

“Turning Information into Insight.”

Thank you for making Indicators 2018 a success!

We would like to extend a very sincere thank you to all who attended the 2018 Indicators Forum on May 10th. Thanks to the support from our partners, advisory board and task force teams, we had this opportunity to share regional data and research with the community.

It is our desire that this information will continue to provoke thought and drive discussion on critical issues that will help our region continue to move forward.

With sincere thanks,
-Teri Ooms, Executive Director

In this Issue:

Indicators 2018 Recap

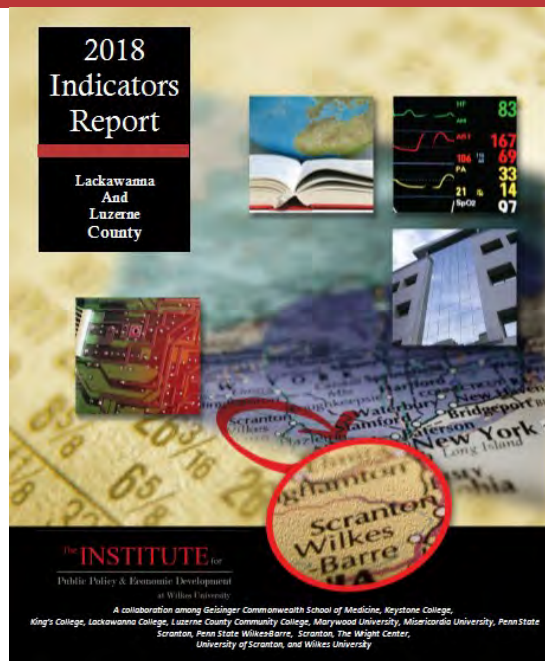
Special reports on regional challenges in:

- [Housing](#)
- [Jobs, Economy & Economic Development](#)
- [Health and Health Care](#)
- [Planning, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure](#)
- [Workforce Development](#)

- Access our [Spring Quarterly Economy Tracker](#) for regional business data and trends you need to know

- [2018 College Poll](#)—What is next for our area graduates

- Client Services



Access the 2018 Indicators Report [here](#)

A collaboration among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center, University of Scranton, and Wilkes University

Indicators Forum 2018

Over 160 regional leaders from the public and private sectors gathered at Mohegan Sun Pocono for The Institute's 13th annual Indicators Forum. Presentations included the 2018 Indicators Report, which tracks economic data and quality of life trends vital to our region's future.

Attendees were also treated to presentations from our task force chairs on opportunities to improve our region in critical areas: Health Care, Housing, Workforce & Education, Energy, Transportation & Economic Development

Thank you to our 2018 Research Partners!

Your willingness to help is bringing meaningful change to our region.

2018 Research Partners

Signature Underwriters

Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Contributing Underwriters

Borton Lawson
Commonwealth Health Systems
Geisinger Health System
Luzerne County Housing Partnership
Mohegan Sun Pocono
Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP

Supporting Underwriters

Berkshire Asset Management
BlackOut Design
Classic Properties
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
NET Credit Union
OneSource Staffing
Wells Fargo Foundation

Friends

CAN DO, Inc
Hinerfeld Commercial Realty
People's Bank & Trust

Public Media Partner : WVIA

Academic Partners:

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center, University of Scranton, and Wilkes University

Indicators 2018 Task Force Presentations

Each year, task force teams comprised of diverse groups of professionals in their respective fields convene and generate strategies, plans, and policy solutions based on research to help improve the quality of life and standard of living in the region. The reports were presented at the Indicators Forum.

Access the links below for this year's full task force reports!

Jobs, Economy & Economic Development: The Institute conducted a study of the “unbanked and under-banked,” or those who do not use traditional banking services such as a checking or saving account and how this affects the regional economy.

Education & Workforce Development: The Institute presented a research study on the region's fastest growing occupations and workforce development challenges.

Health & Healthcare: The Institute conducted two studies, **one on the social determinants of health** and another on **health literacy**. The presentations included information on health education and literacy and their impact on health status, community well-being, health care costs and healthy behaviors. There are recommendations for evidenced based programs or initiatives aimed at improving health education, literacy levels and achieved outcomes.

Housing: An examination of the concept of “aging in place,” which refers to older adults remaining in their homes as they advance in age, rather than making alternative living arrangements such as moving to active adult or assisted living communities.

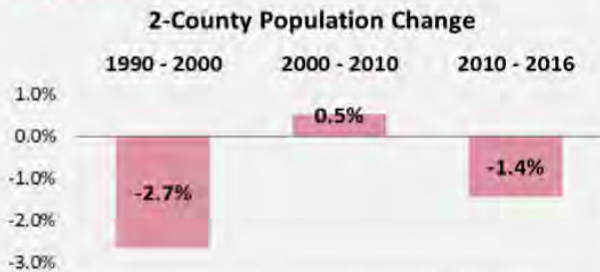
Planning, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure: Task force research analyzed local level policies that can be used to create transit -friendly communities. The study included implementable land-use planning strategies to enhance transportation choices.



Lackawanna and Luzerne County Indicators

Regional Dashboard 2018

Population



The region saw a nearly 3% population decline from 1990 to 2000, followed by moderate growth from 2000 to 2010. **Both counties' populations have trended downward since 2010.**

The percent of the population over age 65 has risen. As of 2016, about 1 in 5 residents was age 65 or older.



The region has also grown **more diverse**, with increases in African-American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino residents.



Housing Market

While for-sale inventory has declined since 2014, list prices and housing values have increased, suggesting **tightening market conditions**. Foreclosures have trended downward.



Education & Workforce

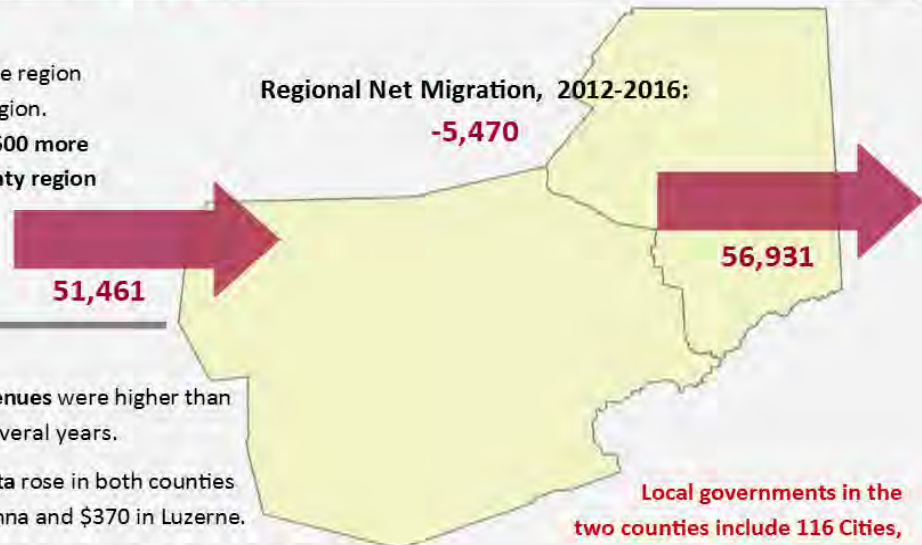
Percent of adults with **at least a bachelor's degree in 2016: 24.7%**
Up from 23.7% in 2015

Degrees awarded by region's higher ed. institutions in **2016: 8,540**
Up from 8,514 in 2015

4-year graduation rate from high school in **2015-2016: 89.7%**
Up from 89.5% in 2014-15

Migration

In recent years, migration out of the region has outpaced migration into the region. Between 2012 and 2016, nearly 5,500 more people moved out of the two county region than moved in.



Government

For both county governments, **revenues** were higher than **expenditures** in each of the last several years.

County-level **tax revenues per capita** rose in both counties in 2016, reaching \$382 in Lackawanna and \$370 in Luzerne.

In recent years, county **property tax** millages have remained unchanged.

Local governments in the two counties include 116 Cities, Boroughs, and Townships.

[ACCESS THE FULL INDICATORS REPORT HERE](#)

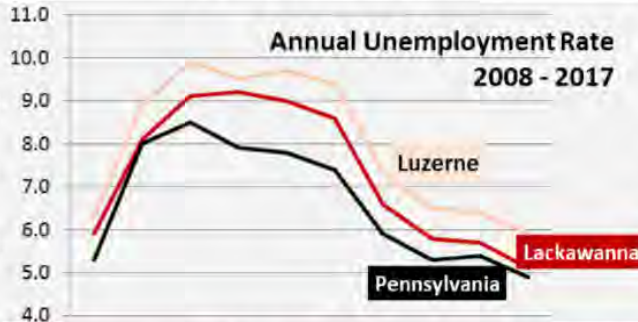
Lackawanna and Luzerne County Indicators

Turning Information into Insight

The Region's Economy

Labor Market

The region's labor market has improved in recent years, adding over 5,500 jobs between 2012 and 2016. The unemployment rate has fallen by more than 3 points since 2012.



Innovation

Regional funding from two grant programs for innovation and technology transfer, SBIR and STTR, have grown.

These awards totaled over \$100 million in 2016.

Business & Industry

Regional GDP in 2016 was over \$23 billion, a 1.8% increase from 2015. The statewide GDP grew by 1.7% during that time.

The region's industries exported \$1.3 billion worth of products in 2016.

Between 2012 and 2016, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties added over 5,500 jobs.



2016 Regional Exports (Millions \$)



Income & Poverty

Wages in the region grew in 2016, but remain less than 80% of statewide average wages.

About 1 in 7 people in the region live below the federal poverty line.

Infrastructure

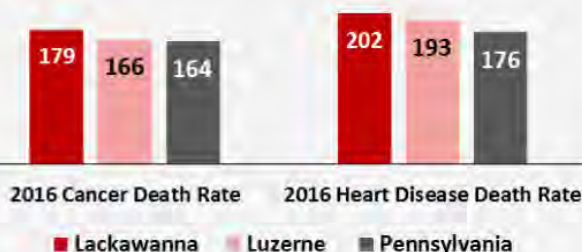


Traffic counts on area highways have increased in the past five years—a 1% growth in I-81 in Wilkes-Barre Township and a 10% growth on I-80 in Luzerne County.

Three out of four households in the region have an internet subscription at home. This statistic increased from 2015 to 2016.

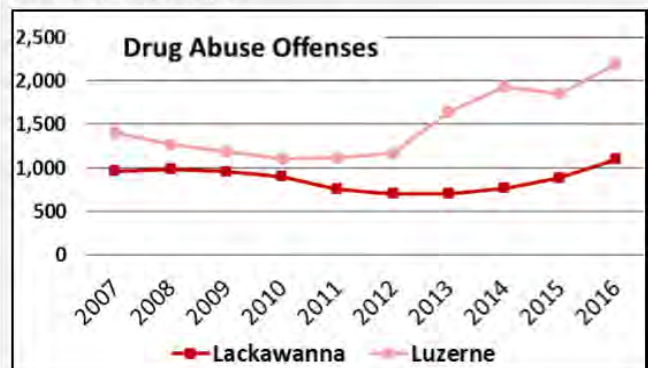
Health & Environment

- The region's Air Quality Index improved from 2016 to 2017 and has consistently been at levels deemed healthy by the EPA.
- Cancer and heart disease rates have improved in the region, but remain higher than statewide rates.



Public Safety

Property crime in the region has declined in recent years, and the region's overall crime rates are generally in line with similar metro areas. However, drug abuse offenses have increased in the region.

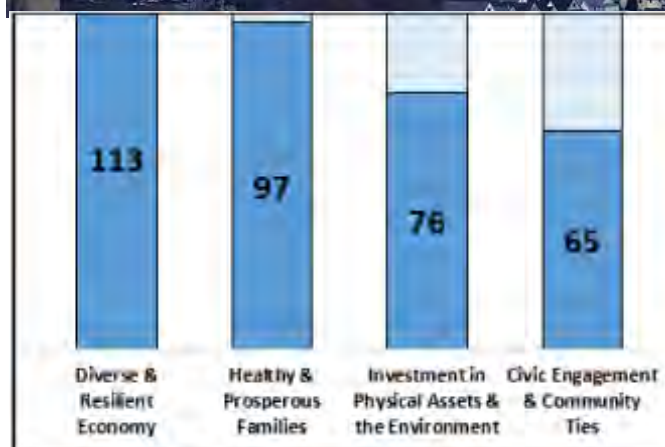


PILLARS OF A STRONG COMMUNITY 2018

The third annual Pillars of a Strong Community report was also presented at this year's Indicators Forum. The project explores what it takes to be strong as a region and how we are doing compared to other similar peer regions.

Access the Pillars online to find out how our region is progressing in overall community strength in these four areas:

- Diverse and Resilient Economy
- Healthy & Prosperous Families
- Investment in Physical Assets & the Environment
- Civic Engagement & Community Ties



Become an Institute Research Partner Today!

We hope that you will consider joining our growing list of generous community of supporters who care deeply about the future of the region they call home. Your partnership would help make it possible for the Institute to provide our community with data and research to support informed decisions leading to greater economic vitality for the region.

Your partnership helps support:

- Annual Indicators Forum**
- Task Force Research**
- Quarterly Economy Tracker**
- Student Poll & Internship Program**

If you would like to discuss a potential partnership with The Institute, please contact Susan Magnotta at magnotta@institutepa.org.

Community Based Research Initiatives

Quarterly Economic Tracker, Spring 2018

The region's economic data and trends you need to know.



In this issue of the QET...

- Top degrees in the region: business & nursing
- Construction industries projected to add jobs
- Health Insurance: regional data & trends

[Access the QET Here.](#)

We would like to thank the **Willary Foundation**, our Signature underwriter, for providing the seed capital for the QET as well as our generous Supporting Underwriters, **PNC Foundation** and **UGI Utilities**.

Post Graduation Student Poll, Spring 2018

Find out what over 1,500 area college students plan to do after graduation in the 2018 Spring Poll!



- What are the factors for those who plan to relocate?
- How big of a role do internships play for those who plan to remain in the region?
- What are the most important factors graduates consider when evaluating job opportunities?

[Access the Student Poll Here](#)

Tribute to Bill Sordoni, Institute Founder & Friend

It is with sad hearts that we say goodbye to our friend, Bill Sordoni, who passed away on May 23rd at the age of 73. Mr. Sordoni was a founder of The Institute and the inaugural vice chairman. He served on the board for 10 years, never missing a meeting. He will be missed by many in the community where he made significant contributions over the years. Thank you, Mr. Sordoni, for your insight and continuous support of The Institute, you will forever be in our hearts.

Empowering Clients

The Institute provides a full range of customized research, consulting and support services to public and private organizations on a fee-for service basis. As a non-profit and by harnessing the resources of our higher education partners, we are able to offer superior products at very competitive prices.

Client Solutions

- Market & Feasibility Studies
- Indicators- Indexes
- Community Needs Assessments
- Housing Studies
- Economic Development Strategies
- Economic and Tax Impact Studies
- Survey Research
- Industry Studies
- Workforce Studies
- Education Studies
- Economic and Demographic Profiles
- Policy Analysis
- Grant and Program Evaluation Support
- Research Validation and Peer Review
- Site Selection Research
- Arts & Culture Studies
- Tourism Strategic Plans
- Comprehensive Plans
- Asset Maps

2018 Clients

Non-Profit: Geisinger Health System, Lehigh Carbon Community College SHINE, Lehigh County Head Start, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Luzerne County Head Start, Luzerne County SHINE, Maternal & Family Health Services, United Way Wyoming Valley

Foundations: Scranton Area Foundation, Moses Taylor Foundation, Willary Foundation

Government: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging

Economic Development Organizations: Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry

Educational Institutions: Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Primary Care Progress & The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, Wilkes University, University of Scranton

Professional Organizations: Lackawanna County Bar Association,

Who We Are

The Institute is a non-profit research organization dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with researched based strategies for informed decision making.

We conduct community based, empirical research to identify the opportunities, issues and challenges unique to our region and offer innovative solutions for the problems facing our communities. **This research is funded by our generous academic partners and sponsors who share our vision for a strong regional economy and vibrant communities.**

Community Based Research

Access the latest regional research on the Institute's website. www.institutepa.org

Regional Indicators Data & Research

Indicators data tracks the region's progress over time on the economy, healthcare, environment, education and infrastructure measures. <http://www.institutepa.org/PDF/Indicators/2018/indicators18.pdf>

Task Force Research

Recent and archived research studies identify and address the region's challenges. This research has been a driving force behind many important economic development and community revitalization initiatives that have produced positive outcomes for our region.

http://www.institutepa.org/Regional_Indicators.htm

Quarterly Economic Tracker

This quarterly electronic publication explores the region's economic and business trends. <http://www.institutepa.org/Economy%20Tracker.html>

Polling Program

Better understand what our local college students and future leaders think is important, their public policy views, and interest in civic engagement. http://www.institutepa.org/community_research_polls.html

Thank you to our 2018 Research Sponsors!

The Institute would like to sincerely thank our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a strong regional economy and healthy communities. Your support makes our work possible!

Signature Underwriters

Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Contributing Underwriters

Borton-Lawson
Commonwealth Health Systems
Geisinger Health System
Luzerne County Housing Partnership
Mohegan Sun Pocono
Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP

Supporting Underwriters

Berkshire Asset Management
BlackOut Design
Classic Properties
Greater Hazleton CANDO
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
NET Credit Union
OneSource Staffing
Sanofi Pasteur
Wells Fargo Foundation

Public Media

Partner
WVIA

Locations:

Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mailing Address:

**85 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701**

Staff

Teri Ooms – Executive Director
ooms@institutepea.org

Andrew Chew – Senior Research & Policy Analyst
chew@institutepea.org

Christopher Ritter—Research Analyst
ritter@institutepea.org

Kara McGrane – Research Assistant
mcgrane@institutepea.org

Jill Avery Stoss—Research, Data & Intern Coordinator
averystoss@institutepea.org

Susan Magnotta – Director of Community Outreach
magnotta@institutepea.org

Duncan Mayer – Research Assistant
mayer@institutepea.org

www.institutepea.org

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook & LinkedIn



Advisory Board

Chairman - Patrick Leahy, Ed.D., Wilkes University
Vice-Chairman – Frank Joanlanne, Borton Lawson

- Heather Acker — Gentex Corporation
Congressman Lou Barletta
Ron Beer , MHA, FACHE – Geisinger Health System
Thomas Botzman, Ph.D. — Misericordia University
Don Brominski, UGI Utilities
Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D. — Keystone College
Terry Casey — Chancellor Financial Group
John Cefaly — Cushman & Wakefield
Thomas Curra — WVIA Public Media
Robert Durkin — Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Dale Jones, Ph.D. — Penn State University Wilkes-Barre
Charles Kasko — Simplex Homes
Thomas E. Lawson — Borton-Lawson
Thomas Leary — Luzerne County Community College
Robert Luciani — Prudential Retirement Services
Mary Persico, IHM, Ph.D. — Marywood University
Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J. — University of Scranton
Alana Roberts, PPL Utilities
Eugene Roth — Rosenn, Jenkins, & Greenwald, LLP
John J. Ryan, C.S.C., Ph.D. — King’s College
Steven Scheinman, MD — Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Bill Sordoni — Sordoni Construction
Matthew Sordoni — Sordoni Construction
Linda Thomas-Hemak, M.D. – The Wright Center
Marleen Troy, Ph.D., — Wilkes University
Wico van Genderen—Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry
Lucyann Vierling — Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance
Mark Volk — Lackawanna College
Marwan Wafa — Penn State University Scranton
Tara Mugford Wilson, Power Engineering Corporation
John T. Yudichak — Pennsylvania State Senate

William B. Sordoni—Emeritus, Founding Member & Officer
Sordoni Construction