Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 17, 2003

County Population Estimates Released for 2002: Philadelphia, Allegheny, Montgomery and Bucks Among Nation's 100 Largest Counties

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that Philadelphia (20th), Allegheny (29th), Montgomery (66th) and Bucks (98th) counties ranked in the list of the Nation's 100 Largest Counties in 2002. This data is based on the 2002 County Population Estimates that were released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates used April 1, 2000 (Census Day), as a base and were carried forward to July 1, 2002, based on birth, death and migration data. Western and southern states accounted for twelve of the top twenty spots on the list with California accounting for six spots on its own. Pike County (81st) had the highest population percentage increase in the state and was the commonwealth's lone entry on the list of the Nation's 100 Fastest Growing Counties in 2002.

Births, Deaths and Migrations in the Commonwealth

There were an estimated 323,841 births in Pennsylvania between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002. An estimated 289,083 deaths during this time period resulted in a birth-death surplus of 34,758 persons. There were 50,692 net international migrations into Pennsylvania and –26,701 net internal migrations out of the commonwealth, resulting in a gain of 23,991 persons.

Numeric Population Change

Chester County (16,659 pop increase) had the largest estimated gain in population between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002 (Table 1). Montgomery County (16,420 pop increase) and Bucks County (12,808 pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population increases during this time period. Philadelphia County (25,319 pop decrease) had the largest estimated population decrease.

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Percent Population Change

Pike County's population increased an estimated 8.2 percent between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002. Monroe County (7.3 percent pop increase) and Chester County (3.8 percent pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population percentage increases in Pennsylvania during this time period. McKean County (2.3 percent pop decrease) had the largest estimated population decrease.

For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Table 1: Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and Population Change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2002								
County	July 1, 2002 Population Estimate	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change	County	July 1, 2002 Population Estimate	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
Pennsylvania	**12,335,091**	**12,281,054**	**54,037**	**0.4**	Juniata	22,760	22,821	-61	-0.3
Adams	94,437	91,292	3,145	3.4	Lackawanna	210,711	213,295	-2,584	-1.2
Allegheny	1,269,904	1,281,666	-11,762	-0.9	Lancaster	478,561	470,658	7,903	1.7
Armstrong	71,673	72,392	-719	-1.0	Lawrence	94,104	94,643	-539	-0.6
Beaver	179,351	181,412	-2,061	-1.1	Lebanon	121,199	120,327	872	0.7
Bedford	49,944	49,984	-40	-0.1	Lehigh	317,533	312,090	5,443	1.7
Berks	382,108	373,638	8,470	2.3	Luzerne	314,643	319,250	-4,607	-1.4
Blair	127,840	129,144	-1,304	-1.0	Lycoming	119,000	120,044	-1,044	-0.9
Bradford	62,810	62,761	49	0.1	McKean	44,884	45,936	-1,052	-2.3
Bucks	610,440	597,632	12,808	2.1	Mercer	119,514	120,293	-779	-0.6
Butler	178,078	174,083	3,995	2.3	Mifflin	46,435	46,486	-51	-0.1
Cambria	150,452	152,598	-2,146	-1.4	Monroe	148,839	138,687	10,152	7.3
Cameron	5,843	5,974	-131	-2.2	Montgomery	766,517	750,097	16,420	2.2
Carbon	59,688	58,802	886	1.5	Montour	18,214	18,236	-22	-0.1
Centre	138,524	135,758	2,766	2.0	Northampton	273,324	267,069	6,255	2.3
Chester	450,160	433,501	16,659	3.8	Northumberland	93,371	94,556	-1,185	-1.3
Clarion	41,316	41,765	-449	-1.1	Perry	43,876	43,602	274	0.6
Clearfield	83,203	83,382	-179	-0.2	Philadelphia	1,492,231	1,517,550	-25,319	-1.7
Clinton	37,680	37,914	-234	-0.6	Pike	50,095	46,302	3,793	8.2
Columbia	64,134	64,151	-17	0.0	Potter	18,217	18,080	137	0.8
Crawford	89,856	90,366	-510	-0.6	Schuylkill	148,505	150,336	-1,831	-1.2
Cumberland	217,743	213,674	4,069	1.9	Snyder	37,828	37,546	282	0.8
Dauphin	252,933	251,798	1,135	0.5	Somerset	79,456	80,023	-567	-0.7
Delaware	553,435	550,864	2,571	0.5	Sullivan	6,482	6,556	-74	-1.1
Elk	34,454	35,112	-658	-1.9	Susquehanna	42,082	42,238	-156	-0.4
Erie	280,370	280,843	-473	-0.2	Tioga	41,461	41,373	88	0.2
Fayette	146,654	148,644	-1,990	-1.3	Union	42,006	41,624	382	0.9
Forest	4,888	4,946	-58	-1.2	Venango	56,810	57,565	-755	-1.3
Franklin	131,598	129,313	2,285	1.8	Warren	43,290	43,863	-573	-1.3
Fulton	14,365	14,261	104	0.7	Washington	204,110	202,897	1,213	0.6
Greene	40,520	40,672	-152	-0.4	Wayne	48,889	47,722	1,167	2.4
Huntingdon	45,707	45,586	121	0.3	Westmoreland	368,428	369,993	-1,565	-0.4
Indiana	88,780	89,605	-825	-0.9	Wyoming	27,801	28,080	-279	-1.0
Jefferson	45,818	45,932	-114	-0.2	York	389,209	381,751	7,458	2.0

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Estimated Population Growth

Pennsylvania Counties April 1, 2000 - July 1, 2002

Erie
-473
-0.2%

Crawford
-510
-0.6%

Warren
-573
-1.3%

McKean
-1,052
-2.3%

Potter
137
0.8%

Tioga
88
0.2%

Bradford
49
0.1%

Susquehanna
-156
-0.4%

Wayne
1,167
2.4%

Forest
-58
-1.2%

Elk
-658
-1.9%

Cameron
-131
-2.2%

Lycoming
-1,044
-0.9%

Sullivan
-74
-1.1%

Wyoming
-279
-1%

Lackawanna
-2,584
-1.2%

Pike
3,793
8.2%

Venango
-755
-1.3%

Mercer
-779
-0.6%

Clarion
-449
-1.1%

Jefferson
-114
-0.2%

Clinton
-234
-0.6%

Montour
-22
-0.1%

Columbia
-17
0%

Luzerne
-4,607
-1.4%

Monroe
10,152
7.3%

Lawrence
-539
-0.6%

Butler
3,995
2.3%

Armstrong
-719
-1%

Clearfield
-179
-0.2%

Centre
2,766
2%

Union
382
0.9%

Northumberland
-1,185
-1.3%

Carbon
886
1.5%

Indiana
-825
-0.9%

Snyder
282
0.8%

Schuylkill
-1,831
-1.2%

Northampton
6,255
2.3%

Beaver
-2,061
-1.1%

Mifflin
-51
-0.1%

Lehigh
5,443
1.7%

Allegheny
-11,762
-0.9%

Cambria
-2,146
-1.4%

Blair
-1,304
-1%

Juniata
-61
-0.3%

Perry
274
0.6%

Dauphin
1,135
0.5%

Lebanon
872
0.7%

Berks
8,470
2.3%

Bucks
12,808
2.1%

Westmoreland
-1,565
-0.4%

Huntingdon
121
0.3%

Cumberland
4,069
1.9%

Montgomery
16,420
2.2%

Washington
1,213
0.6%

Lancaster
7,903
1.7%

Chester
16,659
3.8%

Philadelphia
-25,319
-1.7%

Greene
-152
-0.4%

Fayette
-1,990
-1.3%

Somerset
-567
-0.7%

Bedford
-40
-0.1%

Fulton
104
0.7%

Franklin
2,285
1.8%

Adams
3,145
3.4%

York
7,458
2%

Delaware
2,571
0.5%