PA Population Contracts Since 2020



Independent Fiscal Office | Research Brief | January 2023

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released state population estimates for July 1, 2022. The Census Bureau estimates that from April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022, the state population contracted by 30,680. (See table.) The contraction was mainly driven by a natural or organic decline (-56,150) as the number of deaths (351,130) exceeded the number of births (294,980). International migration added 37,560 residents over the two years while net domestic migration reduced state residents by 16,220 (i.e., migration outflows to other states exceeded inflows). The final two columns list the ratio of net domestic migration to state residents (April 2020) and the state rank based on that ratio. For Pennsylvania, the share is -0.1% (-16 / 13,003), which ranks 29th across all states for the two-year time period. Most regional states recorded higher levels of net domestic outmigration.

The table also displays the top and bottom five states based on the net domestic migration relative to state population. Southern and most western states generally recorded large, positive net domestic inflows while Illinois, California and New York recorded the largest relative and absolute outflows. Also notable was the difference in natural population gains or losses across states. Relative to state population, Pennsylvania contracted by 0.4% due to natural change, the fifth largest natural contraction across all states (not shown).

Components of Change in Selected State Populations								
	April	July	Total		Int'l	Domestic Migration		
State	2020	2022	Change	Natural	Migrate	Number	Share	Rank
Idaho	1,839	1,939	100	10	3	89	4.8%	1
Montana	1,084	1,123	39	-3	3	39	3.6%	2
South Carolina	5,118	5,283	164	-18	15	166	3.2%	3
Florida	21,538	22,245	707	-89	175	622	2.9%	4
Delaware	990	1,018	28	-2	3	27	2.7%	5
West Virginia	1,794	1,775	-19	-24	3	2	0.1%	25
Pennsylvania	13,003	12,972	-31	-56	38	-16	-0.1%	29
Ohio	11,799	11,756	-43	-40	34	-40	-0.3%	33
Virginia	8,631	8,684	52	28	53	-30	-0.3%	34
Maryland	6,177	6,165	-13	20	33	-68	-1.1%	42
New Jersey	9,289	9,262	-27	24	55	-108	-1.2%	43
Hawaii	4,658	4,590	-68	0	11	-80	-1.7%	46
Louisiana	1,455	1,440	-15	7	8	-30	-2.0%	47
Illinois	12,813	12,582	-231	6	43	-282	-2.2%	48
California	39,538	39,029	-509	201	171	-871	-2.2%	49
New York	20,201	19,677	-524	45	108	-665	-3.3%	50

Note: Numbers in thousands. Share is domestic migration / April 2020 population. Total Change may not equal sum of components due to unattributed amounts. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.