

**“An increase in the minimum wage will lead to increases in employee morale, productivity, and quality of work and decreases in turnover and the cost of training and supervision.”**

— Gov. Tom Wolf, raising the minimum wage for state and state contract workers in March 2016

**Gov. Tom Wolf (D)**

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# Pennsylvania

**Pop. (2016):** 12,941,865

**Median household income:** \$53,805

**Credit Rating:** AA-/Negative

**Pop. growth 2016–2021:** 0.28%

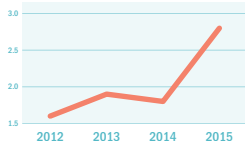
**Median age:** 41

**Right-to-work state:** No

## Legislative Update

- A budget compromise between Gov. Wolf and the Republican-led state legislature produced an increase of \$1 on a pack of cigarettes, from \$1.60 to \$2.60. The agreement also extends the state sales tax to include digital downloads of books, music, games, movies and satellite radio servers.
- Act No. 10 of 2016, which became law in May, expands the types of financial products available to municipalities and school districts. Prior to the Act's passage, statutes restricted such investments to products such as U.S. Treasury obligations and federally insured demand deposits.
- SB 279, signed into law in July, establishes new environmental regulations that govern the practice of unconventional oil and gas drilling, commonly known as “fracking.” The new standards are meant to protect public resources including water, land, parks and schools.

**GDP**  
**6<sup>th</sup>**



**2015 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$709,762**



**24**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2016-2017: **+4**



**6**

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: **\$3,356,723**



**30**

Number of NCRCs: **27,685** | Percent Improvement 2016-2017: **11%**



**23**

College Attainment Percent: **43.8%**



**25**

Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **6.99**



**39**