Allentown area Economic Summary

Updated May 01, 2020

This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending, and benefits. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm.

Unemployment rates for the nation and selected areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Unemployment Rates Mar-19</th>
<th>Unemployment Rates Mar-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allentown area</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Co., PA</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Co., PA</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Co., PA</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Co., NJ</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Average weekly wages for all industries by county

Allentown area, third quarter 2019
(U.S. = $1,093; Area = $977)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
<th>Change from Mar. 2019 to Mar. 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nonfarm</td>
<td>378.2</td>
<td>1.0 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining, logging, and construction</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>-0.6 (-4.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>-0.3 (-0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, transportation, and utilities</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>-0.1 (-0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>-0.4 (-2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and business services</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>-0.7 (-1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and health services</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>2.5 (3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure and hospitality</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>0.3 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>0.3 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector

Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories

12-month percent change in CPI-U, March 2020

-6.0 1.7
-5.7 1.5
-7.0 1.8
-6.0 1.9

All items Food Energy
Northeast region U.S. city average

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Over-the-year changes in the selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide

12-month percent changes in PPI

-4.0 Mar-17 -2.0 Mar-18 0.0 Mar-19 2.0 Mar-20
-6.0 Middle Atlantic
-4.0 United States

General freight trucking Hospitals Chemical mfg

Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

Average annual expenditures, United States and Northeast region, 2018

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

Northeast region
United States
Northeast region
All items
Healthcare
Personal insurance & pensions
Food
Transportation
Housing

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations

Occupation Allentown area United States
All occupations $23.23 $25.72
Registered nurses 33.22 37.24
Office clerks, general 17.68 17.48
Customer service representatives 17.12 17.94
Waiters and waitresses 12.62 12.88
Retail salespersons 12.56 14.12
Childcare workers 11.54 12.27


Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

Private industry, December 2019 Middle Atlantic United States
Total compensation $38.79 $34.72
Wages and salaries 26.59 24.36
Total benefits 12.20 10.37
Paid leave 3.05 2.53
Vacation 1.55 1.30
Supplemental pay 1.38 1.19
Insurance 3.31 2.76
Retirement and savings 1.40 1.22
Legally required benefits 3.07 2.66

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.
(1) The states that compose the Middle Atlantic census division are: NJ, NY, and PA.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries

12-month percent changes in ECI

Mar-17 Mar-18 Mar-19 Mar-20

Middle Atlantic United States

Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.