

Selected BLS Economic Indicators

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Altoona

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, Altoona 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
Northeast	221.436	232.841	5.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	130.206	137.723	5.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
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
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

*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
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 Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2007		
Altoona			
Total, all occupations		\$15.31	
Education, training, and library		17.48	
Office and administrative support		12.34	
Construction and extraction		15.69	
Sales and related		12.70	
Healthcare practitioner and technical		27.49	
Food preparation and serving related		8.90	
Production		14.45	
Installation, maintenance, and repair		15.59	
Transportation and material moving		13.40	

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
Pennsylvania	275.1	377.9	102.9	37.4
Altoona	2.6	3.7	1.1	42.4

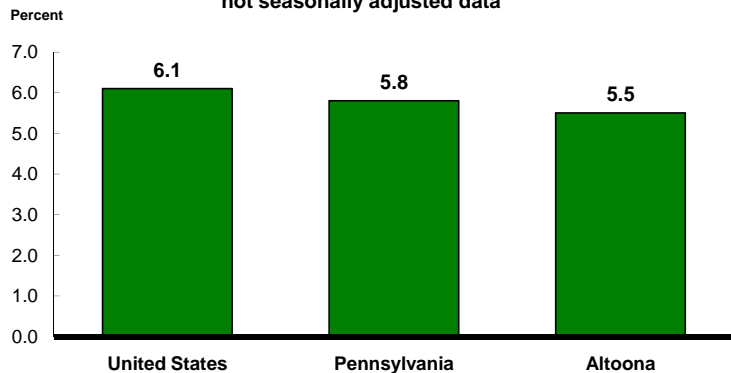
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Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

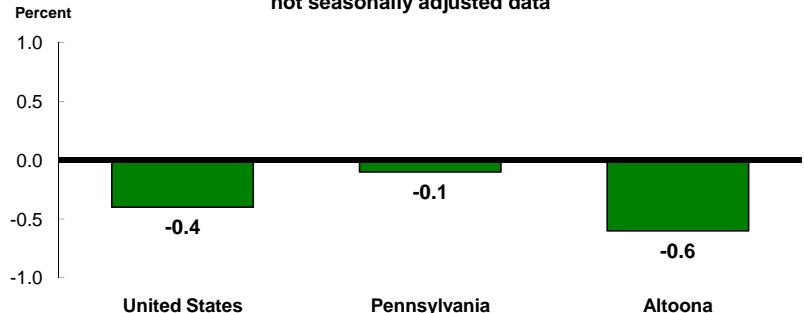
Area	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,075	137,476	-599	-0.4
Pennsylvania	5,816.2	5,810.2	-6.0	-0.1
Altoona	62.9	62.5	-0.4	-0.6

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**



Contact Information:

Telephone: (215) 597-3282
 Fax: (215) 861-5720
 Internet Address: www.bls.gov/ro3/
 Email: BLSinfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Mailing Address:

U.S. Department of Labor
 Bureau of Labor Statistics
 The Curtis Center - Suite 610E
 170 South Independence Mall West
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

The Altoona, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Blair County in Pennsylvania.

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