

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Borough of Etna, Allegheny County

REGIONAL SETTING

(Etna Borough Web Site and Borough Proposal)

The Borough of Etna is a small mixed use community covering approximately one square mile along the banks of the Allegheny River. It is bordered by West Little Pine Creek, Pine Creek, Shaler Township and the Borough of Sharpsburg. Centrally located in Allegheny County, Etna is just 10 minutes (non-rush hour) from downtown Pittsburgh and close for easy access to the shopping centers in North Hills, Fox Chapel, and Monroeville, the cultural opportunities in Oakland and North Side, and the nine local Colleges and Universities. As a mixed use community, there are a number of residential neighborhoods, an Industrial Park and two commercial districts. Etna has an approximate population of 3,924.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Allegheny County

(Team Pennsylvania Foundation Web Site)

Allegheny County is the home to 139 municipalities and the history of Etna (as well as its future) is closely tied to history of Allegheny County. The County was once the steelmaking capital of the world; a position which has eroded with economic changes. Now only about 4 percent of the labor force is employed in primary and fabricated metals. Currently, however, the economic base of the County is health care, education, high technology, light manufacturing, professional services along with retail and wholesale trade. Employment for some Etna residents is found in these industries. Allegheny County is considered an international leader in the fields of chemical, plastic and nuclear research. Nearly 1,000 high technology companies are located in the Greater Pittsburgh area. Filmmakers have chosen the area for moviemaking because of varied topography, unique architecture, strong ethnic neighborhoods, cooperative government officials, low costs and friendly environment. The Pittsburgh International Airport is the largest airport complex built since the construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth airport in 1974. The airport is dubbed the “airport of the future” because of its advanced operational functions and built-in expansion capabilities. Allegheny County has more than 50 hospitals, many of which are recognized nationally as high-quality medical research and teaching hospitals, including a leadership position in organ transplantation. The health care industry is one of the County’s economic strengths; providing also employment for county residents.

The County houses many local performing groups, orchestras, such as the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Ballet Theater and the Civic Light Opera. The region also maintains more than 100 art galleries, historical landmarks and museums including the Carnegie’s

Museum of National History, Art Museum, Music Hall, Library and Science Center, the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Pittsburgh Aviary. The Three Rivers Regatta, The Three Rivers Arts Festival and the Pittsburgh Marathon are major cultural and recreational events; attracting thousands of residents throughout the County.

Etna

(Taken from the Community's own profile)

The Borough of Etna was incorporated in September of 1868. In the early years, Etna was primarily a steel mill town. C.F. Spang started the Spang Company on the banks of Pine Creek in 1828, manufacturing items for settlers such as the wood pipe being used then. This innovation marked the beginning of a flourishing industry that would span more than a century. In 1856, John W. Chalfant joined the firm and the company became known as Spang, Chalfant and Company. This company, along with Isabella Furnace played an important role in the growth and character of the town. Many immigrants from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland, and the Ukraine migrated to Etna with the promise of work. The community flourished for many years until the late 1950s.

In 1957, a major bypass was completed (Route 28) which caused several hundred homes to be demolished. At this time, many families migrated to the suburbs and Etna's population began to decline. The Borough's economic situation worsened when both the National Supply and Carnegie Steel (formerly Isabella Furnace and Spang Chalfant) closed their doors in the early 1960s.

In 1980, the Borough began a major redevelopment program. This program was undertaken by the Etna Civic Association. In the late 1990s, the Borough Council saw a steady decline in the business district, due to nearby shopping malls. Against the backdrop of these developments, a Community Forum was held in January of 2000, and after several years of community meetings, the Etna Economic Development Corporation was formed. The Borough's Enterprise Zone was created, and included areas of industrial blight for redevelopment of old industrial sites. The Borough has also entered into a formal agreement with the communities of Shaler and Hampton Townships and the Northern Allegheny Chamber of Commerce for development of the Route 8 corridor from the Etna Borough line out to the Hampton Township border.

Etna has undergone two major floods in 1986 and 2004. Efforts are currently being undertaken by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers to help diminish the damage to Etna Borough from future floods. During the 2004 flood, four hundred homes and fifty businesses sustained major flood damage.

The last Comprehensive Plan for Etna was undertaken over twenty-five years ago (1981) and is regarded as outdated. The Borough's BCI profile cites several major attractions or strengths, which include its close proximity to major highways (several of which are undergoing improvements), quick access to the City of Pittsburgh, the availability of affordable housing, and its several recreational amenities. The Borough's location has

become an increasingly attractive site for businesses seeking to relocate. On down side, however, is the increasing number of former owner occupied homes which are being converted to rental units; with the corresponding decline in the maintenance of these properties.

DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to enable an assessment of the present and future needs of Etna Borough and its residents, a broad analysis of demographic factors is presented in this profile. Reviewing population trends and estimates, age distribution, and employment enables the Borough to better understand the needs and concerns of the community. This examination also helps to enable planning to occur relative to, for example, the amount and type of services that may be required. The data also provides an understanding of the Borough's future position within the County. All following data used in the profile is extracted from 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census. (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau).

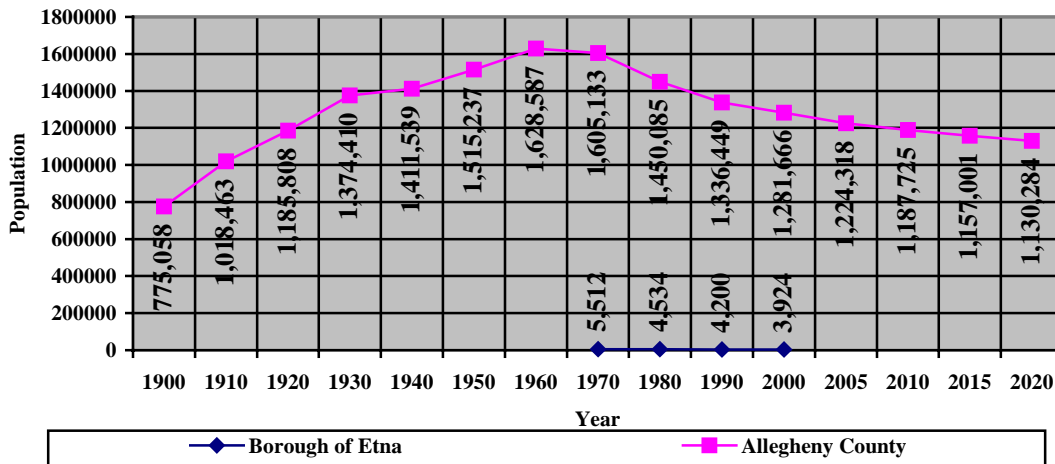
Population

Trends and Forecasts

Over the past hundred years Allegheny County's population and the Borough of Etna's have changed significantly. These changes have followed the same pattern as many other metropolitan areas in the United States. Allegheny County's population grew steadily, peaking in the 1960s. From 1900 to 1950, Allegheny County's population increased 48.8 percent. Starting in the 1970's, Allegheny County's population began to decrease as the population sprawled to suburbia past the county borders. From 1970 to 2000, there was a population decrease of 25.2% in Allegheny County's population. Currently Allegheny County's population is predicted to decrease another 13.4% from 2000 to 2020.

Similarly, Etna's population has declined over the past thirty years. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Etna decreased by 40.5%, from 5,512 to 3,942. (See figure 2-1 – Population Trends and Forecasts). What cannot be determined, however, is the extent to which the forecasted future decline in the population in Allegheny County will characterize Etna as well.

Figure 2-1 - POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS



Racial Composition

Etna is a predominantly White populated community, with very little change over the past twenty years, except for a small decrease of 1.5 percent in the White population and a .05% increase in the Black population since 1980, compared to a 2% increase in the Black population of Allegheny County from 1980 to 2000. In terms of Latino and others, there has been a net increase of .06% in Etna, compared to a 3.1% increase in the Latino and other populations in Allegheny County

TABLE 2-1
RACIAL COMPOSITION, 1980-2000

	White	Black	Latino	Other
Borough of Etna				
1980%	98.0%	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%
1990%	98.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%
2000%	96.5%	0.7%	1.2%	1.3%
Percent Change 1980-2000	-1.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%
Allegheny County				
1980%	88.3%	10.3%	0.6%	0.8%
1990%	86.6%	11.0%	0.6%	1.7%
2000%	83.8%	12.3%	3.0%	0.1%
Percent Change 1980-2000	-4.5%	2.0%	2.4%	-0.7%

Age Distribution

The age distribution of a community can suggest the levels of service and infrastructure necessary to meet the future needs of the various age groups. It can help to forecast future educational, recreational, and elderly facilities that may be needed. Table 2-2 compares the age distribution of Etna and Allegheny County between 1990 and 2000. Based upon the aggregate data, the age distribution of the population of Etna and Allegheny County has remained fairly stable, with little evidence of any dramatic shifts from 1990 and 2000. However, when those in the age range of 20-44 is taken into consideration, this cohort is larger (37.4%) in Etna than in Allegheny County as a whole (24.3%). Relative to those 60 years of age or older in Etna, data for 2000 show only a slight increase of approximately 1% since 1990; an increase slightly lower than the County as a whole. The 2000 median age of Etna's population was 38.6; only slightly higher than the median age in Pennsylvania (32.1).

**TABLE 2-2
AGE DISTRIBUTION, 1990 AND 2000**

	Borough of Etna					Allegheny County				
	1990 Pop.	Percent of Pop.	2000 Pop.	Percent of Pop.	Percent Change	1990 Pop.	Percent of Pop.	2000 Pop.	Percent of Pop.	Percent Change
00-04	281	6.76.7	207	5.3	-1.4	84,113	6.3	71,081	5.5	-0.8
05-09	267	6.4	243	6.2	-0.2	80,090	6.0	79,385	6.2	0.2
10-14	234	5.6	264	6.7	1.1	73,684	5.5	82,688	6.5	1.0
15-19	235	5.6	261	6.7	1.1	81,420	6.1	81,721	6.4	0.3
20-24	232	5.5	224	5.7	0.2	92,746	6.9	75,792	5.9	-1.0
25-34	741	17.7	540	13.7	-4.0	220,125	16	161,277	12.6	-3.4
35-44	610	14.5	704	18.0	3.5	196,559	15	201,974	5.8	-9.2
45-54	358	8.5	518	13.2	4.7	133,938	10	181,542	14.2	4.2
55-59	194	4.6	164	4.2	-0.4	64,860	4.9	63,512	5.0	0.1
60-64	236	5.6	127	3.2	-2.4	76,963	5.8	4,278	4.2	-1.6
65-74	227	5.4	321	8.2	2.8	137,054	10	112,549	8.8	-1.2
75-84	301	7.2	274	7.0	-0.2	74,238	6.0	87,724	6.8	0.8
85+	60	1.4	77	2.0	0.6	20,619	1.5	28,143	2.2	0.7
Total	4,200	100	3,924	100		1,336,449	100	1,281,666	100	

Economics

Income and Education

The U.S. Census Bureau records income in two categories. Household income is defined as the yearly earnings of a group of unrelated people or one person living alone. Family income comprises a group of two or more people residing together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. As more residents obtain diplomas and degrees, their income earning potential improves, creating a direct positive correlation between the two. Although Table 2-3 shows that educational attainment has increased in Etna in every category over the past two decades, the percent of those in 2000 with college degrees or higher (20.8) is considerably lower than in Allegheny County as a whole (39.3%).

While Etna has exceeded the percent increase (59.2%) in median family income compared to Allegheny County as a whole (56.6%) over the two decades, the dollar gap in median income between Etna and Allegheny County has widened over the same period from \$4,689 to \$8,238 in 2000. Compared to the Commonwealth of PA as a whole, the median household income in Etna at \$31,529 is considerably below the State's which in 2000 was \$40,106.

In term of poverty, 7.4 percent of Etna families fall below the poverty level; a rate slightly below Pennsylvania (7.8%) and below the national poverty rate of 9.2 percent.

**TABLE 2-3
INCOME AND EDUCATION, 1980-2000**

Income and Education	Etna	Allegheny County
1980		
Median Household Income	\$13,734	\$17,944
Median Family Income	\$16,954	\$21,643
NO DEGREE	47.8%	31.0%
High School Graduate	40.1%	40.4%
Some higher education	6.9%	12.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5.2%	16.5%
Graduate or Professional Degree	n/a	n/a
1990		
Median Household Income	\$24,850	\$28,136
Median Family Income	\$29,786	\$35,338
NO DEGREE	28.6%	35.7%
High School Graduate	44.5%	36.0%
Some higher education	16.7%	15.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10.1%	23.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	4.1%	9.0%
2000		
Median Household Income	\$31,529	\$38,329
Median Family Income	\$41,577	\$49,815
NO DEGREE	17.0%	30.7%
High School Graduate	42.1%	33.9%
Some higher education	24.2%	52.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.8%	28.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	4.0%	11.0%
Percent Change from 1980-2000		
Median Household Income	56.4%	53.2%
Median Family Income	59.2%	56.6%
NO DEGREE	-5.7%	-0.3%
High School Graduate	2.0%	-6.5%
Some higher education	17.3%	40.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11.6%	11.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	n/a	n/a

Employment

Based upon the analysis of Table 2-4, several employment characteristics are evident. In 2000, the percent of Etna's population that is in the labor force increased by 11.8% from 1980. Significantly, the data indicates that the average unemployment rate in Etna of 2.1 percent over the past ten years (1990-2000) was considerably lower than the County average of 3.7 percent. In 2000, the percent of unemployment in Etna was less than 2%;

a rate suggestive of almost “full employment” of those actively in the labor force. What these statistics do not know show, however, are those who may have “dropped out” of the labor market and who are no longer actively seeking employment.

**TABLE 2-4
EMPLOYMENT, 1980-2000**

	Etna		Allegheny County	
	No. of Persons	%	No. of Persons	%
1980				
Persons 16 years and Over	3,688	100.0%	1,155,409	100.0%
In labor Force	1,959	53.1%	665,467	57.6%
Civilian Labor Force	1,959	53.1%	664,678	57.5%
Employed	1,782	48.3%	617,018	53.4%
Unemployed	177	4.8%	47,660	4.1%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%	789	0.0%
Not in Labor Force	1,729	46.9%	489,942	42.4%
1990				
Persons 16 years and Over	3,386	100.0%	1,084,508	100.0%
In labor Force	2,044	60.4%	647,028	59.7%
Civilian Labor Force	2,044	60.4%	645,399	59.5%
Employed	1,959	57.6%	604,923	55.8%
Unemployed	85	2.5%	40,476	3.7%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%	1,629	0.2%
Not in Labor Force	1,342	39.6%	437,480	40.3%
2000				
Persons 16 years and Over	3,148	100.0%	1,032,364	100.0%
In labor Force	2,044	64.9%	630,964	61.1%
Civilian Labor Force	2,044	64.9%	630,293	61.1%
Employed	1,986	63.1%	591,905	57.3%
Unemployed	58	1.8%	38,388	3.7%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%	671	0.1%
Not in Labor Force	1,104	35.1%	401,400	38.9%
Percent Change from 1980-2000				
Persons 16 years and Over	-17.2%	n/a	-11.9%	n/a
In labor Force	11.8%	n/a	3.6%	n/a
Civilian Labor Force	11.8%	n/a	3.6%	n/a
Employed	14.8%	n/a	3.9%	n/a
Unemployed	-3.0%	n/a	-0.4%	n/a
Armed Forces	0.0%	n/a	0.1%	n/a
Not in Labor Force	-11.8%	n/a	-3.5%	n/a

Housing and Real Estate

Not unlike many older urban areas in Allegheny County, the proportion of housing 30 years or older (92.4%) in Etna is high, indicating that there has been relatively little new housing built in the last ten years. (See figure 2-2) The data further suggests that the level of occupancy of existing housing has remained fairly constant at around 90% over the past two decades. What is not known, however, is the quality of the occupied housing units. It is also significant that over the past decade, the number of units valued at over \$100,000 has increased by 6.7%; a characteristic that might reflect the general increasing value of housing in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. (See figure 2-3). On the other hand, the housing market analysis of the Borough as whole suggests that real estate values may be more depressed than in the County as a whole. While the exact level of affordability of rental housing cannot be fully determined, the data indicates that approximately 38.8% of the families spend 30 percent (the generally accepted threshold of affordability) or more of their household income for rent.

Figure 2-2 - AGE OF STRUCTURE, 1990 AND 2000

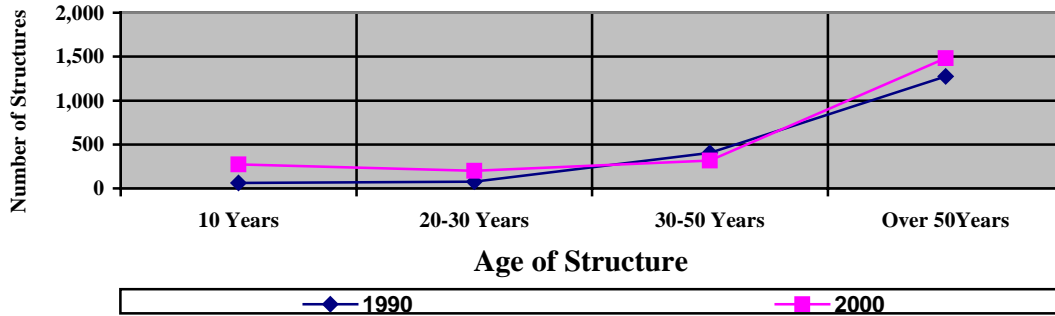


Figure 2-3 - VALUE OF STRUCTURE, 1990 AND 2000

