



March 2017

**RESEARCH BRIEF**

## 2016 County Population Estimates:

### *Decadal Growth Slowed by County Losses*

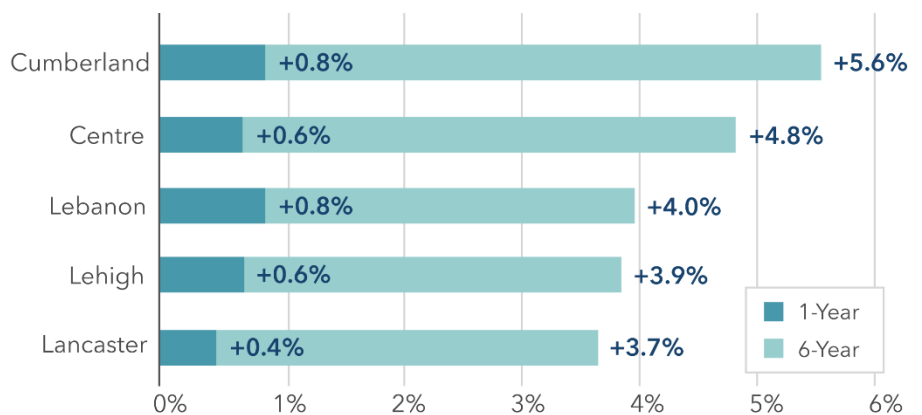
HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's southeast and southcentral counties continue to grow into the second half of the decade while the rest of the state experiences population losses. Despite ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for total population, percent decreases at the county level have resulted in most of Pennsylvania's counties ranking in the bottom 50% in terms of growth.

The county-level population estimates show the estimated 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, and migration. The estimates reflect changes to the 2010 Census population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the vintage year and Count Question Resolution (CQR) actions.

#### **Population Growth in Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia County, the Commonwealth's most populous county, reported the largest growth numerically at 41,866 persons since 2010, although Montgomery (3,362) outpaced Philadelphia's growth (2,908) from 2015 to 2016. Montgomery (21,841), Lancaster (19,052), Chester (17,166), and Lehigh (13,521) followed the Birthplace of America as the highest grossing counties numerically since 2010.

Cumberland County remained the fastest growing county since 2010 and tied with Lebanon County for the highest percent gain from 2015 to 2016 (0.8 percent). Centre, Lebanon, Lehigh, and Lancaster rounded out the top 5 counties that experienced a percent gain since 2010 while also boasting modest increases since the previous estimates year (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Six-year (2010-2016) and one-year (2015-2016) growth for five counties with the highest percent gains since 2010.

### Population Decline in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania experienced population decreases in 44 counties since 2010, and 47 counties decreased in population between 2015 and 2016. Westmoreland (9,706), Cambria (8,942), Schuylkill (4,716), Luzerne (4,535), and Erie (4,357) had the highest decreases since 2010 while Allegheny County, the state’s second-most populous county, experienced the highest numeric decrease from 2015 to 2016 at 3,933 persons.

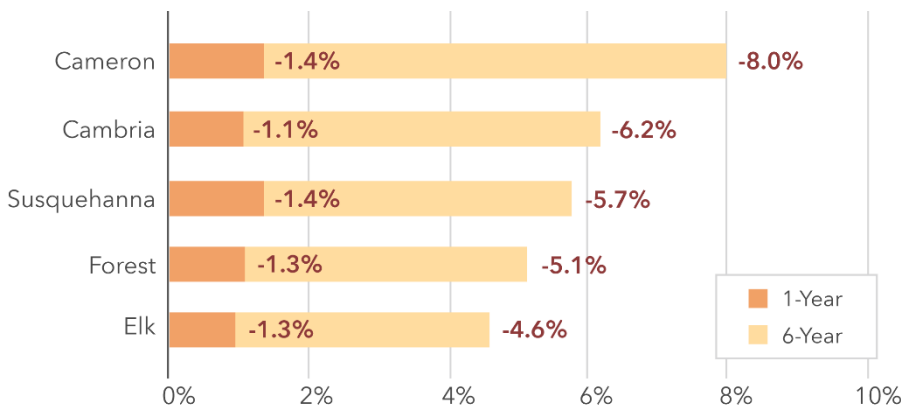


Figure 2. Six-year (2010-2016) and one-year (2015-2016) growth for five counties with the highest percent loss since 2010.

Cameron County retained the largest decadal losses in percent change and tied for Susquehanna County for second in the state with the largest percent lost from 2015 to 2016 at 1.4 percent (Sullivan County ranked first at 2.5 percent lost from 2015 to 2016). Cambria, Susquehanna, Forest, and Elk Counties along with Cameron constituted the five highest counties in percent loss since 2010 (Figure 2).

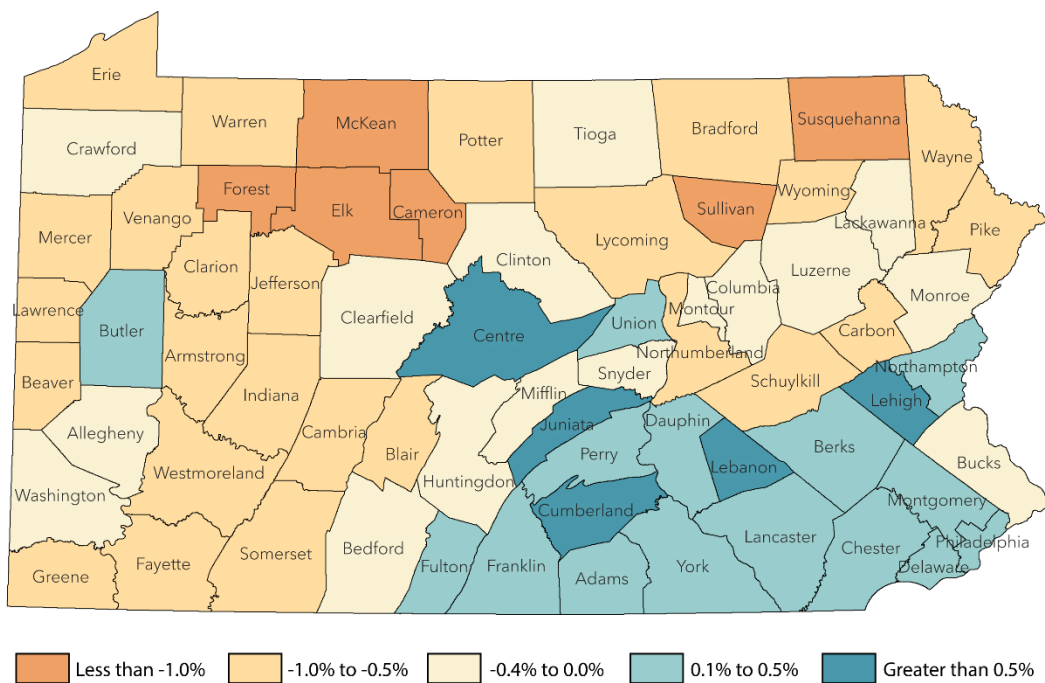


Figure 3. Percent population change in counties of PA, 2015-2016.

### ***National Context for Population Change***

For percent change from 2010 to 2016, nearly half (42) of Pennsylvania's 67 counties ranked in the bottom half of U.S. while almost a third (21) fell in the bottom quartile. Even more counties ranked in the bottom half (48) and bottom quartile (28) for percent change from 2015 to 2016. Four counties fell in the bottom 10% for percent change from 2010 to 2016 while 5 counties ranked similarly from 2015 to 2016.

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

There were an estimated 887,430 births in Pennsylvania since 2010 with 140,897 of those occurring in 2016. A total of 804,358 deaths occurred since 2010 resulting in a natural increase of 83,072 persons. In 2016, 133,053 deaths resulted in a natural increase of 7,844 for the state. International migration continues to make up for the states outmigration of natural-born residents with a net migration of 11,424 for the six-year period despite a net loss for 2016 (10,887 persons).

From 2010 to 2016, Philadelphia (51,304), Lancaster (14,720), and Chester (10,865) had the highest natural increases in the state while Westmoreland (7,972), Luzerne (5,128), and Schuylkill (3,407) had the most natural losses. The largest net migration occurred in the Montgomery (12,054), Cumberland (10,691), and Lehigh (8,668) with largest losses in Philadelphia (6,623), Erie (6,229), and Cambria (5,721).

From 2015 to 2016, Philadelphia (6,924), Lancaster (2,150), and Chester (1,444) had the highest natural increases while Westmoreland (1,483), Luzerne (908), and Allegheny (802) experienced the most natural loss. Net migration was highest in Montgomery (2,134), Cumberland (1,634), and Lehigh (1,622) and negative net migration was seen in Philadelphia (3,933), Allegheny (2,342), and Erie (2,005).

### ***Population Estimates Resources***

Today's release is the seventh 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. Total populations for sub-county areas (municipalities) and housing unit estimates for state and counties will be released in May. County-level age, sex, race and ethnicity estimates will be available in June.

County	April 1, 2010 Estimate	July 1, 2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change	County	April 1, 2010 Estimate	July 1, 2016 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>12,702,857</b>	<b>12,784,227</b>	<b>81,370</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	Juniata	24,636	24,863	227	0.9%
Adams	101,417	102,180	763	0.8%	Lackawanna	214,440	211,321	-3,119	-1.5%
Allegheny	1,223,338	1,225,365	2,027	0.2%	Lancaster	519,448	538,500	19,052	3.7%
Armstrong	68,938	66,486	-2,452	-3.6%	Lawrence	91,140	87,294	-3,846	-4.2%
Beaver	170,539	167,429	-3,110	-1.8%	Lebanon	133,577	138,863	5,286	4.0%
Bedford	49,768	48,325	-1,443	-2.9%	Lehigh	349,626	363,147	13,521	3.9%
Berks	411,572	414,812	3,240	0.8%	Luzerne	320,918	316,383	-4,535	-1.4%
Blair	127,076	124,650	-2,426	-1.9%	Lycoming	116,108	115,248	-860	-0.7%
Bradford	62,622	60,770	-1,852	-3.0%	McKean	43,450	41,883	-1,567	-3.6%
Bucks	625,255	626,399	1,144	0.2%	Mercer	116,674	112,913	-3,761	-3.2%
Butler	183,862	186,847	2,985	1.6%	Mifflin	46,682	46,342	-340	-0.7%
Cambria	143,674	134,732	-8,942	-6.2%	Monroe	169,842	166,098	-3,744	-2.2%
Cameron	5,085	4,677	-408	-8.0%	Montgomery	799,884	821,725	21,841	2.7%
Carbon	65,250	63,594	-1,656	-2.5%	Montour	18,267	18,343	76	0.4%
Centre	154,027	161,464	7,437	4.8%	Northampton	297,735	302,294	4,559	1.5%
Chester	499,146	516,312	17,166	3.4%	Northumberland	94,514	92,541	-1,973	-2.1%
Clarion	39,991	38,513	-1,478	-3.7%	Perry	45,965	45,820	-145	-0.3%
Clearfield	81,597	80,596	-1,001	-1.2%	Philadelphia	1,526,006	1,567,872	41,866	2.7%
Clinton	39,241	39,233	-8	0.0%	Pike	57,344	55,562	-1,782	-3.1%
Columbia	67,296	66,420	-876	-1.3%	Potter	17,458	16,885	-573	-3.3%
Crawford	88,761	86,257	-2,504	-2.8%	Schuylkill	148,289	143,573	-4,716	-3.2%
Cumberland	235,408	248,506	13,098	5.6%	Snyder	39,709	40,468	759	1.9%
Dauphin	268,100	273,707	5,607	2.1%	Somerset	77,746	75,061	-2,685	-3.5%
Delaware	558,726	563,402	4,676	0.8%	Sullivan	6,428	6,137	-291	-4.5%
Elk	31,946	30,480	-1,466	-4.6%	Susquehanna	43,352	40,862	-2,490	-5.7%
Erie	280,564	276,207	-4,357	-1.6%	Tioga	41,983	41,467	-516	-1.2%
Fayette	136,602	132,733	-3,869	-2.8%	Union	44,949	45,565	616	1.4%
Forest	7,716	7,321	-395	-5.1%	Venango	54,983	52,582	-2,401	-4.4%
Franklin	149,618	153,851	4,233	2.8%	Warren	41,815	40,025	-1,790	-4.3%
Fulton	14,844	14,640	-204	-1.4%	Washington	207,848	207,981	133	0.1%
Greene	38,686	37,197	-1,489	-3.8%	Wayne	52,825	50,710	-2,115	-4.0%
Huntingdon	46,031	45,634	-397	-0.9%	Westmoreland	365,164	355,458	-9,706	-2.7%
Indiana	88,893	86,364	-2,529	-2.8%	Wyoming	28,269	27,521	-748	-2.6%
Jefferson	45,196	44,073	-1,123	-2.5%	York	434,998	443,744	8,746	2.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division, 2016 County Population Estimates All comparisons made herein between 2010 and 2016 use the estimates base (April 1, 2010).

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 information, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at **717.948.6336** or online at **pasdc.hbg.psu.edu**.