Research Brief

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2006 County Business Patterns Released

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Pennsylvania saw an increase of 725 business establishments with paid employees between 2005 and 2006, according to the recently-released U.S. Census Bureau report, County Business Patterns: 2006. As the number of business establishments increased, the total number of paid employees also increased, adding 107,319 employees or a 2.1 percent gain.

County Business Patterns: 2006 provides data by county on the number of establishments, number of employees, and payroll information for businesses with paid employees. Data is 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.

Adams County saw the largest percent change in the number of employer business establishments between 2005 and 2006, a 2.9 percent increase, or 57 more establishments than in 2005. Montgomery County had the largest numeric increase in employer business establishments, with an increase of 219 businesses with paid employees. Montgomery County also saw the largest increase in paid employees, with 14,527 more employees in 2006 than in 2005.

Total payroll for Pennsylvania employers in 2006 was up 5.7 percent, to over $200 billion. Montgomery and Allegheny Counties saw the largest numeric increase in payroll from 2005 to 2006, with Montgomery increasing $1.8 billion or a 7.5 percent increase, and Allegheny's total payroll growing by $1.4 billion, a 5.2 percent increase. Cameron County saw the largest percent increase in payroll between 2005 and 2006, with a 39.2 percent increase ($17,502,000).

Allegheny (34,800), Philadelphia (26,567), and Montgomery (26,493) 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 (675,939), Philadelphia (579,964) and Montgomery (496,569).

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry group employed more people in Pennsylvania in 2006 than any other industry group, with 860,829 employees. The Retail

Trade industry group, however, had more total employer business establishments, with 46,660 establishments.

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry group also added more jobs between 2005 and 2006 than any other major industry group, a total of 23,186, or a 2.8 percent change. The Transportation & Warehousing industry group had the largest percent increase in employment (6.4 percent) between 2005 and 2006, adding a total of 12,532 new employees.

Decrease in County Employment
While Pennsylvania saw a net increase in the number of paid employees from 2005 to 2006, a number of counties saw a decrease in the total number of employees. Westmoreland and Bedford Counties had the largest decrease of employees, losing 857 and 469, respectively. Perry and Bedford Counties saw the largest percent decrease in employees between 2005 and 2006, -4.8 percent and -3.3 percent respectively.

The Management of Companies & Enterprises industry group saw the largest numeric loss in employment, with 3,884 fewer employees in 2006 than in 2005. In terms of percent change, the Utilities industry group lost the largest proportion of employees (among industries with classifications) between 2005 and 2006, decreasing 6.1 percent.

The Retail Trade industry group saw the largest numeric decrease in total number of establishments in the 2005-2006 year with 563 fewer establishments in 2006. The largest proportional decrease among Pennsylvania industry establishments with classifications was seen in the Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Agricultural Support industry group, with a 6.6 percent decrease in total employer establishments between 2005 and 2006.
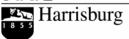
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns: 2006

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Table 1. Employment, Payroll and Establishments for Pennsylvania Counties, 2006			
Area Name	**Number of Employees for Week Including 03/12/2006**	**Annual Payroll ($1,000), 2006**	**Total Establishments, 2006**
TOTAL	**5,189,949**	**200,537,253**	**304,058**
Adams County	31,187	867,474	2,011
Allegheny County	675,939	27,727,022	34,800
Armstrong County	14,941	399,110	1,388
Beaver County	52,501	1,614,225	3,496
Bedford County	13,629	356,392	1,100
Berks County	149,975	5,504,455	8,575
Blair County	51,122	1,443,351	3,334
Bradford County	19,266	572,437	1,336
Bucks County	259,736	9,881,980	19,172
Butler County	69,860	2,354,050	4,649
Cambria County	51,450	1,454,640	3,558
Cameron County	2,237	62,123	137
Carbon County	13,524	344,061	1,180
Centre County	45,247	1,315,144	3,309
Chester County	227,846	12,421,118	13,827
Clarion County	11,831	300,581	991
Clearfield County	25,791	691,861	1,959
Clinton County	10,757	286,288	754
Columbia County	23,349	720,457	1,507
Crawford County	27,933	746,489	2,159
Cumberland County	116,138	4,237,670	5,775
Dauphin County	145,451	5,526,166	6,973
Delaware County	221,700	10,205,634	13,344
Elk County	14,723	449,997	957
Erie County	118,412	3,646,518	6,658
Fayette County	36,903	912,606	2,785
Forest County	1,128	33,528	116
Franklin County	49,199	1,492,879	3,088
Fulton County	4,871	237,495	313
Greene County	9,043	336,118	696
Huntingdon County	9,647	255,800	844
Indiana County	28,475	877,000	2,008
Jefferson County	13,714	370,251	1,170
Juniata County	6,121	149,798	477
Lackawanna County	96,136	2,845,236	5,477
Lancaster County	222,257	7,422,882	12,139
Lawrence County	28,479	832,253	2,060
Lebanon County	44,810	1,361,110	2,661
Lehigh County	163,161	6,833,899	8,513

Table 1. Employment, Payroll and Establishments for Pennsylvania Counties, 2006 (Continued)			
Area Name	**Number of Employees for Week Including 03/12/2006**	**Annual Payroll ($1,000), 2006**	**Total Establishments, 2006**
Luzerne County	129,972	3,841,074	7,684
Lycoming County	46,213	1,311,934	2,813
McKean County	14,548	427,934	1,098
Mercer County	45,544	1,294,408	2,932
Mifflin County	13,717	390,013	969
Monroe County	49,584	1,439,572	3,652
Montgomery County	496,569	25,214,609	26,493
Montour County	12,372	610,591	419
Northampton County	92,306	3,191,403	6,310
Northumberland County	23,465	660,967	1,700
Perry County	6,109	139,886	823
Philadelphia County	579,964	26,334,808	26,567
Pike County	7,445	177,896	881
Potter County	6,003	173,468	393
Schuylkill County	42,576	1,272,014	3,051
Snyder County	16,246	411,551	856
Somerset County	22,713	582,927	1,868
Sullivan County	1,448	30,925	184
Susquehanna County	6,547	153,537	839
Tioga County	9,921	252,868	851
Union County	16,627	468,844	892
Venango County	17,166	495,214	1,235
Warren County	13,314	421,284	918
Washington County	78,964	2,850,531	5,069
Wayne County	14,715	394,247	1,604
Westmoreland County	127,029	4,037,918	9,019
Wyoming County	8,354	285,864	651
York County	162,542	5,772,038	8,735
Statewide *	19,487	808,830	256

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

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