

## Bradford County Profile

### Introduction

Bradford County is located on the northern border of Pennsylvania with Susquehanna County to the east, Tioga to the west, and Sullivan to the south. New York is directly above the county. Bradford is home to approximately 62,800 residents and its county seat is in Towanda. The county was formed in 1812 and named after William Bradford. It covers 1,161 square miles, which makes Bradford the second largest county in Pennsylvania. There are 14 boroughs throughout the county, and the largest is Sayre. In the past ten years, there has been a very slight decrease in population, but ethnic diversity has somewhat risen. The three largest industries remain to be manufacturing, healthcare, and retail trade. Gas well drilling has risen substantially in the last ten years, which throughout of all of Pennsylvania has the most active wells. Large increases in employment include construction, manufacturing, and transportation, which have all almost doubled within the last ten years.

### Demographics

From 2000 to 2012, the population for Bradford County has decreased very slightly by over a hundred people. Population density for Bradford is very low at only around 54 people per square mile.<sup>1</sup> Ages 45 to 74 have seen the most increase out of all age groups, with many younger groups decreasing. As a result, the median age has risen to become slightly older than what it was in 2000. While many of the younger age brackets are declining, ages 20 to 24 has risen slightly since 2000.

Population and Age		
	2000	2012
under 5 years	3,804	3,718
5 to 9 years	4,440	3,883
10 to 14 years	4,840	3,962
15 to 19 years	4,413	4,087
20 to 24 years	2,806	3,211
25 to 34 years	7,379	6,323
35 to 44 years	9,695	7,721
45 to 54 years	8,898	9,822
55 to 59 years	3,609	4,815
60 to 64 years	3,012	4,019
65 to 74 years	5,109	6,052
75 to 84 years	3,551	3,524
85 years and older	1,205	1,491
Median Age	38.9	43.1
Total	62,761	62,628

*2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.*

The largest decrease comes from the 35 to 44 age bracket, which decreased by almost 2,000 people.

Race		
	2000	2012
White	61,471	61,089
Black or African American	251	344
American Indian and Alaska Native	193	62
Asian	285	398
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	4	2
Some Other Race	121	150

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Bradford County doesn't have much in terms in ethnic diversity to begin with, but since 2000 there have been increases in black or African American, Asian, and some other races. American Indian and Alaska native have decreased by quite a bit, but it was only at 193 people in 2000. The majority has clearly remained white from 2000 to 2012, but it has slightly decreased by almost 400 people.

### Economic

Per Capita Income	
2000	2012
\$17,148	\$28,190

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Household Income		
	2000	2012
Less than \$10,000	9.90%	7.3%
\$10,000-\$14,999	7.9%	6.7%
\$15,000-\$24,999	16.1%	12.8%
\$25,000-\$34,999	16.1%	12.7%
\$35,000-\$49,999	19.3%	15.7%
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.3%	20.5%
\$75,000-\$99,999	6.9%	11.3%
\$100,000-\$149,999	3.7%	9.3%
\$150,000-\$199,999	0.9%	1.8%
\$200,000 or more	0.9%	1.9%
Total households	24,427	24,445
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$35,038</b>	<b>\$44,650</b>

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Family Income		
	2000	2012
Less than \$10,000	5.9%	4.0%
\$10,000-\$14,999	4.5%	3.4%
\$15,000-\$24,999	14.3%	8.8%
\$25,000-\$34,999	16.0%	12.0%
\$35,000-\$49,999	21.1%	17.4%
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.5%	23.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	8.7%	14.3%
\$100,000-\$149,999	4.7%	12.0%
\$150,000-\$199,999	1.2%	2.3%
\$200,000 or more	1.1%	2.4%
Total families	17,309	16,601
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$40,664</b>	<b>\$54,618</b>

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Per capita, household, and family incomes have all increased from 2000 to 2012, but they are still all below the Pennsylvania state averages. Bradford’s household median comes in at approximately \$44,650, while the median family income is \$54,600, while state is around \$52,200 for household and \$66,000 for households.<sup>2</sup> What is interesting about the incomes is that for both household and family the percent of people making under \$49,999 has decreased. Any bracket above this has seen an increase. People making \$100,000 to \$149,999 have seen a significant increase by almost eight percent for families. The highest percentage for both categories has remained in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 brackets, while the lowest for both is the \$150,000 to \$199,999 bracket.

Poverty Rates			
	Bradford County		Pennsylvania
	2000	2012	2012
All people	11.8%	14.1%	13.1%
Under 18 years	N/A	20.4%	18.4%
Related children under 18 years	15.1%	19.9%	18.0%
Related children under 5 years	N/A	27.9%	21.5%
Related children 5 to 17 years	14.2%	17.0%	16.8%
18 years and over	10.5%	12.2%	11.5%
18 to 64 years	N/A	12.8%	12.3%
65 years and over	8.8%	10.2%	8.4%
People in families	9.0%	11.3%	10.2%
Unrelated people 15 years and over	23.4%	26.6%	25.2%

*2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.*

From 2000 to 2012, the overall poverty level for Bradford County has increased to be above the state average. It has risen by a little over two percent and every category is above the state average, with children suffering the most. Almost 28 percent of related children under the age of five live in poverty, which is almost eight percent higher than the state. Every recorded category has increased to a percentage over the state average.

## Housing

Median Home Price	
<b>2000</b>	\$73,900
<b>2012</b>	\$114,300

U.S. Census  
Bureau

Owners vs. Renters		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>
Owner occupied units	84.50%	81.40%
Renter occupied units	15.50%	18.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,979</b>	<b>30,034</b>

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census  
Bureau.

As of 2012, there was a slight decrease in the number of residents owning their own household, with an increase in people who rent units. The total number of units throughout the county has only risen by less than a 100 in twelve years, but the median home price has increased by around \$40,000. The population has slightly decreased, so it makes sense that few new homes would be built. Even with the increase in the median home price, the cost is still very inexpensive when compared to the state average. Pennsylvania median home price is around \$160,000 in 2012 compared to Bradford County's \$114,300.<sup>3</sup> Bradford's median price is also below most of its neighboring counties, with one exception being Tioga County.

SMOCAPI with mortgage		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>
Total units	10,520	9,197
Less than 20%	6,384	3,844
20% to 24.9%	1,367	1,561
25% to 29.9%	855	1,091
30% to 34.9%	473	673
35% or more	1,382	2,028
Not computed	59	32

US Census Bureau

SMOCAPI without mortgage	
	<b>2012</b>
Total units	8,933
Less than 10%	3,399
10% to 14.9%	1,724
15% to 19.9%	1,207
20% to 24.9%	723
25% to 29.9%	473
30% to 34.9%	303
35% or more	1,104
Not computed	85

SMOCAPI (Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income) includes the various payments a home owner would have to pay, such as utilities, taxes, insurances, and mortgage (if there is one). Usually, spending anything over 30 percent of the owner's income is considered excessive.<sup>4</sup> A majority of units with a mortgage do fall under 30 percent, but there are over 2,000 units that go over 35 percent. This appears to be the biggest increase out of all the brackets, and the less than twenty percent bracket has decreased the most. Only 1,407 out of 8,933 units without a mortgage are over the recommended 30 percent range. Many units appear to be spending more overall than what they did back in 2000, even without a mortgage. When compared to the state averages, both of these categories are very similar with just a few slight variations.

GRAPI		
	2000	2012
Total units	5,537	5,141
Less than 15%	1,221	853
15% to 19.9%	715	637
20% to 24.9%	634	704
25% to 29.9%	649	673
30% to 34.9%	366	449
35% or more	1,239	1,825
Not computed	713	1,057

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

For GRAPI (Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income) there has been a very slight decrease in the total number of units, and the 35 percent or more area has increased to most out of each bracket. Like the recommendations for households, people renting do not want to go above spending 30 percent. The largest bracket is 35 percent or more, so many people are spending more than they should. A majority of people are still below this percentage, but since 2000, people are spending much more than before. Every bracket over 20 percent has increased, while everyone below it has decreased.

### Education

School District Enrollments				
	2008-2009		2012-2013	
	Total Enrollment	Percent Low Income	Total Enrollment	Percent Low Income
Athens Area SD	2,336	41.1%	2,209	47.0%
Canton Area SD	1,053	44.4%	996	47.0%
Northeast Bradford SD	836	34.4%	832	42.7%
Sayre Area SD	1,176	43.2%	1,115	46.0%
Towanda Area SD	1,710	42.1%	1,605	47.5%
Troy Area SD	1,537	42.9%	1,530	35.5%
Wyalusing Area SD	1,409	36.3%	1,367	39.7%

PA Department of Education

Athens Area school district makes up the largest district in the county with over 2,000 enrolled students. All the districts are relatively small compared to other counties in Pennsylvania, but Bradford County has a somewhat small and spread out population. One problem is that the percentage of low-income students is fairly high and has increased for most of the districts from 2008 to 2013, with the one exception being Troy Area. Troy Area actually saw a large decrease by almost seven percent to become the school district with the lowest percent. For most of the schools, almost half of the enrollment is low-income students. Any school with having over 30 percent low income enrollment is considered to be a low-income school and qualifies for benefits from the federal government,<sup>5</sup> which all of districts do. Some of the districts have gone up quite a bit in

this area too. Northeast Bradford is almost eight percent higher and Athens saw a six percent increase. Also enrollment has decreased for every school district in Bradford County, which could mean more students are going to private schools or schools outside the county.

Dropout Rates		
	2007-2008	2011-2012
Athens Area SD	1.9%	2.85%
Canton Area SD	1.8%	1.14%
Northeast Bradford SD	1.8%	1.83%
Sayre Area SD	1.8%	0.61%
Towanda Area SD	3.0%	2.53%
Troy Area SD	2.8%	2.30%
Wyalusing Area SD	3.2%	2.24%

PA Department of Education

For many of the school districts the dropout rates have went down. More than half of the seven districts saw decreases in dropout percentages, and Wyalusing Area saw the largest decrease by around one percent. In 2007 this district had the highest percentage of dropouts compared to the others. Only two districts saw an increase, with Northeast Bradford’s being very slight. Athens Area went up less than one percent to having the highest percentage of dropouts in the county. This district has the most students and one of the higher low-income percentages, so this might be a factor for the higher dropout rate.

SAT Composite Scores			
	2001*	2006	2013
Athens Area SD	1006	1454	1514
Canton Area SD	971	1358	1364
Northeast Bradford SD	1004	1480	1433
Sayre Area SD	968	1452	1426
Towanda Area SD	955	1440	1381
Troy Area SD	984	1419	1428
Wyalusing Area SD	1028	1487	1452

Public School SAT scores 2001-2013 PA Department of Education

\*2001 Didn't contain writing portion

The average SAT composite score for Pennsylvania in 2013 was 1480, which ranks as 37<sup>th</sup> in the United States.<sup>6</sup> Athens Area is the only district to surpass this mark, and every other one falls under it. Four of the districts are only slightly below the 1480 mark, but two districts are around 100 points less than the state average. From 2006 to 2013, only three school districts saw an improvement in scores, with Athens Area being the most. Many of the decreases aren’t very drastic, and the largest came from Towanda Area by around 60 points.

Adequate Yearly Progress		
	2008	2012
Athens Area SD	Made AYP	Warning
Canton Area SD	Made AYP	Made AYP
Northeast Bradford SD	Made AYP	Made AYP
Sayre Area SD	Made AYP	Made AYP
Towanda Area SD	Made AYP	Made AYP
Troy Area SD	Made AYP	Warning
Wyalusing Area SD	Made AYP	Warning
PA Department of Education		

Three of Bradford’s school districts received a warning for the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2012 when every district made it in 2008. AYP is required because of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, and Pennsylvania’s target goals for schools were to be 78 percent proficient or advanced in math and 81 percent proficient or advanced in reading.<sup>7</sup> The warnings go to three of the districts with the higher dropout rates, so there may be a correlation there.

Educational Attainment		
	2000	2012
Population 25 and over	42,428	43,767
Less than 9th grade	5.0%	3.70%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	13.3%	10.70%
High school graduate(includes equivalency)	47.1%	48.90%
Some college, no degree	13.7%	14.50%
Associate's degree	6.0%	6.80%
Bachelor's degree	8.9%	10.30%
Graduate or professional degree	5.9%	5.10%

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Educational attainment has slightly improved since 2000 because almost half of the population 25 and older has received at least a high school diploma. There was also an increase in the number of people going to college and earning a bachelor’s degree. At 10 percent it is still lower than the state average of 16 percent.<sup>8</sup> Graduate or professional degrees are also much lower than the ten percent state average.<sup>9</sup> Only around four percent of the population has less than a ninth-grade education, which is very close to the state average.

Business

Number of Establishments	
<b>2006</b>	1,336
<b>2011</b>	1,440

2006-2011 County Business Patterns (NAICS).  
U.S. Census Bureau

Employment by Industry				
Industry	2006		2011	
All sectors	19,266	100%	19,511	100%
Agriculture, forestry	20-99	0-0.5%	20-99	0.1-0.5%
Mining	67	0.30%	627	3.21%
Utilities	153	0.70%	143	0.73%
Construction	463	2.40%	815	4.17%
Manufacturing	5,880	30.52%	4,123	21.13%
Wholesale Trade	441	2.28%	435	2.22%
Retail Trade	3,125	16.22%	3,015	15.45%
Transportation & Warehousing	542	2.81%	1,138	5.83%
Information	277	1.43%	250-499	1.28-2.55%
Finance & Insurance	648	3.36%	643	3.29%
Real Estate	20-99	0-0.5%	300	1.53%
Professional, Scientific, Technical	436	2.26%	441	2.26%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	247	1.28%	250-499	1.28-2.55%
Waste Management	374	1.94%	412	2.11%
Educational Services	96	0.40%	20-99	0.1-0.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	4,424	22.96%	4,430	22.70%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	94	0.40%	92	0.40%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,316	6.83%	1,458	7.47%
Other Services	596	0.31%	746	3.82%

2006-2011 County Business Patterns (NAICS). U.S. Census Bureau

While the number of establishments has grown by over a 100 since 2006, total employment has slightly decreased. The largest industries have remained the same since 2006 with them being manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and retail trade. Both manufacturing and retail trade have seen decreases in employment, with manufacturing having over 1,500 less employees than what it was in 2006. Some notable increases include construction, manufacturing, and transportation, which have all almost doubled in employment. Employment in real estate has also grown significantly since 2006, which can possibly mean there is a desire to get more homeowners and residents in the county.

One of the largest and important growths comes in mining industries, most likely from oil drilling in Marcellus Shale that runs under the county. In just five years, employment has increased by almost 600 people and might be the reason for increases in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation jobs.



Natural Gas Wells Drilled	
2006-2009	43
2009-2010	167
2010-2011	381
2011-2012	388
2012-2013	161
2013-2014	108

*Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection*

From 2006 to 2014, over 1,200 wells have been drilled and the majority of them are still active. Bradford County ranks first with the most number of active wells in Pennsylvania, and has almost 300 more wells than the next largest county of Washington. From 2006 to 2009, only 43 wells were drilled, but this greatly increased in the next three years alone. In just 2011, 388 wells were drilled, the most out of any year. It is interesting to note that of the 1,247 wells drilled, only 17 of them are considered to be conventional.<sup>10</sup> Conventional drilling usually means mining directly to the source, while unconventional usually includes hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.” While this type of mining has gone under many recent controversies, it has brought a lot of money into the county and the entire state. In 2012, Bradford County received an \$8.4 million impact fee allotment that was used to lessen the county’s debt, which prevented any tax increases for residents.<sup>11</sup> Gas companies provide many farms and local businesses with royalties to drill on their land, but there is concern that the drilling can be harmful to the water and can create methane gas leaks. Bradford has accounted for almost 700 drilling violations, which is the most in the state.<sup>12</sup>

Chesapeake Appalachia is one of the largest drilling companies in the county that accounts for a majority of the gas wells, along with most of the violations. It has had to pay over \$1 million as a result of these violations.<sup>13</sup>

Employment Status				
	Bradford County		Pennsylvania	
	2000	2012	2000	2012
Civilian Labor Force	29,625	29,208	5,992,886	6,478,705
Percent Unemployed	5.5%	6.2%	3.5%	8.5%

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2012 American Community Survey*

Unemployment has risen slightly since 2012, but it isn’t as bad as the current state average. The state’s average has increased quite a bit since 2000, but both the state and county are below the national unemployment average of nine percent. Bradford’s total civilian labor force has slightly decreased as well, while the state’s labor force saw a fairly large increase.

Place of Work		
	Bradford County	PA
Work in State of Residence	84.0%	94.6%
Work in County of Residence	76.0%	70.7%

Work Outside County of Residence	7.9%	23.9%
Work Outside of State of Residence	16.0%	5.4%

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey*

A majority of Bradford’s residents work in the county, which is six percent higher than the state average. A higher percentage of people do work outside of the state at 16 percent, but this is due to its close proximity to New York State that is directly to the north. Only around eight percent of residents work outside of Bradford, which is significantly lower than the state average of approximately 24 percent. Jobs appear to be available in this county, so few people have to find work elsewhere.

### Health

Bradford County ranks fairly decent with its overall health at 27 out of 67 counties.<sup>14</sup> Some of the factors include statistics such as mortality, morbidity, health behaviors, clinical care, and physical environment. Mortality and health behaviors are the worst for Bradford out of all the categories.

Mortality and Morbidity		
	Bradford County	Pennsylvania
Mortality (per 100,000 people)		
Premature Deaths	7,515	6,973
Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rate	16	12
Morbidity		
Poor or Fair Health	13.0%	14.0%
Low Birth weight	7.0%	8.4%

*County Health Rankings 2012*

Premature deaths are extremely high in Bradford County and are above both the state and national averages. These are deaths for anyone under the age of 75, and Bradford is has more than 2,000 premature deaths than what the national average is. On a whole, many of the counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania have a very high premature death rate, but that may most likely be from the poor health behaviors that people choose.

Motor vehicle crash deaths are slightly above the state average with 16 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to the state’s 12. Morbidity entails anyone in the population who is currently living unhealthy or with a disease. People living in poor or fair health are slightly better than the state average of 14 percent, but only by one percent. Low birth weights aren’t as high as the state average as well.

Health Behaviors		
	Bradford County	Pennsylvania
Adult Smoking	22%	21%
Excessive Drinking	16%	17%
Adult Obesity	34%	29%
Physical Inactivity	29%	26%

*County Health Rankings 2012*

Health behaviors for both Pennsylvania and Bradford County rate very poorly when compared to the national averages. Bradford ranks higher in every category except excessive drinking, some just being very slight though. Adult smoking is one percent higher than Pennsylvania’s 21 percent. Adult obesity is very high at 34 percent, which is five percent higher than the state average. Related to this is physical inactivity at somewhat high 29 percent.

Clinical Care		
	Bradford County	Pennsylvania
Ratio of Population to		
Primary Care Physicians	1,181:1	1,273:1
Dentists	2,340:1	1,801:1
Preventable Hospital Stays*	80	70

\*(Per 1,000 Medicare Enrollees)

County Health Rankings 2012

Bradford County’s clinical care ranks at average because it comes in a 32 out of 67 counties. Bradford actually has a better ratio of physicians to residents than the state average. There aren’t as many dentists though, and the ratio is higher than both the state and national averages. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bradford County only has three general care hospitals and one surgery center. There are also 213 physicians, 22 dentists, and 634 registered nurses.<sup>15</sup> Preventable hospital stays are slightly higher than the state average with ten more.

Health Insurance/ Benefits

Health Insurance Coverage (2012)				
	Bradford County		Pennsylvania	
With Health Insurance Coverage	54,617	88.2%	11,284,898	90.3%
Private Coverage	41,896	67.6%	9,221,385	73.8%
Public Coverage	22,444	36.2%	3,858,213	30.9%
No Coverage	7,342	11.8%	1,207,901	9.7%

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

The majority of Bradford’s residents have health insurance, but it is still below the state average. Almost 12 percent of the population has no coverage at all. Most people have private coverage, but the percentage of people that have public coverage is around six percent higher than the state average of 30 percent.

Households Receiving Benefits				
	Bradford County		Pennsylvania	
	2000	2012	2000	2012
Social Security	2,589	3,429	1,451,386	1,596,770
Supplemental Security Income	1,305	1,379	203,851	251,719
Public Assistance Income	722	699	149,203	174,274
Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits	N/A	2,749	N/A	552,403

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

Residents receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income have increased for both the state and county from 2000 to 2012. Supplemental Security Income has only increased very slightly, while Social Security saw a somewhat larger increase by almost 1,000. Public Assistance Income in Bradford has decreased, while the state saw an increase. The percentages are very similar to what the state averages are, with few notable differences.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.usa.com/bradford-county-pa-population-and-races.htm>

<sup>2</sup> SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates  
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>

<sup>3</sup> 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. US Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup> Selected Monthly Ownership Costs. American Fact Finder US Census Bureau

<sup>5</sup> Loan Cancellation, Low-Income Schools. Pennsylvania Department of Education

<sup>6</sup> SAT Scores by State 2013. Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives

<sup>7</sup> 2011-2012 PSSA and AYP Results. Pennsylvania Department of Education.

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/school\\_assessments/7442](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/school_assessments/7442)

<sup>8</sup> 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> WELLS DRILLED BY COUNTY. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

<sup>11</sup> Bradford County's \$8.4M impact fee allotment arrives. TheDailyReview.com

<sup>12</sup> Shale Play Gas Drilling in Pennsylvania. NPR

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Bradford County Health Outcomes. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

<sup>15</sup> Bradford County Health Profile 2013. Pennsylvania Department of Health