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Pittsburgh among areas with some hiring gains

Education, health services fields are faring well

BY G. SCOTT THOMAS AND BETH BALLOG

Not all parts of the national economy are struggling. Hiring continues in the fields of education and health services, which have added nearly a quarter-million jobs in the nation's 100 biggest labor markets since the middle of last year.

Pittsburgh was one of the top 20 gainers, according to an analysis of midyear U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment data. The city had a net gain of 3,300 education and health jobs.

The New York City metro area, which sprawls into New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, added the most jobs — 34,200 — during the 12-month period. Three other markets — Dallas-Fort Worth, Boston and Los Angeles — picked up 12,000 or more.

The 100 markets, taken as a group, have added 232,600 jobs in the fields of education and health since mid-2008, a gain of 1.8 percent.

Richmond registered the sharpest gain in percentage terms, with a one-year increase of 10 percent in education and health-services employment. It's followed by gains of 6.6 percent in Dallas-Fort Worth and 6.4 percent in Indianapolis.

In general, the growth of health care employment nationally has supported population growth and aging populations, said

Where the new jobs are

A look at the top areas for adding education and health services jobs since the middle of 2008.

1. **New York City**, gain of 34,200 education and health jobs
2. **Dallas-Fort Worth**, gain of 21,400 education and health jobs
3. **Boston**, gain of 12,900 education and health jobs
4. **Los Angeles**, gain of 12,000 education and health jobs
5. **Atlanta**, gain of 8,900 education and health jobs
17. **PITTSBURGH**, gain of 3,300 education and health jobs

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Jim Futrell, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development's vice president of market research and analysis.

Those are not the driving factors in Pittsburgh, he said, because the city has not increased its population and its over-65 demographic is shrinking.

"It speaks to the quality of the growth," he said.

That quality is another factor separating the "eds and meds" in Pittsburgh, which had 1.45 percent growth, from many other labor markets, Futrell said.

The University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University conduct almost \$1 billion in combined research each year and also spin out technologies into local start-up companies, Futrell said.

And global organization UPMC, along with West Penn Allegheny Health System, import patients into the region because of the quality of their programs, he said.

In its fiscal year ending June 30, UPMC added 5,498 jobs, spokesman Frank Raczkiwicz said.

The two industries account for more than \$11 billion in local salaries and 22 percent of the total salaries in the region, according to economic data provided by the University of Pittsburgh, UPMC and Carnegie Mellon University.

"One key to the city's revitalization has been the growth and success of UPMC, the region's largest employer ... and a major force in the area economy," Raczkiwicz said.

Upswings in the two fields have been broadly based.

Eighty-seven of the top 100 markets boosted their totals of education and health jobs between 2008 and 2009. Five were unchanged, and eight suffered losses.

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