



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

November 3, 2008

Pennsylvania County Population Projections Now Available

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg has produced state and county detailed population projections for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The projections contain a wealth of data, information and analysis useful for planning, policy evaluation, the consideration of alternative public or private intervention activities, and the formulation and management of programs developed to deal with particular situations.

Pennsylvania's population will continue to grow, becoming larger, older and more diverse by 2030. The total population of Pennsylvania is projected to increase by the year 2030 to 13,190,400, representing a 7.4 percent increase from 2000.

Projected Population Change in Pennsylvania Counties

While Pennsylvania saw an overall growth in population, not all counties shared in this growth. As in the past, the trend is an increase in population in the eastern and southeastern counties and a decrease in the northern and western counties of Pennsylvania (see map).

Four of the top five counties with a population growth greater than 50 percent were in the northeastern part of the state bordering New Jersey or New York (see Table 2). Pike County is projected to grow faster than any other county in Pennsylvania between 2000 and 2030, increasing by 103.8 percent and adding 48,072 people. Ranked second is Susquehanna County with a projected growth of 83.6 percent, increasing its population to 77,530 in 2030, followed by Monroe County with a projected increase of 72.9 percent over the time period and adding 101,137 people and Chester County with a projected increase of 59.6 percent or 258,553 people. The only western county in the top five is Forest County due in large part to the opening of a state correctional facility in 2004.

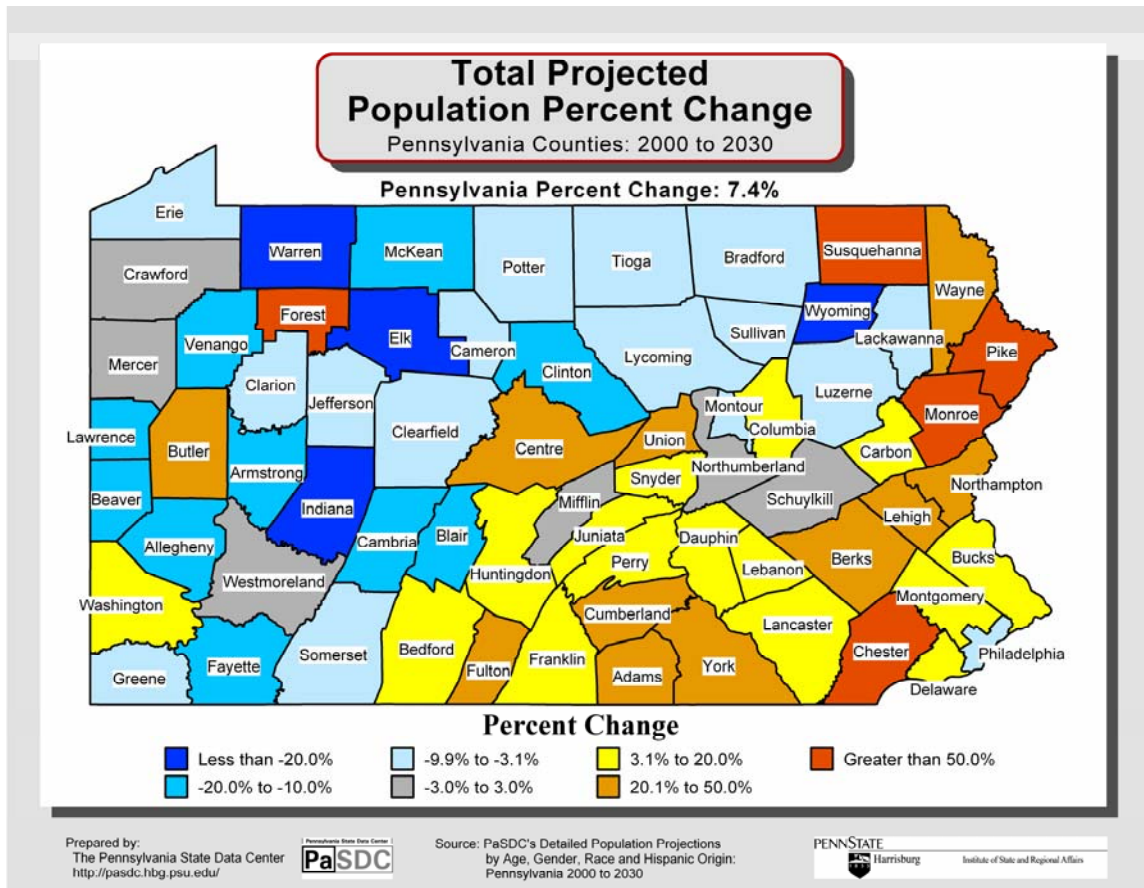
In terms of numeric growth, Chester County is projected to add the most people to its population by 2030. Montgomery will follow Chester, according to the projections, with a growth of 138,168 people (18.4 percent increase). Berks County is projected to have the third-largest numeric increase in population by 2030, adding 118,276 people (a 31.7 percent increase).

While Wyoming County, located in the northern tier section of Pennsylvania, is projected to lose population faster than any other county during the projection period, the remaining counties with a large population percentage loss are in the western part of the state: Wyoming County, 26.8



percent (-7,515 people); Warren County, 26.7 percent (-11,718 people); Indiana County, 26.2 percent (-23,510 people).

Allegheny and Philadelphia are projected to lead all Pennsylvania counties in numeric population loss over the 2000-2030 projection period. Allegheny County's population is projected to decline by 148,930 people, to a total population of 1,132,736, and Philadelphia County is projected to decline by 109,318 people, to 1,408,232 people.



Age

An analysis of the age structure in Pennsylvania shows the population is getting older over the 30-year period. The 15-29 age group is increasing slightly while persons in the 30-54 age groups are declining. The largest percentage increase is seen in the 5-year age groups over age 55. In fact, all age groups over age 60 show a percentage increase greater than 40 percent. In 2000, the population age 65 and older accounted for 15.6 percent of the population. By 2030, that percentage of persons age 65 and older will be 22.3 percent of the total Pennsylvania population. This change is due largely to the baby boomers aging and Pennsylvania's consistently low fertility rate.

The shift in the age structure impacts the dependency ratio in Pennsylvania. The dependency ratio is a measure of the number of people in the working age group (persons ages 20 to 64) to the number of persons who are dependent on the working age group (those people under age 20

and those 65 and older). By 2030, there will be more people dependent on the working age population (see Table 1).

Table 1: Demographics Indicators

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Dependency Ratio (1)	73.2	70.5	67.5	68.9	74.9	82.7	88.6
Youth (2)	46.1	44.5	41.6	40.6	42.2	44.5	46.2
Old Age (3)	27.1	25.9	25.9	28.3	32.7	38.2	42.4
Sex Ratio (4)	93.4	94.1	94.6	95.0	95.3	95.4	95.4

(1) Dependency Ratio = (Age Under 20 + Age 65 and over) / (Age 20 to 64) X 100
 (2) Youth dependency ratio = (Age under 20 / Age 20 to 64) X 100
 (3) Old age dependency ratio = (Age 65 and over / Age 20 to 64) X100
 (4) Sex Ratio = (Male / Female) X 100

Race

The PaSDC’s population projections by race were created for the White and Black or African American populations. The projections show that Pennsylvania’s minority populations are increasing, and the state is becoming more diverse.

According to PaSDC’s projections, the Black or African American population is projected to increase by 26.6 percent to 1,593,635 people over the projection period. By 2030, this population is projected to make up 12.1 percent of the total population, increasing from 10.3 percent in 2000. The White population, however, is projected to increase by only 0.8 percent which will decrease its relative share of the population, from 86.9 percent in 2000 to 81.6 percent in 2030.

Hispanic or Latino Origin

Hispanic or Latino origin is considered an ethnicity, and, for comparison purposes, persons of Hispanic or Latino origin may be of any race. Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin do not add separately to the total population or the population of any racial group.

According to PaSDC projections, the Hispanic or Latino population in Pennsylvania is projected to grow by 184.0 percent between 2000 and 2030. The population will increase from 394,088 in 2000 to 1,119,281 in 2030. Overall, the percent of the state population that is Hispanic is projected to increase from 3.2 percent in 2000 to 8.5 percent in 2030.

More About PaSDC’s Population Projections

Population Projections were completed for the years 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, and 2030 for the Commonwealth and its 67 counties. These projections were developed by five-year age cohorts and sex. Additionally, projections by race/ethnicity were completed for the state and counties where a minority population threshold was met.

The PaSDC’s *Detailed Population Projections By Age, Gender, Race and Hispanic Origin: Pennsylvania 2000 to 2030* report, containing the full data set, may be purchased through the Pennsylvania State Data Center’s website at PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu. Click “eStore.” Also available is the *Pennsylvania Population Projections: 2000-2030 Background Report* which

provides information on the data assumptions and trends that were used to calculate the projections. Both publications are available in hardcopy or on CD-ROM (PDF). The CD-ROM contains both publications as well as data tables in Microsoft Excel format for easy analysis.

Source: *Detailed Population Projections By Age, Gender, Race and Hispanic Origin: Pennsylvania 2000 to 2030*

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.

Table 2. County Population Projections, 2000-2030

Name	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2030	Change, 2000-2030	
			Numeric	Percent
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	13,190,400	909,346	7.4
Adams	91,292	114,689	23,397	25.6
Allegheny	1,281,666	1,132,736	-148,930	-11.6
Armstrong	72,392	63,736	-8,656	-12.0
Beaver	181,412	147,744	-33,668	-18.6
Bedford	49,984	51,926	1,942	3.9
Berks	373,638	491,914	118,276	31.7
Blair	129,144	107,272	-21,872	-16.9
Bradford	62,761	58,680	-4,081	-6.5
Bucks	597,635	697,961	100,326	16.8
Butler	174,083	220,496	46,413	26.7
Cambria	152,598	124,101	-28,497	-18.7
Cameron	5,974	5,612	-362	-6.1
Carbon	58,802	69,098	10,296	17.5
Centre	135,758	166,148	30,390	22.4
Chester	433,501	692,054	258,553	59.6
Clarion	41,765	37,895	-3,870	-9.3
Clearfield	83,382	79,890	-3,492	-4.2
Clinton	37,914	32,263	-5,651	-14.9
Columbia	64,151	69,765	5,614	8.8
Crawford	90,366	90,088	-278	-0.3
Cumberland	213,674	282,921	69,247	32.4
Dauphin	251,798	269,855	18,057	7.2
Delaware	550,864	583,942	33,078	6.0
Elk	35,112	26,269	-8,843	-25.2
Erie	280,843	267,538	-13,305	-4.7
Fayette	148,644	131,874	-16,770	-11.3
Forest	4,946	7,999	3,053	61.7
Franklin	129,313	148,596	19,283	14.9
Fulton	14,261	17,506	3,245	22.8
Greene	40,672	38,857	-1,815	-4.5
Huntingdon	45,586	47,564	1,978	4.3
Indiana	89,605	66,095	-23,510	-26.2
Jefferson	45,932	42,529	-3,403	-7.4

Table 2. County Population Projections, 2000-2030, Continued

Name	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2030	Change, 2000-2030	
			Numeric	Percent
Juniata	22,821	25,696	2,875	12.6
Lackawanna	213,295	194,835	-18,460	-8.7
Lancaster	470,658	553,293	82,635	17.6
Lawrence	94,643	83,348	-11,295	-11.9
Lebanon	120,327	131,118	10,791	9.0
Lehigh	312,090	381,738	69,648	22.3
Luzerne	319,250	287,943	-31,307	-9.8
Lycoming	120,044	109,969	-10,075	-8.4
McKean	45,936	39,716	-6,220	-13.5
Mercer	120,293	122,967	2,674	2.2
Mifflin	46,486	45,599	-887	-1.9
Monroe	138,687	239,824	101,137	72.9
Montgomery	750,097	888,265	138,168	18.4
Montour	18,236	17,038	-1,198	-6.6
Northampton	267,066	342,081	75,015	28.1
Northumberland	94,556	92,182	-2,374	-2.5
Perry	43,602	45,638	2,036	4.7
Philadelphia	1,517,550	1,408,232	-109,318	-7.2
Pike	46,302	94,374	48,072	103.8
Potter	18,080	17,153	-927	-5.1
Schuylkill	150,336	146,078	-4,258	-2.8
Snyder	37,546	38,955	1,409	3.8
Somerset	80,023	76,298	-3,725	-4.7
Sullivan	6,556	6,287	-269	-4.1
Susquehanna	42,238	77,530	35,292	83.6
Tioga	41,373	39,680	-1,693	-4.1
Union	41,624	52,280	10,656	25.6
Venango	57,565	50,205	-7,360	-12.8
Warren	43,863	32,145	-11,718	-26.7
Washington	202,897	212,986	10,089	5.0
Wayne	47,722	67,197	19,475	40.8
Westmoreland	369,993	380,588	10,595	2.9
Wyoming	28,080	20,565	-7,515	-26.8
York	381,751	482,984	101,233	26.5