



A Resource for Businesses along the Great Allegheny Passage

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Trail Impact Fact Sheet

Economic Research

- Four studies conducted from 1998-2009
 - 1998 baseline economic impact study
 - 2002 economic impact study
 - 2006 trail user survey
 - 2007-08 economic impact study
- Annual direct spending attributed to Great Allegheny Passage trail user spending
 - \$40.8 million in 2008
 - Up from \$7.26 million in 2002
- Total annual wages attributed to trail user spending: \$7.5 million
- 35% of overnight visitors earn an annual household income of over \$100,000.
 - Just 6% of local users earn the same amount
- Overnight visitors spend an average of \$98 a day in trail communities.
 - Local trail users spend an average of just \$13 each trail use.
- An estimated 800,000 trips are taken annually on the GAP.

Business Activity, 2007-2011

- 70 new trail-related businesses opened in the Trail Towns since 2007. There were 25 business closings during the same period, resulting in a net gain of 45 new businesses.
 - 89 new jobs (net, Full Time Equivalent) were created
 - 77% of the new businesses remain in operation
- 14 businesses expanded operations and five changed hands during this period.
- The Progress Fund provided loans to 20% of new and expanded businesses during this period.
 - \$3.4 million in loans leveraged another \$1.3 million in private investment
 - 100% of the borrowing businesses remain in operation.