

# Selected BLS Economic Indicators

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## 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	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Percent change
<b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>			
U.S. City Average	208.490	218.783	4.9
Northeast	221.436	232.841	5.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	130.206	137.723	5.8
<b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</b>			
U.S. City Average	203.889	214.935	5.4
Northeast	217.486	229.949	5.7
Northeast (size class B/C)*	130.447	138.881	6.5
<b>Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)</b>	<b>Sep. 2007</b>	<b>Sep. 2008</b>	<b>Percent change</b>
Finished goods	167.4	182.0	8.7
All commodities	173.5	197.2	13.7
Industrial commodities	175.6	200.4	14.1

\*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	August 2007	August 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,088	9,479	2,391	33.7
New Jersey	182.5	262.1	79.6	43.6
Pennsylvania	275.1	377.9	102.9	37.4
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	17.8	25.6	7.8	43.6

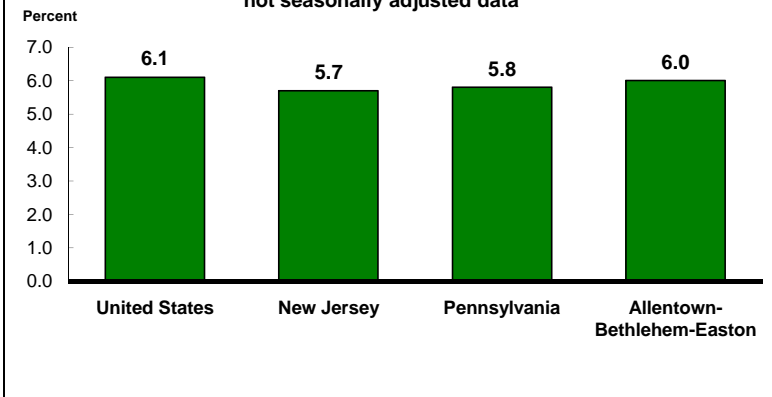
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

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

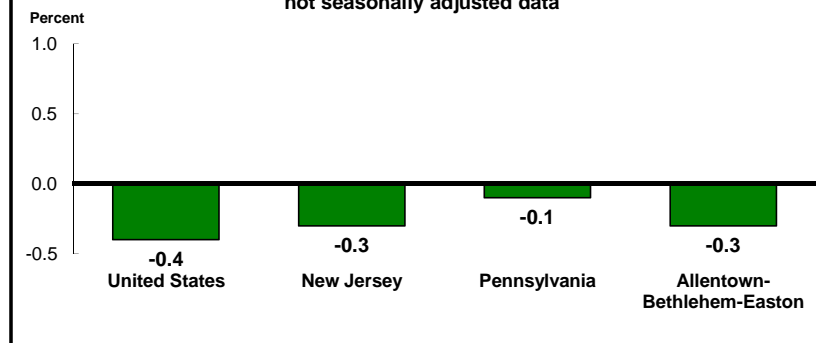
Area	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,075	137,476	-599	-0.4
New Jersey	4,073.3	4,060.3	-13.0	-0.3
Pennsylvania	5,816.2	5,810.2	-6.0	-0.1
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	346.0	345.1	-0.9	-0.3

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

### Unemployment rates, August 2008 not seasonally adjusted data



### Percent change in nonfarm employment, Sep. 2007-Sep. 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.

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