



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## Data Center Releases New 2008 Pennsylvania Facts Brochure

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Did you know that the home ownership rate in Pennsylvania was 71.7 percent in 2006? Or that 7.65 million acres of Pennsylvania land were part of farms during the same time? These facts, and dozens more, are contained in the Pennsylvania State Data Center's new 2008 *Pennsylvania Facts* Brochure.

A quick reference to the facts and figures that define the commonwealth, *Pennsylvania Facts* is a fun and informative overview of Pennsylvania's demographics. It contains information on Population (Pennsylvania's 2007 estimated population was 12,432,792), Economic facts (the median household income in 2006 was \$46,259), Employment and Housing (the median home value of owner-occupied units in 2006 was \$145,200), and several other topics.

Not just numbers, the Pennsylvania Facts Brochure also highlights the basic facts about Pennsylvania and its government: the official state drink is milk, the state insect is the firefly and the flagship of the state is the U.S. Brig Niagara, a restored warship that was critical to the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

Highlights from the 2008 *Pennsylvania Facts*:

- Pennsylvania is the sixth-largest state in the nation.
- 75.6 percent of Pennsylvania's residents were born in the state.
- Pennsylvania's Gross State Product in 2006 was \$510 billion.
- Pennsylvania has 21 electoral votes.
- There are currently 2,563 municipalities (cities, townships and boroughs) in Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania gained statehood on December 12, 1787.
- 76.4 percent of Pennsylvania workers drove to work alone, and the average travel time for all workers was 25 minutes in 2006.
- 54.9 percent of households have two or more vehicles.
- 86.2 percent of the population 25 or older had a high-school diploma in 2006, and 25.4 percent had a Bachelor's Degree or higher.
- The largest industry in Pennsylvania was the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, with 827,746 employees in 2006.

The cover of the brochure is a collage of images by Pennsylvania artists or depicting events in Pennsylvania's history, like Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (1851). Also pictured are *Benjamin Franklin*, by an Unknown Artist (circa 1777-1780); *The Gossips*, by Horace Bonham (1835-1892); *The Banjo Lesson* (1893), by Henry Ossawa Tanner; *Landscape* (1916), by Morton Schamberg; and *Flying Eagle* (circa 1870), by Catherine Gudila Burgaman Swengel.

Other Fun Facts:

- Hannah Callowhill Penn, wife of Pennsylvania founder William Penn, administered the colony of Pennsylvania from 1712-1726, during her husband's illness and after his death. She was the only woman to control a British colony for so long.
- The most popular field of study at Pennsylvania colleges and universities is Business and Marketing, with 16,164 Bachelor's degrees conferred in that field in 2005-2006.
- There were 682 public libraries in Pennsylvania in 2004-2005, employing 1,204 professional librarians.

Limited quantities of the 2008 *Pennsylvania Facts* brochure are available free of charge, upon request: call the Data Center at 717-772-2710 or email at: [PaSDC@psu.edu](mailto:PaSDC@psu.edu) . It is also available for download from the PaSDC's web site at <http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu> : just click on "What's New."

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.

Sources: 2006 American Community Survey, 2006 and 2007 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Department of Education, Pa Department of Transportation, PA Department of Labor, [www.explorepahistory.com](http://www.explorepahistory.com)