

# Quarterly Economy Tracker

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

## In This Issue:

Internet Infrastructure Could be an Asset to Economic Growth	1
Home Health Aides and Personal Care Aides	2
Tourism Directly Supports Nearly 12,000 Jobs	3
Urban Downtowns Remain Center of Knowledge Industries	4
Selected Economic Indicators	5-7
Labor Market at a Glance	8

*The Economic Tracker is a quarterly publication of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development which seeks to explore economic data, trends, and issues related to our region's economy.*

### The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development at Wilkes University

Wilkes-Barre Office:  
85 South Main Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Scranton Office:  
St. Thomas Hall Room 107  
University of Scranton  
Scranton, PA 18503

Phone: 570.408.9850

[www.institutepa.org](http://www.institutepa.org)

Email: [info@institutepa.org](mailto:info@institutepa.org)

Follow us on  
Facebook and Twitter!



## Internet Infrastructure in Lackawanna & Luzerne Could be an Asset to Economic Growth

In today's interconnected society, the internet has become an essential part of everyday life. It is also a critical asset to nearly all businesses. Because of firms' extensive and expanding technology needs, in order for a region to be truly competitive it must provide businesses with adequate technological infrastructure. According to a 2010 survey by the U.S. Small Business Administration, 12 percent of small businesses would even consider relocating for broadband purposes. Important

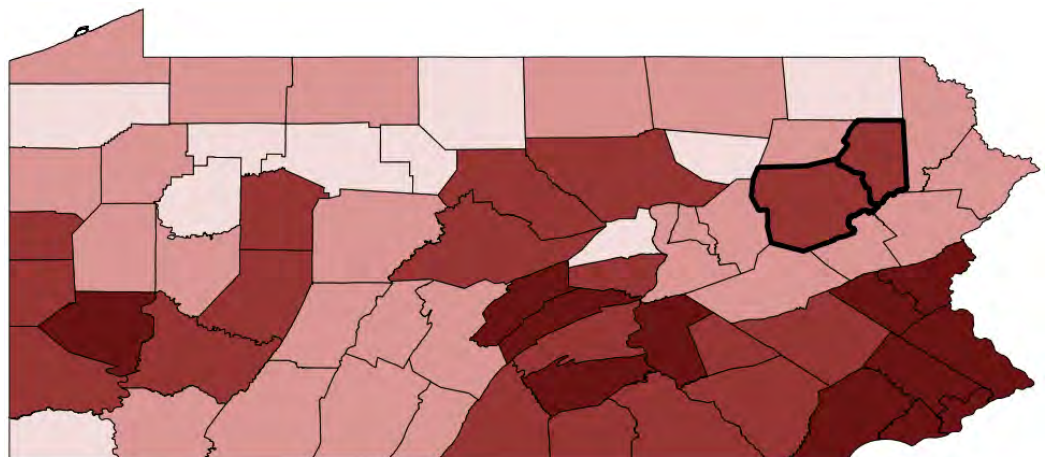
factors include availability of various internet technologies, including wireless and fiber optic networks, connection speed, and diversity of services/providers.

The U.S. Small Business Administration survey also examined the relationship between small businesses and their access and use of internet services. The most needed minimum speed of internet is two to ten megabits per second (Mbps), but nearly a quarter of businesses that responded to the survey desired internet

speed of 100 Mbps or greater. In the years since, it is highly likely that businesses' needs and desires for fast internet connections has grown further.

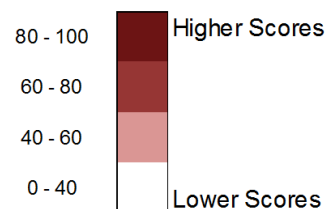
Data on internet connectivity is provided by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration. All data in this report is dated June 2014.

The map shows individual counties' internet infrastructure scores, which were calculated by The Institute based on availability of high (continued on next page)



The map above shows internet infrastructure scores for each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The scores were calculated based on availability of internet with download speeds greater than 10 and 100 Mbps, availability of fiber optic directly to the end user, and diversity of wired internet service providers. A perfect score of 100 would indicate that internet with download speed greater than 100 Mbps, fiber optic internet, and at least 3 wireline ISPs are available to all residents of the county.

### County Internet Infrastructure Scores



## Technology (continued from Page 1)

speed internet and fiber optic internet as well as diversity of internet service providers. Lackawanna and Luzerne counties perform better than neighboring counties in this metric. However, better fiber optic access and greater choice of internet service providers allow counties in Southeastern and South Central Pennsylvania and Allegheny County to outperform our region.

The tables at right show how the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area compares with the national average in several more measures of internet availability and speed. In all measures of accessibility except for fiber optic to the end user, the metro area performs well compared to the nationwide benchmark.

Small businesses in the metro area have considerably lower download speeds than the national average for small businesses. How-

ever, because of the strong availability of broadband internet, it is likely that this is not because of any unmet need but a result of local small businesses having relatively low speed requirements.

Based on these statistics, it appears likely that the region's information infrastructure is adequate to handle the needs of most businesses. Cost was not included in this analysis, however many local businesses indicate costs are higher in this region than elsewhere. However, as businesses' expectations change, the internet infrastructure must evolve to meet them. Furthermore, new infrastructure, such as more extensive fiber optic networks, may be necessary in order for the region to attract businesses that are heavily dependent on high speed internet, and more diversity of ISPs will enhance competition to the benefit of residential and business end users. ♦

Wired Internet Speed		
Percent of Population with Access		
	Scranton / Wilkes-Barre / Hazleton	Nationwide
Download > 3 Mbps	98.9%	95.4%
Download > 10 Mbps	95.9%	92.9%
Download > 1 Gbps	19.4%	7.9%

Internet Availability by Type		
Percent of Population with Access		
	Scranton / Wilkes-Barre / Hazleton	Nationwide
DSL	97.1%	90.0%
Fiber	10.6%	25.4%
Cable	95.8%	88.8%
Wireless	100.0%	99.4%

Broadband Download Speed		
Median Speed by Location Type		
	Scranton / Wilkes-Barre / Hazleton	Nationwide
Home	2.8 Mbps	6.7 Mbps
Small Businesses	1.8 Mbps	4.4 Mbps
Medium/Large Businesses	13.6 Mbps	8.9 Mbps
Mobile	2.5 Mbps	2.1 Mbps

Source: [www.broadbandmap.gov](http://www.broadbandmap.gov)

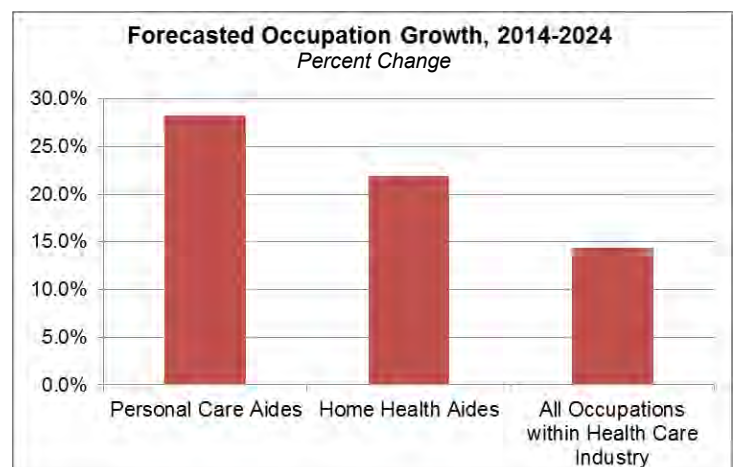
*"As businesses' expectations change, the internet infrastructure must evolve to meet them."*

## In Health Care Sector, Home Health Aides and Personal Care Aides Will Be in High Demand through 2024

According to occupational forecasts from EMSI, within the health care industry, the highest projected employment growth from 2014 to 2024 will be among personal care aides and home health aides, with an anticipated growth in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties of 742 and 673 jobs, respectively.

These jobs have relatively low median wages in Lackawanna and Luzerne coun-

ties: \$10.30 per hour for personal care aides and \$9.76 per hour for home health aides. However, both jobs typically require little entry-level education. Many employees have only a high school diploma. Thus, these occupations could provide a pathway to economic sustainability for workers with little education and work experience. ♦



Sources: EMSI, BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Growing Tourism Industry Directly Supports Nearly 12k Jobs

The beginning of the summer season brings an influx of many visitors to Northeastern Pennsylvania's hotels, restaurants, recreation facilities, and entertainment venues. Year round, travelers coming to the region for leisure or business have a significant impact on the economy.

In total, travelers to the seven county "Upstate PA" region spent \$2.17 billion in 2013, a minimal increase from the prior year. Since 2006, traveler spending has grown 32.5 percent and has increased from each year to the next, except from 2008 to 2009. Growth of traveler spending in Northeastern Pennsylvania has outpaced the Commonwealth as a whole.

This growth trend in travel spending is present in each of the seven component counties of the tourism region. Travel spending has grown fastest in Bradford and Wyoming counties. It is important to note that this spending includes both business and leisure travel, so business travel related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry is likely a major driver of growth in several counties.

Traveler spending supports many different types of businesses. They include retail shops and malls, restaurants and bars, hotels, bed and breakfasts, ski resorts, golf courses, and more. The largest traveler spending category both regionally and statewide was

transportation - this includes service stations, taxi services, car rental businesses, airports, and motor coach operators. Directly, tourism supports 16,228 jobs in the Upstate PA tourism region, nearly 12,000 of which are in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, as shown in the employment impact table below.

The second employment impact table shows the combined direct, indirect, and induced impact of tourism spending. Indirect impact includes the jobs and income created by the supply chains of travel-related businesses: for example, a laundry service used by a hotel for linens or a general contractor hired to renovate a resort. Induced impact is the broadest economic impact; it is the economic ripple effect to all other sectors from tourism related jobs. When tourism workers spend their income, the resulting economic activity is induced impact.

When all of these impacts are considered together, travel and tourism supports 26,090 jobs in Upstate PA, accounting for nearly \$900 million in worker income. Of those jobs, nearly 18,800 are in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. Thus, business and leisure travel are both critically important to the success of the regional economy. ♦

Traveler Spending (in billions)		
Year	Upstate PA Region	Pennsylvania
2006	\$1.64	\$30.8
2007	\$1.75	\$32.5
2008	\$1.92	\$36.2
2009	\$1.66	\$31.3
2010	\$1.86	\$34.2
2011	\$2.09	\$37.0
2012	\$2.17	\$38.5
2013	\$2.17	\$39.2
Percent Change (2006-2013)	32.5%	27.3%

Traveler Spending Change Over Time (2006-2013)		
County	Change (Millions \$)	Percent Change
Bradford	+ 96.7	76.5%
Lackawanna	+ 165.1	34.2%
Luzerne	+ 157.0	22.3%
Schuylkill	+ 27.6	16.4%
Sullivan	+ 6.8	55.3%
Susquehanna	+ 50.6	44.9%
Wyoming	+ 28.8	81.6%
Total Upstate PA	+ 532.8	32.5%

2013 Traveler Spending by Category (in billions)		
	Upstate PA Region	Pennsylvania
Recreation	\$0.4	\$6.6
Retail	\$0.4	\$6.2
Food & Beverage	\$0.5	\$7.8
Transportation	\$0.7	\$13.6
Lodging	\$0.2	\$5.0

*"Growth of traveler spending in Northeastern Pennsylvania has outpaced the Commonwealth as a whole."*

2013 Tourism Employment Impact (Industry Impact Only)				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Upstate PA	Pennsylvania
Total Employment	5,138	6,765	16,228	304,155
Labor Income (in millions)	\$125.1	\$190.2	\$426.0	\$10,568.8

2013 Tourism Employment Impacts (Direct, Indirect, and Induced Impact)				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Upstate PA	Pennsylvania
Total Employment	8,003	10,785	26,090	478,888
Labor Income (in millions)	\$255.6	\$386.1	\$890.1	\$18,782.8

## Urban Downtowns Have Lost Retail Activity to Suburbs, but Remain Center of Knowledge Industries

Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, the two largest cities in Northeastern Pennsylvania, have historically served as population, economic, and cultural centers for the larger region. However, as centers of commerce, the downtowns of both cities have seemed to diminish in importance over the last few decades amid a suburbanization of many types of businesses.

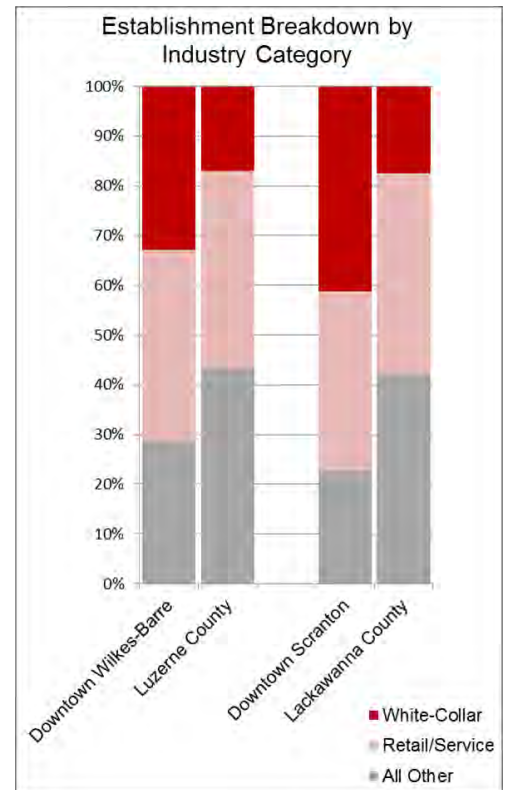
In general, the two central business districts (defined as zip codes 18503 and 18701 for Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, respectively) make up a relatively small share of the regional economy. Downtown Scranton accounts for about eight percent of Lackawanna County's payroll and business establishments, and just six percent of the county's employment. Downtown Wilkes-Barre accounts for only about four percent each of Luzerne County's establishments, payroll, and employment.

The two downtowns account for a particularly small share of the counties' businesses in the retail and service sector as shoppers, diners, and entertainment seekers have shifted their preferences to malls and big box stores over the years. One example of the effect of this trend is the recent struggles of The Mall at Steamtown.

Despite a movement of shopping and dining to outlying areas, the central business districts of our two largest cities are still home to a disproportionate share of the region's white-collar businesses. These knowledge industries include finance, insurance, real estate, and professional, scientific, and technical services.

In Downtown Scranton, over 41 percent of establishments fall into this category; in Downtown Wilkes-Barre, this figure is 33 percent, compared with about 17 percent in both counties as a whole. Furthermore, nearly half of all establishments in these industries in Lackawanna County is located within the 18503 zip code, and over one-third of Luzerne County's white-collar establishments are located within the 18701 zip code. Among the component industries of this segment, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Service Establishments are the most prominent in both downtowns.

These clusters of knowledge-based businesses provide an asset to the continued revitalization of both central business districts by contributing to the local tax base, doing business with other nearby firms, and bringing activity to Northeastern Pennsylvania's urban centers. ♦



Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns / Zip Code Business Patterns

*"The central business districts of our two largest cities are still home to a disproportionate share of the region's white-collar businesses."*

Business Makeup for Downtowns, Cities, and Counties						
	Downtown Wilkes-Barre	All of Wilkes-Barre Area	Luzerne County	Downtown Scranton	All of Scranton Area	Lackawanna County
Retail/Service Industry Establishments as a Percent of All Establishments	38.6%	45.3%	39.8%	36.2%	43.5%	40.4%
Retail Trade	16.1%	21.6%	17.5%	16.0%	18.7%	17.1%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%
Accommodations, Food Service	10.9%	12.1%	10.3%	9.2%	11.6%	11.0%
Other Services	10.6%	10.4%	10.8%	10.1%	12.2%	10.9%
White-Collar Industry Establishments as a Percent of All Establishments	32.8%	18.3%	16.9%	41.2%	19.1%	17.5%
Finance/Insurance	9.4%	6.8%	5.8%	8.8%	5.3%	5.7%
Real Estate	3.3%	3.2%	3.0%	3.9%	2.8%	2.6%
Professional, Scientific, Technical	20.1%	8.4%	8.1%	28.5%	10.9%	9.1%

Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns / Zip Code Business Patterns

Downtown Wilkes-Barre is defined as the 18701 zip code, plus 18766 (Wilkes University). Downtown Scranton is defined as the 18503 zip code. The Wilkes-Barre Area is defined as the 4 Wilkes-Barre zip codes, which include all of Wilkes-Barre City, Wilkes-Barre Township, and parts of Plains Township. The Scranton Area is defined by the 6 Scranton zip codes, which include almost all of Scranton City, and parts of Dunmore and Dickson City.



## Selected Economic Indicators

### Establishments & Employment by ZIP Code

These tables show several measures of business activity by zip code as of 2013. Because zip codes often cross county boundaries, the areas shown represent those that are primarily within Lackawanna or Luzerne counties. Several very small zip codes for which complete data was not available are not shown in the tables. Total establishments includes any single physical location with employees at which business is conducted. Annual payroll per employee is the total payroll of all establishments divided by the total number of employees; thus, it is not an indicator of a typical employee's salary, but an approximation of wage levels in that community.

In Lackawanna County, the largest number of business establishments and employment were spread among the six Scranton zip codes, followed by Clarks Summit and Dunmore/Throop. Downtown Scranton and Moosic had the highest annual payroll per employee; Dickson City had the lowest.

For Luzerne County, the largest numbers of establishments and employees are located in Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Kingston, Pittston, Dallas, and Mountain Top. However, the zip code with the highest annual payroll per employee was Hunlock Creek; the lowest was found in Glen Lyon.

ZIP Code Business Patterns - Lackawanna County									
ZIP	Location	2013 Total Establishments	2013 Total Employment	2013 Annual Payroll Per Employee	ZIP	Location	2013 Total Establishments	2013 Total Employment	2013 Annual Payroll Per Employee
18403	Archbald	163	2,298	\$25,864	18444	Moscow	260	2,284	\$26,603
18407	Carbondale	287	3,555	\$31,037	18518	Old Forge	181	1,897	\$28,904
18411	Clarks Summit	594	8,729	\$36,601	18447	Olyphant	253	2,973	\$32,515
18414	Dalton	98	405	\$26,783	18452	Peckville	120	1,185	\$24,553
18519	Dickson City	204	5,117	\$22,577	18503	Scranton	456	6,144	\$40,620
18512	Dunmore/Throop	408	7,493	\$38,861	18504	Scranton	275	3,366	\$36,429
18420	Fleetville	11	25	\$26,000	18505	Scranton	365	6,031	\$30,838
18424	Gouldsboro	95	1,345	\$30,390	18508	Scranton	378	6,713	\$27,812
18433	Jermyn	112	1,021	\$26,555	18509	Scranton	326	9,989	\$26,808
18434	Jessup	92	3,086	\$39,631	18510	Scranton	241	9,564	\$38,403
18507	Moosic	290	7,373	\$40,068	18517	Taylor	116	2,827	\$36,461

ZIP Code Business Patterns - Luzerne County									
ZIP	Location	2013 Total Establishments	2013 Total Employment	2013 Annual Payroll Per Employee	ZIP	Location	2013 Total Establishments	2013 Total Employment	2013 Annual Payroll Per Employee
18219	Conyngham	38	152	\$29,849	18707	Mountain Top	300	4,744	\$39,597
18612	Dallas	363	5,922	\$27,859	18634	Nanticoke	167	1,628	\$25,294
18221	Drifton	4	12	\$34,667	18635	Nescopeck	52	328	\$26,857
18222	Drums	131	1,549	\$30,475	18241	Nuremberg	12	35	\$33,600
18641	Dupont/Avoca	120	1,390	\$32,342	18640	Pittston	522	13,376	\$34,003
18642	Duryea	62	847	\$43,498	18651	Plymouth	134	893	\$27,956
18224	Freeland	75	794	\$31,466	18708	Shavertown	137	1,170	\$24,874
18617	Glen Lyon	7	19	\$13,579	18655	Shickshinny	69	389	\$21,301
18706	Hanover Twp.	250	6,846	\$39,602	18249	Sugarloaf	76	429	\$26,678
18618	Harveys Lake	48	384	\$17,250	18656	Sweet Valley	19	83	\$27,928
18201	Hazleton	688	12,605	\$33,692	18660	Wapwallopen	42	167	\$19,707
18202	Hazleton	370	11,302	\$34,528	18643	West Pittston/Exeter	216	3,191	\$43,774
18621	Hunlock Creek	76	558	\$51,290	18256	Weston	6	24	\$23,667
18622	Huntington Mills	3	7	\$14,571	18661	White Haven	99	762	\$30,280
18704	Kingston	893	9,985	\$32,951	18701	Wilkes-Barre	322	5,525	\$33,932
18234	Lattimer Mines	4	21	\$17,476	18702	Wilkes-Barre	1137	24,365	\$31,999
18709	Luzerne	97	1,161	\$25,285	18705	Wilkes-Barre	269	3,435	\$37,667
18239	Milnesville	5	29	\$23,793	18644	Wyoming	172	1,805	\$29,375

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Zip Code Business Patterns

## Selected Economic Indicators

### Establishments by Industry

The tables below show the total number of business establishments for all industry sectors with at least 100 establishments in each county. From 2012 to 2013, the most recent year for which data is available, the number of establishments grew by six percent in Lackawanna County and 4.3 percent in Luzerne County. In both counties, Real Estate Rental and Leasing establishments showed strong growth, while manufacturing establishments fell in both counties.

Establishments by Industry - Lackawanna County										
	Total Establishments			Establishments by Number of Employees - 2013						
	2012	2013	% Change	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500+
<b>Total Sectors</b>	5097	5402	6.0%	3855	699	505	178	120	30	15
Construction	444	459	3.4%	383	41	25	8	2	0	0
Manufacturing	238	234	-1.7%	103	44	44	17	21	4	1
Wholesale Trade	268	265	-1.1%	168	34	44	13	5	1	0
Retail Trade	927	925	-0.2%	632	154	84	31	21	3	0
Transportation and Warehousing	167	165	-1.2%	104	21	22	9	5	2	2
Finance and Insurance	307	310	1.0%	251	25	19	8	3	1	3
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	136	142	4.4%	130	8	2	2	0	0	0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	490	493	0.6%	412	44	28	6	1	1	1
Administration, Support, Waste Management Remediation	235	244	3.8%	180	23	18	10	11	2	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	728	721	-1.0%	447	131	73	28	28	11	3
Accommodation and Food Services	591	596	0.8%	368	92	106	24	6	0	0
Other Services (Excludes Public Transportation)	566	590	4.2%	525	43	13	5	4	0	0

Establishments by Industry - Luzerne County										
	Total Establishments			Establishments by Number of Employees - 2013						
	2012	2013	% Change	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500+
<b>Total Sectors</b>	6880	7175	4.3%	5076	999	630	245	157	40	28
Construction	596	561	-5.9%	457	58	34	9	2	1	0
Manufacturing	311	292	-6.1%	117	55	45	27	32	12	4
Wholesale Trade	345	355	2.9%	236	63	34	13	4	5	0
Retail Trade	1242	1259	1.4%	874	216	93	39	32	4	1
Transportation and Warehousing	276	271	-1.8%	155	37	44	16	11	5	3
Finance and Insurance	425	419	-1.4%	351	34	24	6	1	1	2
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	205	214	4.4%	190	21	2	1	0	0	0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	574	581	1.2%	483	59	23	8	6	0	2
Administration, Support, Waste Management Remediation	390	384	-1.5%	255	60	38	12	14	2	3
Health Care and Social Assistance	973	955	-1.8%	617	161	87	38	39	7	6
Accommodation and Food Services	742	742	0.0%	435	127	134	40	6	0	0
Other Services (Excludes Public Transportation)	801	776	-3.1%	697	55	19	4	1	0	0

Data Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns

## Selected Economic Indicators

### Total Annual Payroll

In both counties, total annual payroll showed an increasing rate of growth from 2012 to 2013, the most recent year for which data is available. This indicates that establishments are hiring workers, paying existing employees higher wages, or giving hourly paid employees more working hours. Any of these are a positive sign for the regional economy.

In both counties, annual payroll growth is uneven among industries. In Lackawanna County, transportation and warehousing and educational services showed the greatest payroll growth from 2012 to 2013, while in Luzerne County, manufacturing and health care and social assistance saw the most significant increases.

Annual Payroll										
	Lackawanna County					Luzerne County				
	Annual Payroll (in Thousands)			Percent Change		Annual Payroll (in Thousands)			Percent Change	
	2011	2012	2013	2011-2012	2012-2013	2011	2012	2013	2011-2012	2012-2013
<b>All Sectors</b>	\$3,106,517	\$3,126,400	\$3,214,779	0.6%	2.8%	\$4,287,146	\$4,460,289	\$4,696,258	4.0%	5.3%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$359,076	\$362,533	\$365,863	1.0%	0.9%	\$675,166	\$715,920	\$761,997	6.0%	6.4%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	\$285,754	\$283,536	\$286,939	-0.8%	1.2%	\$420,904	\$428,477	\$426,714	1.8%	-0.4%
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	\$168,188	\$164,008	\$172,100	-2.5%	4.9%	\$257,575	\$335,369	\$341,758	30.2%	1.9%
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	\$293,801	\$295,391	\$306,321	0.5%	3.7%	\$241,236	\$257,924	\$256,022	6.9%	-0.7%
<b>Educational Services</b>	\$180,450	\$185,316	\$192,954	2.7%	4.1%	\$109,410	\$110,421	\$110,030	0.9%	-0.4%
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	\$107,892	\$112,281	\$109,490	4.1%	-2.5%	\$138,225	\$138,195	\$143,033	0.0%	3.5%
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	\$811,447	\$782,168	\$773,818	-3.6%	-1.1%	\$940,228	\$986,788	\$1,034,333	5.0%	4.8%

Data Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns

### Income by Type

By any measure, incomes in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are lower than in Pennsylvania as a whole. Mean household incomes in those counties both fell short of the statewide average by more than \$10,000. The income gap between the two-county region and the Commonwealth was even larger when looking only at earnings. Relatively low incomes can suggest a low cost of living, but can also mean that households lack disposable income to spend and that many families struggle to meet basic needs. Furthermore, the percentage of households in the two counties that have any earned income is somewhat lower than Pennsylvania as a whole, while a greater proportion in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties report Social Security income. Social Security and retirement incomes are far lower than the mean earned income. Thus, many retired residents of the region are likely living on limited incomes, some with Social Security as their sole income source. These households have diminished purchasing power and may have difficulty affording property taxes.

Income by Type - 2013			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Mean household income	\$59,880	\$59,025	\$70,628
% of households with earned income	72.1%	71.5%	75.3%
Mean earned income	\$63,478	\$62,252	\$74,003
% of households with Social Security income	36.4%	37.2%	33.2%
Mean Social Security income	\$16,550	\$16,480	\$17,689
% of households with retirement income	20.3%	21.7%	20.2%
Mean retirement income	\$18,129	\$17,159	\$19,984
% of households with public assistance income	3.2%	3.6%	3.6%
Mean public assistance income	\$2,153	\$2,907	\$2,884

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

Signature Underwriter



The Willary Foundation is a family foundation dedicated to developing ideas and projects that are interesting, creative and imaginative and which benefit communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Willary seeks to foster groups with unique, innovative or unusual ideas and efforts.

The Foundation is disposed to leveraging the impact of its grants by encouraging efforts that could have a ripple effect in the community or by supporting projects in conjunctions with other sources of funding. The Foundation wishes to promote the special qualities of the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Willary is particularly interested in projects that support leadership and the development of leadership in business, the economy, education, human services, government, the arts, media, and research.

**Supporting Underwriter**



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

Research Team:

Teri Ooms, Executive Director

Andrew Chew, Research & Policy Analyst

Nimita Patel, Research Assistant

Research Intern:

James Messina, Wilkes University

## Labor Market at a Glance

According to preliminary figures from BLS, in March 2015, the unemployment rate in Lackawanna County was six percent, and in Luzerne County, it was 6.8 percent. Both counties experienced a recovery in their unemployment rates from 2013 to 2014, and this trend continued into the first quarter of 2015. Unemployment in both counties remained higher than the statewide rate, which fell to 5.5 percent in March.

Total employment in both counties has shown growth, though to a lesser degree than the drop in the unemployment rate might suggest. This is due to lower labor force participation rates now compared with 2008. This means that fewer people are searching for jobs. Still, total employment in both counties was higher in 2014 than any year since 2008, indicating that the region is finally seeing a tangible labor market recovery. ♦

Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania	United States
2007	4.8	5.0	4.4	5.0
2008	5.8	6.2	5.3	7.3
2009	8.2	9.0	8.0	9.9
2010	9.0	10.0	8.5	9.3
2011	8.9	9.6	7.9	8.5
2012	8.9	9.8	7.9	7.9
2013	8.4	9.4	7.4	6.7
2014	6.6	7.3	5.8	5.6
Jan. 2015	6.6	7.2	5.9	5.7
Feb. 2015	6.3	7.1	5.7	5.5
Mar. 2015*	6.0	6.8	5.5	5.5

March 2015 figures are preliminary. Prior figures have been adjusted.  
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor Force & Employment				
	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County	
	Labor Force	Employment	Labor Force	Employment
2007	106,909	101,792	159,118	151,181
2008	108,526	102,231	161,744	151,642
2009	107,192	98,396	161,298	146,781
2010	106,987	97,402	159,759	143,859
2011	107,292	97,796	159,797	144,474
2012	107,692	98,106	160,883	145,082
2013	107,674	98,648	160,789	145,600
2014	106,676	99,688	158,634	147,126
Jan. 2015	107,181	100,139	159,294	147,789
Feb. 2015	106,853	100,078	158,983	147,694
Mar. 2015*	107,242	100,792	159,582	148,749

March 2015 figures are preliminary. Prior year figures have been adjusted.  
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics