Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

July 18, 2003

U.S. Census Bureau Releases State & County Housing Unit Estimates for 2002

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Pennsylvania gained 78,501 additional housing units between the April 1, 2000 base count (5,249,750) and the July 1, 2002 estimate (5,328,251). This data is based on the 2002 State and County Housing Unit Estimates that were released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates were compiled using the estimates base from April 1, 2000 (Census Day), and were carried forward to July 1, 2002.

Methodology

The U.S. Census Bureau develops housing unit estimates by using building permits, mobile home shipments, and estimates of housing unit loss to measure housing unit change since the last census. Census estimates of housing units are updated each year and released to the public. These estimates are also used as controls for other census surveys.

Numeric Housing Unit Change

The counties surrounding Philadelphia saw the largest increases in housing units. Chester County had the largest estimated housing unit gain between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002 in Pennsylvania with an increase of 6,377 housing units. Montgomery County (5,888 housing unit increase) and Bucks County (5,379 housing unit increase) represented the next largest estimated housing unit increases during this time period. Philadelphia County had the only estimated housing unit decrease, losing 1,508 housing units.

Percent Housing Unit Change

The number of Monroe County's housing units increased by an estimated 4.8 percent between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002 and was the largest percentage increase in the state. Monroe County is a well-known recreation area in Pennsylvania and is near the state's eastern border, which allows for a population spill over from New Jersey. Chester County (3.9 percent housing unit increase), Adams County (3.7 percent housing unit

increase) and Butler County (3.7 percent housing unit increase) represented the next largest estimated percentage increases in the number of housing units in Pennsylvania during this time period. Chester and Butler counties both benefit from their proximity to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, respectively, while Adams County sits on the southern edge of the state bordering Maryland.

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.

County	July 1, 2002 Housing Unit Estimate	April 1, 2000 Housing Unit Estimates Base	Numeric Housing Unit Change	Percent Housing Unit Change	County	July 1, 2002 Housing Unit Estimate	April 1, 2000 Housing Unit Estimates Base	Numeric Housing Unit Change	Percent Housing Unit Change
Pennsylvania	**5,328,251**	**5,249,750**	**78,501**	**1.5**	Juniata	10,173	10,031	142	1.4
Adams	37,158	35,831	1,327	3.7	Lackawanna	95,942	95,362	580	0.6
Allegheny	587,704	583,646	4,058	0.7	Lancaster	184,383	179,990	4,393	2.4
Armstrong	32,729	32,387	342	1.1	Lawrence	40,142	39,635	507	1.3
Beaver	78,643	77,765	878	1.1	Lebanon	50,435	49,320	1,115	2.3
Bedford	23,932	23,529	403	1.7	Lehigh	131,759	128,910	2,849	2.2
Berks	153,984	150,222	3,762	2.5	Luzerne	145,452	144,686	766	0.5
Blair	55,460	55,061	399	0.7	Lycoming	53,109	52,464	645	1.2
Bradford	29,055	28,664	391	1.4	McKean	21,775	21,644	131	0.6
Bucks	230,876	225,497	5,379	2.4	Mercer	50,653	49,859	794	1.6
Butler	72,445	69,868	2,577	3.7	Mifflin	20,995	20,745	250	1.2
Cambria	66,077	65,796	281	0.4	Monroe	70,844	67,581	3,263	4.8
Cameron	4,612	4,592	20	0.4	Montgomery	303,322	297,434	5,888	2
Carbon	30,878	30,492	386	1.3	Montour	7,755	7,627	128	1.7
Centre	54,718	53,161	1,557	2.9	Northampton	109,527	106,711	2,816	2.6
Chester	170,150	163,773	6,377	3.9	Northumberland	43,374	43,164	210	0.5
Clarion	19,712	19,426	286	1.5	Perry	19,306	18,941	365	1.9
Clearfield	38,305	37,855	450	1.2	Philadelphia	660,450	661,958	-1,508	-0.2
Clinton	18,491	18,166	325	1.8	Pike	35,737	34,681	1,056	3
Columbia	28,220	27,733	487	1.8	Potter	12,362	12,159	203	1.7
Crawford	42,969	42,416	553	1.3	Schuylkill	68,231	67,806	425	0.6
Cumberland	89,241	86,951	2,290	2.6	Snyder	15,169	14,890	279	1.9
Dauphin	112,706	111,133	1,573	1.4	Somerset	37,689	37,163	526	1.4
Delaware	219,262	216,978	2,284	1.1	Sullivan	6,043	6,017	26	0.4
Elk	18,273	18,115	158	0.9	Susquehanna	22,114	21,829	285	1.3
Erie	115,747	114,322	1,425	1.2	Tioga	20,327	19,893	434	2.2
Fayette	67,170	66,490	680	1	Union	14,914	14,684	230	1.6
Forest	8,828	8,701	127	1.5	Venango	27,155	26,904	251	0.9
Franklin	55,370	53,803	1,567	2.9	Warren	23,243	23,058	185	0.8
Fulton	6,944	6,790	154	2.3	Washington	89,074	87,267	1,807	2.1
Greene	16,950	16,678	272	1.6	Wayne	31,080	30,593	487	1.6
Huntingdon	21,451	21,058	393	1.9	Westmoreland	163,190	161,058	2,132	1.3
Indiana	37,926	37,250	676	1.8	Wyoming	12,951	12,713	238	1.9
Jefferson	22,390	22,104	286	1.3	York	161,200	156,720	4,480	2.9

Table 1: Pennsylvania County Housing Unit Estimates and Housing Unit Change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2002

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1855