

Pennsylvania Economic Index

*A review of the economic metrics for each county in Pennsylvania to provide insight into improving economic distribution in lower ranking counties.*



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1. Introduction

Background

Pennsylvania has always been considered the ‘Keystone’ of the U.S. economy. Rich is coal, natural gas, and lumber has allowed PA to grow into a strong industrial producer. During the founding of the American steel industry, Andrew Carnegie helped develop Pittsburgh into the ‘Steel City’…later on the rise of Bethlehem Steel helped grow the currently bustling Lehigh Valley area. As time has passed, PA has retained its Keystone nature; however, its industry focus and distribution of economic prosperity has shifted from the resource-intensive industrial of steel and coal and has transitioned into a serviced-based path. As business hubs in the Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh have flourish, regions of the coal belt and steel-centric areas has dropped. This has left PA in a paradigm where some counties are prospering; while others are seeing its constituents struggle.

Statement of Intent

While the scope of this analysis will not look at solutions to bring new industries into the Keystone state, it will instead look to find correlations in the economic index of each county. In this report we will look at the economic distribution or the state and attempt to find commonalities in those with high and low metrics. With this, we hope to provide the PA Economic Development Association with a better understanding as to how we can better distribute the economic wealth of our state with the current employment numbers.

1. Data Description

Sources

There are three main source of the data used in this analysis:

1. Pennsylvania State Economic Data - *2010*
2. PA State County centroid locations
3. Venues in each county

Pennsylvania State Economic Data (1)

The Pennsylvania State Economic data was retried off of a table on a *Wikipedia* page:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Pennsylvania_counties_by_per_capita_income>

The information cited here is taken from the 2010 US Census report. This table is broken down into each county and provides:

* Per Capita Income – income per person of population
* Median Household Income – middle income for each listed address
* Median Family Income – middle income per family (families can be broke up into several households)
* Population
* Number of Households

PA County Centroids (2)

We defined the centroid of each county as its middle point. Purpose of this was to be able to easily search for nearby venues. This latitude and longitude numbers (2) were retrieved off the PA.GOV website and downloaded as an excel file from the web address below:

<https://opendatanetwork.herokuapp.com/dataset/data.pa.gov/dvjn-d63b>

This dataset lists the centroid county location (latitude, longitude) by county name.

PA County Venues (3)

Final data source was nearby venue data from Foursquare.