

# ALICE IN LEHIGH COUNTY

## 2017 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 366,494 • **Number of Households:** 139,466

**Median Household Income:** \$60,871 (state average: \$59,195)

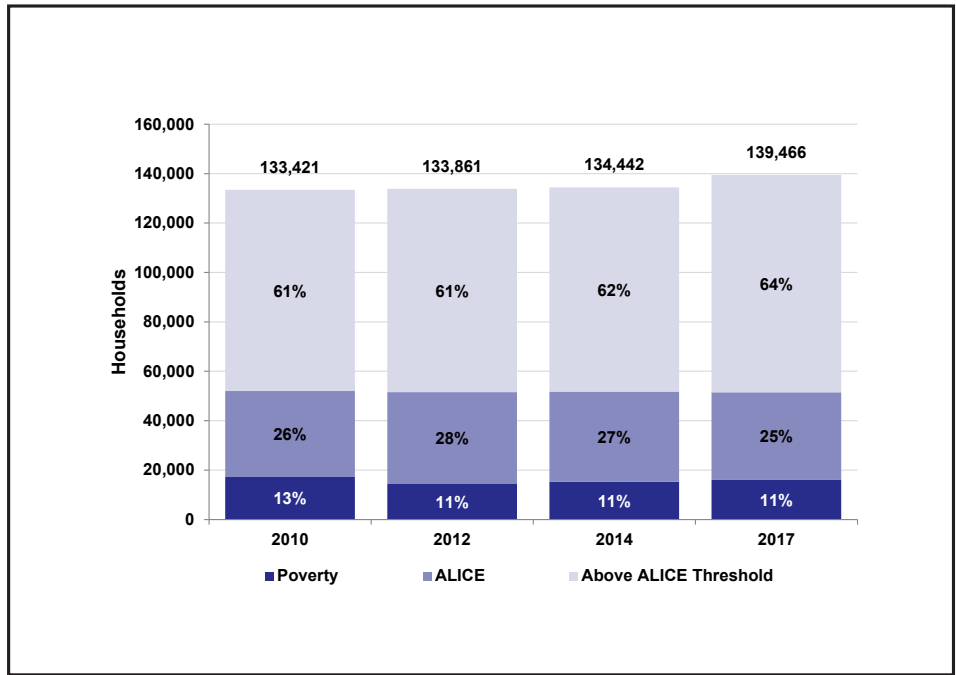
**Unemployment Rate:** 6% (state average: 5.3%)

**ALICE Households:** 25% (state average: 24%) • **Households in Poverty:** 11% (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.

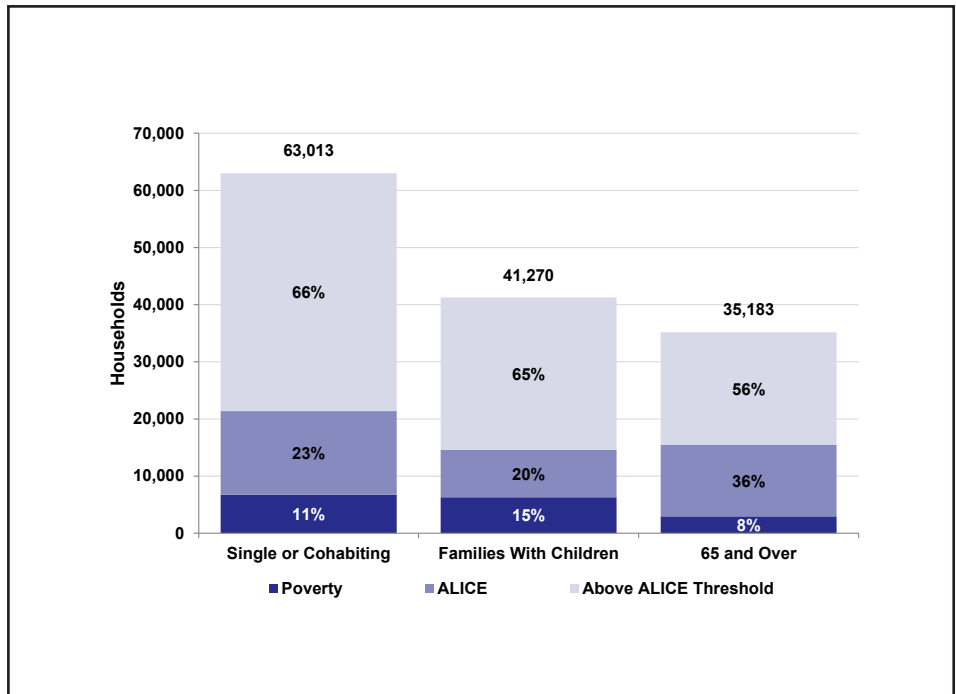
Households by Income, 2010 to 2017



## 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...

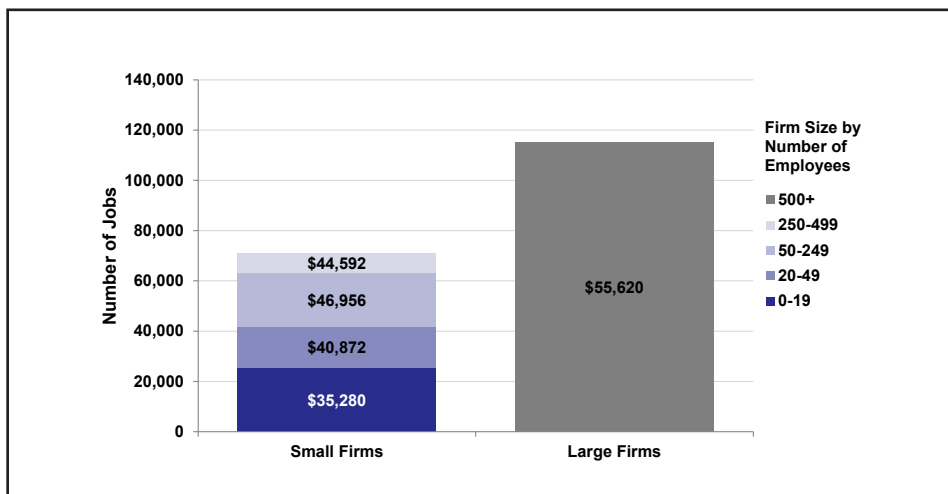
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2017, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,060 for a single adult and \$24,600 for a family of four. Family costs increased by 22 percent statewide from 2010 to 2017, compared to 12 percent inflation nationally.

Household Survival Budget, Lehigh County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$659	\$1,038
Child Care	\$-	\$1,286
Food	\$199	\$604
Transportation	\$318	\$636
Health Care	\$158	\$635
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$167	\$491
Taxes	\$284	\$635
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,840</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,080</b>	<b>\$64,800</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$11.04</b>	<b>\$32.40</b>

## ...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location; firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size: Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

## 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.

Lehigh County, 2017		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Alburtis Borough	932	23%
Allentown City	41,935	58%
Bethlehem City	8,529	44%
Catasauqua Borough	2,736	41%
Coopersburg Borough	940	44%
Coplay Borough	1,446	43%
Emmaus Borough	4,978	39%
Fountain Hill Borough	2,032	55%
Hanover Township	717	34%
Heidelberg Township	1,306	27%
Lower Macungie Township	12,457	22%
Lower Milford Township	1,434	19%
Lowhill Township	813	18%
Lynn Township	1,684	25%
Macungie Borough	1,385	34%
North Whitehall Township	6,193	24%
Salisbury Township	5,360	29%
Slatington Borough	1,822	46%
South Whitehall Township	7,576	23%
Upper Macungie Township	8,840	18%
Upper Milford Township	2,951	21%
Upper Saucon Township	5,547	18%
Washington Township	2,751	37%
Weisenberg Township	1,892	19%
Whitehall Township	10,983	37%

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.