



March 2018

RESEARCH BRIEF

2017 County Population Estimates: *Slower Growth than Last Decade*

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 5th in the nation for total population, percent decreases at the county level have resulted in more than two-thirds 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 1st 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 54,857 persons since 2010, and also experienced the largest increase from 2016 to 2017 (+6,098 persons). Montgomery (+26,145), Lancaster (+23,456), Chester (+20,118), and Lehigh (+16,821) followed Philadelphia as the highest grossing counties numerically since 2010.

Cumberland County remained the fastest growing county since 2010 and tied with Lebanon and Lehigh counties for the highest percent gain from 2016 to 2017 (+0.9 percent). Centre, Lehigh, Lebanon, 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].

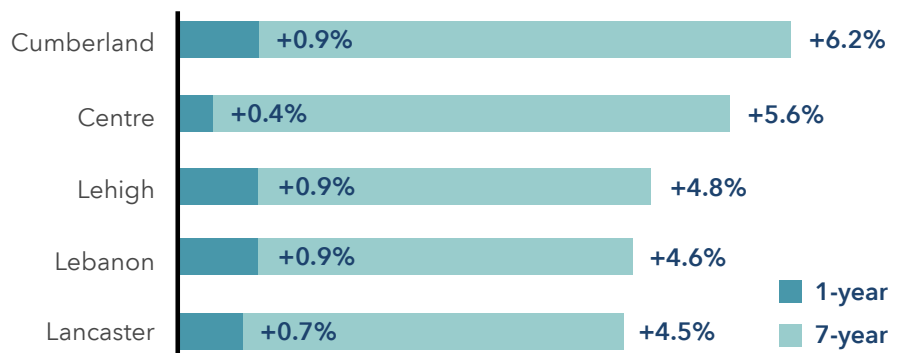
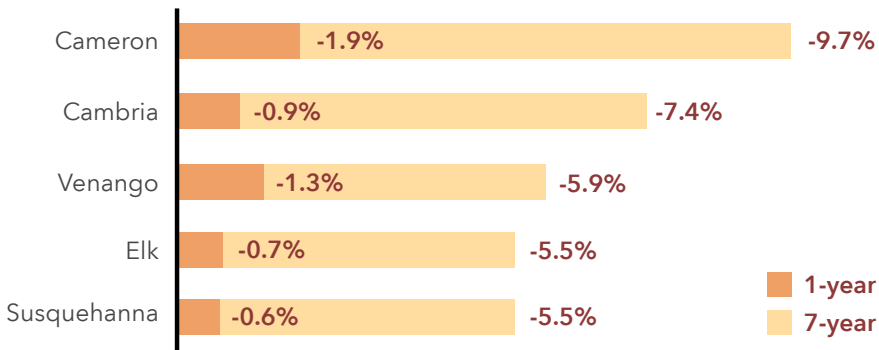


Figure 1. Seven-year (2010-2017) and one-year (2016-2017) growth for five counties with the highest percent gains since 2010.

Population Decline in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania experienced population decreases in 47 counties since 2010, and 39 counties decreased in population between 2016 and 2017. Westmoreland (-12,537), Cambria (-10,620), Erie (-6,023), Schuylkill (-5,720), and Fayette (-5,098), had the highest decreases since 2010 while Allegheny County, the state's second-most populous county, experienced the highest numeric decrease from 2016 to 2017 (-4,505 persons).



Cameron County retained the largest loss in percent change this decade and tied with Union County for the largest percent lost from 2016 to 2017 (-1.9 percent). Cambria, Venango, Elk, and Susquehanna Counties along with Cameron constituted the five highest counties in percent loss since 2010 [Figure 2].

Figure 2. Seven-year (2010-2017) and one-year (2016-2017) growth for five counties with the highest percent loss since 2010.

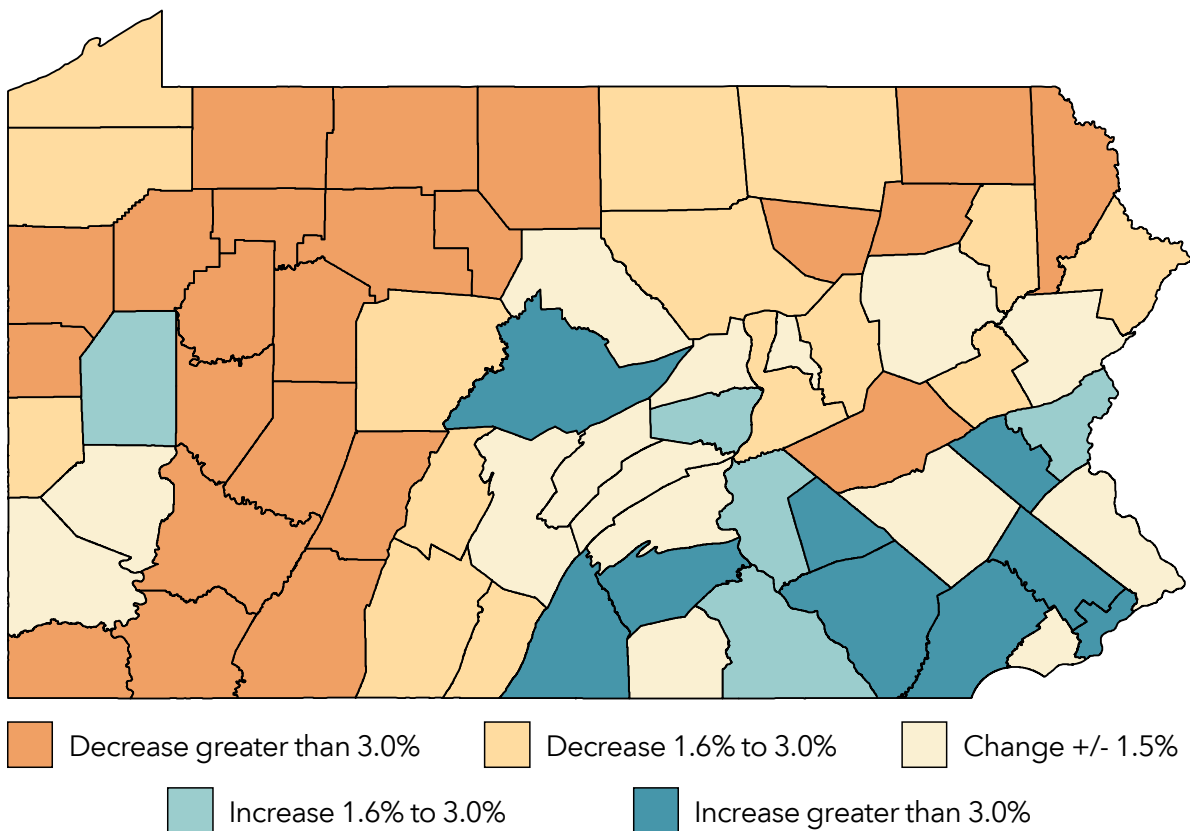


Figure 3. Percent population change in counties of PA, 2010-2017.

National Context for Population Change

For percent change from 2010 to 2017, two-thirds (45) of Pennsylvania's 67 counties ranked in the bottom half of U.S. while almost a third (21) fell in the bottom quartile. Fewer counties ranked in the bottom half (41) while more ranked in the bottom quartile (34) for percent change from 2016 to 2017.

Births, Deaths, and Migration in the Commonwealth

There were an estimated 1,025,691 births in Pennsylvania since 2010 with 138,818 of those occurring in 2017. A total of 935,944 deaths occurred since 2010 resulting in a natural increase of 89,747 persons. In 2017, 131,458 deaths resulted in a natural increase of 7,360 for the state. International migration continues to make up for the state's outmigration of domestic residents with a net migration of 20,444 for the seven-year period. The state experienced a large net gain in 2017 (+11,596 persons) following net losses in 2014 through 2016.

From 2010 to 2017, Philadelphia (+58,940), Lancaster (+17,009), and Chester (+12,265) had the highest natural increases in the state while Westmoreland (-9,208), Luzerne (-5,952), and Schuylkill (-4,042) had the most natural losses. The largest net migration occurred in the Montgomery (+15,726), Cumberland (+12,234), and Lehigh (+11,013) with largest losses in Erie (-8,511), Cambria (-7,070) and Indiana (-3,481).

From 2016 to 2017, Philadelphia (+6,750), Lancaster (+2,198), and Chester (+1,366) had the highest natural increases while Westmoreland (-1,368), Luzerne (-855), and Washington (-556) experienced the most natural loss. Net migration was highest in Montgomery (+4,465), Lehigh (+2,537) and Cumberland (+1,811), and negative net migration was seen in Allegheny (-3,940), Erie (-2,066) and Union (-842).

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, 2017 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change	County	April 1, 2010 Estimate	July 1, 2017 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Pennsylvania	12,702,857	12,805,537	102,680	0.8%	Juniata	24,636	24,514	-122	-0.5%
Adams	101,417	102,336	919	0.9%	Lackawanna	214,440	210,761	-3,679	-1.7%
Allegheny	1,223,338	1,223,048	-290	0.0%	Lancaster	519,447	542,903	23,456	4.5%
Armstrong	68,938	65,642	-3,296	-4.8%	Lawrence	91,140	87,069	-4,071	-4.5%
Beaver	170,539	166,140	-4,399	-2.6%	Lebanon	133,577	139,754	6,177	4.6%
Bedford	49,768	48,480	-1,288	-2.6%	Lehigh	349,673	366,494	16,821	4.8%
Berks	411,538	417,854	6,316	1.5%	Luzerne	320,916	317,343	-3,573	-1.1%
Blair	127,076	123,457	-3,619	-2.8%	Lycoming	116,108	113,841	-2,267	-2.0%
Bradford	62,709	60,853	-1,856	-3.0%	McKean	43,450	41,330	-2,120	-4.9%
Bucks	625,238	628,341	3,103	0.5%	Mercer	116,674	111,750	-4,924	-4.2%
Butler	183,862	187,108	3,246	1.8%	Mifflin	46,682	46,388	-294	-0.6%
Cambria	143,674	133,054	-10,620	-7.4%	Monroe	169,838	168,046	-1,792	-1.1%
Cameron	5,085	4,592	-493	-9.7%	Montgomery	799,930	826,075	26,145	3.3%
Carbon	65,248	63,853	-1,395	-2.1%	Montour	18,267	18,272	5	0.0%
Centre	154,030	162,660	8,630	5.6%	Northampton	297,696	303,405	5,709	1.9%
Chester	499,175	519,293	20,118	4.0%	Northumberland	94,514	92,029	-2,485	-2.6%
Clarion	39,991	38,458	-1,533	-3.8%	Perry	45,965	46,127	162	0.4%
Clearfield	81,594	79,685	-1,909	-2.3%	Philadelphia	1,526,006	1,580,863	54,857	3.6%
Clinton	39,241	38,998	-243	-0.6%	Pike	57,353	55,691	-1,662	-2.9%
Columbia	67,296	65,932	-1,364	-2.0%	Potter	17,458	16,802	-656	-3.8%
Crawford	88,761	86,159	-2,602	-2.9%	Schuylkill	148,289	142,569	-5,720	-3.9%
Cumberland	235,408	250,066	14,658	6.2%	Snyder	39,709	40,801	1,092	2.8%
Dauphin	268,100	275,710	7,610	2.8%	Somerset	77,746	74,501	-3,245	-4.2%
Delaware	558,699	564,696	5,997	1.1%	Sullivan	6,428	6,089	-339	-5.3%
Elk	31,946	30,197	-1,749	-5.5%	Susquehanna	43,352	40,985	-2,367	-5.5%
Erie	280,564	274,541	-6,023	-2.1%	Tioga	41,896	40,793	-1,103	-2.6%
Fayette	136,602	131,504	-5,098	-3.7%	Union	44,949	44,595	-354	-0.8%
Forest	7,716	7,297	-419	-5.4%	Venango	54,983	51,762	-3,221	-5.9%
Franklin	149,618	154,234	4,616	3.1%	Warren	41,815	39,659	-2,156	-5.2%
Fulton	14,844	14,590	-254	-1.7%	Washington	207,848	207,298	-550	-0.3%
Greene	38,686	36,770	-1,916	-5.0%	Wayne	52,820	51,205	-1,615	-3.1%
Huntingdon	46,031	45,491	-540	-1.2%	Westmoreland	365,164	352,627	-12,537	-3.4%
Indiana	88,893	84,953	-3,940	-4.4%	Wyoming	28,269	27,322	-947	-3.3%
Jefferson	45,196	43,804	-1,392	-3.1%	York	434,998	446,078	11,080	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division, 2017 County Population Estimates. All comparisons made herein between 2010 and 2017 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**.