



PITTSBURGH
TODAY

PITTSBURGH TODAY & TOMORROW

REGIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

2017

IN ORDER FOR CITIZENS TO MAKE THE BEST possible decisions about the future of their region, they need a foundation of reliable information and a clear understanding of the issues.

Providing that information—through statistical comparisons and in-depth journalistic reports—is the mission of Pittsburgh Today, one of the nation's oldest regional indicators projects, which is part of the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research.

In this special annual report—Pittsburgh Today & Tomorrow—we assess how Pittsburgh is doing compared with 14 other regions in key economic and quality-of-life measures. We also examine key issues affecting Pittsburgh, and we've asked a group of leaders to offer an idea they believe will improve our region.

To view Pittsburgh Today's regional indicators and journalistic reports, visit pittsburghtoday.org.



ECONOMY

DESPITE LULL, PITTSBURGH POISED TO GROW FASTER

GREATER PITTSBURGH'S ECONOMY IS IN A PRECARIOUS situation to start 2017. The seven-county region's unemployment rate rose sharply through the second half of 2015, nearing 6 percent—a level not seen since 2014 when the recovery was just gaining real momentum. Prior to the 2008-09 recession, Pittsburgh's unemployment rate mirrored national trends for 20 years. So the current divergence for the worse suggests that Pittsburgh's employers and employees alike may find the coming year difficult in terms of advancing toward new economic goals.

A critical illustration of Pittsburgh's downside risk for 2017 is its comparison between labor force growth and hiring. Total 2016 job growth was just shy of 0.5 percent—in the bottom third of the nation's 381 metropolitan statistical areas. But while not stellar, labor force gains have been stronger, ranking 171st in the nation, and outpacing hiring by a 3-to-1 ratio. This mix of trends implies that workers not able to find positions in Pittsburgh due to

by *Stuart Hoffman*
and *Kurt Rankin*

a slower pace of hiring may well find themselves relocating to better-performing regions, leaving Pittsburgh businesses with fewer workers for future expansion efforts. Lackluster growth, both currently and over the near-term horizon, may also act to limit wage growth for existing employees. With U.S. average wage growth already well ahead of Pittsburgh's, the potential exists for a vicious circle of skills drain and lack of labor demand.

Regional consumer spending support will come under fire in 2017 after recovering to match national trends during the prior year. Wage growth is already weak, and without significant job creation the region's income base cannot support expansion in consumption-oriented industries such as leisure & hospitality services. Further, gasoline prices are moving higher as oil prices have begun to recover after two years of exceptional weakness, and Pennsylvania raised its gasoline taxes to start the year. This all combines to undercut job-creating consumer spending by taking dollars out of consumers' wallets and dedicating them to necessary commuting costs. There are no indications that regional consumer confidence has suffered, but the limitations on consumption-driven growth are more about spending capacity than spending propensity.

Pittsburgh's heavy industry sectors—manufacturing, transportation & warehousing, construction, and natural resources development—offer only varying question marks regarding their contributions to 2017 economic growth. Firms across these industries saw flat to lower payrolls to close out 2016. There is, however, the potential for federal infrastructure spending in the second half of the year. Lending credence to that possibility are President Trump's campaign promises, a Republican-controlled Congress,

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LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

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and nominal bipartisan agreement that the nation's infrastructure sorely needs improvement. And few metropolitan areas can boast greater disrepair than Pittsburgh. Should funding appear for infrastructure, Pittsburgh's economy may see more job creation. Even if cyber-infrastructure is the focus of spending efforts, Carnegie Mellon University's leadership there could lead to the region riding the leading edge of investment dollars. Such developments represent the type of external shock Pittsburgh will need to restart its stalled economic engine.

The natural resources development industry, which means natural gas extraction here, could reach a positive turning point in 2017 as well. Natural gas prices rose through the end of 2016 and will likely hover near levels that brought hiring since Marcellus Shale activity ramped up in the region beginning in 2008. This would be a significant turnaround after the price collapse in late 2014 caused the elimination of more than 25 percent of the sector's jobs. Even more encouraging is progress of ethane "cracker" operations that will take advantage of low-cost Marcellus Shale gas. Shell Chemicals confirmed that the long-discussed Beaver County plant will

“As we continue to position Pittsburgh as a world-class community for business, it is critical to improve and advance our infrastructure. Continuing the important progress made in enhancing air service and improving connections with international business destinations is critical for our region. In addition, we must invest in our aging bridges and roadways to ensure the safe and reliable transportation of goods. Infrastructure investment must be a priority to continue to advance economic and community vitality for Pittsburgh.”

Michael McGarry, *Chairman & CEO, PPG*

indeed be built, creating several thousand interim construction jobs, and eventually 600 permanent positions. This may be just the first of several industries to expand regionally to take advantage of low-cost natural gas as production feedstock. It will take time for these industries to establish a bona fide presence, but Pittsburgh's long-term economic potential thanks to natural gas extraction operations seems to be a question of "when," not "if."

The next leg of the U.S. economy's expansion will occur in a rising interest rate environment. In December, the Federal Reserve took another step along the path of normalizing rates from the near-zero levels since the Great Recession. Rising interest rates—or "tightening" monetary policy—usually portends slower economic activity as businesses face higher borrowing costs and consumers face higher interest payments on existing debt, especially credit cards.

But this time is different. Even with several more annual Federal Reserve rate hikes over the next two years, interest rates will remain historically low. Borrowing costs will remain attractive for businesses

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with expansion opportunities to finance, and the U.S. consumer has weathered far higher rates and continued to spend in the past. Pittsburgh will be able to take advantage of this evolving economic environment, but whether local businesses choose to advance beyond their current underwhelming pace remains in question. If new expansion is not sought within the regional economy, there is a reasonable likelihood that opportunities will be seized elsewhere and will attract away investment and labor resources.

Pittsburgh's nascent demographic turnaround will realize the same fate as its labor market in the next few years. Job growth can keep the existing working-age population in place and attract new residents to the region. Housing market stability and broad urban development are ongoing, positioning Pittsburgh to handle such trends. However, if job seekers continue to outpace hiring, out-migration toward employment opportunities elsewhere will keep demographic gains under wraps.

Reliable employers in education, healthcare and finance are firmly entrenched and can support workforce development within a healthy economic environment. And Pittsburgh is well positioned to benefit from Marcellus Shale activity once natural gas prices normalize. Skilled natural gas workers will find Pittsburgh's low living costs attractive, and migration trends are likely to see a boost over the coming decade as a result, even if near-term trends remain subdued. ■

Stuart Hoffman is PNC's chief economist. Kurt Rankin is VP and Economist for PNC.

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“Our region has become a center of innovation, energy, education, culture and livability across many fronts. With Pittsburgh ranked so frequently in recent years in national and global benchmarks, we should continue to make strides in our ability to attract a more diverse workforce. The tremendous economic benefit of our rich natural resources, and opportunities connected to construction of Shell's petrochemical plant, will continue to make our region the envy of many cities in the U.S. and around the world.

Chester R. Babst III, Managing Shareholder
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PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIME RATES LOW AND TRENDING LOWER ACROSS THE REGION

WHEN PITTSBURGH RISES TO THE TOP OF VARIOUS “best places to live” lists, one indicator often cited is the region's relative safety, with crime rates among the nation's lowest.

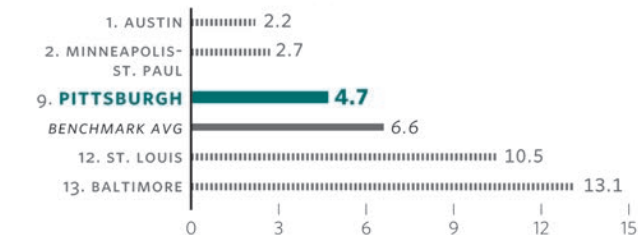
Crime overall fell again throughout the seven-county Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2015, dropping 2.7 percent, according to the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Reports data. Property and violent crime rates have been mainly lower since 2003.

Several regional characteristics contribute to lower crime. The economy is relatively stable. The population is less transient with 90 percent of residents living in the region for longer than 10 years and 80 percent for longer than 20. Because of their longevity here, they've developed relatively more social contacts, which holds down crime.

Crime rates, however, are not consistent across the region. Low-income residents and minorities tend to be more vulnerable to crime and its consequences than others. Southwestern Pennsylvanians earning less than \$25,000 a year, for example, are more likely than those in higher income brackets to feel their neighborhood is less safe than others. And African Americans are nearly three times more likely than other races to report having recently been a victim of a violent crime, according to Pittsburgh Today's Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. ■

Murder Rate

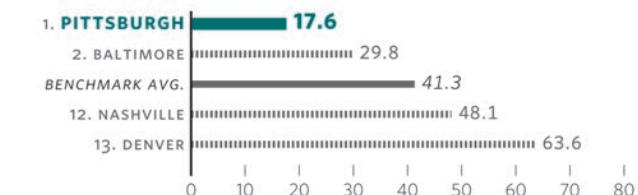
Per 100,000 population, by benchmark region:



DATA SOURCE: FBI Uniform Crime Reports

Forcible Rape Rate

Per 100,000 population, by benchmark region:



DATA SOURCE: FBI Uniform Crime Reports



A shrinking resource

LEANER TIMES FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

by Julia Fraser

NOT THAT LONG AGO, THE state Department of Education was a robust repository of expertise for 500 Pennsylvania school districts, offering curricular guidance ranging from math to art to best practices for improving school effectiveness and education outcomes. Those days, however, are largely gone as a new environment has taken hold, one in which federal education laws that stress testing, data collection and school performance evaluation consume most of the time of a significantly reduced department staff.

Today, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has 532 employees, which is about 31 percent fewer than in 2003–04, according to staffing data from the department. Earlier staffing levels were not available. Most of the attrition has been in department jobs funded by state dollars. The number of positions supported by federal funds has remained stable and today accounts for more than half of the jobs in the state department compared to 34 percent in 2003–04.

“Taking apart the Department of Education is nothing new,” said Jerry Longo, associate professor of administrative and policy studies at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. “It’s been happening for 20 years. It’s part of this whole shrinking government idea. Once upon a time, it was a very vital department of education with a lot of expertise housed there.”

Some of the attrition is due to reductions in the department’s responsibilities. Positions were lost, for example, when the Scranton State School for the Deaf, which the Department of Education managed, was closed in 2009. But, education policy experts say, steady downsizing has eroded the role the department is able to play in how children are educated across the state.

“The department is understaffed,” said Ron Cowell, president of the Education Policy and Leadership Center, a nonpartisan education policy nonprofit based in Harrisburg. “It’s just one component of the department’s inability to do the things it would like to or should do. The people who work there do amazing work under difficult circumstances. The problem is that there are too few of them.”

Shifting roles

▶ Several factors influence the role of the state Department of Education, including changes in federal and state education laws and state political leadership. For example, the No Child Left Behind Act of

2001 expanded the federal government’s influence in public education with a greater emphasis on testing, annual school performance evaluations and other measures. “Once NCLB came along, essentially the department became an agent of the federal government,” said Jim Buckheit, a former executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, which represents top school officials across the state.

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

In 2015, No Child Left Behind was replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act, which kept the emphasis on testing, but gave states a greater degree of influence over how to determine struggling schools and how to help them.

The state Department of Education is mostly responsible for overseeing education from kindergarten through grade 12, although it is engaged in other endeavors, such as working with trade schools and colleges and universities on teacher training, standards and certification.

In K-12 education, the department is responsible for setting state academic standards and administering the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), which measures student progress in English, math and science, and Keystone Exams, which assess proficiency in 10 subject areas. The department collects data from schools across the state ranging from high school graduation rates to school safety reports that inform regular school performance evaluation, and corrective actions and other steps ordered when performance is below standard. The department also provides support for low-performing schools to

“Bring local communities and higher education together in more meaningful partnerships that result in implementable strategies for more sustainable, resilient and diversified regional economies and access to higher education. This is especially relevant in the industrial and post-industrial Mon Valley — a region that has experienced population loss and high rates of poverty and social marginalization.”

Andrew Egan, *Chancellor*, **Penn State Greater Allegheny**

improve their effectiveness.

One of the department's primary roles is to allocate state and federal education dollars and monitor school district compliance with regulations that accompany those monies. The department, for example, is responsible for overseeing how districts spend funds earmarked for the education of students with disabilities.

Al Johnson, the superintendent of Woodland Hills School District, said he turns to the state for expertise in a couple

of limited areas on a day-to-day basis, the most important being advice on special education issues, which the department has assigned a specific office to oversee.

The department historically played a much larger role in providing curriculum and subject matter support for school districts, such as sharing best practices in teaching and helping with selection of textbooks and other resources in subjects ranging from science and math to art, history, and civics and government. And

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LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

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subject matter experts were only a phone call away.

But that has changed, Johnson said. “The state doesn’t exist to provide expertise. We don’t get curriculum advice from the state. We don’t get technology advice from the state. They occasionally offer programs, but in a real day-to-day sense, getting curriculum advice from the state just doesn’t happen—not in 20 years.”

Cowell pointed out that the department no longer has a full-time arts education advisor on staff. “Thirty years ago, there were seven or eight such positions. Today, there is one person who does part-time consulting with the department of education. And arts education in Pennsylvania is part of the core curriculum.”

Less support, more inequity

▶ Local intermediate units in many cases are left to pick up the slack. These public educational agencies covering one or more counties that provide school districts with services ranging from professional develop-

ment training for teachers to resources for gifted students and truancy management. The jurisdiction and the budgets of intermediate units can vary widely.

In addition, schools in the region’s urban core benefit from a more expansive network of expertise and other resources found within the community. In Allegheny County, for example, Remake

“Over the last 10 years, the Pittsburgh educational community concentrated on Remake Learning, a successful collaborative effort mainly focused on STEM education. In the next 10 years, I hope those efforts can be expanded to include socio-emotional and humanities education. To be able to make good choices with the knowledge gleaned from STEM education, we need to know the stories of great literature, history and the arts. This may usher in a better way to understand ourselves and our neighbors.”

Jane Werner, Executive Director
Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh

Learning draws from public schools, local universities, foundations and entrepreneurs to develop and implement innovative uses of technology in the classroom.

But school districts in smaller counties, particularly in rural parts of the state, have much less exposure to such opportunities and their local intermediate units typically have fewer resources to work with than those in more populated counties.

“We have a very large number of small districts in Pennsylvania with fewer than 1,000 kids and it’s quite likely that those districts themselves are often understaffed because of cutbacks in state funding over the past several years,” said Cowell. “They’re less likely to have a person dedicated to curriculum or dedicated to some other key assignments. Those school districts are more dependent on a department of education to be the helper, to provide technical assistance or other forms of assistance.”

While significant increases in the Department of Education staff and budget aren’t likely, changes to the department are in the works. Top priorities include creating a Division of Charter Schools to enhance oversight of the fiscal and academic performance of charter schools. In addition, the department is hiring staff with specialized backgrounds to work on the implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and science, technology, engineering, and math education. Another initiative is to adopt a community school model for the state, which focuses on partnerships between the school and support services in the community such as social services or public

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health organizations, according to Nicole Reigelman, the department's spokesperson.

School districts could also use more robust insight and support in navigating education in the 21st century, particularly smaller, more isolated districts, Longo said. "We need people who have that larger perspective of what's happening in the country. What are the best programs in the state? We don't have people who have that kind of perspective available to everybody. It's a fairness issue. The quality of education shouldn't be dependent on where you happen to live, but it is." **PQ**

Julia Fraser is a Pittsburgh Today staff writer and research specialist.



TRANSPORTATION

**WALKING, BIKING MORE POPULAR,
BUT TRAFFIC DELAYS RISE**

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ITH SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST public transit system experiencing greater financial stability, the addition of bike lanes along city streets and more people choosing to live in the urban core, the use of alternative types of transportation is on the upswing. But the automobile still rules.

And regional motorists are spending more hours sitting in traffic. Annual traffic delay hours have risen 15 percent since 2003 to an average of 39 a year. The increase has occurred despite the population having remained relatively flat. While it may be little consolation to motorists idling in rush hour traffic, the local annual delay they experience is less than the 45-hour average reported among Pittsburgh Today benchmark regions.

Most of the region's public transit users rely on the Port Authority of Allegheny County fleet of buses and light rail. Ridership is relatively stable with Port Authority transit having logged nearly 64 million rides in 2015. That is about 15 times the ridership of the nine other transit systems in the Pittsburgh MSA combined.

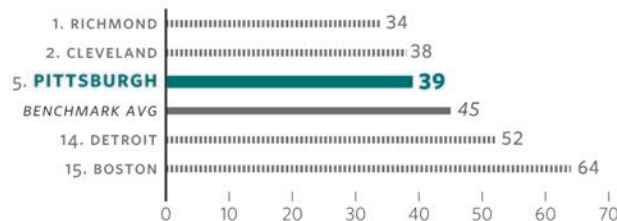
Limited service and jobs located in the suburbs make it difficult for many commuters to consider public transit a reasonable option. In the Pittsburgh MSA, about 71 percent of jobs are in neighborhoods with transit service. But fewer than 21 percent of the population is able to reach those jobs by transit in 90 minutes or less, according to a Brookings Institution study.

Household transportation costs are typically lower in places that are more compact and offer greater public transit options. In the City of Pittsburgh, which has the best access to jobs and transit in the region, 19 percent of average household income is spent on transportation. In Armstrong County, which is almost entirely car-dependent, 28 percent of household income is spent on transportation, according to an index calculated by The Center for Neighborhood Technology.

Trends show alternative ways of commuting are gaining momentum in the region, mostly in and around the City of Pittsburgh. U.S. Census Bureau data suggest that more than 11 percent of Pittsburgh commuters walk and 1.5 percent bike. Only Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco have higher rates. And Pittsburgh is the 25th most walkable of 141 U.S. and Canadian cities ranked by the Seattle-based company, Walk Score. ■

Annual Traffic Delay

Per peak traveler, 2014:



DATA SOURCE: Texas Transportation Institute, Urban Mobility Report

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“For Pittsburgh to continue to evolve as a Smart City, it is essential to establish an adaptable transit infrastructure that connects Pittsburgh's employment centers with the population centers spread across the region. Over time, as changing economies shift employment and population centers, the transit system must evolve to ensure that both vibrant and underserved areas are accessible to provide people with better avenues of opportunity, and to improve quality-of-life, equity and the economy as a whole.”

Kurt Bergman, CEO
Michael Baker International



HEALTH

INFANT MORTALITY TRENDS LOWER, BUT RACIAL DISPARITIES REMAIN

FEWER FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING THE heartbreak of the death of an infant in Allegheny County, and deaths related to heart disease have fallen since 2003 among adults. But the rate of southwestern Pennsylvania residents who report their health as only fair or poor is not encouraging. And race and income tend to influence health across several indicators.

Local infant mortality data suggest the region is making progress in reducing the number of infants under the age of 1 year who die each year. In Allegheny County, the infant mortality rate among African American women has plummeted from 21.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 10.3 in 2012. The rate among white women fell from 6.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 3.7, according to county Health Department data. Despite the sharp decline, African American women in the county are still 2.7 times more likely to experience the death of an infant than white women.

Allegheny County residents are dying from heart disease at much lower rates than were reported in 2003, the data suggest. The decline is seen across race and gender, with the rate among white women decreasing the most dramatically. Heart disease, however, remains the leading cause of death in the county.

Several factors likely contribute to the improving trends of heart disease deaths, including greater public awareness of preventive behaviors, more attention to diet and exercise, medical care and access to timely and appropriate health care.

Southwestern Pennsylvanians are their own worst enemy when it comes to avoiding preventable diseases. Rates of smoking, obesity and physical inactivity are among the worst in the Pittsburgh Today benchmark regions.

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“Improve rural health care. Broadening partnerships with urban systems, such as the partnership between Westminster and UPMC-Jameson to offer B.S.N./R.N. degrees focused on rural nursing, should enhance student interest. Increasing state funding for health students who commit to working in rural areas or by establishing loan debt forgiveness after three-plus years of rural work would help. Equipping public schools with clinics that would be open for adults at night and during summers would provide multi-age options in accessible sites.”

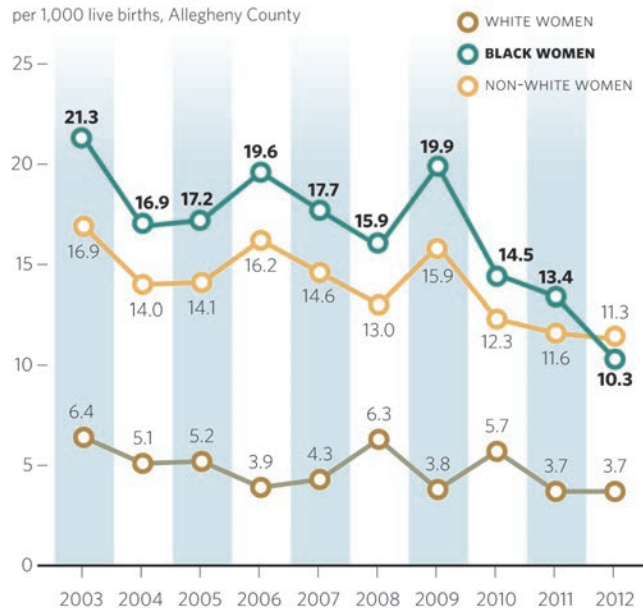
Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson, *President*
Westminster College

Such behaviors are risks for preventable diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Perhaps it is not surprising that the rate of Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area residents who rate their health as only fair or poor does not appear to be improving. The rate of residents who describe their health in those terms has risen to nearly 17 percent of the population since 2003, according to the most recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. ■

Infant Mortality

per 1,000 live births, Allegheny County



DATA SOURCE: Allegheny County Health Department, Department of Biostatistics



Working women

THEIR NUMBERS RISE BUT WAGES LAG

by Julia Fraser

DEANA KEENAN'S CAREER unfolds like an inspirational film. As a young woman, she left college to have children. She spent years working low-wage jobs as a single mother until she reached a breaking point when her oldest son was murdered. She picked herself up and sought out job training programs in

Pittsburgh, where she found mentors who encouraged her to go back to school. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2½ years while working full-time to provide for her four children. She fought for promotions, changed jobs when she couldn't advance and worked her way to a position as recruiting manager at Black Knight Security, a Pittsburgh-based security firm.

"The biggest challenge was always financial," said Keenan, 51, of Greenfield. "When I was working and going to school, I struggled. I had to borrow a car from my mom to get back and forth to school. I was blessed to have my mom to help me—she's 73 and works two jobs."

Her example of perseverance—balancing job, education and childcare—is one an increasing number of women in southwestern Pennsylvania are following.

Women account for a larger share of the southwestern Pennsylvania labor force than the national average—the

result of a decades-long upward trend in a region where women had historically been slow to enter the workforce. But despite their increasing numbers, the quality of the jobs they hold and their earnings generally fall below those of men in similar industries.

Rising tide

▶ Women began entering the workforce in greater numbers in the 1980s and 1990s when steel's decline triggered the deindustrialization of the region's economy. From 1971 to 2000, for example,

the number of men in the Allegheny County labor force decreased by nearly 18 percent while the number of women rose by nearly 14 percent, according to a University of Pittsburgh study.

By 2014, women comprised 48 percent of the labor force in the seven-county Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is slightly higher than the national average.

The same year, the region's female labor force participation rate—those working or looking for work—was 57.7 percent, slightly beneath state and national averages, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Within the MSA, that rate varies—from 59.6 percent in Allegheny County to 48.9 percent in Fayette County.

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Concentrated in low-paying occupations

► Despite greater numbers of working women, a significant gap between what they earn and what men earn remains.

Nationally, women earn 73 cents on a dollar compared with men. In the Pittsburgh MSA, the figure is 67 cents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey's five-year estimates of median annual earnings for the population 25 and older from 2011–15.

The regional gap exists across educational levels. For example, the median annual earnings for women with a high school diploma but no additional degree is \$13,508 compared to \$23,532 for men with similar education levels—or 61 cents to a dollar. Women with a graduate or a professional degree earn \$52,622 compared to \$81,640 for men—or 64 cents on the dollar compared to men.

“Women, just by sheer numbers, are a powerful economic engine,” said Vera Krofcheck, chief strategy officer of the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board. “The problem is that they are at these lower paying jobs; even if they work fulltime, their earning power is lower than men. It’s not just an issue for them, but for the economic performance of the region. We are losing out on a lot of the potential that could be created.”

One of the main reasons for the regional gender wage gap is that women work in industries that pay less. This local industrial

LOCAL LEADERS

LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“A world-class competitive workforce is needed to meet demand gaps by 2025. As part of keeping Pittsburgh competitive, vibrant and dynamic, our goal must be to address forecast demand analysis findings which are projecting a gap of greater than 80,000 workers by 2025. Strategies to achieve this goal must include successfully implementing strategies to improve our demographics with greater diversity, providing targeted training of our workforce to meet industry demands, and keeping our college students in Pittsburgh after graduation to support fast growing innovation clusters.”

Venkee Sharma, CEO, **Aquatech**

segregation does not typically occur nationally, according to a 2007 University of Pittsburgh study by Sabina Deitrick, Susan Hansen and Christopher Briem. Pittsburgh women are either concentrated in low-paying industries compared to the nation or the relatively higher paying industries in Pittsburgh are not employing women in proportion to national averages.

For example, Pittsburgh women hold about 87 percent of health care support occupations, which offer an average hourly

97%

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wage of \$14.38. And women hold 74 percent of roughly 200,000 office and administrative support jobs, which pay an average \$17.18 an hour. Conversely, women claim smaller shares of some of the region's best-paying jobs, holding one-third of the 50,000 management jobs, which average \$52.60 an hour, according to Census Bureau data.

A childcare barrier

▶ Women also can face barriers entering the workforce, including finding mentors and support networks and learning to negotiate salaries and job offers. One of the most significant challenges is the expense of raising

children and the fact that women do the bulk of that work.

Pittsburgh families of four must earn about \$5,400 a month to live modestly, according to a 2015 study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. EPI argues that official poverty indicators, such as the federal poverty line and Supplemental Poverty Measure, aren't adequate indicators of what it takes to live "free of economic hardship." To address these shortcomings, EPI created a family budget calculator that measures community-specific expenses of housing, food, childcare, transportation, healthcare, other necessities and taxes for different family sizes across the country.

It costs about the same to live "securely yet modestly" in Pittsburgh as it does in Sacramento, Calif., and Austin, Tex., the study reports. Housing and health care are much less expensive in Pittsburgh than in Sacramento and Austin, but Pittsburgh families pay much more for childcare—22.6 percent of their budget. And child rearing falls disproportionately on women, according to a 2013 Pew Research study on working parents and household burden.

"Trying to maintain an income level or obtain a decent family wage is extremely difficult when balancing childcare," said Sarah Hansen, director of programs and strategic initiatives at PA Women Work, which provides job training and placement for women entering the workforce. "Some of these women will choose not to take a raise or not to take a promotion because that means they will lose the benefits that they are receiving."

Childcare is a challenge particularly for low-income women seeking to enter the workforce, get training or both.

Pennsylvania offers childcare subsidies for low-income families, but not all women are eligible—even those whose incomes are low enough to qualify. Women must work at least 20 hours a week, have a promise of a job starting in 30 days, or be in school and working at least 10 hours a week. Moreover, high demand for childcare subsidies results in chronic waiting lists.

Women's increasing role in the workforce also increases their influence on the economy. Their earnings affect regional spending as well as the people whom those wage earners help support, such as young children and seniors.

"Women tend to have jobs with lower quality, period," Krofcheck said. "If people who are able to work are working but not earning a lot, the economy is going to stagnate. More importantly we are going to have a harder time paying for the generation before and after." **PQ**

Julia Fraser is a Pittsburgh Today staff writer and research specialist.

LOCAL LEADERS

LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“Pittsburgh has recently received significant national and international attention as a great place to live, work and visit. As someone who has witnessed the extraordinary transformation of this region in my 33 years here, I am thrilled to see Pittsburgh recognized as such a progressive, connected, modern city—a model for other cities to follow. That said, our continued forward progress depends on Pittsburgh being widely known as a destination city for a diverse population of individuals from all over, welcoming their talents, experiences and entrepreneurial ideas to enrich our community.”

John G. Ferreira
Managing Partner, Pittsburgh Office
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

“City or county programs that make our underutilized buildings available to artists would be a beginning in creating a thriving art economy. Artists need—and often help create—a commercial base. While Pittsburgh has excellent museums and alternative spaces, we need more galleries to encourage collecting. Too often, ambitious artists leave Pittsburgh for places with more robust visual art infrastructures. Lawrenceville transformed gives a taste of what a stronger visual art scene could do for Pittsburgh.”

Lynn Zelevansky, Director
Carnegie Museum of Art

“We are at the confluence of a transformational period in western Pennsylvania. Emerging markets, research, energy, medicine, education and housing are in the local headlines on a daily basis, and groundbreaking advancements in these fields continue to put Pittsburgh on the map as the place to be. We are fortunate to have opportunities at the epicenter of a new economy that is progressing at breakneck speed.”

Clifford Rowe Jr., CEO
PJ Dick - Trumbull - Lindy Paving

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“The region will flourish beyond its current inflection point if it continues to attract and develop diverse and talented people. If we pay close attention to our cultural assets, our universities, the quality of our housing stock and our transportation infrastructure, and we emphasize a welcoming environment, we can successfully compete with larger and more costly cities. The recent service improvements brought about by our Pittsburgh Airport leadership provides a great example of our potential.”

Christopher B. Carson, *President & CEO*
Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.

“In the 20th century, industry in Western Pennsylvania helped propel the United States into a world power. Simultaneously, benefactors like Andrew Carnegie and Mary Marchand Woods built museums and cultural institutions. As we look to remain competitive in the 21st century, we must not forget the power of the arts in all we do. STEAM, not STEM, is the answer. Great minds are fueled by information, but without creativity and imagination, they cannot soar.”

Judith H. O'Toole
The Richard M. Scaife Director/CEO
The Westmoreland Museum of American Art

“The biggest wasted opportunity we have in the region is our parks. They're enormous in acreage, diversity, natural beauty and untaxed value. Yet we waste their potential. They can draw more of us in, give us boundless enjoyment, make us healthier, make us greener, teach us, bring us together. But we don't link them together, we don't invest enough to improve them and we don't fund people and programs that will drive return on investment. We spend per capita a pittance of what other regions devote to parks. We need a collective, massive, long term and smart public/private investment to make Pittsburgh the world capital of parks excellence.”

Dan Booker, *Partner*, **Reed Smith**



HOUSING

MORE FIND HOUSING AFFORDABLE, BUT INCOME MATTERS

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S HOUSING MARKET has lacked the drama of skyrocketing prices and the bursting of housing bubbles. Its rate of homeownership is among the highest in the nation, and more people are finding housing that fits their budgets than a decade earlier.

But a high percentage of renters struggle to pay for their housing, and vacant and abandoned housing remains a costly problem.

More than 69 percent of Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area residents own their home—higher than any of the other Pittsburgh Today benchmark regions. In Austin, where the lowest benchmark rate is found, fewer than 59 percent of residents are homeowners.

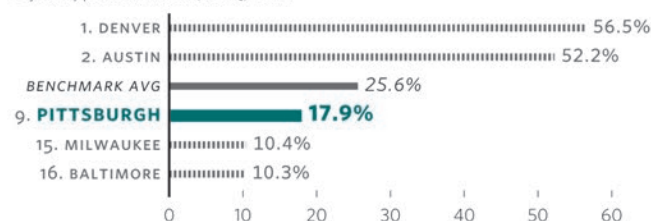
Not having experienced much of a housing bubble before the 2007 recession, the Pittsburgh MSA market felt less pain and recovered more quickly than most metropolitan areas after the bubble burst. And for several years, more people were moving into the region than leaving. Housing prices rose 23.8 percent over the past 10 years. Only Austin, Denver and Nashville have done better among benchmark regions.

Over the past five years, however, local prices have risen about 17 percent, below the average appreciation across benchmark regions. The one-year appreciation rate also fell below the benchmark average.

In terms of affordability, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers homeowners and renters whose housing costs consume more than 30 percent of their annual income to be cost burdened and at risk of not being able to afford other basic necessities. A lower rate of homeowners and renters in the region are paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing than in 2005. Still, more than 45 percent of renters are cost burdened in the eyes of HUD. Their rent has been rising. The average local fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased 23 percent to \$827 a month since 2005 in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Housing: price appreciation

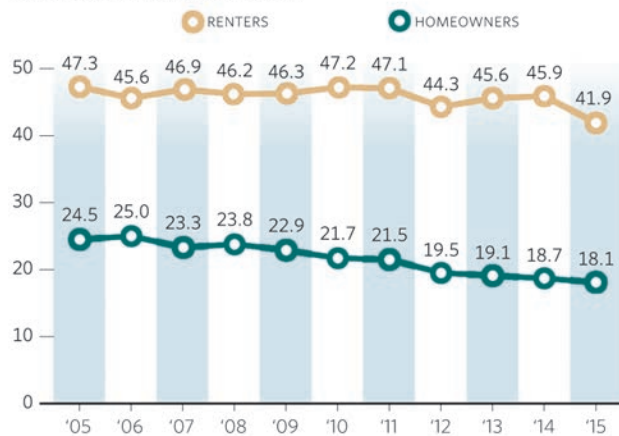
5-year appreciation rates, 3rdQ, 2016:



DATA SOURCE: Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA)

Housing Affordability

Percentage of homeowners and renters in the Pittsburgh MSA paying 30 percent or more of their annual income for housing



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey one-year estimates

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“As a region, it will be critical to our future success to establish a thoughtful, meaningful and ongoing partnership between the business community and the schools. Employers need to move from simply seeking talent for jobs at hand to investing in students before and during their years in higher education so we ensure that our labor supply is well prepared for our future jobs.”

Donna K. Hudson
Managing Director and Pittsburgh Regional Manager
BNY Mellon

Vacant housing also remains a stubborn problem. In 2015, 10.3 percent of the Pittsburgh MSA's housing stood vacant, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. That is a slightly greater rate than in 2005. A recent study of 41 municipalities in the eastern suburbs of Allegheny County alone found vacant and blighted property cost taxpayers nearly \$255 million a year in municipal services, lost tax revenue and eroded property values. ■

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GOVERNMENT

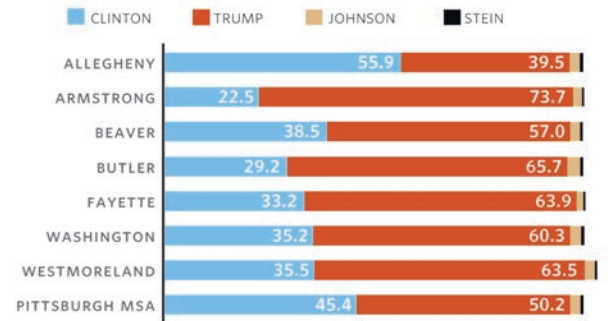
BEYOND THE REGION'S URBAN CENTER, IT WAS TRUMP

ONE OF THE MOST HOTLY CONTESTED presidential elections in decades wasn't much of a nail biter in most of southwestern Pennsylvania outside of the City of Pittsburgh and immediate suburbs.

Republican businessman Donald Trump won more votes than his opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, in six of the seven counties in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area. Former Secretary of State Clinton won in Allegheny County, which includes the City of Pittsburgh.

Presidential Election

Results by Pittsburgh MSA counties



DATA SOURCE: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland County Election Divisions. Results for Allegheny and Washington counties are preliminary.

Trump carried the region with about 50.2 percent of the seven-county vote. Trump also captured Pennsylvania by a slim 44,307 unofficial-vote margin and with it the state's 20 Electoral College votes. More than 6.1 million votes were cast in the presidential election statewide.

Democrat Barack Obama only won Allegheny County in the region in 2008 and in his 2012 run for re-election.

Trump, however, won a larger share of the votes in five of the six Pittsburgh MSA counties outside of Allegheny than did Republican candidates Mitt Romney in 2012 and John McCain in 2008.

Differences in some cases were wide. In Fayette County, for example, Trump won nearly 64 percent of the vote compared to Romney's 53.6 percent in 2012.

Clinton's share of the large Allegheny County vote at about 55.9 percent unofficially trailed Obama's 56.6 percent in 2012. Her strength was in the City of Pittsburgh and its neighboring municipalities. Trump won more than 60 percent of the vote in several of the county's far suburban municipalities along its western, northern and southern borders.

U.S. House and Senate — Republican Patrick Toomey was re-elected to represent Pennsylvania for a second term in the U.S. Senate in another tight statewide November race. Less than 87,000 of the more than 6 million votes cast in the race separated Toomey from Democratic challenger Katie McGinty, a former federal and state environmental policy official and chief of staff to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

Like Trump, Toomey won more votes than his Democratic opponent in six of the seven counties in the Pittsburgh MSA, with Allegheny being the only county captured by McGinty.

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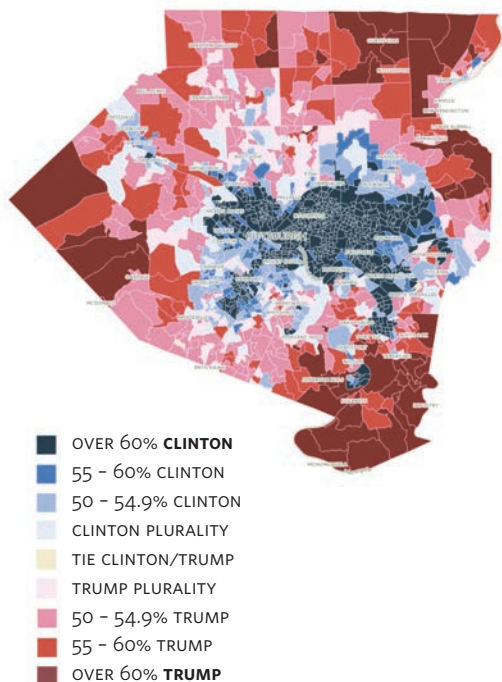
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ARTS & CULTURE

A VIBRANT ARTS SCENE,
IF A BIT SMALLER

Presidential Election Allegheny County



DATA SOURCE: Uncertified election results as reported on Nov. 9, 2016, Allegheny County Division of Elections.

Incumbents were re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in all five districts within the Pittsburgh MSA. Republican Mike Kelly ran unopposed in District 3, which includes Butler County. Republican Bill Shuster was re-elected in District 9, which includes parts of Fayette and Washington counties. Republican Keith Rothfus was re-elected to Congress in District 12, which includes parts of Beaver, Allegheny and Westmoreland counties in the region. Democrat Mike Doyle was re-elected in District 14, which includes the City of Pittsburgh and several neighboring Allegheny County municipalities. And Republican Tim Murphy won another term representing District 18, which includes parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Washington and Westmoreland counties. ■

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S RICH NETWORK OF arts and cultural organizations has downsized somewhat in recent years, but remains stable.

The region lost 79 arts organizations between 2010 and 2015, a 5 percent decrease, according to Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council data covering Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

The major reasons for the decline include the lingering effects of the 2007-09 economic recession and consolidations. The downsizing was seen across all sizes of organizations, with the exception of those with budgets ranging from \$250,000 to under \$1 million. The number of those organizations increased 10 percent.

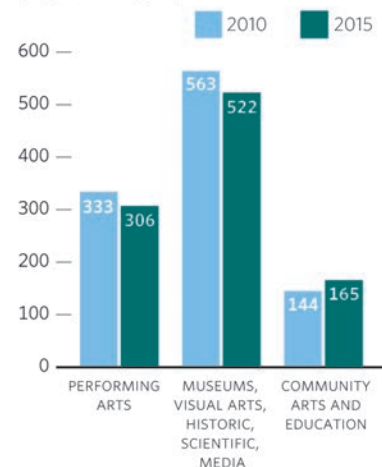
Financial health — The majority of arts organizations either broke even financially or had a budget surplus in 2015. But 43 percent ran deficits and half of those organizations had deficits exceeding 10 percent of their budget.

Corporate donations have risen 17.6 percent, and subscriptions are up 16 percent since 2009. Earned income, including box office, for the region's arts and cultural organizations, however, has grown only 1.4 percent and individual gifts have fallen by more than 20 percent.

Where people live in the region influences attendance and their views on the quality of the offerings, according to the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey conducted by the University of Pittsburgh University Center for Social and Urban Research. City of Pittsburgh residents, for example, are more than twice as likely to attend a play, film, gallery, museum or other arts event than people who live elsewhere in the region. City residents are also more likely to rate the quality of local arts as excellent. ■

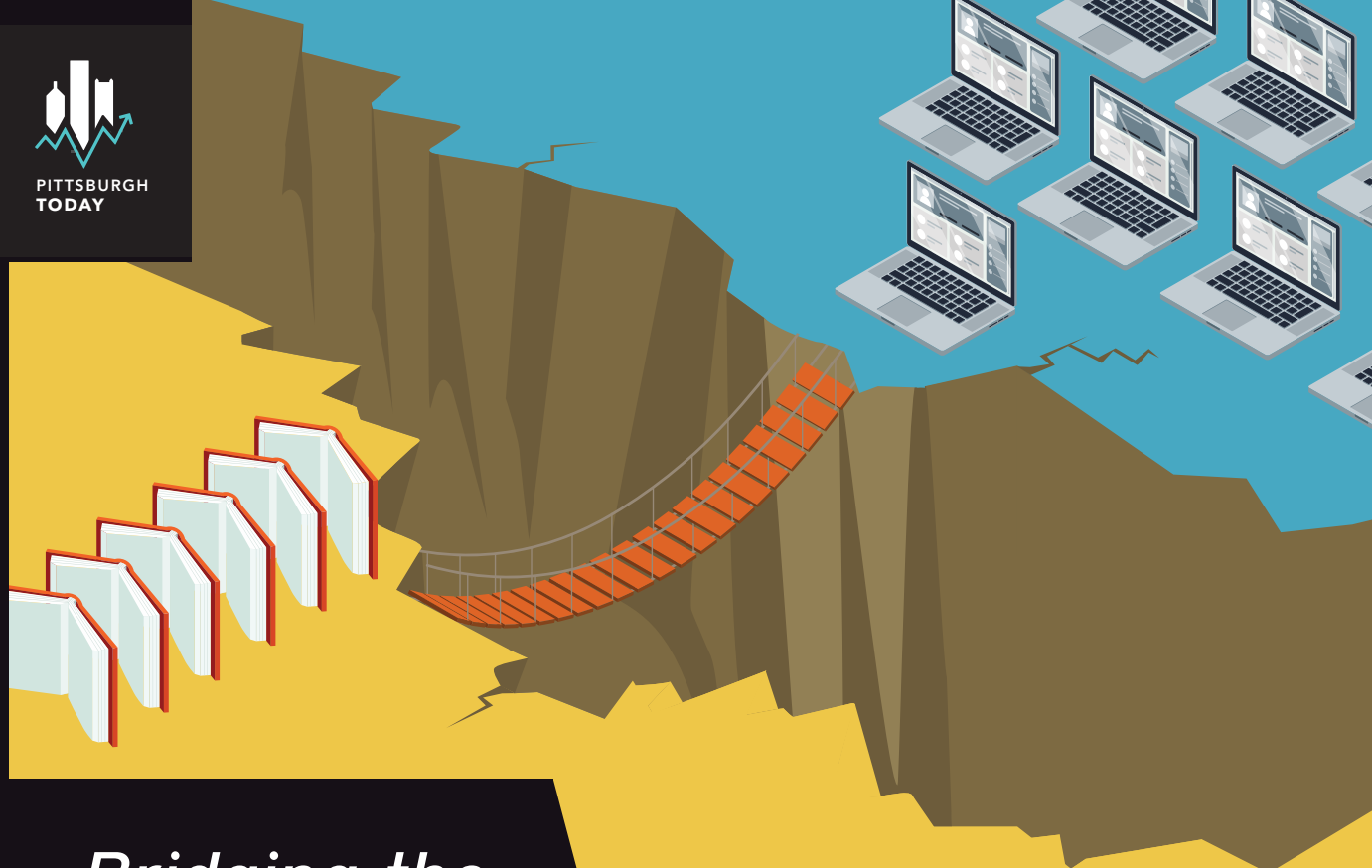
Arts and Culture Organizations

By type, Pittsburgh region*



*Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland counties

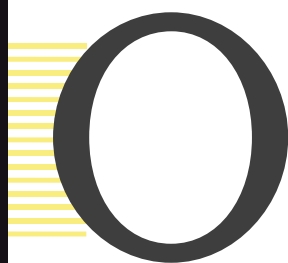
DATA SOURCE: DataArts/Cultural Data Project, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council



Bridging the digital divide

LIBRARIES BECOME
ALL-PURPOSE EDUCATION HUBS

by Julia Fraser



ON A TUESDAY AFTERNOON in October, a dozen teenagers gathered in a second-floor room at the Carnegie Library in East Liberty. They didn't come to check out books. They were building a haunted house based on Disney fairy tales.

Two 17-year-old sisters, Hope and Honesty LeGrande, cut giant feathered wings for the costume they designed for Maleficent, the evil antagonist in "Sleeping Beauty." The teens began brainstorming themes in August. They worked through the fall with the help of mentors, and along the way, they found opportunities to develop skills in graphic design, woodworking and screen-printing.

"I love it," said Hope. "The best thing about this is it's completely made up by the teens who go here. The best thing is seeing what we dreamed of made into real life."

Public libraries, a piece of the region's educational mosaic, are reinventing themselves in response to the demands of new technologies and changes in how Americans consume information. No longer viable simply as repositories of books and periodicals, they're becoming multifaceted community education hubs, using data to better understand their users and gaining popularity by offering classes ranging from photography to video game design.

The digital divide

▶ A key aspect of this transformation is helping to bridge the digital divide through free Internet access and digital literacy, both of which are essential for doing everything from homework and social networking to finding a job, applying to college and buying health insurance.

But opportunities from the digital revolution are not evenly distributed. U.S. Census Bureau data show that 20 percent of Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area households lacked Internet access in 2015. That is down from 23 percent of households in 2013, but still exceeds the national average of 18.5 percent.

A 2015 Pew Research Center study found that 68 percent of Americans have smartphones and 45 percent have tablet computers. And computer ownership remains about where it was a decade ago.

"In Pittsburgh, it's not so much that people have a hard time accessing hardware—smart phone or a smart device," said Debra Lam, the City of Pittsburgh's chief innovation and performance officer. "The bigger issue is that once you have that smart device, what do you use to connect it?"

In 2015, the city launched the "Roadmap for Inclusive Innovation," a plan to improve access to the Internet and technology, which includes expanding public Wi-Fi access in parks, senior centers and other public areas.

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

The city is in the early stages of building mesh networks with partners, neighborhood by neighborhood, throughout the city. Mesh networks essentially allow large companies and organizations to share a portion of their bandwidth with the community network for little or no cost.

For low-income families in Comcast's network, the company (in partnership with HUD) offers the Internet Essentials program. It's a low-cost, high-speed Internet adoption program for families with school-aged children eligible for a free or reduced-price school lunch.

Despite these efforts, a gap in access remains in pockets of the city.

The times demand change

► The growing importance of Internet access in American life underscores the changes that have challenged libraries to rethink their role in the community.

"The way people get their information has shifted," said Corey Wittig, digital learning librarian and program manager of The Labs at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "A few years ago, that was the conversation around libraries—what are libraries going to do? E-books? We started thinking of it as community space. What do people need? Can we provide that with what we do well? Those kinds of questions change the conversation a bit."

According to the Carnegie Library's 2015 annual report, there were 2.9 million visits to the library's network of 19 branches that year. One of the most used services is their Wi-Fi network. Public access to the wireless network in the Carnegie Library was up 46 percent in 2015 from the previous year, with more than 38 million minutes of Wi-Fi use by patrons.

Some 80 percent of Americans believe public libraries should offer programs and services to help people develop digital skills, a 2016 Pew Research Center study found. And 50 percent feel libraries should help patrons learn how to use technologies, such as 3-D printers.

“ At Dollar Bank, we believe the future competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region is tied to the health of our communities. In recent years, we have financed a grocery store for the Hill District, development of East Liberty and Bakery Square, and are currently working with the Allegheny Conference to redevelop the main streets of Wilksburg and McKees Rocks. Our support of the Energy Innovation Center's job preparedness initiative is key to attracting future employers. This ongoing support of our region's people, communities and institutions is central to our mission as a mutual bank.

Jim McQuade, *President & CEO*, **Dollar Bank**

In Pittsburgh, such programs are becoming increasingly popular among young people, Carnegie Library data suggest. Attendance of the library's teen outreach programs, for example, grew by 33 percent over the past year.

Adapting

► The Carnegie Library's current evolution can be traced to past financial troubles

and a 2009 RAND study, which recommended that the library needed to find new sources of funding, evaluate its services and increase innovative activities to engage patrons.

Library finances stabilized after 2011, when City of Pittsburgh voters approved a referendum raising the real estate tax by .25 mills with the proceeds dedicated to funding the library.

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"The library realized they needed to provide a return on the investment that the city and its patron base had provided," said Toby Greenwalt, director of digital strategy and innovation at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "Part of that was reworking the service model from the traditional transaction-based approach that libraries used to take—you do the thing and then you leave. We wanted to shift and think about relationships and illustrate how the library makes an impact on the community: We're not just handing out books. We're improving literacy. We're not just answering questions. We're helping people get jobs; we're helping people do research."

The library developed a strategic plan in 2012 with technology at its core. "We needed to make technology a focus and develop a strategy and purpose around it that everyone understands," said Mary Frances Cooper, president and director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "It couldn't just be random things that people are doing in parts of the organization. It had to be intentional."

As part of that plan, the library created a department for outreach programs and partnerships, as well as the office of digital strategy, which looks for effective ways to use and apply technology to improve customer service and access to information as publishing and media evolve.

The library began collecting data on how the library is used, including its technology offerings, such as the volume of Internet and computer use. In addition, the library added workshops and

LOCAL LEADERS

LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“Relying on the same problem-solving approaches will not lead to success in an ever-changing world. To be globally competitive, our region must support individuals who are risk takers — those willing to diverge from traditional solutions and embrace new and creative perspectives. This is the kind of leader our educational institutions must seek to develop: collaborative and creative thinkers who apply their breadth of knowledge to anticipate and address the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.”

James H. Mullen Jr., *President*
Allegheny College

training sessions to help residents access and use public data.

"If we want people to be engaging in civic discussions around data and policy and we don't want them to be left out, it's not just about 'Hey here's some Internet,'" said Eleanor Tutt, the library's open data and knowledge manager. "It's about how do we support them? How do we demystify data? Because there's so many people who just say, 'I'm not a data person.'"

Connecting the dots through technology

▶ Greenwalt says the library is taking a long-range perspective in strategic planning, looking to "connect the dots between our

age-based programming" so that programming themes and skills follow childhood into adulthood. With children, the library is integrating more technology in its programs with activities such as interactive story times and learning basic computer programming with toy cars that must navigate a maze.

Teens have access to recording equipment, gaming software and other technologies, which they can master with the help of mentors and workshops at the Labs program in the Oakland and East Liberty library branches and the Allegheny branch on the city's North Side.

The Labs have been around for four years, modeled on YouMedia, a digital learning space at the Chicago Public Library. "People think that kids nowadays know how to use technology because they grew up around it," says Wittig. "A lot of kids aren't growing up around it or it's not at their school. The fluency flows from



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there—what experiences are they having or not having?”

The Labs seek to bridge that gap between the ability to navigate technology, such as playing a video game or watching a video online, to understanding how those programs work and what’s necessary to create something of their own. It’s free of charge, which Wittig says is important. And teens are exposed to the expertise of local organizations in the field, such as the non-profit iHood Media, which has helped them learn to write, produce and record their own music.

Such new wrinkles are changing the library’s image among young people, even to the point that, for some, it’s becoming part of their social network. “Usually, I’d come to the library and sit with my sister,” said Hope Legrande. “Since we started this project, we’ve met other teens here. Other kids from my school I’d never talk to. And we’ve become friends. Now, we hang out more in school. It’s cool.” **PQ**

Julia Fraser is a Pittsburgh Today staff writer and research specialist.

To view Pittsburgh Today’s regional indicators and journalistic reports, visit pittsburghtoday.org



DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION GAINS FADE DESPITE ARRIVAL OF MORE IMMIGRANTS

MORE FOREIGN-BORN MEN AND WOMEN SETTLED IN southwestern Pennsylvania for a second straight year, but not in numbers high enough to prevent the region’s population from falling once again.

Total population fell 2.1 percent across the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area from 2014 to 2015, U.S. Census Bureau data says. It was the third consecutive year of population loss and the estimated 2,353,000 people who live in the region represent its lowest total in 10 years.

Population loss was widespread. In Allegheny County, population fell 2.1 percent. But Armstrong County lost 9.5 percent; Fayette’s population fell 4.7 percent; and Westmoreland lost 3.9 percent of its population. Only in Butler and Washington counties did population tick upward.

Some 6,600 more people also moved out of the region than arrived in 2015. It was the second consecutive year that people who left southwestern Pennsylvania outnumbered those who moved in. Eight peer regions, mostly in the Northeast, experienced more severe departures.

Diversifying slowly — Racial and ethnic minorities in the Pittsburgh MSA continue to claim a smaller share of the population than they do in any of the 15 Pittsburgh Today benchmark regions.

Foreign-born residents, however, are growing in the region. More than 4,000 people were added to the region’s foreign-born population in 2015, the largest single-year increase in 10 years. Still, they account for only 3.9 percent of the population, the lowest among the benchmark regions.

Aging trends — The exodus that followed the collapse of the region’s industrial base cost the region 290,000 residents during the 1980s and 1990s. Most were young adults who took their families and future families with them.

Local demographics still reflect the loss of so many young adults decades earlier. People aged 65 and older claim a greater share of the population in the Pittsburgh MSA than in any other benchmark region. In 2015, they accounted for 18.7 percent of the population and their numbers are rising.

Poverty — The rate of poverty in the Pittsburgh MSA remained relatively stable in 2015 at 12.3 percent of the population. Following national trends, the region has taken a step backward in the battle against poverty in recent years. In 2005, poverty claimed 11.4 percent of the region’s population. ■

Domestic migration

Population gain/loss, Pittsburgh MSA & benchmark average, (2010-2015)



DATA SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program



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SUSTAINABILITY

PROGRESS MADE,
YET CHALLENGES REMAIN

THE IDEA OF CREATING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE economy, environment and society is gaining traction in southwestern Pennsylvania. The City of Pittsburgh, for example, has launched an initiative to build a future on the principles of sustainability, including metrics to make development decisions based on how projects impact the economy, environment and issues of social equity.

A 2016 report published by Sustainable Pittsburgh in partnership with Pittsburgh Today looks at 30 indicators of the environment, economy, social equity and quality of life. The findings offer evidence of progress, while identifying crucial challenges to achieving a sustainable future.

Wet weather continues to cause sewage mixed with storm water to overflow into the region's three major rivers from inadequate municipal sewer systems. When bacteria levels rise to unsafe levels, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority warns river users to limit contact with the water.

Such conditions have led to warnings covering from 22 percent to 91 percent of the recreation season since 2000. Although the number of alerts typically follows rainfall levels, recent disruption of that trend suggests interventions may be helping to ease the problem.

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

“Coalition building among regional stakeholders is tremendously important. We must continue to grow that as a community. At the airport, we've worked closely with VisitPittsburgh, the Allegheny Conference and the Pittsburgh Technology Council to build community and business support to make the case for additional air service, and it's working. Everyone getting on the same page translates into an aggressive strategy to recruit new businesses, jobs and nonstop air service.

Christina Cassotis, CEO
Allegheny County Airport Authority

LOCAL LEADERS

LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE:

Air quality has improved over the past decade, including lower toxic emissions, fine particulate and ground-level ozone rates, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data suggest. But better is not good enough to bring the region into attainment of EPA health-based standards for ground-level ozone, PM2.5 and sulfur dioxide.

Southwestern Pennsylvania continues to be a major energy-producing region generating more than three times more electricity than is consumed locally. More than 80 percent of electricity produced is generated from carbon sources, primarily coal and natural gas. However, nearly half of the electricity consumed in the region is generated from non-carbon sources, mostly nuclear. Only 1.6 percent of locally consumed electricity is from renewable sources, an analysis of U.S. Energy Information Administration data suggests.

Only conditions brought on by the 2007-09 recession have interrupted a steady increase in household income in the region. Even with a two-year decline, median household income rose about 30 percent

“ I want a Pittsburgh where people are truly invested; where the “ecosystem” that serves millennials is not defined solely by the scenes they frequent, but instead by how connected they are to their neighbors. People want—and need—purpose in their lives. That’s why we’ve established the Covestro Institute for Engagement—to help business professionals connect their passions, skills and ideas to the causes they care most about. That’s how you keep talent here.

Jerry MacCleary, *President, Covestro*

from 2005 through 2015 to \$54,080 a year, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

The benefits of living in Pittsburgh, however, are not equally distributed, and significant racial disparities persist—in unemployment, homeownership and the likelihood of being a victim of crime. **PQ**



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