**Basic Facts**

- **Nickname**: Keystone State
- **Motto**: Virtue, Liberty, and Independence
- **Flag**: A blue field on which is embroidered the State Coat of Arms
- **Gained Statehood**: December 12, 1787
- **Capital**: Harrisburg
- **Counties**: 67
- **Municipalities (2014)**: 2,561
- **State Animal**: Whitetail Deer
- **State Bird**: Ruffed Grouse
- **State Flower**: Mountain Laurel
- **State Tree**: Hemlock
- **State Dog**: Great Dane
- **State Fish**: Brook Trout
- **State Insect**: Firefly
- **State Beverage**: Milk
- **State Fossil**: Phacops Rana
- **State Flagship**: U.S. Brig Niagara

- Pennsylvania’s population has the 4th highest proportion of people age 65 years and older in the United States.

- Pennsylvania has the sixth-largest state economy.

**Economic**

- Median Household Income: $52,007
- Median Family Income: $66,522
- Per Capita Personal Income (BEA): $46,202
- Number of Persons in Poverty: 1,690,405
- Poverty Rate: 13.7%
- Gross State Product (2013): $644.9 billion

**Transportation**

- Linear Miles in Highway System (2013): 119,936 miles
- Average travel time to work: 26.0 minutes

- Pennsylvania is ranked 9th among the states in the proportion of its workforce that commutes via public transportation (5.6 percent).
- 76.5% of workers drove to work alone, 8.3% carpooled, 5.6% used public transportation, 3.9% walked, 1.5% used other means, and 3.9% worked from home.
- 54.2% of households have 2 or more vehicles.

Trucks accounted for 34.9 percent of all vehicle miles traveled on Pennsylvania Interstates in 2013.
Employment and Housing

Number in Civilian Labor Force (Sept 2014) 6,347,000
Percent Civilian Labor Force Unemployed (Sept 2014) 5.7%
Total Housing Units 5,565,354
Total Households 4,938,894
Number of Family Households 3,152,234
Home Ownership Rate 68.9%
Single Family Units 75.5%
Mobile Homes 4.1%
Majority Home Heating Source Utility Gas (50.9%)
Median Gross Rent $828
Owner-Occupied Homes with a Mortgage 61.0%
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing $164,200

Marriage and Divorce

Marriages (2012) 70,120
Annual Marriage Rate (2012) 5.5 /1,000 pop.
Median Age at First Marriage, Male 30.1
Median Age at First Marriage, Female 28.4
Divorces (2012) 36,345
Annual Divorce Rate (2012) 2.8 /1,000 pop.

Fun Facts

- Born in Luzerne County to runaway slaves, Jonathan Jasper Wright became the first African American lawyer in Pennsylvania in 1865.
- On the evening of May 31st, 1985, a devastating tornado outbreak struck Northwestern Pennsylvania. As part of the event, the state’s only ever recorded F-5 tornado touched down in Wheatland, PA.
- Scranton, PA was home to the first streetcar system in the U.S. built entirely for operation by electric power. It began operation on Nov. 30, 1886.
- Pennsylvania ranks 7th among states and the District of Columbia in the proportion of housing units built in 1939 or earlier (26.3 percent).

Education

High School Graduate or higher 89.2%, age 25+
Bachelor’s Degree or higher 28.7%, age 25+
Total Public School Enrollment (2013-14) 1,750,059
Total Non-Public Enrollment (2013-14) 256,914
Drop-Out Rate (2012-13) 1.4%
Avg. Public Teacher Salary (2012-13) $63,521
Public School College bound (2012-13) 67.1%
Average Math SAT Score (2012-13) 504
Average Critical Reading SAT Score (2012-13) 494
Average Writing SAT Score (2012-13) 482

Pennsylvania has the 4th-largest number of colleges and universities in the United States.

Industry and Agriculture

Total Business Estab. (1qtr-2014) 348,735
Number of Manufacturing Estab. (1qtr-2014) 14,541
Professional, Scientific, Technical Estab. (1qtr-2014) 37,687
Largest Industry Employer (1qtr-2014) Health Care & Social Assistance
- Number of Employees 975,910
Farms (2013) 59,300
Land in Farms (2013) 7,700,000 acres
Estimated Value of Agricultural Production
- Crops, incl. Nursery & Greenhouse (2013) $2.7 billion
- Livestock, Poultry, & Products (2013) $4.6 billion
Top Agricultural Commodity (2013) Milk Production
- Value (2013) $2.2 billion

Health and Vital Statistics

Birth Rate (2013-14) 11.1/1,000
Mortality Rate (2013-14) 10.1/1,000

- Top five birth names for males (2012): Mason, Liam, Jacob, Michael, Noah
- Top five birth names for females (2012): Emma, Sophia, Olivia, Ava, Isabella

Geography and Climate

- Lowest Geographic Point, Sea Level (Delaware River) 3,213 feet (Somerset Co.)
- Number of Hospitals (2012) 250
- Number of Licensed Nursing Homes (2012) 711
- Total Non-Public Enrollment (2013-14) 256,914
- Number of Schools in Public School Enrollment (2013-14) 256,914
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Pennsylvania State Data Center

To Find Out More

Pennsylvania State Data Center
Penn State Harrisburg
777 W. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057-4988

URL: PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu

Cover images: Historical images of Pennsylvania locations and residents from the Library of Congress and other sources.

Sources: