

Southwestern Pennsylvania

Introduction

While Southwestern Pennsylvania (SWPA), and Pittsburgh in particular, is still widely known throughout the world as the cradle of steel making, the health care and biomedical industries predominate. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center alone employs more people than USE, the former US Steel, by several thousand people.

The decline of the steel and related industries in the 1970s and 1980s created large out migrations of the regions economically productive population. The core of the viable economy then constituted the federal, state and local governments, the universities, and the hospitals. Many small companies were formed from the university and hospital sectors, particularly in the software development industry. Spin-offs in the medical industry have risen from the university - hospital interface.

Hospital and health related jobs constituted seven percent of the work force in the 1980s. At 11.5% currently, this represents the highest percentage among all major U.S. metropolitan areas.

Demographics

In general, SWPA has had dramatic demographic shifts over the last twenty years. The largest population in the consulate territory is Allegheny County, which includes the City of Pittsburgh. As of 1992, the population of the county was 1,334,396. From 1980 - 1992, there was an 8.0% drop in the population, of which 5.3% moved out of Pennsylvania, while 28.2% moved within the state. A portion of those that left Allegheny County moved to neighboring, lower tax counties, in particular, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

In 1970, the population in the City of Pittsburgh was 520,117. This decreased to 423,960 in 1980 and continued to decline to 369,879 in 1990, roughly a 29% decrease in twenty years. A significant portion of those leaving the city moved within Allegheny County. Both corporate, personal income and other taxes are much lower outside the city.

The following is a breakdown, by county, of the gains and losses in population from 1980 - 1990:

<u>County</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Allegheny	-8.0	Greene	-1.9
Armstrong	-5.0	Indiana	-1.6
Beaver	-7.7	Lawrence	-9.9
Butler	+6.0	Somerset	-3.1
Fayette	-8.2	Washington	-5.1
		Westmoreland	-4.6