



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

March 24, 2016

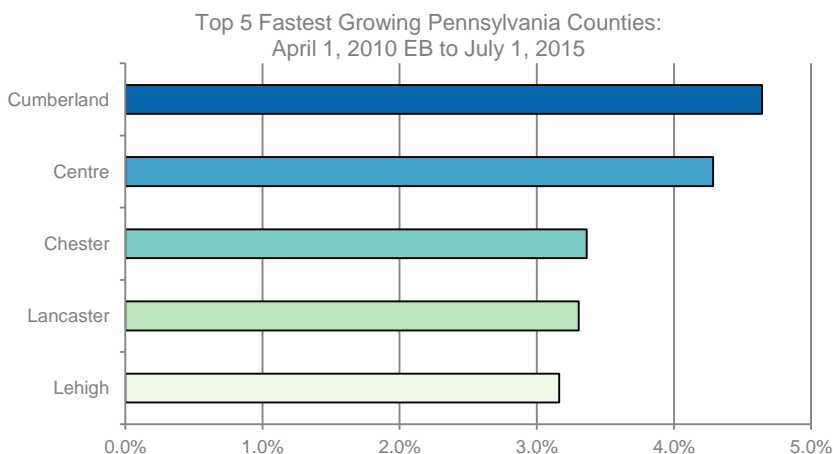
## 2015 County Population Estimates: Counties in Southeast and South-Central Pennsylvania Fastest Growing

**PENN STATE HARRISBURG** – Cumberland County in south-central Pennsylvania is still the fastest growing county in the state, according to the 2015 County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, Cumberland County's total population increased from 235,408 to 246,338 residents, a growth-rate of 4.6 percent.

The county-level total population estimates show the estimated total population for all counties in the United States. The estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, domestic and international migration. The estimates reflect changes to the 2010 Census population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1 of the estimates year, other geographic program changes, and Count Question Resolution (CQR) actions.

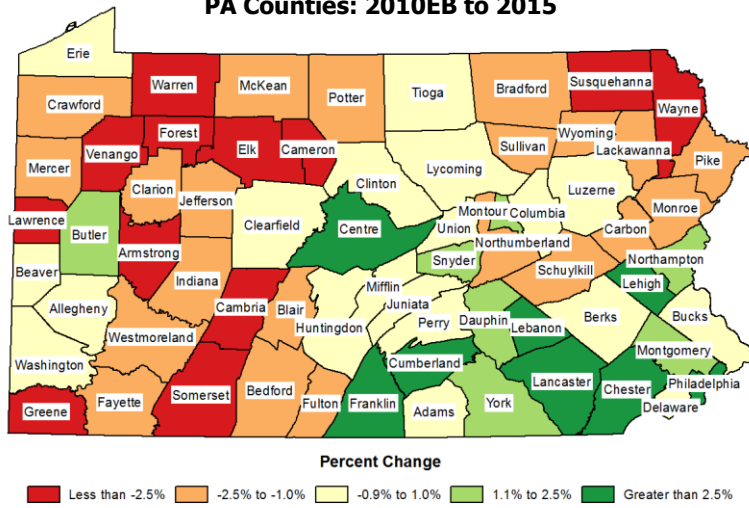
### Percent Population Change

Centre County (4.3 percent), home to Penn State University's Main Campus, followed Cumberland County in largest percent population increase since 2010. Chester and Lancaster counties followed with increases of 3.4 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively, between 2010 and 2015. Lehigh County (3.2 percent) rounded out the top five in terms of population growth rate during the period (see figure).



Overall, forty-three counties experienced population loss during the period. Table 1, located at the end of this brief, shows the total population counts for 2015 as well as the population change since 2010 for all sixty-seven Pennsylvania counties.

**Percent Population Change,  
PA Counties: 2010EB to 2015**



Eight of the top ten counties in percent population growth from 2010 to 2015 were located in southeastern or south-central Pennsylvania (see map). In contrast, counties in the top ten in percent population loss over the 2010-2015 time period were concentrated in the northern and western parts of the state. Among these, Cameron (-6.9 percent), Cambria (-5.1 percent), Forest (-4.0 percent), Susquehanna (-3.9 percent) and Warren (-3.4 percent) counties experienced the largest percent population loss.

**Numeric Population Change**

Philadelphia County, where population increased by 41,436 persons, had the largest estimated numeric gain in population between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015 among Pennsylvania counties. Montgomery and Lancaster counties followed with estimated population increases of 19,380 and 17,176, respectively. Chester County, which borders both Montgomery and Lancaster, grew by 16,793 residents. Taken together, these four counties accounted for 55.6 percent of Pennsylvania’s overall population increase of 94,785 during the period. Outside of southeastern or south-central Pennsylvania, Allegheny (7,111), Centre (6,599), and Butler (2,956) counties had the largest numeric population gains.

Almost two-thirds (64.3 percent) of the twenty-eight counties in the state to experience a population loss of greater than 1,000 residents from 2010 to 2015 were located in western Pennsylvania. During that time period, Cambria County (-7,263) had the largest estimated population decrease, followed by Westmoreland County (-7,213). Two eastern Pennsylvania counties ranked in the top five in terms of population loss: Schuylkill County which ranked third with a decline of 3,699 residents and Monroe County which ranked fourth due to a decrease of 3,445 persons. Lawrence County, in western Pennsylvania, had the fifth highest decline with 3,058 residents lost.

**Births, Deaths and Migration in the Commonwealth**

There were an estimated 746,467 births in Pennsylvania between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015. An estimated 671,050 deaths also occurred during this time period resulting in a natural increase of 75,417 persons. During the time period, international migration into Pennsylvania outpaced domestic outmigration, resulting in a net gain of 64,804 persons.

From April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015, Philadelphia (43,750), Lancaster (12,627), Chester (9,385) and Montgomery (8,574) had the greatest natural increase among Pennsylvania counties, while Westmoreland (-6,259), Luzerne (-4,304), Schuylkill (-2,793) and Schuylkill (-2,554) had the lowest.

The largest net migration occurred in the counties of Allegheny (11,571), Montgomery (10,846), and Cumberland (8,830). Monroe County, which in previous decades experienced large population gains because of high migration rates from neighboring states, has lost 3,585 residents to outmigration. This decline due to migration was the third largest of any Pennsylvania county between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015. Cambria County had the greatest loss (-4,651) and Erie County had the second-highest loss due to outmigration (-4,356) during this time.

## More about Population Estimates

Today's release is the sixth county-level population estimates release from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Division this decade. Population estimates for the total population are provided for every county in the United States. In May, total population estimates for sub-county areas (municipalities) will be released, along with housing unit estimates for the state and counties. In June, the Census Bureau is set to release 2015 county-level age, sex, race and ethnicity estimates.

Table 1. Pennsylvania County Population Estimates and Population Change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015

County	April 1, 2010 Population Estimate	July 1, 2015 Population Estimate	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change	County	April 1, 2010 Population Estimate	July 1, 2015 Population Estimate	Numeric Population Change	Percent Population Change
Pennsylvania	12,702,887	12,802,503	99,616	0.8%	Juniata	24,636	24,737	101	0.4%
Adams	101,417	102,295	878	0.9%	Lackawanna	214,436	211,917	-2,519	-1.2%
Allegheny	1,223,348	1,230,459	7,111	0.6%	Lancaster	519,448	536,624	17,176	3.3%
Armstrong	68,938	67,052	-1,886	-2.7%	Lawrence	91,140	88,082	-3,058	-3.4%
Beaver	170,539	168,871	-1,668	-1.0%	Lebanon	133,577	137,067	3,490	2.6%
Bedford	49,768	48,586	-1,182	-2.4%	Lehigh	349,626	360,685	11,059	3.2%
Berks	411,572	415,271	3,699	0.9%	Luzerne	320,918	318,449	-2,469	-0.8%
Blair	127,078	125,593	-1,485	-1.2%	Lycoming	116,108	116,048	-60	-0.1%
Bradford	62,622	61,281	-1,341	-2.1%	McKean	43,450	42,412	-1,038	-2.4%
Bucks	625,255	627,367	2,112	0.3%	Mercer	116,674	114,234	-2,440	-2.1%
Butler	183,862	186,818	2,956	1.6%	Mifflin	46,683	46,500	-183	-0.4%
Cambria	143,674	136,411	-7,263	-5.1%	Monroe	169,842	166,397	-3,445	-2.0%
Cameron	5,085	4,732	-353	-6.9%	Montgomery	799,884	819,264	19,380	2.4%
Carbon	65,250	63,960	-1,290	-2.0%	Montour	18,267	18,557	290	1.6%
Centre	153,981	160,580	6,599	4.3%	Northampton	297,735	300,813	3,078	1.0%
Chester	499,146	515,939	16,793	3.4%	Northumberland	94,514	93,246	-1,268	-1.3%
Clarion	39,989	39,498	-491	-1.2%	Perry	45,965	45,685	-280	-0.6%
Clearfield	81,644	80,994	-650	-0.8%	Philadelphia	1,526,006	1,567,442	41,436	2.7%
Clinton	39,241	39,441	200	0.5%	Pike	57,366	55,949	-1,417	-2.5%
Columbia	67,296	66,672	-624	-0.9%	Potter	17,458	17,093	-365	-2.1%
Crawford	88,765	86,484	-2,281	-2.6%	Schuylkill	148,289	144,590	-3,699	-2.5%
Cumberland	235,408	246,338	10,930	4.6%	Snyder	39,709	40,444	735	1.9%
Dauphin	268,100	272,983	4,883	1.8%	Somerset	77,748	75,522	-2,226	-2.9%
Delaware	558,726	563,894	5,168	0.9%	Sullivan	6,428	6,328	-100	-1.6%
Elk	31,946	30,872	-1,074	-3.4%	Susquehanna	43,356	41,666	-1,690	-3.9%
Erie	280,566	278,045	-2,521	-0.9%	Tioga	41,983	41,877	-106	-0.3%
Fayette	136,607	133,628	-2,979	-2.2%	Union	44,949	44,954	5	0.0%
Forest	7,716	7,410	-306	-4.0%	Venango	54,983	53,119	-1,864	-3.4%
Franklin	149,618	153,638	4,020	2.7%	Warren	41,815	40,396	-1,419	-3.4%
Fulton	14,844	14,629	-215	-1.4%	Washington	207,820	208,261	441	0.2%
Greene	38,686	37,519	-1,167	-3.0%	Wayne	52,825	51,198	-1,627	-3.1%
Huntingdon	46,027	45,668	-359	-0.8%	Westmoreland	365,169	357,956	-7,213	-2.0%
Indiana	88,893	86,966	-1,927	-2.2%	Wyoming	28,276	27,800	-476	-1.7%
Jefferson	45,199	44,430	-769	-1.7%	York	434,998	442,867	7,869	1.8%

Customized tables showing Pennsylvania's population by county may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or by emailing at [PaSDC@psu.edu](mailto:PaSDC@psu.edu).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2015 County 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.**