

Self-Sufficiency in Central Pennsylvania

The Self-Sufficiency Standard defines the amount of income necessary to meet basic needs (including taxes) without public subsidies and without private/informal assistance.

Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wages*

- Centre County: \$26.10
- Clinton County: \$18.03
- Columbia County: \$21.52
- Lycoming County: \$19.65
 - Mifflin County: \$22.04
- Montour County: \$24.90
- Northumberland County: \$20.55
 - Snyder County: \$22.09
 - Union County: \$23.21
- **Central PA WDA: \$22.60**

Annual Self-Sufficiency Wages*

- Centre County: \$54,300
- Clinton County: \$37,500
- Columbia County: \$44,800
- Lycoming County: \$40,900
 - Mifflin County: \$45,800
- Montour County: \$51,800
- Northumberland County: \$42,700
 - Snyder County: \$45,900
 - Union County: \$48,300
- **Central PA WDA: \$47,000**

*Based on a family of one parent and one pre-school aged child

Basic Needs: Housing, Child Care, Food, Transportation, Health Care, Miscellaneous (Clothing, diapers, telephone, etc.), Taxes, and Tax Credits

Annual and hourly wages are based on a 2,080-hour work year

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a budget-based measure of the real cost of living and an alternative to the official poverty measure. It determines the amount of income required for working families to meet basic needs at a minimally adequate level, taking into account family composition, ages of children, and geographic differences in costs. **The Self-Sufficiency Standard is available for over 700 family types** at the county-level from the Center for Women's Welfare (CWW).

For more information:

- www.selfsufficiencystandard.org (Center for Women's Welfare)
- www.pathwayspa.org (CWW Partner)

Percent differences are based on the regional self-sufficiency wage

Household Income

- Total Households: 239,700
- Median Household Income: \$54,600 (+16.2%)
- 101,300 households have income of less than \$45,000
 - 42.3% of all households

--U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Jobs

- Total Jobs: 274,300
- Average Occupational Wage: \$23.77/hour (+5.2%)
- 165,100 jobs pay less than \$22.60
 - 60.2% of all jobs

--EMSI, 2021.2; jobs based on 2020 estimates; wages based on average occupational wages; occupational wages do not include benefits

Other Comparisons

- 2020 Self-Sufficiency: \$21.72
 - Increase of 4.1%
- Consumer Price Index increased by 1.7% (2020-2021*)
- PA minimum hourly wage: \$7.25/hour (-67.9%)
- 2020 Federal Poverty Threshold: \$17,800 (-62.1%)

--Consumer Price Index provided by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics;
*2021 data available from January through March
--Poverty threshold provided by U.S. Census Bureau (based on family of 1 householder under age 65 and 1 related child under 18)