

# 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                     | March 2008        | March 2009        | Percent change        |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>                       |                   |                   |                       |
| 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                  |
| <b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</b> |                   |                   |                       |
| 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                  |
| <b>Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)</b>           | <b>March 2008</b> | <b>March 2009</b> | <b>Percent change</b> |
| 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 |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers</b> |                                      |               |                |
| United States                                      | 106.3                                | 108.9         | 2.4            |
| Northeast  | 106.8                                | 109.5         | 2.5            |
| Middle Atlantic                                    | 107.1                                | 109.5         | 2.2            |
| <b>Occupational Wages Selected Occupations</b>     | <b>Mean Hourly Earnings May 2007</b> |               |                |
| <b>Altoona</b>                                     |                                      |               |                |
| 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          | 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           |
| Altoona       | 3.4           | 5.0           | 1.6        | 47.9           |

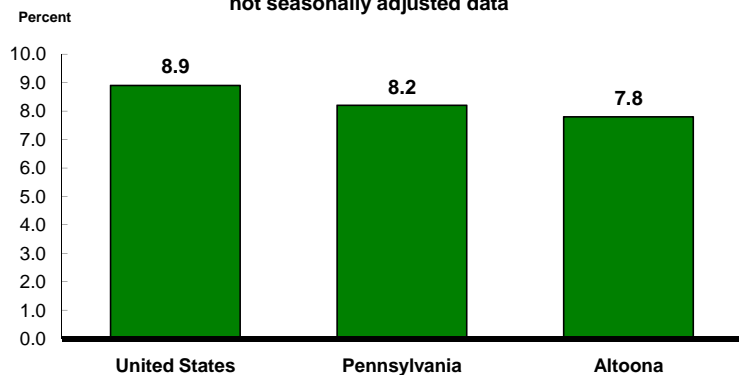
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

### Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

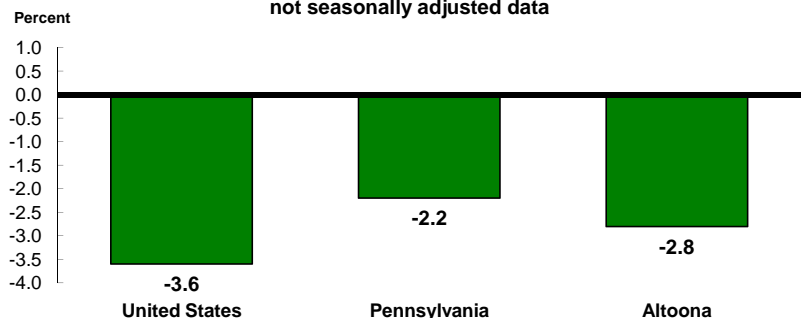
| Area          | March 2008 | March 2009 | Net change | Percent change |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| United States | 136,944    | 132,072    | -4,872     | -3.6           |
| Pennsylvania  | 5,761.0    | 5,634.0    | -127.0     | -2.2           |
| Altoona       | 61.2       | 59.5       | -1.7       | -2.8           |

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

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