

# Selected BLS Economic Indicators



## Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton

### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 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. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)**.

Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	June 2007	June 2008	Percent change
<b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>			
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
<b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</b>			
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
<b>Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)</b>	<b>June 2007</b>	<b>June 2008</b>	<b>Percent change</b>
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.

Employment Cost Index (December 2005) = 100	2nd Qtr. 2007	2nd Qtr. 2008	Percent change
<b>Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers</b>			
United States	104.9	108.0	3.0
Northeast	105.1	108.1	2.9
Middle Atlantic	105.3	108.6	3.1
<b>Occupational Wages Selected Occupations</b>	<b>Mean Hourly Earnings May 2007</b>		
<b>Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton</b>			
Total, all occupations	\$18.46		
Education, training, and library	22.24		
Office and administrative support	14.31		
Construction and extraction	20.87		
Sales and related	16.73		
Healthcare practitioner and technical	31.42		
Food preparation and serving related	9.17		
Production	16.08		
Installation, maintenance, and repair	18.87		
Transportation and material moving	14.81		

### 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
New Jersey	191.3	240.9	49.6	25.9
Pennsylvania	282.3	344.7	62.4	22.1
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	18.3	23.9	5.6	30.7

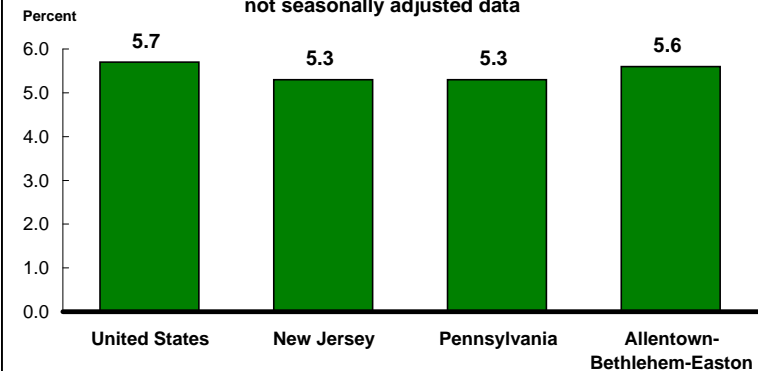
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

### Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

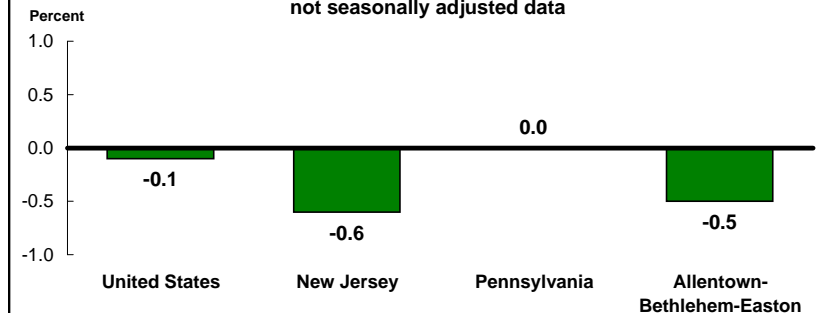
Area	June 2007	June 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,791	138,694	-97	-0.1
New Jersey	4,157.0	4,131.5	-25.5	-0.6
Pennsylvania	5,854.2	5,852.7	-1.5	0.0
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	350.5	348.8	-1.7	-0.5

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

**Unemployment rates,  
June 2008  
not seasonally adjusted data**



**Percent change in nonfarm employment,  
June 2007-June 2008  
not seasonally adjusted data**



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**The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania, and Warren County in New Jersey.