

Recession Tracker™

Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Business Establishments/Retail Sales

In Lackawanna County, in 2007, the cost of living index was 19.33. In 2008 after the recession begin it dipped to 18.76 indicating a higher cost of living that year. The estimate for 2009 is 19.79 showing a decreased cost of living. In 2010 that cost of living index increased to 20.01 an increase of .22 percent. ¹ This means that the cost of living decreased for the second consecutive year.

Luzerne Cost of Living Index			
2007	2008	2009	2010
27.25	26.82	27.04	27.35

The number of establishments was last released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2002. Below is a summation of the number of establishments and projected 2010 retail sales for NAICS 44-45. This is not reflected of the total of retail establishments and projected sales in the county. Clothing/Accessories had the highest number of establishments (147) followed by Food/Beverage (145). As was the case in 2009 retail sales again trickled downward again in 2010. Motor Vehicles/Parts again showed the largest decrease (-\$56 million); followed by Health/Personal Care (-\$264 million); Building Materials (-\$50 million); General Merchandise (-\$40 million); Clothing/Accessories (\$30.6 million); Food/Beverage (-28.4 million); Gasoline (-\$22.8 million); Furniture (-14.2 million); and Electrical appliance at -\$3 million. The total overall decrease totaled -\$311,168 million.

Lackawanna Establishments/Retail Sales					
Industry	Number of Establishments 2002	Retail Sales			
		2007	2008	2009	2010
Motor Vehicles /Parts	135	\$790,084,000	\$795,494,000	\$728,035,000	\$633,052,000
Furniture	55	\$85,047,000	\$90,898,000	\$90,571,000	\$76,286,000
Electrical Appliance	36	\$55,908,000	\$55,642,000	\$58,783,000	\$55,263,000
Building Materials	70	\$372,261,000	\$343,570,000	\$324,508,000	\$274,340,000
Food/Beverage	145	\$602,922,000	\$654,914,000	\$631,476,000	\$603,073,000
Health Personal Care	111	\$301,639,000	\$317,144,000	\$323,902,000	\$298,049,000
Gasoline	89	\$301,152,000	\$283,627,000	\$339,919,000	\$317,052,000
Clothing/Accessories	147	\$194,133,000	\$193,275,000	\$205,538,000	\$174,904,000
General Merchandise	36	\$499,616,000	\$509,163,000	\$515,446,000	\$474,991,000
Total	824	\$3,202,762,000	\$3,243,727,000	\$3,218,178,000	\$2,907,010,000

¹ The Cost of Living Index ranges from 0 – 100 with a score of 0 indicating a high cost of living and a score of 100 indicating a low cost of living. The United States has a score of 50. The Cost of Living Index includes average housing, taxes, and food costs that have been estimated relative to average household income, all of which are non-proportional.

In 2007, the cost of living index in Luzerne County was 27.25. In 2008, after the recession began, it dipped to 26.82 indicating a higher cost of living that year. The estimate for 2009 is 27.04 showing a decreased cost of living. In 2010 an additional decrease occurred with the cost of living at 27.35.²

Luzerne Cost of Living Index			
2007	2008	2009	2010
27.25	26.82	27.04	27.35

The number of establishments was last released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2002. Below is a summation of the number of establishments and projected 2010 retail sales for NAICS 44-45. This is not reflected of the total of retail establishments and projected sales in the county. The Food/Beverage industry had the highest number of establishments Luzerne County (210) followed by Motor Vehicles/Parts (180). Retail sales in Luzerne County also showed steady declines in all types of establishments except Food and Beverage which strangely enough remained the same over the time period. Motor Vehicles/Parts showed a decline of -\$245.4 million followed by Building Materials (-\$69 million); General Merchandise (-\$60.9 million); Gasoline (-\$42.3 million); Health/Personal Care (-\$32.9 million); Clothing/Accessories (-\$30 million); Furniture (-\$18 million); and Electrical Appliances (-\$6.6 million). The total overall decrease without Food/Beverage is -\$404,650 million.

Luzerne Establishments/Retail Sales					
Industry	Number of Establishments 2002	Retail Sales			
		2007	2008	2009	2010
Motor Vehicles /Parts	180	\$1,206,983,000	\$1,214,274,000	\$1,112,724,000	\$968,857,000
Furniture	69	\$111,516,000	\$118,506,000	\$118,231,000	\$99,734,000
Electrical Appliances	55	\$108,816,000	\$107,265,000	\$113,465,000	\$106,826,000
Building Materials	104	\$516,774,000	\$478,636,000	\$452,658,000	\$383,227,000
Food/Beverage	210	\$759,395,000	\$818,119,000	\$755,299,000	\$755,299,000
Health Personal Care	131	\$393,547,000	\$410,267,000	\$419,546,000	\$386,609,000
Gasoline	146	\$568,735,000	\$536,839,000	\$644,212,000	\$601,862,000
Clothing/Accessories	157	\$192,167,000	\$190,921,000	\$203,294,000	\$173,272,000
General Merchandise	49	\$769,296,000	\$778,442,000	\$789,057,000	\$728,150,000
Total	1,101	\$4,627,229,000	\$4,653,269,000	\$4,608,486,000	\$4,203,836,000

² The Cost of Living Index ranges from 0 – 100 with a score of 0 indicating a high cost of living and a score of 100 indicating a low cost of living. The United States has a score of 50. The Cost of Living Index includes average housing, taxes, and food costs