

The **INSTITUTE** for
Public Policy & Economic Development



**THE RISE OF LACKAWANNA
COUNTY:
AN EXAMINATION OF THE ORIGIN AND
FUTURE EFFECTS OF RECENT POPULATION SHIFTS**

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I. Executive Summary

For decades, Lackawanna County's population has been declining, and the future of northeastern Pennsylvania has been unclear. In this report, The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development investigates historical population declines by examining migration data. The Institute's findings reveal that there is reason to be hopeful.

Migration data, provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), allowed The Institute to track the movement of persons between states and counties. Upon review of this data, The Institute found that currently there is not only more in-migration than out-migration in Lackawanna County, but also that a significant percentage of Lackawanna County's in-migration is coming from neighboring states.

First we looked at in-migration data by state and found that Pennsylvania (77%) had the highest amount of migration into Lackawanna County followed by New York (10.3%) and New Jersey (9.7.2%). From there, the report provides a step-by-step process of determining a more exact source of the in-migration by examining county data.

The report then identifies in-migration versus out-migration statistics for the State from 1990 to 2006. The research shows that Pennsylvania has had a higher rate of in-migration since 2002 and the gap between in-migrants and out-migrants is increasing every year.

In breaking down the report further, the data showed in-migration from the top three states to Lackawanna County increased nearly every year since 2000. The report then compares 1990 to 2006 and 2000 to 2006 data to identify any potential migration patterns.

Net migration was an important aspect of this study. Net migration tracks the flows between two specific counties by calculating the difference between in-migration and out-migration. When we examined these flows, we found that several of the counties which contributed the highest in-migration to Lackawanna County also had the highest out-migration from Lackawanna County. Most notably, in Pennsylvania this included Wayne, Wyoming, and Susquehanna.

The report allows the reader to conclude that westward migration from New York and New Jersey that moved into Pennsylvania – primarily into Wayne County and into the Lehigh Valley is now poised to continue its westward movement to Luzerne and Lackawanna County.

The people movement that left New York and New Jersey for points eastward left those areas because of the high cost of housing and living. As in-migration into those

areas increased on an increasing basis annually, we saw the housing prices and cost of living rise in the Pocono and Lehigh Valley. It should be noted that movement from Philadelphia and its expensive suburbs added to the Lehigh Valley growth and now that movement is continuing into our region.

This region is poised for the growth not only because of the affordable and available housing at all price points, but also because of other favorable lower cost of living expenses and our quality of place. This region is not only geographically desirable, but also has many manmade and natural features with a number of recreation, culture, and venue activities. This region's proximity to major markets like: New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and Boston add to the attractiveness of the region. The transportation corridors and local airport are also regional assets.

The migration data highlights some interesting information about the people movement. Different economic groups are moving into the region. Low-moderate income and middle-upper middle income families are moving. Sales of higher priced homes were on the increase through 2007. Valuation of all homes has been increasing as well. That is due to more demand for housing. This will continue as the population growth continues. One can also conclude that this is why this region's housing decline is not as severe as the rest of the nation.

Many of the middle-upper middle income individuals are maintaining employment outside the region as wages and opportunities are not as strong here. This means that we lose a portion of our population to Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, New York, and New Jersey daily. With that goes some sales leakage as money is spent in-route and at their destination. Assessing the skills of this population segment and finding ways to recruit companies and/or create business start ups to employ them is a win- win situation.

The low-moderate income group is working locally. They have been working in retail, service, and the distribution industry. Some people are renting and others are joining with family members to purchase both single and multi-family housing.

Prior to the 2008 economic recession, this region's unemployment rate was declining and in the third and fourth quarter of 2007, employers had difficulty finding employees. This drove wages up slightly in the retail, service, and distribution industries for that time period which was positive for these new in-migrants.

The following state/counties have had the largest impact of in-migration on Lackawanna County:

- Pennsylvania's Luzerne, Wayne, Wyoming, and Susquehanna Counties
- New York's Kings, Broome, Queens and Suffolk Counties

- New Jersey's Middlesex, Morris and Essex Counties

What we should take away from this report is two fold. First, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are again following a similar path in terms of new population and therefore will experience similar opportunities and challenges as a result. Hence, working collaboratively to enhance opportunities while mitigating challenges is the best solution.

Second, this is the first time since the 1950's this region is experiencing population growth. Given that retrenchment has been the norm and there has been limited or no future planning, local government, non-profits, institutions, economic development and workforce development providers need to work together and prepare a growth plan for the region.

A number of regions have planned for growth successfully. We can capitalize on their accomplishments and learn from their mistakes. It must be clear that collaboration, cooperation, and innovative thinking will allow this region to capitalize on all the wonderful opportunities population growth can bring. This requires a thoughtful, yet open-minded process to move forward.

II. Methodology & Limitations

This report uses Internal Revenue Service (IRS) County-to-County Migration datasets. This data includes records from domestic tax forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ, as well as the foreign tax forms 1040NR, 1040PR, 1040VI and 1040SS. The County-to-County Migration data is updated annually and based on year-to-year changes in the addresses shown on the population of returns from the IRS Individual Master File System.¹

County-to-County Migration Flow Data shows migration patterns by county, based on address changes on individual income tax returns. The data is the result of a joint effort of the IRS and the U.S. Census Bureau. Personal exemptions represent the actual number of individuals [taxpayer(s) and dependents] reported on the tax return. These numbers change from year to year due to births, deaths, marriages, and dependents no longer counted as exemptions. The number of exemptions does not take into account any special provision for blindness or those age of 65 or older; such factors are accounted for in the return's tax computation portion. A county-to-county flow is defined as "significant" if it contains at least ten returns or if the flow is at least 0.5 percent of all county migrant exemptions.

Influential counties are determined by the number of migrants they contribute into Lackawanna County. The Institute also uses net migration to further examine the county's population shifts. Net migration is determined by the number of out-migrants subtracted by the number of in-migrants. Information is compiled by state, and further broken down by county. The data is then separated into two categories: in-migration and out-migration. In-migration data provides the total number of new returns filed for a particular county, along with where the residents came from. Out-migration data provides the total number of persons leaving a particular county, along with their new destination.

County-to-county migration data may be the largest dataset that tracks movement of both households and people from county to county, including family income. Because such data is obtained from income tax records, it is inclusive and reliable; the source and design of this dataset, however, has some limitations. As mentioned previously, those who are not required to file federal income tax returns are not included in the file. As such, the dataset under represents the poor. Also not included is the small percentage of tax returns filed after late September of the filing year. Because the IRS typically grants most taxpayers who file this late an extension, and because most taxpayers who request an extension are more likely to file high-income tax returns, the migration data set may also under represent the very wealthy.

¹ SOI Tax Stats - County-to-County Migration Data.
<http://www.irs.gov/taxstats/indtaxstats/article/0,,id=96816,00.html>

III. Determining the Source

Lackawanna County Migration Data

The table below examines Lackawanna County’s total in-migration from 1990 to 2006, which includes data from every state reported in IRS migration data. During the time span, migrants entered Lackawanna County from more than sixteen states. It is important to keep in mind that the IRS does not include data for counties with fewer than ten filings.

Lackawanna County In-Migration 1990-2006			
Rank	Location	Total	%
1	Pennsylvania	38,344	77.0%
2	New York	5,141	10.3%
3	New Jersey	3,565	7.2%
4	Foreign	1,140	2.3%
5	Florida	621	1.2%
6	California	272	0.5%
7	Connecticut	169	0.3%
8	Arizona	141	0.3%
9	Virginia	139	0.3%
10	Maryland	123	0.2%
11	Delaware	48	0.1%
12	Rhode Island	34	0.1%
13	Kansas	26	0.1%
14	Nevada	21	0.0%
15	Illinois	20	0.0%
16	North Carolina	15	0.0%

Comprising a total of 94.5% of Lackawanna County’s total in-migration, the states of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey most heavily contributed to the county’s population shift.

The table below details Lackawanna County’s out-migration since 1990. More than three quarters (42,281 or 81.2%) of those who left the county moved within Pennsylvania. Interestingly, Florida is the second most popular end destination for Lackawanna County’s out-migrants, followed by New York and New Jersey.

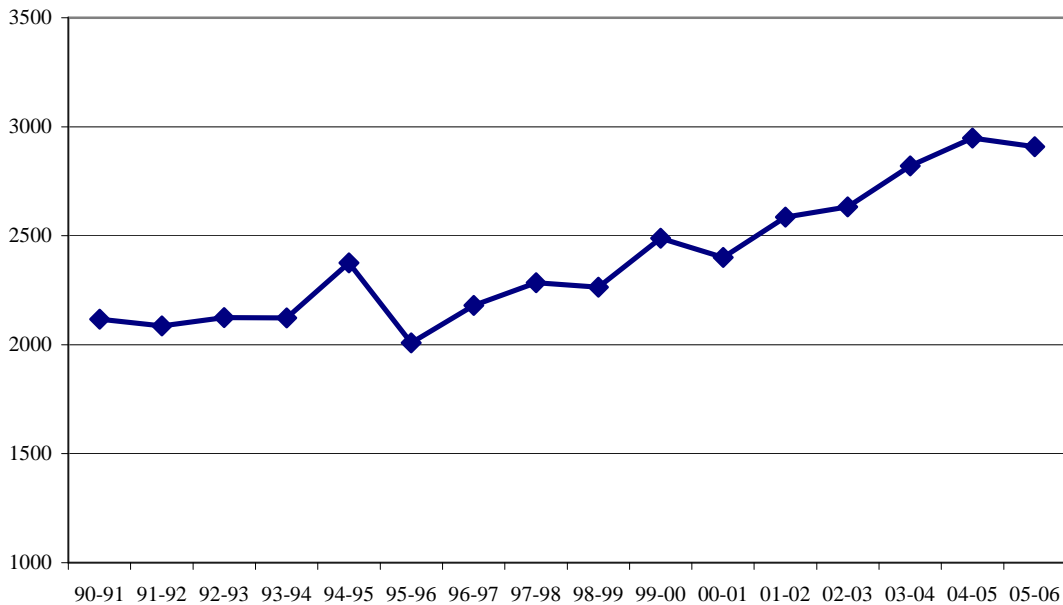
Lackawanna County Out Migration 1990 to 2006			
Rank	Location	Total	%
1	Pennsylvania	42,281	81.2%
2	Florida	2,548	4.9%
3	New York	2,066	4.0%
4	New Jersey	1,450	2.8%
5	Maryland	683	1.3%
6	California	534	1.0%
7	Arizona	522	1.0%
8	Virginia	476	0.9%
9	North Carolina	234	0.4%
10	Nevada	229	0.4%
11	Delaware	222	0.4%
12	Connecticut	220	0.4%
13	Massachusetts	187	0.4%
14	Illinois	163	0.3%
15	DC	96	0.2%
16	Ohio	33	0.1%
17	Hawaii	26	0.0%
18	Utah	22	0.0%
19	Rhode Island	22	0.0%
20	South Carolina	20	0.0%
21	Texas	16	0.0%

The In- vs. Out-Migration Data chart below identifies Lackawanna County’s gradual in-migration increase. In-migration began to rise between 1998 and 1999, but out-migration remained dominant until the 2002-2003 period. This period was the first in over a decade when in-migration (4,932) surpassed out-migration (4,768). Since this landmark increase, data indicates that in-migration has been dominant over out-migration.

IV. Understanding the Source

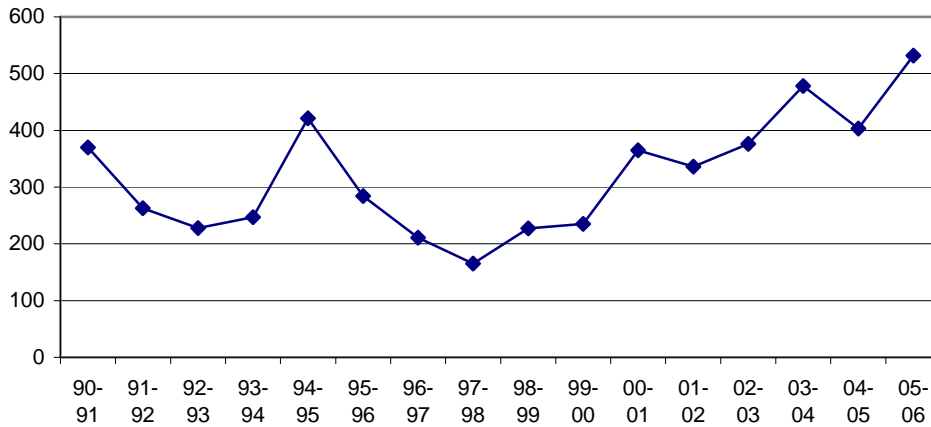
Pennsylvania counties have contributed most heavily (77%) to Lackawanna County’s in-migration. The chart below depicts Lackawanna County in-migration from within the Commonwealth between 1990 and 2006. The county’s in-migration began to rise in 1996 and remained steady (in all years except 2000) until the 2005 to 2006 period, at which time there was a slight drop.

Lackawanna County In-Migration: Pennsylvania Counties



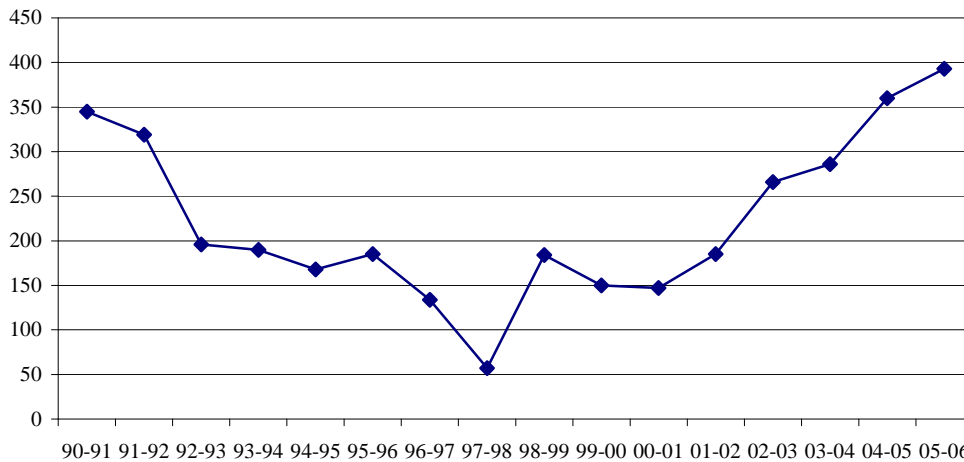
New York State is the second greatest contributor to Lackawanna County’s in-migration. New York’s 5,141 migrants comprised 10.3 percent of Lackawanna County’s total in-migration. The growth in the number of New York migrants, which began between 1998 and 1999, is evident in the chart below. The increase in New York migrants, from 227 between 1998 and 1999 to 532 in 2006, suggests a growth pattern that will continue into the future.

Lackawanna County In-Migration: New York



The state of New Jersey is the third highest contributor to Lackawanna County’s in-migration. From 1990 to 2006, New Jersey contributed to Lackawanna County 3,565 migrants, or 7.2 percent of the county’s total in-migrants. In sixteen years, New Jersey’s contribution to Lackawanna County’s in-migration fluctuated constantly, as evidenced in the graph below. New Jersey migrants to Lackawanna County fluctuated from a low of 57 in 1997-1998 to a high of 393 in 2005-2006. Despite such sporadic variation, it’s clear that New Jersey plays an important role in shaping Lackawanna County’s in-migration statistics.

Lackawanna County In-Migration: New Jersey



V. Breaking Down the Source

Pennsylvania Migration Data

From 1990 to 2006, 38,344 people migrated to Lackawanna County from other Pennsylvania counties. Of that total, 16,295 or 42% migrated between 2000 and 2006.

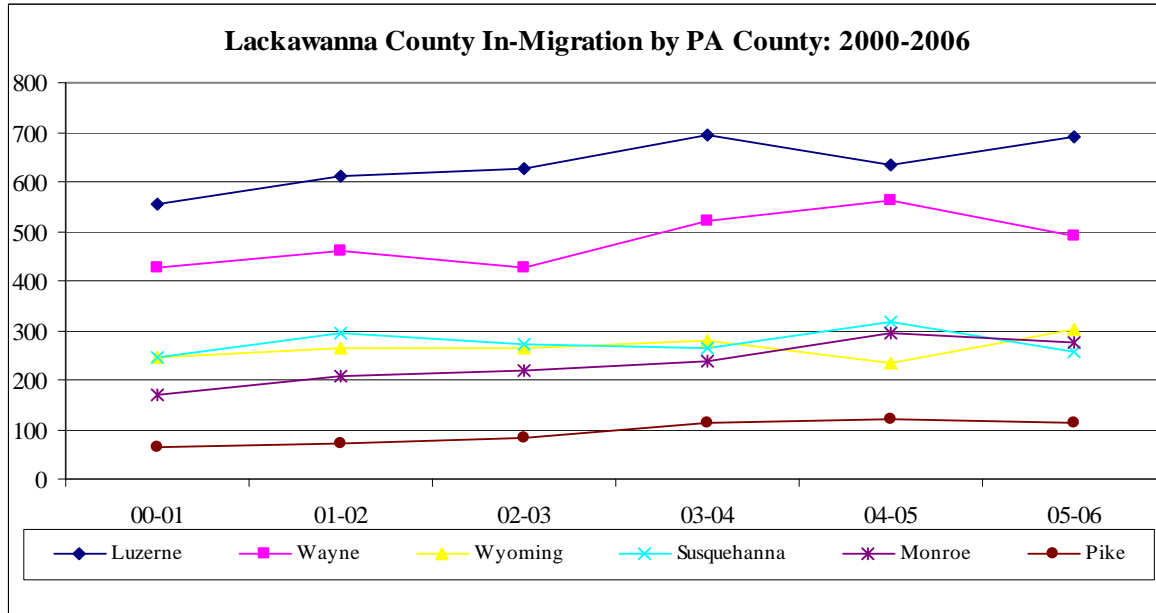
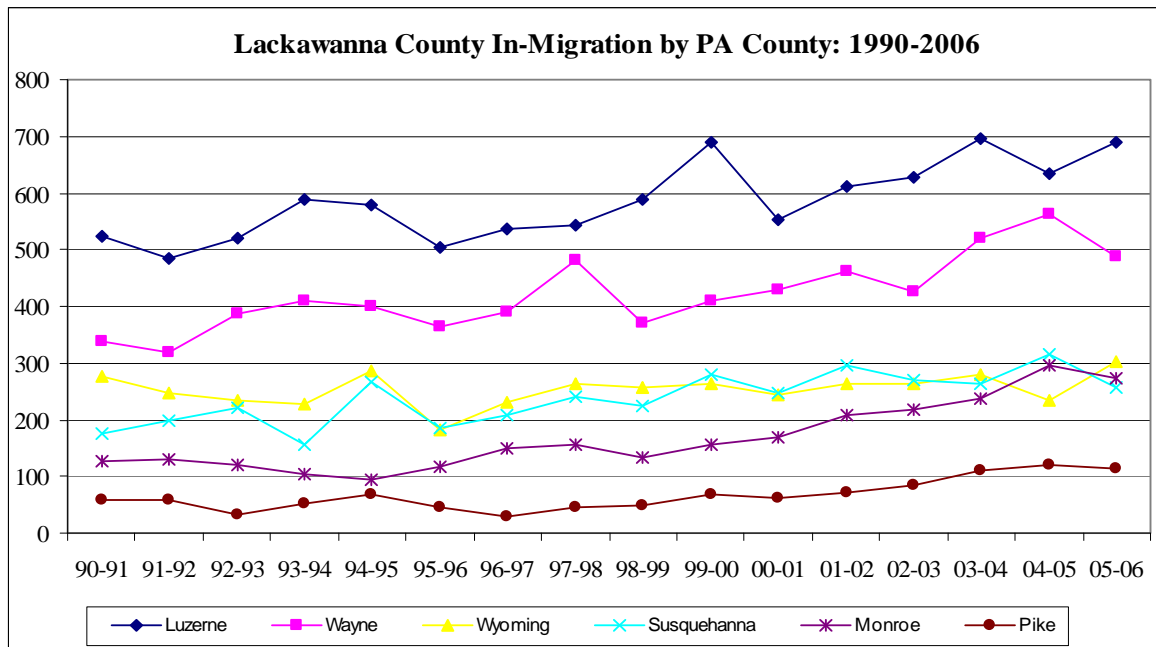
The table below identifies and ranks Pennsylvania counties contributing to Lackawanna County’s in-migration. The table identifies the top ten contributing counties during each of two time periods – 1990 to 2006 and 2000 to 2006. Each time period includes the same ten counties, identifying a consistent in-migration pattern from Pennsylvania counties; Luzerne County was the greatest contributor for both time periods, followed by Wayne County.

Lackawanna County In-Migration: Pennsylvania Counties

1990 to 2006			2000 to 2006		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Luzerne	9,363	1	Luzerne	3,809
2	Wayne	6,762	2	Wayne	2,890
3	Wyoming	4,063	3	Susquehanna	1,649
4	Susquehanna	3,807	4	Wyoming	1,588
5	Monroe	2,686	5	Monroe	1,401
6	Pike	1,071	6	Pike	566
7	Philadelphia	1,027	7	Philadelphia	420
8	Montgomery	970	8	Montgomery	366
9	Lehigh	744	9	Lehigh	316
10	Bucks	705	10	Bucks	251

Although the same ten counties comprise the top ten list for each time period, it is important to note that the ranking order for each time period differs. To help identify patterns, migration totals for the top six contributors are plotted on the charts below.

The Rise of Lackawanna County *Breaking Down the Source*



Four of the top six contributing counties remained constant during each time period, including Wyoming, Susquehanna, Monroe and Pike Counties. The other two counties presented on the above graphs (Luzerne and Wayne Counties) show noticeable increases, which mainly occurred between 2000 and 2006. Luzerne County provided

the largest increase during that time period (136), followed by Monroe County (105). The chart below illustrates migration figure changes.

PA County In-Migration Change: 2000-2006							
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	Change
Luzerne	553	611	628	695	633	689	136
Wayne	428	461	427	521	564	489	61
Wyoming	245	263	264	279	234	303	58
Susquehanna	247	295	271	264	316	256	-9
Monroe	169	207	219	237	295	274	105
Pike	63	72	84	112	120	115	-52
Philadelphia	48	68	98	77	54	75	-27
Montgomery	60	51	69	47	72	67	-7
Lehigh	45	49	41	48	55	78	-33

Net Migration

While this study focuses on Lackawanna County's in-migration patterns, The Institute also examines net migration flow into and out of the county. For the purposes of this study, net migration is defined as out-migration subtracted from in-migration. When calculated, the influential counties change dramatically. The table below shows the top ten counties contributing most to Lackawanna County's in-migration. Counties with a net population loss are highlighted in yellow.

Lackawanna County Net Migration 1990-2006
Pennsylvania Counties

County	Into Lackawanna County	Out of Lackawanna County	Net
Luzerne	9,363	10,869	-1,506
Wayne	6,762	6,246	516
Wyoming	4,063	4,832	-769
Susquehanna	3,807	4,464	-657
Monroe	2,686	1,781	905
Pike	1,071	888	183
Philadelphia	1,027	1,313	-286
Montgomery	970	1,376	-406
Lehigh	744	1,031	-287
Bucks	705	703	2

Based on this data, certain conclusions may be made about Lackawanna County's in-migration patterns:

- Luzerne County contributed the greatest number of in-migrants to Lackawanna County. Evidence for this is particularly clear from 2000 to 2006.
- From 1990 to 2006, Wayne, Wyoming, and Susquehanna Counties consistently remained the next greatest contributors to Lackawanna County's in-migration (despite the discrepancy in rank). While Susquehanna County exhibited a noticeable decline in its total percentage of migrants over that period, both Wayne and Wyoming Counties showed incremental growth.
- In addition to ranking first in its number of in-migrants to Lackawanna County, Luzerne County also contributed the greatest increase of migrants to Lackawanna County from 2000 to 2006. The lowest percentage of total in-migrants came from Pike County (-52) followed by Philadelphia County (-27).
- Despite ranking fifth in total in-migrants to Lackawanna County from 1990 to 2006, Monroe County contributed the second highest increase in migrants (105) from 2000 to 2006.

The data points to the fact that the counties with the greatest in-migration impact on Lackawanna County from 2000 to 2006 were Luzerne, Wayne, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Monroe Counties.

New York Migration Data

As previously noted, Lackawanna County's in-migration data from 1990 to 2006 reveals that the state of New York is the second greatest contributor to Lackawanna County's population shifts. During the seventeen-year-period, a total of 5,141 New Yorkers migrated to Lackawanna County. Much like the Pennsylvania counties, New York's out-migration to Lackawanna County steadily increased from 2000 to 2006 – the same period noted earlier as most influential on the population shift. In order to better understand New York's contributions to Lackawanna County's population, the state's migration patterns are broken down by county.

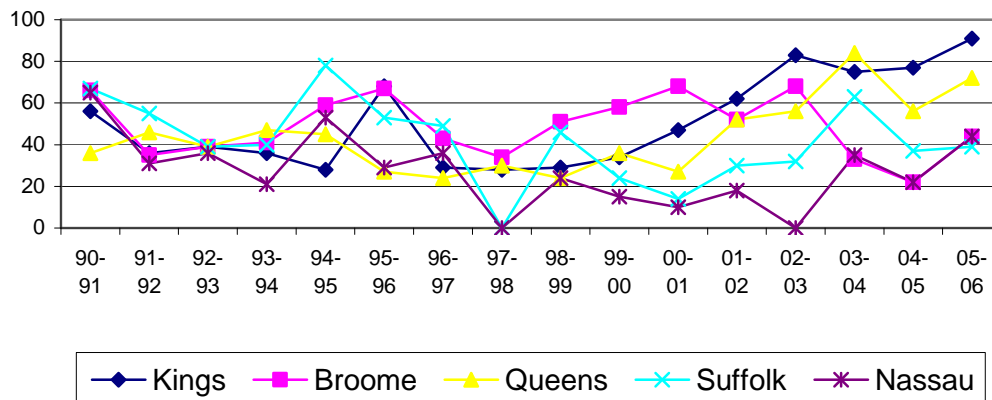
Lackawanna County In-Migration: New York Counties

1990 to 2006			2000 to 2006		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Kings	818	1	Kings	435
2	Broome	780	2	Queens	347
3	Queens	701	3	Bronx	296
4	Suffolk	666	4	Broome	287
5	Nassau	439	5	New York	218
6	New York	427	6	Suffolk	215
7	Bronx	340	7	Orange	192
8	Orange	313	8	Nassau	129
9	Richmond	142	9	Richmond	116
10	West Chester	138	10	West Chester	83

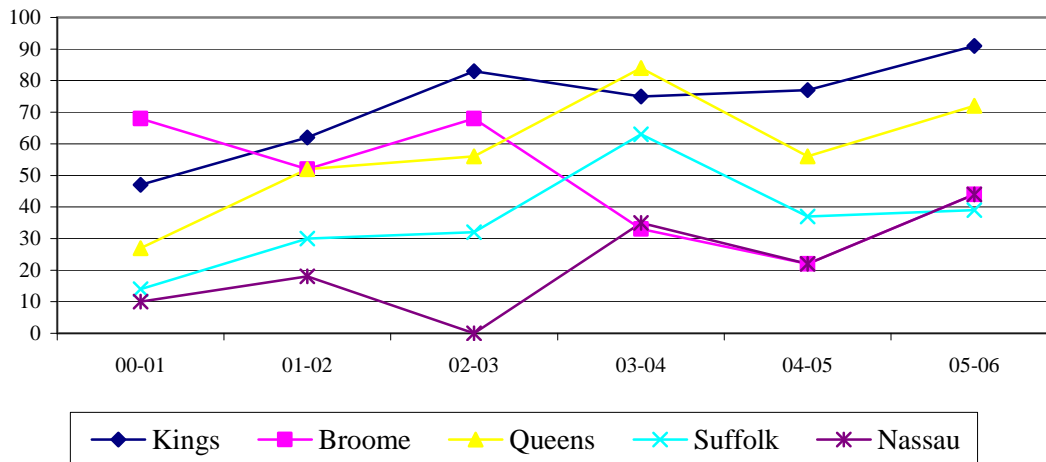
Reviewing both time periods, with a total of 818 migrants to Lackawanna County, King’s County remained New York’s top contributor for both time periods. The other nine most influential counties changed dramatically in ranking order. New York’s Broome County, for example, was ranked second in the overall 1990 to 2006 migration, but ranked fourth from 2000 to 2006. Bronx County also underwent a significant change in rank, moving up to the third position in the 2000 to 2006 period, with 296 migrants.

To determine the most influential New York counties on Lackawanna County’s in-migration during the two time periods, New York’s migration patterns are plotted on the charts below.

Lackawanna County In-Migration by NY County 1990-2006



Lackawanna County In-Migration by NY County 2000-2006



From 1990 to 2006, it is clear that New York’s out-migration to Lackawanna County has been in a constant state of fluctuation, as each of its top five counties exhibited both declines and spurts.

Four of the five top New York counties experienced growth in out-migration to Lackawanna County from 2000 to 2006. The largest increases occurred in Queens (45) and Kings (44) Counties, followed by Bronx (24) and New York (4) Counties. While Broome County was the number two contributor to Lackawanna County’s in-migration from 1990 to 2006, it was the only New York county to exhibit a decrease in migrants from 2000 to 2006.

NY County In-Migration Change: 2000 to 2006							
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	Change
Bronx	48	42	34	49	51	72	24
Broome	68	52	68	33	22	44	-24
New York	24	39	19	56	52	28	4
Kings	47	62	83	75	77	91	44
Queens	27	52	56	84	56	72	45

Net Migration

The Institute examined net migration for ten New York counties. Listed below are the top ten counties with the most in-migration into Lackawanna County. When migration is calculated, it is revealed that the only net loss occurred in New York County. Kings County has the highest in-migration rate, while Suffolk County has the highest net migration rate. The chart below shows that the top New York counties contributing to

Lackawanna County's population increase are themselves losing population. For example, Suffolk County contributed 666 people to Lackawanna County, but gained only 65 residents from Lackawanna County. The data shows Lackawanna County experienced a net gain of 2,979 people from 1990-2006.

Lackawanna County Net Migration 1990-2006
New York Counties

County	Into Lackawanna County	Out of Lackawanna County	Net
Kings	818	289	529
Broome	780	599	181
Queens	701	187	514
Suffolk	666	65	601
Nassau	439	24	415
New York	427	537	-110
Bronx	340	0	340
Orange	313	84	229
Richmond	142	0	142
West Chester	138	0	138

IRS data is suppressed if the migration is less than 10

Based on the data, the following conclusions may be drawn about New York's influence on Lackawanna County's in-migration:

- The majority, or over 66 percent, of all in-migration to Lackawanna County from New York originated from just five counties (2000 to 2006).
- In-migration figures for four of the five counties continue to increase annually.
- During Lackawanna County's landmark growth period (2000 to 2006), Kings, Queens, Bronx, and New York Counties were New York State's primary contributors to increased in-migration.
- Kings County ranked as the number one contributor to Lackawanna County's population for both time periods, making it the greatest total contributor. From 2000 to 2006, the Kings County exhibited the second greatest increase in migrants, suggesting that those numbers may continue to increase in the future.

New Jersey Migration Data

The third greatest contributor to Lackawanna County's in-migration totals from 1990 to 2006 was the state of New Jersey. During the time period, New Jersey contributed exactly 3,565 people or 7.2 percent of Lackawanna County's in-migration total. At the

same time, 1,637 or 46 percent of the total in-migration for New Jersey occurred in the 2000 to 2006 period.

The table below identifies those migrating to Lackawanna County from New Jersey between 1990 and 2006. Once again, the data pinpoints the top ten contributors for 1990 to 2006 and for 2000 to 2006. Much like Pennsylvania and New York, the top ten New Jersey counties are listed, but with a discrepancy in ranking order.

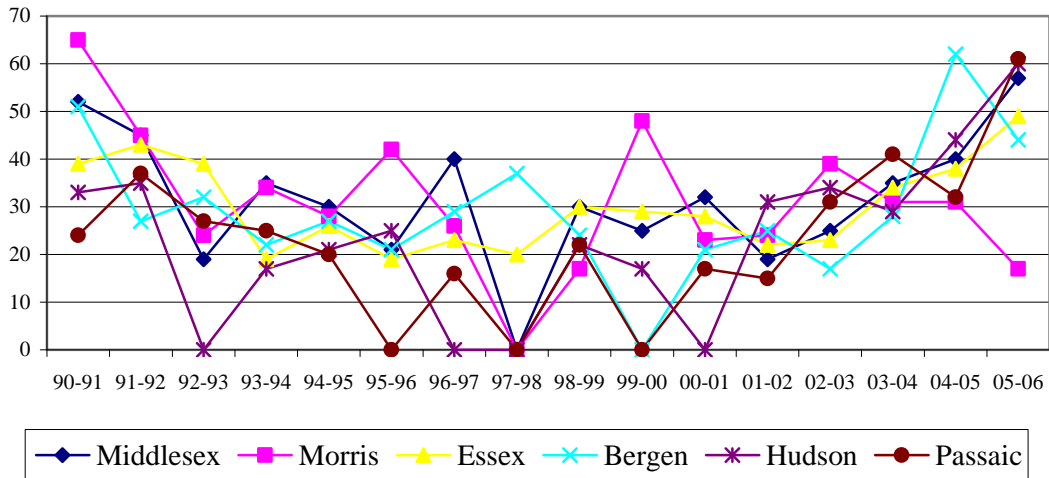
Lackawanna County In-Migration: NJ Counties

1990 to 2006			2000 to 2006		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Middlesex	505	1	Middlesex	208
2	Morris	494	2	Hudson	198
3	Essex	481	3	Bergen	197
4	Bergen	467	4	Passaic	197
5	Hudson	368	5	Essex	194
6	Passaic	368	6	Morris	165
7	Union	292	7	Union	131
8	Ocean	138	8	Burlington	100
9	Burlington	131	9	Ocean	91
10	Monmouth	111	10	Sussex	57

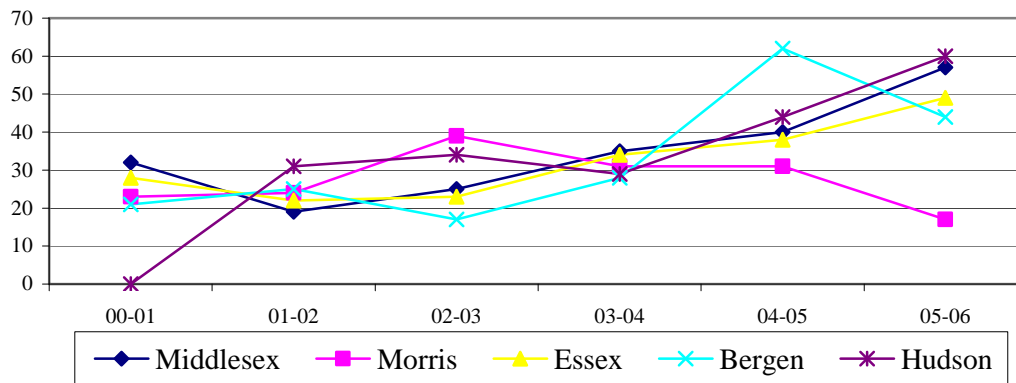
From 1990 to 2006, Middlesex County contributed the greatest number of in-migrants to Lackawanna County (505), followed by Morris (494), Essex (481), and Bergen (467) Counties. However, figures for the 2000 to 2006 period reveal that nearly every county listed as a top ten contributor experienced a noticeable change in rank. Morris County, for example, dropped to sixth position for the 2000 to 2006 period, as its total number of migrants for that period (165) was topped by Middlesex (208), Hudson (198), Bergen (197), Passaic (197) and Essex (194) Counties.

The following charts identify migration patterns for each of the five New Jersey counties previously noted as contributors to Lackawanna County in-migration from 1990 to 2006, and from 2000 to 2006.

Lackawanna County In-Migration by NJ County 1990-2006



Lackawanna County In-Migration by NJ County 2000-2006



As previously noted, Morris County contributed the second highest total migrants from 1990 to 2006. Its sharp incline in migrants is particularly noticeable in the 1999 to 2000 period, when 48 residents moved to Lackawanna County, versus seventeen from Hudson County, and none from Bergen County. But according to already identified pattern, the 2000 to 2006 period marks the most noticeable period in New Jersey’s out-migration; in fact, Morris County was the only contributor to experience a decline in migrants from 2000 to 2006 (-6), while Hudson (60), Middlesex (25), Bergen (23), and Essex (21) Counties all reported increased migration numbers.

NJ County In-Migration Change: 2000-2006							
County	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	Change
Morris	23	24	39	31	31	17	-6
Bergen	21	25	17	28	62	44	23
Middlesex	32	19	25	35	40	57	25
Essex	28	22	23	34	38	49	21
Hudson	0	31	34	29	44	60	60

Net Migration

Next, The Institute examined net migration for ten New Jersey counties. The table below shows the top ten New Jersey counties with the most in-migration into Lackawanna County. When net migration is calculated, it is evident that only Burlington County shows a net loss. The net migration table also shows Middlesex and Morris Counties as in-migration leaders, and Essex and Passaic Counties as net migration leaders. Counties with a net loss are highlighted in yellow.

Lackawanna County Net Migration 1990-2006
New Jersey Counties

County	Into Lackawanna County	Out of Lackawanna County	Net
Middlesex	505	287	218
Morris	494	291	203
Essex	481	112	369
Bergen	467	162	305
Hudson	368	256	112
Passaic	368	0	368
Union	292	19	273
Ocean	138	112	26
Burlington	131	152	-21
Monmouth	111	73	38

IRS data is suppressed if the migration is less than 10

Based on the data, the following conclusions may be drawn regarding Lackawanna County's migration patterns in conjunction with New Jersey migration:

- Middlesex, Morris, Essex, Bergen, and Hudson Counties represent the five highest out-migration totals to Lackawanna County from 1990 to 2006.
- Further data shows that from 2000 to 2006, Morris County exhibited a decline in migrants, while Bergen, Middlesex, Essex, and Hudson Counties experienced an out-migration increase.
- The number of migrants from Hudson, Bergen, Middlesex, and Essex Counties continues to grow, with Hudson County reporting the highest increase in migrants from 2000 to 2006 (60), followed by Middlesex (25), Bergen (23), and Essex (21) Counties.

From this data, it may also be concluded that the greatest influences on Lackawanna County's in-migration data from 2000 to 2006 were Middlesex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, and Essex Counties.

County Rankings

The Institute has identified counties from within Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey that have positively influenced Luzerne County's in-migration data from 1990 to 2006 and from 2000 to 2006, as exhibited on the following table. Pennsylvania's Luzerne and Wayne Counties rank first and second for both time periods, while Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties switched rank in the 2000 to 2006 period, and were followed by Monroe and Pike Counties. After the top six counties, there occurs some shifting and potentially higher in-migration trends. New York's Kings County shifted from ninth to seventh place, while Queens County moved from thirteenth to tenth. Bronx County also made an appearance in the 2000 to 2006 period by moving from a rank below 23rd to twelfth. New York County also jumped from 22nd to sixteenth place.

The Rise of Lackawanna County
Breaking Down the Source

Lackawanna County In-Migration					
1990 to 2006			2000 to 2006		
Rank	County	Total	Rank	County	Total
1	Luzerne	9,363	1	Luzerne	3,809
2	Wayne	6,762	2	Wayne	2,890
3	Wyoming	4,063	3	Susquehanna	1,649
4	Susquehanna	3,807	4	Wyoming	1,588
5	Monroe	2,686	5	Monroe	1,401
6	Pike	1,071	6	Pike	566
7	Philadelphia	1,027	7	Kings	435
8	Montgomery	970	8	Philadelphia	420
9	Kings	818	9	Montgomery	366
10	Broome	780	10	Queens	347
11	Lehigh	744	11	Lehigh	316
12	Bucks	705	12	Bronx	296
13	Queens	701	13	Broome	287
14	Suffolk	666	14	Bucks	251
15	Northampton	532	15	Northampton	245
16	Middlesex	505	16	New York	218
17	Morris	494	17	Suffolk	215
18	Dauphin	484	18	Daupin	211
19	Essex	481	19	Middlesex	208
20	Bergen	467	20	Hudson	198
21	Nassau	439	21	Bergen	197
22	New York	427	22	Passaic	197
23	Hudson	368	23	Essex	194

VI. Conclusion

Through this report, The Institute sought to determine the sources of Lackawanna County's population shifts. By examining net increase data, a common link between the county's migration and population trends was identified. Focus was then placed on Lackawanna County's annual migration data from 1990 to 2006, which pinpointed three states as contributors to its in-migration. Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey were then broken down by migration patterns. This analysis resulted in the identification of fifteen counties that shaped Lackawanna County's in-migration growth, including:

- *In Pennsylvania:* Luzerne, Wayne, Wyoming, Susquehanna and Monroe Counties
- *In New York:* Kings, Broome, Queens, Suffolk and Nassau Counties
- *In New Jersey:* Middlesex, Morris, Essex, Bergen and Hudson Counties

It is also important to note that although these counties significantly ranked highest in their state in accordance with in-migration, ranks changed with total net migration. Net migration ranks take into account out-migration and include:

- *In Pennsylvania:* Monroe, Wayne, Pike and Bucks Counties
- *In New York:* Suffolk, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Bronx Counties
- *In New Jersey:* Essex, Passaic, Bergen, Union and Middlesex Counties

For so many years, Lackawanna County has experienced population decreases. An aging population and a younger generation looking for opportunities our region does not yet provide are just two of the many causes. But as Lackawanna County continues to invest in its businesses and people, migrants will continue to move to the area for employment, lower cost housing, good education for their children, as well as shopping, entertainment, sports and the many other amenities that are just beginning to take shape.

The **INSTITUTE** for

Public Policy & Economic Development

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