



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 8, 2004

County Population Estimates Released for 2003: Pike County Among Nation's 100 Fastest Growing Counties

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that Chester County (87th) and Montgomery County (97th) ranked in the nation's 100 counties with the largest population gains from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003. This data is based on the 2003 County Population Estimates that were released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates used April 1, 2000 (Census Day), as a base and were carried forward to July 1, 2003, based on birth, death and migration data. Pike County (85th) had the highest population percentage increase in the state and was the commonwealth's lone entry on the list of the Nation's 100 Fastest Growing Counties in 2003. Pike County was ranked 81st on this list in 2002.

Pennsylvania's estimated population of 12,365,455 continues to rank the commonwealth 6th in the nation in total population. Approximately 4.3 percent of the nation's 291 million persons live in Pennsylvania. With the 0.7 percent increase in population, the commonwealth continues to be a slow growth state. Pennsylvania ranked 24th in the nation in numerical population increase and 46th nationally in percent increase in population. California (1,612,800 more persons) ranked 1st nationally in numeric population increase while Nevada (12.2 percent) ranked 1st in percent increase in population.

Births, Deaths and Migrations in the Commonwealth

There were an estimated 464,646 births in Pennsylvania between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2003. An estimated 424,782 deaths during this time period resulted in a birth-death surplus of 39,864 persons. There were 68,935 net international migrations into Pennsylvania and -16,472 net internal migrations out of the commonwealth, resulting in a gain of 52,463 persons.

Numeric Population Change

Chester County (23,892 pop increase) had the largest estimated gain in population between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2003 (Table 1). Montgomery County (21,760 pop increase), Monroe County (12,808 pop increase) and Bucks County (15,478 pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population increases during this time period. Philadelphia County (38,211 pop decrease) had the largest estimated population decrease. Chester, Montgomery and Bucks all border Philadelphia and are within Philly's metropolitan area. Monroe County sits on Pennsylvania's northeastern border, next to New Jersey and within commuting distance to New York.

Percent Population Change

Pike County, which borders New York and New Jersey, had its population increase an estimated 12.7 percent between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2003. Monroe County (11.4 percent pop increase) and Adams County (5.7 percent pop increase) represented the next largest estimated population percentage increases in Pennsylvania during this time period. Adams County is on the southern border of Pennsylvania, just north of Maryland. Cameron County (2.3 percent pop decrease), one of the least populated counties in the Commonwealth, had the largest estimated population decrease.

For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of 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.

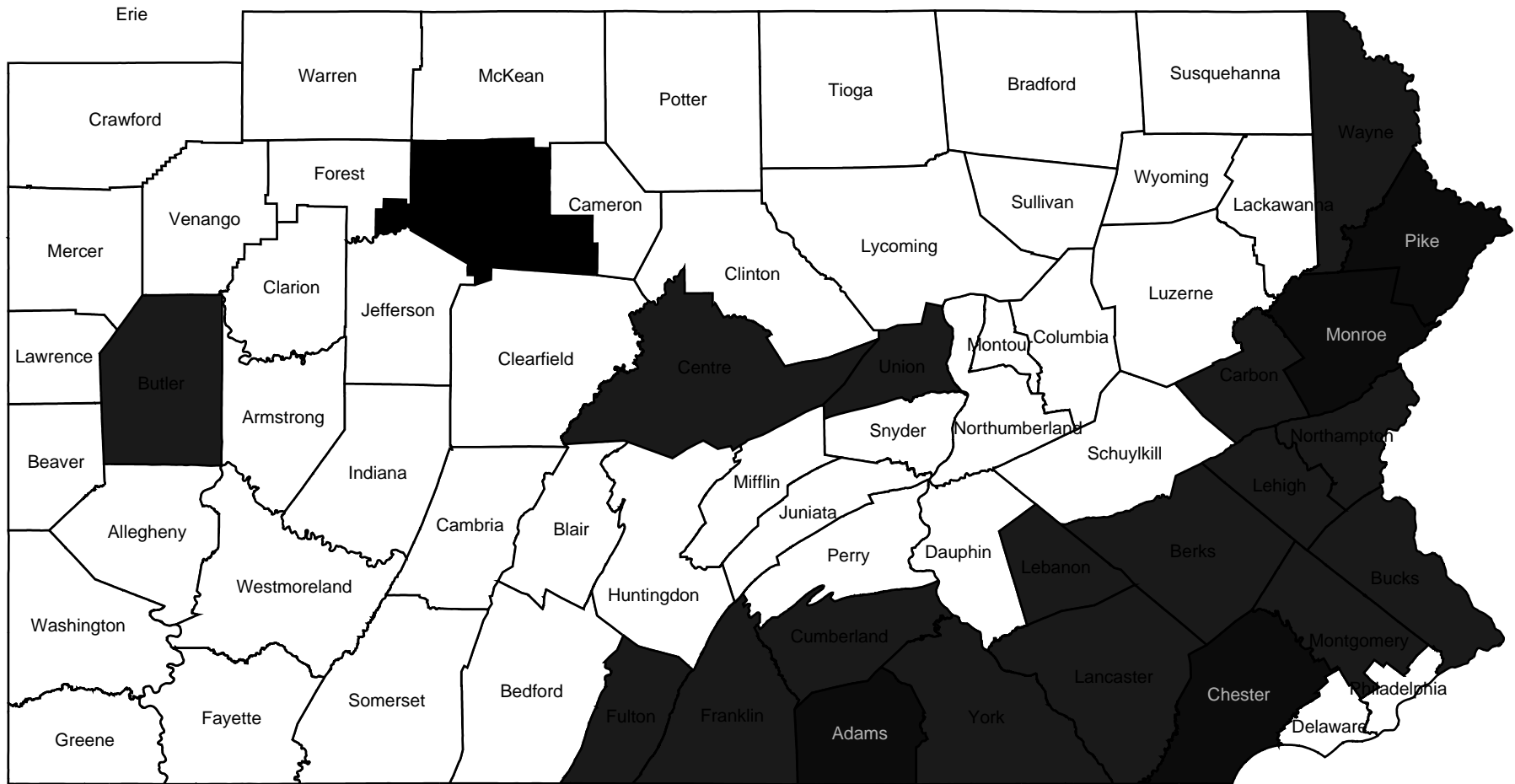
Table 1: Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and Population Change - April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003

County	July 1, 2003 Population Estimate	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change	County	July 1, 2003 Population Estimate	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
Pennsylvania	12,365,455	12,281,054	84,401	0.7	Juniata	23,065	22,821	244	1.1
Adams	96,456	91,292	5,164	5.7	Lackawanna	210,458	213,295	-2,837	-1.3
Allegheny	1,261,303	1,281,666	-20,363	-1.6	Lancaster	482,775	470,658	12,117	2.6
Armstrong	71,659	72,392	-733	-1.0	Lawrence	93,408	94,643	-1,235	-1.3
Beaver	178,697	181,412	-2,715	-1.5	Lebanon	122,652	120,327	2,325	1.9
Bedford	49,941	49,984	-43	-0.1	Lehigh	320,517	312,090	8,427	2.7
Berks	385,307	373,638	11,669	3.1	Luzerne	313,528	319,250	-5,722	-1.8
Blair	127,175	129,144	-1,969	-1.5	Lycoming	118,438	120,044	-1,606	-1.3
Bradford	62,643	62,761	-118	-0.2	McKean	45,236	45,936	-700	-1.5
Bucks	613,110	597,632	15,478	2.6	Mercer	119,895	120,293	-398	-0.3
Butler	180,040	174,083	5,957	3.4	Mifflin	46,335	46,486	-151	-0.3
Cambria	149,453	152,598	-3,145	-2.1	Monroe	154,495	138,687	15,808	11.4
Cameron	5,777	5,974	-197	-3.3	Montgomery	770,747	748,987	21,760	2.9
Carbon	60,131	58,802	1,329	2.3	Montour	18,083	18,236	-153	-0.8
Centre	141,636	135,758	5,878	4.3	Northampton	278,169	267,069	11,100	4.2
Chester	457,393	433,501	23,892	5.5	Northumberland	93,323	94,556	-1,233	-1.3
Clarion	41,208	41,765	-557	-1.3	Perry	44,188	43,602	586	1.3
Clearfield	82,874	83,382	-508	-0.6	Philadelphia	1,479,339	1,517,550	-38,211	-2.5
Clinton	37,435	37,914	-479	-1.3	Pike	52,163	46,302	5,861	12.7
Columbia	64,605	64,151	454	0.7	Potter	18,141	18,080	61	0.3
Crawford	89,846	90,366	-520	-0.6	Schuylkill	147,944	150,336	-2,392	-1.6
Cumberland	219,892	213,674	6,218	2.9	Snyder	38,015	37,546	469	1.2
Dauphin	253,388	251,798	1,590	0.6	Somerset	79,365	80,023	-658	-0.8
Delaware	554,432	551,974	2,458	0.4	Sullivan	6,427	6,556	-129	-2.0
Elk	34,310	35,112	-802	-2.3	Susquehanna	41,812	42,238	-426	-1.0
Erie	279,966	280,843	-877	-0.3	Tioga	41,557	41,373	184	0.4
Fayette	146,121	148,644	-2,523	-1.7	Union	42,552	41,624	928	2.2
Forest	4,989	4,946	43	0.9	Venango	56,600	57,565	-965	-1.7
Franklin	133,155	129,313	3,842	3.0	Warren	42,820	43,863	-1,043	-2.4
Fulton	14,534	14,261	273	1.9	Washington	204,286	202,897	1,389	0.7
Greene	40,398	40,672	-274	-0.7	Wayne	49,092	47,722	1,370	2.9
Huntingdon	45,865	45,586	279	0.6	Westmoreland	368,224	369,993	-1,769	-0.5
Indiana	89,054	89,605	-551	-0.6	Wyoming	28,153	28,080	73	0.3
Jefferson	45,945	45,932	13	0.0	York	394,915	381,751	13,164	3.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Estimated Population Percent Change

Pennsylvania Counties April 1, 2000 - July 1, 2003



Percent Change

Less Than 0 % 0 - 1.5 % 1.5 - 5.5 % 5.5 % and Greater