



## 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 700,000 trips are taken annually on the GAP.

## Business Activity, 2007-2010

- 61 new trail-related businesses opened in the Trail Towns since 2007. There were 19 business closings during the same period, resulting in a net gain of 42 new businesses.
  - 83 new jobs (net) were created
  - 77% of the new businesses remain in operation
- 12 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.
  - \$2.7 million in loans leveraged an additional \$4 million in private business owner investment.
  - 100% of the borrowing businesses remain in operation.

*The Trail Town Program® is an initiative of The Progress Fund that was developed in conjunction with the Allegheny Trail Alliance and other key partners. Sign up to receive Trail Town News Blasts at [www.trailtowns.org](http://www.trailtowns.org).*

Contact: Amy Camp, Trail Town Program Manager  
(724) 216-9160 - [acamp@progressfund.org](mailto:acamp@progressfund.org)