

Comprehensive Plan: Elk County, Pennsylvania

TABLE 19 - UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DATA * - ELK CO. AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES

	May 1997	June 1997	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	March 1998	April 1998	May 1998	June 1998	July 1998	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998
ELK	6.7	6.0	7.6	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.0	4.6	5.3	5.1	6.0	4.8	4.8	4.5	11.1	7.0	6.2	5.2	5.5
CAMERON	6.7	6.3	7.3	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.9	7.6	8.0	7.4	5.7	6.2	5.7	6.8	5.6	6.6	8.4	7.3
CLEARFIELD	7.6	7.7	8.1	7.0	7.2	7.6	8.0	8.2	9.4	9.9	9.3	7.8	7.7	7.2	7.3	6.5	6.9	6.9	8.1
JEFFERSON	6.9	7.1	7.0	6.0	5.7	5.1	5.9	6.4	7.9	8.0	7.6	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.5	5.6	6.4	6.1	6.5
MCKEAN	7.7	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.4	5.9	3.6	6.0	9.0	7.0	7.4	6.4	7.3	6.3	6.7	5.8	5.7	6.0	6.6
PENNSYLVANIA	4.7	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3

* Bureau of Research Statistics, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.
Unemployment rates are raw data, not seasonally adjusted.

TABLE 20 - PER CAPITA INCOME BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN - PA STATE DATA CENTER 1990

<u>Area</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>American Indian</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Hispanic Origin*</u>
Pennsylvania	\$14,068	\$14,688	\$ 9,140	\$10,546	\$13,210	\$ 5,772	\$ 7,489
Elk County	10,775	10,724	4,821	6,145	32,565	1,054	1,015

The per capita income in Elk County is substantially lower than the State per capita income. Again, this reflects the history of economic distress. Per capita income, on a municipal level varied from a low approaching \$8,000 in Millstone Township to a high approaching \$12,000 in the City of St. Marys (all races totaled) according to the Bureau of Census, 1990. Even the higher per capita income is substantially lower than the average for Pennsylvania.

The 1994 and 1996 per capita data for Elk County indicate the following:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Per Capita Income (1994)</u>	<u>Per Capita Income (1996)</u>
Pennsylvania	\$22,471	\$24,851
Elk County	20,584	22,267

Beyond data available from the 1990 Bureau of the Census, more recent data indicates that Elk County per capita income still falls below that of the State. The average annual growth rate over the decade spanning 1986 through 1996 was 5.1% for Elk County. For Pennsylvania, the average annual growth rate was 5.5%.

D.4 Poverty Statistics

A. TABLE 21 - PERCENT OF PERSONS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY AGE (1989)

Area	Total Persons	Percent of Total Population	Percent of Persons by Age				
			Under 5	5 - 17	18 - 59	60 - 64	Over 65
Pennsylvania	1,283,629	11.1	10.7	22.9	48.0	4.0	14.3
Elk County	3,274	9.5	7.2	25.7	42.0	5.4	19.7
Benezette Township	39	16.9	5.1	20.5	23.1		51.3
Fox Township	337	9.9	11.6	34.1	33.5	8.9	11.9
Highland Township	73	13.1	9.6	21.9	53.4	4.1	11.0
Horton Township	203	12.4	11.8	21.7	49.8	2.0	14.8
Jay Township	252	12.0	12.7	24.6	46.8	5.2	10.7
Johnsonburg Borough	331	9.9	11.2	26.9	43.8	2.1	16.0
Jones Township	118	6.3		26.3	45.8	16.1	11.9
Millstone Township	11	12.9			18.2		81.8
Ridgway Borough	580	12.3	4.5	23.8	41.0	7.1	23.6
Ridgway Township	294	11.3	11.6	29.6	44.2	2.7	11.9
City of St. Marys	1009	8.5	3.5	24.4	40.3	5.1	26.8
Spring Creek Township	27	13.5		18.5	70.4	3.7	7.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990

This data suggests a need for subsidized elderly housing in the City of St. Marys (Benzinger Township & St. Marys data combined). Elderly persons living below poverty in Elk County exceed that of the State for all over 60 years of age. The State level is exceeded in over half of Elk County's municipalities.

TABLE 22 - PERCENT OF FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY BY TYPE

Area	Total Families	Percent of Total Families	Percent of Families Below Poverty		
			Married Couples	Male-Headed	Female-Headed
Pennsylvania	259,117	8.2	41.0	6.0	53.0
Elk County	751	7.7	44.3	7.3	48.3
Benezette Township	4	5.5	50.0		50.0
Fox Township	70	7.5	54.3	17.1	28.6
Highland Township	18	11.2	61.1	38.9	
Horton Township	45	9.9	53.3	22.2	24.4
Jay Township	60	10.3	61.7	3.3	35.0
Johnsonburg Borough	69	7.3	15.9	7.2	76.8
Jones Township	23	4.3	43.5	4.3	52.2
Millstone Township	2	6.9	100.0		
Ridgway Borough	136	9.9	52.2	5.1	42.6
Ridgway Township	82	10.8	28.0		72.0
City of St. Marys	238	6.5	42.0	4.3	53.4
Spring Creek Township	4	6.9	100.0		

TABLE 23 - PERCENT OF PERSONS LIVING BELOW POVERTY

Area	Age 65 and over in select places (1990)	Age 5-17 in select places (1990)
Pennsylvania	10.6	14.5
Elk County	12.1	12.2
Cameron County	13.2	16.1
Clearfield County	9.1	17.2
Jefferson County	12.3	17.6
McKean County	12.3	

Elk County was unable to reverse the economic downturn through the 1980(s). Elk County has a higher percentage of persons in the elderly bracket (over 65 years of age) living below poverty in Pennsylvania.

TABLE 24 - VERY LOW INCOME LIMITS FOR SECTION 8 RENTER ASSISTANCE AS OF FEBRUARY, 1998

No. of Persons/Household	Income Limit
1 person	13,250
2 persons	15,100
3 persons	17,000
4 persons	18,900
5 persons	20,400
6 persons	21,900

Source: Elk County Housing Authority

TABLE 25 - FAIR MARKET RENT

No. of Bedrooms	Monthly Rent
1	\$353.00 including utilities
2	\$423.00 including utilities
3	\$552.00 including utilities

Source: Elk County Housing Authority

A large area of need in terms of rental assistance appears to be for 2 and 3 bedroom units. The families requesting Section 8 assistance under this category are typically female headed households with one or two children.

In February 1996, HUD enacted new regulations that are now in effect, which mandates to agencies utilizing HUD funding that waiting lists must be in the order of received application (first come, first served). Prior to the new regulations, priorities could be given to those perceived to be most in need. Elk County residences are placed first with priority given to the elderly and the handicapped if single. With this in mind, it appears that the need for subsidized family housing will remain unmet.

Source: Elk County Housing Authority

D.5 Employment and Industry Trends

The Labor Market

Elk County's economy appears to be experiencing a transition away from industry to the service and tourism sectors. Evidence of this trend is depicted in the tables which follow.

While the County's top employers, with the exception of the St. Marys Regional Medical Center, are industry related, a shift is anticipated from the industry/manufacturing to the services sectors.

TABLE 26 Percent Change in Average Monthly Employed for Calendar Years 1989-1996
1989-1996

Years	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96
Agriculture	27.6	- 8.1	-20.6	14.8	- 9.7	*	*
Mining	33.3	0	8.9	- 4.9	1.7	*	0
Manufacturing	0.2	- 3.0	4.1	8.9	8.2	- 0.2	- 1.7
Service	4.9	- 2.7	2.3	6.3	6.4	5.8	- 1.4
Retail Trade	2.9	5.8	- 1.8	1.4	1.6	- 1.5	3.3

Source: PA Dept. of Labor and Industry

*Data involves employer with <25 employees and is not included in the above table.

Manufacturing employment figures include:

Food & kindred products	Lumber and wood products
Chemicals & allied products	Primary metal industries
Fabricated metal products	Industrial machinery & equipment
Electronic & other electric equipment	

Recently, service and retail trade show more employment opportunity while manufacturing shows slightly less.

Manufacturing employment figures have experienced various trends with a slightly increasing trend overall. The primary metals industries (overall) show a declining trend since 1990. Lumber and wood products generally reflect a decreasing employment trend since 1990. Fabricated metals have experienced a decreasing trend since 1990.

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Service includes hotels and lodging, recreation, legal, educational, business service, personal service, auto repair services, health service, social service, engineering and management services, etc. Generally speaking, a positive trend can be seen in some service industries including tourism related services since 1990. Service businesses performance is also becoming stronger in the County.

Retail trade has generally increased and includes food stores, eateries, general merchandise stores, etc. This may reflect the anticipated change in the labor market trend.

Retail trade industries, for example, eateries, show a gain in employment since 1990. Service industries such as recreation also indicate a gain in employment.

Agricultural figures include agricultural services, livestock production, and forestry. Mining figures reflect coal only.

Overall, the loss in employment opportunity in the early to mid 1990's appears to be in the primary manufacturing industries, although economically, manufacturing is thriving.

Again, it should be noted that the available data evaluated reflects primary industries with 25 or more employees. Smaller support industries in Elk County currently employ approximately 1,865 persons. Elk County has approximately 114 support industries employing between one (1) and twenty four (24) persons. These are not reflected in the data available from the Department of Labor and Industry. A distinction made between "primary" and "support" industries when it is stated that loss in employment appears to be in the "primary" manufacturing industries.

In terms of dollars (wages) earned in Elk County, service industries have been gainful. Wages from tourism related services ie., eating/drinking establishments, hotels, and lodging, and recreation are on the rise. Between 1989 and 1996, service industries were the fastest growing, increasing at an average annual rate of 3.6%.

Manufacturing shows a positive trend in wages obtained. Manufacturing appears to be experiencing gain in the fabricated metals industries and a recent decline in both electronic equipment industries and primary metals industries. Manufacturing remains to be the largest industry in Elk County.

Overall, the local economy is relatively healthy, but not necessarily stable in terms of employment. Local development policies can encourage successful growth in various economic sectors which may help to stabilize the economy further with employment less dependant upon the success of specific industries.

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TABLE 27 EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY GENDER, 1990

	Males				Females			
	Total	% Employed	% Unemployed	% NLF	Total	% Employed	% Unemployed	% NLF
Pennsylvania	4,416,669	66.9	4.5	28.3	4,976,147	49.9	2.9	47.2
Elk County	13,035	66.9	4.6	28.5	13,946	44.8	4.4	50.8

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

Note: NFL = Not in Labor Force

The labor market in Elk County is very comparable to the State as far as the male/female ratios in the work force.

TABLE 28 Occupations of Employed Persons Age 16 and Older, 1990

Area	Total	Percent of Employed Persons					
		Management/ Professional Specialty	Technical Administrative Support	Service	Farming /Forestry /Fishing	Precision Production Craft/Repair	Operator/ Fabricator Laborer
Pennsylvania	5,434,532	25.2	31.7	13.0	1.7	11.6	16.9
Elk County	14,961	15.0	22.7	13.3	2.1	13.9	33.0

This data reflects the lean of the economy towards industry.

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

TABLE 29 Class of Workers, 1990

Area	Total Workers Age 16+	Percent of Total Workers					
		Private	Government			Self- Employed	Unpaid Family
			Local	State	Federal		
Pennsylvania	5,434,532	81.7	5.8	3.1	2.8	6.2	0.5
Elk County	14,961	85.9	4.2	3.2	1.8	4.8	0.2

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

Elk County has a comparable working class to that of Pennsylvania.

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D.6 Elk County Profile - Primary Businesses and Industries (Table 30)

The primary businesses and industries in Elk County are manufacturing industries with the exception of the SMRMC, and employ between an estimated 50 and 1,300 persons.

Employees	51 - 100	101 - 500	501 & over
Facility Name	Elco Sintered Alloys Co., Inc.	Alpine Pressed Metals, Inc.	Keystone Powdered Metal Co.
	Ridgway Powdered Metals, Inc.	Eastern Sintered Alloys	Osram-Sylvania, Inc.
	Quality Components	Clarion Sintered Metals	Elk County Regional Health System Hospital
	Rebco, Inc.	Motion Control Industries	Willamette Ind./Johnsonburg Mill
	Penn Pallet, Inc.	Carbide-Graphite Group, Inc.	Windfall Products, Inc.
	Sinterite Furnace Division Gasbarre Products, Inc.	Carbone of America	
	Carbon City Products	Masco Tech Sintered Components	
	Contact Technologies, Inc.	S.L.G. Carbon Corporation	
	Abbott Furnace Co.	Buehler Lumber Co.	
		Powdered Metal Products, Inc.	
		Quala-Die, Inc.	
		St. Marys Carbon Co.	
		Alpha Sintered Metals	
		Elcam, Inc.	
		Pure Carbon Division of Morgan Advanced Material & Tech, Inc.	