

Recession Tracker™

Northeastern Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate

In 2006, the Lackawanna County unemployment rate was competitive with the state and better than the nation. Luzerne County posted .6% higher than the Commonwealth and .3% higher than the US.

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	106,200	101,900	4,300	4
Luzerne County	158,700	151,400	7,300	4.6
Pennsylvania	6,314,000	6,064,000	250,000	4
United States	152,571,000	146,081,000	6,491,000	4.3

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	105,400	100,700	4,700	4.5
Luzerne County	157,800	149,600	8,100	5.1
Pennsylvania	6,297,000	6,023,000	274,000	4.3
United States	153,705,000	146,334,000	7,371,000	4.8

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

By 2007, both counties saw an increase of .5% that was consistent with the national average and slightly higher than the nation. Luzerne County unemployment was still .6% higher than Lackawanna County.

In 2008, the economy landscape changed drastically for the US and the world. All sectors of the economy have been impacted by this economic downturn. Unemployment rose 2.3% and 2.6% respectively in our region while the Commonwealth saw a 2.1% increase and the US saw a 2.3% increase.

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Lackawanna County	108,100	100,700	7,400	6.8
Luzerne County	162,000	149,600	12,400	7.7
Pennsylvania	6,428,000	6,018,000	410,000	6.4
United States	154,349,000	143,350,000	10,999,000	7.1

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force Change	Employment Change	Unemployment Change	Unemployment Rate Change (%)
Lackawanna County	1.79%	-1.18%	72.09%	70.00%
Luzerne County	2.08%	-1.19%	69.86%	67.39%
Pennsylvania	1.81%	-0.76%	64.00%	60.00%
United States	1.17%	-1.87%	69.45%	65.12%

Source: The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development

From 2006 – 2008, we see incredible changes in the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate. While the civilian labor grew slightly in both counties, the Commonwealth, and the nation, those employed decreased by a small percentage, but the raw number change and the rate change are staggering.

What people in Lackawanna & Luzerne County are saying?

	Q1: Has your employment status been affected - lay off, hourly reduction, cut in pay, or other concessions?	Q2: Either way, have you cut back on spending? If so, in what areas?	Additional Comments:
Respondent 1	Yes. I was just laid off from Macy's because of that big cost cutting thing.	Not really actually (laughs).	I am a college student and my parents do give me money. I do not have a job right now.
Respondent 2	Not yet. I have seen in within the company I work for thought.	No.	Work environment: a lot of cost cuts and a few lay offs.
Respondent 3	No. I am retired and not working	Not really because of the recession. But I have been cutting back since my retirement, living on less weekly income.	
Respondent 4	No.	Yes, quite drastically on entertainment (like dining out and movies), as well as traveling.	Work affected?: No, we have been very fortunate.
Respondent 5	No. My work has not really been affected, although, I have seen cutbacks taking place in a number of the businesses that I work	My spending isn't any different than before.	
Respondent 6	My employment status hasn't been affected so far, but there have been lay offs which will likely mean an increase in our workload. My position is certainly not immune.	Yes, I have had to cut back on spending; primarily on entertainment. I try to cut back on anything that is not essential.	I work for a not-for-profit arts organization
Respondent 7	Yes, I am a restaurant owner and we have seen a decrease in the amount of customers.	We have had to cut back business expenses. We are having to spend less on inventory.	We are cutting back on entertainment spending at home
Respondent 8	Yes, business has slowed.	Yes, I have had to cut back on all my	
Respondent 9	No, I am retired.	No more than I usually do.	My pension has dropped maybe 30%
Respondent 10	No, not directly. I am retired	I always keep a tight budget	My investments have been affected
Respondent 11	I am on a fixed income	I cut back on groceries	
Respondent 12	No work related issues	I am cautious, but haven't cut back.	
Respondent 13	Not me. I have seen it with members of my family.	I haven't cut back, but I am more cautious with my spending.	