



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## **U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2007 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 continues to be the fastest-growing metro area in the Northeast region, according to 2007 Population Estimates for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although none of the metro areas in the Northeast region were among the 100 fastest-growing, York-Hanover was the 107<sup>th</sup> fastest-growing metro area in the nation, increasing 1.6 percent from 414,505 in 2006 to 421,049 people on July 1, 2007.

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 22<sup>nd</sup>, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton (including portions of New Jersey) was ranked 62<sup>nd</sup>, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre was ranked 90<sup>th</sup> and the Harrisburg-Carlisle area was ranked 94<sup>th</sup>. (See Table 1)

Three of Pennsylvania's metro areas ranked among the nation's top 100 in numeric population gain from 2006 to 2007: the Philadelphia metro area ranked 39<sup>th</sup> with a gain of 17,128 the Allentown metro area ranked 71<sup>st</sup> with a gain of 8,544 and the York-Hanover metro area ranked 86<sup>th</sup>, with a gain of 6,544. 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 2006 to 2007, dropping 7,502 people. The Johnstown metro area was ranked nationally in terms of its percent loss of population, 11<sup>th</sup> overall, with a -0.7 percent change, or -1,085 people for a 2007 total population of 144,995.

## Micropolitan Areas in Pennsylvania

Two micropolitan areas in Pennsylvania, Chambersburg and East Stroudsburg, were ranked nationally in terms of their numeric population gain from 2006 to 2007. Chambersburg, ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, added 1,980 people for a 2007 total of 141,665, while East Stroudsburg, ranked 24<sup>th</sup>, gained 1,809 people, to reach a 2007 population of 164,722. The DuBois micropolitan area was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of numeric population loss, declining 445 to a 2007 total population of 81,452. Oil City was also ranked, at 19<sup>th</sup>, with a population loss of -404, for a 2007 total of 54,763.

**Table 1: Estimates of Population Change for Metropolitan Statistical Areas:  
July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**

Metropolitan statistical area	July 1, 2007 Estimate	July 1, 2006 Estimate	Change, 2006 to 2007	
			Number	Percent
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	803,844	795,300	8,544	1.1
Altoona, PA	125,527	125,643	-116	-0.1
Erie, PA	279,092	279,686	-594	-0.2
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	528,892	524,709	4,183	0.8
Johnstown, PA	144,995	146,080	-1,085	-0.7
Lancaster, PA	498,465	493,849	4,616	0.9
Lebanon, PA	127,889	126,441	1,448	1.1
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,827,962	5,810,834	17,128	0.3
Pittsburgh, PA	2,355,712	2,363,214	-7,502	-0.3
Reading, PA	401,955	398,749	3,206	0.8
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	549,430	548,646	784	0.1
State College, PA	144,658	144,205	453	0.3
Williamsport, PA	116,811	117,349	-538	-0.5
York-Hanover, PA	421,049	414,505	6,544	1.6

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.

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