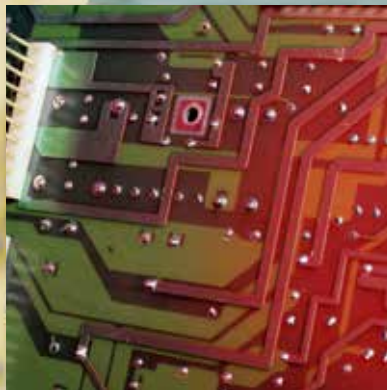
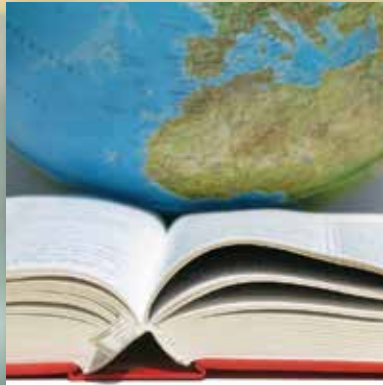


2016 Indicators Report

LACKAWANNA
AND
LUZERNE
COUNTY



The **INSTITUTE** for

Public Policy & Economic Development
at Wilkes University

A partnership among Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Commonwealth Medical College, University of Scranton & Wilkes University

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The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development at Wilkes University has offices in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Institute mobilizes the resources of regional institutions of higher education to engage in research, strategy development, public policy, and technical assistance. The Institute serves proprietary clients (business & industry, government and non-profits) and also produces community based research such as the Indicators Report.

Research areas include:

- demographics
- economic development
- community development
- education
- energy
- government
- health & health care
- housing
- industry
- infrastructure
- land use
- planning
- public safety
- tourism and arts & culture
- transportation
- workforce development

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- Community Health Assessments
- Economic & Demographic Profiles
- Economic Development Strategies
- Economic and Tax Impact Studies
- Education Studies
- Feasibility and Market Studies
- Housing Studies
- Indicators – Indexes
- Industry Studies
- Policy Analysis
- Program Evaluation Support
- Project Analyses and Monitoring
- Research Validation and Peer Review
- Tourism Strategic Plans
- Workforce Studies

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Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report

Regional Dashboard

This year's Indicators Report identifies some limited economic improvement over the past several years. The recession and subsequent periods have challenged Northeastern Pennsylvania in the form of increases in cost of living amid higher unemployment, lower wages, and elevated levels of poverty relative to the state. The region is in many areas still recovering from the severe economic downturn, however it is approaching a pre-recession economic figures.

While having imbalance in its economy - lower wage jobs occupy a larger share than do higher wage jobs - the region has diversity in the composition of its business and industry. That diversity has greatly helped the region. The region has a solid manufacturing sector and a strong presence by the defense industry, which have played a role in helping to maintain the region's economic stability. As with the nation as a whole, there has been a growth in the service sector in the two counties as well. The region is a large exporter and has strong base of higher education institutions and healthcare systems. Employment in these sectors is strong shown by a rise in education and healthcare employment across both counties in the most recent period studied. The higher education and health care infrastructure (Eds and Meds) have joined community leaders and economic development providers at the table to evaluate ways to enhance their sectors. Both also have the capacity to bring people in from outside the region, grow the local economy, and improve quality of life. The JEED task force has been working on financial literacy – the scope of the issue and its impact on our regional economy.

Moreover, the region's economy has a strong visitor base and that visitor spending has been sustained with minor fluctuations since the end of the Great Recession. With year-round recreation, venues and entertainment, the region is an appealing destination. Casino gaming, skiing, golfing, arena sports and entertainment, and baseball are just a few highlights. Natural resources, including our parks, trails, and forests, as well as the area's rich history and culture attract visitors.

The region's positive net migration - meaning more people are moving in than leaving has been a considerable strength for years. Most recently, Lackawanna has shown some population loss in migration over the past two years. Aside from growth, we are seeing racial and ethnic diversity and families with children migrating to the region. Increased diversity adds to the vibrancy, culture, and quality of life of the region. It also makes it an even more appealing place to do business.

The two counties profiled in this report are not direct stakeholders in the Marcellus Shale play. There is no drilling in the region; therefore, the positive economic impact is absent as well. There is, however, opportunity to grow business and attract new business just by being adjacent to a major shale player. The ever-growing pipeline network can serve as a very attractive asset to bring to the region companies that use natural gas as a raw material or a major heat source in their manufacturing process. Coupled with information and a strategy to develop a stronger vendor network for natural gas companies with local business, economic opportunity and job growth are promising. The Institute's energy task is continuing its effort to

work with implementation partners on business attraction despite some challenges in site development and permitting. The strategy and corresponding pipeline paper are being updated to support the initiative. The Institute's higher education partners are evaluating new and expanded academic programs to support growth in new industries.

The region's health care infrastructure has recently undergone a major transformation. Two giants have emerged – Community Health Systems and Geisinger Health System. These two have the potential and resources to change the perception of local services, increase innovation, and work with The Commonwealth Medical College and the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education to increase the number of physicians in the area. Bringing people back to the region for health care has the capacity to create substantial economic impact through jobs, new business and industry, and even medical tourism.

The health and health care task force, through its mental and behavioral health research has set its focus on the increasing prevalence of opiate use and dependence within the region. As first responders in both counties and some school districts have begun to carry naloxone, a synthetic drug that temporarily blocks opiate receptors in the nervous system and reverses the effects of an overdose. The task force has undertaken a coordinated effort to develop an understanding of the scope of use and dependence in the region as well as provide best practice implications for healthcare and treatment. It is easy to overlook the many regional assets and positive economic aspects when an area has a relatively high level of poverty and significant challenges to public health, including many uninsured individuals. Our social service systems are overburdened and many local families struggle to meet their basic needs. Some regional organizations are beginning to see that cooperative efforts and focusing missions may be a way to reduce duplication of efforts and provide more cohesive services. Additionally, some organizations see the value in determining the root cause of problems and addressing them as opposed to dealing with the end result. This method is likely to demonstrate positive change over time.

Another driver of our regional economy is its education system, including early childhood education, K-12 education, and postsecondary education. Today's children comprise tomorrow's workforce – and consequently our economic future. Challenges remain when evaluating test scores. Enrollment in Pre-K programs remained relatively static, and special education needs showed a slight increase. The Institute's education task force has produced several white papers over the past few years on education and workforce development; the group aims to develop a Pre-K through 20 workforce development network to enhance career awareness and preparedness. Most recently the education and workforce development task force explored the link between low socioeconomic status and educational performance within the region. This aimed to shed light on some of the causes of poor educational outcomes and advise remediation efforts within both the school and the community. This effort is coordinated for its potential downstream effects which

include; helping employers meet their human resources needs, keeping youth in the region, and ensuring gainful employment.

Our local governments are also challenged by eroding tax bases, burdensome debt, high operating costs, and benefit obligations. The two counties and many other government entities have taken positive steps towards fiscal sustainability, but it should be clear that answers to these problems require innovative solutions, collaboration and cooperation. Business as usual is insufficient to overcome these challenges. Here, there have not been significant efforts to collaborate across jurisdictional lines (and in some cases intra-jurisdictionally). Infrastructure, public safety, and public services must be maintained and improved despite fiscal challenges. As far as public safety is concerned, while maintaining police per capita, the region's crime rates have seen some fluctuation; but for a region its size, the area is generally safe, and in many ways, has improved. However, there is significant variation in public safety between communities and neighborhoods, so pockets of higher crime rates exist and must be dealt with proactively. High crime is not only negatively impacting quality of life in those areas, but hindering economic development. In 2012, The Institute formed a public safety task force to serve as coordinators for Congressman Lou Barletta and State Senator John Yudichak's "Operation Gang Up" program. Through this program, many efforts have been made to offer gang awareness training in our schools, community groups, and among law enforcement. Pennsylvania's first gang legislation was signed into law in 2012. Gang activity leads to other crimes. Drugs and drug use remain problems (and the need to financially support the habit leads to other crime); but gangs are also engaging in white collar crimes. More information can be obtained about our local issues, Pennsylvania's gang legislation, and gang awareness at www.operationgangup.com. In early Institute research, it was identified the best way to deter youth participation in gangs is to provide an opportunities for them to engage in other endeavors. As a result, The Institute identified the SHINE program as a means to reduce juvenile crime. SHINE is an after school program that has seen tremendous success in Carbon County. It provides school enrichment programs, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) initiative, and creates a new generation of youth ready for post secondary education. SHINE is now open in several Luzerne County schools with approximately 300 children enrolled.

Our infrastructure, which includes our transportation systems, utilities (including broadband), sewer and water systems, and roads need ongoing maintenance. Our roads, in particular, are an asset defining our relationship with other regions. Scranton and Wilkes-Barre are located just 120 miles from Philadelphia and New York and within a four-hour drive from Washington, DC and Boston. For this reason, the region is poised for business development, visitor access, and movement of people and goods. Maintaining all of our infrastructure systems is critical to economic development as well as quality of life for the region's residents. When firms research potential locations for doing business, infrastructure is always a top priority. Our infrastructure task force (PLUTI) has worked on policies advocating for the formation of a regional transportation authority and infrastructure districts to be used as a tool to repair and maintain our regional systems. The Institute is happy to report that this policy recommendation has been adopted by all of the transportation

entities that it suggested and that a feasibility study is underway. An RTA would give our region one of the largest transportation authorities in the Commonwealth and open the door to enhanced federal funding in addition to coordinating regional transportation within and across modes. Broadband access has improved, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport has seen a recent expansion in carriers and flights, and the rail system has great opportunities for the future. Some regional infrastructure and environmental challenges could be mitigated by implementing sustainability principles. The PLUTI task force has explored the potential and developed four toolkits for sustainability relating to practices for local government, green building, sustainable transportation, and recycling and are investigating new environmental indicators to add to the report.

The region's housing market has weathered the recession. Housing values did not drop dramatically over the past year. Housing and rental affordability had been decreasing, but 2012-2013 saw a very modest improvement, only to outdone by a rise to above 2012 levels in the most recent period. The region has a strong base of owner-occupied housing, but also has an older housing stock. Through the housing task force, a homebuyer education guide has been developed and is posted on newly revised www.nepahousing.org.

Suffice it to say, the region has challenges, but with challenges come many opportunities. Coupled with existing assets, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have the capacity to revitalize and sustain.

In the summer of 2014, WVIA Public Media embarked on a collaboration with The Institute to launch a new community engagement initiative, turning the station outward to determine important issues and to steer programming and community projects with measurable outcomes.

The first initiative brought together WVIA, The Institute, and The Commonwealth Medical College. Using The Institute's health assessment research to identify the region's critical health needs and TCMC as a primary resource for clinical research, WVIA initiated conversations with regional non-profit and for-profit partners and worked internally to present an all-new outward facing "Call the Doctor" program for its 27th television season. The number one goal for "Call the Doctor" is to address the critical health & wellness needs of our region, by concentrating on one topic per month. Patients and survivors tell their personal stories while doctors and other experts discuss the medical aspects of those emotional stories. Most importantly, "Call the Doctor" supplies all its viewers with direct contact to available local resources that can help those in need through their difficult and sometimes isolating health journeys. This is accomplished through phone operators during live broadcasts and a resource hub on WVIA's website that focuses on that month's health topic.

In mid-2015 WVIA TV premiered a new public affairs magazine program that will address future initiatives being explored through the partnership between WVIA, The Institute's Indicators Initiative and its various task forces. The issues include but are not limited to education, workforce readiness, public safety, and poverty issues. This includes highlighting the SHINE program, which address the issues of juvenile delinquency and deterring gang recruitment while enhancing a child's educational experience and teaches parents how to support their children's educational experience.

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Demographics

Demographics



“Both counties experienced a small drop in population between 2012 and 2013.”

While population decreases in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are recorded since 1930, marginal negative migration in Lackawanna County has had very little impact overall, as positive migration into Luzerne County after 2010 has resulted in population growth. New residents to the region have come largely from New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere in Pennsylvania. This is especially important because Pennsylvania has experienced a steady population increase over the past twenty years. In 1990, Pennsylvania’s population stood at 11,881,643, and by 2014, it had increased to 12,787,209.

There are three components that make up population change: births, deaths, and migration. Based on 2013 data, birth rates in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have increased over the prior year. Based on data from the last several years, however, the birth rates have not changed dramatically for either county or the Commonwealth. Migration patterns have generally shown a positive net migration to Luzerne County, and a negative net migration to Lackawanna County. This means more people have been moving into Luzerne County than out, and that less people are moving into Lackawanna County than those moving out. Still, Luzerne County’s net gain is 4,841 migrants, which surpasses Lackawanna County’s small net loss of -725. This is a major driver of the modest population growth and suggests that the two counties are an attractive place to relocate a family. However, recent declines in total population and a decrease in net migration in both counties may suggest that the trend of slow population growth is shifting.

In terms of age distribution, the two counties mirrored statewide trends rather closely. However, older adults make up a larger share of the population locally compared with the Commonwealth, and children make up a slightly smaller share. This pattern has not drastically changed over the last several years. The 45-54 age group is the largest, followed by the 25-34 age group. Children 14 and under are the smallest category. This distribution puts challenges on the region’s future workforce as there will be fewer residents to fill jobs from retirees. This is likely to manifest itself in more in-migration, but certainly these trends will increase challenges for business recruitment and growth. This also puts pressure on the region’s economy as more retirees live on fixed income and increase their use of social services – they become users of social services as opposed to contributors.

While about 90 percent of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties’ total population is Caucasian, since 2010, in Luzerne, the percentage of Caucasian residents in the population decreased. Conversely, Lackawanna County’s Caucasian population has varied in number. It decreased between 2010 and 2011, saw a slight increase in the following year, has remained constant between 2012 and 2013, and declined slightly again in 2014. This indicates growing and ever-changing racial and ethnic diversity, though the two counties have less racial diversity than Pennsylvania as a whole. The growth of the Hispanic/Latino population has been considerable, doubling over the last decade. In Luzerne County, Hispanic or Latino residents make up nearly nine percent of the population, a larger percentage than the Commonwealth. The pattern of diversity is likely tied to the high rate of migration into the two counties. While hard to track through the U.S. Census’ estimates, Catholic Social Services has noted over 700 Bhutanese refugees and 400 Russian refugees moving into the region over the past several years. In addition, the counties’ Indian population is growing as well. Racial and ethnic diversity is tied to a vibrancy and richer arts and culture. The region is only beginning to see new cultural events and activities and new businesses opening up as a result.

Demographics

The first section of the Indicators report covers demographics: the size and composition of the two counties’ populations. These tables present data for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The section reports on population, age distribution, birth rates, ethnic diversity, and change in household size, as well as other important characteristics of the demographic makeup of the area.

The most accurate measure of population for a given geographic area is the U.S. Census. It is conducted once every ten years, most recently in 2010. The recorded populations in both counties decreased from 1990 to 2000, but increased slightly from 2000 to 2010. For more current population data, the American Community Survey, which is updated annually, is used.

In 2010, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties’ recorded populations stood at 214,437 and 320,918, respectively. By 2014, Lackawanna County’s population fell to 212,719 and Luzerne County’s population fell to 318,829. Both counties experienced a small drop in population between 2013 and 2014. Still, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have exhibited only a marginal population decrease since 2000.

Population

In 2014, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties both experienced small decreases compared with the prior year. Both counties' 2014 population is slightly lower than its population previously reported in 2010. Despite the recent slight population decrease, the two counties' populations are similar to those of the 2000 Census. Statewide, population has grown more consistently, with a 7.6 percent increase between 1990 and 2014. For every year since 2007, Pennsylvania has seen a growth in population compared with the previous year.



Population Overview				
	1990	2000	2010	2014
Lackawanna	219,039	212,927	214,437	212,719
Luzerne	328,149	318,564	320,918	318,829
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,285,504	12,702,379	12,787,209

U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census. 2014 American Community Survey.

Population Estimates								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	209,330	209,408	208,801	214,437	214,166	214,477	213,931	212,719
Luzerne	312,265	311,983	312,845	320,918	320,651	321,027	320,103	318,829
Pennsylvania	12,432,792	12,448,279	12,604,767	12,702,379	12,742,886	12,763,536	12,773,801	12,787,209

U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. 2010 data from the 2010 Census.

Lackawanna			
Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
2005-2006	5,531	5,175	356
2006-2007	5,557	5,178	379
2007-2008	5,527	5,344	183
2008-2009	5,276	5,549	-273
2009-2010	5,239	5,171	68
2010-2011	5,353	5,367	-14
2011-2012	6,440	7,127	-687
2012-2013	5,649	6,386	-737
Total	44,572	45,297	-725

Source: Internal Revenue Service

Luzerne			
Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
2005-2006	8,488	7,505	983
2006-2007	8,556	7,403	1,153
2007-2008	8,468	7,950	518
2008-2009	8,568	7,564	1,004
2009-2010	7,590	7,039	551
2010-2011	8,198	7,644	554
2011-2012	9,475	9,213	262
2012-2013	8,976	9,160	-184
Total	68,319	63,478	4,841

Source: Internal Revenue Service

Migration

Data shows that while Lackawanna County has experienced a net loss of -725 residents between 2005 and 2013, Luzerne County has experienced a substantial net gain of 4,841 residents. Data has shown that families with children are moving into the region from several socio-economic backgrounds — middle to upper-middle income and low to moderate income. Much of the in-migration is coming from New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

Birth Rates

Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' birth rates have changed minimally over the last several years. The highest birth rate was recorded in 2007 for both counties. Between 2008 and 2012, birth rates declined slightly – possibly due to the economic downturn; however, birth rates for both counties increased marginally in 2013.

Birth Rate Per 1000 Residents						
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	10.1	11.2	10.5	10.3	9.8	10.3
Luzerne	9.5	10.5	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.9
Pennsylvania	11.9	12.1	11.2	11.1	11.0	11.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Age Distribution



“Both counties have a generally older age distribution than the state as a whole.”

Age Distribution

For the periods examined (2000, 2005, and 2010 through 2014), the top age category in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and in Pennsylvania was 45 to 54. The only exceptions to this trend are Luzerne County and Pennsylvania as a whole in 2000, where the 35 to 44 age group was slightly higher. The distribution of the population by age cohort has not dramatically changed, but there have been some slight fluctuations.

In both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the population between ages 35 and 54 has decreased from 2000 to 2014. Similarly, the population aged 75 to 84 has also dropped slightly. Despite this average decrease over time, however, the percentage of those between 35 and 44 years has increased slightly from 2013 to 2014.

Luzerne County has a similar distribution pattern to Lackawanna County. Both counties have a generally older age distribution than the state as a whole, with more residents older than 55 and fewer residents younger than 35.

Age Distribution: Lackawanna County						
Age	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013	2014
Under 5	5.2%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%
5 to 9	6.0%	5.9%	5.5%	5.3%	5.6%	5.9%
10 to 14	6.6%	5.9%	5.8%	5.9%	5.6%	5.4%
15 to 19	6.8%	6.3%	6.9%	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%
20 to 24	5.9%	6.3%	6.9%	7.2%	6.8%	6.6%
25 to 34	11.7%	11.3%	11.3%	11.8%	12.1%	12.0%
35 to 44	14.9%	14.2%	12.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.7%
45 to 54	15.1%	15.3%	14.9%	14.5%	14.2%	13.7%
55 to 59	5.2%	6.5%	7.0%	7.1%	7.9%	6.9%
60 to 64	4.5%	5.5%	6.3%	6.7%	6.1%	7.0%
65 to 74	9.3%	7.5%	8.4%	9.2%	9.5%	10.0%
75 to 84	7.6%	7.8%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%	5.3%
85 and over	2.6%	2.2%	2.9%	3.1%	3.0%	3.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Age Distribution: Luzerne County						
Age	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013	2014
Under 5	5.0%	5.0%	5.2%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%
5 to 9	5.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%	5.5%	5.4%
10 to 14	6.4%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	5.5%	5.5%
15 to 19	6.5%	6.4%	6.9%	6.6%	6.4%	6.3%
20 to 24	5.4%	5.6%	6.4%	6.6%	6.7%	6.6%
25 to 34	12.2%	11.5%	11.0%	11.4%	11.7%	12.2%
35 to 44	15.0%	14.4%	12.9%	12.2%	12.1%	11.9%
45 to 54	14.0%	15.4%	15.2%	14.9%	14.4%	14.1%
55 to 59	5.4%	6.9%	7.0%	7.2%	7.0%	7.2%
60 to 64	4.6%	5.8%	6.4%	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%
65 to 74	9.4%	7.8%	8.6%	9.2%	9.8%	9.9%
75 to 84	7.5%	7.5%	6.4%	6.3%	6.4%	5.5%
85 and over	2.7%	2.3%	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Age Distribution: Pennsylvania						
Age	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013	2014
Under 5	5.9%	6.1%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
5 to 9	6.7%	6.0%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%
10 to 14	7.0%	6.9%	6.2%	6.1%	6.0%	6.1%
15 to 19	6.9%	6.5%	7.1%	6.8%	6.7%	6.6%
20 to 24	6.1%	6.2%	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%	6.8%
25 to 34	12.7%	11.9%	11.9%	12.3%	12.5%	12.8%
35 to 44	15.9%	14.7%	12.7%	12.2%	12.0%	11.9%
45 to 54	13.9%	15.6%	15.3%	14.7%	14.4%	14.1%
55 to 59	5.0%	6.5%	6.9%	7.3%	7.3%	7.4%
60 to 64	4.2%	4.9%	5.9%	6.1%	6.3%	6.5%
65 to 74	7.9%	6.9%	7.7%	8.3%	8.7%	9.0%
75 to 84	5.8%	6.0%	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%
85 and over	1.9%	1.7%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Racial & Ethnic Diversity

Racial & Ethnic Diversity

Ethnic diversity has increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as well as the state of Pennsylvania. In all three geographic areas, the percentage of non-white residents has slightly increased over the last five years. In Lackawanna County, the population of Asian-Americans grew between 2012 and 2014. Like the rest of Pennsylvania, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have a larger proportion of Caucasian residents followed by African-Americans. In 2013 both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw slight decreases in their African-American populations from the prior year, however this percentage ascended to the highest recorded number in 2014 for both counties, as well as for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

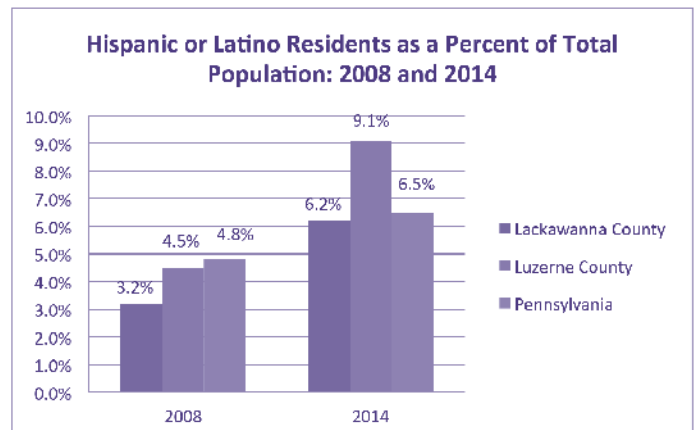


“The Hispanic/Latino population as a total percentage of the population for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and Pennsylvania has increased annually since 2008.”

Race by County and State						
Lackawanna		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
White/Caucasian		93.4%	92.9%	93.3%	93.3%	92.7%
Black/African-American		2.4%	2.7%	3.0%	2.7%	3.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native		0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Asian		1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	2.3%	2.2%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander		0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race		1.1%	1.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%
Two or more races		1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%
Luzerne		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
White/Caucasian		92.6%	91.7%	90.5%	89.9%	90.0%
Black/African-American		3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%	4.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native		0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Asian		0.9%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander		0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Some other race		1.4%	2.2%	3.4%	3.3%	2.4%
Two or more races		1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	2.3%	1.5%
Pennsylvania		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
White/Caucasian		82.6%	82.3%	81.9%	81.6%	81.4%
Black/African-American		10.8%	10.8%	11.0%	11.0%	11.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native		0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian		2.8%	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander		0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race		1.8%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%	1.9%
Two or more races		1.9%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

The Hispanic/Latino population as a total percentage of the population for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and Pennsylvania has increased annually since 2008. In Lackawanna County, Hispanics accounted for 3.2 percent of the total population in 2008; by 2014, that percentage increased to 6.2 percent. In 2008, Luzerne County’s Hispanic population accounted for 4.5 percent of the total population; by 2014, that percentage increased to 9.1 percent. In Pennsylvania, from 2008 to 2014, the Hispanic population increased from 4.8 percent to 6.5 percent.



Change in Household Size

Single Parent Families



“In Luzerne County, over ten percent of households are single parents with minor children.”

Change in Household Size

The change in household size has rarely fluctuated for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, as well as for Pennsylvania. In 2014, the mean household size for Lackawanna County was 2.43 while in Luzerne County it was 2.45. The two counties have maintained comparable household sizes through the time period examined, and the average household size has consistently been below the statewide average.

Household Size									
	2000	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	2.38	2.34	2.29	2.25	2.40	2.38	2.41	2.45	2.43
Luzerne	2.34	2.33	2.35	2.25	2.39	2.37	2.39	2.39	2.45
Pennsylvania	2.48	2.47	2.46	2.47	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.50	2.50

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Single Parent Families

In Lackawanna County, single-parent households with minor children make up about 8.1 percent of all households as of 2014. In Luzerne County, 9.7 percent of households are single parents with minor children. The majority of single-parent households are headed by females. For Lackawanna County, however, 2014 represents the second lowest number of female single-parent households since 2009, and the second highest number of male single-parent households. These percentages are 5.5 and 2.6, respectively. In Luzerne County, the percentage of households that are female single-parent families in 2014 decreased to 7.1 percent from the prior year, but is consistent with its 2008 statistic. Conversely, male single-parent households accounted for 2.6 percent of all households in Luzerne County in 2014, a decrease from the prior year, but a .6 percent increase from 2008.

Female Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	7.8%	7.2%	6.2%	6.8%	5.3%	5.5%
Luzerne	6.1%	8.1%	7.1%	7.9%	7.5%	7.1%
Pennsylvania	6.5%	6.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.3%	6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Male Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	1.1%	1.8%	2.9%	1.9%	1.5%	2.6%
Luzerne	2.5%	2.1%	2.5%	1.4%	2.7%	2.6%
Pennsylvania	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Ratio of Children to Elders

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

While data for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are difficult to examine because many years were not available for Lackawanna County, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren has significantly fluctuated in Pennsylvania over the period examined. Despite slight dips in 2011 and in 2014, Pennsylvania has seen an increase in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren: from 85,303 in 2009 to 91,531 in 2014. Luzerne County, however, saw a decrease overall, from 2,870 grandparents raising grandchildren in 2009 to 2,398 in 2014. Lackawanna County did not have measurable data for this indicator since 2009, but it can be presumed to be fairly small, as the data is withheld due to small sample sizes.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	1,808	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Luzerne	2,870	2,182	2,927	2,406	2,183	2,398
Pennsylvania	85,303	86,968	80,521	91,564	92,964	91,531

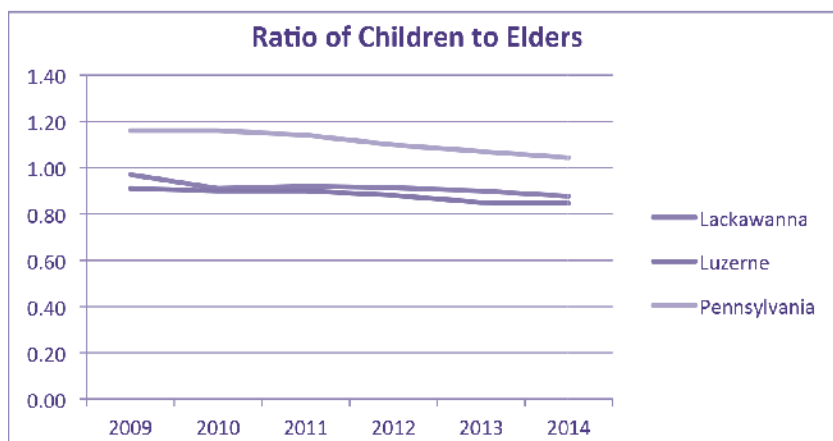
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Ratio of Children to Elders

The ratio of children to elders has remained fairly stable from 2008 to 2014. Lackawanna County saw just a 0.05 decrease in the ratio and Luzerne County saw a 0.04 decrease, indicating an increasing number of seniors compared with children. Statewide, the ratio has consistently been above one, indicating more children aged 14 and under than seniors aged 65 and older. Though, the ratio between the two is greater here; it has decreased by 0.14 since 2008.

Ratio of Children to Elders						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna						
Children (14 and under)	35,553	34,996	35,037	35,570	35,280	35,214
Elderly (65 and older)	36,718	38,568	37,908	38,976	39,391	40,198
Ratio	0.97	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.90	0.88
Luzerne						
Children (14 and under)	51,622	52,040	51,921	51,622	51,311	50,975
Elderly (65 and older)	56,752	58,080	57,746	58,670	60,178	60,268
Ratio	0.91	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.85	0.85
Pennsylvania						
Children (14 and under)	2,264,601	2,271,375	2,254,687	2,243,756	2,234,096	2,224,638
Elderly (65 and older)	1,944,554	1,965,505	1,982,418	2,041,930	2,089,972	2,134,099
Ratio	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.10	1.07	1.04

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey



Seniors Living Alone



“In 2014, both counties saw decreases in seniors living alone from the prior year and base year 2000.”

Seniors Living Alone

The number of senior citizens aged 65 or older living alone fluctuated in the periods examined for all three areas. In 2014, Lackawanna County experienced a decrease of seniors living alone from the prior year. Meanwhile, Luzerne County experienced several increases and decreases. In 2012, there were 19,212 seniors living alone, the highest amount since 2000. However, in 2014, the number of seniors living alone decreased to 18,340. Statewide, there have been fluctuations, but the number of seniors living alone has increased overall from 555,374 in 2000 to the 597,309 in 2014, which is the highest figure in any of the years analyzed.

Seniors Living Alone							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	13,529	12,333	10,885	10,853	11,386	13,245	12,713
Luzerne	20,846	18,496	18,323	17,891	19,212	18,700	18,340
Pennsylvania	555,374	551,669	578,990	572,793	586,279	586,506	597,309

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey



Jobs & Economy

Jobs & Economy



“...most households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties fell into either the \$35,000-49,999 or the \$50,000-74,999 income range.”

Jobs & Economy

The Jobs and Economy section of this report summarizes important economic indicators in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and in Pennsylvania as a whole. Recent years have been an era of economic change, including the downturn of the housing market and subsequent “Great Recession” as well as offshoring of manufacturing industries, early phases of reshoring, and the rise of the service economy and knowledge-based industries. As time passes, certain areas of Pennsylvania’s jobs and economy have been on the rise, while others continue to decline or stay stagnant. All of these factors have impacted our region, so understanding economic indicators is of tremendous importance. The trends in the data can tell a descriptive story. This section includes data on the following topics: unemployment rate, per capita income, household and personal income, percentage of individuals and families with children under the age 18 living below the poverty level, employment by occupation, number of employees, average annual pay, distribution of jobs by industry cluster, number of establishments, deed transactions, gross domestic product (GDP), exports, tourism spending, and federal funding.

These indicators demonstrate the overall health of the area’s economy. The economic recession that began in late 2007 and the collapse of the housing bubble that peaked in July 2006 greatly affected three major areas these indicators analyze — unemployment, income, and poverty. As made evident by its lower than average wages and higher unemployment levels, the Lackawanna/Luzerne County region has historically lagged economically. Some higher wage employment sectors are showing growth and the increase in exports and tourism positively affect the economy. However, the region has been characterized by a failure to experience recovery from the economic downturn that many other regions have enjoyed.

One of the major issues impacting the region is the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level. Poverty levels are closely linked with unemployment — when households lose their livelihood, people have difficulty providing their families with basic necessities. Thus, there is increasing demand on social services and charitable organizations that are themselves negatively impacted by increasing competition for limited government and philanthropic funding. Poverty impacts all facets and sectors of the regional economy.

Despite the decline in total employment from 2007 to 2012, as well as other various economic indicators, per capita income and average annual pay have been increasing at a slow but steady rate since 2000. However, these numbers have not kept pace with the state average, the rate of inflation, or the increasing cost of living. During 2008 to 2010 there was an increase in annual unemployment rates. Since then, unemployment has showed signs of a sustained decrease, but total employment, labor force, and the total number of business establishments remain well below pre-recession levels. This suggests that some of the unemployment improvement is due to discouraged workers leaving the labor force after failing to find work rather than a true recovery of the labor market. Preliminary data for 2015 and into 2016 continues to signal positive news, including a likely increase in labor market participation.

Unemployment Rate & Labor Force

Unemployment Rate & Labor Force

From 2006 through 2015, Pennsylvania's overall annual unemployment rate was lower than both counties. Luzerne's unemployment rates were higher than Lackawanna's unemployment rates during this period of time. From 2010 to 2015 the Commonwealth had a gradually decreasing unemployment rate. On the county level, both counties had a decrease in unemployment rates, although not as steady as the Commonwealth. Lackawanna had 9.1 percent unemployment rate in 2010 that fell to 5.6 percent in 2015 and Luzerne had a 9.9 percent unemployment rate in 2010 that fell to 5.1 percent in 2015. Despite the significant improvement within the past few years, both counties' unemployment rates are higher than the statewide rate. As of January 2016, Lackawanna County had a preliminary unemployment rate of 5.6 percent and Luzerne County had a preliminary rate of 6.3 percent (most current available at the time this report was prepared).

Furthermore, the labor force declined slightly from 2012 to 2013, and again from 2013 to 2014, despite a drop in the unemployment rate. This means that at least some of the decline in the unemployment rate during that time is due to fewer people in the workforce opposed to more people working. However, preliminary figures from 2016 appear to show an improvement in the labor force. Possible causes of lower rates of labor force participation include unemployed workers leaving the labor force by giving up their job search, students postponing entering the labor force to continue their education, and an increasing rate of retirees leaving the workforce.



“Both counties reported increases in employment, but both counties’ unemployment rates remain higher than their 2007 rates.”

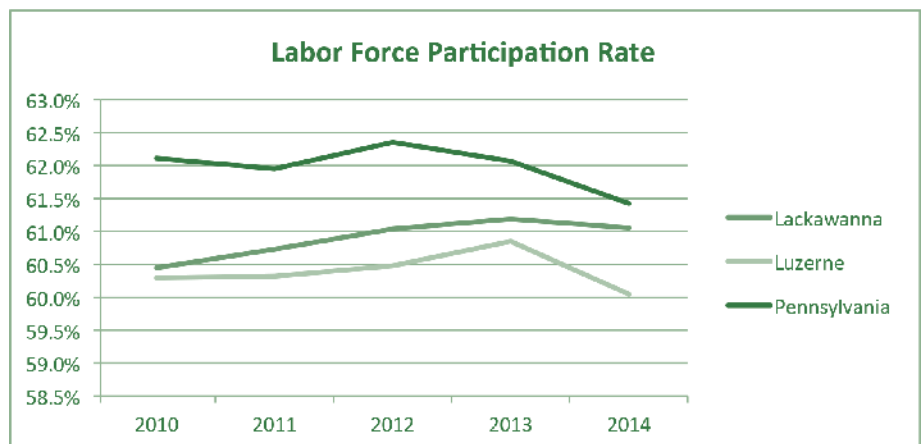
Annual Unemployment Rate			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2006	4.9	5.3	4.6
2007	4.7	5.0	4.4
2008	5.9	6.3	5.3
2009	8.1	8.9	8.0
2010	9.1	9.9	8.5
2011	9.2	9.5	7.9
2012	9.0	9.7	7.8
2013	8.6	9.3	7.4
2014	6.6	7.3	5.9
2015	5.6	6.2	5.1

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Prior year figures have been revised.
2015 rates for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are preliminary.*



Annual Labor Force			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2006	105,955	158,249	6,294,504
2007	106,909	159,118	6,342,997
2008	108,526	161,744	6,451,535
2009	107,192	161,298	6,400,263
2010	106,987	159,759	6,380,949
2011	107,292	159,797	6,395,506
2012	107,692	160,883	6,463,922
2013	107,674	160,789	6,440,444
2014	106,676	158,634	6,391,421
2015	108,279	160,820	6,423,903

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
2015 rates for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are preliminary.*



Household Income



“In both counties, over 50 percent of households have incomes below \$50,000 per year.”

Household Income

Throughout 2014, the largest percentage of residents fell into the household income earning category of \$50,000 to \$74,999 for both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and Pennsylvania as a whole. In both counties, however, over 50 percent of households have incomes below \$50,000 per year; that statistic is 46.8 percent for all of Pennsylvania. The number of households with incomes over \$100,000 per year was 15.4 and 16.1 percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively, compared to 22.4 percent statewide. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties also had a relatively high percentage of households with incomes below \$25,000 (27.8 – 28.1 percent) compared to the Commonwealth.

Household Income: Lackawanna County

Income Amount	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Less than \$10,000	7.8%	8.8%	7.7%	7.5%	6.5%	8.1%	7.8%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	7.2%	6.3%	5.5%	7.1%	8.8%	7.6%	7.9%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	13.8%	12.8%	13.7%	13.1%	13.9%	12.6%	12.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.4%	10.9%	13.8%	10.7%	11.8%	11.2%	12.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.9%	16.9%	15.6%	17.9%	15.1%	15.7%	15.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.5%	20.0%	17.3%	16.8%	17.3%	19.0%	17.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.4%	10.1%	10.9%	11.6%	11.2%	10.2%	12.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8.9%	9.9%	10.1%	9.8%	11.0%	10.5%	10.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2.1%	1.8%	2.6%	3.0%	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%
\$200,000 or more	2.1%	2.5%	2.8%	2.4%	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Household Income: Luzerne County

Income Amount	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Less than \$10,000	8.8%	8.7%	8.6%	7.8%	9.1%	8.0%	7.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8.0%	8.0%	7.8%	7.4%	7.5%	7.1%	7.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14.1%	14.3%	14.2%	14.2%	14.0%	14.3%	13.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	12.7%	13.7%	12.5%	11.8%	12.8%	10.5%	11.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.8%	14.7%	14.7%	15.5%	14.2%	13.7%	14.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.3%	18.7%	17.5%	17.7%	17.3%	20.0%	18.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.5%	9.8%	11.8%	12.3%	11.4%	10.9%	11.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8.4%	8.6%	9.0%	8.5%	8.5%	9.9%	10.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1.8%	1.5%	2.3%	2.7%	3.1%	2.9%	3.3%
\$200,000 or more	1.7%	1.9%	1.7%	2.2%	2.3%	2.6%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Household Income: Pennsylvania

Income Amount	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Less than \$10,000	7.2%	7.4%	7.6%	7.4%	7.2%	7.2%	7.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.0%	5.7%	5.5%	5.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	11.1%	11.6%	11.7%	11.6%	11.3%	10.9%	10.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	10.8%	11.1%	11.1%	10.6%	10.6%	10.5%	10.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.4%	14.5%	14.1%	14.1%	13.8%	13.7%	13.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.4%	19.0%	18.8%	18.8%	18.6%	18.4%	18.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.3%	12.4%	12.0%	11.9%	12.5%	12.2%	12.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11.8%	11.0%	11.4%	11.7%	12.1%	12.6%	13.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%	4.8%
\$200,000 or more	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%	4.0%	4.4%	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source

In 2014, 69.4 percent of households in Lackawanna County and 71.1 percent of households in Luzerne County had income earned by working. In both counties and the Commonwealth as a whole, this percentage has dropped somewhat since 2009. During the same time, there have been significant increases in the number of households receiving Social Security income as well as the number of households receiving retirement income other than Social Security. As baby boomers continue to retire, the number of households in the region that rely on social security is likely to continue to rise.

The mean earnings for households with earned income were \$63,246 in Lackawanna County and \$62,850 in Luzerne County. Both were lower than the \$76,368 mean earnings statewide. Social Security and retirement incomes were much lower – in both counties, households with Social Security income received a mean of less than \$18,000 in Social Security Income. For households receiving retirement income, mean amounts were \$22,211 in Lackawanna County and \$17,809 in Luzerne County.



Income by Source: Lackawanna County						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Percent of HH with earnings	74.7%	75.2%	73.5%	72.0%	70.3%	69.4%
Mean earnings	\$61,292	\$61,454	\$62,197	\$62,063	\$62,478	\$63,246
Percent of HH with Social Security income	35.8%	32.4%	35.5%	35.8%	38.2%	39.8%
Mean Social Security income	\$15,016	\$16,224	\$16,197	\$16,161	\$16,316	\$17,133
Percent of HH with retirement income	18.1%	18.7%	19.6%	20.2%	20.8%	21.3%
Mean retirement income	\$20,939	\$16,053	\$18,892	\$15,963	\$18,960	\$22,211
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.4%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.7%	3.2%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,701	\$3,072	\$2,208	\$2,116	\$2,059	\$1,972

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source: Luzerne County						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Percent of HH with earnings	72.4%	71.5%	70.8%	71.6%	71.7%	71.1%
Mean earnings	\$56,070	\$58,802	\$60,856	\$60,256	\$61,743	\$62,850
Percent of HH with Social Security income	36.6%	36.1%	36.9%	36.8%	38.3%	39.0%
Mean Social Security income	\$14,477	\$15,946	\$15,907	\$16,305	\$16,445	\$17,546
Percent of HH with retirement income	22.4%	21.9%	21.9%	20.9%	22.4%	22.0%
Mean retirement income	\$14,476	\$17,225	\$16,324	\$16,900	\$17,127	\$17,809
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.2%	3.0%	3.6%	3.8%	3.2%	3.1%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,179	\$2,078	\$2,782	\$3,925	\$2,005	\$1,309

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source: Pennsylvania						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Percent of HH with earnings	76.7%	75.5%	74.9%	75.3%	75.5%	75.4%
Mean earnings	\$68,955	\$68,636	\$70,590	\$72,539	\$74,898	\$76,368
Percent of HH with Social Security income	31.6%	32.2%	33.0%	33.0%	33.6%	34.4%
Mean Social Security income	\$15,850	\$16,593	\$17,040	\$17,363	\$17,848	\$18,311
Percent of HH with retirement income	19.7%	19.8%	20.2%	20.3%	20.1%	20.3%
Mean retirement income	\$18,071	\$18,240	\$19,316	\$20,012	\$19,825	\$20,704
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.3%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%	3.4%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,817	\$2,928	\$2,785	\$3,105	\$2,601	\$2,602

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Per Capita Income Aggregate Personal Income



Per Capita Income

From 2000 to 2014, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties consistently reported lower per capita income rates than the state average. Both the counties and the Commonwealth reported an overall increase from 2000 to 2014 of about 30 to 40 percent. After accounting for inflation, however, this change actually amounts to a slight decrease in real per capita income in Lackawanna County and a negligible increase in Luzerne County. Lackawanna County's per capita income saw slight decreases in nominal dollars from 2009 to 2010 and 2011 to 2012, but increased slightly from 2013 to 2014 by less than \$100. Luzerne County's per capita income had slight decreases from 2005 to 2006 and from 2008 to 2009, but has been on the rise from 2009 into 2014.

Per Capita Income											
Area	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	\$18,710	\$20,966	\$21,415	\$22,845	\$24,065	\$24,700	\$23,934	\$25,805	\$24,299	\$24,456	\$24,547
Luzerne	\$18,228	\$21,499	\$21,346	\$22,298	\$23,247	\$23,030	\$23,176	\$23,956	\$24,371	\$24,632	\$24,737
Pennsylvania	\$20,880	\$24,591	\$24,694	\$26,228	\$27,280	\$26,739	\$26,374	\$27,824	\$27,774	\$28,647	\$29,220

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

“Luzerne County, on the other hand, experienced a consistent increase in aggregate personal income since 2005”

Aggregate Personal Income

Aggregate personal income is defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis as “the income that is received by all persons from all sources.” After a decline from 2008 to 2009, Lackawanna County's aggregate personal income increased consistently over the period examined, though it decreased slightly between 2012 and 2013. However, in 2014 Lackawanna County's aggregate personal income reached a record high of \$8,761,173. Luzerne County followed a similar pattern. Following a period of stagnation from 2008 to 2009, aggregate personal income grew at a rate of two to three percent per year until 2012, and then grew by less than one percent from 2012 to 2013, and then increased by 3.3 percent from 2013 to 2014 to \$12,676,727 in 2014. Pennsylvania as a whole displayed the same trend. The Commonwealth's aggregate personal income reached over \$609 million in 2014, which is the highest total income in all years analyzed.

Aggregate Personal Income (in thousands of current-year dollars)								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	7,523,018	7,828,990	7,824,644	8,071,425	8,347,107	8,564,520	8,472,922	8,761,173
Luzerne	11,091,955	11,376,830	11,357,126	11,585,896	11,991,595	12,249,815	12,267,966	12,676,727
Pennsylvania	503,610,624	525,622,733	516,623,328	532,816,761	560,970,586	584,630,441	588,296,421	609,679,210

*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
All prior year figures have been revised.*

Poverty

The rate of poverty in the area increased sharply along with the increase in unemployment during the Great Recession. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the poverty rate among all people increased significantly between 2000 and 2010, and despite slight fluctuations, has continued to rise on the whole. Luzerne County’s poverty rate peaked at 16.7 percent in 2010, but has only slightly fluctuated since then, and in 2014 the poverty rate was 16 percent. Lackawanna’s peaked in 2014 with a rate of 15.5 percent – the highest it has been in all recorded years. In Pennsylvania overall, poverty peaked in 2011 with a rate of 13.8 percent, but as of 2014, that rate was at 13.6 percent, which indicates that there hasn’t been much improvement since the recession.

The poverty rate among families with children under the age of 18 has generally been higher than the rate of poverty among the general population. This rate followed a similar pattern as poverty among all people for Lackawanna County, with a peak of 19.3 percent in 2009, but a 19.1 percentage as of 2014. For Luzerne County and Pennsylvania, the family poverty rate did not peak until 2012. From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of families with children in poverty increased by two percentage points in Lackawanna County and dropped by about one percentage point in Luzerne County. However, as with the individual poverty rate, there has not been an appreciable improvement in the family poverty rate as of 2014.



“From 2000 to 2014, the percentage of families with children in poverty increased by 7.7 points in Lackawanna County and 8.5 points in Luzerne County.”

Poverty - All People								
	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	10.6%	13.2%	15.0%	13.4%	13.5%	14.7%	14.9%	15.5%
Luzerne	11.1%	14.2%	13.0%	16.7%	15.5%	16.4%	16.4%	16.0%
Pennsylvania	11.0%	12.1%	12.5%	13.4%	13.8%	13.7%	13.7%	13.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Poverty - Families with Children Under 18								
	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	11.4%	17.9%	19.3%	11.4%	15.3%	18.4%	17.1%	19.1%
Luzerne	12.9%	15.9%	16.6%	10.5%	22.2%	22.8%	22.5%	21.4%
Pennsylvania	12.1%	14.1%	14.4%	11.3%	16.3%	16.4%	16.0%	16.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment by Occupation Average Annual Pay



“Total employment in all three geographies remains lower than pre-recession levels.”

Employment by Occupation

Examining employment by occupation, in 2014, Lackawanna County reported that their top three sectors were: Management, Business, Science and Arts; Sales and Office Occupations and Production, Transportation and Material Moving. On the other hand, Luzerne County reported that their top three sectors were: Management, Business, Science, and Arts; Sales and Office Occupations and Service Occupations. Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations declined by less than one percent in Lackawanna County and increased by 5.3 percent in Luzerne County from 2013 to 2014. Lackawanna County also saw a significant decrease in service occupations by 15.9 percent, while Luzerne County also had a decline in that field of 8.4 percent. Sales and Office Occupations decreased by 12.6 percent for Lackawanna County, but increased by less than one percent in Luzerne County. Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance occupations increased in Lackawanna slightly and increased significantly in Luzerne by 22.3 percent. Production, Transportation, and Material Moving decreased in Luzerne County by 7.8 percent, but increased by 27.3 for Lackawanna County. Despite some gains in some occupations in each county, the impact of the recession is still seen; only the Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations have greater employment in 2013 than in 2007. The other occupational fields as well as the total employment among all occupations are lower in 2013 than in 2007, aside from an increase in employment in the Production, Transportation, and Material Moving field in Lackawanna County.

Occupational Field	Employment by Occupation															
	Lackawanna							Luzerne								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Management, Business, Science & Arts	29,631	31,249	35,566	31,836	34,873	33,971	31,561	31,449	40,611	44,215	42,160	44,503	43,241	43,704	45,251	47,650
Service Occupations	16,585	17,367	16,412	18,615	17,909	19,181	18,632	15,664	27,599	24,794	25,399	24,809	27,265	25,971	28,208	25,846
Sales and Office Occupations	31,304	28,609	24,368	24,320	26,091	23,418	26,287	22,970	40,065	42,161	36,772	24,809	39,999	38,799	37,302	37,368
Natural Resources, Construction & Maintenance	8,558	8,124	8,680	7,234	8,601	7,704	7,491	7,679	15,080	10,474	12,167	9,638	12,819	10,598	10,727	13,115
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	14,608	13,907	13,133	14,879	13,168	12,776	12,618	16,068	25,658	25,604	24,755	25,598	25,104	26,738	24,362	22,464
Total	100,686	99,256	98,159	96,884	100,642	97,050	96,589	93,830	149,013	147,248	141,253	129,357	148,428	145,810	145,850	146,443

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Prior categories "Farming, Fishing & Forestry Occupations" and "Construction and Maintenance Occupations" have been combined into "Natural Resources, Construction & Maintenance Occupations"

Average Annual Pay

From 2002 through 2014, both counties, as well as the state, consistently reported steady increases in average annual pay. Between 2013 and 2014, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both saw average salary increases of about three percent, similar to the three percent salary growth statewide during that time period. Both counties reported average annual pay that was more than \$10,000 less than the statewide average annual pay. Despite a slow year-over-year growth, the 2013 average salary in both counties actually decreased from 2007 when accounting for inflation. Statewide, the increase in average annual pay was only about \$500 per year after adjusting for inflation.

Area	Average Annual Pay							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	\$33,428	\$34,648	\$35,082	\$35,680	\$36,155	\$36,764	\$37,228	\$38,478
Luzerne	\$34,575	\$34,892	\$35,463	\$36,147	\$36,843	\$37,855	\$38,335	\$39,483
Pennsylvania	\$43,239	\$44,381	\$44,829	\$45,733	\$47,035	\$48,397	\$49,077	\$50,567

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Job Growth to Population Growth

Job Growth to Population Growth

Employment performance can be measured as a ratio of employment growth compared to population growth. A good sign for the economy is when the rate of job growth is higher than the rate of population growth; otherwise, the population may be growing faster than the job market which can lead to unemployment as jobs become scarce. A negative job growth to population growth ratio can also indicate a place is becoming a bedroom community where people are coming to live but working elsewhere. In between 2002 and 2014 the ratio was negative for both Lackawanna County and Luzerne Counties, but positive for Pennsylvania and the United States. As well, from 2007 to 2014, the ratio was negative for Lackawanna County, but positive for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and the United States.

“A good sign for the economy is when the rate of job growth is higher than the rate of population growth.”

Job Growth-to-Population Growth Ratio: 2002 - 2014

	Ratio 2002 - 2014	Employment 2004	Employment 2014	Population 2004	Population 2014
Lackawanna County	-0.388	98,306	97,226	209,932	212,719
Luzerne County	-0.028	141,032	140,883	313,431	318,829
Pennsylvania	0.388	5,496,599	5,644,443	12,406,292	12,787,209
U.S.	0.291	129,278,176	136,613,609	293,655,404	318,857,056

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

Job Growth-to-Population Growth Ratio: 2007 - 2014

	Ratio 2007 - 2014	Employment 2009	Employment 2014	Population 2009	Population 2014
Lackawanna County	-0.260	98,244	97,226	208,801	212,719
Luzerne County	0.518	137,784	140,883	312,845	318,829
Pennsylvania	0.966	5,468,176	5,644,443	12,604,767	12,787,209
U.S.	0.676	128,607,842	136,613,609	307,006,550	318,857,056

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

Distribution of Job by Industry



Distribution of Job by Industry

The top three industries (by rank) with the highest proportion of jobs for both counties were Education and Health Care, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing in that order. In 2014, Education, Health Care, and Social Assistance comprised more than one-fourth of all jobs. About another quarter of the jobs by industry is retail trade and manufacturing combined, each at 13 percent.

Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' smallest share of jobs were in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining Industry and the Information Industry.

However, of all major industry sectors, the fastest growing in both counties from 2009 to 2014 was Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining industry. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' next fastest growing industry during that time period was Professional, Scientific, and Management, and Administrative and Waste Management Services industry. Both counties have seen recent decline in the share of jobs in the Wholesale Trade; Information; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, Accommodation and Food services; Other Services, except Public Administration; and Public Administration industries. The Construction and Retail Trade also decreased in total employment between 2009 and 2014 in Lackawanna County. Employment in the Education, Health Care, and Social Assistance industry has been increasing gradually in Luzerne County, but in Lackawanna County, dropped significantly from 2012 to 2013, but then increased by 5.4 percent from 2013 to 2014.

Industry Cluster	Distribution of Jobs by Industry Cluster											
	Lackawanna County						Luzerne County					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	223	396	720	429	800	787	953	1,017	861	770	1,159	914
Construction	5,009	4,485	6,025	4,958	4,738	4,878	8,128	6,521	8,837	6,956	8,256	9,297
Manufacturing	11,085	10,634	10,474	10,812	9,814	11,080	19,355	18,953	20,469	20,422	17,977	17,482
Wholesale trade	2,221	3,421	3,246	2,864	3,371	2,735	4,898	5,246	4,760	5,013	4,078	4,898
Retail trade	13,137	10,995	11,942	11,697	13,566	11,934	18,373	20,031	20,300	21,216	19,751	19,843
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4,043	4,126	4,356	5,511	4,688	5,589	8,791	9,319	8,189	9,221	8,998	8,250
Information	2,150	1,707	2,040	1,495	1,801	1,448	3,381	2,346	3,075	2,306	3,706	3,045
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	5,934	6,122	6,515	5,904	6,521	5,945	7,568	7,743	9,192	7,349	6,952	7,215
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	7,409	6,630	7,505	6,610	7,862	7,652	11,085	11,345	9,899	10,692	11,231	12,147
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	27,588	29,419	28,637	28,440	24,924	26,270	34,047	35,853	34,669	35,500	36,493	38,166
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	7,265	7,331	7,791	9,882	7,903	7,520	10,899	11,524	14,146	12,358	12,833	12,355
Other services, except public administration	4,942	5,042	4,010	4,259	4,218	3,290	5,837	5,017	4,862	6,296	5,985	5,786
Public administration	7,134	6,531	6,661	4,189	6,383	4,702	7,905	7,587	8,308	7,711	8,431	7,045
Total	98,140	96,839	101,933	97,050	96,589	93,830	141,220	142,502	149,578	145,810	145,850	146,443

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - ACS 1-year Estimates

Number of Employees & Establishments

Number of Employees

The Great Recession caused significant job losses in Northeastern Pennsylvania and nationally. As a result, the total number of workers employed in the two counties dropped considerably. Recovery in this indicator has been sluggish for both counties following a pattern of decline from 2008 to 2010. From 2013 to 2014, there has been modest growth in employment, but only at a rate of 0.56 percent and 1.34 percent for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, respectively. The statewide recovery progressed with a growth of 0.85 percent from 2013 to 2014. Total employment in all three geographies remains lower than pre-recession levels.



Number of Employees								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	101,768	101,404	98,244	96,100	96,811	96,548	96,679	97,226
Luzerne	142,191	142,449	137,784	137,784	138,423	138,837	139,015	140,883
Pennsylvania	5,652,547	5,658,771	5,468,176	5,791,000	5,585,000	5,578,414	5,596,841	5,644,443

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Number of Establishments

From 2007 to 2014, the number of business establishments has been generally falling in both counties. The economic downturn caused a decrease in establishments when more firms closed than were replaced with new businesses. The region has apparently not yet seen a turnaround in this statistic; in 2014, the total number of establishments in Luzerne County reached the lowest point of all years analyzed with 7,458 establishments while Lackawanna County saw its third lowest number of establishments at 5,808. In Pennsylvania as a whole, the number of establishments had been increasing since 2009, but dropped to 343,993 in 2013; in 2014, that number slightly increased to 347,496.

Number of Establishments								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	5,804	5,914	5,806	5,809	5,813	5,826	5,825	5,808
Luzerne	7,902	7,886	7,674	7,668	7,688	7,611	7,459	7,458
Pennsylvania	339,325	341,170	338,369	341,667	348,678	349,014	343,993	347,496

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 4th Quarter
All prior year figures have been revised.

Deed Transactions

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



“GDP for the Scranton Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area increased by 2.7 percent in 2014.”

Deed Transactions

Deed transactions measure activity in the real estate market, including residential, commercial, and industrial property. Both counties saw a sharp decline in deed transactions between 2007 and 2009, coinciding with the collapse of the real estate market nationally and the beginning of the Great Recession. Since then, Luzerne County has seen a gradual growth in deed transactions, with a slight decline from 2013 to 2014. However, this number increased again from 2014 to 2015 and measured 9,864 deeds in Luzerne County. In Lackawanna County, the considerable 26 percent increase seen from 2011 to 2012 was followed by a nine percent decrease to 2013, and a further four percent decline in 2014. The number of deeds increased by 3.3 percent between 2014 and 2015 and has reached 4,715 deed transactions.

		Deed Transactions									
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna		7,537	7,769	5,593	5,247	4,839	4,138	5,220	4,735	4,564	4,715
Luzerne		13,531	13,040	13,886	8,950	9,005	9,087	9,148	9,652	9,532	9,864

Source(s): Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties' Records of Deeds

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) increased by four percent in 2014. Of all years analyzed, there was growth in all years except from 2007 to 2008. From 2012 to 2013, the metro area saw a 1.8 percent GDP growth, underperforming the statewide rate of 2.4 percent from that year. From 2013 to 2014, the 3.8 percent increase surpassed that of the Commonwealth, which experienced a growth rate of 2.1 percent. Up until the time period analyzed, the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area had experienced growth at a slower pace than the Commonwealth.

Private services-producing industries comprised 69.2 percent of the MSA's GDP, followed by private goods-producing industries at 18.9 percent and then government at 11.9 percent.

		GDP (in millions of current-year dollars)								Change 2007	Change
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014	2013-2014
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre		\$19,572	\$19,281	\$19,551	\$20,281	\$20,538	\$20,756	\$21,393	\$21,980	11.0%	2.7%
Pennsylvania		\$553,105	\$565,328	\$565,931	\$585,805	\$604,350	\$621,398	\$636,833	\$658,290	16.0%	3.4%

*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
All prior year figures have been revised.*

Exports by Industry

Tourism Spending

Exports by Industry

Numerous firms in the region contribute to the economy by exporting their goods overseas. In 2014, Chemical Manufacturing was the largest merchandise export category for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA with \$285 million in exports, up from about \$206 million the year before. Total recorded exports in 2014 for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre metro area totaled at approximately \$1.33 billion. Total exports still remained 23 percent higher than in 2007. Plastic and Rubber Products Manufacturing and Food Manufacturing were the next highest exporting industries in 2014 for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre metro area.



Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Area Exports by Industry								
Exports Industry	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	\$80,101,797	\$110,425,326	\$87,696,377	\$115,868,915	\$126,661,610	\$175,599,689	\$237,199,875	\$201,644,441
Machinery Manufacturing	\$131,071,184	\$115,410,715	N/A	\$106,892,887	N/A	\$124,372,819	\$104,009,201	N/A
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$86,973,159	\$129,217,311	\$93,375,992	\$92,476,384	\$105,632,260	\$113,576,416	\$129,840,846	\$114,448,245
Textile Mills	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$84,857,261	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Textile Product Mills	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paper Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Printing and Related Support Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Manufacturing	\$200,706,510	\$125,502,660	N/A	N/A	\$92,542,107	N/A	\$120,096,105	\$114,980,865
Primary Metal Manufacturing	\$117,855,828	\$164,030,895	\$78,502,923	N/A	\$100,476,490	N/A	N/A	\$90,747,988
Animal Production	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chemical Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	\$111,474,175	N/A	\$194,119,325	\$251,023,068	\$206,018,614	\$284,644,441
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	\$131,071,184	\$115,410,715	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$97,469,147	N/A	N/A
All others (Residual)	\$473,754,847	\$564,477,989	N/A	\$254,954,216	\$574,235,710	\$597,613,104	\$534,724,661	\$532,364,954
All Products	\$1,090,463,325	\$1,209,064,806	\$926,483,567	\$1,539,272,765	\$1,193,667,502	\$1,359,654,243	\$1,331,889,302	\$1,338,561,145

Source: International Trade Administration

Tourism Spending

There is no new data available to measure the economic impact of tourism at the county levels. However, statewide data from 2014 indicates that hotel rooms sold and hotel room revenue grew between 2013 and 2014. Visitors to Pennsylvania State Parks also increased slightly. This suggests a continued statewide strength of the tourism sector.

In 2013, there was a total of over \$1.5 billion in tourism visitor spending in the two-county region. Following a considerable dip in tourism visitor spending in 2009, both counties' tourism revenue returned to an upward trajectory. However, Luzerne County's tourism spending declined by 1.2 percent from 2012 to 2013. In Lackawanna County, tourism spending grew by 2.5 percent during that time.

“In 2013, there was a total of over \$1.5 billion in tourism visitor spending in the two-county region.”

Tourism Visitor Spending (in millions)							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	\$430.2	\$473.8	\$404.0	\$536.5	\$615.5	\$632.1	\$647.9
Luzerne	\$800.7	\$871.0	\$753.7	\$795.5	\$870.3	\$870.2	\$859.6

Source: Tourism Economics

Federal Funding



Federal Funding

This indicator tracks federal funding into the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the form of grants, loans, insurances, and prime contracts (including defense). The data in this section is from fiscal year 2015. The two counties together comprised over half a million in federal contracts (down from \$495 million in 2014), over \$74 million in federal grants (down from over \$177 million in 2014), and over \$89 million in other financial assistance (down from over \$114 million in 2014). Loans totaled less than half a million (down from less than \$1 million in 2014).

Federal Awards 2014			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Contracts			
Number	1,092	2,761	1,454,718
Amount (Thousands)	\$244,628	\$253,613	\$16,669,077
Grants			
Number	312	353	19,519
Amount (Thousands)	\$95,686	\$81,569	\$22,700,159
Loans			
Number	354	301	11,188
Amount (Thousands)	\$70	\$596	\$4,208
Other Financial Assistance			
Number	1,075	1,063	68,891
Amount (Thousands)	\$74,448	\$39,989	\$142,484,961
www.usaspending.gov			

Federal Awards 2015			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Contracts			
Number	1,361	17,576	325,997
Amount (Thousands)	\$215,965	\$230,795	\$14,914,325
Grants			
Number	142	158	17,832
Amount (Thousands)	\$57,240	\$17,049	\$26,848,478
Loans			
Number	430	339	11,505
Amount (Thousands)	\$306	\$20	\$34,735
Other Financial Assistance			
Number	1,044	903	58,840
Amount (Thousands)	\$61,721	\$27,941	\$147,785,323
www.usaspending.gov			



Education

Education



“Northeastern Pennsylvania’s impressive group of higher education institutions will continue to be an asset in preparing students to be successful in the workforce.”

Education

The Education section of this report identifies important education indicators, including high school graduation rates, career and technical education, SAT scores, dropout rates, educational attainment, degree completions, special education, and student-teacher ratios. By examining indicators such as these, the region can assess education and future economic development strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in order to prepare the workforce of the future for employment in the region’s business and industry.

The quality of a region’s education system, and the level of the education and training received by its residents and workers, is directly correlated with the success of that region’s economy. Since pay level is generally linked to high skill jobs which are linked to an individual’s level of education, higher educational attainment levels can lead to a healthier economy. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties surpass Pennsylvania’s percentage of population age 25 and over with an Associate’s degree; however, both counties’ averages of population age 25 and older with a Bachelor’s degree fall short of the state average. In 2014, nearly 9,000 degrees were awarded in the two county region, many of them in key fields like health care and business. Northeastern Pennsylvania’s impressive group of higher education institutions will continue to be an asset in preparing students to be successful in the workforce.

Among the most important education indicators to the region is the high school graduation rate. If students do not graduate high school, their options for further education will be extremely limited, as will their ability to find a family-sustaining job. The four year high school graduation rate (the percentage of students beginning high school who graduate four years later) has trended downward in both counties over the past several years, while the statewide rate has increased. However, high school dropouts have dropped in both counties since the 2011-2012 school year. This disparity is possible because dropouts only include students who leave school before graduating, but only the four year graduation rate accounts for students who take more than four years to finish high school.

Public school assessment has undergone a significant period of transition. The Keystone Exams have replaced the PSSA exams for 11th grade students, and the PSSA exam content changed between the 2013-2014 school year and the 2014-2015 school year to reflect Common Core material. As a result, this report uses PVAAS, the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System, to measure K-12 academic performance. The PVAAS growth index measures how students grow over time, with statistical controls to account for changes in the exams and variability among the student population. In 2015, the PVAAS growth index showed mixed results regionally. In both counties, the area where the growth index is weakest is 11th grade Algebra, and the strongest growth is in 11th grade Biology.

SAT scores are another indicator of secondary school strength. Though the test is designed as a predictor of success in college as opposed to a measure of achievement, high scores correlate strongly with high district wide achievement. Both counties have experienced fluctuation in SAT scores without a clear trend; however, both significantly outperform the Commonwealth as a whole on the Writing portion of the test.

An important goal of the region's education system is to prepare students for success in careers. In order to achieve this goal, it is important to provide students opportunities to gain career and technical skillsets. When students graduate high school with an established skillset, this translates to greater success in the job market or a postsecondary institution. Between the two counties, there were nearly 3,000 students enrolled in the region's Career and Technology Centers, or CTCs. This represents 2.3 percent of Lackawanna County's public school enrollment, and over five percent for Luzerne County. In addition to CTC programs, another important offering that can help students after graduation is Advanced Placement coursework. All but one district in the two counties offer AP courses, and there is an average of six courses offered per district in both counties.

Among these various indicators of school performance, including attendance, dropouts, and standardized test and SAT scores, the most notable trend is the significant variation from district to district and school to school. In order for more students to pursue higher education and be successful in the workforce, it will be important that the schools that struggle in measures of academic performance continue to strive for improvement.

Pre-K programs are significant in that they provide a basis to help children with early literacy. Children are four times more likely to drop out of school if they are not proficient readers by the third grade. In Luzerne County, the percentage of three and four-year-olds enrolled in Pre-K programs was down as of the most recently available data. In Lackawanna County the percentage of three and four-year-olds enrolled in Pre- K programs has increased slightly.



Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates



“In each of the last several years, both counties have had school attendance rates roughly on par with the statewide average.”

Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates

The four year graduation rate measures the proportion of students who enter 9th grade successfully graduate four years later. The percentage represents the number of graduates in each year as a percent of the number who began high school four years earlier. Hence, this is a different measure than high school dropouts because it measures all students who fail to graduate high school within four years.

Statewide, the four year graduation rate rose between the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, and again in the 2012-2013 school year. The Commonwealth rate, which includes all conventional public high schools as well as some CTCs, held steady at 85.5 percent in the 2013-2014 school year. Luzerne County saw some fluctuation over the past several years, and the rate stood at 88.5 percent in the 2013-2014 school year, higher than the statewide four year graduation rate. Lackawanna County has seen several years of declines in the rate, from 90.4 percent in 2010-2011 to 85.8, about on par with the statewide average, in 2013-2014.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Lackawanna County				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Abington Heights	96.3%	88.4%	93.1%	93.4%
Carbondale Area	88.5%	87.8%	89.6%	87.6%
Dunmore	90.5%	91.1%	95.4%	89.8%
Lakeland	89.1%	88.7%	82.4%	95.1%
Mid Valley	87.2%	89.1%	93.7%	91.6%
North Pocono	86.1%	91.3%	87.3%	85.7%
Old Forge	90.3%	96.4%	79.8%	96.0%
Riverside	91.4%	92.7%	84.3%	81.5%
Scranton	89.9%	78.1%	83.5%	68.3%
West Scranton	90.0%	76.4%	81.6%	72.4%
Valley View	95.5%	88.9%	96.9%	82.3%
County Average	90.4%	88.1%	88.0%	85.8%

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Luzerne County				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Crestwood	93.6%	94.3%	98.4%	96.9%
Dallas	98.1%	94.1%	95.1%	97.8%
Greater Nanticoke Area	89.0%	85.1%	89.2%	86.6%
Hanover Area	89.0%	89.0%	86.6%	90.3%
Hazleton Area	80.7%	80.8%	80.9%	82.8%
Lake-Lehman	93.2%	88.7%	96.6%	88.3%
Northwest Area	91.0%	77.4%	86.9%	89.8%
Pittston Area	95.9%	95.7%	91.0%	92.9%
Wilkes-Barre Area - Meyers	94.1%	89.9%	94.4%	85.4%
Wilkes-Barre Area - G.A.R	88.9%	83.7%	86.8%	72.5%
Wilkes-Barre Area - Coughlin	89.4%	88.7%	88.6%	86.3%
Wyoming Area	96.0%	92.7%	90.5%	95.4%
Wyoming Valley West	88.5%	89.8%	89.8%	85.7%
County Average	91.3%	88.5%	90.4%	88.5%

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Lackawanna	90.4%	88.1%	88.0%	85.8%
Luzerne	91.3%	88.5%	90.4%	88.5%
Pennsylvania	82.6%	83.5%	85.5%	85.5%

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

School Enrollment

The total public school enrollment in both counties is higher than the comparison school year of 2000-2001. Between the 2013-2014 school year and the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment grew in both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, by a margin of 2.6 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively. Statewide, public school enrollment has dropped more substantially since the 2000-2001 school year, despite a small rise in 2014-2015.

Lackawanna and Luzerne counties' percentages of students enrolled in public school districts have been above the state's percentage for most years analyzed. In 2014-2015, both counties' proportion of private school enrolled students fell to its lowest level in several years. In general, there appears to be a shift towards higher enrollment in public schools as opposed to private schools.



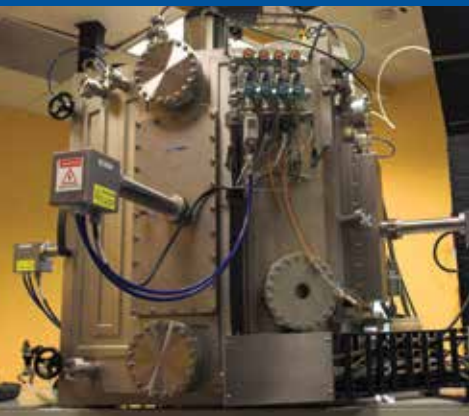
Public School Enrollment					
	2000-2001	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Lackawanna County	27,351	28,153	28,229	28,215	28,962
Luzerne County	39,916	42,656	42,483	42,520	44,057
Pennsylvania	1,801,860	1,765,327	1,757,678	1,750,059	1,780,602

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Public and Private/Non-Public School Enrollment															
	2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	
Lackawanna	86.8%	13.2%	89.0%	11.0%	92.4%	7.6%	88.1%	11.9%	88.0%	12.0%	89.4%	10.6%	90.3%	9.7%	
Luzerne	89.7%	10.3%	89.0%	11.0%	93.2%	6.8%	91.8%	8.8%	89.7%	10.3%	91.1%	8.9%	91.7%	8.3%	
Pennsylvania	85.1%	14.9%	87.3%	12.7%	86.6%	13.4%	88.0%	12.0%	87.2%	12.8%	88.2%	11.8%	88.5%	11.5%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Career and Technical Education



Career and Technical Education

An important role of education is to equip students with practical skills to help them excel in careers. Career and Technology Centers (CTCs) present an opportunity for students to study a career-based curriculum. CTC programs can include traditional trades as well as careers in health care, information systems, cosmetology, and more. These tables show the total number of high school students enrolled in programs at partnering Career and Technology Center. As of 2015, there were 665 students from Lackawanna County and 2,268 students from Luzerne County participating in these programs. This represents 2.3 percent of all public school enrollees in Lackawanna County and 5.1 percent of all public school enrollees in Luzerne County. Hazleton Area School District has the largest number of students in CTC programs, followed by Wilkes-Barre Area, Wyoming Valley West, and Scranton.

One measure of CTC student achievement is the Industry Standards-Based Competency Assessments. The tables here show the percent of all students who took this assessment who scored competent or advanced. District level scores fluctuate widely, and data for all districts is not available. This is due to the very small sample sizes of students taking these tests. However, countywide averages in both counties decreased from 2014 to 2015.

CTC Enrollment: Lackawanna County	
Sending District	2015
Abington Heights	38
Carbondale Area	38
Dunmore	35
Lakeland	43
Mid Valley	51
North Pocono	61
Old Forge	48
Riverside	58
Scranton	225
Valley View	68
County Total	665

Source : PA Department of Education

CTC Enrollment: Luzerne County	
Sending District	2015
Crestwood	75
Dallas	46
Greater Nanticoke Area	100
Hanover Area	149
Hazleton Area	880
Lake-Lehman	41
Northwest Area	56
Pittston Area	115
Wilkes-Barre Area	421
Wyoming Area	55
Wyoming Valley West	330
County Total	2,268

Source : PA Department of Education

CTE/CTC Competency Assessments: Lackawanna County		
Sending School	2014	2015
Abington Heights	ND	100
Carbondale Area	ND	ND
Dunmore	ND	64
Lakeland	100	69
Mid Valley	92	ND
North Pocono	95	65
Old Forge	100	50
Riverside	100	ND
Scranton	74	82
West Scranton	88	76
Valley View	ND	ND
County Average	93	72

Source : PA Department of Education

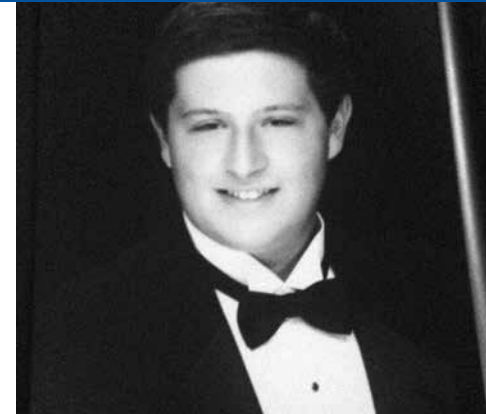
CTE/CTC Competency Assessments: Luzerne County		
Sending School	2014	2015
Crestwood	96	78
Dallas	ND	ND
Greater Nanticoke Area	100	ND
Hanover Area	93	86
Hazleton Area	85	79
Lake-Lehman	ND	ND
Northwest Area	ND	28
Pittston Area	90	65
Wilkes-Barre Area - Meyers	93	83
Wilkes-Barre Area - G.A.R	73	57
Wilkes-Barre Area - Coughlin	83	88
Wyoming Area	ND	ND
Wyoming Valley West	ND	ND
County Average	89	70

Source : PA Department of Education

Advanced Placement Courses Charter Schools

Advanced Placement Courses

The number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered at high schools is an indicator of the amount of college preparatory work that is available to students. AP courses are a helpful way for students to take more rigorous coursework and potentially earn college credit while in high school. In both counties, the average number of AP courses offered by high schools is six. In Luzerne County, Hazleton Area and Lake-Lehman offer the most AP courses. In Lackawanna County, the leading districts are Abington Heights and North Pocono.



Number of AP Courses Offered: Lackawanna County	
High School	2015
Abington Heights	12
Carbondale Area	4
Dunmore	3
Lakeland	8
Mid Valley	3
North Pocono	11
Old Forge	0
Riverside	5
Scranton	9
West Scranton	9
Valley View	4
County Average	6

Source : PA Department of Education

Number of AP Courses Offered: Luzerne County	
High School	2015
Crestwood	3
Dallas	6
Greater Nanticoke Area	3
Hanover Area	2
Hazleton Area	14
Lake-Lehman	9
Northwest Area	4
Pittston Area	6
Wilkes-Barre Area - Meyers	5
Wilkes-Barre Area - G.A.R	3
Wilkes-Barre Area - Coughlin	5
Wyoming Area	8
Wyoming Valley West	8
County Average	6

Source : PA Department of Education

Charter Schools

In 2015, the total number of students enrolled in charter schools was 890 in Lackawanna County and 1,418 in Luzerne County. Wilkes-Barre Area, Hazleton Area, and Scranton had the largest number of students enrolled in charter schools.

Charter School Enrollment: Lackawanna County	
School District	2015
Abington Heights	78
Carbondale Area	153
Dunmore	29
Lakeland	55
Mid Valley	49
North Pocono	77
Old Forge	26
Riverside	32
Scranton	346
Valley View	45
County Total	890

Source : PA Department of Education

Charter School Enrollment: Luzerne County	
School District	2015
Crestwood	74
Dallas	30
Greater Nanticoke Area	86
Hanover Area	60
Hazleton Area	226
Lake-Lehman	50
Northwest Area	48
Pittston Area	92
Wilkes-Barre Area	533
Wyoming Area	54
Wyoming Valley West	165
County Total	1,418

Source : PA Department of Education

School Assessment



School Assessment

Individual student growth is measured using PVAAS, the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. The Average Growth Index (AGI) is a measure of students' improvement in scores on the PSSA and Keystone Exams. Higher AGI values indicate higher levels of confidence that student growth meets or exceeds state standards. Unlike examining achievement scores, the growth scores show to what degree individual students progress over time, rather than how well students achieve on a test in a particular year.

In Lackawanna County, the countywide averages in all five assessment categories were positive in 2015. The highest value was in Grade 11 Biology, led by very high growth indices in Abington Heights, Valley View, and North Pocono. In Grade 11 Algebra, the countywide average index was lowest, and the majority of districts in the county had negative growth indices, indicating that the statewide growth standard in that subject was not met.

In Luzerne County, Grade 11 Biology similarly showed the greatest growth. The county averages for Grades 4-8 Math and Reading and Grade 11 Literature were negative, and in those subjects, the majority of school districts in the county had indices of less than zero, suggesting that the statewide growth standard was not achieved.

PVAAS Average Growth Index: Lackawanna County					
School District	2015				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Abington Heights	4.77	6.02	4.75	9.19	14.62
Carbondale Area	-2.79	0.07	ND	-4.37	2.71
Dunmore	-1.42	-1.55	-1.86	3.39	-1.30
Lakeland	-7.97	-1.34	-0.36	-5.47	4.97
Mid Valley	-1.80	-6.34	ND	-0.51	5.59
North Pocono	2.21	4.57	-0.14	5.44	9.31
Old Forge	-1.29	0.71	-1.79	-4.25	2.05
Riverside	2.07	3.04	ND	-3.48	2.08
Scranton	10.58	1.93	-1.35	-3.10	-2.88
Valley View	8.49	6.40	4.43	3.25	11.13
County Average	1.29	1.35	0.53	0.01	4.83

Source : PVAAS

PVAAS Average Growth Index: Luzerne County					
District	2015				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Crestwood	-2.42	-2.41	ND	4.27	4.17
Dallas	-4.75	1.06	ND	0.29	ND
Greater Nanticoke Area	-10.00	-3.24	-6.61	-9.20	4.43
Hanover Area	0.03	3.72	ND	5.55	7.41
Hazleton Area	3.69	-1.64	-3.67	-1.56	-0.79
Lake-Lehman	-2.79	-2.26	4.82	7.49	12.35
Northwest Area	1.11	4.15	-2.69	-1.10	0.20
Pittston Area	-3.54	0.24	ND	0.18	2.45
Wilkes-Barre Area	-3.21	-1.95	3.46	-2.79	-13.74
Wyoming Area	-6.66	-5.94	1.57	-1.97	2.54
Wyoming Valley West	1.63	-0.23	-1.79	5.66	-2.15
County Average	-2.45	-0.77	-0.70	0.62	1.69

Source : PVAAS

Education Employment

Education Employment

In the 2014-2015 school year, public school districts in Lackawanna County had 2,260 professional personnel and Luzerne County had 3,148. In both counties, just over 85 percent of professional personnel are classroom teachers.

Between the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 school years, the total number of professional personnel has increased by about one percent in Lackawanna County and 2.6 percent in Luzerne County.



“Both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties have a higher proportion of associate’s degree holders than all of Pennsylvania.”

Full and Part Time Staff 2014-2015

	Professional Personnel	Administrators	Classroom Teachers	Coordinator/Su pport	Other
Lackawanna	2,260	102	1,937	224	129
Luzerne	3,148	136	2,690	297	53

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Full and Part Time Staff 2013-2014

	Professional Personnel	Administrators	Classroom Teachers	Coordinator/Su pport	Other
Lackawanna	2,220	99	1,901	218	130
Luzerne	3,100	130	2,648	294	55

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Full and Part Time Staff 2012-2013

	Professional Personnel	Administrators	Classroom Teachers	Coordinator/Su pport	Other
Lackawanna	2,240	103	1,913	220	130
Luzerne	3,068	128	2,614	292	64

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Special Education Public School Dropouts



Special Education

Special education data was collected at the Intermediate Unit Level. The Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 includes Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 includes Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Both intermediate units have a much higher number of students enrolled in special education compared with the 2001-2002 school year. Both saw some small decreases from 2010-2011 to 2012-2013, but since then, they have resumed in an increasing trend in special education enrollments, particularly for Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, which saw a growth of four percent in one year from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015.

The largest shares of special education enrollments in both counties remain specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, and other health impairments. For both counties, the numbers of students in the categories for autism and other health impairments exhibited significant growth. Mental retardation has witnessed a significant decrease in school year 2014-2015 relative to school year 2001-2002. The Luzerne unit also saw a reduction in deafness or hearing impairment over the same period.

Disability	2001-2002		2010-2011		2011 - 2012		2012 - 2013		2013-2014		2014-2015	
	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 20	Luz. IU 19	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18
Mental Retardation	961	832	507	708	497	677	489	637	461	621	451	633
Deafness or Hearing Impairment	66	76	68	70	64	70	64	70	71	60	64	50
Speech or Language Impairment	1,485	979	1,343	1,165	1,283	1,189	1,189	1,123	1,202	1,092	1,179	1,076
Blind or Visual Impairment	36	48	36	40	32	39	32	41	31	38	33	40
Serious Emotional Disturbance	500	314	631	470	615	468	602	492	644	539	674	566
Physical Disability	5	66	*	23	*	17	*	*	*	16	*	18
Other Health Impairment	71	22	587	779	667	870	818	929	918	1,027	977	1,106
Specific Learning Disability	3,643	2,686	3,581	3,100	3,423	2,929	3,269	2,826	3,159	2,835	3,091	2,978
Deaf-Blind	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Multiple Disabilities	48	70	73	84	84	82	84	81	87	83	95	89
Autism	76	72	363	331	417	366	456	390	480	422	525	466
Traumatic Brain Injury	3	11	*	*	15	*	15	12	13	*	14	*
Total	6,894	5,176	7,774	7,283	7,707	7,279	7,688	7,118	7,730	7,256	7,736	7,557

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Prior year totals have been revised.

Data is for Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 (Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties) and Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 (Luzerne and Wyoming counties).

*School Districts reporting less than or equal to 10. These numbers are not reported individually for the counties but are included in the total.

Public School Dropouts

For both counties, the number of dropouts has fluctuated considerably over the last decade. The total number of dropouts in both counties grew from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012, but then decreased for two consecutive school years. During the 2013-2014 school year, Lackawanna County saw 123 dropouts, a decrease of over 11 percent from the previous year. Luzerne County reported 261 public school dropouts for that school year, a decrease of over 15 percent from the prior year.

	Public School Dropouts												
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Lackawanna County	186	208	232	134	135	105	121	120	146	85	175	139	123
Luzerne County	356	394	325	332	332	353	276	285	343	340	374	309	261

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

SAT Scores

Though scores have fluctuated from 2006 to 2015, they have not dramatically changed over time. However, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties both saw decreases or no change in their average SAT scores in each subject area in 2015. In Lackawanna County, the total average decreased by three points from 2014 to 2015. In Luzerne County, the total average score dropped by 11 points. The decrease in Luzerne County's scores was most significant in the math portion, while Lackawanna saw small decreases in both math and writing.

The two counties' total scores have tended to be slightly higher than statewide scores, but the Commonwealth surpassed Luzerne County's aggregate scores in 2015. However, students in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties did outperform the state average in the writing section in every year from 2011 to 2015, often by a significant margin.



Lackawanna County: SAT Scores																		
District	2006			2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing
Abington Heights	506	514	489	522	522	512	527	528	514	535	521	527	540	545	537	549	557	534
Carbondale Area	438	438	425	460	487	453	462	470	446	464	475	455	471	495	462	451	456	442
Dunmore	457	481	459	466	472	464	468	460	471	449	464	458	483	483	472	479	484	475
Lakeland	475	470	483	490	496	499	470	479	472	456	470	456	480	487	483	481	476	469
Mid Valley	442	447	440	456	466	436	486	481	470	483	474	458	469	455	438	468	460	463
North Pocono	490	494	474	492	509	497	494	494	488	504	496	491	501	499	498	508	507	505
Old Forge	440	437	442	479	494	446	482	494	467	455	477	433	472	494	451	480	486	445
Riverside	470	475	453	476	508	463	459	494	456	476	496	466	468	492	462	486	524	478
Scranton	459	456	444	452	465	435	460	458	443	466	469	452	473	465	456	458	463	441
West Scranton	455	461	434	450	451	434	472	464	464	454	460	450	461	453	440	457	455	439
Valley View	468	469	458	484	505	471	494	496	484	485	501	473	497	498	488	494	493	480
County Average	464	467	455	475	489	465	479	483	470	475	482	465	483	488	472	483	487	470

Source: PA Department of Education

Luzerne County: SAT Scores																		
District	2006			2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing
Crestwood	501	514	500	503	516	495	495	513	487	495	506	498	515	513	508	510	511	503
Dallas	501	513	496	502	545	502	488	517	480	503	533	502	508	557	497	515	546	505
Greater Nanticoke Area	464	474	449	478	515	457	477	487	469	476	479	458	478	480	457	475	461	458
Hanover Area	471	470	467	482	481	469	474	484	473	462	457	449	485	474	479	455	457	450
Hazleton Area	461	471	454	449	458	475	467	458	451	450	451	476	461	455	447	458	460	444
Lake-Lehman	490	489	476	480	481	472	497	493	495	486	496	471	529	526	513	514	517	498
Northwest Area	490	485	458	503	480	466	477	477	463	483	467	471	490	477	474	478	471	457
Pittston Area	474	482	476	472	486	460	471	491	459	469	505	450	472	473	444	483	476	458
Wilkes-Barre Area - Finnerl Meyers	473	486	473	459	482	456	450	463	438	468	463	433	447	449	449	438	433	433
Wilkes-Barre Area - G.A.R. Memorial	472	477	465	430	434	404	417	423	411	447	437	407	417	422	392	447	432	429
Wilkes-Barre Area - James M. Coughlin	473	488	463	480	496	472	480	477	459	469	487	455	469	482	452	475	469	453
Wyoming Area	472	477	464	480	507	472	475	482	470	492	501	483	481	496	476	478	478	469
Wyoming Valley West	500	501	481	470	476	446	459	470	450	474	495	439	480	492	455	479	486	456
County Average	480	487	473	476	489	461	469	480	462	475	483	457	479	484	465	477	477	463

Source: PA Department of Education

Pennsylvania Average SAT Scores 2001-2014																		
	2006			2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing	Verbal	Math	Writing
Pennsylvania	475	481	461	473	481	450	471	480	456	471	480	450	478	484	457	480	484	460

Source: PA Department of Education

Higher Education Attainment Degree Completions



Higher Education Attainment

The percentage of residents age 25 and older in both counties with an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment was 9.2 percent for Lackawanna County and 9.2 percent for Luzerne County in 2014. Although these levels indicate only a slight increase for Lackawanna County and no change for Luzerne, there has still been significant growth in associate's degree holders since 2000. The percentage of Pennsylvanians with an associate's degree had kept a gradual upward pace, ending with 7.9 percent in 2014. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties have a higher proportion of associate's degree holders than all of Pennsylvania.

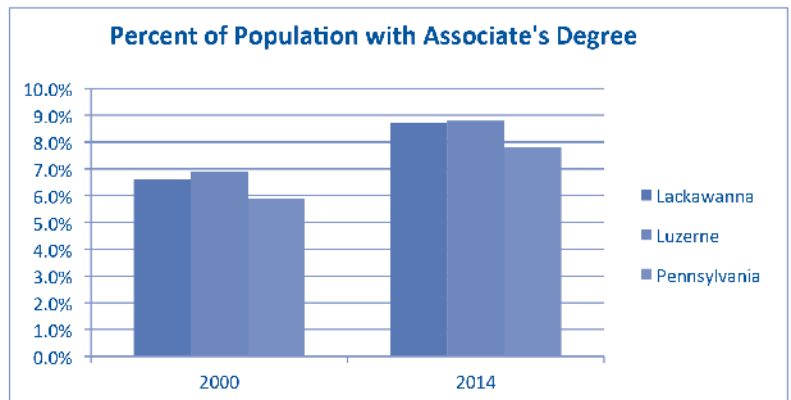
In both counties, the percentage of the population that hold a bachelor's degree or higher has increased significantly from 2000 to 2014. Pennsylvania has also seen growth in this area, with an increase from 22.4 percent in 2000 to 29.0 percent in 2014. The proportion of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties than Pennsylvania as a whole.

Degree Completions

Of the degree-granting higher education institutions within Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, students in numerous disciplines received degrees amounting to nearly 9,000 in 2014. The most prevalent programs in both counties were in health professions and related programs. In 2014, over 2,100 degrees were granted in the health field in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, a slight decrease from the year before. Business, management, and related programs was the second most common degree category, with 1,369 completions, surpassing education (1,364 completions) for the first time.

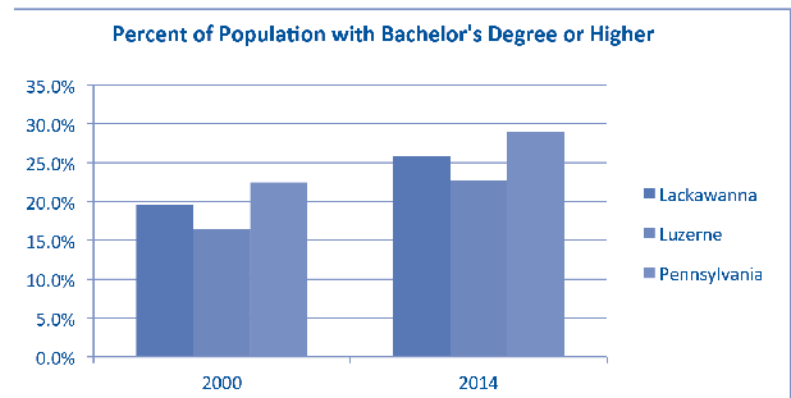
Percent of Population 25 Years and Over: Associate's Degree						
	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	6.6%	7.7%	8.3%	8.5%	8.7%	9.2%
Luzerne	6.9%	8.0%	8.1%	8.5%	9.2%	9.2%
Pennsylvania	5.9%	7.4%	7.6%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Percent of Population of 25 Years and Over: Bachelor's Degree or Higher						
	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	19.6%	24.5%	26.3%	25.5%	26.3%	25.8%
Luzerne	16.4%	21.4%	19.7%	20.6%	22.4%	22.7%
Pennsylvania	22.4%	27.1%	27.0%	27.8%	28.7%	29.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Student-Teacher Ratio

Student-Teacher Ratio

The student-teacher ratio is calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled in a district by the number of teachers employed in the district. It can be an indicator of a district's performance, as research has shown that students in schools with smaller class sizes get more individualized attention and therefore tend to do better in school on average. Lackawanna County's student-teacher ratios stay in a relatively tight range, with an average of 15.4. Riverside School District had the lowest student-teacher ratio of 13.9, while Mid Valley had the highest at 18.1. In Luzerne County, the county average was 16.2 and ratios varied a bit more. Northwest Area School District had the lowest student-teacher ratio at 14.1, while Crestwood School District had the highest of 18.7. Compared with the prior year, the county average ratio for Lackawanna County increased by 0.2; Luzerne County's rate decreased by 0.1.



Luzerne County Student/ Teacher Ratios		
	2012-2013	2013-2014
Crestwood	19.1	18.7
Dallas	16.2	16.3
Greater Nanticoke Area	17.9	17.1
Hanover Area	17.3	17.8
Hazleton Area	16.7	16.2
Lake-Lehman	14.4	14.5
Northwest Area	14.2	14.1
Pittston	18.2	17.7
Wilkes Barre Area	14.2	14.1
Wyoming Area	16.3	15.1
Wyoming Valley West	15.1	16.3
County Average	16.3	16.2

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Lackawanna County Student/ Teacher Ratios		
	2012-2013	2013-2014
Abington Heights	14.4	14.6
Carbondale	16.2	16.3
Dunmore	16.2	16.0
Lakeland	15.6	16.3
Mid Valley	17.9	18.1
North Pocono	15.5	15.3
Old Forge	13.9	14.5
Riverside	13.4	13.9
Scranton	14.2	14.0
Valley View	15.1	15.4
County Average	15.2	15.4

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Pre-K Enrollment



Pre-K Enrollment

As of the 2013-2014 school year, about 56 percent of the nearly 11,500 children aged three or four in the two counties are served by the early childhood education programs listed. This figure was 69.5 percent for Lackawanna County and 42 percent for Luzerne County. In Luzerne County, the largest share were served by the Keystone STARS program, though it has gradually declined in enrollment since 2009-2010. Keystone STARS has also seen enrollment decreases in Lackawanna County; between the 2010-2011 school year and the 2013-2014 school year, the Head Start program eclipsed Keystone STARS in Lackawanna County as the leading pre-K program. In Lackawanna County, the percentage of all children age three or four served increased between the 2012-2013 school year and the 2013-2014 school year, while it has decreased slightly in Luzerne County.

Pre-K Enrollments - Children Ages 3-4 Served

Year	Parent-Child Home Program or Parents as Teachers	Head Start*	Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts	School Based Pre-K	Early Intervention	Keystone STARS	Total Children Served	% of Children Served
Lackawanna County								
2009-2010	26	714	218	592	441	859	2,850	63.6%
2010-2011	27	841	169	575	428	770	2,810	59.5%
2011-2012	0	855	162	594	473	695	2,779	58.9%
2012-2013	37	1051	174	613	635	686	3,196	67.7%
2013-2014	28	1039	181	613	663	756	3,280	69.5%
Luzerne County								
2009-2010	95	771	362	0	589	1,436	3,253	50.4%
2010-2011	80	902	343	0	597	1,467	3,389	50.1%
2011-2012	0	790	373	0	612	1,372	3,147	46.5%
2012-2013	83	754	374	0	755	1,329	3,295	48.7%
2013-2014	33	801	397	20	696	1,234	3,181	47.0%

Source: Office of Child Development and Early Learning

* State and Federal programs



Technology & Innovation

Technology & Innovation



“When businesses innovate existing processes, products, or business models, the region’s competitive advantage increases.”

Technology & Innovation

The Technology and Innovation section of this report identifies important indicators in Pennsylvania, Lackawanna, and Luzerne Counties, including: technology and innovation-related business, Small Business and Innovation Research Awards (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer Awards (STTR), National Science Foundation (NSF) funding, clinical trials, multi-stage venture capital investments, and patents issued. Each of these indicators is meant to measure some aspect of technological development or innovation.

Economic development in the 21st century necessarily involves fostering innovation. When businesses innovate existing processes, products, or business models, the region’s competitive advantage increases. Innovation can thus be a major driver of economic growth. Many studies document that healthier economies and growing economies are the result of innovation.

Technology and Innovation go beyond computers and other high-tech devices. A truly innovative region fosters creativity in all aspects of work and life. Through entrepreneurship and creative thinking, new ideas can be introduced, applied to real-world problems, and brought into the global marketplace. Major areas of technology and innovation include research and development, scientific research, medical and pharmaceutical research, and information technology.

Technology and innovation can be difficult to measure directly. One way is to measure the number of jobs and businesses in the region that are technological, innovative, scientific, or creative in nature. Two industry groups are examined in this report: Professional and Technical Services and Information. Both of these industries were negatively impacted by the recession in terms of business establishments and employment, but the number Professional and Technical Services establishments did increase in both counties from 2013 to 2014, and the total number of people employed in Professional and Technical positions grew slightly in Luzerne County. The Information industry, however, has continued to decline in employment and has shown little sign of a rebound. Despite these challenges, wages in these industries are high throughout the region and increased in Lackawanna County in 2014, underlining their importance to the regional economy.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is a competitive grant program run by the U.S. Small Business Administration to support research and development with the potential for commercialization. The Small Business Administration also coordinates the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, which is aimed at encouraging joint ventures between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. For Pennsylvania, allocations for both of these programs increased in 2014 and were the highest they had been in the last three years.

The National Science Foundation, or NSF, awards grant money to groups around the country in order to promote scientific progress and innovation. Luzerne County in 2014 received \$26,975 in funding from the National Science Foundation, a sharp decrease from 2013. The number of clinical trials is one measure of the level of health care innovation. As of March 2016, there were 9 active clinical trials in the recruiting stage in Lackawanna County and 13 in Luzerne County. Trials included critical areas of health and medicine, including cancer, diabetes, and diabetes. The amount of multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments in the region can also indicate how much innovation is occurring in Northeastern Pennsylvania. There was nearly \$400,000 in new investments in the region in 2015.

Professional & Technical Services

Professional and Technical Services

The Professional, Technical, and Scientific industry is one approximate measure of high-technology and scientific jobs and businesses in the regional economy. This industry is defined as industry code 54 in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). It includes technical fields such as architecture, engineering, design, and scientific research, as well as professional services including legal services, advertising, and consulting.

In 2014, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties made small gains in the number of Professional and Technical Service establishments. In Lackawanna County, this is a continuation of the previous year's trend, and in Luzerne County, this is a reversal after a decrease in number of establishments between 2012 and 2013. Lackawanna County did see a contraction of jobs in this industry's sector, as it had the year previous. The sector in Luzerne County, however, added jobs in 2014. Additionally, both counties saw an increase in the average weekly wages for this

industry's employees, as has continuously been the case since 2004 in Lackawanna County and 2005 in Luzerne County. Lackawanna County had slightly higher wages than Luzerne in this industry in 2014, a switch from the previous five years' trends.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Establishments											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	454	466	475	464	468	475	470	468	482	485	490
Luzerne	639	606	596	606	618	596	584	575	563	552	559

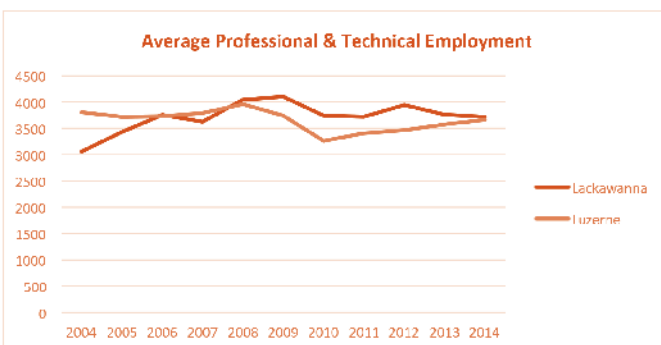
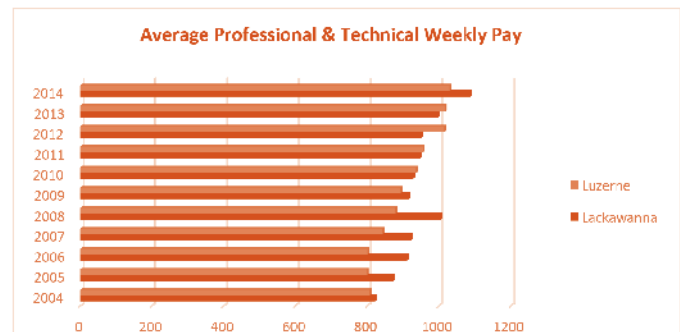
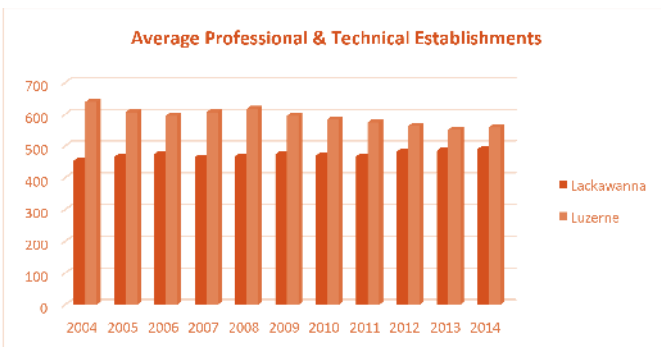
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Professional, Scientific & Technical Employment											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	3,057	3,427	3,755	3,626	4,043	4,099	3,739	3,719	3,945	3,759	3,717
Luzerne	3,804	3,716	3,729	3,791	3,960	3,738	3,259	3,406	3,464	3,573	3,663

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Professional, Scientific & Technical Average Weekly Wages											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	\$822	\$872	\$910	\$923	\$1,004	\$916	\$928	\$947	\$951	\$997	\$1,087
Luzerne	\$807	\$799	\$801	\$843	\$879	\$893	\$936	\$955	\$1,015	\$1,016	\$1,030

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



Information

Information

The Information Industry provides insight into the state of certain creative and technical jobs in the region. It is defined as industry code 51 in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). It includes technical fields such as telecommunications, data processing, and web hosting as well as creative industries such as publishing, film, and broadcasting.

Lackawanna County added two information industry establishments in 2014, while Luzerne County lost two establishments in the same year. However, both counties are still far from their highest ten-year industry establishment (75 in 2004 for Lackawanna County, and 103 in 2007 for Luzerne County). Both counties reported a decrease in the number of jobs in the information industry, continuing a six-year trend in

Information Industry Establishments											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	75	72	68	73	71	68	62	65	64	53	55
Luzerne	99	96	98	103	98	97	92	97	92	84	82

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

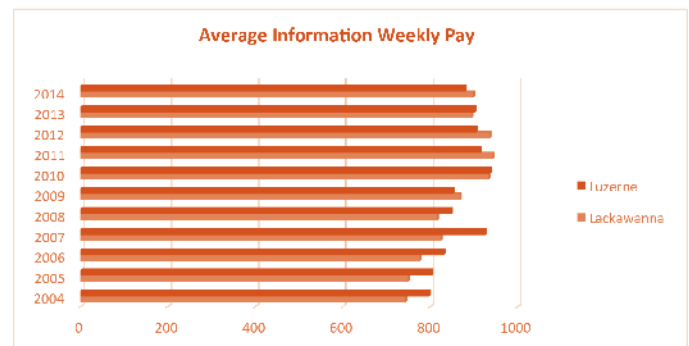
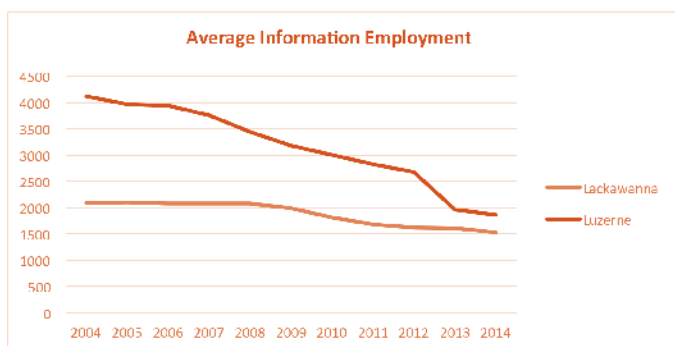
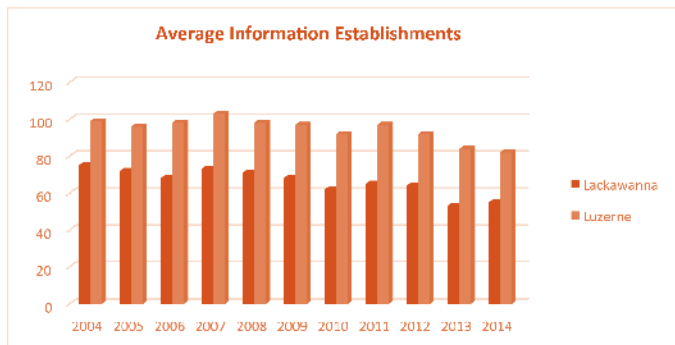
Information Industry Employment											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	2,090	2,100	2,078	2,079	2,079	1,990	1,813	1,682	1,621	1,609	1,528
Luzerne	4,121	3,965	3,941	3,759	3,440	3,179	3,003	2,825	2,678	1,964	1,861

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Information Industry Average Weekly Wage											
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	\$743	\$749	\$776	\$824	\$815	\$868	\$933	\$943	\$935	\$894	\$898
Luzerne	\$797	\$802	\$830	\$926	\$847	\$851	\$936	\$914	\$904	\$902	\$879

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Lackawanna County and a ten-year trend in Luzerne County. The employment in this industry regionally has decreased over the last ten years by 27 percent in Lackawanna County and 55 percent in Luzerne County. Additionally, Lackawanna County saw a \$4 increase in average weekly pay in the information sector, while Luzerne County average weekly pay in this industry decreased by \$23.



SBIR & STTR Awards National Science Foundation (NSF)

SBIR & STTR Awards

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awards grants to small businesses throughout the nation in order to promote innovation research and development. In 2014, firms within the state of Pennsylvania received a total of \$106.8 million in SBIR Awards. This is the highest amount that the state has received in all years analyzed. This represents an 88 percent increase in award total from 2013.

The STTR, or Small Business Technology Transfer program, is similar to the SBIR program, with an emphasis on joint venture opportunities between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. Pennsylvania's award total in 2014 was just over \$10 million. This is the highest amount since 2008, as well as a 76 percent increase from 2013.



Pennsylvania SBIR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2001	\$9,610,849	\$28,848,247	\$38,459,096
2002	\$15,749,504	\$37,538,547	\$53,288,051
2003	\$17,857,654	\$53,023,518	\$70,881,172
2004	\$17,779,890	\$52,531,691	\$70,311,581
2005	\$19,523,184	\$56,575,346	\$76,098,530
2006	\$14,520,749	\$78,980,848	\$93,501,597
2007	\$15,562,746	\$53,492,809	\$69,055,555
2008	\$18,110,790	\$56,514,000	\$74,624,790
2009	\$19,377,503	\$39,729,557	\$59,107,060
2010	\$24,411,691	\$54,955,460	\$79,367,151
2011	\$18,871,837	\$70,175,211	\$89,047,048
2012	\$20,773,904	\$54,303,170	\$75,077,073
2013	\$17,336,928	\$39,325,121	\$56,662,049
2014	\$25,118,210	\$81,664,635	\$106,782,845

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

Pennsylvania STTR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2000	\$744,390	\$1,823,417	\$2,567,807
2001	\$439,586	\$994,474	\$1,434,060
2002	\$952,053	\$2,456,509	\$3,408,562
2003	\$1,913,736	\$500,000	\$2,413,736
2004	\$3,216,182	\$5,010,435	\$8,226,617
2005	\$1,998,066	\$8,712,776	\$10,710,842
2006	\$4,109,829	\$6,898,539	\$11,008,368
2007	\$2,839,617	\$9,569,286	\$12,408,903
2008	\$2,949,481	\$9,846,876	\$12,796,357
2009	\$4,137,380	\$3,860,618	\$7,997,998
2010	\$946,294	\$6,509,013	\$7,455,307
2011	\$1,542,100	\$3,809,867	\$5,351,967
2012	\$1,968,973	\$5,568,477	\$7,537,450
2013	\$3,633,890	\$2,308,819	\$5,942,709
2014	\$2,726,404	\$7,739,900	\$10,466,304

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

National Science Foundation (NSF)

In 2015, recipients in Luzerne County received a total of \$26,975 of funding from the National Science Foundation. This is a large decrease from the 2014, where a total of \$285,737 was awarded in funding. However, this is the third consecutive year that Luzerne County has received funding. Lackawanna County received no NSF funding in 2015, continuing the trend of the past three years.

National Science Foundation									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna	\$334,481	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$64,780	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Luzerne	\$53,005	\$38,999	\$944,329	\$210,880	\$0	\$0	\$224,128	\$285,737	\$26,975

Source: USAspending.gov

Clinical Trials

Venture Capital Investments/Patents Issued



“Venture capital investments in 2014 went to companies in various industries, including energy, software, and manufacturing.”

Clinical Trials

As of March 2016, there were nine active clinical trials in the recruiting stage in Lackawanna County and 13 in Luzerne County. This represents a decrease for Luzerne County but an increase for Lackawanna County compared with last year. This year, the trials related to a range of research areas including diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, and several types of cancer.

Active Clinical Trials				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lackawanna	9	18	7	9
Luzerne	13	15	19	13

Source: Centerwatch

Multi-Stage Venture Capital Investments

It is difficult to capture venture capital investment from a single source, and this problem is compounded by the lack of available non-proprietary data. The Institute believes this category has been underrepresented in prior reports. This list includes multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments over the past ten years from both public and private sources that have been made public or provided to The Institute. The largest investment was \$30 million in 2010 toward the internet industry in Luzerne County. Data from 2015 was sourced from Ben Franklin Technology Partners and KBJ Capital and showed over \$600,000 in investment in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties combined in 2015. These investments went to companies in a number of industries, including software, manufacturing, and e-commerce.

Multi-stage Venture Capital Investments			
Year	Area	Industry	Amount (Millions)
2005	Lackawanna	Energy	\$26.0
2007	Luzerne	Internet	\$3.5
2008	Luzerne	Multiple	\$0.3
2009	Luzerne	Manufacturing	\$0.1
2010	Luzerne	Internet	\$30.0
2011	Regionally	Multiple	\$0.5
2012	Regionally	Multiple	\$8.2
2013	Lackawanna	Multiple	\$0.2
2013	Luzerne	Multiple	\$0.4
2014	Lackawanna	Multiple	\$0.2
2014	Luzerne	Multiple	\$0.5
2015	Lackawanna	Multiple	\$0.3
2015	Luzerne	Multiple	\$0.3

Source: Decision Data, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, KBJ Capital

Patents Issued

Data for the number of patents issued by county from the United States Patent and Trade Office has not been updated since 2013, thus there is no new information available from last year’s report. Patents are filed by the inventor and classified according to their residential address. These patents may be individually owned or owned by an organization inside or outside the region. The total of 50 patents issued in 2013 is the highest total since 2009. Patent activity over the last several years has averaged in the range of 45 to 50 patents issued per year; this is lower than the early 2000s, in which 60 or more patents were issued in the two counties most years.

Patents Issued		
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2013	11	39
2012	13	32
2011	16	32
2010	22	26
2009	25	26
2008	32	27
2007	28	26
2006	30	20
2005	35	14
2004	33	33
2003	32	27
2002	31	35
2001	32	35
2000	37	41

Source: USPTO



Housing

Housing

Total Housing Units



“Since the housing market crash, signs of recovery in the region have been mixed.”

Housing

The housing section of this report covers numerous indicators that measure Northeastern Pennsylvania’s housing market, which include: housing demand, building permits, occupancy, housing affordability, rental affordability, housing density, mortgage activity, housing price change, home sales, and home loans.

In 2014, there was a count of 244,877 housing units in the two counties. Of those, 148,231 were in Luzerne County and 96,646 were in Lackawanna County. Overall, Pennsylvania had a total of 5,590,712 housing units as of 2014. This is a slight increase from the totals seen in 2013, but the total number of housing units has not changed dramatically in the past several years.

The region’s housing stock is predominantly older and owner-occupied. About two-thirds of housing units are owner-occupied, a rate that as of 2014 is not significantly different from all of Pennsylvania. About 57 percent of homes in both counties were built prior to 1960, compared to just below half statewide, and permitting for new housing construction remains far below pre-recession levels for Luzerne County, but has increased far above pre-recession levels for Lackawanna County.

Since the housing market crash, signs of recovery in the region have been mixed. According to Census Bureau data, housing values have rebounded, but fell slightly in 2014. The House Price Index, provided by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, shows continued negative house price changes through 2013 with a rebound in 2014. The Commonwealth, however, has shown three consecutive years of appreciation. However, it remains to be seen if this is a sign of a sustained revitalization of the housing market. While home sales volume has increased from post-recession lows, median sales price has not experienced much growth.

Housing affordability has also changed over time. The median monthly ownership costs (including mortgage payment, property taxes, and other costs of homeownership) as a percentage of median household income were calculated for owner-occupied households, along with gross rent as a percent of household income. Compared with 2000, both monthly homeownership costs and rent have increased significantly as a percentage of median household income for both counties.

Total Housing Units

The total number of housing units increased in both counties in 2014 from 2013, but are still less than they were in 2010. Despite these fluctuations, net changes are relatively small.

	Total Housing Units				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	96,867	96,785	96,718	96,374	96,646
Luzerne	148,736	148,752	148,407	147,901	148,231
Pennsylvania	5,567,315	5,579,394	5,572,765	5,563,354	5,590,712

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Building Permits & Construction Costs

Demand for New Homes

Building Permits & Construction Costs

The number of building permits issued in Luzerne County has dropped significantly since 2006. In Luzerne County, 472 building permits were issued in 2006; in 2014, only 198 were reported. However, this was a slight increase from 2013. In Lackawanna County, however, although the number of building permits issued had dropped steadily and significantly from 2006 to 2013, the numbers skyrocketed in 2014; in 2006, Lackawanna County issued 472 building permits, and in 2013, that number was down to 182. However, 2014 saw 1,898 issued permits – the highest recorded amount since data collection began in 2004.

Ultimately, Luzerne County has not experienced much building activity within the 10 years analyzed. Lackawanna County, however, has seen a notably large spike in 2014. In accordance with these trends, the cost of construction has stayed relatively low for Luzerne County and spiked for Lackawanna County. Luzerne County reported \$40,593,255 in 2013, which increased to \$46,019,067 the following year. However, Lackawanna County increased dramatically from \$43,555,762 in 2013 to \$405,944,067 in 2014, which is certainly related to the large increase in building permits seen in Lackawanna County.

Year Built	Construction Costs	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2004	\$78,833,843	\$101,566,458
2005	\$75,966,767	\$68,154,090
2006	\$81,383,029	\$98,895,176
2007	\$72,830,847	\$74,483,391
2008	\$59,704,463	\$68,570,221
2009	\$47,604,288	\$58,614,297
2010	\$40,130,859	\$64,527,572
2011	\$31,602,774	\$37,605,797
2012	\$40,884,721	\$48,593,324
2013	\$43,555,762	\$40,593,255
2014	\$405,944,745	\$46,019,067

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

	Building Permits			
	Buildings		Units	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2004	444	673	462	712
2005	392	403	395	407
2006	472	480	493	536
2007	455	388	477	395
2008	276	331	282	357
2009	259	288	269	325
2010	205	349	217	350
2011	152	189	167	195
2012	156	254	161	262
2013	182	180	213	224
2014	1,898	198	2,009	236

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

Demand for New Homes

As of 2014, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are only just behind the Pennsylvania Commonwealth in terms of recent building. In Pennsylvania, 1.2 percent of homes were built in 2010 or later; this is comparable with Lackawanna County's 0.8 percent, or 809 homes and Luzerne County's 1.0 percent, or 1,474 homes. However, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both have a smaller percentage of their housing stock built between 2000 and 2009 than Pennsylvania's 8.3 percent. Lackawanna County sits at 6.1 percent and Luzerne County at 6.4 percent. This indicates that the nationwide housing construction boom of the early 2000s was less apparent in this region.

Homes by Year Built - 2014			
Year Built	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Built 2010 or later	809	1,474	69,621
Built 2000-2009	5,917	9,474	462,747
Built 1990-1999	5,906	11,579	529,240
Built 1980-1989	7,372	10,799	534,502
Built 1970-1979	10,622	22,416	701,139
Built 1960-1969	8,832	11,923	581,345
Built 1950-1959	9,046	12,832	772,910
Built 1940-1949	8,662	12,988	442,888
Built 1939 or earlier	39,480	54,746	1,496,320

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Homes by Year Built - 2014					
	Total Housing Units 2014	Homes Built 2010 or later	Percent Built 2010 or later	Homes Built 2000-2009	Percent Built 2000-2009
Lackawanna	96,646	809	0.8%	5,917	6.1%
Luzerne	148,231	1,474	1.0%	9,474	6.4%
Pennsylvania	5,590,712	69,621	1.2%	462,747	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Occupancy & Vacancy



“The rate of vacancy in both counties is higher in 2013 than in any other year analyzed.”

Occupancy & Vacancy

In 2014, the percentage of all housing units that were occupied increased somewhat in Lackawanna County from 86.9 percent in 2013 to 87.2 percent in 2014. This percentage in Luzerne County decreased, however, from 86.9 percent in 2013 to 84.5 percent in 2014. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania remained relatively stable, decreasing slightly from 88.7 percent in 2013 to 88.5 percent in 2014.

In 2014, Lackawanna County’s vacancy rate was 12.8 percent, and Luzerne County’s was 15.5 percent. Vacancy for both counties in 2013 was 13.1, so although both had higher rates in 2014, Luzerne County’s increase was larger. After seeing an increase in the vacancy rate from 10 percent in 2009, Luzerne County’s occupancy rate has remained in the 12 to 13 percent range. Lackawanna County’s vacancy rate has ranged from about 11 to 13 percent during the same time period. Statewide, occupancy and vacancy data is similar to the two-county region.

	Occupancy & Vacancy											
	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant
Lackawanna	89.1%	10.9%	87.4%	12.6%	89.7%	10.8%	88.4%	11.6%	86.9%	13.1%	87.2%	12.8%
Luzerne	90.0%	10.0%	87.3%	12.7%	87.5%	12.5%	87.0%	13.0%	86.9%	13.1%	84.5%	15.5%
Pennsylvania	89.1%	10.9%	88.6%	11.4%	88.5%	11.5%	89.0%	11.0%	88.7%	11.3%	88.5%	11.5%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing Tenure

Housing Tenure

The breakdown of those who own their own homes versus those who rent their homes is called housing tenure. From 2009 to 2014, the ratios of those who own their home to those who rent in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and Pennsylvania have experienced some fluctuations. The ratio of owners to renters was approximately 2:1 in both counties. In both counties, there have been year-to-year changes, with the percentage of renters ranging from about 30 percent to about 35 percent. Correspondingly, the percentage of owners ranges from about 65 percent to about 69 percent. In 2014, the percentage of renters dropped in both counties each by 0.5 percentage points since the previous year. Further, both counties experienced an increase in home ownership by 0.5 percentage points. The two counties have tended to have a slightly lower rate of homeownership than all of Pennsylvania, but in 2014, Luzerne County surpassed Pennsylvania with a 69.1 percent home ownership compared to Pennsylvania's 68.8 percent. Lastly, while both counties have experienced an increase in ownership and a decrease in renting, Pennsylvania has experienced a decline in ownership, and instead has had a slight increase in renting.



Owner to Renter Comparison												
	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter
Lackawanna	67.1%	32.9%	65.5%	34.5%	67.1%	32.9%	64.6%	35.4%	65.8%	34.2%	66.3%	33.7%
Luzerne	68.1%	31.9%	68.5%	31.5%	66.4%	33.6%	65.0%	35.0%	68.6%	31.4%	69.1%	30.9%
Pennsylvania	70.5%	29.5%	70.1%	29.9%	69.5%	30.5%	68.9%	31.1%	68.9%	31.1%	68.8%	31.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing & Rental Affordability



Housing & Rental Affordability

For owner-occupied housing, affordability is measured by monthly cost of ownership. Selected Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC), as defined by the US Census Bureau, includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

From 2009 to 2014, Lackawanna County's median SMOC is between 34 to 35 percent of the median household income. There has been some fluctuation in this figure, but for every year except 2009, it was higher than the corresponding percentage for Luzerne County and Pennsylvania. Luzerne County's median SMOC as a percentage of median income has more closely matched the statewide proportion. In 2014, Luzerne County's SMOC was 31.6 percent, and Pennsylvania's was 31.5 percent. All three geographies experienced a significant increase in the proportion of income for owner costs between 2000 and 2008. Since then, the ratio of median SMOC to median household income in all three areas has varied from year to year without a clear trend.

A similar calculation was used for rental housing. The median rent as a percentage of median household income for all three geographic areas has fluctuated between 17 and over 19 percent for the past several years. From 2000 to 2008, it increased significantly, and since then has tended to trend upward. The 2014 percentages for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, which were 19.4 percent and 19.6 percent, respectively, are the highest they have been since data collection began in 2000. The two counties have generally had median rents and median rents as a percentage of income that were slightly lower than Pennsylvania.

Housing Affordability							
	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna							
Median Household Income	\$34,438	\$44,481	\$42,185	\$44,284	\$43,053	\$45,295	\$45,265
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$939	\$1,269	\$1,304	\$1,284	\$1,237	\$1,233	\$1,254
% of Income for Owner Costs	32.7%	34.7%	37.1%	34.8%	34.5%	34.3%	33.2%
Luzerne							
Median Household Income	\$33,771	\$39,945	\$41,818	\$42,847	\$42,370	\$45,190	\$44,311
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$865	\$1,159	\$1,160	\$1,178	\$1,193	\$1,170	\$1,168
% of Income for Owner Costs	30.7%	34.8%	33.3%	33.0%	33.8%	31.1%	31.6%
Pennsylvania							
Median Household Income	\$40,106	\$49,520	\$49,288	\$50,228	\$51,230	\$52,007	\$53,234
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,010	\$1,178	\$1,390	\$1,408	\$1,382	\$1,373	\$1,400
% of Income for Owner Costs	30.2%	33.4%	33.8%	33.6%	32.4%	31.7%	31.6%
<small>Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.</small>							
<small>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey</small>							

Rental Affordability							
	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna							
Median Household Income	\$34,438	\$44,481	\$42,185	\$44,284	\$43,053	\$45,295	\$45,265
Median Rent	\$440	\$626	\$664	\$680	\$659	\$674	\$730
% of Income for Rent	15.3%	16.9%	18.9%	18.4%	18.4%	17.9%	19.4%
Luzerne							
Median Household Income	\$33,771	\$39,945	\$41,818	\$42,847	\$42,370	\$45,190	\$44,311
Median Rent	\$434	\$607	\$617	\$653	\$625	\$684	\$723
% of Income for Rent	15.4%	18.2%	17.7%	18.3%	17.7%	18.2%	19.6%
Pennsylvania							
Median Household Income	\$40,106	\$49,520	\$49,288	\$50,228	\$51,230	\$52,007	\$53,234
Median Rent	\$531	\$738	\$763	\$786	\$798	\$828	\$848
% of Income for Rent	15.9%	17.9%	18.6%	18.8%	18.7%	19.1%	19.1%
<small>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey</small>							

Housing Value

Between 2008 and 2013, home values stagnated and did not decline significantly, as was the case in other parts of the nation. In 2014, both counties median values continued to fall slightly, but Pennsylvania's median value rose slightly from \$164,200 to \$165,400. However, it is important to remember that housing value alone does not indicate market conditions, because these figures only reflect the assessed value of homes rather than their actual sale price on the market.

In 2014, 41.1 percent of homes in Luzerne County were valued at less than \$100,000, while another 37 percent were valued between \$100,000 and \$200,000. In Lackawanna County, the largest share of homes (42.6 percent) were valued between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and another 29 percent were worth less than \$100,000. In both counties, the percentages of homes valued above \$200,000 and the percentages of homes valued above \$300,000 were lower than all of Pennsylvania. This is in accordance with the relatively low median home values in both counties compared with Pennsylvania.



Housing Value Comparison: Lackawanna						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Housing with Mortgage	34,814	32,514	34,485	32,174	30,636	29,761
Less than \$50,000	3.1%	3.9%	2.7%	2.5%	7.6%	7.7%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	21.6%	18.8%	20.5%	21.3%	22.0%	21.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	24.2%	24.7%	24.6%	23.4%	21.8%	22.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	19.2%	22.4%	20.2%	22.1%	18.0%	20.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	19.8%	19.4%	18.7%	17.8%	18.0%	19.0%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	9.6%	7.2%	9.8%	10.6%	10.0%	7.7%
\$500,000 or more	2.4%	3.6%	3.5%	2.4%	2.6%	1.7%
Median Value	\$157,400	\$154,100	\$154,600	\$156,100	\$146,300	\$145,900

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Value Comparison: Luzerne						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Housing with Mortgage	53,162	51,326	49,467	47,675	50,250	46,718
Less than \$50,000	5.3%	5.7%	4.8%	5.6%	10.4%	12.5%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	78.3%	79.7%	79.1%	76.9%	79.7%	78.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	24.4%	23.5%	24.5%	24.1%	20.3%	19.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	19.0%	17.4%	19.0%	19.1%	17.3%	17.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	15.9%	15.7%	13.9%	14.0%	14.0%	14.4%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	5.9%	6.2%	6.5%	8.0%	7.1%	5.6%
\$500,000 or more	1.3%	1.8%	2.2%	2.4%	1.7%	1.8%
Median Value	\$132,900	\$131,200	\$131,300	\$135,400	\$125,100	\$120,300

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing Value Comparison: Pennsylvania						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Housing with Mortgage	2,205,428	2,169,055	2,142,717	2,122,249	2,078,019	2,061,546
Less than \$50,000	5.4%	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%	10.2%	9.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	16.5%	15.7%	15.5%	15.9%	17.2%	16.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16.8%	17.2%	17.7%	18.0%	16.8%	17.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	17.3%	17.3%	18.4%	18.1%	17.5%	17.5%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	22.0%	22.7%	22.2%	22.3%	19.8%	20.0%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	16.0%	16.1%	15.4%	14.7%	13.4%	13.4%
\$500,000 or more	6.0%	6.0%	5.8%	5.9%	5.1%	5.5%
Median Value	\$179,900	\$182,100	\$178,800	\$176,700	\$164,200	\$165,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing Density Mortgage Activity

Housing Density

Housing density data for all three areas showed an overall increase in homes per square mile between 2000 and 2014. In Luzerne County, Lackawanna County, and Pennsylvania, the number of homes per square mile in 2014 were 163.6, 207.9, and 121.4 respectively. Further, the number of housing units in 2014 has increased in both counties and the state as a whole. In Luzerne County, the number of housing units increased from 147,901 in 2013 to 148,231 in 2014; Lackawanna County's housing units increased slightly from 96,374 to 96,646; finally, Pennsylvania increased from 5,565,354 to 5,590,712. Both counties have a higher housing density than Pennsylvania as a whole, and Lackawanna County has a higher density than Luzerne County.

Housing Density Comparison									
	Total Square Miles	2000		2012		2013		2014	
		Housing Units	Homes per square mile	Housing Units	Homes per square mile	Housing Units	Homes per square mile	Housing Units	Homes per square mile
Lackawanna	464.9	95,362	205.1	96,718	208.0	96,374	207.3	96,646	207.9
Luzerne	906.3	141,686	159.7	148,402	163.8	147,901	163.2	148,231	163.6
Pennsylvania	46,054.3	5,749,750	114.0	5,577,765	121.0	5,565,354	120.8	5,590,712	121.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mortgage Activity

Generally, between 50 and 60 percent of owner-occupied homes in the region are mortgaged. The two counties usually have had a lower percentage of mortgaged homes than the Commonwealth as a whole. Luzerne County's percentage of owner-occupied homes that have mortgages has shown an increasing trend from 2000 to 2013, but fell sharply in 2014. For both counties and the Commonwealth, 2009 saw the highest percentage of mortgaged homes since 2000 – Luzerne at 58.5 percent, Lackawanna at 59.6 percent, and Pennsylvania at 63.6 percent. In 2014, Luzerne County had 54 percent of mortgaged homes and Lackawanna County had 53.3 percent of mortgaged home. These rates are the lowest the regions have seen in all years analyzed. Pennsylvania's mortgage rate was 60.9 percent, also the lowest rate in all years analyzed.

Median monthly owner costs have not changed dramatically since 2009 for either county, and they have stayed between \$1,100 to \$1,300 per month, which is still less than the state median of \$1,400 in 2014.

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Lackawanna							
	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Homes	47,906	58,367	55,442	57,900	55,241	55,044	55,862
% of Mortgaged Homes	55.2%	59.6%	58.6%	59.6%	58.2%	55.7%	53.3%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$939	\$1,269	\$1,304	\$1,284	\$1,237	\$1,293	\$1,254

Monthly Owner Costs (MOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurance, utilities, fuel, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Luzerne							
	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Homes	78,799	90,936	88,973	86,375	83,961	88,155	86,556
% of Mortgaged Homes	54.1%	58.5%	57.7%	57.3%	56.8%	57.0%	54.0%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$865	\$1,159	\$1,160	\$1,178	\$1,193	\$1,170	\$1,168

Monthly Owner Costs (MOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurance, utilities, fuel, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Pennsylvania							
	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Owner Occupied Homes	2,889,484	3,467,285	3,461,678	3,431,023	3,416,499	3,405,170	3,404,164
% of Mortgaged Homes	62.2%	63.6%	62.7%	62.5%	62.1%	61.0%	60.6%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,010	\$1,378	\$1,390	\$1,408	\$1,382	\$1,373	\$1,400

Monthly Owner Costs (MOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurance, utilities, fuel, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing Price Appreciation Home Sales

Housing Price Appreciation

The House Price Index tracks the change in price of homes by metro area. For the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton area, housing price appreciation had continued to decrease through 2013 before showing a two percent increase in 2014. The region, however, has shown smaller decreases over time, yet its rebound is slower and smaller in scope. In comparison, Pennsylvania has shown appreciation since 2012 ranging two to three percent per year. In 2008, the MSA ranked 47 in the U.S. compared to 252 in 2014, while the state has gone from 19 to 45 in the same period.

House Price Index, 2008 - 2014		
	Scranton/Wilkes Barre/Hazleton MSA	Pennsylvania
2007 Q3	173.36	393.63
2008 Q3	173.47	386.56
2009 Q3	171.87	376.42
2010 Q3	170.57	375.25
2011 Q3	166.80	364.23
2012 Q3	167.66	363.00
2013 Q3	164.47	368.25
2014 Q3	167.31	377.77
2015 Q3	166.19	387.77

Source: FHFA



Home Sales

The number of home sales in both counties plummeted between 2006 and 2007. This coincides with the beginning of the housing market downturn nationwide. The following year, sales volume in both counties rebounded a bit. For Luzerne County, the number of home sales in 2012 was 5,185 – the highest since 2006. But in 2014, the home sales dropped to 4,324, which is not significantly lower than 2012's high. In Lackawanna County, home sales have been steadily climbing since 2010, and in 2014, home sales reached 2,463, which is the highest rate since the plummet after 2006. In both counties, the total number of home sales remains below 2006 levels.

Median home sale price peaked in 2007 in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, at \$129,500 and \$89,300, respectively. Since that time, a downturn in the real estate market nationally led to a fall in prices in virtually all markets. The median home sale price in both counties trended downward, reaching a low of \$75,500 in Luzerne County in 2011, and a low of \$97,500 in Lackawanna County in 2012. In 2014, both counties' median prices were lower than in 2013; Lackawanna County's median sales price was \$100,000 and Luzerne County's was \$77,500.

Home Sales									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	3,220	1,441	1,925	1,815	1,839	1,994	2,113	2,270	2,463
Luzerne	11,470	3,437	4,795	4,417	3,786	3,516	5,185	4,344	4,324

Source: Policy Map

Median Sales Price									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	\$102,968	\$129,500	\$116,000	\$113,636	\$106,000	\$100,000	\$97,500	\$105,000	\$100,000
Luzerne	\$83,820	\$89,300	\$80,000	\$85,000	\$84,000	\$75,500	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$77,500

Source: Policy Map

Home Loans



Home Loans

No new data on home loans was available for this year's report. The number of mortgage originations fell considerably between 2006 and 2011, mirroring the decline in home sales. Both counties reached low points in 2011 in both home purchase loans and all mortgages. For both counties, mortgage originations increased in median loan amount from 2006 to a peak in 2009. After that, they appeared to level off with fluctuations from year to year. This trend is very similar to what Pennsylvania experienced on a whole, but the counties' median amounts are still smaller than the state's average.

When looking only at home purchase loans, the trends mirror those of all mortgage loans. However, median amounts for home purchase loans are generally comparable to or higher than the median amounts for all mortgages.

Home Lending - All Mortgage Originations									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna									
Number of Loans	5,645	4,426	3,555	4,976	3,579	3,371	4,133	3,874	-
Median Loan Amount	\$92,000	\$101,000	\$112,000	\$125,000	\$ 123,000	\$ 118,000	\$ 123,000	\$ 115,000	-
Luzerne									
Number of Loans	8,077	6,861	5,040	5,758	4,879	4,406	5,477	5,071	-
Median Loan Amount	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$115,000	\$ 108,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 110,000	-
Pennsylvania									
Number of Loans	368,872	306,428	241,601	320,234	281,738	247,273	311,005	266,618	-
Median Loan Amount	\$113,000	\$124,000	\$139,000	\$157,000	\$ 153,000	\$ 147,000	\$ 154,000	\$ 148,000	-

Source: Policy Map

Home Lending - Home Purchase Loans									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna									
Number of Loans	7,319	1,757	1,340	1,323	1,158	1,135	1,119	1,236	-
Median Loan Amount	\$110,000	\$123,000	\$125,000	\$123,000	\$ 128,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 128,000	-
Luzerne									
Number of Loans	3,609	3,000	1,953	1,813	1,535	1,507	1,657	1,734	-
Median Loan Amount	\$99,000	\$103,000	\$109,000	\$108,000	\$ 111,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 116,000	-
Pennsylvania									
Number of Loans	163,491	138,326	103,421	95,674	85,682	77,296	85,544	93,615	-
Median Loan Amount	\$140,000	\$147,000	\$156,000	\$152,000	\$ 154,000	\$ 154,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 165,000	-

Source: Policy Map



Social Services

Social Services



Social Services

The Social Services section of the report describes important indicators within Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, related to social service programs. The indicators tracked cover the Keystone Stars program, children living in poverty, children in foster care, households receiving food stamps, individuals receiving cash assistance, medical assistance and children's health insurance programs, the population of seniors 65 and older, the number of senior centers, the population of individuals with disabilities, and certain tax credits. Social services include government-funded services that are usually provided to those in need of essentials, such as health care, food, heating assistance, etc.

The recipients of social services are primarily older individuals, those with mental and physical health challenges, and lower income families. Since the recession began in 2007, more of the population has faced the consequences of a struggling economy and, therefore, demand has increased for government funded programs and services and philanthropy.

Many indicators illustrate the harsh effects of the Great Recession that still linger in the region and throughout Pennsylvania. Overall, the prevailing economic trend in the area has been a slow and uneven recovery that has not reached all families in the region. Because of this, the burden on social assistance programs has remained great even as some economic indicators have shown improvement over the last several years. For example, child poverty rates in both counties are higher than the statewide average, and the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits (often referred to as Food Stamps) is far higher in 2014 than prior to the recession. Both counties did see an improvement in the child poverty rate from 2013 to 2014; however, in Luzerne County, more than one in four children live below the poverty line.

Pennsylvania has expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to cover adults under 65 with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level as of January 1, 2015. As a result, a greater number of individuals are eligible for Medical Assistance. Statewide, over 20 percent of the population is eligible for Medical Assistance, and in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the number of eligible individuals grew by more than 16,000 between July 2014 and July 2015. Statewide, enrollment in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) also grew by 3.2 percent from January 2015 to January 2016. Regionally, CHIP enrollment held steady at around 3,500 children in the two counties combined.

Older Pennsylvanians are a population with a particular need for social support. Many senior citizens live on fixed incomes and face significant health care needs. Throughout the two-county region, the total population of those aged 65 and older has increased steadily since 2011, though the proportion of senior citizens remains lower than in 2010. As the number of people in this age group has grown in the region, the number of adults with disabilities has also grown, indicating a continued need for support for a variety of disabilities.

There are also several federal income tax credits that serve a similar purpose as social assistance programs. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can provide significant income, in the form of an income tax refund, to lower income households. Regionally, about 18 percent of tax returns received the EITC as of 2013, and this percentage has seen some growth since 2011.

Early Childhood Education Children Living in Poverty

Early Childhood Education

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. Childcare programs are rated from one to four stars on several factors including teacher quality and meeting safety regulations.

Lackawanna County reported a 54 percent increasing in facilities participating in the STARS program from 2010 to 2015, including a 19 percent jump from 2014 to 2015. Furthermore, the number of facilities achieving the STAR 4 level reached a new high of 31 centers, nearly half of those participating. In Luzerne County, there were 78 centers participating in 2015, lower than the prior year, but still three percent higher than the total number in 2010. The number of STAR 4 centers in Luzerne County has more than doubled since 2010, though it held steady from 2014 to 2015.

No new data was available on the number of centers with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) certification. NAEYC certifies early childhood education centers and provides professional development training for providers.

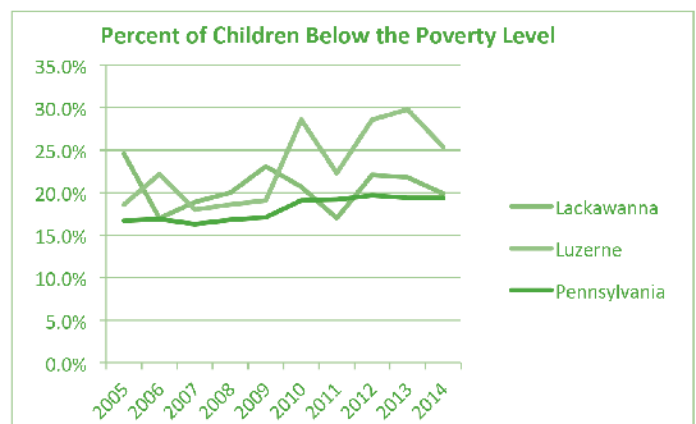


Keystone STARS Facilities													
Category	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	
Total Star Facilities	41	76	39	80	41	77	45	82	53	93	63	78	
Star 1	5	46	7	42	5	42	7	49	9	53	14	29	
Star 2	12	16	7	23	8	18	8	15	10	22	11	31	
Star 3	13	9	7	7	9	7	8	8	8	7	7	7	
Star 4	11	5	18	8	19	10	22	10	26	11	31	11	
NAEYC	7	5	8	6	9	7	8	7	8	6	-	-	

Source: Pennsylvania Early Keys to Quality and NAEYC

Children Living in Poverty

From 2006 to 2010, the onset of the Great Recession, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties reported rising percentages of children living in poverty. Both counties experienced a recovery in the child poverty rate from 2010 to 2011, but saw a spike the following year. In 2013, nearly 22 percent of children in Lackawanna County were in poverty; in Luzerne County, this figure approached 30 percent. In 2014, however, both counties saw declines of several percentage points while the statewide child poverty rate held steady at 19.4 percent. Compared with the Commonwealth as a whole, child poverty rates in the two counties have typically been both higher overall and more volatile.



Children in Foster Care Food Assistance



Children in Foster Care

The number of children in foster care in Lackawanna County fell from over 1,000 in 2013 to 454 in Lackawanna County; the most current statistic is more in line with past years' totals. Luzerne County saw a slight increase from 2013 to 2014. Statewide, there was a spike from 2012 to 2013 with a subsequent decline in 2014. This roughly mirrors the trend in Lackawanna County.

Children in Foster Care						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	498	529	197	411	1,056	454
Luzerne	1,036	1,769	1,395	962	1,122	1,214
Pennsylvania	49,010	44,258	39,831	44,196	53,597	48,438

Prior year data has been updated
Includes Foster children or other unrelated children
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates

Food Assistance

Both counties and Pennsylvania have reported slight increases in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, more commonly referred to as Food Stamps) in 2014, following a slight decrease from 2012 to 2013. Compared with 2005, rates of food assistance have been much higher in recent years, climbing from seven to ten percent in both counties from 2005 to 2008 to above 16 and 17 percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively. Furthermore, both counties reached new peaks in 2014 in both total number of households receiving food assistance and the percent of all households doing so.

Households Receiving Food Stamps									
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps
2005	85,565	7,941	9.3%	131,333	11,515	8.8%	4,860,140	373,802	7.7%
2006	85,216	7,671	9.0%	130,034	10,988	8.5%	4,845,603	359,597	7.4%
2007	87,381	6,703	7.7%	128,548	12,630	9.8%	4,876,482	386,575	7.9%
2008	87,624	7,547	8.6%	130,196	14,105	10.8%	4,904,554	437,768	8.9%
2009	87,040	10,476	12.0%	133,534	15,381	11.7%	4,916,869	477,892	9.7%
2010	84,662	10,157	12.0%	129,884	17,988	13.8%	4,936,030	564,362	11.4%
2011	86,343	11,498	13.3%	130,170	20,588	15.8%	4,952,566	627,156	12.7%
2012	85,491	11,748	14.0%	129,158	21,311	17.0%	4,958,249	650,665	13.0%
2013	83,709	11,512	13.8%	128,597	21,235	16.5%	4,938,894	618,259	12.5%
2014	84,280	13,642	16.2%	125,235	21,560	17.2%	4,945,972	644,930	13.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates

Cash Assistance Medical Assistance & CHIP

Cash Assistance

Cash assistance programs, such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), provide additional income assistance for those who cannot work or for households that do not earn enough money from work to support themselves. From 2013 to 2014, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw a decrease in the number of households receiving cash assistance. This change was more pronounced in Lackawanna County. For the two counties combined, the result is an estimated 578 fewer households receiving cash assistance in 2014 compared with 2013. Meanwhile, the number and percent of households receiving cash assistance statewide grew slightly. For both counties and Pennsylvania as a whole, the number of households receiving cash assistance in 2014 was far less than in 2005.

	Households Receiving Cash Assistance					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households
2005	3,894	4.6%	4,905	3.7%	318,976	6.6%
2006	3,753	4.4%	5,080	3.9%	291,724	6.0%
2007	3,546	4.1%	4,568	3.6%	264,925	5.4%
2008	3,735	4.3%	4,530	3.5%	260,700	5.3%
2009	4,070	4.7%	4,728	3.5%	282,439	5.7%
2010	2,509	3.0%	3,902	3.0%	180,404	3.7%
2011	2,504	2.9%	4,725	3.6%	184,989	3.7%
2012	2,456	2.9%	4,880	3.8%	184,003	3.7%
2013	3,099	3.7%	4,102	3.2%	163,462	3.3%
2014	2,738	3.2%	3,885	3.1%	168,621	3.4%

2010 and 2011 figures have been updated
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates

Medical Assistance & CHIP

Compared with the first year in the analysis - 2005, the number of individuals in the two counties eligible for Medical Assistance has increased. After some fluctuation, the percent of the population and total number of persons eligible for Medical Assistance has risen sharply from 2013 to 2015. More than one in five Pennsylvania residents are eligible for Medical Assistance. As of July 2015, over 16,000 more individuals are eligible for Medical Assistance compared with the same month in the previous year. Rates of Medical Assistance eligibility are much higher compared with 2005 due to Pennsylvania's Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The exact rates of eligibility as a percent of the population could not be calculated because 2015 population estimates for both counties were not yet available.

Statewide, enrollment through Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program has trended downward in recent years, though it increased from January 2015 to January 2016. According to CHIP, part of this most recent decline is due to more children qualifying for Medicaid that would otherwise have qualified for CHIP, not a reduction in need of low cost healthcare. The two counties also saw a decline from 2013 to 2015. The numbers of enrollees in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties were largely unchanged from 2015 to 2016.

	Total Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population
July 2005	30,244	14.5%	48,085	15.4%	1,791,598	14.4%
July 2010	39,355	18.4%	62,077	19.3%	2,223,452	17.5%
July 2011	40,883	19.0%	65,111	20.3%	2,331,009	18.3%
July 2012	38,893	18.1%	62,694	19.5%	2,200,775	17.2%
July 2013	39,644	18.5%	63,414	19.8%	2,203,479	17.2%
July 2014	41,873	19.7%	65,352	20.5%	2,257,071	17.7%
July 2015	48,369	-	75,255	-	2,592,693	20.3%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Percent of Population calculated using July 1 population estimates from US Census Bureau.

	Children's Medical Assistance				
	Sept. 2013	Feb. 2014	Oct. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016
Lackawanna	2,910	2,862	2,239	2,045	2,019
Luzerne	4,519	4,456	3,581	3,475	3,464
Pennsylvania	188,025	187,003	157,215	147,464	152,180

Due to ACA changes and technical difficulties, older data is not comparable.
Source: Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program

Programs for Seniors



Programs for Seniors (Population 65 or older)

During each year examined, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both maintained a larger percentage of the senior citizen population than Pennsylvania as a whole. Since 2011, the percentage of individuals older than 65 has increased each year in both counties as well as Pennsylvania. The two counties still have a lower percentage of senior residents compared with the base year of 2000, however, but this gap is narrowing. The number of senior centers in each county has remained consistent for several years, and the two counties have an approximately equal number of senior centers per 1,000 residents aged 65 or older.

“During each year examined, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both maintained a larger percentage of the senior citizen population than Pennsylvania as a whole.”

	Number of Senior Centers	
	2015 Total	Per 1000 Residents Age 65+
Lackawanna	10	0.25
Luzerne	15	0.25

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Aging

	Population 65 Years and Older								
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +
2000	213,295	41,542	19.5%	310,295	62,740	20.2%	12,281,054	1,919,165	15.6%
2010	214,437	37,895	17.7%	320,918	57,598	17.9%	12,702,379	1,959,307	15.4%
2011	214,166	37,693	17.6%	320,651	57,397	17.9%	12,742,886	1,981,565	15.6%
2012	214,477	38,976	18.2%	321,027	58,670	18.3%	12,763,536	2,041,930	16.0%
2013	213,931	39,391	18.4%	320,103	60,178	18.8%	12,773,801	2,089,972	16.4%
2014	212,719	40,198	18.9%	318,829	60,268	18.9%	12,787,209	2,134,099	16.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates

Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with Disabilities

Since 2010, the number of individuals in Pennsylvania with a disability has increased. In Lackawanna County, the percent of the population with a disability in 2014 reached 16.9 percent, the highest of all years analyzed. In Luzerne County, the 2014 total was 16.1 percent, higher than any of the prior three years. Both counties have a higher percentage of the population with a disability than the Commonwealth as a whole.

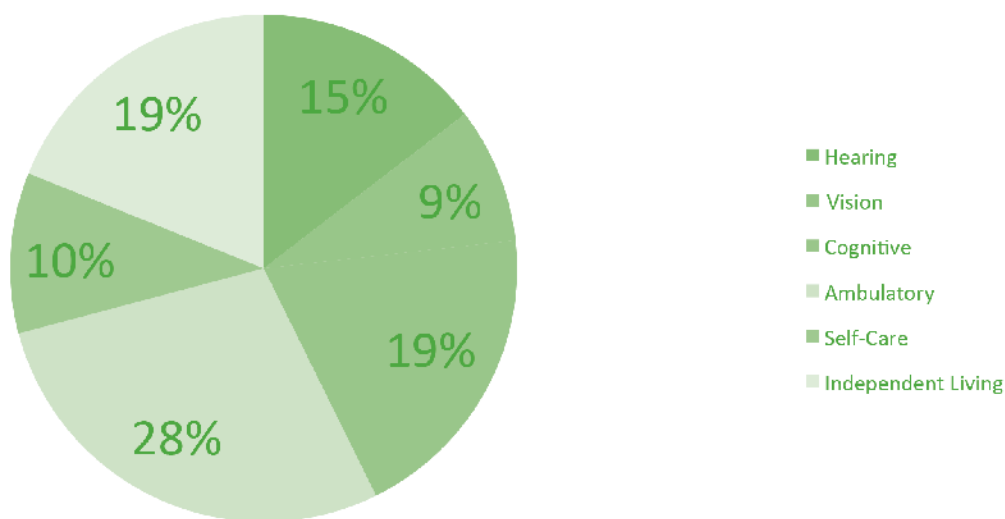
Of all disabilities reported in the two county region, 28 percent were ambulatory disabilities. The next largest were independent living and cognitive disabilities. Vision and hearing disabilities as well as self-care disabilities each make up a smaller, but still substantial amount of all disabilities reported in the region.



	Population with a Disability								
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%
2010	207,665	30,364	14.6%	314,944	50,932	16.2%	12,506,000	1,638,378	13.1%
2011	210,682	30,912	14.7%	313,294	48,438	15.5%	12,539,757	1,671,648	13.3%
2012	210,749	28,427	13.5%	313,349	48,823	15.6%	12,559,315	1,677,908	13.4%
2013	210,045	32,990	15.7%	312,260	46,646	14.9%	12,569,375	1,689,123	13.4%
2014	208,848	35,373	16.9%	311,071	50,091	16.1%	12,582,815	1,733,512	13.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates

Disability by Type for 2014 - Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties



Tax Credits



Tax Credits

Certain tax credits function as a form of social aid to low- and middle-income households. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal income tax credit that provides assistance to lower income households with earned income in the form of a tax credit. In Luzerne County, this form of assistance was received on 18.6 percent of tax returns in 2013. In that year, 17.5 percent of returns filed in Lackawanna County received the EITC. This is somewhat higher than the statewide rate of 16 percent. In both counties and the Commonwealth, the average amount of the credit is substantial – over \$2,100. Credits of this amount, when received as a tax refund, can make a significant impact in the financial stability of households.

The Child Tax Credit was claimed by over 13 percent of households in both counties in 2013, a smaller percentage than Pennsylvania as a whole. The average Child Tax Credit amount per return was around \$1,200 in all regions.

Tax Credits - Lackawanna							
Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return	
2011	100,231	16,427	16.4%	\$2,015	13,837	13.8%	\$1,260
2012	99,050	16,608	16.8%	\$2,067	13,403	13.5%	\$1,248
2013	98,800	17,286	17.5%	\$2,130	13,083	13.2%	\$1,241

Source: The Brookings Institute EITC Interactive Data

Tax Credits - Luzerne							
Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return	
2011	152,583	27,481	18.0%	\$2,099	21,593	14.2%	\$1,193
2012	149,748	26,890	18.0%	\$2,138	20,451	13.7%	\$1,195
2013	149,628	27,845	18.6%	\$2,191	20,076	13.4%	\$1,183

Source: The Brookings Institute EITC Interactive Data

Tax Credits - Pennsylvania							
Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return	
2011	5,805,516	904,343	15.6%	\$2,071	872,406	15.0%	\$1,269
2012	5,794,438	902,742	15.6%	\$2,126	850,707	14.7%	\$1,263
2013	5,800,722	928,974	16.0%	\$2,187	827,796	14.3%	\$1,257

Source: The Brookings Institute EITC Interactive Data



Health & Health Care

Health & Health Care



Health and Health Care

The Health and Healthcare section of this report identifies important health indicators in Pennsylvania, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, including death from health conditions such as cancer and heart disease; infant and child mortality; childhood lead exposure; ; teen pregnancy; unhealthy behaviors such as cigarette smoking, excessive drinking, and lack of exercise; health insurance status; obesity; and the availability of health care facilities such as general acute care hospitals and nursing homes.

The rate of death from cancer is an indicator that is affected both by behaviors (such as smoking, which is known to cause various types of cancer) and by healthcare (cancer death rates decline as access to the latest treatments improves). In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the age-adjusted cancer death rate has fluctuated significantly from year to year so a definitive trend could not be identified; the statewide rate has trended gradually downward. For all three geographies, the rate of cancer death is lower in 2013 than in 2008, which may suggest a trend toward improvement.

The age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease, another leading cause death in the U.S., is similarly impacted both by health-related behaviors and access to health care. In both counties and Pennsylvania, the rate of death by heart disease was lower in 2013 than in 2008. This indicator dropped to its lowest level in the six years analyzed for Lackawanna County, though the rate did show an increase in 2013 in Luzerne County. For Luzerne County and Pennsylvania, the rate of teen pregnancy has been gradually declining over the past several years. Lackawanna County saw fluctuation of its teen pregnancy rate. All three geographic areas had a lower rate of teen pregnancies in 2013 than in 2008.

A new indicator being tracked in this year's report is childhood lead poisoning, as identified in screenings of children ages 15 and younger. Statewide, the number of lead poisoning cases identified has dropped even as the percentage of children screened has risen over the past ten years. However, in Lackawanna County, fewer children are being screened for lead poisoning.

Many health conditions, including but not limited to heart disease and cancer, are impacted by personal behavior. Making healthy lifestyle choices is extremely important. Eating healthy can be costly and access to healthy food can be limited, and at a time when many area residents are unemployed or underemployed and living with low or moderate incomes, healthy choices are not always a top priority. In three key health-related behaviors, the area performs worse than the state as a whole. Cigarette smoking, excessive drinking, and lack of exercise in the past month are all more prevalent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties than the state as a whole. Though there are some improvement in the rates of smoking and excessive drinking, lack of physical activity is a growing problem in the region. The region's high adult obesity rate is likely closely related to the lack of physical exercise. In both counties, the adult obesity rate has approached 30 percent in recent years, and Lackawanna County has seen a particularly dramatic rate of increase in obesity. No new data was available on childhood obesity for this year's report, but this is certainly still a pressing public health issue in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as childhood obesity is closely correlated with obesity as well as negative health outcomes in adulthood.

Additionally, the rate of area residents covered by health insurance has improved gradually between 2010 and 2014 in the region. From 2013 to 2014, the percent of area residents covered by private health insurance grew, while public health insurance declined slightly. This is a reversal of trends seen in past years. The most recent health insurance data is from 2014. As a result, the long-term impact of the Affordable Care Act on health insurance coverage rates remains to be fully seen. Penalties for failure to have a minimum level of health insurance coverage did not begin until 2015.

Finally, the cost of health care is an important concern. Though Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are home to a number of health care resources and the number of beds available in hospitals and nursing homes have not declined significantly, access could be impeded by cost for those who are underinsured and uninsured. This issue has been identified in past Indicators reports, and updated data has shown no sign of improvement. The daily private hospital room rate has increased by four percent in Luzerne County and by over 55 percent in Lackawanna County the last three years. The semi-private daily room rate for nursing home facilities has also grown at a rapid pace: six percent in Lackawanna County and 22 percent in Luzerne County since 2010.

Cancer & Heart Disease Teen Pregnancy

Cancer

Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as well as Pennsylvania have reported fluctuating cancer death rates over the past six years. In 2008, Lackawanna County had an age-adjusted rate of death by cancer of 206.2. The rate fell to 180.9 by 2013, a decrease of 12 percent, though this is higher than the recent low seen in 2010. Luzerne County also saw a significant decline from 2008 to 2010, followed by smaller increases. In Luzerne County, the age-adjusted rate of death by cancer is about five percent lower in 2013 than in 2008. Pennsylvania's cancer death rates are lower than both counties and have demonstrated a consistent downward trend since 2008.

Heart Disease

Pennsylvania's age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease saw a slow but steady reduction from 2008 to 2012, with a slight increase again in 2013.

Still, the statewide heart disease death rate is nearly 14 percent lower in 2013 compared with 2008.

Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have also shown

decrease since 2008, however, Luzerne County's rate increased significantly from 2012 to 2013.

Lackawanna County saw a significant improvement of 18 percent from 2008 to 2012, aided by a large drop in the age-adjusted rate from 2012 to 2013. Despite these improvements, both counties have been and continue to be significantly above the state rate of death by heart disease.

Teen Pregnancy

From 2008 to 2013, Pennsylvania continued to report a shrinking rate of teen pregnancies. Teen pregnancies are defined here as pregnancies to females aged 15 to 17. The Commonwealth finished 2013 with its lowest number and rate of teen pregnancies recorded of all the years analyzed. The rate of 10.2 was 37 percent lower than the 2008 rate of 16.3.

Both counties also saw a significant improvement from 2008 to 2013 – a drop in the rate of teen pregnancy of 19 percent in Lackawanna County and 43 percent in Luzerne County. Lackawanna County has generally had teen pregnancy rates at or below the statewide rate, except for a peak in 2012. Luzerne County's rate has generally been slightly higher than the Commonwealth as a whole.



“From 2008 to 2012, Pennsylvania continued to report a shrinking rate of teen pregnancies.”

Cancer Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	206.2	193.6	166.7	183.7	177.0	180.9
Luzerne	199.7	192.2	174.4	174.5	179.6	189.3
Pennsylvania	187.9	184.0	180.1	176.4	173.8	170.1

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Heart Disease Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	256.0	245.0	247.4	225.2	236.5	209.4
Luzerne	244.3	226.7	219.8	218.6	196.0	222.3
Pennsylvania	207.3	190.8	185.3	184.1	175.2	178.4

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Teen Pregnancy Rate (crude rate per 1,000)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	12.7	12.2	13.8	11.3	15.8	10.3
Luzerne	19.1	16.1	16.1	13.9	13.8	10.9
Pennsylvania	16.3	14.5	14.2	13.0	11.9	10.2

Source: PA Department of Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning



Childhood Lead Poisoning

The number of cases of children with blood lead levels higher than 10 micrograms per deciliter has fluctuated in both counties, but there has been a significant downward trend since 2011. In 2011, there were a combined 87 cases in the two counties, compared with just 43 in 2013. However, at least part of this decrease is likely due to fewer children in Lackawanna County being screened in 2013 compared with 2011. Generally, the two counties have accounted for two to three percent of all cases of lead poisoning reported statewide.

Across Pennsylvania, the number of cases of lead poisoning has trended downward steadily since 2006, despite an increase in the percentage of children screened – in 2004, only about 12 percent of children two years and under were screened for lead statewide; in 2013, that figure was 26 percent.

Childhood Lead Poisoning					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania
	#	% of PA	#	% of PA	#
2004	36	1.2%	40	1.3%	3,089
2005	30	0.9%	47	1.3%	3,498
2006	31	0.8%	38	1.0%	3,691
2007	37	1.2%	68	2.3%	3,003
2008	33	1.1%	69	2.2%	3,123
2009	35	1.2%	49	1.7%	2,862
2010	36	1.3%	36	1.3%	2,725
2011	42	2.0%	45	2.2%	2,050
2012	20	1.1%	33	1.7%	1,902
2013	11	0.7%	32	1.9%	1,648

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health
Figures represent total number of children under age 16 with Blood Lead Levels greater than 10 µg/dL

Infant Mortality Death Rate of Children Under Five

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate has fluctuated somewhat over the last decade in all three geographies. Pennsylvania's infant mortality rate (measured per 1,000 live births) has declined from 2007 to 2011, but rose by 0.5 points in 2012. It then declined to 6.7 in 2013, the second lowest of all years analyzed. In Lackawanna County, the infant mortality rate fell from 9.1 to 5.0 from 2011 to 2013, while in Luzerne County, the rate spiked to 10.9 in 2012 and then fall back to 6.3. Both counties' rates were lower than the statewide rate in 2013, after being higher than the statewide rate in 2012. The significant fluctuation in the infant mortality rates does not indicate a specific trend upward or downward in the two-county region of the Commonwealth.

“Both counties had a lower child death rate than Pennsylvania as a whole in 2013.”

Infant Mortality Rate											
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	7.4	5.8	4.9	6.1	6.3	8.2	5.2	8.3	9.1	7.6	5.0
Luzerne	10.8	4.5	8.6	9.1	5.7	6.9	5.4	6.9	6.0	10.9	6.3
Pennsylvania	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.3	6.5	7.0	6.7

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Death Rate of Children Under Five

Pennsylvania's death rate for children under age five has fluctuated since 2003. In 2013, the Commonwealth's child death rate decreased to 147.2, near its recent low of 146.8 in 2011. The child death rate for Pennsylvania has trended generally downward since peaking in 2007 at 175.3.

The rates for the two counties have varied greatly since 2003. In both counties, however, the child death rate decreased significantly from 2012 to 2013. The improvement in the rate was 26 percent in Lackawanna County and 38 percent in Luzerne County. Furthermore, both counties had a lower child death rate than Pennsylvania as a whole in 2013.

Rate of Death of Children Younger Than 5											
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	154.9	127.2	126.8	161.6	159.3	200.4	122.1	216.3	200.3	156.3	115.4
Luzerne	237.9	109.0	191.9	183.2	162.6	160.6	129.1	145.2	123.4	229.9	142.2
Pennsylvania	167.2	162.8	166.3	174.4	175.3	170.0	158.3	159.3	146.8	157.0	147.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Suicide Rate Health Behaviors



“All three of the negative behaviors analyzed are more prevalent in the two counties than the Commonwealth as a whole for each time period.”

Suicide Rate

In 2013, both counties' age-adjusted suicide rates were somewhat higher than the statewide rate. The rates stood at 15.4 and 15.3 for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties respectively, both lower than in 2008. There has been a large degree of fluctuation in the rates in both counties; however, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have generally surpassed the Commonwealth's rate for most years analyzed.

Suicide Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lackawanna	15.8	13.3	16.2	12.1	14.6	15.4
Luzerne	16.2	11.7	14.1	18.3	15.6	15.3
Pennsylvania	11.9	12.2	11.7	12.9	12.1	13.3

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Health Behaviors

Though updated data was not available for this year's report, many chronic conditions are linked with behaviors. Smoking, drinking, and lack of exercise are associated with heart disease, lung cancer, high blood pressure, and diabetes among other health issues. The behaviors studied were cigarette smoking, excessive drinking, and having reported no physical exercise in the past month. All three of the negative behaviors analyzed are more prevalent in the two counties than the Commonwealth as a whole for each time period.

The rate of cigarette smoking in the two counties is falling slowly but steadily. Of the three geographies, the improvement has been most noticeable in Lackawanna County, where the rate of cigarette smoking has fallen by nearly 15 percent, or four percentage points. In Luzerne County, the rate has fallen by just under eight percent, or about two percentage points. Statewide, there has been a ten percent decrease in the rate of cigarette smoking. Despite these improvements, the cigarette smoking prevalence is much higher in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties than the state as a whole.

Similarly, the rate of excessive drinking is also slowly improving in the two counties, though Lackawanna County saw a one percentage point increase between the most recent two time periods examined. In both counties, the rate of excessive drinking is about two percent lower from the first to the last time period analyzed. Statewide, the rate of excessive drinking is lower, and the improvement in the rate has been more significant.

The percentage of adults with no exercise in the past month has increased in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, and both counties have a higher percentage of adults without exercise than Pennsylvania as a whole. The problem is particularly notable in Luzerne County, where 29 percent of adults reported not exercising in the past month as of the most recent data set.

Adult Cigarette Smoking Prevalence				
	2003 - 2009	2004 - 2010	2005 - 2011	2006 - 2012
Lackawanna	27.1%	25.4%	23.7%	23.1%
Luzerne	26.7%	26.6%	25.6%	24.6%
Pennsylvania	22.2%	21.3%	20.7%	19.9%

Source: Health Indicators Warehouse

Adult Excessive Drinking Prevalence				
	2003 - 2009	2004 - 2010	2005 - 2011	2006 - 2012
Lackawanna	24.0%	-	22.5%	23.5%
Luzerne	20.4%	-	20.7%	19.9%
Pennsylvania	17.9%	-	17.3%	17.3%

Data for 2004 - 2010 period is not available.
Source: Health Indicators Warehouse

Adults With No Exercise in Past Month				
	2003 - 2009	2004 - 2010	2005 - 2011	2006 - 2012
Lackawanna	24.9%	25.3%	25.4%	25.5%
Luzerne	27.1%	28.3%	28.0%	29.0%
Pennsylvania	24.4%	24.8%	24.9%	24.5%

Source: Health Indicators Warehouse

Hospitals Health Insurance Coverage

Hospitals

This data on hospitals only includes general acute care hospitals. For Lackawanna County, the total number of hospitals decreased from four to three in 2014 when Mid Valley transitioned to an outpatient center. Since then, both Luzerne and Lackawanna County have maintained three hospitals each. Statewide, the number of hospitals dropped from 159 to 157 between 2012-13 and 2013-14, and remained the same in 2014-2015. Over the time period analyzed, Luzerne hospital beds increased to 837, while Lackawanna decreased to 693. For both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the total number of beds and the number of beds per 1,000 residents remained relatively consistent during the period of time measured. Lackawanna County has generally had more hospital beds per 1,000 residents than Pennsylvania as a whole, while Luzerne County has generally had fewer.

There has been an increase in the daily private room rate for a hospital room. Between 2011-2012 and the most recent data, the daily room rate for a private room increased by 55 percent for Lackawanna County and just under four percent for Luzerne County. In addition to the general acute care hospitals included in this data, the region also has a number of specialty hospitals. The data from these specialized facilities are not reflected in the data tables.



“Between 2011-2012 and the most recent data, the daily room rate for a private room increased by 55 percent for Lackawanna County and 37 percent for Luzerne County.”

	General Acute Care Hospitals								Pennsylvania			
	Lackawanna County				Luzerne County				2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Total Hospitals	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	159	159	157	157
Total Beds	737	737	697	693	812	836	836	837	35,623	35,895	35,564	35,536
Beds per 1,000	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Daily Room Rate	\$1,205	\$1,345	\$1,709	\$1,871	\$1,524	\$1,455	\$1,620	\$1,580	-	-	-	-

*Daily Room Rate is for private room.
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

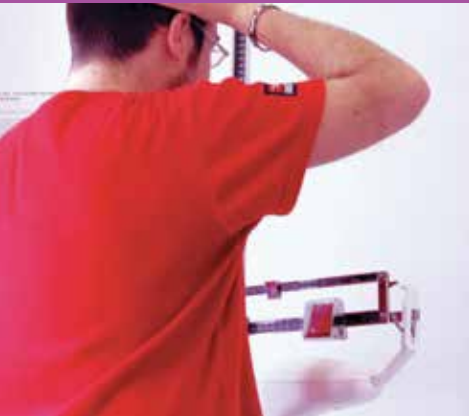
Health Insurance Coverage

In Pennsylvania, 91.5 percent of the population was covered by health insurance in 2014, continuing a trend of small but steady increases over the past several years. Statewide, the percent of the population covered by public health coverage has increased, as has the percent covered by private health coverage. For Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, there have been similar incremental gains in the percent of the population with health insurance coverage. In both counties, the percentage of those with public health insurance fell; but there were more significant gains in the percent of the population with private health insurance between 2013 and 2014. The percentage of children without health insurance rose slightly in both Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, reaching 4.6 percent and 5.7 percent respectively.

	Health Insurance Coverage														
	Lackawanna					Luzerne					Pennsylvania				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
With Health Insurance	89.6%	90.7%	90.7%	92.3%	92.5%	89.0%	90.7%	90.2%	90.4%	91.7%	89.8%	89.9%	90.2%	90.3%	91.5%
Private Health Insurance	71.4%	72.8%	72.4%	71.5%	73.4%	69.2%	70.1%	69.8%	69.6%	71.8%	72.9%	72.0%	72.1%	72.2%	73.2%
Public Health Insurance	32.0%	32.5%	33.9%	36.9%	35.0%	35.9%	36.8%	36.4%	37.9%	37.0%	31.3%	31.8%	32.2%	32.3%	32.8%
No Health Insurance Coverage	10.4%	9.3%	9.3%	7.7%	7.5%	11.0%	9.3%	9.8%	9.6%	8.3%	10.2%	10.1%	9.8%	9.7%	8.3%
No Health Insurance Coverage - Under 18	5.3%	4.5%	2.9%	4.0%	4.6%	6.8%	2.8%	5.0%	3.8%	5.7%	5.2%	5.4%	5.1%	5.4%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Obesity Long-Term Care Facilities

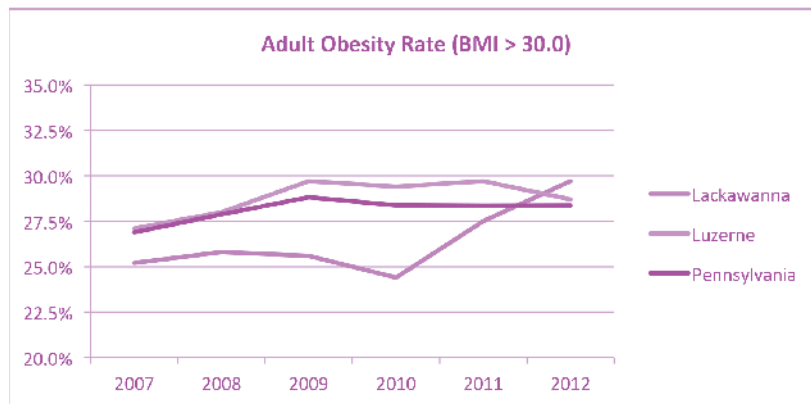


Obesity

The adult obesity rate in both counties and Pennsylvania were higher in 2012 than 2007. Lackawanna County has seen the largest growth in the adult obesity rate – from about 25 percent in 2007 to nearly 30 percent just five years later. The obesity rate in Luzerne County has also approached 30 percent in some years. Since 2009, the statewide rate has appeared to plateau.

Adult Obesity Rate (BMI > 30.0)						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Lackawanna	25.2%	25.8%	25.6%	24.4%	27.5%	29.7%
Luzerne	27.1%	28.0%	29.7%	29.4%	29.7%	28.7%
Pennsylvania	26.9%	27.9%	28.8%	28.4%	28.4%	28.4%

Source: Centers for Disease Control, via Community Commons



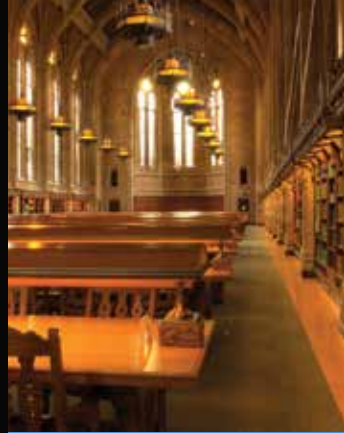
Long-Term Care Facilities

The number of nursing homes in Pennsylvania has shown decreases since 2011. In Luzerne County, the number has held steady at 25, while Lackawanna County gained one between 2013 and 2014, bringing its total to 19. The number of beds per 1,000 residents aged 65 and older has fluctuated minimally in both counties, but is consistently higher than the statewide number of beds per 1,000 residents age 65 or older.

The two counties have reported significant increases in daily room rates at long term care facilities. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw increases of six and 22 percent, respectively, in the semi-private room rate from 2010 to 2014.

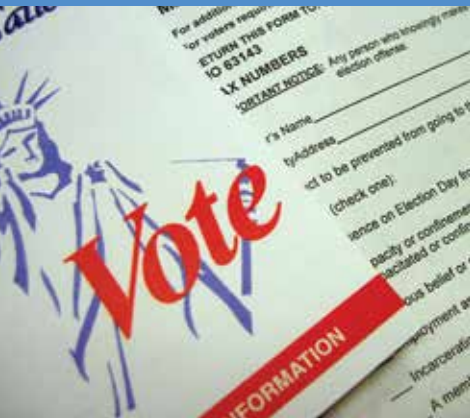
	Nursing Homes														
	2010			2011			2012			2013			2014		
	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate
Lackawanna	19	62.1	\$264	18	57.5	\$267	18	60.7	\$282	18	60.1	\$259	19	60.3	\$281
Luzerne	25	48.1	\$238	25	48.1	\$257	25	47.2	\$266	25	46.1	\$273	25	46.0	\$290
Pennsylvania	713	45.3	\$267	713	44.7	\$276	711	43.4	-	704	42.2	-	702	41.3	-

*Daily Room Rate is for Semi-Private Room
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*



Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement



Civic Engagement

The Civic Engagement section of the report identifies important indicators in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including: charitable organizations; non-profit organizations; arts, culture, and humanities organizations; library circulation; voter turnout and veterans.

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. (Civic Responsibility and Higher Education, Oryx Press, 2000I).

Charitable organizations of all types contribute to the community's overall health, welfare, and vitality. They engage in activities such as grantmaking, advocacy, research, organizing, and service provision. Organizations address a broad array of topics including arts and culture, education, the environment, public health, socioeconomic issues, animal welfare, recreation, and more. In addition to statistics on the total number, revenue, and assets of all nonprofit organizations, this report tracks two major classifications of charitable organizations: public charities and private foundations. Furthermore, data specific to arts, culture, and humanities nonprofits are also examined. Each table includes both the total number of registered organizations, and the number of those organizations that have filed Form 990.

The total number of not-for-profit organizations in Pennsylvania increased slightly between 2014 and 2015. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, a decline has been apparent over the last several years, but with a slight reversal from 2013 forward. In 2000, Lackawanna was home to 1.9 percent of the Commonwealth's nonprofit organizations, but that decreased to 1.5 percent in 2014 and has remained stagnant throughout the past year. In Luzerne County, this figure fell from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 1.9 percent in 2013 and has remained stagnant over the next three years. In Lackawanna County, non-profit organizations' revenues seen increasing and decreasing trends throughout the past few years, while total reported assets have changed minimally. In Luzerne County, both revenues and assets of non-profit organizations are showing growth after plummeting between 2009 and 2010.

The number of private charities in both counties grew in 2015. In Lackawanna County, the number of private foundations increased by five, while in Luzerne County, the number of private foundations increased by one. Compared to the state, the two county region's public charities and private foundations make up a relatively small share of statewide revenues and assets for these types of organizations. This suggests that the region's non-profit landscape is made up of a number of relatively small organizations.

A community's cultural resources are essential for creating a positive environment for economic expansion and ensuring vibrant communities. The total number of art, culture, and humanities nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania has experienced declines in the past several years, having peaked in 2007. Lackawanna County saw a peak in the total number of art, culture and humanities nonprofit organizations in 2010. Since then, there has been a 57 percent decrease between in 2010 and 2015. Luzerne County saw its peak in these organizations in in 2006 one year prior to the state. Since then, the number of organizations decreased by almost 75 percent, however, between 2014 and 2015, the county saw a 13 percent increase in these organizations. Despite a declining number of organizations, the total revenue and total assets reported by these nonprofits on Form 990 have not experienced the same notable decline.

Not only are libraries an important community resource, but library data is useful in determining the availability and utilization of community resources. In 2013, Lackawanna and Luzerne County libraries reported a slight decrease in total circulation from the previous year, as well as lower circulation per capita. Simultaneously, Pennsylvania reported very small increases in both circulation and circulation per capita. From 2000-2013, Pennsylvania has maintained a relatively stable number of libraries. The number of libraries in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties has remained at eight and eleven, respectively, for all years analyzed. The number of library registrations statewide has fluctuated within small margins since 2000. Library registration in Luzerne County peaked in 2006, but between that year and 2012, registration count declined by 15 percent. In 2013, the number of registered library user grew a staggering amount. Library registrations in Lackawanna County peaked in 2004, and such registrations have fluctuated in a downward trend since then; declining in each of the last six years analyzed.

Voter turnout is another important indicator of civic engagement. This report tracks the total number of registered voters eligible to vote in the November election of each year and the voter turnout for those elections. In 2012, the most recent presidential election, 68 percent of registered voters turned out for Pennsylvania general elections. With voter participation rates of 66 and 65 percent, respectively, Lackawanna and Luzerne County reported slightly lower voter turnouts than the state that year. Voter turnout in 2013 was down in both counties; this is unsurprising because that election mainly featured local-level offices. In 2014, a gubernatorial election year, voter turnout continued to drop in Luzerne County, falling to 18 percent. Turnout in Lackawanna County increased to 41 percent. The 2014 election had the lowest percentage of Luzerne County voter participation of all years examined. In 2015, the roles reversed between the counties, Luzerne increasing and Lackawanna hitting new lows.



Veterans

The number of military veterans in a community can be telling of the community's success in making veterans feel comfortable and cared for; it can also show the need for social services, health care, and housing directed towards the unique needs of veterans. In Pennsylvania, the number of veterans has been decreasing steadily over the past five years, dropping from 10.1 percent of the population in 2009 to 8.1 percent in 2014. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have had both increases and decreases in their veteran population, but ultimately have had a significant decline as well over the past several years. The most significant decline is seen in Luzerne County, which went from 12.5 percent to 9.0 percent from 2009 to 2014. The data on veterans for the year 2015 has not been released yet.

Veterans: Lackawanna County						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Number of Veterans	18,334	19,068	19,481	17,445	15,540	15,584
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	11.1%	11.1%	11.4%	10.2%	9.1%	9.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year estimates

Veterans: Luzerne County						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Number of Veterans	31,151	28,083	30,553	27,139	24,335	22,972
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	12.5%	11.0%	11.9%	10.5%	9.5%	9.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year estimates

Veterans: Pennsylvania						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Number of Veterans	988,006	981,646	954,659	929,094	849,690	821,624
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	10.1%	10.0%	9.6%	9.3%	8.4%	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year estimates

Non-Profit Organizations



“In 2015, the total number of non-profit organizations increased to 983 and 1,277 in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively.”

Non-Profit Organizations

From 2000 to 2012, Lackawanna County’s number of registered non-profit organizations saw little fluctuation. The total number of organizations dropped significantly from 2012 to 2013, and then rebounded in 2014 and 2015. Total revenue decreased by over \$500 million from 2012 to 2014 but saw a small growth in 2015. The total value of assets reported by those organizations has trended upward, nearing \$2 billion in 2014. And surpassing that mark in 2015.

The total number of non-profit organizations continued to increase in Luzerne County in 2015 after dropping between 2012 and 2013. In Luzerne County, total revenue and assets have both been trending upward over the last few years. Revenue reached nearly \$880 million in 2014, and assets topped \$1.5 billion as compared to 2015 where Total Revenue dropped a staggering amount as Assets continued its steady incline. Together, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties account for 3.4 percent of all nonprofit organizations in the Commonwealth, 1.8 percent of all nonprofit revenue, and 1.2 percent of all nonprofit assets. This shows that the nonprofit environment in the region is largely made up of numerous relatively small organizations.

The total number of not-for-profit organizations in Pennsylvania followed a slightly upward trend over the past decade, but fell sharply between 2012 and 2013. Total revenue reported has grown slowly but steadily over the last few years. Assets held by non-profit organizations across Pennsylvania are nearing the 300 billion mark.

In 2015, the total number on non-profits in Pennsylvania increased to 66,966, the revenue increased by around \$14 billion, and the assets reported increased by around \$18 billion. Lackawanna County has 37 more non-profit organizations than last year. Luzerne County’s non-profit organizations increased by 33, but the revenues actually decreased by almost \$28 million while the assets grew three-fold of the losses.

Pennsylvania Total Non-Profit Organizations				
	Number of Registered Organizations	Number of Organizations Filing	Total Revenue Reported	Assets Reported
2000	55,913	24,358	\$ 46,616,385,035	\$ 132,516,514,397
2001	57,449	25,646	\$ 66,700,785,424	\$ 141,515,641,484
2002	58,396	25,735	\$ 69,290,933,978	\$ 148,993,503,673
2003	61,197	27,116	\$ 69,891,452,639	\$ 148,642,153,701
2004	62,041	28,474	\$ 80,167,431,454	\$ 162,282,463,135
2005	62,287	28,610	\$ 85,790,007,894	\$ 173,326,005,884
2006	63,596	29,003	\$ 92,848,296,899	\$ 184,524,814,638
2007	64,825	29,766	\$ 99,598,568,416	\$ 208,724,113,112
2008	66,298	39,436	\$ 103,125,934,179	\$ 217,726,387,107
2009	68,123	42,442	\$ 99,048,179,389	\$ 204,863,308,716
2010	69,719	48,316	\$ 96,716,176,172	\$ 211,812,490,477
2011	73,318	57,880	\$ 103,722,195,789	\$ 229,003,562,503
2012	72,464	56,441	\$ 108,852,183,383	\$ 365,010,621,362
2013	63,304	51,465	\$ 110,004,532,545	\$ 251,643,194,628
2014	64,872	31,153	\$ 113,977,365,071	\$ 280,403,877,072
2015	66,966	31,609	\$ 127,806,759,252	\$ 298,659,444,513

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Non-Profit Organizations

Lackawanna Total Non-Profit Organizations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	1,057	1.9%	404	1.7%	\$ 837,004,605	1.8%	\$ 1,463,800,830	1.1%
2001	1,058	1.8%	428	1.7%	\$ 1,044,203,846	1.6%	\$ 1,540,095,071	1.1%
2002	1,067	1.8%	424	1.6%	\$ 1,083,970,635	1.6%	\$ 1,517,627,849	1.0%
2003	1,122	1.8%	446	1.6%	\$ 1,119,993,576	1.6%	\$ 1,512,144,624	1.0%
2004	1,081	1.7%	426	1.5%	\$ 1,350,297,947	1.7%	\$ 2,548,514,951	1.6%
2005	1,074	1.7%	428	1.5%	\$ 1,241,490,576	1.4%	\$ 1,563,753,698	0.9%
2006	1,092	1.7%	430	1.5%	\$ 1,286,519,669	1.4%	\$ 1,645,814,171	0.9%
2007	1,094	1.7%	439	1.5%	\$ 1,340,178,125	1.3%	\$ 1,756,937,065	0.8%
2008	1,057	1.6%	640	1.6%	\$ 1,590,635,644	1.5%	\$ 1,892,443,410	0.9%
2009	1,090	1.6%	685	1.6%	\$ 1,629,486,080	1.6%	\$ 1,851,052,708	0.9%
2010	1,127	1.6%	760	1.6%	\$ 1,578,239,112	1.6%	\$ 1,829,349,738	0.9%
2011	1,075	1.5%	827	1.4%	\$ 1,683,676,221	1.6%	\$ 1,944,232,364	0.8%
2012	1,040	1.4%	781	1.4%	\$ 1,735,360,691	1.6%	\$ 1,982,598,290	0.5%
2013	898	1.4%	731	1.4%	\$ 1,201,562,054	1.1%	\$ 1,939,700,899	0.8%
2014	946	1.5%	399	1.3%	\$ 1,126,169,326	1.0%	\$ 1,995,215,028	0.7%
2015	983	1.5%	419	1.3%	\$ 1,218,006,390	1.0%	\$ 2,089,871,289	0.7%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Luzerne Total Non-Profit Organizations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	1,578	2.8%	475	2.0%	\$ 548,724,717	1.2%	\$ 1,242,619,479	0.9%
2001	1,573	2.7%	480	1.9%	\$ 741,849,438	1.1%	\$ 1,244,051,489	0.9%
2002	1,564	2.7%	472	1.8%	\$ 749,003,626	1.1%	\$ 1,234,436,151	0.8%
2003	1,613	2.6%	515	1.9%	\$ 762,157,688	1.1%	\$ 1,228,697,426	0.8%
2004	1,611	2.6%	542	1.9%	\$ 849,370,448	1.1%	\$ 1,314,653,385	0.8%
2005	1,600	2.6%	538	1.9%	\$ 910,371,845	1.1%	\$ 1,376,863,298	0.8%
2006	1,630	2.6%	559	1.9%	\$ 977,262,812	1.1%	\$ 1,464,871,072	0.8%
2007	1,623	2.5%	553	1.9%	\$ 1,025,793,418	1.0%	\$ 1,509,582,950	0.7%
2008	1,565	2.4%	776	2.0%	\$ 1,097,504,540	1.1%	\$ 1,629,190,965	0.7%
2009	1,579	2.3%	836	2.0%	\$ 1,108,874,688	1.1%	\$ 1,604,778,374	0.8%
2010	1,487	2.1%	950	2.0%	\$ 779,213,688	0.8%	\$ 1,234,289,185	0.6%
2011	1,284	1.8%	952	1.6%	\$ 751,932,318	0.7%	\$ 1,320,104,783	0.6%
2012	1,251	1.7%	888	1.6%	\$ 851,058,484	0.8%	\$ 1,354,833,320	0.4%
2013	1,199	1.9%	954	1.9%	\$ 790,915,822	0.7%	\$ 1,374,322,459	0.5%
2014	1,244	1.9%	520	1.7%	\$ 879,712,557	0.8%	\$ 1,501,216,795	0.5%
2015	1,277	1.9%	536	1.7%	\$ 861,682,194	0.7%	\$ 1,601,032,700	0.5%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Public Charities

Public Charities

From 2000 to 2010, Pennsylvania saw an increasing trend in registered public charities as well as the total revenue and assets reported by those charities. From 2010 to 2013, the total number of public charities declined, but has been growing steadily from there on out. Over the last several years, both revenue and assets have continued on an upward trajectory. Like Pennsylvania, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties also experienced a peak of registered public charities in 2010, followed by a general decline. Pennsylvania and Luzerne County however set new highs in registered organizations, while Lackawanna Count experienced another year of growth.

In 2015, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties experienced different trends when it came to total revenue. Lackawanna saw a sizeable growth of nearly 100 million dollars while Luzerne County saw a loss of roughly 20 million. However, the Assets Reported in both counties grew substantial amounts.

Pennsylvania Public Charities				
Year	Number of Registered Organizations	Number of Organizations Filing	Total Revenue Reported	Assets Reported
2000	26,854	12,580	\$ 32,271,136,055	\$ 86,935,157,379
2001	28,304	13,469	\$ 51,483,537,639	\$ 93,875,359,245
2002	29,295	13,697	\$ 54,265,866,021	\$ 97,346,156,454
2003	31,668	14,665	\$ 56,295,977,569	\$ 98,429,536,131
2004	33,216	15,737	\$ 62,929,785,680	\$ 108,095,396,846
2005	33,905	15,917	\$ 66,769,587,875	\$ 117,938,587,571
2006	34,956	16,214	\$ 71,805,828,689	\$ 125,563,822,375
2007	36,600	16,833	\$ 77,075,199,986	\$ 143,852,665,868
2008	38,857	21,874	\$ 84,134,505,129	\$ 145,401,717,546
2009	39,888	23,452	\$ 82,816,613,273	\$ 139,874,307,344
2010	41,109	25,699	\$ 79,458,360,558	\$ 138,922,591,371
2011	38,190	26,894	\$ 84,533,448,746	\$ 153,238,223,226
2012	38,013	26,394	\$ 89,199,975,318	\$ 162,246,362,223
2013	37,580	28,005	\$ 88,095,141,462	\$ 169,012,927,406
2014	40,188	17,001	\$ 92,211,839,272	\$ 198,507,868,297
2015	42,211	17,393	\$ 102,249,286,101	\$ 211,964,064,117

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Lackawanna Public Charities								
Year	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	452	1.7%	215	1.7%	\$ 786,303,571	2.4%	\$ 1,229,519,189	1.4%
2001	468	1.7%	233	1.7%	\$ 983,578,691	1.9%	\$ 1,286,523,882	1.4%
2002	474	1.6%	220	1.6%	\$ 1,027,192,518	1.9%	\$ 1,266,076,695	1.3%
2003	498	1.6%	232	1.6%	\$ 1,055,966,366	1.9%	\$ 1,265,392,760	1.3%
2004	488	1.5%	236	1.5%	\$ 1,114,993,866	1.8%	\$ 1,287,650,184	1.2%
2005	491	1.4%	243	1.5%	\$ 1,180,668,494	1.8%	\$ 1,331,120,663	1.1%
2006	506	1.4%	254	1.6%	\$ 1,221,252,384	1.7%	\$ 1,417,689,895	1.1%
2007	525	1.4%	260	1.5%	\$ 1,278,388,691	1.7%	\$ 1,529,350,979	1.1%
2008	525	1.4%	313	1.4%	\$ 1,508,956,450	1.8%	\$ 1,597,173,978	1.1%
2009	545	1.4%	344	1.5%	\$ 1,565,930,312	1.9%	\$ 1,619,946,796	1.2%
2010	587	1.4%	397	1.5%	\$ 1,518,521,366	1.9%	\$ 1,599,543,183	1.1%
2011	545	1.4%	388	1.4%	\$ 1,620,610,318	1.9%	\$ 1,662,397,205	1.1%
2012	547	1.4%	379	1.4%	\$ 1,669,815,605	1.9%	\$ 1,695,236,712	1.0%
2013	499	1.3%	375	1.3%	\$ 1,143,238,539	1.3%	\$ 1,669,424,437	1.0%
2014	538	1.3%	234	1.4%	\$ 1,077,567,737	1.1%	\$ 1,743,159,077	0.8%
2015	571	1.4%	255	1.5%	\$ 1,165,807,781	1.1%	\$ 1,825,516,477	0.9%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Luzerne Public Charities								
Year	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	490	1.8%	225	1.8%	\$ 497,688,343	1.5%	\$ 987,205,240	1.1%
2001	493	1.7%	225	1.7%	\$ 663,517,671	1.3%	\$ 979,696,340	1.0%
2002	509	1.7%	225	1.6%	\$ 677,317,263	1.2%	\$ 967,297,512	1.0%
2003	550	1.7%	245	1.7%	\$ 682,331,206	1.2%	\$ 973,396,689	1.0%
2004	572	1.7%	266	1.7%	\$ 759,627,994	1.2%	\$ 1,028,989,924	1.0%
2005	605	1.8%	281	1.8%	\$ 813,178,901	1.2%	\$ 1,064,291,111	0.9%
2006	624	1.8%	295	1.8%	\$ 868,699,837	1.2%	\$ 1,114,649,341	0.9%
2007	654	1.8%	298	1.8%	\$ 900,197,834	1.2%	\$ 1,112,932,237	0.8%
2008	665	1.7%	353	1.6%	\$ 992,419,298	1.2%	\$ 1,277,541,373	0.9%
2009	677	1.7%	380	1.6%	\$ 1,007,256,449	1.2%	\$ 1,258,278,172	0.9%
2010	710	1.7%	433	1.6%	\$ 682,123,305	0.9%	\$ 894,889,748	0.6%
2011	641	1.7%	440	1.6%	\$ 656,770,828	0.8%	\$ 968,990,463	0.6%
2012	634	1.7%	421	1.6%	\$ 745,161,292	0.8%	\$ 998,938,689	0.6%
2013	628	1.7%	453	1.6%	\$ 669,819,505	0.8%	\$ 1,056,578,491	0.6%
2014	670	1.6%	289	1.7%	\$ 770,961,961	0.8%	\$ 1,174,554,164	0.5%
2015	712	1.7%	304	1.7%	\$ 753,312,527	0.7%	\$ 1,251,258,172	0.6%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Private Charities

Private Charities

From 2000 to 2015, Lackawanna County's number of private foundations rose and fell within small margins. In 2015, a small increase of five private foundations was noted. This could account for the nearly doubling of the Total Revenue reported and the substantial assets growth.

Luzerne County has experienced some decreasing of private foundations in the past five years. In 2015, a small gain of one private foundation was had, though the Total Revenue grew a noteworthy amount of nearly 22 percent. Assets also rose sharply to surpass the old high and set a new record.

Organizations in the two counties amount to 1.9 percent of all of Pennsylvania's private foundations, but only 0.3 percent of all revenues and 0.4 percent of all assets reported by such organizations. Pennsylvania, after reaching its high in 2013, has seen another year of growth, reporting 5,402 registered foundations, and increase of nearly 200 organizations. Also, there was a corresponding increase in total revenue and assets reported.



“There is volatility in the range of revenue private foundations in the region have reported recently.”

Lackawanna Private Foundations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	47	1.2%	32	1.0%	\$4,118,684	0.1%	\$39,017,799	0.2%
2001	53	1.3%	43	1.3%	\$6,902,581	0.2%	\$45,011,640	0.2%
2002	57	1.4%	47	1.4%	\$2,715,055	0.1%	\$43,612,251	0.2%
2003	70	1.5%	56	1.6%	\$4,456,624	0.4%	\$45,885,468	0.2%
2004	48	1.0%	38	1.0%	\$2,686,353	0.1%	\$27,051,058	0.1%
2005	49	1.0%	38	1.0%	\$2,628,555	0.1%	\$25,706,391	0.1%
2006	52	1.1%	39	1.0%	\$2,461,752	0.1%	\$27,604,333	0.1%
2007	47	1.0%	37	0.9%	\$2,525,586	0.1%	\$26,132,775	0.1%
2008	52	1.0%	41	0.9%	\$2,707,115	0.1%	\$29,683,552	0.1%
2009	53	1.0%	41	0.9%	\$1,634,450	0.1%	\$28,908,839	0.1%
2010	47	0.9%	38	0.8%	\$990,043	0.0%	\$17,324,645	0.1%
2011	48	0.9%	43	0.8%	\$912,525	0.0%	\$21,024,419	0.1%
2012	46	0.8%	42	0.8%	\$1,763,379	0.1%	\$19,447,194	0.1%
2013	48	0.8%	47	0.8%	\$2,838,818	0.1%	\$22,792,728	0.1%
2014	48	0.9%	41	0.9%	\$2,148,881	0.1%	\$23,312,900	0.1%
2015	53	1.0%	49	1.0%	\$4,615,276	0.1%	\$36,225,318	0.1%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Luzerne Private Foundations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	49	1.3%	40	1.2%	\$7,988,892	0.3%	\$66,136,340	0.3%
2001	56	1.3%	44	1.3%	\$9,816,773	0.3%	\$68,057,281	0.3%
2002	60	1.4%	46	1.4%	\$5,136,930	0.2%	\$65,378,456	0.3%
2003	65	1.4%	52	1.5%	\$5,979,376	0.6%	\$74,621,587	0.4%
2004	62	1.4%	53	1.4%	\$8,377,243	0.3%	\$79,294,351	0.4%
2005	59	1.3%	50	1.3%	\$10,632,896	0.4%	\$81,741,846	0.4%
2006	65	1.3%	55	1.4%	\$12,015,042	0.3%	\$87,064,700	0.4%
2007	64	1.3%	53	1.3%	\$10,979,286	0.3%	\$90,283,790	0.3%
2008	60	1.2%	52	1.2%	\$8,173,136	0.3%	\$89,081,166	0.3%
2009	59	1.1%	50	1.1%	\$3,938,154	0.2%	\$85,542,229	0.3%
2010	62	1.1%	54	1.1%	\$1,938,397	0.1%	\$87,706,781	0.3%
2011	55	1.0%	52	1.0%	\$1,646,165	0.1%	\$81,178,928	0.2%
2012	58	1.0%	54	1.0%	\$7,565,120	0.3%	\$92,642,832	0.3%
2013	57	0.9%	55	0.9%	\$13,726,952	0.4%	\$79,087,880	0.2%
2014	52	1.0%	50	1.0%	\$6,644,062	0.2%	\$92,762,046	0.3%
2015	53	1.0%	49	1.0%	\$8,490,250	0.2%	\$114,561,448	0.3%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Pennsylvania Private Foundations				
	Number of Registered Organizations	Number of Organizations Filing	Total Revenue Reported	Assets Reported
2000	3,894	3,205	\$ 3,025,960,220	\$ 21,794,220,556
2001	4,152	3,388	\$ 3,048,604,463	\$ 22,254,653,759
2002	4,173	3,262	\$ 2,499,901,511	\$ 22,043,798,877
2003	4,598	3,519	\$ 1,081,388,766	\$ 21,084,549,227
2004	4,579	3,760	\$ 2,606,813,635	\$ 22,337,051,305
2005	4,669	3,817	\$ 2,735,711,658	\$ 22,648,057,221
2006	4,923	3,967	\$ 3,730,123,603	\$ 24,439,174,643
2007	4,922	4,069	\$ 4,247,485,607	\$ 26,334,503,329
2008	5,082	4,325	\$ 2,457,938,987	\$ 29,101,819,430
2009	5,263	4,396	\$ 1,887,033,740	\$ 34,122,390,288
2010	5,404	4,701	\$ 3,377,251,801	\$ 32,821,193,649
2011	5,426	5,214	\$ 2,710,713,892	\$ 33,713,017,626
2012	5,630	5,393	\$ 2,663,825,179	\$ 34,506,604,843
2013	6,192	6,040	\$ 3,284,172,380	\$ 36,466,208,582
2014	5,249	4,942	\$ 2,755,922,576	\$ 35,346,911,117
2015	5,402	5,059	\$ 4,826,050,405	\$ 37,388,662,728

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Arts, Culture, and Humanities Organizations



“Despite the decline in the number of arts, culture, and humanities organizations, these organizations’ reported revenue and reported assets have grown since 2000.”

Arts, Culture, and Humanities Organizations

In the first time since 2010 a year of development has been recorded for Lackawanna County in the field of Art, Culture, and Humanities Organizations. For the past five years a monumental loss of these organizations has occurred — more than half. Little increase was seen in the total revenue while losses were reported in the assets section.

After reaching its high in 2001, Luzerne County has also seen its first year increase in the number of registered arts organizations. Revenue grew, while assets decreased. This occurred after 13 years of losses, accounting for an 80 percent decrease in organizations.

The state was not immune to these down years as well. Pennsylvania experienced nearly eight years of decline, until 2014 and 2015. Increases in number of organizations, revenue, and assets were all recorded.

Arts, culture, and humanities organizations in the two counties comprise just under three percent of all such organizations in the Commonwealth. However, they represent only 1.2 percent of revenues and 0.6 percent of assets reported by arts, culture, and humanities organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

Lackawanna Art, Culture, and Humanities Organizations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	132	2.8%	23	1.4%	\$4,521,551	0.7%	\$12,482,254	0.4%
2001	131	2.8%	27	1.5%	\$6,550,473	0.6%	\$15,709,730	0.4%
2002	129	2.7%	23	1.3%	\$5,380,226	0.5%	\$17,995,918	0.5%
2003	147	2.9%	26	1.4%	\$5,549,846	0.5%	\$17,327,171	0.4%
2004	140	2.7%	24	1.2%	\$5,443,487	0.4%	\$17,189,535	0.4%
2005	147	2.9%	24	1.2%	\$10,149,642	0.8%	\$22,360,399	0.5%
2006	148	2.8%	24	1.1%	\$6,780,242	0.5%	\$23,530,743	0.5%
2007	146	2.8%	26	1.2%	\$8,344,981	0.5%	\$25,528,133	0.5%
2008	125	2.4%	91	2.8%	\$9,217,745	0.5%	\$25,512,312	0.5%
2009	130	2.5%	98	2.9%	\$7,540,231	0.6%	\$26,239,713	0.5%
2010	142	2.7%	113	2.8%	\$7,849,214	0.6%	\$25,247,630	0.5%
2011	128	2.7%	112	2.8%	\$8,378,635	0.6%	\$24,663,556	0.4%
2012	123	2.7%	90	2.3%	\$8,305,608	0.6%	\$23,400,765	0.4%
2013	55	1.3%	50	1.3%	\$8,926,267	0.6%	\$27,696,051	0.4%
2014	60	1.4%	23	1.1%	\$8,365,566	0.6%	\$21,877,231	0.3%
2015	61	1.4%	26	1.3%	\$9,395,042	0.6%	\$21,331,259	0.3%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Luzerne Art, Culture, and Humanities Organizations								
	Number of Registered Organizations	% of State	Number of Organizations Filing	% of State	Total Revenue Reported	% of State	Assets Reported	% of State
2000	298	6.4%	23	1.4%	\$1,318,910	0.2%	\$19,328,663	0.6%
2001	305	6.4%	21	1.2%	\$10,051,092	0.9%	\$19,689,634	0.6%
2002	292	6.2%	23	1.3%	\$10,816,973	1.0%	\$19,838,158	0.5%
2003	302	6.0%	26	1.4%	\$9,917,996	0.9%	\$14,503,942	0.4%
2004	297	5.8%	29	1.4%	\$10,417,460	0.8%	\$15,300,973	0.3%
2005	290	5.7%	28	1.4%	\$10,611,244	0.8%	\$18,130,698	0.4%
2006	290	5.6%	28	1.3%	\$11,179,701	0.8%	\$18,507,646	0.4%
2007	271	5.1%	28	1.3%	\$12,018,301	0.8%	\$19,776,139	0.4%
2008	252	4.9%	88	2.7%	\$12,952,184	0.8%	\$20,781,203	0.4%
2009	239	4.6%	87	2.4%	\$12,703,920	1.0%	\$17,966,411	0.3%
2010	132	2.5%	101	2.5%	\$11,270,228	0.9%	\$19,241,084	0.3%
2011	107	2.3%	96	2.4%	\$11,755,425	0.8%	\$20,792,698	0.4%
2012	107	2.3%	75	2.0%	\$11,624,558	0.8%	\$21,875,557	0.4%
2013	63	1.5%	56	1.5%	\$11,191,003	0.8%	\$20,720,340	0.3%
2014	67	1.5%	28	1.4%	\$10,135,973	0.7%	\$20,651,922	0.3%
2015	76	1.7%	28	1.4%	\$12,833,387	0.8%	\$20,102,689	0.3%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Pennsylvania Art, Culture, and Humanities Organizations				
	Number of Registered Organizations	Number of Organizations Filing	Total Revenue Reported	Assets Reported
2000	4,640	1,667	\$ 689,330,171	\$ 3,121,924,949
2001	4,749	1,781	\$ 1,116,734,173	\$ 3,512,096,011
2002	4,733	1,793	\$ 1,078,130,799	\$ 3,641,903,747
2003	5,059	1,912	\$ 1,079,269,642	\$ 3,947,506,318
2004	5,105	2,035	\$ 1,300,887,934	\$ 4,385,407,951
2005	5,101	2,053	\$ 1,261,271,338	\$ 4,625,656,159
2006	5,213	2,090	\$ 1,439,242,043	\$ 5,047,051,503
2007	5,266	2,151	\$ 1,577,541,414	\$ 5,575,735,183
2008	5,135	3,206	\$ 1,685,537,975	\$ 5,633,561,988
2009	5,237	3,420	\$ 1,334,969,269	\$ 5,389,712,552
2010	5,227	3,970	\$ 1,302,281,607	\$ 5,585,515,022
2011	4,656	4,057	\$ 1,406,510,213	\$ 5,862,522,742
2012	4,607	3,832	\$ 1,499,133,622	\$ 6,102,127,422
2013	4,129	3,791	\$ 1,481,030,865	\$ 6,265,712,634
2014	4,334	2,027	\$ 1,500,289,076	\$ 6,484,850,160
2015	4,487	2,068	\$ 1,639,879,861	\$ 6,759,189,967

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Libraries – Circulation

Pennsylvania's library circulation and circulation per capita both decreased from last years totals and from the high reached in 2009. The total of both still remaining higher than in 2000. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties saw decreases from 2012 to 2013 in circulation and circulation per capita. Luzerne County's library circulation per capita is nearly half that of Lackawanna County or the Commonwealth as a whole.

	Library Circulation					
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne	
	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita
2000	53,598,146	4.49	1,031,689	4.84	693,602	2.11
2001	57,372,029	4.80	1,058,809	4.96	725,568	2.21
2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	61,919,634	5.18	1,269,357	5.95	1,082,114	2.48
2004	62,578,311	5.24	1,252,951	5.87	1,120,089	2.23
2005	63,487,894	5.30	1,228,680	5.76	766,697	2.34
2006	65,479,043	5.47	1,304,719	6.12	800,308	2.44
2007	66,141,431	5.55	1,287,351	6.04	751,940	2.29
2008	69,746,518	5.83	1,323,950	6.21	809,206	2.47
2009	71,973,962	6.00	1,292,159	6.06	842,929	2.57
2010	69,355,114	5.78	1,205,339	5.65	928,989	2.83
2011	68,674,018	5.53	1,255,482	5.85	873,816	2.65
2012	68,692,140	5.56	1,222,667	5.70	821,395	2.49
2013	68,155,060	5.49	1,161,506	5.42	781,659	2.37

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education



“Library circulation per capita in the region is declining while the Commonwealth as a whole increased.”

Libraries – Number and Registration

For Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, the total number of libraries has remained unchanged in any year for which data was analyzed. In 2013, Pennsylvania's total number of libraries held steady at 474.

Statewide library registrations fell to about 5.4 million in 2012 and has continued to fall in 2013, dropping another three percent of registered library users making the total roughly 5.2 million.

Lackawanna County's total library registrations peaked in 2004, while Luzerne County's peaked in 2006. Lackawanna County continued to see its small decline in membership, while Luzerne County saw a major increase of 13,500 registered members in 2013.

	Library Registration					
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne	
	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration
2000	478	5,297,577	8	54,251	11	92,289
2001	478	5,224,930	8	97,844	11	96,072
2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	469	5,418,940	8	90,434	11	112,624
2004	469	5,712,596	8	99,585	11	121,263
2005	469	5,669,090	8	59,902	11	130,056
2006	470	5,767,773	8	60,141	11	142,454
2007	471	5,779,774	8	60,361	11	119,154
2008	471	5,656,952	8	59,154	11	128,750
2009	472	5,504,327	8	58,122	11	133,009
2010	475	5,551,574	8	57,240	11	127,311
2011	474	5,527,252	8	55,193	11	130,036
2012	474	5,357,818	8	52,906	11	120,857
2013	474	5,229,111	8	51,779	11	134,408

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Voting

Voting

From 2000 to 2015, the number of registered voters in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as well as Pennsylvania remained fairly stable, but typically rising with presidential election years. Luzerne County's voter registration peaked in 2004, while Lackawanna County's and Pennsylvania's both peaked in 2008. In 2015, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court election year, voter turnout dropped from the previous year with Lackawanna County reporting roughly one-third of all voters (down from 41 percent), and rose with Luzerne County reporting 28 percent (up from 18 percent). Voter turnout in presidential election years was much higher in all three geographies. In Lackawanna County, voter turnout returned to its lowest voter turnout rate, but in Luzerne County, the 2015 turnout rate saw a large increase from its historically low number in 2014. Statewide voter turnout for 2013, 2014, and 2015 could not be calculated because the total number of registered voters eligible to vote in the November 2013, 2014, and 2015 elections were not available.

Voting: Lackawanna									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Registered Voters	148,975	157,326	149,632	150,577	146,723	149,471	146,614	146,655	139,796
Total Votes	63,398	109,168	51,273	70,549	49,788	98,775	47,344	60,489	44,209
% of Voter Turnout	43%	69%	34%	47%	34%	66%	32%	41%	32%

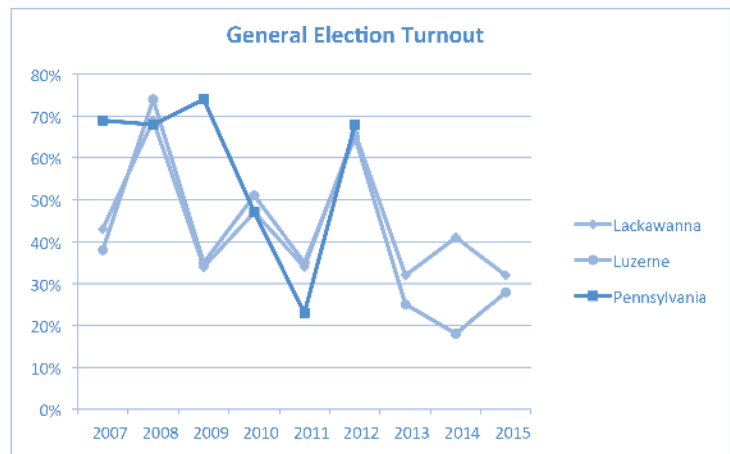
Data for 2013 has been revised.
Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Lackawanna County Department of Elections

Voting: Luzerne									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Registered Voters	173,344	187,844	191,108	188,091	188,591	194,137	194,991	196,129	190,659
Total Votes	66,359	138,076	67,788	96,656	66,517	125,619	49,344	35,331	53,312
% of Voter Turnout	38%	74%	35%	51%	35%	65%	25%	18%	28%

Data for 2013 has been revised.
Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Luzerne County Bureau of Elections

Registered Voters			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2000	145,381	194,011	7,781,997
2001	147,197	197,813	7,773,541
2002	146,129	198,062	7,835,775
2003	147,144	203,276	7,688,295
2004	154,464	213,296	8,366,663
2005	148,551	211,845	8,073,337
2006	148,283	196,775	8,182,876
2007	148,975	173,344	8,112,998
2008	157,326	187,844	8,755,588
2009	149,632	191,108	8,473,823
2010	150,577	188,091	8,478,509
2011	146,723	188,591	8,168,254
2012	149,474	194,137	8,508,015
2013	146,614	194,991	8,223,473
2014	146,655	196,129	8,251,050
2015	139,796	190,659	-

Source: Pennsylvania Department of State





Government

Government

Lackawanna County Fiscal Snapshot



Government

This section of the report deals with government fiscal affairs. Tables are comprised of county and state data including revenue, expenditures, debt, taxes, and aid to communities. The indicators are a reflection of the financial health of county government. This section includes information from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and data procured directly from the two counties.

The statistics presented here are government-wide, which means the data is inclusive of each county's component parts. This data is inclusive of each county's general fund as well as all other major and minor funds for which the county is responsible.

Lackawanna County Fiscal Snapshot

In 2014, Lackawanna County had total revenues of just under \$157.5 million, an increase of roughly 3.5 percent from 2013's revenue. Like 2013, revenue was greater than expenditures in 2014. Expenditures total just under \$143 million, a reduction of 1.2 percent. Of all the years analyzed, 2008 saw the highest total expenditures with a little over \$257 million. Since then, Lackawanna County's government expenditures have fallen by nearly 45 percent.

County revenue consists primarily of taxes and intergovernmental funds. Intergovernmental funds come from federal, state and local sources. They include grants, reimbursements for services, and the like. Tax revenue includes all taxes levied by the county government, predominantly property taxes. In Lackawanna County, intergovernmental revenue shrunk by 3.5 percent between 2013 and 2014, while tax revenue grew by almost two percent. The greatest spike in tax revenue, however, came between 2011 and 2012. This coincides with a 15.002 mill increase in the county's property tax rate. Revenues per capita and taxes per capita increased from 2013 to 2014 while expenditures per capita decreased in Lackawanna County.

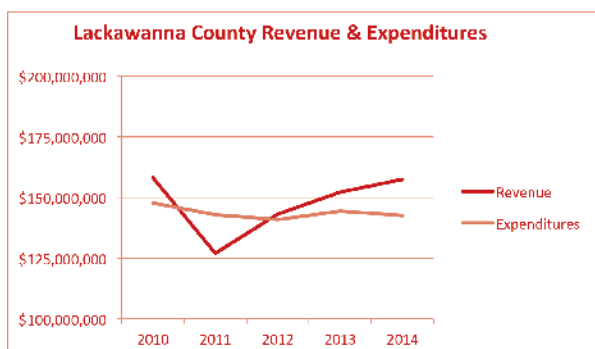
Lackawanna County's total debt fell by nearly \$7 million between 2011 and 2012, another \$4.3 million between 2012 and 2013, and \$80,000 from 2013 to 2014 after reaching a high of \$240 million. Over the last several years, Lackawanna County has had a higher rate of public debt per capita than Luzerne County for years where data is available.

Lackawanna County				
Year	Total Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Total Expenditures	Expenditures Per Capita
2007	\$155,865,585	\$745	\$230,711,570	\$1,102
2008	\$153,174,824	\$731	\$257,176,033	\$1,228
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	\$158,157,859	\$738	\$147,727,646	\$689
2011	\$126,985,143	\$593	\$142,878,817	\$667
2012	\$143,137,091	\$667	\$140,883,575	\$657
2013	\$152,203,107	\$711	\$144,354,993	\$675
2014	\$157,464,861	\$740	\$142,586,340	\$670

Source: Lackawanna County

Lackawanna County Revenue			
Year	Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2007	\$53,946,011	\$258	\$52,078,664
2008	\$54,504,260	\$260	\$53,176,193
2009	\$55,327,413	\$265	N/A
2010	\$54,237,593	\$253	\$53,511,663
2011	\$55,512,405	\$259	\$47,578,152
2012	\$72,892,209	\$340	\$44,598,547
2013	\$77,732,981	\$363	\$46,413,441
2014	\$79,066,461	\$372	\$44,797,841

Source: Lackawanna County



Year	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County	
	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita
2007	\$197,198,124	\$942	\$202,644,488	\$649
2008	\$213,373,652	\$1,019	\$298,894,776	\$958
2009	N/A	N/A	\$318,200,000	\$1,017
2010	\$218,509,597	\$1,019	\$308,100,000	\$960
2011	\$240,221,204	\$1,122	\$288,160,000	\$899
2012	\$233,435,714	\$1,088	\$286,515,419	\$892
2013	\$229,145,438	\$1,071	\$273,750,005	\$855
2014	\$229,065,212	\$1,077	\$253,676,089	\$796

Source: Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties

Luzerne County Fiscal Snapshot

Property Tax Rates

Luzerne County Fiscal Snapshot

Luzerne County's revenue totaled just under \$176 million in 2011, the lowest total in all years analyzed. In 2012, it increased nearly 22 percent, and in 2013, decreased to about \$208.6 million, another 2.5 percent decrease. In 2014, Luzerne County's revenue bounce back to just under its 2012 levels at \$214 million. Total expenditures fell by almost eight percent between 2012 and 2014. Luzerne County's expenditures totaled less than revenues by roughly \$2.1 million, this is the first time revenue has totaled higher than outlays since 2008.

Luzerne County's intergovernmental revenue, which include transfers from other federal, state, and local sources, such as grants and reimbursements for services, declined in 2014 for the second straight year, a drop of just under 3.6 percent (2013 saw a decrease of nine percent). Tax revenue for the county rose just over seven percent from 2013 to 2014. During that time period, revenues per capita rose three percent, taxes per capita rose only slightly less, while expenditures per capita decreased by two percent.

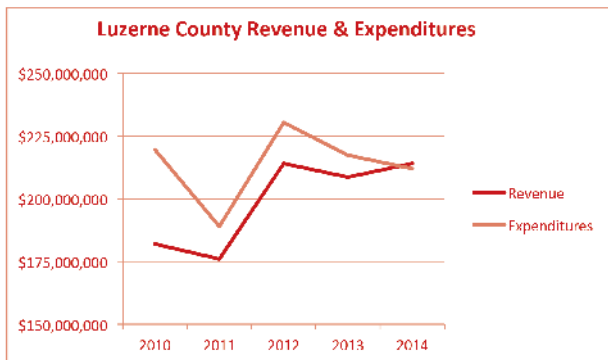
In 2014, total debt and debt per capita for Luzerne County continued to decline, falling to the lowest level in all years analyzed. Between 2009 and 2014, the county's debt fell by 20 percent from a high of over \$318 million to under \$255 million.

Luzerne County				
Year	Total Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Total Expenditure	Expenditures Per Capita
2007	\$170,009,509	\$544	\$177,729,558	\$569
2008	\$187,378,008	\$601	\$187,070,521	\$600
2009	\$178,253,912	\$570	\$225,863,970	\$722
2010	\$182,009,525	\$567	\$219,533,037	\$684
2011	\$175,979,319	\$549	\$188,925,651	\$589
2012	\$214,029,856	\$667	\$230,354,909	\$718
2013	\$208,595,158	\$652	\$217,338,270	\$679
2014	\$214,028,831	\$671	\$211,946,527	\$665

Source: Luzerne County

Luzerne County Revenue			
Year	Total Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2007	\$ 75,798,520	\$243	\$56,241,610
2008	\$ 77,790,269	\$249	\$80,578,233
2009	\$ 77,914,708	\$249	\$66,274,110
2010	\$ 91,264,521	\$284	\$59,832,413
2011	\$ 92,272,209	\$288	\$66,725,348
2012	\$ 98,407,858	\$307	\$96,930,033
2013	\$ 102,350,859	\$320	\$88,192,000
2014	\$ 109,634,691	\$344	\$85,031,817

Source: Luzerne County



Property Tax Rates

In 2016, property tax rates remained unchanged in Luzerne County and rose slightly in Lackawanna County compared with 2015. Lackawanna County's property tax rate is significantly higher than Luzerne County's. However, this does not necessarily reflect actual property tax costs incurred by property owners for several reasons. First, there are differences in how and when properties in the two counties were assessed. This means that the two counties' ratios of assessed value for tax purposes to actual market value are different. Furthermore, tax rates included in this report do not include school taxes, which often

2016 Tax Rates		
	Lackawanna County Tax Rates (mills)	Luzerne County Tax Rates (mills)
Real Estate - General Purpose	38.8000	1.2358
Debt Service	14.8000	1.1836
Library	2.8200	0.0459
Culture and Education Fund	1.0000	
Community Colleges		0.3240
Roads & Bridges		0.1070
Criminal Justice		1.9977
Hotel Room Rental	7%	5%
Human Services		0.4260
Real Estate Total	57.4200	5.3200

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Sales Tax Community Aid



make up the largest portion of all property owners' tax bills.

Sales Tax

The amount of sales tax generated in Lackawanna County has steadily increased since 2000. Most recently, \$73.8 million in sales taxes were remitted in Lackawanna County, the highest total of all years analyzed, and 0.5 percent increase from the previous year's total. For Luzerne County, there has been a general increasing trend except for several years of decline during the recession. This year Luzerne County remitted its largest amount sales tax since 2000, topping even its pre-recession figures. In 2014-2015, sales tax remittance in Luzerne County grew by 9.9 percent to over \$103

Year	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County		Pennsylvania	
	Sales Tax Remittance	Percent Change	Sales Tax Remittance	Percent Change	Sales Tax Remittance	Percent Change
2000-2001	\$ 46,422,000	1.5%	\$82,140,000	1.4%	\$ 7,203,756,000	2.6%
2001-2002	\$ 46,679,000	0.6%	\$81,279,000	-1.0%	\$ 7,292,499,000	1.2%
2002-2003	\$ 47,367,000	1.5%	\$85,892,000	5.7%	\$ 7,519,561,000	3.1%
2003-2004	\$ 50,965,000	7.6%	\$88,457,000	3.0%	\$ 7,728,543,000	2.8%
2004-2005	\$ 55,949,000	9.8%	\$92,805,000	4.9%	\$ 7,999,952,000	3.5%
2005-2006	\$ 59,720,000	6.7%	\$98,898,000	6.6%	\$ 8,334,249,000	4.2%
2006-2007	\$ 63,075,000	5.6%	\$99,161,000	0.3%	\$ 8,590,769,000	3.1%
2007-2008	\$ 63,389,000	0.5%	\$97,936,000	-1.2%	\$ 8,496,554,000	-1.1%
2008-2009	\$ 62,612,000	-1.2%	\$89,018,000	-9.1%	\$ 8,135,508,000	-4.2%
2009-2010	\$ 66,178,000	5.7%	\$84,168,000	-5.4%	\$ 8,029,170,000	-1.3%
2010-2011	\$ 70,290,000	6.2%	\$91,451,000	8.7%	\$ 8,590,217,000	7.0%
2011-2012	\$ 72,021,000	2.5%	\$93,171,000	1.9%	\$ 8,772,265,000	2.1%
2012-2013	\$ 71,801,000	-0.3%	\$92,618,000	-0.6%	\$ 8,893,714,000	1.4%
2013-2014	\$ 73,515,000	2.4%	\$93,822,000	1.3%	\$ 9,129,621,000	2.7%
2014-2015	\$ 73,865,000	0.5%	\$103,153,000	9.9%	\$ 9,493,107,000	4.0%

Source: PA Department of Revenue

million. The statewide total has also been increasing over the past several years. The state saw a four percent increase in the past year bringing the most recent figure to \$9.4 billion.

Community Aid

Over the past several years, the amount of aid from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development has fluctuated for both counties. In 2015, state investment in the two counties totaled over \$36 million, and both counties saw drastic decreases from the prior year. The largest decrease was in the category of 'all other programs' which saw over \$10 million in reductions for each county. The largest portion of the remaining investment comes from the Local Share Account (LSA) program, which distributes revenues from the Mt. Airy and Mohegan Sun Pocono casinos to local projects. Projects funded locally under the LSA program include road repairs, trail construction, disaster recovery, and buildings, vehicles, and equipment for municipal governments.

DCED Investment - Lackawanna County				
Year	KIZ Tax Credits	EITC/OSTC Tax Credits	Local Share	
			Account - Monroe	All Other Programs
2010	\$0	\$0	\$934,603	\$29,388,310
2011	\$583,217	\$0	\$1,910,433	\$23,213,189
2012	\$1,009,245	\$4,500	\$1,791,046	\$15,432,396
2013	\$1,022,476	\$596,028	\$2,857,193	\$12,310,656
2014	\$1,162,543	\$917,475	\$3,458,393	\$17,913,132
2015	\$852,184	\$2,977,502	\$6,426,826	

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

DCED Investment - Luzerne County				
Year	KIZ Tax Credits	EITC/OSTC Tax Credits	Local Share	
			Account - Luzerne	All Other Programs
2010	\$0	\$0	\$13,335,645	\$42,937,178
2011	\$704,568	\$0	\$16,648,180	\$53,320,795
2012	\$1,209,570	\$197,300	\$7,841,715	\$33,813,073
2013	\$1,090,594	\$548,500	\$13,830,962	\$20,886,992
2014	\$1,067,444	\$717,410	\$14,773,276	\$22,686,606
2015	\$654,195	\$15,644,310	\$9,523,712	

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development



Public Safety

Public Safety



“While the rates of some crimes have increased slightly, Northeastern Pennsylvania generally remains a safe area for a region with its size and socioeconomic characteristics. Notably, the number of violent crimes in both counties has trended downwards over the last several years.”

Public Safety

Public Safety indicators in this section identify important statistics for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, as well as for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, used in evaluating the health and efficiency of safety services. These statistics include: crime rates, drug related offenses, vehicle crashes, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenses, alcohol induced crashes, domestic violence offenses, and police officer and firefighter totals.

Generally speaking, this section of the report includes indicators which help to measure the quality of life in Pennsylvania as well as in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Typically, a low crime rate is a feature that makes an area attractive to potential residents and businesses. Additionally, it is an indicator of the social well-being of a community, as crime is interrelated with other social, economic, and public health problems such as unemployment, poverty, and substance abuse. Breaking the cycle of poverty and crime requires a tremendous effort. However, this effort can be rewarding both in terms of quality of life and by making a region more economically successful.

While the rates of some crimes have increased slightly, Northeastern Pennsylvania is generally remains a safe area for a region with its size and socioeconomic characteristics. Notably, the number of violent crimes in both counties has trended downwards over the last several years, though there were minimal increases in both counties from 2013 to 2014. One notable fact is that the number of murders reported in Luzerne County fell by more than half from 2013 to 2014, to the lowest of all years analyzed in this report.

However, there are several remaining challenges related to crime. Property crimes continue to occur, but these have started to decrease in Luzerne County, reaching lows that have not been attained since 2009. Property crime like burglary and theft are often associated with drug addiction. Juvenile crime rates are low for the two counties compared to the state and make up a relatively small percentage of arrests.

Further, domestic violence is unfortunately quite prevalent within the study region. This is a difficult phenomenon to measure; in this report, it is defined as the total number of family offenses as reported in statewide reports from the Uniform Crime Reporting System. Children and family offenses include abuse and cruelty to spouses, children, and other family members, child and spousal neglect and desertion, as well as nonpayment of child support and alimony. Statistics indicate that these offenses have grown at an alarming rate in both counties, though there was a modest improvement in the most recent year's data.

The level of police presence in a community can be closely correlated to its crime statistics. Though more police resources can contribute to lower crime rates in many cases, the number of reported offenses sometimes increases as a result of more enforcement. Both counties have a much greater police presence today than in 2000, though the two counties have fewer officers per capita than the Commonwealth as a whole.

From 2013 to 2014, the number of alcohol related crash deaths increased for Luzerne County and fell slightly in Lackawanna County. Fortunately, Lackawanna and Luzerne's 2014 totals are well below their peaks in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Statewide, as well as within the counties, there was a decrease in all categories of motor vehicle crashes from 2013 to 2014. The two counties experienced a drastic spike in pedestrian crash deaths in 2013, though this statistic dropped in 2014. In Luzerne County, this statistic was lower than in all years analyzed.

Property Crime

In the two county region, there are 103 fire departments as of early 2016. There is a lack of detailed and current data on firefighters, however. Over 80 percent of area fire departments have no paid firefighters and therefore rely entirely on volunteers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many fire departments in Pennsylvania are experiencing difficulties recruiting and retaining volunteers.



Property Crime

Lackawanna County's total number of property crimes continues to decrease after reporting a nearly 11 percent decrease from 2012 to 2013 and a further four percent decrease from 2013 to 2014. The 3,943 reported property crimes in Lackawanna County in 2014 were the fewest reported since 2004.

Property crime in Luzerne County also fell from 2013 to 2014, by a margin of 8.5 percent. This follows a trend of gradual growth in property crimes. This turnaround was driven largely by significant declines in burglaries and motor vehicle thefts.

Statewide, property crime has continued to fall over the past five years. Pennsylvania saw the lowest amount of property crime in 2014 of all years analyzed, and the 2014 total represented a decline of almost six percent compared with the year before.

Property Crime: Lackawanna												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Burglary	736	692	899	902	752	1,014	998	1,063	994	1,023	885	733
Larceny Theft	2,562	2,739	2,908	3,114	3,075	3,405	3,286	3,069	3,311	3,352	2,982	2,967
Motor Vehicle Theft	788	788	773	767	754	757	737	187	730	187	191	717
Arson	53	57	83	71	91	76	44	57	59	47	57	31
Total	3,639	3,771	4,163	4,357	4,172	4,747	4,560	4,376	4,594	4,609	4,115	3,943

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Property Crime: Luzerne												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Burglary	1,275	1,094	1,400	1,408	1,392	1,315	1,328	1,405	1,486	1,661	1,655	1,383
Larceny Theft	5,165	4,676	5,230	5,023	5,429	5,759	5,510	5,748	5,732	5,895	5,950	5,588
Motor Vehicle Theft	456	458	446	547	464	418	375	348	407	354	318	768
Arson	135	148	148	89	72	59	63	92	62	55	77	81
Total	7,031	6,376	7,224	7,067	7,357	7,551	7,252	7,593	7,682	7,965	8,000	7,320

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Property Crime: Pennsylvania												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Burglary	50,569	51,600	53,787	55,647	54,944	58,022	54,581	54,892	57,675	57,017	51,860	45,659
Larceny Theft	194,899	198,238	201,170	206,402	205,987	215,413	203,640	202,912	207,398	204,381	196,877	187,918
Motor Vehicle Theft	31,764	29,684	28,310	28,832	26,138	22,287	17,789	16,643	16,812	14,940	13,742	13,036
Arson	2,535	2,314	2,694	2,629	2,513	2,576	2,465	2,296	1,775	1,741	1,684	1,924
Total	279,767	281,836	285,961	293,510	289,582	298,298	278,475	276,743	285,671	278,079	264,163	248,537

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Violent Crime



“In 2014, total violent crime increased by 1.7 percent from the year prior in Lackawanna County...The total violent crime increased from 2013 to 2014 in Luzerne County.”

Violent Crime

Lackawanna County saw a slight increase (1.7 percent) in the number of violent crimes reported. The county had witnessed a record low year in 2013, however, and violent crime in 2014 is still the second lowest since 2003. Robberies in the county continued to trend downward in 2014, while the number of reported rapes increased by nearly 26 percent.

Similarly, violent crimes rose slightly in Luzerne County from 2013 to 2014 – a 2.4 percent increase. After a steady decline in violent crime through 2011, 2014 saw a growth of such crimes, driven by an increase in robberies and aggravated assaults. However, murders dropped over 50 percent from 18 in 2013 to eight in 2014. This is the lowest murder total in Luzerne County among all years analyzed. A decline in rape cases was also reported in 2014.

Across the Commonwealth, violent crime has been decreasing steadily over the last several years. Pennsylvania saw the lowest totals in over a decade in violent crimes. The largest decrease has been in the number of reported robberies. However, rape cases have increased since 2011.

Violent Crime: Lackawanna												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murder	6	4	4	0	2	9	4	1	5	0	5	6
Rape	54	76	78	49	37	49	48	34	48	35	31	39
Robbery	141	136	113	128	135	122	132	125	117	165	97	94
Aggravated Assault	252	350	472	359	271	286	336	319	307	296	274	275
Total	453	566	667	536	445	466	520	479	477	496	407	414

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Violent Crime: Luzerne												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murder	23	9	16	22	14	15	26	11	12	17	18	8
Rape	59	69	87	81	70	75	60	69	55	88	70	60
Robbery	180	234	250	239	247	186	176	216	273	233	223	253
Aggravated Assault	434	493	598	673	714	698	621	547	683	562	511	521
Total	696	805	951	1,015	1,045	974	883	843	1,023	900	822	842

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Violent Crime: Pennsylvania												
Crime	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murder	665	678	784	776	769	734	694	687	638	706	611	611
Rape	3,262	3,310	3,362	3,433	3,380	3,435	3,668	3,393	3,320	3,366	3,781	3,828
Robbery	21,110	21,482	22,379	24,341	22,826	22,444	21,409	19,993	16,117	15,732	14,716	13,534
Aggravated Assault	25,572	27,039	28,239	28,829	28,088	28,083	26,731	26,324	25,892	25,589	23,646	22,277
Total	50,609	52,509	54,764	57,379	55,063	54,696	52,502	50,397	45,967	45,393	42,754	40,250

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Drug Related Offenses

Drug Related Offenses

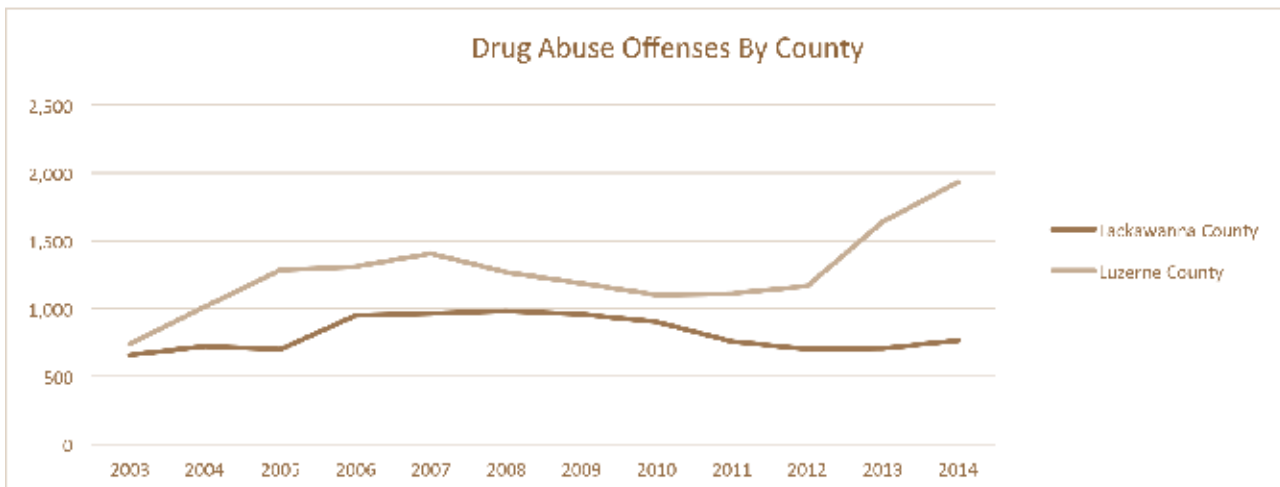
Drug abuse offenses include the manufacture, sale, or possession of drugs and certain other offenses. Both counties have seen significant increases in drug abuse offenses since 2003. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw a peak in these offenses in 2008 and 2007, respectively. After that, rates receded in both counties, reach low points in 2010 for Luzerne County and 2012 for Lackawanna County. Since then, both counties have seen a rebound in drug abuse offense rates. Since 2012, Lackawanna County's number of drug related offenses has increased by nine percent. In Luzerne County, the trend has been even more troubling. Drug abuse offenses are up over 75 percent compared with the 2010 low point.



“Both counties saw significant increases in drug abuse offenses from 2003 to 2007-2008. After that, both counties saw periods of decline before another increase in 2014.”

Drug Abuse Offenses			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	PA
2003	657	737	42,999
2004	720	1,014	45,882
2005	698	1,284	48,951
2006	947	1,309	52,259
2007	963	1,405	53,520
2008	983	1,268	54,544
2009	957	1,187	52,565
2010	902	1,101	52,196
2011	756	1,111	52,013
2012	700	1,167	52,857
2013	705	1,642	56,555
2014	763	1,933	56,814

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System



DUI Offenses

Alcohol Related Crash Deaths



DUI Offenses

Lackawanna County's total number of DUI offenses rose for the first time since 2010. It is still substantially lower than the number of offenses reported in 2009 and 2010. Luzerne County saw small decreases in DUI offenses from 2012 to 2013 and again from 2013 to 2014. Though both counties have a smaller number of DUI offenses than the peak period of 2006 to 2007, their totals were higher in 2014 compared with a decade ago. The number of offenses in Pennsylvania followed a similar pattern, having decreased annually since 2008 but remaining considerably higher than in 2003. In 2014, the Commonwealth had a total of 49,264 DUI offenses.

	Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Offenses											
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	510	605	873	1,035	1,078	947	1,106	1,181	858	726	710	759
Luzerne	1,150	1,164	1,111	1,556	1,553	1,420	1,275	1,160	1,175	1,230	1,181	1,172
Pennsylvania	43,855	46,142	47,591	52,225	55,397	57,119	56,060	53,997	52,944	52,222	49,714	49,264

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

“Though both counties have a smaller number of DUI offenses than the peak period of 2006 to 2007, their totals are higher in 2014 compared with a decade ago.”

Alcohol Related Crash Deaths

In Lackawanna County, the number of alcohol related crash deaths fell by two from 2013 to 2014. The five deaths in 2014 are the same total as in 2011 and 2012. In Luzerne County, the total grew to 17, after holding steady at 13 per year since 2011. As of 2014, alcohol related crash deaths in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are down 44 and 32 percent, respectively, compared with the peak number of fatalities in 2007. Pennsylvania has also seen a steadily declining number of alcohol related crash deaths since peaking in 2005.

	Alcohol Related Crash Deaths										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	7	7	9	9	8	4	4	5	5	7	5
Luzerne	20	17	24	25	8	16	7	13	13	13	17
Pennsylvania	541	580	545	535	534	449	459	428	404	381	333

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Motor Vehicle Crashes

Motor Vehicle Crashes

Lackawanna County had 2,580 motor vehicle crashes in 2014 – just over 50 less than in 2013. Luzerne County saw a slight increase in 2013 but returned to its decreasing numbers in 2014 – 3,297 crashes, the lowest of all years analyzed. In both counties, the total number of crashes has been lower than in the base year of 2000.

In 2014, the number of fatal car crashes in Lackawanna County dropped by seven while in Luzerne County the number of fatal crashes only dropped by two. This is about the same amount of fatalities for Lackawanna County compared to the year 2000, but a decrease for Luzerne County.

The state has also seen a decrease in crashes since 2000. From 2013 to 2014 an additional decrease of nearly 3,000 crashes was reported. The number of fatal crashes statewide dropped by a small margin, and remains far lower than the totals reported in earlier years.

In 2014, there were three pedestrian crash deaths in each of the two counties. For both, that number represents a significant drop from the prior year. In 2013, there were a higher number of pedestrian crash deaths in both counties. That year, the two counties accounted for nearly ten percent of all pedestrian crash deaths in Pennsylvania. Across the Commonwealth, the number of pedestrian crash deaths has decreased compared with 2000. However, there was a ten percent increase from 2013 to 2014 in the state.



“In 2014, the number of crashes with at least one fatality was 15 in Lackawanna County and 34 in Luzerne County, both decreases from the prior year.”

Lackawanna County: Total Crashes						
Type of Crash	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fatal	16	19	17	15	22	15
Injury	1,620	1,321	1,276	1,233	1,231	1,209
Property Damage Only	1,171	1,218	1,293	1,340	1,383	1,356
Total	2,807	2,558	2,586	2,588	2,636	2,580

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Luzerne County: Total Crashes						
Type of Crash	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fatal	43	30	38	34	36	34
Injury	2,444	1,703	1,686	1,683	1,604	1,596
Property Damage Only	1,525	1,662	1,658	1,619	1,720	1,667
Total	4,012	3,395	3,382	3,336	3,360	3,297

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pennsylvania Total Crashes						
Type of Crash	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fatal	1,296	1,208	1,191	1,211	1,117	1,107
Injury	88,108	62,666	62,788	62,127	59,917	57,652
Property Damage Only	57,749	57,438	61,416	60,754	63,115	62,558
Total	147,253	121,312	127,406	124,092	124,149	121,317

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pedestrian Crash Deaths						
	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna County	3	2	1	2	7	3
Luzerne County	6	6	5	6	8	3
Pennsylvania	172	148	149	168	151	166

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Offenses Against Children & Families



Offenses Against Children & Families

Offenses against family and children include abuse of spouses and children, child neglect, and nonpayment of child support and alimony. There has been some fluctuation of these offenses reported in the two counties. Between 2006 and 2009, family offenses more than doubled in Lackawanna County. Since then, the total number of offenses against family and children has trended downward. In 2014, Lackawanna County saw a decrease of nearly 40 percent of reported offenses. The 182 reported offenses in 2014 represents the lowest level since 2006.

The number of domestic offenses in Luzerne County has been increasing steadily, reaching 345 in 2013 – more than four times the total offenses compared with 2007 and 36 percent more than the year prior. However, in 2014 Luzerne County’s reported domestic violence offenses dropped to 311, a ten percent decline. Still, the 2014 total is one of the highest years analyzed.

From 2009 to 2013, the statewide number of offenses against family and children has followed a steady upward trend, reaching 5,770 in 2013, which is the highest total of all years analyzed. In Pennsylvania, 2014 is the first year since 2009 that the Domestic Violence offenses have dropped statewide, though the total remains higher than any year analyzed except for 2013, as was the case in Luzerne County.

Offenses Against Family & Children												
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lackawanna	497	275	227	182	201	288	458	385	299	373	296	182
Luzerne	61	67	145	121	74	133	147	160	189	254	345	311
Pennsylvania	4,660	4,709	4,199	4,761	5,194	4,769	4,389	4,670	5,176	5,415	5,770	5,660

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

Juvenile Justice

The arrests reported here are of juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17. The most recent available data on juvenile arrests at the county level is for 2012. In Lackawanna County, the total number of juvenile arrests declined from 2010 to 2012, but most notably, the amount of drug abuse arrests among juveniles has decreased by nearly 40 percent compared with 2009. Luzerne County has reported a decreasing juvenile crime rate as well, with the 1,030 arrests in 2012 representing the lowest of the years analyzed.

The Commonwealth has seen a significant crime reduction in minors from 2009, when nearly 92,000 juveniles were arrested, to 2013 when just over 66,000 juveniles were arrested. Statewide, juvenile crime dropped in each of the three categories analyzed.

Compared with Pennsylvania as a whole, juvenile arrest rates per 1,000 juvenile residents were lower in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, especially the arrest rates for violent crime.



Lackawanna County Juvenile Arrests					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Arrests	869	1,020	938	754	N/A
Violent Crime Arrests	31	23	22	31	N/A
Violent Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	1.55	1.09	1.10	1.56	N/A
Property Crime Arrests	143	116	130	137	N/A
Property Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	7.15	5.52	6.50	6.88	N/A
Drug Abuse Arrests	76	62	60	48	N/A
Drug Abuse Arrest Rate per 1,000	3.80	2.95	3.00	2.41	N/A

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Luzerne County Juvenile Arrests					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Arrests	1,303	1,361	1,247	1,030	N/A
Violent Crime Arrests	41	45	48	54	N/A
Violent Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	1.35	1.46	1.57	1.80	N/A
Property Crime Arrests	248	231	232	209	N/A
Property Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	8.15	7.48	7.57	6.94	N/A
Drug Abuse Arrests	69	72	63	48	N/A
Drug Abuse Arrest Rate per 1,000	2.27	2.33	2.06	1.60	N/A

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Pennsylvania Juvenile Arrests					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Arrests	91,960	85,023	73,990	70,191	66,026
Violent Crime Arrests	4,614	4,600	4,361	3,796	3,610
Violent Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	3.50	3.53	3.39	2.99	3.06
Property Crime Arrests	12,568	11,291	10,833	9,663	8,533
Property Crime Arrest Rate per 1,000	9.55	8.66	8.41	7.61	7.23
Drug Abuse Arrests	5,424	5,355	4,961	4,867	4,312
Drug Abuse Arrest Rate per 1,000	4.12	4.10	3.85	3.84	3.65

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Police & Fire Departments



Police

With the exception of 2012 to 2013, Lackawanna County has seen a gradual increase of police force every year since 2010. The county has added 66 officers since 2000 and with a nearly static population, the amount of officers per 1,000 residents has increased from 1.5 to 1.8.

Luzerne County has increased their police force as well since 2000, which stood at 461 officers and now reaches just over 600 officers. In 2000 there were 1.5 officers per 1,000 residents, but as of 2014 that number stands at 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents.

The state has followed this trend as well. The growth coming from the state has been slower than that of the two counties but it has added about 6,000 officers since 2000. As of 2014 there are 2.3 officers per 1,000 Pennsylvanian residents, a slight increase from the prior year. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have a lower ratio of officers to residents than the state as a whole.

	Police Officers Per 1,000 Residents											
	2000		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Population	213,295	319,250	214,737	320,918	214,166	320,651	214,177	321,027	213,931	320,103	212,719	318,829
Number of Officers	313	461	340	577	341	564	351	577	360	587	379	610
Per 1,000 Residents	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report (Population data from Census)

“Both counties and the state have a higher police presence today than they did in comparison to the year 2000.”

	Police Officers Per 1,000 Residents: Pennsylvania					
	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Population	12,218,054	12,702,379	12,742,886	12,763,536	12,773,801	12,787,209
Number of Officers	23,936	28,458	28,227	28,514	29,543	29,688
Per 1,000 Residents	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report (Population is from Census)

Fire Departments

As of early 2016, there are 36 fire departments in Lackawanna County and 67 fire departments in Luzerne County. While there is a lack of updated data on the number of firefighters, the vast majority of both counties’ departments rely entirely on volunteer firefighters.

	Total Number of Departments	Fire Departments: 2016			
		100% Career	Mostly Career	Mostly Volunteer	100% Volunteer
Lackawanna	36	1	1	2	32
Luzerne	67	2	0	14	51

Source: U.S. Fire Administration Fire Department Census



Environment

Environment Waste Facilities



“In 2015, both counties increased their total ton of was, but are still below peak leaves in 2011.”

Environment

The Environment section of the report focuses on three key indicators, including recycling, waste management, and air quality. The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101) was enacted in 1988 to improve statewide recycling programs. Under the supervision of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the act required each county to develop countywide plans and requires larger municipalities to recycle. However, recycling is voluntary for smaller municipalities.

Act 101 also established a \$2 per ton fee on all waste disposed at municipal waste landfills. Funds collected are used for establishing grants for local collection programs, public education, material processing facilities, and technical training. According to the DEP, the municipal waste program regulates the storage, transportation, processing, disposal, composting, and beneficial use of everyday garbage. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties have seen a decreasing trend in waste generated since 2011, with municipal waste generating the highest percentage of all waste collected. However, total waste tonnage in both counties ticked upward in 2015. This trend was especially apparent in Lackawanna County, where there have been declines in tonnage of recycled materials.

Waste Facilities

By 2015, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties sent waste to seven and 15 facilities, respectively. Lackawanna County generated 259,207.2 tons of waste in 2015, up almost five percent from the year before. Luzerne County generated 276,596.2 tons of waste in that year, an increase of less than one percent compared with 2014. However, both counties generated significantly less waste compared with the base year of 2000.

Also examined was the waste by type, with both counties reporting that municipal waste accounted for the greatest type, while infectious waste remained by far the smallest. This data does not show waste shipped from Pennsylvania to out-of-state disposal facilities, nor does it show waste collected for recycling.

Total Facilities Receiving Waste							
	2000	2005	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna	12	8	6	9	8	7	7
Luzerne	19	13	11	16	12	14	15

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Total Waste by Type: 2015 (In Tons)							
	Municipal	Residual	Sewage Sludge	Infectious	Construction	Asbestos	Total
Lackawanna	208,484.9	11,811.8	21,277.5	0.0	17,096.2	409.1	259,207.2
Luzerne	204,564.2	23,119.7	31,274.8	296.1	15,019.5	2,321.9	276,596.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Total Waste (In Tons)						
	2000	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna	274,695.7	282,426.0	265,883.5	254,849.4	247,114.3	259,207.2
Luzerne	313,858.7	312,735.7	289,177.5	267,720.1	275,044.5	276,596.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Recycling

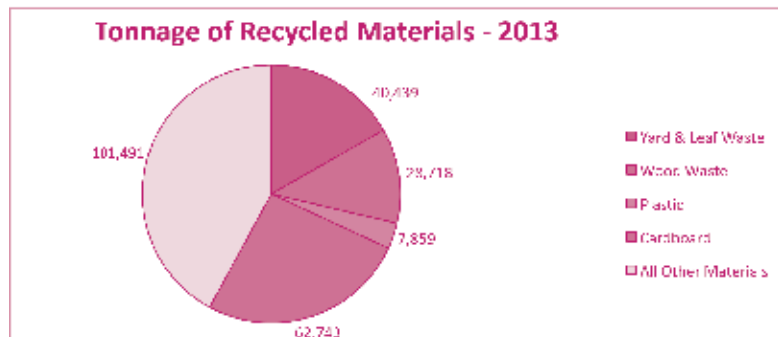
Recycling data focused on seven major types of materials, including plastic, cans, yard and leaf waste, wood waste, rubber tires, glass, and cardboard. Cardboard has consistently remained the region's most recycled material. Luzerne has also seen a tremendous growth in the tonnage of wood waste recycled. However, Lackawanna County has experienced an overall decline of 56 percent in the total tonnage of recycled material in each of these seven categories except for glass from 2006 to 2013.



	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	2006	2013	Change	2006	2013	Change	2006	2013	Change
Plastic	3,645	2,651	-27%	5,748	5,208	-9%	41,644	54,358	31%
Cans	3,654	327	-91%	2,557	1,208	-53%	85,560	19,221	-78%
Yard & Leaf Waste	4,696	3,078	-34%	21,343	37,361	75%	512,119	539,672	5%
Wood Waste	4,715	7,297	+46%	4,201	26,477	+529%	175,850	771,659	+75%
Rubber Tires	1,799	1,268	-30%	1,766	1,138	-36%	55,365	35,373	-36%
Glass	231	710	+216%	698	273	-60%	58,691	79,235	35%
Cardboard	15,516	13,119	-15%	47,387	49,674	5%	744,711	708,937	-5%
All Other Materials	88,206	30,643	-65%	73,211	70,848	-3%	3,129,721	6,536,537	118%
Total Tonnage	121,965	54,118	-56%	156,913	197,051	27%	4,803,561	8,494,985	77%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

“Recycling data focused on seven major types of materials, including plastic, cans, yard and leaf waste, wood waste, rubber tires, glass, and cardboard.”



Air Quality



“In 2015, the median AQI for Lackawanna County was 42 and 31 for Luzerne County... Both of these figures are in the ‘Good’ range.”

Air Quality

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is used to measure air quality. AQI reads five different pollutants to assess the safety of the nation’s air quality, including ground level ozone (smog), particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The overall AQI is the highest AQI of any of the five individual pollutants. Scores of 0 to 50 are considered good air quality, 51 to 100 are considered moderate, 101 to 150 are considered unhealthy to sensitive groups, 151 to 200 are considered unhealthy to everyone, 201 to 300 are considered very unhealthy, and scores above 301 are considered hazardous for all people.

Monitoring stations in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties have generally experienced AQI ratings in the “Good” range. AQI data changes daily and is available in real time from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Air Quality. Users can visit their website for current data. Annual data is collected from the US Environmental Protection Agency, including the number of unhealthy air quality days and the median AQI for the calendar year.

Since the year 2000, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties reported no unhealthy days. In 2015, the median AQI for Lackawanna County was 42 and 31 for Luzerne County. This is a minimal increase for Lackawanna and unchanged for Luzerne County. Both of these figures are in the “Good” range. Since 2011, the median AQI has not changed dramatically and has consistently been lower than the median AQI figures from the base years of 2000 and 2005.

Air Quality Index (AQI): Number of Unhealthy Days							
	2000	2005	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luzerne	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

2015 figures are preliminary.
Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data

Air Quality Index (AQI): Median							
	2000	2005	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lackawanna	44	47	39	38	40	41	42
Luzerne	45	48	37	31	31	31	31

2015 figures are preliminary.
Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data



Infrastructure

Infrastructure



“The infrastructure section contains data that identifies patterns and trends in commuting, transportation, home heating fuels, energy, bridges, and broadband access.”

Infrastructure

The Infrastructure section of this report contains data that identifies patterns and trends in commuting, transportation infrastructure, motor vehicles, home heating fuels, energy prices, and broadband access.

Understanding the public’s means of transportation reveals a region’s environmental impact, as well as the impact of its employment dynamics. Similar to the workforce throughout the rest of the state, a significant majority of workers in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties commute to work by driving alone. The proportion of commuters using alternative forms of transportation has fluctuated a bit, but does not appear much different in 2014 than in 2000.

Natural gas has remained as the most used home heating fuel over the past decade. It has also continued to have the lowest cost of all energy sources analyzed. Since 2000, the use of fuel oil has gone down steadily in favor of electricity and natural gas. This is likely a result of consistent increases in the price of home heating oil. However, the trend has appeared to plateau in 2014, perhaps due to the beginning of a considerable decrease in the price of oil worldwide. In 2015, the cost of heating oil was 30 percent lower than in 2014.

The number of motor vehicle registrations is an indicator of traffic trends. More vehicles registered means more vehicle miles traveled, which can result in traffic congestion. Vehicle registrations can also indicate economic activity. While Lackawanna County has had a small decline over the past several years in passenger vehicles, Luzerne County has seen a much more drastic drop in registered passenger vehicles since 2012. The entire state of Pennsylvania has seen an overall increase in registered passenger vehicles. In the three traffic count locations analyzed here, average daily traffic decreased from 2.2 to 3.3 percent from 2010 to 2014.

In 2015, the total number of passengers and number of scheduled departures at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport both rebounded after significant declines since 2011. A total of 434,127 passengers and 357,000 pounds of freight and mail also came through the airport in 2015. As the transportation and warehousing industry grows in the region, the airport will remain an important asset to the region for both passenger and freight air traffic.

Lastly, broadband access remained critical to each county’s economic growth, as it is necessary for economic development. Widespread access to the newest and most critical business technologies makes any location a more attractive place to locate a business. Though our region has limited access to fiber optic technologies, it has nearly universal access to wireless technology and other broadband services, and both counties perform comparable to the Commonwealth in wireless access. Furthermore, access to these services has continued to grow.

Transportation Mobility

Transportation Mobility

The most common way to commute in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties remains driving alone. In 2013, the proportion of commuters driving to work alone was Luzerne County's highest of all previous years analyzed; however, it decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014. Carpooling has decreased in both counties since 2000. Alternative forms of transportation, such as public transportation, walking, and other means, have fluctuated slightly but not shown a significant upward or downward trend. There has been an increase in those who work from home.

The mean travel time to work was rather consistent from 2000 to 2014, and ranged between 19 and 22 minutes for both counties. This is lower than the statewide average commute time, which increased to 26.4 minutes in 2014.

In 2014, 12 percent of households in Lackawanna County and 11 percent of households in Luzerne County did not have a vehicle available. This compares to 11.4 percent statewide. Both counties saw an increase in no-vehicle households from 2013 to 2014.



Commuting to Work								
	2000		2012		2013		2014	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Workers 16 years and over	94,532	141,168	94,962	144,106	94,778	143,460	91,806	143,937
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	80.5%	81.9%	78.5%	79.4%	81.0%	82.9%	79.6%	82.5%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	12.2%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	9.6%	10.9%	10.7%	9.1%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	0.9%	1.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%
Walked	3.7%	3.2%	5.4%	4.2%	3.4%	2.6%	4.0%	2.9%
Other means	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
Worked at home	2.0%	2.1%	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%	2.1%	4.0%	3.5%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.8	21.2	20.2	21.8	20.1	21.7	20.6	21.6

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

Pennsylvania Commuting to Work				
	2000	2012	2013	2014
Workers 16 years and over	5,556,311	5,810,858	5,867,765	5,930,486
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	76.5%	76.5%	76.8%	76.4%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	10.4%	8.9%	8.3%	8.5%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	5.2%	5.4%	5.6%	5.7%
Walked	4.1%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
Other means	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%
Worked at home	3.0%	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.2	26.1	26.0	26.4

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

Households without Vehicle Available						
	2013			2014		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Total households	83,709	128,597	4,938,894	84,280	125,235	4,945,972
Households with no vehicle available	9,531	13,529	557,174	10,109	13,838	561,459
Percent with no vehicle available	11.4%	10.5%	11.3%	12.0%	11.0%	11.4%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

Bridges Traffic Counts



Bridges

A bridge is considered structurally deficient if it has deteriorated structural elements. Structurally deficient bridges are characterized by reduced load-carry capacity and require frequent maintenance, rehabilitation, or maintenance. This designation does not imply that the bridge is unsafe, however. A bridge is considered functionally obsolete if it is not structurally deficient but does not meet current design standards. For example, a functionally obsolete bridge may have insufficient lane width or traffic capacity.

In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, 780 bridges were counted in the 2015 National Bridge Inventory. Of those, 43.6 percent were either deemed structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. This represents an increase in deficient bridges for Lackawanna County, and a decrease for Luzerne County compared with 2014. Luzerne County still has a higher proportion of structurally deficient bridges than Lackawanna County. The percentage of deficient or obsolete bridges in both counties is not a significant departure from the statewide rate. Across the Commonwealth, 40 percent of bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

	Bridges								
	2013			2014			2015		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Total Bridges	352	441	22,659	345	445	22,691	348	432	22,719
Structurally Deficient Bridges	82	121	5,218	76	121	5,050	79	111	4,776
Functionally Obsolete Bridges	56	75	4,343	64	86	4,388	69	81	4,310
Percent Structurally Deficient	23.3%	27.4%	23.0%	22.0%	27.2%	22.3%	22.7%	25.7%	21.0%
Percent Functionally Obsolete	15.9%	17.0%	19.2%	18.6%	19.3%	19.3%	19.8%	18.8%	19.0%

Source: Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory

Traffic Counts

There are only three locations in the two counties where annual traffic counts data is available including I-81 in Wilkes-Barre Township, I-80 in Foster Township, and PA-307 in Newton Township. In other locations, traffic counts are conducted less frequently. In all count sites, traffic volume dropped from 2010 to 2014. The largest decrease was on Interstate 81 in Wilkes-Barre Township.

	Annual Traffic Counts - Average Daily Traffic						2010 - 2014 % Change
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
I-81 in Wilkes-Barre Township	58,951	58,783	59,514	59,807	56,987	-3.3%	
I-80 in Foster Township	23,050	22,693	22,527	22,444	22,522	-2.3%	
PA-307 in Newton Township	4,926	5,020	4,949	4,834	4,816	-2.2%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Traffic Data Report

Motor Vehicle Registrations

Motor Vehicle Registrations

Passenger vehicle registrations have increased at a consistent rate in Lackawanna County and Pennsylvania from 2000 to 2014 (showing growth of nine percent and 12 percent, respectively). On the other hand, Luzerne County saw a small decline. Both counties and the Commonwealth saw a substantial increase in the number of registered motorcycles.

Both counties also saw an increase in trucks over 5,000 pounds, particularly in the 5,000 to 9,000 pound weight class. The number of registered trucks under 5,000 pounds decreased in both counties and the state.



Motor Vehicle Registrations: Lackawanna County					2000 - 2014 %
Vehicle Type	2000	2012	2013	2014	Change
Passenger Vehicles	114,361	126,472	125,631	124,886	9.2%
Motorcycles	2,948	5,860	5,808	5,572	89.0%
Buses	783	945	920	926	18.3%
Trailers	11,981	17,345	17,716	17,964	49.9%
Truck - 5,000 lb or less	13,867	8,446	7,906	7,401	-46.6%
Truck - 5,000 lb to 9,000 lb	5,129	12,714	13,096	13,306	159.4%
Truck - 9,000 lb to 21,000 lb	1,847	2,928	3,041	3,122	69.0%
Truck - over 21,000 lb	2,643	2,871	2,857	2,898	9.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Luzerne County					2000 - 2014 %
Vehicle Type	2000	2012	2013	2014	Change
Passenger Vehicles	194,739	203,121	197,358	193,839	-0.46%
Motorcycles	5,302	9,980	9,766	9,532	79.78%
Buses	1,140	1,341	1,333	1,256	10.2%
Trailers	21,373	29,135	29,741	30,452	42.48%
Truck - 5,000 lb or less	27,392	17,149	16,342	15,491	-43.45%
Truck - 5,000 lb to 9,000 lb	10,632	21,082	21,754	22,326	109.99%
Truck - 9,000 lb to 21,000 lb	3,675	5,276	5,449	5,626	53.09%
Truck - over 21,000 lb	4,315	4,782	4,788	4,855	12.51%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Pennsylvania					2000 - 2014 %
Vehicle Type	2000	2012	2013	2014	Change
Passenger Vehicles	7,166,668	7,901,771	7,979,219	8,042,355	12.22%
Motorcycles	210,788	404,409	400,529	396,518	88.11%
Buses	47,182	54,355	54,591	54,906	16.37%
Trailers	812,620	1,152,679	1,178,828	1,203,733	48.13%
Truck - 5,000 lb or less	987,230	618,762	583,990	549,593	-44.33%
Truck - 5,000 lb to 9,000 lb	472,508	904,351	940,581	976,915	106.75%
Truck - 9,000 lb to 21,000 lb	142,004	214,552	222,299	231,946	63.34%
Truck - over 21,000 lb	240,504	180,567	180,188	184,111	-23.45%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Home Heating Fuels



Home Heating Fuels

Utility gas has remained the preferred method of home heating fuel in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties from 2000 to 2014. For Lackawanna County, the share of housing units heated by utility gas rose to 63.4 percent in 2014, and in Luzerne County, that proportion grew slightly to 47.7 percent. The next most common home heating fuels were electricity and fuel oil, both of which declined as a percent of all homes in both counties. Other energy sources, including coal and propane, made up a much smaller share. In both counties and throughout Pennsylvania, there has been a considerable drop in the percentage of housing units heated by fuel oil since 2000. This coincides with an increase in the cost of oil and other related fuels. It appears that those households transitioned to electricity or natural gas – based upon the increases seen over the same time period. From 2013 to 2014, however, the decline in fuel oil seems to have begun to slow, perhaps amid a significant decline in oil prices that began in 2014.

	Home Heating Fuel							
	2000		2012		2013		2014	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Occupied housing units	86,218	130,687	85,491	129,158	83,709	128,597	84,280	125,235
Utility gas	61.0%	45.9%	62.1%	46.6%	60.9%	47.1%	63.4%	47.7%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.8%	3.2%	4.6%	2.9%	5.8%	3.8%	4.9%	4.7%
Electricity	12.9%	17.2%	16.3%	22.2%	17.7%	23.9%	15.7%	22.4%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	19.0%	28.9%	13.4%	22.2%	11.9%	19.5%	11.5%	18.9%
Coal or coke	2.0%	3.7%	1.6%	3.9%	1.3%	3.6%	1.5%	3.4%
Other fuel	0.8%	0.9%	1.8%	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%	2.8%	2.7%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

	Pennsylvania Home Heating Fuel			
	2000	2012	2013	2014
Occupied housing units	4,777,003	4,958,249	4,938,894	4,945,972
Utility gas	51.3%	51.0%	50.9%	51.1%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.0%	3.8%	4.0%	4.0%
Electricity	16.5%	21.1%	22.0%	22.0%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	25.5%	18.9%	17.6%	17.4%
Coal or coke	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%
Other fuel	2.0%	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

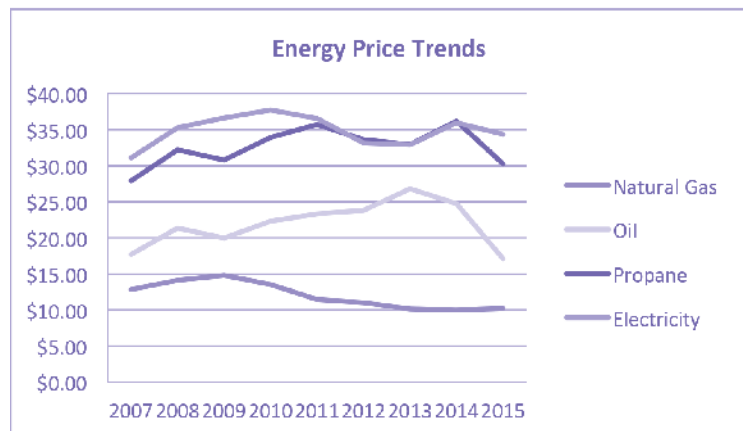
Energy Price Trends Airport

Energy Price Trends

Natural gas continued to be the lowest priced of the four energy sources analyzed. During the time period shown, the price of natural gas peaked in 2009 and declined from each year to the next through 2014. In 2015, the price of natural gas grew slightly, however. The price of electricity dropped from 2014 to 2015, though electricity was the most expensive energy source of the four due to significant drops in the price of propane and oil. The price of oil trended upwards from 2009 to 2013, but fell to \$17.12 in 2015 amid a considerable drop in global oil markets that began in 2014.

Energy Price Trends				
	Natural Gas	Oil	Propane	Electricity
2007	\$12.84	\$17.70	\$27.91	\$31.09
2008	\$14.14	\$21.36	\$32.23	\$35.28
2009	\$14.84	\$19.99	\$30.80	\$36.62
2010	\$13.54	\$22.30	\$33.95	\$37.72
2011	\$11.46	\$23.32	\$35.73	\$36.57
2012	\$11.01	\$23.81	\$33.65	\$33.18
2013	\$10.13	\$26.81	\$32.93	\$32.92
2014	\$10.00	\$24.77	\$36.19	\$35.97
2015	\$10.20	\$17.12	\$30.29	\$34.36

Source: UGI Utilities



Airport

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport reported an increase in its number of passengers from 422,343 in 2014 to 434,127 in 2015. The number of scheduled departures in 2007, prior to the economic downturn, was almost 6,800. This figure dropped significantly in 2008 and 2009. Though the number of departures rebounded a bit in 2015, departures remain lower than in any year prior to 2014. In 2014, the total amount of freight and mail passing through the airport reached a new high among all years analyzed, though it dropped to a new low in 2015. A total of 11 carriers served the airport in 2015.

The percentage of on-time arrivals and departures has fluctuated somewhat over time. In 2015, the airport saw 84 percent of departures on-time, while the on-time rate for arrivals was 75 percent. Both were increases from the prior year. For flights that were not on-time, the average departure delay decreased compared with 2014. In these metrics, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport generally performs as well as or better than nationwide averages, according to data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Annual Performance								
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Passengers	427,000	413,001	433,972	464,560	445,593	424,638	422,343	434,127
Scheduled Departures	6,146	5,873	5,977	6,499	6,497	5,637	4,647	4,781
Freight/Mail (lbs.)	406k	406k	453k	413k	407k	387k	492k	357k
Carriers	13	13	12	15	15	13	14	11
% On Time								
Departure	77%	87%	80%	77%	82%	86%	80%	84%
Arrival	71%	79%	75%	69%	73%	71%	71%	75%
Average Delay (minutes)								
Departure	76.97	75.21	71.91	73.33	68.61	78.45	87.79	84.26
Arrival	65.66	60.01	61.5	59.04	63.5	64.36	60.98	55.66
% Cancelled	4%	1%	3%	5%	3%	3%	5%	2%
# of Carriers Reporting	5	5	6	5	3	3	2	2

Source: Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Broadband Access



Broadband Access

The term broadband commonly refers to any high-speed internet connection that is continuously available and faster than dial-up. Data was included on availability of several specific broadband technologies: DSL, Cable, Fiber Optic and Wireless. The latter two offer the greatest advantages: fiber broadband provides the highest capacity and the fastest data transfer speeds, while wireless technology provides the greatest mobility and convenience. The most recently available data shows that almost all residents of the two counties have access to wireless service. However, less than two percent of Lackawanna County residents have access to fiber, and that proportion is less than 18 percent in Luzerne County. Statewide, a little over half of all residents have access to fiber optic internet. SL and cable, the broadband technologies most commonly offered to consumers over the last decade, are widely available in both counties. Compared with the prior year's data, access to all four technologies has increased, with wireless now reaching 100 percent of both counties' populations. The greatest gains were made in access to fiber and cable broadband.

Access to Broadband Technology			
Percent of Population with Access - as of Dec. 31 2013			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
DSL	95.8%	96.4%	93.1%
Fiber	0.9%	16.9%	49.5%
Cable	95.2%	94.3%	93.9%
Wireless	99.9%	99.1%	99.1%

www.broadbandmap.gov

Access to Broadband Technology			
Percent of Population with Access - as of June 30 2014			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
DSL	96.5%	97.3%	93.5%
Fiber	1.7%	17.6%	50.6%
Cable	96.7%	95.9%	94.6%
Wireless	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%

www.broadbandmap.gov

The **INSTITUTE** for

Public Policy & Economic Development
at Wilkes University

*A partnership among Keystone College, King's College,
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