

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	August 2011	August 2012	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	226.545	230.379	1.7
Northeast	243.033	246.252	1.3
Northeast (size class B/C)*	145.339	146.885	1.1
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	223.326	227.056	1.7
Northeast	241.431	244.813	1.4
Northeast (size class B/C)*	146.985	148.453	1.0
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	August 2011	August 2012	Percent change
Finished goods	191.7	195.5	2.0
All commodities	203.2	202.6	-0.3
Industrial commodities	203.7	202.0	-0.8

*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. 2011	2nd Qtr. 2012	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	114.3	116.4	1.8
Northeast	115.3	117.1	1.6
Middle Atlantic	115.1	117.0	1.7
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		

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

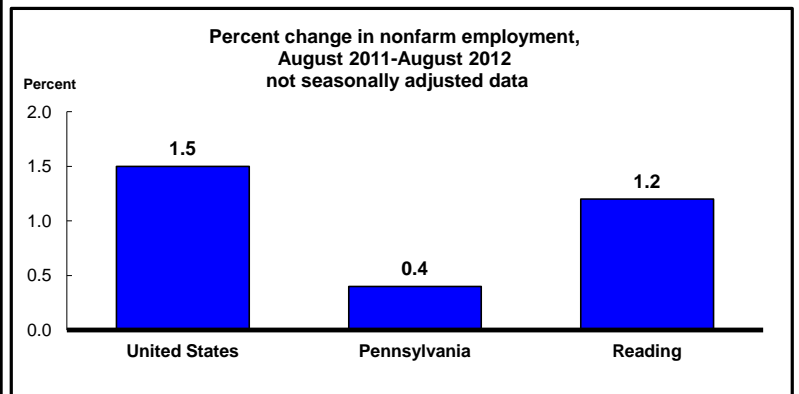
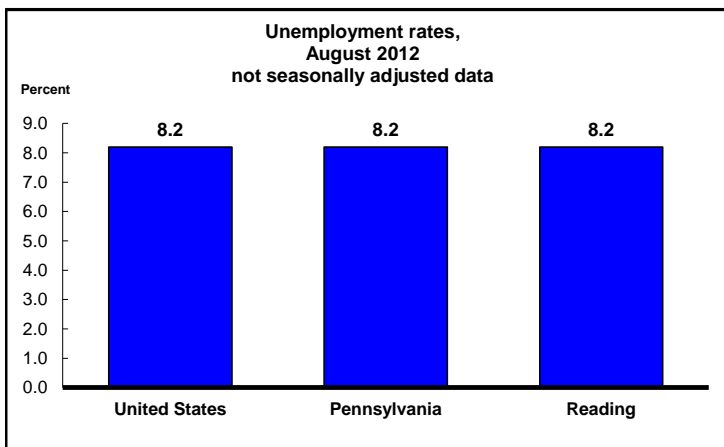
Area	August 2011	August 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	14,008	12,696	-1,312	-9.4
Pennsylvania	527.8	537.8	10.0	1.9
Reading	17.4	17.1	-0.3	-1.5

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	August 2011	August 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	131,278	133,223	1,945	1.5
Pennsylvania	5,661.8	5,683.9	22.1	0.4
Reading	168.7	170.7	2.0	1.2

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



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

Mid-Atlantic Information Office • blsinfo@philadelphia.bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro3 • 215-597-3282