

Selected BLS Economic Indicators



Reading

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and pay data** for Pennsylvania, the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. An **occupational pay relative** is a calculation of pay (wages, salaries, commission, and production bonuses) for a given metropolitan area relative to the nation as a whole; the calculation controls for differences among areas in occupational composition, establishment and occupational characteristics, and the fact that data are collected for areas at different times during the year.

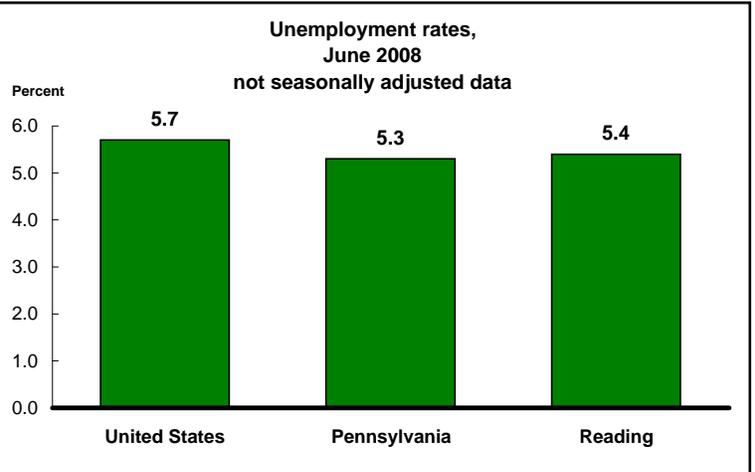
Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	June 2007	June 2008	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	208.352	218.815	5.0
Northeast	221.579	232.649	5.0
Northeast (size class B/C)*	130.893	138.542	5.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	203.906	215.223	5.6
Northeast	217.794	229.829	5.5
Northeast (size class B/C)*	131.234	139.286	6.1
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	June 2007	June 2008	Percent change
Finished goods	167.2	182.5	9.2
All commodities	173.8	200.7	15.5
Industrial commodities	176.4	204.2	15.8

*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)
Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	June 2007	June 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,295	8,933	1,638	22.5
Pennsylvania	282.3	344.7	62.4	22.1
Reading	8.8	11.1	2.4	26.7

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



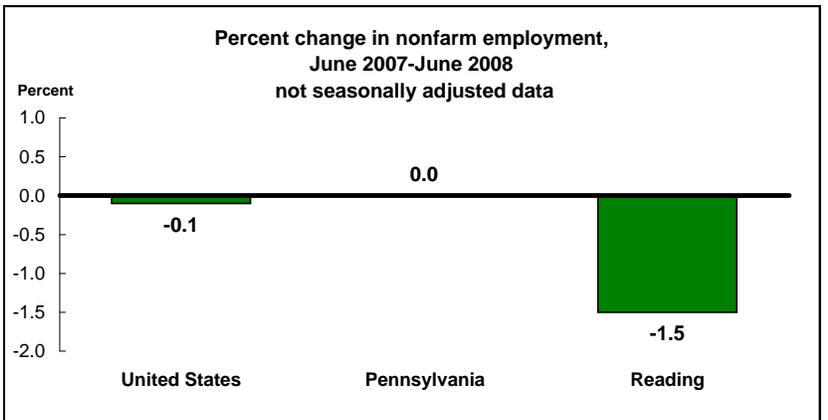
Employment Cost Index (December 2005) = 100	2nd Qtr. 2007	2nd Qtr. 2008	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	104.9	108.0	3.0
Northeast	105.1	108.1	2.9
Middle Atlantic	105.3	108.6	3.1
Occupational Pay Relatives (United States = 100)	July 2007		
Reading			
All Occupations	102 *		
Management, business, and financial	110 *		
Professional and related	92 *		
Service	100		
Sales and related	106 *		
Office and administrative support	101 *		
Construction and extraction	102		
Installation, maintenance, and repair	108 *		
Production	101 *		
Transportation and material moving	99		

*The pay relative for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 10 percent level of significance.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	June 2007	June 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,791	138,694	-97	-0.1
Pennsylvania	5,854.2	5,852.7	-1.5	0.0
Reading	176.5	173.9	-2.6	-1.5

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Reading, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Berks County in Pennsylvania.