



LEHIGH VALLEY

COME HERE. GROW HERE. START HERE.



LEHIGH VALLEY
economic development

www.lehighvalley.org

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR GROWTH

2008-2014:

LEHIGH VALLEY RANKS IN THE TOP 10
**BEST-PERFORMING REGIONS FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE
NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**

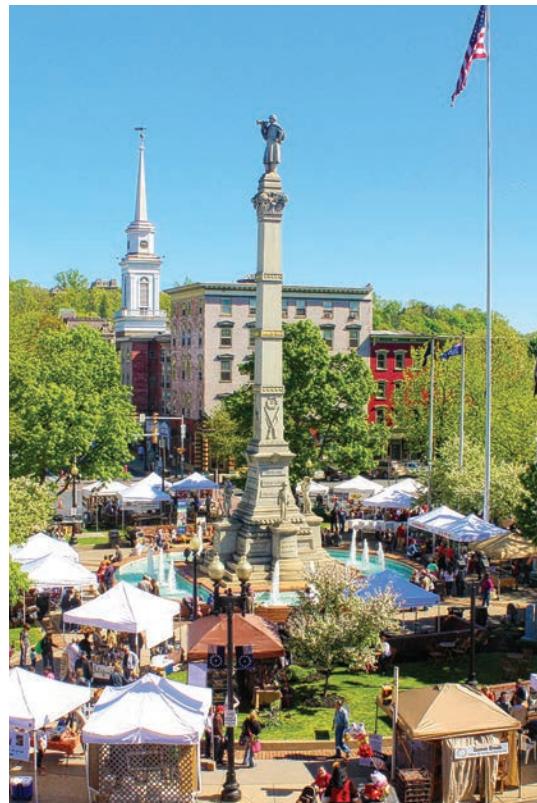
SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE, 2008-2014.



Residents enjoy an evening out in downtown Allentown. *Photo credit: Michael Rapoport*



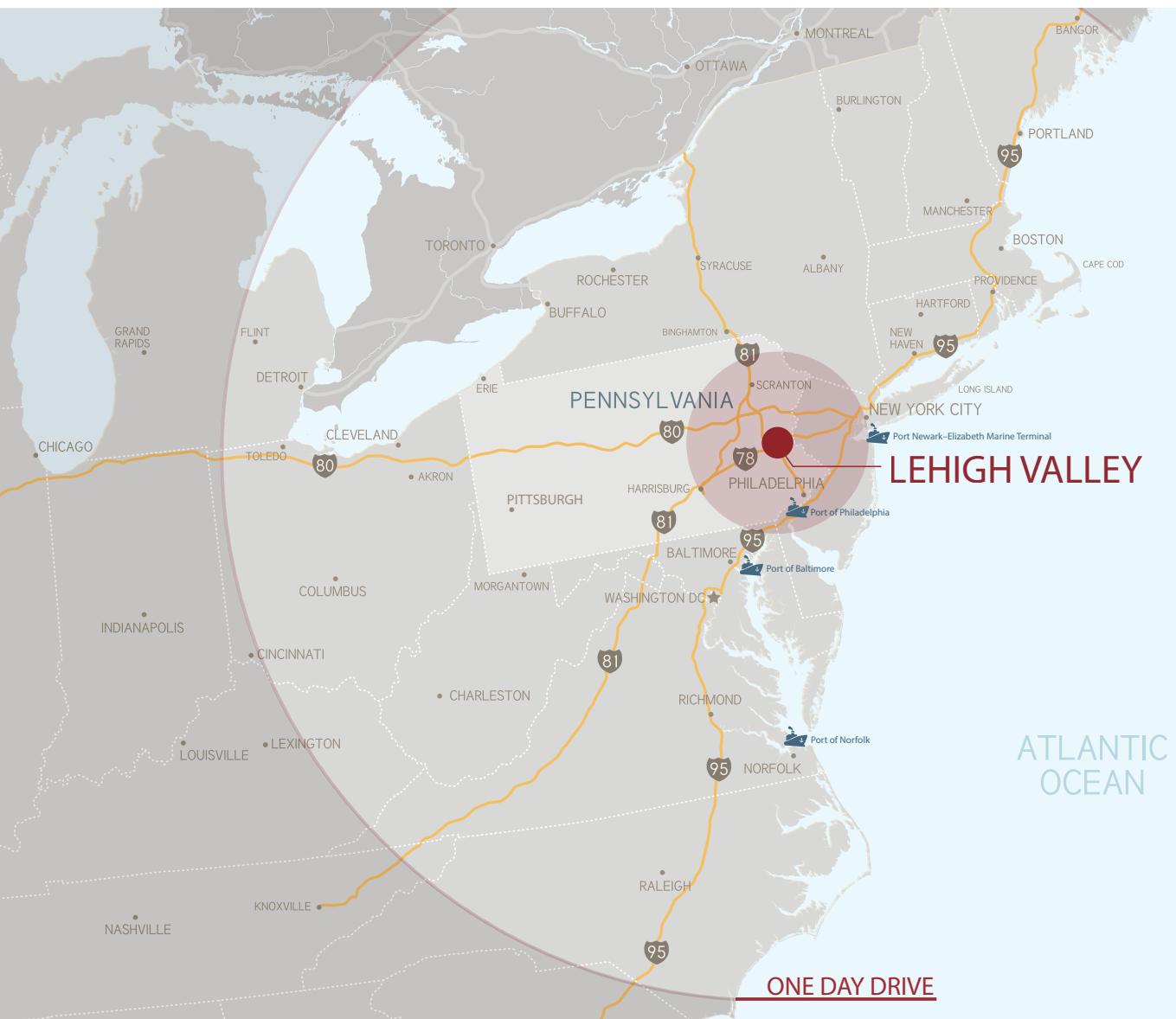
The sun sets over the Lehigh River in South Bethlehem. *Photo credit: Michael Rapoport*



Shoppers gather at the Easton Farmers' Market. *Photo credit: City of Easton*

THERE IS A REASON THE LEHIGH VALLEY IS DIFFERENT.

The region's access to markets, space, capital and labor are unparalleled. The economy is growing rapidly, the culture is diverse, and the quality of life is phenomenal. The Lehigh Valley offers a skilled workforce, robust infrastructure and transportation system, and a pro-business environment. While these assets draw global business to the Lehigh Valley, it is the welcoming community that keeps them here. It is no coincidence that businesses continue to come here, grow here, start here, and thrive here.



Lehigh Valley is located 60 minutes north of Philadelphia and 90 minutes west of New York City, the financial capital of the world. The region is the 68th largest metropolitan region in the United States, with a \$34.3 billion GDP.

Lehigh Valley is the fastest growing and third most populous region in the state of Pennsylvania, with a population of more than 650,000 residents.



ACCESS TO MARKETS

Connectivity to a variety of major markets.

- » Centrally located within a day's drive to one-third of all U.S. consumers and one-half of all Canadian consumers
- » Ideally situated to reach major domestic and international markets
- » Easily accessible through interstate highway network I-78, I-80, and I-476
- » Class 1 rail service through Norfolk Southern and CSX, with container transfer point at Bethlehem Intermodal Terminal
- » Close proximity to Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal and Port of Philadelphia
- » Passenger and cargo flights available through Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) and multiple private airports
- » Foreign Trade Zone #272



ACCESS TO SPACE

Abundant commercial, industrial and investment properties.

- » Total commercial office market rentable building area: 36 million SF
- » Office Vacancy: 11.1%
- » Average Office Rent: \$19.10/SF
- » Total Industrial building market rentable building area: 147 million SF
- » Industrial Vacancy: 7.1%
- » Average Industrial Rent: \$4.26/SF



ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Commercial Lending Investors include: National Penn Bank, Wells Fargo, Lafayette Ambassador Bank, Bank of America, PNC, and Santander

- » 213 bank branches with more than \$12 billion in deposits in 2014
- » Active local venture capital and angel network

LABOR

- » 658,000 total population
- » 335,400 labor force
- » 5.3% unemployment rate
- » More than 7,000 graduates a year from 13 higher education institutions
- » High availability of engineering graduates





GOVERNMENT IMPACT ON BUSINESS

Pro-Business Environment

- » Sales tax: 6%
- » Personal income tax: 3.07%
- » Corporate net income tax: 9.99%
- » Multiple state and local tax incentives

RESOURCES

Substantial opportunities for new business development.

- » High availability of agricultural products for food processing
- » Water capacity in excess of 136 million gallons per day (mgpd) and average daily usage of about 50 mgpd
- » Excess water and wastewater capacity and high availability of infrastructure lines to industrial sites
- » Natural gas rates: UGI
 - > Commercial \$9.81/mcf / Industrial \$9.20/mcf
- » Option to choose an electric generation supplier at papowerswitch.com
- » Logistics and transportation megahub for the United States

LEHIGH VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LVEDC)

Accredited Economic Development Organization

- » Member of International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
- » Bringing together both public and private sectors
- » Regional shared services and resource center focused on helping business thrive
- » Strong regional cooperation between cities, counties, and local organizations



QUALITY OF PLACE

Large metropolitan area, small-town quality of life.

- >> Primary and Secondary Education
 - > Award-winning public and private school system, including a 2014 Blue Ribbon high school
 - > College placement to all eight Ivy League schools in the past five years
- >> Higher Education
 - > Six 4-year Lehigh Valley universities, including Lafayette College and Lehigh University, as well as nationally-ranked community colleges and vocational-technical schools
- >> Residential Living
 - > Diverse residential mix of urban, rural, and suburban landscapes, from farms to towns to cities
- >> Healthcare
 - > Two major health networks, Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke's University Health Network, consistently ranked among the best in the nation for patient care and safety
- >> Recreational Activities
 - > Outdoor recreation includes skiing, boating, rafting, golfing, biking, hiking, camping, hunting and fishing
- >> Cultural Activities
 - > Cultural amenities include a symphony, museums, music and arts destinations
- >> Amusement Activities
 - > Home to two professional sports teams; AAA affiliate of Philadelphia Phillies and the AHL affiliate of Philadelphia Flyers, Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem, and the 10,000 seat Allentown PPL Center Arena
- >> Nearby Attractions
 - > Close to sites of historic Philadelphia, shopping and theatre districts of New York City, resort destinations of the Pocono Mountains, and the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean

Business Profile

B|BRAUN



B. Braun leads the way in developing infusion therapy and pain management products and services that meet the highest standards for quality, safety, sustainability and efficiency.

The Company has global headquarters in Melsungen, Germany and operations in 60 countries. In the U.S., B. Braun's corporate headquarters is located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with primary manufacturing facilities in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Other major global businesses that call the Lehigh Valley home include:

AIR PRODUCTS



OLYMPUS



LVEDC works closely with international firms looking to establish or expand business operations in the United States. We are eager to introduce you to the Lehigh Valley and to provide you with an exciting opportunity to bring your business to a region where it can thrive.

Our Mission

The mission of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation is to market the economic assets of the Lehigh Valley and to serve as a regional shared services and resource center to help businesses to come, grow and start here.

Lehigh Valley

Come here. Grow here. Start here.

2158 Avenue C, Suite 200 Bethlehem, PA 18017
Phone: 610-266-6775 • Fax: 610-266-7623

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