

## CHAPTER 3 DEMOGRAPHICS – HISTORY AND TRENDS

### Population –Slowing Growth

Plum Borough’s population grew 5.9% between 1990 and 2010, but most of this growth occurred between 1990 and 2000, when the borough’s population rose 5.2% – from 25,609 to 26,940. Among its neighboring municipalities, Plum’s 5.9% population increase ranked second only to Murrysville’s 16.5% rise.

Table 3.1 below shows the 1990 - 2010 population changes at the state, county, and local level.

Table 3.1  
Population Change 1990-2010

	1990	2000	Change 1990- 2000	2010	Change 2000- 2010	Change 1990- 2010
Pennsylvania	11881643	12281054	3.4%	12,702,379	3.4%	6.9%
Allegheny Co.	1336449	1281666	-4.1%	1,223,348	-4.6%	-8.5%
Plum Borough	25609	26940	5.2%	27,126	0.7%	5.9%
Lower Burrell	12251	12625	3.1%	11,761	-6.8%	-4.0%
Monroeville	29169	29349	0.6%	28,386	-3.3%	-2.7%
Murrysville	17240	18856	9.4%	20,079	6.5%	16.5%
Oakmont	6961	6911	-0.7%	6,303	-8.8%	-10.6%
Penn Hills	51494	46809	-9.1%	42,329	-9.6%	-17.8%
Upper Burrell	2258	2240	-0.8%	2,326	3.8%	3.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Population Projections – Continued Growth before Leveling Off

Population projections help identify future housing, land use, recreation and other community needs. Taking the 2010 U. S. Census Bureau population data as a base figure and using some supplemental information (e.g., building permit data, birth and death rates, migration trends, age cohort survival rates, etc.), the Plum Borough planning department prepared borough population projections for the years 2020 and 2030. The borough has determined that the projections prepared by the borough planning department (i.e., 28,651 in 2020 and 28,500 in 2030) most accurately reflect the borough’s changing demographics and will use these population estimates in this comprehensive plan.

These projections indicate that there will be a 5.6% increase in Plum’s population between 2010 and 2020. The borough’s population will then decrease slightly (about 0.5%) between 2020 and 2030. The population loss after 2020 can be attributed to an aging population and the continuation of the declining birthrates that started in the latter half of the 2000 – 2010 decade.

## Population by Age – Getting Older

Plum Borough’s population is growing older. This is a result of increased life expectancy and young people leaving the Pittsburgh region to pursue career opportunities. Table 3.2 illustrates the borough’s population in 1990, 2000 and 2010 in various age cohorts.

Between 1990 and 2010, the borough experienced overall growth in all age groups 45 years old and over, while seeing decreases in the age groups under 45. One exception to these age cohort trends was the 15.4% increase in the 5-24 age cohort between 2000 and 2010. This increase may reflect young families moving into houses formerly occupied by older residents.

The “baby boom” generation (ages 25-44 in 1990, 35-54 in 2000, and 45-64 in 2010) shrank from 35.8 % of the population in 1990 to 29.6% in 2010. The elderly population (age 65 and over) more than doubled from 8.0% of the population in 1990 to 17.2% in 2010.

Table 3.2 also illustrates the change in each age cohort during the decades between 1990 and 2010. The largest decrease, both in terms of number and percentage, was a loss of 2,578 (28%) in the 25-44 age group. The greatest numerical increase was 1,307 in the 45-54 age group, while the largest percentage increase was 406% in the 85 and older group.

Table 3.2  
Plum Borough Population by Age Cohorts 1990 - 2010

Age Cohort	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000		2010		Change 2000-2010		Change 1990-2010	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Under 5	1,900	7.4	1,696	6.3	-204	-10.7	1,446	5.3	-250	-14.7	-454	-23.9
5-24	7,070	27.6	5,643	24.6	-1,427	-20.2	6,510	24.0	867	15.4	-560	-7.9
25-44	9,179	35.8	8,366	31.0	-813	-8.9	6,601	24.3	-1,765	-21.1	-2,578	-28.0
45-54	3,157	12.3	3,889	14.4	732	23.2	4,464	16.5	575	14.8	1,307	41.4
55-64	2,267	8.8	2,795	10.4	528	23.3	3,548	13.1	753	26.9	1,281	56.5
65-74	1,351	5.3	1,926	7.1	575	42.6	2,416	8.9	490	25.4	1,065	78.8
75-84	558	2.2	1,200	4.5	642	115.1	1,498	5.5	298	24.8	940	168.5
85 and Over	127	0.5	425	1.6	298	234.6	643	2.8	218	51.3	516	406.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Minority Population

Between 1990 and 2010, Plum Borough’s population became slightly less homogeneous in terms of race. In 1990, 97.1% of the borough’s population was white, compared to 95.6% in 2000 and 93.9% in 2010. African Americans remained the largest minority group in the borough, making up 2.0% of the population in 1990, 2.8% in 2000, and 3.6% in 2010.

## Households – Outpacing Population Growth

The number of households in Plum Borough is increasing at a faster rate than the population. While the population of the borough rose 6.9% between 1990 and 2010, the number of households increased 20.1% during that decade. Among neighboring municipalities, only Murrysville (31.3%) had a larger increase in households in the same period. Table 3.3 below indicates the change in the number of households at the state, county, and local level.

Table 3.3  
Change in Households, 1990-2010

	1990	2000	Change 1990- 2000	2010	Change 2000- 2010	Change 1990- 2010
Pennsylvania	4,495,966	4,777,003	6.3%	5,018,904	5.1%	11.6%
Allegheny County	541,261	537,150	-0.8%	533,960	-0.6%	-1.4%
Plum Borough	9,067	10,270	13.3%	10,886	6.0%	20.1%
Lower Burrell	4,775	5,133	7.5%	5,080	-1.0%	6.4%
Monroeville	11,828	12,376	4.6%	12,612	1.9%	6.7%
Murrysville	6,031	7,083	17.4%	7,917	11.8%	31.3%
Oakmont	3,005	3,118	3.8%	2,978	-4.5%	-0.9%
Penn Hills	19,798	19,490	-1.6%	18,786	-3.6%	-5.1%
Upper Burrell	802	856	6.7%	926	8.2%	15.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As previously mentioned, the borough's projected population increase for Plum Borough between 2010 and 2020 is 1,525 persons. Assuming that the borough's average household size remains the same as it was in 2010 (2.48 persons), the increase of 1,525 persons will produce an additional 615 households---a 5.7% increase since 2010 that mirrors the projected 5.6% increase in population during that period.

However, the borough's projected population decrease to 28,500 people in 2030 may not result in corresponding decreases in the number of borough households. National and regional trends toward smaller household sizes and the growth in the number of smaller elderly households may result in the number of households in Plum Borough remaining about the same or even increasing.

## Household Income is Stagnant

Between 1990 and 2000\*, Plum Borough's median household income essentially remained unchanged, dipping just 0.2%. Several neighboring municipalities experienced more substantial declines---ranging from 3.0% to 6.9%. Oakmont (1.0%) and Lower Burrell (20.4%) registered gains, as did Allegheny County (3.4%) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (4.7%). Table 3.4 shows the changes in median household income between 1990 and 2000.

\*2010 Census household income data is not yet available.

Table 3.4  
Changes in Median Household Income, 1990-2000

	1990 (adj.)	2000	Change 1990- 2000
Pennsylvania	38,299	40,106	4.7%
Allegheny County	37,070	38,329	3.4%
Plum Borough	48,461	48,386	-0.2%
Lower Burrell	34,061	41,000	20.4%
Monroeville	47,987	44,653	-6.9%
Murrysville	66,815	64,071	-4.1%
Oakmont	41,553	41,957	1.0%
Penn Hills	42,470	39,960	-5.9%
Upper Burrell	41,125	39,880	-3.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Educational Attainment – Improving by Degrees

Plum Borough’s residents are becoming more highly educated. Between 1990 and 2000\*, the percentage of borough residents age 25 or older who had gone to college increased from 48.8% to 54.9%. Other educational gains in this age group included an increase in the percentage of borough residents with bachelor’s degrees---from 15.2% to 19.0%---and with graduate or professional degrees---from 7.7% to 8.9%.

The tables below indicate the highest educational levels attained by borough, county and state residents in 1990 and 2000. Compared to its six neighboring municipalities, in both 1990 and 2000, Plum Borough ranked fourth in terms of residents with high school diplomas, college degrees, and graduate or professional degrees.

\*2010 Census educational attainment data is not yet available.

Table 3.5  
Education Attainment 1990

	< High school graduate	High school graduate	Some college	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate/professional degree
1990						
Pennsylvania	25.3%	38.6%	12.9%	5.2%	11.3%	6.6%
Allegheny County	21.0%	35.6%	14.7%	6.1%	14.1%	8.5%
Plum Borough	13.2%	38.0%	17.1%	8.8%	15.2%	7.7%
Lower Burrell	19.8%	44.3%	15.7%	6.5%	9.2%	4.5%
Monroeville	13.0%	29.6%	16.7%	9.1%	19.7%	12.0%
Murrysville	9.3%	28.0%	14.9%	7.2%	24.9%	15.6%
Oakmont	17.0%	28.0%	15.7%	6.7%	18.7%	13.9%
Penn Hills	17.6%	39.7%	15.9%	6.0%	13.9%	6.9%
Upper Burrell	20.7%	43.8%	16.3%	7.6%	8.3%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3.6  
Educational Attainment 2000

2000	< High school diploma	High school graduate	Some college	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate/professional degree
Pennsylvania	18.1%	38.1%	15.5%	5.9%	14.0%	8.4%
Allegheny County	13.8%	33.9%	17.0%	7.1%	17.3%	11.0%
Plum Borough	9.5%	35.5%	18.0%	9.0%	19.0%	8.9%
Lower Burrell	11.1%	43.5%	17.6%	8.4%	12.2%	7.2%
Monroeville	10.8%	28.1%	17.7%	7.9%	21.8%	13.7%
Murrysville	6.1%	25.5%	16.1%	6.2%	27.6%	18.5%
Oakmont	12.4%	29.4%	14.9%	6.2%	23.1%	14.1%
Penn Hills	14.1%	35.8%	21.1%	7.9%	13.9%	7.2%
Upper Burrell	18.3%	38.0%	18.6%	9.7%	10.3%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau