

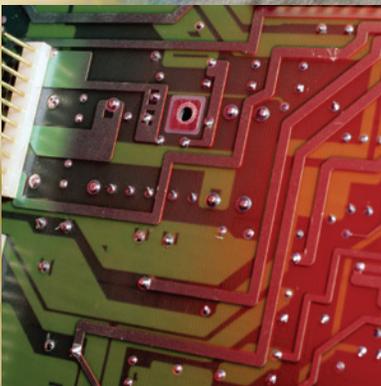
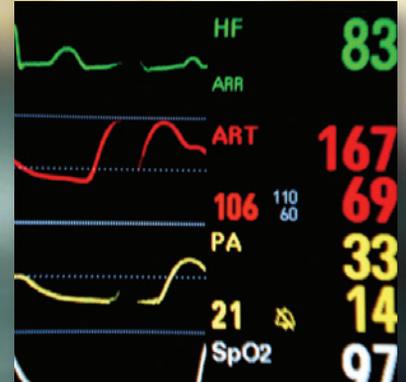
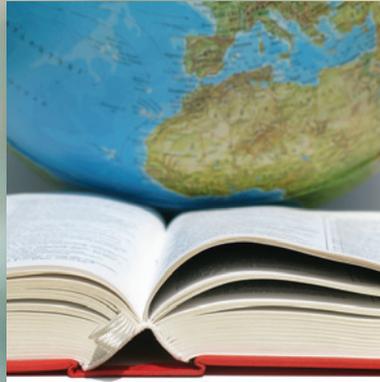
# The Institute

*Turning Information into Insight*

A partnership among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, 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 for Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University and the business community

## 2022 Indicators Report

LACKAWANNA  
AND  
LUZERNE  
COUNTY





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The Institute is a non-profit research organization dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with research based strategies for informed decision making. We conduct independent, non-biased research to identify the opportunities, issues and challenges unique to the region and find innovative solutions to help solve the problems facing our communities. The Institute also offers a wide array of research, consulting and support services to help organizations boost productivity, increase profitability and be successful in their missions.

## 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

## THE INSTITUTE PREPARES THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

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

## RESEARCH TEAM:

Teri Ooms, Executive Director

Andrew Chew, Director of Research

Jill Avery-Stoss, Director of Operations

Jolene Carey-Pace, Ed.D., Research Analyst

Sarah Bender, Research Assistant

## STUDENT RESEARCHERS:

Patrick Ciccarino, Misericordia University

Cade Corcoran, Misericordia University

Brooke Harvey, Wilkes University

Garrett McIlhenney, Misericordia University

Jude Unitis, Misericordia University

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## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

At The Institute, we believe that empowering leaders with the research-based strategies and solutions they need to make informed decisions will lead to a stronger regional economy and a better quality of life for residents. For over a decade, The Institute has worked behind the scenes to support initiatives that advance regional competitiveness and revitalize communities.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS RESEARCH UNDERWRITERS**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a better, stronger Northeastern Pennsylvania and whose financial support makes our community based research and events like The Indicators possible.

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Luzerne County  
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# Lackawanna and Luzerne County Indicators

## Northeastern Pennsylvania by the Numbers

### Population Trends

#### Population Change since 2010

Lackawanna: + 0.7 %

Luzerne: + 1.5 %

Statewide: + 2.4 %

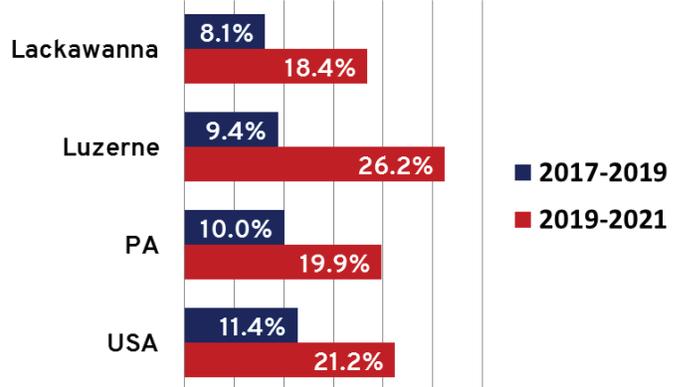
#### 10 Year Net Migration

Lackawanna: - 4,969

Luzerne: - 227

### Housing

#### Typical Home Price: Percent Change



### Health & Environment

#### Regional Drug Overdose Deaths: 2020

**261** (24% more than 2016)

#### Without Health Insurance, Statewide: 2020

**6.4 %** (Compared with 10.2% in 2010, 5.8% in 2019)

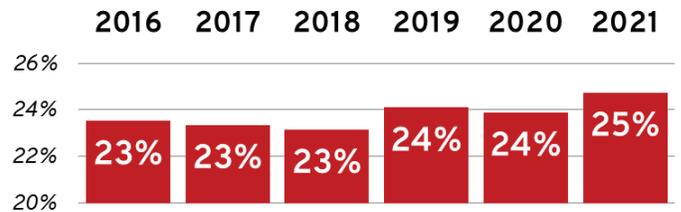
#### Regional Air Quality

**Zero** Unhealthy Air Quality Days Since 2010



### Infrastructure

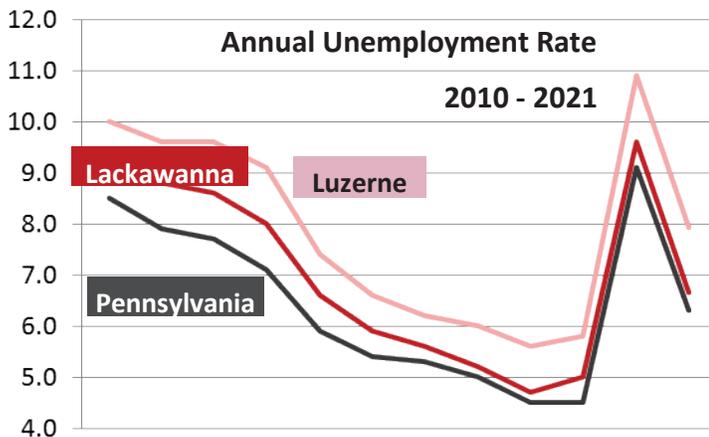
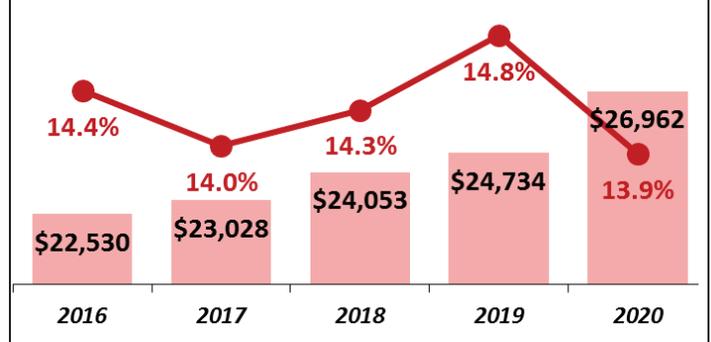
#### Percent of Bridges in Poor Condition, 2 County Region



## The Regional Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in spiking unemployment and declines in GDP and tourism spending, though there were signs of a strong recovery in 2021. In 2020, poverty declined and aggregate income rose, largely the result of expanded assistance programs and direct payments.

#### Regional Poverty Rate & Aggregate Income (in Millions)



#### 2020 Regional GDP

**\$27.4 Billion**

Down 3.8%  
from 2019



#### 2020 Tourism Spending

**\$1.17 Billion**

Down 31%  
from 2019

# Lackawanna and Luzerne County Indicators

## The COVID-19 Pandemic: 2 Years Later

More than two years after the pandemic first impacted our region, a great deal has changed. COVID-19 disrupted the economy, schools, government, and social services. Hospitals were at times overwhelmed. Most significantly, COVID-19 has been responsible for over 2,100 deaths in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

Despite the scale of the economic disruption, with as many as half of Pennsylvanian households reporting that they had lost work income during the pandemic, the economy is again in full swing. In 2022, major concerns include supply chain, inflationary pressures, and the workforce. The unemployment rate has fallen in both counties, which indicates a rapid recovery, but many people have not returned to the labor force. Education and job training, as well as availability of child care, transportation, and social services, are key to meeting demand for workforce.

Demographics and housing are also in a time of change. The 2020 Census showed moderate population gains in both counties, but it doesn't account for trends after April 1, 2020.

The remainder of 2020 and 2021 saw rapid home price increases and signs of a new wave of migration into the region as part of a nationwide "reshuffling" of the population.

COVID-19 has also exposed and exacerbated social inequities that already existed. Drug overdose deaths rose, and social service organizations saw a spike in demand for assistance. Many impacts of the pandemic were disproportionate on historically marginalized groups.

In response to the unprecedented scope of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Institute embarked on The Institute Insights on COVID-19 research agenda in April 2020. This series of studies focused on the pandemic's impacts on the region. These studies are available at [www.institutepa.org/covid-19](http://www.institutepa.org/covid-19)

The Institute's response to the crisis has also included brief research articles in the Quarterly Economy Tracker and Policy Tracker, and video and infographic updates shared on social media and YouTube.

Topics covered by The Institute Insights on COVID-19 include:

- Fiscal Impact on Municipalities
- Impact on Business & Industry
- GDP Impacts
- Impacts on Social Services
- Analysis of Healthcare Systems
- Impact on K-12 Education
- Telehealth Trends
- Workforce Development in light of COVID-19
- COVID-19 & Social Equity

**Thank you to Institute Insights on COVID-19 Sponsors:**



## Public Data: A Critical Resource

2020 was an unusual year in so many ways. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted nearly every part of the community, and the Regional Indicators initiative is no exception.

This report examines key trends and issues impacting Northeastern Pennsylvania through an analysis of data gathered from a variety of public, private, and nonprofit sources. However, much of the regular data collection conducted by these agencies was interrupted by the pandemic. For example, the tabulation and reporting of results from the 2020 Census were delayed, and the Census Bureau's American Community Survey released

only limited, experimental statewide estimates for 2020.

As a result, some indicators presented here include partial data, or data from different source than used in previous versions of the report. Updated data was not available for several indicators - in these cases, prior year data is presented for reference.

These challenges serve to underscore the need for systematic collection of data on public issues by government agencies and large institutions. Agencies like the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the data and statistical functions of all other state

and federal departments must be seen as the essential services they are.

Many of the disruptions caused by COVID were temporary, and most data scheduled to be collected in 2021 and beyond is expected to be released as normal. Nonetheless, the uncertainties of the pandemic showed that a strong foundation of data, and communicating that data effectively, is critical for effective decision-making.

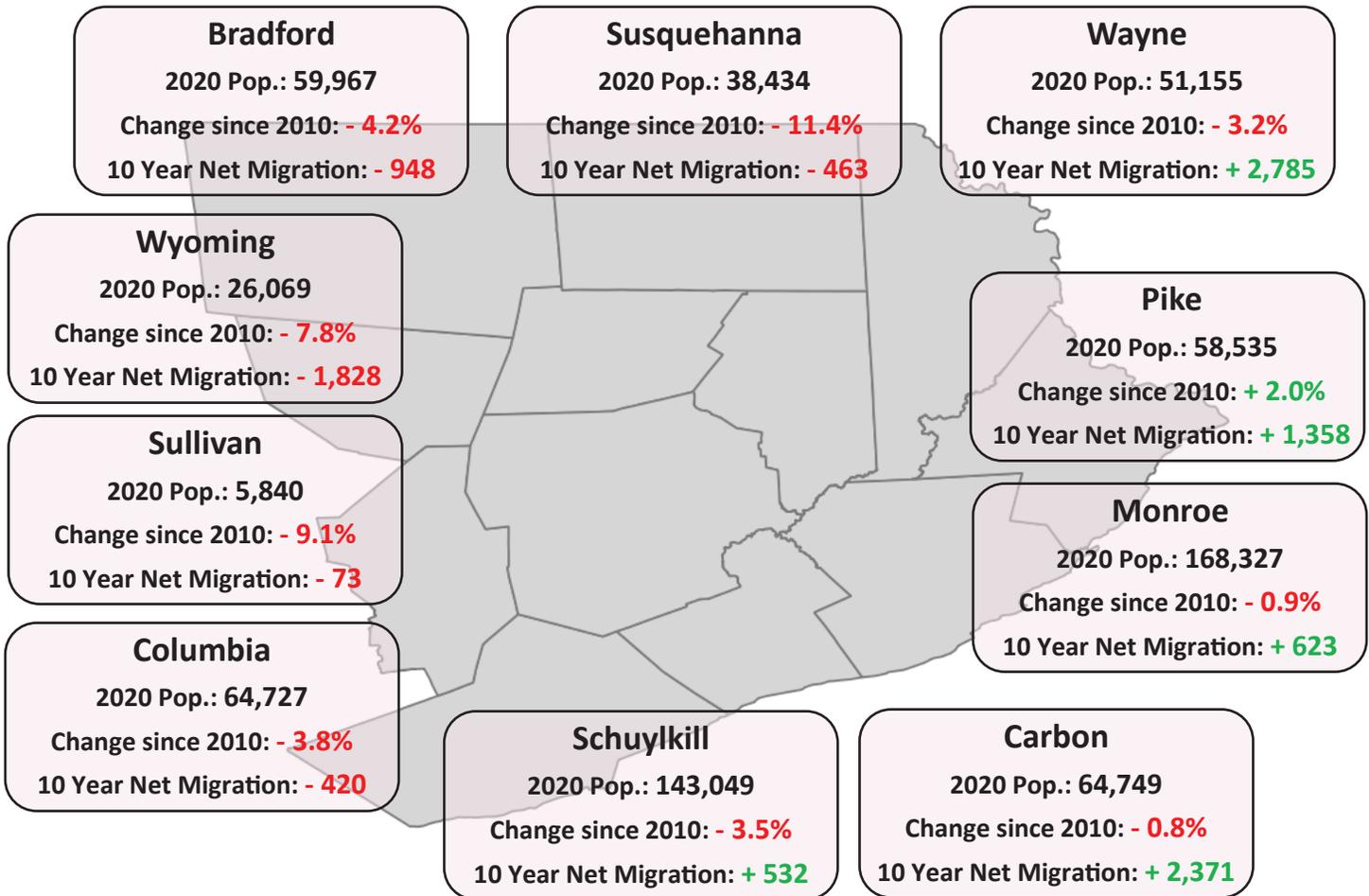
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# Northeast Regional Dashboard

The Institute has curated a selection of data for counties that neighbor Lackawanna and Luzerne, as well as statistics on cities within the two counties in order to provide critical information to stakeholders serving narrower or broader territories, show how trends vary between urban and rural communities, and highlight the interconnectedness and shared challenges and opportunities of the broader region.

## Population Trends



As of the 2020 Census, all but Pike County among the ten neighboring counties saw their population fall compared with 2010. The largest percentage declines were the Northern Tier counties. While most counties also saw a net loss through migration, several counties South and East of Lackawanna and Luzerne saw a net gain.

As of 2019, each county had also gotten older on average. The cities in the region have younger populations, and the median age in Scranton, Hazleton, and Pittston has gotten younger.

Median Age by City			
	2010	2019	
Carbondale	38.3	41.8	↑
Hazleton	40.9	35.8	↓
Nanticoke	41.8	42.9	↑
Pittston	40.0	34.5	↓
Scranton	38.3	37.2	↓
Wilkes-Barre	34.4	34.5	↑

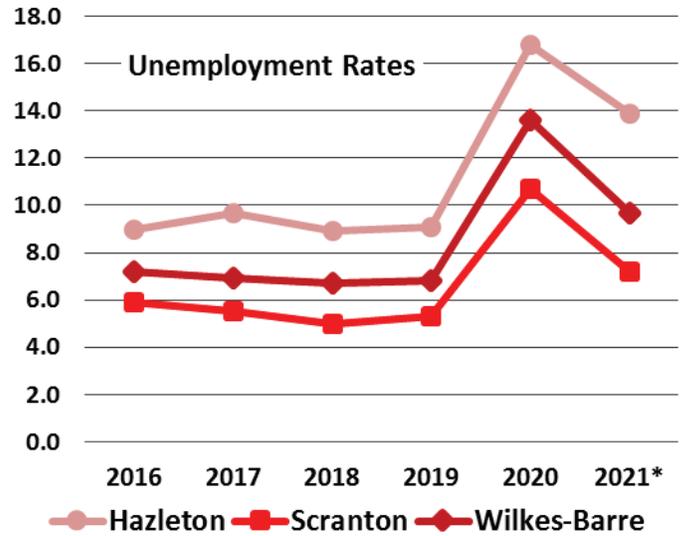
Median Age by County			
	2010	2019	
Bradford County	42.6	44.5	↑
Carbon County	43.1	46.2	↑
Columbia County	39.2	41.0	↑
Monroe County	39.3	42.9	↑
Pike County	41.9	48.2	↑
Schuylkill County	42.6	44.4	↑
Sullivan County	48.7	53.7	↑
Susquehanna County	44.1	48.4	↑
Wayne County	44.8	48.2	↑
Wyoming County	41.0	44.7	↑

Data Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates

# Northeast Regional Dashboard

Unemployment Rates				
	2019	2020	2021*	20-'21 % Chg.
Bradford County	4.5	7.5	5.3	-29%
Carbon County	5.5	9.8	6.5	-34%
Columbia County	4.9	8.1	5.6	-31%
Monroe County	5.5	11.5	7.5	-35%
Pike County	5.7	10.6	7.1	-33%
Schuylkill County	5.5	9.2	6.5	-29%
Sullivan County	5.3	8.5	6.7	-21%
Susquehanna County	4.4	7.3	5.2	-29%
Wayne County	4.8	9.2	6.3	-32%
Wyoming County	5.0	8.4	6.1	-27%

*Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*  
 \* 2021 average includes preliminary data for December



Unemployment spiked in 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. The three largest cities in the region have typically had unemployment rates higher than the region as a whole. The Pocono counties of Monroe, Pike, and Carbon saw the highest unemployment levels in 2020 of neighboring counties, but also saw faster rates of recovery from 2020 to 2021.

**Largest Industry by Employment by County**

2021. Data Source: JobsEQ

**Health Care:** Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Sullivan, Wayne

**Manufacturing:** Columbia, Schuylkill, Wyoming

**Retail:** Monroe, Susquehanna

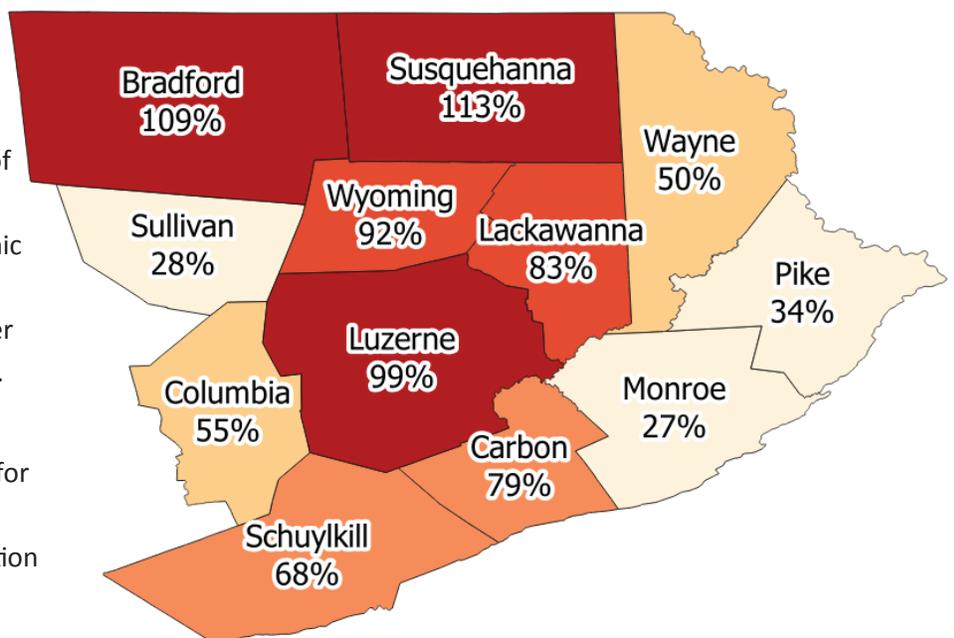


Despite mixed population growth, the Northeastern Pennsylvania region has seen a significant increase in racial and ethnic diversity.

From 2010 to 2020, every county in the region saw at least a 27 percent growth of Hispanic and/or Nonwhite residents. Luzerne County nearly doubled its Hispanic and/or Nonwhite population, and Lackawanna County and the Northern Tier also saw significant percentage increases.

Lackawanna and Luzerne's population growth would have been a decline if not for growth of Nonwhite and/or Hispanic residents. For each other county, population declines would have been significantly larger if these increases in racial diversity had not occurred.

**2010 - 2020 Percent Change in Hispanic and/or Nonwhite Population**



Data Source: US Census Bureau 2010 and 2020 Census

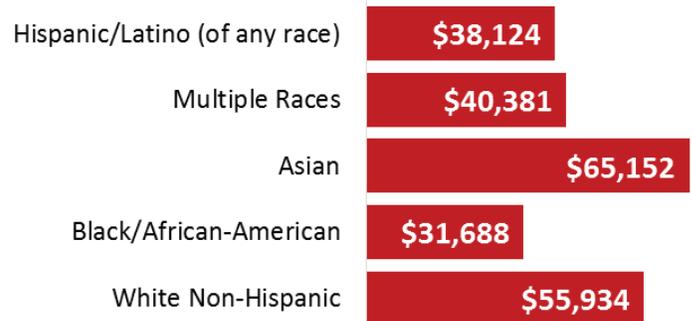
# Social Equity Dashboard

For many indicators presented in this report, there are disparities across various social groups, particularly those of race, ethnicity, and country of birth. The selection of data that follows shows continued inequities and differing trends across demographic groups. While the causes of these inequities are complex, they often include the influence of systemic and institutional racism. It is crucial to understand equity indicators in order to more comprehensively inform education, economic development, social services, and public policy.

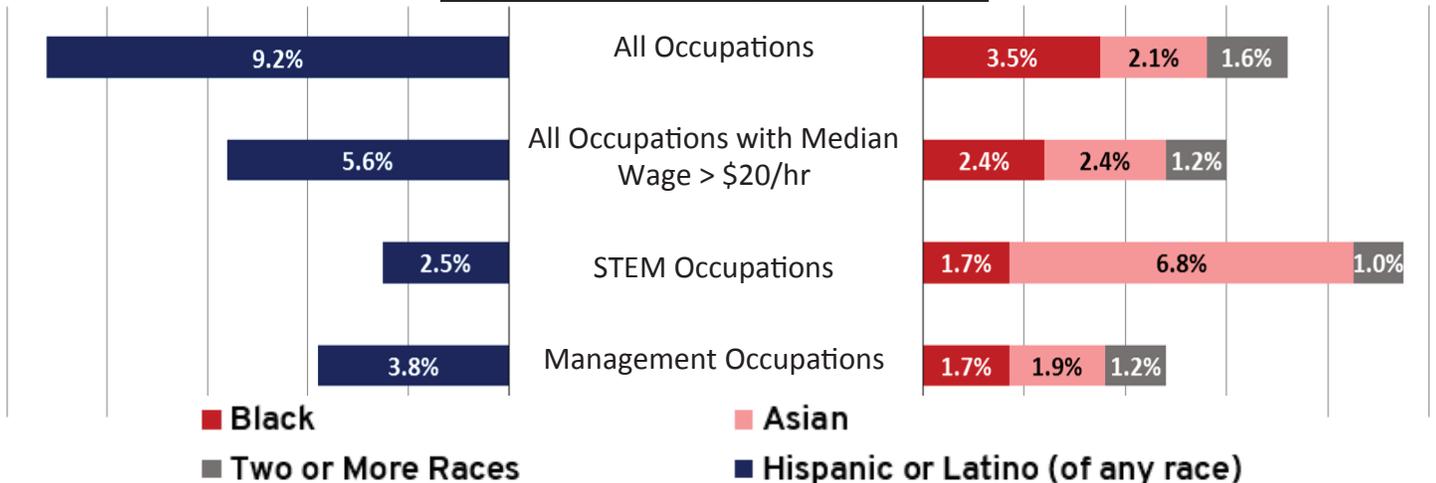
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	2010	2020		2010	2020		2010	2020	
<b>Overall population</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	➡	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	➡	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	➡
White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	11.4%	10.7%	➡	11.2%	10.7%	➡	9.0%	8.5%	➡
Black or African American	39.1%	26.3%	⬇	46.5%	41.1%	⬇	27.9%	24.9%	⬇
American Indian and Alaska Native	11.4%	24.1%	⬆	25.8%	38.9%	⬆	24.3%	24.6%	➡
Asian	11.8%	13.3%	⬆	12.4%	12.9%	➡	14.7%	13.4%	⬇
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	38.9%	⬆	0.0%	8.2%	⬆	27.7%	22.4%	⬇
Some other race	38.1%	27.3%	⬇	35.7%	34.1%	⬇	35.2%	29.9%	⬇
Two or more races	38.0%	31.6%	⬇	31.1%	28.0%	⬇	26.0%	18.3%	⬇
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	38.3%	39.8%	⬆	40.5%	30.6%	⬇	31.0%	26.5%	⬇

Poverty and income varies widely across racial and ethnic groups. Black and Hispanic households in the region have incomes 43 and 31 percent lower than White households, respectively, though Asian households have the highest of any racial group. Nonwhite groups consistently have higher rates of poverty than White residents. These trends are reflected in occupation breakdowns: Black, Multiracial, and Hispanic/Latino workers are underrepresented among STEM occupations, management occupations, and occupations with a median wage above \$20 per hour.

## Regional Median Household Income by Race (2020)



## Regional Occupations by Ethnicity & Race



Data Notes: For some racial groups, large variations may be explained by small sample sizes. "No Change" icons were used where 2010-2019 change was one percentage point or less and do not necessarily denote statistical significance.

Data Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates (Poverty & Income), JobsEQ (Occupation Employment)

# Social Equity Dashboard

Homeownership Rate by Race & Ethnicity									
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Pennsylvania		
	2010	2020		2010	2020		2010	2020	
<b>Overall Homeownership Rate</b>	66.1%	64.2%	↓	69.9%	68.0%	↓	71.0%	69.0%	↓
White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	68.8%	68.8%	↔	72.2%	73.2%	↔	75.5%	74.6%	↔
Black or African American	21.4%	20.0%	↓	21.5%	18.5%	↓	47.4%	43.4%	↓
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%	51.5%	↑	0.0%	53.1%	↑	55.1%	52.2%	↓
Asian	50.8%	45.5%	↓	67.0%	73.2%	↑	57.3%	58.3%	↑
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	No Data			No Data			No Data		
Some other race	22.6%	38.7%	↑	41.4%	34.6%	↓	39.5%	44.5%	↑
Two or more races	41.5%	33.9%	↓	50.8%	40.4%	↓	49.5%	49.8%	↔
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	17.2%	23.3%	↑	36.1%	35.1%	↓	43.6%	42.5%	↓

Data Notes: For some racial groups, large variations may be explained by small sample sizes. "No Change" icons were used where 2010-2019 change was one percentage point or less and do not necessarily denote statistical significance.

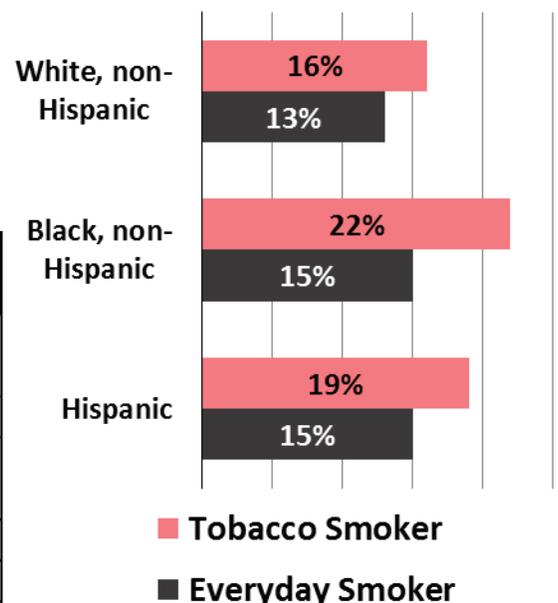
Data Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates

Homeownership lags significantly among Nonwhite groups in the region. While about 7 in 10 White households own their homes in the region, this is true for less than 2 in 10 Black households, and this share has trended down. Further, a smaller share Hispanic or Latino households in the region own their homes compared with statewide.

The share of adults in the region and statewide with at least some college education has grown. However, several groups, including Black or Hispanic residents, have both lagged behind the overall population in this percentage and failed to see the same degree of increase over the last decade. Disparities also exist in health and public safety. African Americans have higher age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes. Homicide is also a disproportionately frequent cause of death for Black and Hispanic Pennsylvanians.

Tobacco smoking, associated with a number of negative health effects, has declined among all groups over time. However, it is more widespread among Black and Hispanic Pennsylvanians. Some impacts of COVID-19 to be greater on racial and ethnic minority groups. Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation showed that in Pennsylvania, rates of COVID-19 vaccination were higher among African-Americans than Whites, but rates among Hispanic residents were lower.

## Statewide Tobacco Smoking (2018-2020)



Statewide Mortality Rates for Selected Causes of Death, by Race (2015-2019)					
	White	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	Multiple Races	Hispanic
Cancer	156.9	189.1	78.6	89.1	104.8
Cardiovascular Diseases	217.7	286.6	103.0	130.0	149.2
Diabetes	19.6	31.0	11.0	11.7	22.1
Homicide	2.2	28.2	1.0	3.4	8.0
Suicide	15.6	7.2	6.1	4.6	7.1

Data Source: PA Dept. of Health

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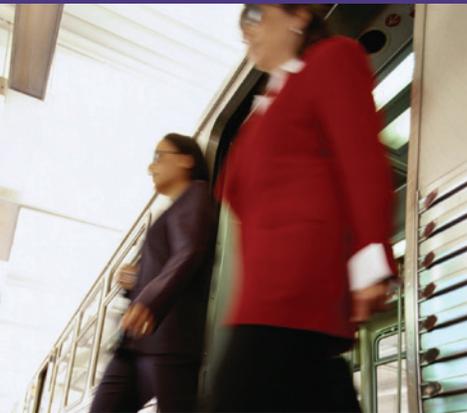
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# Demographics

# Demographics



**“Decennial census counts indicate that populations in both counties and the state increased considerably compared with the past few years’ estimates.”**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The first section of the Indicators report covers demographics – the size and composition of the two counties’ populations, and the dynamics driving population change. The section reports the latest data on population, age distribution, birth rates, ethnic diversity, and the change in household size, as well as other important characteristics of the region’s demographic makeup.

The U.S. Census is the most accurate measure of population for a given geographic area. It is conducted once every ten years and has also been used in Pennsylvania’s redistricting process. The 2020 Census effort was completed amid very difficult conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Population and some demographic data has been released from the Census and is included in this report; however, not all demographic breakdowns from the 2020 Census have been published as of spring 2022. Indicators on age, household size, single parent households, grandparents raising grandchildren, and seniors living alone could not be updated.

The official Census populations in both counties decreased from 1990 to 2000, but increased slightly from 2000 to 2010 and at a slightly more rapid pace between 2010 and 2020. The two counties together saw a net increase of over 6,000 residents during the decade. The statewide population eclipsed 13 million for the first time. These rates of growth were lower than the growth rate nationwide and in other states, however, resulting in Pennsylvania losing one seat from its Congressional delegation.

There are three components of population change – births, deaths, and migration. According to the latest data (2019), birth rates in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have fluctuated from year to year but remain lower than in the Commonwealth as a whole. Migration data is sourced

from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Though both counties experienced times of significant net inflow driven by migration into the region from neighboring states, this trend reversed around 2012. From 2012 to 2016, more residents left the region than entered, with higher outflow in Lackawanna County. Since 2017, the net outflow has slowed in both counties.

While IRS migration data from 2019 to the present are not yet available, anecdotal evidence and housing market indicators suggest that the out-migration seen in the last decade has likely continued to turn around and the region may again be seeing more people moving in than moving out. A nationwide trend of migration out of large, high cost-of-living metro areas has been observed, though the scale of this migration into the region, and whether it will be permanent or temporary, is uncertain. Any sustained increase in population will have important impacts on government, economy, housing, and public services, making this an important area of data to monitor going forward.

There are also important implications in the makeup of the region’s population. Older adults comprise a larger share of the population locally compared with the Commonwealth and children make up a slightly smaller share. This pattern has not changed drastically over the last several years. The relatively low ratio of children to senior citizens indicates potential challenges to the region’s future workforce, because there will be fewer residents to fill jobs as a large number of Baby Boomers continue to exit the workforce. This, however, is a national challenge. Part time and remote employment of older adults needs to be a consideration for businesses. Furthermore, the longer lifespans of many of today’s older adults means there will be an increased need for support services for older adults.

Although Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties’ total populations have largely been White/Caucasian, the percentages of residents who are White/Caucasian alone have declined since 2000, with a substantial decline noted between 2010 and 2020. The growth of the Hispanic/Latino population has been considerable, with the share of population now standing at 14.4 percent in Luzerne County and 8.5 percent in Lackawanna County. The percentages of Asian Americans and African Americans in both counties have also grown substantially since 2000, along with those identifying as some other or two or more races.

# Population & Migration Birth Rates

## POPULATION

Decennial census counts indicate that populations in both counties and the state increased considerably compared with the past few years' estimates. From 2010 to 2020, Lackawanna County's population grew by 0.7 percent, Luzerne County's population grew by 1.5 percent, and Pennsylvania's population grew by a slightly faster rate – 2.4 percent. This decade's growth amounts to about 6,000 more individuals in the two-county region than the previous census. It represents a more rapid growth than the modest population increases seen from 2000 to 2010.



U.S. Census: Population Overview				
	1990	2000	2010	2020
Lackawanna	219,039	213,295	214,437	215,896
Luzerne	328,149	319,250	320,918	325,594
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	12,702,379	13,002,700

*U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020 Census, 2019 American Community Survey.*

Recent Population Trends									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	214,477	213,931	212,719	211,917	211,321	210,761	210,793	209,674	215,896
Luzerne	321,027	320,103	318,829	318,449	316,383	317,343	317,646	317,417	325,594
Pennsylvania	12,763,536	12,773,801	12,787,209	12,802,503	12,784,227	12,805,537	12,807,060	12,801,989	13,002,700

*U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1 year estimates. Decennial Census 2020.*

Lackawanna County Migration			
Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
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
2013-2014	5,411	6,198	-787
2014-2015	4,258	5,377	-1,119
2015-2016	5,203	6,238	-1,035
2016-2017	7,394	7,724	-330
2017-2018	5,980	6,205	-225
2018-2019	5,794	5,897	-103
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,721</b>	<b>61,690</b>	<b>-4,969</b>

*Source: Internal Revenue Service*

## MIGRATION

During the decade ending in 2019, Lackawanna County saw a negative net migration of nearly 5,000 residents. Luzerne County saw a much smaller net outflow of 227 residents, despite some degree of net in-migration between 2009 and 2012. Both counties saw increasing rates of migration out of the county from 2012 to 2016. Since that time, net outflow in Lackawanna has begun to slow and Luzerne County had several years of net positive migration.

Luzerne County Migration			
Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
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
2013-2014	7,676	8,368	-692
2014-2015	6,212	6,355	-143
2015-2016	8,076	8,849	-773
2016-2017	11,381	11,118	263
2017-2018	9,419	9,106	313
2018-2019	8,871	9,249	-378
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,874</b>	<b>86,101</b>	<b>-227</b>

*Source: Internal Revenue Service*

## BIRTH RATES

Lackawanna County's birth rate has fluctuated; in 2018 it fell to its lowest level among recent years, before increasing in 2019. In Luzerne County, there were gradual increases in the birth rate, which was 20.7 in 2018 – before a drop to 20.3 in 2019. The statewide birth rate has declined each year since 2014, and has fallen by over ten percent since 2000.

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Female Residents						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	19.1	20.1	20.5	19.0	18.7	19.1
Luzerne	18.2	19.7	20.0	20.5	20.7	20.3
Pennsylvania	23.0	21.5	21.4	21.1	20.8	20.6

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

# Age Distribution



**“In both counties and statewide, growth in the population aged 25 to 34 years reflects the relatively large size of the Millennial generation.”**

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

Over the past five years, the largest age category in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and in Pennsylvania was generally 45 to 54 years. Statewide and regionally, however, the 25 to 34 age group has matched or exceeded this share of the population. In both counties and statewide, growth in the population aged 25 to 34 years reflects the relatively large size of the Millennial generation.

Across all three geographies, the share of population aged 60 or older has trended upward, especially when compared to the year 2000. This age group accounts for about 27 percent of the population in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and over 25 percent statewide. By comparison, the group was about 24 percent of the regional population in 2000, and less than 20 percent statewide.

Age Distribution: Lackawanna County						
Age	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 5	5.3%	5.1%	5.3%	5.1%	5.3%	5.2%
5 to 9	6.1%	5.7%	5.5%	5.7%	5.5%	5.3%
10 to 14	6.5%	5.9%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.5%
15 to 19	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%	6.3%	6.6%	6.2%
20 to 24	6.0%	6.3%	6.2%	6.6%	5.5%	5.3%
25 to 34	11.7%	12.0%	12.7%	11.9%	12.6%	12.9%
35 to 44	14.7%	11.1%	11.0%	11.7%	11.3%	11.8%
45 to 54	13.8%	14.0%	13.4%	13.0%	13.0%	12.4%
55 to 59	5.2%	7.2%	7.2%	6.9%	6.5%	6.8%
60 to 64	4.5%	7.1%	6.8%	7.3%	7.8%	7.4%
65 to 74	9.3%	10.2%	10.7%	10.7%	11.0%	11.5%
75 to 84	7.5%	5.7%	5.4%	5.8%	5.9%	6.2%
85 and over	2.7%	3.0%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Age Distribution: Luzerne County						
Age	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 5	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.3%
5 to 9	5.8%	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	4.7%	6.2%
10 to 14	6.4%	6.0%	5.8%	5.6%	6.4%	4.8%
15 to 19	6.5%	6.3%	6.0%	5.9%	6.2%	6.0%
20 to 24	5.4%	6.4%	6.5%	6.5%	6.0%	6.2%
25 to 34	12.2%	12.1%	12.3%	12.8%	12.7%	12.7%
35 to 44	15.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.3%	11.4%	11.9%
45 to 54	14.0%	14.2%	14.1%	13.8%	13.6%	12.8%
55 to 59	5.4%	7.2%	7.9%	6.9%	6.8%	7.3%
60 to 64	4.6%	7.0%	6.4%	7.2%	7.2%	7.1%
65 to 74	9.4%	10.1%	10.6%	10.9%	11.1%	11.0%
75 to 84	7.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.5%	6.1%	6.2%
85 and over	2.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%	2.7%	2.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

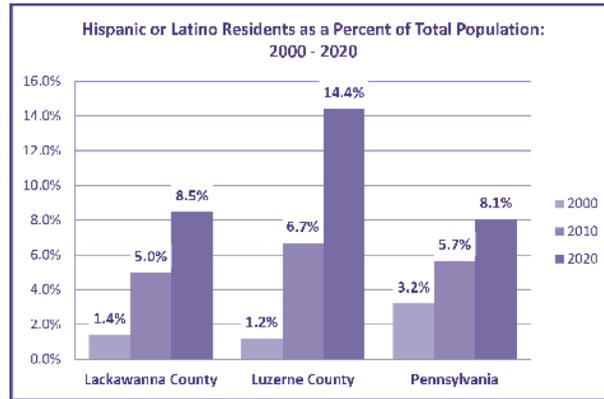
Age Distribution: Pennsylvania						
Age	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 5	5.9%	5.6%	5.6%	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%
5 to 9	6.7%	5.9%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	5.6%
10 to 14	7.0%	5.8%	5.9%	6.1%	6.1%	6.0%
15 to 19	6.9%	6.6%	6.5%	6.4%	6.4%	6.3%
20 to 24	6.1%	6.6%	6.5%	6.5%	6.3%	6.2%
25 to 34	12.7%	12.9%	13.1%	13.2%	13.2%	13.3%
35 to 44	15.9%	11.7%	11.6%	11.6%	11.7%	11.9%
45 to 54	13.9%	13.9%	13.6%	13.3%	13.0%	12.5%
55 to 59	5.0%	7.4%	7.4%	7.2%	7.2%	7.0%
60 to 64	4.2%	6.6%	6.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.1%
65 to 74	7.9%	9.4%	9.7%	10.0%	10.2%	10.6%
75 to 84	5.8%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.5%	5.5%
85 and over	1.9%	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	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 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In all three geographic areas, the percentage of non-white residents has grown considerably. Compared with just ten years ago, the share of residents in both counties identifying their race as white alone fell from 92 percent to 83 percent in Lackawanna County and from 91 percent to 79 percent in Luzerne County.



**“Both counties have experienced large increases in their percentages of multiracial residents compared with 2000 and 2010.”**

The percentage of Asian-American residents in Lackawanna County has quadrupled since 2000. Luzerne County saw its share of Asian American residents more than double. The proportion of African American residents in Lackawanna County has grown from 1.3 percent in 2000 to 3.9 percent in 2020. African Americans comprised five percent of the Luzerne County population in 2020 – up from 1.7 percent in 2000 and despite estimates of 7.2 percent in 2019. Both counties have also experienced large increases in their percentages of multiracial residents compared with 2000 and 2010.

The size of the Hispanic/Latino communities in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and Pennsylvania have also increased significantly since 2000. In Lackawanna County, Hispanic residents accounted for 1.4 percent of the total population in 2000; by 2020, that percentage increased to 8.5 percent. Luzerne County’s Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 1.2 percent of residents in 2000; by 2020, that percentage increased to 14.4 percent. While this trend began in the first decade of the new millennium, the rate of growth of the Hispanic population in the region has not appeared to slow substantially from 2010 to 2020.

From 2000 to 2020, the state’s Hispanic population increased at a slower but still significant pace. While Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have historically been less diverse than the state as a whole, the percentage of Hispanic/Latino residents in both counties has been near or greater than that of the Commonwealth – particularly for Luzerne County. The population comes from a number of Latin and South American countries and the Caribbean.

Race by County and State								
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Lackawanna</b>								
White/Caucasian	96.7%	92.0%	92.3%	91.7%	91.8%	90.5%	89.8%	82.9%
Black/African-American	1.3%	2.5%	3.1%	2.8%	2.7%	2.1%	3.5%	3.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Asian	0.8%	1.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%	3.2%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Some other race	0.5%	2.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	3.9%
Two or more races	0.7%	1.5%	1.7%	2.3%	2.1%	3.2%	1.7%	5.9%
<b>Luzerne</b>								
White/Caucasian	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
White/Caucasian	96.6%	90.7%	88.3%	90.2%	88.5%	87.4%	84.0%	78.9%
Black/African-American	1.7%	3.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.9%	4.8%	7.2%	5.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Asian	0.6%	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	1.0%	1.3%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race	0.4%	3.3%	3.6%	2.2%	3.6%	4.0%	5.4%	7.7%
Two or more races	0.6%	1.5%	2.3%	1.8%	1.4%	2.2%	2.2%	6.8%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>								
White/Caucasian	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
White/Caucasian	85.4%	81.9%	81.1%	80.9%	80.7%	80.1%	79.6%	75.0%
Black/African-American	10.0%	10.8%	11.0%	11.0%	11.2%	11.2%	11.4%	10.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian	1.8%	2.7%	3.3%	3.3%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.9%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race	1.5%	2.4%	1.9%	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	2.6%	3.9%
Two or more races	1.2%	1.9%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (2000-2019) for the year 2020 (Decennial Census)

# Change in Household Size

## Single Parent Families



**“For both counties, the household size remains below the statewide average of 2.4.”**

### HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The average household size has fluctuated for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, as well as for Pennsylvania. It has decreased every year since 2015 in Lackawanna County and since 2016 in Luzerne County, as has the state’s average household size. For both counties, the household size remains below the statewide average of 2.4.

Household Size						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	2.38	2.45	2.36	2.35	2.30	2.29
Luzerne	2.34	2.40	2.45	2.41	2.38	2.33
Pennsylvania	2.48	2.50	2.50	2.47	2.44	2.42

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

### SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

The share of all households that are single parent households with children under age 18 dropped in all three geographies in 2019. However, this is due to a data classification change (denoted by\*) that now excludes unmarried couples (for example, a mother or father who lives with their own children and an unmarried partner). The updated estimates provide a more accurate view of single parents raising children without another adult in the household.

Across the three geographies, at least three-fourths of single parent households are headed by women, and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have a higher share of single mother households than Pennsylvania as a whole. The pandemic affected this group of women in the workforce the most.

Female Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Lackawanna	5.6%	6.2%	5.4%	6.5%	7.2%	6.0%
Luzerne	5.4%	8.0%	7.8%	7.6%	6.7%	6.5%
Pennsylvania	6.2%	6.4%	6.0%	6.0%	5.9%	4.9%

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

Male Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Lackawanna	ND	2.3%	2.1%	2.2%	3.4%	1.7%
Luzerne	ND	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	2.8%	0.8%
Pennsylvania	ND	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.2%

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

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Ratio of Children to Elders

## GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

While data for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are difficult to analyze (due to many years of insufficient sample sizes for Lackawanna County), the number of grandparents raising grandchildren in Pennsylvania has fluctuated significantly over the period examined. Statewide, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren fell from 2013 to 2017, declining by over 18 percent in that period, but saw two straight years of increases in 2018 and 2019.

Luzerne County saw fluctuation in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren, averaging 2,458 over the last decade. The most recent two years represent the highest and third highest estimates of the ten years analyzed. Data for Lackawanna County is limited, but from 2016 to 2018, the estimated number of grandparents raising grandchildren averaged 1,312.



**“The ratio of children to seniors has shown a downward trend from 2015 to 2018, but it grew slightly in 2019.”**

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1,771	959	1,207	ND
Luzerne	2,182	2,927	2,406	2,183	2,398	2,311	2,280	2,117	3,204	2,572
Pennsylvania	86,968	80,521	91,564	92,964	91,531	88,495	81,884	76,005	81,392	82,556

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

## RATIO OF CHILDREN TO SENIORS

The ratio of children to seniors is one measure of the population dynamics of a region. A ratio of children to seniors below 1.0 suggests that the replacement rate to maintain steady population is not being met (before accounting for the effects of migration). However, a falling ratio can also indicate that as adults live longer into advanced age, seniors simply represent a larger share of the population compared to other age cohorts. The ratio of children to seniors has shown a downward trend from 2015 to 2018, but it grew slightly in 2019. The statewide ratio has also seen a generally downward trend since 2015.

Ratio of Children to Seniors					
Lackawanna	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children (14 and under)	35,277	35,334	35,346	35,492	35,432
Seniors (65 and older)	40,091	41,498	41,103	41,876	41,322
Ratio	0.88	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86
Luzerne	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children (14 and under)	50,951	50,977	50,913	51,419	51,506
Seniors (65 and older)	60,554	61,184	62,355	63,359	62,864
Ratio	0.84	0.83	0.82	0.81	0.82
Pennsylvania	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children (14 and under)	2,212,787	2,198,623	2,194,100	2,184,406	2,173,913
Seniors (65 and older)	2,181,193	2,222,761	2,276,543	2,332,369	2,388,218
Ratio	1.01	0.99	0.96	0.94	0.91

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

# Seniors Living Alone



**“In both counties combined, there have been over 31,000 seniors living alone in each of the past four years.”**

## SENIORS LIVING ALONE

For all three areas, the number of senior citizens aged 65 years or older living alone fluctuated in the periods examined. Lackawanna County saw two straight years of decline after the estimate spiked in 2017. Luzerne County saw the second straight year of moderate growth in this statistic by 2019. In both counties combined, there have been over 31,000 seniors living alone in each of the past four years. Statewide, the number of seniors living alone has been steadily growing.

Seniors Living Alone						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	13,529	11,503	11,958	13,620	12,504	11,953
Luzerne	20,846	18,352	19,512	18,605	19,130	19,260
Pennsylvania	555,374	603,167	610,955	642,359	650,681	660,578

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



# Jobs & Economy

# Jobs & Economy



**“Many of the economic statistics in this year’s report reflect the realities of the statewide shutdown in 2020.”**

## 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. The last decade or so has been an era of economic change, including the downturn of the housing market, subsequent ‘Great Recession,’ and the continuing economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has also been increased automation in many industries, as well as shifts toward transportation, distribution, and e-commerce. All these factors have impacted the region, so understanding economic indicators is of tremendous importance. The trends in the data tell a descriptive story.

This section includes data on unemployment rate and labor force, per capita and aggregate personal income, household income and income by source, 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, federal funding, and student loan debt.

Many of the economic statistics in this year’s report reflect the realities of the statewide shutdown in 2020. Unemployment spiked to levels unprecedented in living memory, though early indicators from 2021 and 2022 suggest that these declines in employment and income were short-lived relative to other economic downturns. Several indicators, including job growth, total employment, and GDP reflect the state of the 2020 economy. For those indicators, it is likely that forthcoming economic data covering 2021 will show a sizeable recovery.

This year’s report offers clarity on the size and scope of the economic impacts of pandemic mitigation efforts. A full picture of the subsequent recovery is not yet available, however. Early indicators point to robust employment growth and a very tight labor market, with many of the same workforce challenges present before the pandemic. Labor market participation will continue to be telling. Meeting workforce needs must include a variety of strategies, including talent attraction and retention as well as elimination of barriers to workforce participation. These barriers relate to availability and affordability of child care, transportation, and accessibility for individuals with health issues or disabilities.

Tourism has also been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Tourism spending in the two counties fell by \$536 million (over 30 percent) from 2019 to 2020. This decline was somewhat smaller than the statewide contraction of 37 percent in visitor spending.

The trajectory of this recovery is critical, as Northeastern Pennsylvania has generally experienced unemployment rates higher than national and statewide rates – along with relatively slow economic growth despite areas of strength such as the logistics and health care sectors. Wages in the region have lagged historically as well. The percentage of individuals living below the poverty level is a major issue impacting the region. Poverty levels are closely linked with unemployment and underemployment; when households lose their livelihood, people have difficulty providing their families with basic necessities. Additionally, low wage jobs contribute to both poverty and the number of households with income above the poverty line but insufficient as a living wage (the income required for a modest but dignified life). Thus, there is great demand on social services and charitable organizations that are themselves competing for limited government and philanthropic funding. The region entered the last recession with poverty rates roughly on par with statewide rates, but since then, local poverty rates have generally been higher than the statewide rates.

# Unemployment Rate & Labor Force

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE & LABOR FORCE

In all years analyzed, Pennsylvania’s annual unemployment rate was lower than that of either county. Luzerne County’s rates were higher than Lackawanna County’s during this period. The Commonwealth experienced a gradually decreasing unemployment rate through most of the past decade, as the labor market recovered from the last recession. There was a slight uptick in 2019, and in 2020, the unemployment rate spiked. It nearly doubled from the previous year – an economic repercussion of the pandemic, including the statewide shutdown of non-life-sustaining businesses. After falling from an 8.6 percent unemployment rate in 2012 to a low of 4.7 percent in 2018, Lackawanna County recorded a 9.6 percent unemployment rate in 2020. Luzerne County followed a similar pattern, peaking from a low of 5.6 percent in 2018 to 10.9 percent in 2020. The unemployment rate in both counties exceeded the statewide unemployment rate, which doubled from 4.5 percent in 2019 to 9.1 percent in 2020.

In April 2020, all geographies experienced the highest monthly unemployment rate of the year. Unemployment rates fell throughout 2020, as business resumed after the initial statewide shutdown. In 2021, this trend continued. Unemployment rates steadily fell, and as a result, the annual average was well below the 2020 peak yet above pre-pandemic years. The low unemployment rates seen in late 2021 and early 2022, however, suggest a tight labor market and robust economic activity.

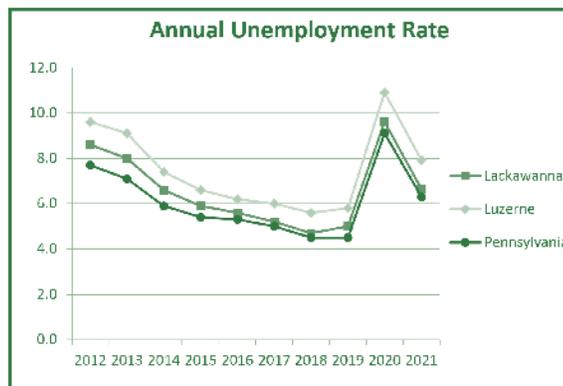
In both counties, the labor force has generally followed a declining trend since 2012, though there was an uptick in 2016. Nonetheless, the region’s labor force participation rate was flat or increasing during that time due to declines in the estimated population aged 18 to 64. By 2019, there were over 4,000 fewer participants in the labor force compared with 2012. The labor force shrunk again in 2020, coinciding with the pandemic. It also decreased by more than 6,200 workers regionally from 2020 to 2021, despite declining unemployment rates and reopening of businesses during that time.



**“In all years analyzed, Pennsylvania’s annual unemployment rate was lower than that of either county.”**

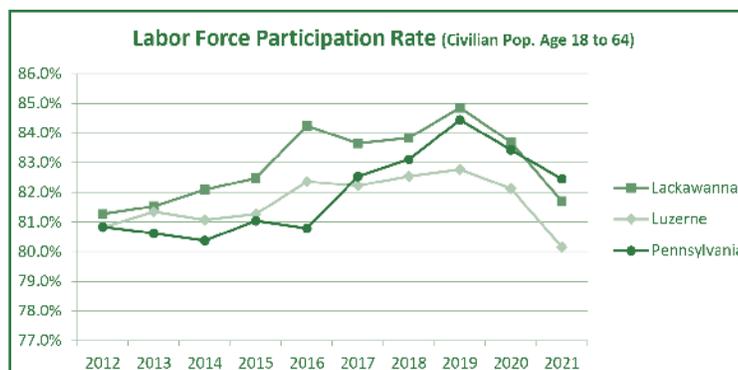
Annual Unemployment Rate			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2012	8.6	9.6	7.7
2013	8.0	9.1	7.1
2014	6.6	7.4	5.9
2015	5.9	6.6	5.4
2016	5.6	6.2	5.3
2017	5.2	6.0	5.0
2018	4.7	5.6	4.5
2019	5.0	5.8	4.5
2020	9.6	10.9	9.1
2021	6.6	7.9	6.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Prior year figures have been revised.  
2021 rates are preliminary.

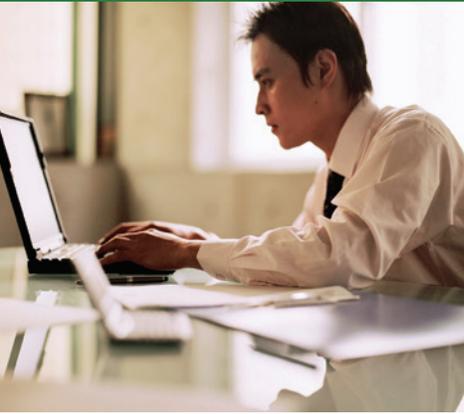


Annual Labor Force			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2012	107,371	160,422	6,449,023
2013	107,214	160,094	6,419,837
2014	106,598	158,891	6,389,059
2015	106,458	158,870	6,423,155
2016	107,087	159,198	6,367,458
2017	105,883	158,501	6,485,253
2018	105,349	158,003	6,500,149
2019	105,266	158,500	6,560,773
2020	103,832	157,274	6,482,770
2021	101,360	153,485	6,406,185

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Prior year figures have been revised



# Household Income



**“Households with incomes below \$50,000 per year comprised about 47 percent of all households regionally, compared with just under 40 percent statewide.”**

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median household income in both counties in the region stood at just under \$54,000 per year in 2019, the most recent county-level data comparable with previous reports. Statewide, median household income in 2020 was \$64,910, higher than both counties and a notable increase from the prior year despite the pandemic.

When adjusted for inflation, median household income declined from 2000 to 2010. However, this trend reversed in the most recent decade, with real household income increasing by \$3,130 in Lackawanna County, \$4,235 in Luzerne County, and \$2,691 statewide from 2016 to 2019.

As of 2019, the region had a larger share of households with moderate incomes than the state as a whole. Households with incomes below \$50,000 per year comprised about 47 percent of all households regionally, compared with just under 40 percent statewide. Conversely, households with incomes in excess of \$100,000 comprised 30 percent of all households in Pennsylvania but only about 21 percent regionally.

Median Household Income (2020 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)							
	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	\$51,544	\$49,612	\$50,874	\$51,558	\$54,545	\$54,003	ND
Luzerne	\$50,546	\$49,274	\$49,915	\$53,823	\$55,702	\$54,150	ND
Pennsylvania	\$60,028	\$57,965	\$60,981	\$62,067	\$62,325	\$63,672	\$64,910

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

Median Household Income							
	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	\$34,438	\$42,185	\$47,475	\$49,172	\$53,302	\$53,826	ND
Luzerne	\$33,771	\$41,898	\$46,580	\$51,332	\$54,433	\$53,972	ND
Pennsylvania	\$40,106	\$49,288	\$56,907	\$59,195	\$60,905	\$63,463	\$64,910

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

Household Income Distribution: 2019			
Income Amount	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Less than \$10,000	5.6%	7.0%	6.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.8%	5.2%	4.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	11.2%	9.9%	8.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9.5%	11.0%	8.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.1%	13.9%	12.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17.4%	19.7%	17.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.5%	13.2%	13.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.0%	12.3%	15.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4.1%	4.6%	6.7%
\$200,000 or more	4.7%	3.2%	7.3%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

# Income by Source

## INCOME BY SOURCE

In 2019, the most recent detailed data available, the income of more than 72 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties was earned by working. It was the third consecutive year of growth for Lackawanna County, while Luzerne County experienced a slight decrease from the previous year. Throughout the Commonwealth, the percentage of households with earnings remained above 75 percent in 2019, and continued to exceed the rates in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

The number of households receiving Social Security income declined slightly in 2019 after a prolonged increase in Luzerne County, while remaining relatively stable in Lackawanna County and statewide. As baby boomers continue to retire, the number of regional households relying on Social Security remains high relative to the number in the Commonwealth as a whole.

In 2019, the mean earnings for households with earned income were \$72,726 in Lackawanna County and \$70,788 in Luzerne County. Both were lower than the \$90,297 mean earnings statewide. Lackawanna County's mean earnings increased by nearly \$4,000 in 2019, after falling nearly \$5,000 the year before, rebounding to exceed the mean earnings in Luzerne County once again.

Social Security and retirement incomes were much lower. In both counties, households with Social Security income received a mean of just over \$19,000 in that type of income. The mean amount of retirement income declined by about \$700 in Lackawanna County in 2019 following a significant increase the prior year, while increasing slightly in Luzerne County and statewide.



**“As baby boomers continue to retire, the number of regional households relying on Social Security remains high relative to the number in the Commonwealth as a whole.”**

Income by Source: Lackawanna County						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percent of HH with earnings	69.4%	71.8%	71.2%	71.6%	73.4%	74.3%
Mean earnings	\$63,246	\$70,230	\$70,445	\$73,672	\$68,983	\$72,726
Percent of HH with Social Security income	39.8%	39.0%	40.7%	38.1%	39.9%	39.8%
Mean Social Security income	\$17,133	\$17,716	\$18,219	\$17,537	\$18,309	\$19,581
Percent of HH with retirement income	21.3%	21.0%	17.6%	20.5%	22.1%	25.3%
Mean retirement income	\$22,211	\$20,969	\$18,267	\$19,211	\$23,303	\$22,598
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.2%	2.6%	3.8%	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%
Mean cash assistance income	\$1,972	\$2,872	\$2,111	\$2,667	\$2,107	\$2,107

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source: Luzerne County						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percent of HH with earnings	71.1%	72.8%	71.7%	72.9%	73.1%	72.3%
Mean earnings	\$62,850	\$64,717	\$69,051	\$68,697	\$71,706	\$70,788
Percent of HH with Social Security income	39.0%	38.7%	38.8%	39.3%	39.9%	38.9%
Mean Social Security income	\$17,546	\$17,499	\$17,400	\$18,324	\$18,006	\$18,804
Percent of HH with retirement income	22.0%	21.0%	22.8%	21.2%	21.8%	28.0%
Mean retirement income	\$17,809	\$20,992	\$17,940	\$23,052	\$21,970	\$22,155
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%	3.8%	4.9%	2.8%
Mean cash assistance income	\$1,309	\$1,592	\$1,716	\$2,241	\$2,717	\$2,184

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source: Pennsylvania						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percent of HH with earnings	75.4%	75.5%	75.2%	74.5%	75.5%	75.3%
Mean earnings	\$76,368	\$78,877	\$81,479	\$85,817	\$87,353	\$90,297
Percent of HH with Social Security income	34.4%	34.8%	35.4%	34.9%	35.6%	35.4%
Mean Social Security income	\$18,311	\$18,803	\$19,145	\$19,497	\$19,624	\$20,241
Percent of HH with retirement income	20.3%	20.9%	21.2%	21.0%	21.1%	27.8%
Mean retirement income	\$20,704	\$21,263	\$21,682	\$22,939	\$23,577	\$24,257
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%	3.2%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,602	\$2,356	\$2,268	\$2,363	\$2,136	\$2,074

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Per Capita Income Aggregate Personal Income



**“Aggregate personal income has been slowly but steadily rising in both counties for the past several years.”**

## PER CAPITA INCOME

Both counties and the Commonwealth reported increases in unadjusted per capita income of more than 60 percent from 2000 to 2019. Per capita income in both counties was lower than the statewide per capita income, however, and grew at a slightly slower pace during that time.

After accounting for inflation, this change amounts to an increase of about 10 percent in Lackawanna County, seven percent in Luzerne County, and 15 percent statewide. Much of the growth in inflation-adjusted income came between 2014 and 2015 in all three geographies.

Per Capita Income							
	2000	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	\$18,710	\$24,547	\$27,174	\$27,126	\$28,397	\$28,642	\$30,662
Luzerne	\$18,228	\$24,737	\$25,960	\$26,893	\$27,944	\$28,484	\$29,151
Pennsylvania	\$20,880	\$29,220	\$30,384	\$31,272	\$32,711	\$33,960	\$35,804

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

Per Capita Income (2019 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)							
	2000	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	\$27,854	\$26,534	\$29,324	\$28,899	\$29,616	\$29,161	\$30,662
Luzerne	\$27,137	\$26,740	\$28,014	\$28,651	\$29,144	\$29,000	\$29,151
Pennsylvania	\$31,085	\$31,586	\$32,788	\$33,316	\$34,115	\$34,575	\$35,804

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

## 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.” Aggregate personal income has been slowly but steadily rising in both counties for the past several years, after seeing stagnation and modest decline in the wake of the last recession. The Commonwealth as a whole has experienced a similar trend. From 2019 to 2020, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw increases in nominal (unadjusted for inflation) aggregate personal income of 8.2 and 9.5 percent respectively, compared to seven percent statewide.

Aggregate Personal Income (in thousands of current-year dollars)					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	9,273,552	9,463,344	9,886,850	10,152,142	10,988,637
Luzerne	13,256,310	13,564,949	14,166,262	14,582,330	15,973,159
Pennsylvania	661,160,078	679,620,194	716,336,524	737,160,920	788,725,185

*Prior year data has been revised.*  
*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis*

## POVERTY

The rate of poverty in the area increased sharply with the increase in unemployment during the last recession, with Lackawanna and Luzerne County both seeing increases from 2005 to 2010. Since 2015, poverty has followed a consistent declining trend statewide, while Lackawanna County also saw some improvement between 2015 and 2019. Luzerne County saw some declines as well, despite an uptick in 2019.

Among all three geographies, the poverty rate dropped in 2020. Lackawanna County's drop was significant, and Luzerne County's improvement was marginal. Decreases in the poverty rates despite the economic disruption due to the pandemic in 2020 is likely influenced by increased assistance programs and direct federal aid payments implemented in that year.



Poverty Rate - Percent of All People Below the Federal Poverty Line								
	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	13.3%	13.6%	15.3%	14.1%	14.3%	14.2%	14.2%	12.2%
Luzerne	12.7%	15.9%	15.1%	14.6%	13.8%	14.3%	15.2%	15.1%
Pennsylvania	11.9%	13.4%	13.1%	12.9%	12.5%	12.2%	12.0%	10.9%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*

**“Decreases in the poverty rates despite the economic disruption due to the pandemic in 2020 is likely influenced by increased assistance programs and direct federal aid payments implemented in that year.”**

# Employment by Occupation Average Annual Pay

**“While most occupation groups have seen declining trends in employment over the past five years, healthcare support occupations have grown in both counties.”**

## EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

In 2021, the top occupation categories in Lackawanna County were: 1) office and administrative support; and 2) transportation and material moving. Luzerne County had the same top occupation groups, but in the reverse order. Sales and related occupations was the third most common occupation category for both counties.

While most occupation groups have seen declining trends in employment over the past five years, healthcare support occupations have grown in both counties. Healthcare jobs, including both practitioner/technical occupations and support occupations, comprise 14 percent of employment in Lackawanna County and 12 percent in Luzerne County.

Employment by Occupation: 2021						
Occupational Category	Lackawanna			Luzerne		
	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Employment Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Employment Change
Management	5,046	5.3%	-189	6,982	4.9%	-102
Business and Financial Operations	4,190	4.4%	-191	6,011	4.2%	-116
Computer and Mathematical	1,729	1.8%	-49	3,097	2.2%	25
Architecture and Engineering	1,223	1.3%	-70	1,758	1.2%	-111
Life, Physical, and Social Science	582	0.6%	-21	851	0.6%	-33
Community and Social Service	2,209	2.3%	62	2,506	1.8%	136
Legal	716	0.8%	-30	785	0.6%	-17
Educational Instruction and Library	5,239	5.5%	-197	6,448	4.5%	-62
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,314	1.4%	-91	1,604	1.1%	-57
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	6,815	7.2%	-82	9,427	6.6%	99
Healthcare Support	6,894	7.2%	414	7,622	5.4%	515
Protective Service	1,695	1.8%	-80	2,772	2.0%	-108
Food Preparation and Serving Related	7,244	7.6%	-194	9,933	7.0%	-85
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	2,606	2.7%	-80	3,660	2.6%	-42
Personal Care and Service	2,251	2.4%	-50	3,035	2.1%	-11
Sales and Related	9,207	9.7%	-744	12,905	9.1%	-752
Office and Administrative Support	12,742	13.4%	-1,096	18,495	13.0%	-1,085
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	214	0.2%	-12	230	0.2%	-10
Construction and Extraction	3,598	3.8%	-163	5,148	3.6%	-157
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	3,257	3.4%	-168	5,570	3.9%	-189
Production	6,481	6.8%	-624	10,640	7.5%	-870
Transportation and Material Moving	9,862	10.4%	-498	22,507	15.9%	-453
<b>Total - All</b>	<b>95,114</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-4,073</b>	<b>141,989</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-3,393</b>

Source: Chmura Economics

## AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY

From 2011 through 2020, both counties and the state consistently reported steady increases in average annual pay. Through the period analyzed, both counties and Pennsylvania averaged a three-percent increase in average salary from year to year (not accounting for inflation). Regionally, the annual average salary was about \$14,000 below the statewide average, a disparity of about 23 percent.

	Average Annual Pay									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	\$36,155	\$36,764	\$37,228	\$38,478	\$39,515	\$40,285	\$41,232	\$42,356	\$43,120	\$47,484
Luzerne	\$36,843	\$37,855	\$38,335	\$39,483	\$40,885	\$41,324	\$42,343	\$43,934	\$45,073	\$48,392
Pennsylvania	\$47,035	\$48,397	\$49,077	\$50,567	\$52,187	\$52,460	\$54,000	\$55,628	\$57,497	\$62,049

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

# Job Growth to Population Growth

## JOB GROWTH TO POPULATION GROWTH

Employment performance is measured as a ratio of employment growth compared to population growth. A rate of job growth higher than the rate of population growth is a potentially good sign for the economy, but can also be a leading indicator of a tight labor market. Otherwise, the population may be growing faster than the job market, which may indicate economic stagnation. A poor job growth to population growth ratio can also indicate that a region is becoming a bedroom community, where people come to live but work elsewhere. A job growth ratio that is too high could conversely be a sign of workforce shortage.

From 2010 to 2020, job availability declined by 8.1 percent Lackawanna County, but the population growth increased 0.7 percent. Luzerne County experienced an increase in population as well, and negative job growth of 0.8 percent. These significant job losses are largely related to the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on the economy in 2020. Job availability and population increased statewide and nationally, with job growth outpacing population growth nationally.

Prior to the pandemic, job growth outpaced population growth in the region and statewide. It is possible that the economic recovery in late 2020 and 2021 will result job growth again outpacing population growth in the region when this indicator is measured in the future.



**“Significant job losses are largely related to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impacts on the economy in 2020.”**

Job Growth to Population Growth Comparison: 2010 - 2020

	Job Growth	Population Growth	Employment 2010	Employment 2020	Population 2010	Population 2020
Lackawanna County	-8.1%	0.7%	97,461	89,594	214,367	215,896
Luzerne County	-0.8%	1.5%	136,696	135,557	320,795	325,594
Pennsylvania	0.3%	2.3%	5,472,171	5,488,591	12,709,630	13,002,700
United States	8.8%	7.1%	127,820,442	139,103,773	309,349,689	331,449,281

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

Job Growth to Population Growth Comparison: 2015 - 2020

	Job Growth	Population Growth	Employment 2015	Employment 2020	Population 2015	Population 2020
Lackawanna County	-7.5%	1.9%	96,882	89,594	211,917	215,896
Luzerne County	-4.8%	2.2%	142,346	135,557	318,449	325,594
Pennsylvania	-3.6%	1.6%	5,691,613	5,488,591	12,802,503	13,002,700
United States	-0.3%	3.1%	139,491,699	139,103,773	321,418,821	331,449,281

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

# Distribution of Employment by Industry



## DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The three industry groups (by rank) with the highest proportions of jobs in Lackawanna County were Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Retail Trade; and Manufacturing, in that order. In Luzerne County, the top industries were Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities; and Retail Trade, in that order. By 2021, the Education, Health Care and Social Assistance industry comprised more than one quarter of all jobs in the region, and the top three industry groups in each county comprised about half of all jobs in that county. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' smallest shares of jobs were in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining industry and the Information industry.

Over the past five years, there were declines in employment in most industry groups, likely related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the education, health care, and social assistance sector grew in employment in both counties, especially in Luzerne County.

Distribution of Employment by Industry

Industry	Lackawanna			Luzerne		
	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Employment Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Employment Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	396	0.4%	-20	632	0.4%	-46
Construction	4,350	4.6%	-215	6,091	4.3%	-189
Manufacturing	9,676	10.2%	-921	15,703	11.1%	-1,243
Wholesale trade	3,822	4.0%	-282	4,906	3.5%	-304
Retail trade	11,324	11.9%	-949	16,359	11.5%	-916
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6,244	6.6%	-306	20,460	14.4%	-529
Information	1,061	1.1%	-154	2,617	1.8%	-115
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	5,688	6.0%	-389	6,438	4.5%	-226
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	9,508	10.0%	-404	14,395	10.1%	-244
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	28,096	29.5%	49	33,837	23.8%	737
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	7,892	8.3%	-221	10,772	7.6%	-118
Other services, except public administration	3,862	4.1%	-174	4,571	3.2%	-114
Public administration	3,196	3.4%	-163	5,210	3.7%	-192
Total	95,114	100.0%	-4,073	141,991	100.0%	-3499

Source: Chmura Economics

# Number of Employees & Establishments

## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Total employment in the region stood at 242,765 in 2019, before falling to 225,151 in 2020 amid the effects of the pandemic. Prior to that, employment had been trending generally upward in the region, in the wake of lows seen after the last recession about a decade ago. Lackawanna County saw a one-percent growth between 2010 and 2019, while Luzerne County saw a six-percent growth and the state saw a two-percent increase in jobs during that time.

The drops seen in 2020 amount to eight percent of jobs in Lackawanna County and seven percent in Luzerne County and statewide. Preliminary data from late 2020 and 2021 indicates that strong hiring and economic growth have reduced the size of this contraction in a relatively short period of time.



	Number of Employees										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	96,100	96,811	96,548	96,679	97,226	96,882	97,353	97,797	98,101	97,131	89,594
Luzerne	137,784	138,423	138,837	139,015	140,883	142,346	143,619	144,773	144,969	145,634	135,557
Pennsylvania	5,791,000	5,585,000	5,578,414	5,596,841	5,644,443	5,691,613	5,737,759	5,799,123	5,867,783	5,925,588	5,488,591

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

## NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

The number of business establishments has fluctuated year to year from 2011 through 2020. Luzerne County experienced a mostly downward trend, though the number grew between 2014 and 2015, and again after 2017. Change was less noticeable in Lackawanna County until 2013, which marked the beginning of a downward trend in the number of establishments that accelerated from 2016 to 2018.

From 2019 to 2020, Pennsylvania and Luzerne County saw increases in establishments despite the pandemic, while Lackawanna County saw a decline of 1.8 percent. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne County had fewer establishments in 2020 than they did 10 years earlier: 4.6 and 3.3 percent fewer, respectively.

Furthermore, the lack of establishment growth despite employment gains over the past decade suggests that hiring in existing businesses may be driving job growth to a greater degree than new startups or businesses relocating to the region.

	Number of Establishments									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	5,813	5,826	5,825	5,808	5,784	5,731	5,654	5,576	5,648	5,546
Luzerne	7,688	7,611	7,459	7,458	7,492	7,458	7,373	7,378	7,405	7,437
Pennsylvania	348,678	349,014	343,993	347,496	351,689	353,122	353,949	356,086	360,662	363,410

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 4th Quarter

# Deed Transactions

## Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



**“In 2020, both counties recorded the largest increases in deed transactions over the previous several years— since 2016 in Lackawanna County and since 2013 in Luzerne County.”**

### DEED TRANSACTIONS

Deed transactions measure activity in the real estate market, regarding residential, commercial, and industrial property. Both counties saw sharp declines in deed transactions between 2008 and 2010, coinciding with the collapse of the real estate market nationally and the beginning of the Great Recession. Luzerne County had recorded gradual growth in deed transactions since then, but the number of transactions fluctuated following a significant drop after 2015. In Lackawanna County, the considerable increase recorded from 2011 to 2012 was followed by several years of fluctuation, with mostly positive growth since 2014. In 2020, both counties recorded the largest increases in deed transactions over the previous several years— since 2016 in Lackawanna County and since 2013 in Luzerne County. Overall, the number of transactions have increased by one-third in Lackawanna County since 2011, while falling by 27 percent in Luzerne County during that time.

Deed Transactions										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	4,138	5,220	4,735	4,564	4,715	5,047	5,183	5,152	5,205	5,508
Luzerne	9,087	9,148	9,652	9,532	9,864	7,006	6,689	6,770	6,365	6,611

*2017 Data for Luzerne County has been revised.  
Source(s): Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties' Records of Deeds*

### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

GDP for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) decreased 3.8 percent from 2019 to 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decrease was slightly larger than the statewide decline in GDP of 3.5 percent. Prior to 2020, there had been consistent GDP growth in the region, averaging 2.9 percent per year. Statewide, nominal growth had averaged from 3.1 percent per year from 2011 to 2019.

GDP (in millions of current-year dollars)										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre	\$22,698	\$23,254	\$23,811	\$24,751	\$25,710	\$26,307	\$26,673	\$27,446	\$28,493	\$27,402
Pennsylvania	\$624,820	\$647,926	\$668,569	\$694,143	\$714,203	\$726,562	\$745,011	\$772,611	\$799,686	\$771,898

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

GDP Growth (Not Adjusted for Inflation)			
	2010 - 2020	2015 -2020	2019-2020
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre	23.1%	6.6%	-3.8%
Pennsylvania	27.6%	8.1%	-3.5%

*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.*

# Exports by Industry

## EXPORTS BY INDUSTRY

Numerous firms in the region contribute to the economy by exporting their goods overseas. Regionally, firms exported products worth nearly \$1.3 billion. This total represents a 20 percent decline over the prior year due to the pandemic. Through 2019, the region had seen a generally increasing trend in exported goods.

Chemical manufacturing has been the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA's largest goods export category for the last several years, with approximately \$435 million in exports in 2020.

This is less than the prior year by \$108M (20.0 percent), but still higher than exports in that category prior to 2018. The plastics and rubber products manufacturing industries suffered the greatest one-year decline, at approximately 43 percent. Food manufacturing defied broader trends to show positive growth in 2020. There was a five percent increase in that sector – to \$128.7 million.

About 36 percent of the region's exports went to Canada and Mexico, and another 24.5 percent went to Asian countries. The European Union was the region's third largest global export destination, which accounted for another 19 percent of exports. From 2019 to 2020, there were declines of more than 40 percent in exports to Asia and South America. Exports to Mexico and Canada fell by only eight percent, and exports to the European Union and to other destinations increased despite the pandemic.



**“Chemical manufacturing has been the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA’s largest goods export category for the last several years, with approximately \$435 million in exports in 2020.”**

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area Exports by Industry					
Exports Industry	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Chemical Manufacturing	\$320,013,102	\$349,497,168	\$555,550,505	\$543,429,990	\$435,208,441
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	\$215,380,841	\$219,873,249	\$228,465,058	\$225,785,664	\$129,581,398
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$118,656,658	\$132,988,975	\$168,803,641	NA	NA
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$134,778,947	\$129,917,050	\$127,854,455	\$123,925,580	\$99,662,160
Food Manufacturing	\$124,077,469	\$126,405,862	\$120,036,338	\$122,253,044	\$128,688,817
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	\$105,461,007	\$94,549,766
Machinery Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Primary Metal Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
All Others (Residual)	\$533,799,525	\$548,240,201	\$533,074,744	\$494,836,941	\$401,275,612
All Products	\$1,446,706,542	\$1,506,922,505	\$1,733,784,741	\$1,615,692,226	\$1,288,966,194

*Source: International Trade Administration*

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area Exports by Destination					
Export Destination	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mexico & Canada	\$417,750,781	\$441,627,204	\$502,229,823	\$500,641,148	\$458,902,084
Asia	\$555,437,745	\$531,975,460	\$646,007,197	\$527,818,677	\$315,289,782
European Union	\$224,905,720	\$249,205,343	\$263,938,919	\$239,817,251	\$248,680,265
South America	\$114,470,192	\$120,609,888	\$142,333,277	\$176,282,763	\$99,794,352
Africa	\$16,826,865	\$16,261,717	\$16,610,757	\$22,602,000	\$15,367,619
Other Destinations	\$117,315,239	\$147,242,893	\$162,664,768	\$148,530,387	\$150,932,092
Total	\$1,446,706,542	\$1,506,922,505	\$1,733,784,741	\$1,615,692,226	\$1,288,966,194

*Source: International Trade Administration*

# Tourism Spending



**“The pandemic disrupted a large share of travel in 2020; regional spending declined by 30 percent in Lackawanna and 33 percent in Luzerne.”**

## TOURISM SPENDING

Through 2019, visitor spending in the two-county region averaged a three-percent year-over-year growth. In 2019, visitor spending increased three percent in the two-county region to more than \$1.7 billion. Statewide, tourism spending increased to a similar degree.

The pandemic disrupted a large share of travel in 2020. Disruptions included both business and leisure travel. As a result, visitor spending declined by 37 percent statewide. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw slightly smaller drops relative to their 2019 totals – regional spending declined by 30 percent in Lackawanna and 33 percent in Luzerne.

Tourism Visitor Spending (in millions)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	\$633.3	\$618.4	\$605.8	\$649.9	\$667.2	\$689.1	\$483.9
Luzerne	\$875.1	\$889.7	\$913.9	\$965.3	\$989.0	\$1,015.7	\$685.0
Regional Total	\$1,508	\$1,508	\$1,520	\$1,615	\$1,656	\$1,705	\$1,169
Statewide	\$39,688	\$40,854	\$41,581	\$43,044	\$44,788	\$46,041	\$28,900

*Source: Pennsylvania Tourism Office*

# Federal Funding

**FEDERAL FUNDING**

This indicator tracks federal funding in the forms of grants and prime contracts (including defense) for the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Some other forms of federal funding or awards, such as insurances, are not included. The two counties together received nearly \$1.53 billion in federal contracts and grants as of 2019. The largest portion of this total consists of federal prime contracts.



**“The two counties together received nearly \$1.53 billion in federal contracts and grants as of 2019.”**

Federal Awards 2019			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
<b>Contracts</b>			
Number	544	17,281	536,135
Amount (Thousands)	\$490,776,581	\$583,087,995	\$113,611,028,570
<b>Grants</b>			
Number	186	207	16,863
Amount (Thousands)	\$271,549,082	\$184,430,766	\$93,322,465,449
<b>Other Financial Assistance</b>			
Number	4,116	5,413	273,917
Amount (Thousands)	\$1,189,332,496	\$1,699,785,448	\$143,040,836,165
<b>Loans</b>			
Number	4,705	6,680	342,978
Amount (Thousands)	\$440,783,360	\$540,708,170	\$46,635,502,345
<i>www.usaspending.gov</i>			

# Student Debt



**“The two counties together received nearly \$1.1 billion in federal contracts and over four billion in grants, loans, and other financial assistance.”**

## STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Student loan debt in the two-county region averaged 21 percent in 2021, with Lackawanna County at 23 percent and Luzerne County at 19 percent. Twenty percent of the Commonwealth’s population also has student loan debt. Both counties’ and Pennsylvania’s shares are higher than the nationwide share of 16 percent. The percentage of student loan holders with debt in default was nine percent in Luzerne County, which is lower than the rate of ten percent in Lackawanna County, statewide, and nationally.

From data available in 2019 to the current data, the share of borrowers with student loan debt in default fell in each geography analyzed. For most of 2020 and all of 2021, student loan payments on federally backed loans have been paused; private loans were not affected. The total share of the population with student loans, however, has continued to increase as new students incur debt to attend college.

Of all analyzed areas, Lackawanna County has the highest median student loan debt (at \$22,393), followed by Pennsylvania, and the United States. Luzerne County has the lowest median student loan debt of \$19,639. The median monthly payment is highest in Lackawanna County (\$190 per month), followed by Pennsylvania (\$174), the United States (\$160) and Luzerne County (\$157). The median debt amount approximately correlates with college educational attainment; the share of student debtholders and median loan amount increases with the share of population holding a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Student Loan Debt: 2019					
	Share of population with student loan debt	Share of student loan holders with student loan debt in default	Median student loan debt	Median student loan debt in default	Median monthly payment
Lackawanna	22%	12%	\$22,067	\$8,676	\$188
Luzerne	18%	11%	\$19,865	\$7,913	\$174
Pennsylvania	20%	11%	\$20,159	\$10,084	\$190
United States	16%	13%	\$18,615	\$9,843	\$179

*Source: Urban Institute, last updated 12/17/2019*

Student Loan Debt: 2021					
	Share of population with student loan debt	Share of student loan holders with student loan debt in default	Median student loan debt	Median student loan debt in default	Median monthly payment
Lackawanna	23%	10%	\$22,393	\$9,669	\$190
Luzerne	19%	9%	\$19,639	\$10,920	\$157
Pennsylvania	20%	10%	\$21,772	\$11,339	\$174
United States	16%	10%	\$19,825	\$11,646	\$160

*Source: Urban Institute, last updated 3/31/2021*



Education

# Education



**“At the K-12 level and beyond, the quality of the education and training received by residents and workers directly correlate with the success of that region’s economy.”**

## 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, it is possible to assess education and future economic development in terms of strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to prepare the tomorrow’s workforce for employment in the region’s business and industry.

As a result of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, some indicators included in this section were not collected in 2020 including assessments on industry-based learning for those enrolled in CTC institutions and individual student growth as measured by the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. In some cases, 2021 data was also unavailable in time for publication in this report. The school shutdown and transition to virtual learning in spring 2020 had far more significant effects than disrupting data collection and release: data from here forward will show how education indicators were affected by the pandemic as well as how quickly they recover to data from prior to the global pandemic.

Since 2020, there has been a surge in enrollment in charter schools, and nonpublic school enrollment makes up a larger share of total school enrollment – about 10 percent in the two county region. This may be a result of parents considering new options for educating their children – including virtual options – during the pandemic.

At the K-12 level and beyond, the quality of the education and training received by residents and workers, directly correlate with the success of that region’s economy. Pay level often links to high-skill jobs, which in turn link to level of education, so higher educational attainment and enhanced training can lead to greater economic opportunity and a more competitive workforce. Relatively large shares of the workforce in both counties have an associate’s degree level of attainment, but their rates of population age 25 years and older with a Bachelor’s degree or higher continue to fall short of the state average, and this share has declined somewhat in Luzerne County.

Emerging industries and occupations demand a diverse range of education and training opportunities, including apprenticeship programs, associate degree or trade school programs, on-the-job training, certificates, credentials, and college and university degrees. In 2019-2020, nearly 7,600 degrees were awarded in the two-county region – many of them in key fields like health care and business. However, this is a slight decline from the previous, pre-pandemic academic year. Despite the setbacks of the pandemic, Northeastern Pennsylvania’s impressive and varied group of higher education institutions will continue to be an asset in preparing students for success in the workforce.

Career and technical education at the high school level is another path to gaining the job skills that translate to economic opportunity. Between the two counties, over 2,800 students were enrolled in Career and Technology Centers (CTCs) in 2020, and incomplete data from 2021 shows these numbers generally being maintained. In addition to CTC programs, Advanced Placement (AP) coursework helps students after graduation. Some districts recorded AP/IB (International Baccalaureate) course participation as high as 49 percent of students, and many districts saw large shares of students complete college coursework as well.

Among the many 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 succeed in the workforce, it is important that the schools struggling in measures of academic performance continue to strive for improvement despite the differing socioeconomic contexts of the communities they serve. These efforts must be complemented by work to improve those socioeconomic contexts – ensuring that children come to school ready to learn by alleviating poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity, and physical and mental health challenges.

Four-year high school graduation rates in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have been trending upward since a dip in the 2017-2018 academic year. Rates also have stayed above the average for the entire state of Pennsylvania. Dropouts have declined since the 2016-2017 academic year, with 2019-2020 representing the lowest level in several years in either county. The pandemic has not appeared to interfere with students' on-time graduation from high school – if anything, data available show far may suggest the opposite is true.

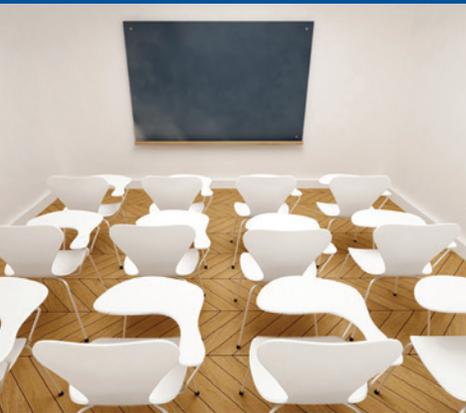
Public school assessment has undergone a significant period of transition. The Keystone Exams have replaced the PSSA exams for 11th grade students, and the PSSA exam has changed to reflect Common Core material. As a result, this report has most recently used PVAAS – the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. This tool measures students' growth over time and accounts for changes in standardized tests over time, along with variability among the student population. In 2019, the PVAAS growth index showed positive results in several subject areas, including 11th grade Literature and Biology. Countywide average scores for 4th through 8th grade students showed room for improvement, although results varied significantly by district. No data is available for 2020 as a result of school closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2021 data has not been published.

Pre-K programs are significant in that they provide a basis to help children with early literacy. Students are four times likelier to drop out of school if they are not proficient readers by the third grade. While there are discrepancies and gaps in data on the share of children served by publicly funded pre-K, the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds benefitting from these programs has ranged from 20 percent to over 40 percent.



**“Emerging industries and occupations demand a diverse range of education and training opportunities, including apprenticeship programs, associate degree or trade school programs, on-the-job training, certificates, credentials, and college and university degrees.”**

# Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates



**“Graduation rates throughout the region range between 81 percent and 96 percent.”**

## FOUR YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATES

The four-year graduation rate measures the proportion of students who enter 9th grade and successfully graduate four years later. Hence, this is a different measure than high school dropout rate because it measures only students who graduate within four years and excludes those who graduate in five or six years. Adjustments are made to account for students moving in and out of each school district.

Statewide, the four-year graduation rate has averaged 86.2 percent from 2015 – 2016 to 2018 - 2019. There has not been a clear upward or downward trajectory, though there was an increase in the 2019-2020 school year. In Lackawanna County, the county average also increased in 2019-2020. School districts had graduation rates ranging from 84.4 percent to 95.7 percent. Scranton and Dunmore School Districts saw substantial improvements of their graduation rate in 2019-2020 compared with 2015-2016.

Luzerne County’s graduate rate has also improved in each of the last two years, though the county average is slightly lower than 2015-2016. School districts in Luzerne County most recently had graduation rates ranging from 81.5percent to 95.9 percent.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate					
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Lackawanna	88.1%	89.9%	88.8%	88.9%	91.6%
Luzerne	90.0%	88.6%	86.8%	88.4%	89.4%
Pennsylvania	86.1%	86.6%	85.9%	86.5%	87.4%

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Lackawanna County					
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Abington Heights	95.5%	97.3%	94.3%	96.4%	95.7%
Carbondale Area	84.6%	88.8%	91.6%	88.5%	84.4%
Dunmore	85.8%	89.5%	89.8%	93.2%	95.8%
Lakeland	81.2%	89.5%	90.2%	83.2%	87.6%
Mid Valley	88.3%	93.5%	88.6%	90.8%	91.2%
North Pocono	95.7%	95.4%	91.6%	96.8%	94.3%
Old Forge	95.4%	91.4%	90.2%	88.7%	94.0%
Riverside	88.7%	85.0%	81.7%	75.0%	92.0%
Scranton	72.8%	78.8%	79.0%	81.0%	85.7%
Valley View	92.7%	90.2%	90.7%	95.1%	95.1%
<b>County Average</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>88.8%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>91.6%</b>

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Luzerne County					
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Crestwood	96.8%	97.6%	93.5%	93.8%	95.9%
Dallas	94.2%	93.0%	93.5%	92.1%	93.4%
Greater Nanticoke Area	88.9%	84.0%	79.0%	84.3%	87.4%
Hanover Area	87.7%	84.2%	85.9%	88.0%	87.1%
Hazleton Area	78.3%	76.6%	76.8%	77.9%	81.5%
Lake-Lehman	95.0%	94.0%	92.0%	92.2%	96.0%
Northwest Area	89.5%	90.9%	84.9%	90.3%	88.8%
Pittston Area	89.1%	91.1%	87.5%	92.8%	89.1%
Wilkes-Barre Area	87.7%	84.4%	84.9%	85.4%	83.3%
Wyoming Area	91.0%	89.0%	87.8%	88.3%	92.6%
Wyoming Valley West	91.8%	89.5%	89.0%	87.8%	88.2%
<b>County Average</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>89.4%</b>

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

# School Enrollment

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In Lackawanna County and statewide, enrollment totals in public schools are lower compared to 10 and 20 years ago. Luzerne County’s public school enrollment is higher than the 2000-2001 school year but lower than ten years ago. Between the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, Lackawanna County saw a 4.4 percent decline in enrollment and Luzerne County saw a drop of 2.3 percent. Statewide, the enrollment decline was a more modest 1.6 percent.

The percentages of students enrolled in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties’ nonpublic schools have been lower than the state’s percentage for each year analyzed. In the two counties, an average of just over nine percent of students were enrolled in nonpublic schools through 2018-2019. However, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, nonpublic enrollment as a percentage of all school enrollment increased. That share fell slightly in 2020-2021 but remained higher than prior years. This may be partially due parents exploring alternative school options during the pandemic. Statewide, however, the ratio of public to nonpublic enrollment has not changed significantly over the period analyzed.



**“There has been a surge in charter school enrollment since 2020, and nonpublic school enrollment now comprises a larger share of total school enrollment – about 10 percent in the two-county region.”**

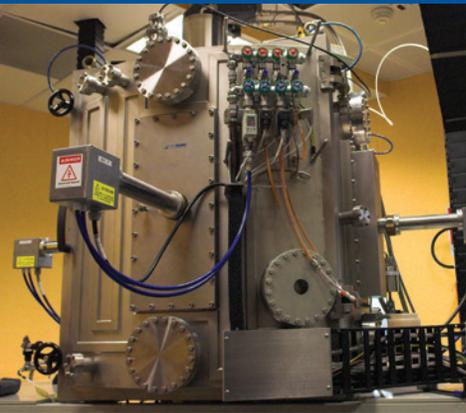
Public and Private/Non-Public School Enrollment												
	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	Public	Nonpublic										
Lackawanna	90.5%	9.5%	90.8%	9.2%	91.0%	9.0%	90.9%	9.1%	89.3%	10.7%	89.6%	10.4%
Luzerne	91.3%	8.7%	91.1%	8.9%	91.0%	9.0%	90.9%	9.1%	90.3%	9.7%	90.7%	9.3%
Pennsylvania	88.3%	11.7%	88.4%	11.6%	88.5%	11.5%	87.8%	12.2%	88.1%	11.9%	88.1%	11.9%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Public School Enrollment							
	2000-2001	2010-2011	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Lackawanna	27,351	28,330	28,270	28,304	28,172	28,101	26,860
Luzerne	39,916	42,937	42,151	42,300	42,245	42,535	41,566
Pennsylvania	1,801,860	1,781,206	1,722,514	1,719,336	1,722,461	1,724,454	1,696,022

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

# Career and Technical Education



**“CTC programs can include traditional trades as well as health care, information systems, cosmetology, and more. ”**

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

An important role of education is to equip students with the practical skills that will help them excel in their careers. Career and Technology Centers (CTCs) present an opportunity for students to study career-based curriculums. CTC programs can include traditional trades as well as health care, information systems, cosmetology, and more. These tables show the numbers of high school students enrolled, by sending school district, in programs at partnering Career and Technology Centers. As of 2020, there were 754 students from Lackawanna County school districts and 2,093 students from Luzerne County school districts participating in CTC programs. Both counties experienced growth in enrollment from the prior year. Lackawanna County’s CTC student enrollment grew by six percent and Luzerne County’s by five percent.

At the time of publication, Future Ready PA Index, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to track schools’ performance on state standards, had not yet published CTC enrollment for 2021 for all districts. No new data was available for Luzerne County, and Lackawanna County data was incomplete. For districts where data was available, 2021 CTC enrollment was generally near or higher than previous years, though enrollment in Scranton School District declined to the lowest level in the time period analyzed.

Competency on the NOCTI assessment for the 2019-2020 school year ranged from 50 to 80 percent among the region’s CTCs, while the percentage earning industry credentials ranged from 50 to 88 percent. An even greater range was seen in the percentage completing work-based learning experiences, from 13.6 percent in Hazleton Area to 99 percent at West Side CTC.

These statistics may be subject to fluctuation in part due to variations in the types of career programs offered by the CTCs, and relatively small population sizes of students.

CTE/CTC Competency Assessments: 2019

	Lackawanna	Hazleton Area	West Side	Wilkes-Barre Area
Percent Scoring Competent or Advanced on NOCTI/NIMS	80.0%	74.4%	65.4%	50.4%
Percent Earned Industry-Recognized Credential	71.1%	73.3%	87.9%	50.7%
Percent Completed Work-Based Learning Experience	29.5%	13.6%	99.1%	17.8%

Source : Future Ready PA Index

CTC Enrollment: Luzerne County

Sending District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crestwood	87	80	62	70	88	NA
Dallas	44	39	50	48	45	NA
Greater Nanticoke Area	93	97	102	76	84	NA
Hanover Area	143	128	146	161	147	NA
Hazleton Area	759	667	644	667	734	NA
Lake-Lehman	44	35	37	44	42	NA
Northwest Area	55	55	49	52	53	NA
Pittston Area	125	112	118	90	92	NA
Wilkes-Barre Area	409	383	369	362	360	NA
Wyoming Area	62	64	60	78	93	NA
Wyoming Valley West	340	345	346	353	355	NA
<b>County Total</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>NA</b>

Source : Future Ready PA Index

CTC Enrollment: Lackawanna County

Sending District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Abington Heights	33	34	32	31	24	34
Carbondale Area	47	45	50	59	59	44
Dunmore	44	36	33	30	40	52
Lakeland	53	49	48	59	56	70
Mid Valley	62	41	57	63	72	67
North Pocono	85	75	81	88	95	92
Old Forge	52	55	53	57	48	NA
Riverside	63	62	59	51	41	NA
Scranton	244	232	250	234	252	226
Valley View	79	65	43	40	67	79
<b>County Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>664*</b>

\* Excludes Old Forge and Riverside School Districts, where data was not reported.

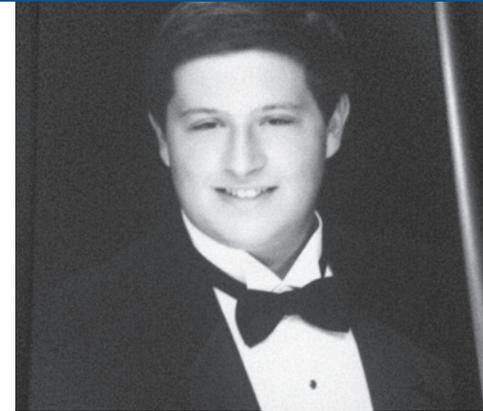
Source : Future Ready PA Index

# Rigorous Courses of Study Charter Schools

## RIGOROUS COURSES OF STUDY

In accordance with Future Ready PA standards, participation in rigorous courses was measured by the percentage of students participating in AP/IB coursework, and the percentage of students enrolling in college coursework during high school. Data was reported separately for three Wilkes-Barre Area high schools despite their merger. AP/IB course participation during the 2020-2021 school year ranged from zero to just under 50 percent in several districts. The average among all districts in the region was around 29 percent, up slightly from the 2019-2020 school year.

College course enrollment ranged from zero to over 87 percent in several districts. The Luzerne County district average was 14.3 percent; the average among Lackawanna County districts was 28.8 percent. For Lackawanna County, college course enrollment fell significantly compared with the 2019-2020 school year.



**“AP/IB course participation during the 2020-2021 school year ranged from zero to just under 57.0 percent in several districts.”**

2020-2021 Rigorous Courses of Study: Lackawanna County		
High School	AP/IB Participation	College Course Enrollment
Abington Heights	56.9%	87.7%
Carbondale Area	26.8%	0.9%
Dunmore	31.0%	0.0%
Lakeland	38.8%	0.0%
Mid Valley	26.0%	58.3%
North Pocono	40.8%	60.1%
Old Forge	0.0%	34.6%
Riverside	22.6%	15.1%
Scranton	27.2%	8.2%
West Scranton	24.0%	15.3%
Valley View	35.2%	36.4%
<b>County Average</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>

Source : Future Ready PA Index

2020-2021 Rigorous Courses of Study: Luzerne County		
High School	AP/IB Participation	College Course Enrollment
Crestwood	32.3%	51.6%
Dallas	41.9%	17.1%
Greater Nanticoke Area	17.6%	7.3%
Hanover Area	21.3%	25.3%
Hazleton Area	25.9%	4.6%
Lake-Lehman	49.3%	0.0%
Northwest Area	34.1%	4.9%
Pittston Area	34.2%	0.0%
Wilkes-Barre - Coughlin	28.4%	9.0%
Wilkes-Barre - G.A.R.	14.5%	18.1%
Wilkes-Barre - Meyers	12.2%	7.3%
Wyoming Area	41.7%	40.4%
Wyoming Valley West	29.0%	0.0%
<b>County Average</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>

Source : Future Ready PA Index

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

In 2021, there were 1,854 students enrolled in Lackawanna County charter schools and 2,377 in Luzerne County charter schools. Compared with the previous year, this was an increase of approximately 61 percent in Lackawanna County and an increase of more than 56 percent in Luzerne County. Charter school enrollments in both counties are substantially higher than they were five years ago. Lackawanna County exhibited the more substantial growth in that time, more than doubling its charter school enrollment. Luzerne County experienced a 75.6-percent increase since 2016. Scranton, Wilkes-Barre Area, and Hazleton Area school districts had the largest numbers of students enrolled in charter schools.

	Rigorous Courses of Study: County Summary			
	AP/IB Participation		College Course Enrollment	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2019-2020	28.5%	28.9%	37.9%	11.5%
2020-2021	29.9%	29.4%	28.8%	14.3%

Source : Future Ready PA Index

Charter School Enrollment: Lackawanna County						
School District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Abington Heights	64	63	77	86	62	142
Carbondale Area	186	178	165	148	154	173
Dunmore	26	24	28	30	36	74
Lakeland	63	68	55	62	65	89
Mid Valley	51	57	71	71	76	118
North Pocono	71	68	69	72	80	121
Old Forge	17	10	22	16	30	60
Riverside	34	41	53	43	43	55
Scranton	345	389	422	517	554	908
Valley View	39	32	48	71	55	114
<b>County Total</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,854</b>

Source : Future Ready PA Index

Charter School Enrollment: Luzerne County						
School District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crestwood	74	66	50	58	53	112
Dallas	30	37	40	38	40	77
Greater Nanticoke Area	67	67	55	72	71	160
Hanover Area	57	84	81	86	99	158
Hazleton Area	222	220	239	277	285	474
Lake-Lehman	42	38	46	56	37	70
Northwest Area	45	41	37	46	44	45
Pittston Area	80	80	76	68	78	124
Wilkes-Barre Area	525	555	575	591	625	783
Wyoming Area	52	33	41	51	42	82
Wyoming Valley West	160	122	144	146	149	292
<b>County Total</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>2,377</b>

Source : Future Ready PA Index

# School Assessment



## SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Individual student growth has been 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 perform on a test in a particular year. This data was not collected for 2020 as a result of school closures precipitated by the pandemic, and 2021 data has also not been published. The following data is from the most recent year available.

Lackawanna County’s 2018 averages were positive in all five categories (Grades 4-8 Math and Reading and Grade 11 Biology, Algebra, and Literature). Both math and reading scores were negative in 2019, however, suggesting that the statewide growth standard was not achieved in those areas. The highest values were in Grade 11 Algebra and Biology. Growth in the countywide average index was lowest in Grades 4-8 Math.

In Luzerne County, Grade 11 Literature was the only growth index score that showed a positive value. Grade 11 Biology stood at zero whereas all others showed negative values. Each of these areas represented setbacks from 2018 scores – except for Grade 11 Algebra which improved from -0.85 to -0.75.

PVAAS Average Growth Index: Luzerne County					
District	2019				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Crestwood	4.27	-1.98	2.08	-1.84	1.05
Dallas	-3.04	-0.94	1.30	-0.74	-0.53
Greater Nanticoke Area	-4.28	-1.81	3.11	-5.37	-1.90
Hanover Area	1.96	1.79	0.79	-1.27	-2.33
Hazleton Area	9.79	4.15	1.00	3.35	4.37
Lake-Lehman	-3.93	-1.07	-0.72	3.81	4.66
Northwest Area	-0.36	-1.22	-7.83	-2.05	-3.62
Pittston Area	-0.50	-2.72	4.17	0.54	5.92
Wilkes-Barre Area	-3.03	-0.77	7.80	-0.60	-5.30
Wyoming Area	-4.41	-5.82	0.29	-4.29	0.49
Wyoming Valley West	3.40	2.28	-2.00	0.24	-2.76
<b>County Average</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>-0.74</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>-0.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Source : PVAAS

PVAAS Average Growth Index: Lackawanna County					
District	2019				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Abington Heights	2.16	2.34	5.72	8.89	10.92
Carbondale Area	-4.66	-0.74	2.42	0.68	3.91
Dunmore	-0.52	-0.99	-2.37	-0.21	-8.95
Lakeland	-1.31	-1.40	0.31	-3.04	1.03
Mid Valley	4.73	-0.44	2.55	0.60	1.27
North Pocono	-3.67	-6.60	-4.54	-0.24	1.22
Old Forge	1.43	0.59	-0.10	3.90	-0.55
Riverside	1.11	4.91	-2.30	0.65	-1.45
Scranton	-0.56	4.31	-1.02	3.99	-2.13
Valley View	-6.60	-5.15	8.37	2.44	12.36
<b>County Average</b>	<b>-0.79</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.76</b>

Source : PVAAS

PVAAS Average Growth Index					
	2019				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	-0.79	-0.32	0.90	1.77	1.76
Luzerne County	-0.01	-0.74	0.91	-0.75	0.00
	2018				
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	0.37	1.22	1.02	0.27	1.15
Luzerne County	0.44	0.70	1.04	-0.85	0.28

Source : PVAAS

# Education Employment

## EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

In the 2020-2021 school year, public school districts in Lackawanna County employed 2,256 professional personnel, and Luzerne County districts employed 3,061. About 86 percent of professional personnel in both counties were classroom teachers. Relatively small increases and decreases in staff were seen in either county from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 school year. Lackawanna County experienced an overall increase of two classroom teachers, while Luzerne County lost 53 classroom teachers. Previously, Lackawanna County has lost classroom teachers each year since 2016-2017 while Luzerne County had maintained or gained teachers over the same period, despite the recent drop.



**“About 86 percent of professional personnel in both counties were classroom teachers.”**

Education Employment: Lackawanna County

Full & Part Time Staff	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Professional Personnel	2,296	2,289	2,257	2,251	2,256
Administrators	104	105	106	113	114
Classroom Teachers	1,961	1,954	1,935	1,931	1,933
Coordinator/Support	222	223	206	204	199
Other Staff	20	18	20	20	22

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

Education Employment: Luzerne County

Full & Part Time Staff	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Professional Personnel	3,077	3,069	3,092	3,098	3,061
Administrators	125	126	128	135	138
Classroom Teachers	2,650	2,650	2,672	2,678	2,625
Coordinator/Support	283	275	281	275	285
Other Staff	53	46	43	39	44

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Education

# Special Education Public School Dropouts



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education data is 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 had significantly higher overall numbers of students enrolled in special education compared with the 2001-2002 and 2011-2012 school years. Furthermore, both areas have generally experienced increasing trends in special education enrollments in more recent years, though 2020-2021 marked the first decrease in several years in both counties. Nonetheless, in 2020-2021 enrollment in NEIU 19 had increased 27.6 percent compared with 2001-2002, while growing 70.7 percent in Luzerne IU 18.

Specific learning disabilities, other health impairments, and speech or language impairments remain the largest shares of special education enrollments in the counties. The numbers of students in the categories for autism spectrum disorders exhibited continued growth in both counties, with a 24.6 percent increase in NIEU 19 and a 34.8 percent increase in Luzerne IU 18 compared to 2016-2017.

	Special Education Enrollments													
	2001-2002		2011 - 2012		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18
Intellectual Disabilities	961	832	497	677	446	652	442	652	448	614	465	628	460	578
Deafness or Hearing Impairment	66	76	64	70	54	49	53	56	61	51	68	52	68	48
Speech or Language Impairment	1,485	979	1,283	1,189	1,132	1,011	1,117	1,043	1,185	1,058	1,239	1,189	1,313	1,114
Blind or Visual Impairment	36	48	32	39	33	39	27	32	26	29	32	29	29	27
Serious Emotional Disturbance	500	314	615	468	692	649	668	684	669	744	663	751	649	750
Orthopedic Impairment	5	66	*	17	*	16	*	*	14	*	*	*	11	13
Other Health Impairment	71	22	667	870	1,139	1,347	1,263	1,457	1,338	1,532	1,436	1,628	1,451	1,598
Specific Learning Disability	3,643	2,686	3,423	2,929	3,190	3,132	3,211	3,176	3,291	3,376	3,340	3,384	3,231	3,215
Deaf-Blind	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Multiple Disabilities	48	70	84	82	84	89	103	87	108	92	114	96	102	79
Autism	76	72	417	366	623	587	687	664	718	707	774	777	776	791
Traumatic Brain Injury	3	11	15	*	14	*	14	14	*	12	12	13	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,894</b>	<b>5,176</b>	<b>7,707</b>	<b>7,279</b>	<b>8,028</b>	<b>8,128</b>	<b>8,221</b>	<b>8,491</b>	<b>8,520</b>	<b>8,867</b>	<b>8,874</b>	<b>9,198</b>	<b>8,796</b>	<b>8,834</b>

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

The number of dropouts in the region has fluctuated considerably over the last decade. Following a peak in the number of dropouts in both counties in 2016-2017, however, totals have continued to decline. Considering the most recent year-over-year decline of 24.9 percent in Lackawanna County and 25.8 percent in Luzerne County, the totals now fall below the ten-year averages for each county.

	Public School Dropouts									
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Lackawanna County	85	175	139	123	163	116	228	197	181	136
Luzerne County	340	374	309	261	294	347	454	437	407	302

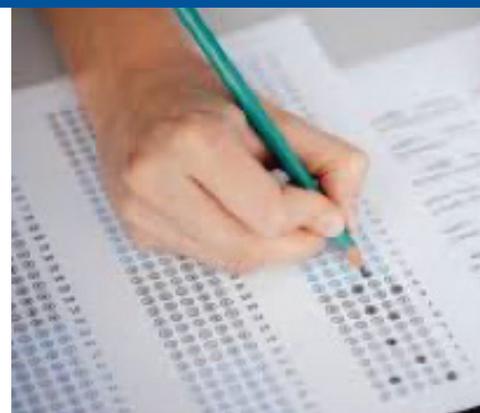
Source: PA Department of Education

# SAT Scores

## SAT SCORES

The College Board altered the SAT format and scoring system in March 2016. Each section is scored on a scale from 200 to 800. Prior year scores are not readily comparable due to the significant changes in the test. New data for 2021 was not yet available for inclusion in this year's report.

The averages among all school districts in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and statewide have remained relatively stable since 2017 (in both subject areas). Lackawanna County saw an uptick in scores between 2017 and 2019, and the average reading and writing score in Lackawanna County is higher than the statewide average. Luzerne County is slightly below the statewide average in both subjects.



SAT Scores								
	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Reading + Writing	Math						
Lackawanna County	526	509	532	514	533	514	532	513
Luzerne County	525	509	528	509	522	505	522	504
Pennsylvania	521	511	529	518	527	515	526	515

Source: PA Department of Education

**“Average SAT scores among all school districts in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and statewide have remained relatively stable since 2017 (in both subject areas).”**

# Higher Education Attainment Degree Completions



## HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

### Associate's Degree

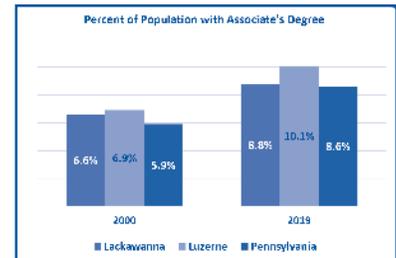
In 2019, the percentage of residents age 25 and older with an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment was 8.8 percent for Lackawanna County and 10.1 percent for Luzerne County. There has been significant growth in associate's degree holders since 2000 in both counties and statewide, and statewide data for 2020 showed a continuation of this trend, with the statewide statistic reaching nine percent. Both counties have typically had a larger share of adults with an associate's degree as their highest level of education compared to Pennsylvania as a whole.

### Bachelor's Degree or Higher

In both counties, the percentage of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher has increased significantly from 2000, although the rate in Luzerne County has declined for the past two years. Pennsylvania has also seen growth in this area, rising from 22.4 percent in 2000 to 27.1 percent in 2010 to a new high of 34 percent in 2020. In contrast to those with associate's degrees, the proportion of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties than in Pennsylvania as a whole. In Lackawanna County, this gap has narrowed slightly compared with 2000 – the bachelor's degree attainment rates was 90 percent of the statewide rate in 2019, compared with 88 in 2000. Conversely, Luzerne County's attainment rate has declined from 73 percent of the statewide rate in 2000 to 67 percent in 2019.

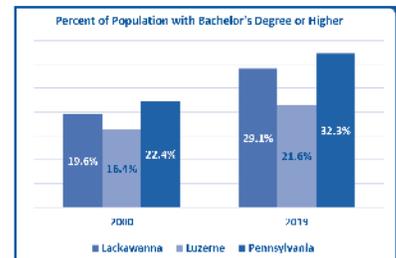
Percent of Population Age 25+: Associate's Degree							
	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	6.6%	7.7%	9.2%	8.2%	10.6%	8.8%	ND
Luzerne	6.9%	8.0%	10.9%	9.7%	9.5%	10.1%	ND
Pennsylvania	5.9%	7.4%	8.2%	8.3%	8.6%	8.6%	9.0%

*Source : U.S. Census Bureau*



Percent of Population Age 25+: Bachelor's Degree or Higher							
	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	19.6%	24.5%	27.0%	29.2%	28.8%	29.1%	ND
Luzerne	16.4%	21.4%	23.1%	23.8%	23.6%	21.6%	ND
Pennsylvania	22.4%	27.1%	30.8%	31.4%	31.8%	32.3%	34.0%

*Source : U.S. Census Bureau*



## DEGREE COMPLETIONS

In the 2019-2020 academic year, institutions in Lackawanna County awarded fewer degrees and certificates (3,623) than those in Luzerne County (3,966). These numbers represent an eight percent decrease in Lackawanna County and an 11 percent decrease in Luzerne County compared to 2018-2019.

Across the two county region, a total of 7,589 degrees were awarded, including 1,837 certificates and two-year degrees, 3,113 four-year degrees, and 2,639 postgraduate degrees. The greatest number of total completions were in registered nursing (530 completions), general business administration and management (400 completions), and accounting (289 completions). Among only certificates and two-year credentials, the most common fields were liberal arts and sciences, licensed practical nursing, and cosmetology. JobsEQ (Chmura Economics) is the source of degree completions data.

# 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. The ratio can correlate with a district's performance; research has shown that students in schools with smaller class sizes receive more individualized attention and therefore tend to perform better on average. However, it is not an ideal predictor of educational quality or outcomes.

In Lackawanna County, 2020-2021 student-teacher ratios ranged from 12.1 in Lakeland to 16 in the Carbondale School District. In Luzerne County, ratios for that year ranged from 13.3 in Northwest Area to 18.1 in the Crestwood School District. Lackawanna County's average student-teacher ratio among school districts declined compared to the past several years, while Luzerne County has remained relatively steady, with small fluctuations from year to year.



**“Though it is not an ideal predictor of educational quality or outcomes, research has shown that students in schools with smaller class sizes receive more individualized attention and therefore tend to perform better on average.”**

Lackawanna County Student - Teacher Ratios						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Abington Heights	14.6	15.0	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.2
Carbondale	16.6	17.0	15.7	15.0	16.1	16.0
Dunmore	15.5	15.9	15.5	14.7	14.2	13.9
Lakeland	15.8	14.0	14.7	14.2	14.0	12.1
Mid Valley	15.6	15.0	14.9	14.9	15.4	15.1
North Pocono	14.5	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.1	13.8
Old Forge	14.4	14.2	14.3	14.0	13.9	13.7
Riverside	13.4	13.7	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.4
Scranton	13.9	13.6	13.9	14.3	14.4	13.6
Valley View	14.4	14.2	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.7
<b>County Average</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics*

Luzerne County Student - Teacher Ratios						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Crestwood	17.9	18.1	18.7	18.1	18.4	18.1
Dallas	17.0	16.7	16.3	15.7	15.5	15.0
Greater Nanticoke Area	17.6	17.6	17.9	18.5	18.0	17.6
Hanover Area	17.5	17.3	17.4	16.5	16.6	16.0
Hazleton Area	15.8	16.6	16.3	16.0	16.4	16.8
Lake-Lehman	13.7	13.7	13.2	13.3	14.0	13.9
Northwest Area	13.1	14.3	14.5	13.8	13.6	13.3
Pittston	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.0	17.9	17.7
Wilkes-Barre Area	14.0	15.0	15.6	15.7	16.2	16.3
Wyoming Area	15.8	16.1	16.1	15.2	14.7	14.6
Wyoming Valley West	14.5	14.4	14.1	14.4	14.6	14.4
<b>County Average</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics*

# Pre-K Enrollment



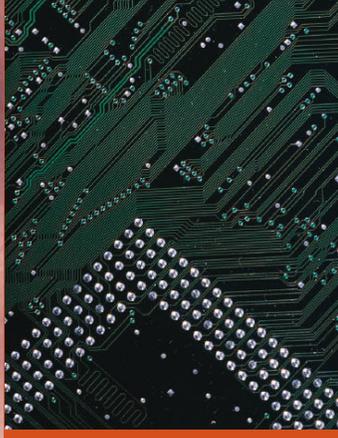
**“As of the 2018-2019 school year, more than one quarter of children aged three and four years were served by publicly-funded early childhood education programs.”**

## PRE-K ENROLLMENT

No data on enrollment in publicly-funded Pre-K for 2019-2020 was available for inclusion in the report. Data has also been unavailable for the 2017-2018 school year. As of the 2018-2019 school year, in each of the two counties 26 percent of children aged three or four were served by the publicly-funded early childhood education programs listed. In Luzerne County, participation in publicly-funded Pre-K was at the highest level on record. This trend was driven by growth in Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, and Child Care Works programs. Lackawanna County suffered an apparent 40 percent decrease in the percent of children served since the last year data was collected. This is due to a near complete elimination of school district pre-K enrollment according to data published by KidsCount Data Center. However, data from Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2018-2019 school year reported 473 children served by school district pre-K in Lackawanna County, consistent with totals seen in past years.

Publicly Funded Pre-K Enrollments - Children Ages 3-4 Served					
Year	Head Start	PKC, HSSAP, CCW in STAR 3/4	School District Pre-K	Total Children Served	% of Children Served
<b>Lackawanna County</b>					
2013-2014	615	610	651	1,876	39.7%
2014-2015	645	531	572	1,748	37.0%
2015-2016	542	778	505	1,825	38.6%
2016-2017	830	768	435	2,033	43.4%
2018-2019	492	701	3*	1,219	25.8%
<b>Luzerne County</b>					
2013-2014	676	664	20	1,360	20.1%
2014-2015	676	649	20	1,345	19.9%
2015-2016	655	907	0	1,562	23.1%
2016-2017	672	1,018	0	1,690	23.7%
2018-2019	516	1,164	6	1,739	25.7%

\* PA Department of Education report 473 students served.  
Source: Kids Count Data Center



**Technology & Innovation**

# Technology & Innovation



**“Globally, economic activity is shifting more toward knowledge-based jobs and industries like education, healthcare, and finance.”**

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Technology and Innovation section of this report identifies important indicators in Pennsylvania and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, including technology and innovation-related occupations and industries, funding from federal programs supporting innovation (such as Small Business and Innovation Research Awards (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer Awards (STTR), and National Science Foundation (NSF) funding), clinical trials, venture capital investments, and patents. Each of these indicators measures some aspect of technological development or innovation.

Innovation in regional businesses, healthcare, and educational institutions is difficult to measure directly, however. Several datasets presented here are limited, and many innovations in processes or practices occur without being counted. It is incumbent on regional leaders to continue to promote a culture of innovation and creativity. 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. According to data from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, R&D contributes 2.15 percent to Pennsylvania’s GDP, placing it in the second quartile of all U.S. states.

Globally, economic activity is shifting more toward knowledge-based jobs and industries like education, healthcare, and finance. Even traditional industries such as manufacturing and extraction are increasingly reliant on automation and other new technologies to stay competitive, and thereby reliant on STEM workers. In this year’s report, three STEM occupation categories are examined – computer and mathematical occupations; life, physical, and social science occupations; and architecture and engineering occupations. Industries with high concentrations of these jobs are analyzed as well. These include settings like manufacturers, hospitals, college and universities, technology companies, insurance companies, and architecture and engineering firms. In 2021, 9,732 workers held STEM-related occupations in the region, up from the previous year, largely due to growth in employment in computer and mathematical occupations.

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 encourages joint ventures between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. Allocations for SBIR and STTR awards in Pennsylvania reached new highs in 2019 – 232 SBIR awards accounted for over \$137 million in funding, and STTR awards in the Commonwealth numbered 46 with over \$25.5 million in awards. The statewide number of utility patents issued also grew in 2020 – the 4,271 utility patents is an increase of nearly 12 percent since 2015.

The amount of multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments in the region also highlight how much innovation is occurring in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Though there is no single, systematic source for data on venture capital investment, several sources reported over \$500 thousand in investment in local companies in 2021. Only known investments were counted, so this number is likely an underrepresentation of actual venture capital funding that supports innovation and entrepreneurship in the area.

# STEM Occupations

## STEM OCCUPATIONS

Data for three STEM occupation categories were analyzed. In 2021, employment in architecture and engineering occupations increased slightly in Lackawanna County but fell in Luzerne County. This occupation category employs just under 3,000 workers across both areas.

Life, physical, and social science employment has been generally stable in the region since 2013. Both counties saw decreases in 2021 following employment growth in these jobs in 2020. This category includes 1,433 workers, the largest total for any year analyzed except for 2020.

Computer and mathematical occupations have varied from year to year. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties experienced declines in 2018, but followed up with increases of 17.7 and 16.2 percent, respectively, in 2019. This was followed by declines of 1.1 and 0.5 percent, respectively, and again by rapid growth of 8.4 and 9.7 percent, respectively in the most recent data. The total number of regional workers in these occupations has ranged from just under 4,200 to over 5,100 from 2013 to 2020, but in 2021 reached over 5,300 workers.

Wages in all three of these STEM occupation groups were higher than wages in the region as a whole. In the two counties, architecture and engineering jobs have a median wage of nearly \$72,000 per year, and science occupations have median wage of \$63,600 per year. Computer and mathematical occupations have a median wage of \$76,500 per year. The regional median wage for all jobs is \$37,800 per year. The wage gap between STEM and non-STEM workers is apparent across different experience levels for workers.

**“Wages in all three of these STEM occupation groups were higher than wages in the region as a whole.”**

Architecture & Engineering Occupations									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	1,325	1,307	1,277	1,252	1,351	1,326	1,250	1,203	1,226
Luzerne	1,700	1,665	1,709	1,724	1,890	1,914	1,902	1,804	1,758

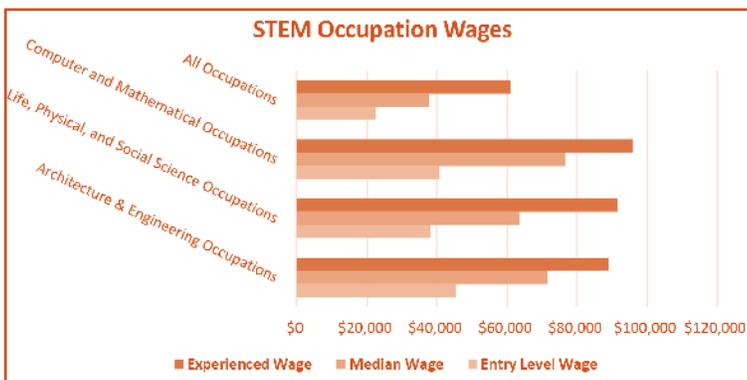
Source: JobsEQ (Chmura Economics)

Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	634	636	636	630	603	584	548	590	580
Luzerne	711	712	719	730	782	793	799	874	853

Source: JobsEQ (Chmura Economics)

Computer and Mathematical Occupations									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	1,897	1,923	1,933	1,872	1,610	1,529	1,801	1,782	1,931
Luzerne	2,969	3,028	3,186	3,276	2,666	2,665	3,099	3,084	3,384

Source: Chmura Economics



# STEM-Based Industries



**“About 57.0 percent of the region’s STEM jobs fall into one of the 15 industries listed in this report.”**

## STEM-BASED INDUSTRIES

This table shows the industries with the largest numbers of employees in the three STEM occupation categories discussed previously. About 57 percent of the region’s STEM jobs fall into one of the 15 industries listed here.

Architectural, engineering, and related services had the highest number of STEM jobs as well as the highest percentage of its workforce (61 percent) in STEM occupations. In the computer systems design and related services industry, 753 of its workforce are in STEM occupations – 59 percent of its total workforce. Data processing, hosting, and related services constitute the third largest STEM-employing industry in the region (582 STEM jobs; 43 percent of the industry workforce). Management of companies, insurance carriers, colleges and universities, hospitals, and various other industries also host large numbers of STEM workers. Several heavy industries, such as electricity generation, transmission, and distribution, medical equipment manufacturing, and plastics manufacturing are also represented.

Lackawanna and Luzerne County Employment in STEM-Focused Industries: 2021			
Industry	STEM Job Employment	Total Employment	Percent STEM Employment
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	946	1,550	61%
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	753	1,276	59%
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	582	1,360	43%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	421	2,614	16%
Insurance Carriers	403	3,212	13%
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	391	1,362	29%
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	377	5,390	7%
Employment Services	307	5,314	6%
Executive, Legislative, and Other General Government Support	234	5,411	4%
Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	206	1,469	14%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	194	8,283	2%
Depository Credit Intermediation	192	2,963	6%
Plastics Product Manufacturing	183	3,675	5%
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	181	1,491	12%
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing	163	479	34%

Source: Chmura Economics

# SBIR & STTR Awards National Science Foundation

## SBIR & STTR AWARDS

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awards grants to small businesses throughout the nation in order to promote federal innovation research and development. In 2020, firms in Pennsylvania received over \$137 million in SBIR awards. This represents a slight increase from the prior year's revised total and became the highest total of all years analyzed. The total number of awards grew to the highest level among all years analyzed – 232 awardees statewide.

The Small Business Technology Transfer program (STTR) is similar to the SBIR program, with special emphasis on joint venture opportunities between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. Pennsylvania's 2020 award total was over \$25.5 million – significantly higher than the previous years analyzed. The total number of STTR grants grew by ten from 36 to 46.



Pennsylvania STTR Award Amounts			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	\$1,968,973	\$5,818,469	\$7,787,442
2013	\$3,633,890	\$2,728,555	\$6,362,445
2014	\$2,726,404	\$6,373,029	\$9,099,433
2015	\$5,039,277	\$5,056,772	\$10,096,049
2016	\$6,794,645	\$10,267,448	\$17,062,093
2017	\$5,282,259	\$4,947,031	\$10,229,290
2018	\$6,496,934	\$10,101,195	\$16,598,129
2019	\$5,669,905	\$12,187,469	\$17,857,374
2020	\$7,066,558	\$18,441,610	\$25,508,168

*Prior year data has been revised*  
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

Pennsylvania STTR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	13	5	18
2013	19	4	23
2014	15	8	23
2015	30	7	37
2016	29	10	39
2017	30	2	32
2018	28	10	38
2019	28	8	36
2020	30	16	46

*Prior year data has been revised*  
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

Pennsylvania SBIR Award Amounts			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	\$21,522,922	\$61,865,753	\$83,388,675
2013	\$17,566,923	\$46,049,969	\$63,616,892
2014	\$22,042,448	\$60,450,760	\$82,493,208
2015	\$20,802,645	\$64,208,614	\$85,011,259
2016	\$21,754,620	\$64,305,506	\$86,060,126
2017	\$18,745,644	\$68,825,672	\$87,571,316
2018	\$23,543,897	\$93,634,883	\$117,178,780
2019	\$28,110,706	\$107,972,792	\$136,083,498
2020	\$26,071,705	\$110,962,970	\$137,034,675

*Prior year data has been revised*  
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

Pennsylvania SBIR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	123	69	192
2013	101	46	147
2014	135	60	195
2015	121	64	185
2016	104	62	166
2017	112	73	185
2018	125	74	199
2019	144	80	224
2020	140	92	232

*Prior year data has been revised*  
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

From 2015 to 2018, the total amount of statewide NSF funding has generally remained consistent, averaging around \$273 million per year. In 2019, however, the state saw a nearly 20 percent jump to over \$313 million, followed by nearly \$439 million in 2020, another 40 percent increase compared with the prior year. In 2021, the total decreased by nearly 25 percent, but remained the second highest total of all years analyzed.

While grantees in both counties have received NSF funds in recent years, in 2021, \$818,743 was awarded to Lackawanna County grantees in 2021, the second highest regional total of all years analyzed. Luzerne County grantees received \$793,559.

National Science Foundation							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$847,000	\$30,526	\$792,674	\$818,743
Luzerne	\$26,975	\$144,384	\$0	\$0	\$486,615	\$0	\$793,559
Pennsylvania	\$292,041,000	\$275,033,000	\$262,773,000	\$261,353,000	\$313,292,000	\$438,758,106	\$330,252,000

Source: USAspending.gov, National Science Foundation

# Clinical Trials Venture Capital Investments/Patents Issued



**“In 2020, over \$2 million was invested directly by organizations reporting data to The Institute; in 2021, and additional \$500 thousand in investments were identified. ”**

## CLINICAL TRIALS

The number of active clinical trials shown here is a point-in-time snapshot of trials in the recruiting phase, excluding online trials available to county residents, which may be located anywhere in the country.

The number of ongoing trials in the region relate to critical areas of health research, including cancer, chronic disease, and mental health.

The total number of clinical trials counted in this manner was 135 between the two counties, somewhat lower than observed in the past several years.

Active Clinical Trial Sites				
	2018	Q1 2020	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Lackawanna	65	58	51	42
Luzerne	88	149	119	93

*Source: Centerwatch*

## MULTI-STAGE VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

It is difficult to capture venture capital investment data from a single source, and this problem is compounded by the lack of non-proprietary data available. Due to these challenges, venture capital measured here likely underestimates actual investments. This list includes multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments made by public and private sources over the past ten years, and which have been made public or provided to The Institute.

Regional Venture Capital Investments Reported to The Institute	
Year	Amount (Thousands)
2011	\$540
2012	\$8,200
2013	\$600
2014	\$700
2015	\$600
2016	\$725
2017	\$700
2018	\$800
2019	\$15,200
2020	\$2,155
2021	\$530

*Source: Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Private Funders. Previous figures have been revised.*

In 2020, over \$1 million was invested directly by organizations reporting data to The Institute – including Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania in addition to private sources. In 2021, and additional \$500 thousand in investments were identified. Known recipients include manufacturers, software companies, health and wellness businesses, and business accelerator/incubator programs.

## PATENTS ISSUED

Patents are filed by their inventors and classified according to the inventors’ residential addresses. Patents may be individually owned or owned by organizations inside or outside the region. Since 2015, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer regularly tabulates patent data at a county or regional level. In 2015, 40 patents were issued to inventors in the two counties. Both counties saw a decrease of one from the prior year. In total, 487 patents were issued over the ten years analyzed.

Statewide, there have been an average of just over 4,000 utility patents per year, and over 4,500 total patents per year. In 2020, there were above average patents issued to Pennsylvania inventors. The statewide share as a percent of the nationwide total stood at 2.6 percent, consistent with the 2.5 to 2.8 percent range seen during the period analyzed.

Regional Utility Patents		
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2006	30	20
2007	28	26
2008	32	27
2009	25	26
2010	22	26
2011	16	32
2012	13	32
2013	11	39
2014	11	31
2015	10	30

*Source: USPTO*

Statewide Patents Issued						
Year	Utility	Design	Plant	Reissue	Total	% of US Total
2015	3,825	384	7	9	4,225	2.7%
2016	3,864	436	18	1	4,319	2.7%
2017	4,246	519	11	8	4,784	2.8%
2018	3,950	482	18	6	4,456	2.8%
2019	4,233	482	9	13	4,737	2.5%
2020	4,271	448	13	5	4,737	2.6%

*Source: USPTO*



# Housing

# Housing



**“The region’s housing stock is predominantly older, and about two-thirds of housing units are owner-occupied.”**

## HOUSING

The Housing section of this report covers indicators that measure Northeastern Pennsylvania’s housing market, including demand, building permits, occupancy, housing affordability, rental affordability, housing density, market conditions, and homelessness. For 2020, data was limited on several key indicators due to disruptions in data collection for the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. For several of those indicators, only experimental state-level data is available.

In 2019, there were over 251,000 housing units in the two counties. The region’s housing stock is predominantly older, and about two-thirds of housing units are owner-occupied. About 56 percent of homes in the two counties were built prior to 1960, compared to just 47 percent statewide. Conversely, the region has a smaller proportion of homes built since 2000 – about eight percent, compared to 12 percent across the Commonwealth.

Since the housing market crash over a decade ago, signs of recovery in the region have been mixed. However, more recent data show some increasing price points, and the time since the beginning of the pandemic has marked a seismic shift in the regional and nationwide housing market. While for-sale inventory was already trending downward before the pandemic, indicating a tightening housing market (i.e. a seller’s market), the pandemic accelerated this trend. Home values in the region saw more growth from 2020 to 2021 than the entire previous decade. Accordingly, market rents have also risen, with mid-market rent increasing by 11.6 in the region from 2020 to 2021, faster than the still significant growth rate of 8.2 percent observed statewide.

Historically, housing has been fairly affordable in the region. As of the latest available data, the median monthly ownership costs (including mortgage payment, property taxes, and other costs of homeownership) as a percentage of median household income for owner-occupied households for both counties decreased, and were notably lower than 2010 proportions. Rent costs as a percentage of the median household income for renters have increased in Lackawanna County and decreased in Luzerne County in 2019. However, the above noted trends in the real estate market and possibility is already having significant implications on the need for new efforts to ensure access to affordable housing. Affordable housing, should not be construed as meaning low income only. There are many working full time jobs in a variety of occupations such as education, health care, manufacturing, etc. that cannot afford some of the market prices.

Finally, homelessness remains a challenge in this region, as with virtually all communities in the United States. In early 2020, before the start of the pandemic in our region, 358 unhoused individuals were counted in the two counties, eight more than the prior year. With counts altered due to the pandemic, it is not clear to the extent the pandemic has affected homelessness in the region. Across the Commonwealth, more than 17 percent of all homeless households counted in 2020 were unsheltered, compared to just under ten percent in the region.

# Age of Housing Stock Building Permits & Construction Costs

## AGE OF HOUSING STOCK

As of 2019, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were somewhat behind the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in terms of recent building. Statewide, 2.5 percent of homes were built in 2014 or later, compared to 1.5 percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Both counties also have smaller percentages of housing stock built between 2000 and 2013 than Pennsylvania's 9.4 percent; Lackawanna County sits at 6.4 percent and Luzerne County is at 6.0 percent. This indicates that the nationwide housing construction boom of the early 2000s was less apparent in this region. Furthermore, compared to Pennsylvania, a much higher percentage of the region's housing stock was built prior to 1940. While 2020 data was not available for the region, statewide estimates showed minimal change, though the share of homes built since 2010 ticked up from 3.9% to 4.2% in the Commonwealth.

Year Built	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
Built 2014 or later	1,500	1.5%	2,263	1.5%	141,920	2.5%
Built 2010 - 2013	968	1.0%	844	0.6%	83,586	1.5%
Built 2000 - 2009	4,999	5.0%	8,699	5.8%	450,113	7.9%
Built 1990 - 1999	7,375	7.3%	10,853	7.2%	538,561	9.4%
Built 1980 - 1989	7,872	7.8%	12,075	8.0%	554,398	9.7%
Built 1970 - 1979	12,670	12.6%	20,585	13.7%	717,365	12.5%
Built 1960 - 1969	8,271	8.2%	12,834	8.5%	579,742	10.1%
Built 1950 - 1959	9,086	9.0%	16,099	10.7%	776,501	13.5%
Built 1940 - 1949	7,422	7.4%	12,855	8.5%	404,166	7.1%
Built 1939 or earlier	40,685	40.3%	53,396	35.5%	1,486,228	25.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

	Total Housing Units	Homes Built 2014 or later	Percent Built 2014 or later	Homes Built 2000-2013	Percent Built 2000-2013
Lackawanna	100,848	1,500	1.5%	5,967	5.9%
Luzerne	150,503	2,263	1.5%	9,543	6.3%
Pennsylvania	5,732,580	141,920	2.5%	533,699	9.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

## BUILDING PERMITS & CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The number of building permits issued in Luzerne County has largely matched or exceeded levels seen before the last recession, though both 2019 and 2020 saw relatively low levels of permitting activity. In Luzerne County, 331 building permits covering 357 housing units were issued in 2008; 552 permits for 624 units were reported in 2018 – the highest totals of all years analyzed. In 2019, the total number of buildings and units fell, but remained higher than activity seen in the wake of the last recession.

In Lackawanna County, similar low levels of permitting activity were seen from 2011 through 2013. An anomalous spike in 2014 was followed by several years of more active permitting, before dropping off in 2019 and 2020.

Construction costs have generally correlated with permitting activity in both counties.

	Buildings		Units	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
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	1898	198	2009	236
2015	579	195	593	204
2016	608	227	617	375
2017	303	387	433	463
2018	391	552	421	624
2019	174	252	177	315
2020	144	294	172	385

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

Year Built	Lackawanna	Luzerne
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
2015	\$133,851,085	\$44,264,238
2016	\$144,530,035	\$64,315,078
2017	\$93,556,722	\$97,273,706
2018	\$90,776,171	\$135,042,946
2019	\$44,682,889	\$64,466,400
2020	\$40,058,987	\$81,280,942

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

# Occupancy & Vacancy Housing Tenure



**“The percentage of occupied housing units in Lackawanna County remained steady in 2019, while those in Luzerne County increased to 87.0 percent.”**

## OCCUPANCY & VACANCY

In 2019, 87.4 percent of all housing units in Lackawanna County were occupied – in line with rates seen in prior years. The percentage in Luzerne County increased for the third year in a row, from 83.9 percent in 2016 to 87 percent in 2019. The Commonwealth’s occupancy rate increased slightly in 2019, and remains higher than either county rate. Statewide estimates for 2020 showed an increase in the occupancy rate to 90 percent, the highest seen among years analyzed.

Occupancy & Vacancy										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Occupied	Vacant								
Lackawanna	87.3%	12.7%	85.8%	14.2%	87.5%	12.4%	87.4%	12.6%	No Data	
Luzerne	83.9%	16.1%	84.5%	15.5%	85.4%	14.6%	87.0%	13.0%	No Data	
Pennsylvania	88.0%	12.0%	88.0%	12.0%	88.8%	11.2%	89.3%	10.7%	90.0%	10.0%

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

## HOUSING TENURE

Housing tenure refers to the breakdown of those who own their homes versus those who rent. From 2015 to 2019, there was some fluctuation in the ratios of those who own to those who rent in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and Pennsylvania. The ratio of owners to renters has been approximately 2:1 in both counties. There have been year-to-year changes in both counties, with the percentages of renters ranging from about 31 percent to around 37 percent most years. As of 2019, Lackawanna County had the largest share of renters, at 36.6 percent of the county’s households. Pennsylvania had a slightly higher share of homeowners in most years, and in 2020 that share rose to 69.4 percent, the highest level among years analyzed.

Housing Tenure: Owner to Renter Comparison										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter
Lackawanna	63.2%	36.8%	62.8%	37.2%	63.9%	36.1%	63.4%	36.6%	No Data	
Luzerne	68.1%	31.9%	67.1%	32.9%	69.0%	31.0%	67.4%	32.6%	No Data	
Pennsylvania	68.5%	31.5%	68.3%	31.7%	68.6%	31.4%	68.4%	31.6%	69.4%	30.6%

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 U.S. Census Bureau, include mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. Only owner-occupied units with mortgages are included in this dataset. Updated data for these measures were not available for 2020.

From 2015 to 2019, Lackawanna County's median SMOC was mostly between 22.9 and 25 percent of the median household income for homeowners. Ratios in Lackawanna County have been lower over the last several years than the comparison year of 2010, indicating that on average, homeowners have become somewhat less burdened by housing costs over time. Because this statistic is a ratio of homeownership costs to median income, there is no need to adjust for inflation.

Luzerne County's SMOC as a percentage of homeowner median income was 21 percent in 2019. This percentage represents a small decrease from the prior year, and the lowest of the past five years. Pennsylvania's ratio decreased to 22.5 percent, continuing a downward trend.



**“A household is considered cost-burdened when housing-related spending exceeds 30 percent of its income, meaning that it may struggle to afford other necessities.”**

Housing Affordability						
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Lackawanna</b>						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$55,817	\$60,353	\$62,444	\$68,053	\$66,126	\$72,317
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,304	\$1,259	\$1,276	\$1,300	\$1,273	\$1,381
% of Income for Owner Costs	28.0%	25.0%	24.5%	22.9%	23.1%	22.9%
<b>Luzerne</b>						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$53,706	\$61,948	\$61,847	\$64,927	\$66,528	\$65,020
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,160	\$1,185	\$1,187	\$1,193	\$1,232	\$1,138
% of Income for Owner Costs	25.9%	23.0%	23.0%	22.0%	22.2%	21.0%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$60,996	\$69,281	\$70,785	\$73,966	\$75,309	\$78,866
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,390	\$1,414	\$1,416	\$1,438	\$1,451	\$1,477
% of Income for Owner Costs	27.3%	24.5%	24.0%	23.3%	23.1%	22.5%

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. Includes only housing units with a mortgage.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

A similar calculation was used for rental housing. The median rent as a percentage of median renter household income for all three geographic areas has fluctuated for the past several years, usually staying close to or under 30 percent. The ratio of median rent to median income increased marginally to 28.5 percent in Lackawanna County and decreased to 29.1 percent in Luzerne County. The statewide ratio fell to 30.2 percent. A household is considered cost-burdened when housing-related spending exceeds 30 percent of its income, meaning that it may struggle to afford other necessities.

The two counties have generally had median rents and rent-to-income ratios that were comparable to or slightly lower than Pennsylvania's overall.

Rental Affordability						
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Lackawanna</b>						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$28,054	\$28,284	\$28,559	\$28,093	\$33,789	\$33,364
Median Rent	\$664	\$761	\$720	\$771	\$797	\$792
% of Income for Rent	28.4%	32.3%	30.3%	32.9%	28.3%	28.5%
<b>Luzerne</b>						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$22,250	\$29,151	\$26,410	\$33,042	\$30,971	\$33,425
Median Rent	\$617	\$746	\$701	\$749	\$789	\$810
% of Income for Rent	33.3%	30.7%	31.9%	27.2%	30.6%	29.1%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$27,110	\$32,141	\$34,357	\$33,193	\$35,600	\$37,761
Median Rent	\$763	\$868	\$881	\$893	\$927	\$951
% of Income for Rent	33.8%	32.4%	30.8%	32.3%	31.2%	30.2%

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

# Housing Value



## HOUSING VALUE

In this year's report, current statistics on housing values were obtained from data collected by Zillow. The Zillow Home Value Index is a measure of typical home values in a region for mid-range homes (in the 35th-65th price percentile). Since 2010, there was a decline in home values in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, followed by relatively small increases until 2020.

In 2021, home values accelerated much more rapidly. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw year-over-year increases of 18 percent and 26 percent, respectively, compared to a 3 percent decline and 2 percent growth from 2010 to 2019. Pennsylvania as a whole saw a 20 percent increase in home values from 2020 to 2021, equating the previous decade's growth in just one year.

Typical Market Rent					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre/ Hazleton Metropolitan Area	\$832	\$844	\$877	\$911	\$1,017
United States	\$1,464	\$1,516	\$1,572	\$1,597	\$1,728

Source: Zillow Research ZORI (Zillow Observed Rent Index). Each value is the average of all available monthly data.

Market prices have also increased for rental units. Within the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton metropolitan area, typical market rents for units in the 40th to 60th percentile reached \$1,017 in 2021, up 11.6 percent from the prior year. Nationwide, market rents increased by 8 percent during the same time. By comparison, from 2017 to 2021, year-over-year market rents increased an average of about three percent regionally and nationwide

Typical Home Value							
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna County	ND	\$139,001	\$125,371	\$129,834	\$135,498	\$138,600	\$160,483
Luzerne County	\$79,399	\$110,759	\$103,451	\$109,648	\$113,166	\$120,567	\$142,839
Pennsylvania	\$108,326	\$171,715	\$178,481	\$188,239	\$196,361	\$205,823	\$235,354
United States	\$131,291	\$177,006	\$220,066	\$234,393	\$245,105	\$257,585	\$297,091

Source: Zillow Research ZHVI (Zillow Home Value Index). Each value is the average of all available monthly data.

# Housing Density

## HOUSING DENSITY

Housing density data for both counties and Pennsylvania showed small increases in homes per square mile between 2000, 2010, and 2019, in accordance with small increases in the estimated number of housing units in both counties. In Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and Pennsylvania, the number of homes per square mile in 2019 were 216.9, 166.1, and 124.5 respectively, indicating that the two counties have higher housing densities than the Commonwealth as a whole.

In Lackawanna County, the growth in housing density was faster between 2010 and 2019 than the prior decade. In Luzerne County and Pennsylvania as a whole, the housing supply grew more slowly between 2010 and 2019 than it did between 2000 and 2010.



Housing Density Comparison									
	Total Square Miles	2000		2010		2019		2020	
		Housing Units	Homes per square mile						
Lackawanna	464.9	95,362	205.1	96,867	208.4	100,848	216.9	No Data	
Luzerne	906.3	144,686	159.7	148,736	164.1	150,503	166.1	No Data	
Pennsylvania	46,054.3	5,249,750	114.0	5,568,820	120.9	5,732,580	124.5	5,753,228	124.9

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

# Mortgage Activity



## MORTGAGE ACTIVITY

Complete data on this indicator was not available for 2020. Generally, between 53 percent and 56 percent of owner-occupied homes in Lackawanna County had mortgages from 2015 to 2019. Luzerne County experiences more fluctuation; the share of homes with mortgages ranges from about 52 percent to 58 percent. In 2019, this share rose slightly in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties compared with the year before, while the statewide percentage saw a small decline.

Median monthly owner costs, which include mortgage payments as well as real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees, decreased in Luzerne County but increased in Lackawanna County and statewide. The median monthly owner costs in both counties have remained substantially lower than those at the state level.

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Pennsylvania							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Owner Occupied Homes	2,889,484	3,461,678	3,405,756	3,382,514	3,421,017	3,478,645	3,501,824
% with Mortgage	62.2%	62.7%	60.6%	60.3%	60.3%	59.7%	59.1%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,010	\$1,390	\$1,414	\$1,416	\$1,438	\$1,451	\$1,477

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Lackawanna							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Owner Occupied Homes	47,906	55,442	55,469	54,480	54,165	56,371	55,854
% with Mortgage	55.2%	58.6%	53.9%	53.9%	55.6%	52.8%	54.4%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$939	\$1,304	\$1,259	\$1,276	\$1,300	\$1,273	\$1,381

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Luzerne							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Owner Occupied Homes	78,799	88,973	85,575	84,510	85,043	88,539	88,275
% with Mortgage	54.1%	57.7%	57.6%	55.5%	52.1%	51.8%	53.3%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$865	\$1,160	\$1,185	\$1,187	\$1,193	\$1,232	\$1,138

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

# Market Conditions

## Foreclosure Rate

### MARKET CONDITIONS

The tables presented here show market conditions through 2019. Multi-year trends indicated an upturn in market activity, even prior to the pandemic, as evidenced by shrinking inventory and rising list prices in both counties and statewide.

More recent data on for-sale inventory for the metro area, which includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, continued to drop through 2020 and early 2021. In the 2nd quarter of 2021, inventory was half of the levels seen two years before. In the second half of 2021, inventory had begun to rebound but remained far below pre-pandemic levels.



**“Both counties saw new lows in foreclosures in 2020 as a result of the moratorium.”**

Median Listing Price					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	\$133,000	\$129,500	\$130,000	\$143,500	\$145,900
Luzerne	\$114,900	\$115,000	\$116,000	\$129,900	\$136,200
Pennsylvania	\$174,900	\$178,500	\$189,900	\$199,900	\$212,500

*Median price for the month of December for each year.  
Source: Zillow Research*

For-Sale Inventory					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	1,564	1,252	1,063	1,011	840
Luzerne	2,009	1,974	1,539	1,319	1,161
Pennsylvania	71,511	61,365	54,577	49,451	44,198

*Numbers are for the month of December for each year.  
Source: Zillow Research*

For Sale Inventory: Recent Trends		
	Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metro Area	United States
Q1 2019	2,318	1,489,535
Q2 2019	2,407	1,656,229
Q3 2019	2,620	1,779,936
Q4 2019	2,461	1,652,116
Q1 2020	2,029	1,420,979
Q2 2020	1,802	1,421,562
Q3 2020	1,849	1,415,790
Q4 2020	1,541	1,253,134
Q1 2021	1,178	1,009,660
Q2 2021	1,154	994,710
Q3 2021	1,489	1,110,880
Q4 2021	1,438	1,049,573

*Monthly average for each quarter  
Source: Zillow Research*

### FORECLOSURE RATE

The number of foreclosures in the two counties and statewide was highest in 2012 and 2013, representing a peak in foreclosures associated with the last recession. In Lackawanna County, foreclosures have continued to trend down, while Luzerne County’s foreclosure total had begun to trend upward since 2016. Both counties, however, saw new lows in foreclosures in 2020 as a result of the moratorium on foreclosures. The 2020 totals were 30-40 percent of the prior year’s totals, in accordance with the moratorium which covered about 70 percent of mortgages nationwide. The moratorium expired on July 31, 2021.

Foreclosures									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	552	607	537	541	584	448	420	395	148
Luzerne	1,067	1,058	890	693	218	482	571	636	218
Pennsylvania	34,372	33,632	28,905	27,494	25,429	24,449	22,678	20,143	6,715

*Source: The Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania*

# Homelessness

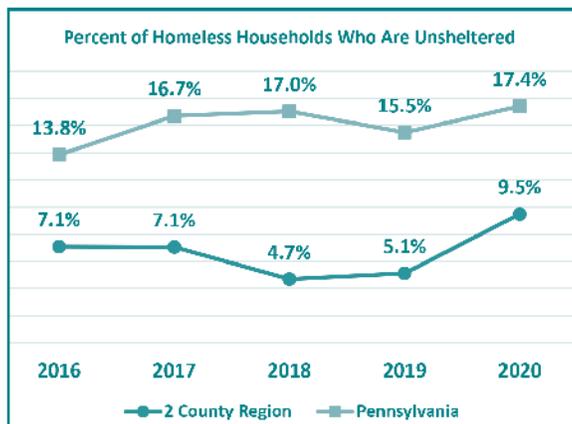


## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness data is tracked annually via point-in-time counts reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2021, local agencies responsible for conducting the point-in-time counts were given the option of modifying count procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lackawanna County conducted a full sheltered and unsheltered count; Luzerne County conducted a sheltered-only count. Therefore, data on shelter status is incomplete, and Luzerne County's total number of homeless individuals excludes those who were unsheltered at the time of the count.

In 2016, 411 homeless individuals were counted in the two counties. This trended downward to 324 in 2018, and then gradually increased to 358 in the most recent count, conducted before the pandemic in 2020. The statewide homeless population grew slightly in 2020.

As of 2020, the percent of households in the two counties that were unsheltered increased, particularly in Lackawanna County. In the combined region, 9.5 percent of homeless households were unsheltered, nearly twice the share of the last two years and the highest share of all years analyzed. Nonetheless, this is a smaller share of unsheltered households compared with Pennsylvania as a whole.



	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	54	90	11	242	84
Jan. 2017	47	69	14	197	63
Jan. 2018	58	52	5	159	38
Jan. 2019	91	57	7	186	24
Jan. 2020	59	59	16	177	38
Jan. 2021	54	55	-	165*	ND

*Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development*

	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	65	53	9	169	34
Jan. 2017	55	53	3	174	56
Jan. 2018	66	47	6	165	46
Jan. 2019	60	51	7	164	43
Jan. 2020	61	50	8	181	61
Jan. 2021	53	48	-	138*	ND

*Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development*

	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	5,554	3,563	1,464	15,339	4,269
Jan. 2017	5,363	2,979	1,673	14,138	3,693
Jan. 2018	5,558	2,562	1,667	13,512	3,422
Jan. 2019	5,899	2,417	1,524	13,199	2,980
Jan. 2020	5,989	2,174	1,721	13,375	3,048
Jan. 2021	4,655	1,924	-	10,339*	ND

*Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development*



## Social Services

# Social Services



**“While the economy has returned to a growth trajectory overall, some households have continued to fall through the cracks.”**

## SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services section of the report describes important indicators related to social service programs within Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 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 years and older, the number of senior centers, the population of individuals with disabilities, and certain tax credits. Social services include government-funded services usually provided to those in need of essentials, such as health care, food, etc.

Numerous individuals throughout Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties and the Commonwealth face physical, economic, or social challenges. There is an ongoing need for social services to assist these citizens in their daily lives. The recipients of social services are often older individuals, those with mental and physical health challenges or disabilities, and lower-income families. A large portion of the population has faced the consequences of an uneven economy since the recession in 2008, and despite generalized economic growth in recent years, there remains a persistent demand for government-funded services as well as assistance from charitable and faith-based organizations.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a spike in the acute need for support among families facing income loss. The pandemic has appeared to widen already existing economic inequalities across gender, age, and race. While the economy has returned to a growth trajectory overall, some households have continued to fall through the cracks.

Pennsylvania has expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to cover adults under 65 years with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level as of January 1, 2015. As a result, a greater number of individuals were eligible for Medical Assistance, but the rates plateaued in 2018 and 2019 at about 27 percent in Lackawanna County and 28 percent in Luzerne County. These shares then increased significantly in 2020 and 2021 amid the global pandemic, reaching over 30 percent in both counties. Statewide and regionally, enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has typically grown for the last several years but fell in 2020 and 2021 as more families shifted to Medicaid due to changes in family income.

Older Pennsylvanians also possess a particular need for social support. Many senior citizens live on fixed incomes and face significant health care issues. Within the two-county region, the percent of the total population aged 65 years and older remains higher than the statewide percentage, with total number over 105,000. The number of individuals with a disability has remained relatively steady, indicating a continued need for support for a variety of disabilities.

Several federal income tax credits that are similar in ways to social assistance programming. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can provide significant income, in the form of a tax refund, to lower-income households. Regionally, about 18 percent of tax returns received the EITC as of 2019. The share of households receiving Child Tax Credits, and the average amount of the credit per return, grew due to the expansion of that credit under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Further tax credits and direct payments made in 2020 and 2021 have also made an important impact on the financial situation of families. As a result of these payments, child poverty statewide fell considerably in provisional data for 2020.

# 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). It was developed to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. Participating childcare and early learning programs are rated from one to four stars on several factors, such as teacher quality and adherence to safety regulations.

There has been significant year-to-year fluctuation in the number of participating centers. Both counties reached their highest levels in 2021, with 96 facilities with at least 1 STAR in Lackawanna County and 140 in Luzerne County. The number of 4-STAR (i.e. highest quality) centers has trended upward, with a significant increase in 2021. There was a concurrent decrease in STAR 2 and STAR 3 centers, suggesting that those facilities have been graduating to the highest quality level.

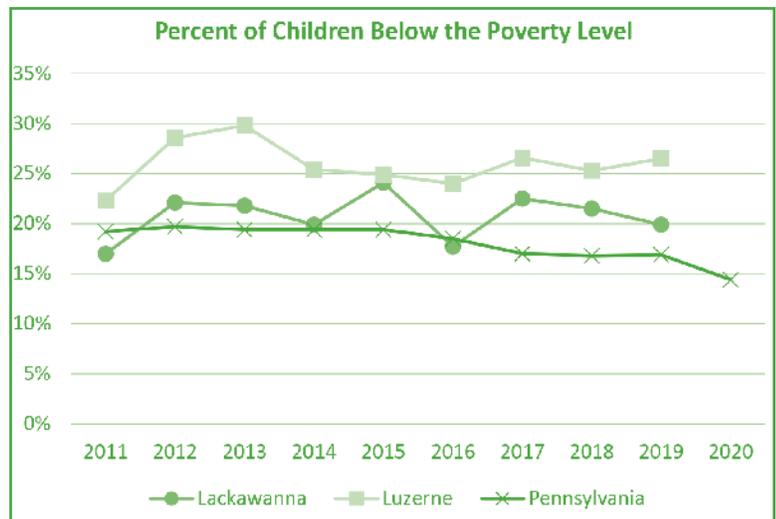


Keystone STARS Child Care Facilities										
Category	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne								
Total STAR Facilities	79	123	83	126	83	122	80	116	96	140
STAR 1	37	72	33	66	35	62	33	58	29	63
STAR 2	15	29	23	32	20	31	19	29	17	23
STAR 3	10	13	9	16	5	14	5	14	6	4
STAR 4	17	9	18	12	23	15	23	15	44	50

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services OCDEL.*

## CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

The statewide childhood poverty rate has shown a declining trend over the last few years, from 19.4 percent in 2015 to 16.9 percent in 2019. Provisional data from 2020 showed another sharp decline to 14.4 percent. This was likely driven by additional social spending and emergency safety-net programs put into place during the pandemic. In most years, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have had child poverty rates above the statewide rate. This county-level data for 2020 was not available, but it is likely that the Northeastern Pennsylvania region also saw decreased child poverty as a result of pandemic interventions.



Percent of Children Under 18 Living Below the Poverty Level										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	17.0%	22.1%	21.8%	19.9%	24.1%	17.7%	22.5%	21.5%	19.9%	ND
Luzerne	22.3%	28.6%	29.8%	25.4%	24.9%	24.0%	26.6%	25.3%	26.5%	ND
Pennsylvania	19.2%	19.7%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	18.5%	17.0%	16.8%	16.9%	14.4%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates. 2020 PA data is experimental.*

# Children in Foster Care Food Stamps/SNAP



**“Both statewide and in the two-county region, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in the foster care population.”**

## CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Data from Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (via the Annie E. Casey Foundation) was not available in time to update this year’s report. However, the most recent data available estimates a total of 1,045 children served by foster care in the two counties in the 12 months ending September 2018. This total includes all individuals aged 0 to 20 years in foster care and represents less than one percent of all children in the two-county region. This population has declined over the time period analyzed. Statewide, 25,441 children (0.8 percent) were in foster care from October 2017 to September 2018 – an increase of 60 children from the previous year.

Both statewide and in the two-county region, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in the foster care population. Statewide, nonwhite or Hispanic individuals comprise about one-third of the total population of individuals younger than age 20, but account for 56 percent of the foster care population. In Lackawanna County, it is about 40 percent and in Luzerne County, 37 percent.

	Children in Foster Care									
	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lackawanna	406	0.8%	379	0.8%	343	0.7%	297	0.6%	248	0.5%
Luzerne	941	1.3%	804	1.1%	812	1.2%	807	1.1%	797	1.1%
Pennsylvania	22,510	0.7%	22,980	0.8%	24,513	0.8%	25,381	0.8%	25,441	0.8%

Each one-year period begins in October and ends in September.  
Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children via the Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Number includes all children served in foster care ages 0-20. Percent is out of total population ages 0-19.

	Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin 2017-2018					
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne	
	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population
Hispanic or Latino	12.3%	13.0%	15.6%	10.1%	23.3%	15.4%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	13.0%	33.9%	4.4%	9.7%	5.7%	10.5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	0.3%	2.3%	0.1%	9.7%	0.1%	0.9%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	3.8%	7.1%	3.4%	10.5%	3.3%	10.4%
Non-Hispanic White	66.8%	43.7%	72.8%	60.1%	66.1%	62.7%

Each one-year period begins in October and ends in September.  
Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children via the Annie E. Casey Foundation

## FOOD STAMPS/SNAP

The last decade has generally brought with it a marked increase in the number of households receiving assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also called food stamps), both regionally and across Pennsylvania. A period of growth occurred from 2010 to 2014, coinciding with changes to program eligibility at the federal level. Further growth in the number of households receiving SNAP was seen from 2015 to 2018 but was more pronounced regionally than statewide. In 2019 and 2020, SNAP usage remained relatively level statewide, at about 13.5 percent of households. County-level data was not available for 2020.

	Households Receiving SNAP (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
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%
2015	83,054	11,895	14.3%	127,408	19,860	15.6%	4,956,037	658,303	13.3%
2016	86,203	14,635	17.0%	124,118	21,821	17.6%	4,937,771	660,314	13.4%
2017	86,213	15,218	17.7%	126,811	20,788	16.4%	5,008,751	646,413	12.9%
2018	88,268	15,164	17.2%	128,301	23,612	18.4%	5,070,931	679,656	13.4%
2019	88,154	14,783	16.8%	130,890	23,968	18.3%	5,119,249	693,470	13.5%
2020	ND	ND	-	ND	ND	-	5,178,588	698,320	13.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates, 2020 PA data is experimental.

# Cash Assistance Medical Assistance & CHIP

## CASH ASSISTANCE

Cash assistance programs, such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), provide additional income assistance to those who cannot work and to households that do not earn enough from work to support themselves. No new data was available for this year's report. According to the most recent available data, Lackawanna County's number and share of households receiving cash assistance have fluctuated, but in 2019 reached the highest total since 2016 and the second highest since 2013. In Luzerne County, the number of cash assistance recipients increased year over year from 3.1 percent in 2014 to 4.9 percent in 2018, before falling in 2019 to the lowest levels seen in the last decade.

	Households Receiving Cash Assistance					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households
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%
2015	2,124	2.6%	4,211	3.3%	162,502	3.3%
2016	3,288	3.8%	4,337	3.5%	159,489	3.2%
2017	2,548	3.0%	4,873	3.8%	146,108	2.9%
2018	2,710	3.1%	6,274	4.9%	158,875	3.1%
2019	3,073	3.5%	3,707	2.8%	161,961	3.2%

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

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & CHIP

Since 2011, there has been a substantial increase in the number of individuals eligible for Medical Assistance in the two counties. The percent of the population and the total number of people eligible for Medical Assistance rose between 2013 and 2018, reaching nearly 27 percent of Lackawanna County residents and over 28 percent of Luzerne County residents. Rates of Medical Assistance eligibility have increased in recent years due to Pennsylvania's expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The share of eligible individuals in the region plateaued in 2019, but by July 2020 thousands more had become eligible amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, over 30 percent of individuals in both counties were eligible.

	Total Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population
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	22.8%	75,255	23.6%	2,592,693	20.3%
July 2016	52,831	25.0%	82,982	26.2%	2,779,675	21.7%
July 2017	54,900	26.0%	87,411	27.6%	2,852,494	22.3%
July 2018	56,402	26.8%	89,278	28.1%	2,894,860	22.6%
July 2019	56,376	26.7%	89,268	28.1%	2,860,494	22.3%
July 2020	59,606	28.4%	94,815	29.9%	3,009,756	23.5%
July 2021	65,680	30.4%	106,278	32.6%	3,320,102	25.5%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Percent of population calculated using previous year's population estimates from US Census Bureau. Prior years' data has been updated.*

Statewide enrollment in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) grew significantly from 2017 to 2020. However, CHIP enrollment dropped in both counties and statewide in January 2021. This trend continued in 2022, with enrollment in both counties reaching the lowest points in at least a decade. This shift is reportedly due to more families moving from CHIP into Medicaid due to changes in family income.

	Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) Enrollment					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	2,390	2,438	2,522	2,690	2,369	2,062
Luzerne	4,122	4,272	4,377	4,758	3,976	3,438
Pennsylvania	170,502	180,999	179,241	185,959	170,124	145,745

*Data is from January of each year. Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*

# Programs for Seniors



## PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS (POPULATION 65 OR OLDER)

The share of seniors (aged 65 or older) among the Lackawanna County population rose from 19.5 percent in 2000 to 20.4 percent in 2019. This change was driven by an increase in the county's senior population and a decrease in its total population. As of 2019, seniors comprised 19.8 percent of the population in Luzerne County; this is a slightly smaller share of the county's population than in 2000, but higher than the share in 2010. The statewide senior population has similarly trended upward – in 2019, 18.7 percent of the state population was at least 65 years old (up from 15.6 percent in 2000 and 15.4 percent in 2010).

In 2019 and in 2020, there were 23 active adult centers in the two-county region. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively, there are about 1.9 and 2.4 senior centers per 10,000 residents aged 65 years or older.

**“In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively, there are about 1.9 and 2.4 senior centers per 10,000 residents aged 65 years or older.”**

	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%
2015	211,917	40,091	18.9%	318,449	60,554	19.0%	12,802,503	2,181,193	17.0%
2016	211,321	41,498	19.6%	316,383	61,184	19.3%	12,784,227	2,221,761	17.4%
2017	210,761	41,103	19.5%	317,343	62,355	19.6%	12,805,537	2,276,543	17.8%
2018	210,793	41,876	19.9%	317,646	63,359	19.9%	12,807,060	2,332,369	18.2%
2019	209,674	42,709	20.4%	317,417	62,864	19.8%	12,801,989	2,388,218	18.7%

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

	Number of Senior Centers	
	Per 1000 Residents	
	2020	Age 65+
Lackawanna	10	2.34
Luzerne	15	2.39

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Aging

# Individuals with Disabilities

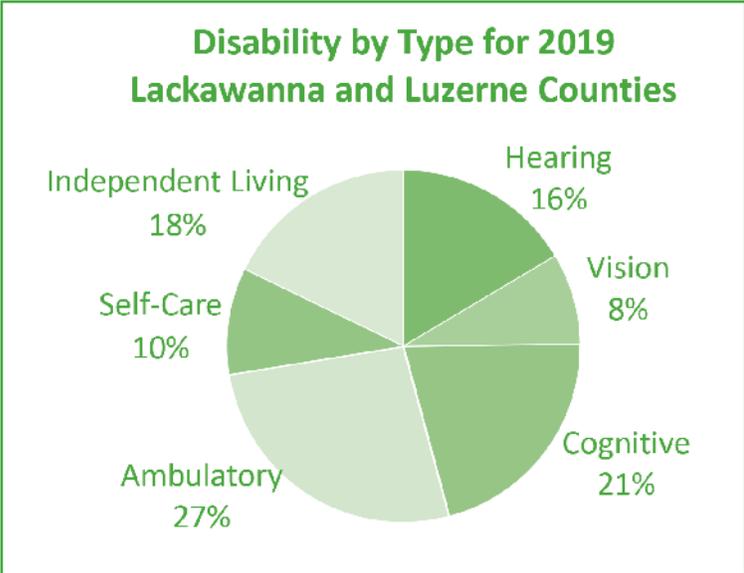
## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

In both counties and statewide, the percentages of individuals with disabilities have fluctuated over the past five years. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the percentage of the population that has at least one disability has been consistently higher than the percentage in the Commonwealth – both counties averaged about 16 percent over the past five years, compared to the statewide five-year average of approximately 14 percent.

Of all disabilities reported in the two-county region in 2019, 27 percent were ambulatory disabilities, and another 21 percent were cognitive disabilities. Outside those, independent living disabilities were most frequently reported. Hearing, vision, and self-care disabilities each comprise smaller but still substantial amounts of all disabilities reported in the region. This breakdown has changed minimally over the past several years.



	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	%
2015	208,091	29,591	14.2%	310,611	50,946	16.4%	12,599,417	1,746,764	13.9%
2016	207,544	33,471	16.1%	308,401	50,021	16.2%	12,579,422	1,792,479	14.2%
2017	206,732	32,103	15.5%	309,654	48,088	15.5%	12,602,472	1,774,646	14.1%
2018	206,943	33,478	16.2%	310,069	49,068	15.8%	12,604,311	1,774,575	14.1%
2019	205,870	33,256	16.2%	309,750	51,643	16.7%	12,593,136	1,769,125	14.0%
2020	No Data			No Data			12,579,538	1,745,563	13.9%



# Tax Credits



**“Certain tax credits function as a form of social aid to low- and middle-income families and individuals, and play a large role in poverty alleviation.”**

## TAX CREDITS

Certain tax credits function as a form of social aid to low- and middle-income families and individuals, and play a large role in poverty alleviation. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal income tax credit that assists lower-income working households. It was received on nearly one in five Luzerne County tax returns in 2019. In that year, 16.9 percent of returns filed in Lackawanna County received the EITC. This is somewhat higher than the statewide rate of 14.4 percent. The average amount of the credit is around \$2,300 in the region and statewide. Credits of this amount, when received as tax refunds, can make a significant impact on the financial stability of households. In both counties, the average size of the credit per return has generally grown in the past five years, though there were small declines in 2019.

The Child Tax Credit was claimed by about 22 percent of households in both counties in 2019, a substantial increase over the previous year but a slightly smaller percentage than in Pennsylvania as a whole. The significant increase in households claiming Child Tax Credits, and growth in the average size of the amount, are results of the expansion of the credit in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

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	
2015	102,950	17,800	17.3%	\$2,171	13,190	12.8%	\$1,238
2016	102,590	17,560	17.1%	\$2,179	13,060	12.7%	\$1,212
2017	103,130	17,320	16.8%	\$2,245	13,150	12.8%	\$1,220
2018	103,150	17,190	16.7%	\$2,285	22,540	21.9%	\$2,009
2019	104,710	17,740	16.9%	\$2,257	22,600	21.6%	\$2,029

*Prior year data has been revised.  
Source: Internal Revenue Service*

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	
2015	156,990	29,320	18.7%	\$2,284	19,980	12.7%	\$1,171
2016	157,090	29,810	19.0%	\$2,287	19,900	12.7%	\$1,149
2017	158,080	29,980	19.0%	\$2,327	19,780	12.5%	\$1,150
2018	158,210	29,840	18.9%	\$2,366	34,580	21.9%	\$1,836
2019	161,370	30,970	19.2%	\$2,355	35,030	21.7%	\$1,842

*Prior year data has been revised.  
Source: Internal Revenue Service*

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	
2015	6,200,330	961,580	15.5%	\$2,236	840,090	13.5%	\$1,249
2016	6,188,330	949,840	15.3%	\$2,230	827,260	13.4%	\$1,245
2017	6,236,490	930,470	14.9%	\$2,253	823,380	13.2%	\$1,243
2018	6,259,700	906,990	14.5%	\$2,278	1,453,120	23.2%	\$2,161
2019	6,353,920	917,220	14.4%	\$2,255	1,458,540	23.0%	\$2,177

*Source: Internal Revenue Service*



## Health & Health Care

# Health & Health Care



## HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

The Health and Health Care section of this report identifies important health indicators in Pennsylvania and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. These indicators include death from health conditions such as cancer and heart disease, death by suicide,

infant and child mortality, childhood lead exposure, teen pregnancy, unhealthy behaviors such as cigarette smoking and excessive drinking, health insurance status, obesity, and the availability of health care facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes.

The rate of death from cancer is an indicator affected by behavior (such as smoking, which is known to cause various types of cancer) and by health care (cancer death rates decline as access to the latest treatments improve). Demographics also complicate these statistics; cancer is more prevalent among older individuals, for instance. While the cancer death rates have fluctuated in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in recent years, the annual average number of deaths in both counties from 2011 to 2019 exceeds the statewide average.

The age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease – another leading cause of death in the U.S. – is similarly impacted by health-related behaviors and access to health care. The rate of death by heart disease was lower in 2019 than it was in 2011, for both counties and Pennsylvania. Although the rate of heart disease deaths declined in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2019 following an increase the prior two years, the rate in both counties is significantly higher than in the Commonwealth as a whole.

Environmental health factors are associated with lifelong health complications. Screening for childhood lead exposure, one such environmental health issue, is not mandated for all children in Pennsylvania. Testing rates in Luzerne County have followed statewide trends, with approximately 18 percent of children in this age group tested in 2020. The percentage tested in Lackawanna County has consistently lagged behind the statewide rate, with 13.7 percent tested in 2020, though a larger share of those tested had elevated blood lead levels.

Personal behavior impacts many health conditions, including but not limited to heart disease and cancer. Making healthy lifestyle choices is extremely important. However, eating healthy can be costly and access to healthy food can be limited. At a time when many area residents are living with low or moderate incomes,

healthy choices are not always top priorities. Issues of social determinants and the existence of food deserts in the region also complicate efforts to improve population health. The adult obesity rate has stood at around 32 percent regionally and statewide in recent years. In two key health-related behaviors, this area has performed worse in recent years than the state as a whole. Cigarette smoking has been more prevalent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties than in Pennsylvania, and the rate of chronic drinking has exceeded statewide levels in the past few years.

Drug overdose deaths declined in both counties in 2019, and are lower in comparison to rates in 2015, while statewide rate of drug overdose deaths has increased by one-third during this time. The rate of opioid prescriptions have decreased annually in all three regions. Fentanyl is a major factor in persistent deaths from drug overdoses. The prevalence of these high-risk behaviors is a significant public health concern.

Health insurance coverage of area residents has improved between 2010 and 2019, although the insured rates have stabilized or declined slightly in more recent years. A considerably larger proportion of individuals had coverage in 2019 than in 2010, largely due to an increase in people covered by public health insurance. Concurrently, the percent of the population covered by private health coverage has been slowly declining regionally and statewide. In the most recent statewide data, the uninsured rate grew, a troubling sign during the pandemic that may be at least partly due to job losses in 2020.

Enrollment in marketplace health plans has been declining in both counties and in Pennsylvania overall, though 2021 statewide data showed that enrollment in the statewide marketplace grew to 337,722.

Finally, the availability and cost of health care is an important concern. Though Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are homes to multiple health care resources and the number of beds available in hospitals has not declined significantly, cost could impede access for those who are underinsured or uninsured, especially with uncertainty over continued federal funding to cover COVID-19 costs for those without health insurance. The region's health care capacity was tested again by the Omicron variant in late 2021 and early 2022, highlighting the importance of adequate health care infrastructure. Hospital room rates have risen between 2016 and 2020: the daily private hospital room rate has increased by 51 percent in Lackawanna County and by 64 percent in Luzerne County. Between 2019 and 2020 alone, the room rate increased 38 percent in Luzerne County.

# Cancer & Heart Disease Obesity

While the daily private hospital rate has gradually increased over recent years, the semi-private daily room rate for nursing homes has fluctuated. For example, from 2016-17 to 2020-21, the semi-private daily room rate for nursing homes fell by 2.3 percent in Lackawanna County and rose by nearly seven percent in Luzerne County. Both counties have more nursing home beds per 1,000 seniors compared to the statewide rate. However, the number of beds is lower regionally and statewide compared with rates in 2016-2017. With an increasing population of older adults and growing life expectancy, capacity to care for older adults will be an important issue to address. This must include care at various levels and home-based solutions as well as skilled nursing facilities.

## CANCER

Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported fluctuating cancer death rates in recent years, while the cancer death rate in Pennsylvania has been steadily declining. Over the years analyzed, the annual average number of deaths by cancer has been 176.6 in Lackawanna County and 173.3 in Luzerne County, exceeding the annual average rate of 165.5 in the Commonwealth. There was a sharp decline in the cancer death rate in Lackawanna County in 2019 to 152.4, making it lower than the statewide rate for the first time in recent years. Luzerne County experienced a slight increase in the cancer death rate in 2019 following a decline the previous year.

Cancer Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	183.7	177.0	180.9	177.8	173.3	179.4	179.9	184.8	152.4
Luzerne	174.5	179.6	189.3	185.6	175.2	166.2	172.6	150.2	166.4
Pennsylvania	176.4	173.8	170.1	168.8	166.2	164.0	160.6	156.4	153.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

## HEART DISEASE

Pennsylvania's age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease has seen a generally declining trend, while Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported fluctuating rates of death by heart disease in more recent years. The statewide heart disease death rate was six percent lower in 2019 than it was in 2011. The heart disease death rate declined in both counties in 2019, following two years of growth. Despite this decline, both geographies continue to be significantly above the state rate of death by heart disease.

Heart Disease Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	225.2	236.5	209.4	210.8	224.9	201.5	221.3	230.4	211.8
Luzerne	218.6	196.0	222.3	195.6	202.1	192.5	203.0	213.3	186.1
Pennsylvania	184.1	175.2	178.4	174.7	176.8	175.8	175.7	175.8	172.7

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

## OBESITY

There was a slight increase in the adult obesity rate to 32 percent in the region encompassing Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, while the rate in Pennsylvania has remained at the rate of 32 percent for the most recent three year time period. Over the entire period analyzed, the average adult obesity rate is 30 percent regionally and 31 percent statewide."

Adult Obesity Rate (BMI > 30.0)							
	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	30%	30%	30%	30%	29%	32%	
Pennsylvania	30%	30%	31%	31%	32%	32%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health



**“While the cancer death rates have fluctuated in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in recent years, the annual average number of deaths in both counties from 2011 to 2019 exceeds the statewide average.**

**There was a slight increase in the adult obesity rate to 32 percent in the region encompassing Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties.”**

# Infant Mortality

## Death Rate of Children Under Five

**“Although the infant mortality rate has fluctuated somewhat over the last decade, the rates for both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were the same compared to the statewide rate in the most recent period.”**

### INFANT MORTALITY

Although the infant mortality rate has fluctuated somewhat over the last decade, the rates for both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were the same compared to the statewide rate in the most recent period. The statewide infant mortality rate (measured per 1,000 live births) has declined slowly since 2012-2014, reaching 6.0 in 2017-2019, and the rate in Lackawanna County also reached the lowest point over the period analyzed. The infant mortality rate in Luzerne County had increased in the years before 2016-2018 period, but has since dropped. The fluctuation in the infant mortality rates does not indicate a specific trend upward or downward in the two-county region.

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)						
	2012- 2014	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017- 2019
Lackawanna	6.6	7.3	7.8	7.7	6.2	6.0
Luzerne	7.1	5.6	5.7	6.2	6.3	6.0
Pennsylvania	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

### DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

As with the infant mortality rate, the death rate of children under five years has been slowly declining statewide, and reached its lowest point over the past decade with the current rate of 130.2 in 2019. The rates in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have fluctuated over the period from 2010 to 2019, with rates in both counties declining from last year.

Rate of Death of Children Younger Than 5										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	216.3	200.3	156.3	115.4	162.3	196.4	180.2	134.9	132.5	127.2
Luzerne	145.2	123.4	229.9	142.2	81.4	162.2	138.2	124.1	146.4	131.9
Pennsylvania	159.3	146.8	157.0	147.2	136.5	139.5	141.1	134.0	132.4	130.2

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

# Childhood Lead Screening Suicide Rate

## CHILDHOOD LEAD SCREENING

Pennsylvania does not require universal testing of children for elevated lead levels; tests are only mandated for children covered by Medicaid. In 2020, the number of children younger than 72 months with tested blood lead levels (BLL) higher than five micrograms per deciliter totaled 200 for both counties combined. Nearly 18 percent of children in this age group were tested statewide. The percent of children tested in Luzerne County has followed statewide trends since 2017. Lackawanna County continues to trail statewide and Luzerne County testing rates, with less than 14 percent of children in this age group tested in 2020.

The share of tested children with elevated BLL in Lackawanna County (five percent) has declined considerably since 2017, although it continues to exceed the rates in Luzerne County and statewide (three percent).



Childhood Lead Levels: 2020			
	% of Population Age 0-71 Months Tested	Number Tested with Elevated BLL (> 5 µg/dL)	% of Tested with Elevated BLL
Lackawanna	13.7%	92	5.0%
Luzerne	18.1%	108	3.0%
Pennsylvania	17.6%	4,385	3.0%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

Percent Tested (Age 0-71 Months)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	15.8%	15.6%	16.0%	13.7%
Luzerne	17.3%	19.2%	19.5%	18.1%
Pennsylvania	17.8%	19.0%	19.9%	17.6%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

Percent of Tested with Elevated BLL				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	10.4%	9.2%	8.0%	5.0%
Luzerne	5.7%	6.6%	5.8%	3.0%
Pennsylvania	6.2%	5.5%	4.6%	3.0%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

## SUICIDE RATE

In 2019, the age-adjusted suicide rate in Lackawanna County declined to 14.3, after reaching a peak of 25.0 the previous year. The rate in Luzerne County has declined slightly since 2017 to the most recent rate of 18.4. There has been a large degree of fluctuation in rates for both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The rate in Luzerne County has exceeded the statewide rate for all years analyzed, while Lackawanna County's rate is in line with the statewide rate in the most recent period, following sharp fluctuations in prior years.

Suicide Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Lackawanna	12.1	14.6	15.4	14.4	21.1	17.9	12.8	25.0	14.3	
Luzerne	18.3	15.6	15.3	15.8	21.8	16.6	21.2	19.2	18.4	
Pennsylvania	12.9	12.1	13.3	13.2	13.9	14.6	15.0	14.9	14.0	

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

# Alcohol and Tobacco Opioid Overdose Deaths

**“The region has consistently had a higher proportion of adult cigarette smokers compared with the Commonwealth as a whole, with the average rate about five percentage points higher than the statewide average.”**

## ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Many chronic health conditions are linked with related health factors such as behaviors and lifestyles. Smoking and alcohol use are associated with heart disease, cancer, and high blood pressure – among other issues. Both factors analyzed here have been more prevalent in the three-county area (Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties) than in the Commonwealth as a whole for the majority of periods.

The rate of cigarette smoking in the region decreased to 22 percent in 2018-2020, following an increase in the prior period. The region has consistently had a higher proportion of adult cigarette smokers compared with the Commonwealth as a whole, with the average rate about five percentage points higher than the statewide average – 23 percent compared with 18 percent – over the period from 2013 to 2020.

Two measures are used of the adult population engaging in potentially harmful alcohol use. Chronic drinking is defined as consuming an average of two or more drinks every day for a 30 day period. Across all time periods analyzed, Pennsylvania’s rate of chronic drinking has stood at six percent, while the region’s rate of chronic drinking is higher for the last three time periods, peaking at nine percent most recently.

Adult Tobacco Smoking						
	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019	2018 - 2020
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	23%	22%	25%	23%	24%	22%
Pennsylvania	20%	19%	18%	18%	18%	17%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Adult Alcohol Consumption						
	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019	2018 - 2020
Chronic Drinking						
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	6%	6%	5%	8%	8%	9%
Pennsylvania	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Binge Drinking						
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	16%	15%	19%	19%	19%	17%
Pennsylvania	17%	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Binge drinking is defined as consuming five or more alcoholic drinks for men or four or more alcoholic drinks for women on one occasion. A larger share of adults regionally and statewide have alcohol use in this category compared to chronic drinking, including 17 percent most recently.

## OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS

As of 2019, there were an estimated 15,649 individuals in the two county region with a drug use disorder. Drug use disorder is defined as any substance use disorder not including alcohol use disorder. In Luzerne County, this number grew by eight percent from 2018 to 2019, while in Lackawanna County the estimate fell by 23 percent. During the same time, drug

overdose deaths fell from 94 to 65 in Lackawanna and from 158 to 134 in Luzerne.

However, COVID-19 appears to have affected drug overdose deaths. In 2020, there was a 42 percent increase in Lackawanna County and a 26 percent increase in Luzerne County. Statewide, drug overdose deaths grew by 14 percent, reaching the highest level seen since 2017.

Abuse of opioid drugs such as fentanyl and heroin sometimes begins with abuse of prescription opioids. In recent years, the rate of opioid prescription has decreased annually in all three regions. Despite the increase in drug overdose deaths in 2020, the pandemic did not seem to interrupt the decline in opioid dispensing: from 2019 to 2020, there was a ten percent decline in Lackawanna County, a three percent decline in Luzerne County, and an eight percent decrease statewide.

Estimated Individuals with a Drug Use Disorder					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 Change
Lackawanna	4,809	4,727	6,358	4,898	-23%
Luzerne	8,673	8,120	9,933	10,744	8%
Pennsylvania	295,000	303,000	293,000	316,000	8%

Source: CDC & National Survey on Drug Use & Health, via PA OpenData

Drug Overdose Deaths (Any Drug, Accidental and Undetermined)						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Change
Lackawanna	72	79	94	65	92	42%
Luzerne	138	145	158	134	169	26%
Pennsylvania	4,516	5,403	4,424	4,457	5,089	14%

Source: PA Department of Health, via PA OpenData

Opioid Prescribing Rate (per 100 people)						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Change
Lackawanna	112.1	97.3	83.7	72.9	65.3	-10%
Luzerne	85.7	70.8	61.5	51.0	49.4	-3%
Pennsylvania	69.5	57.7	49.9	47.0	43.1	-8%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Hospitals Long-Term Care Facilities

## HOSPITALS

There are 12 hospitals in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, including general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Among them, the daily room rate for a private room is \$2,392 in Lackawanna County and \$2,819 in Luzerne County. In both areas, the rate has grown substantially over the years analyzed. This includes an increase of 38 percent in daily rate for a private room in Luzerne County from 2019 to 2020, and a five percent increase in Lackawanna County during the same time.

The number of general hospital beds in proportion to the population has remained relatively consistent in both counties, with 3.2 beds per 1,000 residents in Lackawanna County and 2.7 beds per 1,000 residents in Luzerne County.

Emergency room visits declined 23 percent in Lackawanna County between 2018 and 2020, following steady growth in the prior years. Emergency room visits in Luzerne County have fluctuated from 2016 to 2019. During that time, the percentage of visits resulting in inpatient admission has fallen by 2.5 percentage points in Lackawanna County and 1.1 percentage points in Luzerne County. Though this rate is not an exact indicator of ER overutilization, this trend may suggest that ER visits for non-emergent cases has been an ongoing issue in the region, with some progress being made. In 2020, both counties saw a large decrease in emergency room visits but an increase in the ER inpatient admission rate. This is likely due to many patients with less urgent concerns avoiding hospitals during the pandemic.

## LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The number of nursing homes in Pennsylvania has shown a slow decreasing trend since 2016, while remaining stable in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The number of beds per 1,000 residents aged 65 years and older has declined in both Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties and statewide in the most recent period. Both counties have more beds per 1,000 seniors than the state overall.

The daily room rates at long-term care facilities in Lackawanna County are lower than rates statewide and in Luzerne County. In addition, the rates in Lackawanna County have decreased at an overall rate of two percent since 2016-2017, compared to upticks of nearly seven percent in Luzerne County and nearly six percent statewide.

Hospitals: Lackawanna County					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Hospitals	5	5	5	5	5
Daily Room Rate (Private Room)	\$1,581	\$1,891	\$1,940	\$2,273	\$2,392
General Hospital Beds	692	692	692	692	692
Beds per 1,000	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Emergency Room Visits	118,567	121,838	124,752	123,474	96,071
ER Inpatient Admission Rate	16.9%	16.5%	16.4%	15.5%	21.5%

*Total hospitals and daily room rate includes general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Licensed beds, beds per 1,000, and ER visit data includes only general acute care hospitals.*

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

Hospitals: Luzerne County					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Hospitals	7	7	7	7	7
Daily Room Rate (Private Room)	\$1,715	\$1,932	\$1,993	\$2,050	\$2,819
General Hospital Beds	838	847	828	872	872
Beds per 1,000	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7
Emergency Room Visits	151,477	150,218	147,981	157,503	130,469
ER Inpatient Admission Rate	17.4%	17.9%	16.2%	16.3%	20.0%

*Total hospitals and daily room rate includes general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Licensed beds, beds per 1,000, and ER visit data includes only general acute care hospitals.*

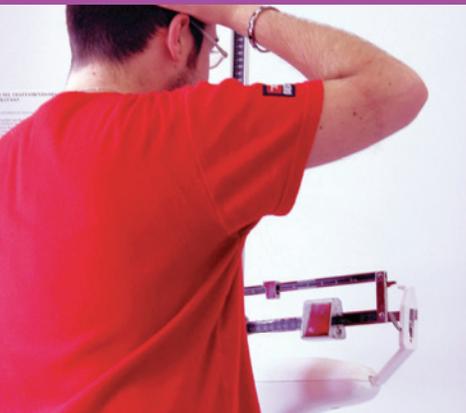
*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

	Long Term Care Facilities														
	2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021		
	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	58.3	\$302	18	59.7	\$301	18	52.9	No Data	18	55.6	\$312	18	54.2	\$295
Luzerne	25	45.2	\$312	25	45.4	\$322	25	46.8	No Data	25	43.6	\$367	25	41.6	\$333
Pennsylvania	702	39.7	\$308	697	40.3	\$343	697	37.7	No Data	692	36.7	\$365	689	35.9	\$326

*Daily Room Rate is for Semi-Private Room.*

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

# Teen Pregnancy Health Insurance Coverage



**“The statewide rollout of Pennie, Pennsylvania’s health insurance marketplace, occurred in 2021.”**

## TEEN PREGNANCY

Over the decade analyzed, Pennsylvania reported generally decreasing rates of teen pregnancies. Teen pregnancies are defined here as pregnancies among females aged 15 to 17 years.

Both counties experienced significant improvement from 2010 to 2019 – a 49 percent drop in the rate of teen pregnancy in Lackawanna County and a 39 percent drop in Luzerne County.

The statewide rate has declined as well over the past decade. In recent years, Luzerne County has frequently had a teen pregnancy rate significantly higher than the statewide rate.

	Teen Pregnancy Rate (crude rate per 1,000)									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lackawanna	16.8	14.6	17.6	11.6	11.7	12.5	9.6	7.7	6.5	8.6
Luzerne	19.2	17.4	15.7	14.7	11.9	15.6	13.4	13.7	13.5	11.7
Pennsylvania	21.2	19.3	17.4	14.3	13.3	12.4	10.6	9.5	9.6	9.0

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

## HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the share of Pennsylvania residents with health insurance coverage grew compared with 2010. There were declines in the share covered by private health insurance in all three regions, a trend that was more prominent in the region than statewide. The share of those covered by public health insurance grew substantially regionally and in Pennsylvania, an effect of Pennsylvania’s expansion of Medicaid under the ACA.

More recently, the state and both counties saw declines in the share of those covered from 2018 to 2019. While 2020 data for the counties was not available, statewide data showed a further

	Health Insurance Coverage											
	Lackawanna						Luzerne					
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
With Health Insurance	89.6%	94.3%	96.3%	96.3%	95.4%	94.3%	89.0%	94.0%	95.4%	95.1%	95.4%	94.1%
Private Health Insurance	71.4%	73.2%	72.7%	71.5%	70.1%	68.3%	69.2%	71.6%	71.6%	70.8%	68.9%	65.4%
Public Health Insurance	32.0%	36.8%	39.4%	41.2%	43.1%	42.8%	35.9%	38.3%	40.5%	41.0%	43.1%	44.7%
No Health Insurance Coverage	10.4%	5.7%	3.7%	3.7%	4.6%	5.7%	11.0%	6.0%	4.6%	4.9%	4.6%	5.9%
No Health Insurance Coverage - Under 18	5.3%	1.6%	2.4%	0.3%	1.6%	3.3%	6.8%	3.1%	1.7%	3.2%	2.7%	3.1%

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

decline, with the uninsured rate reaching 6.4 percent, and 5.9 percent for children, both recent highs.

	Health Insurance Coverage: Pennsylvania						
	Pennsylvania						
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
With Health Insurance	89.8%	93.6%	94.4%	94.5%	94.5%	94.2%	93.6%
Private Health Insurance	72.9%	73.5%	72.9%	72.5%	72.4%	71.9%	72.1%
Public Health Insurance	31.3%	34.7%	36.4%	36.8%	37.4%	37.6%	37.1%
No Health Insurance Coverage	10.2%	6.4%	5.6%	5.5%	5.5%	5.8%	6.4%
No Health Insurance Coverage - Under 19	5.2%	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	5.9%

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

Enrollment in health plans offered through the Healthcare.gov marketplace have continued to decline regionally and statewide. In Lackawanna County, the number of enrollees has declined by 18 percent since 2017, while declining 22 percent in Luzerne County and statewide. 2021 brought the statewide rollout of Pennie, Pennsylvania’s statewide health insurance marketplace. While county data was not published by Pennie for 2021, statewide enrollment grew slightly compared with the prior year, reversing the declining trend.

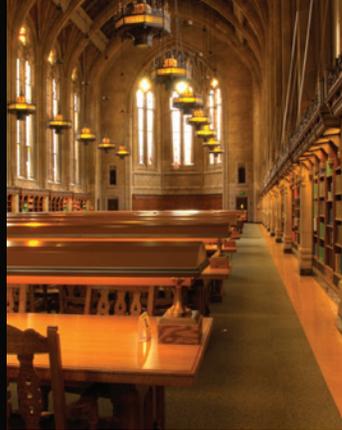
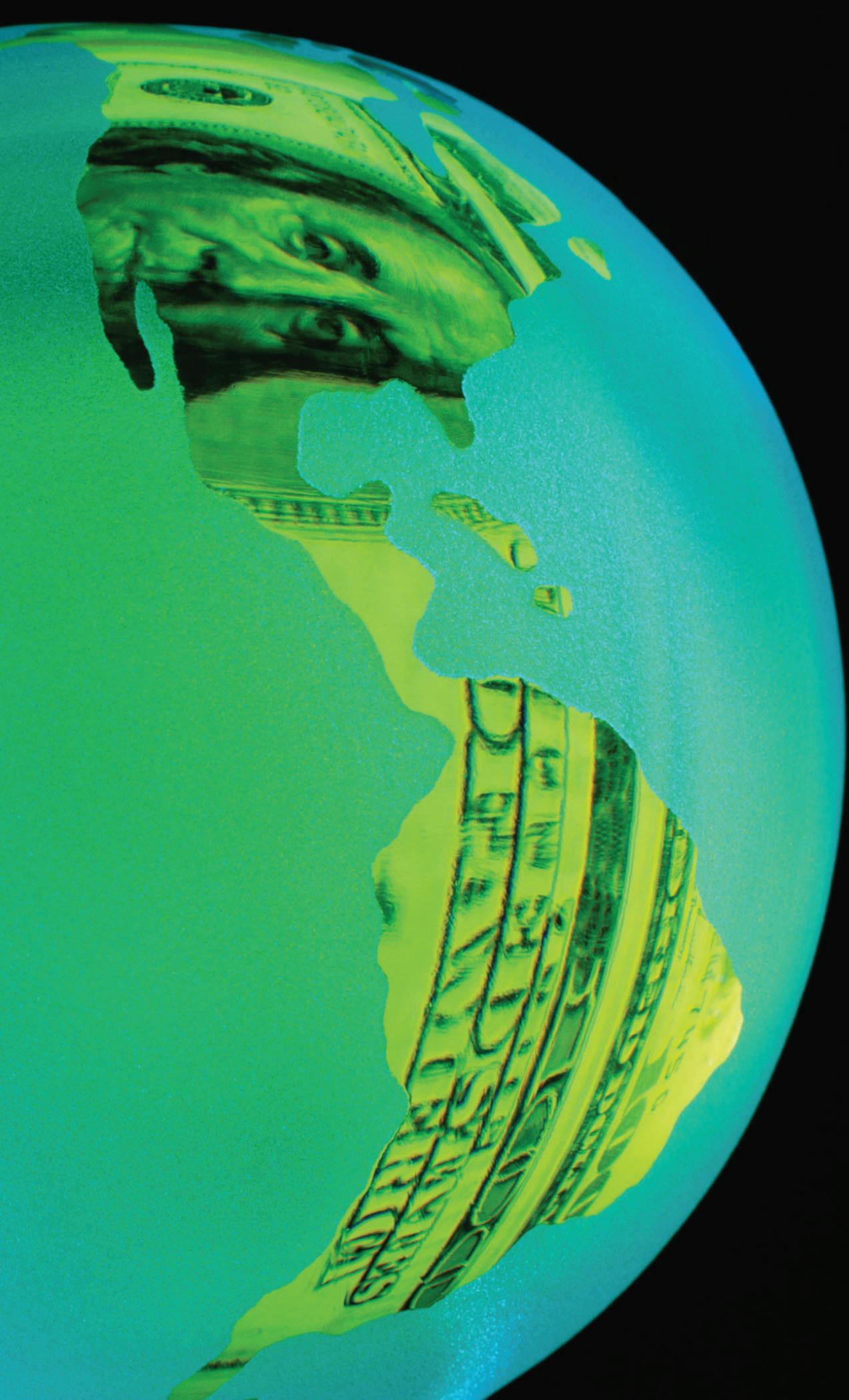
	Health Choices Enrollment				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	43,370	43,556	43,971	49,262	54,090
Luzerne	70,927	70,738	71,114	81,013	90,517
Pennsylvania	2,305,217	2,284,179	2,236,594	2,517,302	2,767,556

*Data taken from November of each year. Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*

The number of people enrolled in HealthChoices, the managed care program for Pennsylvania’s Medical Assistance program, has increased 20 percent statewide since 2017, and by an even more significant margin in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. There were over 144,000 enrollees in HealthChoices in both counties combined, representing over five percent of the statewide enrollment.

	Marketplace Plan Enrollment				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	7,120	6,235	6,087	5,856	No Data
Luzerne	9,701	8,515	8,272	7,613	No Data
Pennsylvania	426,059	389,081	365,888	331,825	337,722

*Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*



# Civic Engagement

# Civic Engagement



**“An engaged and involved population is an important asset for the overall strength and vibrancy of a community.”**

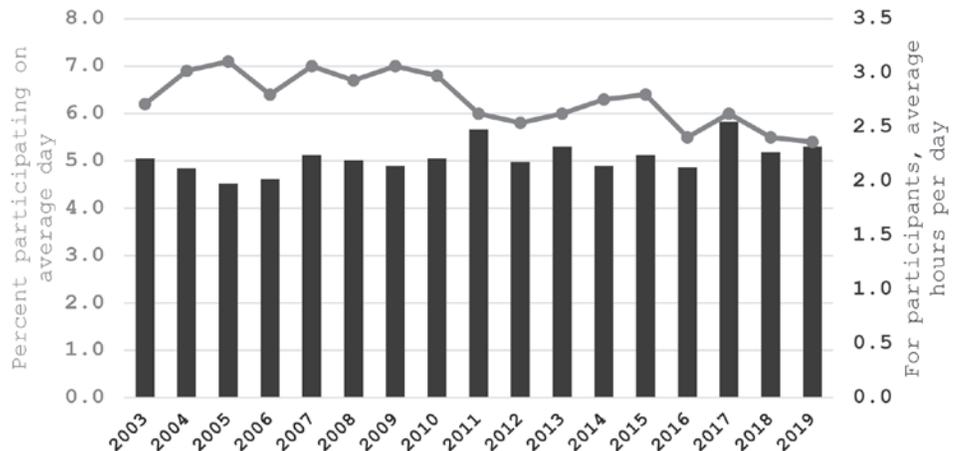
## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Civic Engagement section of the report identifies important indicators in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – including nonprofit organizations, library circulation, voter turnout, and veterans. An engaged and involved population is an important asset for the overall strength and vibrancy of communities, but it is one of the most difficult topics in the Indicators report to measure systematically.

The state of nonprofit organizations is a key indicator of regional civic engagement and community ties. The Institute calculated statistics on nonprofit organizations from the IRS Master File, accessed through the Urban Institute’s National Center for Charitable Statistics. In this file, the most recent nonprofit data available is from 2020. The number of nonprofits in the region declined slightly in 2020, reaching its lowest level in the past four years in Lackawanna County. There were 2,073 tax-exempt organizations in the region as of 2020. These organizations span a variety of activity areas, including arts, culture and humanities, education, environment, health, human services, and religion.

Nonprofit organizations were impacted in a variety of ways by the COVID-19 pandemic, including disruption of important fundraisers and forced alteration of service delivery. Volunteer opportunities were also limited. Even prior to the pandemic, national data since 2003 showed a gradual declining trend in the share of Americans who volunteer on any given day. The number of hours spent by those who did volunteer has not changed significantly.

Time Spent Volunteering among Americans



Declining volunteerism negatively affects community organizations, safety net programs, arts and culture events, and critical public safety services like volunteer fire companies and EMS. However, The Institute's annual polling program of college and university students found that as of 2021, 59 percent responded that they sometimes or often participated in events to raise money for charity and 40.0 percent said they sometimes or often got involved in organizations outside school.

Libraries are nonprofit organizations that serve a particularly important role in the community. Additionally, library data is useful in determining the availability and utilization of resources. This information taken from the Pennsylvania State Library website only issued its latest data from 2019 and has not yet been updated to this current year. The numbers of libraries in the region has remained stable at 19 over the past decade. Total circulation has declined in both counties compared to 2017, including a 23.0 percent decline in Luzerne County. Circulation per capita in both counties has primarily followed a downward trend, and remained at a low point of 1.7 in Luzerne County compared to 4.5 in Lackawanna County. Recent declines in statewide circulation may reflect shifts in the role that libraries play in communities, with less emphasis on lending of physical items and increased focus on areas such as arts and culture, children's programming, and technology services.

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, along with the voter turnout for those elections. Despite challenges to voter registration and in-person voting caused by the pandemic, the 2020 election resulted in record voter registration and participation both regionally and statewide. Between 2019 and 2020, voter registration increased six percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, and seven percent statewide. Luzerne County's 2020 voter registration rose to its highest level recorded since 2004. In the 2020 election, voter turnout reached historic levels, with at least seven in ten registered voters participating regionally and statewide. Following typical patterns, from 2020 to 2021 the number of registered voters decreased and voter turnout fell. In the November 2021 election, voter turnout was 36.0 percent in Lackawanna County, 31.0 percent in Luzerne County, and 32.0 percent statewide.

The number of military veterans in a community can be telling of the community's success in caring for veterans. Additionally, measuring the veteran population demonstrates the need for social services, health care, and housing directed toward their unique needs. While 2020 data was not available for counties, 2020 statewide estimates showed a continued declining trend in the total number of military veterans and their share of the adult civilian population. The region remains home to a larger percentage of military veterans than the Commonwealth as a whole, including a significantly higher share in Luzerne County. In both counties and statewide, over half of veterans are age 65 or older.

# Non-Profit Organizations



**“The total number of not-for-profit organizations declined slightly in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and statewide in 2020.”**

## NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The total number of not-for-profit organizations declined slightly in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and statewide in 2020. In both counties, the total number of nonprofits decreased to 2,073, and reached its lowest level in the past four years in Lackawanna County. The master file used for this analysis may have missing data on some organizations, so it is difficult to determine the degree to which the trend is driven by dissolution of existing nonprofits versus decreased reporting or other data quality issues.

Public charities comprise the majority of nonprofits in the region, accounting for 59.0 percent of charities in Lackawanna County and 56.0 percent in Luzerne County. These shares have remained relatively stable in both counties since 2017. Private foundations comprise a smaller share of all nonprofits, continuing to account for five percent of Lackawanna County nonprofits and four percent of Luzerne County nonprofits.

Total Non-Profit Organizations			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2020	903	1,170	62,047
2019	911	1,184	62,432
2018	905	1,167	61,051
2017	929	1,219	61,973

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

Lackawanna County Non-Profits by Category			
	Public Charity	Private Foundation	Other
2020	533	49	321
2019	537	50	324
2018	542	50	313
2017	547	52	330

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

Luzerne County Non-Profits by Category			
	Public Charity	Private Foundation	Other
2020	654	50	466
2019	659	50	475
2018	665	47	455
2017	680	51	488

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

# Non-Profit Organizations by Activity Type

## NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS BY ACTIVITY TYPE

The following tables show nonprofits broken down among major activity types. Categories with small numbers of nonprofits are not shown. The region’s largest share of nonprofits is classified as human services, followed by public and social benefit. Although the number of organizations in these two categories declined regionally from 2019, they still account for nearly half the nonprofit organizations in the two counties.

Health organizations represent the only type of nonprofit groups in both counties that have experienced growth in number since 2017. The number of health nonprofits have increased by six percent in Lackawanna County and eight percent in Luzerne County. They account for 153 of the region’s total nonprofits – up from 143 in 2017.

All other nonprofit groups remained stable or declined slightly in number from 2017.

Environmental groups experienced the largest decline of ten percent in Luzerne County, followed by human services organizations with a six-percent decline. In Lackawanna County, public and social benefit groups declined by five percent since 2017.

**“The region’s largest share of nonprofits is classified as human services, followed by public and social benefit.”**

Non-Profits by Activity Type: 2017		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Arts, culture, and humanities	122	101
Education	120	111
Environment	28	52
Health	71	72
Human services	250	362
Mutual benefit	56	83
Public and social benefit	174	243
Religion	89	174

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

Non-Profits by Activity Type: 2018		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Arts, culture, and humanities	114	83
Education	117	110
Environment	28	49
Health	70	66
Human services	250	351
Mutual benefit	55	79
Public and social benefit	164	238
Religion	87	170

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

Non-Profits by Activity Type: 2019		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Arts, culture, and humanities	122	100
Education	120	111
Environment	28	48
Health	78	78
Human services	247	348
Mutual benefit	56	79
Public and social benefit	166	240
Religion	88	172

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

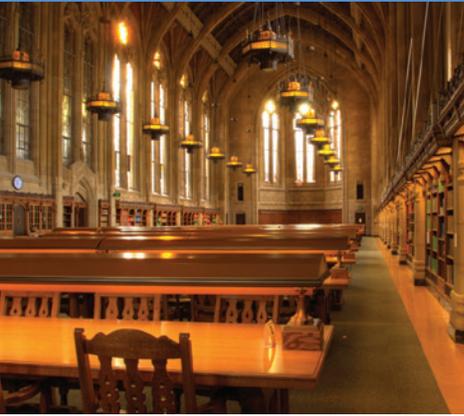
Non-Profits by Activity Type: 2020		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Arts, culture, and humanities	117	101
Education	120	110
Environment	28	47
Health	75	78
Human services	250	342
Mutual benefit	55	79
Public and social benefit	165	232
Religion	87	173

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

Nonprofit Trends: 2017-2020 Percent Change		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Total Nonprofits	-3%	-4%
Public Charities	-3%	-4%
Private Foundations	-6%	-2%
Arts, culture, and humanities	-4%	0%
Education	0%	-1%
Environment	0%	-10%
Health	6%	8%
Human services	0%	-6%
Mutual benefit	-2%	-5%
Public and social benefit	-5%	-5%
Religion	-2%	-1%

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File*

# Library Registration & Circulation



**“The region’s libraries circulated over 1.5 million items in the most recent year analyzed.”**

## LIBRARY REGISTRATION & CIRCULATION

The total number Pennsylvania libraries receiving state funding increased slightly in 2019 to 470 following a decline the previous year. The totals remained unchanged in both counties, holding stable at 19 public libraries in the two counties for the duration of the data analyzed. The number of registered patrons among statewide libraries has improved since 2017, although it is three percent lower than it was in 2009. In Lackawanna County, the number of registered patrons has steadily declined with the exception of a slight uptick in 2015. Overall, registered patrons have declined 24.0 percent in the county since 2009, including a decrease of 5.3 percent in 2019. The number of registered patrons in Luzerne County increased dramatically in 2017 following a change in the reported total of registered patrons for the Osterhout Free Library. This may be due to a change in reporting methodology, and should not be compared to prior year totals.

The region’s libraries circulated over 1.5 million items in 2019. Although activity increased slightly in Lackawanna County from the previous year, total circulations have been declining historically, and are 25.3 percent lower than they were in 2009. In Luzerne County, activity has fluctuated over the timeframe analyzed, including a 23 percent decline in total circulations between 2017 and 2019. Since 2009, total circulations have declined 35.0 percent in the Luzerne County, with circulation per capita remaining at the lowest level of 1.7 across all years analyzed.

	Library Circulation					
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne	
	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita
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
2014	66,140,364	5.33	1,147,873	5.35	791,461	2.40
2015	64,534,566	5.20	1,051,572	4.90	684,279	2.07
2016*	64,534,566	5.20	1,051,572	4.90	684,279	2.07
2017	61,841,879	4.98	1,005,946	4.69	715,801	2.17
2018	62,077,482	5.00	957,745	4.47	551,186	1.67
2019	63,942,921	5.15	964,814	4.50	550,546	1.67

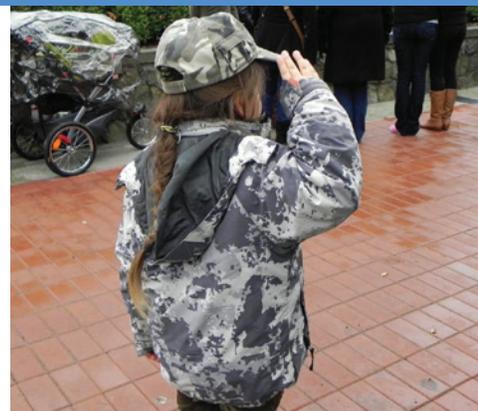
\* Data reported by the State Library in 2016 exactly matched the data reported in 2015.  
Source: Pennsylvania State Library

	Library Registration					
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne	
	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration
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
2014	474	5,295,583	8	50,092	11	138,665
2015	474	5,416,096	8	52,090	11	131,494
2016*	474	5,416,096	8	52,090	11	131,494
2017*	474	5,324,185	8	50,208	11	233,035
2018	467	5,330,741	8	46,520	11	239,568
2019	470	5,361,183	8	44,056	11	237,323

\* Data reported by the State Library in 2016 exactly matched the data reported in 2015. Registration data prior to 2017 for Luzerne County is not comparable due to a change in reporting for one location.  
Source: Pennsylvania State Library

## VETERANS

The estimated number of veterans in Pennsylvania decreased in 2019 to seven percent of the population. Lackawanna County followed a similar trend, with the number of veterans decreasing from 7.7 percent to 7.5 percent of the population. After declining for several years, the number of veterans in Luzerne County increased in 2019, growing from 8.0 percent to 8.6 percent of the population. There are more than 34,000 veterans in the two-county region, and Luzerne County's share is significantly higher than the Commonwealth's share. By 2020, the statewide share of the civilian adult population who were veterans decreased to 6.6 percent.



Veterans: Lackawanna County						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Number of Veterans	14,679	13,648	12,002	12,959	12,479	ND
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	8.7%	8.1%	7.2%	7.7%	7.5%	ND

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

Veterans: Luzerne County						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Number of Veterans	21,214	23,637	20,934	20,325	21,891	ND
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	8.3%	9.3%	8.2%	8.0%	8.6%	ND

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

Veterans: Pennsylvania						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Number of Veterans	802,586	791,295	742,199	745,909	710,375	665,821
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	7.9%	7.8%	7.3%	7.3%	7.0%	6.6%

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

# Voter Registration & Participation

## VOTER REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

The number of registered voters on both the state and regional levels has followed a predictable and stable trend since 2000, rising significantly during presidential election years, and rising by smaller amounts during midterm federal election years. Registration often decreases following presidential elections.

The COVID-19 pandemic created logistical challenges to voter registration and in-person voting. Despite these challenges, the 2020 election resulted in record voter registration and participation both regionally and statewide. Between 2019 and 2020, voter registration increased six percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, and seven percent statewide. Then between 2020 and 2019, voter registration decreased by three percent in Lackawanna County, eight percent in Luzerne County, and four percent statewide. There was an increase of over 9,000 registered voters in Lackawanna County in 2020, reaching a total of more than 149,000 registered voters, which was on par with the 2012 election. The number of registered voters in Luzerne County increased by nearly 12,000 in 2020 to almost 221,000 registered voters – the highest point across all years analyzed. By 2021, the number of registered voters in Lackawanna County decreased by nearly 4,900 while Luzerne County decreased by 18,500 voters. Statewide, there were over 196,000 more registered voters in 2021 than in 2019 despite a drop-off after the presidential election. Since 2001, Luzerne County has shown stronger growth in voter registration, increasing two percent from 2001 to 2021, compared to a two percent decline in Lackawanna County.

Voting: Lackawanna										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Registered Voters	149,471	146,614	146,655	139,796	148,104	141,516	143,610	140,320	149,389	144,467
Total Votes	98,775	47,344	60,489	44,209	104,991	50,735	84,502	51,544	116,003	51,689
% of Voter Turnout	66%	32%	41%	32%	71%	36%	61%	37%	78%	36%

*Prior year data has been revised*

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Lackawanna County Department of Elections*

Voting: Luzerne										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Registered Voters	194,137	194,991	196,129	190,659	205,332	204,757	207,513	208,965	220,888	202,389
Total Votes	125,619	49,344	75,692	53,312	137,549	49,654	109,024	55,676	154,134	62,120
% of Voter Turnout	65%	25%	39%	28%	67%	24%	52%	27%	70%	31%

*Prior year data has been revised*

Voting: Pennsylvania										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Registered Voters	8,508,015	8,223,473	8,251,050	8,073,175	8,722,977	8,430,988	8,609,880	8,530,983	9,090,962	8,727,731
Total Votes	5,742,040	1,651,441	3,495,866	2,006,393	5,918,847	2,086,025	5,012,555	2,463,876	6,915,283	2,769,282
% of Voter Turnout	68%	20%	42%	25%	68%	25%	59%	29%	76%	32%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of State*

Percent Voter Turnout										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	66%	32%	41%	32%	71%	36%	61%	37%	78%	36%
Luzerne	65%	25%	39%	28%	67%	24%	52%	27%	70%	31%
Pennsylvania	68%	20%	42%	25%	68%	25%	59%	29%	76%	32%

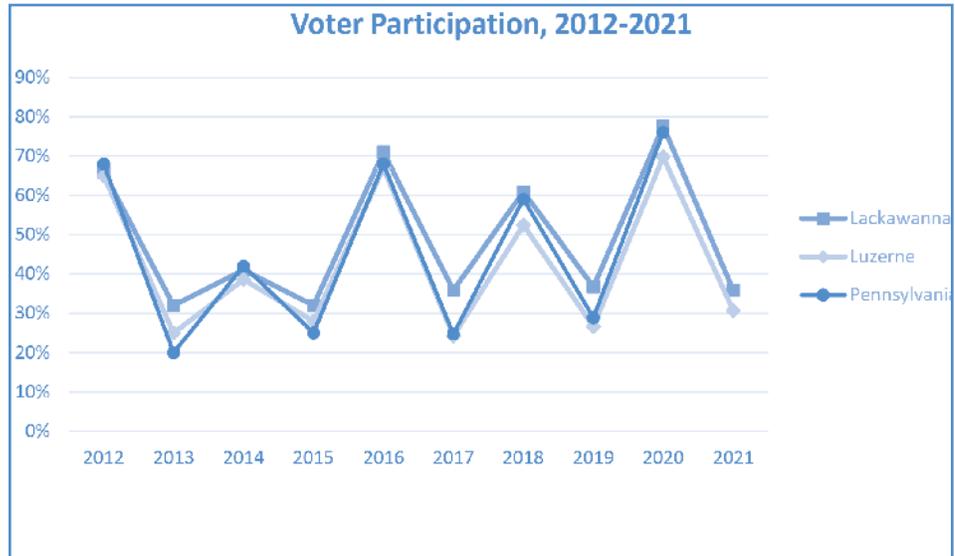
# Voter Registration & Participation

Registered Voters			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
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	8,073,175
2016	148,104	205,332	8,722,977
2017	141,516	204,757	8,430,988
2018	143,610	207,513	8,609,880
2019	140,320	208,965	8,530,983
2020	149,389	220,888	9,090,962
2021	144,467	202,388	8,727,731

# Voter Registration & Participation



**“Voter turnout for the 2020 election reached historic levels, with at least seven in ten registered voters participating regionally and statewide.”**





Government

# Government Lackawanna County Fiscal Snapshot



## GOVERNMENT

This section of the report deals primarily with county government fiscal affairs. Tables consist of county and state data such as revenue, expenditures, debt, taxes, and aid to communities. The indicators reflect governmental size, scope, and financial health. Sources of information include the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and data procured directly from the two counties' annual financial reports, which are filed with DCED. The most recent year for which these reports were published is 2019, so the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local governments' fiscal affairs is not yet apparent.

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

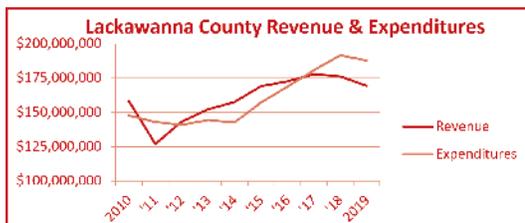
## LACKAWANNA COUNTY FISCAL SNAPSHOT

In 2019, the county's total revenues exceeded \$169 million – a nearly four percent decline from the prior year and the lowest level since 2015. Expenditures also fell in 2019, following several years of significant growth from 2015 to 2018. For the third straight year, expenditures were greater than revenues – 2019's expenditures were 111 percent of revenues, the greatest imbalance seen since 2011. Lackawanna County's long-term debt fell by over \$6 million from 2018 to 2019.

Lackawanna County				
Year	Revenue		Total	Expenditures
	Total Revenue	Per Capita	Expenditures	Per Capita
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
2015	\$169,058,332	\$798	\$157,031,357	\$741
2016	\$172,642,884	\$817	\$168,733,731	\$798
2017	\$177,746,961	\$843	\$180,627,796	\$857
2018	\$176,218,890	\$836	\$191,539,314	\$909
2019	\$169,258,391	\$807	\$187,707,051	\$895

Source: Lackawanna County

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. The majority of intergovernmental funds received by both counties support health and human services. Tax revenue, on the other hand, includes all taxes levied by the county government (predominantly property taxes). In Lackawanna County, intergovernmental revenue increased by less than one percent between 2017 and 2018, but in 2019 fell by over 11 percent to the lowest level since 2014. Tax revenue grew slightly in 2019, reaching the highest level seen among all years analyzed. 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.



Luzerne County Revenue			
Year	Total Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
	2010	\$ 91,264,521	\$284
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
2015	\$ 114,447,790	\$359	\$94,156,605
2016	\$ 117,000,854	\$370	\$98,420,897
2017	\$ 120,726,394	\$380	\$99,024,827
2018	\$ 121,205,717	\$382	\$99,158,886
2019	\$ 123,882,966	\$390	\$98,656,531

Year	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County	
	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita
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
2015	\$222,348,986	\$1,049	\$262,076,601	\$823
2016	\$217,234,408	\$1,028	\$247,687,351	\$783
2017	\$214,570,970	\$1,018	\$256,800,530	\$809
2018	\$221,732,958	\$1,052	\$232,439,629	\$732
2019	\$215,070,642	\$1,026	\$218,600,000	\$689

Source: Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties

# Luzerne County Fiscal Snapshot Property Tax Rates

## LUZERNE COUNTY FISCAL SNAPSHOT

In 2019, Luzerne County's total revenues surpassed \$242.3 million – an increase of less than one percent compared to the prior year but slightly higher than any prior year. Expenditures totaled over \$250 million – 7.5 percent higher than the prior year and the highest level seen during the period analyzed. County expenditures amounted to about 103 percent of total revenue, the first time since 2013 that expenditures were greater than revenue.

Luzerne County's intergovernmental revenue (which includes transfers from other federal, state, and local sources such as grants and reimbursements for services) had been increasing slowly since 2016, but fell by 0.5 percent in 2019. Tax revenue for the county increased slightly, building on increases seen in the prior years. In 2019, it rose by 2.2 percent to \$123.9 million – the highest total of all years analyzed.

Luzerne County has experienced a generally declining trend in long-term debt. Most recently, total debt fell by about six percent from the prior year and has dropped 29 percent over the past decade.

Luzerne County				
Year	Total Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Total Expenditure	Expenditures Per Capita
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
2015	\$208,561,765	\$655	\$205,828,005	\$646
2016	\$233,872,953	\$739	\$227,919,956	\$720
2017	\$242,335,123	\$764	\$222,829,957	\$702
2018	\$240,771,606	\$758	\$232,647,665	\$732
2019	\$242,350,083	\$764	\$250,032,131	\$788

Source: Luzerne County

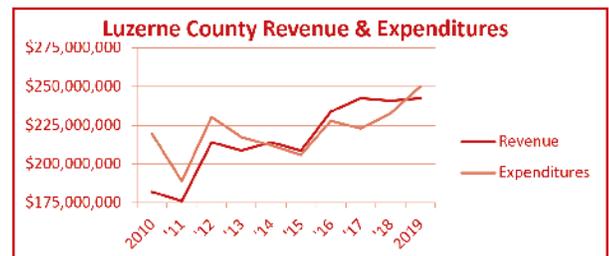
Luzerne County Revenue			
Year	Total Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2010	\$ 91,264,521	\$284	\$59,832,413
2011	\$ 92,272,209	\$288	\$66,725,348
2012	\$ 98,407,858	\$307	\$96,930,033
2013	\$ 102,350,859	\$320	\$88,192,000
2014	\$ 109,634,691	\$344	\$85,031,817
2015	\$ 114,447,790	\$359	\$94,156,605
2016	\$ 117,000,854	\$370	\$98,420,897
2017	\$ 120,726,394	\$380	\$99,024,827
2018	\$ 121,205,717	\$382	\$99,158,886
2019	\$ 123,882,966	\$390	\$98,656,531

Source: Luzerne County

## PROPERTY TAX RATES

By 2022, total property tax rates in both counties remain unchanged from the prior year. The most recent adjustment, effective in January 2020, was an 11-percent increase in the total real estate millage rate in Lackawanna County.

Lackawanna County's property tax rate is significantly higher than Luzerne County's rate. For several reasons, however, this does not necessarily reflect actual property tax costs incurred by property owners. First, there are differences in how and when properties in the two counties were assessed. This means 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 typically comprise the largest portions of all property owners' tax bills.



2019 Tax Rates		
	Lackawanna County Tax Rates (mills)	Luzerne County Tax Rates (mills)
Real Estate - General Purpose	41.6000	1.2358
Debt Service	12.0000	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
Human Services		0.4260
Hotel Room Rental (Percent)	7%	5%
Real Estate Total	57.4200	5.3200

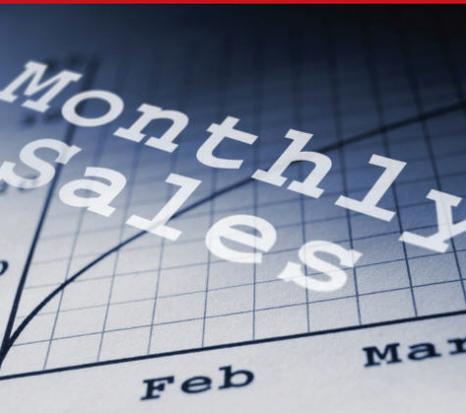
Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

2020 - 2022 Tax Rates		
	Lackawanna County Tax Rates (mills)	Luzerne County Tax Rates (mills)
Real Estate - General Purpose	47.6000	1.2358
Debt Service	12.5000	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
Human Services		0.4260
Hotel Room Rental (Percent)	7%	5%
Real Estate Total	63.9200	5.3200

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

# Sales Tax

## Government Employment



### SALES TAX

Though no new data was available for this year's report, sales tax remittance in both counties and statewide grew for three consecutive reporting periods from 2016-2017 through 2018-2019. From the 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 years, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw sales tax remittance grow by 9.2 and 0.9 percent, respectively. From 2017-2018 to 2018-2019, Lackawanna County's remittance grew by another 5.3 percent, and Luzerne County's grew by 2.1 percent. The Commonwealth as a whole saw nearly seven percent year-over-year growth most recently.

In 2019-2020, sales tax remittance dropped in all three geographies, likely affected by disruptions in commerce caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Luzerne County saw the lowest total among all years analyzed. The year-over-year declines in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, 6.8 and 5.8 percent, respectively, were larger than the statewide decline of 2.5 percent.

Sales Tax Remittance			
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2013-2014	\$73,515,000	\$93,822,000	\$9,129,621,000
2014-2015	\$73,899,000	\$138,985,000	\$9,493,107,000
2015-2016	\$77,625,000	\$142,636,000	\$9,795,189,000
2016-2017	\$73,920,000	\$76,717,000	\$10,004,459,000
2017-2018	\$80,700,000	\$77,404,000	\$10,381,360,000
2018-2019	\$85,000,000	\$79,000,000	\$11,099,600,000
2019-2020	\$79,200,000	\$74,400,000	\$10,817,800,000

*County totals exclude motor vehicles*  
*Source: PA Department of Revenue.*

Government Employment			
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2015	10,511	17,287	675,745
2016	10,329	17,305	675,118
2017	10,167	17,257	674,695
2018	10,063	17,249	673,822
2019	10,052	17,328	675,840
2020	9,724	16,535	659,151

*Source: Chmura Economics via JobsEQ*

### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Government employment presented in the table includes staff of federal, state, and local government entities. In the two counties, government sector activity supported over 27,000 jobs in 2019. Between the two counties, however, there was a decline of over 1,000 government jobs in 2020 – coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating a previous trend seen in Lackawanna County, where government employment fell by about four percent between 2015 and 2019. In all three geographies, government employment was lower in 2020 than any previous year analyzed.

In the two-county region, about 64 percent of government employment is by local entities, including cities, boroughs, townships, counties, and school districts. On average, state employees have made up 21 percent of government employment in the region, with the remaining 15 percent comprising federal employees. In 2020, state and local employment both dropped amid the pandemic, while federal employment actually increased in the region. Government employment will continue to be severely challenged in this tight labor market and will likely need to consider regional approaches and paying higher wages for employees that can earn more in the private sector for similar positions.

2-County Region: Government Employment by Type			
Year	Federal	State	Local
2015	4,111	5,691	17,996
2016	4,166	5,699	17,769
2017	4,202	5,675	17,547
2018	4,153	5,643	17,517
2019	4,224	5,647	17,510
2020	4,362	5,391	16,506

*Source: Chmura Economics via JobsEQ*



Public Safety

# Public Safety



## PUBLIC SAFETY

Generally, this section of the report includes indicators that help measure the quality of life in Pennsylvania as well as in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. A low crime rate typically makes an area attractive to potential residents and businesses. Additionally, it is an indicator of the social well-being of a community, because 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 tremendous effort. However, this effort can be rewarding in terms of quality of life and economic success. Strong public safety, social service, educational, and health care infrastructure working together with government and community members are integral.

Northeastern Pennsylvania generally remains a safe area for a region with its size and socioeconomic characteristics, and by some measures, it is getting safer. In both counties, property crimes have dropped overall in the past decade, driven largely by falling numbers of burglaries and larceny-theft offenses. Property crimes like burglary and theft are often associated with drug addiction. Drug abuse offenses, however, have primarily risen in the last ten years as the region deals with the fallout of substance abuse disorders – particularly those specific to heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine. Although Lackawanna County has seen a decline from 2019 to 2020 as well as Luzerne County experiencing a slight decline in the past two years.

Violent crime statistics have been uneven in recent years. In the 2020 preliminary data, Luzerne County saw the total number of violent crimes fall to the lowest it has been in a decade, declining for a second consecutive year. Violent crime has consistently increased in Lackawanna County year-over-year from 2013 until 2019, including a considerable increase in 2018 driven by a sharp uptick in aggravated assault offenses. But then in 2020, Lackawanna County experienced a significant decrease in the total number of violent crimes.

Although domestic violence is unfortunately still prevalent within the study region, the total number of reported offenses declined in 2020. This is a difficult phenomenon to measure; in this report, it is defined as the total number of family offenses as noted in the Uniform Crime Reporting System. Offenses against children and family include abuse and cruelty to spouses, children, and other family members; child and spousal neglect and desertion; and nonpayment of child support and alimony. Statistics for 2020 showed decreases in both counties and a statewide decline in the number of reported family offenses which was also seen in 2019. Despite this recent decline, total offenses across the Commonwealth have primarily trended upward, increasing 68 percent since 2010. This could reflect an increase in the occurrence of these offenses, an increase in the reporting of domestic violence, or both. But with the pandemic present in 2020 and residents following the stay-at-home orders, some offenses against the family and children may have gone unreported. Therefore, The Institute expresses concern that these regional figures may be artificially low.

There are a little over 1,000 municipal police officers employed in the two counties, including a larger share of part-time officers compared to Pennsylvania as a whole. However, about one-fourth of the municipalities in the region utilize State Police coverage rather than using a municipal police force, and several other federal, state, and local agencies have an active role in law enforcement in the region. Many municipalities in the region have reported on the challenges of recruiting part time officers given the current workforce environment.

Motor vehicle crashes can, unfortunately, result in fatalities and injuries. In Luzerne County, the share of crashes resulting in fatalities or injuries has remained stable from the prior year, although the total number of crashes involving injuries decreased from 1,487 in 2019 to 1,260 in 2020. Lackawanna County had a decline in the number and share of crashes involving injuries but the number of fatal crashes increased by 10. Although in 2019, there were no alcohol-related crash deaths reported in Lackawanna County for the first time over the time period analyzed, the year 2020 recorded five crash deaths. Luzerne County's total number of alcohol-related crash deaths reported more than doubled from four in 2018 to ten in 2019, which was the highest level since 2015, and then slightly decreased to nine in 2020. The number of pedestrian crash fatalities remained relatively stable in the region, accounting for five percent of the statewide total. It was noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation used 2019 population data because the 2020 data was not available. While motor vehicle accidents may be nearly impossible to completely eliminate, improved education, enforcement, and infrastructure can significantly improve public safety.

There were 104 fire departments in the two-county region as of early 2020 and stayed the same in 2021. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some fire departments in Pennsylvania are experiencing difficulties recruiting and retaining volunteers. There were 3,142 volunteer firefighters in the two-county region in both 2020 and 2021, comprising about 86 percent of the area's total firefighting force.

# Property Crime

## PROPERTY CRIME

In 2020, Lackawanna County's total number of property crimes continued an eight-year downward trend – standing at 1,928 (down from 269 the year before). Property crimes decreased by 12 percent in the county from 2019 to reach their lowest level in a decade, with declines in all property crime categories for the last 10 years. Since 2011, property crime totals in Lackawanna County have been reduced by over half.

Luzerne County's total property crime figures entered the seventh year of decline in 2020, at 3,696 total crimes reported – the lowest in over a decade. Property crimes decreased 15 percent overall from 2019, with small declines in burglary and larceny-theft. There was a slight uptick in motor vehicle thefts, while the number of arson offenses doubled. Overall, property crimes have declined 51 percent in Luzerne County since 2011.

The Commonwealth shows similar improvement trends in the preliminary data for 2020, with property crimes declining for the ninth consecutive year. Property crimes have fallen 12 percent overall from 2019, and 43 percent since 2010. There were slight declines in the rates of burglary and larceny-theft from the prior year, and totals for these categories of crimes declined by 112,334 offenses over the span of ten years. Rates of motor vehicle theft, however, increased by 15 percent and arson offenses have increased by 29 percent from 2019.



Property Crime: Lackawanna										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Burglary	994	1,023	885	733	663	632	615	549	372	305
Larceny Theft	3,311	3,352	2,982	2,967	2,762	2,568	2,509	2,094	1,676	1,425
Motor Vehicle Theft	230	187	191	212	181	164	217	143	120	167
Arson	59	47	57	31	47	37	30	49	29	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>4,609</b>	<b>4,115</b>	<b>3,943</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>3,401</b>	<b>3,371</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>1,928</b>

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary, 2019 figures have been updated.*

Property Crime: Luzerne										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Burglary	1,486	1,661	1,655	1,383	1,045	985	871	706	718	492
Larceny Theft	5,732	5,895	5,950	5,588	5,081	4,571	4,099	3,528	3,373	2,875
Motor Vehicle Theft	402	354	318	268	234	190	197	214	214	267
Arson	62	55	77	81	98	70	51	35	31	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,682</b>	<b>7,965</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>6,458</b>	<b>5,816</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>3,696</b>

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary, 2019 figures have been updated.*

Property Crime: Pennsylvania										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Burglary	57,675	57,017	51,860	45,659	39,420	35,085	32,051	27,093	23,713	20,768
Larceny Theft	207,398	204,381	196,877	187,918	179,397	173,507	166,036	150,213	146,772	124,702
Motor Vehicle Theft	16,812	14,940	13,742	13,036	12,061	13,044	12,986	13,120	12,506	14,386
Arson	1,775	1,741	1,684	1,924	1,816	1,833	1,455	1,439	1,247	1,613
<b>Total</b>	<b>285,671</b>	<b>278,079</b>	<b>264,163</b>	<b>248,537</b>	<b>232,694</b>	<b>223,469</b>	<b>212,528</b>	<b>191,865</b>	<b>184,238</b>	<b>161,469</b>

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary, 2019 figures have been updated.*

# Violent Crime



**“Overall, violent crimes statewide are 19 percent lower than the totals reported a decade ago, driven by a substantial decrease in robbery and fewer aggravated assault offenses.”**

## VIOLENT CRIME

Lackawanna County experienced year-over-year increases in the number of violent crimes reported from 2013 to 2019, including a 31 increase in 2019, the highest in the last decade. Then in 2020, the total number of violent crimes decreased by 35 percent as the total number of these offenses fell from 1,420 to 926. The number of rapes and robberies in the county decreased while the other category of violent crimes, murder, increased by only three offenses.

Luzerne County reported 688 total violent crimes in 2020 – a two percent decrease from the prior year, and the lowest level reported in the last decade. Except for the number of murders that recorded an increase of nine offenses, all other categories of violent crimes declined in the county from 2019, with a five percent decrease in the incidence of reported rape, nine percent decline in robberies, and one percent decline in the number of aggravated assaults. The total number of robberies and aggravated assault offenses reached their lowest level in over the past ten years.

There was a decrease in violent crime across the Commonwealth in 2020, following a slight increase the year before. In 2020, total violent crime in Pennsylvania declined by six percent to 37,049, due to the drop of rape, robbery, and aggravated assault offenses. The murder rate increased by 32 percent from 2019, while the reported incidence of rape decreased by 16 percent, the number of robberies dropped by 18 percent, and aggravated assault offenses fell by only one percent. Overall, violent crimes statewide are 19 percent lower than the totals reported a decade ago, driven by a substantial decrease in robbery and fewer aggravated assault offenses, despite an increase in the murder rate to the highest level seen in the past ten years.

Violent Crime: Lackawanna										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Murder	5	0	5	6	0	3	3	4	1	4
Rape	48	35	31	39	72	56	50	76	71	28
Robbery	117	165	97	94	91	88	118	82	79	46
Aggravated Assault	307	296	274	275	289	327	313	925	1,269	848
Total	477	496	407	414	452	474	484	1,087	1,420	926

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary. 2019 figures have been updated.*

Violent Crime: Luzerne										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Murder	12	17	18	8	23	14	17	17	10	19
Rape	55	88	70	60	66	82	63	117	82	78
Robbery	273	233	223	253	269	222	218	167	124	113
Aggravated Assault	683	562	511	521	503	517	627	499	482	478
Total	1,023	900	822	842	861	835	925	800	698	688

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary. 2019 figures have been updated.*

Violent Crime: Pennsylvania										
Crime	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Murder	638	706	611	611	661	673	744	783	702	925
Rape	3,320	3,366	3,781	3,828	4,266	4,444	3,862	4,466	4,467	3,752
Robbery	16,117	15,732	14,716	13,534	12,934	12,296	11,794	9,835	9,924	8,123
Aggravated Assault	25,892	25,589	23,646	22,277	22,325	22,939	23,398	24,052	24,501	24,249
Total	45,967	45,393	42,754	40,250	40,186	40,352	39,798	39,136	39,594	37,049

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary. 2019 figures have been updated.*

# Drug Abuse Offenses

## DRUG ABUSE OFFENSES

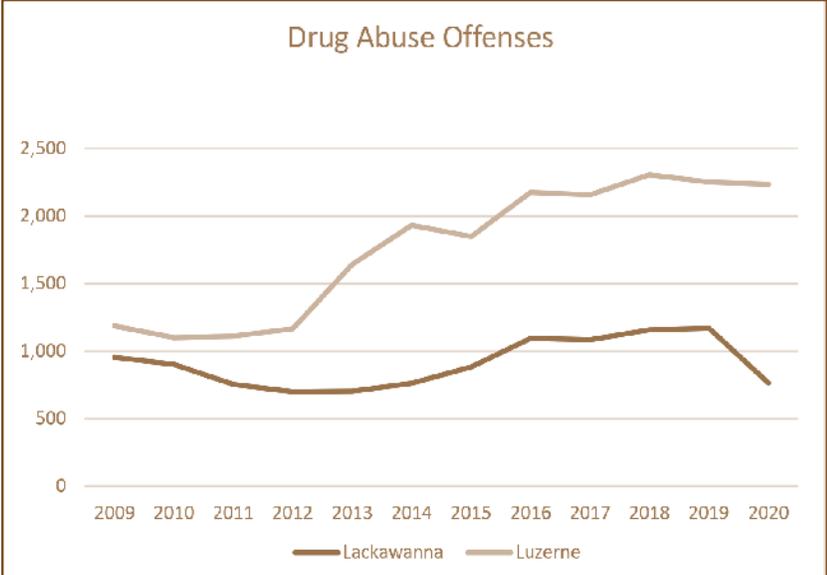
Drug abuse offenses include the manufacture, sale, and possession of drugs. Since 2012, the number of drug offenses in Lackawanna County has increased each year except for a small drop in 2017 and then again in 2020 where offenses decreased to 766. The county has only seen a nine percent increase since its low in 2012. Despite a slight decline of two percent in drug abuse offenses in 2019 and one percent decline in 2020, Luzerne County has experienced significant growth in drug abuse offenses until 2019. There were 2,237 total offenses reported in 2020, more than twice the lowest level reported in 2010. Even though previously the total dropped slightly in 2015, 2017, 2019, and then again in 2020, there has been a general upward trend. Although the number of offenses across the Commonwealth has declined slightly since 2017, there was an upward trend from 2011 to 2017. Statewide drug offenses have increased five percent since 2011, despite a significant drop in 2020.



**“Drug abuse offenses in both counties decreased in 2020.”**

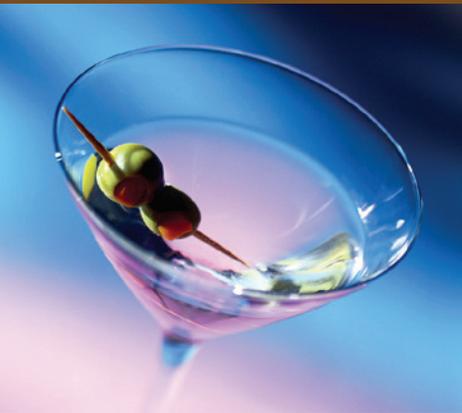
Drug Abuse Offenses			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2009	957	1,187	52,565
2010	902	1,101	52,196
2011	756	1,111	52,013
2012	700	1,167	52,857
2013	705	1,642	56,555
2014	763	1,933	56,814
2015	884	1,850	55,879
2016	1,095	2,178	59,017
2017	1,086	2,158	63,984
2018	1,159	2,307	63,055
2019	1,171	2,253	61,918
2020	766	2,237	54,501

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System  
\*2020 data is preliminary. 2019 data has been updated.*



# DUI Offenses

## Alcohol Related Crash Deaths



**“DUI offenses in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have consistently accounted for about four percent of all DUI offenses in Pennsylvania.”**

### DUI OFFENSES

Lackawanna County’s total number of DUI offenses has fluctuated over the last decade, but decreased noticeably since 2011, and has been trending downward since 2017. After declining 34 percent since 2019, the number of DUI offenses in the county reached 426, the lowest level recorded over the past decade.

The number of DUI offenses in Luzerne County has declined 35 percent from its peak of 1,325 in 2017 to 858 in 2020. This is below the county average of 1,189 DUI offenses per year since 2011.

Statewide, the total number of DUI offenses entered its tenth consecutive year of decline – a 34 percent drop over the past decade. DUI offenses in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have consistently accounted for around four percent of all DUI offenses in Pennsylvania.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Offenses										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Lackawanna	858	726	710	759	687	733	678	680	641	426
Luzerne	1,175	1,230	1,181	1,172	1,303	1,242	1,325	1,221	1,183	858
Pennsylvania	52,944	52,222	49,714	49,264	48,896	48,805	47,762	45,435	44,420	34,999

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System. \*2020 data is preliminary. 2019 data has been updated.*

Percentage of Statewide DUI Offenses by County										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Lackawanna	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%
Luzerne	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System. \*2020 data is preliminary. 2019 data has been updated.*

### ALCOHOL RELATED CRASH DEATHS

While 2019 had no alcohol-related crash deaths reported in Lackawanna County, five deaths were recorded in 2020. Over the past decade, Lackawanna County has averaged five alcohol-related crash deaths per year. Luzerne County’s average number of alcohol-related crash deaths per year has been about 11 over the last ten years. The total number of deaths reported in Luzerne County more than doubled from four in 2018 to ten in 2019, the highest level since 2015, while nine deaths were reported in 2020. Statewide, the number of alcohol-related crash deaths has followed a downward trend for most of the decade. Total statewide deaths declined by two percent in 2020, and are 32 percent lower than a decade ago.

Alcohol Related Crash Deaths										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	5	5	7	5	5	9	4	6	0	5
Luzerne	13	13	13	17	18	8	5	4	10	9
Pennsylvania	428	404	381	333	345	297	293	331	299	293

*Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

# Motor Vehicle Crashes

## MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

In 2020, motor vehicle crashes in Lackawanna County declined for the third consecutive year to 2,119, a trend seemingly accelerated by fewer motor vehicle trips amid the pandemic. Motor vehicle crashes also declined in Luzerne County, decreasing by 14 percent from 2019 to 2,956. In both counties, the number of crashes was at the lowest level among the years analyzed. The Commonwealth's total also declined, reaching 104,475 crashes.

Statewide, the number of crashes resulting in injuries has fallen significantly but the crashes that caused fatalities rose from 990 in 2019 to 1,060 in 2020. In recent years, a larger share of crashes have resulted in property damage only. This trend extends to both counties as well. Overall, there was a significant decline in the share of crashes with fatalities and/or injuries that likely attributable in part to safety innovations in vehicles, despite the fact that the number of fatalities in the three areas specified increased slightly from 2019 to 2020.

In 2020, there were eight pedestrian crash deaths in the two counties combined (the same number as the prior year) and 146 statewide. The two counties have ranged from six to ten pedestrian crash deaths per year for the years analyzed, with no clear upward or downward trend. The 40 pedestrian deaths since 2016 represent about five percent of all statewide pedestrian deaths in that period, though the region represents only about four percent of the Commonwealth's total population. The region has also not seen signs of a downward trend in pedestrian crash deaths that is apparent statewide, where these fatalities reached the lowest level in the past five years in 2020.



**“In both counties, the number of crashes was at the lowest level among the years analyzed.”**

Lackawanna County: Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fatal	16	15	20	28	10	20
Injury	1,620	1,238	1,157	1,197	1,123	929
Property Damage Only	1,171	1,437	1,535	1,462	1,398	1,170
Total	2,807	2,690	2,712	2,687	2,531	2,119

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Luzerne County: Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fatal	43	31	25	18	30	34
Injury	2,444	1,641	1,585	1,560	1,487	1,260
Property Damage Only	1,525	2,008	1,994	2,034	1,901	1,662
Total	4,012	3,680	3,604	3,612	3,418	2,956

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pennsylvania Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fatal	1,396	1,088	1,083	1,103	990	1,060
Injury	88,108	59,856	58,183	56,745	55,552	44,957
Property Damage Only	57,749	68,451	68,922	70,572	68,725	58,458
Total	147,253	129,395	128,188	128,420	125,267	104,475

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pedestrian Crash Deaths

	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna County	3	5	4	4	4	2
Luzerne County	6	4	2	5	4	6
Pennsylvania	172	172	150	201	154	146

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

# Offenses Against Children & Families



**“Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of these offenses reported in the two counties, the total declined seven percent in 2020 to 404 offenses in the region. ”**

## OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Offenses against families and children include abuse of spouses and children, child neglect, and nonpayment of child support and alimony. Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of these offenses reported in the two counties, the total declined 7 percent in 2020 to 404 offenses in the region.

In Lackawanna County, offenses against families and children dropped to 148 in 2020, while a decrease to 173 offenses was seen in 2019 after three previous years of consecutive increases. There was a similar trend in Luzerne County, with total offenses decreasing two percent to 256 in 2020 after a decrease by 16 percent in 2019 and then four years of steady increases in children and family offenses between 2015 and 2018.

Statewide, the number of offenses declined both in 2019 and 2020 which has not happened since 2014. There has been an upward trend statewide since 2011, including a substantial increase in 2014. Total offenses across the Commonwealth have increased by over 50 percent in the past decade.

Offenses Against Family & Children										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Lackawanna	299	373	296	182	160	192	200	217	173	148
Luzerne	189	254	345	311	225	259	295	312	261	256
Pennsylvania	5,176	5,415	5,770	5,660	7,185	7,961	8,394	9,157	8,823	7,823

*Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.  
\*2020 figures are preliminary. 2019 figures have been updated.*

# Police Personnel & Fire Departments

## POLICE PERSONNEL

Municipal police forces in the two counties employ over 1,000 officers as of early 2022. This accounts for just under five percent of the statewide total, though in the two counties, there is a larger share of part-time officers compared to Pennsylvania as a whole. In Lackawanna and Luzerne, over 33 percent of municipal police officers are part-time, while the share is only about 17 percent statewide.

These municipal police statistics exclude personnel from several other law enforcement agencies that serve the region, including Pennsylvania State Police. In the two counties, 71 of 116 municipalities (61 percent) have their own municipal police force, while 16 (13 percent) contract with another municipality for police protection. Another 29 (26 percent) municipalities utilize State Police only.



**“In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, over 33 percent of municipal police officers are part-time, while the share is only about 17 percent statewide.”**

Municipal Police Officers: 2022		
	Full Time	Part Time
Lackawanna County	288	180
Luzerne County	398	160
Pennsylvania	18,404	3,735

*Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development*

Municipal Police Coverage: 2022					
	Total Municipalities	With Own Municipal Police Force	Contracts with Another Municipality	State Police Coverage Only	Regional Police Service
Lackawanna County	40	25	9	6	0
Luzerne County	76	46	7	23	0

*Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development*

## FIRE DEPARTMENTS

As of early 2021, there were 36 fire departments in Lackawanna County and 68 fire departments in Luzerne County. There were 3,666 active firefighters between the two counties. Approximately 86 percent of them were volunteers while less than 10 percent were career firefighters.

Lackawanna County Fire Departments	
	2021
Number of Departments	36
Active Firefighters	1,374
Volunteer	1,174
Paid per Call	34
Career	166
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	651

*Source : U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry*

Luzerne County Fire Departments	
	2021
Number of Departments	68
Active Firefighters	2,292
Volunteer	1,968
Paid per Call	142
Career	182
Non-Firefighting Members	954

*Source : U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry*

Pennsylvania Fire Departments	
	2021
Number of Departments	1,800
Active Firefighters	64,749
Volunteer	58,181
Paid per Call	1,035
Career	5,533
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	30,650

*Source : U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry*

# School Safety Juvenile Arrests



**“There has primarily been a downward trend in juvenile arrests since 2011, and they reached the lowest levels in a decade as of 2020.”**

## SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety incidents include a range of misconduct. A large share of incidents involved fights, disorderly conduct, minor altercations, other harassment or intimidation, bullying, and possession or use of tobacco or controlled substances. The number of reported incidents declined significantly in both counties and statewide during the 2020-2021 school year. Due to COVID-19 prevention and mitigation plans, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released a disclaimer that the most recent data may have been impacted because of remote learning. Then the previous school year also recorded a decrease in incidents with a 14 percent decline in Lackawanna County, a 35 percent decline in Luzerne County, and a 21 percent decline statewide while the 2018-2019 school year witnessed a peak in activity across all three regions. In Lackawanna County, there were 108 documented school misconduct incidents and 135 in Luzerne County. This represents an 83-percent decrease from the previous year for Lackawanna County and an 84-percent decrease for Luzerne County. Statewide, school misconduct incidents decreased by 68 percent.

School Misconduct Incidents							
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Lackawanna	618	517	441	543	728	625	108
Luzerne	676	1,059	829	829	1,260	823	135
Pennsylvania	42,922	42,965	43,330	49,076	58,426	46,095	14,577

*Source : PA Department of Education Safe Schools*

Incidents per 1,000 Enrolled Students							
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Lackawanna	22.3	18.6	15.9	19.5	26.3	22.6	4.1
Luzerne	16.5	25.9	20.2	20.2	30.7	19.8	3.3
Pennsylvania	24.6	24.8	25.2	28.5	32.9	26.8	8.6

*Source : PA Department of Education Safe Schools*

Juvenile Arrests			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2009	876	1,200	89,941
2010	1,012	1,279	83,042
2011	964	1,186	72,287
2012	738	983	69,289
2013	610	944	64,850
2014	644	852	57,889
2015	621	881	51,452
2016	508	893	43,914
2017	603	917	44,827
2018	502	701	37,083
2019	434	698	34,791
2020	256	470	19,952

*Includes all UCR crime codes except runaways*

## JUVENILE ARRESTS

Juvenile arrests have shown here pertain to arrests made for several categories of crimes included in the Uniform Crime Report, such as violent crimes, liquor law, drug possession, and many others. Juvenile runaways are excluded.

In 2020, the number of juvenile arrests significantly declined statewide and in both counties. Total arrests declined 41 percent, from 2009, in Lackawanna County to 256, while falling 33 percent in Luzerne County to 470. Statewide, juvenile arrests declined 43 percent in 2019 to 19,952. Across all three regions, there has primarily been a downward trend in juvenile arrests since 2011 and reaching the lowest levels in a decade in 2020. Both counties have seen declines of over 60 percent compared with 2019, and the Commonwealth registered a 78-percent drop during that time.



Environment

# Environment Recycling



**“Indicators have been positive in terms of the region’s air and water ecosystem quality.”**

## ENVIRONMENT

The Environment section of the report focuses on several key indicators, including recycling, waste management, mining impacts, and air and water quality.

The amount of waste generated in both counties has followed a generally increasing trend, despite a drop in 2020 in Luzerne County. Both counties produce more waste than they did twenty years ago. Municipal waste was the largest component of all waste generated in both counties. Statewide data on recycled materials has been tabulated inconsistently, and the most recent data is from 2018. However, in that year, the two counties accounted for over 113,000 pounds of residential single-stream, plastic, metal, glass, and organics recyclable material, an approximately 73 percent increase from the prior year’s total of over 65,000 regionally.

Many of the region’s critical environmental challenges relate to its industrial past. The lingering effects of coal mining and other heavy industries include contaminated brownfield sites, coal refuse sites, mine subsidence, mine fires, and acid mine drainage. Some of these issues are difficult to quantify or measure. In 2021, 33 sites in the region were designated under either the statewide (HSCA) or federal (CERCLA) programs for remediation. Cleanup of these sensitive sites, which often involve bankrupt owners, abandoned facilities, or facilities where hazardous materials have been improperly disposed, is an important step in preventing further harm and facilitating return to productive use. The region is also home to seven percent of Pennsylvania’s abandoned mine land (AML) sites and 21 percent of its anthracite coal refuse-producing sites. As part of policies designed to address the impact of these sites, the region has been home to a significant share of statewide projects receiving funding under the AMLER program to return AMLs to productive use.

Indicators have been positive in terms of the region’s air and water ecosystem quality. Air Quality Index (AQI) scores are generally good, and annual monitoring of the Susquehanna River by the Chesapeake Bay Project shows normal results in several metrics of stream water quality.

Residential Recycling for Selected Materials: 2018			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Residential Single Stream	7,135	19,675	685,750
Plastics	0	0	7,085
Metals	94	74	168,039
Glass	0	25	8,413
Organics	42,329	44,021	1,729,124
<b>Total from Select Categories</b>	<b>49,557</b>	<b>63,796</b>	<b>2,598,411</b>

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Residential Recycling for Selected Materials: 2017			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
Residential Single Stream	12,588	18,493	597,012
Plastics	0	0	6,870
Metals	1,942	92	120,001
Glass	573	39	10,073
Organics	10,978	20,838	539,973
<b>Total from Select Categories</b>	<b>26,081</b>	<b>39,462</b>	<b>1,273,930</b>

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Total Recycled Materials (% of Statewide Total)		
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne
2018	1.91%	2.46%
2017	11.05%	2.14%
2016	29.81%	2.05%
2015	30.91%	2.13%
2014	59.38%	1.14%
2013	1.07%	3.03%
2012	0.64%	2.26%
2011	0.97%	3.00%

Includes Residential & Commercial

## RECYCLING

The most recent statewide statistics on recycled materials are from 2018. At that time, recycled tonnage varied significantly in both counties. The total tonnage of Lackawanna County’s recycled material, as a percentage of the statewide total, spiked in 2014 and remained disproportionately high for several years after, accounting for about 30 percent of all recycled materials statewide in 2015 and 2016, 11 percent in 2017, and just under two percent in 2018. In 2014, DEP attributed this anomaly to large amounts of materials recycled from the University of Scranton’s demolition of the former YWCA building and construction of Leahy Hall. Luzerne County has accounted for an average of two to three percent of the total statewide tonnage, roughly approximating its share of the statewide population.

Among common categories of residential recycled materials, both counties and the Commonwealth as a whole increased the amount of single-stream recycled materials generated between 2015 and 2016 before leveling off in more recent years. Lackawanna County saw a decline in residential single stream recycling in 2018. Total recycling significantly increased statewide, however, doubling the number from 2017. This was driven a massive increase in recycled organic materials.

# Waste Facilities Brownfields

## WASTE FACILITIES

Lackawanna County generated nearly 323,000 tons of waste in 2020 – an increase of just under six percent from the prior year. Luzerne County generated over 306,000 tons – a decline of about 11 percent from the prior year. By 2021, Lackawanna County generated nearly 346,000 tons of waste and Luzerne County generated over 321,000 tons. The latest data represented an overall increase for both counties and statewide.

In 2021, Lackawanna County recorded increases in residual, medical, and construction waste, while Luzerne County saw an increase in the tonnage of municipal waste but a significant decrease in sewage sludge.



**“In 2021, Lackawanna County recorded increases in residual, medical, and construction waste, while Luzerne County saw an increase in the tonnage of municipal waste but a significant decrease in sewage sludge.”**

Total Waste (In Tons)						
	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	274,696	295,450	326,397	305,291	322,971	345,490
Luzerne	313,859	281,851	304,611	345,225	306,404	321,952

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

Total Waste by Type: 2020 (In Tons)							
	Municipal	Sewage					Total
		Residual	Sludge	Medical	Construction	Other	
Lackawanna	216,330	14,288	19,769	794	71,452	338	322,971
Luzerne	229,886	49,932	21,966	227	4,106	288	306,404
Regional Total	446,217	64,219	41,734	1,021	75,559	626	629,375

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

Total Waste by Type: 2021 (In Tons)							
	Municipal	Sewage					Total
		Residual	Sludge	Medical	Construction	Other	
Lackawanna	213,154	19,500	19,549	936	91,748	603	345,490
Luzerne	248,089	56,129	13,589	225	3,683	237	321,952
Regional Total	461,243	75,629	33,138	1,161	95,431	840	667,442

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

## BROWNFIELDS

Updated data for 2022 was not available for this year’s report. As of last year, six Lackawanna County sites were listed in Pennsylvania DEP’s Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA). Five additional Lackawanna County sites are listed under the federal CERCLA program – the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly known as Superfund). Luzerne County had 16 HSCA sites and six federal Superfund sites as of early 2021. Both counties’ total number of sites were unchanged from last year. According to DEP, most of these sites involve facilities with bankrupt owners, abandoned facilities, and facilities where hazardous materials have been improperly disposed.

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfield Sites: Lackawanna County		
	HSCA	Superfund
2018	6	5
2019	6	5
2020	6	5
2021	6	5

*Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection*

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfield Sites: Luzerne County		
	HSCA	Superfund
2018	15	6
2019	15	4
2020	16	6
2021	16	6

*Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection*

# Abandoned Mine Lands



## ABANDONED MINE LANDS

Abandoned mine lands (AMLs) refer to any of the 250,000 acres of mine lands left abandoned across Pennsylvania. There are AMLs in 43 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties together are home to seven percent of the state's 5,617 abandoned mine lands, with a total of 412 between the two counties. As of the most recent report in 2013, there were 165 sites in Lackawanna County and 247 in Luzerne County.

The Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, formerly known as the AML Pilot Program, provides funds for the reclamation of AMLs in conjunction with economic and community development and reuse goals. The sites could be former mines, coal refuse areas, areas with acid mine drainage, and more. For each of the last five years except 2019, there has been at least one project in the two county area. In 2020, two sites, both located in Luzerne County, were funded. Over the past five years, there were a total of 12 projects across the two counties, representing about 20 percent of all funded projects statewide.

Coal refuse refers to any waste coal or other materials (such as shale, clay, or rock) that are brought above ground or removed from coal mines during mining activities. The term also refers to the leftover materials separated from coal during cleaning operations. Coal refuse sites are areas where such materials are disposed. There are nine reported refuse sites in Luzerne County, the lowest number since 2016. Lackawanna County has one refuse sites, also the lowest since 2016. There are a total of 47 coal refuse sites in Pennsylvania. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have generally accounted for about 18 to 30 percent of statewide coal refuse sites.

Anthracite Coal Refuse Producing Sites			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2013	2	7	41
2014	0	8	39
2015	2	8	42
2016	1	8	39
2017	2	10	42
2018	2	11	48
2019	4	13	53
2020	1	9	47

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Number of AML Sites		
Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
165	247	5,617

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

AML Revitalization Projects (AMLER)					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	1	2	1	0	0
Luzerne	1	4	1	0	2
Pennsylvania	14	13	15	11	13

Source: OSMRE and PA Department of Environmental Protection

## 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. They are 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 reported 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. Annual data, including the number of unhealthy air quality days and the median AQI for the calendar year, is collected from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the past several years, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported no unhealthy AQI days. The 2021 median AQI for Lackawanna County was 36, and it was 34 for Luzerne County. This represents a slight improvement in quality for Lackawanna County and a slight decline in quality for Luzerne County. However, they have remained in the ‘Good’ range for all years analyzed and AQI has improved by about 18 percent in Lackawanna County since 2000 and Luzerne County has improved by over 24 percent.



**“Over the past several years, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported no unhealthy AQI days.”**

### Air Quality Index (AQI): Number of Unhealthy Days

	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luzerne	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data*

### Air Quality Index (AQI): Median

	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	44	41	40	33	35	38	36
Luzerne	45	29	33	31	34	31	34

*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data*

# Water Quality



## WATER QUALITY

Stream water quality monitoring is conducted at several sites in the region. One site – the Susquehanna River at Wilkes-Barre, which is monitored by the Chesapeake Bay Program – has consistent and regular data necessary for inclusion in this report. Two key parameters of water quality (pH, which is commonly used to measure acidity in water, and total dissolved solids) were analyzed. The vast majority of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

A pH of seven represents a neutral measurement. A value greater than seven indicates basic or alkaline conditions, and values less than seven indicate acidic conditions. The pH of natural waters is between 6.0 and 8.5. Any values less than 4.5 and above 9.5 tend to be severely damaging to ecosystems. The Susquehanna River tested at an average of 7.65 pH in the most recent year, or slightly more alkaline than neutral water. The average in 2020 is a decrease from the previous year's average.

The concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) is a measure of the amount of dissolved materials in water. These materials include sodium, calcium, magnesium, and others. Fresh water usually has TDS levels between 0 and 1,000 mg/L, dependent on the geography and attributing factors in the region. Values over 500 mg/L are considered elevated and can be unsuitable for drinking or household use. Although TDS is not considered a primary pollutant, water with a high TDS concentration may indicate elevated levels of ions such as aluminum, arsenic, copper, lead, nitrate, and others that do pose health concerns. Since 2013, TDS levels in the Susquehanna River have consistently been below 200 mg/L, though in 2019 the average level was the highest since 2016 before dropping below 150 mg/L in 2020.

Water Quality - Susquehanna River		
	pH (Corrected for Temperature)	Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)
2013	7.58	134.3
2014	7.64	151.3
2015	7.81	179.2
2016	7.87	174.0
2017	7.42	138.5
2018	7.32	136.3
2019	7.69	155.7
2020	7.65	149.7

Source: Chesapeake Bay Program



# Infrastructure

# Infrastructure



**“Understanding the public’s means of transportation reveals insight into a region’s environmental impact, as well as the impact of its employment dynamics.”**

## 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 home internet access.

Understanding the public’s means of transportation reveals insight into a region’s environmental impact, as well as the impact of its employment dynamics. Similar to those in 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 did not appear much different in 2019 than it was in 2000, though average commute times have trended gradually higher. In 2020, statewide data showed a significant increase in the share of workers who worked at home. As a result, the share of Pennsylvanians commuting by driving alone, carpooling, and by public transit all fell to new lows.

The transportation changes seen during the pandemic also extend to traffic counts. Increasing trends in traffic volume were observed prior to the pandemic. Daily vehicle miles traveled on major highways in the region grew by about one percent between 2018 and 2019. However, the traffic volumes in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Statewide fell by 23, 13, and 17 percent, respectively in 2020. Anecdotal evidence points to rebounding traffic levels in 2021, but it remains to be seen to what extent traffic volume will resume the prior growth trend seen before the pandemic, especially as some workers will continue to work fully or partially from home.

The number of motor vehicle registrations is also an indicator of traffic trends. More vehicles registered typically means more vehicle miles traveled, which can result in traffic congestion. Vehicle registrations can also indicate economic activity. Lackawanna County has generally experienced an increase in registered cars compared with 2000. Luzerne County has experienced little sustained growth in passenger car registrations, with a one percent overall decline from 2000 to 2020. Registrations for large trucks, however, have grown significantly in both counties and statewide, in accordance with the growth in the logistics sector in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2020, there were notable declines in the cost of heating oil and propane, and a smaller drop in the cost of electricity coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, each of these fuel sources rebounded in 2021, with all of these reaching the highest price levels in several years. The cost of natural gas increased in 2020, but this energy source did not see the rapid price growth in 2021 that the other fuels did. Natural gas continued to have the lowest cost per million BTU of all energy sources analyzed and has remained the most-used home heating fuel over the past decade.

Broadband access remained critical to each county’s economic growth, as it is essential for economic development. Technology gaps were particularly meaningful in 2020, with more workers utilizing the internet for remote work and many students attending school virtually. Widespread access to the newest and most essential technologies makes any location a more attractive place to locate a business in addition to its importance in education, health care, and access to social services. Increased social distancing during this year’s COVID-19 global pandemic further underscores the need for equitable access to the internet. The two-county region enjoys nearly universal access to wireless technology and other broadband services, but it is not always affordable. Household-level internet usage has also increased quickly, reaching 84 and 87 percent of households in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties respectively in 2019. Internet importance manifested itself as an infrastructure necessity for employment, education, and health care in 2020 and 2021 as well as a major issue in equity. Although 2020 data was not published from the American Community Survey, statewide data show a continued increase in the share of households with some type of internet access. Smartphone adoption has been widespread as well, reaching about four-fifths of households.

# Transportation Mobility

## TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY

Despite some slight shifts from year to year, driving alone remains the most common way to commute in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, though new data for 2020 was not published. Nearly four fifths of the region’s workers get to work by driving alone. As of 2019, this percentage had fallen in both counties but remained higher than the statewide rate of 75.2 percent. Among alternative modes of transportation, carpooling remains the most frequently utilized. Public transportation usage has generally fluctuated around or just under one percent of workers in the region, well below the statewide share of over five percent seen in most years.

Statewide data for 2020 showed some shifts in commuting to work. The share of workers working at home during the calendar year increase to over 16 percent after averaging about five percent in the previous several years and only three percent in 2000. This shift is reflected in declines in the share of workers driving to work alone, carpooling, and utilizing public transportation.

The estimated share of households with no vehicles available has fluctuated in both counties, averaging just over ten percent throughout the past several years – lower than the statewide rate.



	2000		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne										
Workers 16 years and over	94,532	141,168	98,527	145,140	96,521	143,022	96,223	151,228	100,519	148,353	97,335	151,604
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	80.5%	81.9%	80.7%	81.5%	79.0%	81.3%	82.2%	79.8%	78.4%	81.4%	76.3%	81.1%
Car, truck, or van -- carpoled	12.2%	11.1%	11.7%	10.4%	11.4%	9.7%	9.9%	11.8%	10.8%	9.0%	11.2%	11.1%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	1.3%	0.7%
Walked	3.7%	3.2%	2.6%	2.5%	4.6%	2.9%	2.2%	2.6%	3.5%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%
Other means	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	1.6%	2.0%	1.3%	0.9%
Worked at home	2.0%	2.1%	3.5%	3.4%	3.6%	4.2%	4.4%	3.8%	4.5%	4.4%	7.4%	3.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.8	21.2	20.6	22	21.6	22.5	21.2	22.0	21.9	22.7	22.0	24.3

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

	Pennsylvania Commuting to Work						
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Workers 16 years and over	5,556,311	5,977,629	5,977,351	6,056,160	6,136,003	6,179,069	5,872,274
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	76.5%	76.3%	76.1%	76.2%	75.6%	75.2%	67.8%
Car, truck, or van -- carpoled	10.4%	8.5%	8.4%	8.5%	8.5%	8.4%	7.0%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	5.2%	5.7%	5.6%	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%	3.7%
Walked	4.1%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	Combined:
Other means	0.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.2%	5.1%
Worked at home	3.0%	4.2%	4.8%	5.0%	5.1%	5.4%	16.3%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.2	26.8	26.9	27.1	27.2	27.8	No Data

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2015	7,116	8.6%	13,849	10.9%	551,449	11.1%
2016	8,765	10.2%	10,526	8.5%	533,856	10.8%
2017	9,227	10.7%	13,593	10.7%	559,312	11.2%
2018	7,215	8.2%	14,743	11.5%	562,300	11.1%
2019	9,882	11.2%	13,465	10.3%	563,183	11.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

# Traffic Counts Bridges



**“Between Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, 805 bridges were counted in the 2021 National Bridge Inventory.”**

## TRAFFIC COUNTS

In Lackawanna County, there are over 143 linear miles of highway that are part of the National Highway System. In Luzerne County, there are about 178 miles in the National Highway System, which includes interstate highways and certain other critical highways. In 2019, Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT, the total number of miles driven by all vehicles per day) on the National Highway System in the two counties was over 7.5 million – about 4.7 percent of the statewide DVMT.

In 2020, DVMT dropped significantly due to shutdowns of schools and businesses. DVMT in Lackawanna County fell by nearly 23 percent, and a more moderate 13 percent in Luzerne. Statewide, the decline was 17 percent.

The DVMT per mile of highway, a measure of average traffic volume, is lower in Lackawanna County but higher in Luzerne County than the statewide average. This trend was apparent both prior to and during the pandemic.

The two counties have several permanent traffic count sites that measure traffic volume and speed data on a continuous basis. The local sites include Interstate 81 in Wilkes-Barre Township, Interstate 80 in Foster Township, and State Route 307 in Newton Township. No data since 2016 was available for the Foster Township location, and in 2020 none was reported for the Wilkes-Barre Township location. Traffic counts at the Route 307 location dropped by 13 percent in

2020, consistent with significant declines in regional highway VMT.

Traffic counts are conducted less frequently in other locations within the two counties, so that data is not reported here.

	Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel: 2020		
	DVMT	National Highway Linear Miles	DVMT per Linear Mile
Lackawanna County	2,417,494	143.8	16,811.5
Luzerne County	3,792,285	177.8	21,328.9
Pennsylvania	131,239,013	7,173.0	18,296.3

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

	Annual Traffic Counts - Average Daily Traffic at Permanent Count Sites						2015 - 2020 % Change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
I-81 in Wilkes-Barre Township	59,023	60,176	61,228	62,938	61,955	ND	ND
I-80 in Foster Township	24,347	24,880	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PA-307 in Newton Township	4,952	ND	ND	4,949	4,912	4,310	-13.0%

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

## BRIDGES

In 2018, the Federal Highway Administration’s National Bridge Inventory changed its procedures for bridge evaluation and no longer reports the number of structurally deficient bridges. Instead, bridges are categorized as good, fair, or poor.

	Bridges					
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Pennsylvania	
	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition
2016	347	20.2%	432	26.2%	22,791	19.4%
2017	346	20.2%	430	25.8%	22,779	18.2%
2018	343	18.7%	436	26.6%	22,737	16.6%
2019	348	21.0%	441	26.5%	22,911	15.3%
2020	349	20.9%	443	26.2%	22,965	14.6%
2021	364	22.8%	441	26.3%	23,166	13.8%

*Source: Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory*

Between Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, 805 bridges were counted in the 2021 National Bridge Inventory. Of those bridges, 22.8 percent and 26.3 percent were classified as poor in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively. For both counties, this is a marginal increase from the prior year and considerably higher than the statewide percentage. In Pennsylvania as a whole, there has been a more marked decreasing trend in the share of bridges rated in poor condition.

# Motor Vehicle Registrations

## MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

New data on motor vehicle registrations was not available for this report. As of 2020, Lackawanna County passenger vehicle registrations have increased considerably compared with those in 2000. However, the county total of 121,595 registered passenger vehicles represents a notable decline since 2016. Luzerne County passenger car registrations have fluctuated, and in 2020 rose to the highest level since 2016 but still about one percent lower than in 2000. Overall, the two-county region has seen a 1.7 percent increase in passenger car registrations from 2000 to 2020, with a year-over-year growth of nearly one percent from 2019 to 2020. Statewide, there has been more consistent growth in passenger car registrations since 2000, though there have been declines in the total for the past two years.

Both counties and the state have seen a generally increasing trend in the number of registered trucks over 5,000 pounds. The number of registered trucks under 5,000 pounds continued to decrease in both counties and across the state, and it appears as though these trucks are being replaced by larger trucks in higher weight classifications. Since 2000, the number of registered trucks over 5,000 pounds has increased by 147 percent in the two county region. During the same time period, the statewide number of registrations of trucks over 5,000 pounds grew by 125 percent.



Motor Vehicle Registrations: Lackawanna County							
Vehicle Type	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2000 - 2020 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	114,361	125,016	120,646	121,147	120,612	121,595	6%
Motorcycles	2,918	5,166	5,167	5,136	4,952	5,123	71%
Buses	783	943	886	915	900	856	9%
Trailers	11,981	19,083	19,027	19,203	19,496	19,866	66%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	13,867	6,525	6,022	5,607	5,274	5,004	-64%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	5,129	14,326	14,188	14,905	15,427	16,247	217%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	1,817	3,435	3,441	3,614	6,648	6,939	276%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	2,643	3,040	2,972	3,047	3,053	3,075	16%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Luzerne County							
Vehicle Type	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2000 - 2020 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	194,739	194,463	189,399	191,729	190,804	192,667	-1%
Motorcycles	5,302	9,258	8,836	8,776	8,467	8,591	62%
Buses	1,140	1,178	1,094	1,111	1,092	1,036	-9%
Trailers	21,373	32,030	31,872	31,915	31,782	31,988	50%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	27,392	14,059	12,847	12,128	11,369	10,747	61%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	10,632	24,468	24,712	25,563	26,461	27,297	157%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	3,675	6,190	6,238	6,389	11,172	11,478	212%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	4,315	4,872	4,694	4,762	4,862	4,709	9%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Pennsylvania							
Vehicle Type	2000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2000 - 2020 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	7,166,668	8,268,394	8,084,151	8,219,631	8,168,045	8,118,635	13%
Motorcycles	210,788	392,233	373,635	374,300	366,244	372,375	77%
Buses	47,182	55,926	55,633	56,217	56,163	54,410	15%
Trailers	812,620	1,268,189	1,268,804	1,286,503	1,294,685	1,307,324	61%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	987,230	490,367	449,840	424,570	395,212	374,323	-62%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	472,508	1,071,604	1,081,441	1,134,573	1,166,485	1,194,519	153%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	142,004	254,979	258,087	272,767	526,803	537,182	278%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	240,504	190,803	188,832	196,146	198,810	195,886	-19%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: 2 County Region			
	Registered in 2020	Change Since 2019	Change Since 2000
Cars	314,262	0.9%	1.7%
Motorcycles	13,714	2.2%	66.2%
Trucks < 5k lbs.	15,751	-5.4%	-61.8%
Trucks > 5k lbs.	69,745	3.1%	147.0%
Trailers	51,854	1.1%	55.5%

# Home Heating Fuels



## HOME HEATING FUELS

New data on home heating fuels was unavailable for this year’s report. In the most recent available data, utility gas has remained the most widespread method of home heating fuel in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties from 2000 to 2019. Natural gas remains the heating fuel for over half the homes in Luzerne County and over two-thirds of homes in Lackawanna County.

Since 2000, electricity has eclipsed fuel oil as the second largest home heating source. However, the share of homes heated by electricity declined in both counties in 2019.

Other energy sources, including coal and propane, comprise much smaller shares. Statewide trends have been similar, with a slower shift toward natural gas and electricity amid generally declining use of fuel oil.

**“Natural gas remains the heating fuel for over half the homes in Luzerne County and over two-thirds of homes in Lackawanna County.”**

	Home Heating Fuel											
	2000		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Luzerne
Occupied housing units	86,218	130,687	83,054	127,408	86,203	124,118	86,213	126,811	88,268	128,301	88,154	130,890
Utility gas	61.0%	45.9%	64.7%	50.8%	65.3%	48.2%	63.7%	48.9%	63.8%	49.4%	67.1%	50.6%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.8%	3.2%	5.7%	4.8%	5.4%	4.9%	5.5%	5.4%	6.9%	4.4%	5.4%	5.1%
Electricity	12.9%	17.2%	16.6%	20.9%	16.9%	22.2%	17.6%	23.4%	17.2%	22.9%	16.0%	22.1%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	19.0%	28.9%	9.7%	17.7%	9.0%	18.7%	9.8%	17.0%	9.0%	17.0%	8.9%	17.2%
Coal or coke	2.0%	3.7%	1.4%	3.2%	1.6%	3.5%	1.2%	3.3%	0.8%	3.8%	0.8%	2.6%
Other fuel	0.8%	0.9%	1.7%	2.6%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	1.5%	2.3%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

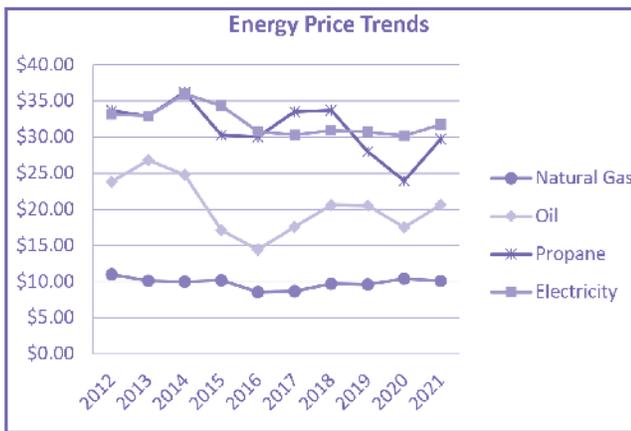
	Pennsylvania Home Heating Fuel					
	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Occupied housing units	4,777,003	4,956,037	4,937,771	5,008,751	5,070,931	5,119,249
Utility gas	51.3%	51.4%	51.7%	51.9%	51.1%	51.5%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.0%	4.1%	4.2%	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%
Electricity	16.5%	22.3%	23.0%	23.1%	23.6%	23.9%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	25.5%	16.9%	16.3%	15.8%	15.9%	15.5%
Coal or coke	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Other fuel	2.0%	3.7%	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

# Energy Price Trends Airport

## ENERGY PRICE TRENDS

In 2020, several sources of heating energy fell in price. Oil and propane costs both fell by over 14 percent between 2019 and 2020. Electricity prices fell by a small margin. In 2021, the cost of each of those three fuel sources rebounded. Oil prices reached their highest levels since 2014, electricity prices reached their highest levels since 2015, and propane reached its highest price since 2018. Natural gas prices have been less prone to large fluctuation and lower than the other fuel sources analyzed, despite rising eight percent between 2019 and 2020, before decreasing slightly in 2021.



	Natural Gas	Oil	Propane	Electricity
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
2016	\$8.56	\$14.42	\$30.04	\$30.78
2017	\$8.68	\$17.58	\$33.52	\$30.31
2018	\$9.70	\$20.60	\$33.72	\$30.90
2019	\$9.62	\$20.52	\$27.99	\$30.70
2020	\$10.39	\$17.51	\$23.96	\$30.18
2021	\$10.09	\$20.64	\$29.73	\$31.73

Source: UGI Utilities

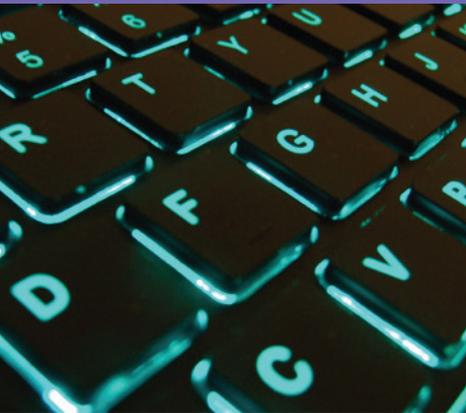
## AIRPORT

In 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel, the total number of passengers traveling through Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport grew to the largest number among all years analyzed, and nearly 40 percent higher than the passenger count recorded in 2013. In 2020, the passenger count fell by over 60 percent. Nonetheless, the airport served over 221,000 passengers on 2,877 scheduled flights. On-time performance, which has generally been on par with or slightly better than larger airports in the Mid-Atlantic region, changed only minimally. Flight cancellations fell in 2021 after a spike in 2020. Data reported by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics also indicated a sharp decline in freight and mail volume at the airport.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Passengers	424,638	422,343	434,127	462,999	531,854	527,928	590,044	221,781	313,107
Outbound Flights	5,637	4,647	4,781	4,823	4,822	5,557	6,051	2,877	3,037
Freight/Mail (lbs.)	387k	492k	351k	369k	340k	403k	238k	3.6k	2.5k
Carriers	13	14	10	13	12	13	12	10	9
% On Time									
Departure	86%	80%	84%	87%	83%	81%	84%	82%	86%
Arrival	71%	71%	75%	83%	81%	77%	79%	81%	83%
Average Delay (minutes)									
Departure	78.45	87.79	84.26	93.64	126.15	88.49	92.95	99.32	77.53
Arrival	64.36	60.98	55.66	65.73	71.44	62.89	64.26	65.93	49.75
% Cancelled	3%	5%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	7%	2%
# of Carriers Reporting	3	2	2	3	3	7	6	7	5

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

# Broadband Access



**“As of the most recent data available, about 81.0 percent of households in the region have smartphones – a proportion that grew considerably from 66.0 percent in 2016.”**

## BROADBAND ACCESS

The share of households with any internet subscription has been growing since detailed data has been kept by the Census Bureau (2015). As of 2019, about 85 percent of the region’s households have internet subscriptions (compared with 86 percent statewide). New data at the county level was not available for 2020, but statewide, the share of households with any internet subscription continued to grow, reaching 86.3 percent.

As of the most recent data available, about 81 percent of households in the region have smartphones – a proportion that grew considerably from 66 percent in 2016. While internet access is less widespread among lower income households, nearly 69 percent of regional and statewide households with annual income under \$20,000 have internet access.

Households with Any Internet Subscription			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2020	No Data	No Data	86.3%
2019	87.3%	83.9%	85.9%
2018	84.1%	82.1%	84.5%
2017	80.8%	79.6%	82.0%
2016	75.9%	74.9%	81.0%
2015	73.8%	70.0%	76.5%

Households with a Smartphone			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2020	No Data	No Data	No Data
2019	82.7%	79.8%	82.4%
2018	79.0%	77.0%	79.7%
2017	73.3%	72.2%	75.8%
2016	66.4%	66.4%	70.8%

Households with Any Internet Subscription: Household Income Less than \$20,000			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania
2020	No Data	No Data	No Data
2019	75.6%	63.9%	64.7%
2018	63.3%	58.0%	61.8%
2017	56.3%	55.4%	54.8%
2016	52.1%	46.7%	54.0%
2015	47.2%	41.6%	48.3%

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

# The Institute

*Turning Information into Insight*

The Institute was founded on the belief that good decisions are driven by good data. Our mission is to provide empirical, objective information that drives discussion and informs decisions.

Institute research on a wide range of topics helps policymakers, and community leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors understand and address some of the region's most challenging problems.

For the past 18 years, underwriting donations from our generous partners have produced research initiatives that have improved the region and changed people's lives in tangible ways and have supported student stipends for research interns from our 13 member higher education consortium.

The following pages are profiles from our most current research underwriters. The Institute would also like to thank the Sordoni Family Foundation and the Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation for their generosity. Both foundations provided the seed capital to start The Institute and have provided annual support since its inception.

If you would like to ensure that regional data and research continues to support informed choices leading to greater economic vitality for business, residents and the region as a whole, please consider research underwriting support to The Institute.

Best Regards,

Teri, Andrew, Jill, Jo, and Sarah





## A Great Place to Live, Work and Play!

Luzerne County is an exciting and growing community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This picturesque region, with its rolling mountains, vast valleys and plentiful waterways, is home to approximately 350,000 residents. Once fueled by the anthracite coal industry, Luzerne County is experiencing a rebirth as a variety of businesses, both large and small, discover the benefits of the area. The evidence of this is seen every day as more big-name corporations, tech companies, restaurants and shops choose to settle in Luzerne County. An exceptional collection of colleges can also be found here, attracting students to the area from around the country and the globe.

Seventy-six municipal jurisdictions, including four cities: Hazleton, Nanticoke, Pittston and Wilkes-Barre, make up Luzerne County under the direction of County Council and County Manager. Collaboration among the local governments and private and public organizations contribute to the success of the region.

Those living throughout Luzerne County enjoy the natural beauty of the area, including four state parks, a thriving arts community with local theater and big stage performances, along with sporting events from the Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Penguins, AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

Countless opportunities, a strong sense of community and plenty to see and do make Luzerne County a great place to live, work and play!



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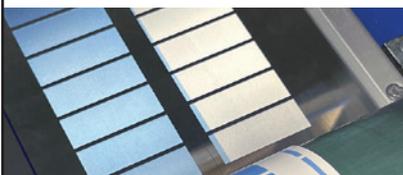


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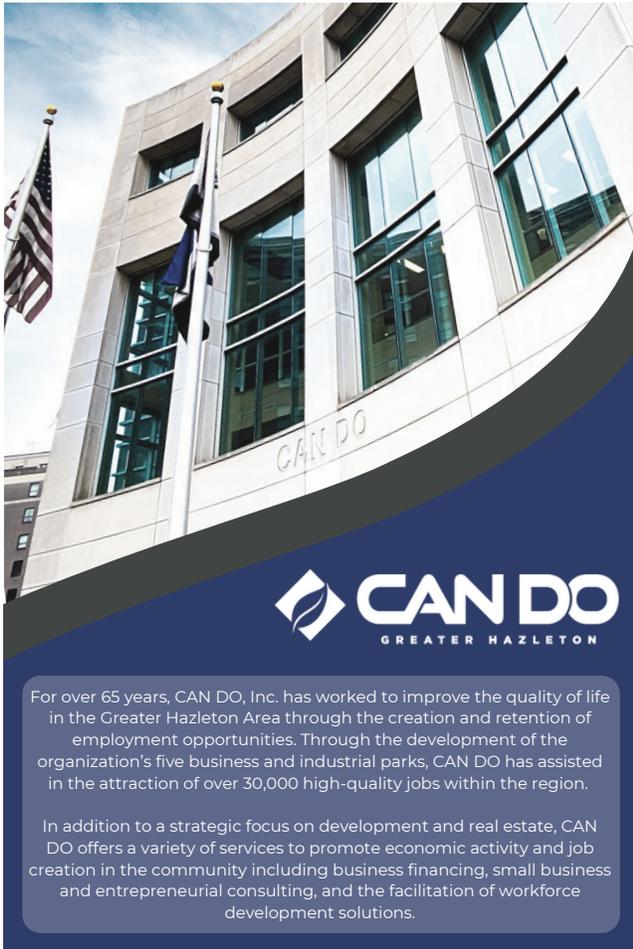
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Dunmore, PA 18512



For over 65 years, CAN DO, Inc. has worked to improve the quality of life in the Greater Hazleton Area through the creation and retention of employment opportunities. Through the development of the organization's five business and industrial parks, CAN DO has assisted in the attraction of over 30,000 high-quality jobs within the region.

In addition to a strategic focus on development and real estate, CAN DO offers a variety of services to promote economic activity and job creation in the community including business financing, small business and entrepreneurial consulting, and the facilitation of workforce development solutions.

# NAVIENT

Navient is a leader in education loan management and business processing solutions for education, healthcare, and government clients at the federal, state, and local levels.

Headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, Navient employs more than 5,900 team members across 10 states, with more than 400 located in northeastern Pennsylvania.

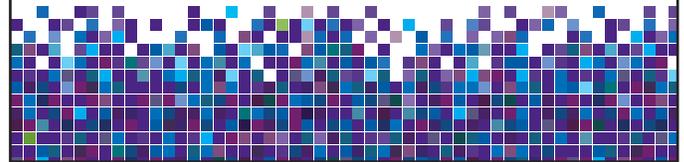
For more than 45 years, we have enhanced the financial success of our customers by delivering innovative solutions and insights with compassion and personalized service.

[Navient.com](http://Navient.com)

[linkedin.com/company/navient](https://www.linkedin.com/company/navient)

[Jobs.navient.com](https://jobs.navient.com)

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THE WRIGHT CENTER  
for  
COMMUNITY HEALTH

THE WRIGHT CENTER  
for  
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

For more than 45 years, The Wright Center has been committed to providing non-discriminatory, high-quality, safety-net health services to the region's most vulnerable populations while creating the primary care workforce pipeline America needs.

This mission is carried out in two complementary entities: **The Wright Center for Community Health**, a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike with a growing network of community health centers throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wayne counties, and **The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education**, recognized as the largest national Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Consortium dedicated to training compassionate, highly skilled primary care physicians.

By mission and design, our physician-led nonprofit is community-based and patient-directed. We exist to serve those who have limited access to healthcare, with a vision to integrate patient care delivery, workforce development and innovation to be the leading model of primary healthcare in America.

[TheWrightCenter.org](http://TheWrightCenter.org)



# FNCB Bank®

## OUR MISSION

To Make Your Banking Experience Simply Better

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*Here for good.™*

The Luzerne Foundation works to enhance the lives of Luzerne County residents by evaluating and addressing community needs through strategic grantmaking, promoting responsible philanthropy, and connecting donors to causes that matter to them.

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



PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. PNC is a coast-to-coast franchise with an extensive retail branch network and a presence in all of the country's 30 largest markets. Across the country and through four strategic international offices, PNC provides retail banking, including residential mortgage, corporate and institutional banking, and asset management. As a National Main Street Bank, PNC is committed to delivering on each of its strategic priorities while looking out for the best interests of all its key stakeholders, including its customers, communities, employees and shareholders.



M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the northeastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated

companies and by M&T Bank. For more information on M&T Bank, visit [www.mtb.com](http://www.mtb.com)

M&T Bank is organized around 19 community bank regions led by local regional presidents. This means decisions about loans and community activities are made locally, by the people in the bank who know the community best.

#### Fast Facts

- One of the 20 largest U.S.-based commercial banks
- As of April 2, 2022, People's United Financial, Inc. is now part of M&T Bank
- 155.1 billion in assets as of December 31, 2021
- 4.1 million customers
- 22,000+ team members
- 1,000+ domestic full-service branches
- 2,200+ ATMs
- Online and mobile services, built for both personal and business customers

# Academic Partners



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BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.



**KING'S**  
**COLLEGE**  
TRANSFORMATION. COMMUNITY. HOLY CROSS.



LACKAWANNA COLLEGE



**LUZERNE**  
County Community College



**Marywood**  
UNIVERSITY



**MISERICORDIA**  
UNIVERSITY

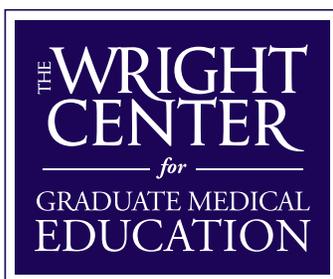


**PennState**  
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**PennState**  
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A JESUIT UNIVERSITY



**Wilkes**  
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# The Institute

*Turning Information into Insight*

A partnership among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, 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 for Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University and the business community

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Office locations in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA  
570.408.9850

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

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