



Research Brief

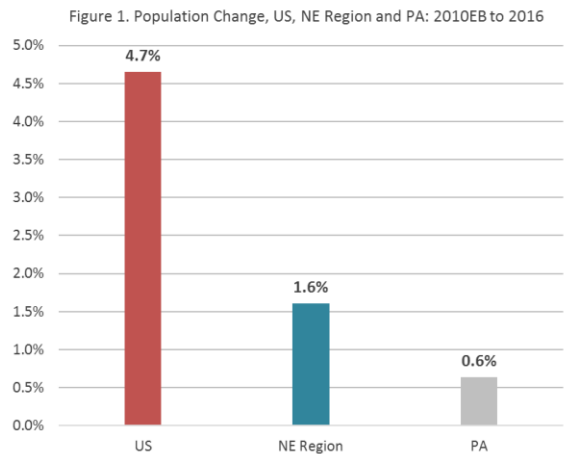
The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

December 21, 2016

2016 National and State Population Estimates Released

PENN STATE HARRISBURG - The Keystone State's long standing trend of slow and consistent population growth continues, according to the 2016 National and State Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Pennsylvania's estimated population grew by 81,370 residents since 2010 to reach a total of 12,784,227 in 2016. Pennsylvania remains the sixth largest state in the nation behind California, Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois.

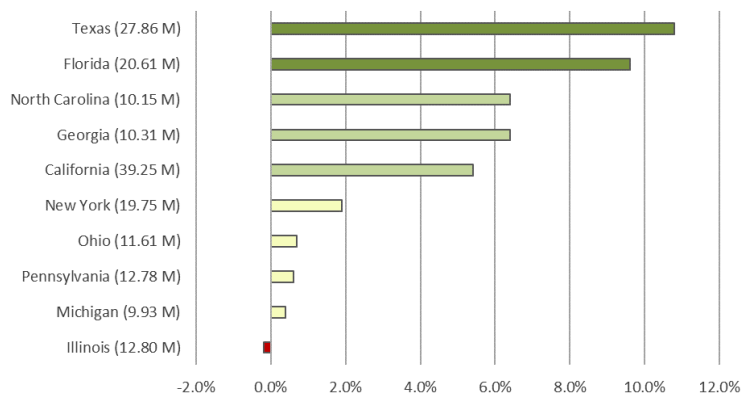
The commonwealth's growth rate of 0.6 percent over the six-year period was about half that of the Northeast region's 1.5 percent and well behind that of the nation 4.5 percent (see Figure 1). Pennsylvania ranked 30th in numeric change (81,370 people) in population between 2010 and 2016 and 44th in percent change (0.6 percent).



Growth of the Nation's Ten Largest States

Growth rates varied greatly among the nation's ten most populous states from the last decennial census in 2010 to the July 1, 2016 population estimate. Figure 2 shows that states in the South: Texas (10.8 percent), Florida (9.6 percent), North Carolina (6.4 percent) and

Figure 2. Growth Rates of Ten Most Populous States: 2010EB to 2016



Georgia (6.4 percent) had the largest percent increases in population over the last six years. California representing the West region was not too far behind at 5.4 percent. With the exception of New York (1.9 percent) the most populous states in the Midwest and Northeast regions had growth rates below 1.0 percent: Ohio (0.7 percent), Pennsylvania (0.6 percent), Michigan (0.4 percent) and Illinois (-0.2 percent).

Notable Population Growth and Decline

Pennsylvania saw a slight decline in population from 2015 to 2016 (-0.1 percent). Other states experiencing losses during this period include West Virginia (-0.5 percent), Illinois (-0.3 percent), Vermont (-0.2 percent), Connecticut (-0.2 percent) and Wyoming (-0.2 percent).

Four states experienced an overall decline in population from 2010 to 2016; West Virginia, Illinois, Vermont and Connecticut. The lowest numeric and percent population increases were generally found in the New England states and in the Midwestern states.

Components of Population Change

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. Between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2016, births (887,430) outpaced deaths (804,358) by 83,072 in the Keystone State. The state's natural increase accounted for the majority of Pennsylvania's population change since 2010.

International migration has been a significant source of Pennsylvania's population growth. Between 2010 and 2016, Pennsylvania ranked eighth nationally in terms of total population growth from international migrants with the state adding 195,038 people from international migration. Conversely, domestic migration alone resulted in a loss of 183,614 people. Taken together this resulted in a net migration gain of 11,424, which ranked Pennsylvania 32nd nationally.

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.

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 Estimates Division, 2016 National and State 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. 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.

