Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Census Bureau Releases Population Estimates for Pennsylvania Cities, Boroughs and Townships- Philadelphia Remains Nation's 5th Largest City

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released July 1, 2004 population estimates showing that Philadelphia remains the nation's 5th largest city. Philadelphia, with a population of 1.47 million, still ranks ahead of Phoenix, Arizona by approximately 52,000 persons in the list of the nation's ten largest cities. This difference has decreased significantly since Census 2000, when the gap was over 196,000 people.

The July 1, 2004 population estimates are based on Census 2000 and were updated using administrative records. The sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include minor civil divisions (MCDs) that, for Pennsylvania, are its cities, townships and boroughs. Please note that due to changes based on the count resolution program -updates from the Boundary and Annexation Survey and geographic programs revisions, an April 1, 2000 estimates base was used in the estimating process.

The Nation's Fastest Growing Large Cities
An analysis of the nation's largest cities, those with a population greater than 100,000 persons, shows that Port St. Lucie, Florida is the nation's fastest growing large city with a 12.0 percent increase from July 1, 2003 to July 1 2004. Of the top 25 fastest growing large cities, 10 are from California. Arizona, Florida, Nevada and Texas all have 3 cities in the top 25. There are no cities in the top 25 from the northeast.

The Nation's Largest Growing Large Cities

Phoenix, Arizona had the largest numeric increase in population of those cities with a population greater than 100,000 persons. Phoenix experienced an increase of 29,826 persons from 2003 to 2004 and ranks 6th nationally with a population of 1.4 million. Nine California cities are in the top 25 of the nation's largest growing cities while 4 are from Texas. There are no northeastern cities in the top 25.

Pennsylvania's Municipalities

An analysis of Pennsylvania's municipalities shows that Palmyra Township, Wayne County is the state's fastest growing municipality. Palmyra Township increased 17.7

percent from 2003 to 2004. Pennsylvania had 7 municipalities with double-digit percent increases from 2003 to 2004. The 2004 estimated population of Palmyra Township was 1,409, an increase of 212 persons.

Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County was the state's largest growing municipality. From 2003 to 2004, Lower Macungie Township increased by 1,500 persons to a total population of 24,454. Middletown Township, Bucks County (1,492) and Concord Township, Delaware County (1,067) were the only other municipalities in Pennsylvania to increase in population by more than 1,000 persons from 2003 to 2004 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Pennsylvania Municipalities Experiencing the Largest Population Growth (Numerical Increase), 2003-2004							
Municipality	April 1, 2000	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2003 Estimate	July 1, 2004 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Numeric Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004	Percent Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004
Lower Macungie township	19,220	19,220	22,954	24,454	5,234	27.2	1,500	6.5
Middletown township	44,141	44,141	46,129	47,621	3,480	7.9	1,492	3.2
Concord township	9,933	11,239	14,229	15,296	4,057	36.1	1,067	7.5
Upper Providence township	15,398	15,398	17,025	17,839	2,441	15.9	814	4.8
Warrington township	17,580	17,580	20,497	21,196	3,616	20.6	699	3.4
Montgomery township	22,025	22,025	23,477	24,174	2,149	9.8	697	3.0
Warminster township	31,383	31,383	31,605	32,295	912	2.9	690	2.2
Manchester township	12,700	12,700	14,518	15,176	2,476	19.5	658	4.5
Stroud township	13,978	13,970	16,250	16,907	2,937	21.0	657	4.0

Pennsylvania's Larger Municipalities

Of the Pennsylvania municipalities with a population greater than 10,000 persons, Concord Township, Delaware County is Pennsylvania's fastest growing. Concord Township, Delaware County increased by 7.5 percent from 2003 to 2004. Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County was second at 6.5 percent.

Lower Macungie Township has increased the most in population among the state's larger municipalities, with an increase of 1,500 persons from 2003 to 2004, as mentioned previously (see Table 2).

Pennsylvania's Cities Continue to Decline

Only 2 of Pennsylvania's top 15 cities increased in population from 2003 to 2004. Allentown increased by 328 persons and Easton increased by 11. Allentown is the Commonwealth's third largest city with a July 1, 2004 estimated population of 106,732, and Easton is Pennsylvania's 15th largest city with a population of 26,267. In total, the state's 15 largest cities lost a combined population of 12,140 from 2003 to 2004 and 68,348 from April 1, 2000 (Census Day) until July 1, 2004 (see Table 3).

Municipality	April 1, 2000	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2003 Estimate	July 1, 2004 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Numeric Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004	Percent Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004
Table 2: Pennsylvania Municipalities, Population Greater than 10,000, Experiencing the Fastest Population Growth (Percent Increase), 2003-2004								
Concord township	11,354	11,239	14,229	15,296	4,057	36.1	1,067	7.5
Lower Macungie township	19,386	19,220	22,954	24,454	5,234	27.2	1,500	6.5
Richland township	10,020	9,920	11,407	12,035	2,115	21.3	628	5.5
Forks township	8,672	8,419	11,569	12,164	3,745	44.5	595	5.1
Dingman township	8,868	8,788	10,202	10,699	1,911	21.7	497	4.9
Upper Providence township	15,583	15,398	17,025	17,839	2,441	15.9	814	4.8
Manchester township	12,830	12,700	14,518	15,176	2,476	19.5	658	4.5
Upper Saucon township	12,014	11,939	12,922	13,502	1,563	13.1	580	4.5
Patton township	11,418	11,420	11,846	12,366	946	8.3	520	4.4

City	April 1, 2000	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2003 Estimate	July 1, 2004 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Numeric Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004	Percent Change July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004
Table 3: Population, Pennsylvania's 15 Largest Cities, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004								
Philadelphia	1,517,550	1,517,550	1,476,953	1,470,151	-47,399	-3.1	-6,802	-0.5
Pittsburgh	334,563	334,563	325,599	322,450	-12,113	-3.6	-3,149	-1.0
Allentown	106,632	106,632	106,404	106,732	100	0.1	328	0.3
Erie	103,717	103,688	103,981	103,925	237	0.2	-56	-0.1
Reading	81,207	81,207	80,733	80,727	-480	-0.6	-6	0.0
Scranton	76,415	76,415	74,372	73,928	-2,487	-3.3	-444	-0.6
Lancaster	56,348	56,356	55,481	55,182	-1,174	-2.1	-299	-0.5
Bethlehem	52,300	52,300	53,166	53,116	816	1.6	-50	-0.1
Altoona	49,523	49,523	48,136	47,832	-1,691	-3.4	-304	-0.6
Harrisburg	48,950	48,950	48,136	47,635	-1,315	-2.7	-501	-1.0
Wilkes-Barre	43,123	43,123	41,919	41,559	-1,564	-3.6	-360	-0.9
York	40,862	40,862	40,230	40,043	-819	-2.0	-187	-0.5
Chester	36,854	36,854	37,069	36,922	68	0.2	-147	-0.4
Williamsport	30,706	30,706	30,349	30,175	-531	-1.7	-174	-0.6
Easton	26,263	26,263	26,256	26,267	4	0.0	11	0.0
Total	**2,605,013**	**2,604,992**	**2,548,784**	**2,536,644**	**-68,348**	**-2.6**	**-12,140**	**-0.5**

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For additional tables on the U.S. Census Bureau's release of the July 1, 2004 sub-county population estimates, please visit PA STATS at:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/estimates_and_projections/estimates.html

To view our July Map of the Month: Estimated Population Percent Change April 1, 2000 Estimates Base to July 1, 2004, Pennsylvania Municipalities, please visit:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/whats_new/Map_of_the_month.html

The Pennsylvania State Data Center will be publishing its annual edition of Pennsylvania's municipal population estimates in the near future. Look for it on our Web site at: PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu

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 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, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division

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