

2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Released

HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released a new set of estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) for the year 2021, providing new data for a variety of demographic and economic topics for the nation, states, and other areas with populations of 65,000 or more.

Key Findings

Nationwide, the number of people primarily working from home tripled from roughly 9 million (5.7%) in 2019 to 27.6 million people (17.9%) in 2021. With more people working from home and fewer commuting by private vehicle, the average one-way travel time to work dropped to 25.6 minutes in 2021, among the shortest times in the last decade. The average commute was two minutes shorter than the average of 27.6 minutes in 2019.

Pennsylvania also experienced this trend. The number of Pennsylvanians primarily working from home more than tripled from about 333,600 (5.4%) in 2019 to more than 1.1 million (18.7%) in 2021. From 2019 to 2021, the average commute declined by more than two minutes, from 27.8 minutes to 25.7 minutes.

Data Highlights for Pennsylvania in 2021

Table 1 contains data for select socioeconomic indicators for 2021 and 2019, as well as an indication of their year-to-year change (trend) and the change’s statistical significance. According to the new estimates, median household income, the value of owner-occupied units, educational attainment, and access to broadband internet all had statistically significant increases between 2019 and 2021.

Indicator (in Percent, Unless Specified)	2021	2019	Trend	Sig.
Median Household Income (\$)	68,957	67,256	↑	*
Median Value, Owner-Occupied Units (\$)	222,300	192,600	↑	*
Renter-Occupied Units	30.1	31.6	↓	*
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	0.8	1.5	↓	*
HS Diploma or Higher, Pop. 25+	91.9	90.0	↑	*
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher, Pop. 25+	20.6	19.5	↑	*
Below Poverty Level, Total Pop.	8.3	8.2	-	
Civilian, Noninstitutionalized Pop. with No Health Insurance	5.5	5.8	↓	*
Civilian, Noninstitutionalized Pop. with a Disability	13.8	14.0	-	
Veterans, Civilian Pop. 18+	6.2	7.0	↓	*
Non-English Language Spoken at Home, Pop. 5+	11.8	11.7	-	
Households with Broadband Internet	88.8	85.6	↑	*

An asterisk (*) denotes year-to-year change is statistically significant.
Dollar values are listed in 2021-adjusted dollars.

Note: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau changed the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) release. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau released experimental estimates from the 1-year data. As a result, data users should NOT compare 2020 ACS 1-year experimental estimates with any other data.

Explore the 2021 ACS 1-Year estimates through the U.S. Census Bureau's data dissemination platform at data.census.gov.

Additional Annual Releases

The Census Bureau is set to release additional ACS statistics over the next few months, including 2021 ACS 1-year supplemental estimates and 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates. For more information on the topics included in the ACS, ranging from educational attainment to computer use, visit data.census.gov.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

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.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at via email: pasdc@psu.edu