, and to an average of \$12.75 per square foot for high-end sites.

There is significant optimism about the economic future of Pittsburgh. More than \$825.7 million has been invested in the City of Pittsburgh in the last 12 years, which is a significant investment for a city the size of Pittsburgh (mostly private) and includes \$201.3 million in education (including \$134.3 on Pittsburgh State University), \$50.0 million in entertainment, \$17.8 million in hospitality, \$124.7 million in housing, \$128.9 million in industry, \$122.1 million in public infrastructure, \$102.5 million in medical, \$3.3 million in recreation, \$72.8 million in retail, and \$2.2 million in service. Recent investments include a new Pittsburgh wastewater treatment facility for \$61 million, a new KBI laboratory for \$42 million, a new prove-out facility at PSU for \$12 million, and also new outdoor track at PSU for \$10 million, and expansions at EaglePicher Technologies for \$7.0 million, Pitt Plastics for \$18.0 million, the Family Resource Center for \$2.0 million, and APEX Stages for \$1.7 million.

Investment in Pittsburgh Pittsburg 2013 - 2025	
Education	\$201,326,757.00
Entertainment	\$50,000,000.00
Hospitality	\$17,766,686.00
Housing	\$124,743,502.60
Industry	\$128,918,784.00
Infrastructure	\$122,091,319.00
Medical	\$102,547,674.20
Recreation	\$3,336,939.00
Retail	\$72,801,742.90
Service	\$2,190,400.00

Source: City of Pittsburgh



## Average Net Retail Space Rent Pittsburg Area, September 2025\*



\* Tenant pays the property tax, insurance premiums and some maintenance

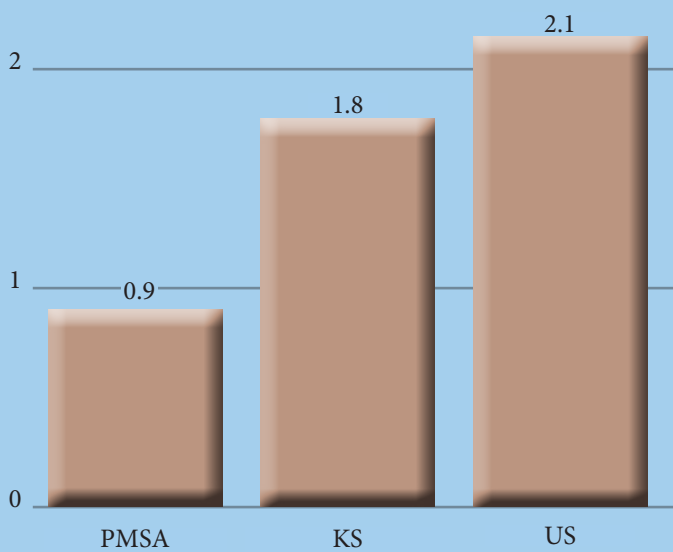
Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

## RETAIL SPACE MARKET

Several new retailers came to the micropolitan area in 2025, including Ulta, Rack Room Shoes, Five Below, IHOP, Pittsburg Nail Spa, and Ollie's. *Demographics Now* reports that the Pittsburg micropolitan area had 63 wholesale establishments employing 580 people in 2024, and 275 retail establishments employing 2,586 people, including 16 building material, hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealer establishments employing 222 people; 10 general merchandise store establishments employing 203 people; 27 food store establishments employing 245 people; 33 automotive dealers and gasoline service station establishments employing 157 people; 18 apparel and accessory store establishments employing 104 people; 11 home furniture, furnishings, and equipment store establishments employing 122 people; 90 eating and drinking establishments employing 1,103 people; and 70 miscellaneous retail establishments employing 430 people.

The Pittsburg area retail space market is doing relatively well, according to Jones Heritage Realtors, which reports that the average net retail rent is \$6.50 per square foot for small retail space, \$15.00 for mid-size retail space, and \$16.50 for large retail space in the Pittsburg area.

## Personal Bankruptcies Per Capita Oct '23 - Sep '24 to Oct '24 - Sep '25



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

## BANKRUPTCIES

The financial stability of local households has improved significantly during recent years, according to the Equifax credit agency, which reports that 74.8 percent of adults in the Pittsburg micropolitan area had a prime FICO score in the fourth quarter of 2025, up from 68.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Per capita rate of personal bankruptcies is also a good indicator of the financial health of households and communities. A total of 0.9 personal bankruptcies were filed per 1,000 people in the Pittsburg micropolitan area during the 12 months ending in September 2025, well below the 1.8 personal bankruptcies statewide and 2.1 nationwide.

The rate of bankruptcy filings also declined in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, with a total of 28 bankruptcies filed during the 12 months ending in September 2025 (down 20.0 percent from the 12-month period ending in September 2024). Of those, all 28 were personal bankruptcies (down 20.0 percent), with 17 Chapter 7 bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out). Total bankruptcies increased 6.7 percent statewide during the period and 10.6 percent nationwide.

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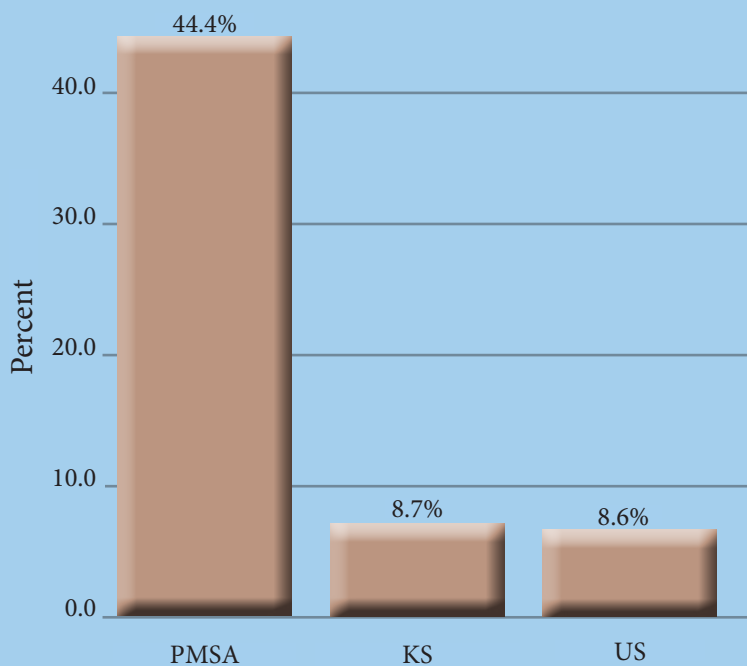
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## Growth in Net Income Banking Industry - Q3 '24 to Q3 '25



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

## BANKING INDUSTRY

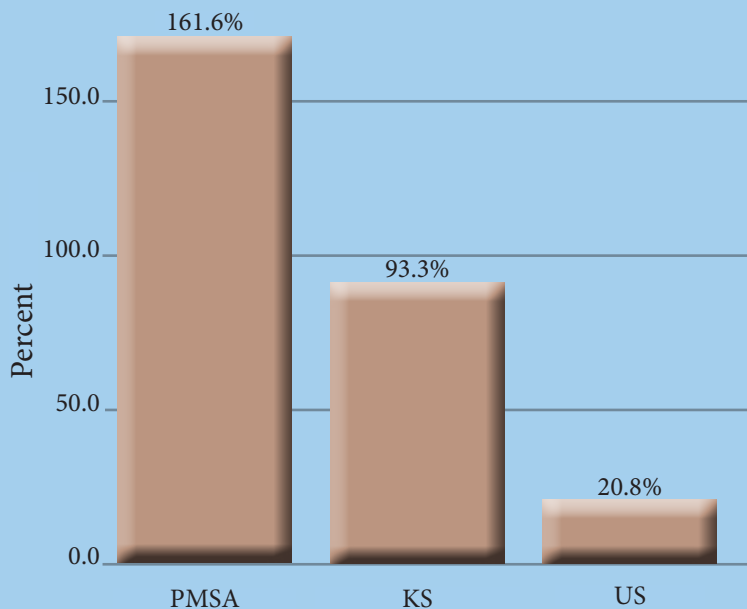
The Pittsburgh micropolitan area banking industry (banks with local corporation headquarters) posted \$981.2 million in total assets at the end of third quarter of 2025 (up 0.9 percent from last year), \$639.2 million in net loans and leases (up 10.2 percent), \$9.6 million in net income (up 44.4 percent), \$979,000 in assets past due (30-89 days) (down 55.8 percent), and non-current loans of 0.51 percent.

Banks with headquarters in Kansas posted \$91.3 billion in total assets (down 4.1 percent), \$60.7 billion in net loans and leases (down 4.6 percent), \$793.7 million in net income (up 8.7 percent), \$250.0 million in assets past due (30-89 days) (up 0.2 percent), and non-current loans of 0.72 percent.

The national banking industry posted \$25.1 trillion in total assets (up 3.7 percent), \$13.0 trillion in net loans and leases (up 4.7 percent), \$218.5 billion in net income (up 8.6 percent), \$72.3 billion in assets past due (30-89 days) (down 2.6 percent), and non-current loans of 0.95 percent.

Return on assets increased to 1.19 percent during the period (up from 1.12 percent), return on equity increased to 11.74 percent (up from 11.45 percent), and total non-interest income increased 8.4 percent, but total interest income declined 2.4 percent.

## Growth in Net Operating Income Credit Union Industry Q3 '24 - Q3 '25



Source: National Credit Union Administration

## CREDIT UNION INDUSTRY

The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) reports that the Pittsburgh micropolitan area credit union industry (credit unions with local corporate headquarters) posted \$123.7 million in total assets at the end of third quarter of 2025 (up 0.8 percent), \$61.3 million in net loans and leases (down 10.6 percent), \$1.2 million in net operating income (up 161.6 percent), and \$1.2 million in delinquent loans and leases (up 57.8 percent).

Credit unions with headquarters in Kansas posted \$18.8 billion in total assets (up 10.1 percent), \$13.6 billion in net loans and leases (up 13.5 percent), net income of \$126.3 million (up 93.3 percent) and \$160.3 million in delinquent loans and leases (up 74.3 percent).

The national industry posted \$2.4 trillion in total assets (up 3.7 percent), \$1.7 trillion in net loans and leases (up 4.4 percent), \$14.5 billion in net income (up 20.8 percent), and \$16.2 billion in delinquent loans and leases (up 8.8 percent).

The national industry also posted a net interest margin of 3.38 percent at the end of the third quarter (up from 3.09 percent), return on assets of 0.81 percent (up from 0.69 percent), and net worth ratio of 11.24 percent (up from 10.94 percent).



# Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Snapshot 2024

	Pittsburg Micropolitan Area	70 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	100 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas
Labor Force	19,811	301,681	1,169,621
Total Population	38,466	650,121	2,342,761
Population Density (per Sq. Mi.)	64.65	42.20	74.51
Total Households	15,790	261,248	927,460

## Population By Gender

Male Population	19,269	324,507	1,167,446
Female Population	19,197	325,615	1,175,314

## Population Percentage By Race and Ethnicity

White	83.1%	81.4%	78.0%
Black	2.3%	1.5%	2.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.0%	3.7%	3.3%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.9%	1.5%	2.9%
Some Other Race	3.1%	3.0%	4.0%
Two or More Races	8.6%	8.9%	9.7%
Hispanic Ethnicity	6.8%	6.5%	8.5%
Not of Hispanic Ethnicity	93.2%	93.5%	91.5%

## Households By Income

Average Household Income	\$67,950	\$70,635	\$87,358
Median Household Income	\$51,110	\$56,336	\$70,986
Per Capita Income	\$28,148	\$28,524	\$34,092

## Employment

Total Population 16+	30,970	516,751	1,861,483
% Blue Collar	45.9%	47.6%	41.4%
% White Collar	54.1%	52.4%	58.6%

## Educational Attainment

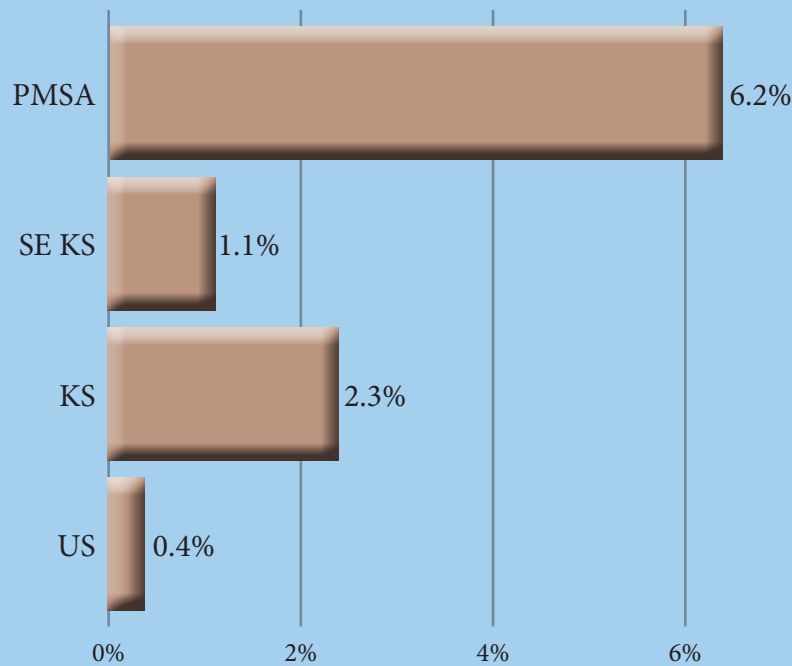
Total Population Age 25+	23,197	440,153	1,563,181
% Grade K - 8	1.3%	2.5%	2.4%
% Grade 9 - 11	3.9%	7.7%	6.0%
% High School Graduate	29.1%	35.5%	31.6%
% Some College, No Degree	25.2%	23.3%	22.4%
% Associates Degree	8.9%	8.8%	8.1%
% Bachelor's Degree	19.6%	14.2%	18.3%
% Graduate Degree	11.0%	6.8%	10.1%
% No Schooling Completed	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%

Source: *Demographics Now*

## Annual Wages for the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2024

Management Occupations	\$97,172	Public Relations Specialists	\$49,117
Chief Executives	\$164,431	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	\$76,230
General and Operations Managers	\$88,430	Pharmacists	\$134,464
Marketing Managers	\$105,990	Healthcare Support Occupations	\$30,122
Sales Managers	\$123,564	Medical Assistants	\$33,068
Financial Managers	\$127,389	Firefighters	\$32,931
Industrial Production Managers	\$127,475	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$42,894
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$55,397	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	\$26,079
Accountants and Auditors	\$65,374	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	\$28,388
Loan Officers	\$81,312	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$29,950
Computer User Support Specialists	\$45,087	Cashiers	\$23,837
Computer Programmers	\$76,330	Retail Salespersons	\$30,684
Software Developers	\$86,034	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	\$37,489
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	\$68,876	Customer Service Representatives	\$34,789
Industrial Engineers	\$83,295	Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$28,627
Engineers, All Other	\$66,443	Postal Service Mail Carriers	\$54,667
Educational, Guidance, Career Counselors & Advisors	\$50,053	Secretaries, Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive	\$34,208
Rehabilitation Counselors	\$32,160	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$52,048
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	\$47,632	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	\$36,239
Graphic Designers	\$45,471	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$35,486
Coaches and Scouts	\$36,969	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$32,508

## Growth in Total Lodging Industry Revenues Jan '24 - Nov '24 to Jan '25 - Nov '25



Source: CoStar Group

## LODGING AND TOURISM

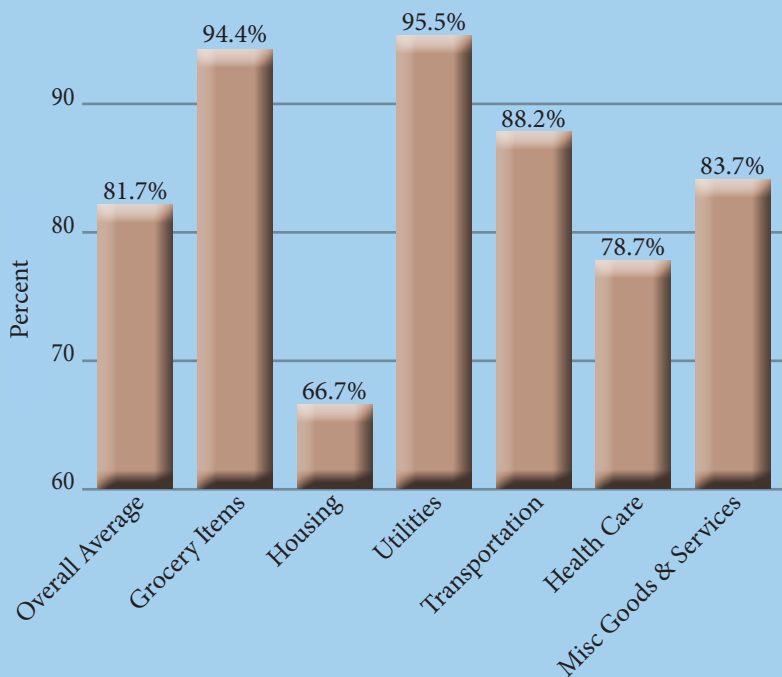
Pittsburg's reputation as a vibrant university town and regional shopping hub with high-quality live entertainment and an attractive downtown is spreading.

Local leadership has contributed to city improvements through 58 downtown revitalization projects that are in the pipeline or recently completed. This improvement is reflected in the recent strong performance of the Pittsburg micropolitan area lodging industry (the industry that benefits most directly from local tourism), which posted \$10.6 million in total revenue during the first 11 months of 2025, up 6.2 percent from the same period last year and well above the 1.1 percent increase in Southeast Kansas, 2.3 percent increase statewide, and 0.4 percent increase nationwide.

The overall impact of tourism on the local economy is significant. A new study released in December 2025 by *Tourism Economies* shows that in 2024, tourists spent \$99.9 million in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, generating 1,083 local jobs (6.3 percent of all local jobs) and \$35.9 million in personal income and paying \$10.1 million in state and local taxes.

The largest spending category was recreation at \$27.1 million, followed by food and beverage at \$24.6 million, transportation \$22.2 million, lodging \$13.3 million, and retail at \$12.7 million.

## Cost of Living Percent of the National Average - PMSA Q2 '25



Source: CoStar Group

## COST OF LIVING

Low cost of living, financial security, and lively downtown are important quality of life factors in cities. The local cost of living is relatively affordable, according to CREC, which states that the cost of living in the Pittsburg micropolitan area was 81.7 percent of the national average during the second quarter of 2025.

The cost of groceries was 94.4 percent of the national average, the cost of housing was 66.7 percent, utilities 95.5 percent, transportation 88.2 percent, health care 78.7 percent, and miscellaneous goods and services 83.7 percent.

A vibrant downtown is important for micropolitan areas because downtown is the most prominent symbol of quality of life in smaller cities. Downtown Pittsburg has nearly 30 small specialty retailers, including boutiques and specialty clothing stores, jewelry stores, specialty candy and ice cream stores, bridal shops, and art shops. The downtown business community also features more than 20 places to eat and drink, including a brewery, several restaurants, coffee shops, bars, and cocktail lounges.

Furthermore, in July 2026, the Pittsburg State University's Kelce College of Business is moving to a new downtown building that will also provide classroom space for the college's approximately 700 students.

# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

## FREEMAN BREAKS GROUND FOR ONCOLOGY EXPANSION

Freeman Health System hosted a groundbreaking Thursday for a \$14 million expansion to the Freeman Physicians Group of Pittsburg Oncology Services facility in Pittsburg. “This expansion is to meet the need of the community,” Dr. Boban Mathew said.

The building, located at 1201 E. Centennial Dr., is currently 4,500 square feet, and the expansion will add 12,000 square feet. According to a news release, twice as many chemotherapy chairs will be added along with a compound pharmacy, PET/CT scanner and linear accelerator.

Freeman Radiation Oncologist Dr. Chance Matthiesen said having this facility will help patients stay closer to home. Freeman President and CEO Matthew Fry, also spoke about the expansion. “At Freeman Health System we are singularly focused on expanding access to high quality healthcare to all the communities we serve and doing that in a sustainable and responsible way.” *The Morning Sun – Antjea Wolff – 10/17/2025*

## KBI BREAKS GROUND ON NEW \$40 MILLION CRIME LAB IN PITTSBURG

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation has begun construction on its new regional crime center and laboratory in Pittsburg. The KBI says construction crews began leveling and grading the ground last Monday.

“This new facility will significantly enhance our capacity to serve the region and support our law enforcement partners across the state,” the KBI said on Friday. “The Kansas Legislature has been instrumental in securing the necessary funding to move this critical project forward, demonstrating their commitment to public safety.”

In a 2023 release about the facility, Pitt State said the estimated cost is \$40 million, which would be provided from a mix of state and federal funds. At the time, groundbreaking was estimated for January of 2025 and completion in July 2026.

The facility, Pitt State added, would offer space for the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pittsburg Police Department, the Office of the Kansas Attorney General, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Pittsburg State University Police Department. The building would house KBI agents, an evidence control center where regional law enforcement can submit and return evidence, a drug chemis-

try section, and a child victims unit. *KAKE – Cameron Burnett – 10/26/2025*

## NEW PROVE-OUT FACILITY AT PITT STATE WILL ADVANCE INNOVATION & STEM EDUCATION

Located on the east edge of campus next to the Tyler Research Center — home to the National Institute for Materials Advancement — the new facility will provide space and equipment for businesses and entrepreneurs to test new materials, refine manufacturing processes, and move ideas from concept to commercialization.

Planned for over 20,000 square feet, it will be built with \$12 million in state, federal, and other funding. Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce President and Kansas Board of Regent Chair Blake Benson agreed the facility will have a significant positive impact on the economy.

Other projects underway include the EaglePicher expansion and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Regional Crime Lab and Training Center — both being built within view of the prove-out facility at the east edge of campus.

Provost and Vice President Susan Bon said the new facility also represents “a platform for discovery, collaboration, and learning.” Bon noted that the facility will serve students and faculty across multiple disciplines — including chemistry, physics, engineering technology, plastics, polymer science, and business — and will encourage new connections among Pitt State’s four colleges.

Years of collaboration and visionary leadership from past presidents Steve Scott and Dan Shipp, along with congressional support, helped make the project possible. U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt credited former Kansas congressman Jacob LaTurner with helping to secure funding. Completion is anticipated in 2026

*Gorilla Connection – Staff – 11/10/202*

## PITT PLASTICS EXPANSION

Matt Newton of Inteplast Group, the owners of Pitt Plastics, petitioned the Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) for a property tax abatement on recent expansion projects at Pittsburg’s Montee industrial park.

Those expansions included a new 200,000-square-foot warehouse complete with 10 new loading docks, conference rooms and office space. Pitt Plastics will continue to pay the property taxes on the older property.

This abatement would essentially freeze

Pitt Plastics’ property taxes for a brief period to recoup some of the costs of the new construction. According to a cost-benefit analysis done by Steve Robb of Municipal Consulting, LLC, the city will make \$1.30 for every \$1 of abated property tax.

Twenty-five trucks per day are unloaded at Pitt Plastics’ new facility. The drivers spend money on food and fuel while in the city, generating additional sales tax revenue. New employees hired to work at the facility will also purchase gas and food, and some will rent homes in the city, generating more sales taxes from utilities. If they buy a home, the city collects property taxes as well. Robb projects by the end of the abatement in 2035, PittPlastics will add six new jobs, 14 new residents, including four new students for USD 250, that will generate \$1,025,000 in income, and create \$7,110,000 in sales. When the abatement ends, the city will collect an additional \$144,000 and USD 250 \$118,000 annually in property taxes.

The EDAC approved the request and will forward it to the city commission for final review.

*The Morning Sun – Dustin R. Strong – 11/6/2025*

## Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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# Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Employment Trends

Industry title	Average Monthly Employment Q2-2025	Average Monthly Wage Q2-2025	Average Monthly Employment Q2-2024	Average Monthly Wage Q2-2024	Quarterly Growth	Quarterly Wage Growth
Building equipment contractors	309	\$5,624	312	\$4,619	-0.9%	21.8%
Nursing care facilities (skilled nursing facilities)	263	\$3,544	254	\$3,406	3.5%	4.1%
Home health care services	213	\$3,410	198	\$3,211	7.7%	6.2%
General medical and surgical hospitals	198	\$5,408	201	\$5,192	-1.8%	4.2%
Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities	176	\$2,693	189	\$2,708	-7.1%	-0.6%
Commercial banking	175	\$4,266	171	\$4,271	2.7%	-0.1%
Gasoline stations and fuel dealers	168	\$2,162	177	\$1,933	-4.9%	11.8%
Corporate, subsidiary, and regional managing offices	168	\$5,747	167	\$5,423	0.2%	6.0%
Building foundation and exterior contractors	155	\$3,332	152	\$3,331	2.4%	0.0%
Child care services	135	\$2,263	128	\$2,046	5.2%	10.6%
Utility system construction	96	\$5,137	84	\$4,788	15.1%	7.3%
Health and personal care retailers	88	\$2,624	78	\$2,530	13.7%	3.7%
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous retailers	84	\$2,478	88	\$2,125	-4.9%	16.6%
Power and communication line and related structures construction	75	\$4,864	63	\$4,818	20.2%	0.9%
Commercial and institutional building construction	75	\$4,592	76	\$4,229	-1.3%	8.6%
Nonresidential building construction	75	\$4,592	76	\$4,229	-1.3%	8.6%
Machine shops	74	\$4,413	72	\$4,386	3.3%	0.6%
Insurance agencies and brokerages	73	\$3,866	60	\$4,224	21.5%	-8.5%
Janitorial services	72	\$2,421	80	\$2,358	-10.8%	2.7%
Landscaping services	72	\$2,563	81	\$2,408	-11.2%	6.4%
Grain and field bean merchant wholesalers	62	\$4,480	66	\$4,286	-5.6%	4.5%
Postal service	61	\$4,693	66	\$4,317	-8.1%	8.7%
Administration of human resource programs	61	\$3,542	59	\$3,125	2.2%	13.4%
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers	58	\$1,834	59	\$1,532	-2.2%	19.7%
Offices of optometrists	55	\$3,333	54	\$2,668	1.8%	24.9%
Veterinary services	51	\$2,419	60	\$2,366	-14.4%	2.2%
Nursery, garden center, and farm supply retailers	49	\$2,339	50	\$2,102	-2.7%	11.3%
Pharmacies and drug retailers	45	\$3,433	47	\$3,377	-4.3%	1.7%
Engineering services	44	\$7,109	47	\$7,553	-6.3%	-5.9%
Tire dealers	41	\$3,583	40	\$3,611	0.8%	-0.8%
Other accounting services	40	\$5,799	39	\$5,795	3.4%	0.1%
Death care services	39	\$2,779	41	\$2,786	-4.1%	-0.3%
Oilseed and grain combination farming	36	\$4,626	36	\$4,343	0.0%	6.5%
General automotive repair	35	\$3,581	35	\$3,201	0.0%	11.8%
Hotels (except casino hotels) and motels	34	\$1,866	30	\$1,392	12.1%	34.1%
Beer, wine, and liquor retailers	34	\$1,515	35	\$1,344	-2.9%	12.7%
Personal care services	33	\$2,364	48	\$1,919	-31.7%	23.2%
Legal counsel and prosecution	32	\$5,442	29	\$4,655	11.5%	16.9%
Regulation and administration of transportation programs	29	\$3,609	28	\$3,325	4.8%	8.5%
Nonresidential site preparation contractors	28	\$2,623	22	\$2,793	27.7%	-6.1%
Farm supplies merchant wholesalers	27	\$4,426	32	\$3,940	-15.8%	12.3%
Residential building construction	26	\$2,393	23	\$2,647	14.5%	-9.6%
General freight trucking, local	26	\$4,093	36	\$3,763	-29.4%	8.8%
Beef cattle ranching and farming	25	\$3,390	22	\$3,497	13.4%	-3.0%
Computer systems design services	25	\$5,985	22	\$5,708	13.8%	4.9%
Offices of chiropractors	24	\$3,873	29	\$3,181	-17.4%	21.7%
Hardware retailers	19	\$2,310	21	\$2,309	-6.5%	0.1%
Public finance activities	19	\$3,981	18	\$3,553	5.6%	12.1%
Offices of certified public accountants	19	\$4,216	25	\$3,485	-25.3%	21.0%
All other amusement and recreation industries	18	\$4,197	19	\$3,773	-3.6%	11.2%
Administration of public health programs	17	\$3,434	16	\$3,037	6.3%	13.1%
Libraries and archives	17	\$1,056	15	\$1,144	13.3%	-7.7%
Pet care (except veterinary) services	16	\$1,441	18	\$1,402	-9.3%	2.8%
Regulation of agricultural marketing and commodities	14	\$5,385	11	\$7,221	23.5%	-25.4%
Water supply and irrigation systems	13	\$3,131	12	\$3,325	5.6%	-5.8%
Civic and social organizations	12	\$1,212	13	\$1,306	-7.5%	-7.3%
Correctional institutions	9	\$4,639	7	\$4,337	22.7%	7.0%
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	7	\$5,750	10	\$5,377	-29.0%	6.9%
Research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences	7	\$3,315	7	\$2,942	5.0%	12.7%
Consumer lending	7	\$3,955	8	\$4,333	-16.0%	-8.7%
All other professional, scientific, and technical services	7	\$7,148	7	\$8,995	-4.5%	-20.5%
Administration of air & water resource & solid waste management programs	7	\$2,477	7	\$2,263	-4.8%	9.4%
Offices of physicians (except mental health specialists)	6	\$5,277	6	\$3,700	0.0%	42.6%
Offices of physicians	6	\$5,277	6	\$3,700	0.0%	42.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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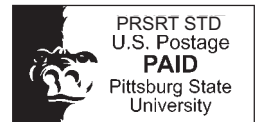


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