Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

June 11, 2007

2005 County Business Patterns Released

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Pennsylvania saw an increase in 1,776 business establishments with paid employees between 2004 and 2005, according to the recently-released U.S. Census Bureau report, County Business Patterns: 2005. Though the number of business establishments increased, the total number of paid employees decreased by 24,414, or a 0.5 percent loss.

County Business Patterns: 2005 provides data by county on the number of establishments, number of employees, and payroll information for business with paid employees. Data are obtained from Census Bureau reports and administrative records from other federal agencies. Certain businesses are excluded from the report, including agricultural workers, people who are self-employed, and most government employees.

Union County saw the largest percent change in the number of employer business establishments between 2004 and 2005, a 5.6 percent increase, or 48 more establishments than in 2004. Chester County had the largest numeric increase in employer business establishments, with an increase of 330 businesses with paid employees. Chester County also saw the largest increase in paid employees, with 9,848 more employees in 2005 than in 2004.

Total payroll for Pennsylvania employers in 2005 was up 4.4 percent, to $189,692,284. Philadelphia and Chester Counties saw the largest numeric increase in payroll from 2004 to 2005, with Philadelphia increasing $1,420,977, or a 6.0 percent increase, and Chester's total payroll growing by $1,352,403, a 13.2 percent increase. Greene County saw the largest percent increase in payroll between 2004 and 2005, with a 21.0 percent increase ($54,072).

Allegheny (34,487), Philadelphia (26,610), and Montgomery (26,274) Counties had the largest number of total employer business establishments of all Pennsylvania Counties. The same counties were also the top three in the state in terms of total number of paid employees, as well: Allegheny (671,670), Philadelphia (567,656) and Montgomery (482,042).

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry group employed more people in Pennsylvania in 2005 than any other, with 837,643 employees. The Retail Trade industry

group, however, had more total employer business establishments, with 47,223 establishments.

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry group also added more jobs between 2004 and 2005 than any other major industry group, a total of 14,819, or a 1.8 percent change. The Real Estate, Rental and Leasing industry group had the largest percent change in employment between 2004 and 2005, with a 3.0 percent increase, a total of 2,035 new employees.

Decrease in Pennsylvania Businesses
Pennsylvania saw a net decrease in the number of paid employees from 2004 to 2005. A number of counties also saw a decrease in the total number of employees, led by Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, which saw a decrease of 14,665 and 11,299 employees, respectively. Cameron and Dauphin Counties saw the largest percent decrease in employees between 2004 and 2005, -7.4 percent and -7.1 percent respectively.

The Construction and Retail Trade industry groups saw the largest numeric loss in employment, with 14,093 and 9,263 fewer employees in 2005 than in 2004. In terms of percent change, the Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Agricultural Support industry group lost the largest proportion of employees (among industries with classifications) between 2004 and 2005, decreasing 12.6 percent.

Among industries with a classification, the Finance and Insurance industry group and Manufacturing industry group saw the largest numeric decrease in total number of establishments in the 2004-2005 year: Finance and Insurance had 414 fewer establishments in 2005, while Manufacturing had 291 fewer. The largest proportional decrease among Pennsylvania industry establishments with classifications was seen in the Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Agricultural Support industry group, with a 7.3 percent decrease in total employer establishments between 2004 and 2005.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns: 2005

PENN**S**TATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs

Table 1. Employment, Payroll and Establishments for Pennsylvania Counties, 2005			
Area Name	Number of Employees for Week Including 03/12/2005	Annual Payroll, 2005	Total Establishments, 2005
TOTAL	5,082,630	189,692,284	303,333
Adams County	28,797	777,305	1,954
Allegheny County	671,670	26,360,607	34,847
Armstrong County	15,356	393,450	1,423
Beaver County	48,583	1,461,726	3,508
Bedford County	14,098	335,273	1,089
Berks County	146,678	5,258,537	8,525
Blair County	50,445	1,398,217	3,295
Bradford County	18,938	537,253	1,350
Bucks County	254,842	9,424,934	19,137
Butler County	67,751	2,137,718	4,653
Cambria County	49,365	1,344,709	3,538
Cameron County	1,780	44,621	141
Carbon County	12,967	312,543	1,156
Centre County	43,619	1,213,022	3,281
Chester County	223,180	11,561,668	13,713
Clarion County	11,932	292,292	1,015
Clearfield County	25,237	671,617	1,988
Clinton County	10,454	258,828	759
Columbia County	23,231	674,260	1,524
Crawford County	26,519	705,556	2,201
Cumberland County	112,902	4,087,723	5,720
Dauphin County	142,531	5,255,310	6,912
Delaware County	216,353	9,561,721	13,263
Elk County	14,230	428,422	962
Erie County	118,272	3,529,044	6,614
Fayette County	36,017	864,651	2,817
Forest County	1,143	30,990	120
Franklin County	46,230	1,367,483	3,017
Fulton County	4,460	187,802	312
Greene County	9,069	311,032	693
Huntingdon County	9,288	246,155	845
Indiana County	27,131	800,081	2,027
Jefferson County	13,716	354,956	1,153
Juniata County	6,162	151,537	495
Lackawanna County	93,372	2,679,681	5,452
Lancaster County	219,423	7,193,980	11,970
Lawrence County	28,663	795,427	2,101
Lebanon County	42,927	1,264,096	2,638
Lehigh County	158,798	6,381,375	8,344

Table 1. Employment, Payroll and Establishments for Pennsylvania Counties, 2005 (Continued)			
Area Name	Number of Employees for Week Including 03/12/2005	Annual Payroll, 2005	Total Establishments, 2005
Lycoming County	45,757	1,278,067	2,803
McKean County	13,967	405,007	1,122
Mercer County	45,430	1,240,646	2,964
Mifflin County	14,088	393,924	994
Monroe County	47,561	1,330,011	3,703
Montgomery County	482,042	23,463,961	26,274
Montour County	11,646	546,592	412
Northampton County	90,350	3,053,926	6,174
Northumberland County	23,559	637,822	1,723
Perry County	6,416	141,473	827
Philadelphia County	567,656	25,042,937	26,610
Pike County	6,830	170,269	875
Potter County	5,497	160,281	402
Schuylkill County	41,620	1,197,876	3,066
Snyder County	15,433	393,798	861
Somerset County	22,859	555,532	1,877
Sullivan County	1,372	31,046	193
Susquehanna County	6,215	150,785	862
Tioga County	10,032	243,650	853
Union County	16,289	450,355	900
Venango County	16,711	472,802	1,258
Warren County	13,490	415,060	912
Washington County	75,790	2,622,977	5,067
Wayne County	14,120	366,883	1,612
Westmoreland County	127,886	3,922,189	9,094
Wyoming County	8,070	290,462	655
York County	159,208	5,451,299	8,623
Statewide *	20,964	943,138	275

* Statewide establishments are those establishments without a fixed location or having an unknown county location within a state.

PENNSTATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs