

PITTSBURGH: WHERE THE BRIDGES OUTNUMBER THE TRAFFIC JAMS!



Steel City Historians

Aidan- Overview

Zihang- Deindustrialization

Kayla- Analysis

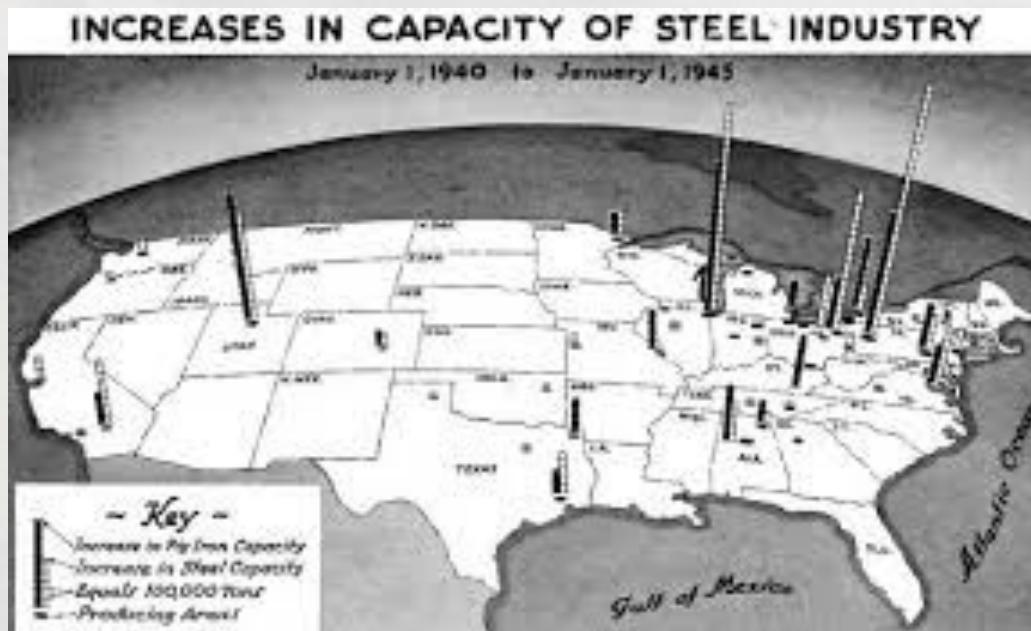
Historical industrial Overview

The industrial growth of Pittsburg was heavily influenced by their Iron and Steel production. Pittsburg was name the “Steel City” because of the heavy amount of iron and steel production in the country greatly industrialized, their city resulting in a large production of smoke pollution due to the heavy amount of coal used.

Early during this time, the production of iron, mills and productions centers expanded due to the demand for railroads in other infrastructures. Pittsburgh transitioned to the Production of steel through the use of the Bessemer Process which greatly increased the steel production Process in the 1860s.

The coke and coal industry grew rapidly in Pittsburg to keep up with their vast amounts of steel production, making the location of most steel mills near the coal fields. The Westinghouse Electric Corporation, created by George Westinghouse, became a major role in the production of electric equipment. Pittsburgh also had glass and aluminum industries during this time. The steel industry was still a major part of the industrialization of Pittsburgh through the 1900s and the production hit its high during the 1940s.

The Carnegie Steel Company was the main steel producing a company in the steel industry, he then combined his with the other companies to become the first U.S.Steel the first billion dollar corporation. Henry Frick who was the company that produced most of the coal and coke partnered with Carnegie to fuel Carnegie's factories for money in return. Another Dominant company was The Westinghouse Electric Corporation, founded by George Westinghouse, which became a major role in the production of electric equipment.

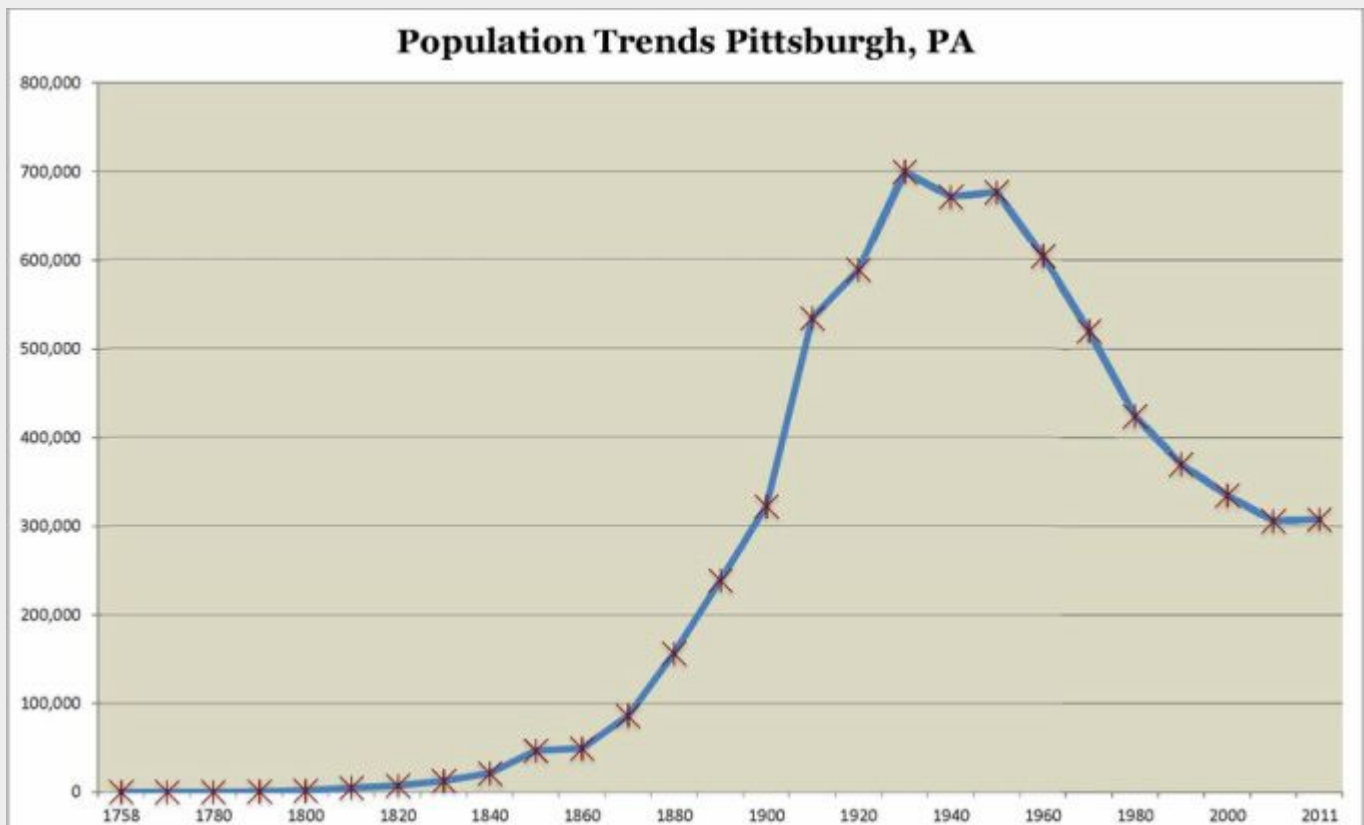


Population Growth 1850-1940

During the start of this time there was a peaceful social status because of new industrialized equipment and large amount of job opportunities. Later after world war a new pandemic spread resulting in a period of depression.

The 3 major groups are Chinese, French, and Irish. The Chinese group mostly worked in the laundry facilities, the French worked in manufacturing at the time, and finally the Irish mainly worked in the construction workforce. The chineses contributed to the cultural community by creating chinese restaurants. The Irish contributed to the construction of railroads, canals, and bridges. The French influenced the works of art and french cuisine and culture. The irish spread throughout the city, while the Chinese mostly lived in the east side, and the French mostly lived in the west side. Total % of immigrants 20.90% were Irish, 1% was Chinese, 8% was French.

The population greatly increased during this time period, from 13,000 to almost 675,000 people.



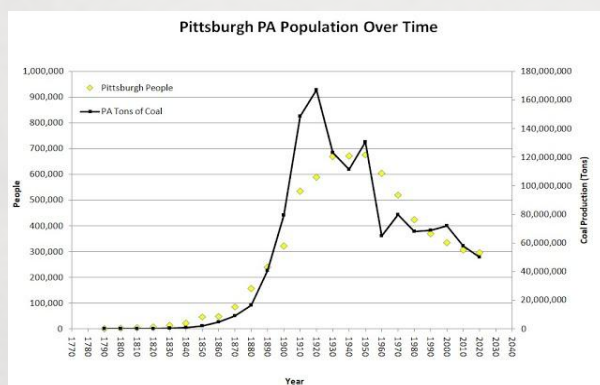
Deindustrialization

Changes and Shifts in Population (1950 – Present)

In the mid-20th century, Pittsburgh was a thriving industrial center with a population peaking at around 676,000. The city's steel industry attracted workers nationwide, fostering economic prosperity. However, the 1970s and 1980s brought a sharp decline as global competition and technological advancements led to the collapse of the steel industry. Massive layoffs ensued, and many factories closed their doors.

As employment opportunities dwindled, residents began to leave in search of work elsewhere. By 2020, Pittsburgh's population had decreased to approximately 300,000—a reduction of over 55%. This exodus not only reduced the population but also shifted the city's demographics, leading to an aging population and a diminished cultural vibrancy typically brought by younger generations.

Impacts on the Economy, Residents, and Community Compared to Pennsylvania



The economic downturn hit Pittsburgh harder than many other regions in Pennsylvania. Unemployment rates in the city soared, often surpassing state averages. During the early 1980s, at the peak of the industrial decline, Pittsburgh's unemployment rate exceeded 17%, while Pennsylvania's average was around 12%.

Poverty levels increased significantly. Over 20% of families in Pittsburgh fell below the poverty line, compared to the state average of about 12%. Median household incomes dropped, and the average home value depreciated, lagging behind other Pennsylvania cities like Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

Crime rates escalated during this period. Economic hardship correlated with higher instances of property crimes and violent offenses, straining community resources and affecting residents' quality of life.

Statistical Changes Since the 1950s

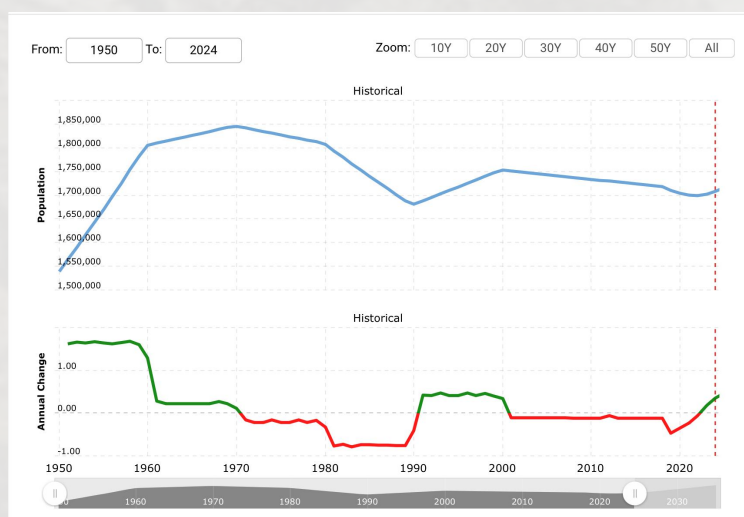
Comparing current statistics to those of the 1950s highlights Pittsburgh's transformation. Median household incomes, once bolstered by well-paying manufacturing jobs, declined after the industrial collapse. In recent years, incomes have started to improve due to economic diversification into healthcare, education, and technology sectors.

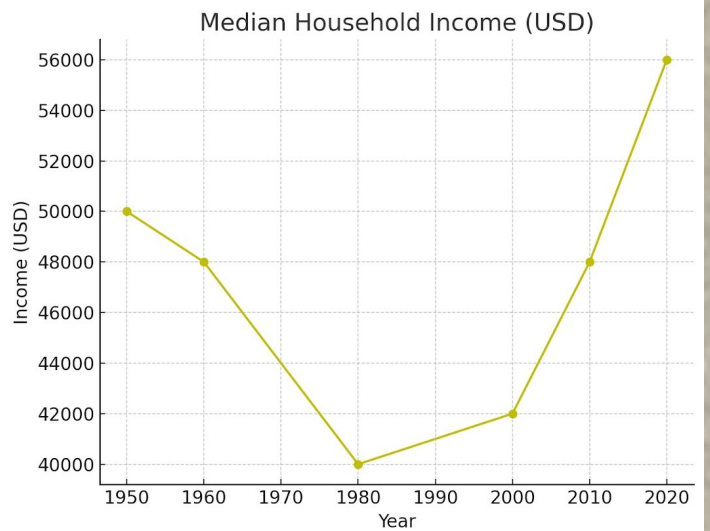
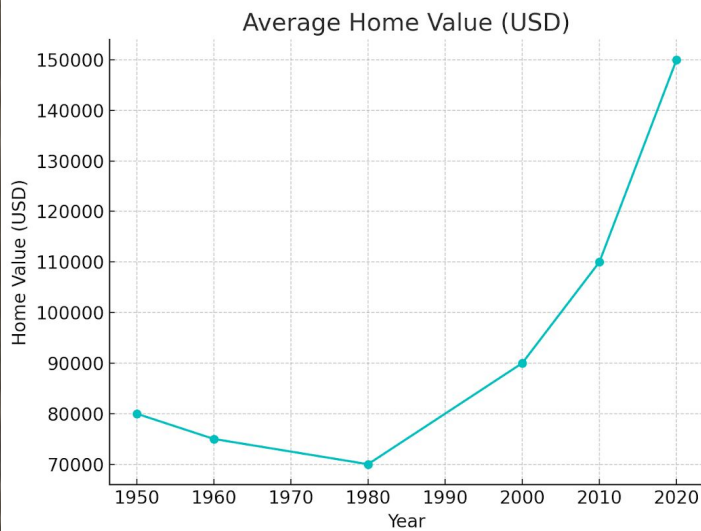
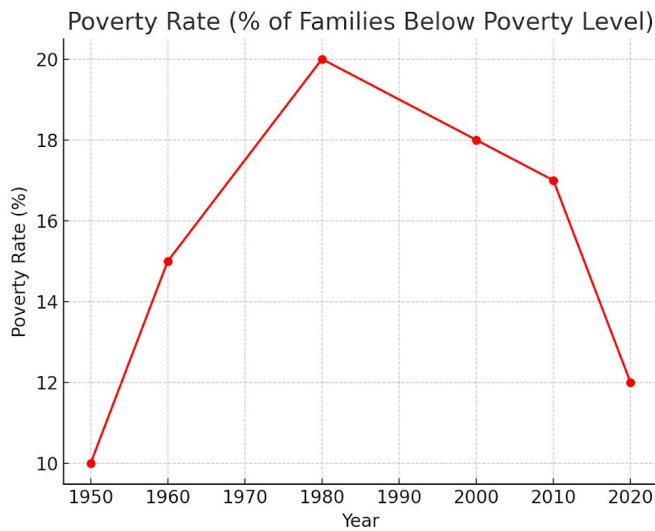
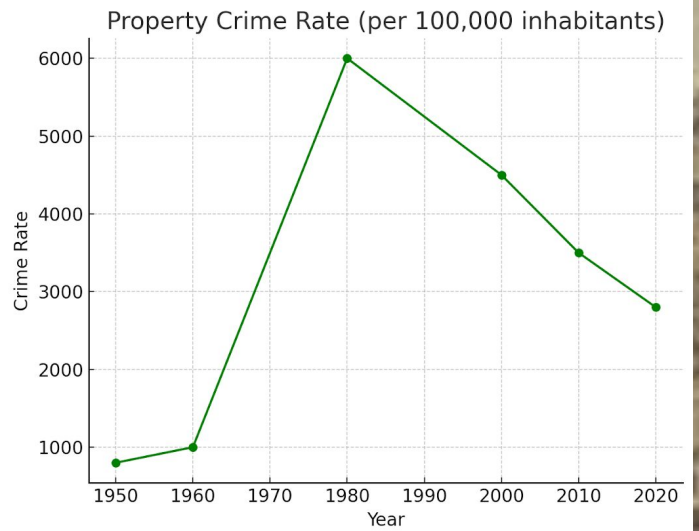
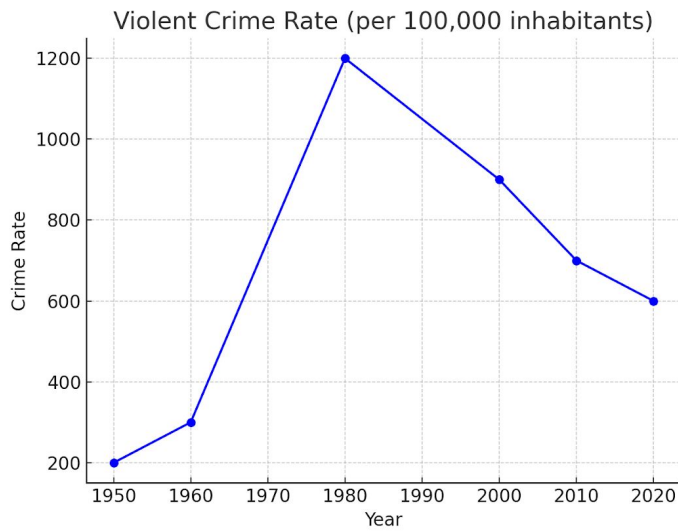
Unemployment rates, which had spiked during deindustrialization, have stabilized. Major institutions like the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Carnegie Mellon University have become significant employers, contributing to job growth.

Average home values have rebounded as well. Revitalization efforts in various neighborhoods have increased property values, although this has sparked concerns about gentrification and housing affordability for long-term residents.

Pittsburgh today

Pittsburgh has successfully transformed from an industrial steel city into a modern hub for technology, healthcare, and education. After facing economic challenges due to deindustrialization, it reinvented itself by attracting tech companies and fostering innovation through institutions like Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. The city's population has stabilized, and revitalization efforts have improved livability, earning it recognition as a desirable place to live. While challenges like economic disparities persist, ongoing initiatives aim to promote inclusive growth and address social inequalities. Environmentally, Pittsburgh has made significant strides in sustainability, improving air and water quality. Overall, the city exemplifies resilience and successful urban renewal.





Analysis

Pittsburgh, the 'Steel City' was a city whose iron and steel production was second to none. Pittsburgh's abundant natural resources, particularly coal and iron ore, positioned it as a prime location for heavy industry. Immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Eastern Europe were drawn to the city by the promise of employment in its booming steel mills, glass factories, and coal mines. The production of iron, their mills and productions centers expanded due to the demand for railroads in other infrastructures. In the 1860s, Pittsburgh transitioned to the production of steel through the use of the Bessemer Process which greatly increased Pittsburgh's steel production output. The Carnegie Steel Company was the main steel producing a company in the steel industry, he then merged his with the other companies to become the first U.S. Steel the first billion dollar corporation. With this growth in the steel industry, Pittsburgh expanded into the coke and coal industry. Henry Clay Frick who founded H. C. Frick & Company coke manufacturing company, produced the most of coal and coke in Pittsburgh. He



partnered with Carnegie Steel Company to fuel Carnegie's factories for money in return. Increasing growth rates in Pittsburgh exponentially in order to keep up with their vast amounts of steel production, necessitating most mills in Pittsburgh to be built near the coal fields. Though minimal Pittsburgh also worked in the glass and aluminum industries during this time. Another large industry that aided in the growth to Pittsburgh manufacturing feats was the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, founded by George Westinghouse. Westinghouse Electric Corporation became a the biggest corporation in the production of electric equipment in Pittsburgh. The steel industry was still a major aspect of the industrialization of Pittsburgh through the 1900s and the production peaked during the 1940s.

During the mid-20th century, Pittsburgh was a thriving industrial center with a population peaking at around 676,000. The city's steel industry attracted workers nationwide, fostering economic prosperity. The surge of industrial jobs acted as a magnet for immigrants, leading to a significant population increase and the establishment of vibrant ethnic neighborhoods like Polish Hill, Bloomfield, and the Hill District, which became cultural hubs for African American migrants during the Great Migration. These communities not only contributed labor but also enriched the city's social and cultural fabric, introducing diverse traditions, cuisines, and religious practices. Pittsburgh's industrialization began to decline around 1960, and the city experienced rapid deindustrialization in the 1980s which brought a sharp decline as global competition and technological advancements led to the collapse of the steel industry. Massive layoffs ensued, and many factories closed their doors. Pittsburgh a leader in steel production, began to fall behind as companies failed to update their technology. The economic downturn hit Pittsburgh harder than many other regions in Pennsylvania with many mills closing permanently and roughly 95,000 manufacturing jobs lost between 1980 and 1983.

The deindustrialization had a severe impact on the economy and communities, particularly in McKeesport and Homestead. The decline of the steel industry led to massive job losses, population decline, and economic stagnation. Neighborhoods that once thrived around steel mills faced high unemployment rates and many people had to rely on unemployment benefits. Women were especially affected, as they had to return to lower-paying jobs after being laid off from the steel industry. This period highlighted the vulnerabilities of a city heavily reliant on a single industry and underscored the need for economic diversification. Comparisons with state averages revealed higher crime rates and lower median incomes, painting a stark picture of the challenges faced by residents during this transitional period. Though in recent decades, Pittsburgh has since reinvented itself as a center of education, innovation, and health care. The city has also become a hub for advanced manufacturing, robotics, and artificial intelligence. Leveraging institutions like Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, the city has attracted investment in robotics, biotechnology, and information technology. This shift towards a knowledge-based economy has begun to reverse population decline and improve economic indicators. Showing how Pittsburgh's historical legacy of innovation and adaptation continues to shape its trajectory, linking its industrial past with a dynamic present and an optimistic future.

bibliography

<https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/pa-history/1861-1945.html>

https://data.census.gov/profile/Pittsburgh_city,_Pennsylvania?q=160XX00US4261000

Bank Note History, banknotehistory.spmc.org/wiki/Main_Page. Accessed 8 Oct. 2024.

“Henry Clay Frick.” The Frick Collection, www.frick.org/about/history/henry_clay_frick. Accessed 8 Oct. 2024.

“Industrious Pittsburgh Image: National Geographic Photo of the Day.” National Geographic, www.nationalgeographic.com/photo-of-the-day/photo/pittsburgh-industry-archive-factory. Accessed 8 Oct. 2024.

Mepetrilli. “Pittsburgh: The City of Bridges.” Heinz History Center, Heinz History Center, 20 Apr. 2023, www.heinzhistorycenter.org/blog/western-pennsylvania-history-pittsburgh-the-city-of-bridges/.

“Monongahela National Bank, Pittsburgh, PA (Charter 3874).” Monongahela National Bank, Pittsburgh, PA (Charter 3874) - Bank Note History, banknotehistory.spmc.org/wiki/Monongahela_National_Bank,_Pittsburgh,_PA_%28Charter_3874%29. Accessed 8 Oct. 2024.

Pittsburgh Three Rivers Landscape, circa 1874, www.karensbranches.com/Pittsburgh1874/Pittsburgh1874.html. Accessed 8 Oct. 2024.

“The Steel Industry and Labor Unions.” PA Digital, 7 June 2021, padigital.org/primary-source-sets/the-steel-industry-and-labor-unions/.