

WELCOME TO LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



Lehigh Valley

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

www.lehighvalley.org



LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

◀ **90 minutes** west of New York City

▲ **60 minutes** north of Philadelphia

🕒 **Labor force of 1.7 million** within an hour drive

🚗 **One-third of U.S. population** within a 1-day drive

🏢 **More than 80 international companies**



#1

Ranked first
among mid-sized
U.S. markets
for development
projects in 2023



25 million
square feet of
industrial space
added in the
last 5 years



A top-15%
manufacturing
market in the
U.S. based
on GDP

4.99%

Pennsylvania is
moving toward
one of the **lowest**
corporate income
tax rates in the U.S.

“

We're bullish on the Lehigh Valley... we're going to use the Lehigh Valley as a model for how to do economic development all across this Commonwealth.

”

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

*Launch of New Statewide Economic Development Strategy
January 30, 2024*

Access to Markets

- One-third of U.S. population lives within a 1-day drive
- Convenient access to three airports (Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, Newark Liberty)
- Located at crossroads of major north-south and east-west highways
- Direct highway access to ports of Newark (NY/NJ) and Philadelphia
- Freight rail service; container transfer at Bethlehem Intermodal Terminal

Access to Labor

- Labor force of 1.7 million within 1-hour drive
- One of the fastest growing regions in Pennsylvania for 18-to-34 age group
- More than 10,000 graduates per year from 11 colleges and universities
- Two community colleges and three career and technical schools
- More than 13,000 jobs added in last 5 years

Access to Space

- 150 million+ total square feet of industrial space
- 3.2 million square feet under construction at year end 2023
- 25 million square feet of new industrial space added in last 5 years
- 29 million total square feet of office space
- Ranked #1 in U.S. for development projects in 2023 (markets 200,000 to 1 million people)

You're in Good Company

Companies and iconic brands with a presence in Lehigh Valley, Pa.



Quality of Place

Residential Living

- Mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Zip Codes ranked among America's "hottest" by Realtor.com 3 years in a row
- Ranked as a Top 20 location in the U.S. for remote work

Education

- Eleven colleges and universities, including two community colleges
- More than 1,000 graduates a year from three career and technical schools providing quality, skills-based education for in-demand jobs
- Close to several top-ranked U.S. research universities

Health Care

- Two top-ranked health networks (Lehigh Valley Health Network, St. Luke's University Health Network)

Outdoor Recreation

- Skiing, golfing, hiking, boating, kayaking, biking, fishing, and much more

Arts and Culture

- Home of Musikfest, rated #1 music festival in North America by *USA Today*
- Home of Easton Public Market, ranked #1 public market by *USA Today*
- Historic Moravian Bethlehem, a National Historic Landmark District, nominated to UNESCO World Heritage List
- Allentown Art Museum (free admission)
- Symphony orchestra, and a wide range of professional and community theater

Family Friendly Activities

- Year-round festivals and as many as 50 events happening each weekend
- Thrill to the rides at Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom
- Cheer the home teams in baseball (Lehigh Valley IronPigs) and hockey (Lehigh Valley Phantoms), and watch Olympic track cycling hopefuls at the Valley Preferred Cycling Center
- Learn, explore, and play at Crayola Experience, the Da Vinci Science Center, and the Lehigh Valley Zoo



International Investment

- 80 international companies have Lehigh Valley facilities
- Companies from 23 countries
- Over 40% of economic development prospects in 2023 were international companies
- More than 3 million square feet of development has been announced or completed by international companies in the Lehigh Valley since 2022
- 2023 projects by companies from Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and Taiwan

Lehigh Valley, Pa., is an attractive U.S. location for international companies because of its proximity to major markets including New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Boston.



About Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC)

- Accredited member of International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
- Non-profit, public-private partnership organization
- Leads strong coalition of employers and educators that has produced award-winning talent pipeline and career exploration programs
- Provides gateway to grant, loan, tax abatement, tax credit, and incentive programs to finance business growth

Our Mission

The mission of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation is to market the economic assets of the Lehigh Valley and to create partnerships to support the recruitment, growth and retention of employers and the creation of jobs for people of all skill and education levels.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a diverse Lehigh Valley economy that provides economic growth and opportunity for people of all skill and education levels and strengthens all our cities, boroughs, and townships.

Our Priorities

- Market the economic assets of the Lehigh Valley
- Recruit companies in targeted economic sectors
- Support the growth and retention of new and existing employers
- Promote and help to coordinate a skilled and prepared workforce
- Provide intelligence and data on the Lehigh Valley economy
- Expand public and private LVEDC investment and build partnerships for economic growth