



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 16, 2013

## 2006-2010 ACS County-to-County Migration Flows Released for Pennsylvania: First ACS Migration Flow Data by Age, Sex, Race and Ethnicity

**PENN STATE HARRISBURG** – The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) County-to-County Migration Flows. The data, which documents migratory patterns of the population during the period 2006-2010, marks the second set of county-to-county migration flow data to be generated from the ACS. Unlike the first ACS data product to address migration which only provided the total number of movers between counties, the 2006-2010 ACS County-to-County Migration Flows data offers migratory patterns broken down by age, sex, race and ethnicity.

According to the data, during the period 2006-2010, the number of people moving into Pennsylvania from another state was 245,508, while the number of people moving out of the Commonwealth to another state was 225,662. During the time period, the net domestic migration (in-migrants minus out-migrants) was 19,846. Overall, the Commonwealth gained 1.6 people per 1,000 residents from other states over the time period 2006-2010. Finally, the number of individuals moving into Pennsylvania from abroad totaled 50,700 in 2006-2010.

During the period 2006-2010, Pennsylvania had nearly 1.3 million movers. Of these movers, 335,434 lived in a different county. Table 1. shows the Pennsylvania counties with the largest number of in-migrants along with the Pennsylvania county from which the largest number of migrants originated.

Table 1. Largest Total Inflow of Migrants with Largest County of Origin, Pennsylvania Counties: 2006-2010					
Rank	County Name	Total Inflow	Largest County of Origin		
			County	Number	Percent
1	Philadelphia County	64,879	Montgomery County	6,046	9.3%
2	Allegheny County	52,747	Westmoreland County	4,447	8.4%
3	Montgomery County	43,557	Philadelphia County	10,810	24.8%
4	Chester County	28,210	Delaware County	3,748	13.3%
5	Delaware County	27,754	Philadelphia County	6,931	25.0%
6	Centre County	24,725	Chester County	1,138	4.6%
7	Bucks County	21,676	Philadelphia County	4,054	18.7%
8	Lehigh County	21,392	Northampton County	5,534	25.9%
9	Lancaster County	21,347	Chester County	2,023	9.5%
10	York County	20,070	Baltimore County, MD	1,854	9.2%



Table 2. shows the Pennsylvania counties with the largest number of out-migrants along with the destination Pennsylvania county.

Table 2. Largest Total Outflow of Migrants with Largest Destination County, Pennsylvania Counties: 2006-2010					
Rank	County Name	Total Outflow	Largest Destination County		
			County Name	Number	Percent
1	Philadelphia County	69,992	Montgomery County	10,810	15.4%
2	Allegheny County	46,178	Westmoreland County	3,781	8.2%
3	Montgomery County	41,004	Philadelphia County	6,046	14.7%
4	Bucks County	26,632	Montgomery County	4,389	16.5%
5	Delaware County	25,391	Philadelphia County	4,368	17.2%
6	Chester County	25,007	Montgomery County	2,618	10.5%
7	Lehigh County	19,942	Northampton County	5,534	27.8%
8	Lancaster County	18,204	York County	1,325	7.3%
9	Northampton County	16,641	Lehigh County	4,981	29.9%
10	Dauphin County	16,350	Cumberland County	2,700	16.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2006-2010 American Community Survey County-to-county Migration Flow Data  
 \* It should be noted that flows in the top 10 may not be significantly different from each other or flows outside the top 10.

### County-to-County Migration by Age

According to the county-to-county migration flow data by age, Centre County had the largest net gain in population age 0 to 19 years among Pennsylvania counties during the period 2006-2010. Among the cohort 20 to 24 years, Centre County ranked second statewide, behind only Philadelphia County. Migrants age 0 to 24 years accounted for eight out of every ten net migrant to Center County during the time period. Centre County’s large net gain in population from these two age cohorts is not surprising considering it is home to Penn State University.

During the period 2006-2010, Montgomery County experienced the greatest net increase in population among county-to-county movers age 25 to 64 years. Chester, York, Allegheny and Lehigh counties followed Allegheny County in terms of net gain of migrants age 25 to 64 years. Outside of Allegheny County, counties in the top ten in terms of gaining movers in this age cohort were located the Lehigh Valley, South Central Pennsylvania or counties surrounding Philadelphia.

Lancaster ranked first among Pennsylvania counties in the net population gain from migrants 65 years and over in 2006-2010. During the time period, Lancaster County gained more than a thousand residents from movers age 65 years and over.

### More about County-to-County Migration Data

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey County-to-County Migration Files provide tables for each county in the nation, showing both inflows and outflows. The data on residence 1 year ago were derived from answers to Question 15, which were asked of the population 1 year and older. For the American Community Survey, people who had moved from another residence in the United States or Puerto Rico 1 year earlier were asked to report the exact address. People living outside the United States and Puerto Rico were asked to report the name of the foreign country or U.S. Island

Area where they were living 1 year ago.

Residence 1 year ago is used in conjunction with location of current residence to determine the extent of residential mobility of the population and the resulting redistribution of the population across the various states, metropolitan areas, and regions of the country.

Additional data files provide the same data broken down by age, sex, race and ethnicity for all counties in the United States. Data users should be aware that totals from age, sex, race and ethnicity files will not add to the total presented in the overall county-to-county flows data product because of the necessity to protect the confidentiality of survey respondents. Caution also must be exercised by data users when comparing ACS migration data with similar data published from Census 2000 SF-3. County-to-county migration data from Census 2000 SF-3 was produced for the number of migrants who moved between counties in the United States in the previous 5 years as opposed to the “1 year ago” time frame used by the ACS.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey County-to-county Migration Flow Data

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.**