

Selected BLS Economic Indicators Reading



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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. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)**.

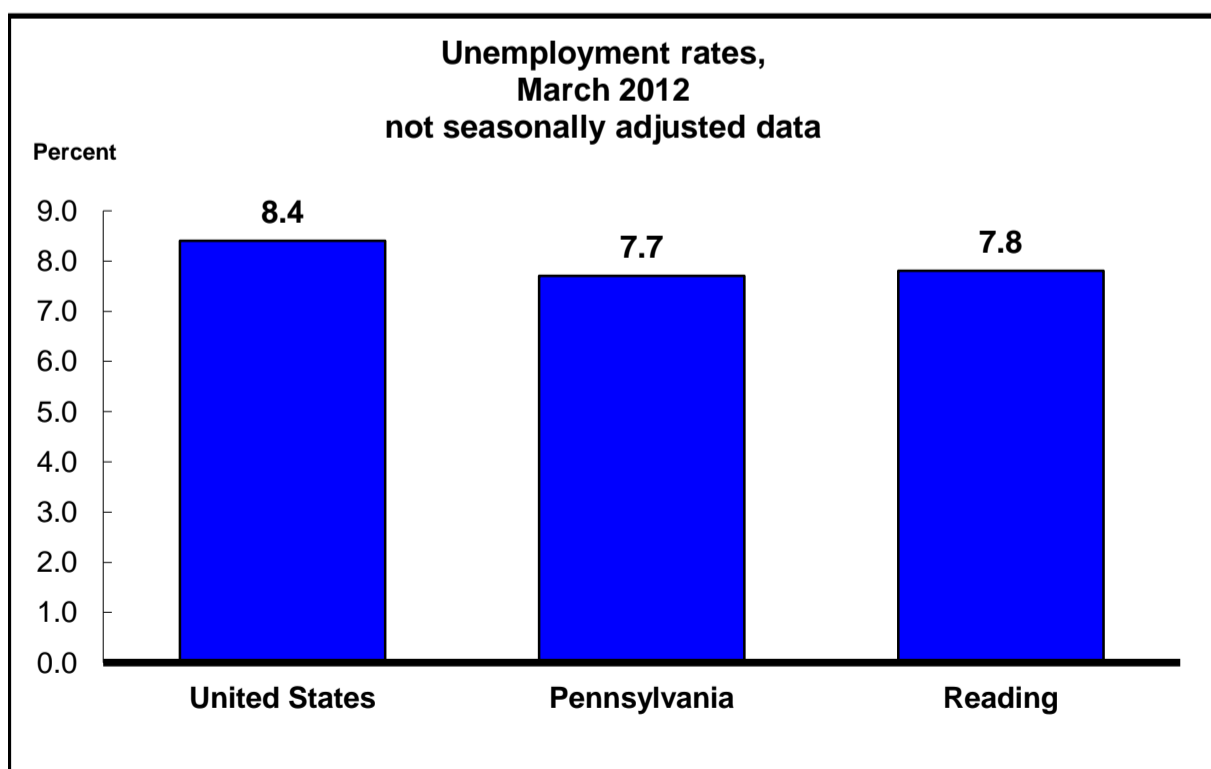
Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	March 2011	March 2012	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	223.467	229.392	2.7
Northeast	239.074	245.125	2.5
Northeast (size class B/C)*	143.001	146.961	2.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	220.024	226.304	2.9
Northeast	237.377	243.768	2.7
Northeast (size class B/C)*	144.395	148.541	2.9
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	March 2011	March 2012	Percent change
Finished goods	189.1	194.4	2.8
All commodities	199.2	204.3	2.6
Industrial commodities	200.4	205.1	2.3

*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)
Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

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

Area	March 2011	March 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	14,060	12,904	-1,156	-8.2
Pennsylvania	522.6	493.4	-29.2	-5.6
Reading	17.5	16.0	-1.5	-8.4

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

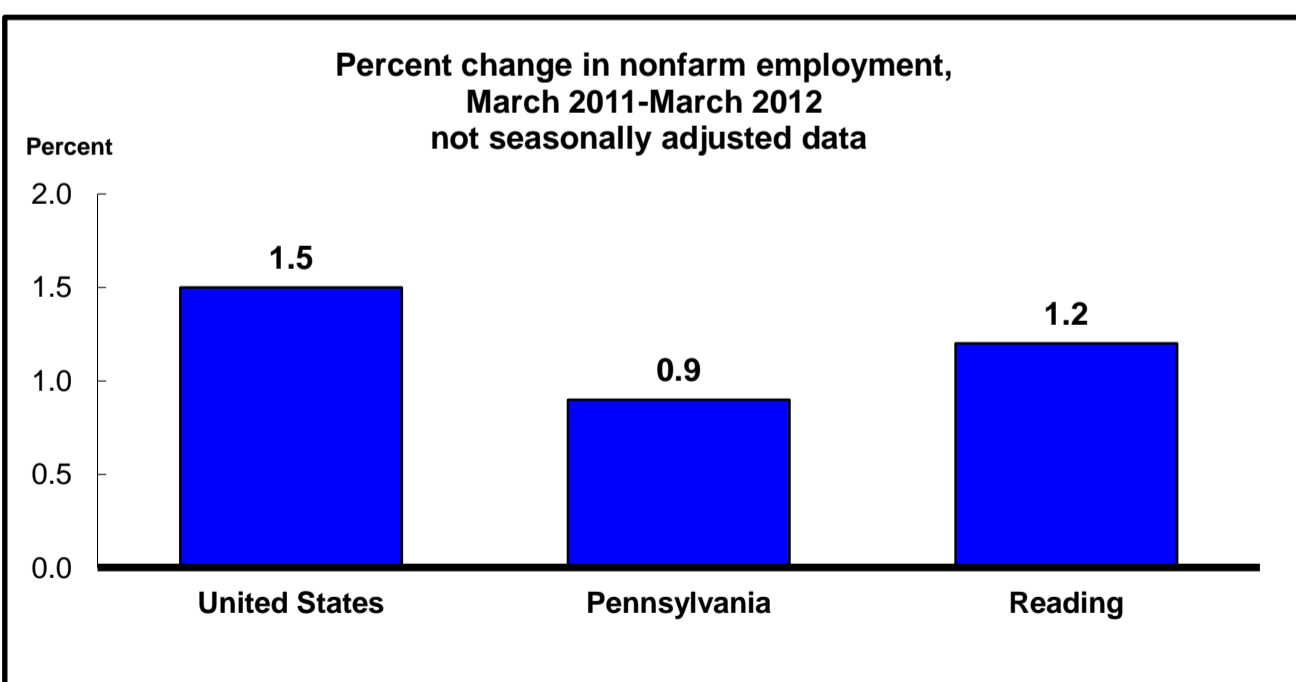


Employment Cost Index (December 2005) = 100	1st Qtr. 2011	1st Qtr. 2012	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	113.3	115.7	2.1
Northeast	114.4	116.5	1.8
Middle Atlantic	114.3	116.4	1.8
Occupational Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2011		
Reading			
Total, all occupations		\$20.16	
Education, training, and library		26.20	
Office and administrative support		16.14	
Construction and extraction		20.82	
Sales and related		17.58	
Healthcare practitioners and technical		32.65	
Food preparation and serving related		10.42	
Production		16.41	
Installation, maintenance, and repair		20.52	
Transportation and material moving		15.87	

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2011	March 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	130,061	132,071	2,010	1.5
Pennsylvania	5,632.6	5,683.4	50.8	0.9
Reading	168.1	170.2	2.1	1.2

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



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

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