

# Does Unconventional Shale Gas Drilling *Actually* Provide the “Tremendous Economic Vitality” Industry Advertises?

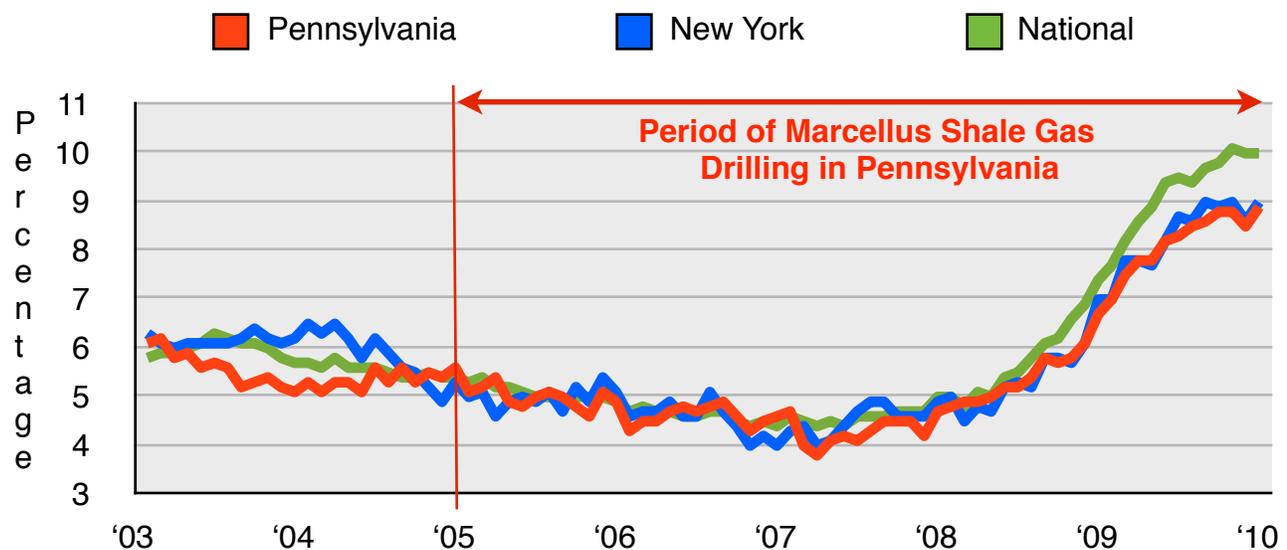
On January 19, 2010, in response to New York Governor Paterson’s proposed imposition of a 3% severance tax on unconventional gas drilling *that has not begun* in New York, Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York State’s extraction industry lobbyist, Brad Gill, stated:

“New York should consider modeling Pennsylvania, where Governor Edward Rendell allowed the oil and gas industry to mature before recommending a severance tax. Consider that philosophy’s positive effects on Pennsylvania and its residents. [Pennsylvania] is thriving with tens of thousands of jobs and **tremendous economic vitality**”

Does the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data support Gill’s claim that unconventional gas drilling has brought “**tremendous economic vitality**” to Pennsylvania? Has environmental degradation from the extraction industry’s fracking up the air, water and soil in Pennsylvania *really* provided a more prosperous economy for Pennsylvania than what New York State has?

Marcellus shale gas wells drilled in Pennsylvania began producing un-natural gas in 2005.

Let’s compare the BLS data for unemployment rates and average weekly wages:



## Comparison of Pennsylvania and New York State Unemployment Rates 2003 thru 2009

Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Civilian Unemployment Rates  
(the higher the percentage the more people there are unemployed)

**5 year Average Monthly Unemployment:** 5.51% for PA, 5.57% for NY, and 5.88% National.

**Current Average Weekly Wage:** \$805 for PA, and \$868 for NY, with National Ave. being \$757.

Where’s that “tremendous economic vitality” the IOGA claims Pennsylvania has that New York doesn’t? It’s simply not there! While Marcellus Shale gas extraction has brought greater environmental degradation to their air, water and soil, it has clearly not brought any economic miracle to the people of Pennsylvania. They were relatively much better off *before* the drilling.