

Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

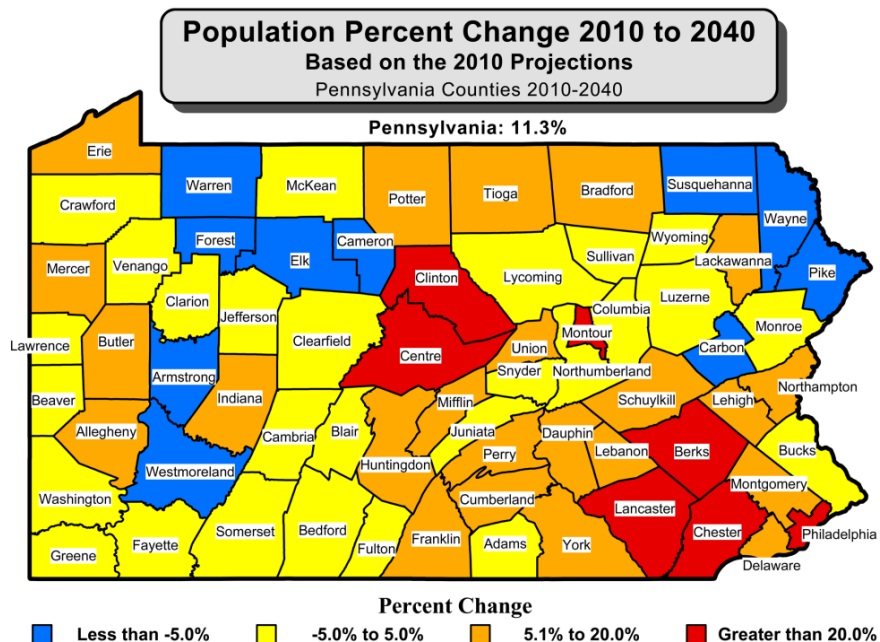
March 27, 2014

State and County Population Projections 2010 to 2040

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – New population projections produced by the Pennsylvania State Data Center reveal that the Keystone State's 2010 Census population of 12.7 million is projected to grow to 14.1 million by the year 2040. This represents a growth rate of 11.3 percent or the addition of 1,430,209 residents over the thirty year period.

The PaSDC population projections were sponsored by a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Projections were completed for the years 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035 and 2040 for the Commonwealth and its 67 counties. These projections were developed by five-year age cohorts and sex.

While the commonwealth is set to experience an overall increase in population in the next three decades, not all counties will share in this growth. The general trend is an increase in population in the eastern and southeastern counties and a decrease in the northwestern and northeastern counties of Pennsylvania (see map). Overall, six counties will experience an increase in population of over



20.0 percent, while ten counties are expected to see a decline in population of 5.0 percent or more between 2010 and 2040.

Pennsylvania counties with the largest projected population growth during the period are located in the central and south-central part of the state. Montour County is projected to grow faster than any other county in Pennsylvania between 2010 and 2040, increasing by 24.9 percent and adding 4,540 people. Lancaster County is ranked second with a projected growth of 23.6 percent, increasing its population by 122,370 residents. Lancaster is followed by Clinton County with a projected increase of 22.7 percent over the time period (8,926 people) and Centre County with a projected gain of 22.5 percent or 34,574 people.

In terms of numeric growth, Philadelphia County is projected to add the most people (333,938) to its population by 2040. Montgomery will follow Philadelphia, according to the projections, with a growth of 138,706 people (17.3 percent increase). Lancaster County is projected to have the third-largest numeric increase in population by 2040, adding 122,370 people.

Counties projected to lose population are concentrated in the north to northwestern section of the state. During the 30-year period, Cameron County's population is set to drop by -21.6 percent (-1,097 people). Forest County, -14.4 percent (-1,108 people); Warren County, -10.2 percent (-4,280 people); Elk County, -10.0 percent (-3,188 people); and Armstrong County, -9.4 percent (-6,467 people) round out the top-five in terms of percent population decline.

Outside of Westmoreland County, which is set to dip by 5.7 percent (-20,939 people), the remaining counties with a large population percentage loss are located in the northeastern part of the state: Susquehanna County, -7.4 percent (-3,223 people); Carbon County, -7.2 percent (-4,713 people); Wayne County, -5.9 percent (-3,109 people); and Pike County, -5.4 percent (-3,112).

Age Structure

The projections suggest that the age makeup of Pennsylvania's population will, on average, continue to grow older over the next three decades. The largest percentage increases will be seen in the 5-year age cohorts over age 65. Meanwhile, the age cohorts between 45 and 64 years of age all report population decline over the period. This is due largely to the baby boomers aging out of these cohorts and into the 65 years and over 5-year groupings.

The aging of the boomers will lead to all age cohorts above age 65 showing a significant percent increase. Those age 65 to 69 years are projected to grow by 22.2 percent, 70 to 74 years will increase by 63.9 percent, 75 to 79 years (91.0 percent) and 80 to 84 (88.9 percent). The oldest segment of Pennsylvania's elderly population (persons 85 and older) is projected to grow the fastest: between 2010 and 2040, those 85 years and over will nearly double (99.5 percent) from 305,676 to 609,720. In 2010, the population age 65 and older accounted for 15.4 percent of the population. By 2040, the percentage of persons age 65 and older is projected to 23.1 percent.

More about PaSDC's Population Projections

The PaSDC county population projections were sponsored by a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy within the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It was created in 1987 under Act 16, the Rural Revitalization Act, to promote and sustain the vitality of Pennsylvania's rural and small communities.

The projections employ a cohort-component projection model. The following demographic data files are included in the model: Base Population, Fertility Rates, Survival Rates, Migration Rates, Migration Typologies, International Migrants, and the Group Quarters Population. The population projections use the July 1, 2010 U.S. Bureau of the Census State and County Total Resident Population Estimates as the base. Birth, survival and death rates were provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service were used to develop migration rates.

Data users wishing to purchase PDF file profiles and excel data files of the PaSDC's State and County Population Projections by Age and Gender, Pennsylvania: 2010 to 2040 can do so by visiting <http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/>, click on **Data**, then **Projections**.

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.

Source: State and County Population Projections by Age and Gender, Pennsylvania: 2010 to 2040

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Editors: For additional data contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710. For faculty comment please contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

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