

Selected BLS Economic Indicators

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Reading

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and pay data** for Pennsylvania, the Reading 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. An **occupational pay relative** is a calculation of pay (wages, salaries, commission, and production bonuses) for a given metropolitan area relative to the nation as a whole; the calculation controls for differences among areas in occupational composition, establishment and occupational characteristics, and the fact that data are collected for areas at different times during the year.

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 Pay Relatives (United States = 100)	July 2007		
Reading			
All Occupations		102 *	
Management, business, and financial		110 *	
Professional and related		92 *	
Service		100	
Sales and related		106 *	
Office and administrative support		101 *	
Construction and extraction		102	
Installation, maintenance, and repair		108 *	
Production		101 *	
Transportation and material moving		99	

*The pay relative for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 10 percent level of significance.

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
Reading	8.4	12.0	3.6	42.7

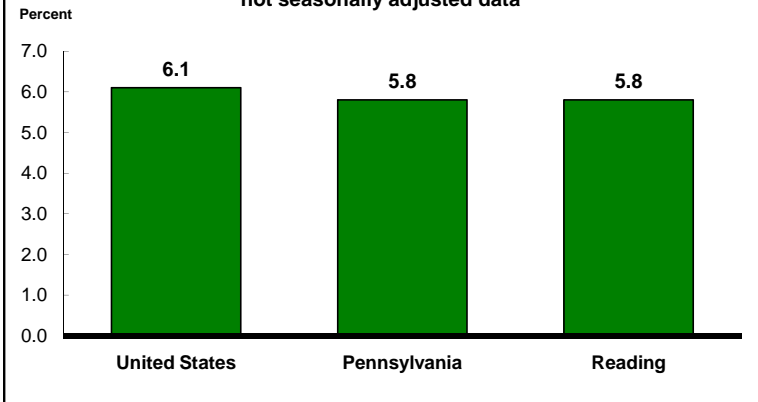
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

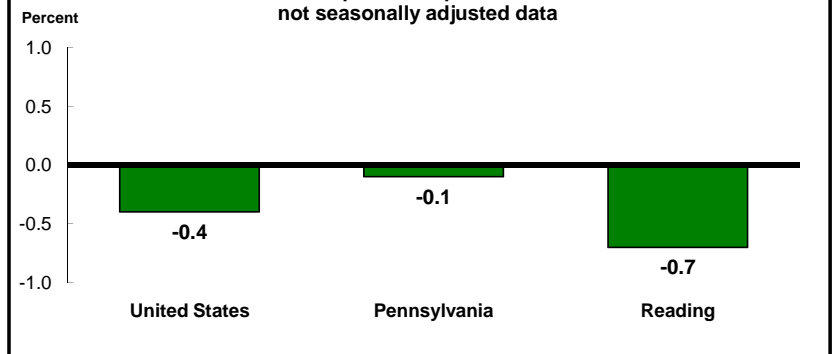
Area	Sep. 2007	Sep. 2008	Net change	Percent change
United States	138,075	137,476	-599	-0.4
Pennsylvania	5,816.2	5,810.2	-6.0	-0.1
Reading	174.0	172.7	-1.3	-0.7

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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Reading, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Berks County in Pennsylvania.

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