



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

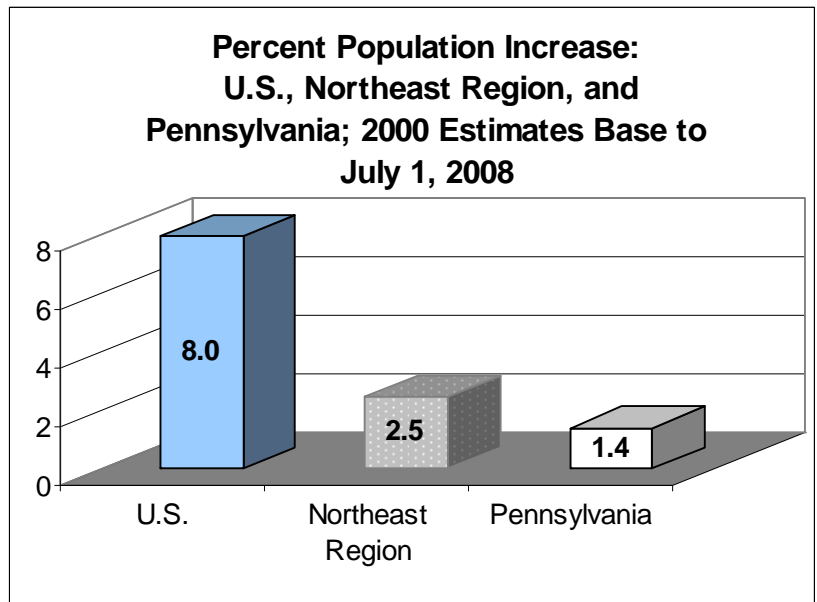
December 22, 2008

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2008 National and State Population Estimates – Nation Gained 2.8 Million People Last Year, Commonwealth Increased by 28,349

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania continues its trend of slow growth, according to the 2008 National and State Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Pennsylvania's estimated population grew to 12,448,279, representing a growth rate of 1.4 percent between 2000 and 2008. Pennsylvania remains the 6th largest state in the nation behind California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois.

Pennsylvania's slow growth mirrors that of the region: the Northeast region ranked last in both numeric (1,329,982) and percent (2.5 percent) population increase from 2000-2008. The Census Bureau classifies the nation into four regions: the South, West, Midwest, and Northeast.



The U.S. and Pennsylvania Since Census 2000

Since April 1, 2000 (Census Day), the United States has experienced a population increase of 22,635,122, an increase of 8.0 percent. In the same timeframe (April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008), Pennsylvania has increased in population by 167,227 persons, or 1.4 percent. Pennsylvania ranks 28th nationally in numeric increase in population and 45th nationally in percent increase in population since 2000.

Population Growth from 2007 to 2008

The data also shows that the nation's population grew by 0.9 percent (2.8 million people) between July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2008. The United States estimated population as of July 1, 2008 is 304,059,724 (see Table 1).

Pennsylvania ranked 27th in numeric change (28,349 people) in population between 2007 and 2008 and 46th in percent change (0.2 percent) in population. A look at numeric population increase shows that Texas had the largest increase at 483,542 followed by California (379,132). Utah had the highest percent increase in population from 2007 to 2008 at 2.5 percent. Michigan (-46,368) and Rhode Island (-2,348) were the only states in the nation that experienced a decrease in population from 2007 to 2008.

Regionally, the South had the highest numeric increase from 2007-2008 in population with an increase of about 1.4 million persons. The West had the highest percent increase in population at 1.4 percent. The Northeast finished last in both numeric increase (163,086) and percent increase (0.3 percent) during the same time period.

Components of Population Change in Pennsylvania, 2000 to 2008

Census Bureau Population Estimates are created by taking the last Decennial Census count, and updating it using counts of births, deaths, and migration (both domestic and international). The addition of births, and subtraction of deaths, results in the 'natural increase' of an area. Pennsylvania's rate of natural increase (1.8 per thousand population) ranked it 49th among the states between 2000 and 2008. It was ranked 47th in birth rates (12.0 per thousand), but 2nd in death rates (10.2 per thousand) over the same time period.

Migration

In recent years, migration has been the most significant source of Pennsylvania's population growth, particularly international migration. Compared to other states, a larger share of Pennsylvania's population growth has come from international migration than from natural increase (births minus deaths) or domestic migration.

Between 2007 and 2008, that trend has continued, with Pennsylvania gaining 3,554 people from migration. Domestic migration alone, however, resulted in a net migration loss of 11,462 people. At the same time, net international migration resulted in 15,016 people moving to Pennsylvania from outside of the United States.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

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.

Table 1. Estimates of Population Change for the United States and States: July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008

Geographic Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2007 to 2008		National Ranking			
					Population Estimates		Change, 2007 to 2008	
	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2007	Number	Percent	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2007	Number	Percent
United States	304,059,724	301,290,332	2,769,392	0.9	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Northeast	54,924,779	54,761,693	163,086	0.3	4	4	4	4
Midwest	66,561,448	66,312,562	248,886	0.4	3	3	3	3
South	111,718,549	110,335,133	1,383,416	1.3	1	1	1	2
West	70,854,948	69,880,944	974,004	1.4	2	2	2	1
Alabama	4,661,900	4,626,595	35,305	0.8	23	23	20	27
Alaska	686,293	681,111	5,182	0.8	47	47	43	28
Arizona	6,500,180	6,353,421	146,759	2.3	14	15	5	2
Arkansas	2,855,390	2,830,557	24,833	0.9	32	32	29	22
California	36,756,666	36,377,534	379,132	1.0	1	1	2	17
Colorado	4,939,456	4,842,770	96,686	2.0	22	22	8	5
Connecticut	3,501,252	3,489,868	11,384	0.3	29	29	36	41
Delaware	873,092	861,953	11,139	1.3	45	45	37	13
District of Columbia	591,833	587,868	3,965	0.7	50	50	45	31
Florida	18,328,340	18,199,526	128,814	0.7	4	4	6	30
Georgia	9,685,744	9,523,297	162,447	1.7	9	9	4	9
Hawaii	1,288,198	1,277,356	10,842	0.8	42	42	38	24
Idaho	1,523,816	1,496,145	27,671	1.8	39	39	28	6
Illinois	12,901,563	12,825,809	75,754	0.6	5	5	9	35
Indiana	6,376,792	6,335,862	40,930	0.6	16	16	17	32
Iowa	3,002,555	2,983,360	19,195	0.6	30	30	32	33
Kansas	2,802,134	2,777,382	24,752	0.9	33	33	30	21
Kentucky	4,269,245	4,236,308	32,937	0.8	26	26	23	26
Louisiana	4,410,796	4,373,310	37,486	0.9	25	25	19	23
Maine	1,316,456	1,315,398	1,058	0.1	40	40	48	48
Maryland	5,633,597	5,618,899	14,698	0.3	19	19	34	44
Massachusetts	6,497,967	6,467,915	30,052	0.5	15	13	24	39
Michigan	10,003,422	10,049,790	-46,368	-0.5	8	8	51	51
Minnesota	5,220,393	5,182,360	38,033	0.7	21	21	18	29
Mississippi	2,938,618	2,921,030	17,588	0.6	31	31	33	34
Missouri	5,911,605	5,878,399	33,206	0.6	18	18	22	36
Montana	967,440	956,624	10,816	1.1	44	44	39	14
Nebraska	1,783,432	1,769,473	13,959	0.8	38	38	35	25
Nevada	2,600,167	2,554,344	45,823	1.8	35	35	16	8
New Hampshire	1,315,809	1,312,256	3,553	0.3	41	41	47	43
New Jersey	8,682,661	8,653,126	29,535	0.3	11	11	25	40
New Mexico	1,984,356	1,964,402	19,954	1.0	36	36	31	18
New York	19,490,297	19,429,316	60,981	0.3	3	3	14	42
North Carolina	9,222,414	9,041,594	180,820	2.0	10	10	3	4

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North Dakota	641,481	637,904	3,577	0.6	48	48	46	37
Ohio	11,485,910	11,477,641	8,269	0.1	7	7	42	49
Oklahoma	3,642,361	3,608,123	34,238	0.9	28	28	21	19
Oregon	3,790,060	3,735,549	54,511	1.5	27	27	15	12
Pennsylvania	12,448,279	12,419,930	28,349	0.2	6	6	27	46
Rhode Island	1,050,788	1,053,136	-2,348	-0.2	43	43	50	50
South Carolina	4,479,800	4,404,914	74,886	1.7	24	24	10	10
South Dakota	804,194	795,689	8,505	1.1	46	46	41	16
Tennessee	6,214,888	6,149,116	65,772	1.1	17	17	13	15
Texas	24,326,974	23,843,432	483,542	2.0	2	2	1	3
Utah	2,736,424	2,668,925	67,499	2.5	34	34	12	1
Vermont	621,270	620,748	522	0.1	49	49	49	47
Virginia	7,769,089	7,698,775	70,314	0.9	12	12	11	20
Washington	6,549,224	6,449,511	99,713	1.5	13	14	7	11
West Virginia	1,814,468	1,809,836	4,632	0.3	37	37	44	45
Wisconsin	5,627,967	5,598,893	29,074	0.5	20	20	26	38
Wyoming	532,668	523,252	9,416	1.8	51	51	40	7