



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2014 National and State Population Estimates: Nation Gained Ten Million People since 2010, Commonwealth Increased by 84,325

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The Keystone State continues its long standing trend of gradual population growth, according to the 2014 National and State Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Pennsylvania's estimated population grew to 12,787,209, representing a growth rate of 0.7 percent between 2010 and 2014. Pennsylvania remains the sixth largest state in the nation behind California, Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois.

The growth rate of the nation far outpaced the commonwealth since 2010. Over the four year time period, the United States population grew by 3.3 percent (10,098,951 residents). Closer to home, the commonwealth's growth rate was about half that of the Northeast region's (0.7 percent compared to 1.5 percent).

Change at the Top

As a result of the new 2014 Population Estimates, Florida has overtaken New York as the third most populous state in the nation. The news comes as no surprise to demographers as the growth rates of the two states over the past decades alluded to the change. Although both states are experiencing natural increases (greater births than deaths) and international migration, the Empire State has experienced a loss of 486,850 residents to domestic out-migration between 2010 to 2014. Florida, on the other hand, has gained 449,934 domestic in-migrants from other states over the same period.

Pennsylvania is not likely to vacate its position as the sixth most populous state any time soon. Illinois, the fifth ranked state, has an advantage of more than 93,000 residents and parallel year-to-year growth rates. Meanwhile the seventh most populous, Ohio, trails by nearly 1.2 million residents and again has a similar slow-growth pattern.

Population Growth from 2010 to 2014

Pennsylvania ranked 23rd in numeric change (84,325 people) in population between 2010 and 2014 and 43rd in percent change (0.7 percent) in population. Among the states and the District of Columbia, Texas had the largest increase at 1.8 million followed by California at 1.5 million. North Dakota had the highest percent increase in population from 2010 to 2014 at 9.9 percent. West Virginia was the only state in the nation that experienced a decline in population from 2010 to 2014. Since 2010, the Mountain State has lost 2,707 residents. The lowest numeric and

percent population increases were found in the New England states of Maine, Vermont and Rhode Island.

Regionally, the South had the highest numeric increase in population from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 with an increase of more than 5.2 million persons. The South Region also experienced the highest percent increase in population at 4.55 percent, followed closely by the West at 4.50 percent. The Northeast region ranked third in both numeric population expansion (833,985 residents) and growth rate (1.5 percent) from 2010 to 2014. The Midwest was ranked last among the nation's four regions. The Census Bureau classifies the nation into four regions: the South, West, Midwest, and Northeast.

Births and Deaths

Census Bureau Population Estimates are created by taking the last Decennial Census count, and updating the count 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. Between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014, births (604,903) outpaced deaths (539,878) by 65,025 in the Keystone State. The state's natural increase accounted for more than three-quarters (77.1 percent) of Pennsylvania's population increase since 2010.

Migration

International migration has been a significant source of Pennsylvania's population growth. Between 2010 and 2014, Pennsylvania ranked tenth nationally in terms of total population growth from international migrants with the state adding 118,159 people from international migration. Conversely, domestic migration alone resulted in a loss of 89,155 people. Taken together, this resulted in a net migration gain of 29,004.

More about Population Estimates

The Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program's National and State Population Estimates file produces estimates for the United States, Regions, and States. The Population Estimates Program (PEP) utilizes annual data on births, deaths, and migration to calculate population change since the most recent decennial census and produce a time series of estimates of population, demographic components of change, and housing units. The annual time series of estimates begins with the most recent decennial census data and extends to the vintage year.

These estimates are used in federal funding allocations, as survey controls, as denominators for vital rates and per capita time series, and as indicators of recent demographic changes. With each new release of annual estimates, the entire time series of estimates is revised for all years back to the last census. All previously published estimates are superseded and archived.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division, 2014 National and State 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. 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.

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