Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 5, 2012

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2011 County Population Estimates:
First Set of Estimates Based on 2010 Census Reveal Changing Population Patterns

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania's population growth patterns have undergone significant changes according to the 2011 County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The county-level total population estimates mark the first set of estimates to use the enumerated resident population from the 2010 Census. Data released in the file shows the estimated total population for all counties in the United States.

The county population estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, domestic and international migration. The estimates reflect changes to the 2010 Census population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1 of the estimates year, other geographic program changes and Count Question Resolution (CQR) actions.

Percent Population Change
Cumberland County led all Pennsylvania counties in population percent increase from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011, increasing by 1.1 percent. Chester, Lehigh, and Tioga counties followed with a 1.0 percent increase each during this time period. Franklin County rounded out the top five in terms of estimated population percent gain at 0.8 percent (see Table 1).

Table 1. Percent Estimated Population Increase, Pennsylvania Counties: 2011					
Rank	County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
1	Cumberland	237,892	235,408	2,484	1.1
2	Chester	503,897	498,886	5,011	1.0
3	Lehigh	352,947	349,497	3,450	1.0
4	Tioga	42,419	41,981	438	1.0
5	Franklin	150,811	149,618	1,193	0.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division

Seven of the top ten counties to experience population loss between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011 were located in Western and North-Central Pennsylvania. Forest County (-1.6 percent), followed closely by Cameron County (-1.5), had the largest percent population decline during the period. Juniata (-1.0 percent), Warren (-0.9 percent) and Pike (-0.9 percent) complete the top five counties that have lost the largest percent of population (see Table 2).

Table 2. Percent Estimated Population Decrease, Pennsylvania Counties: 2011					
Rank	County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
1	Forest	7,589	7,716	-127	-1.6
2	Cameron	5,010	5,085	-75	-1.5
3	Juniata	24,400	24,638	-238	-1.0
4	Pike	56,852	57,367	-515	-0.9
5	Warren	41,441	41,815	-374	-0.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division

Pike and Monroe counties sit on Pennsylvania's northeastern border with New Jersey and are within commuting distance to New York. Last decade these counties experienced some of the largest population gains because of high migration rates from neighboring states. Monroe County gained only 40 people between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011, while Pike lost 515 people during the time period. These counties have begun to experience a shift in population change because of a reduced number of people moving to the counties from other states.

Numeric Population Change
Philadelphia County, which grew by 10,465 people, had the largest estimated gain in population between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011 among Pennsylvania Counties. Chester and Montgomery counties, located just outside of Philadelphia, followed with estimated population increases of 5,011 and 4,336, respectively. Taken together, these three counties accounted for nearly half (48.9 percent) of Pennsylvania's overall population increase of 40,507 during the period April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011. Outside of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Lancaster (4,146), Allegheny (3,718) and Lehigh (3,450) counties had the largest numeric population gains. The growth of population in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties marks another change to growth patterns from previous decades.

Schuylkill County (-776) had the largest estimated population decrease during the period, followed by Westmoreland (-697) and Lawrence (-573) counties.

Births, Deaths and Migrations in the Commonwealth
There were an estimated 179,565 births in Pennsylvania between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011. An estimated 155,957 deaths occurred during this time period resulting in a natural increase of 23,608 people. From April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011, there were 18,867 net international migrants into Pennsylvania and 1,121 net migrants out of the commonwealth, resulting in a net gain of 17,746 persons.

Philadelphia, Allegheny, and Montgomery led all Pennsylvania counties in the number of births and deaths during the period. The number of births was higher than deaths in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties resulting in a natural increase of 11,204 and 2,568, respectively, while the number of deaths in Allegheny County outpaced the number of births by 726. Forest, Cameron and Sullivan counties had the lowest number of births and deaths between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011. Births were outpaced by deaths in all three counties during the time period.

The largest net migration occurred in the counties of Allegheny (4,524), Chester (2,205), and Cumberland (2,093). Delaware (-1,455), Philadelphia (-652), and Pike (-569) counties all lost population to outmigration.

PENNSTATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs
1855

More about Population Estimates

Today's release is the first population estimates release from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Division this decade and the first to use 2010 Census total population figures as a base. Population estimates for the total population are provided for every county in the United States. In May, the Census Bureau is set to release 2011 county-level age, sex, race and ethnicity estimates. In June, total population estimates for sub-county areas (municipalities) will be released from the Census Bureau, along with housing unit estimates for the state and counties.

Table 3. Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and Population Change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011								
County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change	County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
Pennsylvania	12,742,886	12,702,379	40,507	0.3	Juniata	24,400	24,638	-238	-1.0
Adams	101,434	101,407	27	0.0	Lackawanna	214,166	214,436	-270	-0.1
Allegheny	1,227,066	1,223,348	3,718	0.3	Lancaster	523,594	519,448	4,146	0.8
Armstrong	68,568	68,942	-374	-0.5	Lawrence	90,535	91,108	-573	-0.6
Beaver	170,414	170,539	-125	-0.1	Lebanon	134,311	133,573	738	0.6
Bedford	49,739	49,774	-35	-0.1	Lehigh	352,947	349,497	3,450	1.0
Berks	412,778	411,439	1,339	0.3	Luzerne	320,651	320,918	-267	-0.1
Blair	127,099	127,076	23	0.0	Lycoming	116,747	116,108	639	0.6
Bradford	62,917	62,622	295	0.5	McKean	43,222	43,450	-228	-0.5
Bucks	626,854	625,249	1,605	0.3	Mercer	116,205	116,638	-433	-0.4
Butler	184,848	183,862	986	0.5	Mifflin	46,858	46,683	175	0.4
Cambria	143,728	143,679	49	0.0	Monroe	169,882	169,842	40	0.0
Cameron	5,010	5,085	-75	-1.5	Montgomery	804,210	799,874	4,336	0.5
Carbon	65,154	65,249	-95	-0.1	Montour	18,296	18,267	29	0.2
Centre	154,722	153,985	737	0.5	Northampton	298,476	297,735	741	0.2
Chester	503,897	498,886	5,011	1.0	Northumberland	94,558	94,517	41	0.0
Clarion	40,013	39,988	25	0.1	Perry	46,042	45,967	75	0.2
Clearfield	81,445	81,645	-200	-0.2	Philadelphia	1,536,471	1,526,006	10,465	0.7
Clinton	39,208	39,241	-33	-0.1	Pike	56,852	57,367	-515	-0.9
Columbia	67,476	67,296	180	0.3	Potter	17,453	17,457	-4	0.0
Crawford	88,740	88,765	-25	0.0	Schuylkill	147,513	148,289	-776	-0.5
Cumberland	237,892	235,408	2,484	1.1	Snyder	39,819	39,702	117	0.3
Dauphin	268,977	268,100	877	0.3	Somerset	77,405	77,742	-337	-0.4
Delaware	559,494	558,979	515	0.1	Sullivan	6,479	6,428	51	0.8
Elk	31,751	31,946	-195	-0.6	Susquehanna	43,192	43,356	-164	-0.4
Erie	280,985	280,566	419	0.1	Tioga	42,419	41,981	438	1.0
Fayette	136,097	136,606	-509	-0.4	Union	44,847	44,949	-102	-0.2
Forest	7,589	7,716	-127	-1.6	Venango	54,683	54,984	-301	-0.5
Franklin	150,811	149,618	1,193	0.8	Warren	41,441	41,815	-374	-0.9
Fulton	14,801	14,845	-44	-0.3	Washington	208,282	207,820	462	0.2
Greene	38,623	38,686	-63	-0.2	Wayne	53,004	52,825	179	0.3
Huntingdon	45,875	45,914	-39	-0.1	Westmoreland	364,471	365,168	-697	-0.2
Indiana	89,298	88,886	412	0.5	Wyoming	28,406	28,276	130	0.5
Jefferson	44,976	45,196	-220	-0.5	York	436,770	434,972	1,798	0.4

Additional maps and tables may be view on the PaSDC website by clicking here. 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division

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.

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.

PENNSTATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs
1855