



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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2004 Deer Season to begin statewide on November 29th

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the 2004 statewide rifle-hunting season for antlered and antlerless deer will take place from November 29th through December 11th.

Based on a report issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Census Bureau, over \$941 million was spent by hunters 16 years or older on hunting-related expenses in Pennsylvania in 2001 (most current data available). Over \$417 million (44.3%) was spent on equipment, \$189.9 million (20.2 %) was spent on trip-related expenses and nearly \$334 million (35.5%) was spent on other hunting related expenses.

According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, 1,018,248 general hunting licenses were sold in 2003. This is an increase of 0.1% from the 1,017,154 general hunting licenses sold in 2002. There are 1,039,000 hunting licenses allocated for 2004, and there remain less than 14,000 to be distributed.

Antlerless deer hunting licenses are allocated for each county on a limited basis in order to manage the deer population. The Pennsylvania Game Commission estimates that the deer population has remained stable at 1.6 million over the past two years. This number, as indicated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, still needs to be substantially reduced in order to balance Pennsylvania's natural habitat. As a result, the antlerless deer hunting license allocation was increased from 973,000 in 2003 to 1,039,000 in 2004.

Statewide deer harvests were 517,529 in 2002 and 464,890 in 2003. This represents a decrease of 10.2% from 2002 to 2003. The total number of antlered deer harvested was 165,416 in 2002 and 142,270 in 2003, representing a decrease of 14.0%. The total number of antlerless deer harvested was 352,113 in 2002 and 322,620 in 2003, representing a decrease of 8.4 %.

At the 2003 county level (Table 1), Washington County had the largest antlered deer harvest at 4,670. Bradford County was second with 4,550; followed by Westmoreland County with 4,350 and Indiana County with 4,170. Westmoreland County had the largest antlerless deer harvest at 10,320. Bradford County was second with 9,730 followed by Berks County with 9,650. Philadelphia County recorded the lowest harvest of antlered deer with 50 as well as the lowest number of antlerless deer with 80.

Table 1: Deer Harvested, Pennsylvania: 2003

County	Deer Harvested		County	Deer Harvested	
	Antlered	Antlerless		Antlered	Antlerless
Pennsylvania	142,270	322,620	Juniata	910	2,360
Adams	1,440	3,470	Lackawanna	800	2,590
Allegheny	1,700	4,790	Lancaster	1,700	4,430
Armstrong	3,110	6,130	Lawrence	860	2,080
Beaver	1,310	2,960	Lebanon	880	1,890
Bedford	3,300	7,590	Lehigh	1,180	2,760
Berks	4,080	9,650	Luzerne	2,740	6,140
Blair	1,940	4,150	Lycoming	2,580	4,600
Bradford	4,550	9,730	McKean	2,510	4,520
Bucks	1,960	3,780	Mercer	2,310	6,770
Butler	2,860	7,820	Mifflin	1,070	1,890
Cambria	2,780	5,830	Monroe	1,100	3,220
Cameron	740	1,150	Montgomery	1,050	2,420
Carbon	900	2,300	Montour	490	1,270
Centre	2,970	6,560	Northampton	1,060	3,200
Chester	2,040	5,400	Northumberland	1,260	3,070
Clarion	2,600	5,020	Perry	1,630	4,540
Clearfield	3,970	9,610	Philadelphia	50	80
Clinton	1,580	3,240	Pike	1,310	3,730
Columbia	1,830	3,970	Potter	2,950	7,090
Crawford	4,110	9,440	Schuylkill	2,770	6,510
Cumberland	1,050	2,590	Snyder	640	1,880
Dauphin	1,700	3,390	Somerset	3,770	8,950
Delaware	400	1,340	Sullivan	1,030	2,750
Elk	1,920	3,200	Susquehanna	2,390	6,820
Erie	1,980	5,360	Tioga	3,700	6,500
Fayette	2,920	4,610	Union	750	1,690
Forest	1,400	3,840	Venango	2,390	6,540
Franklin	2,310	4,600	Warren	2,480	6,930
Fulton	1,820	2,510	Washington	4,670	8,380
Greene	2,200	6,230	Wayne	1,850	3,990
Huntingdon	2,940	6,480	Westmoreland	4,350	10,320
Indiana	4,170	8,520	Wyoming	1,410	2,470
Jefferson	2,570	6,190	York	3,760	6,860

Wildlife Management Units

A new system of 22 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) was implemented in 2003, replacing the numerous species-specific units previously used. The new system simplifies the unit system for hunters and trappers, as well as wildlife resource managers, by creating a single, uniform management system with easily recognizable boundaries for all species.

Characteristics used to design the new wildlife management units included: land use/habitat; human density; public/private land ownership; recognizable physical features, such as major roads and rivers; and land use practices, such as agriculture, timber and development. Using a two-digit code, the number represents the large physiographic unit and the letter represents the specific unit within the larger area. A map of the newly created Wildlife Management Units may be downloaded at:

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/cwp/browse.asp?a=458&bc=0&c=69928>

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for 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, contacts Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (October 2002) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission