

## Pike and Monroe county populations soar

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Pocono Record

Published: 2:00 AM - 03/10/11

Pike and Monroe were Pennsylvania's second- and third-fastest growing counties in the past decade.

Those figures, part of a massive 2010 U.S. Census data released Wednesday, offer a look at the growing Poconos region.

The fastest growing county in the state was tiny Forest County, a community of 7,716 in northwestern Pennsylvania.

While the state grew at a 10-year rate of 3.4 percent, Pike's population jumped by 23.9 percent and Monroe's by 22.5 percent.

Lehman Township was the fastest-growing municipality among both Poconos counties. Its population jumped by 42 percent from 2000 to 2010, census data show.

Middle Smithfield Township was Monroe's fastest growing. Its population jumped by 39 percent during the past decade.

Coolbaugh remained the largest municipality in Monroe County. Stroud Township replaced Chestnuthill Township as the second largest.

Pike County's local population rankings remained relatively unchanged with some musical chairs played among the less-populated municipalities.