

PROSPERITY INDICATORS

2016 Report for Lancaster County

Sponsored by:



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Building A Prosperous Community

Sharing a vision of Lancaster County being “a model of prosperity for 21st century America,” The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Lancaster County Community Foundation, United Way of Lancaster County and the County of Lancaster formed a partnership in 2011 to develop a program to monitor how the county is doing in realizing this vision. The program evolved into a prosperity indicators project called *Building A Prosperous Community*. LNP Media Group, Inc. joined as a media partner in 2014 to help raise awareness of the community’s work on the indicators.



The project is designed to...

- Provide a benchmark of the county’s current state
- Identify the areas that most deserve the community’s attention as we work toward prosperity
- Monitor the progress that is made in achieving our vision for the community.



This report presents the fifth update of the set of indicators. To put the findings in perspective, indicators are shown for multiple years and, where appropriate, comparisons are made to the state of Pennsylvania and adjacent counties.



The report continues to be used by the community and organizations as the basis for discussions on where we are, where we want to go, and how to get there. The findings are the foundation for program actions and policies designed to move Lancaster County closer to the goal of being a model of prosperity.

We are excited to share this update of Lancaster County’s Prosperity Indicators with the community.



Tom Baldrige, The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Prosperity – A Multi-Dimensional Concept

With a common vision for the community, the partner organizations identified six dimensions of prosperity on which to measure our community.

The dimensions are:



Well Being of People



Education



Economic Engine



Health & Safety



Community & Culture



Physical Environment

Individual Indicators

The selection of the individual indicators for each dimension of prosperity was guided by five criteria.

- **Content validity** – It is important that each dimension has indicators that cover as much of that dimension as possible. There is a needed balance between the number of indicators and having a comprehensive measure of a dimension.
- **Trend analysis** – The annual report will track the indicators over time so it will be possible to assess the extent to which the county is changing. To be able to do this, it is critical that the same information is available for each indicator over time. Depending upon the source of the data for an indicator, the time period will vary. For example, some measures may not exist on an annual basis.
- **Understandability** – To be of maximum value, the measures in the report should be easily understood by the entire community. While some esoteric measures may do a better job than selected indicators, little is gained if persons do not understand what the indicator is measuring.
- **Actionable** – A desired outcome of the prosperity indicators report is providing direction to organizations and governments to take action in areas needing improvement. To enhance the likelihood of this occurring, each indicator was reviewed to be certain it is amenable to change as the result of organized efforts.
- **Best practices** – Indicator programs exist in many other communities. A review of what these other communities are using for indicators offered some guidance to the selection of our indicators.

Comparisons Over Time and With Other Counties

As mentioned earlier, this study is an update of earlier research. To track changes in the county, comparisons with previous years are shown.

It is always interesting to examine data for a county in comparison to other geographical entities. Comparisons with other geographies can reveal how well we are doing relative to others. **Where possible, comparisons are made to the state of Pennsylvania and the surrounding counties of Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Lebanon, and York. For the county comparisons, Lancaster County is given a rank to indicate its position relative to the other counties. With six counties, the rank can range from 1 to 6. The lower the rank, the better Lancaster County is compared to the other counties.** Thus, for some indicators a low prevalence will result in a low rank. For example, with teen pregnancy, the lower the percentage of pregnant teens, the lower the rank. For other indicators, such as the percentage of residents above the poverty level, a high percentage translates into a low rank.

When comparisons are done, the uniqueness of Lancaster County needs to be recognized.

First, the population of Amish and Mennonites within the county has been estimated at 35,000. This has an impact when discussing topics like educational attainment since formal education for these groups terminates at the end of eighth grade. An adjustment is made for this in the report. However, this can still have an effect on comparisons with other counties or the state.

Second, comparisons of income data must be done with the realization that the cost of living in Lancaster County is lower than in places such as greater Philadelphia. It is estimated that a resident in our county can earn about 16 percent less than someone in greater Philadelphia and still have the same standard of living.

The Indicators

The six dimensions and the indicators for each dimension are presented below.

Well Being of People

A prosperous community should offer all residents a basic quality of life. Residents should have the financial resources to meet their families' basic needs. Persons should live in an environment that provides a sense of opportunity now and in the future. No one should feel deprived of the potential for advancement and improvement. Affordable housing should be available to residents.

Well Being of People Indicators	Measure
Appeal of Lancaster County as a place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in the county population due to persons moving into the county
Life Satisfaction Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of people who are satisfied with their life
Real income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison of annual change in median household income compared to change in inflation (Consumer Price Index)
Relative affluence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of residents above poverty level
Housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of household income spent on housing costs
Teen pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of births to women under 18

Education

Education continues to be one of the best avenues for an individual to have a good job and a decent standard of living. Without the advantage of a good education, it is difficult to have any measure of success in our society. It is critical that the importance of education is emphasized at an early age. Research has shown that students who are below their reading level by the time they reach third grade are significantly more likely than others to not graduate from high school. Unfortunately, parents who are not educated are less likely to teach their children about the value of education. Children's educational attainment is closely related to their parents' education level. At the community level, an educated workforce is required to remain competitive.

Education Indicators	Measure
School readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of children enrolled in pre-K publicly funded programs; school readiness at local district level
Academic achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of students who score proficient/advanced on PSSA/Keystone tests (11th grade); academic growth
High school graduation rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 year cohort graduation rate – school level
Postsecondary school plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of high school graduates with plans for postsecondary education
Educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of population with bachelor degrees or higher Percentage of population with graduate or professional degrees

Economic Engine

A healthy economy is a key driver of a prosperous community. Thriving business operations offer residents opportunities for gainful employment. A diverse economy minimizes the effects on the community when one industry experiences a downturn. An economically prosperous community encourages business expansion, the creation of new businesses, and the attraction of businesses and persons from outside the county.

Economic Indicators	Measure
Unemployment rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of civilian labor force that is unemployed
Business growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of firms/business establishments
Industry mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business establishments by industry
Patents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of patents granted
Minority owned businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of all businesses and employer businesses owned by blacks, Hispanics, and women
Building permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential housing building permits

Health & Safety

The concept of prosperity should encompass one's health and safety. Persons should understand the importance of making healthy decisions to be able to live life to its fullest. A prosperous community should be a fit community. Finally, all residents should be able to live in a safe environment without fear of being a victim of crime.

Health & Safety Indicators	Measure
Access to health care insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health insurance coverage
Health status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of residents with good physical and mental health
Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of obese adults and children
Low birth weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of births under 2500 grams
Crime rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violent and property crime rates

Community & Culture

A strong community is dependent upon its residents being actively involved in the community. Civic engagement is an indication that persons feel committed to the place where they live. Being involved in the community not only benefits the community, it also benefits the individuals who are involved by expanding their social networks and giving them intrinsic rewards.

A prosperous community should be able to offer its residents opportunities to experience the arts and culture. As leisure time activities, these types of experiences enrich the population by expanding its horizons.

Community & Culture Indicators	Measure
Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of registered voters• Percentage of registered voters who participated in the most recent general elections
Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of residents who engaged in any type of volunteering activity
Charitable giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charitable contributions as percentage of income
Arts participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of Lancaster County residents who visited Lancaster City for any arts, cultural, or historical activity
Population diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of different racial and ethnic groups living in the county

Physical Environment

Increasingly, communities are recognizing and embracing the concept of sustainability of the physical environment. A clean environment should be a goal for all communities. Activities and planning should exist to preserve the physical environment for future generations.

Physical Environment Indicators	Measure
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of days with unhealthy air quality
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of streams of low and high quality
Preserved space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of natural land preserved
Time spent commuting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of minutes required to get to work
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tons recycled



Well Being of People

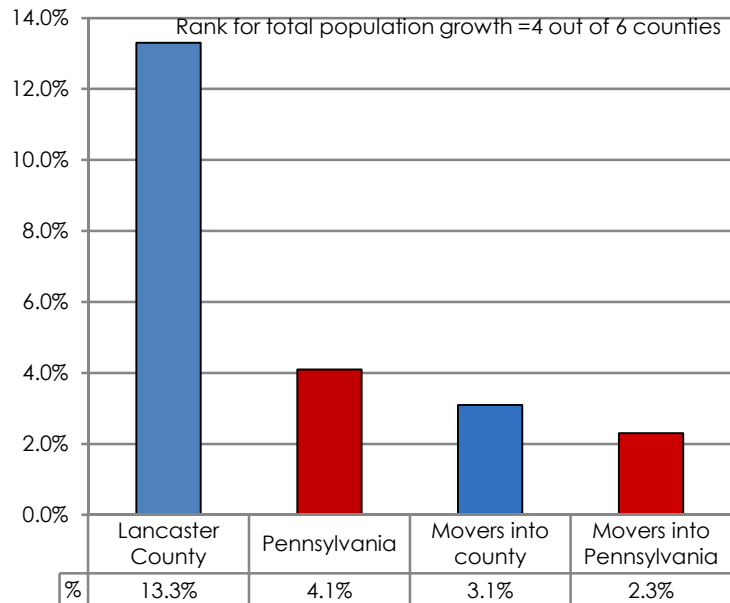
Well Being of People

Appeal of Lancaster County

A prosperous community should attract new residents either through employment opportunities or as a place from which to commute. From 2000 to 2014, the population of the county increased by 13.3 percent. In comparison, the population of the entire state grew by 4.1 percent. Of course, some growth can be attributed to the birth rate of county residents. In 2011, the annual general fertility rate for the county (70.4 per 1000 women 15-44) was indeed higher than the state (58.4).

However, over the past three years, 3.1 percent of our current residents moved into the county from another county or another state. The percentage of persons moving into Pennsylvania during the same time period was 2.3 percent.

% Population Change 2000 - 2014



2014 American Community Survey (n=533,320);
2010-2013 American Community Survey 3 yr. est.

Life Satisfaction

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index is composed of five sub-indices – purpose, social, financial, community and physical well-being.

Telephone interviews are conducted with random samples of adults 18 and older in the 190 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the United States.

The chart shows the ranks for the MSAs surveyed in Pennsylvania. Lancaster has the best ranking in the state.

For 2015, Lancaster ranked 39 out of all 190 MSAs. A lower rank indicates a better well-being.

Well-Being Index

Metropolitan area	Rank 2015
Lancaster	39
Harrisburg-Carlisle	156
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	131
Pittsburgh	80
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	127
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre	180

2015 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Survey



Well Being of People

Life Satisfaction Index

Lancaster's rankings out of 190 Metropolitan Statistical Areas on the Well-Being Index and its individual components are shown in this table.

The ranks for Pennsylvania out of the 50 states are included. The county scores better than the state on most of the well-being measures. On all measures, Lancaster County is in the top third of the MSAs. While the state is only in the top half of all states on Basic Access.

Well-Being Rankings

	Lancaster				PA
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
Overall Rank	15	1	23	21	36
Life Evaluation	57	25	58	36	40
Emotional Health	14	5	5	3	41
Physical Health	32	16	14	11	33
Healthy Behavior	53	66	55	41	31
Work Environment	31	2	64	62	46
Basic Access	6	3	17	15	17

2013 Gallup-Healthways Index Survey

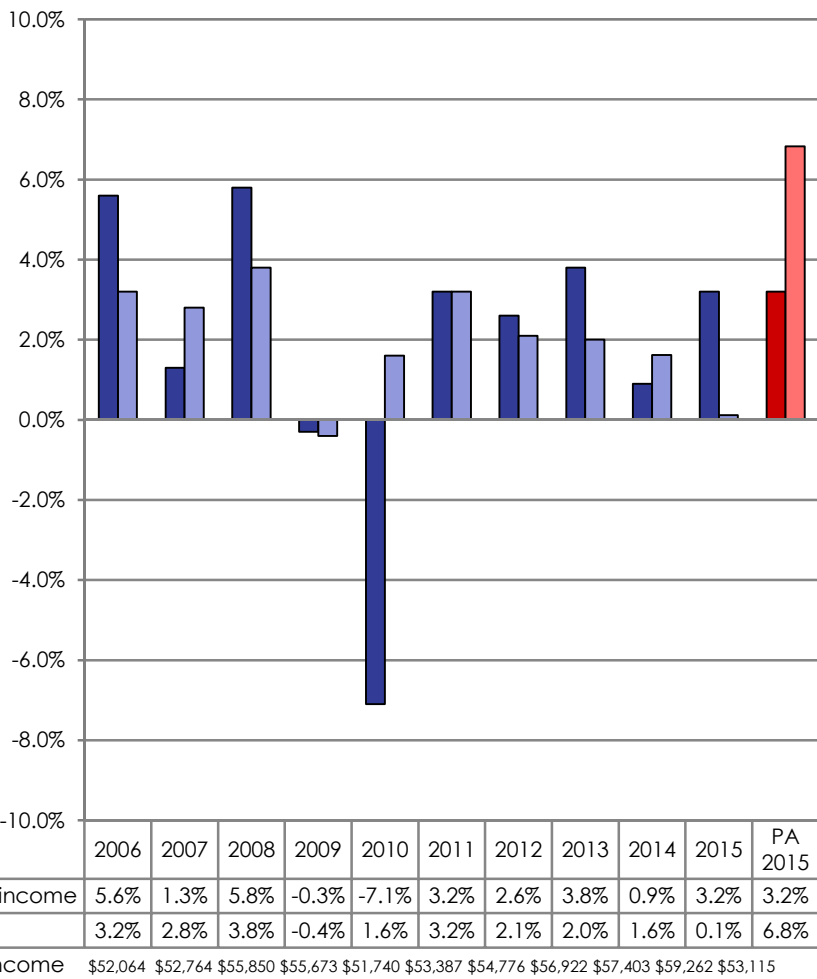
Real Income

Increases in household income only tell part of the story of economic well being. Each year, the cost of goods and services changes due to inflation or deflation. With inflation, the same cart of groceries purchased last year costs more to buy this year. Unless income keeps pace with inflation, a household can find itself slipping in buying power.

This graph shows the percentage change in median household income from year to year going back to 2006. It also presents the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for each of the years. For a household to prosper, the percentage increase in household income should be the same or greater than the CPI.

Since 2010, when household income decreased, the county has recovered. In 2012, the increase in median household income exceeded the CPI, and to an even greater extent in 2013 and 2015.

Comparison Of Income To Inflation



Bureau of Labor Statistics (average all cities); American Community Survey 5 yr. est.



Well Being of People

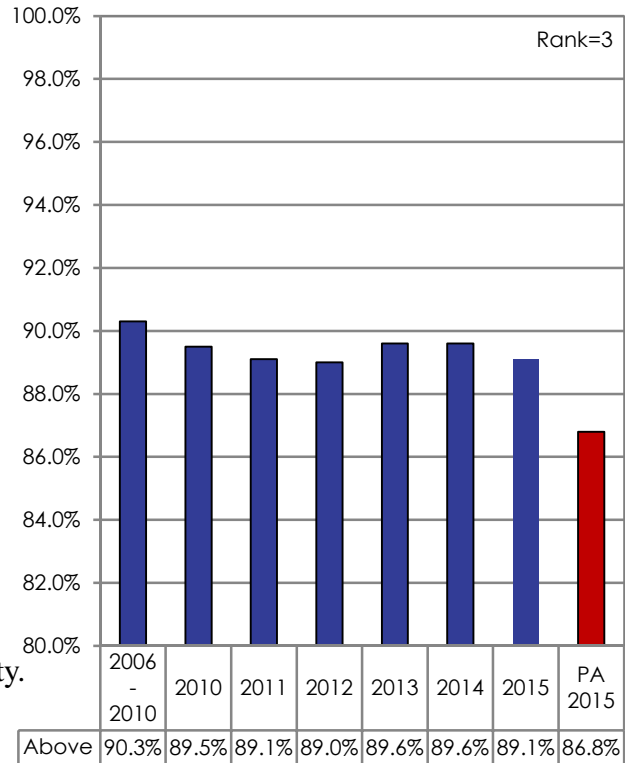
Relative Affluence

Part of our definition of well being is having the financial resources to meet basic needs. Living below the poverty level creates a situation in which persons have a difficult time meeting their needs. In 2015, the federal government defined poverty as having a household income of \$24,250 for a family of four. Nationwide, the poverty rate in 2015 was 14.7 percent (85.3% living above poverty).

Since the emphasis is on prosperity, the graph shows the percentage of residents whose income is above the poverty level. Since 2010, the percentage of residents above the poverty level has been slightly below 90 percent.

Of the six counties being compared, Lancaster County has the third highest percentage of residents above poverty.

% Residents Above Poverty Level



2000 Census; 2010, 2011, 2012 2013 American Community Survey 1 yr. est. 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 yr. est.; Census Bureau: 2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey.

Housing Affordability

When housing costs become excessive, there is a strain on funds for other nondiscretionary spending. The Census Bureau reports that housing expenditures exceeding 30 percent of household income are an indicator of a housing affordability problem.

% Income Spent On Housing Costs

Rank=3 Monthly owner costs as % of household income with mortgage									Rank=4 Gross rent as % of household income								
	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	PA 2015		2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	PA 2015
Less 15%									Less 15%	16.8%	8.8%	10.4%	12.0%	10.9%	14.2%	13.5%	13.2%
15-19.9%	38.7%	35.2%	31.4%	36.6%	39.7%	45.0%	42.3%	45.7%	15-19.9%	14.0%	11.8%	12.4%	10.6%	12.6%	10.9%	11.6%	11.9%
20-24.9%	19.0%	16.7%	18.4%	19.2%	17.8%	18.1%	16.3%	16.0%	20-24.9%	13.6%	15.0%	12.9%	12.4%	12.8%	12.0%	13.8%	11.4%
25-29.9%	13.7%	13.7%	14.6%	13.5%	14.8%	10.6%	12.18%	10.7%	25-29.9%	12.4%	12.9%	11.6%	11.7%	10.2%	11.9%	10.2%	10.4%
30-34.9%	9.0%	8.7%	10.0%	7.7%	7.2%	7.5%	6.9%	6.9%	30-34.9%	9.8%	9.0%	8.8%	8.3%	11.0%	8.6%	5.6%	7.9%
35.0%+	19.6%	25.6%	25.6%	23.1%	20.4%	18.8%	21.6%	15.7%	35%+	33.4%	42.5%	43.8%	45.2%	42.5%	37.2%	40.0%	37.3%

2000 Census; 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 American Community Survey 1 yr. est.

In 2015, less than a third of homeowners with mortgages (28.5%) were spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing. Among renters, the percentage is higher. Nearly half of all renters in the county (45.6%) were spending 30 percent or more of their household incomes on rent.



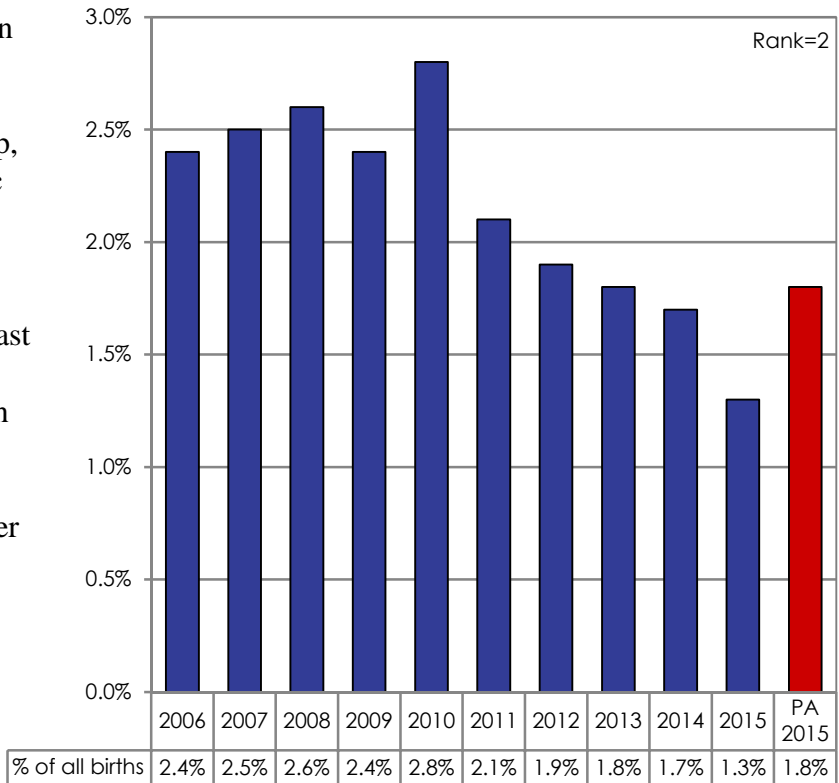
Well Being of People

Teen Pregnancy

It is difficult to think of anything that can limit the future opportunities of a young person more than a teenage pregnancy. Not only is the teen mother at a handicap, so is the child. The social and economic costs for the teen parents, their children, and the community are substantial. The pregnancy rate for teens has been dropping in the United States over the past 20 years. Looking at Lancaster County, the rate for 2015 is the lowest it has been for the years shown since 2006.

The county's teen pregnancy rate is lower than Pennsylvania's.

% Births to Women Under 18



County Health Profiles, PA Dept. of Health





Education

Education

School Readiness

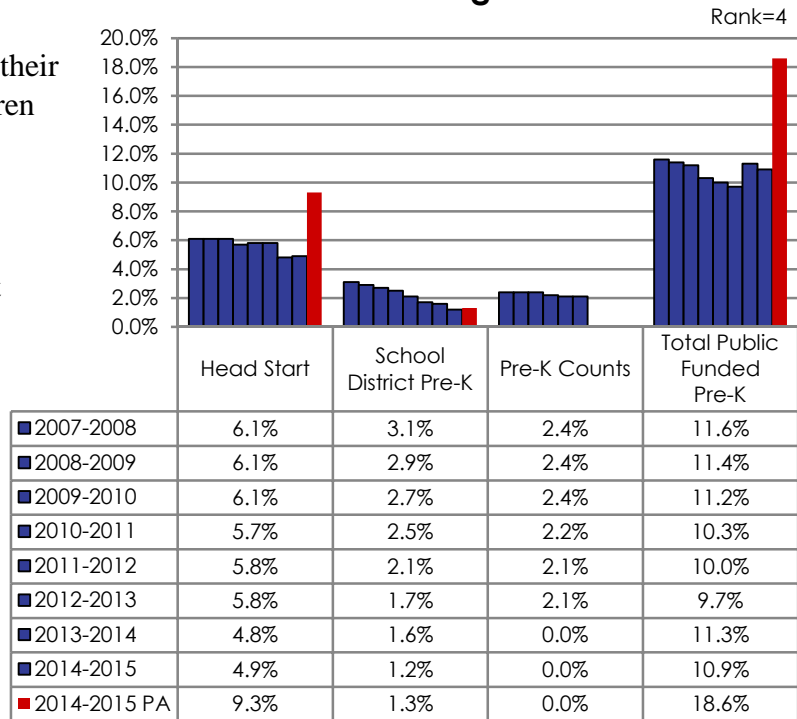
Having children be prepared for school increases their likelihood of succeeding in their early years. Research has found that children not reading at their grade level by the time they reach third grade are at greater risk of dropping out of school later in life.

Quality pre-Kindergarten programs benefit both the children and their families by increasing the children's readiness for school.

Looking at the percentage of 3 to 4 year olds enrolled in a public funded pre-K program, Lancaster County has a lower percentage than the state as a whole.

Over the past seven years, the percentage of children in pre-K programs in the county has been trending downward.

% Children Enrolled in Public Funded Pre-K Programs



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Kids Count Data Center

School Readiness at District Level

The state measure of school readiness presented above only shows children in publicly funded pre-K programs. Another measure of school readiness is the percentage of children deemed to be ready for school as determined by their school district.

Lancaster County school districts identified eight key learning literacy and numeracy skills that play an important role in children experiencing success as they enter kindergarten. The indicators are aligned with Pennsylvania's Prekindergarten Learning Standards, the Kindergarten PA Core Standards and the United Way's Success by Six Kindergarten Readiness Checklist.

% Children Ready for School Year 2015-2016

School Year	# of school districts reporting	# of children tested	% able to meet the target for all 8 indicators
2015-2016	13	2,610	30%

Results are from 13 of the 16 Lancaster County school districts that administered the indicators to students enrolling in school from April – August, 2015.



Education

Academic Achievement Levels

% Students Scoring Advanced and Proficient on State Tests 2015-2016

	Cocalico	Columbia Borough	Conestoga Valley	Donegal	Eastern Lancaster Co	Elizabethtown Area	Ephrata Area	Hempfield SD	Lampeter-Strasburg SD	Lancaster SD	Manheim Central	Manheim Township	Penn Manor	Pequea Valley	Solanco	Warwick	
	Cocalico SHS	Columbia JSHS	Conestoga Valley SHS	Donegal SHS	Garden Spot SHS	Elizabethtown Area SHS	Ephrata SHS	Hempfield SHS	Lampeter-Strasburg SHS	Mc-Caskey Campus Phoenix Academy	Manheim Central SHS	Manheim Township HS	Penn Manor HS	Pequea Valley HS	Solanco HS	Warwick SHS	
Math	87.12	43.84	80.18	67.58	70.67	73.45	87.12	81.92	89.78	44.92	1.43	86.90	84.41	84.51	81.67	69.45	80.63
Reading	87.08	61.11	88.76	79.00	82.74	82.07	87.21	81.22	88.05	51.49	10.14	86.09	88.59	86.78	75.21	73.82	85.71
Science/Bio.	84.10	41.89	75.52	71.62	72.94	73.10	81.02	78.60	83.04	44.23	6.15	84.78	83.25	80.35	78.81	63.97	81.21
Writing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Academic Score	96.8	69.2	86.6	85.0	91.9	87.6	90.9	89.5	88.7	54.7	33.9	90.6	89.9	92.1	87.2	70.3	82.2
Pennsylvania Department of Education: School Performance Profiles 2015-2016 (www.paschoolperformance.org); 11 th grade PSSA/Keystone tests Red highlighting indicates need for improvement; green highlighting indicates above average performance																	

In 2013, Pennsylvania received a waiver from the federal government to establish its own system for school accountability. The waiver allows the state flexibility relative to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The state has created a School Performance Profile to identify individual schools that require assistance with the academic achievement of their students.

This table shows the percentage of 11th graders in each of our high schools who had scores at the level of being proficient or advanced in their PSSA and Keystone exams. Red highlighting means the school has scores indicating the need for improvement. Green highlighting shows the school is performing above average.

Results are mixed for the different schools. Most notable is the need for improvement in the science/biology and math scores. Four of the 17 schools have scores in science and biology requiring improvement, and five schools have scores in math requiring improvement.

The Academic Score is a composite of 24 measures plus 6 areas that earn extra credit. These measures include academic achievement, meeting annual academic growth expectations, graduation rate, attendance rate, and advanced placement.

Thirteen of our school districts have Academic Scores that are above average. Two school districts have scores that show the need for improvement.



Education

Academic Growth

2015-2016 Meeting Academic Growth Expectations

	Cocalico	Columbia Borough	Conestoga Valley	Donegal	Eastern Lancaster Co	Elizabethtown Area	Ephrata Area	Hempfield SD	Lampeter-Strasburg SD	Lancaster SD	Manheim Central	Manheim Township	Penn Manor	Pequea Valley	Solanco	Warwick	
	Cocalico SHS	Columbia JSHS	Conestoga Valley SHS	Donegal SHS	Garden Spot SHS	Elizabethtown Area SHS	Ephrata SHS	Hempfield SHS	Lampeter-Strasburg SHS	Mc-Caskey Campus	Phoenix Academy	Manheim Central SHS	Manheim Township HS	Penn Manor HS	Pequea Valley HS	Solanco HS	Warwick SHS
Math	100.00	91.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	67.50	54.00	94.00	100.00	100.00	64.00	100.00
Reading	100.00	74.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	79.00	100.00	86.00	50.00	61.50	98.00	81.00	73.00	71.00	50.00	61.00
Science	100.00	74.00	73.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	83.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	57.50	100.00	92.00	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00
Writing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Academic Score	96.8	69.2	86.6	85.0	91.9	87.6	90.9	89.5	88.7	54.7	33.9	90.6	89.9	92.1	87.2	70.3	82.2
<p align="center">Pennsylvania Department of Education: School Performance Profiles 2015-2016 (www.paschoolperformance.org) <i>Red highlighting indicates need for improvement; green highlighting indicates above average performance</i></p>																	

One set of measures in the School Performance Profile is the school’s impact on the academic progress of students from year-to-year. This is shown for each of the subject areas that are tested. Academic Growth scores evaluate how much groups of students have gained academically in a school year. The Academic Score is also displayed for informational purposes.

Our high schools, in general, have academic growth that is commensurate to what should be expected. Only two schools have growth that is below expectations in all areas.



Education

High School Graduation Rate

A high school diploma is a prerequisite to any chance for a good job and a comfortable standard of living. The Pennsylvania Department of Education began using the 4 year cohort method recommended by No Child Left Behind to calculate high school graduation rates in 2009-2010. This method takes into account students who enter and leave the county during their high school years.

Fifteen high schools have graduation rates that exceed the statewide rate.

The rates for most of the schools have been relatively steady over the years. Three have increases of 3 percent or more over the 2013-2014 year. Two have a decrease of this magnitude over this time period.

Seven schools have increased graduation rates over a five year period (from 2010-11 to 2014-15 school year); the remainder have decreased.

4 Year Cohort Graduation Rates

	PA	Cocalico	Columbia Borough	Conestoga Valley	Donegal	Eastern Lancaster Co	Elizabethtown Area	Ephrata Area	Hempfield SD	Lampeter-Strasburg SD	Lancaster SD	Manheim Central	Manheim Township	Penn Manor	Pequea Valley	Solanco	Warwick	
		Cocalico SHS	Columbia JSHS	Conestoga Valley SHS	Donegal SHS	Garden Spot SHS	Elizabethtown Area SHS	Ephrata SHS	Hempfield SHS	Lampeter-Strasburg SHS	Mc-Caskey Campus	Phoenix Academy	Manheim Central SHS	Manheim Township HS	Penn Manor HS	Pequea Valley HS	Solanco HS	Warwick SHS
2014-15	84.8%	93.0%	70.0%	91.7%	92.8%	92.3%	92.3%	88.2%	91.1%	91.0%	88.0%	66.0%	92.4%	92.8%	95.6%	90.4%	89.0%	95.5%
2013-14	85.5%	90.5%	71.8%	89.5%	91.6%	91.9%	93.9%	89.0%	96.6%	93.9%	81.1%	55.2%	92.3%	93.4%	97.4%	89.7%	93.5%	95.2%
2012-13	84.1%	95.7%	79.4%	91.4%	95.1%	94.1%	92.7%	90.8%	93.7%	93.8%	76.6%	41.7%	89.3%	95.2%	95.6%	89.9%	87.5%	92.2%
2011-12	80.5%	95.7%	NA	91.4%	NA	94.1%	NA	90.8%	93.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	95.2%	95.6%	89.9%	87.5%	92.2%
2010-11	82.6%	94.7%	74.7%	88.9%	93.6%	92.2%	95.2%	93.7%	94.7%	93.5%	74.7%	49.1%	94.2%	95.1%	91.7%	92.6%	87.6%	93.0%
<i>Pennsylvania Department of Education: High school grads - 4 yr. cohort grad. Rate; School Performance Profile</i>																		



Education

Postsecondary Education Plans

For many jobs, a high school diploma is not enough. Hence, obtaining a high school diploma is only a first step in ensuring someone has enough education to be able to compete in the job market.

Attracting new businesses to the county will be dependent to some degree on having a workforce that is qualified to meet the demands of jobs in the 21st century.

The table shows the percentage of graduates who have plans to continue their education beyond high school. Their plans could include college or technical school.

Five school districts have percentages that exceed the percentage for the state.

Eleven districts have increases over the 2013-2014 year in terms of number of graduates pursuing post secondary education; four have decreases and one remained about the same.

Since the 2007-08 school year, eight districts saw overall increases in the percent of graduates who have post-secondary plans; seven experienced decreases; and one remained about the same.

% High School Graduates Total Postsec Bound – Graduates Public by School

	PA	Cocalico	Columbia Borough	Conestoga Valley	Donegal	Eastern Lancaster Co	Elizabethtown	Ephrata	Hempfield	Lampeter-Strasburg	Lancaster	Manheim Central	Manheim Township	Penn Manor	Pequea Valley	Solanco	Warwick
2014-15	73.2%	63.6%	46.1%	70.4%	68.7%	58.4%	75.8%	67.6%	78.7%	77.4%	68.8%	69.0%	85.6%	65.4%	51.7%	60.3%	75.4%
2013-14	72.4%	62.8%	45.9%	65.5%	65.5%	59.3%	65.6%	64.8%	74.0%	77.4%	75.2%	74.7%	89.7%	64.5%	63.7%	55.5%	72.1%
2012-13	69.4%	68.1%	67.7%	67.1%	69.0%	62.1%	65.5%	66.9%	76.5%	83.1%	79.4%	68.6%	72.7%	66.1%	57.4%	57.5%	67.6%
2011-12	73.9%	53.0%	61.0%	69.5%	67.7%	64.6%	69.8%	67.7%	81.7%	81.9%	70.8%	66.8%	74.2%	66.8%	61.4%	61.3%	80.6%
2010-11	76.5%	57.1%	51.4%	68.6%	67.1%	60.7%	72.3%	69.3%	81.1%	79.3%	67.4%	86.3%	77.2%	73.5%	71.4%	56.7%	77.2%
2009-10	75.2%	67.3%	64.9%	73.3%	63.7%	60.7%	72.0%	66.8%	81.7%	75.1%	61.7%	69.4%	85.2%	73.0%	63.4%	70.2%	75.0%
2008-09	76.1%	55.5%	62.4%	84.1%	62.1%	57.2%	70.3%	65.9%	84.2%	77.6%	71.9%	58.0%	86.7%	70.3%	69.5%	71.7%	75.1%
2007-08	75.0%	67.3%	64.5%	77.1%	61.5%	60.8%	72.2%	64.5%	78.9%	75.6%	65.9%	53.6%	87.2%	71.2%	64.3%	57.9%	76.7%
Pennsylvania Department of Education																	



Education

Educational Attainment

To be fully competitive in the marketplace, higher education is becoming increasingly necessary. Education levels the playing field for everyone. The Census Bureau has reported that education levels had more effect on earnings during 40 years in the workforce than any other demographic factor, such as gender or race.

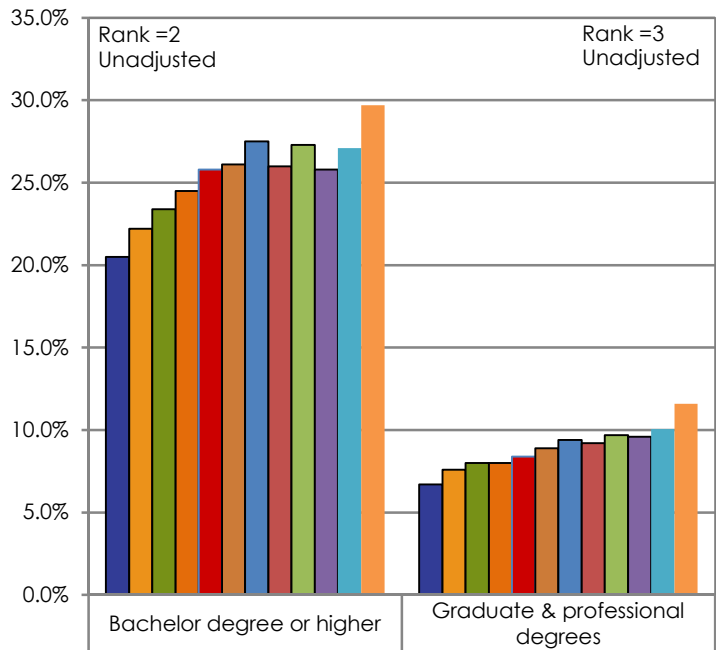
Usually, educational attainment refers to persons 25 and older since they are mostly finished with their education by that time. In Pennsylvania, 29.7% have a bachelor's degree or higher. A total of 11.6% have a professional or graduate degree.

From 2000 to 2015, the percentage of Lancaster County residents 25 and older with a bachelor's or higher degree increased. Despite this, the county's percentages are slightly lower than the state's.

The county ranks second out of six for the percentage of residents with a bachelor degree or higher.

A unique characteristic in Lancaster County is the population of Amish and Mennonites. Their formal education stops at eighth grade. It is estimated that there are 35,000 persons who are Amish or Old Order Mennonites in the county. Of that number, probably half are under the age of 18. To produce a more accurate measure of higher education attainment, an adjustment was made that removed half of the 35,000 from the base number used to calculate the percentages with higher education. The adjustments presented in the graph are most likely conservative since they use under 18 rather than under 25.

% of Population with Bachelor's Degrees or Higher



■ 2000	20.5%	6.7%
■ 2011	22.2%	7.6%
■ 2011 Adjusted	23.4%	8.0%
■ 2012	24.5%	8.0%
■ 2012 Adjusted	25.8%	8.4%
■ 2013	26.1%	8.9%
■ 2013 Adjusted	27.5%	9.4%
■ 2014	26.0%	9.2%
■ 2014 Adjusted	27.3%	9.7%
■ 2015	25.8%	9.6%
■ 2015 Adjusted	27.1%	10.1%
■ PA 2015	29.7%	11.6%

% of population with bachelor degrees or higher 25+ (ACS, 2011)

% of population with graduate and professional degrees 25+ (ACS 2011)

2000 Census; 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 American Community Survey 1 yr. estimates

2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, 2014 Adjusted takes into account the Old Order population of 35,000 with 50% being under 18 years of age.

17,500 was subtracted from the population number for 25+ and percentages were recalculated (Younger Center for Anabaptist & Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College)





Economic Engine

Economic Engine

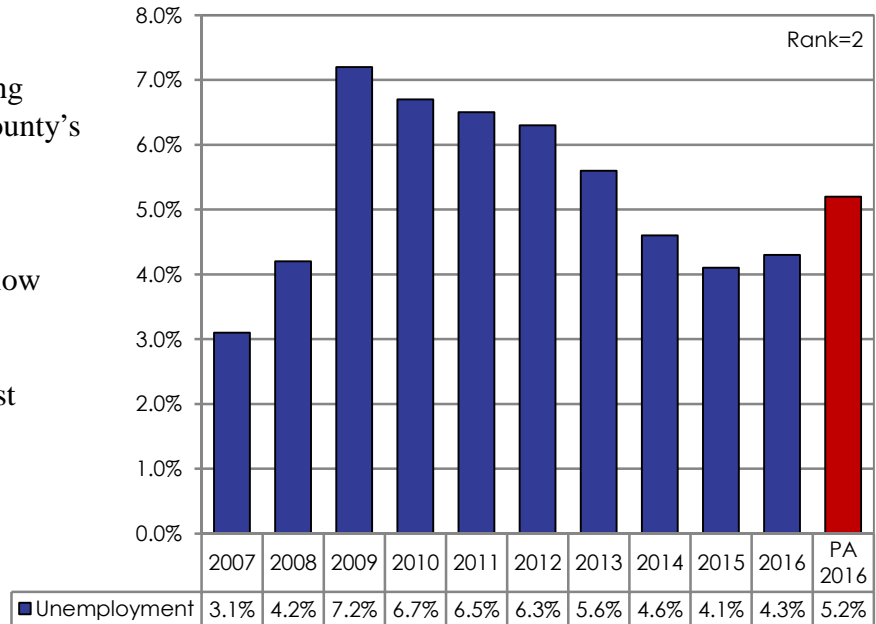
Unemployment Rate

Employing the maximum number of persons who want to work is core to a prosperous community. After increasing dramatically from 2008 to 2009, the county's unemployment rate has been steadily dropping.

The county's unemployment rate is below Pennsylvania's 5.2 percent.

Lancaster County has the second lowest unemployment rate of the six counties.

% Labor Force Unemployed



Bureau of Labor Statistics:
Local area unemployment statistics map civilian labor force & unemployment by county, not seasonally adjusted – September



Economic Engine

Industry Mix and Number of Businesses (Non-Farm)

Economic cycles and their effects tend to vary by industry. Some industries are less affected by a bad economy than others. Due to this, having a mix of industries becomes important to a community's economic health. This table shows the total number of businesses, the number in each industry, and the percentage this represents of all businesses that have employees. The Census Bureau conducts separate research for non-employer businesses.

Looking at the industry mix, not much has changed over the seven year time period shown. Retail (15.7%), construction (12.8%), and businesses classified as "other services" (13.2%) have the greatest number of businesses.

After decreasing from 2008 to 2009, the number of businesses in the county have been increasing. In 2013, we exceeded the 2008 levels, and continued to grow in 2014.

The number of farms are counted in the Census of Agriculture conducted every five years by the United States Department of Agriculture. The number of farms in Lancaster County has been steadily growing as seen by these numbers: 1992 – 3,997; 1997 – 4,034; 2002 – 5,293, 2007 – 5,462, and 2012 – 5,657.

Industry Mix by Number and Percent (Non-Farm)

	Total	Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, & Agriculture Support	Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	Utilities	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation & Warehousing	Information	Finance & Insurance	Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs	Management of Companies & Enterprises	Admin, Support, Waste Mngmnt, & Remediation Svcs	Educational Svcs	Health Care & Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	Accommodation & Food Svcs	Other Svcs (except public administration)
2014	12,414	33	11	24	1,596	877	664	1,944	393	141	605	338	970	71	626	134	1,126	173	1,038	1,640
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	12.8%	7.1%	5.4%	15.7%	3.2%	1.1%	4.9%	2.7%	7.8%	0.6%	5.0%	1.1%	9.1%	1.4%	8.4%	13.2%
2013	12,259	37	11	23	1,566	872	661	1,947	398	143	610	333	955	66	603	125	1,123	166	1,015	1,605
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	12.8%	7.1%	5.4%	15.9%	3.2%	1.2%	5.0%	2.7%	7.8%	0.5%	4.9%	1.0%	9.2%	1.4%	8.3%	13.1%
2012	12,158	33	11	25	1,559	859	652	1,924	395	146	629	340	960	68	589	121	1,100	156	1,002	1,589
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	12.8%	7.1%	5.4%	15.8%	3.2%	1.2%	5.2%	2.8%	7.9%	0.6%	4.8%	1.0%	9.0%	1.3%	8.2%	13.1%
2011	12,022	38	13	24	1,534	855	659	1,941	384	136	631	319	960	65	581	109	1,063	158	977	1,575
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	12.8%	7.1%	5.5%	16.1%	3.2%	1.1%	5.2%	2.7%	8.0%	0.5%	4.8%	0.9%	8.8%	1.3%	8.1%	13.1%
2010	12,029	42	12	22	1,546	856	669	1,953	366	137	641	340	961	66	553	106	1,065	160	966	1,568
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	12.9%	7.1%	5.6%	16.2%	3.0%	1.1%	5.3%	2.8%	8.0%	0.5%	4.6%	0.9%	8.9%	1.3%	8.0%	13.0%
2009	11,975	40	14	28	1,558	873	664	1,942	372	133	667	349	948	62	546	103	1,030	162	932	1,552
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	13.0%	7.3%	5.5%	16.2%	3.1%	1.1%	5.6%	2.9%	7.9%	0.5%	4.6%	0.9%	8.6%	1.4%	7.8%	13.0%
2008	12,171	38	14	26	1,593	926	670	1,978	375	136	679	345	939	72	562	106	1,046	168	937	1,561
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	13.1%	7.6%	5.5%	16.2%	3.1%	1.1%	5.6%	2.8%	7.7%	0.6%	4.6%	0.9%	8.6%	1.4%	7.7%	12.8%

County Business Patterns: Industry mix



Economic Engine

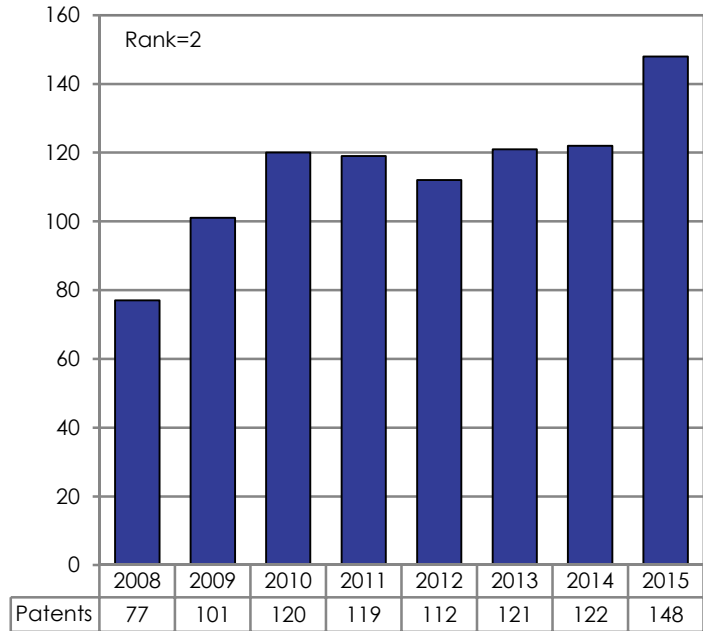
Patents

Having a creative and inventive workforce is an asset to the company fortunate enough to have these employees and to the entire community's economy. One measure of creativity is the granting of a patent for someone's invention. The United States Patents and Trademark Office reports the number of patents granted to persons residing in a county.

In 2015, the number of patents granted to county residents is nearly double the number of patents issued in 2008.

Only one other county had more patents granted in 2015 than Lancaster County.

Number of Patents Granted



U.S. Patents and Trademark Office: Utility patent grants (location determined by first person's residence)

Economic Engine

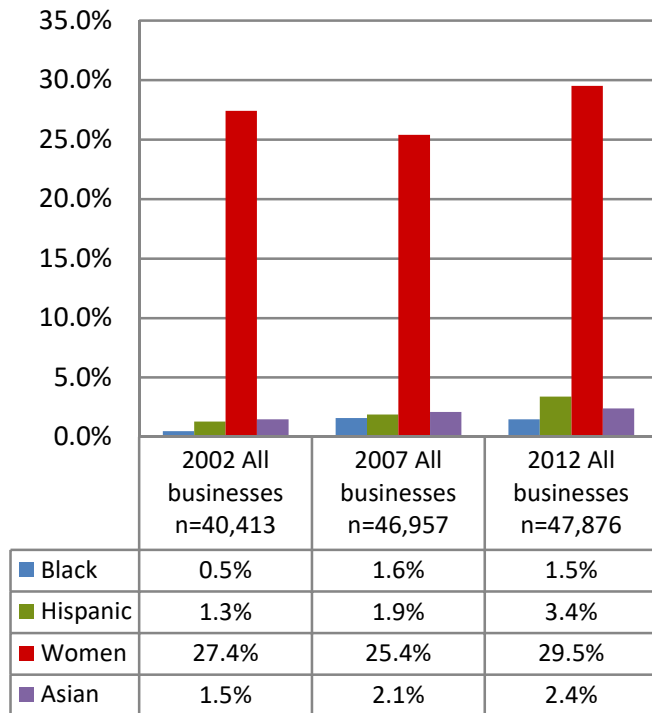
Minority Owned Businesses

In a prosperous community, everyone should have the opportunity to own a business. The number of minority businesses is a measure of the opportunities that exist for all. In the Census Bureau's Economic Census, a distinction is made between all businesses and employer firms. All businesses include both single person enterprises and establishments that have employees other than the owner.

The Economic Census is conducted every five years. This is why data is presented for 2002, 2007, and 2012.

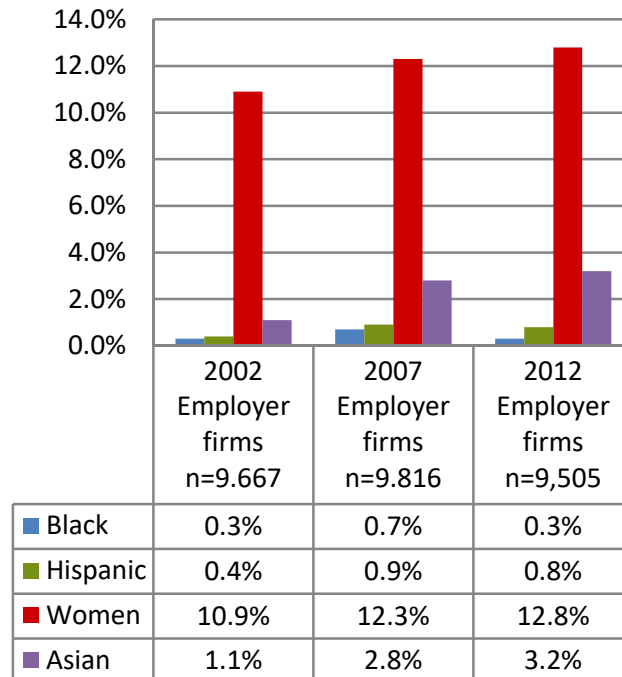
The percentage of businesses that are minority owned increased from 2002 to 2012 across the board.

Percentage of Businesses



2002, 2007, 2012 Economic Census

Percentage of Businesses



2002, 2007, 2012 Economic Census

Economic Engine

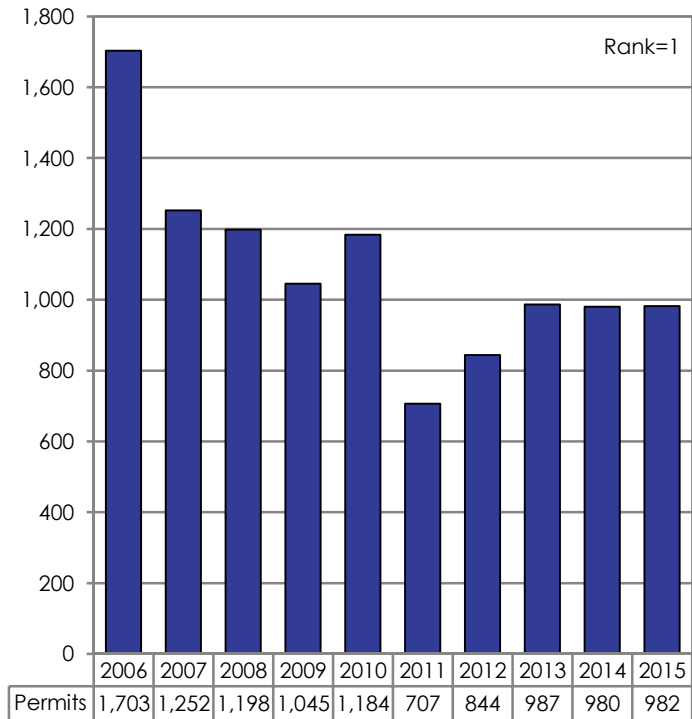
Residential Building Permits

A sign of a growing economy is new building starts. This graph presents data on the number of building permits for new residential housing. The collapse in new home starts from 2006 to 2007 is apparent in this graph. Over these two years, the number of building permits for new housing decreased by 26.5 percent.

After reaching a low of 707 in 2011, the number of residential building permits has remained steady with a gradual increase.

The county ranks first of the six counties for residential housing building permits.

Number of Residential Housing Building Permits



Census, Business & Industry: Building permits, New Privately Owned Residential Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits, Reported Only, Number of Buildings





Health & Safety

Health & Safety

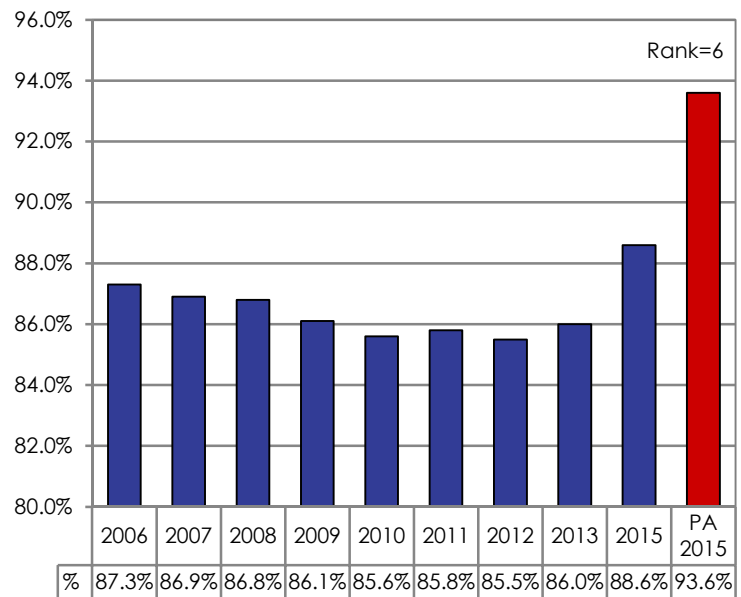
Health Care Insurance Coverage

Given the cost of health care, it is easy to imagine persons foregoing needed care when they are lacking health insurance. This can lead to persons resorting to the use of an emergency department when their health problems become acute. This drives up the cost of health care for all of us.

Reflecting changes in the workplace, the percentage of residents with health insurance began decreasing since 2006, but has seen an increase since 2012.

Of the six counties being compared, Lancaster County has the lowest percentage of residents under 65 with health insurance

% Residents With Health Insurance Coverage (under 65)



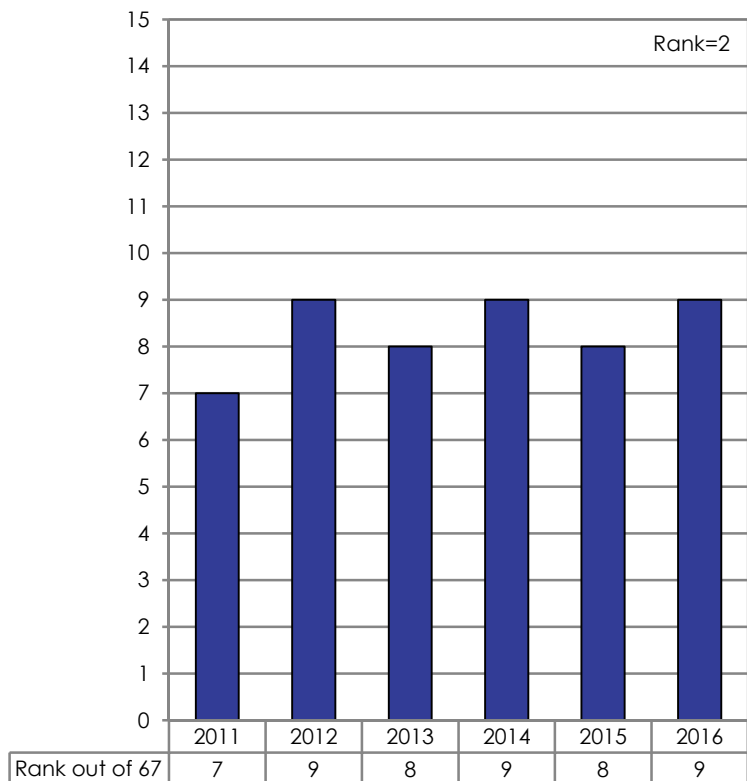
Census, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates; 2012 American Community Survey 1 year estimates

Health Status

Starting in 2010, the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute began comparing counties within each state on health outcomes. These outcomes include measures of mortality (premature deaths) and morbidity (poor or fair health, poor physical health days, poor mental health days, low birth weight).

Out of the 67 Pennsylvania counties, Lancaster County is among the top 10 for the six years the program has been in existence.

Compared to the other five surrounding Pennsylvania counties, Lancaster County has the second best health outcome for 2015.



County Health Rankings

Health & Safety

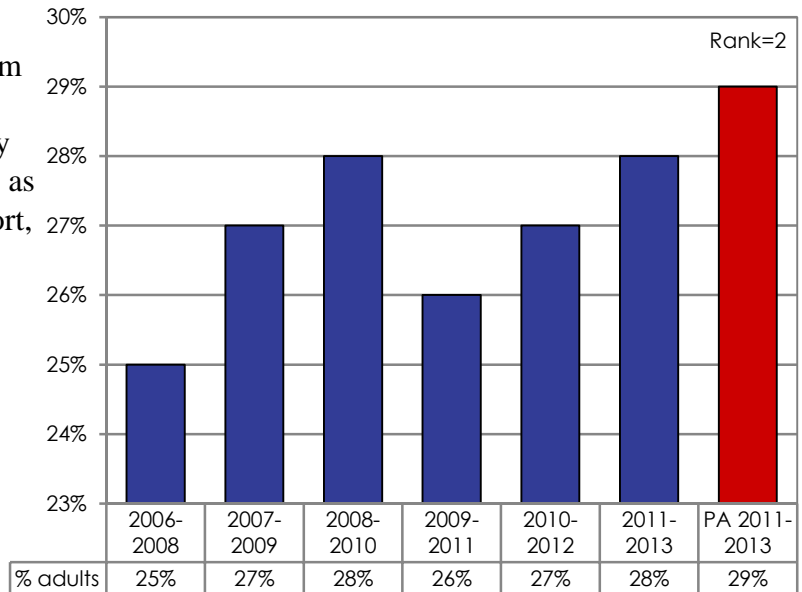
Obesity in Adults

The increase in the percentage of Lancaster County residents who are obese continued from 2005-2007 to 2008-2010. In the 2009-2011 report, the percentage of residents with a Body Mass Index of 30 and above, defining persons as being obese, decreased. In the 2011-2013 report, the percentage is on the rise again.

The county's percentage of obese persons is slightly lower than the state's.

Of the six counties, Lancaster County has the second lowest percentage of obese adults.

Obesity in Adults



PA Dept. of Health, County Health Profiles; BMI 30+

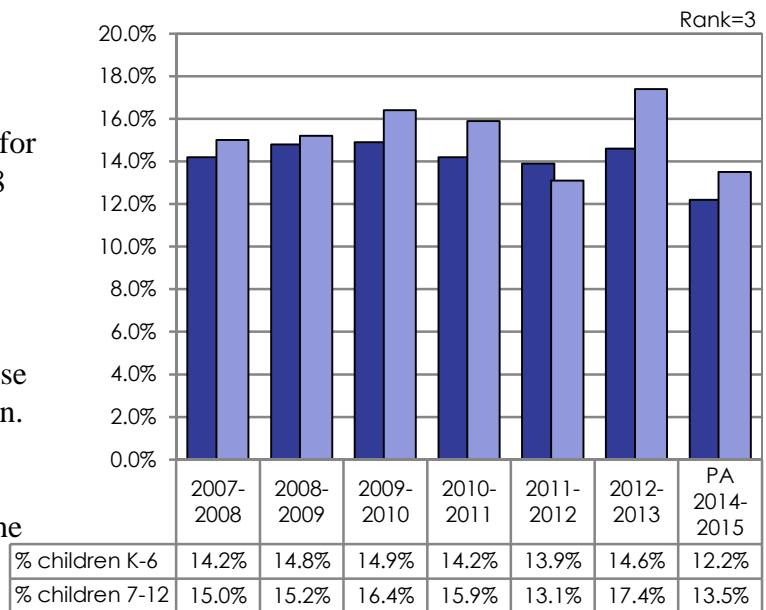
Obesity in Children

Obesity is not limited to the adults in our population. Starting in the 2005-2006 school year, BMI screenings were mandatory for all students in K-4. This was expanded to K-8 in 2006-2007. In 2007-2008, all students in K-12 were included in the BMI screening.

The percentage of children in the county in grades K-6 and 7-12 who are classified as obese has been about 15% since the screenings began.

Lancaster County has the third lowest percentage of children classified as obese in the six county region.

Obesity in Children



PA Dept. of Health, Healthy Schools, BMI above 95th percentile of children same age and sex



Health & Safety

Low Birth Weight

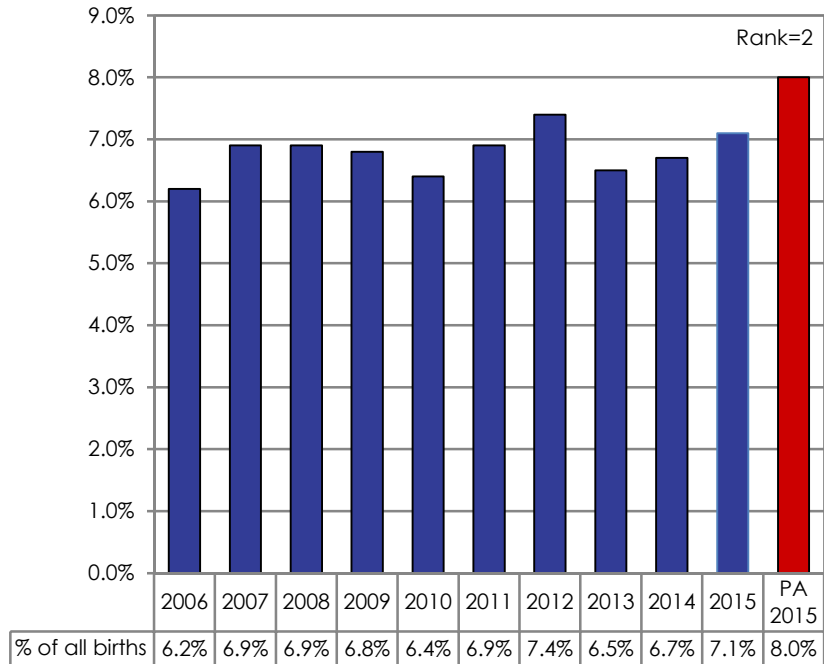
Low birth weight can be the result of several factors. Premature delivery or undernourishment of the mother during pregnancy are common causes of this. The lack of proper nourishment could be related to not receiving adequate prenatal care. Whatever the cause, low birth weight puts the child at risk.

The percentage of low birth weights out of all births in the county has generally fluctuated between 6 and 7 percent over the years. An increase to 7.1% occurred in 2015.

The percentage of low weight births continues to be lower than the percentage for the state.

Lancaster County has the second lowest percentage of low birth weights of the six counties being ranked.

% Births Under 2500 Grams



County Health Profiles, PA Dept. of Health



Health & Safety

Violent Crime Rate

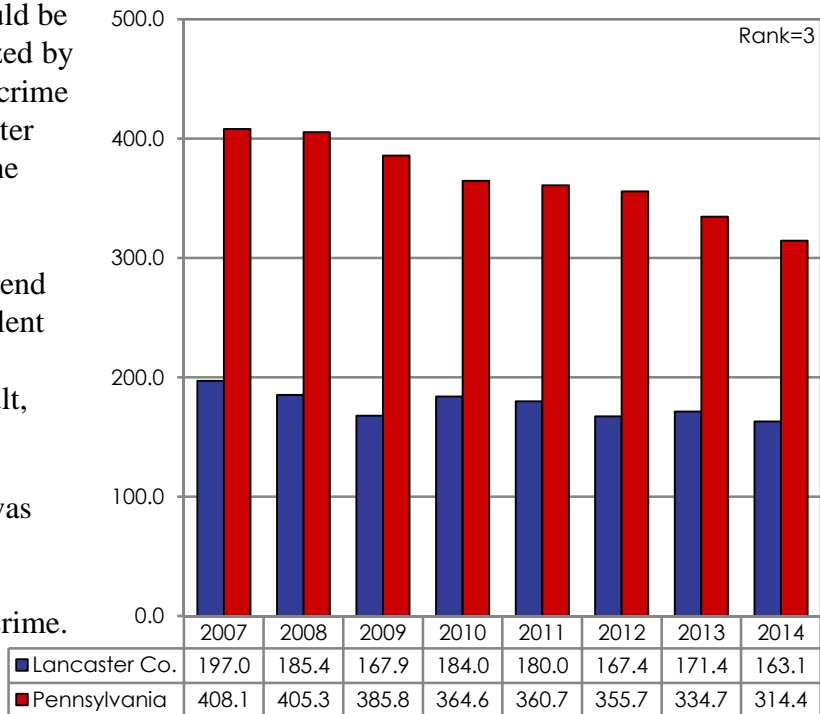
In the ideal community, all residents should be able to live without fear of being victimized by a violent crime. Nationwide, the violent crime rate has been trending downward. Lancaster County has had the same experience as the nation and the state.

Despite yearly fluctuations, the general trend since 2007 has been a decrease in the violent crime rate. This includes the offenses of homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.

In 2014, the county's violent crime rate was approximately half of state's.

Lancaster County ranks third on violent crime. Since the rankings are based on positive outcomes, this means two other counties have lower violent crime rates.

Violent Crime (rate per 100,000)



Pa State Police , Uniform Crime Reporting System: Index 1 Offenses

Property Crime Rate

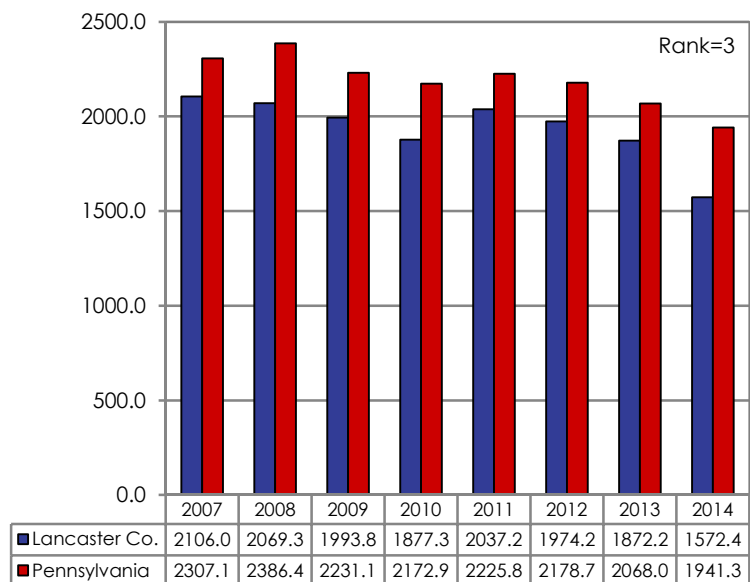
In addition to feeling safe, all residents should not have to worry about losing property as a result of a criminal act. Property crimes include larceny, automobile theft, burglary, and arson.

After a five year decrease in the property crime rate, this rate increased from 2010 to 2011, and has been decreasing each year since.

Like violent crime, Lancaster County's property crime rate is lower than the state's. However, the gap between the county and the state is not as great as it is for violent crime.

The county ranks third of the six counties being compared. This means two other counties have lower crime rates than Lancaster County.

Property Crime (rate per 100,000)



Pa State Police , Uniform Crime Reporting System: Index 1 Offenses





Community & Culture

Community & Culture

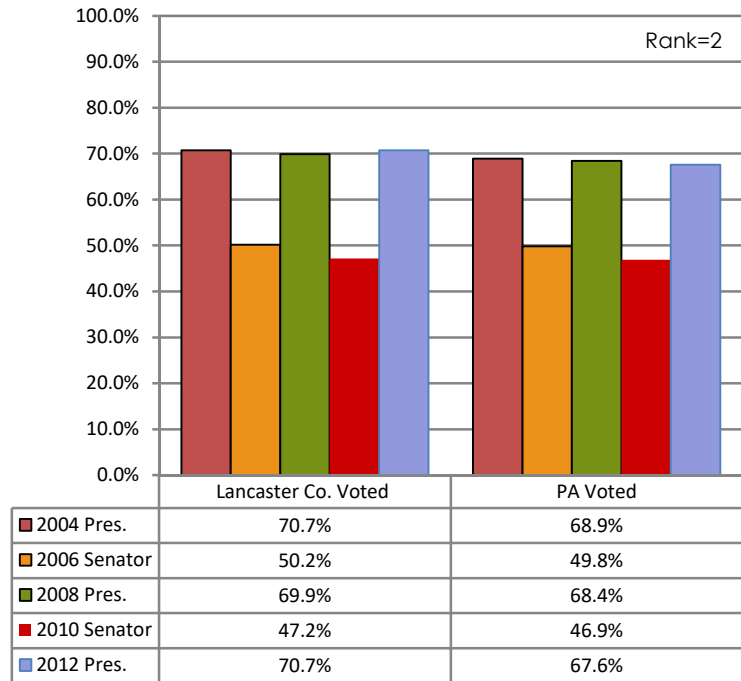
Voting

Within a democracy, voting is a privilege. Through voting, citizens make their voices heard. Of course, to vote, one must be registered. In 2012, 78.9 percent of county residents 18 and older were registered to vote. This is lower than the percentage of registered voters in the state (85.9%).

Being registered does not necessarily mean you exercise your right to vote. The graph shows the percentage of registered voters who voted in the last five general elections. Lancaster County has a slightly higher voter turnout rate than the state.

The county is second in the percentage of voters in the 2012 general election when compared to the other five counties.

Voting



PA Manual
PA Department of State

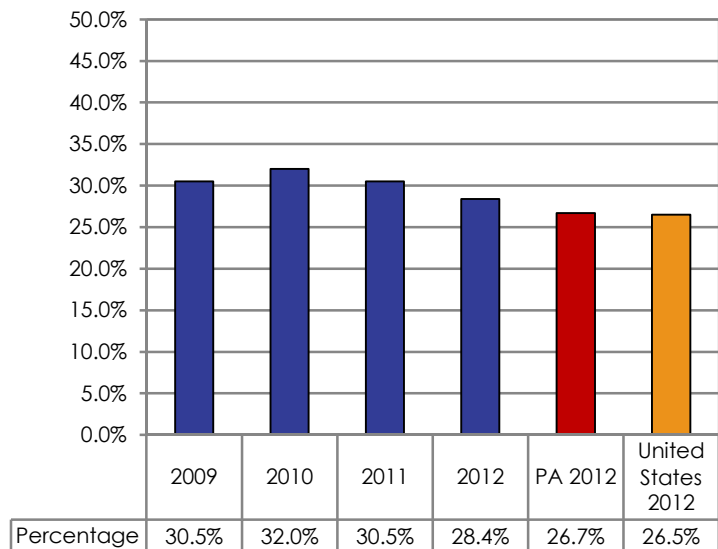
Volunteerism

A key component of social capital is persons volunteering in the community. Volunteering demonstrates a commitment to the greater good of the community without any material reward. The 3 year average volunteer rate of our county is 28.4 percent.

The rate has decreased since 2010. Future studies will discover if this is a downward trend.

The county's participation in volunteering is greater than the state's or the nation's.

% Population Volunteering



volunteeringinamerica.gov/pa



Community & Culture

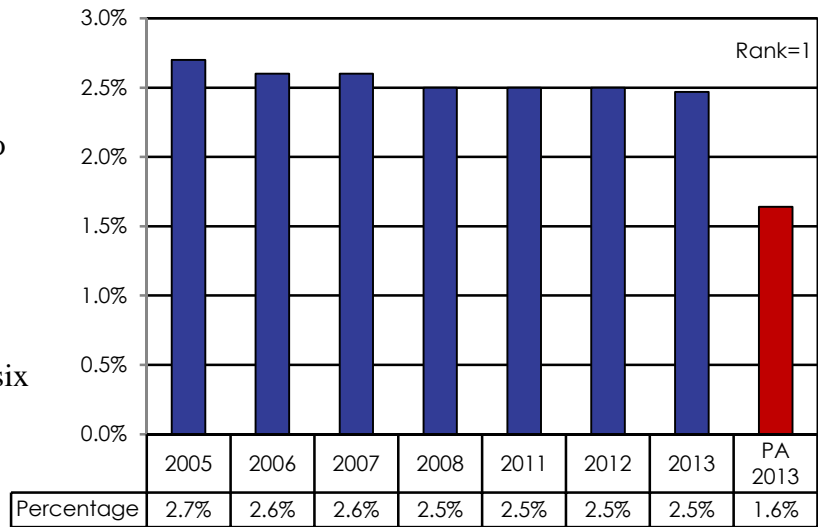
Charitable Giving

Another component of social capital is charitable giving within a community. For the past four years for which data is available, county residents have contributed 2.5 percent of their adjusted gross income to charities.

Residents are considerably more generous than the state in their charitable giving.

Lancaster County is number one out of the six counties being compared in charitable contributions as a percentage of income.

Charitable Contributions As Percentage of Income



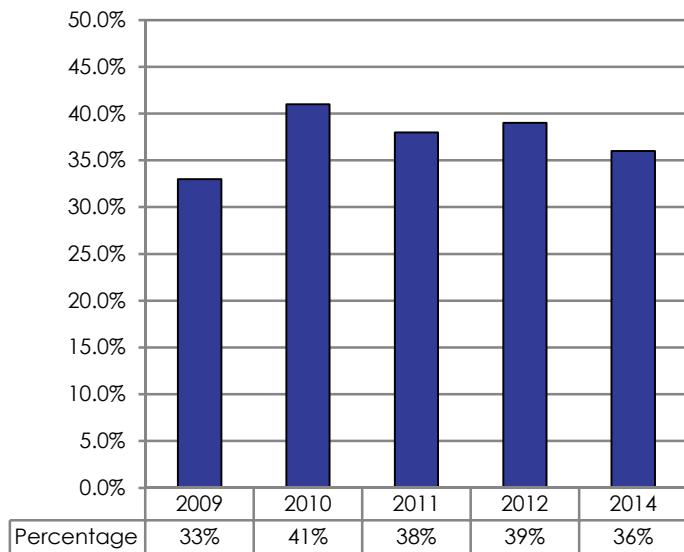
National Center for Charitable Statistics

Cultural/Arts Participation

Residents participating in cultural activities can be seen as a sign of a healthy community. The measure presented here takes this a step further by examining the percentage of residents who visited Lancaster City for any arts, cultural, or historical activity. Having persons take advantage of these types of venues in the city contributes to having a vibrant Lancaster City.

Since 2009, the percentage of adult Lancaster County residents engaging in one of these activities in the city has increased, although there was a decline in 2014.

% Residents Visited Lancaster City for Arts, Cultural, or Historical Activity



The Lancaster County Community Foundation



Community & Culture

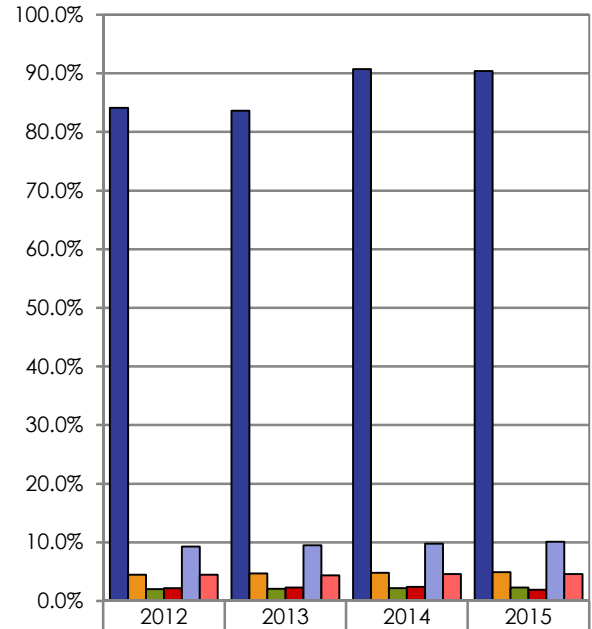
Population Diversity

Diversity in a population has the potential to create a rich, vibrant community. Research has found that a diverse population and a healthy economy go together.

Since 2012, the diversity of the county's population has remained consistent.

Percentages do not equal 100 since Hispanic and foreign born can be different races.

Population Diversity



	2012	2013	2014	2015
White (not Hispanic)	84.1%	83.6%	90.7%	90.4%
Black	4.5%	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%
Asian	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.3%
Other	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	1.9%
Hispanic	9.3%	9.5%	9.8%	10.1%
Foreign Born	4.5%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%

2000, 2010 Census (based on one race divided by total population)
2013 US Census Quick Facts





Physical Environment

Physical Environment

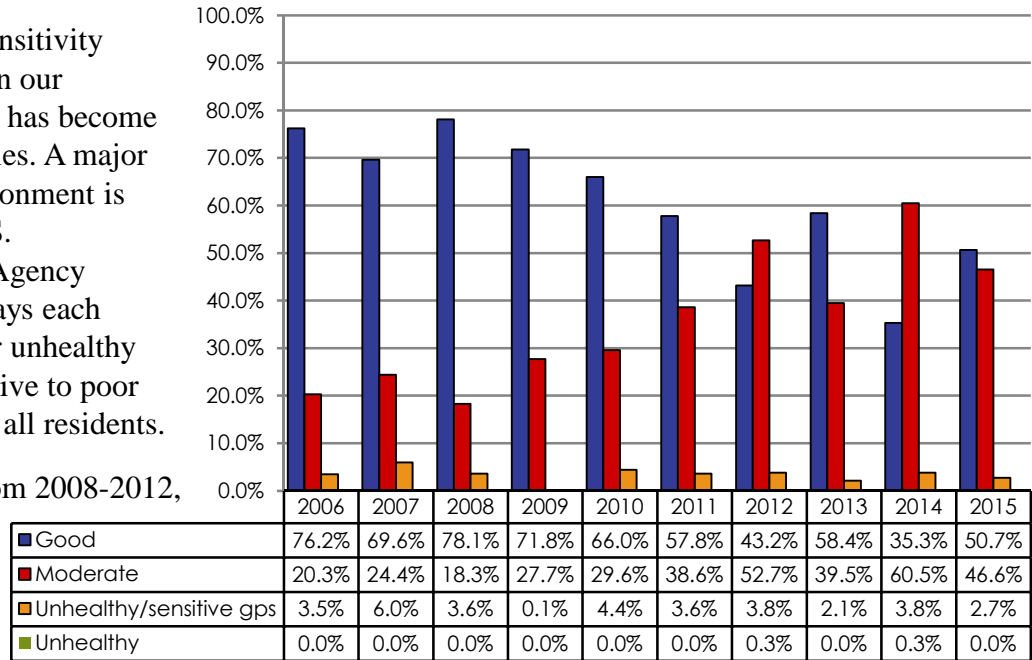
Air Quality

Reflecting our increased sensitivity to the impact we all have on our environment, sustainability has become a focus of many communities. A major component of a clean environment is healthy air quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports the percentage of days each year the air quality is either unhealthy for groups especially sensitive to poor quality air or unhealthy for all residents.

After a downward trend from 2008-2012, the percentage of days with good air quality increased to 58% in 2013. In 2014, the percentage of good air quality days dropped again, but increased in 2015.

Comparisons with other geographical areas is not recommended by the EPA since the location of air quality monitors varies.

% Days With Healthy Air Quality



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Air Quality Index Report
(% of days of different qualities)

Water Quality

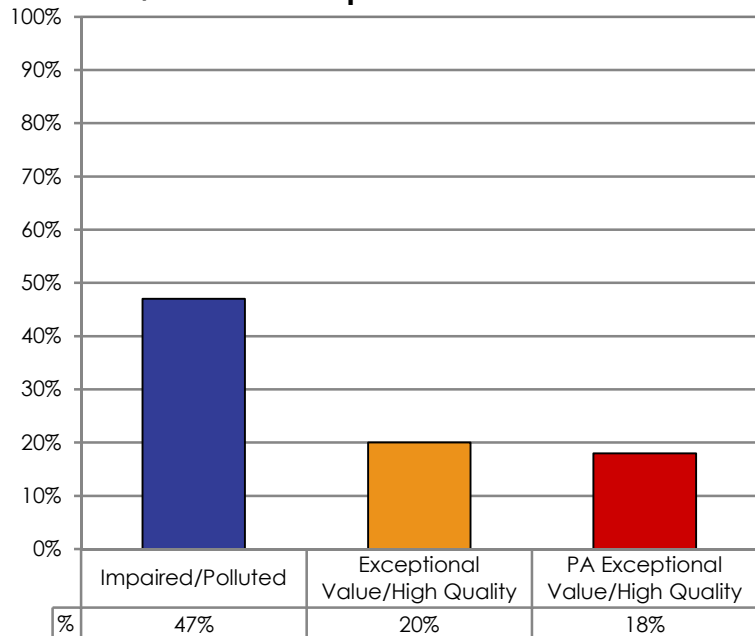
Of the county's 1,400 miles of streams, 47 percent (nearly 700 miles) are listed on Pennsylvania's polluted list. These streams have some sort of pollution issue and warrant attention.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation reports that Lancaster County produces more nitrogen from manure than any other county in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

There are 300 miles of streams (20%) rated as being either High Quality or Exceptional Value.

The remaining 500 miles of streams are not polluted but also are not excellent in terms of water quality.

% Streams Impaired or Polluted



Lancaster County Conservation District,
PA Campaign for Clean Water.org 2010-2015



Physical Environment

Open Space and Parks

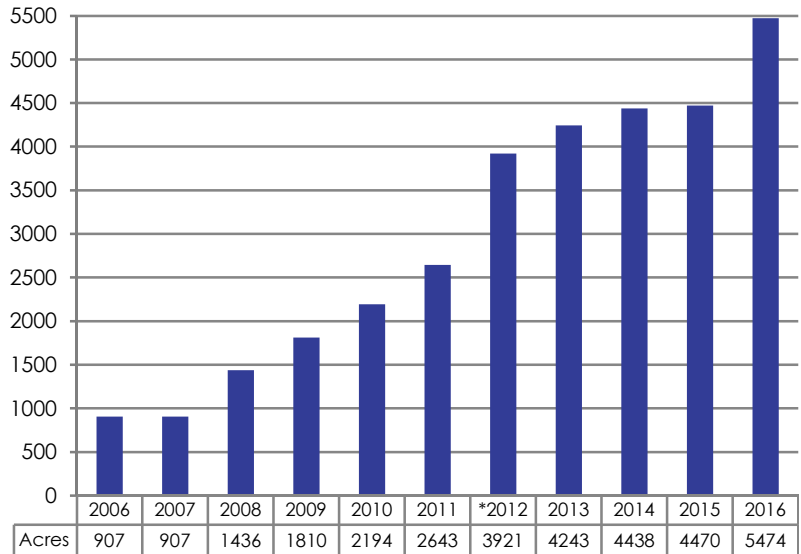
Among the many unique features of Lancaster County is the beautiful countryside that we enjoy. As development occurs, there may be concern that we are losing our open space.

The Lancaster County Conservancy is actively engaged in preserving our natural lands.

The county has nine parks and recreational trails totaling over 1,860 acres. Plus, the Susquehannock State Park over 224 acres.

The National Parks and Recreation Association has a standard of 15 acres per 1000 residents of county and local government owned parkland. Given our population growth and limited public funding, this has yet to be achieved.

Cumulative Acres of Land Conserved



Lancaster County Conservancy; Lancaster County Planning Commission

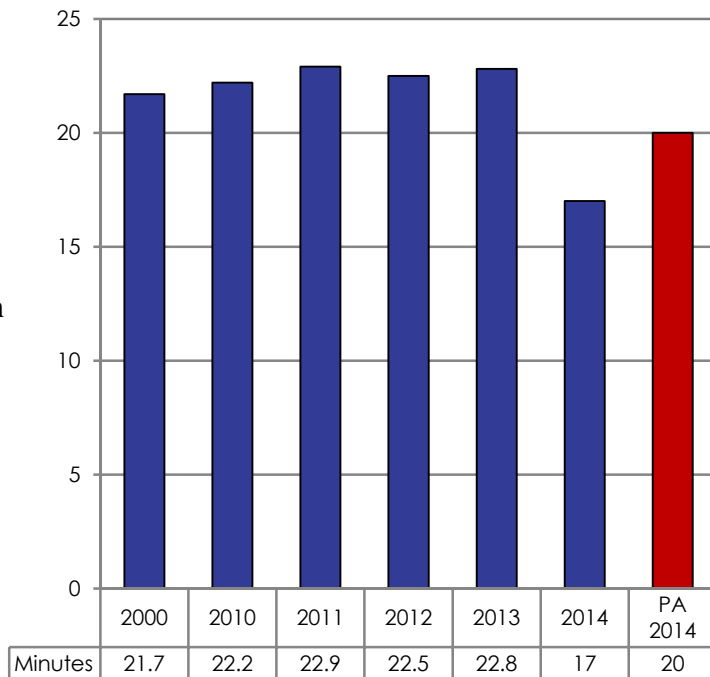
*Adjusted for a previous error.

Time Spent Commuting

A common complaint heard in the community is the amount of traffic congestion that exists. As the population grows, our transportation infrastructure does not necessarily grow at the same pace. One measure of congestion is time spent commuting. Of course, other factors such as the location of one's job have an impact on commuting time.

Despite the growth that occurred in Lancaster County and the increase in out-of-county workers, the time required for commuting has been relatively steady. Residents throughout the state take longer to get to work than we do in Lancaster County.

Number of Minutes Required To Get To Work



Mean travel time to work, 16+
(2000 Census; 2010 to 2012, 2014 American Community Survey 1 yr. est.)



Physical Environment

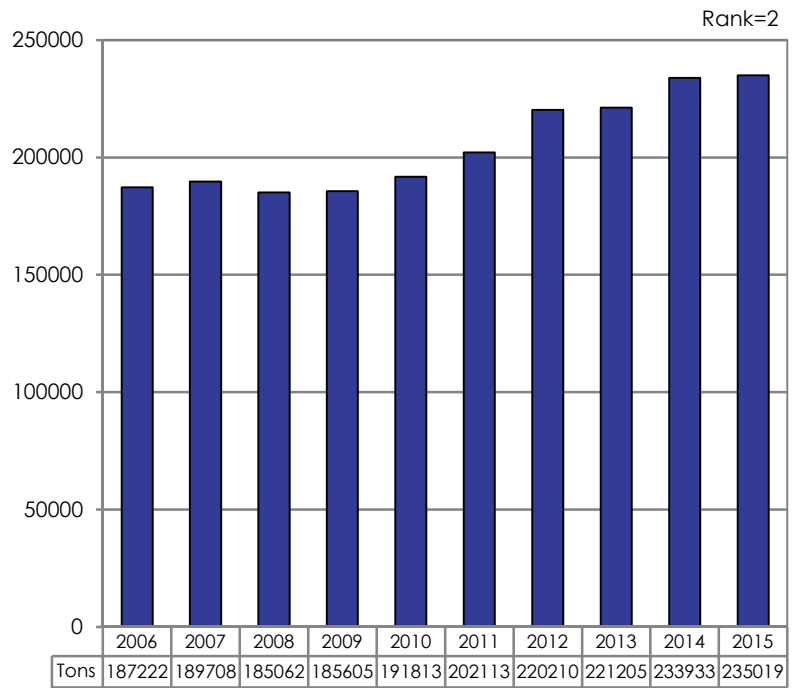
Recycling

One way to reduce our impact on the environment is to recycle. In 2015, county residents recycled 235,019 tons of material. This is a notable increase since 2006.

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority reports that a 43 percent recycling rate was achieved in 2015.

The county ranks second of the six counties being compared.

Tons of Materials Recycled



Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, PA Department of Environmental Protection

