

IPA Economy League: City Tax Effort
Comparisons, 1972 June-September

1-31

7 Level Rec. (Attchd)

PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE

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CENTRAL DIVISION

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706 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING * WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701 * AC 717 - 824-3559

CONFIDENTIAL

CITY TAX EFFORT COMPARISONS

Over the past few years, the League has prepared data for employee negotiations at request of cities and school boards. We believe that the League membership will be interested in the following compilation of local municipal tax effort. The data covers city tax effort only and does not include local tax effort for school or county purposes.

The common denominators are a \$15,000 property (land included), the working husband with housewife, and the computed average annual area income secured from the August release (June figures) of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Monthly Employment and Earnings publication. The state's computed yearly average income for the month of June 1972 was \$7,988, with only the labor market areas of Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton and Erie indicating higher than average earnings.

The total municipal tax effort comparisons ranged from a high of \$375 in Wilkes-Barre to a low of \$156 in Pottsville. The percentage of total dollar tax effort to annual income ranged from a high of 6.2 percent in Wilkes-Barre to 2.6 percent in Allentown and Pottsville.

Ranking Dollar Effort

1. Wilkes-Barre
2. Scranton
3. Easton
4. Erie
5. York
6. Williamsport
7. Johnstown
8. Bethlehem
9. Harrisburg
10. Lancaster
11. Reading
12. Altoona
13. Allentown
14. Hazleton
15. Pottsville

Ranking Percentage Effort

1. Wilkes-Barre
2. Scranton
3. Williamsport
4. York
5. Easton
6. Erie
7. Harrisburg
8. Johnstown
9. Altoona
10. Bethlehem
11. Lancaster
12. Reading
13. Hazleton
14. Allentown
15. Pottsville

August 1972

CITY TAX EFFORT COMPARISONS - SELECTED PENNSYLVANIA CITIES^{1/}
1972

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	Population	Allentown 109,657	Altoona 62,900	Bethlehem 72,686	Easton 30,256	Erie 129,231	Harris- burg 68,061	Hazleton 30,426	Johnstown 42,476
<u>Base:</u>									
Market Value of Property		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
City Assessment Ratio		60%	60%	60%	60%	100%	60%	35%	48%
Assessed Valuation		\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$15,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,250	\$ 7,200
Real Estate Millage		17.0	19.0	19.6	23.0	17.0	17.0	25.0	26.0
Average Annual Area Income ^{2/}		\$ 8,052	\$ 6,635	\$ 8,052	\$ 8,052	\$ 8,496	\$ 7,019	\$ 6,048	\$ 7,769
<u>Effort:</u>									
Real Estate Tax		\$ 153	\$ 171	\$ 176	\$ 207	\$ 255	\$ 153	\$ 131	\$ 187
Per Capita and Residence Tax		10	-	20	20	-	20	20	-
Earned Income Tax		40	33	40	40	42	35	30	39
Occupation Privilege Tax		10	10	10	10	-	10	5	10
Occupation Tax		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household/Garbage Fee		-	-	-	24	-	18	-	24
Total Municipal Effort		\$ 213	\$ 214	\$ 246	\$ 301	\$ 297	\$ 236	\$ 186	\$ 260
% of Average Annual Area Income		2.6%	3.2%	3.1%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%	3.3%

^{1/} Based on a property with a \$15,000 market value and a working husband and housewife - Labor Market Area Annual Income

^{2/} Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry - Monthly Employment and Earnings Release - June 1972

CITY TAX EFFORT COMPARISONS, continued
1972

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Population	<u>Lancaster</u> 57,690	<u>Pottsville</u> 19,715	<u>Reading</u> 87,643	<u>Scranton</u> 103,564	<u>Wilkes-Barre</u> 58,856	<u>Williamsport</u> 37,918	<u>York</u> 50,355
<u>Base:</u>							
Market Value of Property	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
City Assessment Ratio	55%	35%	100%	35%	50%	75%	70%
Assessed Valuation	\$ 8,250	\$ 5,250	\$15,000	L\$ 1,050 I 4,200	\$ 7,500	\$11,250	\$10,500
Real Estate Millage	19.0	18.5	12.0	L 65.0 I 32.5	42.66	18.0	22.8
Average Annual Area Income ^{2/}	\$ 7,473	\$ 5,876 ^{3/}	\$ 7,151	\$ 5,815	\$ 6,048	\$ 6,630 ^{3/}	\$ 7,523
<u>Effort:</u>							
Real Estate Tax	\$ 157	\$ 97	\$ 180	\$ 205	\$ 320	\$ 203	\$ 239
Per Capita and Residence Tax	20	20	-	20	20	20	-
Earned Income Tax	37	29	35	58	30	33	37
Occupation Privilege Tax	10	10	10	10	5	5	10
Occupation Tax	7.50	-	-	-	-	10	-
Household/Garbage Fee	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
Total Municipal Effort	\$ 231.50	\$ 156	\$ 225	\$ 323	\$ 375	\$ 271	\$ 286
% of Average Annual Area Income	3.1%	2.6%	3.1%	5.6%	6.2%	4.1%	3.8%

^{2/} Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry - Monthly Employment and Earnings Release - June 1972
^{3/} Based upon the latest available information from Pottsville and Williamsport Areas

PEL:CD August 1972

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706 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING * WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701 * AC 717 - 824-3559

LUZERNE COUNTY TAX RATES AND VALUATIONS
1972

This review of tax rates and property valuations in Luzerne County is based on preflood conditions. Although substantial losses in property, earned income, and mercantile/business privilege tax revenue will result from the recent disaster, local governments (counties, cities, boroughs, and townships) can seek relief through Section 241 of the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1970, which authorizes grants to cover local property tax losses. School districts may avail themselves of P.L. 874 of 1950, as amended, to recover portions of their real estate revenue losses.

Assessed Valuation Trend

The assessed valuation of real estate in Luzerne County established a new high in 1972 at \$413.2 million, which is \$22.7 million or 5.8 percent higher than in 1971.

Wilkes-Barre Township had the largest increase of the county's 74 municipalities (\$5.8 million, or 140.1 percent) due largely to the opening of the Wyoming Valley Mall. Four municipalities had increases of over one million dollars - Wilkes-Barre City, Conyngham Borough, and Plains and Sugarloaf Townships. The increases in Sugarloaf and Conyngham were the direct result of re-evaluation by the County Assessment Bureau.

Small declines occurred in nine municipalities throughout the county.

Real Estate Tax Rates

Despite the 1.3-mill increase (to 19.7 mills) by the County and Institution District, the combined millage rate in 17 municipalities and their corresponding school districts is lower for the current year. This is due largely to increased state school subsidies and the resulting decreases in the school property tax in the Wilkes-Barre Area (5.0 mills), Dallas Area (4.0 mills), and Lake-Lehman Area (4.0 mills), and the end of debt reduction millage in the Warrior Run section of the Hanover Area (5.0 mills) and in the Larksville section of Wyoming Valley West (6.0 mills).

The only increase in school real estate rates occurred in the Berwick Area District (3.0 mills) which includes four Luzerne County municipalities - Hollenback, Nescopeck, and Salem Townships and Nescopeck Borough. Twelve of the 74 municipal real estate tax rates increased for 1972, ranging from 6.0 mills in Ashley Borough to 0.45 of a mill in Swoyersville Borough. Butler Township reduced its municipal levy for 1972 (1.0 mill).

Nonproperty Taxes

The Per Capita Tax is levied in all but 25 of the county's 74 municipalities at rates ranging from \$2 to \$10. Eight of the 12 school districts comprising Luzerne County municipalities also levy the per capita tax, all at \$10. Districts not using the per capita tax are Crestwood, Hanover Area, Wilkes-Barre Area, and Wyoming Valley West.

The Earned Income Tax of one percent is levied in all 74 municipalities and shared equally with their respective school districts.

The Occupation Privilege Tax is levied in 60 of the county's municipalities either by the municipality, its corresponding school district, or both.

The Occupation Tax (old style) levied in mills, by municipalities only, is used in eight jurisdictions and ranges from a high of 25 mills in White Haven Borough to a low of 8 mills in Conyngham and Dupont Boroughs.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is levied in all 74 municipalities in the county and, in most instances, is shared equally with their school districts. Only the Northwest Area School District does not levy the transfer tax.

Observations

This annual review of valuations which has been completed by the League for many years again highlights the seriousness of the local government problem in the county. The extreme fragmentation and the small uneconomic size of so many municipalities make it extremely difficult for public officials to fulfill their responsibilities in the most effective manner possible.

The serious recovery and economic problems confronting the communities in Wyoming Valley as a result of the disaster create an even further sense of urgency on the need for major governmental reorganization to meet the emerging problems of our fast-moving society in the seventies.

September 15, 1972

TABLE I

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LUZERNE COUNTY
Assessed Valuation Trend
1971 and 1972

	1971	1972	Change	
			\$	%
<u>CITIES:</u>				
Hazleton	\$ 34,931,630	\$ 35,857,510	\$ 925,880	2.7
City Valuation	---	---	---	-
Nanticoke	10,715,370	11,248,950	533,580	5.0
City Valuation	---	---	---	-
Pittston	9,142,784	9,147,304	4,520	.05
City Valuation	(8,618,867)	(8,630,000)	1,819,400	2.7
Wilkes-Barre	66,882,875	68,702,275		
City Valuation	(72,838,482)	(76,098,007)	\$ 3,283,380	2.7
Total	\$121,672,659	\$124,956,039		
<u>BOROUGHES:</u>				
Ashley	\$ 2,909,350	\$ 2,895,360	-\$ 13,990	-.5
Avoca	2,356,530	2,352,440	- 4,090	-.2
Conyngham	3,040,170	4,577,150	1,536,980	50.5
Courtdale	767,980	761,350	- 6,630	-.9
Dallas	3,865,450	4,091,820	226,370	6.0
Dupont	2,712,100	2,754,600	42,500	1.5
Duryea	4,596,890	5,151,400	554,510	12.0
Edwardsville	6,447,820	6,528,000	80,180	1.2
Exeter	6,464,480	6,502,880	38,400	6.0
Forty Fort	7,641,670	7,659,910	18,240	.2
Freeland	3,922,810	4,014,480	91,670	2.3
Harveys Lake	4,661,820	4,675,670	13,850	.3
Hughestown	1,450,860	1,490,730	39,870	2.7
Jeddo	109,680	109,630	- 50	-
Kingston	25,864,940	26,336,400	471,460	1.8
Laflin	1,330,125	2,023,865	693,740	52.0
Larksville	2,742,610	2,783,180	40,570	1.5
Laurel Run	394,080	414,650	20,570	5.2
Luzerne	3,241,410	3,194,620	- 46,790	- 1.4
Nescopeck	1,713,910	1,731,010	17,100	1.0
New Columbus	138,780	143,450	4,670	3.3

TABLE I

LUZERNE COUNTY
Assessed Valuation Trend
1971 and 1972

Page 2 of 3

	1971	1972	Change	
			\$	%
<u>BOROUGHES, continued</u>				
Nuangola	\$ 1,172,370	\$ 1,208,930	\$ 36,560	3.1
Plymouth	7,064,140	7,051,090	- 13,050	- .2
Pringle	965,470	970,320	4,850	.5
Shickshinny	1,219,660	1,217,260	- 2,400	- .2
Sugar Notch	772,950	786,310	13,360	1.7
Swoyersville	5,336,710	5,442,640	105,930	2.0
Warrior Run	409,410	414,060	4,650	1.1
West Hazleton	8,638,520	8,774,110	135,590	1.6
West Pittston	8,033,786	8,076,576	42,790	.5
West Wyoming	3,980,930	4,032,880	51,950	1.3
White Haven	1,315,410	1,329,640	14,230	1.1
Wyoming	5,699,110	5,703,930	4,820	.08
Yatesville	514,690	608,600	93,910	18.2
Total	\$131,496,621	\$135,808,941	\$ 4,312,320	3.3
<u>TOWNSHIPS:</u>				
Bear Creek	\$ 4,080,630	\$ 4,939,820	\$ 859,190	21.0
Black Creek	1,467,980	1,580,020	112,040	7.6
Buck	728,490	813,895	85,405	11.7
Butler	4,987,180	5,364,370	377,190	6.8
Conyngham	1,591,950	1,614,510	22,560	1.4
Dallas	8,649,110	9,172,140	523,030	6.0
Dennison	1,264,160	1,242,380	- 21,780	- 1.7
Dorrance	1,342,230	1,427,040	84,810	6.3
Exeter	1,807,120	1,865,940	58,820	3.2
Fairmount	847,670	879,440	31,770	3.7
Fairview	4,197,640	4,366,670	169,030	4.0
Foster	2,798,989	2,895,039	96,050	3.4
Franklin	1,214,700	1,373,350	158,650	13.0
Hanover*	12,646,570	13,060,720	414,150	3.2
Hazle	11,693,880	12,474,940	781,060	6.7
Hollenback	760,160	811,100	50,940	6.7

*First-class Township

TABLE I

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LUZERNE COUNTY
Assessed Valuation Trend
1971 and 1972

			Change	
			\$	%
TOWNSHIPS, continued	1971	1972		
Hunlock	\$ 1,680,470	\$ 1,699,220	\$ 18,750	1.1
Huntington	1,708,260	1,786,540	78,280	4.6
Jackson	2,374,450	2,633,100	258,650	11.0
Jenkins	4,444,430	4,575,800	131,370	3.0
Kingston	6,689,470	6,927,590	238,120	3.5
Lake	1,384,750	1,456,950	72,200	5.2
Lehman	3,694,580	3,781,280	86,700	2.3
Nescopeck	920,500	936,180	15,680	1.7
Newport*	4,504,930	4,497,480	- 7,450	- .2
Pittston	4,406,615	4,893,180	486,565	11.0
Plains*	14,161,844	15,411,574	1,249,730	9.0
Plymouth	2,286,560	2,313,460	26,900	1.1
Rice	1,272,820	1,384,080	111,260	8.7
Ross	1,860,090	1,894,270	34,180	2.0
Salem	6,098,780	6,291,500	192,720	3.1
Slocum	895,670	926,410	30,740	3.4
Sugarloaf	3,387,920	5,109,170	1,721,250	51.0
Union	1,449,550	1,474,630	25,080	2.0
Wilkes-Barre*	4,115,930	9,884,840	5,768,910	140.1
Wright	9,992,370	10,705,840	713,470	7.1
Total	\$137,408,448	\$152,464,468	\$15,056,020	10.9
COUNTY TOTAL	\$390,577,728	\$413,229,448	\$22,651,720	5.8

*First-class Township

SOURCE: Luzerne County Assessors' Office

TABLE II

LUZERNE COUNTY
Real Estate Tax Rate Trend
1971 and 1972

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	1971 Millage ^{1/}			1972 Millage ^{2/}			Change ^{3/}	
	Munic.	School	Total	Munic.	School	Total	Munic.	School
<u>CITIES:</u>								
Hazleton	20.5	47.0	85.9	25.0	47.0	91.7	4.5	-
Nanticoke	21.0	46.0	85.4	21.0	45.0	85.7	-	- 1.0
Pittston	23.0	45.0	86.4	23.0	45.0	87.7	-	-
Wilkes-Barre	37.28	58.0	113.68	42.66	53.0	115.36	5.38	- 5.0
<u>BOROUGHES:</u>								
Ashley	21.0	50.0	89.4	27.0	50.0	96.7	6.0	-
Avoca	22.0	45.0	85.4	22.0	45.0	86.7	-	-
Conyngham	8.0	47.0	73.4	8.0	47.0	74.7	-	-
Courtdale	14.0	47.0	79.4	14.0	47.0	80.7	-	- 4.0
Dallas	9.0	62.0	89.4	9.0	58.0	86.7	-	-
Dupont	8.0	45.0	71.4	8.0	45.0	72.7	-	-
Duryea	18.0	45.0	81.4	18.0	45.0	82.7	-	-
Edwardsville	15.0	47.0	80.4	15.0	47.0	81.7	-	-
Exeter	11.9	41.0	71.3	11.9	41.0	72.6	-	-
Forty Fort	19.0	47.0	84.4	19.0	47.0	85.7	-	-
Freeland	13.0	47.0	78.4	13.0	47.0	79.7	-	- 4.0
Harveys Lake	7.0	44.0	69.4	7.0	40.0	66.7	-	-
Hughestown	17.0	45.0	80.4	17.0	45.0	81.7	-	-
Jeddo	11.82	47.0	77.22	11.82	47.0	78.52	-	-
Kingston	19.0	47.0	84.4	21.0	47.0	87.7	2.0	-
Laflin	5.0	58.0	81.4	5.0	53.0	77.7	-	- 5.0
Larksville	21.0	53.0	92.4	21.0	47.0	87.7	-	- 6.0
Laurel Run	12.63	58.0	89.03	12.63	53.0	85.33	-	- 5.0
Luzerne	17.0	47.0	82.4	17.0	47.0	83.7	-	-
Nescopeck	10.0	43.0	71.4	10.0	46.0	75.7	-	3.0
New Columbus	5.5	33.0	56.9	6.0	33.0	58.7	.5	-
Nuangola	6.0	56.0	80.4	6.0	56.0	81.7	-	-
Plymouth	21.0	47.0	86.4	21.0	47.0	87.7	-	-
Pringle	10.5	47.0	75.9	10.5	47.0	77.2	-	-

TABLE II

LUZERNE COUNTY
Real Estate Tax Rate Trend
1971 and 1972

Page 2 of 3

	1971 Millage			1972 Millage			Change ^{3/}	
	Munic.	School	Total ^{1/}	Munic.	School	Total ^{2/}	Munic.	School
<u>BOROUGHES, continued</u>								
Shickshinny	13.0	33.0	64.4	13.0	33.0	65.7	-	-
Sugar Notch	25.0	50.0	93.4	25.0	50.0	94.7	-	-
Swoyersville	15.75	47.0	81.15	16.2	47.0	82.9	.45	-
Warrior Run	20.0	55.0	93.4	20.0	50.0	89.7	-	- 5.0
West Hazleton	19.5	47.0	84.9	19.5	47.0	86.2	-	-
West Pittston	9.5	41.0	68.9	9.5	41.0	70.2	-	-
West Wyoming	11.0	41.0	70.4	11.0	41.0	71.7	-	-
White Haven	22.0	56.0	96.4	25.0	56.0	100.7	3.0	-
Wyoming	8.0	40.5	66.9	8.0	41.0	68.7	-	.5
Yatesville	11.0	45.0	74.4	11.0	45.0	75.7	-	-
<u>TOWNSHIPS:</u>								
Bear Creek	4.0	58.0	80.4	5.0	53.0	77.7	1.0	- 5.0
Black Creek	3.6	47.0	69.0	3.6	47.0	70.3	-	-
Buck	3.0	58.0	79.4	3.0	53.0	75.7	-	- 5.0
Butler	4.0	47.0	69.4	3.0	47.0	69.7	- 1.0	-
Conyngham	3.0	46.0	67.4	3.0	45.0	67.7	-	- 1.0
Dallas	2.0	62.0	82.4	2.0	58.0	79.7	-	- 4.0
Dennison	4.0	56.0	78.4	4.0	56.0	79.7	-	-
Dorrance	8.0	56.0	82.4	8.0	56.0	83.7	-	-
Exeter	7.0	41.0	66.4	7.0	41.0	67.7	-	-
Fairmount	5.0	33.0	56.4	7.0	33.0	59.7	2.0	-
Fairview	3.0	56.0	77.4	3.0	56.0	78.7	-	-
Foster	7.0	47.0	72.4	7.0	47.0	73.7	-	-
Franklin	6.0	62.0	86.4	6.0	58.0	83.7	-	- 4.0
Hanover*	22.0	53.0	93.4	25.0	53.0	97.7	3.0	-
Hazle	14.0	47.0	79.4	14.0	47.0	80.7	-	-
Hollenback	5.0	43.0	66.4	5.0	46.0	70.7	-	3.0
Hunlock	5.0	33.0	56.4	5.0	33.0	57.7	-	-
Huntington	7.0	33.0	58.4	8.0	33.0	60.7	1.0	-

*First-class Township

TABLE II

LUZERNE COUNTY
Real Estate Tax Rate Trend
1971 and 1972

Page 3 of 3

TOWNSHIPS, continued	1971 Millage ^{1/}			1972 Millage ^{2/}			Change ^{3/}	
	Munic.	School	Total ^{1/}	Munic.	School	Total ^{2/}	Munic.	School
Jackson	3.5	44.0	65.9	3.5	40.0	63.2	-	- 4.0
Jenkins	9.1	45.0	72.5	9.1	45.0	73.8	-	-
Kingston	5.0	62.0	85.4	7.0	58.0	84.7	2.0	- 4.0
Lake	7.0	44.0	69.4	7.0	40.0	66.7	-	- 4.0
Lehman	9.0	44.0	71.4	9.0	40.0	68.7	-	- 4.0
Nescopeck	4.0	43.0	65.4	4.0	46.0	69.7	-	3.0
Newport*	24.0	50.0	92.4	24.0	49.0 ^{4/}	92.7	-	- 1.0
Pittston	9.75	45.0	73.15	9.75	45.0	74.45	-	-
Plains*	14.5	58.0	90.9	14.5	53.0	87.2	-	- 5.0
Plymouth	7.5	46.0	71.9	7.5	45.0	72.2	-	- 1.0
Rice	7.0	56.0	81.4	7.0	56.0	82.7	-	-
Ross	3.5	44.0	65.9	3.5	40.0	63.2	-	- 4.0
Salem	1.5	43.0	62.9	1.5	46.0	67.2	-	3.0
Slocum	2.0	56.0	76.4	2.0	56.0	77.7	-	-
Sugarloaf	5.0	47.0	70.4	5.0	47.0	71.7	-	-
Union	3.0	33.0	54.4	3.0	33.0	55.7	-	-
Wilkes-Barre*	25.0	58.0	101.4	25.0	53.0	97.7	-	- 5.0
Wright	3.8	56.0	78.2	3.8	56.0	79.5	-	-

*First-class Township

^{1/} Includes 18.4 mills for county purposes^{2/} Includes 19.7 mills for county purposes^{3/} Does not include the 1.3-mill county increase^{4/} 1972-73 final year for additional 4.0-mill debt levy

SOURCE: Obtained from Municipalities and School Districts

TABLE III

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LUZERNE COUNTY
Nonproperty Taxes
1972

	<u>Per Capita</u>		<u>Earned Income</u>		<u>Occup. Privilege</u>		<u>Occup. Tax</u>	<u>Real Estate</u>	
	<u>Munic.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Munic.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Munic.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>(Old Style)</u> <u>Municipal</u> <u>Mills</u>	<u>Munic.</u>	<u>School</u>
<u>BOROUGHES, continued</u>									
Pringle	\$ 5.00	\$ -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	\$10.00	\$ -	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Shickshinny	-	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	1	-
Sugar Notch	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Swoyersville	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Warrior Run	10.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	20.0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
West Hazleton	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
West Pittston	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
West Wyoming	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
White Haven	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	25.0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wyoming	-	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Yatesville	-	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
<u>TOWNSHIPS:</u>									
Bear Creek	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Black Creek	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Buck	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	-	1
Butler	3.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Conyngham	-	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
Dallas	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Dennison	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Dorrance	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Exeter	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Fairmount	2.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	1	-
Fairview	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Foster	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Franklin	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hanover*	10.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hazle	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

*First-class Township

TABLE III

LUZERNE COUNTY
Nonproperty Taxes
1972

Page 3 of 3

	Per Capita		Earned Income		Occup. Privilege		Occup. Tax (Old Style)	Real Estate	
	Munic.	School	Munic.	School	Munic.	School	Municipal Mills	Munic.	School
TOWNSHIPS, continued									
Hollenback ^{2/}	\$ 5.00	\$10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hunlock	2.50	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	1	-
Huntington	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	1	-
Jackson	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Jenkins	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Kingston	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lake	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lehman	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Nescopeck ^{2/}	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Newport*	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
Pittston	-	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Plains* ^{1/}	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Plymouth	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rice	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ross	2.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Salem ^{2/}	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	-	1
Slocum	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sugarloaf	5.00	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	5.00	-	1	-
Union	2.50	10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10.00	-	-	1	-
Wilkes-Barre*	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wright	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5.00	5.00	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

*First-class Township

^{1/} Also levies a mercantile tax of 1.5 mills retail and 1.0 mill wholesale shared with the coterminus school district.
^{2/} Berwick Area School District also levies a \$10.00 flat rate occupation tax.

SOURCE: Obtained from municipalities and school districts.



PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE, INC.

706 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING * WILKES-BARRE, PA. 18701 * AC 717 - 824-3559

September 25, 1972

CITY TAX EFFORT COMPARISONS

Our recent mailing on City Tax Effort Comparisons contained the wrong assessment ratio for Johnstown. The rankings are slightly different. The changes below will permit correction of your copy:

Page One		Page 1 of Table
<u>Ranking Dollar Effort</u>	<u>Ranking Percentage Effort</u>	<u>Johnstown</u> 42,476
1. Wilkes-Barre	1. Wilkes-Barre	
2. Scranton	2. Scranton	
3. Easton	3. Williamsport	\$15,000
4. Erie	4. York	
5. Johnstown	5. Easton	55%
6. York	6. Johnstown	
7. Williamsport	7. Erie	\$ 8,250
8. Bethlehem	8. Harrisburg	
9. Harrisburg	9. Altoona	26.0
10. Lancaster	10. Bethlehem	
11. Reading	11. Lancaster	\$ 7,769
12. Altoona	12. Reading	
13. Allentown	13. Hazleton	
14. Hazleton	14. Allentown	
15. Pottsville	15. Pottsville	\$ 215
		-
		39
		10
		-
		24
		\$ 288
		3.7%

PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE

league comment

CENTRAL DIVISION

on a matter of importance to you

706 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING * WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701 * AC 717 - 824-3559

CONFIDENTIAL

PROJECTS REPORT April 1, 1972 to June 30, 1972

Implementation of Article IX of the State Constitution, especially Act 62 (the Home Rule/Optional Plans Law), will have a significant impact on the Central Division program and activities throughout the 33-county area. Ordinances have already been passed in a number of municipalities for the approval and election of Governmental Study Commissions. In the past municipalities have made extensive use of the League's expertise in revising their charters under the Optional Third Class City Charter Law, and it is expected that the League will again be tapped by local officials to assist in taking advantage of the full potential of Act 62.

During the last quarter, the League continued to monitor the fiscal operations of major municipalities and school districts throughout the Division and devoted significant staff time to insuring sound implementation of Article IX. While this report only summarizes recent Central Division activities, it should be noted that the League maintains daily contact with state, county, borough, township, and school district officials.

TAXATION AND FINANCE

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT - Fiscal Alert (Luzerne County) - The League issued an alert to district taxpayers and their officials which revealed that over \$2.8 million would be available for the 1972-73 school year that was not available for 1971-72. The alert noted that the equivalent of 30.0 mills was available for the new school year and that a sizable reduction in school taxes was possible.

BERKS COUNTY FINANCES - Analysis of the 1972 county budget revealed that about \$2.9 million of the \$3.9 million carried over from 1971 (the equivalent of about 7 mills) was surplus. The League suggested that without a documented capital program a tax cut would be in order.

SCRANTON CITY (Lackawanna County) - The League staff continued to provide assistance and consultation to Scranton City officials on a variety of fiscal and administrative questions and is continuing to monitor the fiscal crisis. The League will project the city's year-end fiscal condition and recommend measures to alleviate the continuing fiscal crisis.

MUNICIPAL FINANCES IN BERKS COUNTY - The League outlined revenue sources, areas of expenditures, and debt limitations of the 75 municipalities in the county. The report highlights the existence of too many uneconomic units of local government and their inability to provide modern governmental services.

MUNICIPAL DEBT LIMITATION - At the request of the State Department of Community Affairs and the Pennsylvania League of Cities, the League outlined procedures by which municipal governments could determine their debt limits and remaining borrowing capacity under proposed implementing legislation. The preliminary data from each city served as input for revisions in the municipal borrowing bill.

FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING - The League prepared a comparative analysis of relevant factors to be considered in federal general revenue sharing and submitted it to the appropriate federal officials. The analysis noted that little recognition of need was evidenced in the proposed distribution schedule and suggested that more relevant factors should be considered in determining the various municipal allocations.

LOCAL TAX EFFORT COMPARISONS - The League is currently working on an analysis of the local tax efforts in 15 Pennsylvania cities and has also prepared comparative data including salaries and fringe benefits, etc. The data are designed to aid in various phases of fiscal and administrative planning and to assist municipal officials in forthcoming wage negotiations.

TAX RATES AND PROPERTY VALUATIONS - Reviews of tax rates and real estate valuations are being prepared in 12 counties within the Division area. Most demonstrate the disparity in fiscal resources among the municipalities within each county and highlight the urgency of the need for governmental reorganization to reduce the number of governments and to broaden the resources needed to provide improved governmental services.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND SERVICES

LANCASTER CITY ORGANIZATION STUDY (Lancaster County) - The League continues its evaluation of the organization and management of Lancaster City government. Extensive analysis has been undertaken of city operations and a series of recommendations are being formulated for submission to city officials.

BETHLEHEM AREA COOPERATION STUDY (Northampton County) - The League has undertaken, in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Committee of the Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce, to determine the ways and means to effect greater efficiency and savings in governmental services in the Bethlehem area through regional cooperation.

POLICE PROTECTION IN BERKS COUNTY - The fifth report in a series deals with municipal police protection - the largest functional area of expenditure. Only 16 of the 75 municipalities maintain protection on a 24-hour basis and few police departments in the county with the exception of Reading's

are sufficiently organized to adequately carry out all protection-related functions. The shortcomings in the protection function underscore the obvious need for reorganization among local governments.

KUTZTOWN BOROUGH ANALYSIS (Berks County) - At the request of Kutztown's Borough Council, the League will undertake an analysis of the borough's fiscal operations.

WELFARE ELIGIBILITY - The League conducted local phases of a statewide study undertaken at the request of a special Senate Committee. The League's examination centers on the policies and procedures for determining the eligibility of those on public welfare, which are largely responsible for the tremendous increases in welfare expenditures in recent years.

NAZARETH AREA CONSOLIDATION (Northampton County) - After jointly indicating an interest in merger or consolidation, public officials in the Nazareth area have requested the League to explore the possibility of a feasibility study.

CONSULTING ACTIVITIES

STRASBURG BOROUGH (Lancaster County) - The PEL staff provided borough officials with data on annexation procedures.

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP (Northampton County) - The League representatives met with township officials on the feasibility of adopting the township manager form of government. The township has since endorsed the plan and has drafted an ordinance implementing the plan.

GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (Berks County) - League staff consulted with members of citizens group concerning a \$6 million school construction project and bond issue being considered by the district.

ACT 511 TAX COLLECTION - The staff met with private wage-tax collector to review the problems involved in collection of Act 511 taxes.

CRESTWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT (Luzerne County) - League staff members met with representatives of the school board and administration relative to various state subsidies for the district's operations.

BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP POLICE (Northampton County) - The League was contacted by township officials concerning the feasibility of expanding police coverage within the municipality. League staff plans to meet with representatives of the township and Governor's Justice Commission.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND SPEECHES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, REGIONAL CONFERENCE - The League staff attended and the Division Director was on the program covering municipal home rule. The director discussed the new opportunities available to all

municipal governments, including counties, through the Home Rule/Optional Plans Law, Act 62.

KINGSTON BOROUGH CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Luzerne County) - League addressed the committee on the need for and methods of governmental reorganization under the recently implemented Article IX.

PLAINS ROTARY CLUB (Luzerne County) - The Division Director spoke on the need for improved accountability and operating results and the need for modernization of municipal governments.

EXECUTIVE SEMINAR, GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE - The Division Director served on the panel of a GAO-sponsored regional seminar for federal executives. His topic was economic development and the roles played by public and private agencies.

STATE DIVISION

TAXES PAID BY INDUSTRY - The report, completed just prior to the end of the previous quarter, demonstrates that, in spite of recent tax relief measures, Pennsylvania's manufacturing tax climate has deteriorated considerably in comparison with other states since 1965. The report stressed that substantial further corporate tax reductions are necessary to restore Pennsylvania's competitive position and to overcome an exceptionally high cost unemployment compensation system.

1972-73 STATE BUDGET - The analysis, released in June, provided timely input dealing principally with the feasibility of providing immediate business or individual tax relief. It concluded that reduction of the Governor's appropriation requests was the most realistic source for tax relief and pointed up the most likely areas for such reductions.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY - The League's study of the policies and procedures for determining the eligibility of recipients of public assistance in Pennsylvania is near completion. With data obtained from interviews and visitations conducted by division and branch personnel, the report will highlight and make recommendations for tightening security at the eligibility "gate" to the public assistance program.

NEW LOCAL DEBT LIMITS - House Bill 1410 recently became Act 185 of 1972, implementing a recent constitutional change in the borrowing base and setting forth new debt limits for all local governments. The new law for the first time places statutory limits upon local authority borrowing to be repaid from general taxes and incorporates many of the recommendations proposed by the League in a recent study.

NEW TAX REFORM COMMITTEE - Early in June, the Governor announced appointment of a 55-member committee to formulate a "specific tax reform package to place before the General Assembly and the voters." More specifically, the committee has been charged with developing a recommended form of graduated

personal income tax and recommendations for business tax relief and reform of the local government tax structure. The League has agreed to serve in a consulting capacity and has been requested to make available its recent studies on industry taxes and local government financing.

RETIREMENT COSTS - The League has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Compensation Commission to conduct a study of certain sections of the state's retirement system.

FACTBOOK UPDATING - The PEL Factbook, originally published in 1970 and updated in 1971, is in the process of being updated for 1972. The factbook makes readily accessible a wide range of statistical data concerning the trends and status of governmental operations and finances at all levels in Pennsylvania.

MASS TRANSIT - The League has been asked to provide staff representation on a Transit District Review Task Force. The creation of the task force serves as a delayed follow-up to the League's 1966 comprehensive study of urban mass transit in Pennsylvania.

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As you are all aware, in June much of the Wilkes-Barre area was devastated by the flood caused by Hurricane Agnes. Although the League's Division office was not physically damaged and the files and library remained intact, the Division Director and three members of the clerical staff suffered total personal property losses.

THE
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