



Research Brief

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2005 Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania Municipalities: Philadelphia Remains the Nation's 5th Largest City

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released July 1, 2005 population estimates showing that Philadelphia remains the nation's 5th largest city. With a population of 1.46 million, Philadelphia still ranks ahead of Phoenix, Arizona by approximately 1,700 persons. However, Philadelphia continues to lose population, and the difference between the two cities has decreased significantly since 2004, when the gap was over 54,000 people. Pittsburgh (316,718) was the only other Pennsylvania city to rank among the top 100 cities nationally in population.

The Nation's Fastest Growing Large Cities

An analysis of the nation's large cities (those with a population greater than 100,000 persons) shows that Elk Grove City, California grew the fastest between July 1, 2004 and July 1, 2005 (+11.6 percent). Seventeen of the top 25 fastest growing large cities are in California, Arizona, Nevada, or Texas. No northeastern cities ranked in the top 25. Pennsylvania cities with a population of 100,000 or more ranked accordingly: Allentown- 113th (+0.4 percent), Erie City- 163rd (-0.1 percent), Philadelphia- 210th (-0.5 percent), Pittsburgh City- 245th (-1.3 percent).

Numeric Growth in the Nation's Large Cities

Phoenix, Arizona experienced the largest numeric increase in population of cities with a 100,000 or more residents. Phoenix's population increased 44,456 persons from 2004 to 2005 and ranks 6th nationally (1.46 million). Nineteen of the top 25 large cities with the most growth are in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, or Texas. Again, no northeastern cities ranked in the top 25.

Pennsylvania Municipalities

An analysis of Pennsylvania's municipalities shows that East Caln Township, Chester County, is the state's fastest growing municipality. The population of East Caln increased 33.8 percent between 2004 and 2005. Six Pennsylvania municipalities grew by double-digit percentages from 2004 to 2005. Penn Township, also in Chester County, leads the state in percent growth (67.4 percent) since 2000. Thirty-eight Pennsylvania municipalities experienced growth of 25 percent or higher during this period, while just three declined by more than ten percent.

Lower Macungie Township, in Lehigh County, again gained the most residents. From 2004 to 2005, Lower Macungie Township increased by 1,776 persons to a total population of 26,199. East Caln Township (+1,068) and Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County (+928) followed Lower Macungie in population increase. Lower Macungie has also experienced the most numeric growth since 2000. (Table 1)

Table 1: Pennsylvania Municipalities Experiencing the Largest Population Growth (Numerical Increase), 2004-2005

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2004 Estimate	July 1, 2005 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2005	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2005	Numeric Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005	Percent Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005
Lower Macungie township	19,220	24,423	26,199	6,979	36.3	1,776	7.3
East Caln township	2,857	3,164	4,232	1,375	48.1	1,068	33.8
Lower Providence township	22,390	24,009	24,937	2,547	11.4	928	3.9
Warrington township	17,580	21,182	22,020	4,440	25.3	838	4.0
East Coventry township	4,566	4,880	5,698	1,132	24.8	818	16.8
Warminster township	31,383	32,273	32,980	1,597	5.1	707	2.2
Middle Smithfield township	11,512	13,371	14,073	2,561	22.2	702	5.3
Forks township	8,424	12,163	12,853	4,429	52.6	690	5.7
Windsor township	12,807	14,313	14,987	2,180	17.0	674	4.7
Manchester township	12,700	15,157	15,795	3,095	24.4	638	4.2
Mount Joy township	7,952	9,600	10,232	2,280	28.7	632	6.6

Pennsylvania Municipalities with a Population of 10,000 or More

Lower Macungie Township was the fastest growing Pennsylvania municipality (+7.3 percent) with a population of 10,000 or more from 2004 to 2005. Lower Macungie was followed by Mount Joy Township, Lancaster County (+6.6 percent) and Forks Township, Northampton County (+5.7 percent).

Lower Macungie Township also increased the most in population (+1,776) among the state’s larger municipalities from 2004 to 2005, followed by Lower Providence (+928) and Warrington Township, Bucks County (+838). (Table 2)

Many of Pennsylvania’s Largest Municipalities Continue to Decline

Only 5 of Pennsylvania’s 15 largest municipalities increased in population between 2004 and 2005. Allentown City, Lehigh County grew by 414 persons, followed by Bensalem Township, Bucks County (+207), Reading City, Berks County (+154), Bethlehem City, Northampton County (+21), and Mill Creek Township, Erie County (+9). The state’s 15 largest municipalities combined for a net loss of 13,204 persons between 2004 and 2005. (Table 3)

The July 1, 2005 sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include minor civil divisions (MCDs) that comprised of the state's 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.

Table 2: Pennsylvania Municipalities, Population Greater than 10,000, Experiencing the Fastest Population Growth (Percent Increase), 2004-2005

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2004 Estimate	July 1, 2005 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2005	Numeric Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005	Percent Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005
Lower Macungie township	19,220	24,423	26,199	6,979	36.3	1,776	7.3
Mount Joy township	7,952	9,600	10,232	2,280	28.7	632	6.6
Forks township	8,424	12,163	12,853	4,429	52.6	690	5.7
Dingman township	8,788	10,685	11,263	2,475	28.2	578	5.4
Middle Smithfield township	11,512	13,371	14,073	2,561	22.2	702	5.3
Windsor township	12,807	14,313	14,987	2,180	17.0	674	4.7
Manchester township	12,700	15,157	15,795	3,095	24.4	638	4.2
Warrington township	17,580	21,182	22,020	4,440	25.3	838	4.0
Lower Providence township	22,390	24,009	24,937	2,547	11.4	928	3.9
Upper Saucon township	11,939	13,434	13,935	1,996	16.7	501	3.7
Skippack township	9,920	12,131	12,541	2,621	26.4	410	3.4

Table 3: Population, Pennsylvania's 15 Largest Cities, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2004 Estimate	July 1, 2005 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2004	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2005	Numeric Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005	Percent Change July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005
Philadelphia city	1,517,550	1,471,255	1,463,281	-54,269	-3.6	-7,974	-0.5
Pittsburgh city	334,563	320,828	316,718	-17,845	-5.3	-4,110	-1.3
Allentown city	106,632	106,578	106,992	360	0.3	414	0.4
Erie city	103,688	102,739	102,612	-1,076	-1.0	-127	-0.1
Reading city	81,207	80,701	80,855	-352	-0.4	154	0.2
Upper Darby township	81,821	79,836	79,620	-2,201	-2.7	-216	-0.3
Scranton city	76,081	73,629	73,120	-2,961	-3.9	-509	-0.7
Bensalem township	58,434	58,538	58,745	311	0.5	207	0.4
Lower Merion township	58,740	58,453	58,219	-521	-0.9	-234	-0.4
Abington township	55,991	55,548	55,265	-726	-1.3	-283	-0.5
Lancaster city	56,356	55,039	54,757	-1,599	-2.8	-282	-0.5
Bristol township	55,568	54,780	54,586	-982	-1.8	-194	-0.4
Bethlehem city	52,300	53,514	53,535	1,235	2.4	21	0.0
Millcreek township	52,158	52,657	52,666	508	1.0	9	0.0
Haverford township	49,608	48,847	48,767	-841	-1.7	-80	-0.2

For additional tables on the U.S. Census Bureau's release of the July 1, 2005 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, 2005, 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