

# ALICE IN LUZERNE COUNTY

## 2017 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 317,343 • **Number of Households:** 126,811

**Median Household Income:** \$51,332 (state average: \$59,195)

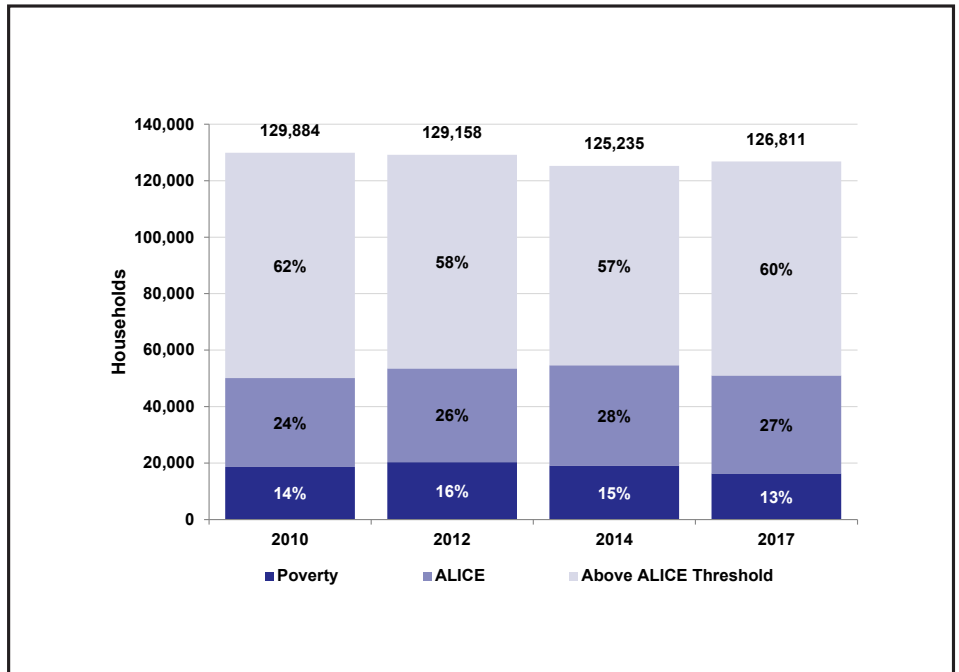
**Unemployment Rate:** 6% (state average: 5.3%)

**ALICE Households:** 27% (state average: 24%) • **Households in Poverty:** 13% (state average: 13%)

## How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

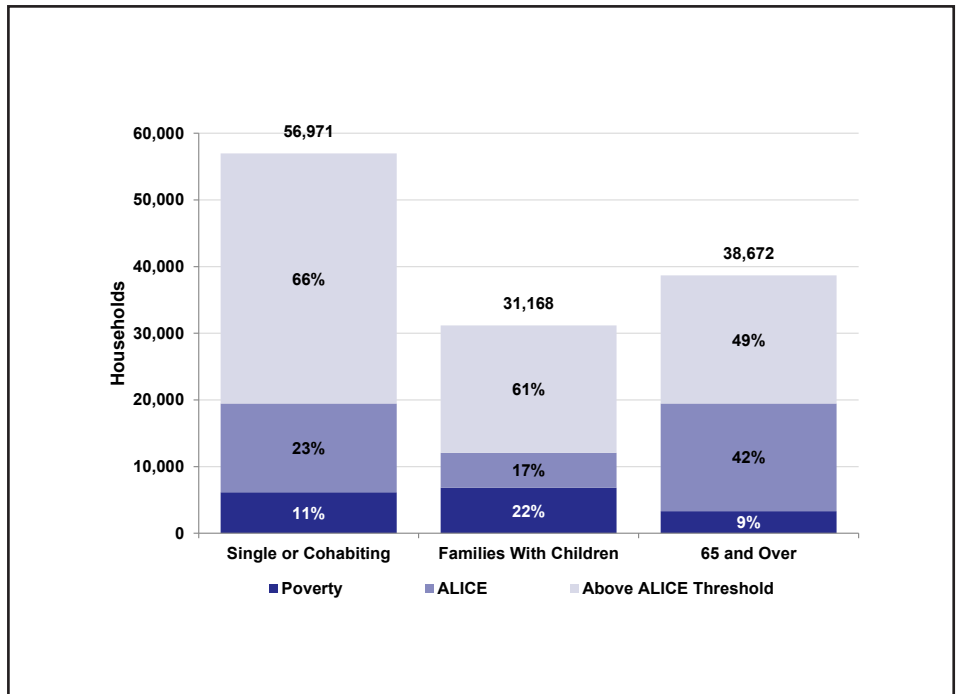
Households by Income, 2010 to 2017



## What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are many different family and living combinations — more than ever before. More adults are living alone, with roommates, or with their parents. Families with children are changing: There are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

Household Types by Income, 2017



# Why do so many households struggle?

## The cost of living continues to increase...

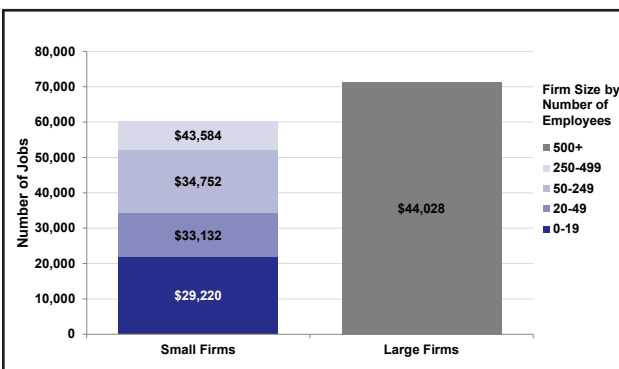
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. Family costs increased by 22 percent statewide from 2010 to 2017.

Household Survival Budget, Luzerne County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$553	\$802
Child Care	\$-	\$1,307
Food	\$199	\$604
Transportation	\$318	\$636
Health Care	\$158	\$635
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$153	\$462
Taxes	\$249	\$559
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,685</b>	<b>\$5,080</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,220</b>	<b>\$60,960</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$10.11</b>	<b>\$30.48</b>

## ...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location and firm size, but across the state, wages are still often less than the cost of the family Household Survival Budget.

## Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size With Average Annual Wages, 2017



Sources: 2017 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey, 2017. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey and the ALICE Threshold, 2017. Wages: BLS, 2017. Budget: BLS, 2017; Consumer Reports, 2017; HUD, 2017; IRS, 2017; Office of Child Development and Early Learning; Tax Foundation 2017, 2018; USDA, 2017.

Luzerne County, 2017		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Ashley Borough	1,145	45%
Avoca Borough	1,065	35%
Bear Creek Township	1,148	23%
Bear Creek Village Borough	111	13%
Black Creek Township	818	40%
Buck Township	149	26%
Butler Township	3,811	27%
Conyngam Borough	839	30%
Conyngam Township	654	38%
Courtdale Borough	280	39%
Dallas Borough	1,129	25%
Dallas Township	3,389	33%
Dennison Township	422	30%
Dorrance Township	854	26%
Dupont Borough	1,071	33%
Duryea Borough	2,109	40%
Edwardsville Borough	1,972	55%
Exeter Borough	2,398	45%
Exeter Township	861	23%
Fairmount Township	556	33%
Fairview Township	1,566	22%
Forty Fort Borough	1,836	35%
Foster Township	1,418	40%
Franklin Township	682	33%
Freeland Borough	1,346	51%
Hanover Township	4,829	50%
Harveys Lake Borough	1,215	25%
Hazle Township	3,926	54%
Hazleton City	8,927	52%
Hollenback Township	484	25%
Hughestown Borough	603	29%
Hunlock Township	915	33%
Huntington Township	782	38%
Jackson Township	872	18%
Jeddo Borough	108	15%
Jenkins Township	1,906	48%
Kingston Borough	5,961	44%
Kingston Township	2,756	27%
Lafin Borough	633	26%
Lake Township	810	28%
Larksville Borough	1,863	40%
Laurel Run Borough	243	47%
Lehman Township	1,364	27%
Luzerne Borough	1,418	53%
Nanticoke City	4,585	55%
Nescopeck Borough	683	53%
Nescopeck Township	467	33%
Newport Township	1,704	43%
Nuagola Borough	321	25%
Penn Lake Park Borough	115	18%
Pittston City	3,481	58%
Pittston Township	1,364	28%
Plains Township	4,357	38%

Luzerne County, 2017		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Plymouth Borough	2,566	59%
Plymouth Township	720	30%
Pringle Borough	422	46%
Rice Township	1,346	22%
Ross Township	1,215	35%
Salem Township	1,763	36%
Shickshinny Borough	303	59%
Slocum Township	426	35%
Sugar Notch Borough	359	49%
Sugarloaf Township	1,455	27%
Swoyersville Borough	2,128	30%
Union Township	807	32%
Warrior Run Borough	250	46%
West Hazleton Borough	1,720	55%
West Pittston Borough	2,061	41%
West Wyoming Borough	1,132	37%
White Haven Borough	499	39%
Wilkes-Barre City	15,514	58%
Wilkes-Barre Township	1,285	43%
Wright Township	2,176	27%
Wyoming Borough	1,455	49%
Yatesville Borough	237	32%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for County Subdivisions. Municipal-level data relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest Towns. Since there are missing geographies, totals will not match county-level numbers.