



# POLICY POINTS

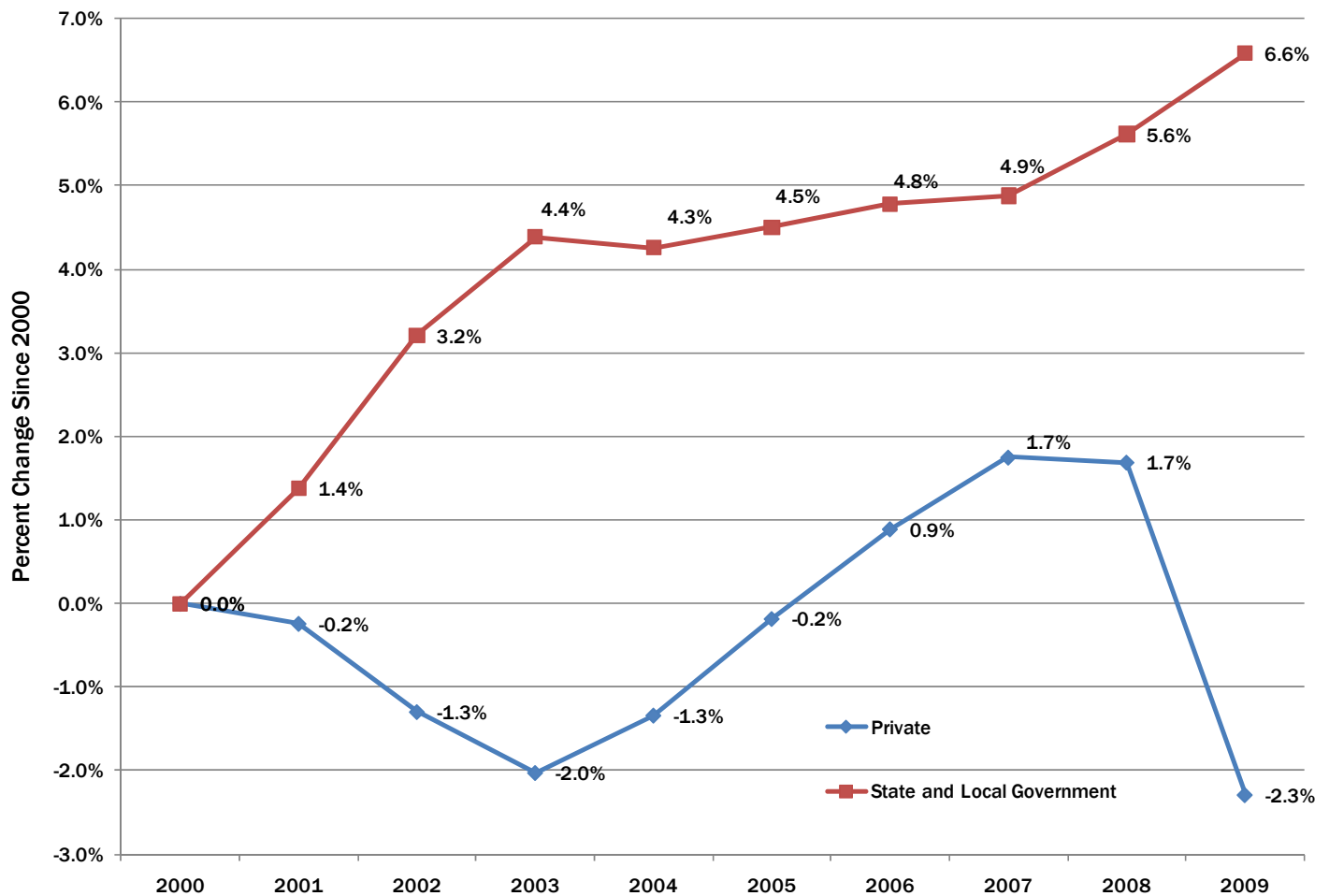
from the COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION

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## Public vs. Private Employment & Pay

Pennsylvania's private sector *lost* 113,600 jobs while state and local governments *added* 40,200 positions between 2000 and 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Pennsylvania Public vs. Private Employment Change, 2000-2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

At the same time, public-sector wages exceed those for comparable positions in the private sector.

(over)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pennsylvania's public-sector employees are, on average, **better paid than private-sector workers in similar occupations in the same geographic area**, even before the public-sector's more generous health-care and pension benefits are included.

### Public and Private Sector Mean Hourly Wages

(by region and occupation)

#### Management

Pennsylvania	Private Sector	Public Sector (State & Local)	Percent Difference	Report Date
Philadelphia Region	\$37.03	\$37.08	0.14%	Jan-09
York Area	\$29.63	\$33.01	11.41%	Oct-08
Pittsburgh Area	\$29.84	\$37.02	24.06%	Mar-09
Reading Area	\$27.14	\$34.83	28.33%	Jan-09
Johnstown Area	\$22.88	\$26.00	13.64%	Jun-09

#### Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance

Pennsylvania	Private Sector	Public Sector (State & Local)	Percent Difference	Report Date
Philadelphia Region	\$22.18	\$22.35	0.77%	Jan-09
York Area	\$18.98	NA		Oct-08
Pittsburgh Area	\$18.59	\$17.86	-3.93%	Mar-09
Reading Area	\$17.23	\$19.01	10.33%	Jan-09
Johnstown Area	\$19.10	NA		Jun-09

#### Service

Pennsylvania	Private Sector	Public Sector (State & Local)	Percent Difference	Report Date
Philadelphia Region	\$11.56	\$23.37	102.16%	Jan-09
York Area	\$8.72	\$16.25	86.35%	Oct-08
Pittsburgh Area	\$9.71	\$19.16	97.32%	Mar-09
Reading Area	\$10.20	\$15.79	54.80%	Jan-09
Johnstown Area	\$9.48	\$18.53	95.46%	Jun-09

#### Production, Transportation and Material

Pennsylvania	Private Sector	Public Sector (State & Local)	Percent Difference	Report Date
Philadelphia Region	\$16.72	\$19.86	18.78%	Jan-09
York Area	\$14.94	NA		Oct-08
Pittsburgh Area	\$17.57	\$16.21	-7.74%	Mar-09
Reading Area	\$15.65	NA		Jan-09
Johnstown Area	\$14.56	NA		Jun-09

Source: [www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm#PA](http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm#PA)

#### Sales and Office

Pennsylvania	Private Sector	Public Sector (State & Local)	Percent Difference	Report Date
Philadelphia Region	\$16.83	\$19.77	17.47%	Jan-09
York Area	\$14.08	\$15.05	6.89%	Oct-08
Pittsburgh Area	\$14.46	\$17.42	20.47%	Mar-09
Reading Area	\$15.72	\$17.57	11.77%	Jan-09
Johnstown Area	\$13.62	\$12.34	-9.40%	Jun-09

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For more on **Public Employee Pensions and Benefits** visit  
[www.CommonwealthFoundation.org](http://www.CommonwealthFoundation.org)

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