

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

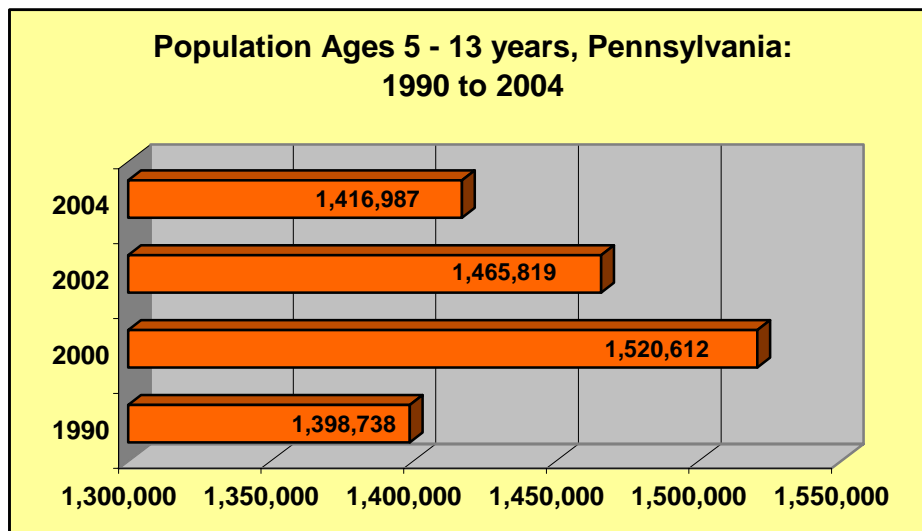
October 20, 2005

Halloween in Pennsylvania - October 31, 2005

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The observance of Halloween, which dates from the Dark Ages, has long been associated with thoughts of witches, ghosts, devils and hobgoblins. In the United States, the first recorded instance of a Halloween celebration occurred in Anoka, Minnesota in 1921, but Allentown, Pennsylvania claims one of the nation's longest running Halloween parades, dating to 1905. Over the years, the customs and rituals associated with Halloween have changed dramatically. Today, many of the young and "young-at-heart" take a more light-hearted approach — donning a scary disguise or one that may bring on smiles when they go door-to-door for treats or attend or host a Halloween party.

"Trick or Treat!"

An estimated 1.4 million Pennsylvanians -ages 5 to 13 years- were potential "trick-or-treaters" last year, down 103,625 since census 2000. The highest proportion of this age group was located in Lancaster County (12.9 percent), while the lowest was in Forest County (8.2 percent). The commonwealth ranks 40th among the states in proportion of elementary and middle school-age children to the total population (11.4 percent), though the state compares favorably to the national percentage (12.4 percent).



Mothers and fathers often escort their children around the neighborhood on Halloween night, but more grandparents may be joining them. In 2004, an estimated 211,129 Pennsylvania

grandparents had children ages 18 or younger living in their households, and 36.7 percent of them were responsible for the children. More than 1.4 million Pennsylvania families have children under 18 living with them.

Haunted Houses?

Washington Irving may owe a debt to Pennsylvania for the covered bridge that Ichabod Crane crosses in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” The first covered bridge in America is widely attributed to Timothy Palmer of Newbury, Connecticut, who completed a bridge spanning the Schuylkill River at 30th street in Philadelphia in 1804, and reluctantly covered it at the investors’ request. Today, over 200 covered bridges remain standing in 40 of the commonwealth’s 67 counties.

In addition to historic covered bridges, many of Pennsylvania’s housing units are well over 60 years old. More than 1.6 million (30.7 percent) homes were built in 1939 or earlier, second in number only to New York. In all, the commonwealth’s “trick-or-treaters” had approximately 4.8 million potential stops (occupied housing units) along their routes last year.

Pumpkins Galore

Pennsylvanians don’t have to worry about finding pumpkins. The state produced more than 136 million pounds of pumpkins in 2004, second only to Illinois. The value of Pennsylvania’s pumpkin crop was second to New York (25.4 million dollars), at 16.9 million dollars. (Table 1) The largest pumpkin on record was also grown in Pennsylvania this year, weighing in at 1,469 pounds.

Candy and Costumes

Americans consumed about 25 pounds of candy per capita in 2004, and it is believed that children consume much of this around Halloween.

In Pennsylvania, the production of chocolate, cocoa, and other candy products is an important part of the manufacturing industry. In 2003, the commonwealth was second in the nation in number of chocolate and cocoa product manufacturing establishments (120). These businesses employed over 9,000 people. An additional 38 establishments employed 2,051 workers in the manufacture of nonchocolate confectionary products. Overall, Pennsylvania’s sugar and confectionary industry shipped 4.4 billion dollars worth of goods last year.

Costume shops can also look forward to a boost in business around Halloween. In 2003, 103 formal wear and costume rental establishments in Pennsylvania employed 587 people.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, County Business Patterns, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, www.tbcbpa.com, www.AmericanHeritage.com, www.post-gazette.com/garden/oster

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.

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Table 1: Pumpkins for Fresh Market Processing: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, and Value by Major Pumpkin-Producing States and United States, 2002-2004 *

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
CA	5,500	5,300	4,400	5,500	4,900	4,400
IL	9,900	8,700	13,600	9,300	7,900	12,500
MI	8,000	8,500	7,800	6,800	7,300	7,200
NY	6,500	6,000	7,000	6,300	5,300	6,300
OH	6,400	7,200	7,700	5,600	6,400	6,200
PA	9,400	9,100	10,400	7,500	8,000	8,500
US	45,700	44,800	50,900	41,000	39,800	45,100
	Yield per Acre			Production		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	280	250	250	1,540	1,225	1,100
IL	320	410	365	2,988	3,258	4,572
MI	120	140	140	816	1,022	1,008
NY	170	140	130	1,071	742	819
OH	165	170	180	924	1,088	1,116
PA	155	100	160	1,170	816	1,360
US	208	205	221	8,509	8,151	9,975
	Per Cwt			Total		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
CA	11.50	12.40	15.30	17,710	15,190	16,830
IL	3.21	4.60	3.46	9,585	14,985	15,818
MI	16.00	14.00	13.00	13,056	14,308	13,104
NY	22.20	13.40	31.00	23,776	9,943	25,389
OH	12.00	14.80	10.60	11,088	16,102	11,830
PA	14.10	12.90	12.40	16,497	10,526	16,864
US	10.80	9.94	10.00	91,712	81,054	99,835

Notes: * Only includes estimates for the selected crops in the National Agricultural Statistics Service annual program. These crops are not estimated for all states that might produce them. See the 2002 Census of Agriculture for a comprehensive tally of total vegetable acres by state.

Hundredweight (Cwt) is the unit used for fresh market yield and production and is equal to one hundred pounds.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, *2004 Vegetable Summary Report*, January 2005