



# 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, 2014 population estimates for sub-county geographies, including Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships. Today's release provides the fourth set of municipal population estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census.

### Population Change by Municipality Type

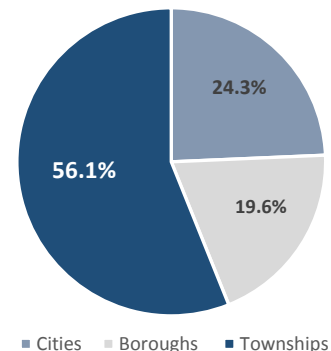
According to the data, 85.3 percent of the growth in Pennsylvania's population since 2010 can be attributed to townships. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014, the population of Pennsylvania's 1,547 townships grew from 7,098,806 to 7,170,736; a growth rate of 1.0 percent. Cities, as a whole, also experienced growth over the time period gaining 21,014 people (0.7 percent); however, only nine of the state's 57 cities had population growth since 2010. The commonwealth's boroughs had a decline of 0.3 percent; a loss of 8,619 people. (see Table 1).

Municipality Type	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change EB to July 1, 2014	Percent Change EB to July 1, 2014	Percent of State's Growth
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>12,787,209</b>	<b>12,702,884</b>	<b>84,325</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Cities	3,108,433	3,087,419	21,014	0.7%	24.9%
Boroughs	2,508,040	2,516,659	-8,619	-0.3%	-10.2%
Townships	7,170,736	7,098,806	71,930	1.0%	85.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2014 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimate

As of July 1, 2014, 56.1 percent of Pennsylvanians lived in townships, 24.3 percent lived in cities, and the remaining 19.6 percent lived in boroughs (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Population by Municipal Type, Pennsylvania 2014



### Pennsylvania Cities

Philadelphia remains the fifth-largest city in the nation, with a population of 1.56 million. The City of Brotherly Love has gained 34,291 residents between 2010 and 2014, representing a growth rate of 2.2 percent. The state's largest city is also the commonwealth's fastest growing city since 2010. Pennsylvania's second most



populous city, Pittsburgh (305,412), has seen its population remain relatively flat since 2010, reporting a decline of just 290 residents (-0.1 percent).

As previously noted, only nine Pennsylvania cities have had population growth since 2010. With the exception of Lock Haven city, these cities were all located in the Southeastern and South Central part of the commonwealth.

Only three of Pennsylvania’s ten most populous cities experienced population growth since 2010. They include: Philadelphia (34,291), Allentown (943) and Bethlehem (153). Erie city has seen its population drop below 100,000 for the first since the 1920s. Between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014, Erie has declined by 2,332 residents or 2.3 percent. The six other most populous cities losing population since 2010 were: Altoona (-763), Harrisburg (-446), Pittsburgh (-290), Scranton (-808), Reading (-268) and Lancaster (-20).

### 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 2014 Population Estimates. Between 2010 and 2014, Franklin Park added 802 people, growing at 6.0 percent. Since 2010, Clarion borough, in Clarion County, lost the greatest number of residents, declining by 459 people. Table 2 and Table 3 show the top 5 Pennsylvania Boroughs in terms of numeric population gain and loss between 2010 and 2014.

Table 2. Top 5 Numeric Population Increase, Pennsylvania Boroughs: 2010 to 2014					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2014	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2014
1	Franklin Park borough, (Allegheny)	14,269	13,467	802	6.0%
2	West Chester borough, (Chester)	19,189	18,461	728	3.9%
3	Jefferson Hills borough, (Allegheny)	11,232	10,629	603	5.7%
4	Mount Joy borough, (Lancaster)	8,008	7,410	598	8.1%
5	Green Tree borough, (Allegheny)	4,991	4,432	559	12.6%

Table 3. Top 5 Numeric Population Decrease, Pennsylvania Boroughs: 2010 to 2014					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2014	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2014
1	Clarion borough, (Clarion)	4,817	5,276	-459	-8.7%
2	Dunmore borough, (Lackawanna)	13,791	14,057	-266	-1.9%
3	Ellwood City borough, (Lawrence, Beaver)	7,682	7,921	-239	-3.0%
4	New Wilmington borough, (Lawrence)	2,244	2,466	-222	-9.0%
5	East Stroudsburg borough, (Monroe)	9,624	9,840	-216	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2014 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates

Among Pennsylvania townships, Benner township in Centre County gained the most residents since 2010. The township increased by 2,731 people during the period. Many of the townships that have experienced large numeric change in population have prison populations. The Pennsylvania township to experience the largest numeric decrease in population since 2010 was Cresson township in Cambria County. Cresson township's large population swing is also the result of a prison. In this case, the closure of a state correctional institution. Between 2010 and 2014, the township lost more than a third of its population (35.6 percent), totaling 1,545 residents. Table 4 and Table 5 show the top 5 Pennsylvania Townships in terms of numeric population gain and loss between 2010 and 2014.

Table 4. Top 5 Numeric Population Increase, Pennsylvania Townships: 2010 to 2014					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2014	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2014
1	Benner township, (Centre)	8,908	6,177	2,731	44.2%
2	Upper Macungie township, (Lehigh)	22,404	20,067	2,337	11.6%
3	Cranberry township, (Butler)	30,170	28,098	2,072	7.4%
4	Silver Spring township, (Cumberland)	15,728	13,666	2,062	15.1%
5	Skippack township, (Montgomery)	15,204	13,715	1,489	10.9%

Table 5. Top 5 Numeric Population Decrease, Pennsylvania Townships: 2010 to 2014					
Rank	Borough	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2014	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2014
1	Cresson township, (Cambria)	2,791	4,336	-1,545	-35.6%
2	Hempfield township, (Westmoreland)	41,733	43,247	-1,514	-3.5%
3	Maxatawny township, (Berks)	7,419	7,916	-497	-6.3%
4	Richland township, (Cambria)	12,346	12,814	-468	-3.7%
5	Stroud township, (Monroe)	18,747	19,215	-468	-2.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2014 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates

### More on Municipal Population Estimates

The July 1, 2014 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. Detailed estimates by age, sex, race and ethnicity for Pennsylvania counties will be released next month.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2014 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.**