# Beaver County Data Analysis: **2026 Update**

***Wednesday, July 8, 1 PM ET***

*Register: bit.ly/beaver-county-2026-update*

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Three years since the Shell ethane cracker started operations, **Beaver County has lost ground by nearly every measure of economic health.**

It continues to fall behind Pennsylvania, neighboring counties, and the nation in key metrics.

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# Milestones

- 2012: Shell announces it will construct an ethane cracker in Beaver County.
- 2015: groundbreaking at the site
- 2016: Shell announces final investment decision.
- 2017: major construction begins
- 2022: the facility becomes operational

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# Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

**GDP Dashboard**

**Real GDP (2012-2024):**

Beaver: -16.35%

Pennsylvania: +16.58%

US: +33.91%

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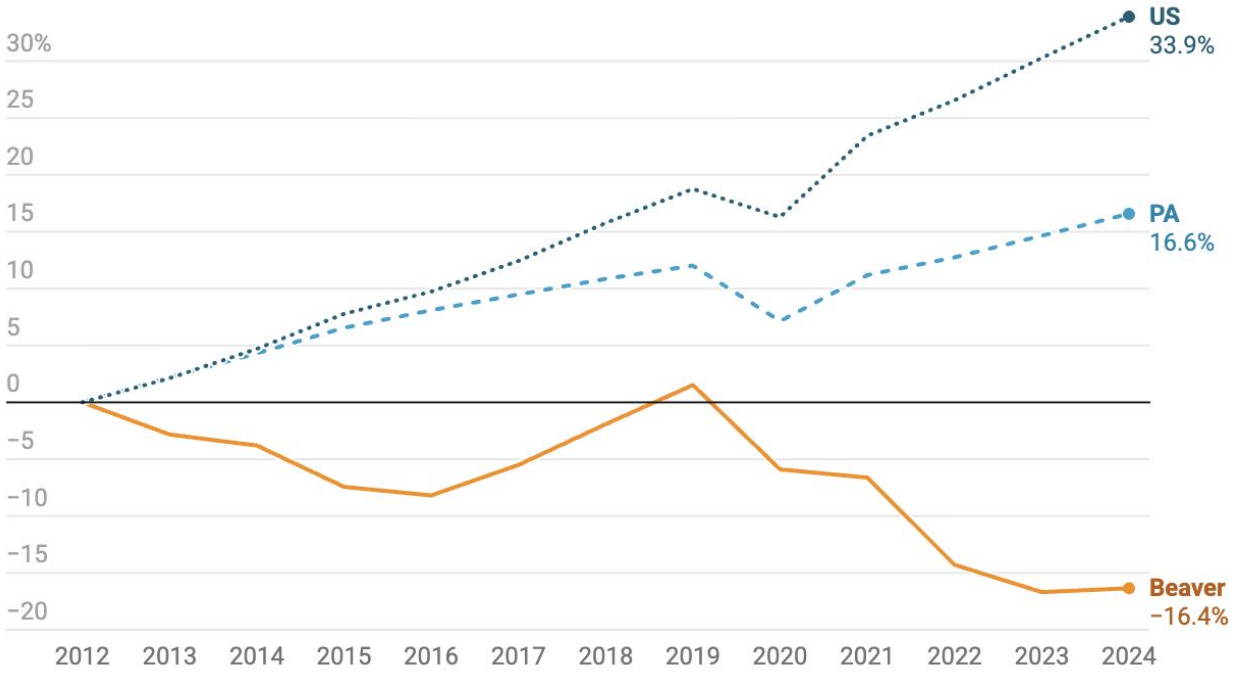
## Figure 1: Beaver County GDP Declined as State and National GDP Grew Consistently

*Percent change in real GDP, 2012-2024*




Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

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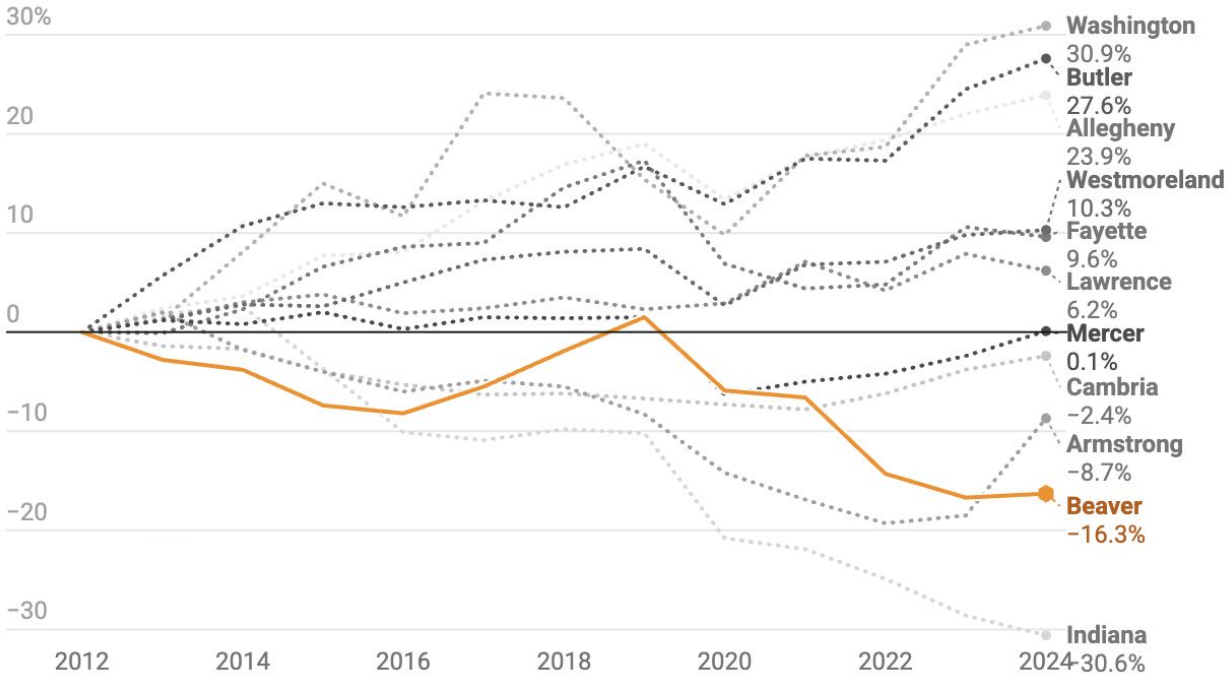
## Figure 2: Beaver County GDP Underperforms Neighboring Counties in Western PA

*Percent change in real GDP, 2012-2024*




Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

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# Population

**Population Dashboard**

**Population (2012-2024):**

Beaver: -2.76%

Pennsylvania: +2.47%

US: +8.35%

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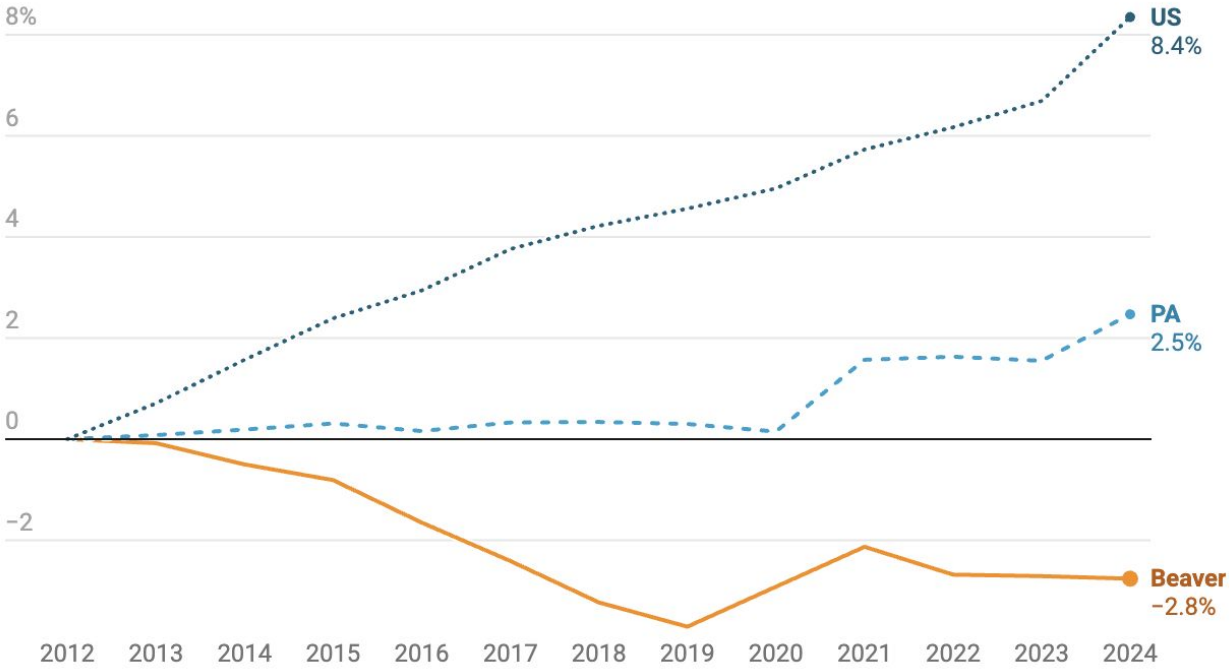
## Figure 3: Beaver County Saw Population Decline While Pennsylvania, US Saw Growth

*Percent change in population, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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# Employment

**Employment Dashboard**

**QCEW (2012-2025):**

- Beaver: -11.25%
- Pennsylvania: +8.50%
- US: +18.22%

**LAUS (2012-2025):**

- Beaver: -1.85%
- Pennsylvania: +4.81%
- US: +14.75%

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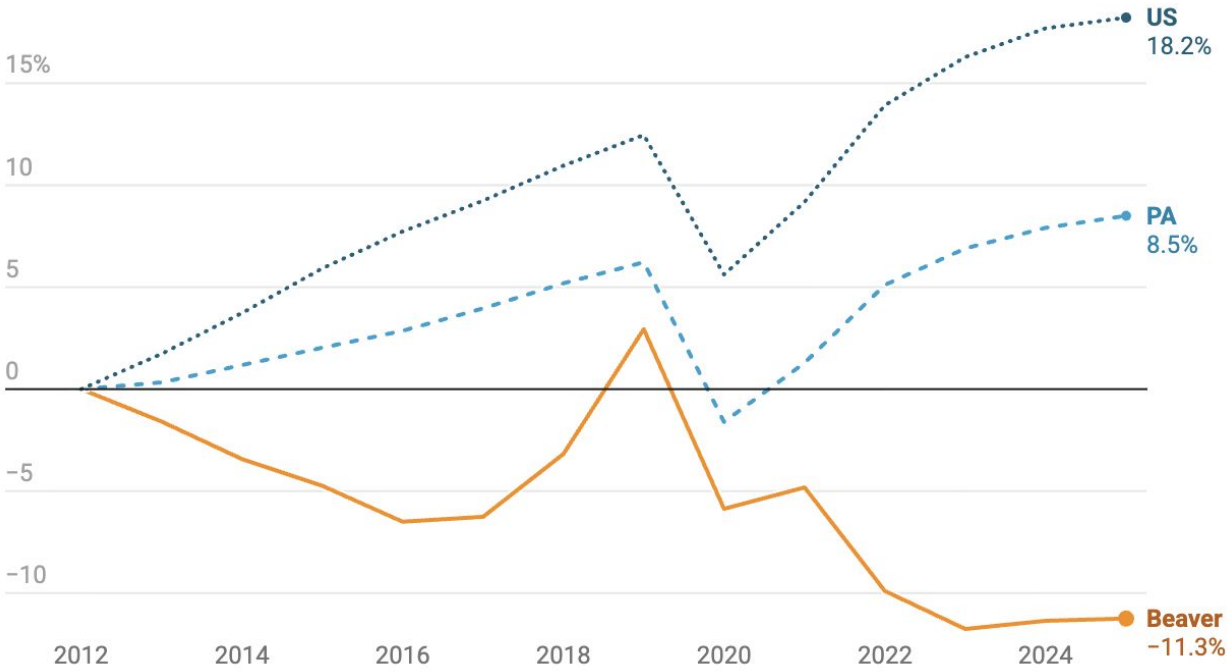
## Figure 4: Beaver County Employment Fell While Pennsylvania, US Saw Significant Gains

*Percent change in employment (QCEW), 2012-2025*




Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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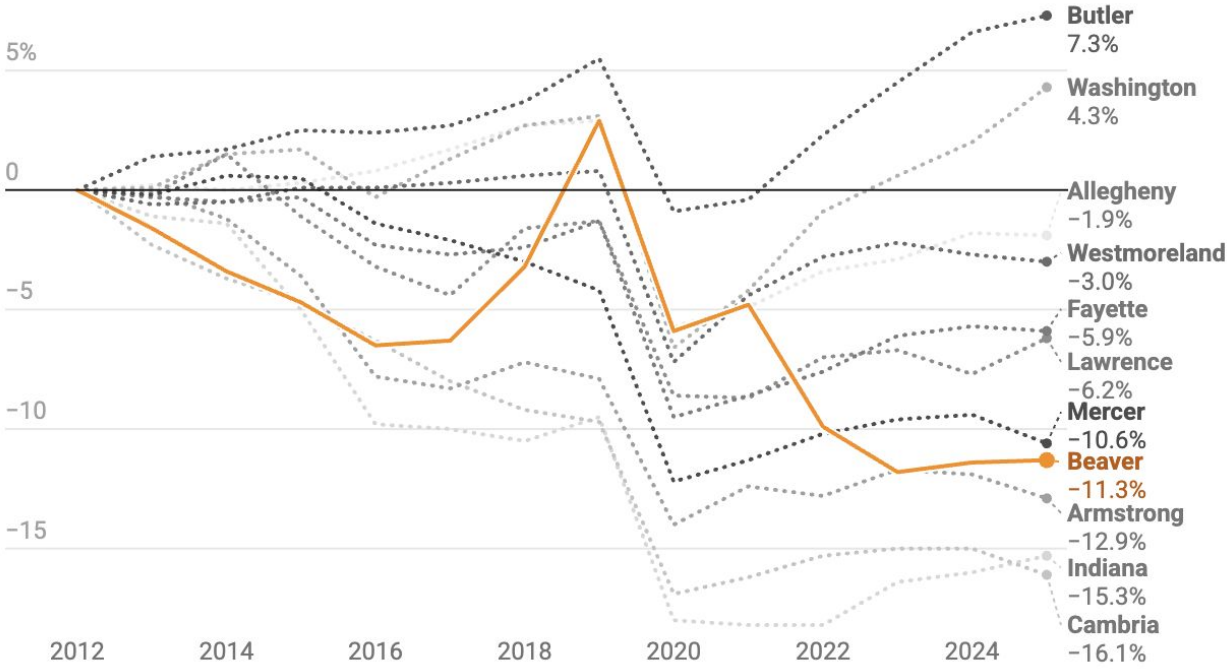
## Figure 5: Federal Jobs Numbers Show Beaver County Trailed Neighboring PA Counties

*Percent change in employment, 2012-2025*




Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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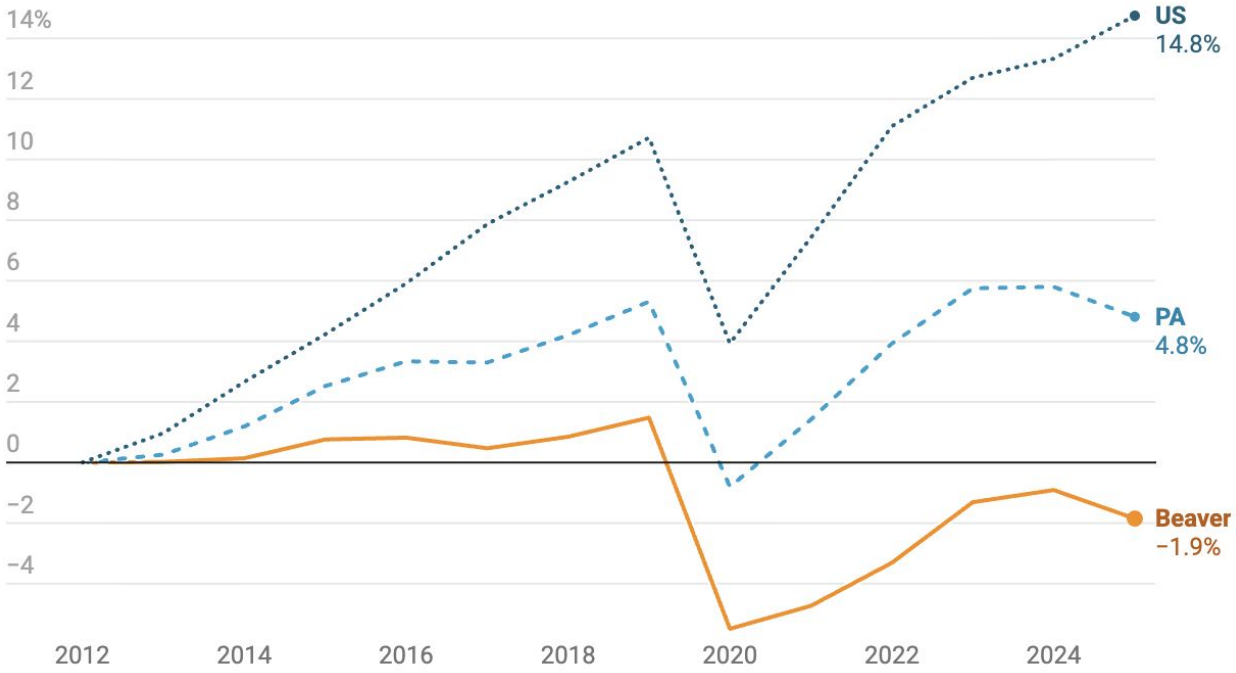
## Figure 6: Beaver County Job Growth Did Not Keep Pace With Pennsylvania and the US

*Percent change in employment, 2012-2025*




Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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# Business Firms & Establishments

**Businesses Dashboard**

**SUSB Firms (2012-2022):**

Beaver: -3.32%
Pennsylvania: +2.36%
US: +11.69%

**SUSB Establishments (2012-2022):**

Beaver: -1.94%
Pennsylvania: +3.64%
US: +11.66%

**QCEW Establishments (2012-2025):**

Beaver: -4.00%
Pennsylvania: +12.50%
US: +34.20%

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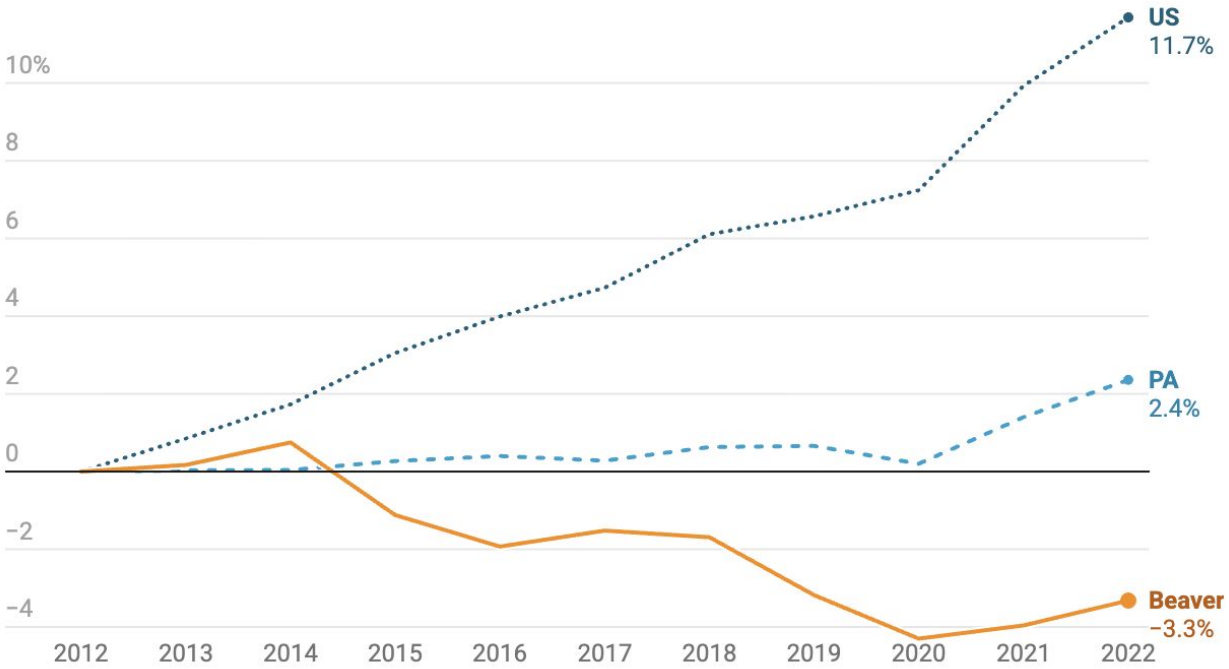
## Figure 7: Beaver County Lost Businesses Despite Statewide and National Growth

*Percent change in number of firms, 2012-2022*




Source: US Census Bureau, Statistics of US Businesses

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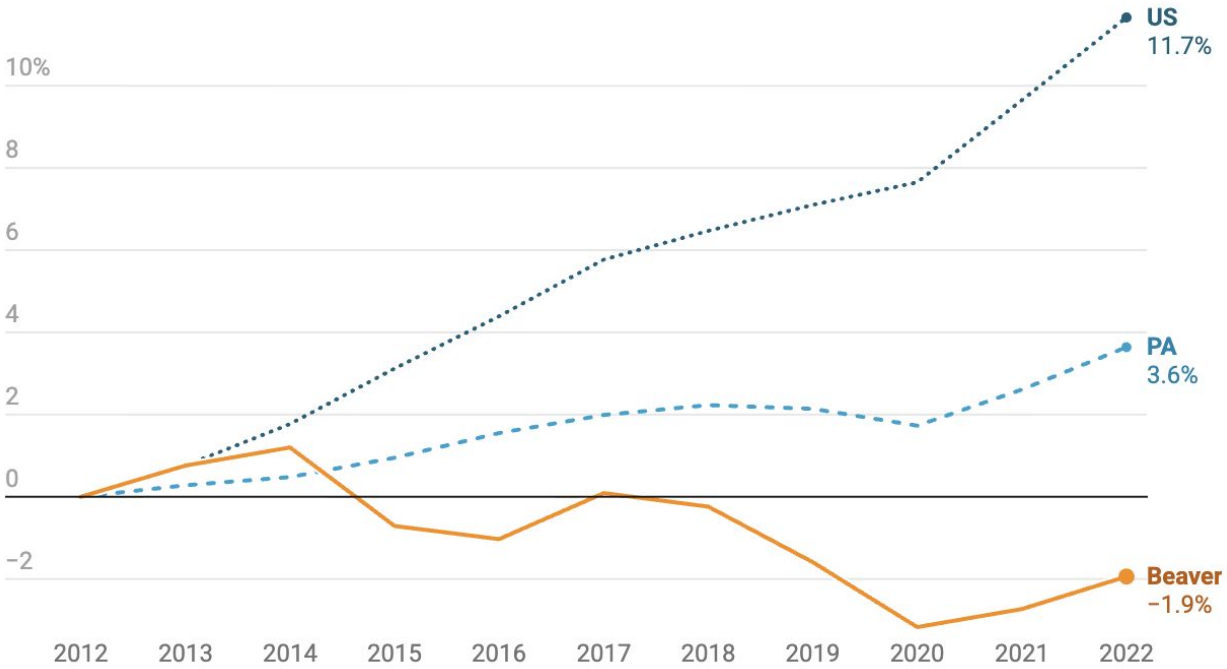
## Figure 8: Federal Business Data Shows Decade-Long Decline in Beaver Business Numbers

*Percent change in number of establishments, 2012-2022*




Source: US Census Bureau, Statistics of US Businesses

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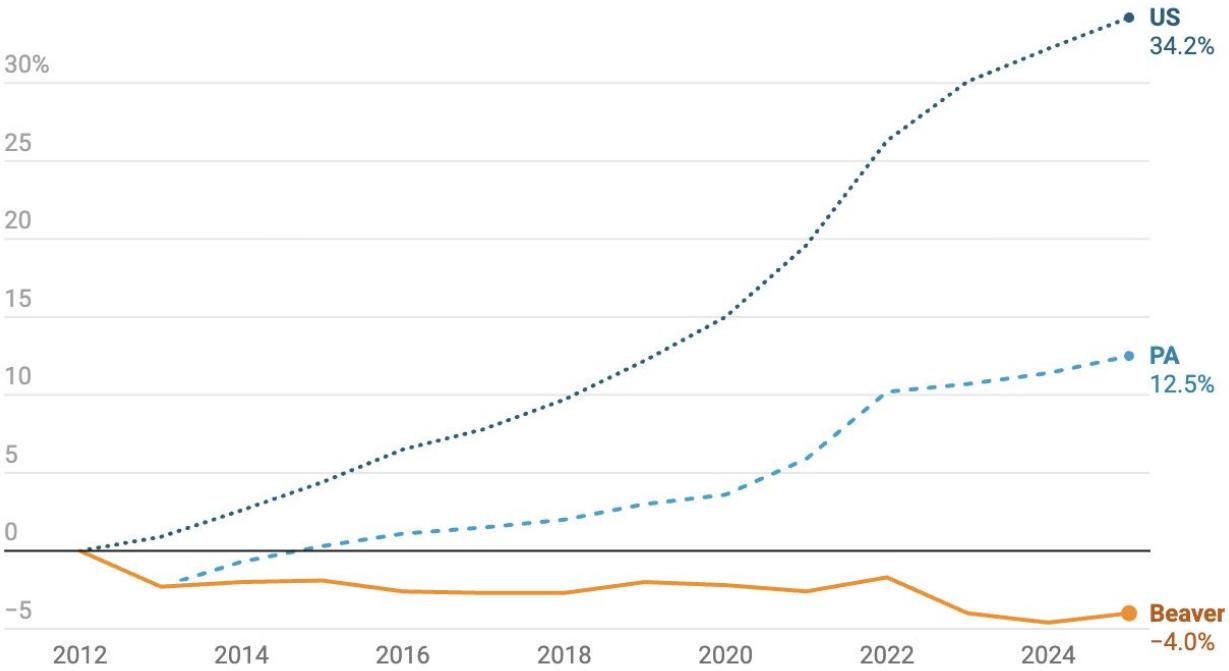
## Figure 9: Beaver County Loses Businesses, Despite State and National Increases

*Percent change in number of establishments, 2012-2025*




Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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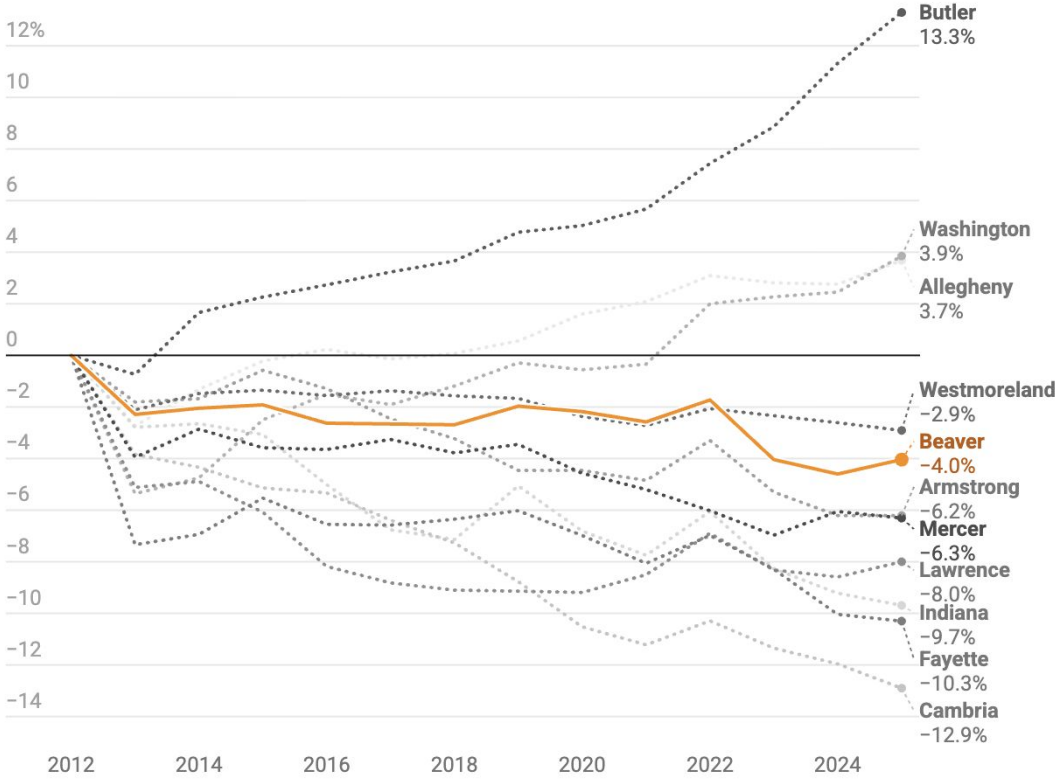
## Figure 10: Comparing Number of Business Establishments (QCEW) Across Western PA

*Percent change in number of establishments, 2012-2025*




Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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# Poverty & Child Poverty

**Poverty Dashboard**

**SAIPE Poverty Rate (2024):**
- Beaver: 11.2%
- Pennsylvania: 11.6%
- US: 12.1%

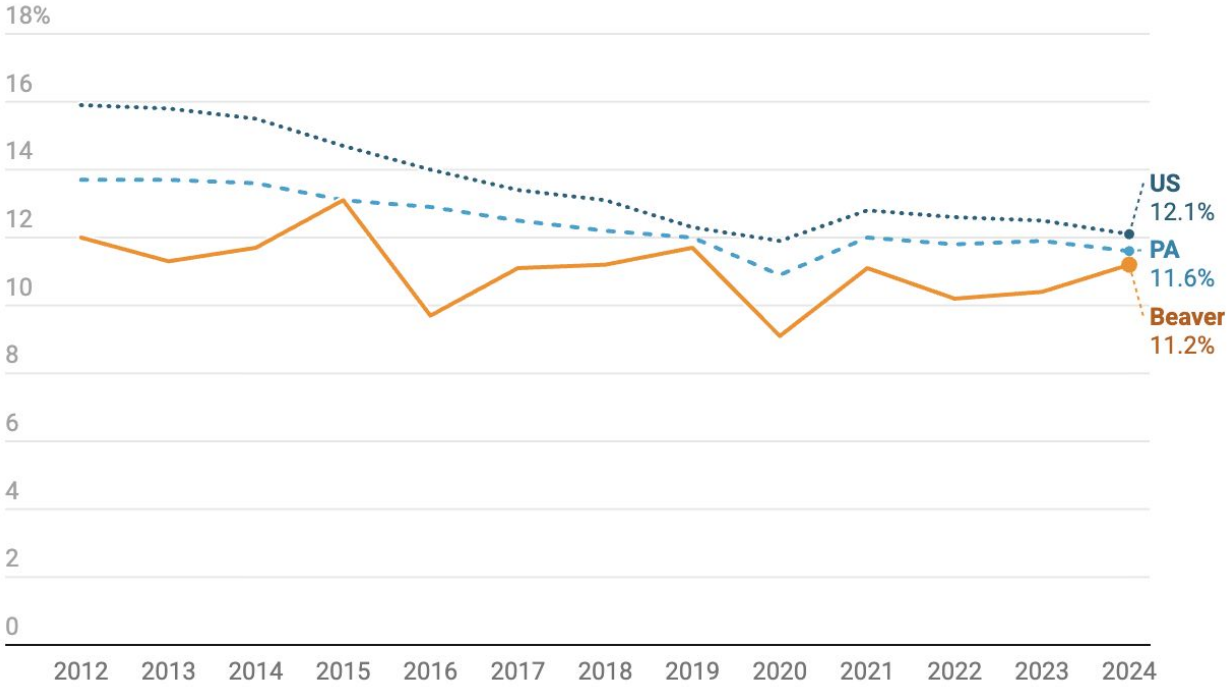
**SAIPE Child Poverty Rate (2024):**
- Beaver: 15.0%
- Pennsylvania: 15.3%
- US: 15.5%

**ACS Poverty Rate (2024):**
- Beaver: 11.0%
- Pennsylvania: 12.0%
- US: 12.1%

**ACS Child Poverty Rate (2024):**
- Beaver: 16.0%
- Pennsylvania: 15.3%
- US: 15.5%

## Figure 11: Poverty Fell at a Slower Rate in Beaver County than in Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in poverty rate, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

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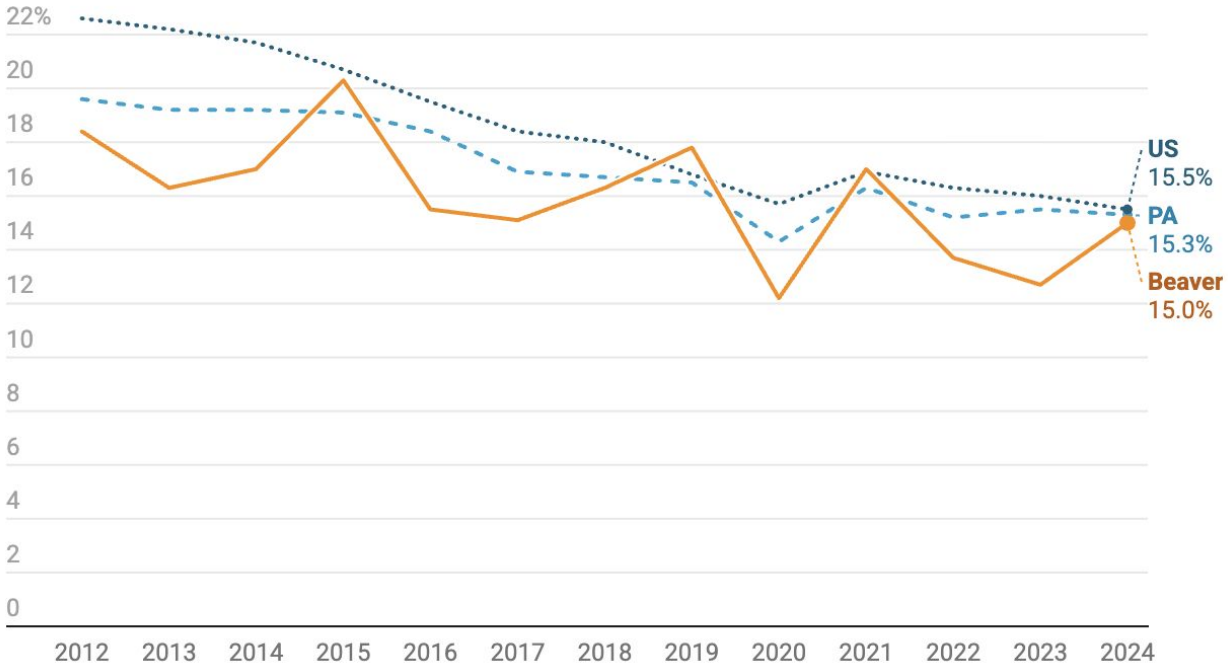
## Figure 12: Child Poverty Rate Falls Across Beaver County, Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in child poverty rate, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

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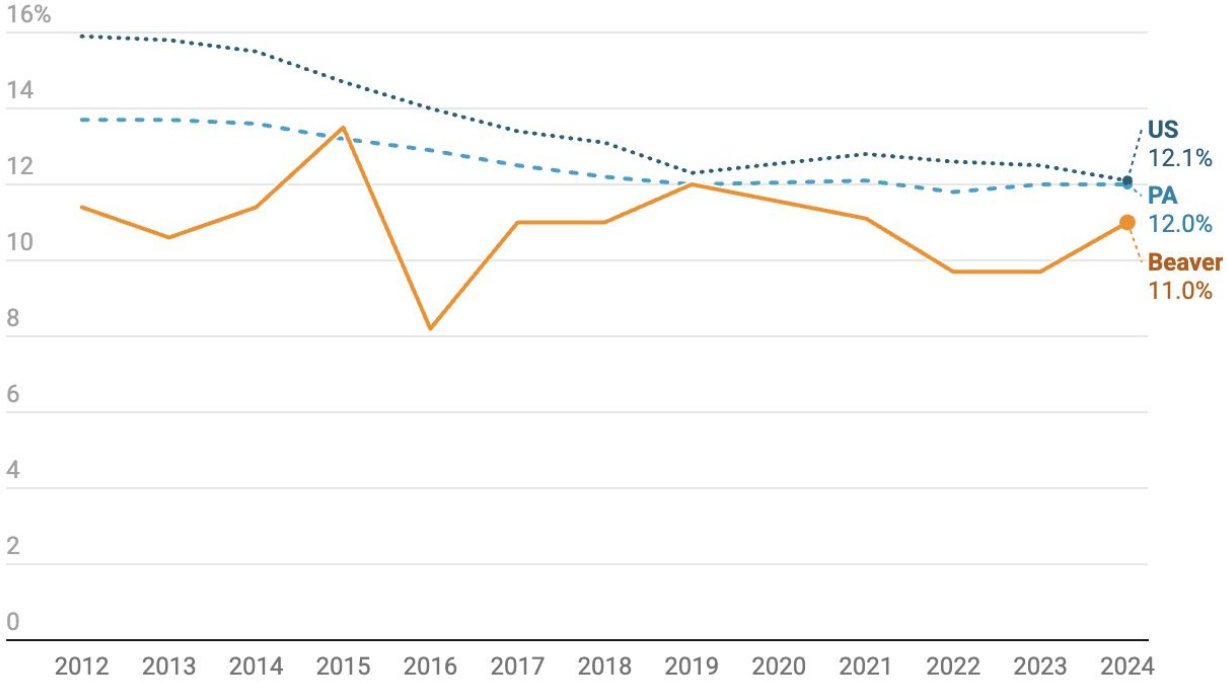
## Figure 13: Poverty Rate in Beaver Stagnates, While PA and US See Steady Decline

*Percent change in poverty rate, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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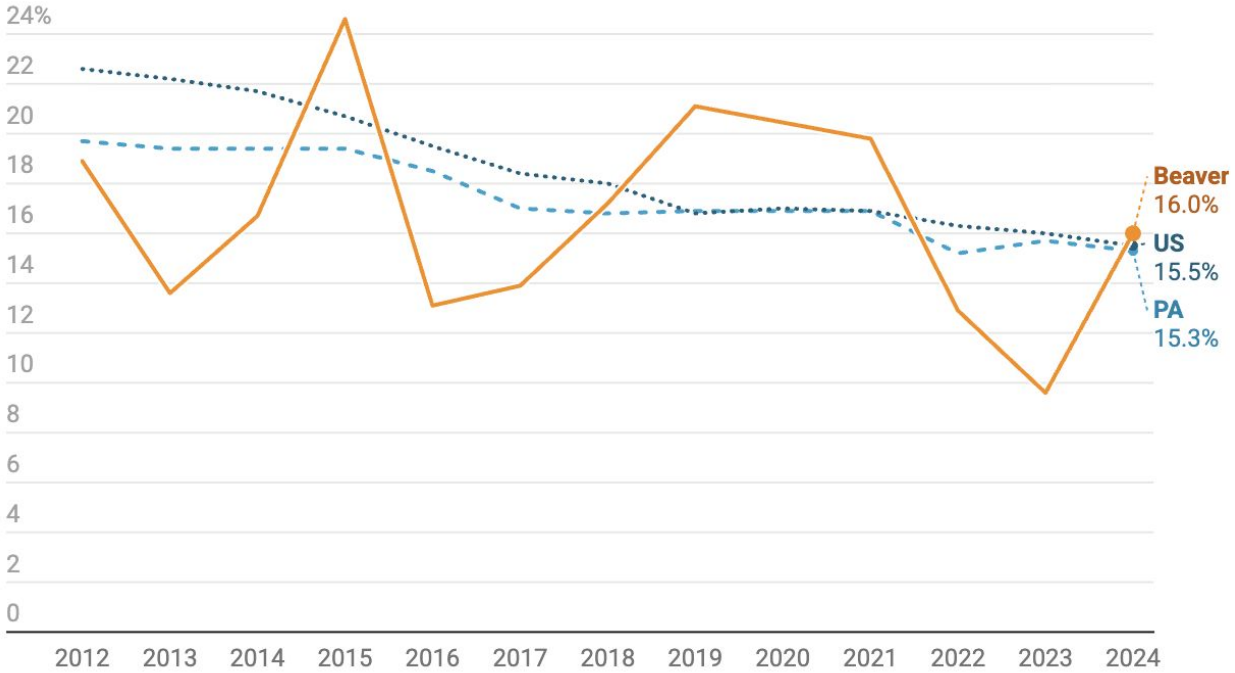
## Figure 14: Child Poverty Rate Fell Across Beaver County, Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in child poverty rate, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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# Income

**Income Dashboard**

**SAIPE Median Income (2012-2024):**
📈 Beaver: +55.70%
📈 Pennsylvania: +51.36%
📈 US: +58.85%

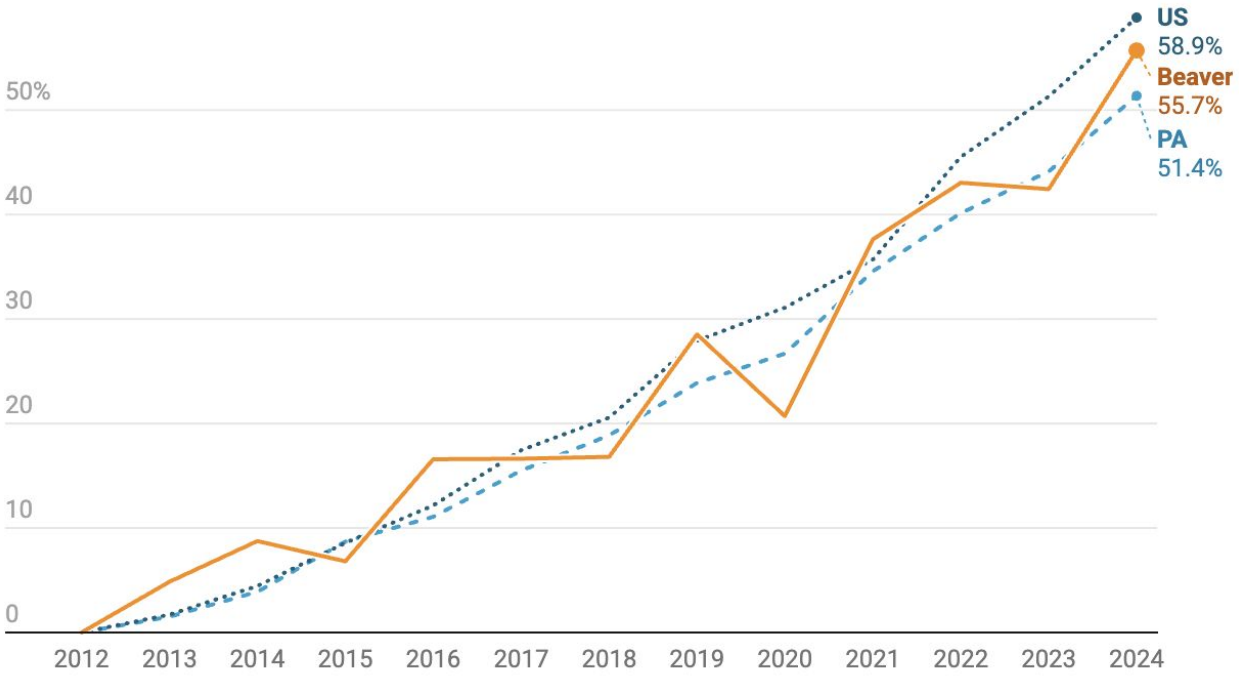
**ACS Per Capita Income (2012-2024):**
📈 Beaver: +60.65%
📈 Pennsylvania: +60.85%
📈 US: +65.66%

**BEA Per Capita Income (2012-2024):**
📈 Beaver: +51.06%
📈 Pennsylvania: +54.87%
📈 US: +65.48%

**BEA Market Income Per Capita (2012-2024):**
📈 Beaver: +44.82%
📈 Pennsylvania: +49.56%
📈 US: +77.47%

## Figure 15: Median Income Grows Across Beaver County, Pennsylvania and US

*Percent Change in Median Income, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

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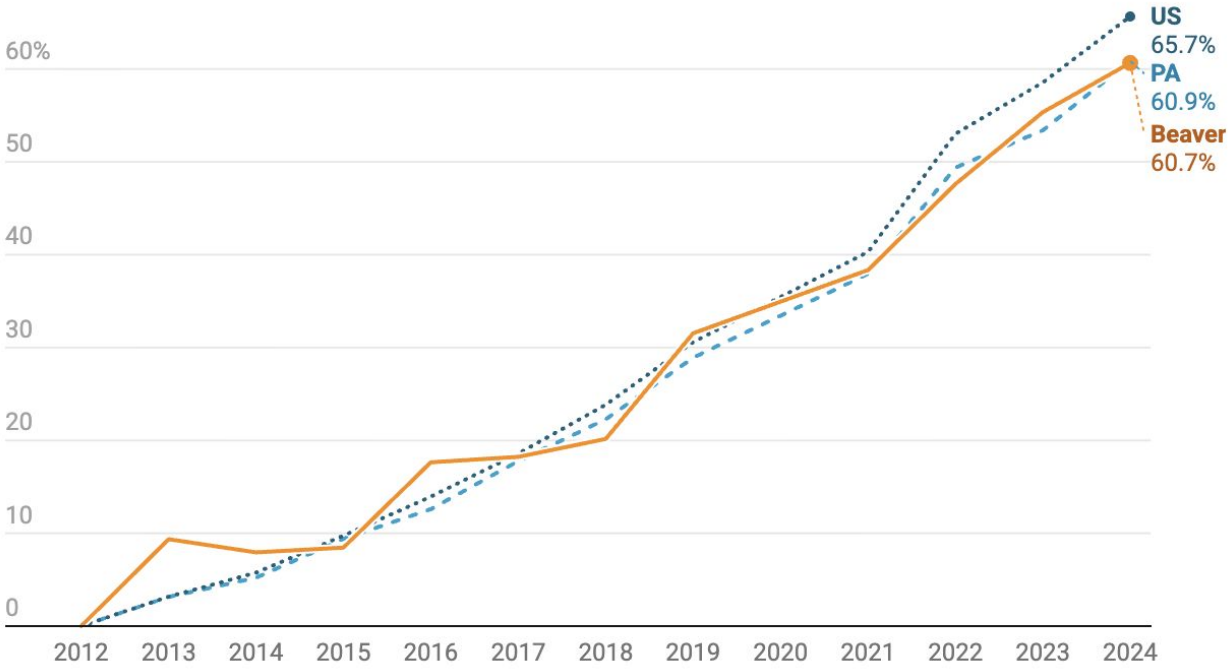
## Figure 16: Beaver County's Per Capita Income Kept Pace with Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in Per Capita Income, 2012-2024*




Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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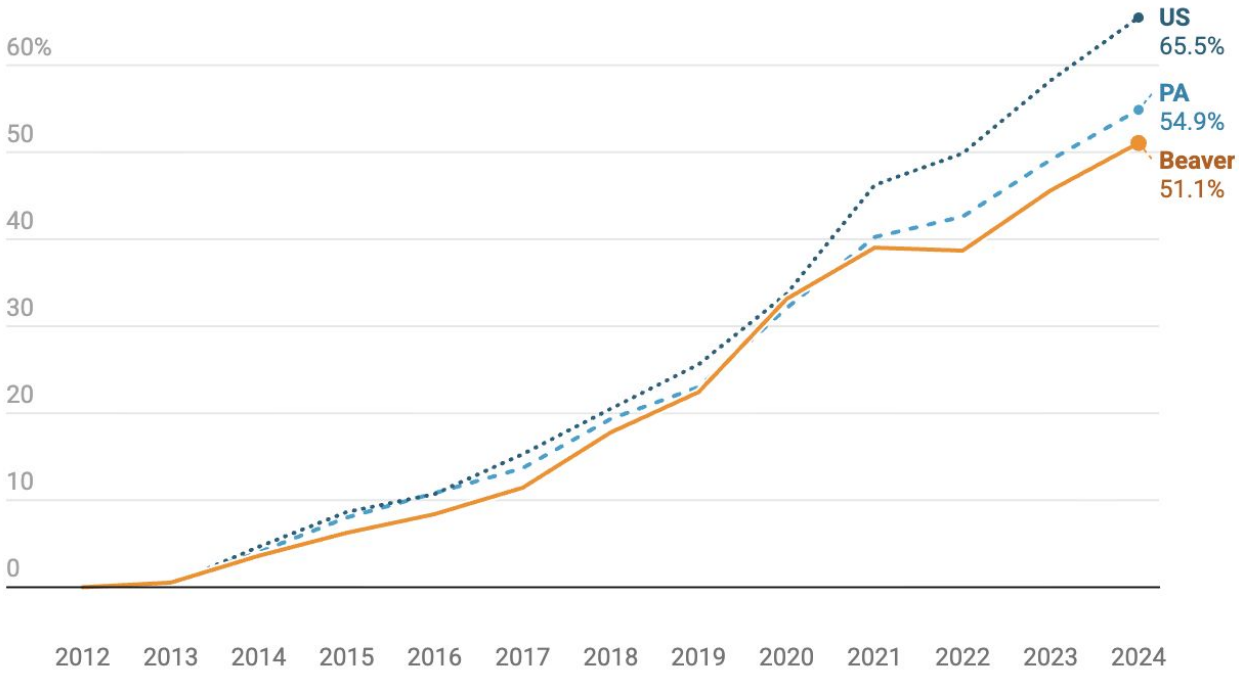
## Figure 17: Per Capita Income Rises at Slower Rate than Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in per capita personal income (not inflation adjusted), 2012-2024*




Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

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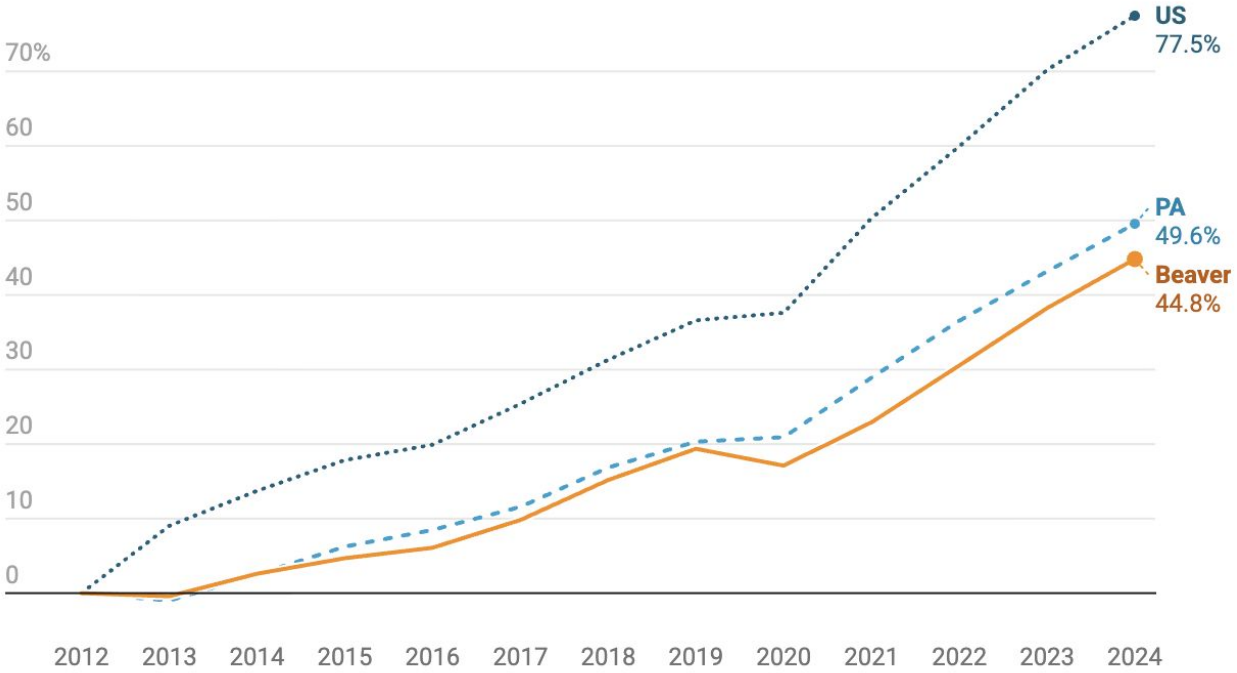
## Figure 18: Beaver County's Market Income Growth Lags Behind Pennsylvania and US

*Percent change in per capita market income, 2012-2024*




Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Note: Market income per capita is calculated by subtracting personal current transfers and contributions for government social insurance from total non-farm personal income and adjusting for population.

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**This accounting is incomplete:**

- It does not factor in the generous state tax subsidies awarded to Shell;
- It does not factor in the costs of local air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions;
- No one knows what the future will hold for Beaver County.

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