

Luzerne County Migration Patterns 1990-2008

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The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development

The **INSTITUTE** for

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Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Commonwealth Medical College,
University of Scranton, & Wilkes University*

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I. Executive Summary

Since The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development (The Institute) last examined Luzerne County's population shift in our report *The Rise of Luzerne County: 2007 Update*, additional migration data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has become available. New data now includes information for 2007 and 2008, warranting an update to our last report.

Migration data provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allowed The Institute to track the movement of people between states and counties. Upon review of this information, The Institute has determined that Luzerne County experienced more in-migration and that a significant amount of that in-migration is attributable to Pennsylvania's neighboring states.

In 2007-2008, Luzerne County's total in-migration was 8,468 people—a decrease of 1% from 2006-2007. The same year, the county's total out-migration was 7,950 a 7.4% increase.

Luzerne County Migration 2007-2008		
In	Out	Net
8,468	7,950	518

The in-migration data by state was examined first and found that Pennsylvania counties accounted for 68.9% of all in-migration to Luzerne County. The states contributing the next highest number of in-migrants to Luzerne County included New York (11.39) and New Jersey (10.24%). Next, county data was examined, to more precisely determine exact in-migration sources.

The data showed that in-migration from other Pennsylvania counties, New York and New Jersey has increased in nearly every year since 2000. To identify potential migration patterns, a comparison of information in two time periods — 1990 to 2008 and 2000 to 2008 was reviewed.

Out-migration from New York and New Jersey for points westward occurred largely because of exorbitant housing and living costs. As more people moved out of those states each year, housing and living costs in the Poconos and Lehigh Valley regions increased. It should be noted that movement from Philadelphia and its expensive suburbs also added to the Lehigh Valley's growth; such movement is now impacting our region.

The Institute believes that Northeastern Pennsylvania is poised for growth not only because of its affordable and available housing at all price points, but also because of other favorable factors – such as costs of living and quality of place. This region is not only geographically desirable, but also has many manmade and natural resources with a number of recreational, arts and culture activities and venues. In addition, our region's proximity to major markets like New

York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Boston, add to the its attractiveness. Finally, the region transportation corridors and local airport are also attractive assets for those considering relocating here.

The migration data studied highlighted some very interesting points regarding the in-migration of residents to Luzerne County. Primarily, different economic groups have moved into the region. Low-moderate income and middle to upper middle income families have increasingly come to our region. In addition, sales of higher priced homes were on the rise through 2008 and valuation of all homes has also increased, as housing demand rose. We expect that this will continue as population growth continues. This may be one reason why our region's housing market decline was not nearly as severe as many other parts of the nation.

Many of this region's middle-upper middle income residents maintained employment outside the region as wages and opportunities are not as strong as other relatively nearby areas. This means that on a daily basis there is a lost portion of population to Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, New York, and New Jersey, which contributed to sales leakage, as such residents spent their money en-route to and in the cities in which they work. Assessing the skills of this population segment and finding ways to recruit companies and/or create business start ups to employ them would be a win- win situation.

The low-moderate income group worked locally within our region. Prior to the 2008 economic recession, our region's unemployment rate was declining; in the third and fourth quarter of 2007, employers had difficulty finding employees. This drove wages slightly upward during that time period.

The following state/counties have had the largest impact on Luzerne County's in-migration:

- Pennsylvania: Lackawanna, Colombia, Schuylkill, Monroe, and Carbon counties
- New York: Kings, Queens, and Bronx counties
- New Jersey: Passaic, Essex, and Hudson counties

This report's takeaway is two-fold. First, The Institute found that Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties followed similar population patterns, and, as a result, experienced similar opportunities and challenges. Going forward, working collaboratively to enhance opportunities while mitigating challenges would be an ideal situation. Second, this was the first time since the 1950's that this region experienced population growth. Given that retrenchment has been the norm and there has been limited or no future planning, local government, non-profits, institutions, economic development and workforce development providers should work together to prepare a growth plan. A number of regions have successfully planned for growth and this region can capitalize on their progress and learn from their mistakes. It must be clear that collaboration, cooperation, and innovative thinking will allow this region to capitalize on all

the wonderful opportunities that population growth can bring. Moving forward requires a thoughtful, yet open-minded process.

II. Methodology

County-to-county migration flow data provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) showed migration patterns by county based on address changes on individual income tax returns.¹ The numbers change each year because of migration, births and deaths, marriage, etc. Each county-to-county flow is “significant” if it contains a minimum of ten returns, or if the low is at least 0.5% of all county migrant exemptions.

The counties considered in this analysis were selected because of the high number of migrants they contribute to Luzerne’s population. This study examined population changes by comparing the number of in-migrants to out-migrants by state and county over a specific period of time.

III. Determining the Source

Luzerne County Migration Data

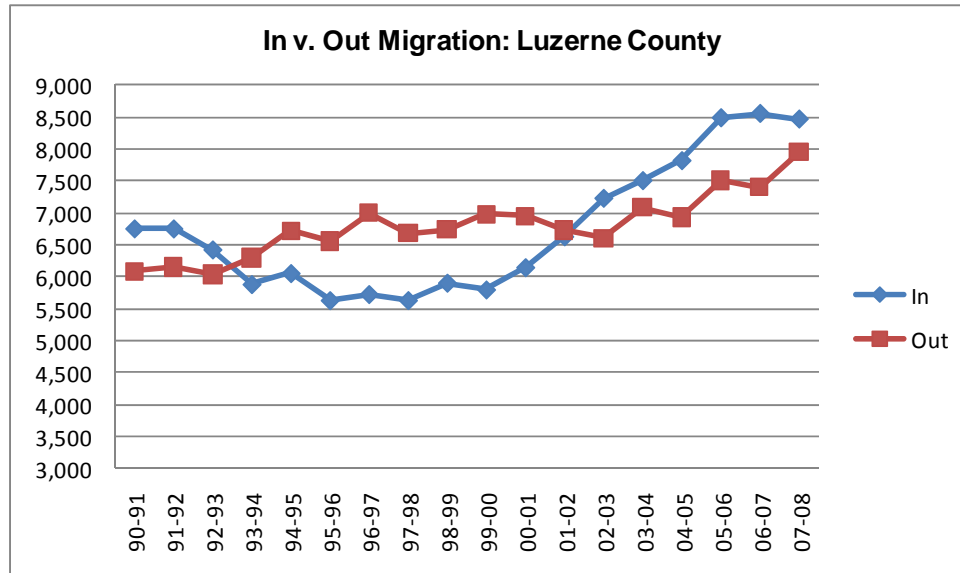
Luzerne County’s in-migration varied over the eighteen-year-period; it was significantly lower than out-migration until it began to rise in 2000. Luzerne County’s in-migrants have increased each year since 1999-2000 with a slight decline in 2007-2008.

Pennsylvania counties contribute the greatest number of migrants to Luzerne County (68.91%), followed by the states of New York and New Jersey, comprising 11.39% and 10.24% of Luzerne County’s total in-migration, respectively.

For both time periods, Lackawanna, Columbia, and Schuylkill Counties contributed most to Luzerne County’s in-migration. In New York, Kings, Queens, and Bronx Counties contributed most to Luzerne County’s in-migration, while, in New Jersey, Middlesex, Essex, and Passaic Counties were the largest contributors.

Because this is the first time since the 1950’s that Luzerne County experienced population growth looking ahead to government, economic development and job market impacts is critical.

¹ <http://www.irs.gov/taxstats/indtaxstats/article/0,,id=96816,00.html>



This table below details Luzerne County’s overall in-migration from 1990 to 2008. It includes annual IRS data from the highest contributing states to Luzerne County. Over the eighteen years examined, the county’s in-migrants largely came from sixteen states and several foreign regions.

Luzerne County In-Migration: 1990 to 2008			
Rank	Location	Total	Percent (%)
1	Pennsylvania	61,787	68.91%
2	New York	10,213	11.39%
3	New Jersey	9,184	10.24%
4	Florida	1,865	2.08%
5	Foreign	1,450	1.62%
6	California	809	0.90%
7	Maryland	770	0.86%
8	Connecticut	675	0.75%
9	Virginia	500	0.56%
10	Massachusetts	444	0.50%
11	Arizona	404	0.45%
12	Delaware	388	0.43%
13	Nevada	282	0.31%
14	North Carolina	279	0.31%
15	Illinois	174	0.19%
16	Texas	123	0.14%
17	Hawaii	97	0.11%
18	Rhode Island	64	0.07%
19	Michigan	45	0.05%
20	Washington, DC	36	0.04%
21	Ohio	33	0.04%
22	South Carolina	22	0.02%
23	Washington	16	0.02%

In 2007-2008, several notable changes occurred. First, while Pennsylvania counties previously comprised 71.0% of Luzerne County's total in-migrants, in 2007-2008 that percentage dropped slightly to 68.9%; conversely, New York counties previously comprised 9.9% of Luzerne County's total in-migration and, in 2007-2008, that increased to 11.4%.

All seventeen locations listed in the above table contributed a total of 89,660 in-migrants to Luzerne County. Combined, in-migrants from other Pennsylvania counties, New York, and New Jersey comprised 90.5% of the total.

The table below details Luzerne County's out-migration beginning in 1990. The data revealed that most of Luzerne County's out-migrants leave the region for other Pennsylvania counties. In fact, of 86,478 people who left Luzerne County, 63,140 (or 73%) remained in Pennsylvania. The second most popular destination for Luzerne County out-migrants was Florida, which received 5.90% of the county's out-migrants.

From 2007 to 2008, the number of people who left Luzerne County for other Pennsylvania counties decreased slightly from 73.3% to 73.0%.

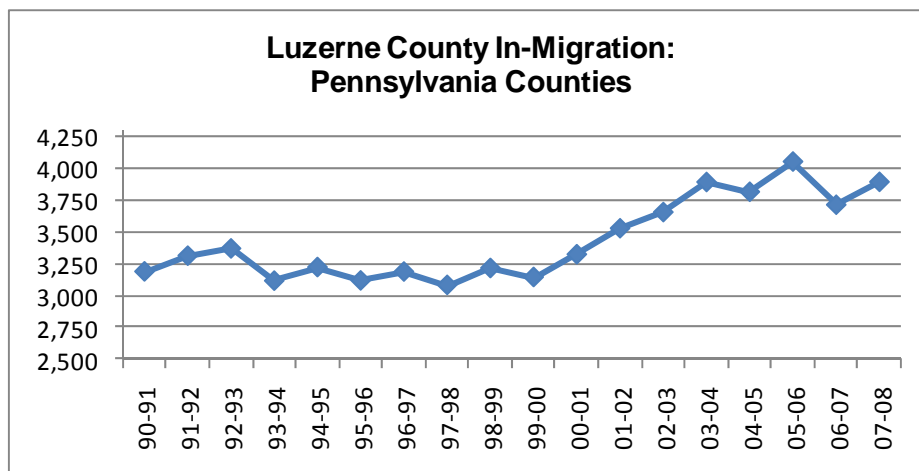
Luzerne County Out-Migration: 1990 to 2008			
Rank	Location	Total	Percent (%)
1	Pennsylvania	63,140	73.01%
2	Florida	5,104	5.90%
3	New Jersey	3,930	4.54%
4	New York	3,699	4.28%
5	Foreign	1,981	2.29%
6	Maryland	1,709	1.98%
7	Virginia	1,038	1.20%
8	Arizona	934	1.08%
9	California	865	1.00%
10	North Carolina	816	0.94%
11	Delaware	676	0.78%
12	Nevada	544	0.63%
13	Massachusetts	458	0.53%
14	Connecticut	339	0.39%
15	Texas	257	0.30%
16	South Carolina	312	0.36%
17	Illinois	220	0.25%
18	Washington, DC	195	0.23%
19	Ohio	138	0.16%
20	Colorado	48	0.06%
21	Hawaii	48	0.06%
22	Vermont	16	0.02%
23	Rhode Island	11	0.01%

The table below examines the migration patterns beginning in 2002. There was a positive net migration each year. From 2002 to the present, Luzerne County gained an additional 4,596 residents.

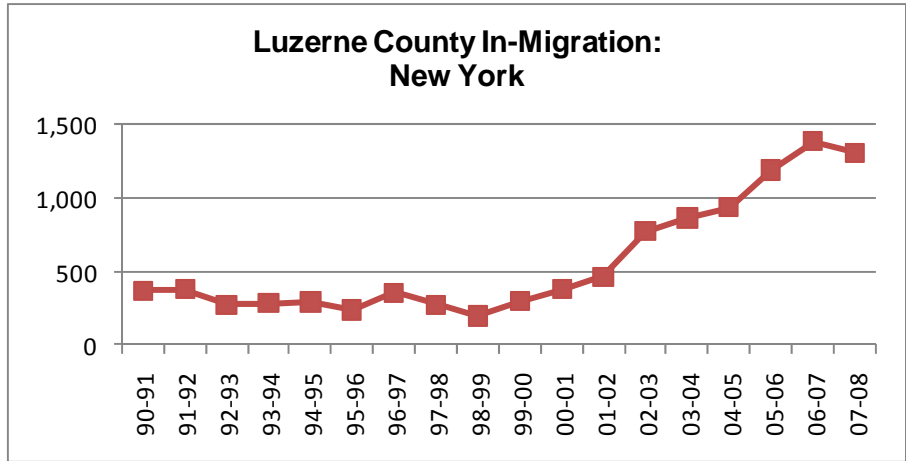
Luzerne County Migration Data: 2002-2008			
	In	Out	Net
2002-2003	7,230	6,606	624
2003-2004	7,506	7,079	427
2004-2005	7,818	6,927	891
2005-2006	8,488	7,505	983
2006-2007	8,556	7,403	1,153
2007-2008	8,468	7,950	518
Total	48,066	43,470	4,596

IV. Understanding the Source

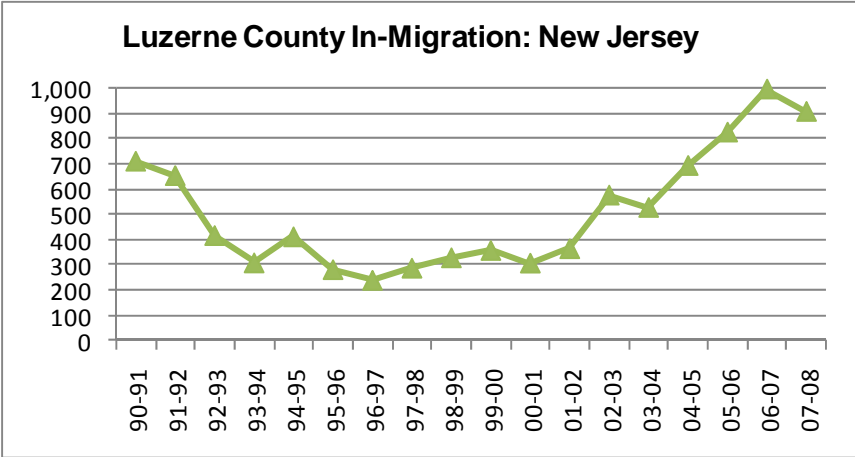
As Pennsylvania counties had a much greater impact on Luzerne County’s in- and out-migration than any other state, the graph below shows that the county’s in-migration was relatively steady from 1990 to 1995, but since 1996, a steady increase in in-migration occurred. Although there were a couple of dips along the way - from 2000 to 2001 and from 2005 to 2006 - for the past three years, in-migration growth has been consistent.



New York was the second largest contributor to Luzerne County’s in-migration growth – with 9,767 people entering the county since 1990. New York’s contributions have increased each year since 1999-2000, decreasing for the first time in nine years in 2007-2008.



As the third greatest contributor to Luzerne County’s in-migration, New Jersey in-migration experienced fluctuations. Over the eighteen years examined, 7,404 New Jersey residents migrated into Luzerne County. As shown on the graph, after a number of years of declines, the lowest period for in-migration to Luzerne from New Jersey was 1996 to 1997. Beginning in 2004-2005, there was a great there was a three year increase, followed by a decrease in 2007-2008.



V. Breaking down the Source

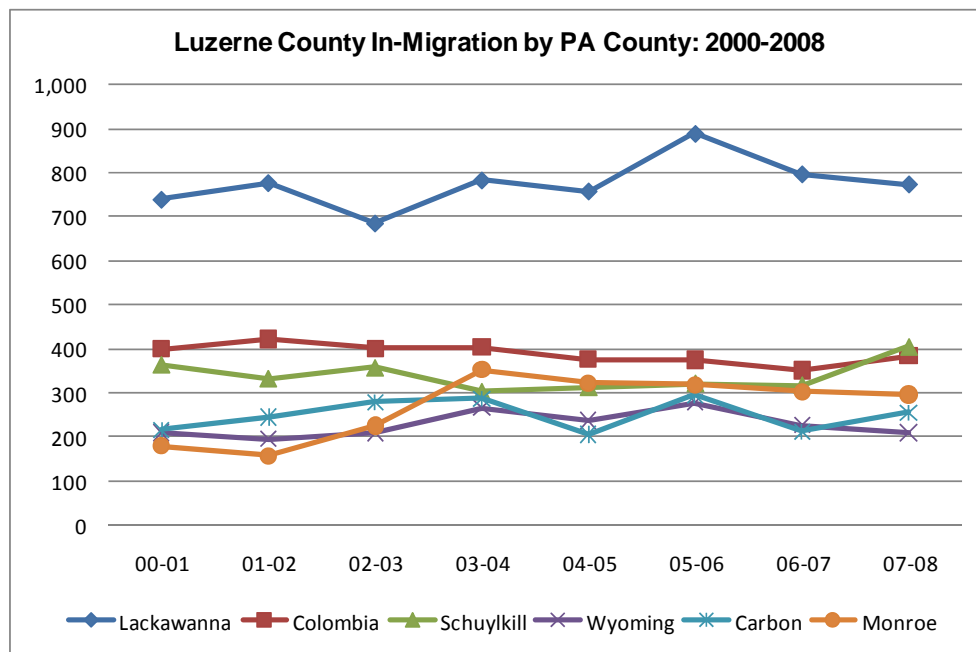
Pennsylvania Migration Data

During the eighteen-year-period from 1990 to 2008, 61,767 people migrated into Luzerne County from other Pennsylvania counties. The table below compares the top ten counties that contributed the greatest number of in-migrants to Luzerne over from 1990 to 2008 and from 2000 to 2008. Many of the top counties contributing most to Luzerne County’s in-migration remained in the same order for both time periods. From 1990 to 2008, Wyoming County

contributed the fourth greatest number of in-migrants to the county, however from 2000 to 2008, Monroe County ranked fourth.

Luzerne County In-Migration: Pennsylvania Counties					
1990 to 2008			2000 to 2008		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Lackawanna	12,440	1	Lackawanna	6,202
2	Columbia	7,210	2	Columbia	3,111
3	Schuylkill	5,533	3	Schuylkill	2,710
4	Wyoming	4,168	4	Monroe	2,151
5	Carbon	4,122	5	Carbon	1,990
6	Monroe	3,566	6	Wyoming	1,827
7	Philadelphia	2,272	7	Philadelphia	1,107
8	Lehigh	1,993	8	Lehigh	958
9	Montgomery	1,986	9	Montgomery	934
10	Bucks	1,931	10	Bucks	837

The graphs below detail the impact of the top six contributing counties to Luzerne County’s in-migration. Columbia County remained the most consistent in terms of in-migration while the other counties fluctuated.



The following table illustrates specific changes in Luzerne County’s top contributors to its population on a year-by-year basis, from 2000 to 2008.

Luzerne County In-Migration by Pennsylvania Counties: 2000-2008									
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	Change
Lackawanna	739	777	685	783	758	889	797	774	35
Columbia	400	422	401	403	376	374	351	384	-16
Schuylkill	364	332	357	302	312	321	317	405	41
Wyoming	209	195	209	266	236	277	226	209	0
Carbon	215	244	278	286	205	295	212	255	40
Monroe	179	156	225	352	322	318	302	296	117
Philadelphia	97	108	156%	119	182	142	127	176	79

Each county saw a positive change between 2000 and 2008 with the exception of Columbia County. Although the county ranked second for in-migration each year, there was a -16 change between 2000 and 2008.

Net Migration

The Institute also studied Luzerne County's net migration to determine the county's overall population flow. Net migration was calculated by subtracting out-migration from in-migration. Included in this table are the ten counties with the greatest influence on Luzerne County's total population change. Overall, just three counties ended up contributing to a positive net migration in Luzerne County, including Lackawanna County (1,598), Carbon County (121) and Bucks County (352).

Luzerne County Net Migration 1990-2008 Pennsylvania Counties			
County	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net
Lackawanna	12,440	10,842	1,598
Columbia	7,210	7,865	-655
Schuylkill	5,533	5,608	-75
Wyoming	4,168	4,432	-264
Carbon	4,122	4,001	121
Monroe	3,566	4,275	-709
Philadelphia	2,272	2,292	-20
Lehigh	1,993	2,321	-328
Montgomery	1,986	2,472	-486
Bucks	1,931	1,579	352

Based on the data in this segment of the report, we arrived at certain conclusions about Luzerne County's in-migration from other Pennsylvania counties:

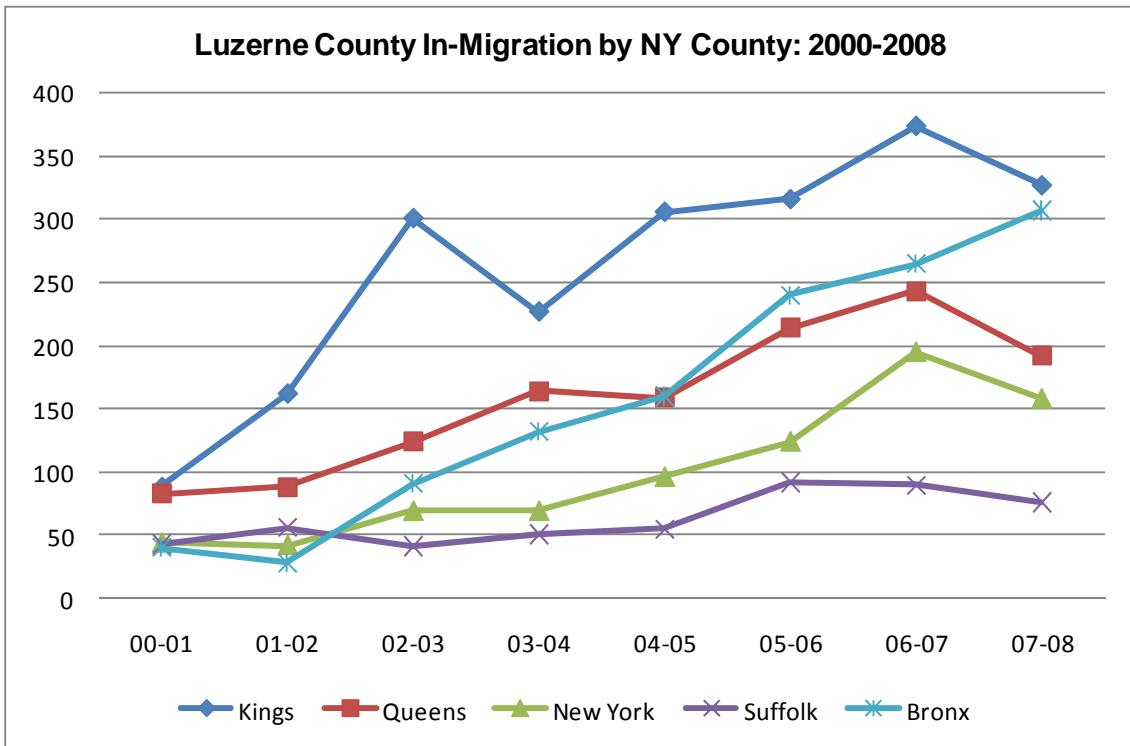
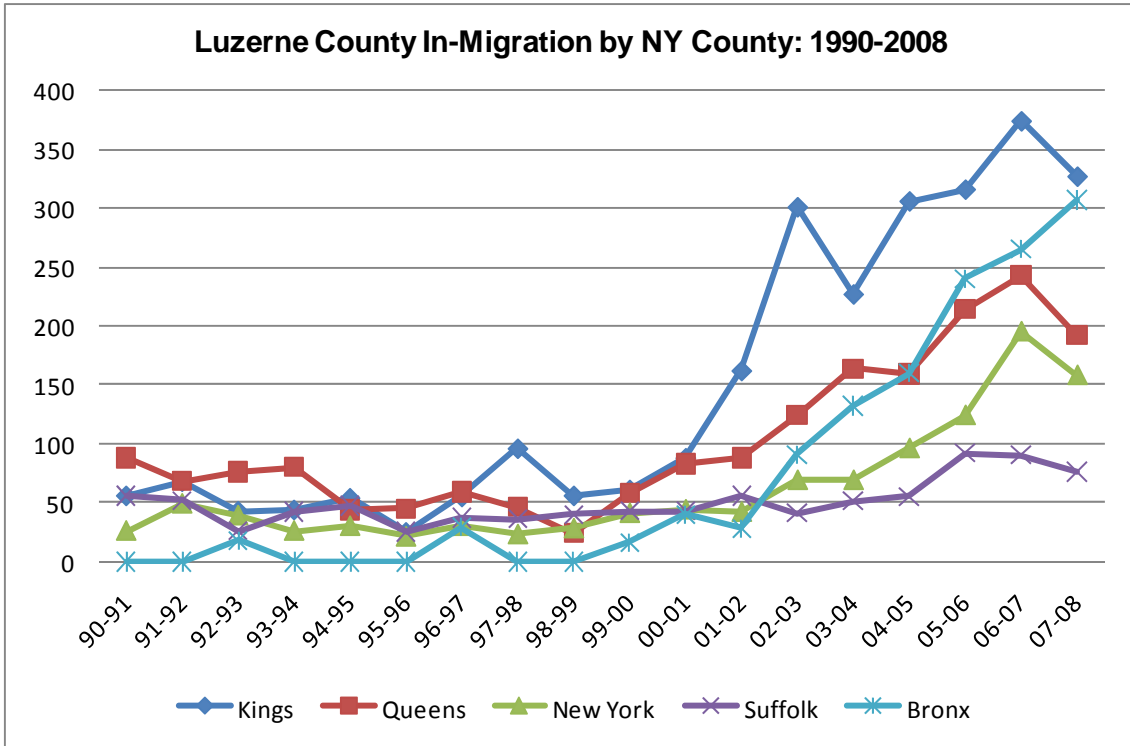
- Lackawanna and Columbia Counties contributed the greatest number of in-migrants to Lackawanna County and Wayne County contributed the highest positive net migration.
- Lackawanna County contributed the highest positive net migration to Luzerne County.
- Monroe County recorded the lowest negative net migration.

New York Migration Data

As previously discussed, after other Pennsylvania Counties, New York counties comprise the second greatest number of in-migrants to Luzerne County. From 1990 into 2008, 9,767 New Yorkers moved into Luzerne County; from 2000 to 2008, that pattern grew. The following table shows the individual contributions of New York counties to Luzerne County's in-migration.

Luzerne County In-Migration: New York Counties					
1990 to 2008			2000 to 2008		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Kings	2,659	1	Kings	2,101
2	Queens	1,855	2	Queens	1,267
3	Bronx	1,326	3	Bronx	1,263
4	New York	1,110	4	New York	797
5	Suffolk	908	5	Suffolk	504
6	Nassau	667	6	Nassau	389
7	Broome	545	7	Broome	234
8	Westchester	320	8	Richmond	201
9	Orange	217	9	Westchester	189
10	Onondaga	160	10	Orange	152

Kings County was New York's top contributor to Luzerne County, providing a larger number of in-migrants than the other counties between 2000 and 2008. The top seven counties remained the same for both periods. Westchester County saw a decrease, falling from eighth to ninth. While Richmond county entered the top ten when only 2000-2008 were examined suggesting a significant increase.



Looking at the 1990-2008 period, trends are difficult to spot, as migration from New York counties to Luzerne County varied greatly. Of New York's five top contributing counties, all recorded overall increases in the number of in-migrants they contributed to Luzerne County.

Bronx County experienced the greatest increase with 267 migrants from 2000 to 2008 while Kings County came in at a close second with a 239 increase. Suffolk County showed the smallest increase with 33.

New York In-Migration Change: 2000-2008									
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	Change
Bronx	40	28	91	132	160	240	265	307	267
Kings	88	162	301	227	306	316	374	327	239
New York	44	42	69	69	96	124	195	158	114
Queens	83	88	124	164	159	214	243	192	109
Suffolk	43	56	41	51	55	92	90	76	33

Net Migration

The table below details net migration from New York counties to Luzerne County from 1990 to 2008. Unlike the trend among Pennsylvania counties that contributed to Luzerne County's in-migration the majority of New York counties recorded overall positive net migration statistics. Kings County had the highest net migration (2,091), while Onondaga County recorded the lowest net migration (18).

New York Counties			
County	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net
Kings	2,659	568	2,091
Queens	1,855	456	1,399
Bronx	1,326	344	982
New York	1,110	708	402
Suffolk	908	330	578
Nassau	667	50	617
Broome	545	414	131
Westchester	320	49	271
Orange	217	0	217
Onondaga	160	142	18

Based on this data, we can assume the following about the impact of New York counties on Luzerne County's in-migration:

- During the period from 2000 to 2008, nearly three quarters (72.7%) of New York's total in-migration to Luzerne County occurred.
- The five New York counties with the greatest impact on Luzerne County's in-migration offered more in-migrants from 2007-2008 than from 2000-2001.
- Kings County contributed the most in-migrants to Luzerne County for both time periods.

New Jersey Migration Data

As the third greatest contributor to Luzerne County's in-migration, New Jersey had very interesting migration patterns. Comprising about 10.5% of Luzerne County's total in-migration,

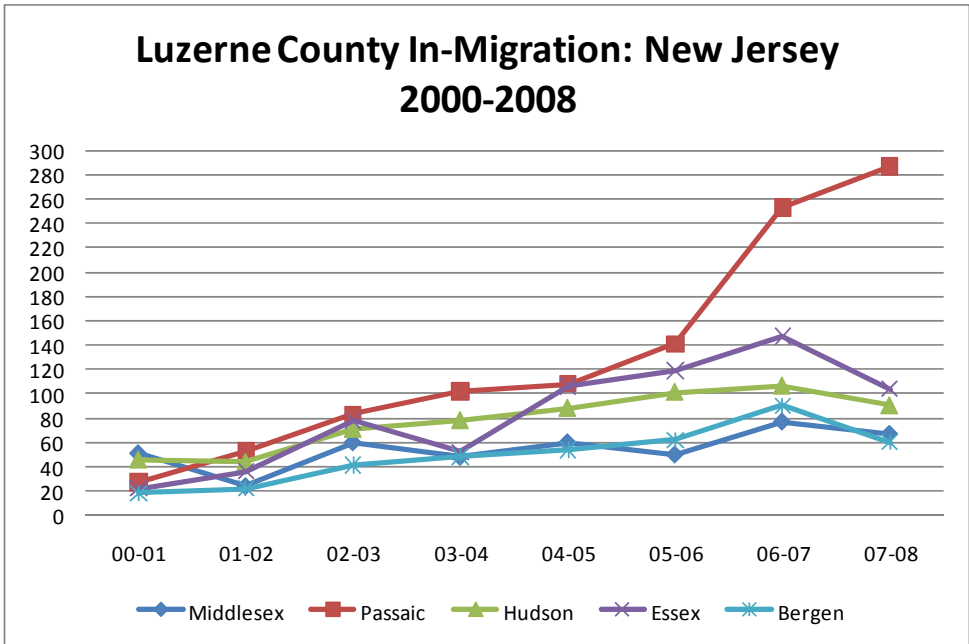
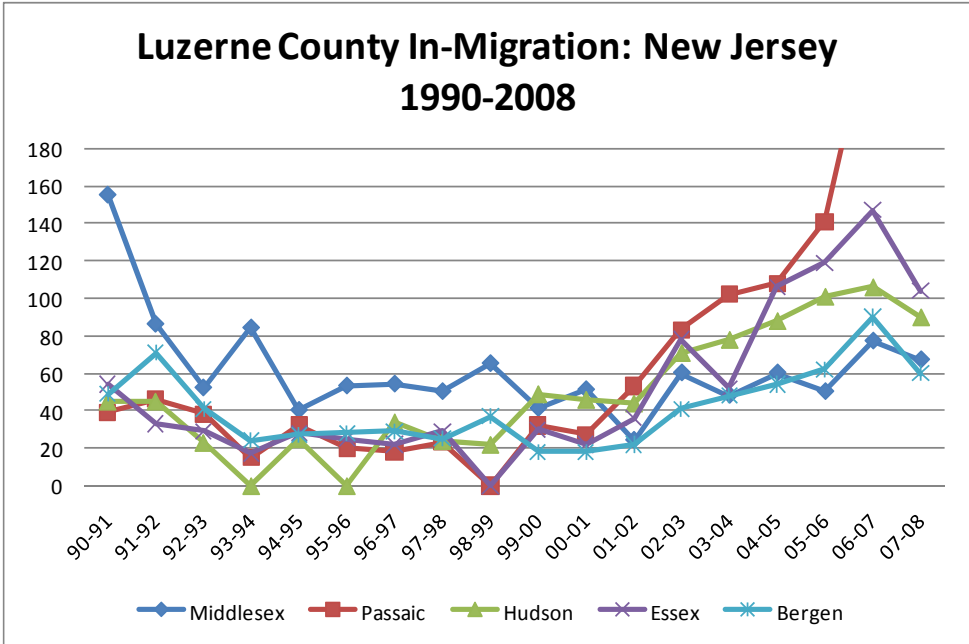
9,184 New Jersey residents left the state for Luzerne County. When dividing migration statistics into the two time periods (1990 to 2008 and 2000 to 2008), 61.3% of New Jersey's total in-migrants to Luzerne County came from 2000 to 2008.

The table below reports on New Jersey's top ten contributing counties to Luzerne County's in-migration for both time periods. Like New York, one county offered the greatest number of migrants, while the remaining county rankings were quite jumbled.

Luzerne County In-Migration: New Jersey Counties					
1990 to 2008			2000 to 2008		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Middlesex	1,117	1	Essex	664
2	Essex	931	2	Passaic	658
3	Passaic	921	3	Hudson	624
4	Hudson	891	4	Middlesex	437
5	Bergen	744	5	Bergen	395
6	Morris	660	6	Union	309
7	Union	622	7	Morris	301
8	Burlington	552	8	Monmouth	291
9	Monmouth	515	9	Burlington	269
10	Somerset	451	10	Somerset	198

From 1990 to 2008, Middlesex contributed the greatest number of in-migrants to Luzerne County. However, it is apparent that in-migrants from other New Jersey counties increased rapidly. Over 70% of the Passaic County residents migrating to Luzerne County came between 2000 and 2008.

The following graphs pinpoint patterns of the six top New Jersey Counties contributing to Luzerne County's in-migration.



Similar to New York, New Jersey’s migration patterns fluctuated. Following Essex County, migration into Luzerne County was fairly low until 2004-2005, when reoccurring increases began. Passaic County offered the most drastic year-to-year fluctuations; increasing tenfold between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008.

New Jersey In-Migration Change: 2000-2008									
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	Change
Passaic	27	53	83	102	108	141	253	287	260
Essex	22	36	78	52	106	119	147	104	82
Hudson	46	44	71	78	88	101	106	90	44
Bergen	18	22	41	48	54	62	90	60	42
Middlesex	51	24	60	48	60	50	77	67	16

Net Migration

The table below details net migration from New Jersey counties to Luzerne County from 1990 to 2008. Unlike the trend among Pennsylvania Counties, all New Jersey counties showed a positive net migration. Middlesex County showed the highest net migration with a total of 591 migrants, while Somerset recorded the lowest migration at 132 migrants.

Luzerne County Net Migration 1990-2008			
New Jersey Counties			
County	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net
Middlesex	1,117	526	591
Essex	931	622	309
Passaic	921	741	180
Hudson	891	458	433
Bergen	744	362	382
Morris	660	260	400
Union	622	514	108
Burlington	552	219	333
Monmouth	515	211	304
Somerset	451	319	132

Based on the data in this segment of the report, The Institute can conclude the following about New Jersey.

- Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Bergen and Middlesex County represent the five highest-rank contributors to Luzerne County in-migration of New Jersey.
- The top ten New Jersey counties had a positive net migration, although generally lower than previous years
- Passaic County shows a very promising future in terms of its contribution to Luzerne County in-migration of New Jersey.
- Passaic and Essex County should be closely watched in future years. Middlesex County should also be followed because of its high net migration.

VI. County Rankings

Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey counties have impacted Luzerne County's population growth. The table below details the counties in all three states with the greatest influence on Luzerne County's in-migration in two time periods. Within Pennsylvania, Lackawanna and Columbia Counties rank first and second, respectively. Kings County, New York contributed the several migrants to Luzerne County during the final eight years examined increasing its

ranking. Bronx County increased its ranking from thirteenth to eight, with a vast majority of migrants coming between 2000 and 2008. Essex County also increases its ranking, moving from twentieth to fifteenth.

Luzerne County In-Migration					
1990 to 2008			2000 to 2008		
1	Lackawanna	12,440	1	Lackawanna	6,202
2	Columbia	7,210	2	Columbia	3,111
3	Schuylkill	5,533	3	Schuylkill	2,710
4	Wyoming	4,168	4	Monroe	2,151
5	Carbon	4,122	5	Kings	2,101
6	Monroe	3,566	6	Carbon	1,990
7	Kings	2,659	7	Wyoming	1,827
8	Philadelphia	2,272	8	Bronx	1,263
9	Lehigh	1,993	9	Philadelphia	1,107
10	Montgomery	1,986	10	Lehigh	958
11	Bucks	1,931	11	Montgomery	934
12	Queens	1,420	12	Bucks	837
13	Bronx	1,326	13	Queens	832
14	Passaic	1,317	14	New York	797
15	Northampton	1,172	15	Essex	664
16	Middlesex	1,117	16	Northampton	652
17	New York	1,110	17	Hudson	624
18	Berks	1,060	18	Wayne	586
19	Wayne	1,047	19	Berks	558
20	Essex	931	20	Passaic	514
21	Dauphin	930	21	Suffolk	504
22	Suffolk	908	22	Middlesex	437
23	Hudson	891	23	Dauphin	391

V. Conclusion

The goal of this analysis was to pinpoint specifically where Luzerne County in-migrants came from. The Institute studied in-migration patterns over an eighteen-year-period from 1990 to 2008 to develop a profile of each top contributing county from the three top contributing states – Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Studying the net migration impact that each of these counties had on Luzerne, The Institute then drew a comparison of in- and out-migration patterns. Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey were each studied based on individual migration patterns and changes. The results verified the top five counties from each state contributing to Luzerne County’s in-migration, which included:

- Pennsylvania: Lackawanna, Colombia, Schuylkill, Monroe, and Carbon counties
- New York: Kings, Queens, and Bronx counties
- New Jersey: Passaic, Essex, and Hudson counties

In terms of net-migration, the results verified the top five contributing counties from each state, which included

- *Pennsylvania:* Lackawanna, Carbon, and Bucks Counties
- *New York:* Kings, Queens, and Bronx Counties
- *New Jersey:* Middlesex, Essex, and Counties

This report allows the reader to better understand the source of Luzerne County's in-migration and make predictions about the county's future growth. Overall, it is expected that the region will continue to grow and that Luzerne County's population will continue to be impacted by migration patterns of New Jersey and New York residents.