

Economy Tracker™

Northeastern Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate

In 2007, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw a higher unemployment rate than the Country and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. However, the rate was just .1% higher than the nation for Lackawanna County and Luzerne County was .3% higher. From 2007 – 2008, the economic situation influenced unemployment rates. The national average and the Lackawanna County average rose 1.2%, while Luzerne County increased by 1.4%. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a whole, demonstrated slower job loss, coming in at 1% higher.

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	106,100	101,100	5,000	4.7
Luzerne County	158,000	150,200	7,800	4.9
Pennsylvania	6,297,000	6,023,000	274,000	4.4
United States	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	107,500	101,200	6,300	5.9
Luzerne County	160,500	150,300	10,200	6.3
Pennsylvania	6,395,000	6,051,000	344,000	5.4
United States	154,287,000	145,362,000	8,924,000	5.8

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

In 2009, the recession was all too evident in the region. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both saw a high increase in job loss, Lackawanna rose 2.6% while Luzerne rose by 3.1% from the prior year. Pennsylvania's increase was 2.8% and the national increase was 3.5%.

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	107,117	98,042	9,092	8.5
Luzerne County	160,650	145,600	15,033	9.4
Pennsylvania	6,395,750	5,867,833	527,917	8.2
United States	154,045,167	139,811,833	14,233,417	9.3

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force Change	Employment Change	Unemployment Change	Unemployment Rate Change (%)
Lackawanna County	1.0%	-3.0%	81.8%	80.3%
Luzerne County	1.7%	-3.1%	92.7%	91.0%
Pennsylvania	1.6%	-2.6%	92.7%	87.3%
United States	0.6%	-4.3%	101.1%	101.1%

Source: The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development

From 2007-2009, there was considerable change in the job market. The Civilian Labor Force grew during the two years in both counties the state and the nation, but employment level decreased. The hardships of the area can be seen throughout the country, with the unemployed population nearly doubling over the time period.

Note: 2009 numbers represent the year average as opposed to the final annualized totals and some differences occur due to rounding.