



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases First Population Estimates Based on the 2010 Census: Nation Gained 2.8 Million People Last Year, Commonwealth Increased by 40,507

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania continues its trend of slow growth, according to the 2011 National and State Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Today's release marks the first set of population estimates to be based on the 2010 Census. Pennsylvania's estimated population grew to 12,742,886, representing a growth rate of 0.3 percent between 2010 and 2011. Pennsylvania remains the 6th largest state in the nation behind California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois (see Table 1.).

Table 1. Population Change United States and States: 2010 to 2011					
Rank	Geographic Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2010 to 2011	
		April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	July 1, 2011	Number	Percent
-	United States	308,745,538	311,591,917	2,846,379	0.9
1	California	37,253,956	37,691,912	437,956	1.2
2	Texas	25,145,561	25,674,681	529,120	2.1
3	New York	19,378,104	19,465,197	87,093	0.4
4	Florida	18,801,311	19,057,542	256,231	1.4
5	Illinois	12,830,632	12,869,257	38,625	0.3
6	Pennsylvania	12,702,379	12,742,886	40,507	0.3
7	Ohio	11,536,502	11,544,951	8,449	0.1
8	Michigan	9,883,635	9,876,187	-7,448	-0.1
9	Georgia	9,687,660	9,815,210	127,550	1.3
10	North Carolina	9,535,475	9,656,401	120,926	1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Division

Pennsylvania's growth mirrors that of the region: the Northeast region ranked last numerically (204,354) and 3rd in terms of population growth rate (0.4 percent) from 2010 to 2011. The Census Bureau classifies the nation into four regions: the South, West, Midwest, and Northeast.

Population Growth from 2010 to 2011

The data also shows that the nation's population grew by 0.9 percent (2.8 million people) between April 1, 2010 (estimates base) and July 1, 2011. The United States estimated population as of July 1, 2011 is 311,591,917. Pennsylvania ranked 18th in numeric change (40,507 people) in population between 2010 and 2011 and 42nd in percent change (0.3 percent) in population. Among the states



and the District of Columbia, Texas had the largest increase at 529,120 followed by California (437,956). The District of Columbia had the highest percent increase in population from 2010 to 2011 at 2.7 percent. Michigan (-7,448), Rhode Island (-1,265) and Maine (-173) were the only states in the nation that experienced a decrease in population from 2010 to 2011.

Regionally, the South had the highest numeric increase from 2010-2011 in population with an increase of nearly 1.5 million persons. The South Region had the highest percent increase in population at 1.30 percent, followed closely by the West at 1.28 percent. The Northeast finished last in numeric increase (204,354) while the Midwest Region was last for percent increase (0.3 percent) during the same time period.

Components of Population Change in Pennsylvania, 2010 to 2011

Census Bureau Population Estimates are created by taking the last Decennial Census count, and updating the count using counts of births, deaths, and migration (both domestic and international). The addition of births, and subtraction of deaths, results in the ‘natural increase’ of an area. Pennsylvania’s natural increase ranked 48th among the states between July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011. The Commonwealth’s birth rate ranked 43rd nationally, while death rate ranked third over the same time period.

Migration

International migration has been a significant source of Pennsylvania’s population growth. Compared to other states, a larger share of Pennsylvania’s population growth has come from international migration than from natural increase (births minus deaths) or domestic migration.

Between 2010 and 2011, that trend has continued, with Pennsylvania gaining 14,714 people from international migration. Conversely, domestic migration alone resulted in a migration loss of 7,246 people.

More about Population Estimates

The Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program’s National and State Population Estimates file produces estimates for the United States, Regions, and States. The Population Estimates Program (PEP) utilizes annual data on births, deaths, and migration to calculate population change since the most recent decennial census and produce a time series of estimates of population, demographic components of change, and housing units. The annual time series of estimates begins with the most recent decennial census data and extends to the vintage year (2011).

These estimates are used in federal funding allocations, as survey controls, as denominators for vital rates and per capita time series, and as indicators of recent demographic changes. With each new release of annual estimates, the entire time series of estimates is revised for all years back to the last census. All previously published estimates are superseded and archived.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

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.

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