

A scenic view of the Philadelphia skyline across the Schuylkill River. The river flows from the foreground towards the city, with lush green trees lining both banks. The city skyline is filled with various skyscrapers, including the Comcast Center on the right. The word "Pennsylvania" is written in large white letters across the middle of the image, with a small red "P" logo on the left side of the text.

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania was the 2nd state in the [USA](#); it became a state on December 12, 1787. State Abbreviation - PA  
State Capital - Harrisburg  
Largest City - Philadelphia  
Area - 46,058 square miles [Pennsylvania is the [33rd biggest state](#) in the USA]  
Population - [12,773,801](#) (as of 2013) [Pennsylvania is the sixth most populous state in the USA, after [California](#), [New York](#), [Texas](#), [Florida](#) and [Illinois](#)]  
Name for Residents - Pennsylvanians
- NICKNAME: The Keystone State.  
Major Industries - steel, farming (corn, oats, soybeans, mushrooms), mining (iron, portland cement, lime, stone), electronics equipment, cars, pharmaceuticals
- FLAG: The coat of arms appears in the center of a blue field.
- Presidential Birthplace - James Buchanan was born in Cove Gap (near Mercersburg) on April 23, 1791 (he was the 15th US President, serving from 1857 to 1861)  
  
Major Rivers - Allegheny River, Susquehanna River, Delaware River, Ohio River  
Major Lakes - Lake Erie  
Highest Point - Mt. Davis - 3,213 feet (979 m) above sea level  
Number of Counties - 66  
Bordering States - [New York](#), [New Jersey](#), [Delaware](#), [Maryland](#), [West Virginia](#), [Ohio](#)  
  
Origin of the Name Pennsylvania - This state was named to honor Admiral William Penn and his son, [William Penn](#), Pennsylvania's founder.  
State Nickname - Keystone State  
State Motto - "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence"  
State Song - Pennsylvania, lyrics by Eddie Khoury, music by Ronnie Bonner  
  
Dinosaur Fossils Found in Pennsylvania - [Atreipus \(fossilized footprints\)](#)



- Pennsylvania ranked sixth in population in the United States with an estimated total of 12,429,616 in 2005, an increase of 1.2% since 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, Pennsylvania's population grew from 11,881,643 to 12,281,054, an increase of 3.4%. The population is projected to reach 12.7 million by 2015 and 12.8 million by 2025. In 2004, the median age for Pennsylvanians was 39.3. In the same year, 22.9% of the populace was under age 18 while 15.3% was age 65 or older. The population density in 2004 was 276.9 persons per sq mi.



Pennsylvania borders six other states: New York to the north; New Jersey to the east; Delaware to the southeast; Maryland to the south; West Virginia to the southwest, and Ohio to the west. Pennsylvania also shares a water border with the Canadian province of Ontario to the northwest across Lake Erie. Of the original Thirteen Colonies, Pennsylvania is the only state that does not border the Atlantic Ocean.





# Pennsylvania State Symbols and Emblems:

- Pennsylvania's official flag was adopted in 1907. The flag has a deep blue background. In the center are two harnessed draft horses surrounding a shield picturing a ship, a plow, and 3 sheaves of wheat. Above is a bald eagle. Below are a stalk of corn, an olive branch, and a draped red ribbon that reads, "VIRTUE, LIBERTY, AND INDEPENDENCE."



The state has 5 regions, namely the Allegheny Plateau, Ridge and Valley, Atlantic Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and the Erie Plain.

Cities include Philadelphia, Reading, Lebanon and Lancaster in the southeast, Pittsburgh in the southwest, the tri-cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton in the central east (known as the Lehigh Valley), the tri-cities of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Hazleton in the northeast, and Erie in the northwest. Williamsport serves as the commonwealth's north-central region, with York and the state capital Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River in the east-central region of the Commonwealth and Altoona and Johnstown in the west-central region.





# Largest cities or towns in Pennsylvania



Philadelphia 1,560,297



Pittsburgh 305,4123



Allentown 119,1044



Erie 99,4525



Pennsylvania is home to the nation's first zoo, The [Lehigh Valley Zoo](#) and [ZOOAMERICA](#) are other notable zoos. The Commonwealth boasts some of the finest museums in the country, including the [Carnegie Museums](#) in Pittsburgh, the [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#), and [several others](#). One unique museum is the [Houdini Museum](#) in Scranton, the only building in the world made of steel.





