



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## Data Center Releases New 2009 Pennsylvania Facts Brochure

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Did you know that the home ownership rate in Pennsylvania was 71.6 percent in 2007? Or that 7.65 million acres of Pennsylvania land were part of farms during the same time? These facts, and dozens more, are contained in the Pennsylvania State Data Center's new 2009 *Pennsylvania Facts* Brochure.

A quick reference to the facts and figures that define the commonwealth, *Pennsylvania Facts* is a fun and informative overview of Pennsylvania's demographics. It contains information on Population (Pennsylvania's 2008 estimated population was 12,448,279), Economic facts (the median household income in 2007 was \$48,576), Employment and Housing (the median home value of owner-occupied units in 2007 was \$155,000), and several other topics.

Not just numbers, the Pennsylvania Facts Brochure also highlights the basic facts about Pennsylvania and its government: the official state drink is milk, the state insect is the firefly and the flagship of the state is the U.S. Brig Niagara, a restored warship that was critical to the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

Highlights from the 2009 *Pennsylvania Facts*:

- Pennsylvania is the sixth-largest state economy in the nation.
- 75.2 percent of Pennsylvania's residents were born in the state.
- Pennsylvania's Gross State Product in 2007 was \$531 billion.
- Pennsylvania has 21 electoral votes.
- There are currently 2,563 municipalities (cities, townships, boroughs and one town) in Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania gained statehood on December 12, 1787.
- 76.7 percent of Pennsylvania workers drove to work alone, and the average travel time for all workers was 25.4 minutes in 2007.
- 55.3 percent of households have two or more vehicles.
- 86.8 percent of the population aged 25 or older had a high-school diploma in 2007, and 25.8 percent had a Bachelor's Degree or higher.
- The largest industry in Pennsylvania was the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, with 843,870 employees in 2007.

The cover of the 2009 *Pennsylvania Facts* brochure is a collage of images of Pennsylvania tourism and public-service art created by Works Progress Administration (WPA) artists during the New Deal era from 1935 to 1943.

Other Fun Facts:

- The top five birth names for males in 2006 were: Jacob, Michael, Ryan, Joseph and Logan. The top five birth names for females in 2006 were: Ava, Emily, Madison, Emma and Olivia.
- About one in seven Pennsylvania residents live in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia
- The average 2008 SAT math score in Pennsylvania was 501 and the average SAT verbal score was 494.
- Pennsylvania's housing stock is among the oldest in the nation. Almost one third of Pennsylvania's housing units were constructed before 1939.

Limited quantities of the 2009 *Pennsylvania Facts* brochure are available free of charge, upon request: call the Data Center at 717-772-2710 or email at: [PaSDC@psu.edu](mailto:PaSDC@psu.edu) . It is also available for download from the PaSDC's web site at <http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu> : just click on "What's New."

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.

Sources: 2006 American Community Survey, 2006 and 2007 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Department of Education, Pa Department of Transportation, PA Department of Labor, [www.explorepahistory.com](http://www.explorepahistory.com)