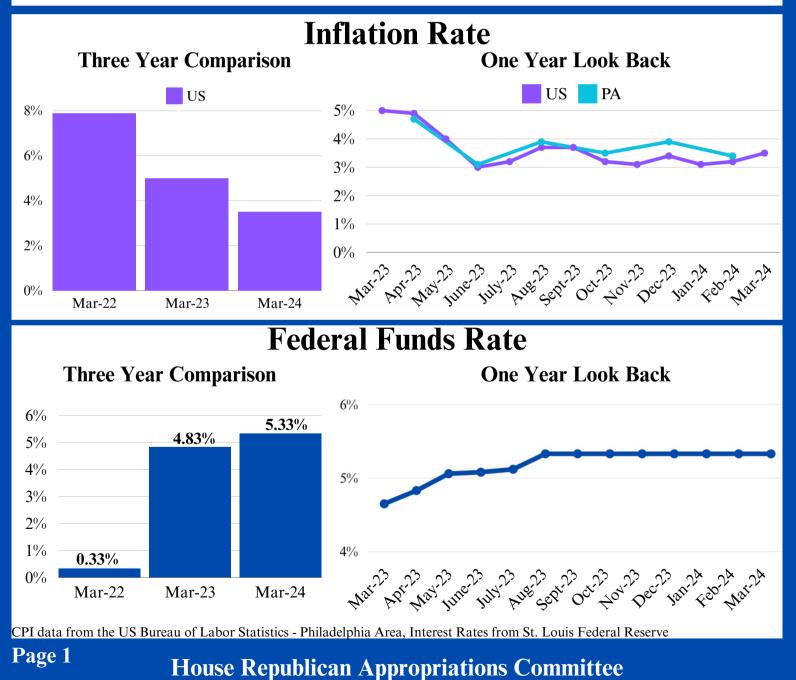


## March 2024 Economic Brief

## **Message from Chairman Grove**



March economic data continues to provide mixed news. Nationally, inflation rose to 3.5%, a slight increase of 0.3 percentage points, leading many economists to believe the Federal Reserve will delay a lowering of the Federal Funds Rate to late-summer or fall at the earliest. Locally, gas prices have continued to rise albeit not as significant as national trends; however, electricity rates are outpacing the national average. On a brighter note, the state unemployment rate has now held steady at 3.4% for the seventh consecutive month.

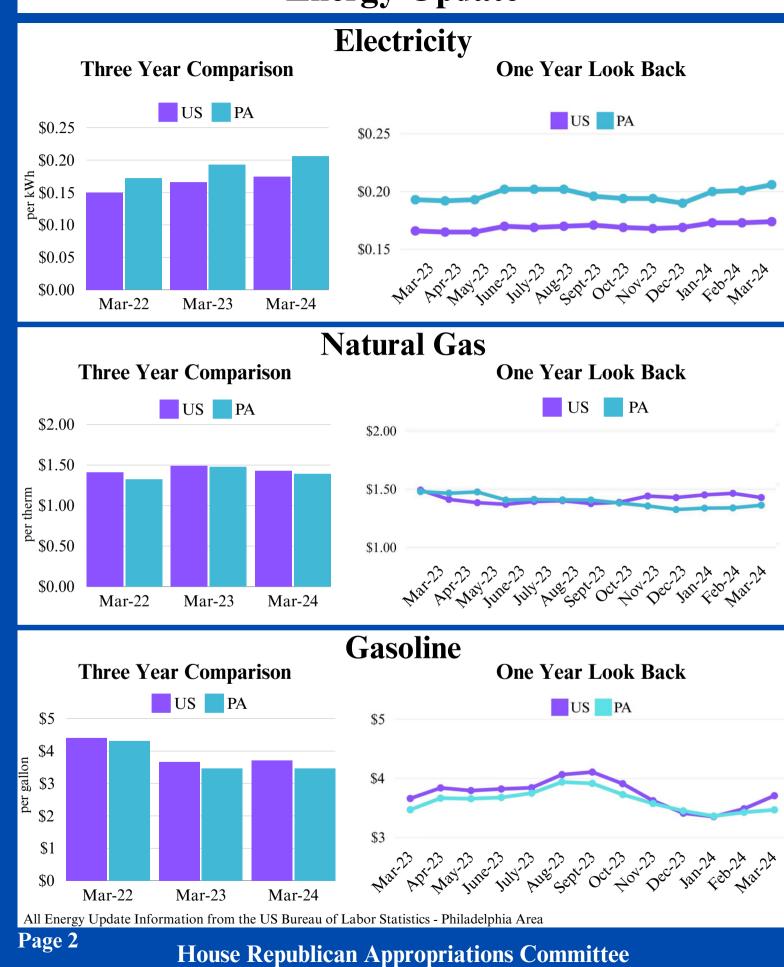


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## **Energy Update**

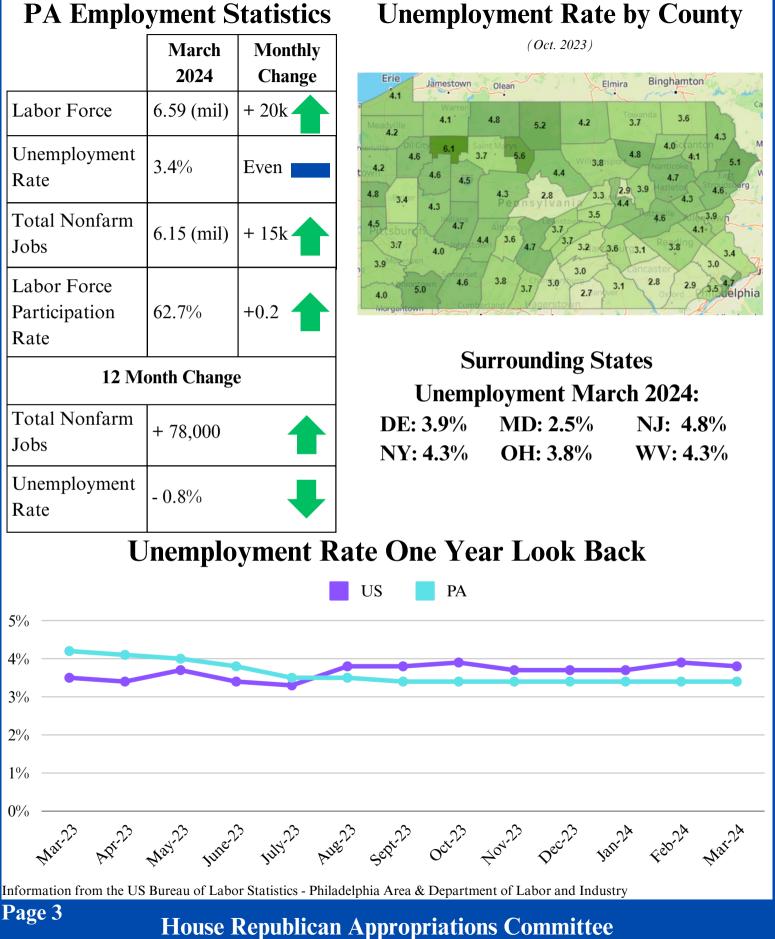


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## **Employment Data**



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