

= History of Pittsburgh =

The history of Pittsburgh began with centuries of Native American civilization in the modern Pittsburgh region . Eventually French and British explorers encountered the strategic confluence where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio , which leads to the Mississippi River . The area became a battleground when France and Britain fought for control in the 1750s . When the British were victorious , the French ceded control of territories east of the Mississippi .

Following American independence in 1783 , the village around Fort Pitt continued to grow . The region saw the short @-@ lived Whiskey Rebellion , when farmers rebelled against federal taxes on whiskey . The War of 1812 cut off the supply of British goods , stimulating American manufacture . By 1815 , Pittsburgh was producing large quantities of iron , brass , tin , and glass products . By the 1840s , Pittsburgh had grown to one of the largest cities west of the Allegheny Mountains . Production of steel began in 1875 . During the 1877 railway riots it was the site of the most violence and damage in any city affected by the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 . Workers protested cuts in wages , burning down buildings at the railyards , including 100 train engines and more than 1 @,@ 000 cars . Forty men were killed , most of them strikers . By 1911 , Pittsburgh was producing half the nation 's steel . Pittsburgh was a Republican party stronghold until 1932 . The soaring unemployment of the Great Depression , the New Deal relief programs and the rise of powerful labor unions in the 1930s turned the city into a liberal stronghold of the New Deal Coalition under powerful Democratic mayors . In World War II , it was the center of the " Arsenal of Democracy " , producing munitions for the Allied war effort as prosperity returned .

Following World War II , Pittsburgh launched a clean air and civic revitalization project known as the " Renaissance . " The industrial base continued to expand through the 1960s , but after 1970 foreign competition led to the collapse of the steel industry , with massive layoffs and mill closures . Top corporate headquarters moved out in the 1980s . In 2007 the city lost its status as a major transportation hub . The population of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area is holding steady at 2 @.@ 4 million ; it is 65 % white and 35 % minority .

= = Native American era = =

For thousands of years , Native Americans inhabited the region where the Allegheny and the Monongahela join to form the Ohio . Paleo @-@ Indians conducted a hunter @-@ gatherer lifestyle in the region perhaps as early as 19 @,@ 000 years ago . Meadowcroft Rockshelter , an archaeological site west of Pittsburgh , provides evidence that these first Americans lived in the region from that date . During the Adena culture that followed , Mound Builders erected a large Indian Mound at the future site of McKees Rocks , about three miles (5 km) from the head of the Ohio . The Indian Mound , a burial site , was augmented in later years by members of the Hopewell culture .

By 1700 the Iroquois Confederacy , the Five Nations @-@ based south of the Great Lakes in present @-@ day New York , held dominion over the upper Ohio valley , reserving it for hunting grounds . Other tribes included the Lenape (known by the English as Delaware) , who had been displaced from eastern Pennsylvania by European settlement , and the Shawnee , who had migrated up from the south . With the arrival of European explorers , these tribes and others had been devastated by European infectious diseases , such as smallpox , measles , influenza , and malaria , to which they had no immunity .

In 1748 , when Conrad Weiser visited Logstown , 18 miles (29 km) downriver from Pittsburgh , he counted 789 warriors gathered : the Iroquois included 163 Seneca , 74 Mohawk , 35 Onondaga , 20 Cayuga , and 15 Oneida . Other tribes were 165 Lenape , 162 Shawnee , 100 Wyandot , 40 Tisagechroami , and 15 Mohican .

Shannopin 's Town , a Seneca tribe village on the east bank of the Allegheny , was the home village of Queen Aliquippa . It was deserted after 1749 . Sawcunk , on the mouth of the Beaver River , was a Lenape (Delaware) settlement and the principal residence of Shingas , a chief of theirs . Chartier 's Town was a Shawnee town established in 1734 by Peter Chartier . Kittanning was

a Lenape and Shawnee village on the Allegheny , with an estimated 300 ? 400 residents .

= = Early colonization (1747 ? 1763) = =

The first Europeans arrived in the 1710s as traders . Michael Bezallion was the first to describe the forks of the Ohio in a manuscript in 1717 , and later that year European traders established posts and settlements in the area . Europeans first began to settle in the region in 1748 , when the first Ohio Company , an English land speculation company , won a grant of 200 @,@ 000 acres (800 km ²) in the upper Ohio Valley . From a post at present @-@ day Cumberland , Maryland , the company began to construct an 80 @-@ mile (130 km) wagon road to the Monongahela River employing a Delaware Indian chief named Nemacolin and a party of settlers headed by Capt. Michael Cresap to begin widening the track into a road . It mostly followed the same route as an ancient Amerindian trail which is now known as Nemacolin 's Trail . The river crossing and flats at Redstone creek , was the earliest point and shortest distance for the descent of a wagon road . Later in the war , the site fortified as Fort Burd (now Brownsville) was one of several possible destinations . Another alternative was the divergent route that became Braddock 's Road a few years later through present @-@ day New Stanton . In the event , the colonists did not succeed in improving the Amerindian path to a wagon road much beyond the Cumberland Narrows pass before they were confronted by hostile Native Americans . The colonists later mounted a series of expeditions in order to accomplish piecemeal improvements to the track .

The French had built nearby Logstown as a trade and council center for the Native Americans to increase their influence in the Ohio Valley . Between June 15 and November 10 , 1749 , an expedition headed by Celeron de Bienville , a French officer , traveled down the Allegheny and Ohio to bolster the French claim to the region . De Bienville warned away English traders and posted markers claiming the territory .

In 1753 , Marquis Duquesne , the Governor of New France , sent another , larger expedition . At present @-@ day Erie , Pennsylvania , an advance party built Fort Presque Isle . They also cut a road through the woods and built Fort Le Boeuf on French Creek , from which it was possible at high water to float to the Allegheny . By summer , an expedition of 1 @,@ 500 French and Native American men descended the Allegheny . Some wintered at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny . The following year , they built Fort Machault at that site .

Alarmed at these French incursions in the Ohio Valley , Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent Major George Washington to warn the French to withdraw . Accompanied by Christopher Gist , Washington arrived at the Forks of the Ohio on November 25 , 1753 .

Proceeding up the Allegheny , Washington presented Dinwiddie 's letter to the French commanders first at Venango , and then Fort Le Boeuf . The French officers received Washington with wine and courtesy , but did not withdraw .

Governor Dinwiddie sent Captain William Trent to build a fort at the Forks of the Ohio . On February 17 , 1754 , Trent began construction of the fort , the first European habitation at the site of present @-@ day Pittsburgh . The fort , named Fort Prince George , was only half @-@ built by April 1754 , when over 500 French forces arrived and ordered the 40 @-@ some colonials back to Virginia . The French tore down the British fortification and built Fort Duquesne .

Governor Dinwiddie launched another expedition . Colonel Joshua Fry commanded the regiment with his second @-@ in @-@ command , George Washington , leading an advance column . On May 28 , 1754 , Washington 's unit clashed with the French in the Battle of Jumonville Glen , during which 13 French soldiers were killed and 21 were taken prisoner . After the battle , Washington 's ally , Seneca chief Tanaghrisson , unexpectedly executed the French commanding officer , Ensign Joseph Coulon de Jumonville . The French pursued Washington and on July 3 , 1754 , George Washington surrendered following the Battle of Fort Necessity . These frontier actions contributed to the start of the French and Indian War (1754 ? 1763) , or , the Seven Years ' War , an imperial confrontation between England and France fought in both hemispheres .

In 1755 , George Washington accompanied British General Braddock 's expedition . Two regiments marched from Fort Cumberland across the Allegheny Mountains and into western Pennsylvania .

Following a path Washington surveyed , over 3 @, @ 000 men built a wagon road 12 feet (3 @. @ 7 m) wide , that when complete , was the first road to cross the Appalachian Mountains . Braddock 's Road , as it was known , blazed the way for the future National Road (US40) . The expedition crossed the Monongahela River on July 9 , 1755 . French troops from Fort Duquesne ambushed Braddock 's expedition at Braddock 's Field , nine miles (14 km) from Fort Duquesne . In the Battle of the Monongahela , the French inflicted heavy losses on the British , and Braddock was mortally wounded . The surviving British and colonial forces retreated . This left the French and their Native American allies with dominion over the upper Ohio valley .

On September 8 , 1756 , an expedition of 300 militiamen destroyed the Shawnee and Lenape village of Kittanning , and in the summer of 1758 , British General John Forbes began a campaign to capture Fort Duquesne . At the head of 7 @, @ 000 regular and colonial troops , Forbes built Fort Ligonier and Fort Bedford , from where he cut a wagon road over the Allegheny Mountains , later known as Forbes ' Road . On the night of September 13 ? 14 , 1758 , an advance column under Major James Grant was massacred in the Battle of Fort Duquesne . The battleground , the high hill east of the Point , was named Grant 's Hill in his memory . With this defeat , Forbes decided to wait until spring . But when he heard that the French had lost Fort Frontenac and largely evacuated Fort Duquesne , he planned an immediate attack . Hopelessly outnumbered , the French abandoned and razed Fort Duquesne . Forbes occupied the burned fort on November 25 , 1758 and ordered the construction of Fort Pitt , named after British Secretary of State William Pitt the Elder . He also named the settlement between the rivers , " Pittsborough " (see Etymology of Pittsburgh) . The British garrison at Fort Pitt made substantial improvements to its fortification . The French never attacked Fort Pitt and the war soon ended with the Treaty of Paris and French defeat . They ceded their territories east of the Mississippi River .

= = Gateway to the West (1763 ? 1799) = =

In 1760 , the first considerable European settlement around Fort Pitt began to grow . Traders and settlers built two groups of houses and cabins , the " lower town , " near the fort 's ramparts , and the " upper town , " along the Monongahela as far as present @-@ day Market Street . In April 1761 , a census ordered by Colonel Henry Bouquet counted 332 people and 104 houses .

In a final Native American attempt to drive out the British west of the Appalachians , Pontiac 's Rebellion began with an assault on British forts in May 1763 . Ohio Valley and Great Lakes tribes overran many forts ; one of their most important targets was Fort Pitt . Receiving warning of the coming attack , Captain Simeon Ecuyer , the Swiss officer in command of the garrison , prepared for a siege . He leveled the houses outside the ramparts and ordered all settlers into the fort : 330 men , 104 women , and 196 children sought refuge inside its ramparts . Captain Ecuyer also gathered stores , which included hundreds of barrels of pork and beef . Pontiac 's forces attacked the fort on June 22 , 1763 . The siege of Fort Pitt lasted for two months . Pontiac 's warriors kept up a continuous , though ineffective , fire on it from July 27 through August 1 , 1763 . They drew off to confront the relieving party under Colonel Bouquet , which defeated them in the Battle of Bushy Run . This victory sealed British dominion over the forks of the Ohio , if not the entire Ohio valley . In 1764 Colonel Bouquet added a redoubt , the Fort Pitt Blockhouse , which still stands , the sole remaining structure from Fort Pitt and the oldest authenticated building west of the Allegheny Mountains .

The Iroquois signed the Fort Stanwix Treaty of 1768 , ceding the lands south of the Ohio to the British . European expansion into the upper Ohio valley increased . An estimated 4 @, @ 000 to 5 @, @ 000 families settled in western Pennsylvania between 1768 and 1770 . Of these settlers , about a third were English , a third were Scotch @-@ Irish , and the rest were Welsh , German and others . These groups tended to settle together in small farming communities , but often their households were not within hailing distance . The life of a settler family was one of relentless hard work : clearing the forest , stumping the fields , building cabins and barns , planting , weeding , and harvesting . In addition , almost everything was manufactured by hand , including furniture , tools , candles , buttons , and needles . Settlers had to deal with harsh winters , and with snakes , black

bears , mountain lions , and timber wolves . Because of the fear of raids by Native Americans , the settlers often built their cabins near , or even on top of , springs , to ensure access to water . They also built blockhouses , where neighbors would rally during conflicts .

Increasing violence , especially by the Shawnee , Miami , and Wyandot tribes , led to Dunmore 's War in 1774 . Conflict with Native Americans continued throughout the American Revolution , as some hoped that the war would end with expulsion of the settlers from their territory . In 1777 , Fort Pitt became a United States fort , when Brigadier General Edward Hand took command . In 1779 , Colonel Daniel Brodhead led 600 men from Fort Pitt to destroy Seneca villages along the upper Allegheny .

With the war still ongoing , in 1780 Virginia and Pennsylvania came to an agreement on their mutual borders , creating the state lines known today and determining finally that the jurisdiction of Pittsburgh region was Pennsylvanian . In 1783 , the Revolutionary War ended , which also brought at least a temporary cessation of border warfare . In the 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix , the Iroquois ceded the land north of the Purchase Line to Pennsylvania .

After the Revolution , the village of Pittsburgh continued to grow . One of its earliest industries was boat building . Flatboats could be used to carry large numbers of pioneers and goods downriver , while keelboats were capable of traveling upriver .

The village began to develop vital institutions . Hugh Henry Brackenridge , a Pittsburgh resident and state legislator , introduced a bill that resulted in a gift deed of land and a charter for the Pittsburgh Academy on February 28 , 1787 . The Academy later developed as the University of Western Pennsylvania (1819) and since 1908 has been known as the University of Pittsburgh .

Many farmers distilled their corn harvest into whiskey , increasing its value while lowering its transportation costs . At that time , whiskey was used as a form of currency on the frontier . When the federal government imposed an excise tax on whiskey , Western Pennsylvania farmers felt victimized , leading to the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794 . Farmers from the region rallied at Braddock 's Field and marched on Pittsburgh . The short @-@ lived rebellion was put down , however , when President George Washington sent in militias from several states .

The town continued to grow in manufacturing capability . In 1792 , the boatyards in Pittsburgh built a sloop , Western Experiment . During the next decades , the yards produced other large boats . By the 19th century , they were building ocean @-@ going vessels that shipped goods as far as Europe . In 1794 , the town 's first courthouse was built ; it was a wooden structure on Market Square . In 1797 , the manufacture of glass began .

= = Iron City (1800 ? 1859) = =

Commerce continued to be an essential part of the economy of early Pittsburgh , but increasingly , manufacture began to grow in importance . Pittsburgh was located in the middle of one of the most productive coalfields in the country ; the region was also rich in petroleum , natural gas , lumber , and farm goods . Blacksmiths forged iron implements , from horse shoes to nails . By 1800 , the town , with a population of 1 @, @ 565 persons , had over 60 shops , including general stores , bakeries , and hat and shoe shops .

The 1810s were a critical decade in Pittsburgh 's growth . In 1811 , the first steamboat was built in Pittsburgh . Increasingly , commerce would also flow upriver . The War of 1812 catalyzed growth of the Iron City . The war with Britain , the manufacturing center of the world , cut off the supply of British goods , stimulating American manufacture . Also , the British blockade of the American coast increased inland trade , so that goods flowed through Pittsburgh from all four directions . By 1815 , Pittsburgh was producing \$ 764K in iron ; \$ 249K in brass and tin , and \$ 235K in glass products . When , on March 18 , 1816 , Pittsburgh was incorporated as a city , it had already taken on some of its defining characteristics : commerce , manufacture , and a constant cloud of coal dust .

Other emerging towns challenged Pittsburgh . In 1818 , the first segment of the National Road was completed , from Baltimore to Wheeling , bypassing Pittsburgh . This threatened to render the town less essential in east @-@ west commerce . In the coming decade , however , many improvements were made to the transportation infrastructure . In 1818 , the region 's first river bridge , the

Smithfield Street Bridge , opened , the first step in developing the " City of bridges " over its two rivers . On October 1 , 1840 , the original Pennsylvania Turnpike was completed , connecting Pittsburgh and the eastern port city of Philadelphia . In 1834 , the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal was completed , making Pittsburgh part of a transportation system that included rivers , roads , and canals .

Manufacture continued to grow . In 1835 , McClurg , Wade and Co. built the first locomotive west of the Alleghenies . Already , Pittsburgh was capable of manufacturing the most essential machines of its age . By the 1840s , Pittsburgh was one of the largest cities west of the mountains . In 1841 , the Second Court House , on Grant 's Hill , was completed . Made from polished gray sandstone , the court house had a rotunda 60 feet (18 m) in diameter and 80 feet (24 m) high .

Like many burgeoning cities of its day , Pittsburgh 's growth outstripped some of its necessary infrastructure , such as a water supply with dependable pressure . Because of this , on April 10 , 1845 , a great fire burned out of control , destroying over a thousand buildings and causing \$ 9M in damages . As the city rebuilt , the age of rails arrived . In 1851 , the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad began service between Cleveland and Allegheny City (present @-@ day North Side) . In 1854 , the Pennsylvania Railroad began service between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia .

Despite many challenges , Pittsburgh had grown into an industrial powerhouse . An 1857 article provided a snapshot of the Iron City :

939 factories in Pittsburgh and Allegheny City

employing more than 10K workers

producing almost \$ 12M in goods

using 400 steam engines

Total coal consumed ? 22M bushels

Total iron consumed ? 127K tons

In steam tonnage , third busiest port in the nation , surpassed only by New York City and New Orleans .

= = Steel City (1859 ? 1946) = =

The iron and steel industry developed rapidly after 1830 and became one of the dominant factors in industrial America by the 1860s .

= = = Scotch Irish leadership = = =

Ingham (1978) examined the leadership of the industry in its most important center , Pittsburgh , as well as smaller cities . He concludes that the leadership of the iron and steel industry nationwide was " largely Scotch Irish " . Ingham finds that the Scotch Irish held together cohesively throughout the 19th century and " developed their own sense of uniqueness . "

Indeed , new immigrants after 1800 made Pittsburgh a major Scotch Irish stronghold . For example , Thomas Mellon (b . Ulster 1813 ? 1908) left Ireland in 1823 and became the founder of the famous Mellon family , which played a central role in banking and industries such as aluminum and oil . As Barnhisel (2005) finds , industrialists like James H. Laughlin (b . Ulster 1806 ? 1882) of Jones and Laughlin Steel Company comprised the " Scots @-@ Irish Presbyterian ruling stratum of Pittsburgh society . "

= = = Technology = = =

In 1859 , the Clinton and Soho iron furnaces introduced coke @-@ fire smelting to the region . The American Civil War boosted the city 's economy with increased production of iron and armaments , especially at the Allegheny Arsenal and the Fort Pitt Foundry . Arms manufacture included iron @-@ clad warships and the world 's first 21 " gun . By war 's end , over one @-@ half of the steel and more than one @-@ third of all U.S. glass was produced in Pittsburgh . A milestone in steel production was achieved in 1875 , when the Edgar Thomson Works in Braddock began to make

steel rail using the new Bessemer process .

Industrialists such as Andrew Carnegie , Henry Clay Frick , Andrew W. Mellon , and Charles M. Schwab built their fortunes in Pittsburgh . Also based in Pittsburgh was George Westinghouse , credited with such advancements as the air brake and founder of over 60 companies , including Westinghouse Air and Brake Company (1869) , Union Switch & Signal (1881) , and Westinghouse Electric Company (1886) . Banks played a key role in Pittsburgh 's development as these industrialists sought massive loans to upgrade plants , integrate industries and fund technological advances . For example , T. Mellon & Sons Bank , founded in 1869 , helped to finance an aluminum reduction company that became Alcoa .

Ingham (1991) shows how small , independent iron and steel manufacturers survived and prospered from the 1870s through the 1950s , despite competition from much larger , standardized production firms . These smaller firms were built on a culture that valued local markets and the beneficial role of business in the local community . Small firms concentrated on specialized products , particularly structural steel , where the economies of scale of larger firms were no advantage . They embraced technological change more cautiously than larger firms . They also had less antagonistic relations with workers and employed a higher percentage of highly skilled workers than their mass @-@ production counterparts .

= = = Geography of industrialization = = =

Beginning in the 1870s , entrepreneurs transformed the economy from small , craft @-@ organized factories located inside the city limits to a large integrated industrial region stretching 50 miles across Allegheny County . The new industrial Pittsburgh was based on integrated mills , mass production , and modern management organization in steel and other industries . Many manufacturers searched for large sites with railroad and river accessibility . They purchased land , designed modern plants , and sometimes built towns for workers . Other firms bought into new communities that began as speculative industrial real estate ventures . Some owners removed their plants from the central city 's labor unions to exert greater control over workers . The region 's rugged topography and dispersed natural resources of coal and gas accentuated this dispersal . The rapid growth of steel , glass , railroad equipment , and coke industries resulted in both large mass @-@ production plants and numerous smaller firms . As capital deepened and interdependence grew , participants multiplied , economies accrued , the division of labor increased , and localized production systems formed around these industries . Transportation , capital , labor markets , and the division of labor in production bound the scattered industrial plants and communities into a sprawling metropolitan district . By 1910 the Pittsburgh district was a complex urban landscape with a dominant central city , surrounded by proximate residential communities , mill towns , satellite cities , and hundreds of mining towns .

Representative of the new industrial suburbs was the model town of Vandergrift , according to Mosher (1995) . Caught up in a dramatic round of industrial restructuring and labor tension , Pittsburgh steelmaker George McMurtry hired Frederick Law Olmsted 's landscape architectural firm in 1895 to design Vandergrift as a model town . McMurtry believed in what was later known as welfare capitalism , with the company going beyond paychecks to provide for the social needs of the workers ; he believed that a benign physical environment made for happier and more productive workers . A strike and lockout at McMurtry 's steelworks in Apollo , Pennsylvania , prompted him to build the new town . Wanting a loyal workforce , he developed a town agenda that drew upon environmentalism as well as popular attitudes toward capital 's treatment of labor . The Olmsted firm translated this agenda into an urban design that included a unique combination of social reform , comprehensive infrastructure planning , and private homeownership principles . The rates of homeownership and cordial relationships between the steel company and Vandergrift residents fostered loyalty among McMurtry 's skilled workers and led to McMurtry 's greatest success . In 1901 he used Vandergrift 's worker @-@ residents to break the first major strike against the United States Steel Corporation .

= = = Germans = = =

During the mid @-@ 19th century , Pittsburgh witnessed a dramatic influx of German immigrants , including a brick mason whose son , Henry J. Heinz , founded the H.J. Heinz Company in 1872 . Heinz was at the forefront of reform efforts to improve food purity , working conditions , hours , and wages , but the company bitterly opposed the formation of an independent labor union .

= = = Labor unions = = =

As a manufacturing center , Pittsburgh also became an arena for intense labor strife . During the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 , Pittsburgh workers protested and had massive demonstrations that erupted into widespread violence , known as the Pittsburgh Railway Riots . Militia and federal troops were called to the city to suppress the strike . Forty men died , most of them workers , and more than 40 buildings were burned down , including the Union Depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad . Strikers also burned and destroyed rolling stock : more than 100 train engines and 1000 railcars were destroyed . It was the city with the most violence of any affected by the strikes .

In 1892 , a confrontation in the steel industry resulted in 10 deaths (3 detectives , 7 workers) when Carnegie Steel Company 's manager Henry Clay Frick sent in Pinkertons to break the Homestead Strike . Labor strife continued into the years of the Great Depression , as workers sought to protect their jobs and improve working conditions . Unions organized H.J. Heinz workers , with the assistance of the Catholic Radical Alliance .

= = = Carnegie = = =

Andrew Carnegie , an immigrant from Scotland , a former Pennsylvania Railroad executive turned steel magnate , founded the Carnegie Steel Company . He proceeded to play a key role in the development of the U.S. steel industry . He became a philanthropist : in 1890 , he established the first Carnegie Library , in a program to establish libraries in numerous cities and towns by the incentive of matching funds . In 1895 , he founded the Carnegie Institute . In 1901 , as the U.S. Steel Corporation formed , he sold his mills to J.P. Morgan for \$ 250 million , making him one of the world 's richest men . Carnegie once wrote that a man who dies rich , dies disgraced . He devoted the rest of his life to public service , establishing libraries , trusts , and foundations . In Pittsburgh , he founded the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh .

The third (and present) Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail was completed in 1886 . In 1890 , trolleys began operations . In 1907 , Pittsburgh annexed Allegheny City , which is now known as the North Shore .

= = Early 20th century = =

By 1911 , Pittsburgh had grown into an industrial and commercial powerhouse :
Nexus of a vast railway system , with freight yards capable of handling 60K cars

27 @.@ 2 miles (43 @.@ 8 km) of harbor

Yearly river traffic in excess of 9M tons

Value of factory products more than \$ 211M (with Allegheny City)

Allegheny county produced , as percentage of national output , about :

24 % of the pig iron

34 % of the Bessemer steel

44 % of the open hearth steel

53 % of the crucible steel

24 % of the steel rails

59 % of the structural shapes

== Prohibition ==

During the Prohibition era , 1920 to 1933 , Pittsburgh was a hotbed of bootlegging and illicit alcohol consumption . Several factors fed into resistance to Prohibition , including a large immigrant population , anti @-@ establishment animosity dating to the Whiskey Rebellion , fragmented local government , and pervasive corruption . The Pittsburgh crime family controlled significant portions of the illegal alcohol trade .

During that time , Prohibition Administrator John Pennington and his federal agents engaged in 15 @,@ 000 raids , arrested over 18 @,@ 000 people and closed down over 3 @,@ 000 distilleries , 16 regular breweries , and 400 ' wildcat ' breweries . Even the term " Speakeasy , " meaning an illegal drinking establishment , is said to have been coined at the Blind Pig in nearby McKeesport , Pennsylvania .

The last distillery in Pittsburgh , Joseph S. Finch 's distillery , located at South Second and McKean streets , closed in the 1920s . In 2012 , Wigle Whiskey opened , becoming the first since the closure of Finch 's distillery .

The Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette produced a large web feature on this period in the city 's history .

== Environment ==

During the late 19th century , city leaders debated the responsibility and expense of creating a waterworks system and disposal of sewage . Downstream users complained about Pittsburgh 's dumping of sewage into the Ohio River . Allegheny County cities did not stop discharging raw sewage into rivers until 1939 . Pittsburgh 's smoke pollution , seen in the 1890s as a sign of prosperity , was recognized as a problem in the Progressive Era and was cleared up in the 1930s ? 1940s . With little regard for beauty , steel plants deposited mountains of slag until 1972 , especially in Nine Mile Run Valley .

In November 1927 , 28 people were killed and hundreds were wounded in an explosion of a gas tank .

To escape the soot of the city , many of the wealthy lived in the Shadyside and East End neighborhoods , a few miles east of downtown . Fifth Avenue was dubbed " Millionaire 's Row " because of the many mansions lining the street .

On March 17 and 18 , 1936 , Pittsburgh witnessed the worst flood in its history , with flood levels peaking at 46 feet . This catastrophe killed 69 victims , destroyed thousands of buildings , caused \$ 3B (2006 dollars) in damages , and put over 60 @,@ 000 steelworkers out of work .

== High culture ==

Oakland became the city 's predominant cultural and educational center , including three universities , multiple museums , a library , a music hall , and a botanical conservatory . Oakland 's University of Pittsburgh erected what today is still the world 's second @-@ tallest educational building , the 42 @-@ story Cathedral of Learning . It towered over Forbes Field , where the Pittsburgh Pirates played from 1909 ? 1970 .

== New immigrants ==

Between 1870 and 1920 , the population of Pittsburgh grew almost sevenfold . Many of the new residents were immigrants who sought employment in the factories and mills and introduced new traditions , languages , and cultures to the city . Ethnic neighborhoods emerged on densely populated hillsides and valleys , such as South Side , Polish Hill , Bloomfield , and Squirrel Hill , home to 28 % of the city 's almost 21 @,@ 000 Jewish households . The Strip District , the city 's produce distribution center , still boasts many restaurants and clubs that showcase these multicultural traditions of Pittsburghers .

The years 1916 ? 1930 marked the largest migration of African @-@ Americans to Pittsburgh . Known as the cultural nucleus of Black Pittsburgh , Wylie Avenue in the Hill District was an important jazz mecca . Jazz greats such as Duke Ellington and Pittsburgh natives Billy Strayhorn and Earl Hines played there . Two of the Negro League 's greatest rivals , the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays , often competed in the Hill District . The teams dominated the Negro National League in the 1930s and 1940s .

= = = 1930s = = =

Pittsburgh was a Republican stronghold starting in the 1880s , and the Republican governments provided jobs and assistance for the new immigrants in return for their votes . But the Great Depression starting in 1929 ruined the GOP in the city . The Democratic victory of 1932 meant an end to Republican patronage jobs and assistance . As the Depression worsened , Pittsburgh ethnics voted heavily for the Democrats , especially in 1934 , making the city a stronghold of the New Deal Coalition . By 1936 , Democratic programs for relief and jobs , especially the WPA , were so popular with the ethnics that a large majority voted for the Democrats .

Joseph Guffey , statewide leader of the Democrats , and his local lieutenant David Lawrence gained control of all federal patronage in Pittsburgh after Roosevelt 's landslide in 1932 and the election of a Democratic mayor in 1933 . Guffey and Lawrence used the New Deal programs to increase their political power and build up a Democratic machine that superseded the decaying Republican machine . Guffey himself acknowledged that a high rate of people on relief was not only " a challenge " but also " an opportunity . " He regarded each relief job as Democratic patronage .

= = = 1940s = = =

Pittsburgh was at the center of the " Arsenal of Democracy " that provided steel , aluminum , munitions and machinery for the U.S. and the Allies during World War II . Pittsburgh 's mills contributed 95 million tons of steel to the war effort .

= = = Postwar = = =

David Lawrence , a Democrat , served as mayor of Pittsburgh from 1946 to 1959 and as Pennsylvania 's governor from 1959 to 1963 . Lawrence used his political power to transform Pittsburgh 's political machine into a modern governmental unit that could run the city well and honestly . In 1946 Lawrence decided to enforce the Smoke Control Ordinance of 1941 because he believed smoke abatement was crucial for the city 's future economic development . However , enforcement placed a substantial burden on the city 's working @-@ class because smoky bituminous coal was much less expensive than smokeless fuels . One round of protests came from Italian @-@ American organizations , which called for delay in enforcing it . Enforcement raised their cost of living and threatened the jobs of their relatives in nearby bituminous coal mines . Despite dislike of the smoke abatement program , Italian Americans strongly supported the reelection of Lawrence in 1949 , in part because many of them were on the city payroll .

= = Renaissance I (1946 ? 1973) = =

Rich and productive , Pittsburgh was also the " Smoky City , " with smog sometimes so thick that streetlights burned during the day as well as rivers that resembled open sewers . Civic leaders , notably Mayor David L. Lawrence , elected in 1945 , Richard K. Mellon , chairman of Mellon Bank and John P. Robin began smoke control and urban revitalization , also known as Urban Renewal projects that transformed the city in unforeseen ways .

" Renaissance I " began in 1946 . Title One of the Housing Act of 1949 provided the means in which to begin . By 1950 , vast swaths of buildings and land near the Point were demolished for Gateway Center . 1953 saw the opening of the (since demolished) Greater Pittsburgh Municipal Airport

terminal .

In the late 1950s and early 1960s , the lower Hill District , an area inhabited predominantly by people of African descent , was completely destroyed . Ninety @-@ five acres of the lower Hill District were cleared using eminent domain , forcibly displacing hundreds of small businesses and more than 8 @, @ 000 people (1 @, @ 239 black families , 312 white) , to make room for a cultural center that included the Civic Arena , which opened in 1961 . Other than one apartment building , none of the other buildings planned for the cultural center were ever built .

In the early 1960s , the neighborhood of East Liberty was also included in Renaissance I Urban Renewal plans , with over 125 acres (0 @. @ 51 km2) of the neighborhood being demolished and replaced with garden apartments , three 20 @-@ story public housing apartments , and a convoluted road @-@ way system that circled a pedestrianized shopping district . In the span of just a few years during the mid @-@ 1960s , East Liberty became a blighted neighborhood . There were some 575 businesses in East Liberty in 1959 , but only 292 in 1970 , and just 98 in 1979 .

Preservation efforts by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation , along with community neighborhood groups , resisted the demolition plans . The neighborhoods containing rich architectural heritage , including the Mexican War Streets , Allegheny West , and Manchester , were spared . The center of Allegheny City , with its culturally and socially important buildings , was not as lucky . All of the buildings , with the exception of the Old U.S. Post Office , the Carnegie Library , and Buhl Planetarium were destroyed and replaced with the " pedestrianized " Allegheny Center Mall and apartments .

The city 's industrial base continued to grow in the post @-@ war era partly assisted by the area 's first agency entirely devoted to industrial development , the RIDC . Jones and Laughlin Steel Company expanded its plant on the Southside . H.J. Heinz , Pittsburgh Plate Glass , Alcoa , Westinghouse , U.S. Steel and its new division , the Pittsburgh Chemical Company and many other companies also continued robust operations through the 1960s . 1970 marked the completion of the final building projects of Renaissance I : the U.S. Steel Tower and Three Rivers Stadium . In 1974 , with the addition of the fountain at the tip of the Golden Triangle , Point State Park was completed . Although air quality was dramatically improved , and Pittsburgh 's manufacturing base seemed solid , questions about the negative effects Urban Renewal continues to have on the social fabric of Pittsburgh . Pittsburgh , however , was about to undergo one of its most dramatic transformations .

Like most major cities , Pittsburgh experienced several days of rioting following the assassination of Martin Luther King in April 1968 . There were no further major riots , although tension remained high in the inner @-@ city black neighborhoods .

= = Reinvention (1973 ? present) = =

During the 1970s and 1980s , the U.S. steel industry came under increasing pressure from foreign competition and from American mini @-@ mills that had much lower overhead by using salvaged steel . Manufacture in Germany and Japan was booming . Foreign mills and factories , built with the latest technology , benefited from lower labor costs and powerful government @-@ corporate partnerships , allowing them to capture increasing market shares of steel and steel products . Separately , demand for steel softened due to recessions , the 1973 oil crisis , and increasing use of other materials . The era began with the RIDC 's " Building on Basics " report in 1974 .

= = = Collapse of steel = = =

Free market pressures exposed the U.S. steel industry 's own internal problems , which included a now @-@ outdated manufacturing base that had been over @-@ expanded in the 1950s and 1960s , hostile management and labor relationships , the inflexibility of United Steelworkers regarding wage cuts and work @-@ rule reforms , oligarchic management styles , and poor strategic planning by both unions and management . In particular , Pittsburgh faced its own challenges . Local coke and iron ore deposits were depleted , raising material costs . The large mills in the Pittsburgh region

also faced competition from newer , more profitable " mini @-@ mills " and non @-@ union mills with lower labor costs .

Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s , the steel industry in Pittsburgh began to implode along with the deindustrialization of the U.S. Following the 1981 ? 1982 recession , for example , the mills laid off 153 @,@ 000 workers . The steel mills began to shut down . These closures caused a ripple effect , as railroads , mines , and other factories across the region lost business and closed . The local economy suffered a depression , marked by high unemployment and underemployment , as laid @-@ off workers took lower @-@ paying , non @-@ union jobs . Pittsburgh suffered as elsewhere in the Rust Belt with a declining population , and like many other U.S. cities , it also saw white flight to the suburbs .

In 1984 the Homestead Works was demolished , replaced in 1999 by The Waterfront shopping mall . As a direct result of the loss of mill employment , the number of people living in Homestead dwindled . By the time of the 2000 census , the borough population was 3 @,@ 569 . The borough began financially recovering in 2002 , with the enlarging retail tax base .

= = = Corporations = = =

Top corporate headquarters such as Gulf Oil (1985) , Koppers (1987) , Westinghouse (1996) and Rockwell International (1989) were bought out by larger firms , with the loss of high paying , white collar headquarters and research personnel (the " brain drain ") as well as massive charitable contributions by the " home based " companies to local cultural and educational institutions . At the time of the Gulf Oil merger in 1985 it was the largest buyout in world history involving the company that was No. 7 on the Fortune 500 just six years earlier . Over 1 @,@ 000 high paying white collar corporate and PhD research jobs were lost in one day .

Today , there are no steel mills within the city limits of Pittsburgh , although manufacture continues at regional mills , such as the Edgar Thomson Works in nearby Braddock .

= = = Higher education = = =

Pittsburgh is home to three universities that are included in most under @-@ graduate and graduate school national rankings , The University of Pittsburgh , Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University . Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh had evolved in the mid @-@ 20th century along lines that followed the needs of the heavy industries that financed and directed their development . The collapse of steel put pressure on those two universities to reinvent themselves as research centers in science and technology which acted to pull the regional economy toward high @-@ technology fields . Other regional collegiate institutions include Robert Morris University , Chatham University , Carlow University , Point Park University , La Roche College , Pittsburgh Theological Seminary , and the Community College of Allegheny County .

Beginning in the 1980s , Pittsburgh 's economy shifted from heavy industry to services , medicine , higher education , tourism , banking , corporate headquarters , and high technology . Today , the top two private employers in the city are the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (26 @,@ 000 employees) and the West Penn Allegheny Health System (13 @,@ 000 employees) .

= = = Civic improvements = = =

Despite the economic turmoil , civic improvements continued . In the mid @-@ 1970s , Arthur P. Ziegler , Jr. and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (Landmarks) wanted to demonstrate that historic preservation could be used to drive economic development without the use of eminent domain or public subsidies . Landmarks acquired the former terminal buildings and yards of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad , a 1 @-@ mile (1 @.@ 6 km) long property at the base of Mt . Washington facing the City of Pittsburgh . In 1976 , Landmarks developed the site as a mixed @-@ use historic adaptive reuse development that gave the foundation the opportunity to put its urban planning principles into practice . Aided by an initial generous gift from the Allegheny

Foundation in 1976 , Landmarks adapted five historic Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad buildings for new uses and added a hotel , a dock for the Gateway Clipper fleet , and parking areas . Now shops , offices , restaurants , and entertainment anchor the historic riverfront site on the south shore of the Monongahela River , opposite the Golden Triangle (Pittsburgh) . Station Square is Pittsburgh 's premiere attraction generating over 3 @, @ 500 @, @ 000 visitors a year . It reflects a \$ 100 million investment from all sources , with the lowest public cost and highest taxpayer return of any major renewal project in the Pittsburgh region since the 1950s . In 1994 , Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation sold Station Square in to Forest City Enterprises which created an endowment to help support its restoration efforts and educational programs . Each year the staff and docents of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation introduce more than 10 @, @ 000 people ? teachers , students , adults , and visitors ? to the architectural heritage of the Pittsburgh region and to the value of historic preservation .

During this period , Pittsburgh also became a national model for community development , through the work of activists such as Dorothy Mae Richardson , who founded Neighborhood Housing Services in 1968 , an organization that became the model for the nationwide NeighborWorks America . Activists such a Richardson shared the aim of Landmarks to rehabilitate Pittsburgh 's existing built landscape rather than to demolish and redevelop .

In 1985 , the J & L Steel site on the north side of the Monongahela river was cleared and a publicly subsidized High Technology Center was built . The Pittsburgh Technology Center , home to many major technology companies , is planning major expansion in the area soon . In the 1980s , the " Renaissance II " urban revitalization created numerous new structures , such as PPG Place . In the 1990s , the former sites of the Homestead , Duquesne and South Side J & L mills were cleared . In 1992 , the new terminal at Pittsburgh International Airport opened . In 2001 , the aging Three Rivers Stadium was replaced by Heinz Field and PNC Park , despite being rejected by voter referendum .

Also in 1985 , Al Michaels revealed to a national TV audience how Pittsburgh had transformed itself from an industrial rust belt city .

= = = Pittsburgh today = = =

Present @-@ day Pittsburgh , with a diversified economy , a low cost of living , and a rich infrastructure for education and culture , has been ranked as one of the World 's Most Livable Cities . Tourism has recently boomed in Pittsburgh with nearly 3 @, @ 000 new hotel rooms opening since 2004 and holding a consistently higher occupancy than in comparable cities . Meanwhile , Apple , Google , Uber , and Intel have joined the 1 @, @ 600 technology firms choosing to operate out of Pittsburgh . The region has also become a leader in green environmental design , a movement exemplified by the city 's convention center . In the last twenty years the region has seen a small but influential group of Asian immigrants , including from the Indian sub @-@ continent .

= = Jurisdiction Timeline = =

1669 Claimed for the French Empire by René @-@ Robert Cavelier , Sieur de La Salle .

1681 King Charles claims the forks for Pennsylvania with 5 degrees west of the Delaware .

1694 Arnout Viele a Dutch trader explores the area .

1717 Settled by English traders , primarily Pennsylvanians some dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania .

1727 Joncaire visits with a small French force .

1748 Both Pennsylvanian Conrad Weiser visits and the King approves the Ohio Company for Virginia .

1749 Frenchman Louis Blainville deCeleron sails by on the Allegheny and Ohio burying lead plates claiming the area for France .

1750 Cumberland County Pennsylvania founded , though its jurisdiction is not governable .

1753 George Washington visits en route to Fort LeBeouf .

1754 French Forces occupy the area and construct Fort Duquesne .

1757 Jesuit Father Claude Francis Virot founded Catholic Mission at Beaver .

1758 British Forces regain the area and establish Fort Pitt though some dispute over claims between the colonies of Pennsylvania (Cumberland County) and Virginia (Augusta County) .

1761 Ayr Township , Cumberland County , Pennsylvania .

1763 The Proclamation of 1763 grants Quebec rights to all lands west of the Alleghenies and North of the Ohio River .

1767 Bedford Township , Cumberland County , Pennsylvania .

1770 George Washington visits for Virginia .

1771 (March 9) Bedford County , Pennsylvania .

1771 (April 16) Pitt Township founded .

1773 (February 26) part of Westmoreland County , Pennsylvania .

1778 (December 16) part of Allegheny County , Pennsylvania .

1792 (June) Petition for a Pittsburgh Township at the forks .

1792 (September 6) Pittsburgh Township , Allegheny County , Pennsylvania .

1794 (April 22) Pittsburgh borough , Allegheny County , Pennsylvania .

1816 (March 18) City of Pittsburgh , Allegheny County , Pennsylvania .