



Research Brief

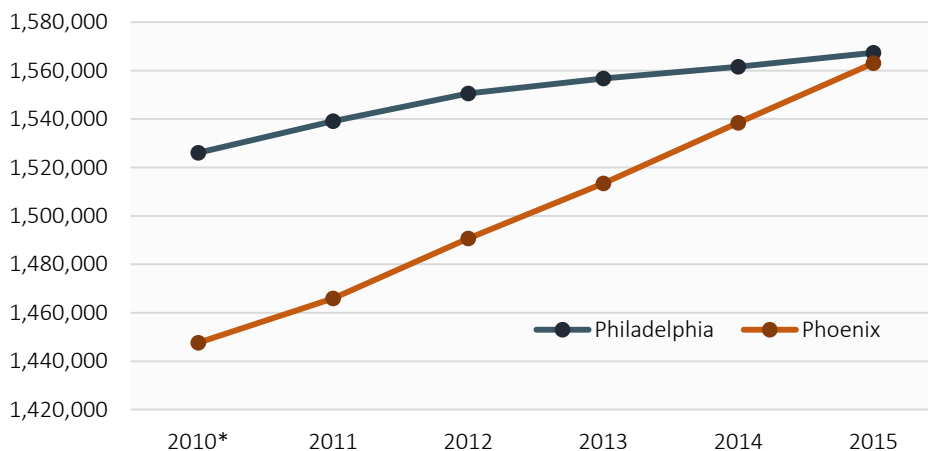
The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

May 19, 2016

Population Estimates Released for Nation's Municipalities: Philadelphia Remains 5th Largest US City for Now

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released July 1, 2015 population estimates for the nation's municipalities. According to the new figures, Philadelphia has narrowly retained its ranking as the fifth most populous city in the United States, outpacing Phoenix by just 4,417 residents.

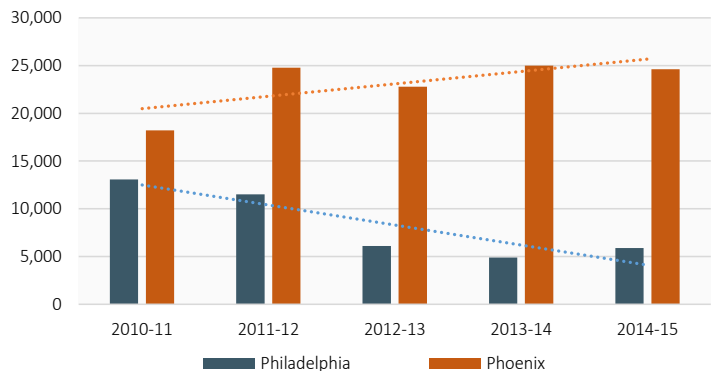
Figure 1. Population Growth, Philadelphia & Phoenix:
2010-2015



Phoenix's growth rate surpassed Philadelphia's 8.0 percent to 2.7 percent between April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015. This resulted in a numeric growth advantage of 115,401 to 41,436 residents since 2010. Figure 2. shows the annual numeric growth between the two cities.

Among cities with at least 50,000 residents in the U.S., the largest growth rates were in the South and West. Texas was home to five of the eleven fastest-growing cities and five of the eight largest in terms of numeric growth.

Figure 2. Annual Numeric Growth, Philadelphia & Phoenix:
2010 to 2015



Pennsylvania Cities

The aforementioned City of Brotherly Love is Pennsylvania's largest and fastest growing city since 2010. Pennsylvania's second most populous city, Pittsburgh (304,391), has seen its population decline slightly since 2010, reporting a decline of 1,294 residents (-0.4 percent).

Only nine Pennsylvania cities have reported population growth since 2010. With the exception of Scranton, these cities were all located in the Southeastern and South Central part of the commonwealth (see Table 1.)

Four of Pennsylvania's ten most populous cities experienced population growth since 2010. They include: Philadelphia (41,436), Allentown (2,046), Scranton (1,029) and Lancaster (17). The six other most populous cities losing population since 2010 were: Erie (-2,307), Pittsburgh (-1,294), Altoona (-977), Harrisburg (-447) Reading (-204), Bethlehem (-90).

Rank	City	July 1, 2015 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2015	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2015
1	Philadelphia city	1,567,442	1,526,006	41,436	2.7%
2	Allentown city	120,207	118,161	2,046	1.7%
3	Scranton city	77,118	76,089	1,029	1.4%
4	Easton city	26,915	26,800	115	0.4%
5	York city	43,992	43,806	186	0.4%
6	Chester city	34,092	33,972	120	0.4%
7	Coatesville city	13,148	13,102	46	0.4%
8	Lebanon city	25,534	25,477	57	0.2%
9	Lancaster city	59,339	59,322	17	0.0%

Table 2. shows the top ten cities in terms of percent population decline between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015. Outside of Carbondale and Pottsville, these cities were located in Western Pennsylvania.

Rank	City	July 1, 2015 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change, EB to July 1, 2015	Percent Change, EB to July 1, 2015
1	Johnstown city	19,966	20,975	-1,009	-4.8%
2	Oil City city	10,137	10,557	-420	-4.0%
3	Warren city	9,334	9,710	-376	-3.9%
4	New Castle city	22,375	23,273	-898	-3.9%
5	Titusville city	5,389	5,601	-212	-3.8%
6	Franklin city	6,302	6545	-243	-3.7%
7	Uniontown city	9,990	10372	-382	-3.7%
8	Carbondale city	8,566	8891	-325	-3.7%
9	Pottsville city	13,802	14324	-522	-3.6%
10	Beaver Falls city	8,661	8987	-326	-3.6%

Population Change by Municipal Type

According to the data, 86.4 percent of the growth in Pennsylvania's population since 2010 can be attributed to townships. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, the population of Pennsylvania's 1,547

townships grew from 7,099,033 to 7,185,053; a growth rate of 1.2 percent. Cities, as a whole, also experienced growth over the time period gaining 26,719 people (0.9 percent); however, only nine of the state's 57 cities had population growth since 2010. The commonwealth's boroughs had a decline of 0.5 percent; a loss of 13,123 people. (see Table 1).

Municipality Type	July 1, 2015 Population Estimate	April 1, 2010 Estimates Base	Numeric Change EB to July 1, 2015	Percent Change EB to July 1, 2015	Percent of State's Growth
Pennsylvania	12,802,503	12,702,887	99,616	0.8%	100.0%
Cities	3,105,784	3,079,065	26,719	0.9%	26.8%
Boroughs	2,511,666	2,524,789	-13,123	-0.5%	-13.2%
Townships	7,185,053	7,099,033	86,020	1.2%	86.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2015 Subcounty Total Resident Population Estimate

As of July 1, 2015, 56.1 percent of Pennsylvanians lived in townships, 24.3 percent lived in cities, and the remaining 19.6 percent lived in boroughs.

More on Municipal Population Estimates

Today's release provides the fifth set of municipal population estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census. The July 1, 2015 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.

Each new series of data (called vintages) incorporates the latest administrative record data, geographic boundaries, and methodology. Therefore, the entire time series of estimates beginning with the most recent decennial census is revised annually, and estimates from different vintages of data may not be consistent across time.

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. Detailed estimates by age, sex, race and ethnicity for Pennsylvania counties will be released next month.

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