Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

March 19, 2009

2008 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and
Metro and Micro Area Population Estimates Released

MIDDLETOWN, PA. — The U.S. Census Bureau today released the 2008 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and the 2008 Metro and Micro Area Population Estimates.

2008 Pennsylvania County Population Estimates

Pike County is Pennsylvania's fastest-growing county, according to the 2008 county population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. As of July 1, 2008, Pike County's population was 59,664, and has grown 1.9 percent or 1,106 people since July 1, 2007. Pike County grew by 28.8 percent or 13,358 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 2000-2008, Forest County had the largest cumulative percent population increase (38.0), 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 2008: Philadelphia, 24th (1,447,395), Allegheny, 30th (1,215,103), Montgomery, 71st (778,048) and Bucks, 98th (621,643). (See Table 2.)

The county population estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, domestic and international migration.

Percent Population Change
In addition to Pike County, Franklin, Chester, and York counties led the state in percent population increase from 2007-2008, with 1.3, 1.2, and 1.0 percent population increases, respectively. Sullivan (-1.5 percent), Potter (-1.5 percent), and Forest (-1.5 percent) counties experienced the largest percent loss of population during this period. The top ten counties with the highest population percent growth from 2000–2008 are in the south-central and eastern part of the state, bordering New York, New Jersey and Maryland. In contrast, the top ten counties with the highest percent population loss over the 2000-2008 time period were concentrated in the western and north-central part of the state. Thirty-nine counties experienced population loss during this period, led by Cameron (-11.9 percent), Elk (-8.1 percent) and Potter (-7.5 percent) counties. Both Allegheny (-5.2 percent) and Philadelphia (-4.6 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 (5,266), Sullivan (6,124) and Forest (6,825) have the smallest populations. Cameron (-68), Sullivan (-96) and Forest (-103) counties all lost population from 2007-2008.

From 2007-2008, Chester (+5,891), Lancaster (+4,415), and York (+4,198) counties gained the most population, while Allegheny (-3,326) and Philadelphia (-1,236) counties experienced the greatest population decreases. Since 2000, Chester (+57,988), York (+42,830) and Lancaster (+31,712) counties have gained the most population while Philadelphia (-70,155), Allegheny (-66,563) and Beaver (-8,936) counties 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 2007-2008 and 2000-2008. The number of deaths in Allegheny County has outpaced the number of births by 11,640 since 2000. Forest, Sullivan and Cameron counties had the lowest number of births and deaths from 2007-2008 and 2000-2008. Deaths outpaced births in all three counties between 2000 and 2008.

Since 2000, the largest total net in-migration has occurred in the counties of Chester (37,706), York (31,814), and Monroe (23,548). Philadelphia (-110,146), Allegheny (-48,373), and Erie (-9,728) led the state in population lost to out-migration.

2008 Metro and Micro Area Population Estimates

The York-Hanover Metropolitan Statistical Area continues to be the fastest-growing metro area in Pennsylvania, according to 2008 Population Estimates for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although none of the metro areas in Pennsylvania were among the 100 fastest-growing, York-Hanover was the 156th fastest-growing metro area in the nation, increasing 1.0 percent from 420,385 in 2007 to 424,583 people on July 1, 2008. Since 2000, the York-Hanover metro area increased 11.2 percent.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Pennsylvania
Five metro areas in Pennsylvania rank among the nation's 100 largest: Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (including portions of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland) was ranked fifth-largest, Pittsburgh was ranked 22nd, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton (including portions of New Jersey) was ranked 62nd, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre was ranked 91st and the Harrisburg-Carlisle area was ranked 97th. (See Table 1)

Two of Pennsylvania's metro areas ranked among the nation's top 100 in numeric population gain from 2007 to 2008: the Philadelphia metro area ranked 38th with a gain of 15,186 and the Allentown metro area ranked 86th with a gain of 5,714. The Philadelphia metro area includes Philadelphia County as well as Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, and counties in New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

Table 1: Estimates of Population Change for Metropolitan Statistical Areas: July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008				
Metropolitan statistical area	**July 1, 2008 Estimate**	**July 1, 2007 Estimate**	**Change, 2007 to 2008**	
			Number	**Percent**
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	808,210	802,496	5,714	0.7
Altoona, PA	125,174	125,342	-168	-0.1
Erie, PA	279,175	279,293	-118	0.0
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	531,108	527,880	3,228	0.6
Johnstown, PA	144,319	144,996	-677	-0.5
Lancaster, PA	502,370	497,955	4,415	0.9
Lebanon, PA	128,934	127,861	1,073	0.8
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,838,471	5,823,285	15,186	0.3
Pittsburgh, PA	2,351,192	2,354,159	-2,967	-0.1
Reading, PA	403,595	401,479	2,116	0.5
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	549,150	549,052	98	0.0
State College, PA	144,779	143,768	1,011	0.7
Williamsport, PA	116,670	116,835	-165	-0.1
York-Hanover, PA	424,583	420,385	4,198	1.0

Micropolitan Areas in Pennsylvania

One micropolitan areas in Pennsylvania, Chambersburg, was ranked nationally in terms of their numeric population gain from 2007 to 2008. Chambersburg, ranked 19th, added 1,852 people for a 2008 total of 143,495. The New Castle micropolitan area was ranked 14th in the nation in terms of numeric population loss, declining 444 to a 2008 total population of 90,272. Somerset was also ranked at 20th, with a population loss of -406, for a 2008 total of 77,454.

The Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, collectively known as core-based statistical areas (CBSAs), are one or more counties that contain a core urban area, and any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration. Metro areas contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more people, while the micropolitan areas contain at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 50,000 people. The estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, like births, death, and domestic and international migration.

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County	Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2008		State Ranking of Counties			
					Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2008	
	July 1, 2008	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent	July 1, 2008	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	**12,448,279**	**12,281,052**	**167,227**	**1.4**	**(X)**	**(X)**	**(X)**	**(X)**
Adams	101,119	91,292	9,827	10.8	31	33	13	7
Allegheny	1,215,103	1,281,666	-66,563	-5.2	2	2	66	59
Armstrong	68,790	72,392	-3,602	-5.0	38	38	56	58
Beaver	172,476	181,412	-8,936	-4.9	20	19	65	57
Bedford	49,727	49,976	-249	-0.5	45	43	30	30
Berks	403,595	373,638	29,957	8.0	9	9	4	12
Blair	125,174	129,144	-3,970	-3.1	28	27	59	48
Bradford	61,233	62,761	-1,528	-2.4	41	40	43	44
Bucks	621,643	597,632	24,011	4.0	4	4	9	20
Butler	182,902	174,083	8,819	5.1	19	20	15	17
Cambria	144,319	152,598	-8,279	-5.4	24	21	63	61
Cameron	5,266	5,974	-708	-11.9	67	66	36	67
Carbon	63,558	58,803	4,755	8.1	40	41	18	11
Centre	144,779	135,760	9,019	6.6	23	25	14	16
Chester	491,489	433,501	57,988	13.4	7	7	1	4
Clarion	39,989	41,765	-1,776	-4.3	55	53	45	54
Clearfield	82,896	83,380	-484	-0.6	36	36	34	31
Clinton	37,038	37,910	-872	-2.3	58	57	39	42
Columbia	65,004	64,148	856	1.3	39	39	25	27
Crawford	88,411	90,367	-1,956	-2.2	34	34	46	39
Cumberland	229,361	213,670	15,691	7.3	16	16	10	13
Dauphin	256,562	251,805	4,757	1.9	15	15	17	23
Delaware	553,619	551,974	1,645	0.3	5	5	23	28
Elk	32,268	35,111	-2,843	-8.1	59	59	50	66
Erie	279,175	280,845	-1,670	-0.6	14	13	44	32
Fayette	143,925	148,645	-4,720	-3.2	25	23	61	49
Forest	6,825	4,946	1,879	38.0	65	67	22	1
Franklin	143,495	129,308	14,187	11.0	26	26	11	6
Fulton	14,935	14,261	674	4.7	64	64	26	19
Greene	39,344	40,672	-1,328	-3.3	56	56	40	51
Huntingdon	45,543	45,584	-41	-0.1	47	49	29	29
Indiana	87,479	89,605	-2,126	-2.4	35	35	47	43
Jefferson	45,105	45,932	-827	-1.8	49	48	38	35
Juniata	23,146	22,821	325	1.4	61	61	28	25
Lackawanna	209,408	213,296	-3,888	-1.8	17	17	58	36
Lancaster	502,370	470,658	31,712	6.7	6	6	3	15
Lawrence	90,272	94,639	-4,367	-4.6	33	31	60	55
Lebanon	128,934	120,326	8,608	7.2	27	28	16	14
Lehigh	339,989	312,090	27,899	8.9	11	12	6	10

Table 2: Cumulative Estimates of Resident Population Change for Counties of Pennsylvania and County Rankings: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008

	Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2008		State Ranking of Counties			
					Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2008	
Geographic Area	July 1, 2008	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent	July 1, 2008	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent
Luzerne	311,983	319,255	-7,272	-2.3	12	11	62	41
Lycoming	116,670	120,048	-3,378	-2.8	29	30	54	45
McKean	43,537	45,936	-2,399	-5.2	51	47	48	60
Mercer	116,652	120,292	-3,640	-3.0	30	29	57	47
Mifflin	46,062	46,486	-424	-0.9	46	45	32	33
Monroe	165,058	138,685	26,373	19.0	21	24	8	3
Montgomery	778,048	748,987	29,061	3.9	3	3	5	21
Montour	17,705	18,239	-534	-2.9	62	62	35	46
Northampton	294,787	267,071	27,716	10.4	13	14	7	8
Northumberland	91,091	94,556	-3,465	-3.7	32	32	55	53
Perry	45,185	43,609	1,576	3.6	48	51	24	22
Philadelphia	1,447,395	1,517,550	-70,155	-4.6	1	1	67	56
Pike	59,664	46,306	13,358	28.8	42	46	12	2
Potter	16,720	18,080	-1,360	-7.5	63	63	41	65
Schuylkill	147,254	150,334	-3,080	-2.0	22	22	51	38
Snyder	38,074	37,546	528	1.4	57	58	27	26
Somerset	77,454	80,023	-2,569	-3.2	37	37	49	50
Sullivan	6,124	6,556	-432	-6.6	66	65	33	63
Susquehanna	40,831	42,238	-1,407	-3.3	52	52	42	52
Tioga	40,574	41,372	-798	-1.9	54	55	37	37
Union	43,640	41,624	2,016	4.8	50	54	21	18
Venango	54,423	57,565	-3,142	-5.5	43	42	53	62
Warren	40,728	43,863	-3,135	-7.1	53	50	52	64
Washington	206,407	202,897	3,510	1.7	18	18	20	24
Wayne	52,016	47,718	4,298	9.0	44	44	19	9
Westmoreland	361,589	369,993	-8,404	-2.3	10	10	64	40
Wyoming	27,759	28,080	-321	-1.1	60	60	31	34
York	424,583	381,753	42,830	11.2	8	8	2	5

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 Population Estimates Division

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