



Creating Opportunities Along the Nation's Trails

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Economic Impact of Regional Trails

Great Allegheny Passage (from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD) – 150 Miles

6 studies/surveys completed between 1998-2015 by Trail Town Program® and partners

Estimated Trail Usage: 940,000 (2013)

Estimated Overall Direct Economic Impact: \$50 Million (2012)

Average Day User Spends: \$18 per day (2014)

Average Overnight Guest Spends: \$124 per night (2014)

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (from Titusville to Parker) – 62 Miles

Completed by the Rails to Trails Conservancy (2013)

Estimated Trail Usage: 159,000

Overall Economic Impact: \$7.48 Million

Average Day User Spends: \$21 per day

Average Overnight Guest Spends: \$80 per night

Ghost Town Trail, part of the Trans-Allegheny Trails (from Blacklick to Ebensburg) – 36 Miles

Completed by the Rails to Trails Conservancy (2009)

Estimated Trail Usage: 76,000

Overall Economic Impact: \$1.7 Million

Average Day User Spends: \$13 per day

Average Overnight Guest Spends: \$78 per night

Business Activity and Impact of the Great Allegheny Passage, 2007-2015

- 123 new trail-related businesses opened in the Trail Towns since 2007. There were 64 business closings during the same period, resulting in a net gain of 59 new businesses.
 - 212+ new jobs (net) were created
 - 78% of the new businesses remain in operation
- 26 businesses expanded operations and 15 changed hands during this period.
- Estimated Sales Related to Trail Traffic:
 - 2008: 25%, 2012: 30%, 2013: 34%, 2014: 40%
- The Progress Fund provided loans to 29 new and expanded businesses during this period.
 - \$6.7 million in loans leveraged another \$1.4 million in private investment
 - 100% of the borrowing businesses remain in operation

Business Impact of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, 2014 Sample Survey

- 61% of businesses plan to expand in 2015, with 70% saying it was related to the trail
- Estimated Sales Related to Trail Traffic:
 - 2013: 10%, 2014: 19%

For complete economic impact reports and related studies visit:

www.trailtowns.org/1studies

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