

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	March 2008	March 2009	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	213.528	212.709	-0.4
Northeast	226.926	227.309	0.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	134.611	134.411	-0.1
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	209.147	207.218	-0.9
Northeast	223.209	223.626	0.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	134.846	134.558	-0.2
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	March 2008	March 2009	Percent change
Finished goods	175.1	168.9	-3.5
All commodities	187.9	168.1	-10.5
Industrial commodities	190.2	169.5	-10.9

*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	4th Qtr. 2007	4th Qtr. 2008	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	106.3	108.9	2.4
Northeast	106.8	109.5	2.5
Middle Atlantic	107.1	109.5	2.2
Occupational Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2007		
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton			
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	February 2008	February 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,953	13,699	5,746	72.2
New Jersey	228.4	393.6	165.2	72.3
Pennsylvania	333.6	527.0	193.4	58.0
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	23.0	36.6	13.6	58.9

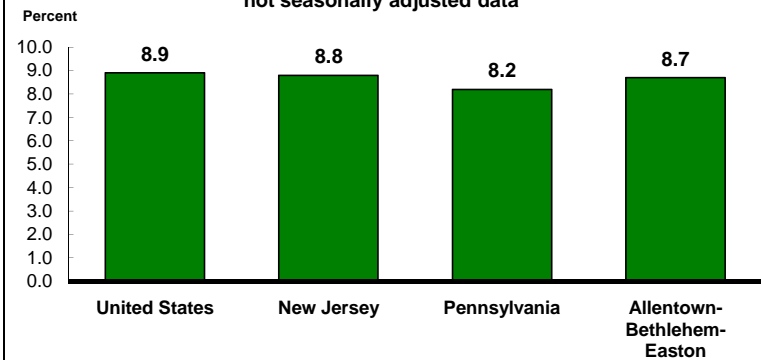
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

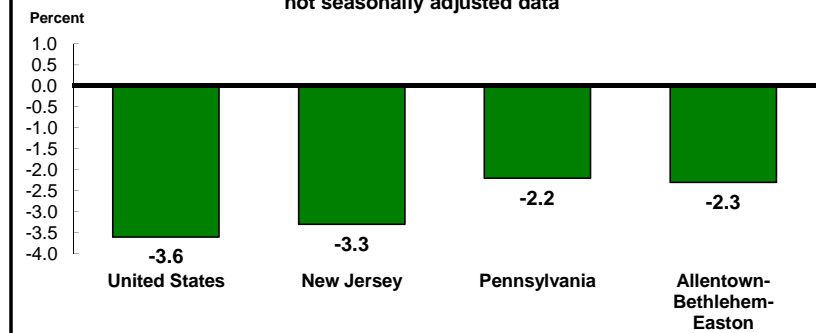
Area	March 2008	March 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	136,944	132,072	-4,872	-3.6
New Jersey	4,042.7	3,909.4	-133.3	-3.3
Pennsylvania	5,761.0	5,634.0	-127.0	-2.2
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	342.5	334.6	-7.9	-2.3

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Unemployment rates, February 2009 not seasonally adjusted data



Percent change in nonfarm employment, March 2008-March 2009 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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