



## Unemployment rate improves in Franklin, Fulton counties

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

Unemployment in Franklin and Fulton counties fell in July.

Franklin County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 8.3 percent, but the number of jobs in the county continues to decline. Seasonally adjusted unemployment in June was 8.7 percent for Franklin County.

State government employment decreased by about 200 in July, which the state Center for Workforce Information and Analysis attributed largely to the closing of Scotland School for Veterans' Children. Gov. Ed Rendell's budget proposal eliminates funding to the school, though supporters are still fighting to keep the school open since there is no state budget to date.

Manufacturing jobs dropped to their lowest levels since December 2002.

The 200 manufacturing jobs shed in July are among 1,500 in the manufacturing sector lost since July 2008.

Overall unemployment in the county is nearly double that of a year ago.

The total number of non-farm jobs dropped by 2,500 (4.2 percent) over the last year, the largest drop since the recession of 2001.

Local government jobs dropped slightly in July due to expected seasonal layoffs of staff at some local schools over the summer break.

Franklin County tied with four other counties for the 25th lowest unemployment rate in Pennsylvania.

Fulton County unemployment dropped more than a percentage point to 14.3 percent in July.

Manufacturing jobs remained steady but are still down by about 1,000 positions from a year ago.

The rehiring of JLG employees to help fulfill a contract with the Department of Defense is expected to be reflected in August's unemployment numbers.

In line with national and state trends, unemployment in Adams County dropped slightly. Cumberland County saw a small increase.

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