

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues March 28, 2007

FYI

## BROOKINGS UPDATE SHOWS PROGRESS, BUT MORE TO BE DONE

- In a new report, "[Committing to Prosperity: Moving Forward on the Agenda to Renew Pennsylvania](#)," commissioned by RenewPA, the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program provides an update of its 2003 report, "Back to Prosperity." The update, while recognizing some positive developments, such as increased in-migration to the state, new urban revitalization, and job creation, confirms that Pennsylvania is still barely growing, that older communities continue to hollow out, and that the transitioning economy is still lagging.

### [Brookings Metro Profile- Lancaster](#)

#### THE TRENDS

**The metropolitan area continues to grow faster than the state as a whole –**

- Lancaster experienced a **gain in population** between 2000 and 2005 of approximately **20,000** people.
- The population is becoming **more diverse** due to minority gains.
- Migration patterns show an up-tick of **people moving into the region** after 2000.

**Lancaster is still spreading and hollowing out –**

- Lancaster's **older communities are still hollowing out.**
- The **vast majority of housing permits** are still issued in **2<sup>nd</sup>-class townships.**
- A large share of the Lancaster region's rural land has been developed. (Between 1980 and 2000 **rural land in metro Lancaster saw a 45% decrease (68,000 acres).**)

**Lancaster's job growth outpaces the state -**

- Lancaster **surpassed the state's unemployment growth** in the 1990s, and has continued to do so.
- Lancaster **continues to lose manufacturing jobs**, but has seen **large gains in many sectors** such as educational, health services, professional and business services and wholesale trade.

## STRUCTURING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

– a recent [study](#) conducted by the [Pennsylvania Economy League](#), provides an **assessment of fiscal trends** affecting nearly all of Pennsylvania's 2,500 municipalities over the past 30 years. The analysis of municipal revenue from 1970 through 2003 **found a systemic decline in the fiscal health of communities statewide**, which cuts across all types of municipalities, in rural, suburban and urban areas, and in all regions of the state.

Berks and Lancaster County municipalities are in **relatively good fiscal health, with the exception of Lancaster City and Reading;** however, **most municipalities in Lancaster County are not improving or have started to decline, some significantly.** [Berks-Lancaster Region – Change in Relative Fiscal Health – 1970-2003](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[DEP Encourages Participation in Source Water Protection Workshop – April 12, 2007](#)

**15th Annual Congress for the New Urbanism -- May 17-20, 2007** - In the lively neighborhoods, walkable streets, and centuries-old architecture of Old City Philadelphia, the 15th Annual Congress for the New Urbanism will convene to discuss topics such as New Urbanism and the Old City, Landscape and the Environment, Design and Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, Codes and Public Policy, and Global New Urbanism. ... [For more information](#)

**Partnering for Regional Success: A Two-Way Street – June 3-6, 2007, Bethlehem, PA –** [Pennsylvania Downtown Center Annual Conference – For more information](#)

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

[The Town and Gown Dilemma: The Impact of Universities on their Host Municipalities](#) - Pennsylvania's universities are terrific economic and social assets, both regionally and statewide. But what's the bottom line impact on their host municipalities.

[Historic Neighborhood Schools Success Stories](#) - Preservation success stories are crucial tools for Americans trying to keep historic schools as vital parts of their communities.

*Enabling informed growth management  
decision-making for Lancaster County*

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