



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2014 County Population Estimates: Cumberland is the Fastest Growing County Since 2010

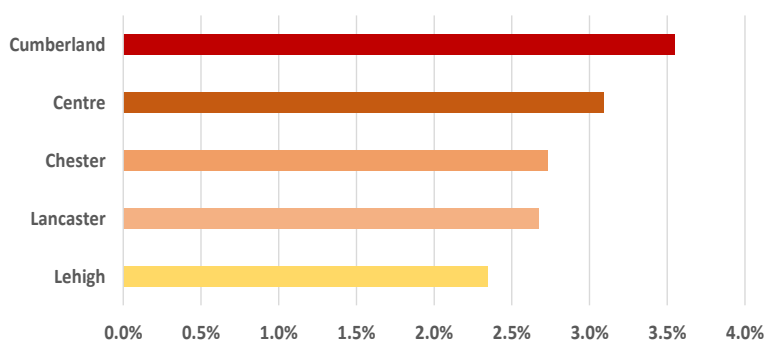
PENN STATE HARRISBURG – Cumberland County in south-central Pennsylvania is the fastest growing county in the state, according to the 2014 County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014, Cumberland County's total population increased from 235,408 to 243,762 residents, a growth-rate of 3.5 percent. The commonwealth also boasted three counties among the top 100 largest nationally in 2014: Philadelphia, 23rd (1,560,297), Allegheny, 34th (1,231,255) and Montgomery, 72nd (816,857).

The county-level total population estimates show the estimated total population for all counties in the United States. The 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

Centre County (3.1 percent), home to Penn State University, followed Cumberland County in largest percent population increase since 2010. Chester and Lancaster counties followed with each increasing 2.7 percent between 2010 and 2014. Lehigh County rounded out the top five in terms of population growth rate during the period (see figure).

Top 5 Fastest Growing Pennsylvania Counties:
April 1, 2010 EB to July 1, 2014



Eight of the top ten counties in percent population growth from 2010 to 2014 were located in southeastern or south-central Pennsylvania. In contrast, counties in the top ten in percent population loss over the 2010-2014 time period were concentrated in the western part of the state. Among these, Cameron (-5.5 percent), Cambria (-4.1 percent), Susquehanna (-3.3 percent) and Clarion (-2.9 percent) counties experienced the largest percent population loss. Overall, forty-two counties experienced population

loss

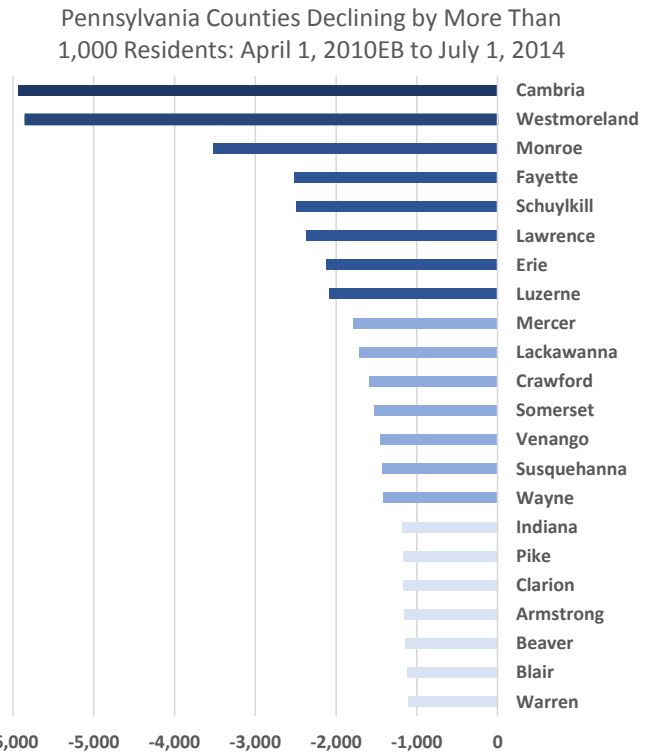


during the period. Table 1, located at the end of this brief, shows the total population counts for 2014 as well as the population change since 2010 for all sixty-seven Pennsylvania counties.

Numeric Population Change

Philadelphia County, which grew by 34,921 people, had the largest estimated numeric gain in population between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014 among Pennsylvania counties. Montgomery and Lancaster counties followed with estimated population increases of 16,984 and 13,872, respectively. Chester County, which borders both Montgomery and Lancaster, grew by 13,638 residents. Taken together, these four counties accounted for 93.4 percent of Pennsylvania’s overall population increase of 84,325 during the period. Outside of southeastern or south-central Pennsylvania, Allegheny (7,907), Centre (4,761), and Butler (2,081) counties had the largest numeric population gains.

More than two-thirds (68.2 percent) of the twenty-two counties in the state to experience a population loss of greater than 1,000 residents from 2010 to 2014 were located in western Pennsylvania. During the time period, Cambria County (-5,942) had the largest estimated population decrease, followed by Westmoreland County (-5,849). Two eastern Pennsylvania counties ranked in the top five in terms of population loss: Monroe County which ranked third with a decline of -3,528 residents and Schuylkill County (-2,492), which ranked fifth. Fayette County, in southwestern Pennsylvania, was sandwiched between with a loss of 2,521 people (see figure).



Births, Deaths and Migration in the Commonwealth

There were an estimated 604,903 births in Pennsylvania between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014. An estimated 539,878 deaths occurred during this time period resulting in a natural increase of 65,025 people. During the time period, international migration into Pennsylvania outpaced domestic outmigration, resulting in a net gain of 29,004 persons.

From April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014, Philadelphia (36,982), Lancaster (10,151), Chester (7,710) and Delaware (7,377) had the greatest natural increase among Pennsylvania counties, while Westmoreland (-5,077), Luzerne (-3,460), Allegheny (-2,152) and Schuylkill (-2,142) had the lowest.

The largest net migration occurred in the counties of Allegheny (12,588), Montgomery (10,021), and Cumberland (6,799). Monroe County, which in previous decades experienced large population gains because of high migration rates from neighboring states, has lost 3,752 residents to outmigration. This decline due to migration was the second largest of any Pennsylvania county between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014. Cambria County had the greatest loss during the period.

More about Population Estimates

Today's release is the fifth county-level population estimates release from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Division this decade. Population estimates for the total population are provided for every county in the United States. In May, total population estimates for sub-county areas (municipalities) will be released, along with housing unit estimates for the state and counties. In June, the Census Bureau is set to release 2014 county-level age, sex, race and ethnicity estimates.

Table 1. Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and Population Change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014									
County	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change	County	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
Pennsylvania	12,787,209	12,702,884	84,325	0.7	Juniata	24,796	24,640	156	0.6
Adams	101,714	101,413	301	0.3	Lackawanna	212,719	214,436	-1,717	-0.8
Allegheny	1,231,255	1,223,348	7,907	0.6	Lancaster	533,320	519,448	13,872	2.7
Armstrong	67,785	68,940	-1,155	-1.7	Lawrence	88,771	91,140	-2,369	-2.6
Beaver	169,392	170,539	-1,147	-0.7	Lebanon	136,359	133,573	2,786	2.1
Bedford	48,946	49,768	-822	-1.7	Lehigh	357,823	349,626	8,197	2.3
Berks	413,691	411,587	2,104	0.5	Luzerne	318,829	320,918	-2,089	-0.7
Blair	125,955	127,078	-1,123	-0.9	Lycoming	116,508	116,108	400	0.3
Bradford	61,784	62,622	-838	-1.3	McKean	42,554	43,450	-896	-2.1
Bucks	626,685	625,255	1,430	0.2	Mercer	114,884	116,674	-1,790	-1.5
Butler	185,943	183,862	2,081	1.1	Mifflin	46,552	46,683	-131	-0.3
Cambria	137,732	143,674	-5,942	-4.1	Monroe	166,314	169,842	-3,528	-2.1
Cameron	4,805	5,085	-280	-5.5	Montgomery	816,857	799,873	16,984	2.1
Carbon	64,441	65,250	-809	-1.2	Montour	18,641	18,267	374	2.0
Centre	158,742	153,981	4,761	3.1	Northampton	300,654	297,735	2,919	1.0
Chester	512,784	499,146	13,638	2.7	Northumberland	93,944	94,517	-573	-0.6
Clarion	38,821	39,989	-1,168	-2.9	Perry	45,634	45,965	-331	-0.7
Clearfield	81,191	81,644	-453	-0.6	Philadelphia	1,560,297	1,526,006	34,291	2.2
Clinton	39,745	39,241	504	1.3	Pike	56,191	57,366	-1,175	-2.0
Columbia	67,122	67,296	-174	-0.3	Potter	17,206	17,458	-252	-1.4
Crawford	87,175	88,765	-1,590	-1.8	Schuylkill	145,797	148,289	-2,492	-1.7
Cumberland	243,762	235,408	8,354	3.5	Snyder	40,323	39,702	621	1.6
Dauphin	271,453	268,100	3,353	1.3	Somerset	76,218	77,748	-1,530	-2.0
Delaware	562,960	558,726	4,234	0.8	Sullivan	6,339	6,428	-89	-1.4
Elk	31,194	31,946	-752	-2.4	Susquehanna	41,920	43,356	-1,436	-3.3
Erie	278,443	280,566	-2,123	-0.8	Tioga	42,274	41,980	294	0.7
Fayette	134,086	136,607	-2,521	-1.8	Union	44,874	44,949	-75	-0.2
Forest	7,518	7,716	-198	-2.6	Venango	53,529	54,983	-1,454	-2.6
Franklin	152,892	149,618	3,274	2.2	Warren	40,703	41,815	-1,112	-2.7
Fulton	14,632	14,844	-212	-1.4	Washington	208,187	207,820	367	0.2
Greene	37,843	38,686	-843	-2.2	Wayne	51,401	52,825	-1,424	-2.7
Huntingdon	45,750	46,027	-277	-0.6	Westmoreland	359,320	365,169	-5,849	-1.6
Indiana	87,706	88,891	-1,185	-1.3	Wyoming	28,131	28,276	-145	-0.5
Jefferson	44,638	45,199	-561	-1.2	York	440,755	435,002	5,753	1.3

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, 2014 County 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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