

Selected BLS Economic Indicators

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Charleston

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for West Virginia, Charleston 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
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	208.490	218.783	4.9
South	201.697	212.650	5.4
South (size class B/C)*	128.263	135.093	5.3
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	203.889	214.935	5.4
South	198.873	210.572	5.9
South (size class B/C)*	126.953	134.285	5.8
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Percent change
Finished goods	167.4	182.0	8.7
All commodities	173.5	197.2	13.7
Industrial commodities	175.6	200.4	14.1

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
South	105.3	108.5	3.0
South Atlantic	106.0	109.1	2.9
Occupational Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2007		
Charleston			
Total, all occupations	\$16.78		
Education, training, and library	17.98		
Office and administrative support	13.17		
Construction and extraction	20.51		
Sales and related	13.94		
Healthcare practitioner and technical	27.08		
Food preparation and serving related	8.01		
Production	18.03		
Installation, maintenance, and repair	17.97		
Transportation and material moving	14.34		

*South 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	August 2007	August 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,088	9,479	2,391	33.7
West Virginia	37.1	30.9	-6.2	-16.7
Charleston	6.0	4.7	-1.3	-21.5

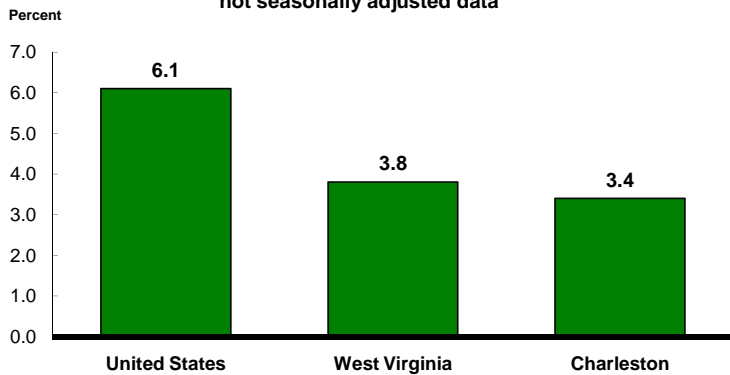
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

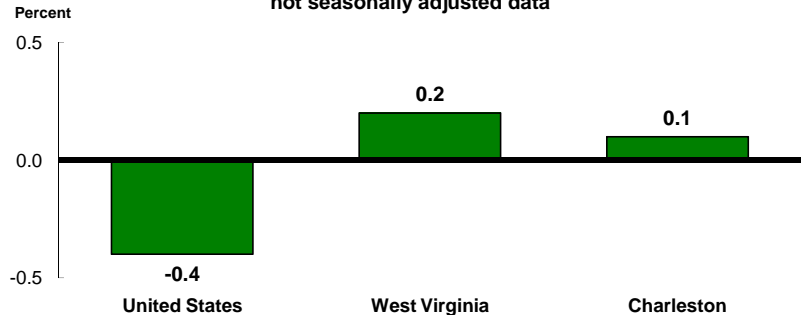
Area	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,075	137,476	-599	-0.4
West Virginia	761.2	762.6	1.4	0.2
Charleston	151.3	151.4	0.1	0.1

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 Charleston, W. Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam Counties in West Virginia.

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