



# U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates show changing landscape in midstate

Published: Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 11:44 PM Updated: Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 12:28 PM



By The Patriot-News

Harrisburg remains the midstate's largest community even as its population declines, and York County remains the fastest-growing county in the midstate.

Those are some highlights of the U.S. Census Bureau's new population estimates for 2009, which were released Tuesday.

The official Census figures from this year's count will come out in early 2011. Still, the new estimates offered interesting snapshots of the midstate.

## Key findings

- The cities keep shrinking. Harrisburg, York and Lebanon all have seen their populations fall since 2000.
- Harrisburg is home to 47,368. Since 2000, the city has lost 1,582 residents, a 3-percent drop.
- With 45,301 residents, Lower Paxton Township is gaining on the capital city. Lower Paxton's population now surpasses all of Perry County (45,048).
- In the cities of Lebanon and York, one in four residents are Hispanic or Latino. In Harrisburg, one in six people are Hispanic.

## The counties

- York County is easily the fastest-growing of the midstate's five counties. The county is home to 419,563 — an increase of 9.9 percent since 2000.
- Dauphin County is the midstate's slowest growing county. The county's population (256,400) has grown by 1.8 percent since 2000.
- Cumberland's 2009 estimate is 227,858, a 6.6 percent increase over 2000.
- Lebanon County (127,882) saw a 6.3-percent increase since 2000. Perry County saw a 3.3 percent increase in that span.

### **Hot towns**

Some communities are surging. These towns have gained a lot of new neighbors since 2000.

- **West Hanover Township: 8,711 (34%)**
- **South Hanover Township: 6,122 (28%)**
- **Silver Spring Township: 12,975 (22%)**
- **Carroll Township: 5,532 (17%)**
- **Fairview Township: 16,524 (15%)**

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