

Selected BLS Economic Indicators

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Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 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. 2008	Sep. 2009	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	218.783	215.969	-1.3
Northeast	232.841	231.200	-0.7
Northeast (size class B/C)*	137.723	136.691	-0.7
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	214.935	211.322	-1.7
Northeast	229.949	228.158	-0.8
Northeast (size class B/C)*	138.881	137.400	-1.1
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2009	Percent change
Finished goods	182.2	173.4	-4.8
All commodities	196.9	174.6	-11.3
Industrial commodities	200.1	177.5	-11.3

*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. 2008	2nd Qtr. 2009	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	108.0	109.6	1.5
Northeast	108.1	110.2	1.9
Middle Atlantic	108.6	110.2	1.5
Occupational Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2008		
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton			
Total, all occupations		\$19.14	
Education, training, and library		23.93	
Office and administrative support		14.88	
Construction and extraction		22.11	
Sales and related		17.05	
Healthcare practitioner and technical		30.95	
Food preparation and serving related		9.45	
Production		16.36	
Installation, maintenance, and repair		20.12	
Transportation and material moving		15.21	

Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	August 2008	August 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	9,479	14,823	5,344	56.4
New Jersey	252.6	432.0	179.4	71.0
Pennsylvania	364.3	553.9	189.5	52.0
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	24.8	38.9	14.1	57.1

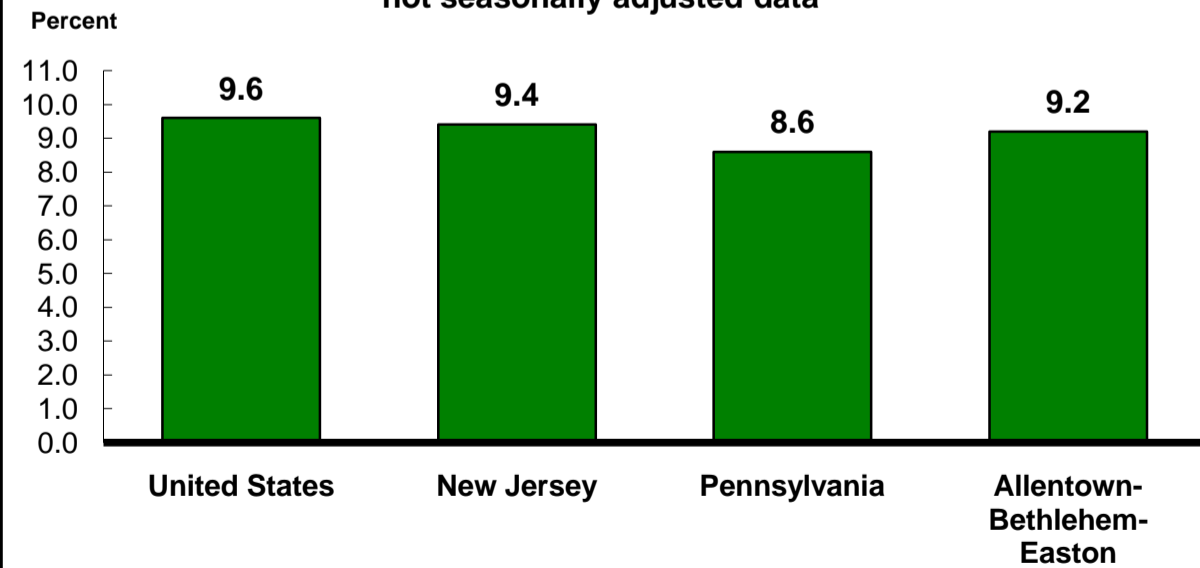
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

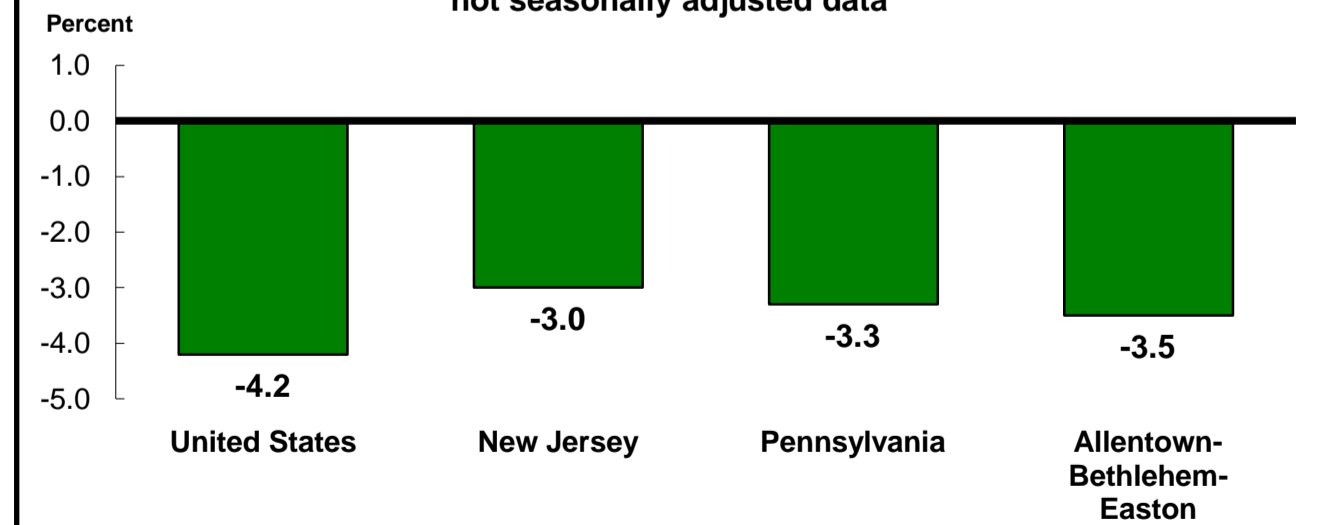
Area	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2009	Net change	Percent change
United States	137,119	131,306	-5,813	-4.2
New Jersey	4,042.9	3,920.1	-122.8	-3.0
Pennsylvania	5,818.9	5,627.6	-191.3	-3.3
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	344.9	332.8	-12.1	-3.5

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Unemployment rates,
August 2009
not seasonally adjusted data



Percent change in nonfarm employment,
Sep. 2008-Sep. 2009
not seasonally adjusted data



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The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania, and Warren County in New Jersey.

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