

Migration Into and Out of Chester County, 1995 to 2000

This Census Information Sheet presents migration data for Chester County from Census 2000. Migration is a critical factor for an area's growth or decline. Migration levels vary widely across Pennsylvania and the United States. Chester County has a positive net in-migration, meaning the county gains population due to migration. The County Planning Commission estimates that slightly over half (53%) of the population growth of Chester County from 1990 to 2000 resulted from migration. The remaining population growth was due to natural increase, the difference between births and deaths.

The data in this Census Information Sheet comes from question #15 on the Census 2000 long form, or sample, questionnaire that asked: "Did this person live in this house or apartment 5 years ago (on April 1, 1995)?" If the person answered no, the second part of the question asked: "Where did this person live 5 years ago?" Question #15 did not apply to persons under 5 years old at the time of Census 2000.

The tables show only domestic migration, that is, the number of people that moved between Chester County and other counties in Pennsylvania or other states. Migration to or from outside the United States (international migration) is not included.

Movement within Chester County (referred to as residential mobility) is not included either. The tabulations are for people who lived in Chester County in 2000, but not in 1995 (in-migrants), and people who lived in Chester County in 1995, but not in 2000 (out-migrants).

There are several definitions that are important for this Census Information Sheet:

- **Migration:** Moves that cross jurisdictional boundaries. This report includes only moves that crossed the Chester County boundary and were within the United States.
- **Domestic Migration:** Moves occurring within the United States.
- **In-migration:** Migration into Chester County.
- **Out-migration:** Migration out of Chester County.
- **Gross Migration:** The sum of in-migration and out-migration. The total amount of movement into and out of Chester County.
- **Net Migration:** The difference between in-migration and out-migration. A positive net migration indicates that more people entered Chester County than left it. A negative net migration indicates that more people left Chester County than entered it.

Table 1 summarizes the total domestic migration for Chester County. The gross migration figures show that among all people moving to or from Chester County, migration within Pennsylvania (51%) and migration with other states (49%) is nearly equal.

Unlike the gross migration, the net migration for Chester County within Pennsylvania is very different from the interstate migration. The number of people moving into Chester County from other states are nearly offset by the number moving from the County. The net migration gain from other states is just over 2,000 people. In contrast, the number of people moving into Chester County from other Pennsylvania counties exceeds those moving from Chester County by almost 20,000 people. As a result, most of the population growth in the County due to migration comes from within Pennsylvania.

Table 1: Total Domestic Migration, 1995 to 2000

Place Moving to or from	Migrants to Chester County	Migrants from Chester County	Gross Migration for Chester County	Net Migration for Chester County
States (excluding Pennsylvania)	38,153	35,992	74,145	2,161
Other Counties in Pennsylvania	48,777	28,807	77,584	19,970
Total Migrants	86,930	64,799	151,729	22,131

Table 2 and Map 1 show the migration between Chester County and each of the other 66 counties in Pennsylvania. The gross migration shows that the counties with the highest migration flows with Chester County are adjacent or nearby — Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Berks, and Bucks. Students at Penn State University may affect the relatively large migration flow with Centre County.

Net migration indicates that the largest in-migration to Chester County comes from Delaware County. The next highest amounts of net in-migration are from Montgomery, Philadelphia, and Bucks Counties. Chester County has a large out-migration to Lancaster County and a smaller outward flow to Berks County. These figures show a westward migration pattern in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Table 2: Migration Within Pennsylvania, 1995 to 2000

Pennsylvania County	Migrants to Chester County	Migrants from Chester County	Gross Migration for Chester County	Net Migration for Chester County
Adams County	53	172	225	-119
Allegheny County	1,045	574	1,619	471
Armstrong County	36	2	38	34
Beaver County	39	22	61	17
Bedford County	18	31	49	-13
Berks County	1,451	2,032	3,483	-581
Blair County	107	97	204	10
Bradford County	54	45	99	9
Bucks County	1,918	912	2,830	1,006
Butler County	141	62	203	79
Cambria County	131	105	236	26
Cameron County	0	0	0	0
Carbon County	166	23	189	143
Centre County	716	1,044	1,760	-328
Clarion County	26	110	136	-84
Clearfield County	52	30	82	22
Clinton County	15	37	52	-22
Columbia County	117	236	353	-119
Crawford County	50	58	108	-8
Cumberland County	461	459	920	2
Dauphin County	410	402	812	8
Delaware County	18,238	4,733	22,971	13,505
Elk County	16	3	19	13
Erie County	20	108	128	-88
Fayette County	16	43	59	-27
Forest County	6	0	6	6
Franklin County	120	101	221	19
Fulton County	24	10	34	14
Greene County	6	0	6	6
Huntingdon County	40	36	76	4
Indiana County	128	223	351	-95
Jefferson County	34	14	48	20

Pennsylvania County	Migrants to Chester County	Migrants from Chester County	Gross Migration for Chester County	Net Migration for Chester County
Juniata County	102	20	122	82
Lackawanna County	221	70	291	151
Lancaster County	2,708	4,718	7,426	-2,010
Lawrence County	131	22	153	109
Lebanon County	136	101	237	35
Lehigh County	550	439	989	111
Luzerne County	565	79	644	486
Lycoming County	149	70	219	79
McKean County	7	0	7	7
Mercer County	26	7	33	19
Mifflin County	7	31	38	-24
Monroe County	131	72	203	59
Montgomery County	11,021	7,349	18,370	3,672
Montour County	36	25	61	11
Northampton County	493	160	653	333
Northumberland County	87	73	160	14
Perry County	16	47	63	-31
Philadelphia County	5,183	2,618	7,801	2,565
Pike County	25	6	31	19
Potter County	0	39	39	-39
Schuylkill County	271	79	350	192
Snyder County	18	92	110	-74
Somerset County	50	7	57	43
Sullivan County	0	21	21	-21
Susquehanna County	73	28	101	45
Tioga County	19	77	96	-58
Union County	111	86	197	25
Venango County	27	20	47	7
Warren County	10	0	10	10
Washington County	208	69	277	139
Wayne County	81	16	97	65
Westmoreland County	117	125	242	-8
Wyoming County	41	2	43	39
York County	503	515	1,018	-12
Total	48,777	28,807	77,584	19,970

Table 3 and Map 2 show the migration flows between Chester County and the states outside Pennsylvania. The states with the highest amounts of gross migration with Chester County are Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Florida, and Maryland. Other than Florida, these states are all nearby.

In terms of net in-migration, Chester County gains most new residents from New Jersey, New York and Delaware. The County loses the most residents through net out-migration to Florida. The next highest destinations are Georgia and North Carolina. Massachusetts is the only state outside the south and west that receives a large number of net out-migrants from Chester County.

Maryland has high gross migration with Chester County, but very low net migration because the number of movers into and out of the County is nearly equal. Several other states, especially Virginia, California, and Texas, also have high gross migration that is offset by nearly equal flows in each direction.

Table 3: Interstate Migration, 1995 to 2000

State (excluding Pennsylvania)	Migrants to Chester County	Migrants from Chester County	Gross Migration for Chester County	Net Migration for Chester County
Alabama	324	271	595	53
Alaska	61	38	99	23
Arizona	274	666	940	-392
Arkansas	121	115	236	6
California	1,955	2,092	4,047	-137
Colorado	502	829	1,331	-327
Connecticut	978	805	1,783	173
Delaware	5,778	4,395	10,173	1,383
District of Columbia	178	191	369	-13
Florida	1,764	3,473	5,237	-1,709
Georgia	703	1,692	2,395	-989
Hawaii	135	27	162	108
Idaho	24	79	103	-55
Illinois	932	711	1,643	221
Indiana	406	279	685	127
Iowa	32	78	110	-46
Kansas	209	90	299	119
Kentucky	74	181	255	-107
Louisiana	242	45	287	197
Maine	183	134	317	49
Maryland	2,821	2,736	5,557	85
Massachusetts	834	1,367	2,201	-533
Michigan	774	617	1,391	157
Minnesota	254	216	470	38
Mississippi	174	79	253	95
Missouri	309	217	526	92
Montana	23	14	37	9
Nebraska	40	119	159	-79
Nevada	42	159	201	-117
New Hampshire	142	202	344	-60

State (excluding Pennsylvania)	Migrants to Chester County	Migrants from Chester County	Gross Migration for Chester County	Net Migration for Chester County
New Jersey	6,095	2,899	8,994	3,196
New Mexico	99	145	244	-46
New York	3,963	2,229	6,192	1,734
North Carolina	874	1,674	2,548	-800
North Dakota	0	23	23	-23
Ohio	1,212	753	1,965	459
Oklahoma	198	104	302	94
Oregon	163	152	315	11
Rhode Island	246	173	419	73
South Carolina	334	789	1,123	-455
South Dakota	27	0	27	27
Tennessee	439	496	935	-57
Texas	1,301	1,413	2,714	-112
Utah	117	121	238	-4
Vermont	58	147	205	-89
Virginia	1,873	1,976	3,849	-103
Washington	319	513	832	-194
West Virginia	306	125	431	181
Wisconsin	196	270	466	-74
Wyoming	45	73	118	-28
Total	38,153	35,992	74,145	2,161

Map 2: Interstate Migration to and from Chester County, 1995 to 2000

