NTH2 is 77% identical to NTH1, which encodes a cytoplasmic neutral trehalase enzyme. Although NTH2 mRNA has been identified by Northern analysis, it does not appear to encode significant trehalase activity, or be involved in trehalose catabolism, as an nth2 null mutant exhibits normal levels of both neutral trehalase activity and trehalose. An nth2 null mutant does display sensitivity to heat shock, indicating it may be involved in thermotolerance. NTH2 appears to be induced during stationary phase and repressed during exponential growth.