

Greater Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Summer 2005

Fast Facts

A publication of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry ♦ <http://www.wilkes-barre.org>

2005 Population

Luzerne County	319,250
Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton/Hazleton MSA	624,776
50 - mile radius	1,546,601
100 - mile radius	13,767,415
125 - mile radius	27,962,030

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Population by Age

	Luzerne County	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Hazleton MSA
0-19	75,675	152,852
20-34	56,286	112,205
35-54	92,660	179,990
55-64	31,890	61,519
65+	62,677	118,201

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Current Labor Market

April 2005	* Luzerne County	* Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton/Hazleton
Civilian Labor Force:	156,600	276,000
Employed:	148,100	261,400
Unemployed:	8,500	14,500
Rate:	5.4%	5.3%

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry

*Not seasonally adjusted

2005 Work Force Participation Rates

	Luzerne County	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/ Hazleton MSA
Male	67.9%	69%
Female	48.1%	49%
Total	57.3%	58.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census/Claritas Inc. (projections)

Labor Market History

	Luzerne Co. Civilian		Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/ Hazleton Civilian	
	Labor Force	Employed	Labor Force	Employed
1980	151,600	135,300	264,700	237,700
1990	155,900	144,200	275,200	255,000
2000	157,200	149,000	277,500	264,100
2003	155,000	146,700	276,600	260,400
2004	158,300	147,600	278,300	260,500

Unemployment Rates:

Year	Luzerne Co.	MSA	PA
1980	10.7%	10.2%	7.9%
1990	7.5%	7.3%	5.4%
2000	5.2%	4.8%	4.2%
2003	6.2%	5.9%	5.7%
2004	6.8%	6.4%	5.5%

Source: Center for Workforce Information & Analysis
PA Department of Labor and Industry

Important Links

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber - <http://www.wilkes-barre.org>

NEPA Job Search - <http://www.wilkes-barre.org/jobsite>

City of Wilkes-Barre - <http://www.wilkes-barre.pa.us>

Downtown Wilkes-Barre - <http://www.wilkes-barrenow.org>

Small Business Resources - <http://www.icwb.biz>

Community Comparison - <http://www.bestplaces.net>

More Fast Facts:

Greater Wilkes-Barre has over 2,700 acres of designated Tax-Free Keystone Opportunity Zone land.

Greater Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/Hazleton has the 11th lowest crime rate of all 354 U.S. metropolitan areas.

Farmers Insurance Group ranked the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/Hazleton area as the 6th most secure place to live in the country.

The region is within a 600-mile radius of more than 40% of the nation's population.

The average commute time is 15 minutes in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Employment by Industry Group - April 2005

TOTAL NONFARM JOBS	Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton/ Hazleton/MSA	Percentage
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	43,600	17.0%
Construction, Natural Resources & Mining	10,000	23%
Manufacturing	33,500	77%
Durable Goods	16,100	
Nondurable Goods	17,500	
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	213,500	83%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	57,500	27%
Wholesale Trade	10,600	
Retail Trade	33,700	
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	13,200	
Information	6,500	3.04%
Financial Activities	14,100	6.6%
Professional & Bus Services	20,900	9.79%
Education & Health Care	49,700	23.28%
Education Services	10,700	
Health Care & Social Assistance	39,000	
Leisure & Hospitality	22,500	10.54%
Other Services	10,300	4.82%
Government	32,000	14.99%

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry

Underemployed Workers in Greater Wilkes-Barre

Total Number of Available Workers	55,000
Underemployed	36,500
Unemployed, seeking work	13,000
Not working, but contemplating re-entering the workforce	6,000

Workers available at specific hourly rate:

\$ 6.99 or less	3,300
\$ 7.00 - \$ 7.99	3,650
\$ 8.00 - \$ 8.99	4,000
\$ 9.00 - \$ 9.99	1,800
\$ 10.00 - \$ 10.99	2,900
\$ 11.00 - \$ 11.99	1,100
\$ 12.00 - \$ 12.99	2,550
\$ 13.00 - \$ 13.99	1,800
\$ 14.00 - \$ 14.99	1,450
\$ 15.00 - \$ 15.99	2,900
\$ 16.00 - \$ 16.99	1,100
\$ 17.00 - \$ 17.99	1,450
\$ 18.00 - \$ 18.99	1,800
\$ 19.00 - \$ 19.99	700
\$ 20.00 - \$ 20.99	2,550
\$ 25.00 or over	3,300

Source: PF Resources

Taxes

Corporate Net Income Tax ¹	9.99%
NOL Carryover \$1,000,000	
Dividend exclusions, ACRS, Subchapter S Election, Special Tax Credit for neighborhood assistance; economic revitalization tax credit; homeowners mortgage assistance.	
Sales Tax ³	6%
Selective tax. Business exemptions for manufacturing; processing; farming; R&D; mining; printing; sales/resale.	
Unemployment Compensation Tax ⁴	
Employer (imposed on first \$8,000 of wages for each employee)	
-New Employer Contribution	3.75%
-Employee Withholding Portion	0.09%
Worker's Compensation	
Rates vary as to experience/type of business	
Capital Stock & Foreign Franchise Tax	5.99 mills
Tax exempt activities include manufacturing; processing; R&D; pollution control and computer software development.	
Compute by multiplying .01275 times the formula: (.5x [avg. net inc. = .75(net worth)] - \$100,000) .095	
Personal Income Tax ⁵	3.07% Flat
Exemptions are gross compensation less all retirement income.	

¹ Retroactive as of 1/1/95

² Includes certain business services.

³ First year rate, thereafter based on experience. Construction employers pay different rate scale.

⁴ Paid by individuals, business proprietorships, partnerships, and Pennsylvania S Corporations.

Important Contacts:

- ◆ **Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber**
 - Economic Development.....(570) 823-2101
John Augustine
 - Workforce Development/
Job Training.....(570) 823-2101
Jane Ashton
- ◆ **Electric Utilities**
 - Pennsylvania Power & Light Company.....(570) 821-5833
Rich Beasley
 - UGI Corporation.....(570) 830-1222
Joe Rymer
- ◆ **Water Utility**
 - Pennsylvania American Water Company.....(570) 830-6520
Susan Turcmanovich
- ◆ **Gas Utility**
 - PG Energy.....(570) 829-8881
Bruce Davis
- ◆ **Telephone**
 - Verizon.....(570) 826-4000
Anna Cervenak
 - Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises.....(570) 714-1159
Brad Cox
- ◆ **Governor's Action Team**.....(570) 826-2206
Steve Yokimishyn

Top Employers

Company	Description	Emp #
Wyoming Valley Health Care System	Health Care	3500
Proctor & Gamble Paper Products Co.	Paper Products	2450
Keystone Automotive Operations, Inc.	Automotive Parts	1425
Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises	Telecommunications	1350
Transcontinental Refrigerated Lines	Trucking/Distribution	1269
Pride Mobility Products Corp.	Home Medical Equip.	1200
Berwick Offray LLC	Ribbons & Bows	1100
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center	Hospitals	1100
Bank of America	Financial Info/Service	1050
PPL Susquehanna LLC	Electricity	1000
Dept. of Veteran Affairs Medical Center	Hospitals	994
RCN Corporation	Telecomm Services	900
Sears Logistics Service	Warehouse & Dist.	900
Mercy Health Partners c/o Mercy Hospital	Hospitals	890
Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Insurance - Health	875
TJ Maxx Distribution Center	Warehousing/Distrib.	840
Benco Dental Supply Company	Dental Equip/Supplies	804
Offset Paperback Mfrs., Inc.	Printers	790
Caremark	Pharmaceutical	750
Sears Logistics Services	Warehouse/Distrib.	749
Verizon	Telecomm Services	725
Sallie Mae Servicing Corporation	Loan Servicing Cntr.	703
Bemis Company, Inc.	Manufacturer/Bags	660
InterMetro Industries Corp.	Wire Shelve Systems	660
Wal Mart Stores	Department Stores	650
UNI Marts LLC	Convenience Stores	645
Lord & Taylor	Warehousing & Dist.	600
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.	Data Cntr./Back Office	500
Schott Glass Technologies	Glass Technologies	500
U.S. Postal Service	Postal	500
John Heinz Inst. of Medical Rehab Medicine	Rehab Services	498
Fairchild Semiconductor	Electronic Parts	470
Klein Candy Company, L.P.	Candy Dist-Wholesale	460
PG Energy	Utilities - Gas	440
Travelocity.com	Travel	425
MotorWorld Automotive Group, Inc.	Auto Dealers	400
Telrx Marketing, Inc.	Telemarketing	400
Caradon Mideast Aluminum	Extruded Aluminum	380
Trion Industries, Inc.	Store Fixtures	360
CertainTeed Corporation	Fiberglass Insulation	350
XO Communications	Telecomm Services	350
Mideast Aluminum	Metal Extrusion	325

Top Employers (continued)

Company	Description	Emp #
Wachovia Arena/SMG	Entertainment	322
Creditek, LLC	Financial Info/Service	300
Times Leader	Newspapers	295
GUARD Insurance Group	Insurance	288
ALLTEL Information Services, Inc.	Information Services	286
American Asphalt Paving Co.	Asphalt Mixtures	285
Bridon American Corporation	Wire Rope/Cable	285
Penguin Group (USA) Inc.	Publishers	275
Smiths Aerospace	Jet Engine Rings	267
PNC Bank, N.A., Northeast PA	Banks	246
Quaker Oats Corporation	Beverages	240
HPG International, Inc.	Plastics	230
Cornell Iron Works, Inc.	Doors	218
Community Bank & Trust Cmpny	Banks	215
American Red Cross NEPA	Blood Bank	210
M & T Bank	Banks	209
Boscov's Department Store	Department Store	205
Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.	Cryogenic Equipmnt	200
Nardone Brothers Baking Co., Inc.	Frozen Pizza	197
Altec Industries, Inc. Eastern Division	Hydraulic Lift Trucks	190
UGI Utilities, Inc. Electric Division	Utilities - Electric	184
First Federal Bank	Banks	184
Citizens' Voice	Newspapers	181
Fidelity Deposit & Discount	Banks	181
Energy Convertors Inc	Heating Equip	180
Coca-Cola Enterprises - Pittston	Beverages	170
Luzerne Optical Laboratories, LTD.	Optical Laboratory	164
Diamond Manufacturing Company	Perforated Metals	160
Dove Industries	Aluminum Products	155
Wachovia Bank N.A.	Banks	150
American Silk Mills, Inc.	Woven Fabrics	150
Certech Inc	Industrial Ceramics	150
Calex Logistics	Warehousing & Dstrbtm	150
Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority	Sanitary Authority	144
HCSC - Laundry	Hospital Laundry	144
Penn Millers Insurance Company	Insurance	140
Citizens Bank, N.A. Northeast Region	Banks	136
WBRE-TV/Nexstar	T.V. Stations	132
Valley Manufacturing Corporation	Aerospace Rings	132
Valley Distributing & Storage Cmpny	Warehousing & Distribution	127
A. Rifkin Company	Manufacture/SecurityBags	125

Educational Attainment

	Luzerne County	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/Hazleton/MSA
Preschool - 8th grade	38,721	75,679
9th - 12th grade, no diploma	21,534	49,357
High School Graduate	101,868	183,071
Some College, no degree	29,135	64,481
Associate degree	15,821	24,816
Bachelor's degree	22,260	47,665
Graduate or Prof. degree	13,532	27,008

College Enrollments 2004-2005

College/University	Full Time	Part Time	Grad. Prgm.	Total
College Misericordia	1,323	510	151	1,984
King's College	1,727	312	149	2,188
Luzerne County (Community College)	2,699	3,354	---	6,053
Penn State University (Wilkes-Barre Campus)	619	260	---	879
Wilkes University	1,888	283	1,783	3,954
Total Enrollments	8,256	4,719	2,083	15,058

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2002

Business Parks

Six fully-developed, well-located industrial and office parks, as well as many individual, zoned industrial/commercial, partially-improved or fully-developed sites, are available.

- CRESTWOOD INDUSTRIAL PARK**, a 1,050 acre park situated nine miles south of Wilkes-Barre, provides excellent interstate access for heavy industrial users.
- HANOVER INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**, a mixed-use 962-acre park situated less than a mile from I-81, features the access needed by manufacturers, distributors and office users.
- HANOVER CROSSINGS**, a mixed-use 400 acre technology park. Construction continues on the second phase of this park's expansion.
- CORPORATE CENTER AT EAST MOUNTAIN**, a 200-acre Ultra-Service Business Park, features the advanced dual power service needed by R&D and telecommunication/office users.
- HIGHLAND PARK**, located adjacent to I-81, offers mixed use, commercial and retail properties.
- DOWNTOWN WILKES-BARRE**, the region's largest office employment center, offers the advantages of a business park with all of the conveniences and cultural amenities of a downtown campus.

Access to Major Markets

Regional Center	Miles	Average Driving Time
Allentown, PA	60	1.1
Baltimore, MD	180	3.3
Boston, MA	312	5.7
Charlotte, NC	592	10.8
Chicago, IL	665	12.1
Cincinnati, OH	572	10.4
Cleveland, OH	368	6.5
Detroit, MI	500	9.1
Harrisburg, PA	106	1.9
Montreal, Canada	403	7.3
Newark, NJ	124	2.3
New York, NY	132	2.4
Philadelphia, PA	115	2
Pittsburgh, PA	265	4.8
Richmond, VA	326	5.9
Syracuse, NY	148	2.7
Toronto, Canada	425	7.7
Washington, DC	220	4
Wilmington, DE	131	2.4

Source: Valley Auto Club (AAA)

Transportation

Highways:

I-81, I-476 (Pennsylvania's Northeast Turnpike), I-80, I-84 and I-380

Railroads:

Canadian Pacific, Norfolk Southern plus shortline services provided by Reading, Northern and by Luzerne County Rail Authority

Motor Freight Carriers:

More than 40 motor freight carriers serve the Greater Wilkes-Barre area

Air:

Commercial Airport

The Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport services the Greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Airlines:

US Airways	US Airways Express
Delta Connection	United Express
Continental Connection	

Bus Service:

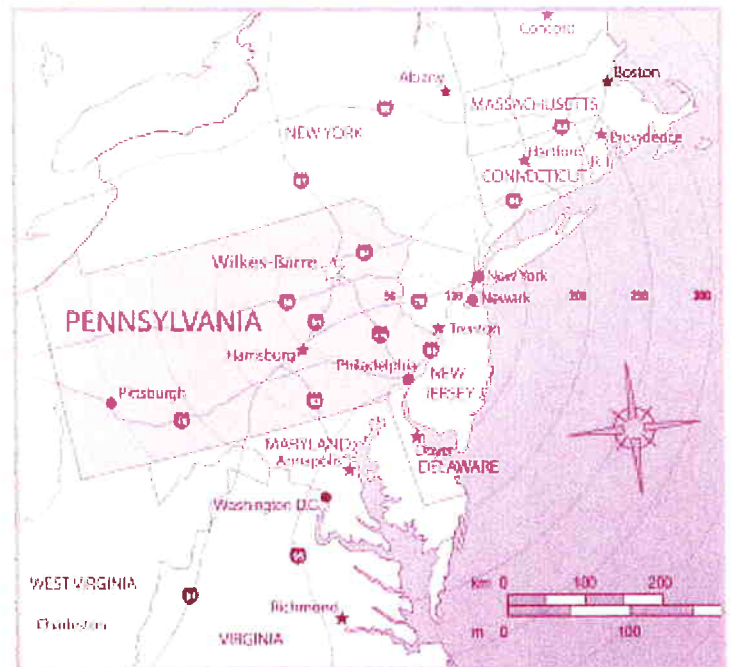
Greyhound and Trailways

Direct or connecting service throughout the U.S.

Martz Trailways

Direct commuter service to Philadelphia, New York City and Atlantic City

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority, with a central hub in Wilkes-Barre, serves a 25-mile radius of the city.



The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/Hazleton MSA is located in Luzerne County, the east-central region of Pennsylvania. When combined with the nearby Berwick region, it makes up the largest population density in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

With direct access to Interstates 81 and 476 (the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike) which interconnect with nearby I-80, I-84 and I-380, you can be in downtown Philadelphia and New York City in 2 hours or less!