# Pennsylvania State Data Center

May 2017

# **RESEARCH BRIEF**

## 2016 Sub-County Population Estimates:

New Release Highlights Pennsylvania's Changing Municipalities

HARRISBURG - The U.S. Census Bureau has released July 1, 2016 population estimates for subcounty geographies including boroughs, townships, and cities. This release provides the sixth set of municipal estimates to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census.

## Population Change by Municipality

Statewide most municipal growth from 2010 to 2016 has occurred in urban and suburban areas of the southeastern and southcentral portions of the state, with pockets of growth surrounding State College and the city of Pittsburgh. Townships gained an average of 55.1 persons while boroughs lost an average of 25.8 persons and cities lost an average of 369.2 persons.

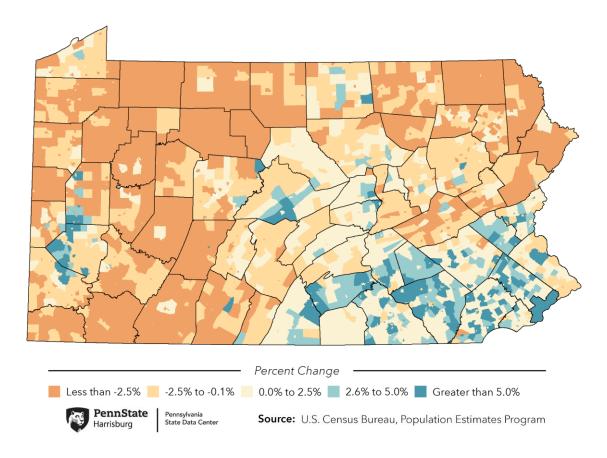


Figure 1. Percent change in population for Pennsylvania's municipalities, 2010 to 2016.

PaSDC Research Brief Page 1

+9.6%

+6.4%

+11.2%

## **Boroughs**

Just 193 (19.9 percent) of Pennsylvania's 969 boroughs gained population since 2010. West Chester Borough in Chester County experienced the largest numeric gains out of any borough in Pennsylvania from 2010 to 2016 (Table 1). Valencia Borough in Butler County had the highest numeric change from 2015 to 2016 with an increase of 311 persons, a growth of 53.7 percent.

2010 2016 Numeric Percent Borough County Est. Base Estimate Change Change West Chester Chester 18,461 19,928 +1,467 +7.9% Franklin Park Allegheny 13,467 14,518 +1,051 +7.8%

7,393

10,629

4,432

8,104

11,307

4,927

+711

+678

+495

**Table 1.** Boroughs with highest numeric growth, 2010 EB\* to 2016.

Lancaster

Allegheny

Allegheny

Mount Joy

Green Tree

Jefferson Hills

More than 75 percent of boroughs (751) in Pennsylvania lost population since 2010. Dunmore Borough in Lackawanna County had the highest numeric decrease from 2010 to 2016 for the boroughs of Pennsylvania (Table 2). The municipality of Monroeville in Allegheny County faced the highest numeric decrease from 2015 to 2016 with a loss of 203 persons, a decrease of 0.7 percent.

**Table 2.** Boroughs with highest numeric loss, 2010 EB\* to 2016, 2010 EB to 2016.

Borough	County	2010 Est. Base	2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Dunmore	Lackawanna	14,057	13,187	-870	-6.2%
Mansfield	Tioga	3,626	3,211	-415	-11.4%
Bethel Park	Allegheny	32,315	31,911	-404	-1.3%
West Mifflin	Allegheny	20,313	19,921	-392	-1.9%
Monroeville	Allegheny	28,341	27,953	-388	-1.4%

#### **Townships**

Over a third (564) of Pennsylvania's 1,547 townships increased in population since 2010. Upper Macungie Township in Lehigh County had the highest increase in terms of numeric growth from 2010 to 2016 (Table 3). Upper Macungie Township also had the highest numeric growth from 2015 to 2016 with an increase in 1,028 persons and a percent increase of 4.5 percent.

**Table 3.** Townships with highest numeric growth, 2010 EB to 2016.

Township	County	2010 Est. Base	2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Upper Macungie	Lehigh	20,067	23,884	+3,817	+19.0%
Silver Spring	Cumberland	13,666	16,954	+3,288	+24.1%
Benner	Centre	6,187	9,208	+3,021	+48.8%
Cranberry	Butler	28,098	30,739	+2,641	+9.4%
Upper Providence	Montgomery	21,219	23,853	+2,634	+12.4%

<sup>\*</sup>EB - Estimates base

Nearly two-thirds (967) of townships in Pennsylvania decreased in population since 2010. Hempfield Township in Westmoreland County experienced the greatest loss numerically since 2010 (Table 4). From 2015 to 2016, however, Penn Hills Township of Allegheny County lost the most population with a decrease of 341 persons (0.8 percent).

Township	County	2010 Est. Base	2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Hempfield	Westmoreland	43,247	41,335	-1,912	-4.4%
Cresson	Cambria	4,336	2,748	-1,588	-36.6%
Bristol	Bucks	54,637	53,771	-866	-1.6%
Penn Hills	Allegheny	42,347	41,555	-792	-1.9%
Mount Lebanon	Allegheny	33,137	32,475	-662	-2.0%

**Table 4.** Townships with highest numeric loss, 2010 EB to 2016.

#### Cities

Of Pennsylvania's 56 cities, only eight (12.5 percent) increased in population size since 2010. The City of Philadelphia remains the largest growing city in Pennsylvania since 2010 (Table 5). The City of Philadelphia also added the most persons from 2015 to 2016 with an increase of 2,908 persons or 0.2 percent. Despite Philadelphia's growth in the state, this year it falls from the fifth largest city in the nation to sixth, displaced by Phoenix, Arizona.

City	County	2010 Est. Base	2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	1,526,006	1,567,872	+41,866	+2.7%
Allentown	Lehigh	118,161	120,443	+2,282	+1.9%
Scranton	Lackawanna	76,089	77,291	+1,202	+1.6%
Bethlehem	Lehigh	19,343	19,744	+401	+2.1%
Lebanon	Lebanon	25,477	25,726	+249	+1.0%

**Table 5.** Cities with highest numeric growth, 2010 EB to 2016.

Forty-eight (85.7 percent) of the cities in Pennsylvania decreased in population size since 2010. The City of Erie remains the top shrinking city since 2010 (Table 6). Erie, Pennsylvania also represented the city that decreased the most from 2015 to 2016 with a decrease of 879 persons or 0.9 percent.

**Table 6.** Cities with highest numeric loss, 2010 EB to 2016.

City	County	2010 Est. Base	2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Erie	Erie	101,782	98,593	-3,189	-3.1%
Pittsburgh	Allegheny	305,687	303,625	-2,062	-0.7%
Altoona	Blair	45,984	44,589	-1,395	-3.0%
Johnstown	Cambria	20,975	19,712	-1,263	-6.0%
New Castle	Lawrence	23,273	22,142	-1,131	-4.9%

## More on Municipal Population Estimates

Today's release provides the sixth set of municipal population estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census. The July 1, 2016 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, 2016 Sub-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. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or online at pasdc.hbg.psu.edu.