



# Research Brief

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## 2007-2011 ACS County-to-County Migration Flows Released for Pennsylvania: First ACS Migration Flow Data by Educational Attainment and Income

**PENN STATE HARRISBURG** – The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) County-to-County Migration Flows. The data, which documents migration patterns of the population during the period 2007-2011, marks the third set of county-to-county migration flow data to be generated from the ACS. This year's ACS county-level migration data product provides the total number of movers between counties and characteristics of migrants including their educational attainment as well as household and individual income.

According to the data, during the period 2007-2011, the number of people moving into Pennsylvania from another state was 243,379, while the number of people moving out of the commonwealth to another state was 222,297. During the time period, the net domestic migration (in-migrants minus out-migrants) was 21,082. Overall, the commonwealth had a net gain of 1.7 people per 1,000 residents from other states over the time period 2007-2011. Finally, the number of individuals moving into Pennsylvania from abroad totaled 51,722 in 2007-2011.

During the period 2007-2011, Pennsylvania had more than 1.5 million movers. Of these movers, 324,087 lived in a different county. Table 1 shows the Pennsylvania counties with the largest number of in-migrants along with the Pennsylvania county from which the largest number of migrants originated.

**Table 1. Largest Total Inflow of Migrants with Largest County of Origin,  
Pennsylvania Counties: 2007-2011**

Rank	County Name	Total Inflow		Largest County of Origin		
		Domestic	International	County	Number	Percent
1	Philadelphia County	55,370	10,846	Montgomery County	5,480	8.3%
2	Allegheny County	45,527	5,785	Westmoreland County	3,793	7.4%
3	Montgomery County	38,851	4,044	Philadelphia County	10,716	25.0%
4	Delaware County	24,919	2,057	Philadelphia County	6,930	25.7%
5	Chester County	23,579	2,399	Montgomery County	3,287	12.7%
6	Centre County	22,182	2,107	Allegheny County	1,103	4.5%
7	Lehigh County	18,840	2,613	Northampton County	4,768	22.2%
8	Bucks County	19,809	841	Montgomery County	3,687	17.9%
9	Lancaster County	17,835	2,639	Chester County	1,643	8.0%
10	York County	18,828	1,354	Adams County	1,949	9.7%



Table 2 shows the Pennsylvania counties with the largest number of out-migrants along with the largest destination Pennsylvania county.

Table 2. Largest Total Outflow of Migrants with Largest Destination County, Pennsylvania Counties: 2007-2011					
Rank	County Name	Total Outflow	Largest Destination County		
			County	Number	Percent
1	Philadelphia County	68,228	Montgomery County	10,716	15.7%
2	Allegheny County	44,475	Westmoreland County	3,731	8.4%
3	Montgomery County	38,439	Philadelphia County	5,480	14.3%
4	Bucks County	25,998	Montgomery County	4,205	16.2%
5	Delaware County	25,592	Philadelphia County	5,000	19.5%
6	Chester County	23,114	Montgomery County	2,635	11.4%
7	Lehigh County	18,457	Northampton County	4,757	25.8%
8	Lancaster County	16,846	York County	1,323	7.9%
9	York County	16,538	Cumberland County	1,645	9.9%
10	Dauphin County	16,381	Cumberland County	2,521	15.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2007-2011 American Community Survey County-to-County Migration Flow Data

\* It should be noted that flows in the top 10 may not be significantly different from each other or flows outside of the top 10.

### County-to-County Migration by Educational Attainment

According to the county-to-county migration flow data by educational attainment, Chester County had the largest net gain in the population 25 years of age and over with a bachelor's degree or higher among Pennsylvania counties during the period 2007-2011. Chester County's neighboring counties of Delaware and Montgomery counties contributed the largest number of newcomers with a degree from an institution of higher education. In 2007-2011, Delaware and Montgomery counties provided 2,516 new residents 25 years of age and over with a bachelor's degree or higher. Over the time period, Chester County also had an outflow of residents with a higher educational degree to Delaware and Montgomery counties. In 2007-2011, a total of 1,592 persons with a bachelor's degree or higher moved from Chester County to either Delaware or Montgomery County. Consequently, over the time period, Chester County realized a net gain of 924 residents with a bachelor's degree or higher from Delaware and Montgomery counties.

Butler County was second in terms of incomers with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007-2011. Allegheny County contributed the largest number (801) of these movers during the period. Butler County had an inflow of 522 persons age 25 years and over with a bachelor's and 279 with a graduate or professional degree from Allegheny County. An analysis of the outflow of Butler County residents to Allegheny County reveals that 311 people with a bachelor's degree or higher moved between the counties in 2007-2011. Hence, it can be determined that Butler netted a gain of 490 residents with a degree from an institution of higher education over the time period.

### County-to-County Migration by Household Income

Allegheny County had the largest net gain in households with incomes between \$25,000 to \$49,999 among Pennsylvania counties in 2007-2011, according to the county-to-county migration flow data by household income. During the time period, a total of 9,469 households with incomes between \$25,000 to \$49,999 migrated to Allegheny County, while 5,802 households in this range left the

county, leading to a net increase of 3,667 households with incomes within this income range. Westmoreland County, Allegheny's neighbor to the east, contributed 899 households with incomes of \$25,000 to \$49,999. Examining the outflow data of migratory households with incomes in this range shows that 778 households left Allegheny County for Westmoreland County. Altogether, Allegheny County had a net gain of 121 households with incomes between \$25,000 to \$49,999 from Westmoreland County during the time period.

### **More about County-to-County Migration Data**

The 2007-2011 American Community Survey County-to-County Migration Files provide tables for each county in the nation, showing both inflows and outflows. The data on residence 1 year ago were derived from answers to Question 15, which was asked of the population 1 year and older. For the American Community Survey, people who had moved from another residence in the United States or Puerto Rico 1 year earlier were asked to report the exact address. People living outside the United States and Puerto Rico were asked to report the name of the foreign country or U.S. Island Area where they were living 1 year ago.

Residence 1 year ago is used in conjunction with the location of current residence to determine the extent of residential mobility of the population and the resulting redistribution of the population across the various states, metropolitan areas, and regions of the country.

The 2007-2011 release is the first to feature educational attainment and household and individual income (both in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars). The values for Educational Attainment are for the current residence (i.e., at the time the respondent was surveyed). The values for the income variables are for the last 12 months prior to being surveyed. Inflation adjustment factors have been applied to the incomes from the responses for the years 2007 through 2010.

The previous edition of the ACS County-to-County Migration Files, the 2006-2010 data, included additional files crossed by certain characteristics: age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino origin. Data users should be aware that totals from age, sex, race and ethnicity files will not add to the total presented in the overall county-to-county flows data product because of the necessity to protect the confidentiality of survey respondents.

Caution also must be exercised by data users when comparing ACS migration data with similar data published from Census 2000 SF-3. County-to-county migration data from Census 2000 SF-3 was produced for the number of migrants who moved between counties in the United States in the previous 5 years as opposed to the "1 year ago" time frame used by the ACS.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey County-to-County Migration Flow Data

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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