

EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS

An important component of the Cambria County 2012-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update is the preparation and documentation of population projections and employment forecasts for the County and its 63 municipalities. CCPC staff prepared Year 2040 county and municipal population forecasts consistent with U.S. Census Bureau and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) estimates and projections. Staff also prepared 2014 Employment by Industry data for Cambria County consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. Employment projections for plan year 2040 are not available at the county or municipal levels.

Population Trends: 2000-2010

Cambria County's total population decreased by 8,919 people or 5.8% between 2000 and 2010. This recorded population loss for the ten (10) year period was the fifth highest county population decrease in Pennsylvania. The Johnstown MPO's municipal population trends for this time period are presented on Table 1 and are highlighted below:

- Only seventeen (17) of the County's 63 municipalities gained population during the decade. The largest numerical population increases were in Allegheny and Cresson Townships and Ebensburg Borough.
- The population increases in the two (2) rural townships is in association with the locations of federal and state correctional facilities. In Ebensburg Borough, a senior housing complex and assisted-living housing development increased the population.
- The most widespread municipal population losses from 2000-2010 took place at the borough level. Franklin, Vintondale, Carrolltown, and Ashville Boroughs recorded the largest percentage population decreases.
- In 2010, the Johnstown MPO's population was 143,679 people. The largest municipal population resided in the City of Johnstown (20,978 people). The smallest municipal population in 2010 resided in Cassandra Borough (147 people).
- A comparison of Cambria County's ten (10) year population change with Blair and Centre Counties and the State shows that Cambria's population loss of 5.8% was larger than the decrease in Blair County (1.6%). Centre County recorded a population gain of 13.4% and the State's population increased by 3.4%.

Population Projections: 2010-2040

The Johnstown MPO's population is forecast to decrease by 20,871 residents or 14.5% by the year 2040. This precipitous population decline is premised on Cambria County's historical population trends and trends in fertility, mortality, and migration. The municipal population forecasts for the Johnstown MPO are shown on Table 1. Some of the more noteworthy assumptions from this future population scenario are highlighted below:

- Only twelve (12) of Cambria County's 63 municipalities have been forecasted to experience population gains by the year 2040. The Townships of White, Allegheny, and Cresson are projected to experience the most significant numerical population increases. These three (3) rural townships also recorded the largest population increases in the year 2000.
- Eleven (11) of the local municipalities showing population increases in the year 2040 are townships, the exception being Brownstown Borough where a 46.0% population increase has been forecasted.
- The most severe municipal population declines in 2040 will continue to take place within the County's smaller boroughs. The Boroughs of Chest Springs, Cassandra, East Conemaugh, Ehrenfeld, and Lilly are projected to lose over one-half of their 2010 population base.
- In 2040, the Johnstown MPO's population is projected to be 122,808. The largest municipal population will be based in the City of Johnstown (12,601 residents) and Richland Township with a population base of 12,301 people. The municipality with the fewest number of people in 2040 is forecasted to be Chest Springs Borough with a population of 20 people.

Population Summary: 2010-2040

The following population scenarios for Cambria County were adapted from the Pennsylvania workforce 2012 demographics report.

- Cambria County's total population is projected to decrease by 14.5% from 2010 to 2040. The County's population will be slightly less than 123,000 people in the year 2040.
- The most significant decline in Cambria County's population will most likely occur within the 0-14 age groups. This will most likely result from a declining birth rate in conjunction with long-term out-migration of the younger prime working age groups.

- The 15-24 age group should also decrease as the "brain drain" continues for high school and college graduates seeking employment outside of the Johnstown labor market.
- The prime family/children age groups between 25 and 34 years of age will probably relocate outside the Johnstown MSA where employment opportunities will be greater.
- The County's population should experience a moderate gain in the 35-64 age group as the first wave of baby boomers reach retirement age in 2010.
- The 65 to 84 age groups should grow as baby boomers move into their later retirement years. The age 85+ group will also increase by the year 2040, creating additional demands for housing, health care, and other elderly services.
- The minority group population within the Johnstown MSA will continue to grow in the future. The majority of this increase will be Hispanic and Asian immigrants residing within the Johnstown Urbanized Area.

Industry Employment: 2004-2014

Employment numbers by industry are presented on Table 2 for the Johnstown MPO. The data reflects the newer North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) employment for Cambria County and is consistent with the new Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boundary for the Johnstown MSA. The data on Table 2 shows estimated industry employment for the year 2004 and projected industry employment in the year 2014.

Cambria County's total industry employment is projected to decrease by 1,840 jobs or 3.1% by the year 2014. The majority of jobs lost will occur within the goods producing sectors where a projected average annual loss of 74 jobs is expected. The largest increase in future industry employment is expected to take place within the service producing sectors. Health Care and Social Assistance will experience an average annual gain of 60 new jobs by the year 2014. A brief summation of Cambria County's future employment scenario is presented below:

- Only four (4) NAICS employment sectors are projected to experience new job growth between 2004 and 2014 in Cambria County. The largest number of new job creation is projected to take place within the Health Care and Social Assistance sector with 600 new jobs.
- The most significant decrease in industry employment in the year 2014 is expected to take place in the manufacturing of non-durable and durable goods. A total of 580 jobs are projected to be lost in the overall manufacturing sector.

- The Johnstown MPO's largest employment sectors in the year 2014 are projected to be Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Educational Services, and Government.
- The smallest employment sectors in the year 2014, based upon industry employment projections, will be in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sectors, and within the Mining and Management of Companies and Enterprises sectors.
- A comparison of employment figures in the year 2014 shows that the Altoona MPO will add 1,380 jobs and the State College MPO will experience gain of 8,050 workers. The State of Pennsylvania will increase its industry employment by 381,530 jobs or 6.8%.

Employment Summary: 2004-2014

The following employment scenarios for Cambria County were adapted from the Pennsylvania Workforce 2012 Demographics Report:

- The Johnstown MPO's total industrial employment is projected to decrease by 1,840 workers or 3.1% by the year 2014 when the industry sectors will employ an estimated 57,710 people.
- By 2014, workers between the ages of 45 and 64 should account for the majority of Cambria County's industrial labor force.
- The average age of the labor force will increase as the baby-boom generation ages. In the County's new technology-driven economy, the retraining of older and dislocated workers will be important labor force considerations.
- The labor force participation rate will increase for the County's senior citizens as older workers will help fill the employment "gap" between available younger workers and the baby boom retirees.
- Service-producing jobs will continue to grow. Over the past 35 years, the industrial makeup of the Johnstown MPO's economy has moved from a goods-producing economy into a predominantly service-producing economy.
- The County's aging population will continue to increase the demand for jobs in the health care and social assistance field. In 2014, this sector is expected to employ 11,700 people which will represent 20% of all industry employment.

Employment Opportunities: 2010-2040

Cambria County's economic base is much more diversified today than it was 25 years ago. The local economy has evolved from a manufacturing and goods-producing economy into an economy that is orientated toward the health care and social

services industries. As Table 2 indicates, job growth in the County for the first decade of this century and beyond will be found exclusively in the service-producing sector.

Changes within the industrial structure of the County's economy will also play a major role in creating new job opportunities within a diversified group of industries. A look at the major employers in Cambria County in 2010 shows the diversification of the local industrial base and the new emphasis on the health care and services sectors.

Johnstown MPO CamPlan - Long Range Plan Update
Major Industrial Employers
2010

<u>Major Employer</u>	<u>Industry Sector</u>
Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital	Health Care and Social Assistance
Cambria County	Public Administration
Laurel Technologies	Manufacturing
Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	Retail Trade
Concurrent Technologies Corp.	Professional & Technical Services
St. Francis University	Educational Services
American Red Cross Blood Services	Health Care and Social Assistance
University of Pittsburgh	Educational Services
Conemaugh Health Initiatives, Inc.	Professional & Technical Services
Greater Johnstown School District	Educational Services

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis; 1st^h Quarter, 2010 - Final.

NOTE: UPMC Lee Regional has consolidated with Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital

The manufacturing of durable and non-durable goods will continue to play a vital role in the local economy, however, the transition from blue-collar manufacturing jobs to high-technology and service-sector jobs will continue into the foreseeable future. The Administration and Waste Services, Educational Services, and the Energy sectors are also at the forefront of Cambria County's new and future diversified economic base.

Future employment opportunities in Cambria County will be centered on an industry mix that includes both traditional manufacturing jobs and new jobs in the service-producing sectors. The majority of employment opportunities in the future will be keyed to the service-producing industries. However, the manufacturing, retail, and information technology industries will continue to grow and provide for new employment opportunities. An example of a business or complex currently providing employment in Cambria County for each industry is shown for reference purposes only.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update
Future Industrial Employment
2010-2040

<u>Industry Group</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Health Care	Miners Medical Center
Defense	Martin-Baker America
Biomedical	CERMUSA
Technology	Gr. Johnstown Technology Park
Manufacturing	Gamesa Corporation
Retail	Wal-Mart Associates
Utilities/Energy	Cambria CoGen Company
Mining	AMFIRE Mining Company
Oil and Gas Extraction	Chief Oil & Gas LLC

The Future Economic Base

The existing and future transportation system in Cambria County will play a pivotal role in determining the extent of population growth and new employment opportunities. Economic growth and development within the County will also depend on the continued expansion of existing public water and sewer systems. Should the local economic base begin to show signs of expansion over the next 10 to 30 year period, there will be a corresponding demand for new housing and community services and facilities. The location of new commercial and industrial facilities in Cambria County will be directly linked to highways and supportive public water and sewage systems. New and improved highways and roads will be the key locational incentive for new employment centers and new housing construction.

Recent economic development initiatives within Cambria County warrant a much more positive outlook than the population and employment data herein presents. Both traditional manufacturing and new clean energy manufacturing facilities have recently positioned themselves within the Johnstown MPO. Two (2) new deep coal mines have opened up and another coal mine is scheduled to begin production when market conditions improve. A coal preparation plant has been reopened and processed coal is being shipped by railroad throughout the United States. The resurgence of coal mining and related industries such as the extraction of natural gas lends a positive aspect to the County's future economy. A new wind turbine manufacturing plant has recently expanded and windmill farms are being developed along Cambria County's highest ridges.

These kinds of old and new manufacturing industries will complement the expanding health care, retail, and technology sectors in Cambria County. The Conemaugh Health System has built a new Regional Technology Complex in the City of Johnstown. This

new medical-related information and research facility, when completed, could provide up to 1,000 new high-tech jobs. Retail sales are an important aspect of Cambria's overall industrial base. The Richland Town Center recently opened at the site of the former Richland Mall in Richland Township. This new "open-air" retail facility is bringing new jobs and new customers into the area. In Cambria Township, just outside of Ebensburg, a Super Wal-Mart Center has opened. The center is part of a growing retail presence in the central part of the County. New health care, defense, and technology facilities are being developed or expanded throughout Cambria County, however, most of the new establishments are concentrated within the Johnstown Urbanized Area. Richland Township and the City of Johnstown have experienced the most significant increase within these industrial groups, especially within the defense and technology-related sectors.

Impacts on Transportation Plan

- The key to Cambria County's future economic growth will depend in large part on its ability to maintain and expand its existing highway network while developing new highways that meet economic expectations. The road to continued population growth and new employment will hinge on the Johnstown MPO's ability to attract high-technology and service-sector industries, while expanding existing businesses and industry. Economic growth and development in Cambria County will be dependent on transportation connectivity.
- The existing transportation system is anchored by U.S. Route 219 running south and north through the County and U.S. Route 22 which is aligned east and west. These two (2) primary arterials intersect in Cambria Township just west of Ebensburg Borough. U.S. 219 extends as a 4-lane limited access highway south to Somerset and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. In the north, U.S. Route 219 extends as a 4-lane highway to East Carroll Township about 6 miles north of Ebensburg. From this point, it is a 2-lane highway through Cambria County and northward to Interstate 80. Efforts to extend U.S. 219 North in Cambria have been put on hold by state officials. However, the U.S. 219 4-lane north project in the County is still a very important transportation consideration for future economic development and growth.
- Efforts to connect Cambria County's economic base with the economy of the larger regional-based market areas by improving the existing transportation system is the primary goal of local economic development officials. In late 2010, U.S. Route 22 West was completed as a four-lane

limited and controlled access highway connecting Cambria County with the City of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The 4-lane highway now extends east and west through Cambria County. The new highway will connect the local and regional economy with the economies of Pittsburgh to the west and Altoona/State College to the east and north.

- A third regional highway with connectivity issues is PA Route 56 in southern Cambria County. The importance of this highway is the accessibility it offers to the Johnstown Urbanized Area from points west and east. Currently, the highway has safety issues along with its 2-lane mountainous alignment both west and east. PennDOT has recently completed major safety improvements along the PA 56 Corridor West. This section links the City of Johnstown with U.S. Route 22 and the Pittsburgh market area. Local officials are also supporting a new alignment, safety, and congestion improvements along the PA 56 Corridor East. PA 56 East connects Cambria County and the Johnstown Urbanized Area with the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Should PA Route 56 East highway improvements become a reality, there exists the potential for new economic development and increased employment in Cambria County.

Delineated Growth Areas

The Johnstown MPO, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of transportation (PennDOT), has established seven (7) major transportation planning corridors within Cambria County. In 2001, the Cambria County Planning Commission began its initial efforts to plan for future economic growth within each corridor. A series of individual corridor land use and transportation system studies were subsequently developed to help provide a coordinated linkage between municipal land use, transportation, and infrastructure systems.

Planning for transportation and water and sewer infrastructure is best served when they are integrated with county and local land use regulations. This coordinated approach can help insure that transportation improvements, along with new and extended water and sewer projects, are designed to serve delineated growth areas where economic development is encouraged within each corridor. The Johnstown MPO's corridor land use/transportation studies provide an inventory and analysis of each corridor's existing and future land use and transportation systems. The studies established goals, objectives, and performance measurements for each corridor to help guide short- and long-term planning and decision-making.

For planning purposes, a growth area may be described as a geographical delineation, or boundary line, within which mixed development is encouraged and infrastructure (roads, water, and sewer) to serve such new growth is planned or currently exists. Growth areas indicate where new economic development is anticipated and new public investment is appropriate. The Johnstown MPO's delineated growth areas should continue to develop despite a decline in County population and overall employment levels. The growth areas in Cambria County are located in and around key interchanges and/or intersections along the seven (7) major corridors. These delineated growth areas are presented on the following Delineated Growth Areas 2040 Map.

The major factors influencing future growth in these areas will include good local and regional access roadways, developable land area, and the presence of sanitary water and sanitary sewage treatment facilities. The rate of development within these prime areas will depend primarily on the transportation network and the availability of sanitary water and sewage treatment facilities. The availability of these two most basic community facilities (water and sewer) will impact not only residential construction, but also (and maybe more importantly) commercial and industrial developments; thereby expanding the employment base which may help to turn around the County's projected population decline.

Conclusion

It is apparent, based on the finding of this chapter regarding population and employment trends, that Cambria County's economic vitality, and therefore its future population, is inherently dependent on its transportation infrastructure and public water and sewer systems. The County must continue to strive to complete its scheduled and planned infrastructure improvements in order to retain and attract business opportunities needed to sustain its population and employment base. The general findings supporting this thesis for Cambria County and the Johnstown MPO is presented as follows:

- The region's population, in recent decades, continues to decline and can be directly attributable to losses in steel producing and coal mining employment.
- The region's population continues to age with fewer births resulting from the out-migration of the child bearing age groups.
- Persons per household has fallen below state and national averages indicating the region's population is gradually getting older with fewer school age children to replace their parents.

- The region's median household income has continued to grow but at a rate below that of the state and national average. This statistic can be viewed as positive in terms of the region's lower cost of living.
- Cambria County and the Johnstown MPO has experienced a dramatic shift in major employment from manufacturing to retail and service sector jobs.
- Compounding the loss in higher paying manufacturing jobs is the decline in rail transportation where existing rail lines serving manufacturing centers are being abandoned and the region becomes more dependent on its highway system.
- Despite the region's declining economy, there is strength in its highway program including major improvements to U.S. Routes 219 and 22 and PA Route 56 which will provide improved highway access to regional market areas that can help attract new industries as well as help existing companies to grow, thereby raising both employment and population levels.
- Overall, Cambria County is predominately a rural county with an abundance of vacant land and woodlands conducive for economic development.
- Generalized land use forecasts seem to suggest that the County will continue its trend of urbanized development predominantly around its growth areas where existing water and sewage systems are upgraded and regional highways improved providing highway linkages with the region's industrial parks, commercial, and residential areas.
- Population forecasts suggest the region's population will continue to decline based on trends in out-migration and declining birth rates in the County. However, the 65 and older age groups are expected to continue to increase, requiring the region's transportation systems to adjust to their mobility needs.
- Major factors influencing future growth in the County will continue to include good local and regional access highways, developable land area, land use regulations, and the presence of sanitary water and sewage treatment facilities.