



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania Cities, Boroughs and Townships

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The U.S. Census Bureau today released 2006 population estimates for sub-county geographies, including Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships. Notable among the changes in Pennsylvania municipalities is the loss of West Lawn Borough, which was dissolved in January 2006, and became part of Spring Township, in Berks County. Population estimates for Spring Township (26,349 as of July 1, 2006) now include the population formerly residing in West Lawn Borough.

Pennsylvania Municipalities

An analysis of Pennsylvania's municipalities shows that Upper Uwchlan Township (9,549), in Chester County, is the state's fastest growing municipality. The population of Upper Uwchlan increased 18.8 percent between 2005 and 2006. Six Pennsylvania municipalities grew by double-digit percentages from 2005 to 2006. Jenks Township in Forest County (1,558) leads the state in percent growth (123.6 percent) since 2000 due to the opening of a State Correctional Institution. Sixty Pennsylvania municipalities experienced growth of 25 percent or higher during this period, while just three declined by more than ten percent.

Lower Macungie Township, in Lehigh County, gained the most residents between 2005 and 2006, increasing by 1,887 persons to a total population of 28,057. Upper Uwchlan Township (+1,512) and Upper Gwynedd Township (+1,094) followed Lower Macungie in population increase. Lower Macungie has also experienced the most numeric growth since 2000. (Table 1)

Population Growth and Decline in Large Cities

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's largest city, has fallen behind Phoenix, Arizona in the ranking of the nation's largest cities (those with a population greater than 100,000 persons). Philadelphia is now the sixth-largest city in the nation, with a population of 1.45 million. Between 2005 and 2006, Philadelphia lost 7,956 people, representing a 0.5 percent loss. Pittsburgh (312,819) also continues to lose population, having 3,480 fewer people in 2006 than in 2005, representing a 1.1 percent decrease. Pittsburgh was ranked eighth nationally among cities with the fastest population loss between 2005 and 2006.



No northeastern cities ranked in the top 25 for percent growth between 2005 and 2006. Pennsylvania cities with a population of 100,000 or more were ranked accordingly: Allentown- 145th (+0.4 percent), Erie City- 185th (-0.1 percent), Philadelphia- 229th (-0.5 percent), Pittsburgh City- 251st (-1.1 percent). There were a total of 258 cities above 100,000 in the nation.

Only three of Pennsylvania's 15 largest cities increased in population between 2005 and 2006. Allentown City grew by 417 persons, followed by Reading City (+312), and Bensalem Township (+164). The state's 15 largest cities combined for a net loss of 12,565 persons between 2005 and 2006. (Table 3)

Table 1: Pennsylvania Municipalities Experiencing the Largest Population Growth (Numeric Increase), 2005-2006

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2005 Estimate	July 1, 2006 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Numeric Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006	Percent Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006
Lower Macungie township	19,220	26,170	28,057	8,837	46.0	1,887	7.2
Upper Uwchlan township	6,850	8,037	9,549	2,699	39.4	1,512	18.8
Upper Gwynedd township	14,243	14,562	15,656	1,413	9.9	1,094	7.5
Palmer township	16,806	18,476	19,289	2,483	14.8	813	4.4
Conshohocken borough	7,589	7,695	8,488	899	11.8	793	10.3
Manor township	16,487	17,638	18,401	1,914	11.6	763	4.3
York township	23,637	25,851	26,614	2,977	12.6	763	3.0
Manchester township	12,700	15,769	16,512	3,812	30.0	743	4.7
Whitehall township	24,896	25,924	26,660	1,764	7.1	736	2.8
Bethel township	6,487	9,353	10,062	3,575	55.1	709	7.6
Forks township	8,424	12,853	13,551	5,127	60.9	698	5.4

Pennsylvania Municipalities with a Population Greater than 10,000

Bethel Township (+7.6 percent) was the fastest growing Pennsylvania municipality with a population of 10,000 or more from 2005 to 2006. Upper Gwynedd Township (+7.5 percent) and Lower Macungie Township (+7.2 percent) followed Bethel.

Lower Macungie Township also increased the most in population (+1,887) among the state's larger municipalities from 2005 to 2006, followed by Upper Gwynedd (+1,094) and Palmer (+813) Townships. (Table 2)

The July 1, 2006 sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include minor civil divisions (MCDs) that include the state's 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 2: Pennsylvania Municipalities, population greater than 10,000 Experiencing the Fastest Population Growth (Percent Increase), 2005-2006

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2005 Estimate	July 1, 2006 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Numeric Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006	Percent Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006
Bethel township	6,487	9,353	10,062	3,575	55.1	709	7.6
Upper Gwynedd township	14,243	14,562	15,656	1,413	9.9	1,094	7.5
Lower Macungie township	19,220	26,170	28,057	8,837	46.0	1,887	7.2
Forks township	8,424	12,853	13,551	5,127	60.9	698	5.4
Manchester township	12,700	15,769	16,512	3,812	30.0	743	4.7
Palmer township	16,806	18,476	19,289	2,483	14.8	813	4.4
Manor township	16,487	17,638	18,401	1,914	11.6	763	4.3
Windsor township	12,807	14,962	15,609	2,802	21.9	647	4.3
West Bradford township	10,775	11,673	12,146	1,371	12.7	473	4.1
Dingman township	8,788	11,232	11,660	2,872	32.7	428	3.8
Middle Smithfield township	11,519	14,024	14,551	3,032	26.3	527	3.8

Table 3: Population, Pennsylvania's 15 Largest Municipalities, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006

Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2005 Estimate	July 1, 2006 Estimate	Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2006	Numeric Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006	Percent Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006
Philadelphia city	1,517,550	1,456,350	1,448,394	-69,156	-4.6	-7,956	-0.5
Pittsburgh city	334,563	316,299	312,819	-21,744	-6.5	-3,480	-1.1
Allentown city	106,635	106,877	107,294	659	0.6	417	0.4
Erie city	103,688	102,099	102,036	-1,652	-1.6	-63	-0.1
Reading city	81,344	80,871	81,183	-161	-0.2	312	0.4
Upper Darby township	81,821	79,422	79,356	-2,465	-3.0	-66	-0.1
Scranton city	76,081	73,154	72,861	-3,220	-4.2	-293	-0.4
Bensalem township	58,434	58,587	58,751	317	0.5	164	0.3
Lower Merion township	58,740	58,218	57,825	-915	-1.6	-393	-0.7
Lancaster city	56,356	54,859	54,779	-1,577	-2.8	-80	-0.1
Abington township	55,991	55,144	54,608	-1,383	-2.5	-536	-1.0
Bristol township	55,568	54,437	54,279	-1,289	-2.3	-158	-0.3
Bethlehem city	52,300	53,429	53,294	994	1.9	-135	-0.3
Millcreek township	52,158	52,774	52,541	383	0.7	-233	-0.4
Haverford township	49,604	48,641	48,576	-1,028	-2.1	-65	-0.1

To view our July Map of the Month: Estimated Population Percent Change April 1, 2000 Estimates Base to July 1, 2006, Pennsylvania Municipalities, please visit:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/whats_new/Map_of_the_month.html

The Pennsylvania State Data Center will be publishing its annual edition of Pennsylvania's municipal population estimates in the near future. Look for it on our Web site at: PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu

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
