



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

March 22, 2007

2006 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates Released

MIDDLETOWN, PA. — Pike County continues to be ranked nationally as Pennsylvania's fastest-growing county, among counties over 10,000 population in percent increase, according to the 2006 county population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. As of July 1, 2006, Pike County's population was 58,195, and has grown 25.7 percent, or 11,893 persons since April 1, 2000. Pike County has been ranked as the fastest-growing county in Pennsylvania each year since 2000. No other Pennsylvania county ranks in the national top 100 for growth rate over this time period. From 2000-2006, Forest County has actually had the largest percent population increase (31.5), but is not nationally ranked because it has a population below 10,000. Chester County was ranked in the top 100 counties for numeric growth, 86th in the nation with a population increase of 48,611 from the April 1, 2000 estimate base, to 482,112 in 2006. The commonwealth also boasted four counties among the top 100 largest nationally in 2006: Philadelphia, 24th (1,448,394), Allegheny, 30th (1,223,411), Montgomery, 69th (775,688) and Bucks, 95th (623,205). Philadelphia County slipped from 22nd in 2005 to 24th this year.

The county population estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, internal and international migration. The estimates reflect changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of Jan. 1 of the estimates year, other geographic program changes and Count Question Resolution (CQR) actions. (The CQR Program was an administrative review program that handled external challenges to particular official Census 2000 counts.)

Percent Population Change

Pike County led Pennsylvania counties in population percent increase from 2005-2006, increasing 2,015 people, or 3.6 percent and was followed by Monroe, Franklin and York counties, each with a 2.0 percent population increase. Cameron (-1.9 percent), Sullivan (-1.3 percent), Elk (-0.9 percent), and Potter (-0.9) counties experienced the largest percent loss of population during this period. Six of the top ten counties with the highest population percent growth from 2000-2006 are in the eastern part of the state, bordering New Jersey or the metropolitan Philadelphia area. In contrast, seven of the top ten counties with the highest percent population loss over the 2000-2006 time period were



concentrated in the northwestern and north central part of the state. Thirty-seven counties experienced population loss during this period, led by Cameron (-8.1 percent), Elk (-5.5 percent) and Warren (-4.8 percent) counties. Both Allegheny (-4.5 percent) and Philadelphia (-4.6 percent) also experienced high population loss.

Numeric Population Change

As stated above, Philadelphia, Allegheny and Montgomery County are the most populous counties in the state. Cameron (5,489), Sullivan (6,277) and Forest (6,506) have the smallest populations. Forest County gained 1,560 people (due to a State Correctional Institution) while Cameron (-485) and Sullivan (-279) lost population.

From 2005-2006, Chester (+8,389), York (+8,140), and Lehigh (+5,376) counties gained the most population, while Beaver (-1,089), Philadelphia (-7,956), and Allegheny (-9,625) counties experienced the greatest population decreases. Chester (+48,611), York (+34,571) and Berks (+27,488) counties have gained the most population since 2000, while Philadelphia (-69,156), Allegheny (-58,255) and Luzerne (-6,232) have experienced the biggest population decrease in that time period.

Components of Population Change: Births, Deaths and Migration

Philadelphia, Allegheny, and Montgomery led all Pennsylvania counties in the number of births and deaths from 2005-2006 and 2000-2006. The number of deaths in Allegheny County has outpaced the number of births by 9,044. Forest, Cameron and Sullivan counties had the lowest number of births and deaths from 2005-2006 and 2000-2006. Births were outpaced by deaths in all three counties between 2000 and 2006. (Table 1)

Table 1.

Components of Population Change						
County	2005-2006			2000-2006		
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Allegheny	12,978	14,701	-1,723	84,690	93,734	-9,044
Montgomery	9,487	7,336	2,151	59,760	44,538	15,222
Philadelphia	21,720	16,028	5,692	135,243	103,432	31,811
Cameron	63	82	-19	356	485	-129
Forest	39	76	-37	227	463	-236
Sullivan	52	103	-51	311	636	-325

Philadelphia (15.0), Lancaster (14.0), and Juniata (13.3) counties had the highest birth rates per 1,000 between 2005 and 2006, while Forest (6.0), Pike (6.3), and Centre (8.2) had the lowest rates.

Since 2000, the largest net migration has occurred in the counties of Chester (33,529), York (27,289), and Monroe (24,911). Philadelphia (-96,674), Allegheny (-45,218), and Erie (-7,539) all lost population to outmigration.

Additional maps and tables may be view 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 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 Rankings: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006								
Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2005 to 2006		State Ranking of Counties			
	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	Number	Percent	Population Estimates		Change, 2005 to 2006	
					July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	12,440,621	12,405,348	35,273	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Adams	101,105	99,746	1,359	1.4	31	31	15	9
Allegheny	1,223,411	1,233,036	-9,625	-0.8	2	2	67	62
Armstrong	70,096	70,527	-431	-0.6	38	38	56	58
Beaver	175,736	176,825	-1,089	-0.6	20	20	65	59
Bedford	49,927	49,862	65	0.1	45	45	30	28
Berks	401,149	396,236	4,913	1.2	9	9	4	10
Blair	126,494	126,572	-78	-0.1	28	27	43	40
Bradford	62,471	62,504	-33	-0.1	41	40	40	38
Bucks	623,205	619,772	3,433	0.6	4	4	7	19
Butler	182,901	181,526	1,375	0.8	19	19	14	17
Cambria	146,967	147,804	-837	-0.6	23	22	64	56
Cameron	5,489	5,593	-104	-1.9	67	67	46	67
Carbon	62,567	61,876	691	1.1	40	41	18	12
Centre	140,953	140,313	640	0.5	25	25	19	22
Chester	482,112	473,723	8,389	1.8	7	7	1	5
Clarion	40,385	40,388	-3	-	56	56	37	36
Clearfield	82,442	82,634	-192	-0.2	36	36	49	46
Clinton	37,232	37,233	-1	-	58	58	34	35
Columbia	65,014	64,792	222	0.3	39	39	25	24
Crawford	89,389	89,484	-95	-0.1	34	34	45	42
Cumberland	226,117	223,017	3,100	1.4	16	16	9	7

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Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2005 to 2006		State Ranking of Counties			
	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	Number	Percent	Population Estimates		Change, 2005 to 2006	
					July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	Number	Percent
Dauphin	254,176	252,949	1,227	0.5	15	15	16	21
Delaware	555,996	554,393	1,603	0.3	5	5	12	25
Elk	33,179	33,473	-294	-0.9	59	59	54	64
Erie	279,811	280,184	-373	-0.1	14	14	55	44
Fayette	145,760	146,206	-446	-0.3	24	24	58	49
Forest	6,506	6,507	-1	-	65	65	34	37
Franklin	139,991	137,273	2,718	2.0	26	26	10	4
Fulton	14,783	14,655	128	0.9	64	64	27	14
Greene	40,432	40,408	24	0.1	55	55	31	30
Huntingdon	45,771	45,772	-1	-	47	47	34	34
Indiana	88,234	88,481	-247	-0.3	35	35	52	48
Jefferson	45,725	45,716	9	-	48	48	33	32
Juniata	23,512	23,412	100	0.4	61	61	29	23
Lackawanna	209,728	209,622	106	0.1	17	17	28	31
Lancaster	494,486	489,936	4,550	0.9	6	6	5	13
Lawrence	91,795	92,412	-617	-0.7	32	32	61	60
Lebanon	126,883	125,429	1,454	1.2	27	28	13	11
Lehigh	335,544	330,168	5,376	1.6	11	11	3	6
Luzerne	313,020	312,795	225	0.1	12	12	24	29
Lycoming	117,668	118,102	-434	-0.4	30	30	57	51
McKean	44,065	44,239	-174	-0.4	50	50	48	52
Mercer	118,551	119,115	-564	-0.5	29	29	60	53
Mifflin	46,057	46,085	-28	-0.1	46	46	38	39
Monroe	165,685	162,415	3,270	2.0	21	21	8	2
Montgomery	775,688	774,666	1,022	0.1	3	3	17	27
Montour	17,934	17,983	-49	-0.3	62	62	41	47
Northampton	291,306	287,334	3,972	1.4	13	13	6	8
Northumberland	91,654	92,280	-626	-0.7	33	33	62	61
Perry	45,087	44,724	363	0.8	49	49	22	15
Philadelphia	1,448,394	1,456,350	-7,956	-0.5	1	1	66	54
Pike	58,195	56,180	2,015	3.6	42	42	11	1
Potter	17,568	17,728	-160	-0.9	63	63	47	65
Schuylkill	147,405	146,996	409	0.3	22	23	20	26
Snyder	38,226	37,949	277	0.7	57	57	23	18
Somerset	78,508	78,796	-288	-0.4	37	37	53	50
Sullivan	6,277	6,361	-84	-1.3	66	66	44	66
Susquehanna	41,889	41,943	-54	-0.1	52	53	42	43
Tioga	41,137	41,382	-245	-0.6	54	54	51	57
Union	43,387	43,171	216	0.5	51	51	26	20
Venango	55,488	55,938	-450	-0.8	43	43	59	63
Warren	41,742	41,973	-231	-0.6	53	52	50	55
Washington	206,432	206,418	14	-	18	18	32	33
Wayne	50,929	50,529	400	0.8	44	44	21	16
Westmoreland	366,440	367,133	-693	-0.2	10	10	63	45
Wyoming	28,093	28,122	-29	-0.1	60	60	39	41
York	416,322	408,182	8,140	2.0	8	8	2	3