

U.S. Census estimates Scranton population is growing

New estimate indicates city of Scranton has 77,291 residents

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SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU) - While Scranton and its money problems have made international headlines over the last few years it doesn't appear that everyone is concerned.

New census data appears to indicate that the Electric City is actually growing in population.

The last official census was done in 2010 but each year certain estimates are released and this year the news appears to be good for the city of Scranton.

Many people in Scranton believe it has to do with the increased amount of people wanting to live downtown.

After living all over the world, Lynn Braz recently moved to Scranton.

She calls the city a hidden gem.

"It's close to New York and Philly. It's got everything you need. We've got live music, we've got art, we've got tons of talent, writing, it's very, very vibrant," Braz said.

According to the latest U.S. Census estimates, Braz isn't alone.

Scranton may have increased its population to 77,291, which is up about 1.5-percent or 1,200 people over the last few years.

The interesting thing is that many other communities in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Wilkes-Barre, Montrose, Milford and Honesdale may have all lost people.

Erin Gibson has owned a clothing boutique in Scranton for 17 years and agrees with the Scranton figures.

"Before people were always in their cars going to malls, going here, going there. People want to walk now. They're going back to that trend," Erin Gibson, owner of L'Erin Boutique said.

Jessica Kalinoski of Admiral Management has helped to renovate Scranton's Connell building and the former Chamber of Commerce property into apartments.

She says demand is so high she constantly has a waiting list.

Her company will soon begin converting the old Samter's building into living space.

"Seventy-one percent of our tenants in our buildings are from out of Scranton. About 43-percent of them are from out of the state in general," Kalinoski said.

For Lynn Braz, she doesn't regret her decision to move to Scranton at all.

"I've lived in the south of France. I've lived in India, Bali, New York and Philly, San Francisco, San Diego and this is my favorite place!" Braz said.

While many communities are dealing with small population declines, there is another community besides Scranton that can celebrate.

East Stroudsburg is also reportedly seeing an influx of people with population estimates showing the population growing there by about 3.5-percent.

For more information on the census estimates, visit www.census.gov