



BERKSHIRE WORKFORCE BOARD

FACT SHEET

MISSION

TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY BY ALIGNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING WITH LOCAL LABOR MARKET NEEDS.

VISION:

Our vision is to excel as the primary workforce resource in Berkshire County area for labor market information, skills enhancement, customized training, and youth career readiness programming. Working in partnership with business and industry, economic development organizations, education, labor, community agencies, government agencies and individuals, the Berkshire Workforce Board provides quality workforce development activities resulting in a skilled workforce that exceeds the needs of today's employers and tomorrow's job challenges.

TRAINING RESOURCES

- ▼ Workforce Training Fund
- ▼ Industry Specific Training
- ▼ Apprenticeship & On-the-job
- ▼ Work Share & Rapid Response – for companies in transition

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- ▼ College & Career Readiness in EVERY Berkshire middle & high school
- ▼ Career Awareness & Exploration
- ▼ Specialized Training, internships & Work Experience
- ▼ Summer Jobs4Youth

Job Vacancy Data –JobQuest – 1,248 jobs (12/17/19); the BC vacancy rate is 5.1% (compared to MA 4.8%). 45% prof./technical 55% Entry/ PT

Transp./Material Moving	*190
Sales	185
Healthcare	178
Management	111
Office/Admin Support	106
Architect/Engineering	86
Food Prep/Serving	64
Education/Training/Library	46
Computer/Math	44
Personal Care and Service	44
Community/Social Services	40
Protective Service	34
Building & Grounds	29
Business & Finance	23
Arts/Design/Entertainment	21

*There were 159 CDL driver jobs listed in the last 30 days.

Indeed – 1,791 job listings
Simply Hired – 1,112 job listings
SnagAjob.com - 772 job listings
Berkshire Jobs – 190 job listings

Top skills needed

- Computer (Microsoft package, basic programming, social media)
- Communication (clearly articulate, actively listen, follow directions)
- Management (leadership, be proactive, take initiative, constructive criticism)
- Industry-specific (engineers, nurses, laborers, customer service, accounting, tellers)
- Technical (technicians, programmers, trades)

42% companies have persistent job vacancies – engineers, residential support, laborers, management professionals, technicians, teachers, nurses, tellers

LABOR MARKET STATS

Berkshire County

- ▼ Labor Market Supply: - November 2019 Berkshire unemployment rate 2.8% (MA 2.3%; US 3.6%)
- ▼ 65,018 in labor force (a -0.54% change from 2018); 63,214 employed (a -0.09% change from 2018); 1,804 unemployed (a -14.10% change from 2018)
- ▼ Educational Attainment – Berkshire County has fewer high school dropouts and more people who complete Associate Degrees and pursue post-secondary (9.3% vs. 11.1%), but smaller share with Bachelor's degree (30% vs 38.7%)
- ▼ Aging workforce - 18.6% over 65 compared to 13.6% in MA
- ▼ Talented, innovative, creative workforce. Collaborative and entrepreneurial spirit
- ▼ Growing immigrant population; decline in those ages 25-44
- ▼ Other Workforce issues – limited transportation; services oriented; limited data collection (low population); economic growth (lower share of degrees disadvantage of attracting STEM)