



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 Philadelphia Gains More Than 10,000 New Residents

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released July 1, 2011 population estimates for sub-county geographies, including Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships. Today's release provides the first such municipal population estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census.

Pennsylvania Cities

Philadelphia remains the fifth-largest city in the nation, with a population of 1.54 million. Philadelphia gained 10,465 residents between 2010 and 2011, representing a growth rate of 0.7 percent. Pennsylvania's second largest city, Pittsburgh (307,484), experienced a population gain of 1,780 residents (0.6 percent) during the same time period, reversing a trend of population loss that was experienced each year last decade.

Pennsylvania's five most populous cities have all experienced population growth since 2010. Allentown city (119,141) in Lehigh County had the largest percent population gain of cities in the top five with a 0.9 percent growth rate, while Philadelphia had the largest numeric increase adding 10,465 new residents. All but two of Pennsylvania's 15 largest cities increased in population between 2010 and 2011: combined, the state's 15 largest cities increased by 15,479 persons during the time period (see Table 1.). The two exceptions, Scranton city and Wilkes-Barre city in Northeastern Pennsylvania declined by 94 and 33 residents, respectively.

Largest Cities in the United States

Nationwide, New Orleans was the country's fastest growing large city (those with a population greater than 100,000 persons). Between 2010 and 2011, "The Big Easy" grew by 4.9 percent, gaining 16,911 new residents. The state of Texas was home to eight of the 15 most rapidly growing large cities between Census Day (April 1, 2010) and July 1, 2011. An analysis of the nation's large cities shows no northeastern cities ranked in the top 25 for percent growth between 2010 and 2011.

Table 1. Population Change Among Pennsylvania's Fifteen Most Populous Cities, 2011					
Rank	City	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base)	Numeric Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2011	Percent Change, Estimates Base to July 1, 2011
1	Philadelphia city	1,536,471	1,526,006	10,465	0.7%
2	Pittsburgh city	307,484	305,704	1,780	0.6%
3	Allentown city	119,141	118,032	1,109	0.9%
4	Erie city	101,807	101,786	21	0.0%
5	Reading city	88,414	88,082	332	0.4%
6	Scranton city	75,995	76,089	-94	-0.1%
7	Bethlehem city	75,266	74,982	284	0.4%
8	Lancaster city	60,058	59,322	736	1.2%
9	Harrisburg city	49,673	49,528	145	0.3%
10	Altoona city	46,329	46,321	8	0.0%
11	York city	43,884	43,718	166	0.4%
12	Wilkes-Barre city	41,465	41,498	-33	-0.1%
13	Chester city	34,184	33,972	212	0.6%
14	Williamsport city	29,534	29,381	153	0.5%
15	Easton city	26,995	26,800	195	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2011 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates.

The July 1, 2011 sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include the state's cities, townships and boroughs. Please note that the April 1, 2010 estimates base population count was used in the estimation process. The estimates base count reflects changes based on the Count Question Resolution program, updates from the Boundary and Annexation Survey and geographic programs revisions.

More on Municipal Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau produces estimates of total resident population for all areas of general-purpose government on an annual basis. The sub-county areas consist of both incorporated places, such as cities, boroughs, and villages; and minor civil divisions such as towns and townships. Updated housing unit estimates are used to distribute county population to sub-county areas based on housing unit change. County population estimates are produced with a component of change population method, which updates the latest census population using data on births, deaths, and domestic and international migration. County-level total population estimates were released earlier this year (April 2012).

Customized tables showing Pennsylvania's population by municipality may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or by emailing at PaSDC@psu.edu.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2011 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimates.

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.

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.

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