



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2006 Metro and Micro Area Population Estimates: York-Hanover Metro Area is the fastest growing in the Northeast

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. – The York-Hanover Metropolitan Statistical Area is the fastest-growing metro area in the Northeast region, and is ranked nationally among the fastest-growing in the nation, according to 2006 Population Estimates for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The estimates listed York-Hanover as the 95th fastest-growing metro area in the nation, increasing 9.1 percent from 391,751 in 2000 to 416,322 people on July 1, 2006.

The Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, collectively known as core-based statistical areas (CBSAs), are one or more counties that contain a core urban area, and any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration. Metro areas contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more people, while the micropolitan areas contain at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 50,000 people. The estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, like births, death, and domestic and international migration.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Pennsylvania

Five metro areas in Pennsylvania rank among the nation's 100 largest: Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (including portions of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland) was ranked as the fifth-largest, Pittsburgh was ranked 22nd, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton (including portions of New Jersey) was ranked 62nd, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre was ranked 89th and the Harrisburg-Carlisle area was ranked 94th. (See Table 1)

Three of Pennsylvania's metro areas ranked among the nation's top 100 in numeric population gain from 2000 to 2006: the Philadelphia metro area ranked 26th with a gain of 139,601 the Allentown area ranked 56th with a gain of 59,942 and the York-Hanover metro area ranked 96th, with a gain of 34,571. The Philadelphia metro area includes Philadelphia County as well as Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, and counties in New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

Population Loss in Pennsylvania Metro Areas

The Pittsburgh metro area had the nation's fourth-largest population loss from 2005 to 2006, dropping 10,895 people. The Johnstown metro area was ranked nationally in terms of its percent loss of population, 18th overall, with a -0.6 percent change, or -837 people for a 2006 total population of 146,967.

Micropolitan Areas in Pennsylvania

Two micropolitan areas in Pennsylvania were ranked nationally in terms of their numeric population gain: East Stroudsburg and Chambersburg. East Stroudsburg, ranked 13th, gained 3,270 people, to reach a 2006 population of 165,685, while Chambersburg, ranked 15th, added 2,718 people for a 2006 total of 139,991. The Sunbury micropolitan area was ranked 8th in the nation in terms of numeric population loss, declining 626 to a 2006 total of 91,654. New Castle followed at 9th, with a population loss of -617, for a 2006 total of 91,795.

**Table 1: Estimates of Population Change for Metropolitan Statistical Areas:
July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006**

Metropolitan statistical area	July 1, 2006 estimate	July 1, 2005 estimate	Change, 2005 to 2006	
			Number	Percent
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	800,336	789,695	10,641	1.3
Altoona, PA	126,494	126,572	-78	-0.1
Erie, PA	279,811	280,184	-373	-0.1
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	525,380	520,690	4,690	0.9
Johnstown, PA	146,967	147,804	-837	-0.6
Lancaster, PA	494,486	489,936	4,550	0.9
Lebanon, PA	126,883	125,429	1,454	1.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,826,742	5,806,092	20,650	0.4
Pittsburgh, PA	2,370,776	2,381,671	-10,895	-0.5
Reading, PA	401,149	396,236	4,913	1.2
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	550,841	550,539	302	0.1
State College, PA	140,953	140,313	640	0.5
Williamsport, PA	117,668	118,102	-434	-0.4
York-Hanover, PA	416,322	408,182	8,140	2.0

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 Division, Annual Estimates of the Population of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.