

## New American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates Released

HARRISBURG - The U.S. Census Bureau today released its annual installment of new demographic and socio-economic data for every community in United States – the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas regardless of population size.

The newest estimates can be compared with other non-overlapping releases (e.g., the 2008-2012 ACS Five-Year Estimates) to show change over time. For the purposes of this report, we focus on trends in vacant housing, median household income, and disability.

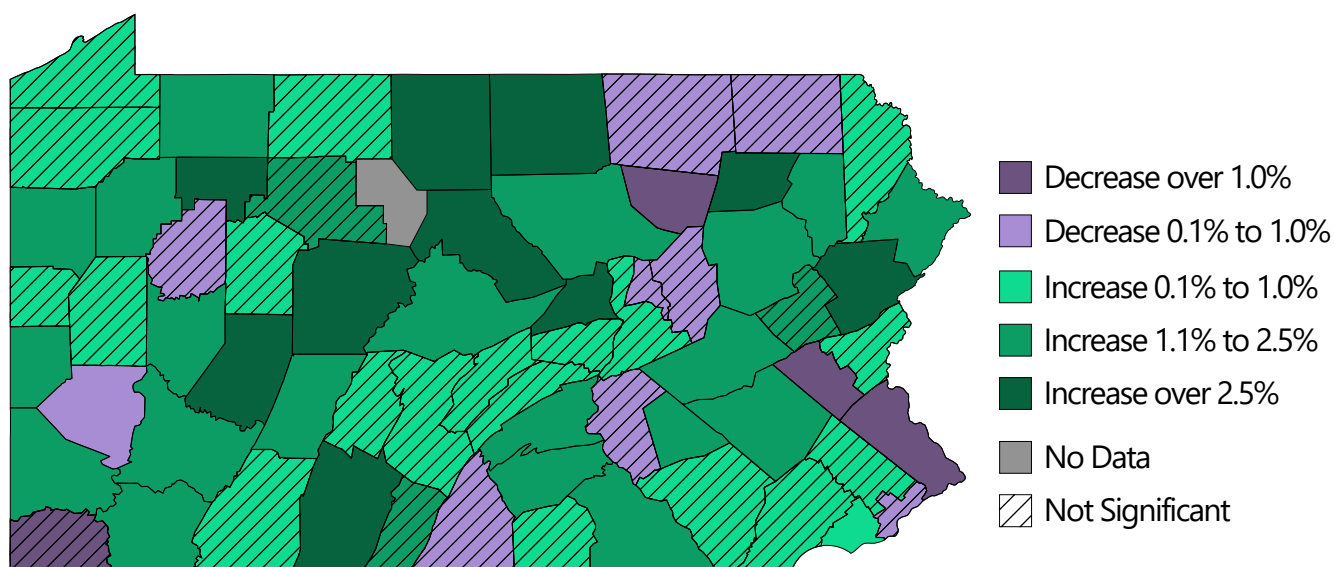
### Key trends in comparison of 2013-2017 and 2008-2012 estimates:

- Vacant housing units significantly increased in over 30 counties
- Median household income significantly decreased in Potter and York Counties
- The percent of those with disabilities significantly increased in 25 counties

### Trends in Vacant Housing Units

Approximately 11.4 percent of Pennsylvania housing units were vacant from 2013 to 2017, a significant increase from the 2008 to 2012 estimates (10.9%). Thirty-one counties experienced significant increases in the percentage of housing units that were vacant. The largest significant increases included Tioga (+5.9%), Union (+5.3%), and Forest (4.4%) Counties.

Only four counties experienced a significant decline in vacant housing units from the 2008 to 2012 estimates and the 2013 to 2017 estimates. They included Sullivan (-3.9%), Bucks (-1.2%), Lehigh (-1.0%), and Allegheny (-0.9%) Counties.



**Figure 1.** Change in percentage of housing units that were vacant by county between the 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 ACS five-year estimates (in percentage points) and statistical significance of change.

The latest ACS estimates put Forest County ahead by far in terms of the percentage of vacant housing from 2013 to 2017 (82.1%). Forest County was followed by Sullivan (58.4%) and Potter (49.6%) counties as those with the highest vacancy rate among housing units. Chester County had the lowest vacancy rate (4.7%), followed by Lancaster (4.9%) and Bucks (5.2%) Counties.

### Trends in Median Household Income

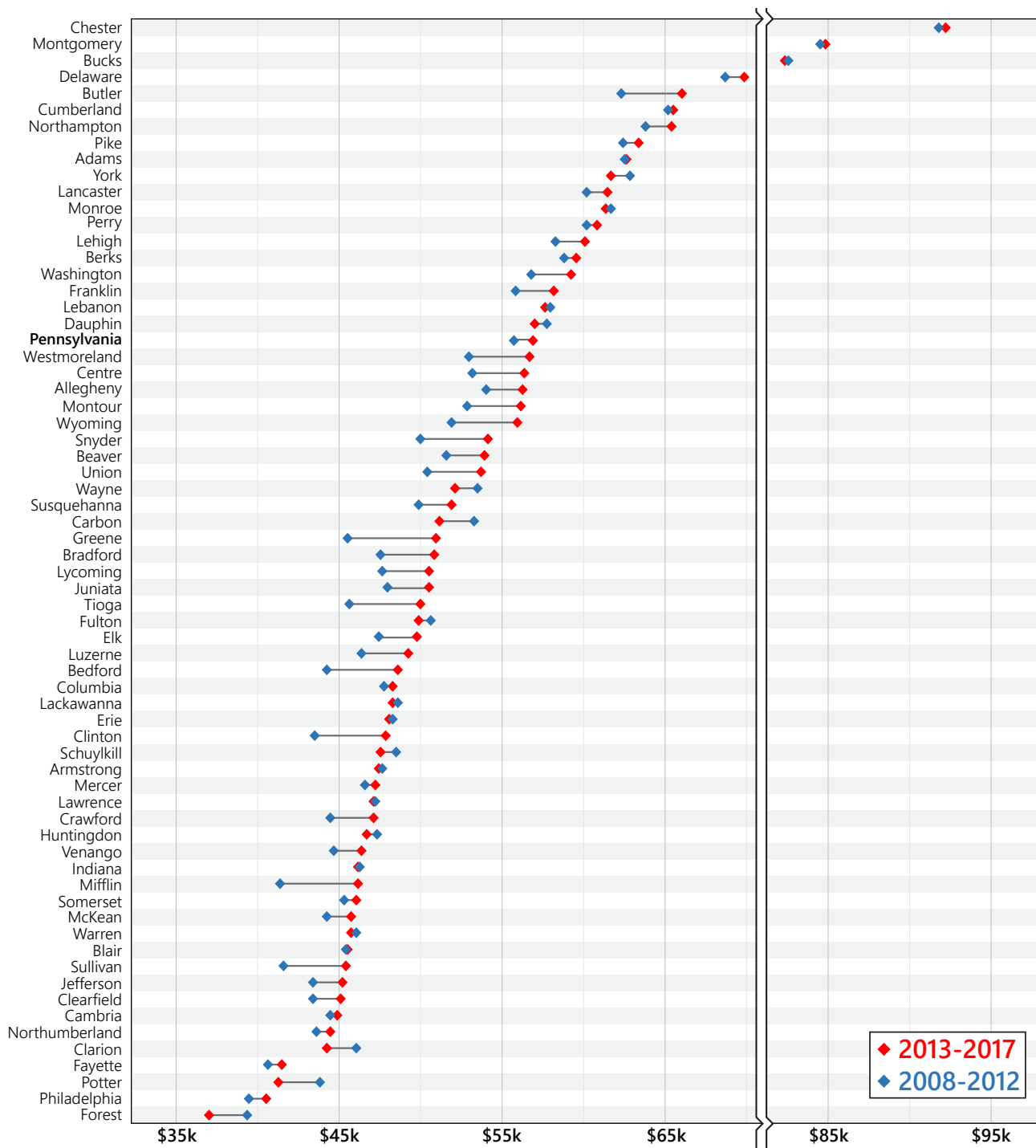


Figure 2. Median household income in Pennsylvania by county for 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 estimates.

The median household income<sup>[1]</sup> in Pennsylvania significantly increased from the 2008 to 2012 estimates (\$55,816) to the 2013 to 2017 estimates (\$56,951). Twenty-two counties also saw significant rises in their median household incomes. The highest significant rises included Greene (+\$5,353), Mifflin (+\$4,824), and Clinton (+\$4,386) Counties.

Only two counties experienced a significant decline in median household income from the 2008 to 2012 estimates and the 2013 to 2017 estimates, Potter (-\$2,478) and York (-\$1,124) Counties.

Chester County had the highest median household income according from 2013 to 2017 (\$92,417) followed by Montgomery (\$84,791) and Bucks (\$82,031) Counties. The three counties with the lowest median household incomes during that time included Forest (\$37,106), Philadelphia (\$40,649), and Potter (\$41,406) Counties.

### Trends in Disability

The percentage of the population<sup>[2]</sup> in Pennsylvania with at least one disability significantly increased from the 2008 to 2012 estimates (13.2%) to the 2013 to 2017 estimates (13.7%). Twenty-five counties also saw significant rises in the percentage of their population with at least one disability. The highest significant rises included Clearfield (+3.5%), Greene (+2.9%), and Lawrence (+2.5%) Counties.

Only two counties experienced a significant decline in the percentage of their population with at least one disability from the 2008 to 2012 estimates and the 2013 to 2017 estimates, Wyoming (-2.1%) and Fayette (-1.3%) Counties.

Forest County had the highest percentage of its population with disabilities according from 2013 to 2017 (30.9%) followed by Sullivan (20.8%) and Greene (20.4%) Counties. The three counties with the lowest percentage of their population with at least one disability during that time included Chester (8.5%), Centre (9.8%), and Montgomery (10.0%) Counties.

[1] All dollar amounts are reported in 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars.

[2] All mentions of population with a disability refer to the civilian, non-institutionalized population.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 & 2008-2012 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or online at [pasdc.hbg.psu.edu](http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu).

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