



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

July 1, 2010

An Independence Day Look at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be commemorated by Pennsylvania and the rest of the country with parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues.

The Name Game

There are many patriotically-named cities, towns, and villages across the commonwealth. Washington tops the list of municipal names in Pennsylvania for having the most places include that name at 27. Franklin is the next most-common name for cities, boroughs and townships in Pennsylvania, with 25 variations of the Franklin name. Jefferson follows with 13 municipalities, followed by Liberty (11), Adams (7) and Freedom (4).

Population Growth Since the First Independence Day

Pennsylvania, as one of the original 13 states, has been around for every Decennial Census, including the first, in 1790. Thomas Jefferson oversaw the first American census, which enumerated Pennsylvania's population at 434,373 people. Since then, Pennsylvania has grown by 2,801.8 percent (to 12,604,767 on July 1, 2009), and has never shown a decline in population according to Decennial Census counts.

Fourth of July Cookouts

Many Independence Day picnics include traditional favorites such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and ribs. In 2007, Commonwealth farmers had 1.62 million cattle and calves. The average price per 100 pounds in 2009 for beef cattle was \$71.10. There were 1.18 million hogs in Pennsylvania in 2009. The average price per 100 pounds of pork in 2009 was \$40.00.

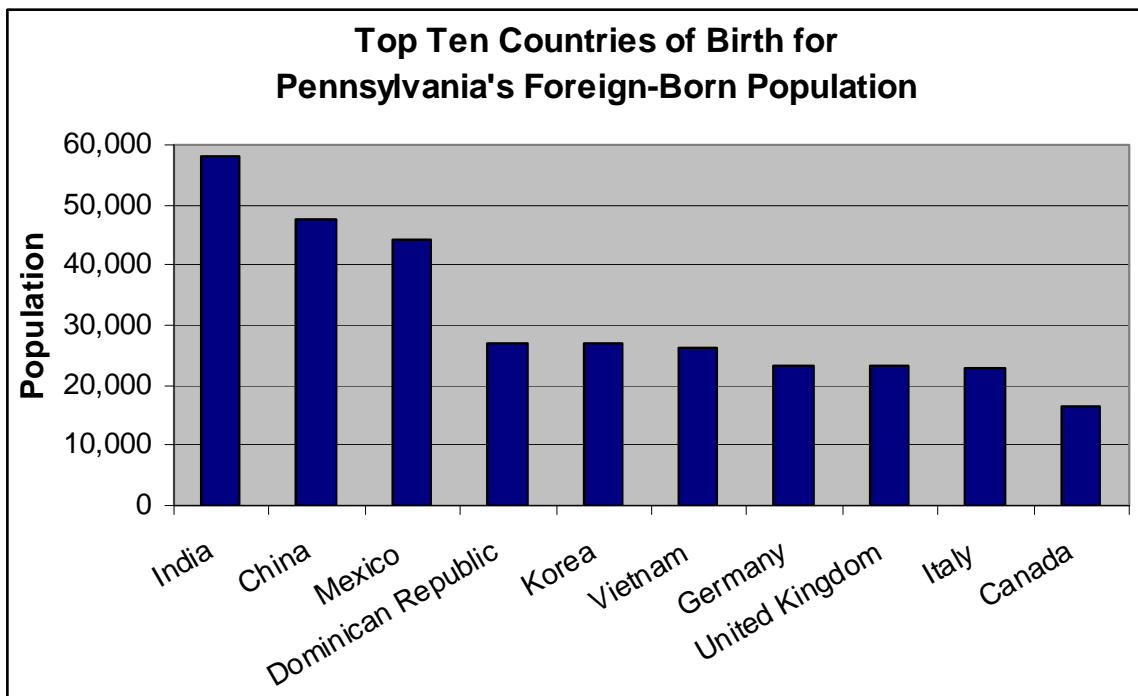
Nationwide, food and beverage stores saw large increases in their sales during the month of July 2009. Retail trade increased by 1.0 percent between June and July 2009, while food and beverage stores jumped by 4.1 percent; grocery stores saw a 3.9 percent increase, and supermarket sales were up 4.0 percent. Beer, wine, and liquor stores, however, saw an even bigger increase: 7.4 percent.

Coming to America

According to ACS 2006-2008 multi-year estimates, 5.3 percent of Pennsylvania's population (more than 650,000 people) were born in a foreign county. Of the total foreign-born, 27.2 percent were born in Europe, 36.1 percent in Asia, 26.6 percent in Latin America, 7.1 percent in Africa, 2.6 percent in Northern America and 0.5 percent in Australia or South Pacific Islands.

The country of birth for the greatest number of foreign-born people in the Commonwealth from 2006-2008 (ACS) was India with 58,058. China was the country of origin for the second greatest number of foreign-born people residing in Pennsylvania during this time with 47,516, followed by Mexico with 44,155.

In 2000, Philadelphia County had the greatest percentage of foreign-born population with 6.6 percent, followed by Montgomery (5.4 percent), Pike (4.6 percent), Centre (4.4 percent), Lehigh (4.3 percent), Monroe (4.2 percent) and Bucks (4 percent).



(Table Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey)

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: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Censuses (1790-2000), American Community Survey, National Agricultural Statistics Service.