



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 14, 2005

## U.S. Census Bureau Releases County Population Estimates for 2004

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that Chester County ranked 72<sup>nd</sup> nationally in numerical population increase from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004. Chester County increased from 458,057 persons in 2003 to 465,795 persons in 2004, an increase of 7,738, or 1.7 percent. No other Pennsylvania county ranked in the top 100 in numeric or percent increase in population from 2003 to 2004. This data is based on the 2004 County Population Estimates that were released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates used April 1, 2000 as a base and were carried forward to July 1, 2004, based on birth, death and migration data.

Pennsylvania's estimated population of 12,406,292 continues to rank the commonwealth 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in total population.

### Births, Deaths and Migrations in the Commonwealth

There were an estimated 146,368 births in Pennsylvania between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004. An estimated 130,322 deaths during this time period resulted in a natural increase of 16,046 persons. There were 19,960 net international migrants into Pennsylvania and 772 net domestic out-migrants, resulting in an increase of 19,188 persons between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004.

Philadelphia had the highest birth rate based on births between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004 (15.3), significantly higher than Pennsylvania's birth rate (11.8). Juniata County, with an estimated population of 23,391 (July 1, 2004) had the second highest birth rate in Pennsylvania at 15.0. Lancaster County followed Juniata at 14.3, and Mifflin County, which borders Juniata County, had the next highest birth rate at 13.5. Pike County, which had the highest estimated population percentage increase between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004, had the lowest birth rate in Pennsylvania at 7.6.

Sullivan County had the highest death rate based on deaths between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004 (20.4), nearly twice Pennsylvania's death rate of 10.5, and nearly 4.0 more than Forest County, the next highest (16.0). Schuylkill County's death rate was next highest at 14.2 and the fourth highest county was Luzerne, with a death rate of 14.0. The lowest death rate was in Centre County (6.1). Birth and death rates are based on the number of births and deaths per thousand of the total county population.

### **Numeric Population Change**

As mentioned previously, Chester County (7,738 pop increase) had the largest estimated gain in population between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004 (Table 1). York County (6,019 pop increase), Berks County (4,964 pop increase) and Northampton County (4,468 pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population increases during this time period. Allegheny County (8,309 pop decrease) had the largest estimated population decrease.

### **Percent Population Change**

Pike County, which borders New York and New Jersey, had its population increase an estimated 3.6 percent between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004. Monroe County (2.8 percent pop increase) and Adams County (2.0 percent pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population percentage increases in Pennsylvania during this time period. Adams County is on the southern border of Pennsylvania, just north of Maryland. Cameron County (2.1 percent pop decrease), one of the least populated counties in the Commonwealth, had the largest estimated population decrease.

Several Pennsylvania counties experienced state ranking changes in terms of total population between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004:

- Erie County decreased from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>
- Huntingdon County increased from 48<sup>th</sup> to 47<sup>th</sup>
- Jefferson County dropped from 47<sup>th</sup> to 48<sup>th</sup>
- Northampton increased from 14<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>
- Warren County dropped from 51<sup>st</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup>
- Union County increased from 52<sup>nd</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>

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

Source: Population Division: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1: Annual Estimates of Population Change for Counties of Pennsylvania and Rankings: July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004**

Geographic Area	Population estimates		Change, 2003 to 2004		State ranking of counties			
	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	Number	Percent	Population estimates		Change, 2003 to 2004	
					July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	Number	Percent
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>12,406,292</b>	<b>12,370,761</b>	<b>35,531</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Adams	98,322	96,398	1,924	2.0	31	31	11	3
Allegheny	1,250,867	1,259,176	-8,309	-0.7	2	2	67	62
Armstrong	71,395	71,680	-285	-0.4	38	38	56	54
Beaver	178,601	179,015	-414	-0.2	20	20	60	45
Bedford	50,230	50,035	195	0.4	44	44	24	26
Berks	391,640	386,676	4,964	1.3	9	9	3	10
Blair	127,468	127,468	-	0.0	27	27	34	34
Bradford	62,569	62,633	-64	-0.1	40	40	38	39
Bucks	617,558	613,118	4,440	0.7	4	4	5	19
Butler	180,663	179,759	904	0.5	19	19	15	21
Cambria	148,496	149,590	-1,094	-0.7	22	22	65	64
Cameron	5,652	5,773	-121	-2.1	66	66	42	67
Carbon	61,194	60,366	828	1.4	41	41	17	8
Centre	140,476	139,819	657	0.5	25	25	18	22
Chester	465,795	458,057	7,738	1.7	7	7	1	4
Clarion	41,123	41,334	-211	-0.5	55	55	50	58
Clearfield	82,913	83,138	-225	-0.3	36	36	51	49
Clinton	37,486	37,477	9	0.0	58	58	33	33
Columbia	65,015	64,856	159	0.2	39	39	26	29
Crawford	89,890	90,077	-187	-0.2	34	34	47	44
Cumberland	221,397	219,622	1,775	0.8	16	16	13	16
Dauphin	253,282	253,311	-29	0.0	15	15	35	35
Delaware	555,040	554,426	614	0.1	5	5	19	30
Elk	34,064	34,258	-194	-0.6	59	59	48	59
Erie	282,355	283,033	-678	-0.2	14	13	63	46
Fayette	145,651	146,235	-584	-0.4	24	24	62	55
Forest	4,994	4,944	50	1.0	67	67	30	13
Franklin	134,864	132,817	2,047	1.5	26	26	10	6
Fulton	14,641	14,562	79	0.5	64	64	29	20
Greene	40,133	40,251	-118	-0.3	56	56	41	51
Huntingdon	45,995	45,952	43	0.1	47	48	31	31
Indiana	89,062	89,332	-270	-0.3	35	35	54	52
Jefferson	45,952	45,981	-29	-0.1	48	47	35	37
Juniata	23,391	23,154	237	1.0	61	61	23	12
Lackawanna	209,932	210,365	-433	-0.2	17	17	61	43
Lancaster	487,332	483,099	4,233	0.9	6	6	8	15
Lawrence	93,374	93,531	-157	-0.2	32	32	45	42
Lebanon	124,489	123,057	1,432	1.2	28	28	14	11
Lehigh	326,050	321,707	4,343	1.3	11	11	7	9
Luzerne	313,431	314,218	-787	-0.3	12	12	64	47
Lycoming	118,542	118,648	-106	-0.1	30	30	40	38
McKean	44,708	45,077	-369	-0.8	49	49	59	65
Mercer	119,797	119,931	-134	-0.1	29	29	44	40
Mifflin	46,210	46,341	-131	-0.3	46	46	43	50
Monroe	158,925	154,525	4,400	2.8	21	21	6	2
Montgomery	774,029	770,724	3,305	0.4	3	3	9	23
Montour	18,069	18,144	-75	-0.4	62	62	39	56
Northampton	282,554	278,086	4,468	1.6	13	14	4	5
Northumberland	92,879	93,242	-363	-0.4	33	33	58	53

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					July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	Number	Percent
Perry	44,652	44,307	345	0.8	50	50	21	18
Philadelphia	1,470,151	1,476,953	-6,802	-0.5	1	1	66	57
Pike	54,117	52,227	1,890	3.6	43	43	12	1
Potter	17,950	18,111	-161	-0.9	63	63	46	66
Schuylkill	147,670	147,913	-243	-0.2	23	23	53	41
Snyder	38,112	37,965	147	0.4	57	57	27	27
Somerset	79,515	79,717	-202	-0.3	37	37	49	48
Sullivan	6,413	6,456	-43	-0.7	65	65	37	63
Susquehanna	42,047	41,914	133	0.3	53	53	28	28
Tioga	41,849	41,675	174	0.4	54	54	25	25
Union	42,720	42,381	339	0.8	51	52	22	17
Venango	56,285	56,646	-361	-0.6	42	42	57	60
Warren	42,576	42,858	-282	-0.7	52	51	55	61
Washington	205,738	204,865	873	0.4	18	18	16	24
Wayne	49,561	49,127	434	0.9	45	45	20	14
Westmoreland	368,660	368,887	-227	-0.1	10	10	52	36
Wyoming	28,168	28,147	21	0.1	60	60	32	32
York	401,613	395,594	6,019	1.5	8	8	2	7

Dash (-) represents zero or rounds to zero (X) Not applicable

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.