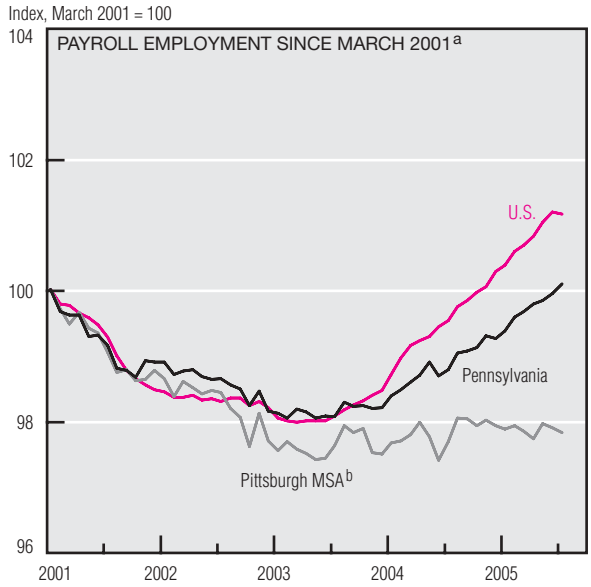
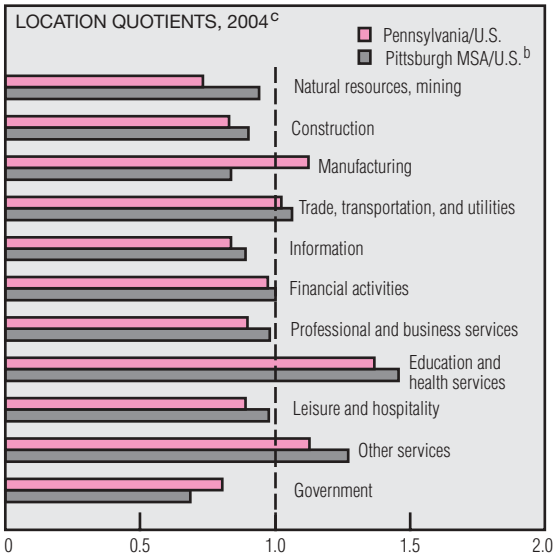
Employment in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area





Selected Demographics, 2004

	Pittsburgh MSA[b]	Pennsylvania	U.S.
Total population	2,260,551	11,957,883	285,691,501
Percent by race			
White	90.0	85.8	77.3
Black	8.9	10.7	12.8
Other	1.1	3.5	9.9
Percent by age			
0 to 19	24.0	25.7	27.9
20 to 34	17.0	18.1	20.3
35 to 64	42.3	41.5	39.8
65 or older	16.8	14.7	12.0
Percent with bachelor's degree or higher	26.2	24.7	27.0

a. Seasonally adjusted.
b. The Pittsburgh metropolitan statistical area includes Butler, Armstrong, Beaver, Alleghany, Westmoreland, Washington, and Fayette counties.
c. A location quotient of one indicates parity between an area and the U.S. regarding an industry's share of total employment.
SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Although the 2001 recession ended almost four years ago, payroll employment in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area has yet to return to its pre-recession levels. In this respect, it is unlike both the U.S., which recovered its pre-recession employment level by January, and Pennsylvania, which recovered its lost jobs by September.

Two sectors in which Pittsburgh area employment has dropped sharply since the recession are information and manufacturing, which are often considered key constituents of the area's economy. In manufacturing, the primary metals subsector is associated closely with the metro area. Since 2001, however, primary metals employment has declined almost 21%.

Toward the end of the 1990s, some also began to see Pittsburgh as a center for high-tech and information industries, but since the recession, the information sector has lost almost 14% of its jobs. Interestingly, despite Pittsburgh's association with information and manufacturing, Pittsburgh has relatively less of each than the U.S. has. However, it boasts a much higher concentration of employment in education and health services.

Pittsburgh's demographics differ significantly from Pennsylvania and the U.S. One of the most important differences is in age: In 2004, the metro area had a higher median age (41.4 versus 36.2 in the nation) and a larger share of population older than 64. It also had a slightly smaller share of college graduates than the U.S., but a larger share than the state.