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The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report, Quarter 3, 2018

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THE PITTSBURGH MICROPOLITAN AREA ECONOMIC REPORT

Exports Important for the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area Economy

THE BENEFITS OF EXPORTS ARE an infusion of new funds or resources from abroad into a region. Foreign exports also support economies of scale and are conducive to clustering of firms in a region. When firms in a single or similar industries cluster, the result is greater efficiency through a process called localization economies, in which lower unit production costs are achieved through labor pooling, labor matching (which reduces training costs), R&D knowledge spillovers, and input sharing. One such regional cluster is plastics.

Most major firms in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area depend on the national market for economies of scale. Exports

become important when domestic national demand declines as it did during the 2007-2009 recession. In 2017 the total value of exports produced in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area was 188.9 million (up almost 19 percent since the end of the recession), supporting 1,359 local jobs either directly or indirectly.

The Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area has 76 percent more concentration in manufacturing than the nationwide average, and it is the biggest source of local exports, exporting \$115.6 million worth of goods in 2017 (up 26.6 percent since the end of the recession), accounting for 61.2 percent of all local exports, followed by: Education and Medical Services, with \$24.0 million

in exports (up 42.2 percent), accounting for 12.7 percent of all exports and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing, with \$21.2 million (down 15.0 percent), accounting for 11.2 percent of all exports. All other industries had \$28 million in exports (up 9.2 percent), accounting for 14.8 percent of all exports. The fastest growing export industries (although accounting for a very small portion of local exports) were Finance and Insurance (up 77.6 percent) and Information and Technology (up 53.1 percent). The largest produced category exported from the micropolitan area (\$10 million or more) are agricultural commodities, educational services, electrical equipment, grain and oilseed products, and plastics.

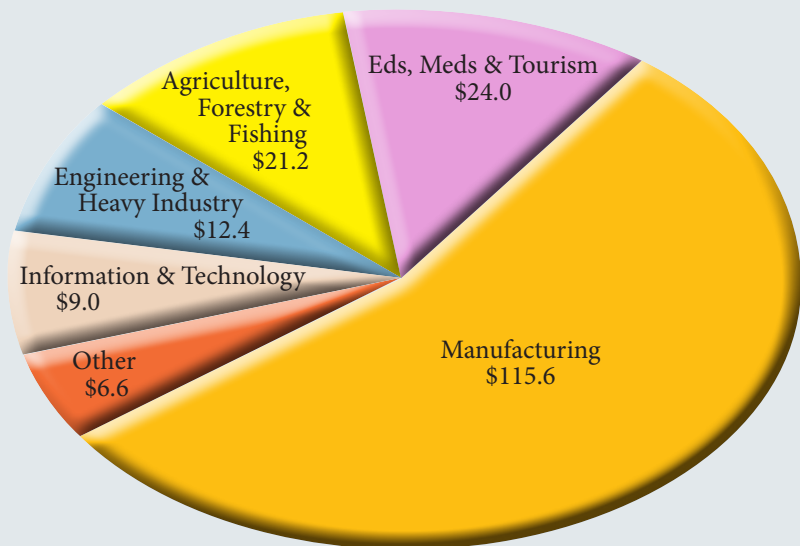
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KELCE
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Pittsburg State University

Value of Exports By Industry In Millions Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2017



Source: The Brookings Institution



Newest, most modern facilities in Pittsburg



- Indoor Pool*
- Fitness room*
- Business center*
- Complimentary Delux Hot Breakfast*
- EXECUTIVE suite*
- Bright Market place*
- Free wifi*
- Gorilla meeting room*



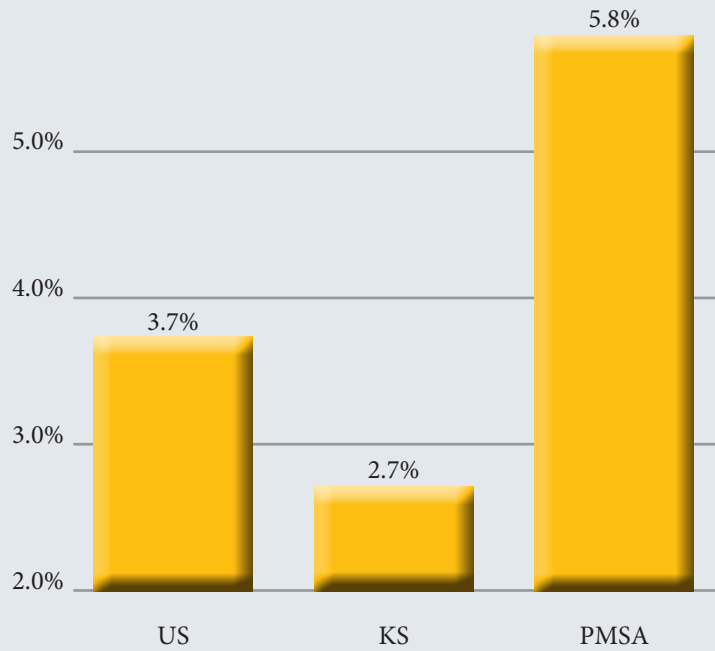
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INCOME AND JOB GROWTH

The national economy did well during the first quarter of 2018, with average monthly employment of 143,798,143 (up 1.6 percent from the first quarter 2017), \$2.2 trillion in total quarterly payroll (up 5.4 percent), and average monthly wages of \$4,993 (up 3.7 percent). Statewide employment increased to 1,366,137 (up 0.4 percent), with a total payroll of \$16.2 billion (up 3.1 percent), and monthly wages of \$3,950 (up 2.7 percent). In the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area, average monthly employment was 16,953 (down 1.3 percent), with a total payroll of \$148,229,964 (up 4.4 percent), and monthly wages of \$2,915 (up a 5.8 percent).

The local goods-producing industries posted 3,063 average monthly jobs during the first quarter (down 2.6 percent), with average monthly wages of \$3,384 (up 4.2 percent); the service producing industries posted 9,540 jobs (down 1.1 percent) and monthly wages of \$2,826 (up 9.0 percent); the federal government posted 82 jobs (no growth) and average monthly wages of \$3,807 (down 3.7 percent); the state government posted 1,185 jobs (down 3.9 percent) and monthly wages of 3,703 (up 1.4 percent); and local governments posted 3,083 jobs (up 0.2 percent) and average monthly wages of \$2,397 (up 1.3 percent).

Growth In Monthly Wages Q1 '17-Q1 '18

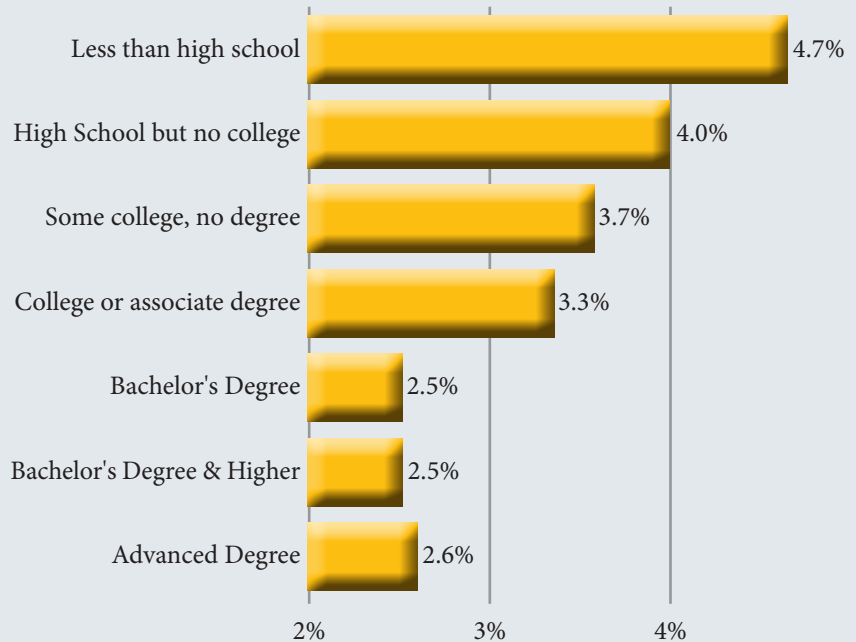


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT

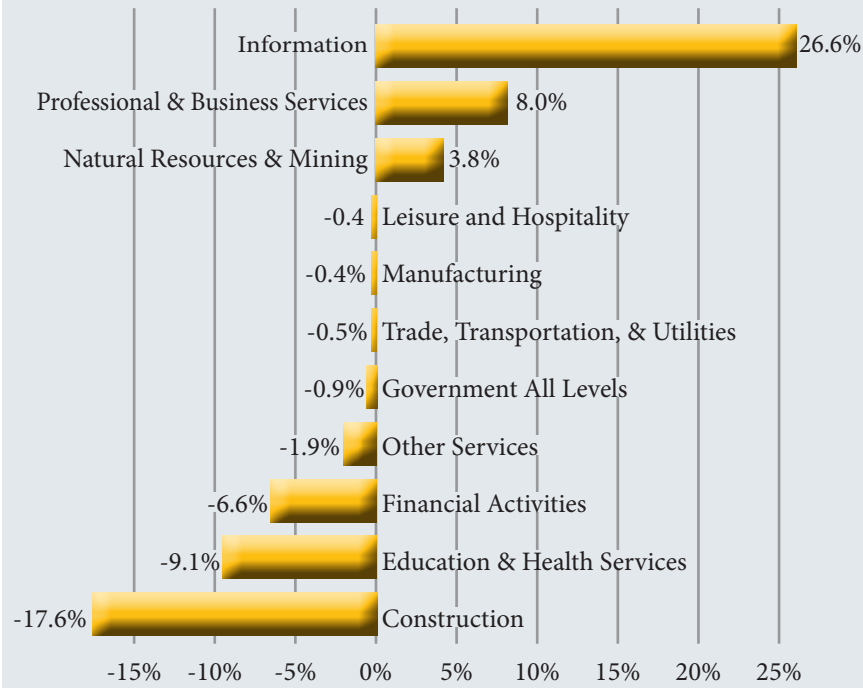
The unemployment rate nationwide continues to be at historic lows in 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. To be classified as unemployed, a person must have applied for a job at least one time in the last 30 days. Approximately 4.7 percent of the national labor force with less than a high school diploma were unemployed in July 2018. The unemployment rate was 4.0 percent for people with a high school diploma but no college; 3.7 percent for people with some college but no degree; 3.3 percent for people with an associate degree; 2.5 percent for people with a bachelor's degree; and 2.6 percent for people with a more advanced degree. The overall average unemployment rate in July was 4.1 percent nationwide (down from 4.6 percent in July 2017), 3.9 percent statewide (down from 4.2 percent), and 4.9 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (up from 4.8 percent). Average unemployment for the first seven months of the year was 4.1 percent nationwide (down from 4.6 percent during the same period last year), 3.5 percent statewide (down from 3.8 percent), and 4.2 percent in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area (down from 4.4 percent).

Unemployment By Educational Attainment Nationwide, July '18



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Growth Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, Q1 '17-Q1 '18

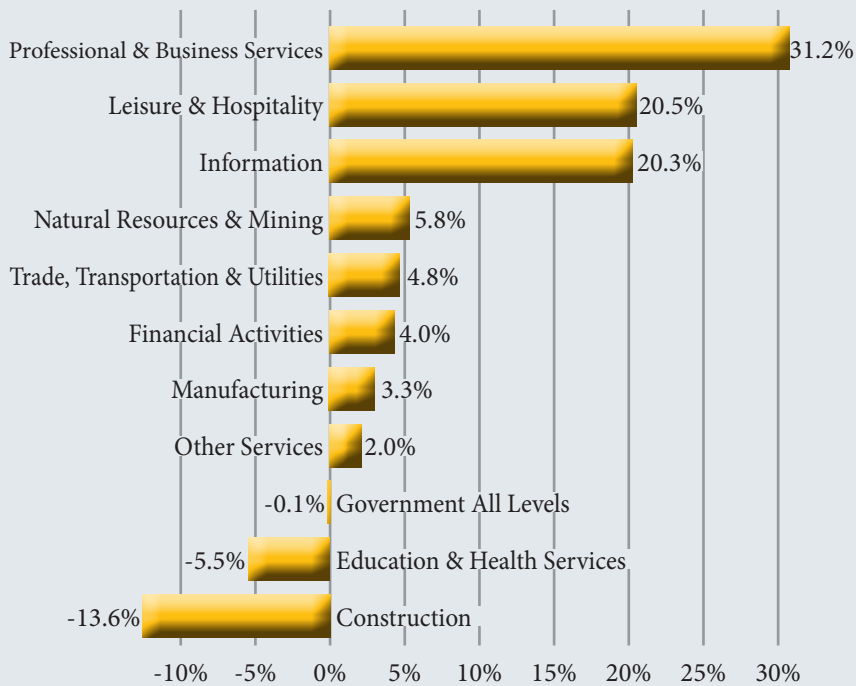


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

The industry with the largest job growth in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the first quarter was Information Services, posting 306 jobs (up 26.6 percent) and average monthly wages of \$3,976 (down 5.0 percent), followed by Professional and Business Services, with 1,387 jobs (up 8.0 percent) and wages of \$3,684 (up 21.5 percent); Natural Resources and Mining, with 100 jobs (up 3.8 percent) and wages of \$3,535 (up 2.0 percent); Leisure and Hospitality Services, with 1,976 jobs (down 0.4 percent) and \$1,231 in wages (up 20.9 percent); Manufacturing, with 2,614 jobs (down 0.4 percent) and wages of \$3,443 (up 3.7 percent); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, with 3,047 jobs (down 0.5 percent) and wages of \$3,047 (up 5.3 percent); Government all levels, with 4,350 jobs (down 0.9 percent) and wages of \$2,779 (up 0.8 percent); Other Services, with 222 jobs (down 1.9 percent) and wages of \$2,127 (up 4.0 percent); Financial Services, with 442 jobs (down 6.6 percent) and wages of \$3,666 (up 11.3 percent); Education and Health Services, with 2,159 jobs (down 9.1 percent) and wages of \$3,157 (up 4.0 percent); and Construction, with 348 jobs (down 17.6 percent) and wages of \$2,893 (up 4.8 percent).

Payroll Growth By Industry Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, Q1 '17-Q1 '18



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

INCOMES BY INDUSTRY

There is significant optimism nationwide about the future of the economy, especially among small businesses (with less than 500 people employed), according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses. Payroll grew significantly in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area during the period, with the largest growth in Professional and Business Services, posting \$15.3 million in quarterly payroll (up 31.2 percent), followed by Leisure and Hospitality Services, with quarterly payroll of \$7.3 million (up 20.5 percent); Information Services, with quarterly payroll of \$3.7 million (up 20.3 percent); Natural Resources and Mining, with quarterly payroll of \$1.1 million (up 5.8 percent); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, with quarterly payroll of \$27.9 million (up 4.8 percent); Financial Services, with quarterly payroll of \$4.9 million (up 4.0 percent); Manufacturing, with quarterly payroll of \$27 million (up 3.3 percent); Other Services, with quarterly payroll of \$1.4 million (up 2.0 percent); Government all levels, with quarterly payroll of \$36.3 million (down 0.1 percent); Education and Health Services, with quarterly payroll of \$20.4 million (down 5.5 percent); and Construction, with quarterly payroll of \$3.0 million (down 13.6 percent).

LABOR FORCE

In July 2018, the labor force nationwide was 163.7 million (up 1.1 percent from July 2017), 1,500,325 statewide (down 0.1 percent), and 18,862 in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area (down 2.0 percent).

The local labor force is hard working, and there is plenty of skilled labor in the Pittsburg region. There are 150,415 people in blue-collar occupations and 158,676 in white-collar occupations within a 60-minute drive of the City of Pittsburg, and 462,362 in blue-collar occupations and 619,080 in white-collar occupations within a 90-minute drive. Approximately 7.9 percent of the micropolitan area labor force works in management occupations; 3.8 percent in business and financial; 2.2 in computer, engineering, and science; 11.4 percent in education, legal, and community service; 3.9 in health diagnosing; 2.3 percent in health technology; 4.0 percent in healthcare support; 17.2 percent in service occupations (other than healthcare related); 8.6 percent in sales related occupations; 11.7 percent in office and administrative support; 10.1 percent in production; 3.6 percent in transportation; 3.5 percent in material moving; and 10.0 percent in other occupations.

Work Force By Occupation Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, 2018

Management	7.9%
Business & Financial Operations	3.8%
Computer, Engineering & Science	2.2%
Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts & Media	11.4%
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners & Other Technical	3.9%
Health Technologists & Technicians	2.3%
Healthcare Support	4.0%
Service	17.2%
Sales & Related	8.6%
Office & Administrative Support	11.7%
Production	10.1%
Transportation	3.6%
Material moving	3.5%
Other	10.0%

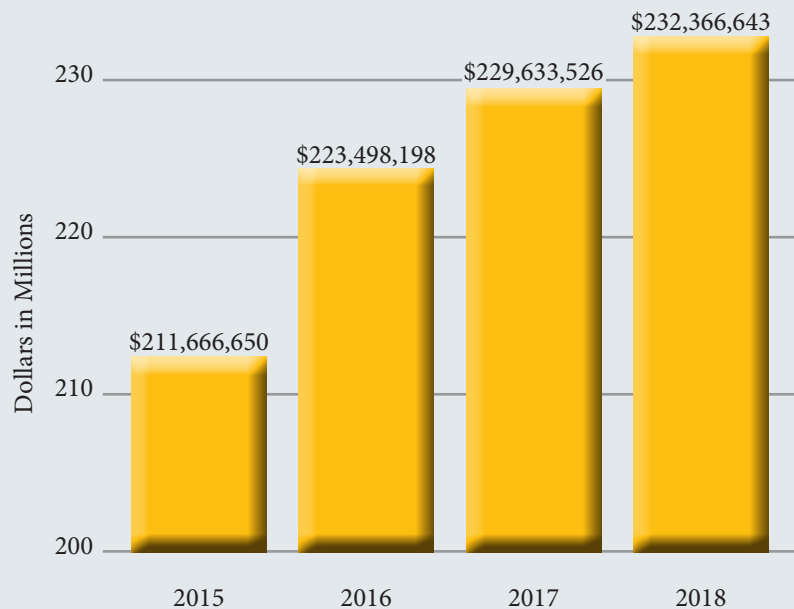
Source: Bureau of The Census

TAXABLE SALES

The City of Pittsburg is the seat of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area and has 157 retail establishments (61.8 percent of all the retail establishments in the micropolitan area) employing 2,750 people, with the average location employing 18 people. Total taxable sales (retail sales and some services sales which are mostly related to tourism) in the City of Pittsburg increased to \$159.1 million during the first two quarters of 2018 (up 0.8 percent from the first two quarters of 2017), according to the Kansas Department of Revenue; \$232.4 million in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area (up 1.2 percent), and \$20.8 billion statewide (up 2.9 percent).

The City of Pittsburg also continues to increase in importance as a regional shopping center, according to a recently released report by the Kansas Department of Revenue, which shows that Pittsburg's retail pull increased 3.0 percent in 2017. The report states that the population in Pittsburg would now have to be 69 percent larger than it actually is if all retail sales were for local consumption. Nationwide, total retail sales increased during the first two quarters to \$2.6 trillion, up 5.4 percent.

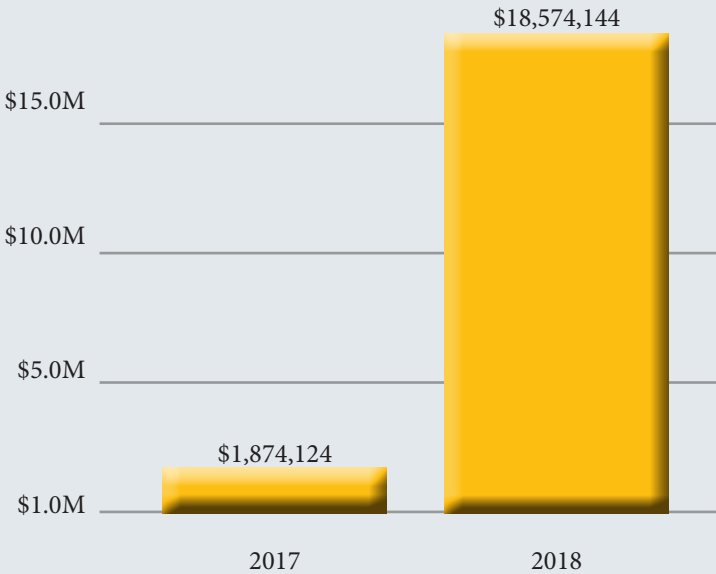
Taxable Sales Pittsburg Micropolitan Area January-June



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue

Value Of New Single-Family Residential Permits

City of Pittsburg Jan '17-Sep '17 to Jan '18-Sep '18



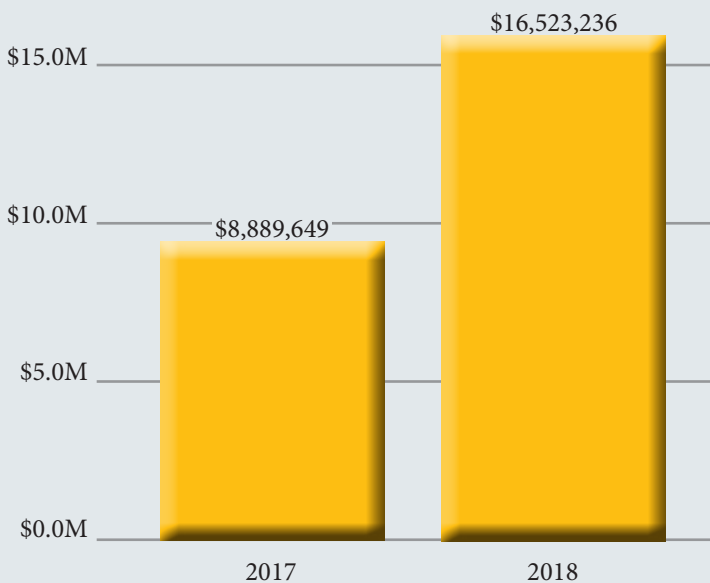
Source: City of Pittsburg

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

The City of Pittsburg reports that 37 new residential building permits were issued during the first three quarters of 2018, with a stated value of \$6.9 million (up 646 percent from the same period in 2017), no multi-family permits were issued, and 84 residential permits were issued for additions, alterations, and conversions, with a stated value of \$11.7 million (up 1,248 percent). Overall, there were 121 building permits issued during the period, for a stated value of \$18.6 million, up 891 percent. Numerous residential housing developments have recently been completed or are in the pipeline, including a middle to upper-middle income development of up to 150 single-family homes with a pool and club-house (now the final planning phase); an \$18 million renovation of four historic buildings with 90-100 new micro-lofts; a \$3.3 million low to middle income housing development (north of town) with 20 homes; a \$600,000 Leland Lofts renovation of two historic buildings downtown with 7-9 moderate income apartments; and a three-story building with loft apartments in the top two floors and a commercial space on the bottom floor on a currently vacant lot on 5th Street near Broadway, downtown.

Value Of Commercial Permits

City of Pittsburg Jan '17-Sep '17 to Jan '18-Sep '18



Source: City of Pittsburg

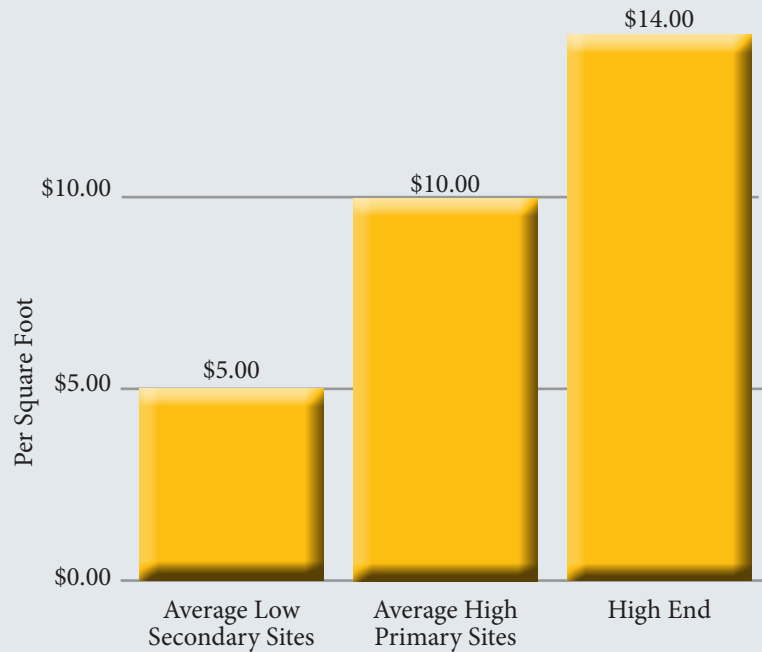
COMMERCIAL PERMITS

The City of Pittsburg issued 60 commercial building permits during the first three quarters of 2018, with a stated value of \$16.5 million (up 86 percent from the first three quarters of 2017), including four new commercial building permits with a stated value of \$2.1 million (down 55.0 percent from the first three quarters of 2017) and 56 commercial permits for additions, alterations, and conversions, for a stated value of \$14.4 million (up 247.4 percent). These commercial building permits include a new 4,600 square foot \$1,200,000 Burger King Restaurant on North Broadway Street (the main thoroughfare in Pittsburg), which is scheduled to open later this year. St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools got a permit for their weight room at 206 Larry Garman Avenue with a valuation of \$197,000. USD 250, Pittsburg Public Schools, got permits for the addition of storm shelter and classroom space at 1310 N. Broadway, valued at \$6.5 million; 1602 E. 20th, valued at \$714,003; 2012 S. Homer, valued at \$710,119; and 430 W. 5th, valued at \$704,990. Remodel permits were also issued for the Presbyterian Church at 415 N. Pine, valued at \$300,000 and for 602 N Broadway, valued at \$500,000.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET

The Pittsburg area office real estate market is doing well, according to Jones Heritage Realtors, a local authority on commercial real estate. The average annual median gross office rent for office space (the owner paying basic taxes, insurance, and also exterior and major maintenance) in the Pittsburg Metropolitan Area is \$14 per square foot for high-end sites, \$10 per square foot for primary sites and \$5 per square foot for secondary sites. Most business services in the region are located in the Pittsburg area. There are 126 health service establishments employing 2,065 people in the Pittsburg Metropolitan Area, according to Demographics Now, 60 personal services establishments employing 173 people; 57 public administration offices employing 1,100 people; 54 business services establishments employing 488 people; 43 real estate establishments employing 173 people; 42 social services establishments employing 701 people; 35 engineering, accounting, research, and management service establishments employing 191 people; 32 depository institutions and non-depository credit establishments employing 234 people; 26 communications and utilities establishments employing 710 people; and 56 other office establishments employing 56 people.

Gross Office Space Rental Rates The Pittsburg Area 2018



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL LAND VALUES

Two factors should have a positive future impact on local commercial and residential land values. Firstly, almost \$434.5 million has been invested in the City of Pittsburg in the last four years (most of it private), including over \$10 million in fiber optic cable and internet infrastructure, making Pittsburg a more cosmopolitan city, and \$31.3 million in education infrastructure-related investment, \$50.0 million in entertainment infrastructure, \$33.7 million in public infrastructure, \$70.9 million in housing infrastructure, \$66.4 million in medical infrastructure, \$24.7 million in retail infrastructure, \$17.8 million in hospitality infrastructure, \$54.3 million in industry infrastructure, \$2.5 million in recreation infrastructure, and \$1.7 million in service infrastructure.

Secondly, a 2011 US-69 Corridor Study indicated that traffic volumes on US-69 north of Pittsburg increased 33 percent in the 1990-2010 period and recommended a four-lane highway from Fort Scott to Arma. Construction on the highway expansion was authorized by the Kansas Governor in July 2018 which will begin in 2019.

Public and Private Investment City of Pittsburg, Last Four Years

Education	\$31,300,000
Entertainment	\$50,000,000
Hospitality	\$17,766,686
Housing	\$70,850,508
Industry	\$54,259,142
Infrastructure	\$33,709,415
Medical	\$66,394,247
PSU	\$81,300,000
Recreation	\$2,500,000
Retail	\$24,748,995
Service	\$1,665,400
Total	\$434,494,392.8

Source: City of Pittsburg

Net Retail Space Rental Rates The Pittsburgh Area, 2018

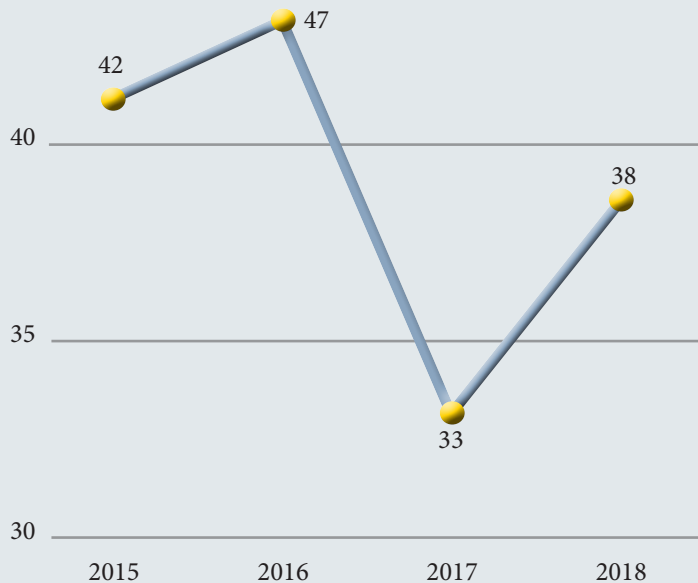


Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

RETAIL SPACE MARKET

The Pittsburgh area retail real estate market is doing well, according to Jones Heritage Realtors. The average annual median net retail rent for retail space (the tenant pays the property taxes, insurance premiums, and some maintenance) is \$15 per square foot for high end locations, \$11 per square foot for primary locations, and \$5 per square foot for secondary locations. Pittsburgh is a regional shopping center and has a significant regional draw for shopping, including the Meadowbrook Shopping Mall Complex with major anchors such as J.C. Penney and Goody's Sporting Goods stores. Demographics Now reports there are 77 eating and drinking establishments in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan area employing 1,193 people; 69 other retail establishments employing 290 people; 60 wholesale establishments employing 643 people; 30 automotive dealers and gasoline service establishments employing 968 people; 25 food retail establishments employing 193 people; 17 apparel and accessory retail establishments employing 89 people; 14 building materials, hardware, and garden supply retail establishments employing 209 people; 12 home furniture, furnishings, and equipment retail establishments employing 100 people; and 10 general merchandise retail establishments employing 542 people.

Growth In Bankruptcies Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Twelve Months Period Ending In June



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

BANKRUPTCIES

There were 775,578 bankruptcies filed nationwide during the twelve-month period ending in June 2018, down 2.6 percent from the twelve-month period ending in June 2017. That includes 753,333 personal bankruptcies (down 2.5 percent) in the following categories: 465,472 Chapter 7 personal bankruptcies (straight bankruptcy, debt wiped out), down 1.9 percent; 1,071 Chapter 11 personal bankruptcies (reorganization of personal debt and temporary protection from creditors), down 2.5 percent; and 286,790 Chapter 13 personal bankruptcies (some debt wiped out and some repayments), down 3.5 percent. It also includes 22,245 business bankruptcies (down 5.1 percent), including 13,679 Chapter 7 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with no repayments), down 7.3 percent; 6,070 Chapter 11 business bankruptcies (reorganization of business debt and temporary protection from creditors), up 2.9 percent; 475 Chapter 12 business bankruptcies (reorganization of debt for family farms), down 1.5 percent; and 1,951 Chapter 13 business bankruptcies (total liquidation with some repayments), down 9.7 percent. State-wide, 6,807 bankruptcies were filed during the period (up 0.4 percent), and 38 bankruptcies were filed in the Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area during the period (up 15.2 percent).

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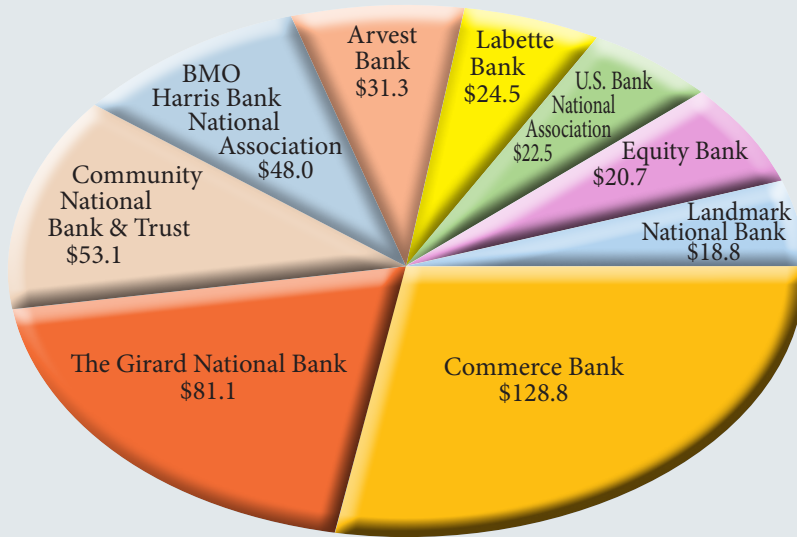


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Composition Of Deposits In Millions Pittsburg Micropolitan Area, 2018

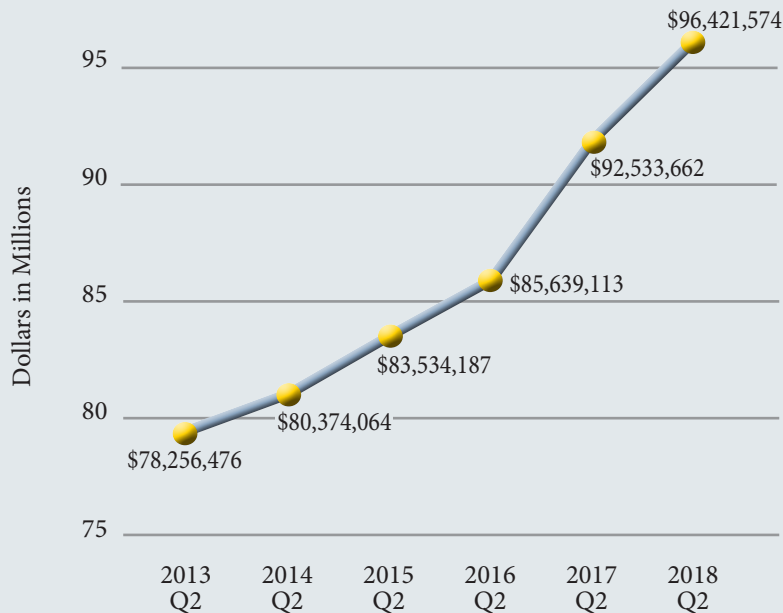


Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

BANKING INDUSTRY

Commerce Bank is the biggest bank in the City of Pittsburg by far in 2018, according to the Federal Insurance Deposit Corporation (FDIC), with total deposits of \$128.8 million (30 percent of all deposits), followed by Girard National Bank, with \$81.1 million (18.9 percent of all deposits); Community National Bank & Trust, with \$53.1 million (12.4 percent); BMO Harris Bank National Association, with \$48.0 million (11.2 percent of all deposits); Arvest Bank, with \$31.3 million (7.3 percent of all deposits). All other banks had less than 10 percent of all deposits. The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area banking industry (banks with local headquarters) is doing well and posted \$4.5 million in net income (up 32.9 percent) during the second quarter 2018 and \$8.3 million in non-current loans and leases (down 35.1 percent from the second quarter of 2017). Banks with headquarters in Kansas posted net income of \$406.3 million (up 12.3 percent) and \$394.3 million in non-current loans and leases (up 9.1 percent), and the national industry posted \$116.1 billion in net income (up 26.3 percent) and \$104.8 billion in non-current loans and leases (down 10.0 percent).

Total Assets Credit Unions With Headquarters in the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: National Credit Union Administration

CREDIT UNIONS

The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area credit union industry (with local headquarters) posted \$96.4 million in total assets during the second quarter 2018 according to the National Credit Union Administration (up 4.2 percent from the second quarter 2017), \$67.8 million in net loans and leases (down 1.7 percent), \$373,585 in non-current loans and leases (up 134.6 percent), and \$332,063 in net operating income (down 30.6 percent). Credit unions with headquarters in Kansas posted \$10.1 billion in total assets (up 2.9 percent), \$7.3 billion in net loans and leases (up 6.1 percent), \$47.8 million in non-current loans and leases (down 15.6 percent), and \$28.1 million in net operating income (down 1.2 percent). The national industry posted \$1.5 trillion in total assets (up 5.8 percent), \$1.0 billion in net loans and leases (up 9.7 percent), \$6.8 billion in non-current loans and leases (down 1.6 percent), and \$6.4 billion in net income (up 24.5 percent). Furthermore, the 5,480 federally insured credit unions posted a net worth ratio of 11.01 percent (up from 10.8 during the second quarter 2017), return on average assets of 0.9 percent (up from 0.77 percent), and median average yield of loans of 5.12 percent (down from 5.17 percent).

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Demographic Summary 2017

	70 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	100 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	130 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas
Total Population	655,962	2,209,140	5,585,497
Population Density (Pop/Sq Mi)	43	70	105
Total Households	258,598	856,445	2,196,468

Population by Gender

Male	49.5%	49.5%	49.2%
Female	50.5%	50.6%	50.8%

Population by Race and Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaska Native	3.8%	3.4%	3.3%
Asian	0.9%	1.7%	2.2%
Black	1.7%	2.2%	7.5%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
White	87.2%	85.0%	78.9%
Some Other Race	2.5%	3.4%	3.8%
Multi-Race	3.6%	3.7%	4.0%
Hispanic Ethnicity	5.4%	7.2%	8.6%
Not of Hispanic Ethnicity	94.6%	92.8%	91.4%

Households by Income

Average Household Income	\$55,157	\$65,204	\$70,257
Median Household Income	\$41,524	\$47,322	\$50,644
Per Capita Income	\$22,008	\$25,528	\$27,875

Employment

Total Population 16+	309,091	1,081,442	2,689,478
% Blue Collar	48.7%	42.8%	40.1%
% White Collar	51.3%	57.2%	59.9%

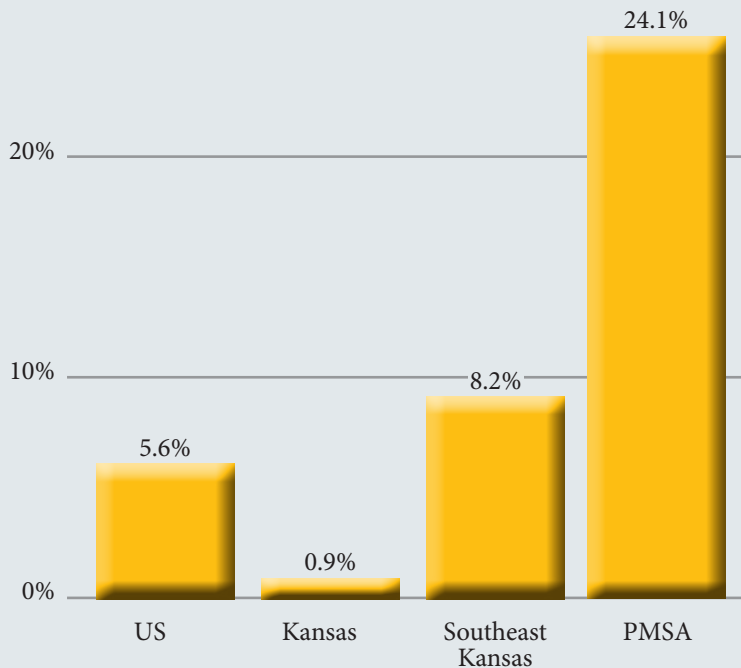
Educational Attainment

Age 25+ Population	440,856	1,456,025	3,700,458
Grade K - 8	4.0%	3.5%	3.1%
Grade 9 - 11	9.5%	8.1%	7.5%
High School Graduate	35.4%	32.8%	29.8%
Associates Degree	8.0%	7.2%	7.3%
Bachelor's Degree	11.8%	16.0%	18.2%
Graduate Degree	6.1%	8.0%	9.7%
Some College, No Degree	24.3%	23.6%	23.5%
No Schooling Completed	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%

The Quarter 2 Publication of the 2018 Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report showed incorrect data for this table. This version has been corrected.

Source: Demographics Now

Growth in Total Revenues Jan'17-Aug'17 to Jan'18-Aug'18

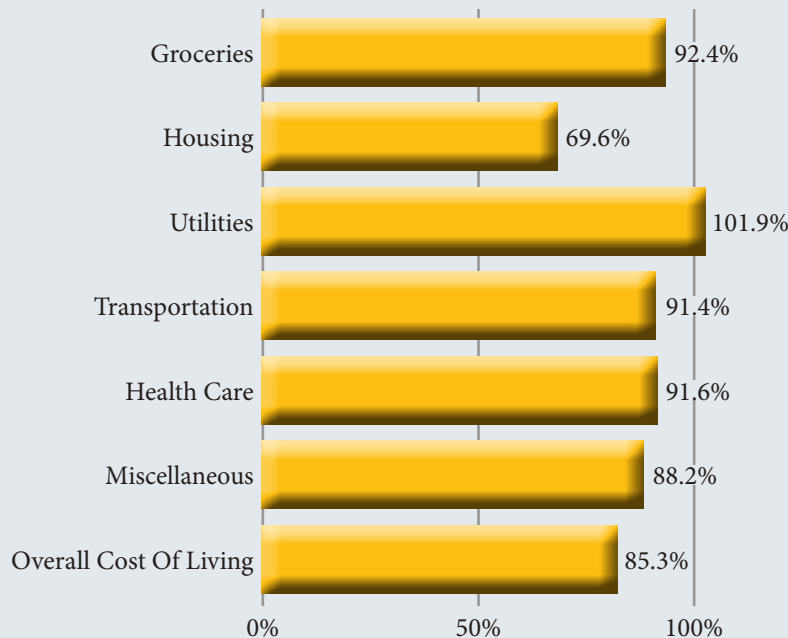


Source: STR

LODGING INDUSTRY

The Pittsburg Micropolitan Area lodging industry is doing well, posting an average occupancy rate of 50.7 percent for first eight months of 2018, down from 53.3 percent from the first eight months in 2018 (two new properties opened during 2017 adding 177 rooms to the local room supply). The average daily room rate increased to \$85.7 (up 3.4 percent) and total revenues system-wide increased to \$6,216,258 (up a significant 24.1 percent). The Southeast Kansas lodging industry posted an average occupancy rate during the period of 46.8 percent (down from 49.6 percent), an average room rate of \$71.6 (down from \$70.4) and total system-wide revenues of \$10,173,908 (up 8.2 percent). The statewide average occupancy rate was 56.8 percent (down from 57.2 percent), the average daily room rate was \$87.7 (down from \$87.8) and total revenues systemwide were \$559.5 million (up 0.9 percent). The nationwide average occupancy rate nationwide during the period was 67.6 percent (down from 67.1 percent), the average daily room rate was \$130.2 (up from \$126.9) and total system wide revenues of \$111.4 billion (up 5.6 percent).

Cost Of Living Pittsburg Micropolitan Area - Percent of the National Average Q2 '18



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

COST OF LIVING & QUALITY OF LIFE

The four states area economy (Southeast Kansas, Southwest Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma, and Northwest Arkansas) is very integrated economically, and people commute frequently within this area for work and shopping. There is plenty of shopping and things to do in Pittsburg and the city is a regional center for jobs. Approximately 65.5 percent of the jobs in the city Pittsburg are filled by people that live outside the city, according to the Census Bureau.

Local cost of living is relatively low. The average cost of living in the Pittsburg Micropolitan area was 85.3 percent of the national average during the second quarter of 2018, according to the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness. The cost of groceries were 92.4 percent of the national average; the cost of housing was 69.6 percent of the national average; the cost of utilities were 101.9 percent of the national average; the cost of transportation was 91.4 percent of the national average; the cost of health care was 91.6 percent of the national average; and the cost of miscellaneous goods and services was 88.2 percent of the national average.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCE IS CORNERSTONE FOR NEW COMPANY

Dane Arck is the owner of Arck Construction, Consulting & Management, LLC. The official ribbon cutting for Arck Construction was on Thursday, August 16 at Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. The new business will cater mostly to commercial clients and will concentrate on making the construction process as easy as possible for business owners. "We offer turnkey service," Arck said. "We know that opening a business can be difficult, but we can take a lot of that pressure off. Whether the owner just has an idea of what they want, full plans, or something sketched out on a napkin we can help them."

Dane has nearly 20 years of experience in the construction business and his father, Danny Arck, will be serving as a consultant. He has over 40 years of experience. *Keesha Hervey, The Pittsburg Morning Sun*

STUDY: PLASTER CENTER HAS CREATED JOBS, REVENUE

A new study shows that the Robert W. Plaster Center at Pittsburg State University has had a significant impact on the local and regional economy of Crawford County, including job creation, tax revenue, and retail spending. According to the report, Economic Impact Study of the Robert W. Plaster Center in Crawford County, conducted by the Kelce College of Business, events at the Plaster Center had a \$3.5 million impact on the Crawford County area economy during the 12-month period from May 12, 2017 to May 11, 2018. More than 50 jobs were created and sustained during that period as a result of the Plaster Center events.

More than 40,000 people attended events at the Plaster Center during the 12-month study period. Guests to the Plaster Center spent more than \$2.8 million in retail, food, and lodging over that time, resulting in more than \$200,000 in local tax revenue.

Pittsburg State University News

BLOCK22 FINALIST FOR NATIONAL AWARD

The University Economic Development Association (UEDA) has announced that the Block22 project is a finalist for their 2018 Awards of Excellence competition. According to their website, The UEDA "works to expand economic opportunity in our communities by leveraging research, community resources, campus

planning, talent development, and technology commercialization."

The competition invites higher education institutions from across the country to submit projects that focus on positive economic effects on their communities.

The nominations are then reviewed by a panel of professionals, who choose 24 finalists from around the nation

Keesha Hervey, The Pittsburg Morning Sun

MORE BUSINESSES MOVING INTO BLOCK22

Pittsburg State University announced the names of an additional seven businesses that will move into the Block22 project. Six of the business are moving into what is being called The Foundry, an entrepreneurial space with more than 16,000 square feet on the ground floor of the former National Bank and Opera House building that will include a business incubator, a conference room, and a collaborative workspace. The businesses moving into The Foundry are: Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Creative 124, DevSquared, Helianthus Ventures LLC, Limelight Marketing, and Votive Display and Packaging. Sonder & Co is the seventh business and it will be located in the Commerce Building. Four other businesses have also committed to moving into Block22. They are Root Coffeehouse and Creperie, Juicy's, Brick + Mortar, and Toast.

The Joplin Globe

URBAN AXE THROWING NOW IN PITTSBURG

Main Street Axe Company hosted a ribbon cutting for an urban axe throwing arena in mid-September. The store owner is Michelle Fowler who moved from California to Pittsburg two years ago with her husband, Ben, and their children. They bought the building which was once occupied by Broadway Production. Main Street Axe Throwing is an urban axe throwing location. "People are playing all over the country," Fowler said and added she thought it would be neat to have a league in Pittsburg. There are different options for groups as well as various types of games for groups. When groups show up, they must sign a waiver and are trained by a coach before they are allowed to throw.

World Axe Throwing League's standards for safety are enforced, Fowler said. Main Street Axe Co. is taking booked parties and will announce official hours on its Facebook page, Instagram, and website at www.mainstreet-axe.com in the future.

Stephanie Potter, The Morning Sun.

CARRINGTON PLACE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING RESIDENT SATISFACTION

Carrington Place received the Excellence in Action award from My InnerView by National Research Corporation. The honor recognizes post-acute care facilities that achieve overall resident or employee satisfaction scores within the top 10 percent of the My InnerView product database. The database is the largest source of long term care and senior living satisfaction metrics in the nation. Carrington Place received the customer satisfactions award(s).

"These organizations have set the bar for other providers with their performance and continued focus on customer and employee experience," said Rich Kortum, Director of Strategic Partnerships at NRC. "This is a wonderful achievement, and we're pleased to honor these top rated organizations with the Excellence in Action Award."

Carrington Place has been a part of the Pittsburg Community for 34 years and is a 31 bed assisted Living facility with 16 Independent unit cottages. *The Pittsburg Morning Sun*

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report

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PITTSBURG MICROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	Average Number of employees Q1 18	Annual Wages Q1 18	Average Number of employees Q1 17	Average Wages Q1 17	Average Jobs Growth	Average Quarterly Wage Growth
Offices of real estate agents and brokers	13	\$1,721	12	\$1,842	8.33%	-6.57%
Family clothing stores	17	\$988	19	\$1,052	-8.93%	-6.12%
Furniture stores	20	\$2,978	21	\$2,402	-4.76%	23.98%
Fuel dealers	22	\$2,798	23	\$2,728	-5.80%	2.54%
Fuel dealers	22	\$2,798	23	\$2,728	-5.80%	2.54%
Nursery, garden, and farm supply stores	28	\$1,625	18	\$1,143	60.38%	42.17%
Oilseed and grain combination farming	30	\$2,969	30	\$3,015	-1.11%	-1.53%
Mining, except oil and gas	30	\$4,814	32	\$4,341	-8.25%	10.88%
Waste collection	34	\$1,969	30	\$2,054	15.73%	-4.15%
Waste collection	34	\$1,969	30	\$2,054	15.73%	-4.15%
Masonry contractors	35	\$2,320	50	\$2,400	-30.67%	-3.36%
Justice, public order, and safety activities	38	\$3,475	42	\$3,592	-8.80%	-3.25%
Tire dealers	39	\$2,767	39	\$2,166	0.00%	27.74%
Clothing stores	51	\$999	50	\$1,079	2.68%	-7.41%
Automotive parts and accessories stores	52	\$1,585	61	\$1,441	-14.29%	10.05%
Automotive parts and accessories stores	52	\$1,585	61	\$1,441	-14.29%	10.05%
Grain and field bean merchant wholesalers	54	\$3,321	59	\$3,297	-7.91%	0.71%
Pharmacies and drug stores	59	\$2,751	59	\$2,734	1.14%	0.60%
Postal service	68	\$3,485	64	\$3,571	6.25%	-2.40%
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	70	\$1,055	66	\$1,090	5.53%	-3.21%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	71	\$2,998	64	\$3,030	9.84%	-1.06%
Accounting and bookkeeping services	72	\$2,728	70	\$2,774	1.90%	-1.67%
Waste management and remediation services	77	\$3,916	73	\$3,762	5.45%	4.10%
Legal services	89	\$2,954	91	\$3,058	-1.47%	-3.40%
Auto parts, accessories, and tire stores	91	\$2,092	100	\$1,724	-8.70%	21.30%
Machinery manufacturing	93	\$2,868	86	\$2,774	8.56%	3.39%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	103	\$3,446	115	\$3,183	-10.69%	8.28%
Offices of dentists	104	\$4,375	109	\$3,759	-4.88%	16.36%
Janitorial services	111	\$2,323	110	\$2,295	1.22%	1.21%
Home health care services	115	\$2,631	99	\$2,914	16.50%	-9.72%
Child day care services	119	\$1,380	122	\$1,315	-2.46%	4.95%
Automobile dealers	135	\$2,995	113	\$2,967	19.17%	0.97%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	138	\$1,119	152	\$950	-8.99%	17.80%
Gasoline stations	151	\$1,484	150	\$1,386	0.89%	7.13%
Gasoline stations	151	\$1,484	150	\$1,386	0.89%	7.13%
Other wood product manufacturing	157	\$3,548	150	\$3,142	4.44%	12.94%
Building material and supplies dealers	159	\$2,026	166	\$1,876	-3.82%	8.02%
Commercial banking	199	\$3,763	208	\$3,683	-4.17%	2.15%
Office administrative services	200	\$4,272	166	\$4,485	20.24%	-4.75%
Continuing care, assisted living facilities	221	\$2,001	242	\$1,742	-8.55%	14.88%
Nursing care facilities, skilled nursing	264	\$1,921	369	\$1,900	-28.43%	1.09%
Architectural and structural metals mfg.	318	\$3,397	328	\$3,266	-2.85%	3.99%
Grocery stores	318	\$1,904	332	\$1,808	-4.12%	5.28%
Finance and insurance	329	\$3,776	346	\$3,586	-5.10%	5.30%
Construction	348	\$2,893	422	\$2,760	-17.60%	4.82%
Managing offices	354	\$6,647	270	\$4,724	30.83%	40.70%
Food and beverage stores	378	\$1,916	405	\$1,804	-6.75%	6.16%
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	406	\$3,543	410	\$3,358	-0.98%	5.51%
Printing	453	\$3,591	452	\$3,381	0.15%	6.19%
Printing and related support activities	453	\$3,591	452	\$3,381	0.15%	6.19%
Printing and related support activities	453	\$3,591	452	\$3,381	0.15%	6.19%
General merchandise stores	465	\$1,904	478	\$1,877	-2.65%	1.40%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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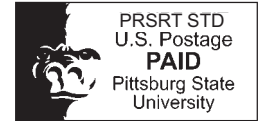
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 1st Home Medical Supply Co.

Mall Deli

1st - All Around Restaurant

1st - Place to have a Business Lunch

1st - Restaurant/Deli • 1st - Sandwich

3rd - Carry Out 3rd - Dining Experience

Gusano's

1st - Bloody Marry

1st - Pizza

1st - Sports Bar

Café Del Rio Restaurant

2nd - Appetizer

3rd - Mexican Restaurant

Pittsburg 8 Theater

1st - Movie Theater

J.C. Penney

1st Department Store

Westco

2nd- Furniture Store

2nd - Mattress Store

Comeau Jewelry Co.

1st - Jewelry Store



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Goody's	235-0147	Regis Hairstylist	231-0100
Pittsburg 8 Theater.....	232-2256	Claire's Accessories.....	231-1522
Theater Arcade.....	232-2256	Fashion Nails	231-9141
Maurices.....	231-1940	KS Drivers License.....	231-0711
The Buckle.....	231-0210	University Bank ATM.....	231-4200
The Mall Deli.....	231-7590	Game Recycle.....	308-6855
Café Del Rio.....	232-5895	Horizon Accessories.....	687-3100
Hibbett Sports.....	232-6760	HOURS: MON-SAT 10AM TO 9PM	
Bath & Body Works.....	232-6589	SUN 12-5PM	
Brewed Ambrosia.....	381-0730		



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OneMain Financial.....	235-0425	Via Christi Beh.Health.....	231-1068
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