



Research Brief

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases Report on Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Areas East Stroudsburg Micropolitan Statistical Area 3rd Fastest Growing in Nation

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the U.S. Census Bureau has today released a report on metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas for the nation. The report: *Population Change in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990 to 2003*, examines the population of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas of the U.S., focusing on size, most populous areas and fastest-growing areas. The report uses the December 2003 definitions of core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. CBSAs consist of one or more whole counties or their equivalents and are designated as either metro areas or micro areas. Metro areas contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more people and micro areas — a new statistical geography — contain at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 50,000 people. The report also uses U.S. Census Bureau estimates and estimates of the components of population change to arrive at July 1, 2003 population estimates.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Pennsylvania

The nation's largest metro area in the nation is the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area, had a 2003 population of 18.6 million people, an increase of 1.7 percent since Census 2000. Pike County, PA, with a population of 52,163 is a small portion of this area. The fourth largest metro area in the nation is the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area and had a population of almost 5.8 million people, an increase of 1.5 percent since Census 2000. This metro area contains the Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia. Approximately 67 percent of the population of this metro area made up of these counties in Pennsylvania. Of the 12.4 million people in Pennsylvania in 2003, 84.0 percent lived in metro areas.

Natural increase played an important role in the increases in the two metro areas described above. The natural increase rate (births minus deaths per thousand in population) for the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area was 6.3 per thousand in population while total net migration was -1.0 per thousand in population. For the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area, the natural increase was 3.5 per thousand and the total net migration was 1.3 per thousand.

Micropolitan Statistical Areas in Pennsylvania

There are 21 micro areas in Pennsylvania, all of them single-county areas with the exception of the Bloomsburg-Berwick Micro Area, which is made up of Columbia and Montour Counties. Approximately 12.9 percent of Pennsylvania's population lived in these micro areas in 2003.

The East Stroudsburg Micro Area (Monroe County) is the nation's third fastest-growing micro area with an increase of 11.4 percent from 2000 to 2003. Palm Coast, FL (24.8 percent) was the nation's fastest growing micro area and Heber, UT was second (15.1 percent). East Stroudsburg's increase in population was comprised of a 2.5 natural increase rate and a 29.7 total net migration rate for a total average annual increase rate of 33.2 persons per thousand in population.

East Stroudsburg Micro Area is the sixth largest micro area in the nation with a total population of over 154 thousand people. Torrington, CT is the nation's largest micro area with a population of 188 thousand. Pottsville Micro Area (Schuylkill County) is the nation's 11th largest micro area (148 thousand people) and Chambersburg Micro Area (Franklin County) is the nation's 18th largest with a population of 133 thousand people. Pottsville Micro Area declined in population from 2000 to 2003 (-2,000 persons, -1.6 percent) while Chambersburg Micro Area increased in population from 2000 to 2003 (4,000 persons, 3.0 percent).

Table 1: Population Change in the 20 Fastest-Growing Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000-2003

Rank	Micropolitan statistical area title	Population change, 2000-2003			
		Population (thousands)		Numerical (thousands)	Percent
		2000	2003		
1	Palm Coast, FL	50	62	12	24.8
2	Heber, UT	15	18	2	15.1
3	East Stroudsburg, PA	139	154	16	11.4
4	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	155	171	16	10.5
5	Kill Devil Hills, NC	30	33	3	10.5
6	The Villages, FL	53	59	6	10.4
7	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	41	45	4	9.9
8	Pahrump, NV	33	36	3	9.9
9	Granbury, TX	48	52	4	9.3
10	Dunn, NC	91	99	8	9.2
11	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	123	133	11	8.7
12	Clearlake, CA	58	63	5	8.7
13	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	142	154	12	8.7
14	Edwards, CO	49	54	4	8.7
15	Calhoun, GA	44	48	4	8.3
16	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	140	152	11	8.1
17	Bozeman, MT	68	73	5	8.0
18	Montrose, CO	33	36	3	7.6
19	Rio Grande City, TX	54	58	4	7.6
20	Lexington Park, MD	86	93	7	7.6

Table 2: Population Change in the 20 Most Populous Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000-2003

Rank in population size in 2003	Micropolitan statistical area title	Population change, 2000 to 2003			
		Population (thousands)		Numerical (thousands)	Percent
		2000	2003		
1	Torrington, CT	182	188	6	3.1
2	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	155	171	16	10.5
3	Lebanon, NH-VT	167	171	4	2.2
4	Seaford, DE	157	168	11	7.3
5	Hilo, HI	149	158	10	6.6
6	East Stroudsburg, PA	139	154	16	11.4
7	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	142	154	12	8.7
8	Ottawa-Streator, IL	153	153	0	0.2
9	Thomasville-Lexington, NC	147	152	5	3.3
10	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	140	152	11	8.1
11	Pottsville, PA	150	148	-2	-1.6
12	Concord, NH	136	144	7	5.4
13	Traverse City, MI	131	138	7	5.2
14	Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	140	138	-2	-1.5
15	Kahului-Wailuku, HI	128	136	8	5.9
16	Salisbury, NC	130	134	4	2.8
17	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	123	133	11	8.7
18	Chambersburg, PA	129	133	4	3.0
19	Tupelo, MS	125	128	3	2.4
20	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA	127	128	1	1.1

The complete U.S. Census Bureau report: *Population Change in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990 to 2003* may be viewed at: www.census.gov

Additional tables and maps of Pennsylvania micro and metro areas may be viewed at: http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/data_&_information/data_geography/MSA90_03.html

For more information on the population of Pennsylvania's metro and micro areas, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2003 Estimates Program. Micropolitan and Metropolitan Statistical areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, 2003.

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.

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