



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

March 20, 2008

2007 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates Released

MIDDLETOWN, PA. — Pike County is Pennsylvania's fastest-growing county, according to the 2007 county population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. As of July 1, 2007, Pike County's population was 58,633, and has grown 2.4 percent, or 1,381 people since July 1, 2006. Pike County grew by 26.6 percent, or 12,331 persons since April 1, 2000. Pike County has been ranked as the fastest-growing county in Pennsylvania each year since 2000. Though several counties saw strong growth during the time period, no Pennsylvania county ranks in the national top 100 for growth rate over this time period. From 2000-2007, Forest County had the largest cumulative percent population increase (40.6), but that increase is largely due to the construction of a state correctional institution in 2004. The commonwealth also boasted four counties among the top 100 largest nationally in 2007: Philadelphia, 24th (1,449,634), Allegheny, 30th (1,219,210), Montgomery, 69th (776,172) and Bucks, 96th (621,144).

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

In addition to Pike County, Carbon, York and Chester counties led the state in percent population increase from 2006-2007, with 1.8, 1.6 and 1.5 percent population increases, respectively. Potter (-2.2 percent), Forest (-1.0 percent), and Cameron (-0.9 percent) counties experienced the largest percent loss of population during this period. Six of the top ten counties with the highest population percent growth from 2000-2007 are in the eastern part of the state, bordering New Jersey or the metropolitan Philadelphia area. In contrast, nine of the top ten counties with the highest percent population loss over the 2000-2007 time period were concentrated in the western and north-central part of the state. Thirty-eight counties experienced population loss during this period, led by Cameron (-10.5 percent), Elk (-7.1 percent) and Warren (-6.6 percent) counties. Both

Allegheny (-4.9 percent) and Philadelphia (-4.5 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 (5,349), Sullivan (6,200) and Forest (6,955) have the smallest populations. Cameron (-50), Sullivan (-29) and Forest (-73) counties all lost population from 2006-2007.

From 2006-2007, Chester (+7,355), York (+6,544), and Lancaster (+4,616) counties gained the most population, while Allegheny (-5,783), Philadelphia (-3,578), and Westmoreland (-1,154) counties experienced the greatest population decreases. Chester (+52,844), York (+39,298) and Berks (+28,317) counties have gained the most population since 2000, while Philadelphia (-67,916), Allegheny (-62,456) and Beaver (-8,338) 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 2006-2007 and 2000-2007. The number of deaths in Allegheny County has outpaced the number of births by 11,585 since 2000. Cameron, Forest and Sullivan counties had the lowest number of births and deaths from 2006-2007 and 2000-2007. Deaths outpaced births in all three counties between 2000 and 2007. (Table 1)

Table 1.

Components of Population Change						
County	2006-2007			2000-2007		
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Allegheny	12,481	14,479	-1,998	96,755	108,340	-11,585
Montgomery	9,112	7,034	2,078	68,494	51,334	17,160
Philadelphia	21,471	15,590	5,881	156,888	118,669	38,219
Cameron	51	66	-15	395	525	-130
Forest	41	78	-37	264	530	-266
Sullivan	47	105	-58	357	737	-380

Philadelphia (14.8), Lancaster (14.2), and Berks (13.4) counties had the highest birth rates per 1,000 between 2006 and 2007, while Forest (5.9), Sullivan (7.6), and Pike (7.9) had the lowest rates.

Since 2000, the largest total net in-migration has occurred in the counties of Chester (35,375), York (30,049), and Monroe (23,473). Philadelphia (-100,262), Allegheny (-45,419), and Erie (-8,779) led the state in population lost to out-migration.

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: Estimates of Population Change for Counties of Pennsylvania and Rankings: July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007

Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2006 to 2007		State Ranking of Counties			
	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	Number	Percent	Population Estimates		Change, 2006 to 2007	
					July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	12,432,792	12,402,817	29,975	0.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Adams	100,779	100,050	729	0.7	31	31	17	14
Allegheny	1,219,210	1,224,993	-5,783	-0.5	2	2	67	56
Armstrong	69,059	69,325	-266	-0.4	38	38	51	49
Beaver	173,074	174,021	-947	-0.5	20	20	63	58
Bedford	49,650	49,700	-50	-0.1	45	45	38	36
Berks	401,955	398,749	3,206	0.8	9	9	6	13
Blair	125,527	125,643	-116	-0.1	28	28	44	35
Bradford	61,471	61,594	-123	-0.2	41	41	45	41
Bucks	621,144	619,407	1,737	0.3	4	4	11	22
Butler	181,934	181,179	755	0.4	19	19	16	17
Cambria	144,995	146,080	-1,085	-0.7	23	23	64	62
Cameron	5,349	5,399	-50	-0.9	67	67	38	65
Carbon	63,242	62,152	1,090	1.8	40	40	15	2
Centre	144,658	144,205	453	0.3	24	25	20	19
Chester	486,345	478,990	7,355	1.5	7	7	1	4
Clarion	40,028	40,194	-166	-0.4	55	55	46	51
Clearfield	81,452	81,897	-445	-0.5	36	36	59	57
Clinton	37,213	37,277	-64	-0.2	58	58	41	39
Columbia	64,726	64,668	58	0.1	39	39	30	30
Crawford	88,663	88,887	-224	-0.3	34	34	48	45
Cumberland	228,019	225,772	2,247	1.0	16	16	8	11
Dauphin	255,710	254,068	1,642	0.6	15	15	12	16
Delaware	554,399	553,732	667	0.1	5	5	18	28
Elk	32,610	32,869	-259	-0.8	59	59	50	63
Erie	279,092	279,686	-594	-0.2	14	14	61	42

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Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2006 to 2007		State Ranking of Counties			
	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	Number	Percent	Population Estimates		Change, 2006 to 2007	
					July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	Number	Percent
Fayette	144,556	144,919	-363	-0.3	25	24	55	44
Forest	6,955	7,028	-73	-1.0	65	65	42	66
Franklin	141,665	139,685	1,980	1.4	26	26	9	5
Fulton	14,939	14,756	183	1.2	64	64	25	7
Greene	39,503	39,609	-106	-0.3	56	56	43	47
Huntingdon	45,556	45,487	69	0.2	47	47	29	26
Indiana	87,690	87,924	-234	-0.3	35	35	49	46
Jefferson	45,135	45,132	3	-	49	48	33	33
Juniata	23,168	23,155	13	0.1	61	61	32	32
Lackawanna	209,330	209,146	184	0.1	17	17	24	31
Lancaster	498,465	493,849	4,616	0.9	6	6	3	12
Lawrence	90,991	91,351	-360	-0.4	33	32	54	50
Lebanon	127,889	126,441	1,448	1.1	27	27	13	8
Lehigh	337,343	333,833	3,510	1.1	11	11	5	10
Luzerne	312,265	311,626	639	0.2	12	12	19	23
Lycoming	116,811	117,349	-538	-0.5	29	30	60	54
McKean	43,633	44,009	-376	-0.9	51	50	56	64
Mercer	116,809	117,558	-749	-0.6	30	29	62	59
Mifflin	46,941	46,891	50	0.1	46	46	31	29
Monroe	164,722	162,913	1,809	1.1	21	21	10	9
Montgomery	776,172	773,866	2,306	0.3	3	3	7	20
Montour	17,817	17,848	-31	-0.2	62	62	35	40
Northampton	293,522	289,884	3,638	1.3	13	13	4	6
Northumberland	91,003	91,049	-46	-0.1	32	33	37	34
Perry	45,163	44,869	294	0.7	48	49	21	15
Philadelphia	1,449,634	1,453,212	-3,578	-0.2	1	1	66	43
Pike	58,633	57,252	1,381	2.4	42	42	14	1
Potter	16,987	17,365	-378	-2.2	63	63	57	67
Schuylkill	147,269	147,037	232	0.2	22	22	23	25
Snyder	38,113	38,042	71	0.2	57	57	28	24
Somerset	77,861	78,206	-345	-0.4	37	37	53	53
Sullivan	6,200	6,229	-29	-0.5	66	66	34	55
Susquehanna	41,123	41,425	-302	-0.7	52	52	52	60
Tioga	40,681	40,741	-60	-0.1	54	54	40	38
Union	43,724	43,543	181	0.4	50	51	26	18
Venango	54,763	55,167	-404	-0.7	43	43	58	61
Warren	40,986	41,167	-181	-0.4	53	53	47	52
Washington	205,553	205,297	256	0.1	18	18	22	27
Wayne	51,708	51,561	147	0.3	44	44	27	21
Westmoreland	362,326	363,480	-1,154	-0.3	10	10	65	48
Wyoming	27,835	27,874	-39	-0.1	60	60	36	37
York	421,049	414,505	6,544	1.6	8	8	2	3