

The INSTITUTE for

Public Policy & Economic Development

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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



Quarterly Economy Tracker — Recap

The Institute published its first Quarterly Economy Tracker in September 2014. The Tracker is designed to highlight economic and business data for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and explore current economic trends and issues facing the region. Once again, we would like to recognize the Willary Foundation, the Economy Tracker's Signature Underwriter, and UGI, our Supporting Underwriter for their support of the project. A synopsis of the featured articles is presented below.

- Distribution and E-Commerce Industry Cluster Growing in Lackawanna and Luzerne County even through the Great Recession.
- Labor Force Participation Rate Remains Below Pre-Recession Levels. The labor force participation rate for adults age 18 and older remained at 62.7%, well below the figures seen prior to 2010. There are several factors that may be responsible for this trend.
- Geographic Patterns in the Job Market - 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. This is a major factor that demonstrates the interdependence of the two counties as more people live in one and work in the other.

To read the full Quarterly Economy Tracker, follow this link: <http://institutepea.org/PDF/EconomyTracker/etfall2014.pdf>

The next Quarterly Economy Tracker will be released in early December and will highlight the region's healthcare employment and municipal economic indicators focusing on Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Hazleton.

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Committed to research and analysis leading to revitalization and sustainability for private, public, and non-profit organizations

Fall Interns 2014

The Institute would like to thank our Fall 2014 interns for all of their hard work throughout the semester. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

King's College

Genel Gronkowski
Robert Kehler
Sean Moran

University of Scranton

April Francia

Wilkes University

AJ Rasheed
Alexander Rodino
Asma Binladen

If you are interested in a competitive internship, please contact Research Assistant Nimita Patel for eligibility criteria at patel@institutepepa.org or via phone at 570-408-9850 or visit our website: http://institutepepa.org/student_internships.html

2014-2015 Indicators Report Sneak Peak

We have begun our work on the 2014-2015 Task Force projects and are ready to give you a sneak peak. Our seven task forces are: Housing, Education and Workforce Development, Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development (JEED), Planning, Land use, Transportation, and Infrastructure (PLuTI), Health and Health Care, Energy, and Public Safety.

Health and Health Care: The growth in the number of Autism diagnoses is staggering. There is longitudinal data to support this. Autism is not easily explained or understood and while there are local resources, the scope, depth, and capacity should be reviewed. Further, there is a public health or public policy component that should be addressed—there are no resources for Autistic children once they turn 18. Given the large percentage of children with Autism, what happens to them and how does it impact the region if this isn't addressed?

Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development: We are in the midst of preparing a white paper that examines different methods to measure the labor market and economy. We can compare and contrast and trend total employment, unemployment rate, labor force, labor force participation rate, and average wages. We will explain how each is calculated and explain some of the methodological issues present in analyzing economic data while analyzing the overall economy of the region.

Education/Workforce Development: We are preparing a policy paper to provide support for senior project and comprehensive career planning in K-12.

Here is just a sneak peak! Look forward for more in our upcoming newsletters as well as our annual publication!

Project Outcomes

Columbia—Montour County: The Institute for Public Policy, along with partner Public Financial Management, completed a shared services study for both counties. The study included management and financial audit, and shared services report .

King's College: King's College applied to the statewide Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for funding to purchase the Ramada Hotel. The Institute prepared an economic impact study identifying the boost to the local economy during construction/renovation and operations.

Untied Way: The Institute prepared a regional needs assessment. As a result, the organization will adopt strategic priorities and solutions to address the region's most pressing issues by tackling the underlying causes. The study identified childhood poverty as the most dominant regional issue and that a focus on this issue will impact regional education, economy and public health.

Client List

Arts & Culture

Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Luzerne County Cultural Council

Corporate

Borton Lawson
Facility Design & Development, Ltd.
Transcontinental Pipeline Company, LLC
Ufberg Law
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Economic Development

Carbon Cty Chamber and Economic Development Corp.
Forum for Pennsylvania's Heartland
Great Valley Technology Alliance
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce
South Valley Partnership

Education & Workforce Development

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
King's College
Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board
Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board
Wall Street West/WIRED
Wayne/Pike Workforce Alliance
Wilkes University

Government

Appalachian Regional Commission
Borough of Factoryville

City of Nanticoke

City of Scranton

Civic Research Alliance

Columbia & Montour Counties

Lackawanna County

Local Government Commission

Luzerne County

Luzerne County Municipal Cooperation Commission

Wilkes-Barre City

Wyoming County

Health & Healthcare

Healthy Northeast Pennsylvania Initiative
Moses Taylor Hospital
The Commonwealth Medical College
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Non-Profit Organization

Arbor Housing & Development
Carbondale YMCA
Central Susquehanna Community Foundation
Jewish Community Center
Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation
Municipal Cooperation Commission
Nicholson Heritage Association
Pennsylvania Economy League
United way of Susquehanna County
United Way Wyoming Valley

The Institute prepares the following products:

- ⇒ Market and Feasibility Analyses
 - ⇒ Indicators – Indexes
- ⇒ Community Health Assessments
 - ⇒ HUD AI Studies
- ⇒ Economic Development Strategies
- ⇒ Economic and Tax Impact Studies
 - ⇒ Industry Studies
 - ⇒ Workforce Studies
 - ⇒ Education Studies
- ⇒ Economic and Demographic Profiles
- ⇒ Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation Support
 - ⇒ Research Validation and Peer Review
 - ⇒ Site Selection Research
- ⇒ Stimulus Project Analyses and Monitoring
 - ⇒ Arts & Culture Studies
 - ⇒ Tourism Strategic Plans
 - ⇒ Comprehensive Plans
 - ⇒ Asset Maps

If you or your firm is interested in becoming our next client, please contact us at info@instituteapa.org.

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Locations in Scranton & Wilkes-Barre, PA

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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701*

The Institute provides research, technical assistance, and facilitation and convening services to the private and public sector to develop:

- market and feasibility studies
- community/health assessments
- impact reports
- economic and community development plans
- strategy development planning and collaborative processes
- Industry studies
- social science research and survey design
- program and grant evaluations
- education and workforce studies
- tourism marketing plans

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