



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## State and County Housing Unit Estimates Released for 2011 Pennsylvania Adds Nearly 12,000 Housing Units

**PENN STATE HARRISBURG** – Pennsylvania gained 11,960 additional housing units between 2010 and 2011, according to the 2011 State and County Housing Unit Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The number of housing units in the Commonwealth grew 0.2 percent to a total of 5,579,275, ranking the Commonwealth 5<sup>th</sup> nationally in terms of total housing units.

The new data also shows that Pennsylvania's housing unit growth rate of 0.2 percent between 2010 and 2011 ranks 45<sup>th</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia and is below the nationwide rate of 0.5 percent.

### Pennsylvania Counties

None of Pennsylvania's counties ranked among the top 100 nationally in percent growth of housing units between 2010 and 2011. Lancaster County (+1,793) led all Pennsylvania counties in the number of housing units gained since 2010, followed by Chester (+1,457) and Montgomery (+1,405) Counties (see Table 1). Twenty-eight Pennsylvania counties experienced a decrease in housing units between 2010 and 2011. Allegheny (-610), Fayette (-525) and Beaver (-248) Counties were the top three counties in terms of total housing units lost.

Rank	County	April 1, 2010 (Estimate Base)	July 1, 2011	Numeric Change, Estimate Base to July 1, 2011	Percent Change, Estimate Base to July 1, 2011
-	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>5,567,315</b>	<b>5,579,275</b>	<b>11,960</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
1	Lancaster County	202,954	204,747	1,793	0.9%
2	Chester County	192,462	193,919	1,457	0.8%
3	Montgomery County	325,735	327,140	1,405	0.4%
4	Cumberland County	99,989	101,122	1,133	1.1%
5	York County	178,671	179,769	1,098	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 State and County Housing Units Estimates



Centre County showed the largest percent growth in housing units from 2010 to 2011, increasing by 1.3 percent (See Table 2). Cumberland and Union Counties followed with each growing by 1.1 percent. Franklin County was the only other county to experience growth over 1.0 percent during the time period.

Most of the counties that experienced housing unit decline were in the western portion of the state. Fayette County (-0.8 percent) had the largest percent decrease in housing units since 2010, followed by Elk, Cameron and Green counties, which each declined by 0.7 percent during the time period. Interestingly, Pike County, which experienced housing unit growth last decade, had a decline of 163 housing units (0.4 percent) since 2010.

Table 2. Top 5 Percent Housing Unit Increase, Pennsylvania Counties: 2010 - 2011					
Rank	County	April 1, 2010 (Estimate Base)	July 1, 2011	Numeric Change, Estimate Base to July 1, 2011	Percent Change, Estimate Base to July 1, 2011
-	Pennsylvania	5,567,315	5,579,275	11,960	0.2%
1	Centre County	63,295	64,115	820	1.3%
2	Cumberland County	99,989	101,122	1,133	1.1%
3	Union County	16,998	17,190	192	1.1%
4	Franklin County	63,219	63,882	663	1.0%
5	Lancaster County	202,954	204,747	1,793	0.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 State and County Housing Units Estimates

### More about Housing Unit Estimates

According to the Census Bureau, a housing unit is defined as any structure meant to be used as separate living quarters, including houses, apartments, mobile homes and trailers, or groups of rooms. Both occupied and unoccupied housing units are included in housing unit counts, except that vacant mobile homes or trailers are only included if they are intended for occupancy on the site where they are located.

Housing unit estimates use building permits, mobile home shipments, and estimates of housing unit loss to update housing unit change since the last census. Census counts of housing units are geographically updated each year to reflect legal changes reported in the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), Census corrections, and other administrative revisions. These estimates are used as controls for other census surveys. The reference date for estimates is July 1.

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