

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	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

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 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	

*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)

Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

*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	February 2008	February 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,953	13,699	5,746	72.2
Pennsylvania	333.6	527.0	193.4	58.0
Reading	10.4	18.3	8.0	76.8

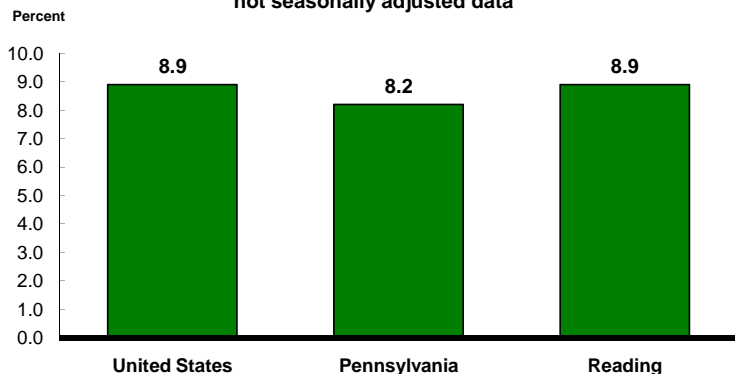
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

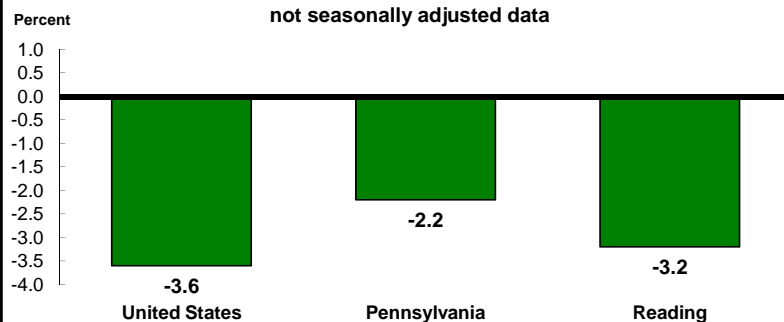
Area	March 2008	March 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	136,944	132,072	-4,872	-3.6
Pennsylvania	5,761.0	5,634.0	-127.0	-2.2
Reading	173.7	168.1	-5.6	-3.2

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

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