



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

October 23, 2006

PaSDC Releases the *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2006*, the Most Comprehensive Source Available for Facts and Figures about the Commonwealth

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The most comprehensive collection of facts and figures about the Commonwealth is now available for 2006. The *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2006*, is published annually by the Pennsylvania State Data Center and provides the most accurate, up-to-date information about Pennsylvania. In addition to hundreds of data items compiled from state and federal agencies, the *Abstract* contains maps, and graphics that are regularly employed by the business community, planners, policy-makers, marketers, and researchers. Some of the data items found in this year's *Abstract* include:

American Community Survey

Data from the American Community Survey (ACS) is included in the *Abstract* for the second year. The ACS is a major part of the reengineered 2010 Census and will replace the census long form currently collected every 10 years. The survey will provide current demographic, socio-economic and housing information about American's communities every year – information that until now was only available once a decade.*

Sample ACS data found in the 2006 *Pennsylvania Abstract*:

In 2004, ACS reported 5,385,729 housing units in Pennsylvania and a median housing value of \$116,520. The survey also showed that Pennsylvania families identifying themselves as Asian alone had the highest median family income at \$61,091, followed by White alone (\$56,315), and Black alone families (\$32,464). During the same period, 904,965 White alone Pennsylvanians lived in poverty, followed by 344,106 Black alone, and more than 140,000 persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Among Pennsylvanians 25 years or older (8,137,533), more than 3.1 million had earned a high school diploma, while more than 1.2 million had been awarded a bachelor's degree. **

Population, Births, Deaths, Health, Marriage and Divorce

In addition to the American Community Survey, tables and maps in the *Abstract* contain a wide range of demographic data, including population, births, deaths, health, marriage, and divorce.

Among the data found in this year's edition:

Between 2000 and 2005, Pennsylvania experienced 761,887 births and 674,287 deaths, resulting in a net natural increase of 87,600 persons. Overall, population increased by 148,562. Chester County experienced the greatest numeric population increase, gaining 40,526 residents, while Philadelphia County saw the largest decrease in residents (-54,269). In 2004, Pennsylvania's birth rate was 11.6 births for every 1,000 persons, while marriage and divorce rates stood at 5.9

and 3.0 per 1,000 persons, respectively. The leading cause of death in Pennsylvania in 2004 was heart disease (36,063), though the number of deaths has consistently declined since 2001 (-8.5 percent).

Other Data

The 2006 *Pennsylvania Abstract* isn't limited to demographic data, it includes such diverse categories as Commerce and Manufacturing, Employment, and Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation. Data items from those sections include the following:

Commerce, Manufacturing, and Employment

Pennsylvania's Gross State Product continues to climb, reaching 487.2 billion dollars in 2005. Manufacturing still ranks as one of the state's top industries, employing more than 682,000 Pennsylvanians in 2003. But, as the number of jobs falls in manufacturing (-3.9 percent from 2002 to 2003), they are being replaced by the health care and social assistance industry, which employs more than 800,000 people. The unemployment rate for Pennsylvania dropped from 5.4 in 2004 to 5.0 in 2005. Bedford County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.2 while Franklin County ranked the lowest with 3.4.

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation

In 2004, the value of crops produced in Pennsylvania totaled more than 1.6 billion dollars, while livestock was valued at more than 3.3 billion dollars. Net farm income exceeded 1.2 billion dollars during this period. The Southeastern part of the state continues to generate the most revenue from agricultural products, with cash receipts from the sale of crops and livestock valued at nearly 2 billion dollars in 2004. The number of hunting licenses issued dropped just below 1 million in 2005 with 899,048 going to Pennsylvania residents. Fishing licenses issued also decreased from 906,550 in 2004 to 817,894 in 2005.

This year's abstract also includes data on:

- Education, Grants, and Libraries
- Social Services
- State and Local Government Taxes
- Law Enforcement, Crime and Correction Facilities
- Communications, Utilities, Energy, and Transportation

Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2006, is an easy to use reference book that contains everything you need to know about Pennsylvania, and more. To order your copy today, visit our website at PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu and click "eStore," call 717.948.6336, or email PaSDC@psu.edu. Available in hardcopy or on CD-ROM (PDF).

Source: *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2006*

Notes: * At the time of this printing, ACS data was only available for populations greater than 250,000 persons. Group quarter population (nursing homes, dorms, prisons, etc.) is not part of this survey.
** People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

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.

PENNSTATE



Harrisburg

Institute of State and Regional Affairs

Estimated Population Growth Rate, By County: 2004-2005*
From *The Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2006*



