



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## New Census Bureau Estimates Show Philadelphia Remains Nation's 5<sup>th</sup> Largest City

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – New population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that Philadelphia remains the nation's 5<sup>th</sup> largest city. This data, from today's release of sub-county population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, shows that Philadelphia, with a population of approximately 1.5 million, still ranks ahead of Phoenix, Arizona by approximately 91,000 persons in the list of the nation's ten largest cities. This difference has decreased significantly since Census 2000 when the gap was over 196,000 people. The rankings show a change from Census 2000 with Dallas moving up to 8<sup>th</sup> position over San Antonio (see Table 1).

The estimates are based on Census 2000 and were updated using administrative records. The sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include minor civil divisions (MCDs) that, for Pennsylvania, are its cities, townships and boroughs. Please note that due to changes based on the count resolution program, updates from the Boundary and Annexation Survey and geographic programs revisions, an April 1, 2000 estimates base was used in the estimating process.

**Table 1: Ten Largest U.S. Cities: July 1, 2003**

Rank	Place	Estimate July 1, 2003	April 1, 2000	Numerical Change	Percentage Change
1	New York, N.Y.	8,085,742	8,008,278	77,464	1.0
2	Los Angeles, Calif.	3,819,951	3,694,820	125,131	3.4
3	Chicago, Ill.	2,869,121	2,896,016	-26,895	-0.9
4	Houston, Texas	2,009,690	1,953,631	56,059	2.9
5	Philadelphia, Pa.	1,479,339	1,517,550	-38,211	-2.5
6	Phoenix, Ariz.	1,388,416	1,321,045	67,371	5.1
7	San Diego, Calif.	1,266,753	1,223,400	43,353	3.5
8	Dallas, Texas	1,214,725	1,144,646	70,079	6.1
9	San Antonio, Texas	1,208,318	1,188,580	19,738	1.7
10	Detroit, Mich.	911,402	951,270	-39,868	-4.2



## Pennsylvania's Top Ten Cities

Of Pennsylvania's ten largest cities, only Bethlehem showed an increase in population since 2000. Bethlehem's population of 72,570 was an increase of 1,241 since 2000 (see Table 2). Among Pennsylvania's 57 cities, only four, showed population increases between Census 2000 and July 2003. Bethlehem had the largest increase followed by Coatesville, Hermitage, and Parker. Of these four, Coatesville had the largest percent increase, 3.5 percent.

Table 2: Pennsylvania's Ten Largest Cities: July 1, 2003

City	Estimated Population: July 1, 2003	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Population: April 1, 2000	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Philadelphia	1,479,339	1,517,550	1,517,550	-38,211	-2.5
Pittsburgh	325,337	334,563	334,563	-9,226	-2.8
Allentown	105,958	106,632	106,632	-674	-0.6
Erie	101,373	103,717	103,717	-2,344	-2.3
Reading	80,305	81,207	81,207	-902	-1.1
Scranton	74,320	76,415	76,415	-2,095	-2.7
Bethlehem	72,570	71,329	71,329	1,241	1.7
Lancaster	55,351	56,352	56,348	-997	-1.8
Harrisburg	48,322	48,950	48,950	-628	-1.3
Altoona	47,980	49,523	49,523	-1,543	-3.1

## Hallam Borough, York County, is Pennsylvania's Fastest Growing Community

With an estimated population increase of 39.7 percent since April 1, 2000, Hallam Borough in York County is Pennsylvania's fastest growing municipality. Forks Township in Northampton County ranked second with an increase of 36.8 percent. Penn Township in Chester County ranked third with a percent increase of 34.1 percent, followed by Warren Township, Franklin County, with a 33.5 percent increase and East Nottingham Township, Chester County with a 33.2 percent increase. Table 3 shows the ten fastest growing municipalities in Pennsylvania.

**Table 3: Pennsylvania's Ten Fastest Growing Municipalities: July 1, 2003**

Name	County	Estimated Population: July 1, 2003	April 1, 2000 Population Estimates Base	Population: April 1, 2000	Percent Change
Hallam borough	York	2,140	1,532	1,532	39.7
Forks township	Northampton	11,513	8,419	8,419	36.8
Penn township	Chester	3,770	2,812	2,812	34.1
Warren township	Franklin	446	334	334	33.5
East Nottingham township	Chester	7,349	5,516	5,516	33.2
Caernarvon township	Berks	3,045	2,312	2,312	31.7
Bethel township	Delaware	8,199	6,421	6,421	27.7
Charlestown township	Chester	5,109	4,051	4,051	26.1
Ivyland borough	Bucks	616	492	492	25.2
Aleppo township	Allegheny	1,284	1,039	1,039	23.6

### **Pennsylvania's Incorporated Places of 10,000 or More**

As of July 1, 2003, Pennsylvania had 71 incorporated places with a population greater than 10,000 persons. Fourteen of those places experienced a population increase since the April 1, 2000 decennial census. State College Borough, with a population increase of 1,308 was the largest growing municipality with a population of over 10,000. Bethlehem City, with a population of 72,570 was the second largest growing municipality with an increase of 1,241. The cities of Philadelphia (-38,211) and Pittsburgh (-9,226) had the largest decreases in population since 2000. Completing the top five in population loss were Erie (-2,344), Scranton (-2,095) and Altoona (-1,543).

Overall in Pennsylvania, there were seven municipalities that had a population increase of over 2,000 persons. Lower Macungie Township in Lehigh County had the largest increase in population (3,642) between Census 2000 to July 2003. There were also seven municipalities that lost more than 1,000 persons; six of these were cities, Philadelphia having the greatest loss (-38,211).

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 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division

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