

## 2013 Erie County Demographic Profile

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*“Our mission is to preserve, promote, and protect  
the health, safety, and well-being of the people and the environment of Erie County.”*

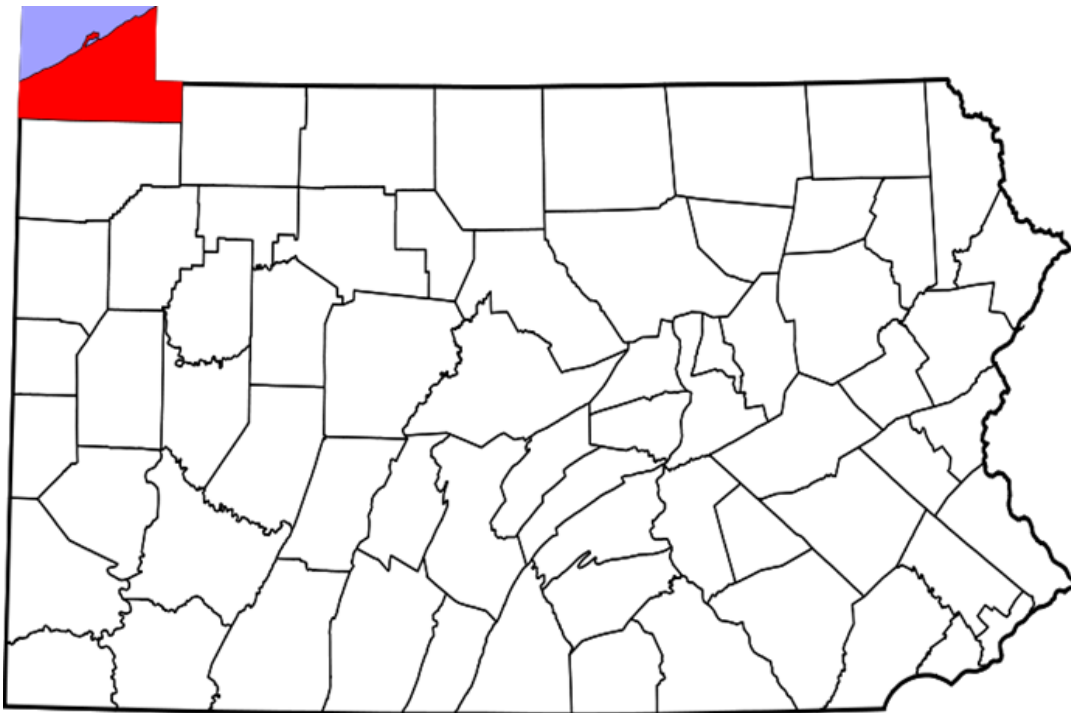
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## Erie County and Its Municipalities

Erie County is located in northwestern Pennsylvania on the south shore of Lake Erie (Figure 1). Established in 1800, it is the Commonwealth's lone link to the Great Lakes. Erie County is bordered on the north by Lake Erie and the province of Ontario, Canada, on the south by Crawford County, Pennsylvania, on the west by Ashtabula County, Ohio, and on the east by Chautauqua County, New York and Warren County, Pennsylvania. Erie is the largest of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, with a total area of 1,558.2 square miles. Overall, 799.2 square miles are land (1.8% of Pennsylvania's total land area), and 759.0 square miles are water (57.9% of Pennsylvania's total water area).

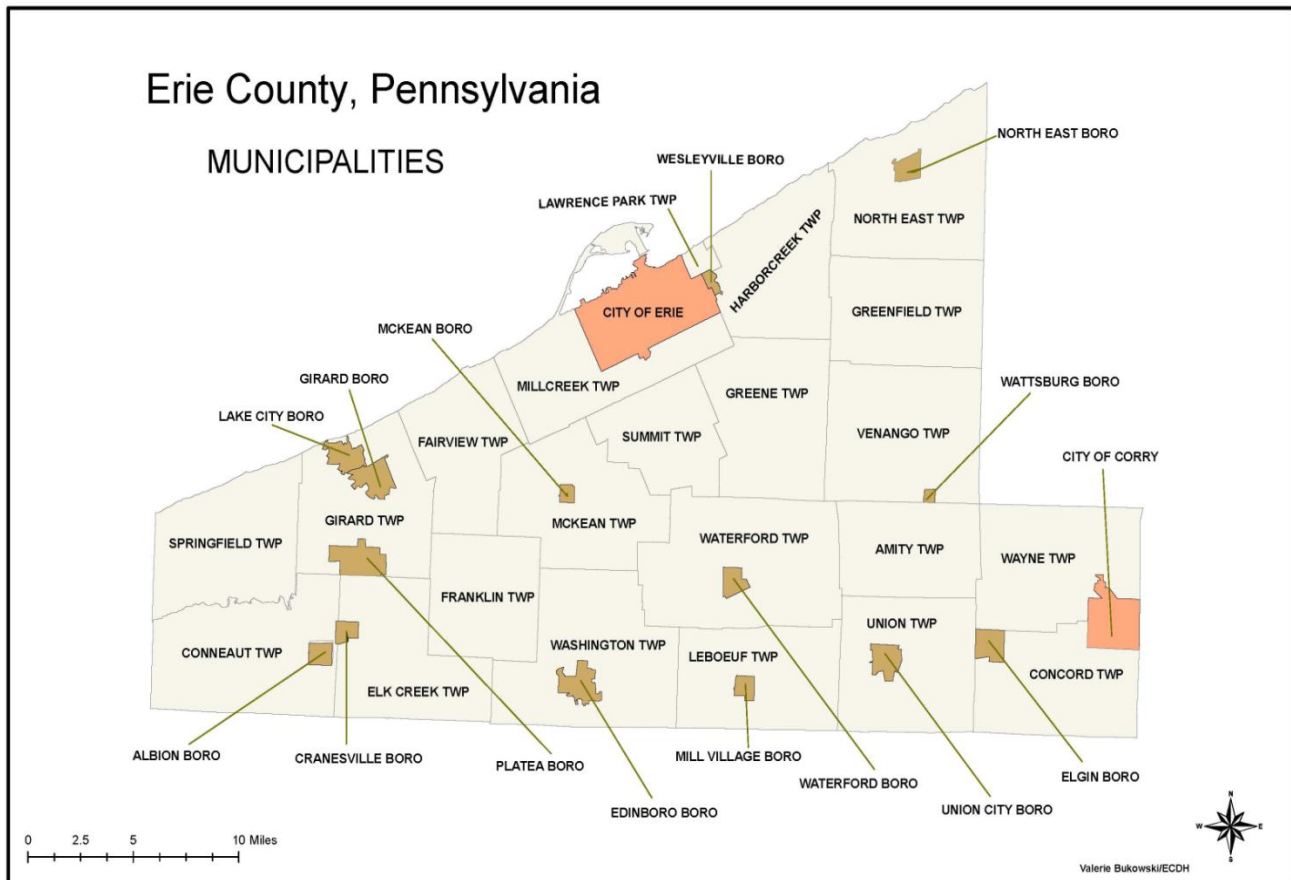
Figure 1. Erie County, Pennsylvania



Erie County's population totaled 280,646 residents in 2012. This amounted to 2.2% of Pennsylvania's population of 12,763,536, and placed Erie as the 14th most populous county in the Commonwealth. The county population was classified as 80.0% urban and 20.0% rural in the 2010 Census.

The 38 municipalities of Erie County are comprised of 2 cities, 22 townships, and 14 boroughs (Figure 2). The county seat is located in the City of Erie, which is currently the fourth most populous municipality in the state, behind Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown.

Figure 2. The 38 Municipalities of Erie County



Erie County's 38 municipalities vary greatly in total population, size (land area), and population density (Table 1). In 2012, municipality populations ranged from a low of 217 residents in Elgin Borough to a high of 101,047 residents in the City of Erie, land areas ranged from a low of 0.3 square miles in Wattsburg Borough to a high of 50.0 square miles in Waterford Township, and population densities ranged from a low of 38.7 persons per square mile in Amity Township to a high of 6,239.6 persons per square mile in Wesleyville Borough. The overall population density of Erie County was 351.2 persons per square mile.

The ten largest county municipalities in 2012 were the City of Erie (101,047), Millcreek Township (54,093), Harborcreek Township (17,192), Fairview Township (10,200), Summit Township (6,725), the City of Corry (6,560), Edinboro Borough (6,447), North East Township (6,410), Girard Township (5,083), and Greene Township (4,708). Taken together, these municipalities accounted for more than three-quarters (77.8%) of the total county population.

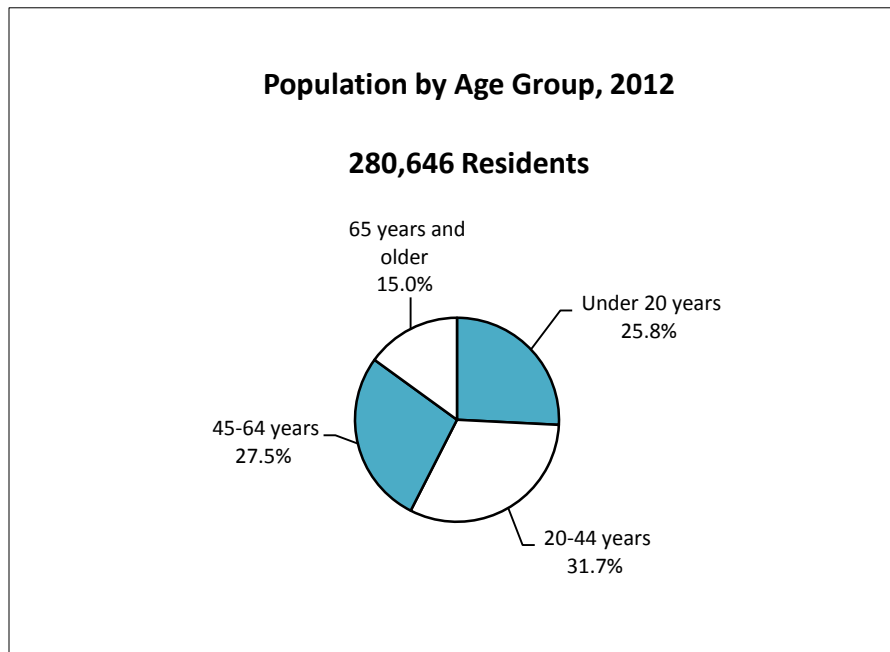
Table 1. Total Population, Land Area, and Population Density of Erie County Municipalities, 2012

<u>Place</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Land Area (Square Miles)</u>	<u>Persons per Square Mile</u>
Pennsylvania	12,763,536	44,742.70	285.3
Erie County	280,646	799.15	351.2
Albion Borough	1,503	1.08	1,391.7
Amity Township	1,083	28.02	38.7
Concord Township	1,338	33.11	40.4
Conneaut Township	4,365	43.07	101.3
City of Corry	6,560	5.99	1,095.2
Cranesville Borough	631	0.94	671.3
Edinboro Borough	6,447	2.29	2,815.3
Elgin Borough	217	1.47	147.6
Elk Creek Township	1,810	34.74	52.1
City of Erie	101,047	19.08	5,296.0
Fairview Township	10,200	28.97	352.1
Franklin Township	1,631	28.66	56.9
Girard Borough	3,077	2.34	1,315.0
Girard Township	5,083	31.50	161.4
Greene Township	4,708	37.39	125.9
Greenfield Township	1,954	33.77	57.9
Harborcreek Township	17,192	34.09	504.3
Lake City Borough	3,023	1.80	1,679.4
Lawrence Park Township	3,945	1.84	2,144.0
LeBoeuf Township	1,699	33.47	50.8
McKean Borough	385	0.57	675.4
McKean Township	4,432	36.80	120.4
Millcreek Township	54,093	32.07	1,686.7
Mill Village Borough	406	0.92	441.3
North East Borough	4,259	1.30	3,276.2
North East Township	6,410	42.15	152.1
Platea Borough	424	3.34	126.9
Springfield Township	3,413	37.38	91.3
Summit Township	6,725	24.05	279.6
Union Township	1,653	36.47	45.3
Union City Borough	3,285	1.83	1,795.1
Venango Township	2,309	43.42	53.2
Washington Township	4,463	45.16	98.8
Waterford Borough	1,570	1.23	1,276.4
Waterford Township	3,947	49.95	79.0
Wattsburg Borough	397	0.30	1,323.3
Wayne Township	1,655	38.07	43.5
Wesleyville Borough	3,307	0.53	6,239.6

## Population by Age and Sex

Of the 280,646 people residing in Erie County in 2012, 142,437 (50.8%) were female and 138,209 (49.2%) were male. With respect to age, 72,299 (25.8%) residents were under 20 years, 89,051 (31.7%) were ages 20 to 44 years, 77,165 (27.5%) were ages 45 to 64 years, and 42,131 (15.0%) were 65 years and older (Figure 3, Table 2).

Figure 3. Erie County's Population by Age Group, 2012



Since the year 2000, Erie County's population has experienced an interesting transition. The number of residents under 45 years of age decreased from 177,932 to 161,350 (a drop of 9.3%), while the number of residents 45 years and older increased from 102,871 to 119,296 (an increase of 16.0%) (Table 3).

The population of Erie County is aging. The median age in Erie County increased to a new high of 38.8 years in 2012, up from 36.2 years in 2000, and 32.9 years in 1990. The median age for males and females in 2012 were 37.3 and 40.3 years, respectively. The aging of the baby boom generation (people born between 1946 and 1964) into older age groups, declining birth rates, and improved mortality are some of the key contributors to the observed increase in median age.

Table 2. Erie County's Population by Age and Sex, 2012

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Erie County</u>	<u>Erie County Males</u>	<u>Erie County Females</u>
All ages	280,646	138,209	142,437
< 20	72,299	37,133	35,166
20 - 44	89,051	44,817	44,234
45 - 64	77,165	38,177	38,988
65 and older	42,131	18,082	24,049
< 5	16,448	8,380	8,068
5 - 9	17,038	8,770	8,268
10 - 14	17,701	9,225	8,476
15 - 19	21,112	10,758	10,354
20 - 24	22,461	11,220	11,241
25 - 29	17,865	9,140	8,725
30 - 34	16,281	8,283	7,998
35 - 39	15,003	7,478	7,525
40 - 44	17,441	8,696	8,745
45 - 49	18,567	9,289	9,278
50 - 54	20,866	10,366	10,500
55 - 59	20,556	10,155	10,401
60 - 64	17,176	8,367	8,809
65 - 69	12,569	6,071	6,498
70 - 74	9,402	4,334	5,068
75 - 79	6,988	3,008	3,980
80 - 84	6,177	2,436	3,741
85 and older	6,995	2,233	4,762

Table 3. A Comparison of Erie County's Population from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2012

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Erie County, 2000</u>	<u>Erie County, 2012</u>	<u>Numeric Change</u>
All ages	280,803	280,646	-157
< 20	80,000	72,299	-7,701
20 - 44	97,932	89,051	-8,881
45 - 64	62,628	77,165	14,537
65 and older	40,243	42,131	1,888



## Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

Of the 280,646 people residing in Erie County in 2012, 249,864 (89.0%) were White, 20,808 (7.4%) were Black or African American, 3,504 (1.2%) were Asian, 665 (0.2%) were American Indian or Alaska Native, 123 (0.04%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5,682 (2.0%) were classified as Two or More Races. A total of 10,170 (3.6%) residents were Hispanic, of any race (Table 4).

Table 4. A Comparison of Erie County's Population by Race and Hispanic Origin from July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2012

<u>Race or Hispanic Origin</u>	<u>Erie County, 2000</u>	<u>Erie County, 2012</u>
All Races	280,803	280,646
White	257,904	249,864
Black or African American	17,625	20,808
Asian	1,979	3,504
American Indian or Alaska Native	476	665
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	75	123
Two or More Races	2,744	5,682
Hispanic (of any race)	6,170	10,170

Erie County's racial and Hispanic composition continues to grow more diverse. From July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2012, the number of Whites in Erie County decreased by 3.1%, the Black population increased by 18.1%, the number of Asians increased by 77.1%, the number of residents classified as Two or More Races increased by 107.1%, and the Hispanic population rose by 64.8% (Table 4). However, as is shown in Table 5 for the combined years 2007-2011, the bulk of Erie County's Black and Hispanic populations live in the City of Erie (80.4% and 65.7% of the total Black and Hispanic populations, respectively). Millcreek Township, Conneaut Township (home of the State Correctional Institution at Albion), and Harborcreek Township are other notable residential locales for these two populations.

Table 5. Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for Erie County Municipalities, 2007-2011

<u>Place</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic (any race)</u>
Erie County	279,824	248,483	19,100	9,136
Albion Borough	1,601	1,548	3	46
Amity Township	1,064	1,046	9	0
Concord Township	1,560	1,485	10	17
Conneaut Township	4,256	3,044	1,019	366
City of Corry	6,604	6,113	144	1
Cranesville Borough	625	581	6	6
Edinboro Borough	6,621	5,855	411	71
Elgin Borough	253	253	0	0
Elk Creek Township	1,828	1,769	6	10
City of Erie	101,658	79,473	15,351	6,004
Fairview Township	10,075	9,755	119	275
Franklin Township	1,635	1,612	0	24
Girard Borough	3,098	3,069	0	12
Girard Township	5,085	4,986	30	1
Greene Township	4,694	4,622	11	48
Greenfield Township	1,779	1,730	2	22
Harborcreek Township	17,079	16,134	473	228
Lake City Borough	2,994	2,882	37	49
Lawrence Park Township	3,976	3,809	8	116
LeBoeuf Township	1,809	1,783	0	6
McKean Borough	332	319	3	0
McKean Township	4,408	4,357	14	26
Millcreek Township	53,190	50,075	1,047	1,210
Mill Village Borough	434	423	3	0
North East Borough	4,301	4,185	23	83
North East Township	6,333	6,140	81	22
Platea Borough	446	444	0	0
Springfield Township	3,405	3,249	0	55
Summit Township	6,469	6,370	36	52
Union Township	1,565	1,541	2	28
Union City Borough	3,314	3,113	12	55
Venango Township	2,432	2,384	0	6
Washington Township	4,433	4,298	60	167
Waterford Borough	1,238	1,219	0	38
Waterford Township	3,907	3,790	69	21
Wattsburg Borough	389	352	20	12
Wayne Township	1,579	1,514	2	20
Wesleyville Borough	3,355	3,161	89	39

## Native and Foreign-Born Residents

Of the 279,824 people living in Erie County in 2007-2011, 269,004 (96.1%) were native residents of the United States and 10,820 (3.9%) were foreign-born (Table 6). Overall, four out of five (79.4%) county residents were born in Pennsylvania, and nine out of ten (90.0%) residents were born in either Pennsylvania or another state in the Northeast or Midwest. Of the 10,820 foreign-born residents, 5,374 (50.0%) were naturalized U.S. citizens.

Table 6. Erie County's Native and Foreign-Born Populations, 2007-2012

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Population estimate	279,824	100.0
Native	269,004	96.1
Born in Pennsylvania	222,216	79.4
Born in other state	44,262	15.8
Northeast	16,306	5.8
Midwest	13,366	4.8
South	10,655	3.8
West	3,935	1.4
Born outside the United States	2,526	0.9
Puerto Rico	1,311	0.5
U.S. Island Area	52	0.02
Born abroad of American parent(s)	1,163	0.4
Foreign born	10,820	3.9
Naturalized U.S. citizen	5,374	1.9
Not a U.S. citizen	5,446	1.9

Erie County's 10,820 foreign-born residents come from all over the world. In 2007-2011, the twenty leading places of birth for the foreign-born population were Ukraine (910), Bosnia and Herzegovina (748), Mexico (635), Germany (558), Vietnam (537), Canada (481), China (427), India (331), Russia (322), Italy (299), Poland (242), Iraq (226), England (216), Jamaica (189), Korea (173), Sudan (173), Philippines (173), Romania (151), Colombia (146), and Portugal (146). These places collectively accounted for nearly two-thirds (65.5%) of the total foreign-born population.

## Housing and Household Characteristics

There were 109,138 households in Erie County in 2007-2011, with an average household size of 2.5 persons. Overall, there were 69,518 (64.2%) family households, with an average size of 3.1 persons, and 38,785 (35.8%) nonfamily households, with an average size of 1.2 persons. Selected housing and household characteristics are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Erie County Housing and Household Characteristics, 2007-2011

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Households and Group Quarters</b>		
Population estimate	279,824	100.0
In households	266,998	95.4
In family households	219,135	78.3
In nonfamily households	47,863	17.1
In group quarters	12,826	4.6
<b>Household Types</b>		
Total households	108,303	100.0
Family households	69,518	64.2
With own children under 18 years	29,954	27.7
Married couple family	51,135	47.2
With own children under 18 years	18,929	17.5
Female householder, no husband present	13,761	12.7
With own children under 18 years	8,561	7.9
Male householder, no wife present	4,622	4.3
With own children under 18 years	2,464	2.3
Nonfamily households	38,785	35.8
Householder living alone	32,600	30.1
Householder 65 years and over	12,066	11.1
<b>Housing Occupancy</b>		
Total housing units	118,967	100.0
Occupied housing units	108,303	91.0
Vacant housing units	10,664	9.0
<b>Housing Tenure</b>		
Occupied housing units	108,303	100.0
Owner-occupied	74,433	68.7
Renter-occupied	33,870	31.3

## Employment and Occupations

The Erie County civilian labor force population aged 16 years and older was 138,923 persons in 2007-2011, of which 127,332 (91.7%) were employed and 11,591 (8.3%) were unemployed. Among those employed, 62,226 (48.9%) were female and 65,106 (51.1%) were male. The five major occupational categories for the civilian labor force population are shown in Figure 4. Table 8 provides a summary of the major occupational categories by sex and median earnings in the past 12 months.

Figure 4. Occupational Categories for the Erie County Civilian Labor Force Population, 2007-2011

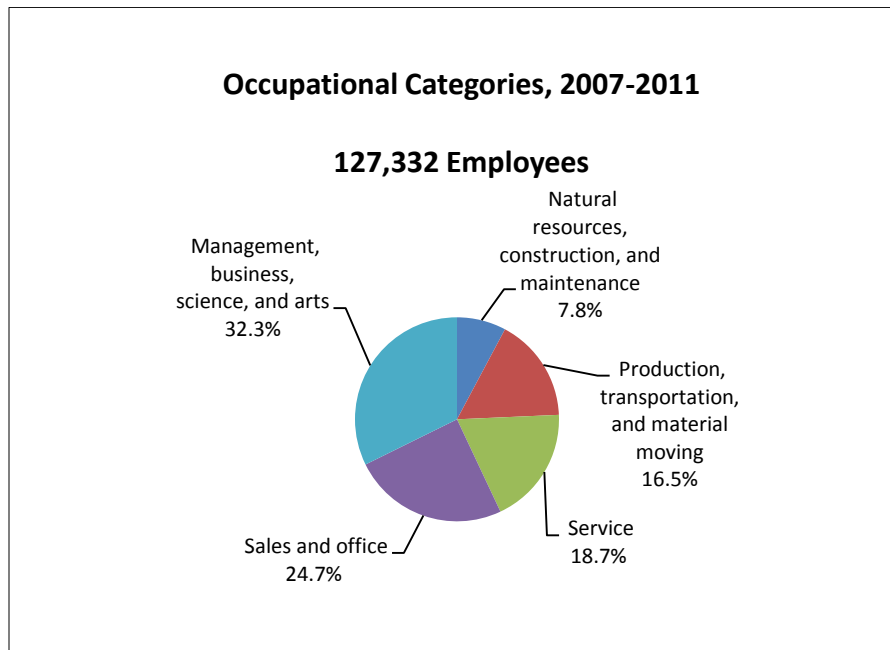


Table 8. Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings for the Civilian Employed Population, 2007-2011

Category	Total	Earnings	% Male	Earnings	% Female	Earnings
Management , business, science, arts	41,139	\$43,089	44.9	\$54,321	55.1	\$36,688
Sales and office	31,401	\$23,716	34.1	\$30,827	65.9	\$21,283
Service	23,883	\$13,371	40.5	\$16,743	59.5	\$12,324
Production, transportation, material moving	20,964	\$30,613	79.4	\$34,627	20.6	\$21,205
Natural resources, construction, maintenance	9,945	\$34,880	96.5	\$35,197	3.5	\$18,696

## Income

In 2007-2011, Erie County household income distribution levels differed substantially for family and nonfamily households (Table 9). Overall, 27.7% of all households had income below \$25,000 and 14.5% had income above \$100,000 in the past 12 months. Nearly half (49.1%) of nonfamily households had income below \$25,000.

The median household income was \$44,503, the median family household income was \$56,906, and the median nonfamily household income was \$25,449. Median family and nonfamily household incomes were substantially higher for White versus Black and Hispanic householders.

The Erie County per capita income was \$23,321 for the total population, \$24,781 for Whites, \$11,330 for Blacks, and \$10,777 for Hispanics.

Table 9. Erie County Income Levels in the Past 12 Months, 2007-2011

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Family Households</u>	<u>Nonfamily Households</u>
Total number with income	108,303	69,518	38,785
Less than \$25,000	27.7%	17.0%	49.1%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	27.3%	25.7%	30.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.3%	22.6%	11.9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.2%	15.0%	4.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	10.1%	13.6%	3.0%
\$150,000 or more	4.4%	6.2%	1.0%
Median income	\$44,503	\$56,906	\$25,449
White householder	\$46,476	\$46,476	\$26,160
Black householder	\$23,074	\$29,706	\$14,517
Hispanic householder	\$22,151	\$26,642	\$14,368

## Poverty

In 2007-2011, 15.8% of Erie County residents lived below the poverty level and 23.4% of children under 18 years lived below the poverty level (Table 10). Poverty levels were markedly higher for Blacks (40.3%) and Hispanics (35.9%) compared to Whites (13.2%).

Among families with related children under 18 years, high poverty levels were observed for both female (41.0%) and male (30.8%) single parent families compared to married couple (6.7%) families.

Table 10. Erie County Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2007-2011

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Percent Below Poverty Level</u>
Total population	15.8
Male	14.5
Female	17.0
Under 18 years	23.4
18 - 64 years	14.5
65 years and older	8.7
White	13.2
Black	40.3
Hispanic, of any race	35.9
All families	10.9
With related children under 18 years	18.7
Married couple families	4.3
With related children under 18 years	6.7
Female householder, no husband present	31.7
With related children under 18 years	41.0
Male householder, no wife present	22.0
With related children under 18 years	30.8
White householder families	9.1
Black householder families	33.7
Hispanic householder families	32.2

Overall, poverty rates varied greatly among Erie County's 38 municipalities during the period 2007-2011 (Table 11). The five highest poverty rates were observed in the City of Erie (26.1%), Edinboro Borough (24.9%), North East Borough (24.9%), the City of Corry (24.5%), and Platea Borough (21.9%), while the five lowest rates were observed in Elk Creek Township (2.9%), McKean Borough (3.9%), Summit Township (4.0%), Franklin Township (4.8%), and Fairview Township (4.9%).

Of the 267,196 Erie County residents for whom poverty status was determined during 2007-2011, 42,157 (15.8%) lived below the poverty level in the past 12 months. The municipalities with the largest number of people living below the poverty level were the City of Erie (25,138 residents, 59.6% of the total), Millcreek Township (3,925 residents, 9.3% of the total), the City of Corry (1,578 residents, 3.7% of the total), Harborcreek Township (1,389 residents, 3.3% of the total), and Edinboro Borough (1,349 residents, 3.2% of the total).

Of the 62,626 Erie County residents under the age of 18 for whom poverty status was determined during 2007-2011, 14,653 (23.4%) lived below the poverty level in the past 12 months. The municipalities with the largest number of children living below the poverty level were the City of Erie (9,568 residents, 65.3% of the total), Millcreek Township (955 residents, 6.5% of the total), the City of Corry (647 residents, 4.4% of the total), North East Borough (370 residents, 2.5% of the total) and Harborcreek Township (261 residents, 1.8% of the total).



Table 11. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months for Erie County Municipalities, 2007-2011

<u>Place</u>	<u># Below Poverty Level</u>	<u>% Below Poverty Level</u>	<u># Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level</u>	<u>% Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level</u>
Erie County	42,157	15.8	14,653	23.4
Albion Borough	209	13.2	77	21.5
Amity Township	113	10.6	30	14.4
Concord Township	170	10.9	67	19.2
Conneaut Township	244	11.6	54	12.2
City of Corry	1,578	24.5	647	40.3
Cranesville Borough	72	11.6	25	14.9
Edinboro Borough	1,349	24.9	0	0.0
Elgin Borough	15	6.2	0	0.0
Elk Creek Township	53	2.9	8	2.0
City of Erie	25,138	26.1	9,568	39.7
Fairview Township	468	4.9	178	7.9
Franklin Township	78	4.8	27	8.5
Girard Borough	497	16.0	176	25.4
Girard Township	305	6.0	107	9.8
Greene Township	412	8.8	200	19.8
Greenfield Township	93	5.2	10	2.9
Harborcreek Township	1,389	9.1	261	8.5
Lake City Borough	360	12.1	187	21.3
Lawrence Park Township	227	5.9	85	9.3
LeBoeuf Township	148	8.2	55	11.2
McKean Borough	13	3.9	0	0.0
McKean Township	267	6.1	109	12.5
Millcreek Township	3,925	7.5	955	8.2
Mill Village Borough	61	14.1	16	6.3
North East Borough	1,040	24.9	370	33.9
North East Township	469	7.6	182	12.3
Platea Borough	97	21.9	45	38.1
Springfield Township	622	18.3	254	34.1
Summit Township	253	4.0	86	6.7
Union Township	131	8.4	45	13.5
Union City Borough	441	13.3	167	15.1
Venango Township	224	9.2	83	15.0
Washington Township	510	11.6	212	18.5
Waterford Borough	84	6.6	26	9.2
Waterford Township	412	10.5	124	14.0
Wattsburg Borough	36	9.3	20	19.0
Wayne Township	198	12.5	50	13.1
Wesleyville Borough	456	13.7	147	18.8

## Education

The total estimated school enrollment for the Erie County population 3 years and over was 74,353 students in 2007-2011. Overall, 7,612 (10.2%) of students were in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten, 27,764 (37.3%) were in elementary school grades 1 to 8, 15,566 (20.9%) were in high school grades 9 to 12, 19,936 (26.8%) were in college, and 3,475 (4.7%) were in graduate or professional school.

Of the 74,353 total enrolled students in Erie County in 2007-2011, 74.1% were enrolled in public school and 25.9% were enrolled in private school. Public school enrollments were 68.7% for nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten, 87.2% for elementary school, 84.5% for high school, 56.5% for college, and 35.9% for graduate or professional school.

In 2007-2011, 89.5% of Erie County residents 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school, 23.6% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 8.9% had earned a graduate or professional degree. Striking differences were observed for high school and college educational attainment by race and Hispanic origin (Table 12).

Table 12. Erie County Educational Attainment, 2007-2011

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Both Sexes</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Less than high school diploma (population 25 years and over)			
All races	10.6%	11.2%	10.0%
White	9.5%	9.9%	9.1%
Black or African American	21.4%	22.2%	15.5%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	28.4%	34.4%	22.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher (population 25 years and over)			
All races	23.6%	23.9%	23.4%
White	24.5%	25.1%	23.9%
Black or African American	10.5%	5.7%	15.5%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15.3%	9.3%	21.7%