

# Philadelphia

An Executive Summary of Economic and Demographic Trends

2021



PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

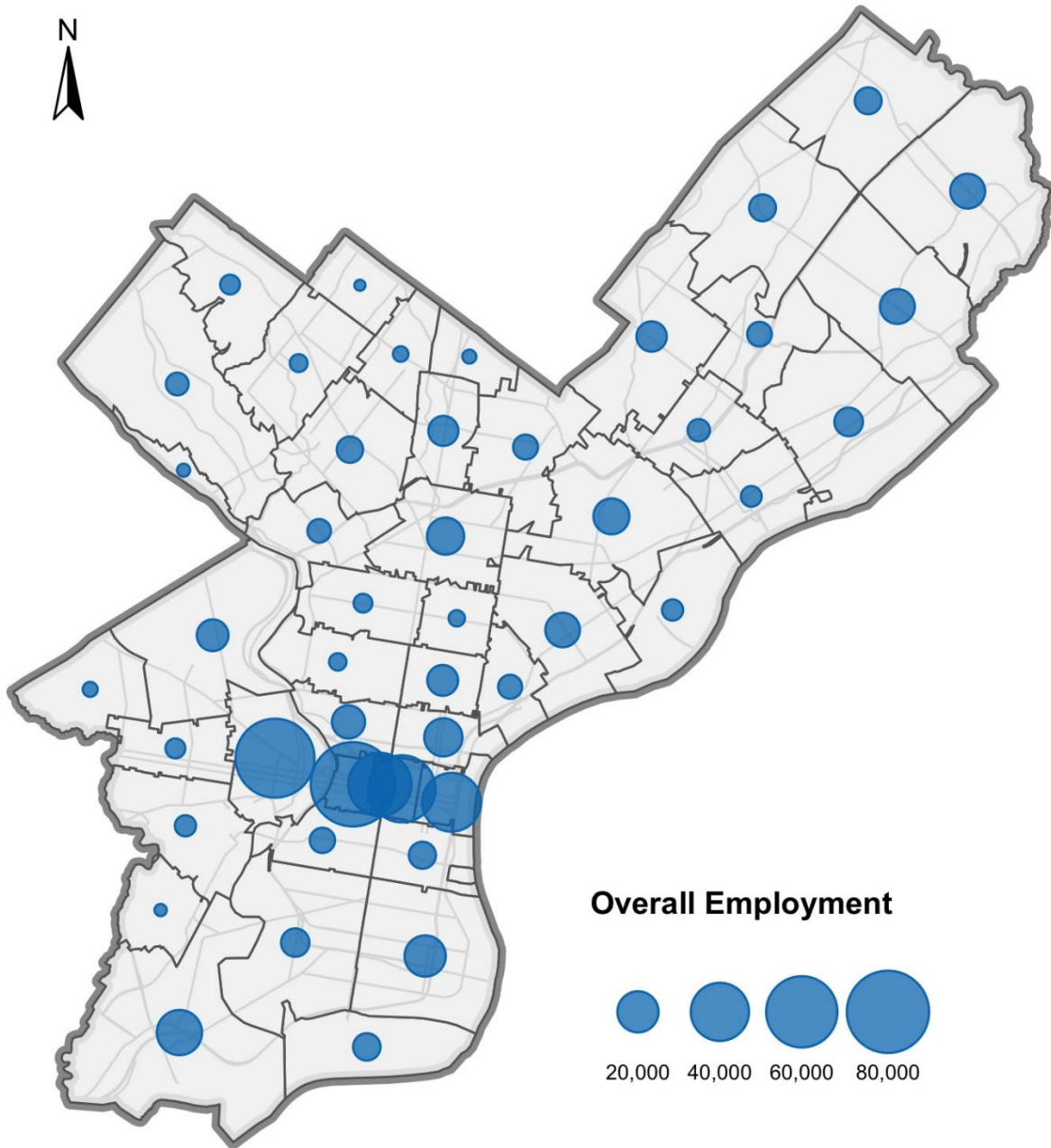
# Contents

Industry Employment.....	2
Labor Force Participation .....	7
Education and Educational Attainment .....	10
Income and Wages .....	15
Poverty .....	18
Returning Citizens .....	21
Youth and Opportunity Youth .....	24
Housing and Affordability .....	27
Transportation .....	30
Internet Access.....	33
Commercial Development .....	35

# Industry Employment

This section covers Industry Employment in Philadelphia, showing which sectors are most important to Philadelphia's economy, which industries have seen significant employment growth over the past decade, and where industry employment is concentrated across the city.

## Job Counts by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2018



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau LEHD LODES WAC, 2018

679,000

Jobs in Philadelphia  
Second Quarter 2020

50%

Employed in Health Care, Social  
Assistance, Government, or  
Education

4.23

Location Quotient for  
Educational Services

*By industry, jobs in Philadelphia are highly concentrated in non-manual occupations. More than half of the city's employment is in Health Care, Social Assistance, Government, Education, or Professional Services industry sectors.*

## Simple Industry Mix, 2020

Description	Total Jobs as of June 2020	Total Average Jobs 2019	Percent Change	Location Quotient Q2 2020
Health Care and Social Assistance	167,390	168,650	-1%	1.78
Government	104,900	104,110	1%	1.03
Educational Services	57,060	58,360	-2%	4.23
Professional Services	55,890	55,650	-	1.24
Accommodation and Food Services	52,870	62,400	-18%	0.88
Retail Trade	46,220	48,910	-6%	0.65
Finance and Insurance	29,250	29,600	-1%	1.03
Administrative and Support Services	26,920	28,130	-4%	0.64
Transportation and Warehousing	25,570	25,800	-1%	0.98
Other Services	22,150	24,100	-9%	1.10
Manufacturing	18,230	19,430	-7%	0.31
Wholesale Trade	13,270	13,990	-5%	0.49
Information	12,740	11,180	12%	0.96
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	12,070	13,650	-13%	1.20
Management of Companies	11,660	11,980	-3%	1.04
Construction	10,890	11,830	-9%	0.31
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,130	10,340	-2%	0.96
Utilities	1,570	1,570	-	0.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>678,780</b>	<b>699,680</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of BLS QCEW, 2020



**Industries with Strongest Total Local Growth and Positive National Growth, June 2020**

Description	Jobs in Philly	Employment Change Since 2010
Individual and Family Services	39,340	21,070
Home Health Care Services	12,430	8,510
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	37,230	5,070
Scientific Research and Development Services	6,000	3,850
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	45,450	3,800
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	5,330	3,160
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	9,270	3,000
Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	37,000	2,820
Offices of Physicians	14,470	2,650
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services	6,970	2,200

**Industries with Strongest Percent Local Growth and Positive National Growth, June 2020**

Description	Jobs in Philly	Employment Change Since 2010
Local Messengers and Local Delivery	2,280	2,211%
Facilities Support Services	1,360	358%
Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	1,090	234%
Home Health Care Services	12,430	217%
Gambling Industries	1,350	190%
Scientific Research and Development Services	6,000	179%
Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions Merchant Wholesalers	1,320	164%
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	5,330	146%
Individual and Family Services	39,340	115%
Support Activities for Air Transportation	1,600	97%

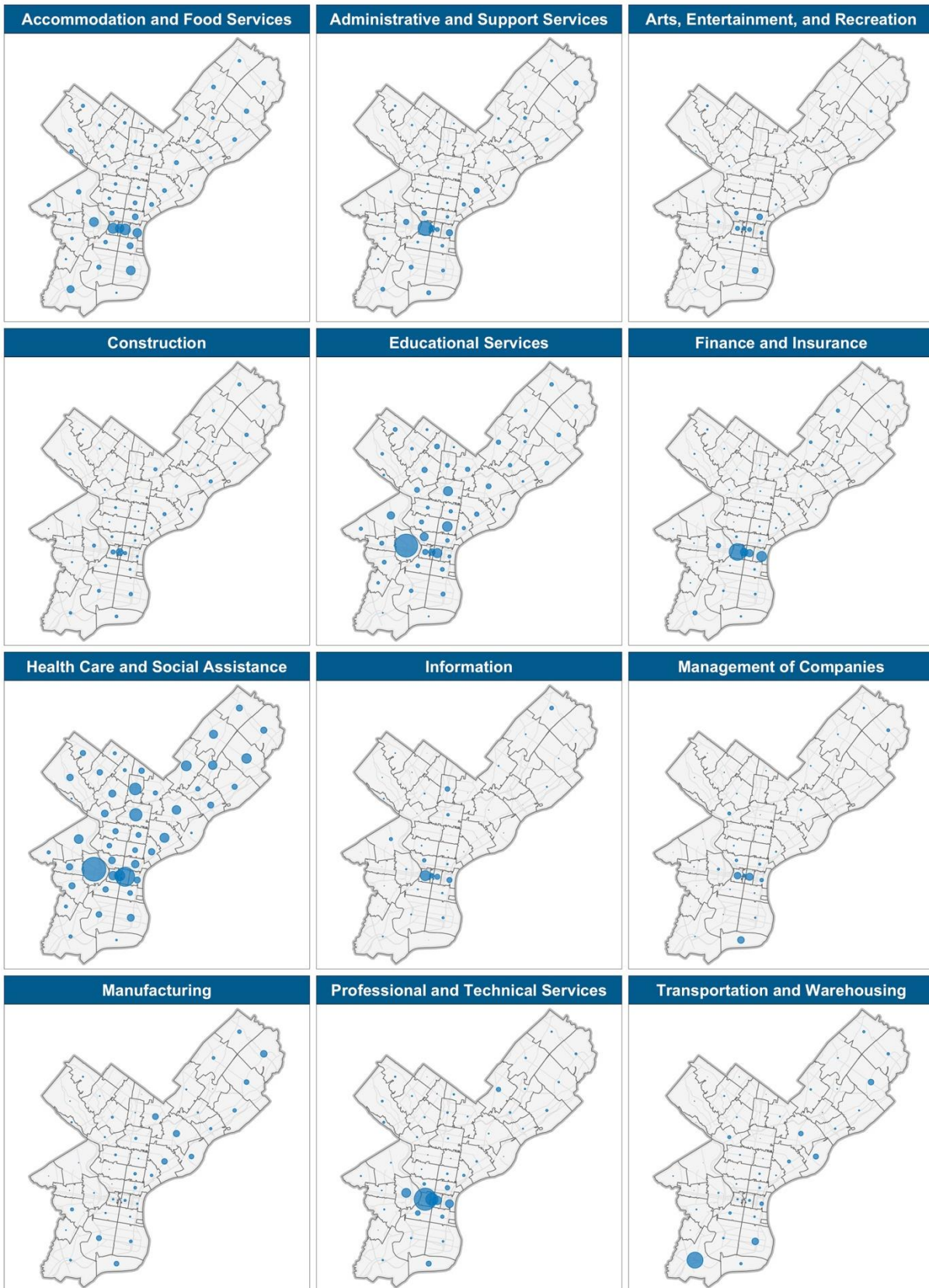
**Locally Competitive Industries, June 2020\***

Description	Jobs in Philly	Employment Change Since 2010
Home Health Care Services	12,430	217%
Scientific Research and Development Services	6,000	179%
Wired and Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	6,220	26%
Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	37,000	8%
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	5,330	146%
Local Messengers and Local Delivery	2,280	2,211%
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services	6,970	46%
General Merchandise Stores	3,890	84%
Facilities Support Services	1,360	358%

*\*Competitive Industries are those with growth that surpasses both overall local employment growth and national industry trends.*

Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of BLS QCEW, 2020

### Employment by Industry Sector and Zip Code in Philadelphia, 2018



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau LEHD LODES WAC, 2018

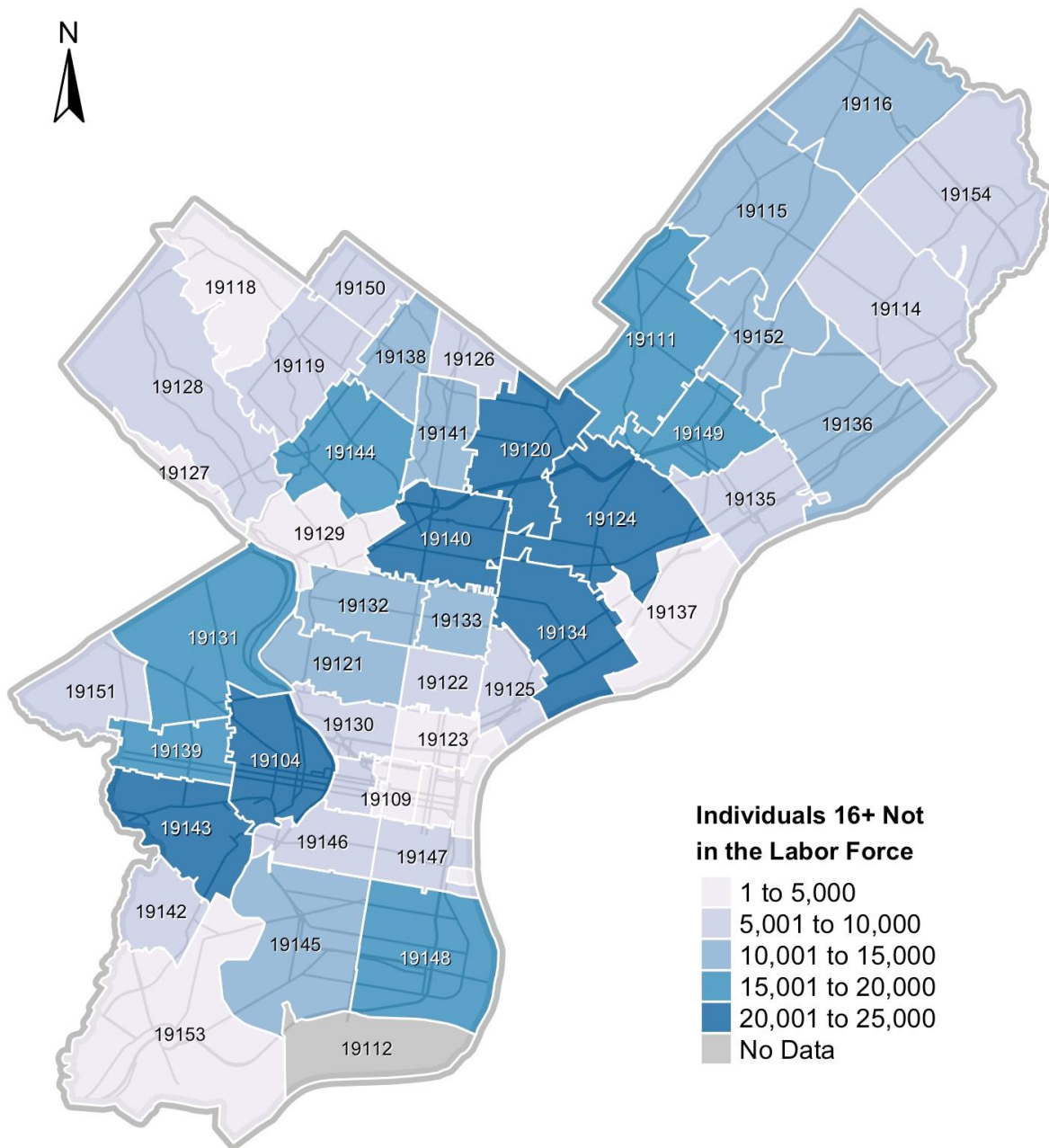
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Labor Force Participation

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the labor force as individuals that are either employed or unemployed and looking for work. Neighborhoods in North and West Philadelphia have lower participation rates than the city overall.

## Individuals Not in the Labor Force by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019



**Labor Force Characteristics by Age in Philadelphia, 2019**

Age	Labor Force	Share of Total	Participation Rate
16 to 19 years	25,200	3%	33%
20 to 24 years	77,100	10%	70%
25 to 29 years	129,300	16%	82%
30 to 34 years	122,800	16%	84%
35 to 44 years	163,600	21%	81%
45 to 54 years	131,900	17%	74%
55 to 59 years	57,500	7%	64%
60 to 64 years	46,100	6%	50%
65 to 74 years	30,400	4%	24%
75 years and over	6,300	1%	7%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>790,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>62%</b>

**62%**

Philadelphia's 2019 Labor Force Participation Rate

**Labor Force Characteristics by Race and Ethnicity in Philadelphia, 2019**

Race	Labor Force	Share of Total	Participation Rate
Asian	61,300	8%	61%
Black or African American	303,300	38%	59%
Some Other Race	50,300	6%	55%
Two or More Races	22,800	3%	66%
White	350,500	44%	66%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>790,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>62%</b>

Ethnicity	Labor Force	Share of Total	Participation Rate
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	102,200	13%	60%

**70%**

Of Labor Force Participants Are Between 25 and 54

**63%**

Of Workers Have Education Beyond High School

**Labor Force Characteristics by Educational Attainment in Philadelphia, 2019**

Population 25 to 64	Labor Force	Share of Total	Participation Rate
Less than High School Graduate	52,800	8%	50%
High School Graduate or Equivalent	185,500	28%	69%
Some College or Associate's Degree	158,500	24%	78%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	254,700	39%	88%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>651,500</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>

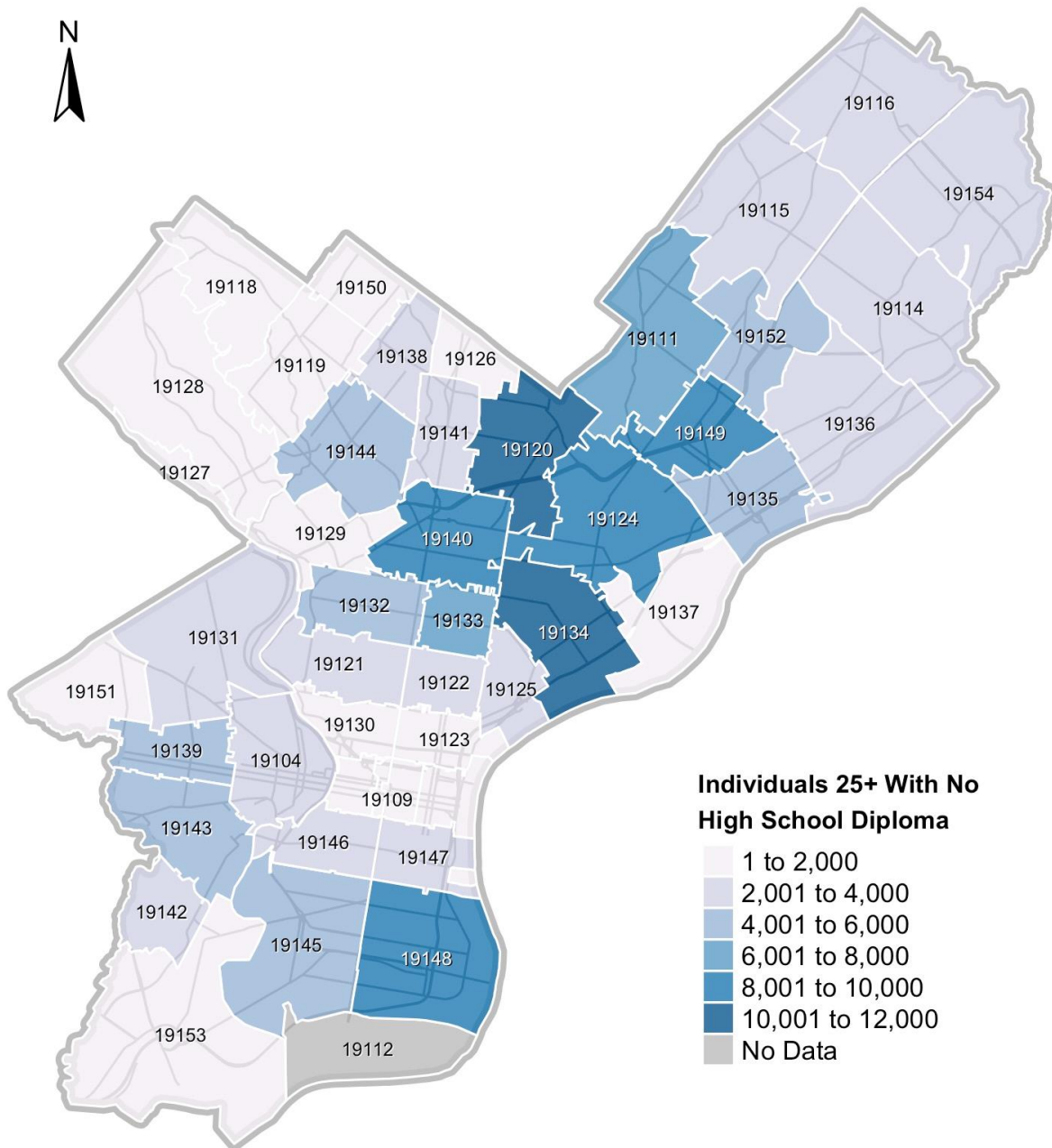
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Education and Educational Attainment

This section covers the education of Philadelphia residents. Special attention is paid to individuals without a high school education and individuals with some college experience but no degree, also known as near completers.

## Individuals with No High School Diploma by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

**72%**

**Four-Year High School  
Graduation Rate, 2020**  
*Philadelphia School District*

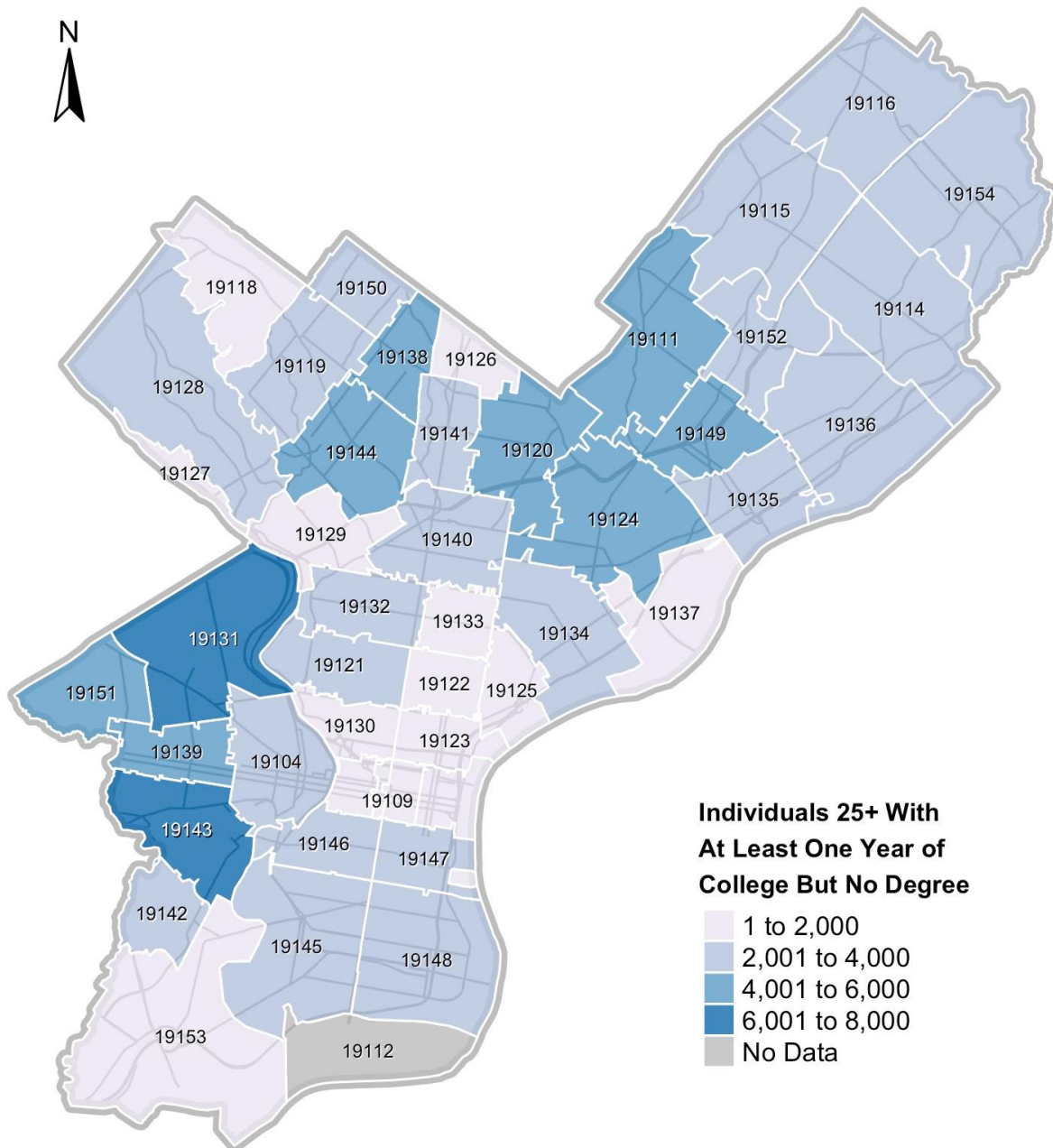
**128,000**

**Adults 25+ with One Year of  
College but No Degree, 2019**  
*Citywide Residents*

**54%**

**High School to College  
Matriculation Rate, 2019**  
*Philadelphia School District*

**“Near Completers” by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019; Philadelphia School District.



- Over the past decade, high school graduation rates have fluctuated between 65% and 75%. Latino and Hispanic students have the lowest four-year high school graduation rate: 65% in 2020.
- Share of population with bachelor’s degree: **31% of the workforce had at least a bachelor’s degree in 2019, compared to 22% in 2010.** This rapid growth has brought Philadelphia in line with Pennsylvania and the United States overall.

**Educational Attainment for the Population 25 to 64, 2010 and 2019**

Educational Attainment	2010		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Less than high school graduate	134,800	17%	105,100	12%
High school graduate or equivalency	281,100	35%	270,900	31%
Some college or associate's degree	184,200	23%	202,700	23%
Bachelor's degree or higher	195,100	25%	288,500	33%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>795,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>867,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Employment Outcomes by Educational Attainment for Population 25 to 64, 2019**

Educational Attainment	Participation Rate	Employment/ Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate
Less than high school graduate	46%	35%	23%
High school graduate or equivalency	69%	56%	19%
Some college or associate's degree	76%	66%	12%
Bachelor's degree or higher	88%	82%	6%

**32%**

**Adults with Low Literacy Proficiency**  
Scoring at or below Level 1 of the PIAAC

**49%**

**Adults with Low Numeracy Proficiency**  
Scoring at or below Level 1 of the PIAAC

Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019 and NCES PIAAC

## Degree and Certificate Completions in Philadelphia, 2018-2019 Academic Year

Description	Total	Non-Degree Award	Associate's Degrees	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Doctoral Degrees
Health Professions	9,430	380	470	2,840	2,790	2,620
Business	8,960	60	290	4,840	3,620	80
Education	2,530	40	90	430	1,660	180
Engineering	2,100	0	10	1,390	580	120
Visual and Performing Arts	2,020	30	40	1,570	280	30
Biological Sciences	1,710	20	30	1,060	380	200
Computer Sciences	1,560	100	120	770	530	30
Psychology	1,550	0	90	710	590	130
Social Sciences	1,430	50	0	1,010	260	80
Communications	1,360	0	60	1,110	160	30
Legal Professions	990	40	40	90	210	600
Public Administration	870	50	100	200	490	30
Personal and Culinary Services	610	490	90	30	0	0
Protective Services	550	0	90	340	100	0
Liberal Arts and Sciences	550	0	400	110	40	0
Architecture	480	0	0	210	240	0
Parks, Recreation, Leisure	470	0	0	360	100	0
Interdisciplinary Studies	460	10	10	260	160	0
Mechanic and Repair Tech.	450	350	20	0	0	0
Physical Sciences	390	0	10	220	80	90
Foreign Languages	350	80	10	140	50	30
Mathematics and Statistics	330	0	0	210	90	30
English Language	330	30	30	220	40	10
Engineering Technologies	280	30	40	90	90	0
Philosophy and Religion	270	10	0	240	10	20
Construction Trades	230	220	20	0	0	0
History	220	0	0	180	20	30
Precision Production	220	220	0	0	0	0

Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of data from EMSI, Inc.

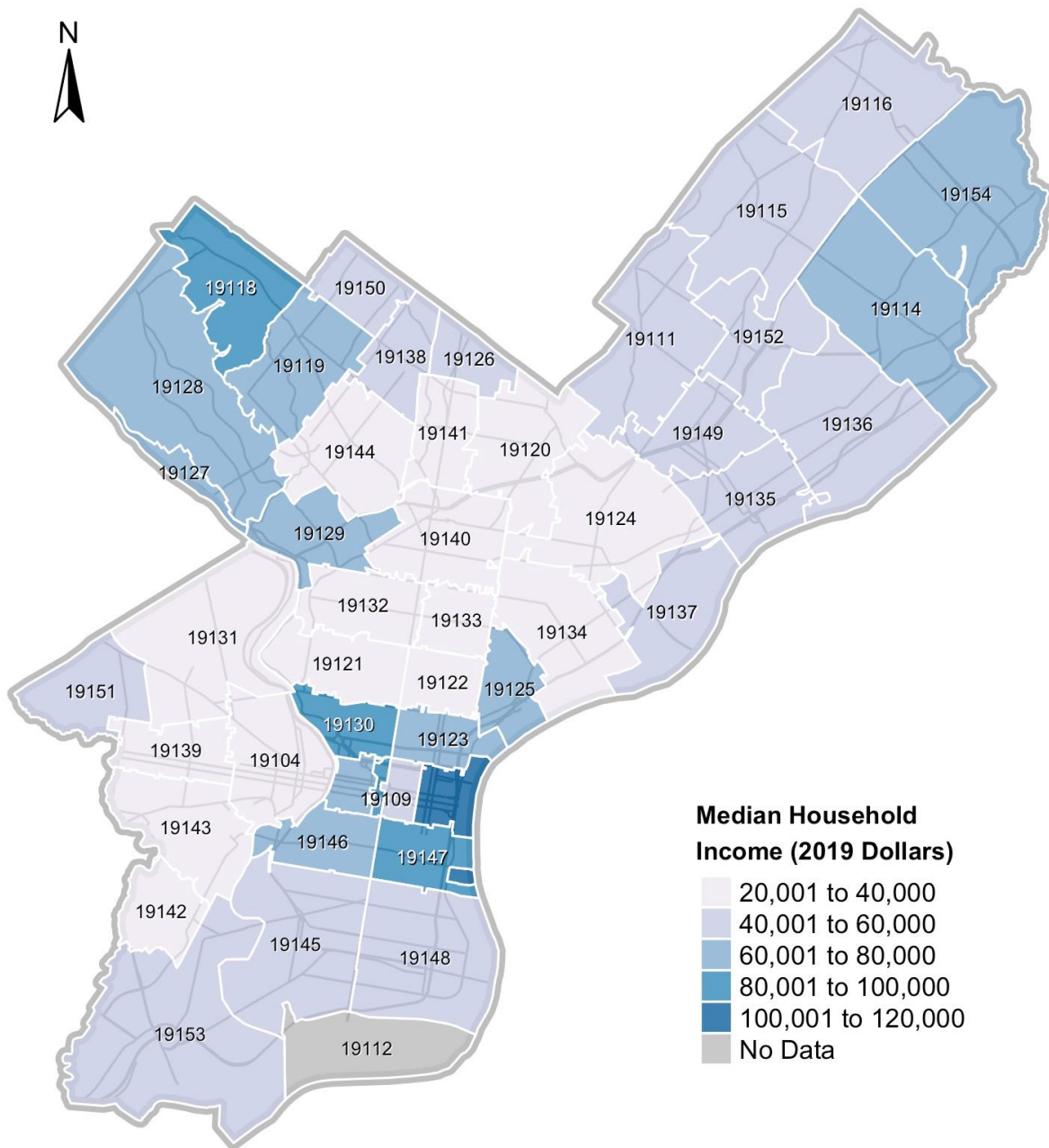
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Income and Wages

High income households are concentrated in and around Center City and the far northeastern and northwestern neighborhoods. Low income households are more prevalent in North and West Philadelphia.

**Median Income by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019



# \$14.47

MIT Living Hourly Wage  
Philadelphia County

“The *living wage model* is an alternative measure of basic needs. It is a market-based approach that draws upon geographically specific expenditure data related to a family’s likely minimum food, childcare, health insurance, housing, transportation, and other basic necessities (e.g. clothing, personal care items, etc.) costs.”

## Median Annual Wages by Educational Attainment for Workers 25 and Older, 2019

# \$23k

Less than High School

# \$28k

High School Graduate

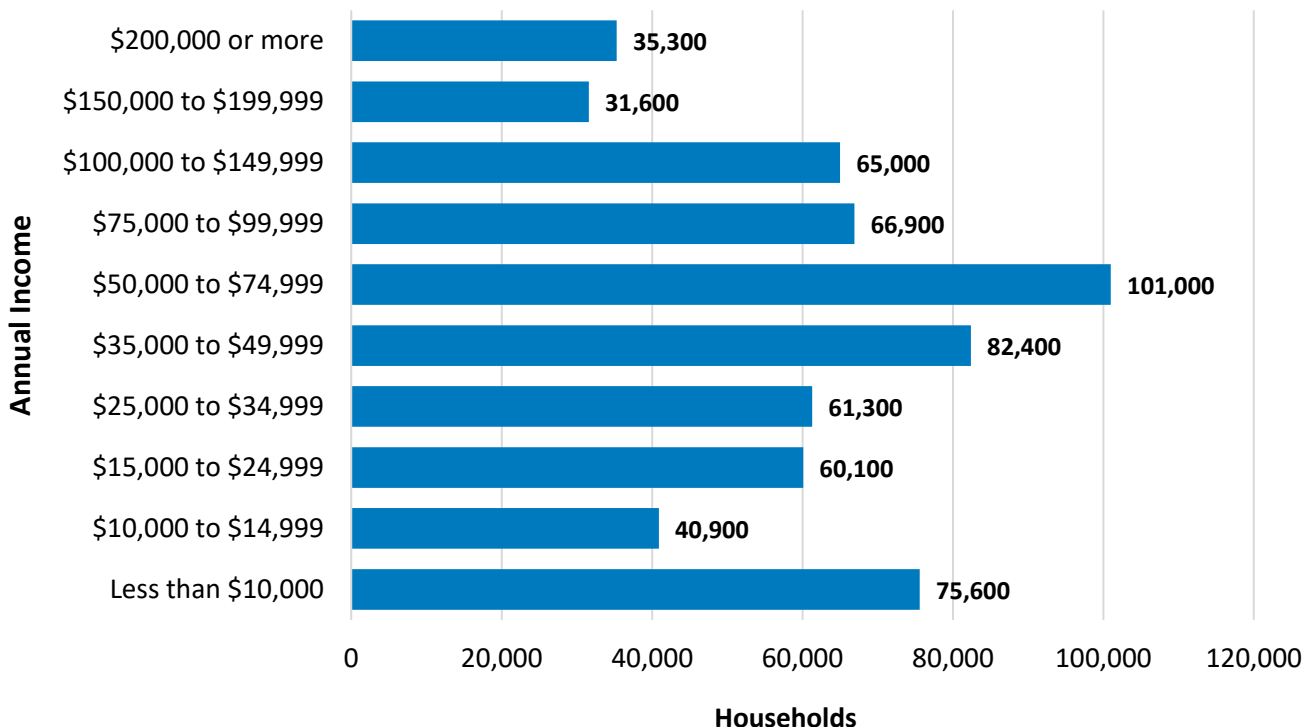
# \$33k

Some College or  
Associates

# \$51K

Bachelor’s Degree

## Philadelphia Households by Annual Income, 2019



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

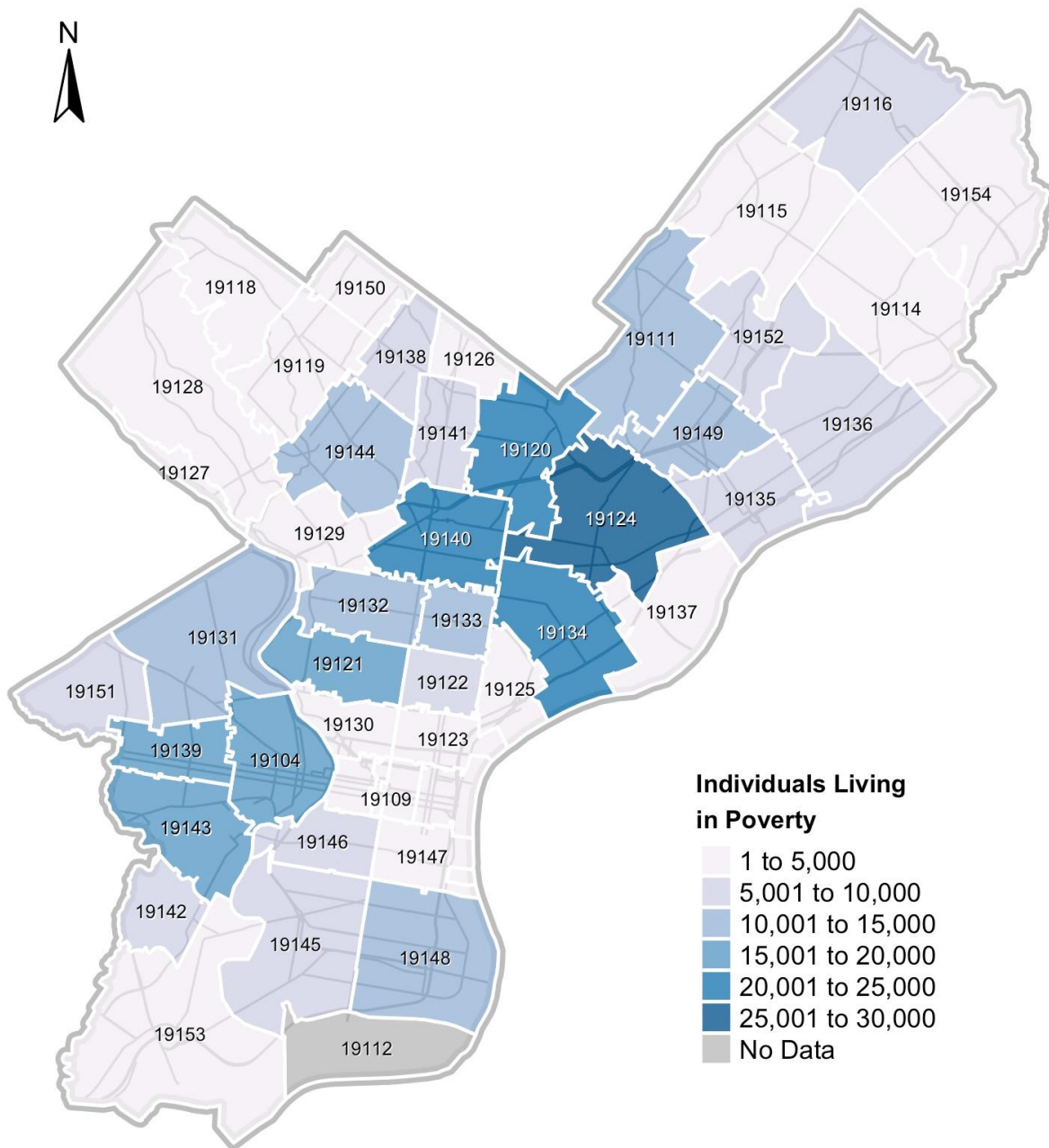
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Poverty

Conversely related to income, poverty is highly concentrated in the Near Northeast and Kensington neighborhoods. In 2020, household poverty thresholds were roughly \$13,000 per adult.

**Individuals Living in Poverty by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

**71,300**

**Employed Workers Living in Poverty**

**32%**

**Childhood Poverty Rate in Philadelphia**

**12.3%**

**Poverty Rate in the United States Overall**

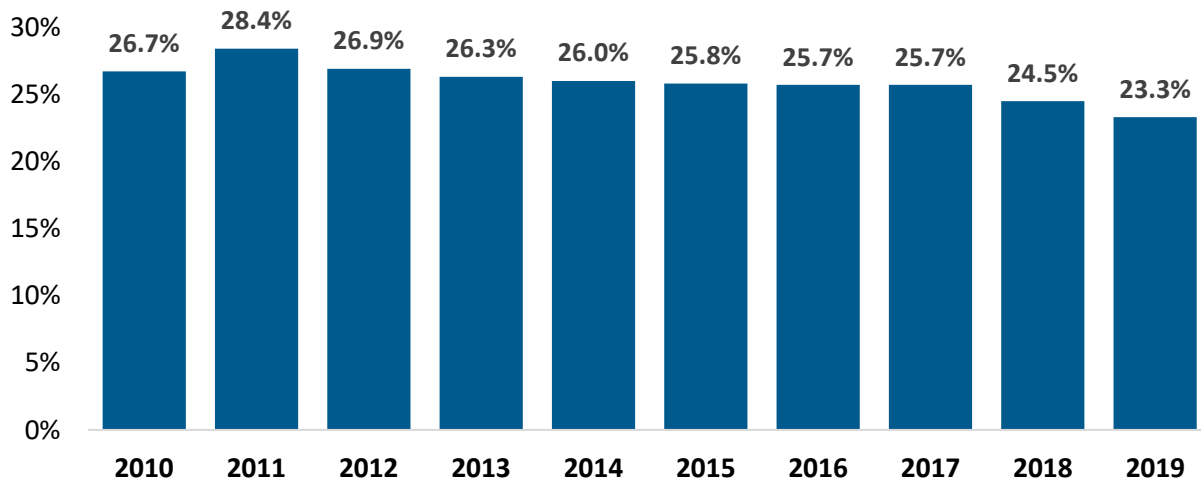
**Poverty Rate by Race and Ethnicity in Philadelphia, 2019**

Race or Ethnicity	Poverty Rate
Some other race alone	48%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	40%
Black or African American alone	27%
Two or more races	25%
Asian alone	23%
White alone	14%

**Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment in Philadelphia, 2019**

Educational Attainment	Poverty Rate
Less than high school graduate	38%
High school graduate or equivalency	23%
Some college, associate's degree	18%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9%

**Poverty Rate in Philadelphia, 2010 to 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019



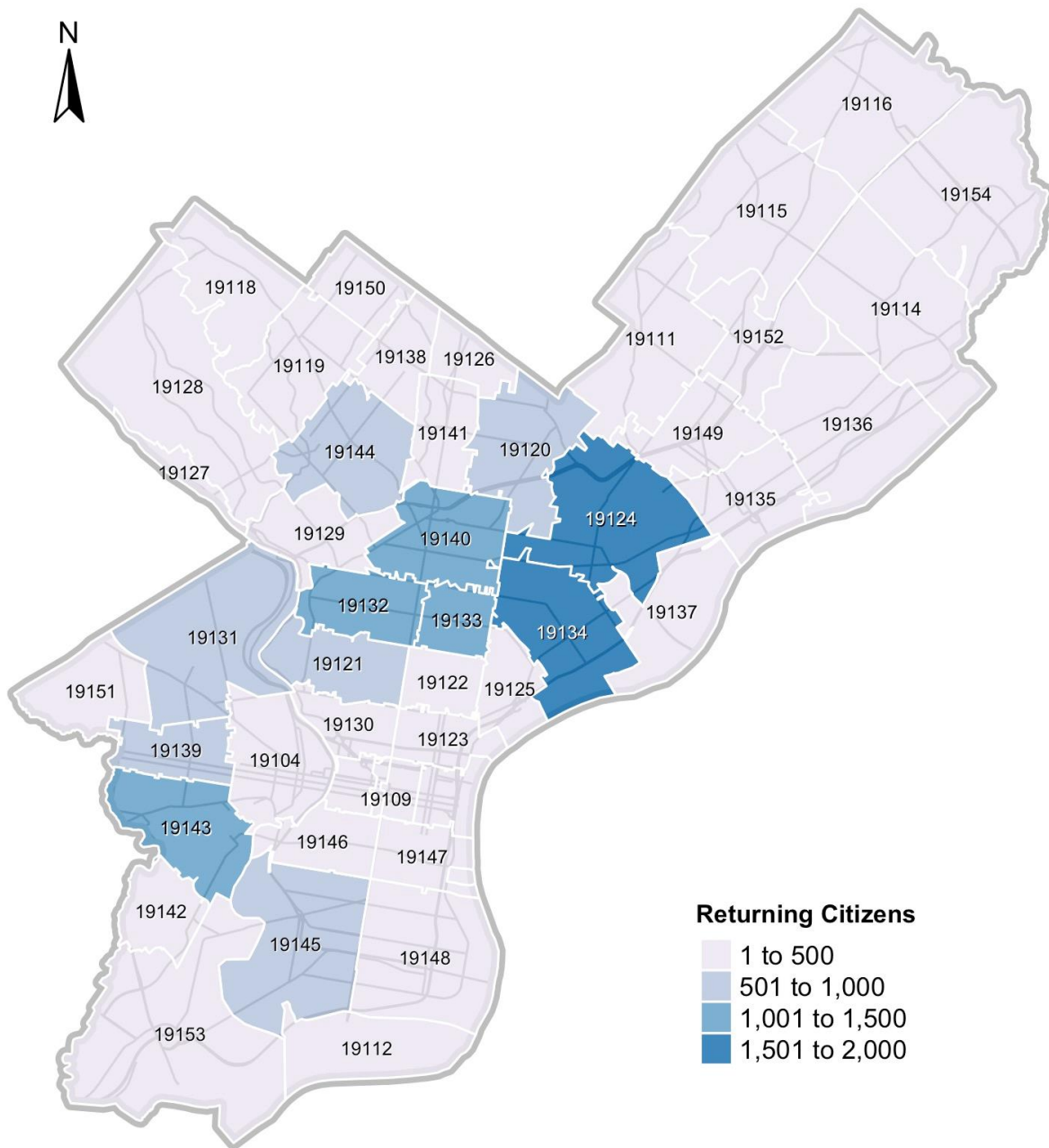
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Returning Citizens

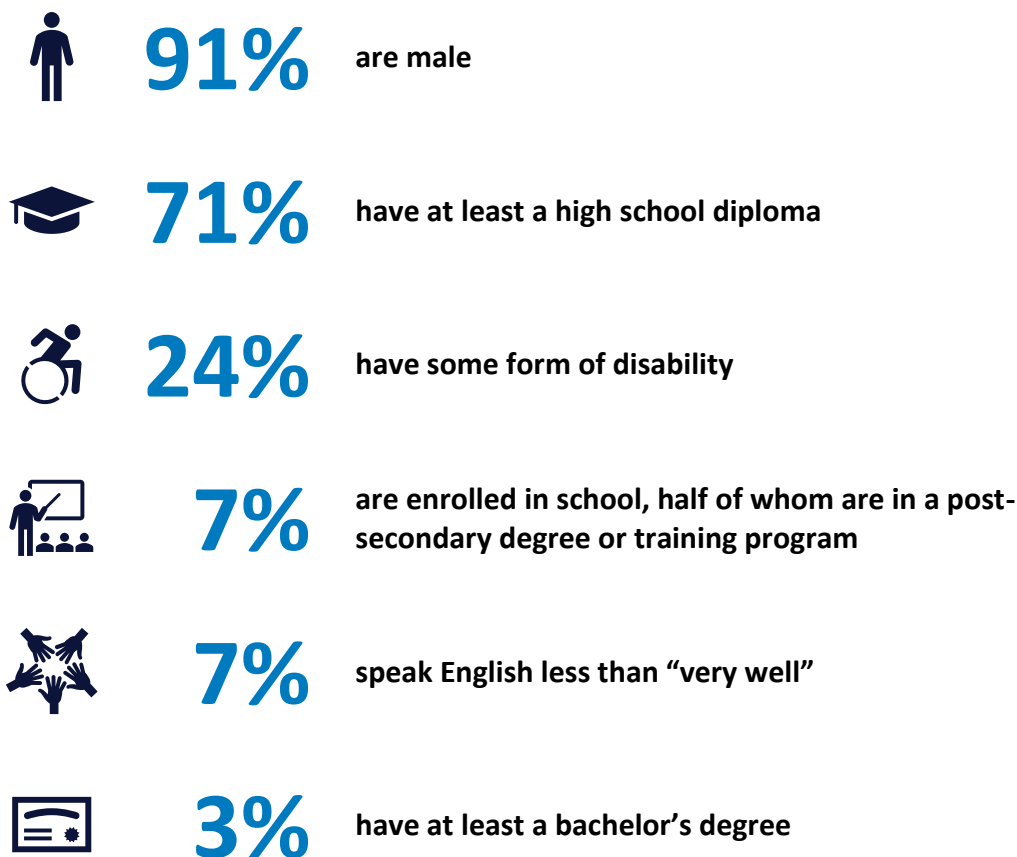
Data on returning citizens are not easily available. Here we rely on data from the City and Commonwealth on individuals released to Philadelphia in 2015 as well as national characteristics of the incarcerated population.

## Individuals Released from Prisons to Philadelphia by Zip Code, 2015



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of data from the City of Philadelphia

## Characteristics of the Incarcerated Population in the United States, 2019



# 25,100

Previously incarcerated individuals returning to Philadelphia in 2015, the latest year of available data: 66% were Black or African American, and 85% were male. Their median age was 33.

Career opportunities for returning citizens are most common in *construction, maintenance, and manual labor occupations*.

Many large companies have signed the *Fair Chance Business Pledge* to reduce barriers to employment for returning citizens.

Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019, data from the City of Philadelphia, and research from the Urban Institute

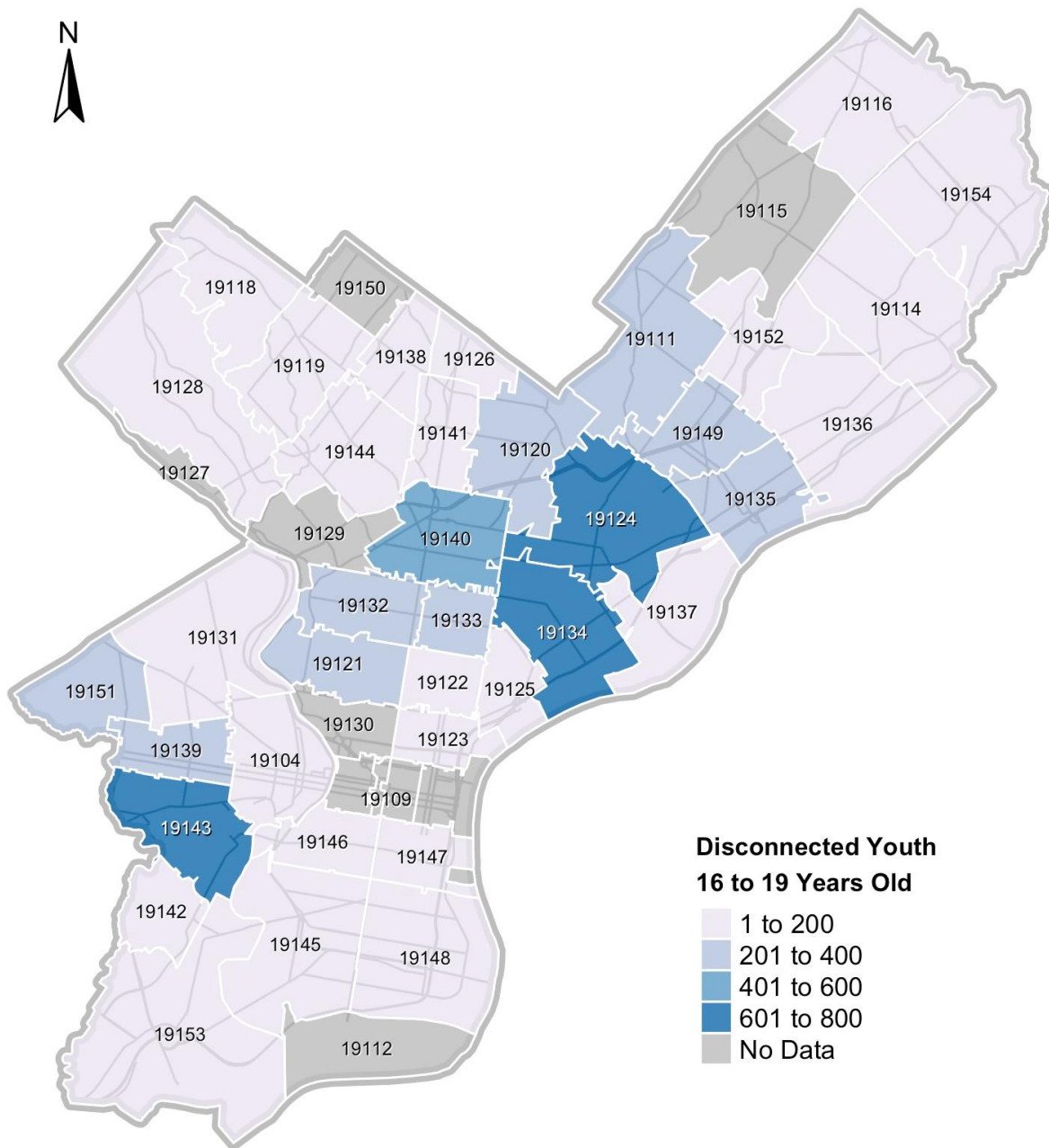
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Youth and Opportunity Youth

Young Philadelphians that are neither enrolled in school nor employed are commonly referred to as Opportunity Youth. These young people are most likely to live in portions of Near Northeast, Kensington, and West Philadelphia.

**Opportunity Youth by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



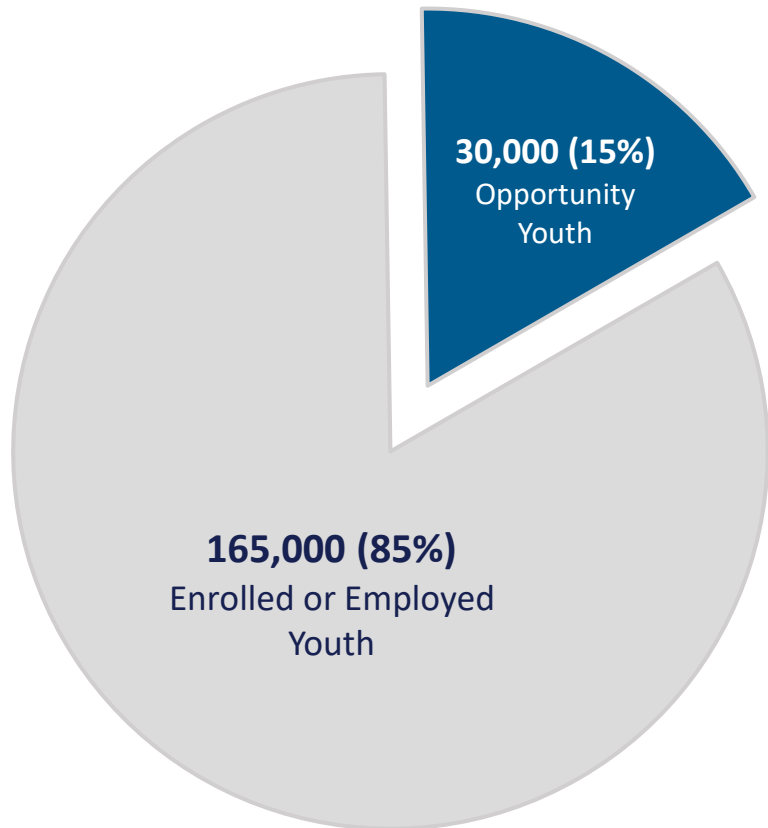
Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

# 30,000

**Opportunity Youth (16 to 24)**  
*Neither Employed nor Enrolled in School in 2019*

**Opportunity Youth are much more likely to live in poverty than their employed or enrolled peers.**

**Young Philadelphians with an associate's degree or higher are 3x less likely to be disconnected.**



**Youth (16 to 24) Employment by Industry Sector, 2019**

Industry Sector	Estimated Youth Employment	Youth Share of Industry Employment
Accommodation and Food Services	16,200	26%
Retail Trade	12,100	25%
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,300	7%
Government	5,500	5%
Administrative and Support Services	3,700	13%
Other Services	2,500	11%
Educational Services	3,500	6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,500	18%
Transportation and Warehousing	2,500	10%
Professional and Technical Services	4,400	8%

*Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019 and EMSI, Inc.*



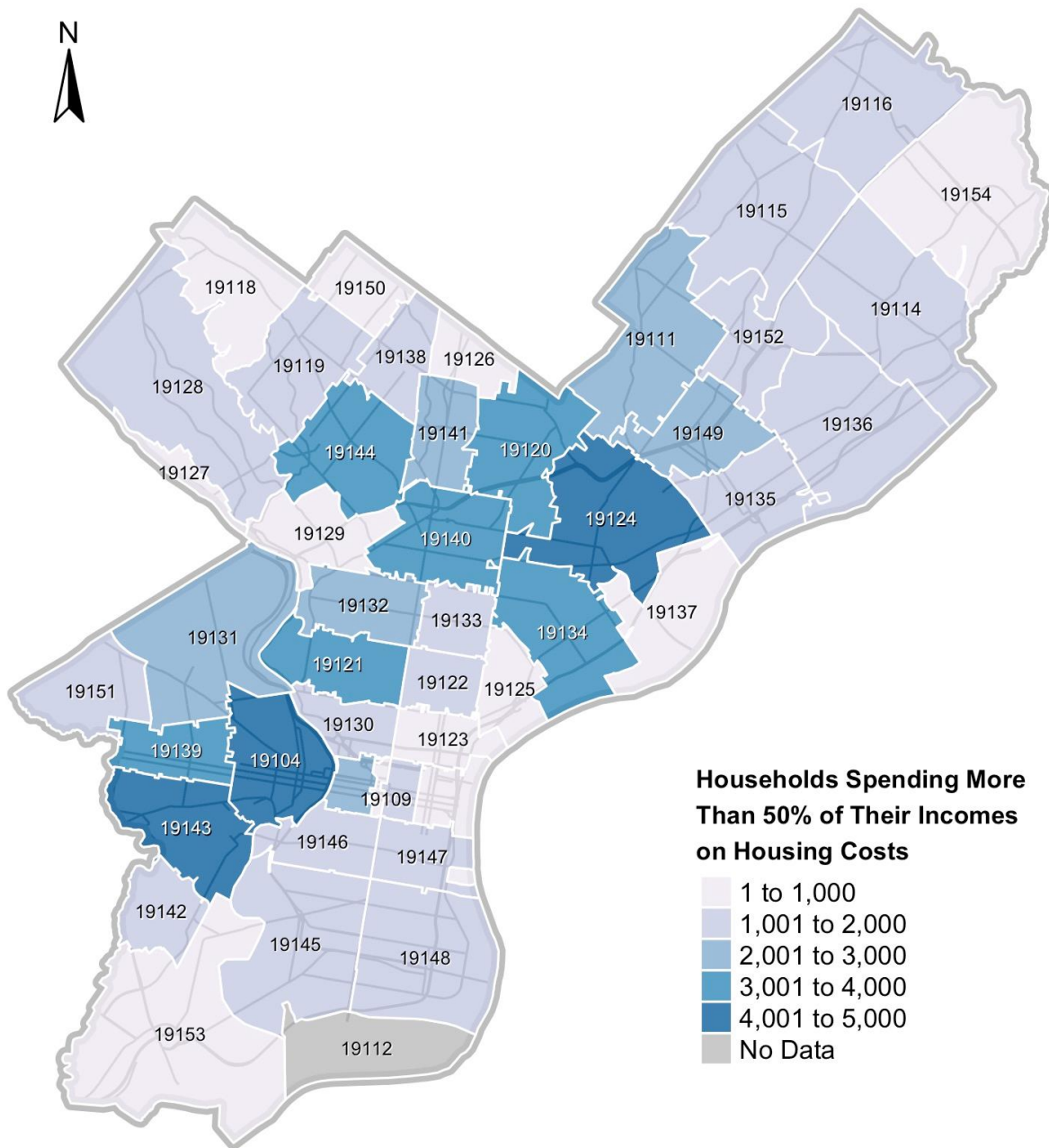
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Housing and Affordability

In 2019, 55% of Philadelphia's renter households were considered cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their incomes on rent and housing costs. Severely cost burdened households are commonly found in portions of North and West Philadelphia.

**Household with Severe Cost Burden by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

**620k**

Occupied Housing Units  
2019

**4.6%**

Rental Vacancy Rate  
2019

**72k**

Vacant Housing Units  
2019

**224k**

One Person Households  
2019

**188k**

Two Person Households  
2019

**208k**

Three-or-More Person  
Households, 2019

**296k**

Renting Households  
2019

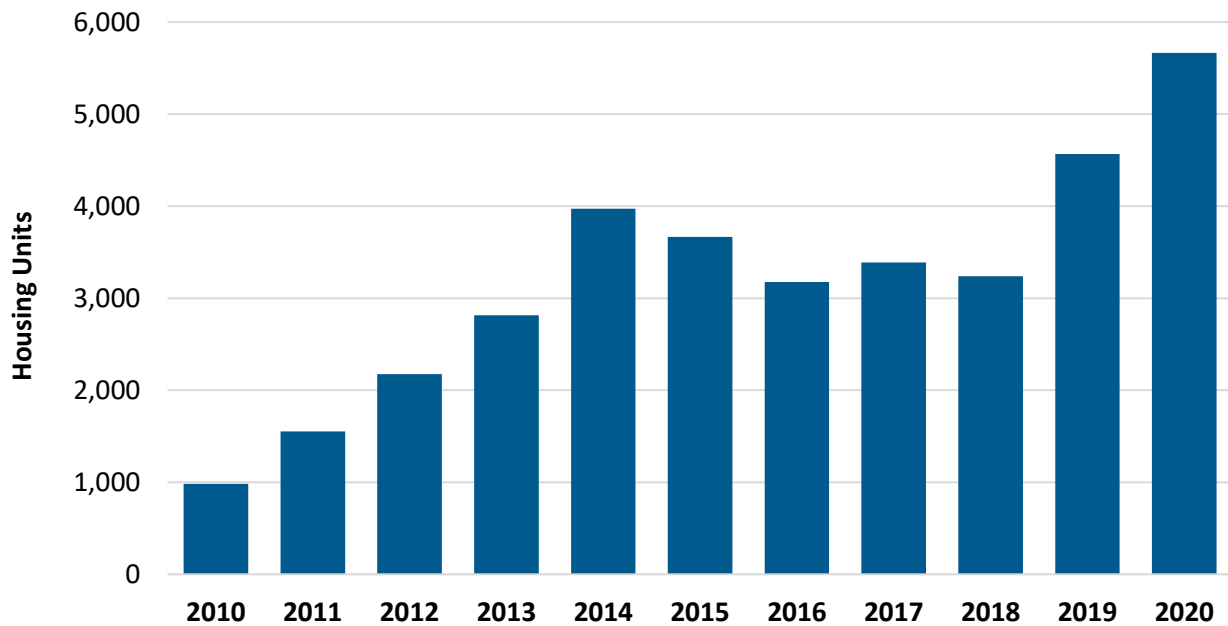
**\$1,080**

Median Rent  
2019

**153k**

Cost Burdened Renting  
Households, 2019

Housing Units Permitted in Philadelphia, 2010 to 2020



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019 and Building Permit Survey

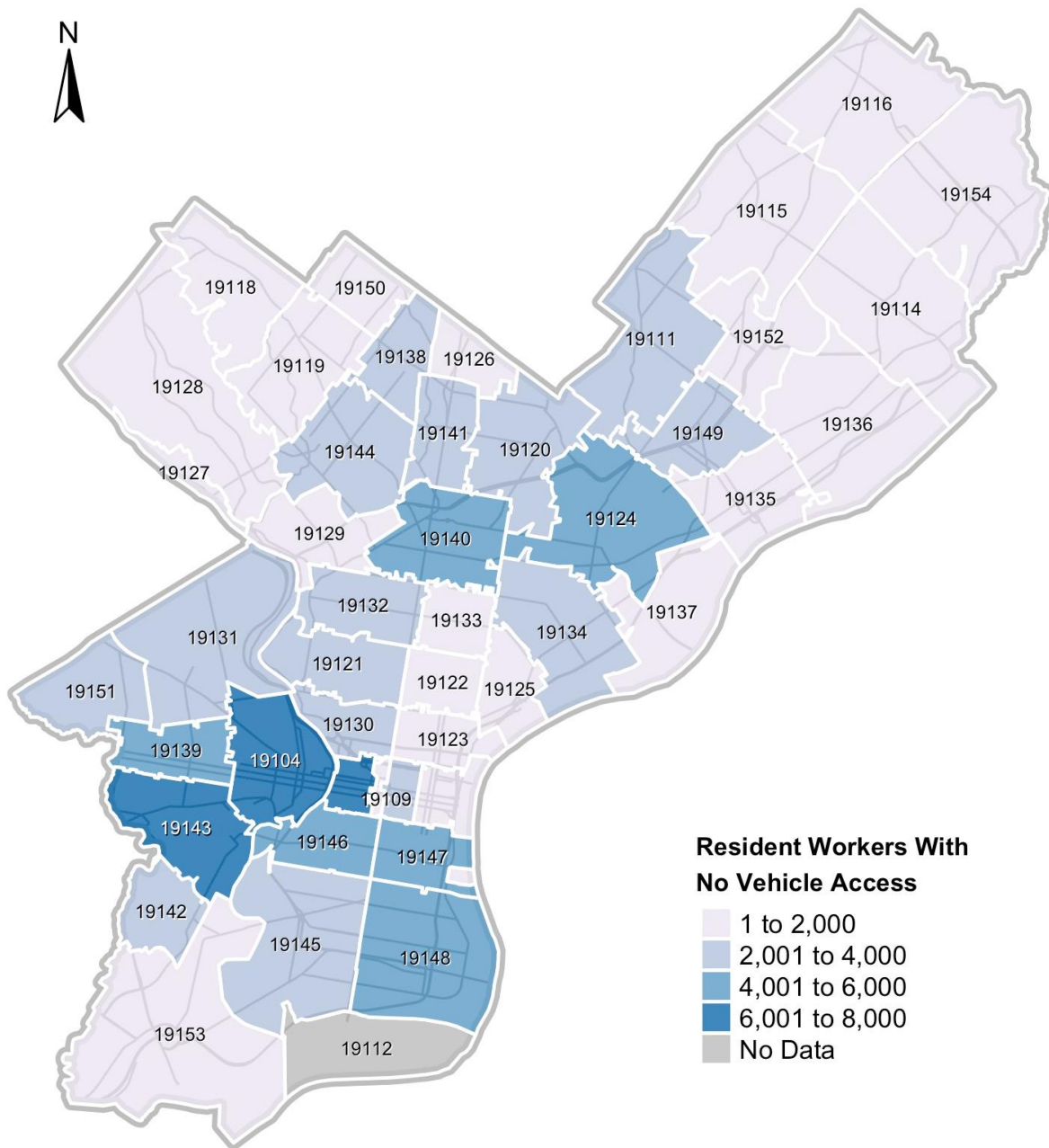
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Transportation

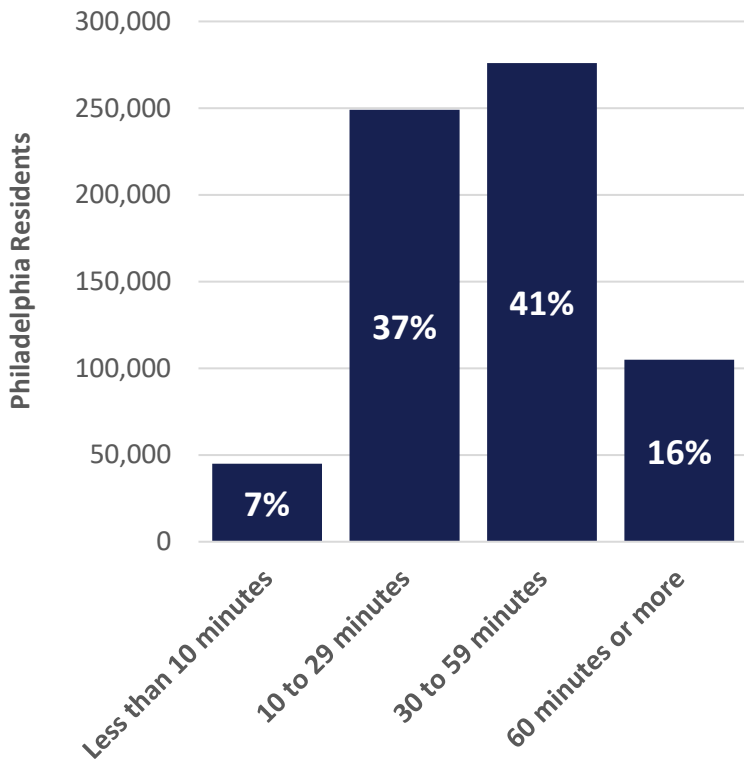
Workers without access to a vehicle – those most likely to rely on Public Transportation – are concentrated in West Philadelphia. In 2019, the average commute time to work was about 34 minutes.

## Resident Workers with No Vehicle Access by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

### Daily Commute Times for Philadelphia Resident Workers, 2019



**129,000**

Households Without Access to a Vehicle

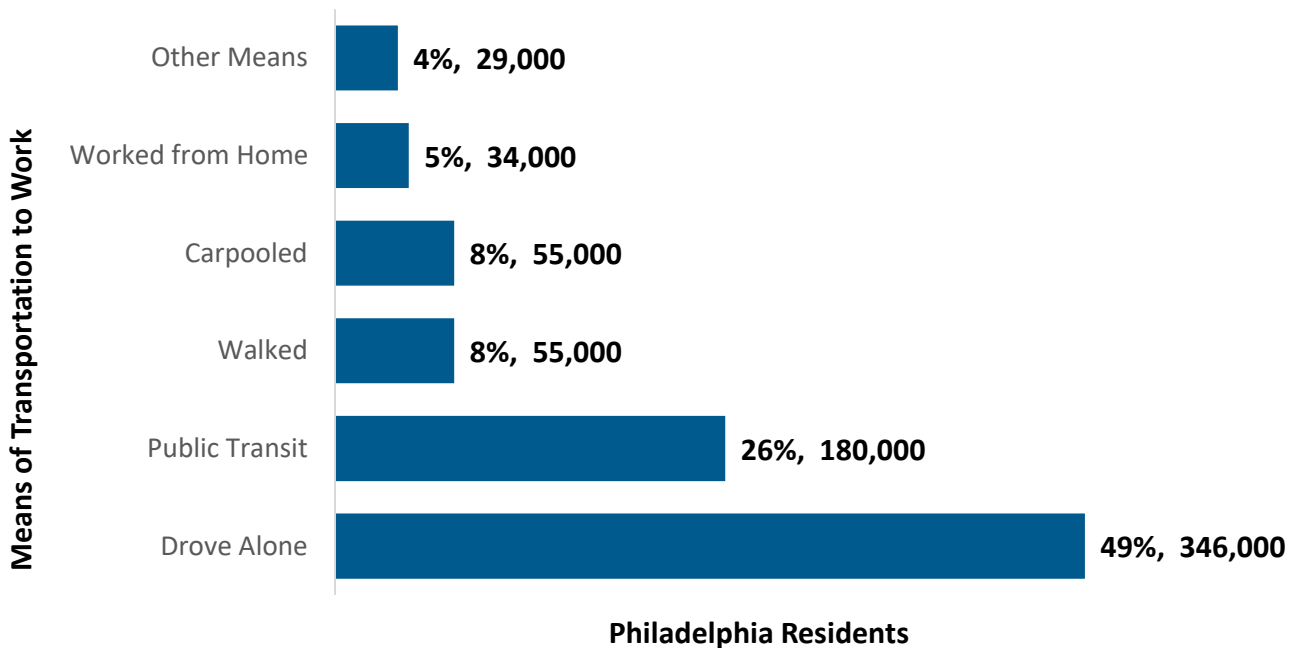
**803,000**

Average Daily SEPTA Trips in FY 2019

**\$4.6 Billion**

Backlog of SEPTA Repair Projects

### Means of Transportation to Work for Philadelphia Resident Workers, 2019



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019 and SEPTA 2021 Strategic Plan



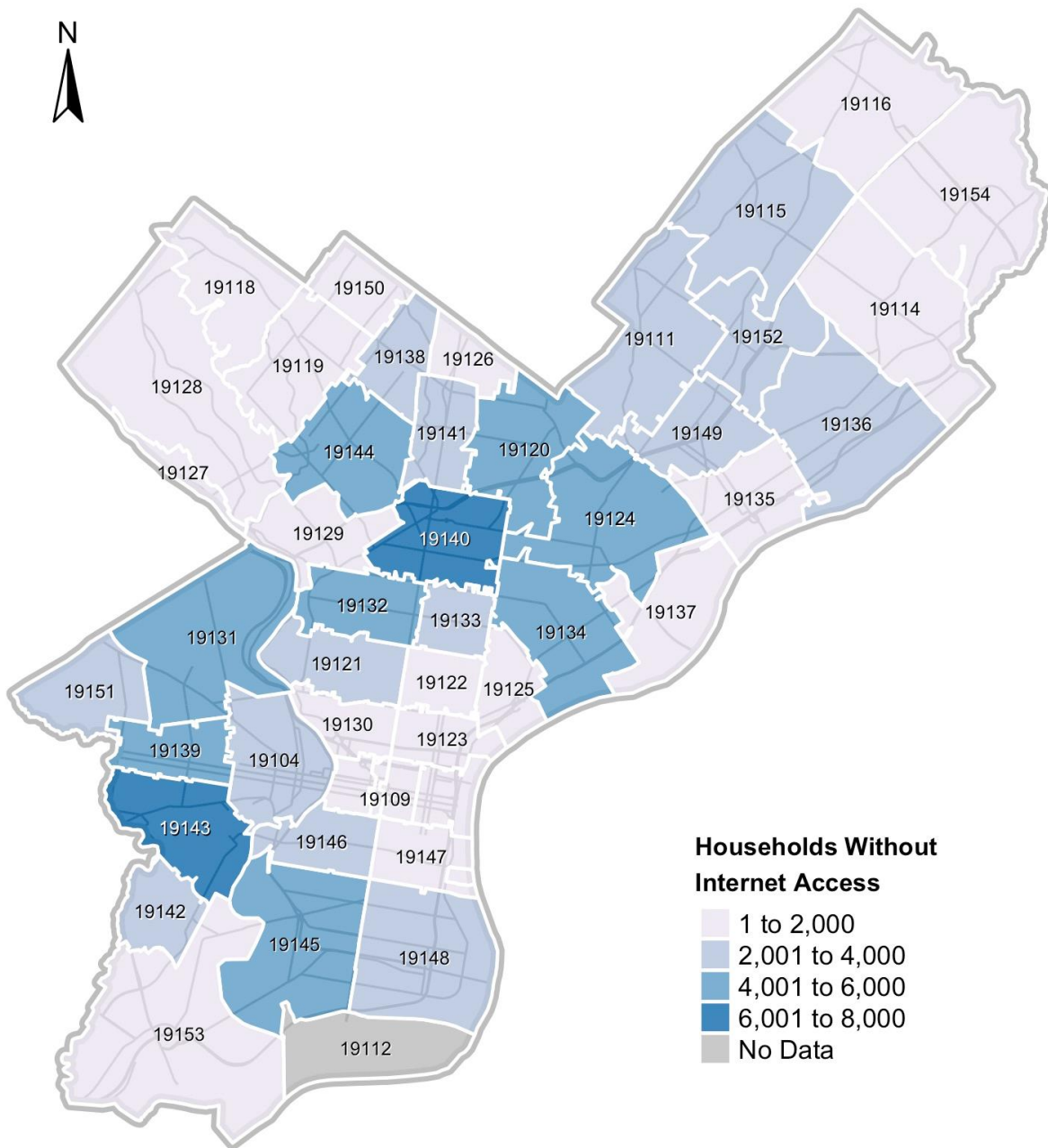
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Internet Access

Overall, Philadelphia follows national trends in internet and computer access. In 2019, about 16% of households had no internet access, and an additional 12% only had access through a cellular provider.

**Households with No Internet Access by Philadelphia Zip Code, 2019**



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of US Census Bureau ACS 2019

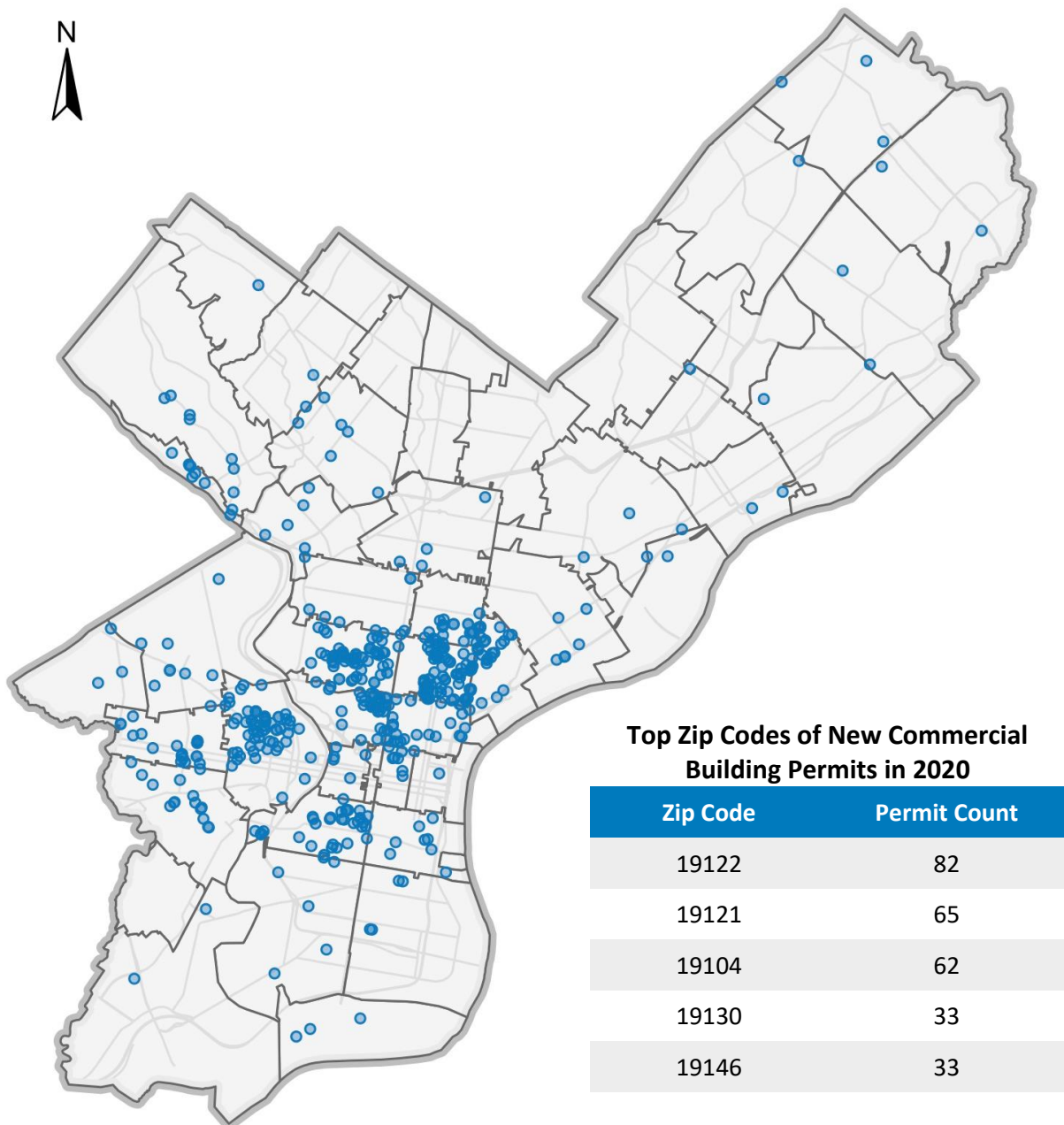
PHILADELPHIA  
**WORKS** INC.

Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

# Commercial Development

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, commercial construction activity saw only a small decrease in 2020. The most active property owners include the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the University of Pennsylvania, and the City.

## Commercial Building Permits Issued for New Construction, 2020



Source: Philadelphia Works Analysis of data from the City of Philadelphia

**For comments or questions about the contents of  
this document, please reach out to  
[data@philaworks.org](mailto:data@philaworks.org)**



**1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Administrative Offices: (215) 963-2100  
Job Seeker and Business Services: (833) 750-5672**