



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania Cities, Boroughs and Townships

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released July 1, 2013 population estimates for sub-county geographies, including Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships. Today's release provides the third municipal population estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census.

Population Change by Municipal Type

According to the data, more than three-quarters (78.9 percent) of the growth in Pennsylvania's population since 2010 can be attributed to townships. From 2010 to 2013, the population of Pennsylvania's 1,547 townships grew from 7,098,451 to 7,154,796. Cities also experienced growth over the time period gaining 19,600 people (27.4 percent), while boroughs had a decline of 6.3 percent (see Table 1).

As of July 1, 2013, 56.0 percent of Pennsylvanians lived in townships, 24.3 percent lived in cities, and the remaining 19.7 percent lived in boroughs.

Table 1. Population Change by Municipality Type, 2010 to 2013					
Municipality Type	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent of State's Growth
Pennsylvania	12,773,801	12,702,379	71,422	0.6%	-
Cities	3,106,896	3,087,296	19,600	0.6%	27.4%
Boroughs	2,512,109	2,516,632	-4,523	-0.2%	-6.3%
Townships	7,154,796	7,098,451	56,345	0.8%	78.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2013 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates

Pennsylvania Cities

Philadelphia remains the fifth-largest city in the nation, with a population of 1.55 million. Philadelphia gained 27,159 residents between 2010 and 2013, representing a growth rate of 1.8 percent. Pennsylvania's second largest city, Pittsburgh (305,841), experienced a population gain of just 139 residents during the same time period.



Half of Pennsylvania's ten most populous cities experienced population growth since 2010. They include: Philadelphia (27,159), Pittsburgh (139), Allentown (545), Bethlehem (36) and Lancaster (3). The five losing population were: Erie (-1,113), Reading (-187), Scranton (-283), Harrisburg (-340) and Altoona (-525).

Boroughs and Townships

Franklin Park borough in Allegheny County gained the largest number of new residents among Pennsylvania boroughs since the 2010 Census, according to the 2013 Population Estimates. Between 2010 and 2013, Franklin Park added 563 people, growing at 4.2 percent. Since 2010, Clarion borough, in Clarion County, lost the greatest number of residents, declining by -340 people. Table 2 and Table 3 show the top 5 Pennsylvania Boroughs in terms of numeric population gain and loss between 2010 and 2013.

Table 2. Top 5 Numeric Population Increase, Pennsylvania Boroughs: 2010 - 2013					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013
1	Franklin Park borough (Allegheny)	14,030	13,467	563	4.2%
2	West Chester borough (Chester)	18,968	18,461	507	2.7%
3	Mount Joy borough (Lancaster)	7,909	7,410	499	6.7%
4	Jefferson Hills borough (Allegheny)	11,121	10,629	492	4.6%
5	Malvern borough (Chester)	3,426	2,998	428	14.3%

Table 3. Top 5 Numeric Population Decrease, Pennsylvania Boroughs: 2010 - 2013					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013
1	Clarion borough (Clarion)	4,936	5,276	-340	-6.4%
2	Bloomsburg town (Columbia)	14,519	14,855	-336	-2.3%
3	State College borough (Centre)	41,757	42,034	-277	-0.7%
4	California borough (Washington)	6,585	6,795	-210	-3.1%
5	Ellwood City borough (Lawrence)	7,119	7,289	-170	-2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2013 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates

Among Pennsylvania townships, Upper Macungie township in Lehigh County gained the most residents since 2010. The township increased by 1,745 people during the period. The Pennsylvania township to experience the largest numeric decrease in population since 2010 was Stroud township in Monroe County. Between 2010 and 2010, the township lost 366 residents. Table 4 and Table show the top 5 Pennsylvania Townships in terms of numeric population gain and loss between 2010 and 2013.

Table 4. Top 5 Numeric Population Increase, Pennsylvania Townships: 2010 - 2013					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013
1	Upper Macungie township (Lehigh)	21,812	20,067	1,745	8.7%
2	Silver Spring township (Cumberland)	15,086	13,660	1,426	10.4%
3	Cranberry township (Butler)	29,490	28,098	1,392	5.0%
4	Benner township (Centre)	7,457	6,177	1,280	20.7%
5	Moon township (Allegheny)	25,244	24,167	1,077	4.5%

Table 5. Top 5 Numeric Population Decrease, Pennsylvania Townships: 2010 - 2013					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2013
1	Stroud township (Monroe)	18,849	19,215	-366	-1.9%
2	Chestnuthill township (Monroe)	16,804	17,159	-355	-2.1%
3	Hempfield township (Westmoreland)	42,969	43,247	-278	-0.6%
4	Richland township (Cambria)	12,542	12,814	-272	-2.1%
5	Middle Smithfield township (Monroe)	15,775	16,001	-226	-1.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2013 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates

More on Municipal Population Estimates

The July 1, 2013 sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include the state's cities, townships and boroughs. Please note that the April 1, 2010 estimates base population count was used in the estimation process. The estimates base count reflects changes based on the Count Question Resolution program, updates from the Boundary and Annexation Survey and geographic programs revisions.

Each new series of data (called vintages) incorporates the latest administrative record data, geographic boundaries, and methodology. Therefore, the entire time series of estimates beginning with the most recent decennial census is revised annually, and estimates from different vintages of data may not be consistent across time.

The sub-county areas consist of both incorporated places, such as cities, boroughs, and villages; and minor civil divisions such as towns and townships. Updated housing unit estimates are used to distribute county population to sub-county areas based on housing unit change. County population estimates are produced with a component of change population method, which updates the latest census population using data on births, deaths, and domestic and international migration. County-level population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin will be released next month.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2013 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates.

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.

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