

## New 2024 Census Bureau Data: International Migration Drives Pennsylvania Population Growth

January 2025

### Key Takeaways:

- Between 2020 and 2024, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Pennsylvania's statewide population grew by 0.64 percent.
- Pennsylvania's population growth lagged behind many other states. There were 41 states with a faster population growth between 2020 and 2024, and only eight states with slower population growth.
- Pennsylvania's natural population growth continues to be negative (i.e., deaths outpace births).
- Pennsylvania's migration growth continues to be positive (in-migration is greater than out-migration).
- In-migration is driven primarily by international migration. Pennsylvania's domestic migration trends are net negative, while international migration is net positive.
- County-level population estimates are expected to be released by the Census Bureau in Spring 2025.

### Summary:

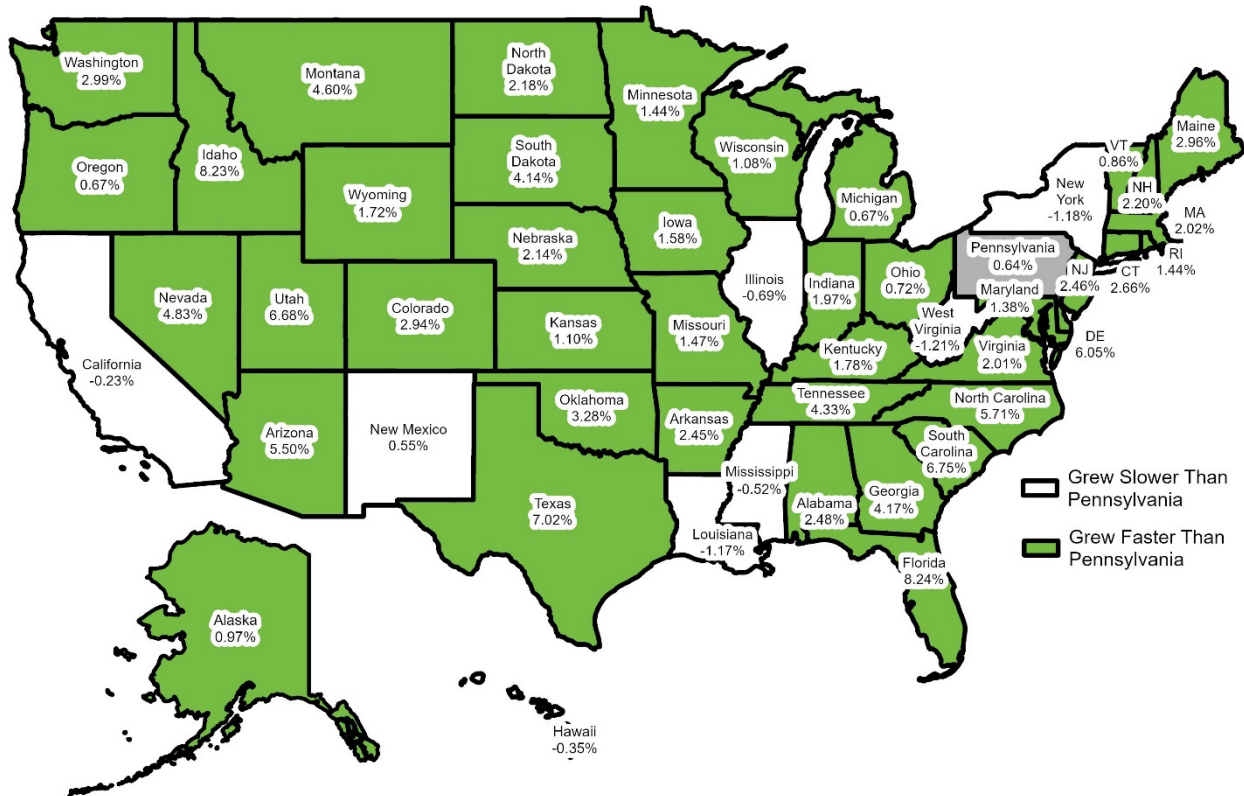
In December 2024, the U.S. Census Bureau released its statewide population estimates (Vintage 2024). The Census Bureau releases these estimates on an annual basis. The 2024 estimates updated the previous estimates for 2020 through 2023, and better account for international migration patterns.<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau is expected to release county and municipal population estimates in Spring 2025.

The Figures below demonstrate that Pennsylvania experienced population growth between 2020 and 2024. However, Pennsylvania's population growth is less than the increases observed in many other states across the country. Indeed, only eight states experienced slower population growth than Pennsylvania: West Virginia (-1.21 percent), New York (-1.18 percent), Louisiana (-1.17 percent), Illinois (-0.69 percent), Mississippi (-0.52 percent), Hawaii (-0.35 percent), California (-0.23 percent), and New Mexico (0.55 percent).

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Census Bureau Improves Methodology to Better Estimate Increase in Net International Migration," December 19, 2024, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2024/12/international-migration-population-estimates.html>.

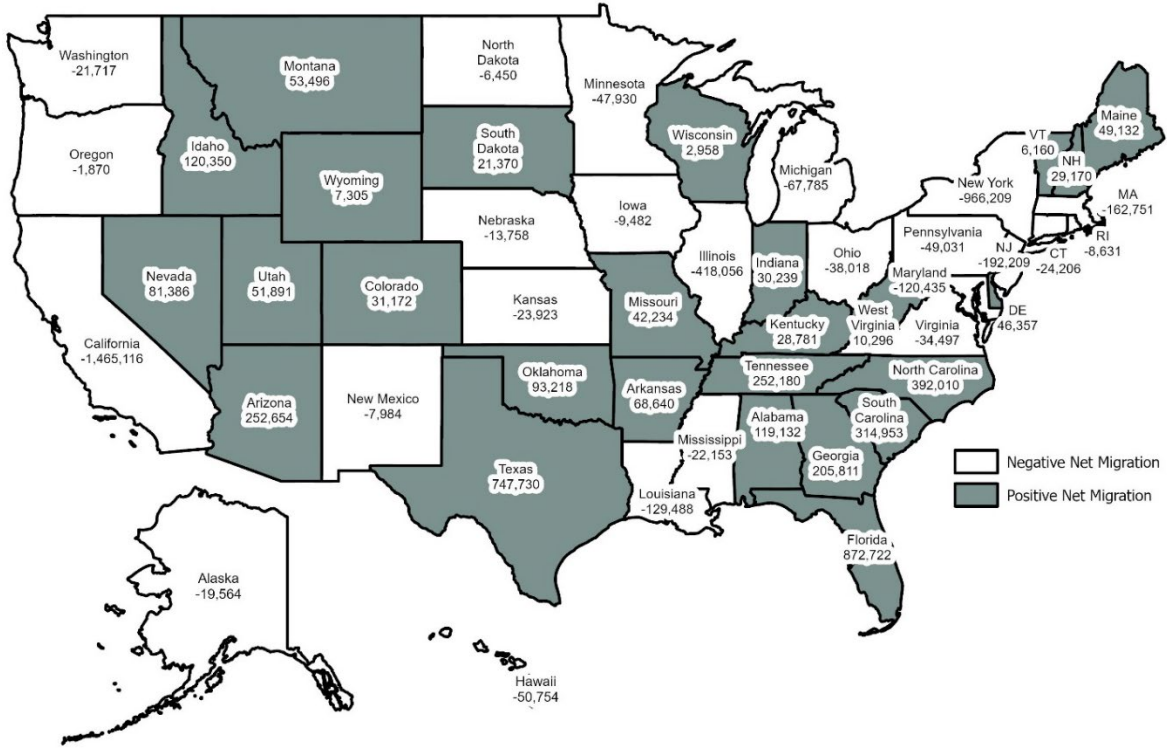
Figure 1: Percent Change in Population, 2020 to 2024 by U.S. State



Data source: 2024 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

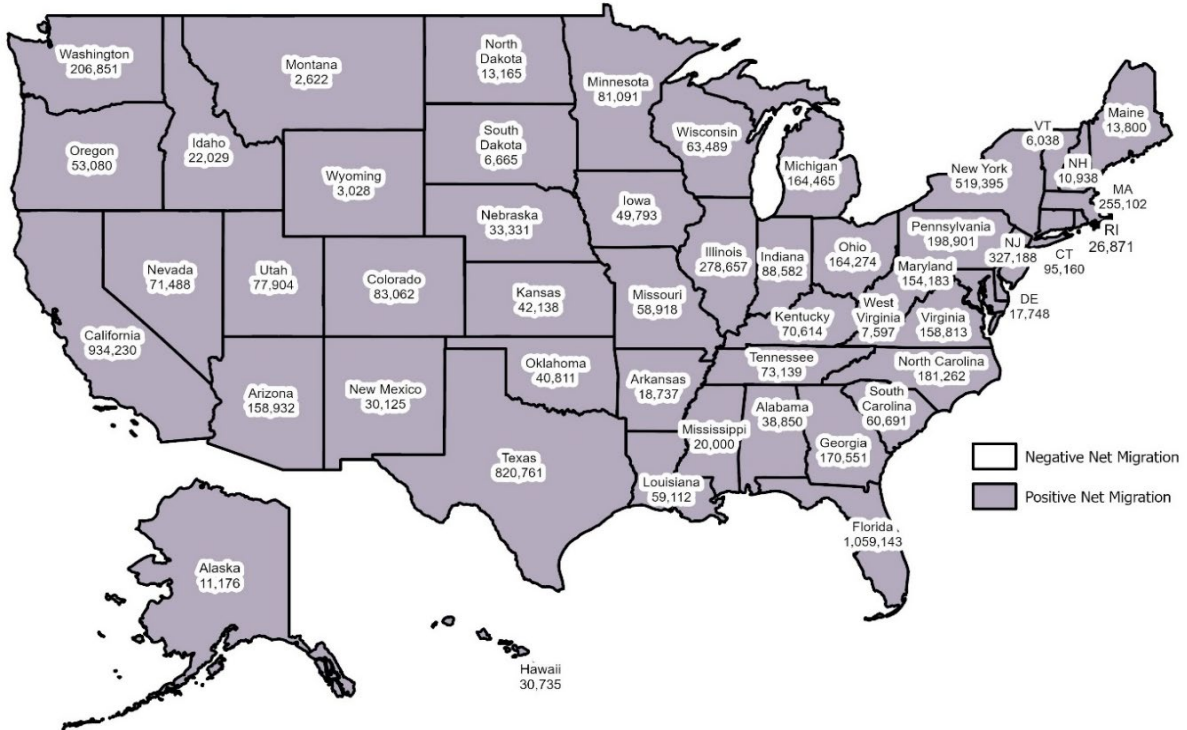
Population change is attributed to two factors: natural population change (births/deaths) and migration patterns (in-migration/out-migration). Based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Pennsylvania’s natural population change continues to be negative. Between 2020 and 2024, Pennsylvania had 551,644 births compared to 629,193 deaths, resulting in a natural population change of -77,549. However, population change due to migration was positive. In total, Pennsylvania netted 149,870 new residents between 2020 and 2024. This growth through in-migration is attributed to international migration. Net domestic migration was negative (-49,031), while net international migration was positive (198,901). In terms of net international migration, Pennsylvania ranked 9<sup>th</sup> nationally, trailing behind Florida (1,059,143), California (934,230), Texas (820,761), New York (519,395), New Jersey (327,188), Illinois (278,657), Massachusetts (255,102), and Washington (206,851).

**Figure 2: Net Domestic Migration, 2020 to 2024 by U.S. State**



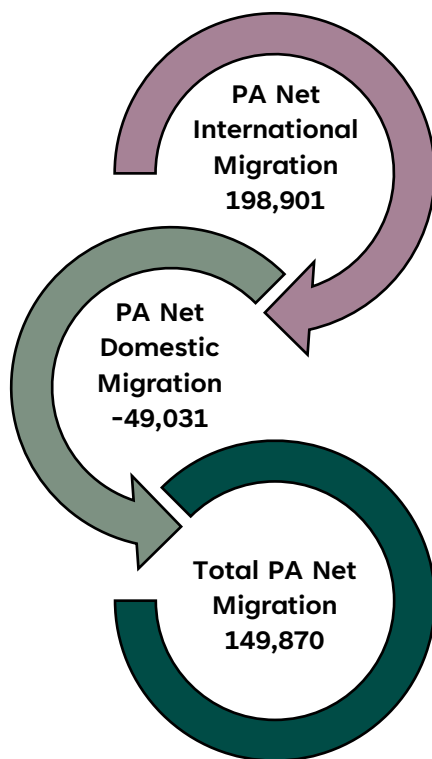
Data source: 2024 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

**Figure 3: Net International Migration, 2020 to 2024 by U.S. State**



Data source: 2024 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 4: Total Pennsylvania Migration, 2020 to 2024



Data source: 2024 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

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