



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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2005 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates Released

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Pike County is Pennsylvania's fastest growing county and ranks 72nd in the nation in percent increase, according to the 2005 county population estimates just released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Pike County's population grew to 56,337 in 2005, an increase of 2,296 persons, or 4.2 percent over 2004. No other Pennsylvania counties ranked in the top 100 nationally in percent growth for this period. Chester and York counties were both among the top 100 counties in numeric growth between 2004 and 2005. Chester ranked 80th nationally, and grew to 474,027, an increase of 7,984, or 1.7 percent. York's population of 408,801 has grown by 7,738, or 1.9 percent since 2004, and now ranks 85th nationally. The commonwealth also counted four counties among the 100 largest nationally in 2005: Philadelphia, 22nd (1,463,281), Allegheny, 30th (1,235,841), Montgomery, 67th (775,883), and Bucks, 95th (621,342).

The U.S. Census Bureau annually produces estimates of the total resident population for each state and county. County population estimates are produced with a component of population change method, while the state population estimates are the sum of all county populations within the state. To produce the estimates, the demographic components of population change for the time period (births, deaths, and migration) are added or subtracted to the base populations from either Census 2000 or the revised population estimate for the most recent year.

Percent Population Change

As previously mentioned, Pike County led all Pennsylvania counties in population percent increase from 2004-2005, followed by Monroe (2.8 percent) and Franklin (2.0) counties. Warren (-1.0), Armstrong (-1.1), and Elk (-1.1) counties experienced the highest percent loss of population during this period. Pike has also been the fastest growing county since 2000, increasing by 21.7 percent, or 10,035 persons, followed by Monroe (17.7 percent, +24,547) and Forest (16.0 percent, +793) counties. Seven of the ten counties with the highest population percent growth between 2000 and 2005 are in the eastern part of the state, bordering New Jersey or the metropolitan Philadelphia area. In contrast, eight of the ten counties that experienced the highest percent population loss were concentrated in the northwestern and north central part of the state, between Erie and Pittsburgh. Thirty-five Pennsylvania counties experienced population loss during this period, led by Cameron (-5.6), Elk (-4.4), and Warren (-4.2) counties. Allegheny

(-3.6) and Philadelphia (-3.6) counties also experienced high percent population loss.

Numeric Population Change

As noted above, Philadelphia, Allegheny, and Montgomery are now the heaviest populated counties in the state. Sullivan (6,391), Forest (5,739), and Cameron (5,639) have the smallest populations. Since 2000, Cameron and Forest counties have changed positions, as Forest gained 793 persons, while both Cameron (-335) and Sullivan (-165) lost residents.

From 2004-2005, Chester (+7,984), York (+7,738), and Berks (+4,867) counties gained the most residents, while Armstrong (-787), Philadelphia (-7,974), and Allegheny counties (-11,671) experienced the greatest population decreases. Chester (+40,526), York (+27,050), and Montgomery (+26,896) counties have gained the most residents since 2000, while Philadelphia (-54,265), Allegheny (-45,825), and Luzerne (-6,389) lead counties in population loss. Once again, the ten counties with the highest population increases from 2000-2005 were concentrated in the eastern and southeastern areas of the commonwealth. The ten counties that experienced the greatest population decreases, however, were more evenly distributed throughout the state. The combined population loss in Philadelphia and Allegheny during this period is greater than the current population of 37 Pennsylvania counties.

Components of Population Change: Births, Deaths and Migration

Philadelphia, Allegheny, and Montgomery led all Pennsylvania counties in the number of births and deaths from 2004-2005 and 2000-2005. The number of deaths in Allegheny since 2000 has outpaced births by 6,955. Cameron, Sullivan, and Forest counties had the lowest numbers of both births and deaths from 2004-2005 and 2000-2005. Births out paced deaths in all three counties between 2000 and 2005. (Table 1)

Table 1.

Components of Population Change						
County	2004-2005			2000-2005		
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Allegheny	13,496	14,691	-1,195	72,091	79,046	-6,955
Montgomery	9,594	6,775	2,819	49,983	36,449	13,534
Philadelphia	23,941	15,934	8,007	120,060	87,625	32,435
Cameron	58	58	0	311	378	-67
Forest	43	92	-49	186	405	-219
Sullivan	29	93	-64	233	513	-280

Philadelphia (16.3), Lancaster (13.9), and Dauphin (13.5) counties had the highest birth rates per 1,000 between 2004 and 2005, while Pike (7.5), Forest (7.5) counties, Sullivan (4.5) had the lowest rates. Since 2000, Philadelphia (15.3), Lancaster (13.9) and Chester (13.0) counties have had the highest birth rates and Pike (7.7), Sullivan (6.9), and Forest

(6.6) have had the lowest. Sullivan (15.1), Forest (14.4), and Luzerne (14.0) lead all counties with the highest death rates between 2000 and 2005, while Chester (7.2), Pike (6.7), and Centre (6.5) counties had the lowest.

Since 2000, the heaviest net migration has occurred in the counties of Chester (27,219), Monroe (22,651), and York (20,175). Erie (-6,678), Allegheny (-37,086), and Philadelphia (-83,693) all lost population to outmigration. The heaviest net international migration during this period occurred in Philadelphia (30,151), Allegheny (11,311), and Montgomery (8,411). Pike (36.5), Forest (36.3), and Monroe (28.6) counties had the highest net migration rates per 1,000 from 2000-2005, while Elk (-7.1), Cameron (-8.5), and Philadelphia (-10.7) had the highest net outmigration rates.

Additional maps and tables may be viewed on the PaSDC website at:

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

Customized tables showing Pennsylvania's population by county may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336, or by emailing the PaSDC at: PaSDC@psu.edu.

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 Census 2000, Population Estimates Division

Table 2: Annual Estimates of Population Change for Counties of Pennsylvania and County Rankings: July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005

Area	Population estimates		Change, 2004 to 2005		State ranking of counties			
	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Number	Percent	Population estimates		Change, 2004 to 2005	
					July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	12,429,616	12,394,471	35,145	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Adams	99,749	98,265	1,484	1.5	31	31	14	8
Allegheny	1,235,841	1,247,512	-11,671	-0.9	2	2	67	64
Armstrong	70,586	71,373	-787	-1.1	38	38	65	66
Beaver	177,377	178,120	-743	-0.4	20	20	64	54
Bedford	50,091	50,024	67	0.1	45	44	30	31
Berks	396,314	391,447	4,867	1.2	9	9	3	10
Blair	126,795	127,202	-407	-0.3	27	27	58	50
Bradford	62,537	62,496	41	0.1	40	40	32	33
Bucks	621,342	617,214	4,128	0.7	4	4	8	18
Butler	182,087	180,664	1,423	0.8	19	19	15	16
Cambria	148,073	148,646	-573	-0.4	22	22	62	52
Cameron	5,639	5,678	-39	-0.7	67	67	39	62
Carbon	61,959	61,032	927	1.5	41	41	19	7
Centre	140,561	139,948	613	0.4	25	25	20	21
Chester	474,027	466,043	7,984	1.7	7	7	1	5

**Table 2: Annual Estimates of Population Change for Counties of Pennsylvania and County Rankings:
July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005 (Continued)**

Area	Population estimates		Change, 2004 to 2005		State ranking of counties			
	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Number	Percent	Population estimates		Change, 2004 to 2005	
					July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Number	Percent
Clarion	40,589	40,466	123	0.3	55	55	26	26
Clearfield	82,783	82,883	-100	-0.1	36	36	43	42
Clinton	37,439	37,311	128	0.3	58	58	25	24
Columbia	64,939	64,939	-	0.0	39	39	36	36
Crawford	89,442	89,725	-283	-0.3	34	34	52	49
Cumberland	223,089	221,135	1,954	0.9	16	16	12	13
Dauphin	253,995	253,060	935	0.4	15	15	18	23
Delaware	555,648	554,426	1,222	0.2	5	5	16	29
Elk	33,577	33,963	-386	-1.1	59	59	56	67
Erie	280,446	280,844	-398	-0.1	14	14	57	44
Fayette	146,142	146,842	-700	-0.5	24	24	63	55
Forest	5,739	5,773	-34	-0.6	66	66	38	59
Franklin	137,409	134,743	2,666	2.0	26	26	9	3
Fulton	14,673	14,569	104	0.7	64	64	27	17
Greene	39,808	40,001	-193	-0.5	56	56	47	56
Huntingdon	45,947	45,920	27	0.1	47	47	35	34
Indiana	88,703	88,929	-226	-0.3	35	35	50	48
Jefferson	45,759	45,835	-76	-0.2	48	48	42	45
Juniata	23,507	23,314	193	0.8	61	61	23	15
Lackawanna	209,525	209,950	-425	-0.2	17	17	60	46
Lancaster	490,562	486,361	4,201	0.9	6	6	7	14
Lawrence	92,809	93,148	-339	-0.4	32	32	54	51
Lebanon	125,578	124,087	1,491	1.2	28	28	13	11
Lehigh	330,433	325,570	4,863	1.5	11	11	4	9
Luzerne	312,861	313,088	-227	-0.1	12	12	51	38
Lycoming	118,395	118,505	-110	-0.1	30	30	44	40
McKean	44,370	44,740	-370	-0.8	50	49	55	63
Mercer	119,598	119,715	-117	-0.1	29	29	46	41
Mifflin	46,235	46,191	44	0.1	46	46	31	32
Monroe	163,234	158,816	4,418	2.8	21	21	6	2
Montgomery	775,883	773,375	2,508	0.3	3	3	10	25
Montour	18,032	17,995	37	0.2	62	62	33	30
Northampton	287,767	283,333	4,434	1.6	13	13	5	6
Northumberland	92,610	92,821	-211	-0.2	33	33	48	47
Perry	44,728	44,549	179	0.4	49	50	24	22
Philadelphia	1,463,281	1,471,255	-7,974	-0.5	1	1	66	58
Pike	56,337	54,041	2,296	4.2	42	43	11	1
Potter	17,834	17,950	-116	-0.6	63	63	45	60
Schuylkill	147,447	147,410	37	0.0	23	23	33	35
Snyder	38,207	38,113	94	0.2	57	57	29	27
Somerset	78,907	79,322	-415	-0.5	37	37	59	57
Sullivan	6,391	6,435	-44	-0.7	65	65	40	61
Susquehanna	42,124	42,023	101	0.2	52	53	28	28
Tioga	41,649	41,701	-52	-0.1	54	54	41	43
Union	43,131	42,881	250	0.6	51	51	22	19
Venango	55,928	56,149	-221	-0.4	43	42	49	53
Warren	42,033	42,470	-437	-1.0	53	52	61	65
Washington	206,406	205,319	1,087	0.5	18	18	17	20
Wayne	50,113	49,640	473	1.0	44	45	21	12
Westmoreland	367,635	367,937	-302	-0.1	10	10	53	39
Wyoming	28,160	28,176	-16	-0.1	60	60	37	37
York	408,801	401,063	7,738	1.9	8	8	2	4