

Quarterly Economy Tracker

Distribution and e-Commerce Industry Cluster Growing in Lackawanna & Luzerne

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

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In Northeastern Pennsylvania, there has been a tremendous growth in distribution and related industries over the past several years. Traded clusters are groups of related industries that serve markets beyond the region in which they are located. In other words, they represent our region's economic base.

In Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, employment in Distribution and e-Commerce has grown steadily, even during the economic downturn that began in 2008. The net job creation between 1998 and 2011 was 2,708 for Lackawanna County and 5,656 for Luzerne County. In the table below, the expected value shown indicates the net job growth that would be expected if the two counties matched national

growth trends. This means that Distribution and e-Commerce is growing in both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties at a much faster pace than the United States as a whole.

In the two counties, the average annual wage in the traded cluster was \$36,910 in 2011, which is approximately on par with average annual salary of workers in all industries in the two counties. In that year, the average annual wage for all

private-sector jobs was \$35,067 in Lackawanna County and \$35,528 in Luzerne County according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average wages in the Distribution and e-Commerce cluster have been somewhat higher in Lackawanna County than in Luzerne County.

Within this traded cluster, there are a number of sub-clusters that represent

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Job Creation in Distribution and e-Commerce		
	Lackawanna County	Luzerne County
Employment, 2011	5,725	9,719
Employment, 1998	3,017	4,063
Job Creation	+2,708	+5,656
Expected Value	+331	+445

Distribution and e-Commerce in Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties				
	1998	2007	2009	2011
Employment	7,080	11,796	13,905	15,444
Wages	\$30,987	\$37,282	\$37,547	\$36,910

Welcome to the New Economy Tracker!

Here at The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development, we are pleased to present our revamped and reorganized Economy Tracker. Until this year, The Institute has published the Economy Tracker as an annual collection of economic data and analysis. Beginning in 2014, we are pleased to be able to offer the Economy Tracker on a quarterly basis with an added emphasis on highlighting

important issues, trends, and contexts that are shaping the regional economy. This would not be possible without the support of our Signature Underwriter, the Willary Foundation, and Contributing Underwriter UGI Utilities.

Understanding and interpreting key economic data is of vital importance to our region. In several economic benchmarks, including unemployment, income, and job crea-

tion, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties fall behind the United States and Pennsylvania in per capita income and several other key indicators. Therefore, careful study of economic data is necessary in order to inform both business decisions and public policy. The Institute's publication will continue to provide both data and analysis that we hope will advance numerous conversations in our region. ♦

Distribution and e-Commerce (continued)

more specific types of economic activity. In 2011, warehousing and storage accounted for more than 40 percent of all jobs in the cluster. The table below shows the six largest subclusters by employment in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. The largest subclusters in the region as of 2011 also tended to be the fastest growing areas. Two subclusters, Wholesale of Farm Products and Supplies and Electronic and Catalog Shopping, both saw a more than doubling of employment between 2007 and 2011. There was also a growth in the Wholesale of Jewelry, Watches, Precious Stones, and Precious Metals. In general, subclusters with declining employment have been wholesalers of durable goods, including furniture, sporting and recreational goods, and apparel and accessories.

This phenomenal growth of distribution and related industries in Northeastern Pennsylvania can be attributed to numerous factors. First, the Interstate Highway System is readily accessible. Major highways as well as freight rail lines link the region with larger metro areas up and down

the Eastern Seaboard and provide access to ports for international shipping. Furthermore, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties have a good supply of affordable sites for development compared to other regions in the Northeastern United States. In order to encourage further growth in these

industries, our area must continue to improve its transportation infrastructure, explore ways to further decrease the cost of doing business, and promote itself as an emerging hub for distribution and e-commerce. ♦

Lackawanna & Luzerne County - Largest Subclusters by Employment				
Subcluster	2007	2011	Change	
Warehousing and Storage	3,850	6,527	69.5%	
Wholesale of Farm Products and Supplies	516	1,278	147.7%	
Electronic and Catalog Shopping	441	990	124.5%	
Support Services	671	931	38.7%	
Wholesale of Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	863	761	-11.8%	
Wholesale of Construction and Mining Machinery and Equipment	529	702	32.7%	
All Other Subclusters	4,926	4,255	-13.6%	
Total for Distribution and e-Commerce Traded Cluster	11,796	15,444	30.9%	

Lackawanna & Luzerne County - Top Five Subcluster Gains/Losses as a Percentage of Employment				
	2007	2011	Change	
Wholesale of Farm Products and Supplies	516	1,278	147.67%	
Electronic and Catalog Shopping	441	990	124.49%	
Wholesale of Jewelry, Watches, Precious Stones, and Precious Metals	10	20	100.00%	
Warehousing and Storage	3,850	6,527	69.53%	
Wholesale of Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	253	417	64.82%	
Wholesale of Sporting and Recreational Goods and Supplies	94	20	-78.72%	
Wholesale of Petroleum and Petroleum Products	223	90	-59.64%	
Wholesale of Apparel and Accessories	436	180	-58.72%	
Wholesale of Furniture and Home Furnishing	449	279	-37.86%	
Wholesale of Farm and Garden Machinery and Equipment	16	10	-37.50%	

Labor Force Participation Rate Remains Below Pre-Recession Levels

There are many unique measures used by economists to measure the health of the job market. The most commonly understood is the unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the overall labor force that is not employed. The labor force is simply defined as the population of people either employed or seeking employment; in other words, the total workforce. The labor force participation rate represents the share of the total population that are in the labor force.

Though our region has seen a falling unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate for adults age 18 and older remained at 62.7 percent, well below the figures seen prior to 2010. There are several factors that may be responsible for this trend.

The first possible cause is frustrated job seekers giving up their job search and dropping out of the labor market. This may also explain at least some of the decline in the unemployment rate.

	Labor Force			
	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County	
	Labor Force	Participation Rate	Labor Force	Participation Rate
2005	105,644	66.7%	157,917	66.5%
2006	106,176	63.9%	158,575	63.4%
2007	106,692	64.2%	158,796	63.6%
2008	108,507	65.2%	161,720	64.7%
2009	107,289	64.8%	161,425	64.8%
2010	106,945	62.5%	160,736	62.7%
2011	107,170	62.9%	160,302	60.3%
2012	107,463	62.7%	161,481	62.7%
2013	107,236	-	160,957	-

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; American Fact Finder

Demographic changes can also cause falling labor force participation. For example, as Baby Boomers age, they may be retiring at a faster pace than young people are entering the workforce.

Furthermore, young people may be waiting longer to enter the labor force as more and more high school graduates pursue some form of postsecondary education. ♦

Geographic Patterns in the Job Market

An important component of our regional economy is the geographic relationship between workers and jobs. The commuting trends of workers have implications beyond just traffic congestion; they can shed light on where firms choose to locate and where workers choose to live. Businesses typically attempt to maximize several efficiencies through their location, including proximity to customers, supply chains, infrastructure, and workforce. Examining these patterns show us where firms are doing business and where residents of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are going to work.

These tables show municipality of work for residents of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. Since 2002, there has been a trend of job decentralization. Historically, jobs have been concentrated in urban centers. In 2002, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre together employed 59,751 local residents, 25.4 percent of the total. By 2011, that percentage had fallen to 23.1 percent, and over 6,100 fewer local residents worked in either city. Though both cities are likely to remain the top job centers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, these shifts over a period of ten years are considerable.

Where, then, are these jobs going? Though some communities, such as Pittston Township and Hazle Township, have seen significant job growth, there is no single municipality that is emerging as a major job center. Instead, jobs are becoming more spread out, and more workers are commuting out of the area entirely for work. An increasing proportion of workers are now working in municipalities that are outside of the top 25 largest job destinations (as ranked by total jobs held by Lackawanna and Luzerne county residents). One likely driver behind this trend is the tremendous growth of warehousing and distribution industries during that time period. Those firms are typically located outside of city centers, nearer to highway or rail transportation and where there is abundant and affordable space for development.

An increasing share of residents also travel outside of the area for work. The percentage of local residents who work out-of-state doubled between 2002 and 2011, and the number of commuters to the Philadelphia metro area rose by over 30 percent and accounted for 14,595 jobs held by Lackawanna and Luzerne county residents in 2011. The number of com-

muters to the Northern New Jersey/New York City metro area is smaller, but grew by 79 percent between 2002 and 2011. This speaks to the desirability of Northeastern Pennsylvania as a place to live and likely reflects its relatively low cost of living compared with counties closer to Philadelphia and New York City.

The decentralization of jobs in our regional economy underscores the importance of transportation infrastructure. Further investment in transportation, including public transit, must be made so that people can still get to work in areas farther from housing. There is also an economic development implication to these trends. Less centralization of jobs could mean greater competition between communities to attract jobs. Thus, there is a need to create a culture of cooperation for regional economic development so that our regional economy can be strengthened. As indicated by this data, people do not live their lives by municipal or political boundaries. The communities of our area need to take a regional approach to problem solving and promote our region not just as an attractive place to live, but as an attractive place to do business. ♦

Places of Work for Lackawanna & Luzerne County Residents: 2002		
Scranton city	36,399	15.5%
Wilkes-Barre city	23,352	9.9%
Kingston borough	8,261	3.5%
Dunmore borough	8,009	3.4%
Hanover township	7,953	3.4%
Hazleton city	7,572	3.2%
Plains township	6,623	2.8%
Moosic borough	4,117	1.7%
Wilkes-Barre township	3,893	1.7%
Dickson City borough	3,527	1.5%
All other places	125,874	53.4%
Total	235,580	100.0%

County of Work for Lackawanna & Luzerne County Residents: 2002		
Luzerne County	105,157	44.6%
Lackawanna County	77,644	33.0%
Elsewhere in Pennsylvania	49,707	21.1%
Out of State	3,072	1.3%
Total	235,580	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau LEHD On TheMap

Places of Work for Lackawanna & Luzerne County Residents: 2011		
Scranton city	31,508	13.6%
Wilkes-Barre city	22,137	9.5%
Kingston borough	7,340	3.2%
Plains township	7,287	3.1%
Dunmore borough	6,413	2.8%
Hanover township	5,786	2.5%
Hazleton city	5,028	2.2%
Moosic borough	4,772	2.1%
Pittston township	4,175	1.8%
Hazle township	4,080	1.8%
All other places	133,701	57.4%
Total	232,227	100.0%

County of Work for Lackawanna & Luzerne County Residents: 2011		
Luzerne County	95,799	41.3%
Lackawanna County	69,938	30.1%
Elsewhere in Pennsylvania	60,365	26.0%
Out of State	6,125	2.6%
Total	232,227	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau LEHD On TheMap

Selected Economic Indicators

Establishments by Industry

The US Census Bureau defines an establishment as a physical location where business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed.

Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties saw small increases in the total number of working establishments from 2011 to 2012. The total increase in establishments was less than one percent for both counties. In Lackawanna County, the greatest growth of establishments was in accommodation and food service and health care and social assistance while wholesale trade saw the largest decrease. In Luzerne County, transportation and warehousing and health care and social assistance were the two largest growers, while the information industry had the greatest decline.

The retail trade industry had the most establishments in both counties, while Health Care and Social Assistance had the second most establishments in 2012. Of the total number of establishments in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, about 70 percent of those establishments had fewer than 10 employees, indicating a large number of small businesses in the two counties. The number of these small businesses grew for both counties from 2011 to 2012.

One of the strengths of the regional economy is that there is a fair distribution in the business sectors. This means the region has balance and is not dependent on one sector to succeed. Economies with a predominant sector run the risk of steep declines should that sector fail.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns

Number of Establishments in an Industry by Amount of Employees - Lackawanna County 2012										
2012	Total Establishments	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
Total Sectors	5357	2580	1074	667	476	191	99	30	5	5
Construction	444	308	57	42	34	3	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	238	71	36	46	40	20	19	5	1	0
Wholesale Trade	268	116	52	35	47	12	5	1	0	0
Retail Trade	927	398	236	156	83	30	21	3	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	167	71	27	29	20	40	5	5	0	0
Finance and Insurance	307	158	87	28	18	6	5	2	2	1
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	136	87	38	6	4	1	0	0	0	0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	490	319	86	47	30	4	2	1	0	1
Administration, Support, Waste Management Remediation	235	138	34	21	19	11	9	3	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	728	289	178	124	64	36	23	10	1	3
Accommodation and Food Services	591	274	96	89	99	25	7	0	1	0
Other Services (Excludes Public Transportation)	566	351	147	44	18	3	3	0	0	0

Number of Establishments in an Industry by Amount of Employees - Luzerne County 2012										
	Total Establishments	1-5	5-10	10-20	20-50	50-100	100-250	250-500	500-1000	1000+
Total Sectors	7219	3492	1489	963	591	226	153	40	14	6
Construction	569	380	84	56	35	9	5	0	0	0
Manufacturing	311	91	45	49	49	28	35	11	2	1
Wholesale Trade	345	148	79	65	29	14	5	4	1	0
Retail Trade	1242	545	309	209	107	37	29	5	1	0
Transportation and Warehousing	276	116	44	38	43	17	9	6	1	2
Information	121	51	23	18	17	8	3	1	0	0
Finance and Insurance	425	216	132	43	22	7	2	1	2	0
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	205	138	45	19	1	1	1	0	0	0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	574	386	93	56	24	8	5	0	2	0
Administration, Support, Waste Management Remediation	390	199	64	58	34	15	14	5	1	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	973	368	264	169	85	34	39	7	4	3
Accommodation and Food Services	742	311	133	125	124	44	5	0	0	0
Other Services (Excludes Public Transportation)	801	543	174	58	21	4	1	0	0	0

Selected Economic Indicators

Total Annual Payroll

From 2011 to 2012 the percent increase of total payroll in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, and the state of Pennsylvania. There was only a small increase in payroll in Lackawanna County, and there was a decrease in the payroll of the retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries (0.78 percent, 2.49 percent, and 3.61 percent decrease respectively). While Lackawanna County showed a decrease in payroll from 2011 to 2012 in the transportation and warehousing industry, Luzerne County had a 30 percent increase in payroll from 2011 to 2012 showing that Luzerne County's public transportation and warehousing industries are growing. Luzerne County showed no significant decreases in payroll which was fairly consistent with the state as a whole. The region still lags behind the state average in payroll change. This has been the case for several years demonstrating that business and job growth has been challenged since before the recession. Source: U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns

Payroll - Annual (in thousands)									
	Pennsylvania			Lackawanna County			Luzerne County		
	2011	2012	% Change	2011	2012	% Change	2011	2012	% Change
All Sectors	222,252,066	231,749,663	4.27%	3,106,517	3,126,400	0.64%	4,287,146	4,460,289	4.04%
Manufacturing	27,825,665	28,202,885	1.36%	359,076	362,533	0.96%	675,166	715,920	6.04%
Retail Trade	15,600,318	15,673,760	0.47%	285,754	283,536	-0.78%	420,904	428,477	1.80%
Transportation and Warehousing	7,560,564	7,821,442	3.45%	168,188	164,008	-2.49%	257,575	335,369	30.20%
Finance and Insurance	18,514,743	19,864,153	7.29%	293,801	295,391	0.54%	241,236	257,924	6.92%
Educational Services	9,262,628	9,723,859	4.98%	180,450	185,316	2.70%	109,410	110,421	0.92%
Accommodation and Food Services	6,638,947	6,603,513	-0.53%	107,892	112,281	4.07%	138,225	138,195	-0.02%
Health Care and Social Assistance	38,930,769	40,491,692	4.01%	811,447	782,168	-3.61%	940,228	986,788	4.95%

Per Capita Income

Per capita income is calculated as the total aggregate income earned in a region divided by the total population of that region. The income per capita showed a steady increase from 2002 to 2012 in both Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, as well as the state and the nation as a whole. However, this increase does not account for inflation; in real dollars, per capita income increased by a much smaller margin between 2002 and 2012.

Both counties' per capita income grew at a rate below the state's rate of about 40 percent, but Lackawanna County showed an increase that was greater than the nation's increase in income per capita.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, calculations made using population data from U.S. Census Bureau.

Average Wage Per Job

The average wage per job shows an increase from 2002 to 2012 for both counties, but the rate of growth was still well below the state and national changes. Both counties were very similar in the wages per job, but Luzerne County was slightly higher in the average wage per job. However, Lackawanna County had a higher percent increase in the average wage per job from 2002 to 2012.

Many attribute the lower wages to the fact that there is a lower cost of living in the region, however, the cost of housing has been rising faster than wages creating more economic challenges locally. This is a contributing factor to the higher poverty level the region experiences.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per Capita Income (Not Inflation Adjusted)				
	2002	2007	2012	Percent Change
Lackawanna County	28,971	35,775	40,254	38.95%
Luzerne County	28,354	35,072	38,654	36.33%
Pennsylvania	32,154	39,923	45,083	40.21%
United States	31,728	37,762	43,782	37.99%

Average Wage Per Job (Not Inflation Adjusted)					
	2002	2008	2010	2012	Percent Change
Lackawanna County	28,523	34,363	35,425	36,488	27.92%
Luzerne County	29,645	34,811	35,974	37,695	27.15%
Pennsylvania	35,083	43,366	44,789	47,334	34.92%
United States	44,990	56,431	58,676	61,648	37.03%

Selected Economic Indicators

Employment and Job Creation by Traded Cluster

Traded clusters are groups of related industries that serve markets beyond the region in which they are located. They bring new money into the region. In other words, they represent our region's economic base.

The employment for the largest five traded clusters in both counties are shown here. In Lackawanna County, Education and Knowledge Creation remained the top traded cluster with increased employment of 17 percent from 2007 to 2011. The Food Processing and Manufacturing trade cluster jumped from the number ten slot to the fifth most employed cluster due to a 15.5 percent increase in employment from 2007 to 2011.

In Luzerne County, the Distribution and Electronic Commerce cluster remained as the number one cluster from 2007 to 2011 and had a 39 percent increase in total employment, while the business services cluster remained the second largest cluster by employment despite a nearly 12 percent decrease in employment from 2007 to 2011. While less than one third the size of employment, Hospitality and Tourism demonstrated the second largest in percentage growth and moved from the fifth ranked to fourth.

The charts at right show net job creation between 1998 and 2011 for the five traded clusters with the largest net gains and the five traded clusters with the largest net decline. The expected value shows the net change that would be expected if the counties followed trends in the U.S. as a whole. It can be used to show which clusters have outperformed or underperformed in our area. In both counties, Distribution and Electronic Commerce showed the greatest growth; both exceeded the expected value. Education and Knowledge Creation also showed job growth in the region, though to a smaller extent than the United States in general.

Source: www.clustermapping.us (A project of Harvard Business School and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.)

Employment by Traded Cluster, Lackawanna County					
	2007		2011		Percent Change
	Number of Employees	County Rank	Number of Employees	County Rank	
Education and Knowledge Creation	5,487	1	6,420	1	17.00%
Distribution and Electronic Commerce	4,963	3	5,725	2	15.35%
Business Services	4,809	2	4,213	3	-12.39%
Insurance Services	2,833	4	2,334	4	-17.61%
Food Processing and Manufacturing	1,225	10	1,415	5	15.51%

Employment by Traded Cluster, Luzerne County					
	2007		2011		Percent Change
	Number of Employees	County Rank	Number of Employees	County Rank	
Distribution and Electronic Commerce	6,987	1	9,719	1	39.10%
Business Services	6,860	2	6,054	2	-11.75%
Education and Knowledge Creation	3,158	3	3,386	3	7.22%
Hospitality and Tourism	2,549	5	3,129	4	22.75%
Plastics	2,968	4	3,088	5	4.04%

Job Creation by Traded Cluster, Lackawanna County (1998 - 2011)		
Cluster Name	Net Change	Expected Value
Distribution and Electronic Commerce	2708	331
Education and Knowledge Creation	1736	2674
Transportation and Logistics	643	0
Insurance Services	319	-213
Food Processing and Manufacturing	305	-37
Paper and Packaging	-565	-296
Financial Services	-662	34
Apparel	-1219	-1068
Video Production and Distribution	-1355	257
Information Technology and Analytical Instruments	-1810	-665

Job Creation by Traded Cluster, Luzerne County (1998 - 2011)		
Cluster Name	Net Change	Expected Value
Distribution and Electronic Commerce	5656	445
Medical Devices	1208	3
Hospitality and Tourism	926	153
Education and Knowledge Creation	828	1460
Business Services	672	1931
Vulcanized and Fired Materials	-1140	-790
Insurance Services	-1167	-276
Construction Products and Services	-1213	-207
Production Technology and Heavy Machinery	-1270	-646
Transportation and Logistics	-1838	-1

Selected Economic Indicators

Inflow/Outflow and Distance to Work

Inflow and Outflow show the commuting patterns in the two counties - the number of county residents who commute outside the county to work, the number of workers in the county who come from outside, and the number of jobs held by workers who also live inside the county (internal jobs). In 2011, Lackawanna County had a net inflow, meaning that more workers commuted into the county than residents that commuted out of the county. Luzerne County showed the inverse - a net outflow.

The tables below show the distance to work for residents of the two counties. Between 2007 and 2011, an increasing number of commuters and traveling longer distances to work.

The data supports that job growth is limited in the region and more residents are seeking employment elsewhere yet choose to remain residents of the region. While this speaks to generally quality of life, the stunted job growth also creates sales leakage as commuters spend money outside of the region.

Another aspect is that people choose to work elsewhere because wages are higher in the easily accessible metropolitan areas. They choose the longer commute to earn the higher wages. Local payroll and wage data support this thesis.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau LEHD (OnTheMap.ces.census.gov)

Inflow/Outflow - Lackawanna County		
	2007	2011
Employed in the County, Live Outside the County	32,613	37,034
Live in the County, Employed Outside	31,180	33,699
Employed and Living in the County (Internal Jobs)	61,875	59,121

Inflow/Outflow - Luzerne County		
	2007	2011
Employed in the County, Live Outside the County	43,209	46,194
Live in the County, Employed Outside	45,453	52,608
Employed and Living in the County (Internal Jobs)	87,833	86,799

Distance to Work - Lackawanna County Residents				
	2007		2011	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total All Jobs	93,055	100.0%	92,820	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	58,885	63.3%	55,974	60.3%
10 to 24 miles	15,381	16.5%	14,653	15.8%
25 to 50 miles	4,577	4.9%	4,403	4.7%
Greater than 50 miles	14,212	15.3%	17,790	19.2%

Distance to Work - Luzerne County Residents				
	2007		2011	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total All Jobs	133,286	100.0%	139,407	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	78,986	59.3%	76,253	54.7%
10 to 24 miles	23,946	18.0%	26,034	18.7%
25 to 50 miles	11,258	8.4%	11,663	8.4%
Greater than 50 miles	19,096	14.3%	25,457	18.3%

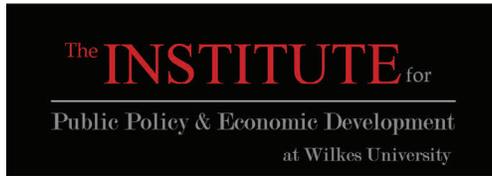
Signature Underwriter

WILLARY FOUNDATION
 Founded by William W. Scranton & Mary L. Scranton

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

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

Supporting Underwriter



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

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Data Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, clustermapping.us

Labor Market at a Glance

According to preliminary figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in June 2014, the unemployment rate in Lackawanna County was 6.7 percent, marginally lower than the month before. In Luzerne County, the unemployment rate held steady at 7.1 percent. Both counties' unemployment rates appear to be trending downward since 2012, and 2014's rates so far are an improvement over the 2013 average. However, unemployment in both counties is higher than both the national and statewide figures.

Further complicating the two counties' economic recovery is the decline in the labor force and total employment. Total employment in the two counties remains over 8,200 lower in June 2014 than in 2007. In the first half of 2014, the total labor force has been low compared with prior years. This means that fewer workers are searching for jobs. ♦

	Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Pennsylvania	United States
2007	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.6
2008	5.9	6.3	5.3	5.8
2009	8.1	8.9	7.9	9.3
2010	9.1	9.9	8.5	9.6
2011	9.2	9.5	8	8.9
2012	9.0	9.7	7.9	8.1
2013	8.6	9.3	7.4	7.4
Mar '14	7.5	8.3	6.4	6.8
Apr '14	6.2	6.5	5.1	5.9
May '14	6.8	7.1	5.7	6.1
Jun '14*	6.7	7.1	5.8	6.3

June 2014 figures are preliminary.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	Labor Force & Employment			
	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County	
	Labor Force	Employment	Labor Force	Employment
2007	106,692	101,625	158,796	150,934
2008	108,507	102,152	161,720	151,524
2009	107,299	99,801	161,425	147,088
2010	108,945	97,210	160,736	144,844
2011	107,170	97,354	160,302	145,122
2012	107,483	97,800	161,481	145,748
2013	107,236	97,981	160,957	146,015
Mar '14	105,394	97,494	158,418	145,290
Apr '14	104,581	98,051	156,342	146,119
May '14	104,482	97,388	156,272	145,129
Jun '14*	105,153	98,108	157,414	146,205

June 2014 figures are preliminary.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics