

January 31, 2021

The Honorable James F. Kenney  
Mayor  
City of Philadelphia  
215 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Kenney:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report summarizing the City's experience in 2019 regarding the Job Creation Tax Credit, as required by Section 19-2604(7)(g) of The Philadelphia Code. Copies of the report are also being sent to the President and the Chief Clerk of Council as required.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner Frank Breslin  
Chief Collections Officer

Enclosure

cc: Council President Darrell Clarke  
Michael Decker, Chief Clerk of Council  
Rob Dubow, Finance Director

# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



# JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by:  
The City of Philadelphia, Department of Revenue  
January 2021

*As required by Section 19-2604(7)(g) of The Philadelphia Code*

# Job Creation Tax Credit

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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## JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT OVERVIEW

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### Key Stats for the Job Creation Tax Credit

- There have been 225 applications approved between 2002 and 2019.
  - 15 Businesses applied in 2019
  - 7 applications were approved in 2019. One application was approved in 02/2020. Seven applications were denied due to incomplete application, business not having a BIRT account, missing documentation and/or various other reasons.
- Approved applicants between 2002 and 2019 promised to create 12,312 jobs.
  - The 7 new applications approved in 2019 promised 346 jobs .
  - Of the 12,309 promised, 2,532 have been created (21% of the jobs promised).
    - 270 of those were created in 2019.
  - 5,982 promised jobs were not created within 5 years, as required to receive the credit (49% of jobs promised)
  - 3,804 promised jobs have not yet been created, but may still be created in time to receive the credit (31% of promised jobs)
- \$11.3 million in credits have been awarded to businesses for jobs created since 2002.
  - \$2,935,000 in credit certificates were issued in 2019.
- \$4.8 million in credits have been used since 2002.
  - \$634,781 in credits were used in 2019.

## History

The Job Creation Tax Credit program was established in May 2002 to encourage businesses to expand employment within the City of Philadelphia. It is based on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Job Creation Tax Credit program and offers a credit against the firm's Business Income and Receipts Tax liability for each new job created. The program can be utilized by companies of any type or size located anywhere in the city. The Department of Revenue is designated to implement and oversee the program.

Initially, the program allowed firms to receive a credit of either \$1,000 or two-percent (2%) of annual wages paid, whichever is higher, for each new job. The program was amended in 2006 to provide a \$5,000 credit for the hiring of Returning Citizens. For applications filed after June 24, 2009, there was a Special Tax Credit Opportunity for Job Creation in 2010 and 2011 whereby a firm could receive a tax credit in the amount of \$3,000 or two-percent (2%) of annual wages paid, whichever was higher, for each new job. This Special Tax Credit Opportunity was extended for job creation in 2012 and 2013 for applicants filing after January 5, 2011. The Special Tax Credit Opportunity provided \$5,000 or two-percent (2%) of annual wages paid, whichever is higher, for Job Creation in 2012 and each year thereafter for any applications filed on or after March 15, 2012. For applications filed after October 29, 2014 (for jobs created in calendar year 2015 only), the Special Tax Credit Opportunity gives \$5,000 per year for five (5) years or (2%) of annual wages paid, whichever is higher for jobs created in 2015 or \$5,000 or two-percent (2%) for one year for jobs created after 2015 but within 5 years of the start date of the agreement. For applications filed on or after January 1, 2016, the special tax credit opportunity provides \$5,000 or two percent (2%) of annual wages paid whichever is higher for job creation within five years.

City Council Bill No. 160015-A added a new Chapter 18-300 to the Philadelphia Code, entitled *Economic Development Reporting*. The Bill requires businesses that receive certain tax credits and other subsidies to provide certain economic development data to the City's Department of Commerce. Additionally, Bill No. 160015-A specifically requires a company participating in the Job Creation Tax Credit program to agree (pursuant to the terms of the commitment agreement) to comply with the new economic development reporting requirements by providing certain economic data directly to the Department of Revenue. This new ordinance is effective for Job Creation Tax Credit applications received by the Department of Revenue on or after September 27, 2016.

Participants that receive tax credit certificates issued by the Department of Revenue in calendar year 2017 (for verified job creation) will need to make an Economic Development Report directly to the Department of Revenue by May 1, 2018. The new law requires the report to include (but is not limited to) the number of full-time, part-time, temporary employees and subcontractors employed by the business in the City at the start and end of the calendar year. Participants will also need to include the locations within the City where employees work and descriptions of the jobs created, and compensation levels (including salaries and benefits). The participant will need to file a report for each of the five (5) years following a year in which the tax credit certificate is received from the Department. The Department of Revenue will provide a summary report of the information supplied by applicants to the

Commerce Department on an aggregate basis so that no specific applicant's confidential tax information is reported separately.

Twelve (12) businesses whose Job Creation Tax Credit application was received by the Department on or after September 27, 2016 and whose fully executed commitment agreement did not contain the now legally required language, received a letter explaining the details of Bill NO. 160015-A. The letter included an Addendum to the Job Creation Tax Credit Commitment Agreement which was to be signed and returned to the Department if the business wanted to continue participation in the program. All twelve (12) businesses returned the signed addendum to their Commitment Agreement.

Information about the program is available on the Department of Revenue's website at [www.phila.gov/revenue](http://www.phila.gov/revenue) and other local government websites related to economic development.

### **Results-to-Date**

From the inception of the program in 2002 through the end of 2019, three hundred and thirty-four (334) businesses have applied to participate in the program; two hundred and twenty-five (225) firms were approved for participation in the program, promising the creation of 12,309 jobs.

The five-year period allowed by the Ordinance to create new jobs has expired for one hundred and forty-eight (148) of these two hundred and twenty-five (225) businesses, as of the end of 2019. Of these one hundred and forty-eight (148) businesses, one hundred and twenty-five (125) did not create the number of jobs promised. Therefore, the number of promised jobs to be created is reduced from 12,309 to 6,327.

To date, 2,532 new jobs have been verified under this program, resulting in the issuance of \$11,283,049 in tax certificates, of which \$4,780,646 has been claimed by the businesses.

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## **HOW THE JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT WORKS**

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The Job Creation Tax Credit program offers credits against firms' Business Receipts and Income Tax liability if they create either 25 new jobs or increase the number of employees by at least 20 percent within five years of the designated start date. Program participants must also commit to maintaining operations in Philadelphia for five years. The annual total amount of credits available for award is two percent of the prior year's Business Income and Receipts Tax collections. Of that amount, 25 percent is reserved for small businesses and firms that hire Returning Citizens.

Interested firms submit applications to the Department of Revenue. Upon acceptance to the program, an agreement is executed between the business and the City that sets forth the designated start date and the number of jobs to be created. A business has up to five years to create the agreed upon number of jobs. Upon doing so, the firm asks the Department of Revenue to certify the number of jobs created

and wages paid. The Department of Revenue conducts a payroll review of the company’s records to compare the number of jobs when the firm entered the program with the number of jobs at the time of review. Firms that fail to substantially maintain existing operations for five years from the date the Tax Credit Certificate is first submitted to the Department or that fail to create the agreed upon number of jobs are required to refund the total amount of the credit or credits issued unless a waiver is granted by the Department of Revenue.

If the Department of Revenue is satisfied that the appropriate number of jobs have been created, the Department issues a Tax Credit Certificate stating the amount of credit the firm is entitled to. The firm can redeem the certificate for a tax credit either all at once or over five years from the issuance of the tax certificate. The program allows companies up to 8 years from the designated start date to claim the tax credits.

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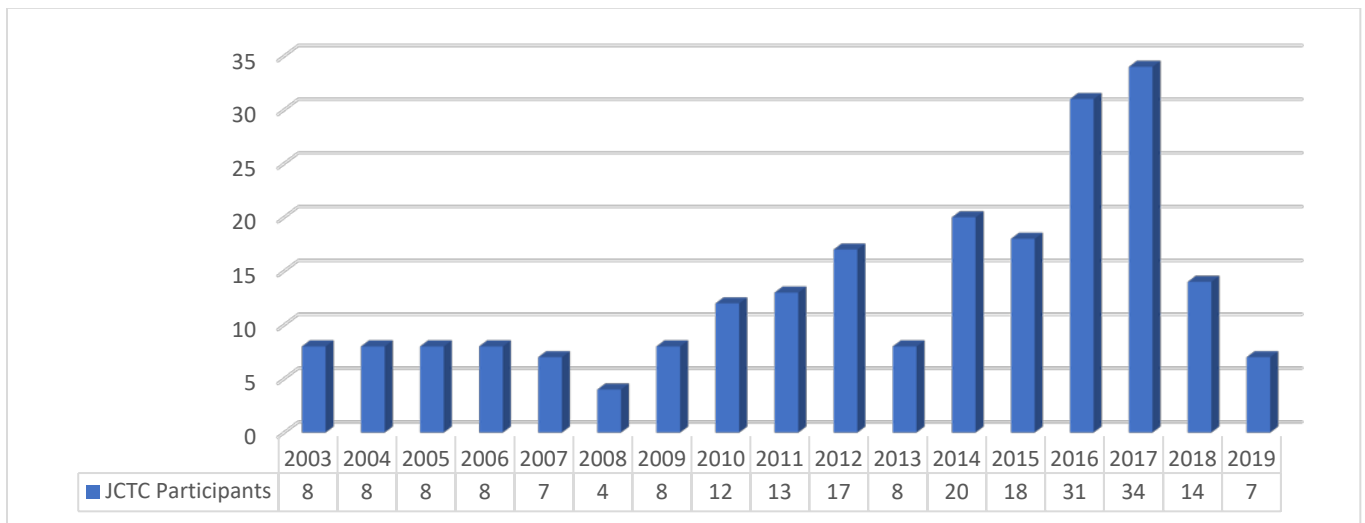
## JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM ACTIVITY

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### PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

As of the close of 2019, two hundred and twenty-five (225) companies have a fully executed Job Creation Commitment Agreement (“Agreement”) with the Department. Of these, one hundred and forty-eight (148) have had the five-year period to create the new jobs expire, and thus will not be eligible to receive credits. There were seventy (70) remaining participants at the close of 2019 that can claim a tax credit for creating new jobs. The chart reflects the year in which the approved applicants’ agreements were fully executed as of the end of 2019.

**Fig 1. Job Creation Tax Credit Participants**



Participating firms represent at least a dozen industries over the life of the program. Companies engaged in Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Professional Services represents the largest segment of

participants, with 154 firms. Information, Finance & Insurance, and Real Estate entities represent 11 percent of the participating businesses. Although Healthcare and Education are significant segments of the Philadelphia economy, they represent less than 1 percent of participants. This may be explained by the fact that many organizations in these sectors are nonprofits that do not have Business Income and Receipts Tax liabilities.

INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Construction	4
Manufacturing	26
Retail Trade	26
Transportation	2
Information	10
Finance & Insurance	11
Real Estate	4
Professional Services	102
Administrative Services	6
Educational Services	1
Healthcare	8
Food	4
Other	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>

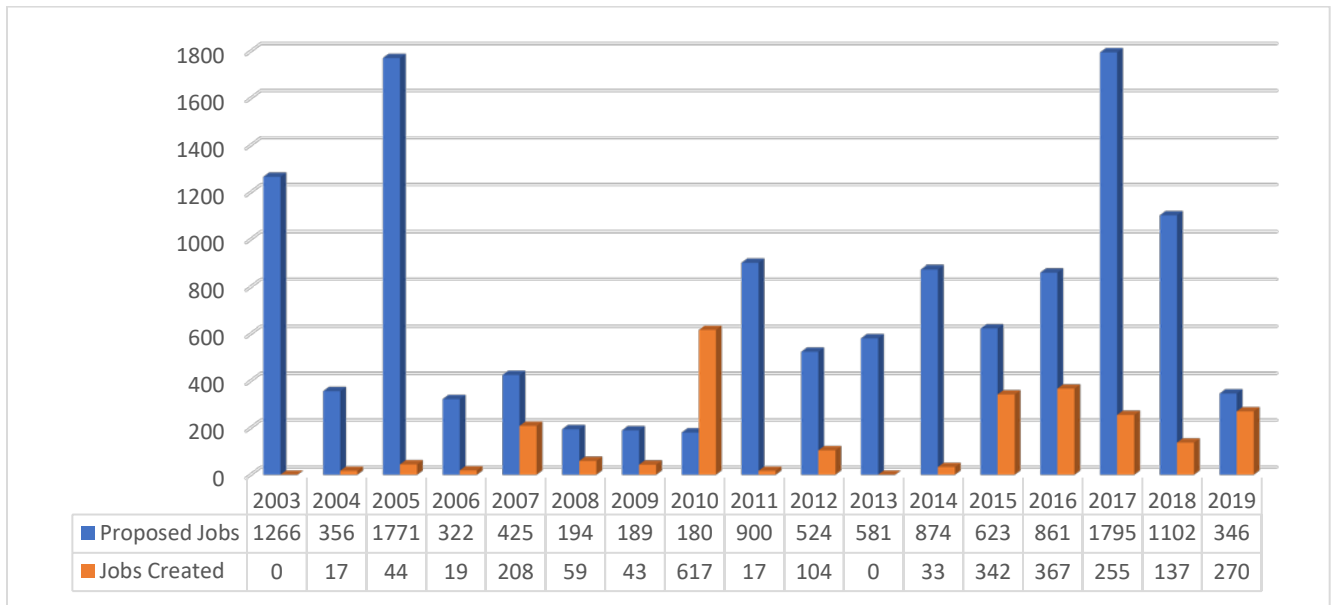
#### **JOB CREATION**

Overall, participating firms committed to generating 12,309 new jobs in the City. One hundred and forty-eight (148) participants, whose five-year period to create jobs have expired, have not fulfilled their commitment. Hence, 5,982 of the promised 12,309 new jobs or roughly 49% of the jobs promised by companies entering the program were not created.

The next chart illustrates the number of proposed new jobs by businesses with fully executed Agreements as of the end of 2019 and the number of jobs certified as created in each year.

Through 2019, 2,532 (21%) of all proposed new jobs have been certified as created by the Department of Revenue. As firms have 5 years from the designated start date to create the positions, the percentage of jobs actually created may grow in the coming years.

**Fig 2. Jobs Proposed and Created through 2019**



**TAX CREDITS**

In 2019, 270 jobs were created and 317 jobs were maintained for the 2015 Special Tax Credit Opportunity resulting in the issuance of \$2,935,000 in tax certificates. In 2019, \$634,781 in tax credits were used and were a combination of tax credit certificates issued in 2019 and earlier years. Since the inception of the program through the end of December 2019, the Department of Revenue has issued \$11,283,049 in tax certificates, of which \$4,780,646 tax credits have been claimed by fifty-seven (57) participating firms against the Business Income and Receipts Tax liability. Businesses have 5 years from the date of issuance of the certificate to claim the credit, but in no case can it be longer than 8 years from the designated state date.