

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.¹

Lackawanna Cost of Living Index		
2007	2008	2009
19.33	18.76	19.79

The number of establishments was last released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2002. Clothing/Accessories had the highest number of establishments (147) followed by Food/Beverage (145). Retail sales fluctuated - increasing in 2008 and decreasing in 2009. Motor Vehicles/Parts showed the largest decrease in sales between 2008 and 2009 a loss of \$67.4 million. This was followed by Food/Beverage (-\$23.4 million) and Building Materials (-\$19 million). Gasoline showed a \$17.5 million decrease in 2008 only to experience an increase of \$56.5 million in 2009. In addition, Clothing/Accessories showed a \$12 million increase in 2009 after a slight loss in 2008.

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

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.²

Luzerne Cost of Living Index		
2007	2008	2009
27.25	26.82	27.04

The Food/Beverage industry had the highest number of establishments Luzerne County (210) followed by Motor Vehicles/Parts (180). Retail sales fluctuated increasing in 2008 and decreasing in 2009. Because Lackawanna and Luzerne County are so interconnected in terms of business, Luzerne showed nearly identical trends in retail sales figures. However, Luzerne County shows these trends on a larger scale. Motor Vehicles/Parts showed a decrease in sales between 2008 and 2009 - a loss of \$101.5 million. This was followed by Food/Beverage (-\$28.2 million) and Building Materials (-\$25.9 million). Gasoline showed a \$31.8 million decrease in 2008 only to have a tremendous increase of \$107.3 million in 2009. In addition, Clothing/Accessories showed a \$12 million increase in 2009 after a slight loss in 2008.

Luzerne Establishments/Retail Sales				
Industry	Number of Establishments	Retail Sales		
		2007	2008	2009
Motor Vehicles /Parts	180	\$1,206,983,000	\$1,214,274,000	\$1,112,724,000
Furniture	69	\$111,516,000	\$118,506,000	\$118,231,000
Electrical Appliances	55	\$108,816,000	\$107,265,000	\$113,465,000
Building Materials	104	\$516,774,000	\$478,636,000	\$452,658,000
Food/Beverage	210	\$759,395,000	\$818,119,000	\$789,850,000
Health Personal Care	131	\$393,547,000	\$410,267,000	\$419,546,000
Gasoline	146	\$568,735,000	\$536,839,000	\$644,212,000
Clothing/Accessories	157	\$192,167,000	\$190,921,000	\$203,294,000
General Merchandise	49	\$769,296,000	\$778,442,000	\$789,057,000
Total	1,101	\$4,627,229,000	\$4,653,269,000	\$4,643,037,000

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