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COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Pittsburg State University



ECONOMIC 2025 PROFILE

Pittsburg
Micropolitan
Area

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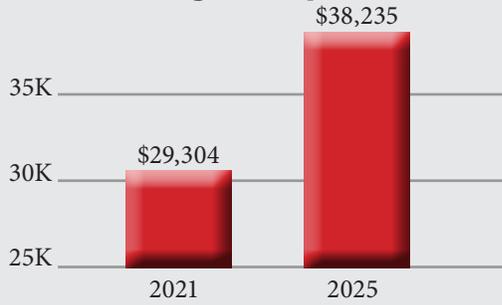
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2025 ECONOMIC SUMMARY

PITTSBURG IS THE SEAT of the Pittsburg micropolitan area and has a population of 22,029. It is the anchor of economic activity and economic growth in Southeast Kansas, with almost 8,000 people commuting to the city daily for work, according to the Bureau of the Census.

Local households are on a good financial foundation, improving substantially during the last few years. The Kansas Department of Labor reports that the median wages in the Pittsburg micropolitan area increased to \$38,235 in 2025, up

Median Wages Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



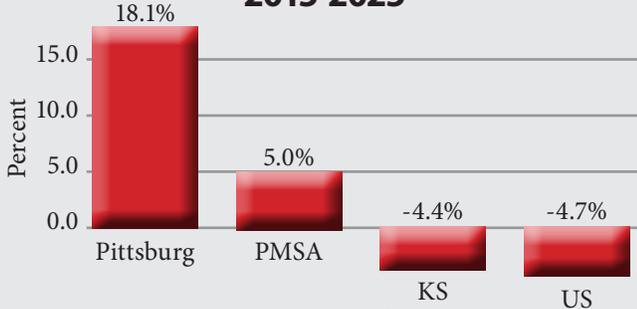
Source: Kansas Department of Labor

a significant 37.6 percent since 2021. *Demographics Now* reports that the number of households which rose to the middle-income bracket during the 2015-2025 period increased 18.1 percent in Pittsburg, and 5.0 percent in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, which compares well to the 4.4 percent decline statewide and 4.7 percent decline nationwide.

Another good indicator of financial health of households is per capita bankruptcies. A total of 0.8 personal bankruptcy cases were filed per 1,000 people in the Pittsburg micropolitan area in 2025, compared to 1.8 cases statewide and 2.1 nationwide.

Households in Pittsburg are confident about the local economic future. In 2025, local retail sales increased 4.8 percent, and a total of 131 residential building permits were issued by

Growth in Middle Income Households 2015-2025



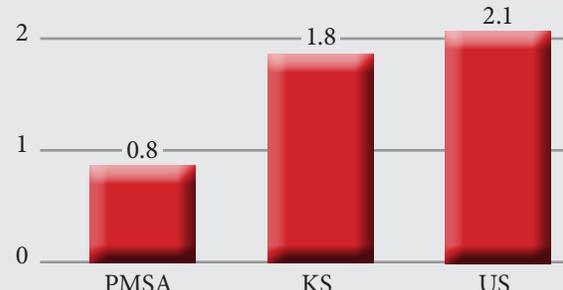
Source: *Demographics Now*

the City of Pittsburg, with a stated value of \$27.4 million, up 44.4 percent from 2024.

Health care is very accessible locally. The Pittsburg micropolitan area has two hospitals (Girard Medical Center and Mercy Hospital Pittsburg, which was ranked in the top 32 percent of hospitals nationwide by the Leapfrog Group in 2025) and numerous doctors' offices, specialty medical clinics, and other medical centers, employing 2,438 medical professionals and staff.

Downtown is the most prominent symbol of quality of life in micropolitan areas. The City of Pittsburg has initiated facade programs to improve the aesthetics of downtown Pittsburg buildings and has been the catalyst for several revitalization programs to make the downtown area more attractive. There have been 58 downtown revitalization programs in recent years. Furthermore, Pittsburg State University's Kelce College of Business is moving to a new downtown location in July 2026, with approximately 700

Personal Bankruptcies Per Capita 2025



Source: US Bankruptcy Courts

students attending classes there two or three times a week, which is going to increase foot traffic significantly and make the neighborhood livelier and more attractive for commerce and entertainment.

Moreover, the local business community has shown significant optimism about the economic future of Pittsburg during the last decade, with almost \$826 million invested in Pittsburg since 2013. There are several major companies that have headquarters in Pittsburg, including Miller's Professional Imaging (the nation's largest professional photo lab), Jake's Fireworks, and Watco Companies. Local economic development efforts are paying off, and the Pittsburg micropolitan area has become an excellent business location. In 2023, *Site Selection Magazine*, an authority

Value of Residential Building Permits City of Pittsburg



Source: City of Pittsburg

on business site selection, ranked Pittsburg in the top 16 percent of all micropolitan areas nationwide.

Manufacturing is the most important local industry, accounting for approximately 19.0 percent of the private GDP, followed by the transportation and warehousing industry at 13.2 percent, the health care and social assistance industry at 10.1 percent, the retail trade industry at 7.8 percent, and all other local industries at 5 percent or less each.

LOCAL HOUSEHOLD FINANCES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

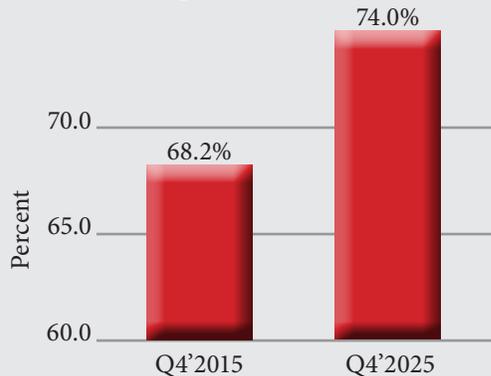
THE EQUIFAX CREDIT AGENCY REPORTS that 74.0 percent of the population in the Pittsburg micropolitan area in the fourth quarter of 2025 had a prime FICO credit score (above the sub-prime credit FICO score of 639), up significantly from 68.2 percent in 2015. Furthermore, Pittsburg is the home of Pittsburg State University. The university is located on a 630-acre campus and offers 324 academic programs for a student population of about 6,100.

The Pittsburg micropolitan area has gotten significant exposure in the nationwide media in the last few years. Pittsburg was ranked as the 7th most affordable city nationwide in December of 2025 by Visual Capitalist in a study on affordability, weighing local incomes against COL, and a 2024 U.S. News and World Report comprehensive study on the health of communities nationwide found that the Pittsburg micropolitan area scored better than most similar communities nationwide classified as “urban, up-and-coming.”

Also in 2024, Princeton Review reported the Kelce College of Business made the list of best business schools nationwide; in 2023, *Site Location Magazine* ranked the Pittsburg micropolitan area in the top 16 percent of all micropolitan areas nationwide as a business location; in 2021, Unacast reported that Pittsburg was the fourth fastest growing small city nationwide, and *Business View Magazine* called Pittsburg “a diamond in the rough.”

The reputation of the city of Pittsburg as a vibrant university town and regional shopping center with an

Percent of Adults With Prime FICO Score Pittsburg Micropolitan Area



Source: Equifax

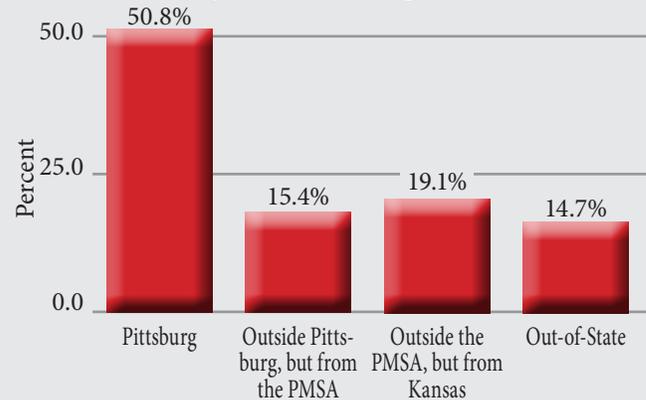
attractive downtown is spreading. Placer.ai reports that there were 1.4 million visits to downtown Pittsburg in 2025, with the average visit being 91 minutes. Approximately, 50.8 percent of the visits were by people living in Pittsburg, 15.4 percent of the visits were by people living outside Pittsburg but in the micropolitan area, 19.1 percent of the visits were from outside the micropolitan area, but within Kansas, and 14.7 percent were from outside Kansas.

Downtown retailers are also doing well, with the first estimates from Kansas Department of Revenue showing total retail sales downtown increased 3.2 percent in 2025.

A dynamic and lively downtown scene is important for quality of life. Retail in Pittsburg’s downtown is thriving and expanding, boasting over 35 small retailers, including boutiques, jewelry stores, bridal shops, sporting goods, specialty foods, art shops, and recreational centers, with more than 20 dining and drinking spots—breweries, bars, cocktail lounges, restaurants, and coffee shops—the area offers plenty of options.

Several new retailers have also opened recently or are

Origin of Downtown Visitors City of Pittsburg 2025



Source: The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

coming soon, including Bearded Bully Barber, The Balkan/Canary Lounge, Chop Shop, Whole Human, and Downtown TRT & Wellness.

The downtown Pittsburg population is also growing, thanks to several loft-style apartments and upper story living spaces for young professionals, conveniently located within walking distance of shopping and dining. Pittsburg’s downtown district continues to add insurance services, real estate agencies, healthcare and wellness clinics, law firms, beauty salons, and corporate office spaces to the long list of businesses contributing to the downtown economy.

There are plenty of things to do in the Pittsburg area. Pittsburg’s urban amenities include two performing arts centers (the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts and Memorial Auditorium), a philharmonic orchestra, three golf courses, the Kansas Crossing Casino, and an 11,910-seat NCAA Division II football stadium.

Pittsburg’s downtown is host to several events and festivals throughout the year, including the Pittsburg State University Jazz Festival (a Jazz Concert on the first Friday in March, which draws 1,500 attendees each year); Earth Day Celebration (family event featuring live music and activities); Hispanic Music Festival (month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage in September); Pittsburg ArtWalk (twice each year in the spring and fall, drawing thousands to the downtown); Pittsburg Farmers’ Market (Saturday mornings April through October and Wednesday afternoons June through August); and 620 Day (celebrating Pittsburg’s heritage and culture).

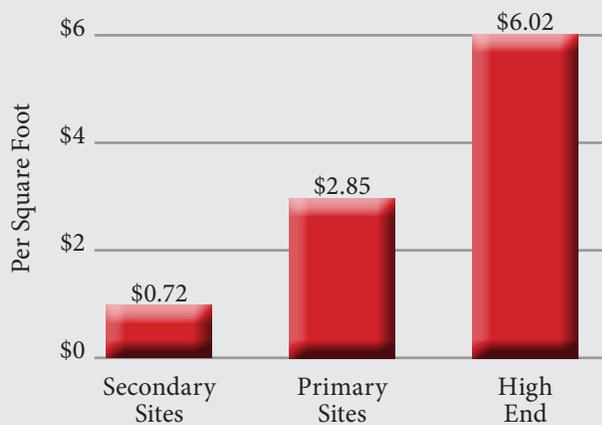
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL MARKETS

RESIDENTIAL MARKETS: Single family housing prices nationwide have increased much faster than incomes, and higher prices combined with higher interest rates have had a significant negative impact on affordability. However, housing price increases have slowed nationwide in 2025, up roughly 1.4 percent, providing some relief for home buyers. However, housing markets 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, 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.

Jones Heritage Realtors (a local authority on residential and commercial space) reports that the local residential land market is doing relatively well. Residential land values during the fourth quarter of 2025 ranged from an average of \$0.72 per square foot in secondary sites (older neighborhoods) to an average high of \$2.85 in primary sites, and going as high as \$6.02 per square foot in high-end locations. Multi-family residential land prices start at an average of \$2.50 per square foot in secondary locations and increase to an average of \$3.66 per square foot and as high as \$7.75 in the best locations.

The city has been a catalyst for numerous recently completed and in-progress housing developments including The Villas at Creekside, offering 58 upscale villas with amenities for residents 55 and older; Creekside East, with

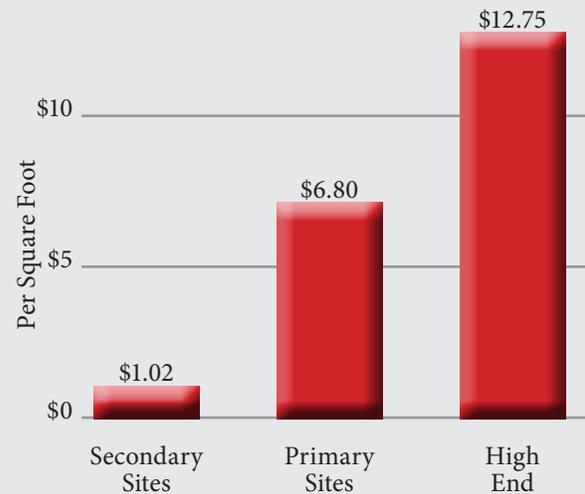
Single Family Residential Land Values Average Price Pittsburg Area Q4'25



20 homes finalized, ranging from \$210,000 to \$360,000 and Pitt Highlands, offering 25 homes for low-income families. Currently under construction are Silverback Landing, with 59 homes in Phase 1, 22 of them completed, and 140 total; an HOA, and priced from \$315,000 to \$410,000; Gorilla Rising Besse Hotel, including 63 units for PSU students; and Sunflower Estates, with 12 homes all ranging from the low \$200,000s to high \$300,000s. In addition, University Digs remodeled 99 units, and Aviary Apartments has 21 units in the planning stage.

COMMERCIAL MARKETS: More than \$825.7 million (mostly private) has been invested in the City of Pittsburg since 2013, which is a significant investment for a city the size of Pittsburg. This includes \$201.3 million in education (including \$134.3 million on Pittsburg 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

Commercial Land Values Average Price Pittsburg Area Q4'25



Source: Jones Heritage Realtors

million in medical, \$3.3 million in recreation, \$72.8 million in retail, and \$2.2 million in service.

Recent investments include a new Pittsburg 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.

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.

The largest commercial building permit during 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 (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; and CHC Mount Carmel House Hospice for remodeling with a stated value of \$580,000. Overall, a total of 72 commercial building permits were issued by the City of Pittsburg in 2025, with a stated value of \$34.7 million (down 14.9 percent from 2024).

RETAIL AND OFFICE SPACE MARKETS

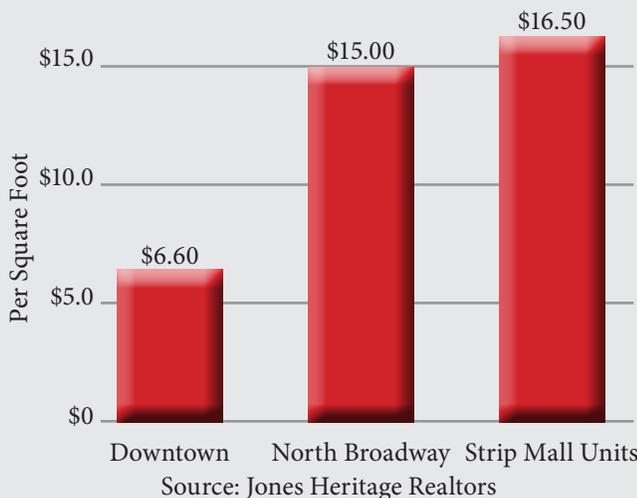
RETAIL SPACE MARKET: The Kansas Department of Revenue reports that the City of Pittsburg is a regional center for retail and consumer services in Southeast Kansas and that the income-adjusted retail trade pull factor for Pittsburg was 1.77 in 2025 (for cities with more than 60 percent of county trade), meaning that the population in Pittsburg would have to be 77.0 percent larger if all the retail sales went to residents of Pittsburg.

Meadowbrook Mall, located in South Pittsburg, is the only enclosed mall in Southeast Kansas and is a popular destination for local shoppers and visitors. With 184,000 square feet of indoor space, it has four major national chains: JCPenney, Maurices, The Buckle, and AMC Theaters.

Placer.ai reports that there were 881,200 visits to Pittsburg during 2025, with the average visit time being 61 minutes. Approximately 71.4 percent of the visits were by people living outside Pittsburg, 43.9 percent of visits were by people living outside the Pittsburg micropolitan area, and 17.4 percent of visits were from outside Kansas.

The local retail space market is doing relatively well, according to Jones Heritage Realtors (a local authority on retail and commercial space), which reports that during the fourth quarter of 2025, average net rental rates were \$6.60 per square foot for downtown office space, \$15.00 per square foot on North Broadway, and \$16.50 per square foot in strip malls.

Average Net Retail Space Market Rental City of Pittsburg, Q4 2025*



* The tenant pays the property tax, insurance premiums and some maintenance.

The future of the local retail space market looks good. The completion of the widening of US-69 from Fort Scott to Arma provides a four-lane, high-speed corridor all the way from Kansas City to Pittsburg, tying into the US-400 east-west corridor a few miles south of Pittsburg and continuing south to I-44. This expansion creates the opportunity for Pittsburg to become a local-regional-national retail hub.

OFFICE SPACE MARKET: A healthy office space market is important for a vibrant regional city. Regional businesses need to be able to tap into services such as accounting and tax preparation services, office administrative services, management services, legal services, and medical services. As the regional business center for Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg provides access to these office-based business services. That access is vital for regional economic growth in Southeast Kansas.

The performance of the local office market was relatively good in 2025, according to Jones Heritage Realtors,

Average Gross Office Space Market Rental City of Pittsburg, Q4 2025



which reports that during the fourth quarter of 2025, average Pittsburg gross rental rates were \$9.00 per square foot for downtown retail space, \$16.00 per square foot on North Broadway, and \$19.00 per square foot in strip malls. Pittsburg is also the regional center for business services in Southeast Kansas. Training is expensive in an increasingly high-tech world, and some regional firms rely heavily on business services. As a regional center, Pittsburg caters to all businesses in Southeast Kansas and the Pittsburg micropolitan area can be thought of as being an emerging metropolitan area according to the Census and the Office of Management and Budget.

Overall, the Pittsburg micropolitan area had 696 service establishments employing 8,181 people in 2025, including 26 depository institution establishments employing 160 people; 9 brokers and dealers establishments employing 29 people; 26 insurance agents 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 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 and accounting establishments employing 244 people.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT & PER CAPITA INCOME

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) measures aggregate production each year and is a good measure of economic activity.

The national economy has recovered from the 2020 pandemic recession which was a nationwide economic calamity unmatched since the Great Depression in the scale of the sudden collapse in consumer spending, business closures, and job losses.

Woods & Poole reports that the gross domestic product of the Pittsburg micropolitan area increased to \$2.3 billion in 2025, up a healthy 4.2 percent. However, the GDP does not measure changes in standard of living. The standard of living increases only when the GDP increases faster than the population. The per capita GDP is the most widely used indicator of improvements in the standard of living.

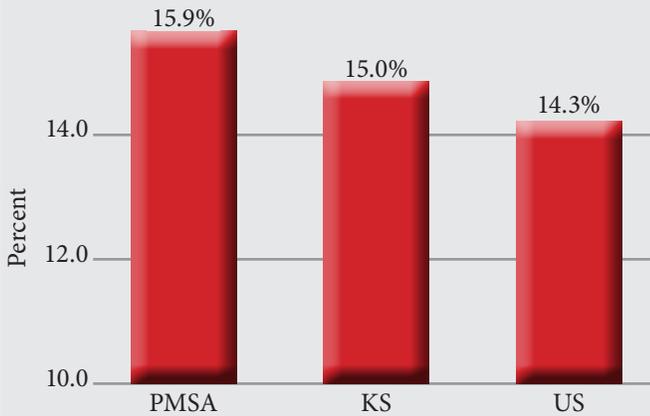
Per capita GDP in the Pittsburg micropolitan area has

from 2022, which compares favorably to the 15.0 percent increase statewide and 14.3 percent increase nationwide. Furthermore, the micropolitan area is gaining a reputation nationwide for economic growth and standard of living.

PROJECTIONS:

Historically, the long run annual rate of growth for the U.S. real GDP has been more than three percent. However, the 2007 and 2020 recessions were both deep and changed the projectory of long run growth, and lately the national economy has been burdened with large deficits and high interest

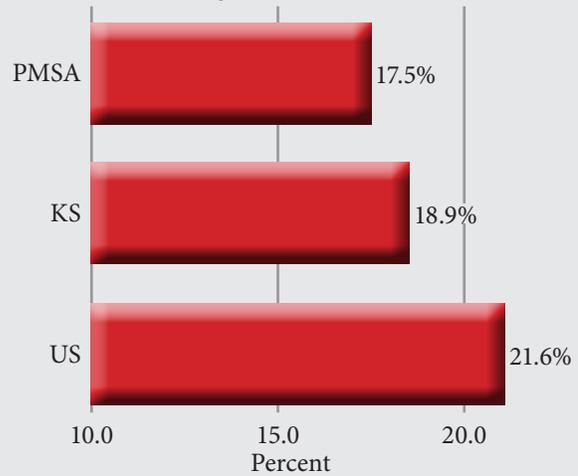
Per Capita Income Growth 2022 - 2025



Source: Woods & Poole

been increasing at a very healthy rate since 2022, according to Woods & Poole. The GDP increased to \$52,434 in the Pittsburg micropolitan area in 2025, up 15.9 percent

Gross Domestic Product Growth Projections 2025 - 2029



Source: Woods & Poole

rates. The Federal Reserve Bank began to cut the federal funds rate in September of 2025 to stimulate economic growth.

The current administration nominated a new Chairman of the Board of Governors who stated that he wants to continue to cut interest rates to stimulate the economy in 2026.

The GDP in the Pittsburg micropolitan area is projected to increase to \$2.7 billion in the 2025-2029 period (up 17.5 percent), \$294.6 billion statewide (up 18.9 percent), and \$36.8 trillion nationwide (up 21.6 percent).

Gross Domestic Product

	Pittsburg Micro*	Change	Kansas*	Change	US*	Change
2018	\$1,810	8.5%	\$173,373	4.3%	\$20,535,832	5.3%
2019	\$1,802	-0.4%	\$176,069	1.6%	\$21,414,018	4.3%
2020	\$1,792	-0.6%	\$177,210	0.6%	\$21,224,300	-0.9%
2021	\$1,926	7.5%	\$191,738	8.2%	\$23,548,137	10.9%
2022	\$2,015	4.6%	\$212,612	10.9%	\$25,859,145	9.8%
2023	\$2,110	4.7%	\$228,232	7.3%	\$27,567,298	6.6%
2024	\$2,186	3.6%	\$237,319	4.0%	\$28,812,996	4.5%
2025	\$2,277	4.2%	\$247,863	4.4%	\$30,268,245	5.1%

Source: Woods & Poole
*in millions

Gross Domestic Product Projections

	Pittsburg Micro*	Change	Kansas*	Change	US*	Change
2025-2026	\$2,371	4.1%	\$258,835	4.4%	\$31,790,414	5.0%
2025-2029	\$2,676	17.5%	\$294,647	18.9%	\$36,796,059	21.6%

Source: Woods & Poole
*in millions

JOB GROWTH

JOB GROWTH HAS SLOWED in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, with first estimates showing that the number of jobs increased to 17,367 jobs in 2025, up by only 12 jobs from 2024. However, there are plenty of job openings in the Pittsburg micropolitan area. The Kansas Department of Labor reports that there are 1,160 local job openings advertised online in December, including; 207 online job ads for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; 139 ads for sales and related occupations; 122 ads for food preparations and related occupations; 99 ads for transportation and material moving operations; 69 ads for healthcare support occupations; 64 ads for management occupations; 61 ads for office and administrative support occupations; 61 ads for educational instruction and library occupations; 54 ads for community and other related

for building and grounds cleaning occupations; 28 ads for business and financial operation occupations; 23 ads for arts, sports, and other related occupations; 18 ads for personal care and service occupations; 10 ads for protective service occupations; and 10 ads for computer and mathematical occupations.

PROJECTIONS:

Local payrolls and wages are increasing, but the number of jobs is projected to be flat in 2026, according to Woods & Poole, with the number of jobs projected to remain at 17,366 (no growth) in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, in-

Online Jobs Ads by Occupation Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Dec. 2025

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	207
Sales and Related Occupations	139
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	122
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	99
Healthcare Support Occupations	69
Management Occupations	64
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	61
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	61
Community and Social Service Occupations	54
Production Occupations	46
Construction and Extraction Occupations	44
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	44
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	39
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	28
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	23
Personal Care and Service Occupations	18
Protective Service Occupations	10
Computer and Math Occupations	10

Source: Kansas Department of Labor

occupations; 46 ads for production occupations; 44 ads for construction and extraction occupations; 44 ads for installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; 39 ads

Recent Firm Expansions Pittsburg Micropolitan Area

New Pittsburg wastewater treatment facility	\$61 million
New KBI laboratory	\$42 million
New prove-out manufacturing facility at PSU	\$12 million
New outdoor track at PSU	\$10 million
Expansions - EaglePicher Technologies	\$7.0 million
Expansion - Pitt Plastics	\$18.0 million
Expansion - Family Resource Center	\$2.0 million
Expansion - APEX Stages for	\$1.7 million

Source: Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce

crease to 1,435,197 statewide (up 0.6 percent), and increase to 157.2 million nationwide (up 1.1 percent). In the 2025-2029 period, the number of jobs is expected to decline by 0.1 percent in the micropolitan area, increase to 1,459,450 statewide (up 2.3 percent) and increase to 162.7 million nationwide (up 4.6 percent).

However, there are several local business expansions in the pipeline, and that could change the projected future local job growth trajectory.

Job Growth

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US	Change
2018	17,051	-1.1%	1,383,119	0.8%	146,131,754	1.6%
2019	17,113	0.4%	1,393,184	0.7%	148,105,092	1.4%
2020	16,557	-3.2%	1,328,640	-4.6%	139,103,773	-6.1%
2021	16,842	1.7%	1,353,532	1.9%	143,780,068	3.4%
2022	17,336	2.9%	1,390,817	2.8%	150,025,655	4.3%
2023	17,666	1.9%	1,417,023	1.9%	153,140,899	2.1%
2024	17,354	-1.8%	1,429,358	0.9%	154,990,441	1.2%
2025	17,366	0.1%	1,426,637	-0.2%	155,499,248	0.3%

Source: Woods & Poole

Job Growth Projections

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US	Change
2025-2026	17,366	0.0%	1,435,197	0.6%	157,209,740	1.1%
2025-2029	17,349	-0.1%	1,459,450	2.3%	162,652,214	4.6%

Source: Woods & Poole

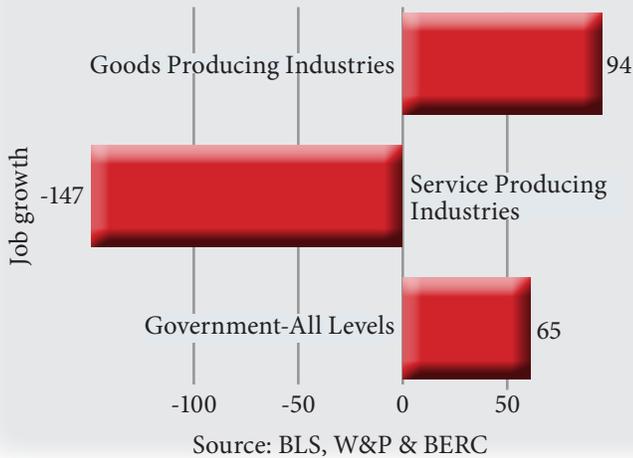
JOBS AND WAGES BY INDUSTRY

FIRST ESTIMATES SHOW that the goods-producing industries contributed all of the job growth of the private wealth producing industries, posting 3,917 jobs, up 94 jobs (up 2.5 percent); the services-producing industries posted 9,089 jobs, down 147 jobs (down 1.6 percent); and government (all levels) posted 4,361 jobs, up 65 jobs (up 1.5 percent).

Total payroll in the micropolitan area increased to \$805.6 million, with the goods-producing industries posting \$225.4 million, the service producing industries posting \$375.6 million and government all levels posting \$204.7 million.

Manufacturing is the backbone of the local economy. It was the second biggest private employer in 2025 and posted annual wages of \$55,571 (up a significant 19.8

Job Growth by Major Sectors Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025



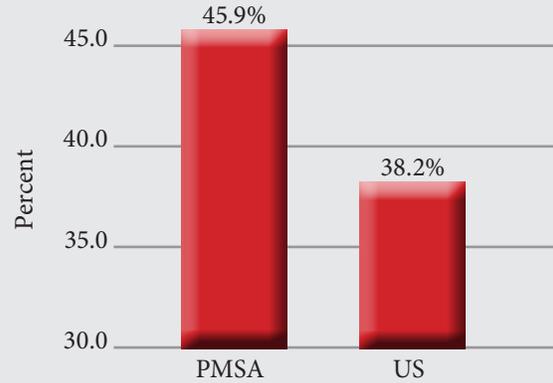
percent higher than overall average of \$46,390). Manufacturing, furthermore, had the largest private local payroll of \$157.8 million in 2025, followed by trade, transportation and utilities with \$127.1 million in payroll; education and

health services with \$83.0 million; professional and business services with \$76.6 million; construction with \$52.5 million; leisure and hospitality with \$37.2 million; financial activities with \$27.7 million; information with \$16.3 million; natural resources and mining with \$15.1 million; and other services (automobile repair, dry cleaning, etc.) with \$7.7 million.

PROJECTIONS:

The Pittsburg micropolitan area's economy is well-suited to manufacturing. The micropolitan area workforce is 45.9 percent blue collar (compared to 38.2 percent nationwide)

Work Force Percent Blue Collar



Source: *Demographics Now*

and is relatively young, with approximately 49.2 percent of the adult population is between 20-44 years old (compared to 44.5 percent nationwide). Skilled labor is increasingly needed in manufacturing, and 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. The local manufacturing industry is dependent on the national industry, and the future of manufacturing looks like it is on the rebound nationwide.

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025

Industry	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs 2025	Job Growth 2025	Percentage Growth 2025	Payroll 2025	Wages 2025
Natural resources & mining	29	206	44.4	27.4%	\$15,074,416	\$73,035
Construction	103	871	1	0.1%	\$52,530,659	\$60,290
Manufacturing	49	2,833	42	1.5%	\$157,771,999	\$55,571
Trade, transp., & utilities	225	2,852	-12	-0.4%	\$127,079,598	\$44,558
Information	24	274	-5	-1.8%	\$16,260,546	\$59,345
Financial activities	103	482	3	0.6%	\$27,727,709	\$57,526
Professional & business serv.	182	1,232	11	0.9%	\$76,603,932	\$62,184
Education & health services	131	2,163	-139	-6.0%	\$82,997,810	\$38,372
Leisure & hospitality	102	1,865	-1	-0.1%	\$37,212,027	\$19,953
Other services	63	221	-4	-1.8%	\$7,671,518	\$34,713
Total Government	74	4,361	65	1.5%	\$204,708,948	\$46,941
Total Covered	1,084	17,366	12	0.1%	\$805,639,161	\$46,392
Goods-producing	181	3,917	94	2.5%	\$225,377,073	\$57,629
Service-producing	830	9,089	-147	-1.6%	\$375,553,141	\$41,320

Source: BLS, BERC

UNEMPLOYMENT

NEW ESTIMATES SHOW that approximately 9.0 percent of the unemployment in the Pittsburg micropolitan area is in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; 7.3 percent is in food preparation and related occupations; 6.9 percent is in personal care and service occupations; 6.7 percent is in transportation and material moving occupations; 6.1 percent is in sales and related occupations; 5.9 percent is in buildings and grounds cleaning related occupations; 5.8 percent is in construction and extraction occupations; 5.6 percent is in production occupations; 4.6 percent is in arts and sports related occupations; 4.4 percent is in healthcare support occupations; 4.0 percent is in science occupations; 3.9 percent is in office and admin support occupations;

business and financial operations occupations; 3.3 percent is in installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; 2.4 percent is in architecture and engineering occupations; 2.0 percent is in management occupations; 1.8 percent is in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; and 1.7 percent is in legal occupations.

PROJECTIONS:

Many economists are now beginning to wonder how much unemployment will be affected by artificial intelligence (AI), but the immediate impact is likely to be slower

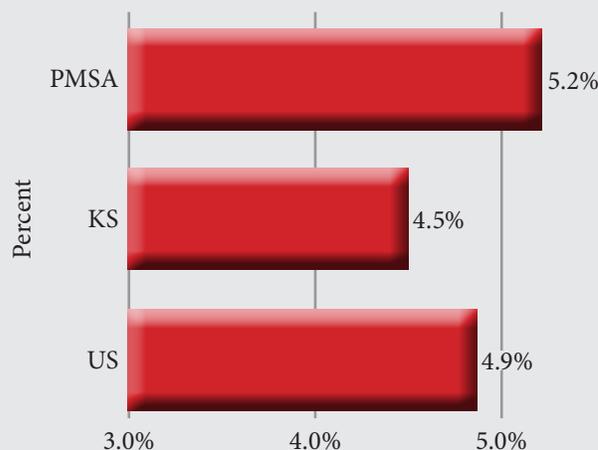
Unemployment by Occupation Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025

Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	9.0%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	7.3%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	6.9%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	6.7%
Sales and Related Occupations	6.1%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	5.9%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	5.8%
Production Occupations	5.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	4.6%
Healthcare Support Occupations	4.4%
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	4.0%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	3.9%
Community and Social Service Occupations	3.9%
Protective Service Occupations	3.6%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	3.6%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	3.3%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3.3%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	3.3%
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	2.4%

Source: Chmura Economics & Analytics

3.9 percent is in community and related occupations; 3.6 percent is in protective service occupations; 3.6 percent is in computer related occupations; 3.3 percent is in educational instruction and library occupations; 3.3 percent is in

Unemployment Rate Projections for 2029



Source: BLS and *Demographics Now*

hiring among tech companies. New graduates in computer science may struggle to find entry-level positions, and the customer service industry is also likely to be affected.

Across all industries, the unemployment rate in 2026 is projected to increase to 4.9 percent in the Pittsburg micropolitan Area, to 4.0 percent statewide, and to 4.4 percent nationwide. In the next four years (by 2029), the unemployment rate is projected to increase to 5.2 percent in the Pittsburg micropolitan area, to 4.5 percent statewide, and to 4.9 percent nationwide.

Unemployment

	Pittsburg Micro	Kansas	US
2018	3.8%	3.3%	3.9%
2019	3.7%	3.2%	3.7%
2020	5.3%	5.8%	8.1%
2021	3.2%	3.4%	5.4%
2022	2.9%	2.7%	3.7%
2023	3.0%	2.9%	3.6%
2024	3.9%	3.6%	4.0%
2025	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Projections

	Pittsburg Micro	Kansas	US
2026	4.9%	4.0%	4.4%
2029	5.2%	4.5%	4.9%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Profile

is written and produced by:
Dr. Michael Davidsson
Writer and Editor

Dr. Janet Zepernick
Contributing Editor/Proofreading

Ms. Shipra Paul, MBA, MS
Special Assistant

Ms. Melissa Payne, BBA
Assistant to the Editor

Ms. Julie Wilson
Economic Development Assistant

Mr. David Oldham
Art Director/Layout

Mr. Carson Kern
Graduate Assistant

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ON THE COVER: Artist rendering of the proposed Kelce College of Business

LABOR FORCE

THE LOCAL POPULATION IS HIGH-QUALITY and hard-working. One of the area’s major employers’ states, “Thanks to the success we have had with the local labor force, Pitt Plastics can continue with the mission of delivering excellence as one team and one culture!” Approximately 10.4 percent of the workforce in the Pittsburg micropolitan area in 2025 is in office and admin support occupations; 10.1 is percent in production occupations; 9.4 percent in food preparations and related 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; 4.9 percent in healthcare and technical occupation; 4.8 percent in construction and extractions occupations; 4.4 percent

Work Force by Occupation Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025

Office and Administrative Support Occupations	10.4%
Production Occupations	10.1%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	9.4%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	9.1%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8.2%
Sales and Related Occupations	7.9%
Management Occupations	6.7%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	4.9%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	4.8%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	4.4%
Healthcare Support Occupations	4.4%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	4.2%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	2.5%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	2.5%
Community and Social Service Occupations	2.3%
Other Occupations	8.2%

Source: Chmura Economics & Analytics

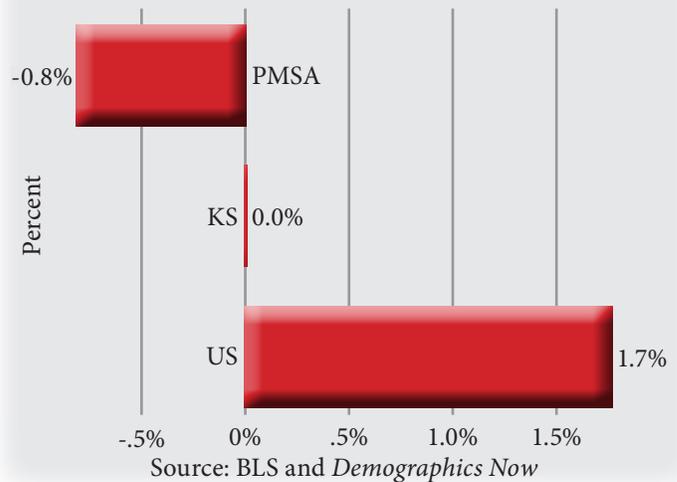
business and financial operations occupations; 4.4 percent in healthcare support occupations; 4.2 percent in instal-

lation, maintenance, and repair occupations; 2.5 percent in building and grounds cleaning-related occupations; 2.5 percent personal care and service occupations; 2.3 percent in community and related occupations; and 8.2 percent in other occupations

PROJECTIONS:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data for 2025 does not include October due to the government shutdown late 2025, which might affect the reliability of future projections. However,

Labor Force Growth 2025 - 2029



er, labor force growth is expected to slow nationwide. In 2026, the labor force is projected to decline to 19,665 in the Pittsburg micropolitan area (down 0.2 percent), to increase to 1,560,371 statewide (up by 127), and to increase to 170.4 million nationwide (up 0.4 percent). During the 2025-2029 period, the labor force is projected to decline to 19,546 in the micropolitan area (down 0.8 percent), to increase to 1,560,752 statewide (up by 8 people), and to increase to 172.6 million nationwide (up 1.7 percent).

Labor Force

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US*	Change
2018	19,422	-1.6%	1,491,449	0.1%	162,075	1.1%
2019	19,491	0.4%	1,502,264	0.7%	163,539	0.9%
2020	19,574	0.4%	1,501,633	0.0%	160,742	-1.7%
2021	19,452	-0.6%	1,499,635	-0.1%	161,204	0.3%
2022	19,734	1.5%	1,507,842	0.5%	164,287	1.9%
2023	19,780	0.2%	1,524,403	1.1%	167,116	1.7%
2024	19,698	-0.4%	1,545,791	1.4%	168,106	0.6%
2025	19,705	0.0%	1,560,244	0.9%	169,678	0.9%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
*in thousands

Labor Force Projections

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US*	Change
2025-2026	19,665	-0.2%	1,560,371	0.0%	170,399	0.4%
2025-2029	19,546	-0.8%	1,560,752	0.0%	172,562	1.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
*in thousands

EMPLOYMENT

NEW ESTIMATES SHOW that average annual wages in the Pittsburg micropolitan area are \$99,300 in management occupations; \$89,400 in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; \$88,100 in computer and mathematical occupations; \$85,300 in architecture and engineering occupations; \$81,700 in legal occupations; \$75,500 in life, physical, and social science occupations; \$74,600 in business and financial operations occupations; \$58,400 in installation, maintenance, and repairs occupations; \$55,300 in construction and extraction occupations; \$53,700 in community and related occupations; \$49,800 in educational instruction and library occupations; \$49,200 in protective service occupations; \$47,400 in arts, sports, and related occupations; \$46,800 in production occupations; \$45,500 in transportation and related occupations;

Wages by Occupation Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025

Management Occupations	\$99,300
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	\$89,400
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	\$88,100
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	\$85,300
Legal Occupations	\$81,700
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	\$75,500
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	\$74,600
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	\$58,400
Construction and Extraction Occupations	\$55,300
Community and Social Service Occupations	\$53,700
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	\$49,800
Protective Service Occupations	\$49,200
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	\$47,400
Production Occupations	\$46,800
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$45,500
Sales and Related Occupations	\$43,300
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	\$42,400

Source: Chmura Economics & Analytics

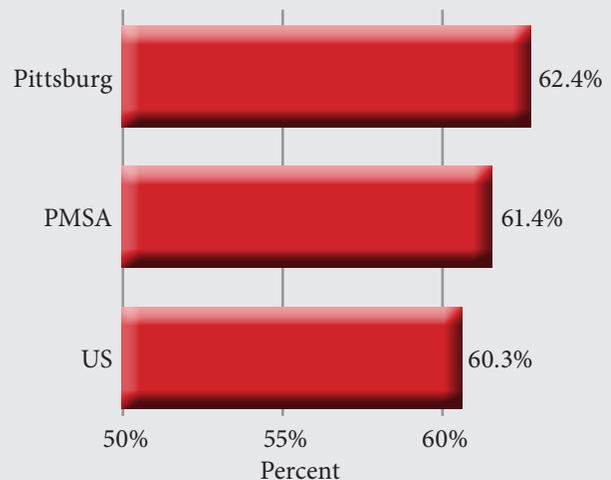
\$43,300 in sales and related occupations; \$42,400 in office and admin support occupations; \$41,700 in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; \$35,100 in building and grounds cleaning-related occupations; \$34,500 in healthcare support occupations; \$32,200 in personal care and

service occupations; and \$29,200 in food preparation and related occupations. Employment (in the micropolitan area or elsewhere) among residents of the Pittsburg micropolitan area declined 0.9 percent in 2025.

PROJECTIONS:

Employment is expected to slow nationwide. Having millions of migrants leave the country will affect employment. During the 2025-2029 period, employment is projected to decline to 18,559 in the micropolitan area

Employment Population Ratio 2025



Source: Demographics Now

(down 1.1 percent), to decline to 1,492,235 statewide (down 0.5 percent), and to increase to 158.6 million nationwide (up 1.1 percent). The local workforce is hard working. The employment population ratio was 62.4 percent in the City of Pittsburg and 61.4 in the Pittsburg micropolitan area in 2025 (for residents employed both within and outside the micropolitan area), compared to only 60.3 percent nationwide.

Employment

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US*	Change
2018	18,682	-1.4%	1,442,061	0.4%	146,132	1.6%
2019	18,763	0.4%	1,454,669	0.9%	148,105	1.4%
2020	18,531	-1.2%	1,414,277	-2.8%	139,104	-6.1%
2021	18,821	1.6%	1,448,835	2.4%	143,780	3.4%
2022	19,167	1.8%	1,466,588	1.2%	150,026	4.3%
2023	19,194	0.1%	1,480,579	1.0%	153,141	2.1%
2024	18,933	-1.4%	1,490,553	0.7%	154,870	1.1%
2025	18,761	-0.9%	1,500,466	0.7%	156,883	1.3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*in thousands

Employment Projections

	Pittsburg Micro	Change	Kansas	Change	US*	Change
2025-2026	18,710	-0.3%	1,498,408	-0.1%	157,321	0.3%
2025-2029	18,559	-1.1%	1,492,235	-0.5%	158,636	1.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*in thousands

RETAIL SALES

LOCAL RETAILERS ARE DOING WELL. Preliminary estimates by Woods & Poole indicate that total retail sales in the Pittsburg micropolitan area increased to \$726.2 million during 2025 (up 4.8 percent).

Gasoline stations had the largest increase in annual sales, posting \$84.8 million in total sales, up \$18.4 million (up 27.6 percent), followed by building material and garden supplies, posting \$72.5 million, up \$9.4 million (up 14.9 percent); general merchandize, posting \$128.2 million, up \$5.2 million (up 4.2 percent); food and beverage stories, posting \$132.4 million, up \$4.3 million (up 3.3 percent); motor vehicle and parts, posting \$128.5 million, up \$2.4 million (up 1.9 percent); sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, posting \$16.1 million, up \$1.4 million (up 9.5 percent); furniture and home furnishing stores, posting

\$0.2 million (up 2.2 percent); and electronics and appliance stores, posting \$3.2 million, up \$0.2 million (5.6 percent).

PROJECTIONS:

Spending on retail sales reflects consumer confidence about the economic future.

Total retail sales in the Pittsburg micropolitan area are

Retail Sales Growth by Category 2025

Gasoline Stations	27.6%
Furniture and Home Furnishing Stores	17.5%
Building Materials, Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	14.9%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	9.5%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	5.6%
General Merchandise	4.2%
Food and Beverage Stores	3.3%
Clothing and Clothing Accessory Stores	2.2%
Motor Vehicles and Parts	1.9%
Miscellaneous Store	-0.3%
Health and Personal Care	-2.8%
Eating and Drinking Places	-7.2%
Nonstore Retailers	-8.9%

Source: Woods & Poole

\$8.7 million, up \$1.3 million (up 17.5 percent); clothing and clothing accessory stores, posting \$11.3 million, up

Retail Sales by Category 2025 - 2029

Nonstore Retailers	31.0%
Furniture and Home Furnishing Stores	23.3%
Eating and Drinking Places	22.8%
Health and Personal Care	22.2%
Building Materials, Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	21.9%
General Merchandise	21.2%
Gasoline Stations	17.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	17.7%
Motor Vehicles and Parts	17.7%
Clothing and Clothing Accessory Stores	12.9%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	12.3%
Miscellaneous Store	11.6%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	10.6%

Source: Woods & Poole

projected to increase 19.6 percent in the 2025-2029 period, with online and remote retail sales expected to increase 31.0 percent, followed by furniture and home furnishing sales; (up 23.3 percent); eating and drinking places (up 22.8 percent); health and personal care (up 22.2 percent); building materials, etc., (up 21.9 percent); general merchandise (up 21.2 percent); gasoline sales (up 17.9%); food and beverage stores (up 17.7 percent); motor vehicle and parts (up 17.7 percent); clothing stores, etc. (up 12.9 percent); electronics and appliances (up 12.3 percent); miscellaneous stores (up 11.6 percent); and sporting goods, etc. (up 10.6%).

Total Retail Sales

	Pittsburg Micro*	Change	Kansas*	Change	US*	Change
2018	\$503.8	3.6%	\$45,951	4.0%	\$5,878,076	4.4%
2019	\$514.9	2.2%	\$47,195	2.7%	\$6,064,675	3.2%
2020	\$515.7	0.2%	\$47,414	0.5%	\$6,107,761	0.7%
2021	\$610.1	18.3%	\$55,996	18.1%	\$7,225,391	18.3%
2022	\$663.9	8.8%	\$60,766	8.5%	\$7,873,541	9.0%
2023	\$675.9	1.8%	\$62,592	3.0%	\$8,139,470	3.4%
2024	\$692.6	2.5%	\$64,311	2.7%	\$8,385,986	3.0%
2025	\$726.2	4.8%	\$65,984	2.6%	\$8,696,267	3.7%

Source: Woods & Poole
*in millions

Total Retail Sales Projections

	Pittsburg Micro*	Change	Kansas*	Change	US*	Change
2025-2026	\$760.8	4.8%	\$69,319	5.1%	\$9,161,218	5.3%
2025-2029	\$868.4	19.6%	\$79,783	20.9%	\$10,632,881	22.3%

Source: Woods & Poole
*in millions

Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Snapshot 2025

Complete Demographic Summary Report
Crawford County, November 24, 2024

Pittsburg Micropolitan
Area

70 Miles Radius
Pittsburg, Kansas

100 Miles Radius
Pittsburg, Kansas

	Pittsburg Micropolitan Area	70 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas	100 Miles Radius Pittsburg, Kansas
POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS			
Labor Force (Civillian)	19,069	289,842	1,134,634
Total Population	38,434	651,190	2,356,636
Population Density (Pop/Sq Mi)	64.7	42.3	75.0
Total Households	15,778	261,999	933,903
POPULATION BY GENDER			
Male population	19,275	325,056	1,174,325
Female population	19,159	326,135	1,182,310
POPULATION PERCENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY			
White	82.9%	81.2%	77.7%
Black	2.3%	1.5%	2.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.0%	3.7%	3.2%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.9%	1.5%	2.9%
Some Other Race	3.1%	3.1%	4.0%
Two or More Races	8.8%	9.0%	9.8%
Hispanic Ethnicity	6.9%	6.6%	8.7%
Not of Hispanic Ethnicity	93.2%	93.4%	91.3%
HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME			
Average Household Income	\$69,575	\$72,106	\$88,971
Median Household Income	\$52,284	\$57,683	\$72,466
Per Capita Income	\$28,835	\$29,149	\$34,762
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+	23,313	442,113	1,577,936
% Grade K - 8	1.3%	2.5%	2.4%
% Grade 9 - 11	4.1%	7.7%	6.1%
% High School Graduate	29.1%	35.5%	31.5%
% Some College, No Degree	25.2%	23.3%	22.3%
% Associate Degree	8.9%	8.8%	8.1%
% Bachelor's Degree	19.5%	14.2%	18.3%
% Graduate Degree	11.0%	6.8%	10.2%
% No Schooling Completed	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%

Source: *Demographics Now*

Annual Wages for the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area 2025

Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, PR, & Sales Managers	\$139,800	Mathematical Science Occupations	\$100,700
Air Transportation Workers	\$92,400	Occupational Health & Safety Specialists & Technicians	\$72,600
Architects, Surveyors, and Cartographers	\$71,400	Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapist Assistants & Aides	\$61,200
Building & Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Worker Supervisors	\$51,500	Office & Administrative Support Worker Supervisors	\$62,100
Business Operations Specialists	\$70,800	Operations Specialties Managers	\$125,500
Computer Occupations	\$87,500	Other Construction & Related Workers	\$51,200
Construction and Extraction Worker Supervisors	\$75,100	Other Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	\$56,100
Construction Trades Workers	\$53,200	Other Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	\$56,900
Counselors, Social Workers, & Other Community & Social Services	\$53,800	Other Management Occupations	\$85,900
Drafters, Engineering Technicians, & Mapping Technicians	\$61,900	Physical Scientists	\$93,100
Electrical & Electronic Equipment Mechanics, Installers & Repairers	\$60,300	Plant & System Operators	\$58,100
Engineers	\$95,700	Postsecondary Teachers	\$74,400
Extraction Workers	\$51,700	Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, & Special Ed. Teachers	\$54,900
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Worker Supervisors	\$58,400	Production Worker Supervisors	\$73,100
Financial Specialists	\$83,000	Protective Service Worker Supervisors	\$68,500
Health Technologists & Technicians	\$51,600	Rail Transportation Workers	\$65,600
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	\$111,500	Religious Workers	\$53,100
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Worker Supervisors	\$78,500	Sales Representatives, Services	\$66,200
Lawyers, Judges, & Related Workers	\$98,400	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	\$81,300
Life Scientists	\$88,800	Social Scientists & Related Workers	\$80,900
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians	\$55,900	Transportation & Material Moving Worker Supervisors	\$66,500

Source: Kansas Labor Market Information Center

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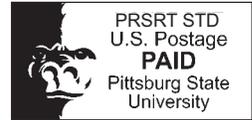


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