

**SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE****INTRODUCTION**

If the people are truly Perry County's most valuable resource, then population data is the County's most vital statistic. Understanding past trends, present profiles, and future projections of population data provides a more complete picture of the past, present, and future composition of County. Not only does population data afford a greater understanding of population composition, but it also aids in the planning process for future development of the County. An analysis of population projection often uncovers future needs that are not made evident by other indicators.

**GEOGRAPHY OF POPULATION**

In most localities, the topography has an influence on the spatial distribution of population. Generally, the degree of influence is greater when the topography is more rugged. Therefore, since Perry County is entirely located within the Appalachian Mountain's Ridge and Valley Province, the natural relief has had a strong casual influence on the population patterns. Two major rivers, the Susquehanna and Juniata, have also been location factors for Perry County development.

The Ridge and Valley Province is characterized by a uniquely symmetric pattern of parallel ridges, separated by relatively narrow, undulating valleys. Steep slopes and soil limitation discourage significant development on the flanks of these ridges. Agricultural land dominates many of the valleys, producing low population density with small crossroad towns in these areas. Towns of varying size have developed along the two rivers. Large tracts of State Game Lands and State Forests, mostly on the ridges, account for much of the county's undeveloped land.

A large portion of the Harrisburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is concentrated in the Great Valley Region just to the south of the Blue Mountain, where the Susquehanna River bisects this wide limestone valley. Since the Blue Mountain forms the southern border of Perry County, it acts as a barrier separating the higher density metropolitan area to the south from the more rural landscape of the County.

The many topographic limitations have resulted in a low-density population dispersed throughout the valleys and along the river edges of Perry County. Due to its close proximity to the Harrisburg Metropolitan Area, the County feels the pressure of outward suburban expansion. The aesthetic appeal of rural surroundings, combined with the relatively low real estate values create an increasing in-migration from the higher density sections of eastern Cumberland County and southern Dauphin County.

**NATIONAL TRENDS**

When the 1930 Census was taken, our nation was entering the Great Depression era of the 1930s. The economic hardship of the Depression had a significant impact on

population growth by forcing young adults to postpone marriage and family plans. The subsequent decline in the birth rate (18.4 births per 1,000 population in 1933) netted a relatively low population increase of 7.2 percent for the decade. In the 1940s the nation was to undergo more hardship as it went to war. Despite bolstering the economy, the war had a negative impact on population growth, as the formation of new households was delayed and family plans were again postponed. When the war ended, however, these family plans were put into high gear and the postwar “baby boom” began. The sudden increase in the birth rate, reported at 26.6 births per 1000 population in 1947, contributed to a 14.4 percent increase in population from 1940 to 1950. The 1940 Census revealed that household sizes had dropped to 3.70 persons per household, a considerable difference from the 1930 average of 4.11 persons per household.

With a strengthened economy, this growth was to continue into the 1950s (see Table 4-1). The birth rate remained at about 24 per 1,000 population until 1959, resulting in an increase in population in 1960 of 19.0 percent. The 1960 Census also showed an increase in household information and redistribution of the population. However, the household size declined to 3.38 persons per household according to the 1950 Census. Seeking the best employment opportunities, young couples had begun to migrate away from rural areas toward the cities. No longer plagued by war or depression, these young couples, who had previously been forced to live with parents or others, sought their own homes. Apparently housing opportunities in the cities were generally not attractive to this group and land for new housing was not available within the existing boundaries of the urban area. The “housing boom” that resulted saw developers constructing single-family detached buildings on previously undeveloped land which lay in close proximity to the urban centers. In this manner, the boundaries of urbanized areas were expanded and the suburbs were born.

During the 1960s the County saw continued growth, but at a reduced rate. The 1970 Census reported a 13.3 percent increase for this period, despite a constant decline in the birth rate. In 1960, the birth rate was 18.2 births per 1,000 population, the lowest since the Depression. In 1964, a typical household included 3.33 people, of which 2.10 were adults and 1.23 were under the age of 18. The postwar “baby boom” had run its course in the early 1960s and in the latter part of the decade a smaller family pattern began to appear. Population experts theorized that the number of children both desired and actually born, declined due to a lower infant mortality rate, diminishing economic value of children, upward spiraling costs of raising children in a post industrial, urbanized society, and improved methods of birth control.

The population increase from 1970 to 1980 dropped to a level of 11.4 percent. The birth rate continued to decline in the 1970s. For example, in 1972, the birth rate was reported at 15.6 births per 1,000 population. The reasons are varied, but the most significant appear to be the new thinking in family planning and the changing role of women in our society. As the level of education of women increases and as employment opportunities improve, attractiveness of work is beginning to compete with childbearing. Despite the decline in the birth rate, population growth in the United States is expected to continue and perhaps at a significant rate. The postwar “baby boom” generation has reached the age of household formation, adding significantly to the number of couples at childbearing

age. Our future population growth depends, to a great extent on the number of children this generation chooses to bear. There are more people, both young and elderly, who are living alone. In addition to couples having fewer children the increase in number of non-family households and single-parent families has led to even small households. The 1990 Census revealed that there were 2.63 persons per household, while the 2000 Census shows 2.58 persons per household.

The nation's work force is swelling dramatically due to a higher percentage of women working outside the home and the baby boomers still entering the job market. An increasing percentage of this work force is employed and also lives in the suburbs. Growth in housing persists due to the continuing increase in household size. The extra pressure means that new houses are being built further away from the region's center, in rural rather than suburban areas. The convenience of automobiles causes a continual increase of commuting distance for workers. However, the direction has changed. Most workers travel from suburb to suburb, instead of from suburb to city. The end result is a more sprawling metropolitan area of lower overall density.

Population experts are beginning to speak of population stabilization rather than growth. A stabilized population exists when the number of births equals the number of deaths, and the net balance is equal to zero. The consensus on population growth is that a continuation will not provide any significant benefits to the nation. In fact, some demographers feel that population stabilization is a key factor in solving many of the nation's problems.

These national population trends can be seen at all geographic and sociologic levels within the country. As communication improves and nationwide travel becomes quicker and more common, the population trends and profiles become more homogeneous. Therefore, an understanding of national patterns can somewhat explain present conditions and provide a basis for future projections in Perry County.

#### **STATE AND REGIONAL TRENDS**

Population trends within the State and the Tri-County Region have been affected in many ways by these national trends. Pennsylvania is considered a part of the Northeastern Urban Complex of the United States. Since 1920, this complex has grown at approximately the national rate (see [Table 4-1](#) and [Chart 4-1](#)). Pennsylvania has not experienced the rapid growth rates that have occurred in California, the Southwest, and Florida, whose growth patterns have been generated by significant in-migration. The Northeastern Urban Complex has shown some in-migration, but its growth has been determined by a considerable surplus of births over deaths.

Pennsylvania's population was characterized by steady growth from 1940 to 1970; however, the rate was below the national level for that period. The next decade (1970-1980) showed signs of possible population stabilization, as the growth rate fell to 0.6 percent. These fluctuations were similar to those of the Northeastern States, which experienced stabilization in natural growth rate and an outward migration of people to the

“Sunbelt” states in the last decade. With such trends continuing through the decade of the eighties, Pennsylvania’s growth dwindled to 0.1 percent from 1980 to 1990.

The Tri-County Region, which forms the majority of the Harrisburg, Carlisle, and Lebanon MSA, has also shown steady growth during this period, but at more than twice the rate of the state. The predominant reason for this regional growth has been an expanding and diversified economy. The three counties forming the region have experienced varying degrees of population growth. Cumberland County has shown a high rate of growth since 1940, paralleling the State and national growth patterns, albeit at a higher rate. Dauphin County has fluctuated from a strong pattern of growth in the 1940s and 1950s to a growth rate that was significantly reduced in the 1960s. By 1980, the rate had recovered to 3.8 percent but from 1980-1990 the rate retracted to 2.3 percent. However, between the years 1990-2000 the rate recovered again to 5.9 percent (see [Table 4-2](#)).

The national trend of population movement from central cities to suburban areas and the resulting spread of suburban development into surrounding rural fringes are evident in the Tri-County Region. The declining population of the City of Harrisburg and the growth of the surrounding suburbs has resulted in a low growth rate for Dauphin County and a high growth for Cumberland County, until 1980, when growth rate dropped to half that of the previous decade. From 1980 to 1990, the population outside the central city increased by 7.3 percent. Similar trends were present in all but two of the other MSAs in Pennsylvania during the same time period. The socioeconomic force affecting the population in the other counties comprising the MSA was a major influence on the Population growth in Perry County. The pressure will become even greater as Cumberland and Dauphin reach a saturation point in suburban development.

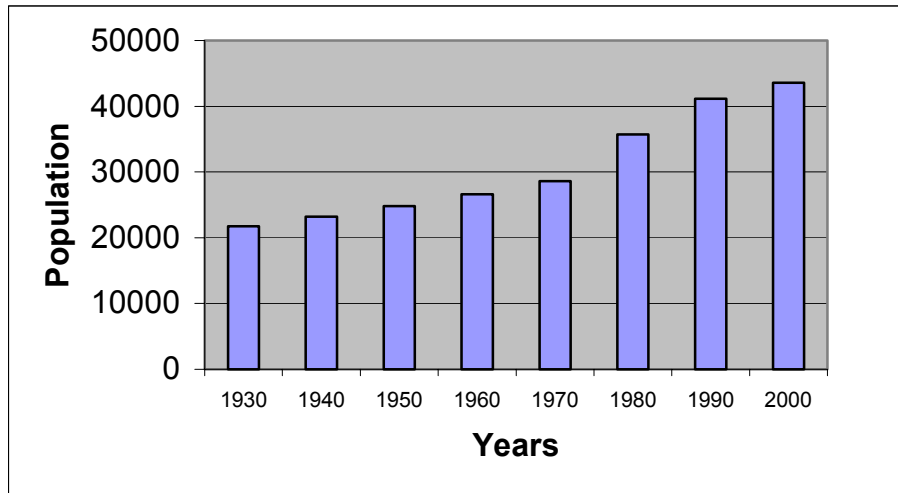
### **HISTORIC TRENDS OF PERRY COUNTY**

During the early 1800s population growth had reached an apex and the size was about one third of the present total. The County was experiencing the end of an initial settlement phase, which was mostly due to agricultural development. The population growth continued to decelerate through the rest of the century, probably because immigration was reduced by decreasing availability of tillable prime farmland. Natural population growth most likely accounted for a major portion of the mid-century increase. During that period, families in rural America were quite large, since farming was still very labor intensive.

From 1880-1930 the growth rate was negative as the County lost 21.0 percent of its population during that period. Most of the country, particularly the Northeast was going through an industrialization phase. The resulting trend was that urbanizing industrial areas drained the rural areas. Two of the factors fueling this movement were the employment opportunities of the expanding urban areas and farming was becoming less labor intensive as a result of the new farm implements developed during the industrial revolution. This rural to urban drain was especially prevalent among the young adult portion of the nation’s population. Since Perry County did not have any major

industrialized urban area, this flow left the County, probably headed for Harrisburg, just to the south.

**CHART 4-1  
POPULATION TRENDS  
PERRY COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION 1930-2000**



*SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000*

The trend of population loss reversed itself, ironically enough, during the decade of the Great Depression, 1930-1940. The growth was probably due to natural increase from within, and the lack of job availability in urban centers perhaps discouraged in-migration to these areas. In addition, with the automobile industry taking off with the first assembly lines up and running shortly after the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, America was just transforming into an independently mobile society. Without question this trend is as evident today. There was also a small movement of urban unemployed to the rural areas in search of jobs.

From 1930-1970, the growth rate stabilized with a small but consistent upward trend. Most of this was caused by natural growth, combined with an increase in in-migration rate that increased slightly each decade. Table 4-3 lists population data from 1940 to 2000 by municipality in Perry County. The decade from 1970-1980 produced a population explosion of 24.8 percent. It was the second largest growth rate for the County in one decade in the last 160 years. Perry County was the fourth fastest growing County in Pennsylvania during that period, behind Pike, Monroe, and Wyoming Counties at 54.6, 52.8, and 38.5 percent, respectively. Between the years of 1975 and 1980 there were 4,760 in-migrants and 3,698 out-migrants, producing a net in-migration of 1,062 people (persons older than 5 years). Of the population increase, 15 percent could be attributed to in-migration between 1975 and 1980.

**TABLE 4-1  
POPULATION TRENDS 1950-2000  
UNITED STATES, PENNSYLVANIA, AND REGIONAL AREAS**

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
United States	150,697,361	179,323,175	203,211,926	226,445,805	248,709,873	281,421,906
Pennsylvania	10,498,012	11,319,366	11,793,909	11,863,895	11,881,643	12,281,054
Harrisburg MSA	317,023	371,653	410,505	447,660	587,986	629,401
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>24,782</b>	<b>26,582</b>	<b>28,615</b>	<b>35,718</b>	<b>41,172</b>	<b>43,602</b>
Cumberland County	94,457	124,816	158,177	179,625	195,257	213,674
Dauphin County	197,784	220,255	223,713	232,317	237,813	251,798

*SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000*

**TABLE 4-2  
PERCENT POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN CENSUS YEARS, 1940-2000 BY PERCENT**

Area	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
U.S	14.4	19.0	13.3	11.4	9.8	13.1
PA	6.0	7.8	4.20	0.6	0.1	3.4
Harrisburg MSA	15.9	18.1	18.9	8.8	5.9	7.0
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Cumberland County	26.1	32.1	26.7	13.6	8.7	9.4
Dauphin County	11.4	11.3	1.6	3.8	2.3	5.9

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1940-2000*

If we interpolate the in-migration for the first half of the decade as 15 percent also, we can say that 30 percent of the decade's growth could have been due to in-migration. That does not even include children under the age of ten who moved into the County with their families. This large-scale movement was probably due to migration from the urban and suburban portions of Cumberland and Dauphin Counties. Natural growth accounted for the remainder of the population increase. In-migration is discussed further in this Chapter under Population Growth Characteristics.

The 2000 census information computed by the Census Bureau revealed that Perry County had a population 43,602, a 5.9 percent increase from 1990. The 2000 population is 9.5 percent lower than the population projection developed by the Pennsylvania Data Center for 2000 (See Table 4-19). Overall, Perry County fell 3.5 percent behind Cumberland County, and remained even with Dauphin County. Not surprisingly, Perry County experienced a 2.5 percent increase over the state. The positive increase can be attributed to natural growth and net in-migration.

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

The population of 43,602 persons is distributed over the 553 square miles of Perry County in patterns of varying densities producing an average of 78.8 persons per square mile (See **Table 4-4**). Population density varies from 3,770 people per square mile in Duncannon Borough to 8.7 people per square mile in Toboyne Township.

Population densities of the townships tend to decrease traveling north and west from the southeastern corner of the County. The Boroughs also follow this pattern. However, there is more deviation since some Boroughs possess more undeveloped land than others. For instance, Duncannon Borough has a high density because there is very little undeveloped or vacant land within the Borough boundaries. Marysville Borough is an anomaly of this density pattern; it has a relatively low density due to undeveloped mountain land along the southern and northern borders. Similarly, Rye Township has a low density for its location caused by a high percentage of the land being too steep for building purposes. On the other hand, Oliver Township is more densely populated than surrounding ones. New housing has spread outward from Newport Borough boundaries, accounting for much of Oliver's higher density. A visible population density trend is affected by municipalities' proximity to the Harrisburg Metropolitan Area to the south and east, as well as, to the major traffic routes along the two rivers. The Census Bureau considers 100 percent of Perry County's population as rural.

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GROWTH**

In general, the largest increases were concentrated in the southern and central portions of the County. Northeast Madison Township led the municipalities with a 27.0 percent growth rate, followed by Spring Township at 21.3 percent and Saville Township at 21.1 percent. The low density rural setting and relatively inexpensive property values make Perry County very desirable for in-migration from other areas of higher density and property values.

Six of the nine boroughs in Perry County lost population between 1990 and 2000 and three boroughs with growth saw no more than a 9.5 percent increase. Liverpool Borough experienced a decrease of 6.6 percent, while the other boroughs experienced an average decrease of 4.0 percent.

**Table 4-3** reveals that the municipalities which experienced the most growth in the last decade had consistent growth rates throughout the past five decades. This trend is expected to continue since there is still land available for potential residential development within most of these townships. The boroughs will continue to lose population at the same low rates as before because the factors behind the decline will probably be present for the next couple of decades. The countywide population will continue to grow. However, it is predicted that the rate will not be as dramatic as the rates of the last several decades.

**TABLE 4-3**  
**TRENDS OF POPULATION BY MUNICIPALITY**  
**1940-2000**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Blain Borough	280	315	336	287	274	266	252
Bloomfield Borough	858	1,098	987	1,032	1,109	1,092	1,077
Buffalo Township	443	539	598	599	902	1,080	1,128
Carroll Township	1,123	1,287	1,534	1,904	3,173	4,597	5,095
Centre Township	793	844	880	1,109	1,663	1,974	2,209
Duncannon Borough	1,707	1,852	1,800	1,739	1,645	1,450	1,508
Greenwood Township	704	690	685	747	947	943	1,010
Howe Township	300	326	353	397	460	459	493
Jackson Township	491	427	378	413	437	489	525
Juniata Township	699	696	751	800	1,046	1,278	1,359
Landisburg Borough	266	279	285	269	227	178	195
Liverpool Borough	607	654	894	847	809	934	876
Liverpool Township	515	521	546	553	781	915	966
Marysville Borough	1,882	2,158	2,580	2,328	2,452	2,425	2,306
Miller Township	282	298	344	458	660	894	953
Millerstown Borough	684	682	675	612	550	646	679
New Buffalo Borough	101	155	153	150	156	145	123
Newport Borough	1,897	1893	1,861	1,747	1,600	1,568	1,506
Northeast Madison Township	489	433	428	419	564	674	856
Oliver Township	1,114	1,215	1,239	1,557	1,749	2,039	2,061
Penn Township	1,205	1,603	2,072	2,269	2,841	3,283	3,031
Rye Township	526	690	832	1,316	1,642	2,136	2,327
Saville Township	1,291	1,299	1,244	1,200	1,622	1,818	2,204
Southwest Madison Township	660	540	567	537	658	745	856
Spring Township	927	922	944	1,070	1,537	1,665	2,021
Toboyne Township	421	343	338	292	402	455	494
Tuscarora Township	674	708	665	624	884	1,034	1,122
Tyrone Township	1,319	1,136	1,147	1,430	1,590	1,741	1,863
Watts Township	347	425	520	613	962	1,152	1,196
Wheatfield Township	608	754	947	1,297	2,376	3,097	3,329
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>23,213</b>	<b>24,782</b>	<b>26,582</b>	<b>28,615</b>	<b>35,718</b>	<b>41,172</b>	<b>43,602</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1940-2000*

**TABLE 4-4  
POPULATION DENSITY BY MUNICIPALITY  
2000**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Land Area (Square Miles)</b>	<b>Density (Persons/Square Mile)</b>
Blain Borough	252	0.4	630
Bloomfield Borough	1,077	1.1	979
Buffalo Township	1,128	20.2	55.8
Carroll Township	5,095	34.4	148.1
Centre Township	2,209	29.1	75.9
Duncannon Borough	1,508	0.4	3370
Greenwood Township	1,010	25.2	40
Howe Township	493	8.2	60.1
Jackson Township	525	37.3	14
Juniata Township	1,359	21.1	64.4
Landisburg Borough	195	0.1	1950
Liverpool Borough	876	1.0	875
Liverpool Township	966	21.0	46
Marysville Borough	2,306	2.4	960.8
Miller Township	953	12.5	76.2
Millerstown Borough	679	0.9	754.4
New Buffalo Borough	123	0.1	1230
Newport Borough	1,506	0.3	5020
Northeast Madison Township	856	25.8	33.1
Oliver Township	2,061	8.3	248.3
Penn Township	3,013	21.4	140.8
Rye Township	2,327	25.6	90.9
Saville Township	2,204	46.3	47.6
Southwest Madison Township	856	27.5	31.1
Spring Township	2,021	28.8	70.2
Toboyne Township	494	56.3	8.8
Tuscarora Township	1,122	29.4	38.2
Tyrone Township	1,863	35.7	52.2
Watts Township	1,196	11.7	102.2
Wheatfield Township	3,329	20.8	160
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>43,602</b>	<b>553.6</b>	<b>78.8</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000*

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Understanding population characteristics of a growing community or region is important for decision-makers. Many of these characteristics can be associated with questions attempting to answer how the land might be used, such as: Who is available to work in this community? What types of commercial, professional and service businesses will be in demand? Where should community facilities, be located to serve the different populations? The following section will look at some of these characteristics in Perry County.

### Age Composition

The number of children under the age of 19 years is quite important in determining the present and future needs of the education systems of each school district. The ratio of school age children to adults that are property owners dictates the tax burden necessary to fund an adequate educational system. The age group of 35-44 years possesses the highest percentage of population of any age group in Perry County (see Table 4-5). In 2000, the school age group of 5-19 years represented 21.8 percent of the total population down from 22.5 percent in 1990.

The age group from 20-34 years contains most of the people forming households and couples in their prime childbearing years. The size of this group and the number of children they choose to bear will build the base for future generations. The size of this group decreased from 23.1 percent in 1990 to 18.0 percent in 2000. By adding ten years to this age, to cover 20-44 years, the end product is a segment of population that could be called the Productive Age Group since they comprise a majority of the local labor force and are most active in buying homes. In 1990, this group represented 39.8 percent of the population. However, by 2000 it decreased to 34.7 percent share of the population.

The next segment of population, 45-64 years, could be called the Mature Age Group. As a whole, this group is not nearly as involved in household formation, new home buying or building, and is past the prime childbearing years. An increase in size occurred from 19.3 percent in 1990 to 25.1 percent in 2000.

The Retired Age Group includes anyone 65 years and older. This portion of society needs to be followed closely since there are many changes that take place after retirement. Among this age bracket there often is a need for lower budget housing, public transportation, community care facilities, and health care facilities. There was little or no change between 1990 and 2000 in percentage of total population, 11.1 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively, in the Retired Age Group. The population trends of median age in Perry County are compared to statewide trends from 1970-2000, (see Table 4-6). From 1970 to 2000, Perry County's male median age paralleled the state trend, while the female median age diverged from the state trend and increased each decade. Since women generally live longer than men, the female median age is older than the male median age in all cases.

**TABLE 4-5**  
**TOTAL POPLATION BY AGE GROUP**  
**1990 and 2000**

Age Group	1990 Population	2000 Population	1990 Percentage	2000 Percentage
0-4	2,993	2,664	7.3	6.1
5-9	3,086	3,088	7.5	7.1
10-14	3,132	3,333	7.6	7.6
15-19	3,039	3,107	7.4	7.1
20-24	2,594	2,157	6.3	4.9
25-34	6,897	5,692	16.8	13.1
35-44	6,889	7,286	16.7	16.7
45-54	4,374	6,771	10.6	15.5
55-59	1,810	2,383	4.4	5.5
60-64	1,789	1,776	4.3	4.1
65-74	2,831	3,016	6.9	6.9
75-84	1,343	1,787	3.3	4.1
85 Years and Older	395	542	0.9	1.2

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000*

**TABLE 4-6**  
**MEDIAN AGE 1970-2000**  
**PERRY COUNTY COMPARED TO PENNSYLVANIA**

	PERRY COUNTY			PENNSYLVANIA		
	All Persons	Male	Female	All Persons	Male	Female
<b>1970</b>	29.2	28.1	30.3	30.7	29.1	32.1
<b>1980</b>	30.0	29.4	30.7	32.1	30.4	33.6
<b>1990</b>	33.4			35.1	33.6	36.7
<b>2000</b>	37.5	37.0	38.0	38.0	36.5	39.4

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000*

### Male – Female Distribution

The male-female distribution affects future household formation and subsequent birth rates. It is necessary for the 19 to 44 years age group to maintain a male-female balance in order to assure the potential for maximizing household formation and consistent natural birth rates. It is commonly recognized that a higher percentage of females to males is a favorable environment in stabilizing population trends.

In 1960, males slightly outnumbered females 50.3 percent to 49.7 percent. In 1970, however, the ratio reversed itself to 50.4 percent female and 49.6 percent male, which was precisely matched 10 years later in the 1980 Census. In 1990 the female percentage decreased slightly but still outnumbered the males 50.2 percent to 49.8 percent. In 2000, the number increased back to the 1980 number of 50.4 percent female and 49.6 percent male. The balance of sexes seems to be stabilizing with a slightly higher female percentage. As mentioned in the preceding paragraph, this should produce a consistent natural growth in future years. [Table 4-7, Male, Female and Total Population by Age Groups](#), shows some variation in male-female balance through the age spectrum in 1990. Males outnumbered females from 1 to 19 years and from 30 to 44 years. However, the

percentages are not too divergent. From 1 to 59 years there is only a 1.6 difference of 1.6 percentage points between male and female proportions of the total population. After the age of 61, the female segment is larger. This trend is also present in Pennsylvania and United States age-by-sex data, supporting the general idea that women have a longer life span.

**TABLE 4-7  
MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2000**

Age Group	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female	Male & Female	Percent Male & Female
0-4	1,332	3.1	1,332	3.1	1,664	6.2
5-9	1,493	3.4	1,595	3.6	3,088	7.0
10-14	1,725	4.0	1,608	3.7	3,333	7.7
15-19	1,653	3.8	1,454	3.3	3,107	7.1
20-24	1,098	2.5	1,059	2.4	2,157	4.9
25-29	1,256	2.9	1,278	2.9	2,534	5.8
30-34	1,574	3.6	1,584	3.6	3,158	7.2
35-44	3,612	8.3	3,674	8.4	7,286	16.7
45-54	3,485	8.0	3,286	7.5	6,771	15.5
55-59	1,174	2.7	1,209	2.8	2,383	5.5
60-61	385	0.9	344	0.8	729	1.7
62-64	519	1.2	528	1.2	1,047	2.4
65-74	1,414	3.2	1,602	3.7	3,016	6.9
75-84	729	1.7	1,058	2.4	1,787	4.1
85+	171	0.4	371	0.8	542	1.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,620</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>21,982</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>43,602</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000*

### Racial and Ethnic Characteristics

In 2000, 98.5 percent of the Perry County population was white. There were only 95 (0.2 percent) black inhabitants in 1990 and 189 (0.4 percent) in 2000. Of the other racial groups, there were 53 Native Americans and 70 Asian or Pacific Islanders in 2000.

Residents of the Hispanic or Latino Origin total 301 (0.7 percent) in 2000. Of that group 75.4 percent were from Mexico and Puerto Rico. Foreign-born residents totaled 62 in 1970, 250 in 1980, 218 in 1990 and 301 in 2000. 16,535 persons (37.9 % of the total population) were classified in the German single ancestry, reflecting the historic pattern of predominantly Germanic settlement in Pennsylvania's agricultural regions.

Perry County does not exhibit much racial diversity, a common characteristic for a rural county of its magnitude. Approximately 75% of all persons in the County are associated with either an English, German, or Irish single or multiple ancestry groups. The remaining ancestry groups are of European origination.

**SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Educational Profile and Background**

Education enrollment profiles for Perry County existing in 1990 and 2000 are illustrated in Table 4-8. The rolls at public elementary schools decreased 6.6 percent, while the rolls at private elementary schools have increased 10.3 percent from 1990 levels. The Pennsylvania Department of Education statistics indicate that the public secondary school enrollments increased 5.4 percent, while private secondary schools increased 15.3 percent. The decrease in the public elementary school enrollments can be attributed to new family planning practices, working wives, delayed childbearing and increased enrollments in private schools. On a negative note, during the 2000 Census, 16.4 percent less students are attending college than in 1990 (Table 4-8A).

Table 4-9 examines the educational history of all persons 25 years and older in Perry County, and compares it with the two other counties in the Tri-County Region. In 2000, 79.9 percent of the population 25 years and older graduated from high school. This percentage is lower than Dauphin and Cumberland Counties, as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at 81.9 percent. It can be stated that rural areas in general have a lower graduation rate because in the past generations of farm children would dropout of school early when they were needed on the family farm. However, that tendency is not as prevalent now as it was in the past.

**TABLE 4-8  
PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
1990-2000**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percent Difference</b>
Persons 3 years or older enrolled in school	8,180	8,103	-1.0%
Elementary			
-Public	4,255	3,988	-6.6%
-Private	261	288	10.3%
Secondary			
-Public	3,438	3,624	5.4%
-Private	176	203	15.0%

*SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Education*

**TABLE 4-8A  
PERRY COUNTY COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS  
1990-2000**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percent Difference</b>
College or Graduate School Enrollments	1,144	982	-16.4%

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000*

**TABLE 4-9**  
**EDUCATION BACKGROUND – PERSONS OVER 25 YEARS OLD - 2000**  
**PERRY COUNTY COMPARED TO DAUPHIN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES**

	<b>Perry</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Dauphin</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0-8 Years of Elementary	1,771	6.1	7,940	4.6	6,158	4.3
1-3 Years of High School	4,110	14.1	20,607	12.0	13,903	9.6
4 Years of High School	14,492	49.5	64,174	37.4	51,669	35.8
1-3 Years of College	3,790	13.0	27,902	16.2	23,606	16.4
Associates Degree	1,771	6.1	10,780	6.3	8,615	6.0
4 Years or More of College	2,209	7.6	25,279	14.7	40,264	27.9
Total % High School Graduates	23,370	79.9	156,682	77.6	144,215	81.0

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000*

### Household Characteristics

The size of households has been decreasing nationwide, and in Perry County as well. Table 4-10 shows that this trend is consistent throughout Pennsylvania and the Tri-County region. Two forces are behind this decline. More people, both young and elderly, are living alone and there is an increasingly larger percentage of the population at home-buying age. According to the 2000 Census, Perry County had more persons per household than Harrisburg City, and the other two Counties of the region, as well as the State. Rural areas commonly exhibit higher ratios of persons per household. A breakdown of household size changes from 1990 to 2000 by municipality is shown in Table 4-11. No noticeable geographic trend exists within the County.

**TABLE 4-10**  
**PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD, 1950-2000**

	<b>1950</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Cumberland County	3.35	3.29	3.13	2.71	2.51	2.41
Dauphin County	3.15	3.13	2.91	2.58	2.45	2.39
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>2.58</b>
Pennsylvania	---	---	---	2.74	2.57	2.48

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000*

**TABLE 4-11**  
**HOUSEHOLD SIZE CHANGE**  
**1990-2000**

Municipality	Persons/Household 1990	Persons/Household 2000	% Change
Blain Borough	2.63	2.63	0
Bloomfield Borough	2.34	2.25	-3.85
Buffalo Township	2.87	2.69	-7.24
Carroll Township	2.90	2.69	-7.24
Centre Township	2.95	2.62	-11.19
Duncannon Borough	2.40	2.26	-11.19
Greenwood Township	2.84	2.65	-6.69
Howe Township	2.48	2.45	-1.21
Jackson Township	3.02	2.88	-4.63
Juniata Township	2.90	2.75	-5.17
Landisburg Borough	2.54	2.50	-1.57
Liverpool Borough	2.32	2.09	-9.05
Liverpool Township	2.89	2.71	-6.23
Marysville Borough	2.38	2.25	-5.62
Miller Township	2.78	2.80	0.72
Millerstown Borough	2.46	2.47	0.41
New Buffalo Borough	2.79	2.16	-22.58
Newport Borough	2.38	2.26	-5.04
Northeast Madison Township	3.12	2.85	-8.65
Oliver Township	2.69	2.54	-5.58
Penn Township	2.66	2.48	-6.77
Rye Township	2.93	2.74	-6.9
Saville Township	2.91	2.75	-5.5
Southwest Madison Township	2.96	2.90	-2.03
Spring Township	2.80	2.71	-3.21
Toboyne Township	2.69	2.53	-5.95
Tuscarora Township	2.76	2.63	-4.71
Tyrone Township	2.75	2.57	-6.54
Watts Township	2.87	2.65	-7.66
Wheatfield Township	2.84	2.75	-3.77
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>-5.49</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000*

### Marital Status

62.0 percent of all persons 15 years and older in Perry County were married in 2000. The MSA averaged 60.4 percent married, while Dauphin County recorded 52.3 percent and Cumberland County 58.8 percent. Divorcees account for 8.4 percent of Perry County's 15 and over population (see Table 4-12).

Widowed females outnumbered widowed males four to one, a phenomenon present in the two other Counties, as well. It is a known fact that women live longer than men; therefore, more wives outlive their husbands than vice versa. Adding to that is the theory that widowed men are prone to remarry sooner than widowed women.

**TABLE 4-12  
MARITAL STATUS  
PERSONS OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE-PERRY COUNTY, 1990 and 2000**

	<b>1990 Number</b>	<b>1990 Percentage</b>	<b>2000 Number</b>	<b>2000 Percentage</b>
Single	6,685	21.0	7,719	20.8
Married & Living with Spouse	20,375	63.7	21,406	62.0
Separated	604	1.9	666	1.9
Widowed Female	1,771	5.6	1,889	5.5
Widowed Male	390	1.2	470	1.4
Divorced Female	1,102	3.4	1,433	4.2
Divorced Male	1,034	3.2	1,458	4.2
<b>Total Over 15 Years of Age</b>	<b>31,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35,041</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990, 2000*

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Employment Status

The employment status of the labor force has a direct effect on the present quality of life and future growth potential of any community. The labor force in Perry County is comprised of 66.9 percent of all persons over the age of 16 years, while 3.7 percent of the civilian labor force is unemployed. Following the national trend, more women joined the labor force between 1980 and 1990 than ever before in a decade and continued to increase from between 1990 and 2000 but at a much lower rate. The labor force share of females over 16 years jumped from 57.2 percent to 59.8 percent between 1990 and 2000. Meanwhile, the male labor force increase remained stable and decreased from 76.8 percent to 74.1 percent between 1990 and 2000. See Table 4-13.

The proportion of the civilian labor force that was unemployed decreased from 5.2 percent to 2.8 percent between 1990 and 2000.

**TABLE 4-13  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 1990-2000**

	<b>2000 Number</b>	<b>2000 Percentage</b>	<b>1990 Number</b>	<b>1990 Percentage</b>
Population Over 16 Years Old	33,808	100.0	31,353	100.0
Labor Force Civilian Males	12,399	74.1	N/A	N/A
Labor Force Males	12,411	74.1	10,967	71.0
Labor Force Civilian Females	10,188	59.7	N/A	N/A
Labor Force Females	10,196	59.7	9,109	57.2
Total Persons in Labor Force	22,607	66.9	20,076	64.0
Labor Force, Unemployed	847	2.8	1661	5.3

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000 and Pennsylvania State Data Center*

### Location of Employment and Commuting Trends

Employment availability within a county has a direct influence on the amount of time residents spend commuting to work each day. The mean travel time for a Perry County commuter is 34.7 minutes up 4.2 minutes from 1990, compared to the mean travel time for Cumberland and Dauphin Counties, which are 20.5, and 21.1 minutes, respectively. The longer average travel time to work is indicative of Perry County's rural landscape and the availability of localized employment. The Harrisburg urbanized area to the south however, provides many employment opportunities. A large percentage of workers are employed outside of the County, also increasing the travel time. The long commutes increase the fixed costs of traveling to work, resulting in lower disposable incomes for the individuals and families.

Table 4-14 lists methods of transportation to work for Perry County workers. As would be expected, 93.0 percent use a car, truck or van to get to work. Although 77.8 percent of all workers drive alone, less than one-quarter (15.2 percent) participates in a carpool. 0.5 percent of Perry County's workers used public transportation to get to work in 2000, compared to 0.6 percent in Cumberland and 2.4 percent in Dauphin County. The low use of public transportation is reflective of the rural nature of Perry County, and holes in the availability of public transportation options.

Concerning travel time to work, persons living in municipalities closer to Harrisburg, where a stable percentage of persons work, generally have shorter travel times than those that are more distant. In contrast, Persons living in a certain boroughs and villages within the County also have shorter travel times, since those areas are local employment centers in their right.

A significant statistic to note is the shift in the number of individuals who carpool. In 1990 this figure was listed as 4,692 persons for 23.7 percent of the population. In 2000 the number had declined to 3,250 for only 15.2 percent of the population. This accounts for an 8.5 percent shift in the public's attention to carpooling as an option for getting to and from work. This preference of solitude as an individualistic freedom, may be a trend we will continue to see. However, if gas prices increase to levels where an individual's disposable income is not as acceptable as it once was, perhaps this trend will reverse itself. Education should also play a significant role in attempting to reverse this tendency of driving alone to work.

**TABLE 4-14**  
**MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK**  
**PERRY COUNTY**  
**1990 and 2000**

Transportation Types	Number of Persons 1990	Percent of Total 1990	Number of Persons 2000	Percent of Total 2000
Car, Truck, or Van				
-Drive Alone	13,517	68.2	16,646	77.8
-Carpool	4,692	23.7	3,250	15.2

Public Transportation	97	0.5	108	0.5
Walked Only	546	2.8	473	2.2
Other Means	169	0.8	144	0.7
Worked at Home	796	4.0	770	3.6

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000*

**Individual and Family Income**

Individual and family income profiles are excellent indicators of a county’s physical quality of life and economic climate. These income characteristics are vital for determining the strength of the economic base. The ability to provide public and municipal services depends almost entirely on the tax base, which is ultimately determined by the collective incomes of the community. The strength of the economic base affects the demand for commercial and professional businesses, and indirectly influences population growth and other demographic characteristics. There is a general geographic trend present in the County; the municipalities that are more distant from the Harrisburg urbanized area have the lower income levels.

Listed in Table 4-15 are percentages of persons and families below poverty level. The percentage of persons below poverty level is important, since it often indicates the need for public assistance objects. The table shows regional percentage comparisons of persons and families below the poverty level.

During the decade between 1990 and 2000, persons below the poverty level increased from 7.4 percent to 7.7 percent, while families below the poverty level decreased from 6.3 percent to 5.4 percent. Within the Tri-County Region, Perry and Dauphin Counties remained the same while Cumberland County experienced an increase in poverty levels. The continued downward trend in poverty levels in Perry County probably has a direct correlation to the number of new residents with higher incomes living within the County.

**TABLE 4-15  
PERCENT OF TOTAL BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL  
PERRY COUNTY COMPARED TO DAUPHIN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES  
1990 and 2000**

	1990		2000	
	Persons	Families	Persons	Families
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	7.4	6.3	7.7	5.4
Cumberland County	5.0	2.8	6.6	3.8
Dauphin County	9.9	7.2	9.7	7.5
Pennsylvania	10.8	8.2	11.0	7.8

*SOURCE: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000*

**Per Capita Income**

Per capita income is the total individual income of an area divided by total population. It is not always an accurate statistic to use for comparison since it is skewed by the presence of very large incomes or a large proportion of young, non-wage earning children. However, it does afford an approximation of the financial resources that would be

available to each individual, if they were equitably distributed. Table 4-16 shows that Perry County's per capita income increased by 58 percent in that time period, while Dauphin County, Cumberland County and Pennsylvania per capita incomes expanded by 49, 49, and 48 percent, respectively.

**TABLE 4-16**  
**PER CAPITA INCOME**  
**PERRY COUNTY COMPARED TO DAUPHIN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES**  
**1990 and 2000**

	1990	2000	Difference %
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>18,855</b>	<b>58%</b>
Cumberland County	14,890	22,134	49%
Dauphin County	15,796	23,610	49%
Pennsylvania	14,068	20,880	48%

*SOURCE: U.S. Census 1990, 2000*

### Median Income

Median household income statistics provide a wide picture for comparing incomes of a given population. A wide range exists in median income among the municipalities. Proximity to the Harrisburg urbanized area is also reflected in the distribution of median income levels, similar to the per capita income trend. Table 4-17 indicates that the median household income of Perry County residents increased from \$29,539 in 1990 to \$41,909 in 2000-an increase of 41.9 percent.

It is a noteworthy observation that despite the continued increase in population by decade over nearly the last century, so to has the number of individuals living below the poverty line. According to the figures, persons below the poverty rate increased from 7.4 percent in 1990 to 7.7 percent in 2000. It is foreseeable this continued trend could overburden many fiscally constrained social programs in the County as demands placed on these programs will undoubtedly increase. A brighter note is the fact that families below the poverty rate decreased from 6.2 percent in 1990 to 5.4 percent in 2000.

**TABLE 4-17  
SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS  
PERRY COUNTY 2000**

Municipality	INCOME		POVERTY			
	Household (Median)		% Persons Below		% Families Below	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Blain Borough	26,364	32,500	9.6	12.6	5.3	11.6
Bloomfield Borough	26,708	39,018	3.9	7.6	2.9	6.0
Buffalo Township	32,169	47,011	9.4	4.6	8.3	3.1
Carroll Township	32,799	45,011	3.9	4.5	3.8	3.0
Centre Township	32,656	43,900	8.3	6.1	5.4	3.8
Duncannon Borough	23,333	33,000	11.4	8.5	10.9	6.2
Greenwood Township	30,469	45,694	7.7	6.5	6.9	2.1
Howe Township	24,844	46,563	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.8
Jackson Township	24,167	37,054	19.8	18.2	15.4	11.6
Juniata Township	30,868	47,174	8.7	5.5	6.1	3.6
Landisburg Borough	21,250	31,563	31.3	9.4	31.8	6.8
Liverpool Borough	23,947	33,850	11.4	10.2	9.4	7.3
Liverpool Township	32,353	41,389	6.6	4.3	3.7	1.9
Marysville Borough	29,618	40,446	5.8	6.8	4.7	5.2
Miller Township	28,047	45,167	5.9	10.1	4.0	7.3
Millerstown Borough	27,112	43,750	5.1	5.0	4.8	2.0
New Buffalo Borough	25,893	31,250	5.6	22.0	1.4	20.6
Newport Borough	24,049	31,594	11.0	10.0	8.8	6.8
Northeast Madison Township	26,917	37,125	9.3	19.0	6.8	15.0
Oliver Township	26,635	39,063	12.9	12.4	13.0	10.4
Penn Township	28,852	43,198	5.2	5.4	6.7	4.6
Rye Township	39,231	56,375	1.8	3.7	0.6	2.6
Saville Township	27,256	39,975	10.0	8.3	7.5	6.1
Southwest Madison Township	26,442	35,694	6.8	18.8	6.7	13.2
Spring Township	31,151	48,594	6.2	7.5	5.0	5.1
Toboyne Township	25,625	30,833	12.6	18.4	9.2	11.5
Tuscarora Township	27,738	40,813	13.4	8.9	8.7	5.6
Tyrone Township	29,323	38,276	8.4	9.0	6.8	6.5
Watts Township	29,896	44,583	3.9	4.0	3.0	3.9
Wheatfield Township	32,730	44,010	5.6	7.7	4.6	5.4
<b>TOTAL COUNTY</b>	<b>29,539</b>	<b>41,909</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>

*SOURCE: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000*

### SUMMARY

The broad range of data produced by the 2000 Census combined with yearly estimates provide the information needed to understand the present and future trends of Perry County's population. Perry County population growth is projected to around 20 percent this decade (2000-2010) (See Table 4-19).

**TABLE 4-19**  
**POPULATION PROJECTIONS**  
**CUMBERLAND, DAUPHIN, PERRY, AND TRI-COUNTY REGION**

<b>County</b>	<b>2000 Actual</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b># Increase 2000-2020</b>	<b>% Increase 2000-2020</b>
Dauphin County	251,798	259,933	264,378	268,909	273,483	21,685	8.6
Cumberland County	213,674	238,347	249,813	260,144	269,375	55,701	26.1
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	43,602	50,582	52,795	54,514	55,784	12,182	27.9
Tri-County Region	509,074	548,862	566,976	583,567	598,642	89,568	17.6

*SOURCE: Pennsylvania State Data Center*

A major portion of this growth is likely to continue occurring in the southeastern townships such as Carroll Township, Centre Township, Marysville Borough, Penn Township, Rye Township, Spring Township, Watts Township, and Wheatfield Township. Additionally, the construction improvements on U.S. Routes 11/15 and 22/322 may encourage growth in Greenwood Township, Howe Township, Buffalo Township, Watts Township and others. Meanwhile, the Boroughs, with the exception of a few, are likely to experience a leveling off and even small declines in population. Some however, may post limited growth for a time with the availability of developable space within their municipal boundaries. Because of this, there is increasing pressure to develop what are considered environmentally constrained areas (flood plains, steep slope, etc). A number of sewage treatment system upgrade projects are either in progress or will be soon, pending funding approval. Completion of these projects will allow some new residential development within modest population growth.

Perry County low population density can be attributed in part to its agricultural heritage. The County's Agricultural Preservation Program is striving to maintain this heritage on a daily basis. This is augmented by the vast holdings of state land comprised of several State Game Lands and the Tuscarora State Forest. Not to be overlooked are the Conservation District easements which add to the mix. Lastly, it is also worth mentioning the pursuits of not-for profit groups and their ability to purchase additional open space easements. All told, these open tracts of land greatly influence the population density figures.

The low density is of critical importance to the agricultural industry, which is very land intensive. However, the low population density makes the County very attractive for residential development. As the population grows and more housing units are built, the amount of agricultural and open land will begin to diminish. Adding to this conflict is the fact that prime agricultural land is also very desirable for residential and commercial development. Naturally, the boroughs have much higher population densities than the townships. Some of the boroughs are dealing with sewage disposal problems as a result of higher density, particularly the boroughs without public sanitary sewer systems. Malfunctioning on-lot septic systems increase the potential contamination of individual wells. Some of the townships which are growing could experience similar sewage disposal problems, especially those with soil limitations for on-lot septic systems.

The Age Composition and Male-Female distribution patterns show no peculiarities and generally follow the national and regional trends. However, there are a slightly larger proportion of school-aged children to adults than the regional proportion.

Perry County has very little racial and ethnic diversity. Although this may not change substantially over the next decade, the expected population growth will likely produce wider diversity within the population.

**TABLE 4-20**  
**PERRY COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND**  
**MUNICIPAL ALLOCATIONS**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2000 Actual</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b># Increase 2000-2020</b>	<b>% Increase 2000-2020</b>
Blain Borough	252	265	270	273	276	24	9.3
Bloomfield Borough	1,077	1,181	1,214	1,239	1,258	181	16.8
Buffalo Borough	1,128	1,310	1,367	1,413	1,446	318	28.2
Carroll Township	5,095	6,172	6,512	6,779	6,975	1,880	36.9
Centre Township	2,209	2,663	2,807	2,919	3,002	793	35.9
Duncannon Borough	1,508	1,626	1,664	1,693	1,714	206	13.7
Greenwood Township	1,010	1,146	1,189	1,222	1,247	237	23.4
Howe Township	493	561	582	599	611	118	23.9
Jackson Township	525	589	609	624	636	111	21.1
Juniata Township	1,359	1,606	1,683	1,744	1,789	430	31.7
Landisburg Borough	195	202	204	206	207	12	6.1
Liverpool Borough	876	982	1,015	1,041	1,061	185	21.1
Liverpool Township	966	1,119	1,167	1,205	1,233	267	27.6
Marysville Borough	2,306	2,529	2,600	2,655	2,696	390	16.9
Miller Township	953	1,211	1,292	1,356	1,403	450	47.2
Millerstown Borough	679	755	780	798	812	133	19.6
New Buffalo Borough	123	132	134	137	138	15	12.3
Newport Borough	1,506	1,594	1,622	1,644	1,660	154	10.2
Northeast Madison Township	856	1,005	1,052	1,089	1,117	261	30.4
Oliver Township	2,061	2,393	2,498	2,580	2,641	580	28.1
Penn Township	3,031	3,443	3,579	3,685	3,763	750	24.9
Rye Township	2,327	2,719	2,843	2,941	3,012	685	29.4
Saville Township	2,204	2,630	2,765	2,870	2,948	744	33.7
Southwest Madison Township	856	991	1,034	1,067	1,092	236	27.6
Spring Township	2,021	2,410	2,532	2,628	2,699	678	33.6
Toboyne Township	494	590	621	645	662	168	34.1
Tuscarora Township	1,122	1,320	1,382	1,431	1,467	345	30.8
Tyrone Township	1,863	2,083	2,153	2,207	2,248	385	20.6
Watts Township	1,196	1,387	1,447	1,494	1,529	333	27.8
Wheatfield Township	3,329	3,967	4,169	4,327	4,443	1,114	33.5
<b>PERRY COUNTY</b>	<b>43,602</b>	<b>50,582</b>	<b>52,795</b>	<b>54,514</b>	<b>55,784</b>	<b>12,182</b>	<b>27.9</b>

*SOURCE: Pennsylvania State Data Center (Projections), TCRPC (Allocations)*

The attendance rolls of the Perry County Schools increased by 1.0 percent; however, rolls at public schools experienced a tailing-off of enrollment. This follows the regional and national trend, which showed a decrease in students at the elementary level as the children of the “baby boom” generation were elevated to the high school age group during that period of time. The County trend suggests that its schools will be

experiencing a leveling off at all grade levels. Schools in portions of the County that are expected to experience the most population growth will see a large growth in enrollment. The high school graduation rate of County residents is below state and regional averages. This statistic needs to be reversed. In light of this, the percentage of persons attending college has continued to increase. With a successful effort to bring the high school graduation rate up to the State level, this may even influence the number of graduates who choose to enter college.

The household characteristics and marital status of the population may probably continue to follow the national and state trends. The number of persons per family and household may drop further slightly before stabilizing.

As the population increases within the County, the labor force will also grow while the occupational characteristics change somewhat. An even higher percentage of women may become involved in the civilian labor force than during the 1990s and early 2000. Employment opportunities should continue to expand in the professional, service, and retail industries, to serve the growing population. The number of persons employed in agriculture may drop if farms are sold or subdivided for building lots. The construction industry should remain healthy due to continual demand for new housing units.

The average commuting time of employed residents is likely to increase from the 2000 figure. Many of the in-migrants remain employed in the Harrisburg-Carlisle metropolitan area, and persons entering the job market have many more opportunities available there, as well. Therefore, a greater percentage of persons will be employed outside of the County.

Personal and family incomes are dependent on so many other factors that it is difficult to speculate on how the anticipated population growth will affect these statistics. Income increases will probably maintain pace with the inflation rate of the national economy. The geographic distribution of income likely will be similar, with the higher median income being concentrated in the southeastern corner of the County. The percentage of persons and families below the poverty level will likely be highest in the northern and western municipalities.

An important part of any Comprehensive Plan is an in-depth population analysis appropriate to that region. The amount and type of population being served directly dictates the land use scenarios required by residential, commercial, and industrial development. Future population fluctuations will also directly determine the size and number of public facilities needed such as schools, parks, sewer, water, and playgrounds. If those who make the decisions that guide future development are adequately informed of population profiles and trends, they will be able to make more effective plans and help create a more suitable environment for current and future residents of Perry County.