

# COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE REPORT



ISSUE #018



One of the core principles of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) is to serve as the leading source of economic data and market intelligence on the Lehigh Valley's economic assets and resources to serve our economic strategies, marketing efforts, and the needs of our stakeholders. To that end, LVEDC prepares a series of quarterly reports about the real estate climate in the Lehigh Valley. This report focuses on the region's office, industrial, and flex markets.

## CURRENT CONDITIONS

### **The Lehigh Valley currently has 2.5 million square-meters of office space.**

This quarter's issue provides a more detailed view at the overall office market inventory, the activity for which has been driven in recent quarters by office construction in Lehigh Valley's three urban communities.

For example, the total office market in the Lehigh Valley excluding owner-occupied and medical office space totals 1.5 million square-meters, according to this report. Removing space smaller than 1,000 square-meters drops that figure to 1.3 million square-meters.

On the industrial side, the Lehigh Valley industrial market has reached 11.4 million square-meters of inventory, with a vacancy rate of 4.5%. The regional market has added 269,000 square meters of industrial space in the last four quarters, including 94,000 square-meters in the calendar year of 2019 so far, and another 581,000 square-meters are currently under construction.

The average asking rent for industrial space in the Lehigh Valley is \$59.96 per square-meter as of Q2 2019.

Asking rates for industrial space greater than 28,000 square-meters reached \$53.93 per square-meter this quarter, and have increased 5% year-over-year, compared to \$51.34 per square-meter in the second quarter of 2018.

A recent report by CBRE Research identified cold storage logistics as a subsector to watch in industrial real estate. The report identified the Lehigh Valley as a target market for this subsector. Cold storage logistics account for 260,000 square-meters of the region's total industrial inventory.

This report also includes a list of notable commercial real estate transactions from the second quarter of 2019, as well as a breakdown of the components of the region's population change from 2010 to 2018.

Lehigh County has grown in population by 18,424 over that eight-year period, and is the fourth-fastest growing among Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Northampton County's population has grown by 7,113 from 2010 to 2018, and the region as a whole has grown by nearly 4% since the 2010 Census, primarily due to immigration.

## BROKER PERSPECTIVE

**"Overall, LVIP continues to benefit from a strong industrial market. Recent projects in LVIP VII have added close to 93,000 square-meters with developers constructing smaller buildings in the range of 3,700 to 22,000 square-meters. A large percentage of this new space has already been occupied primarily by manufacturers."**

**Kerry Wrobel**  
*President, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Inc.*



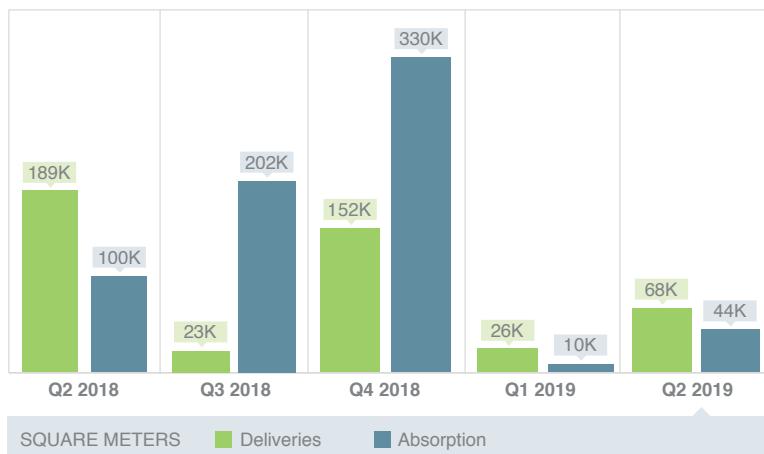
## MARKET SUMMARY

269,000 square meters of industrial space has been added in the last four quarters.



<b>11.4 Million</b> Total Space (SM)	<b>44K</b> Q2 Net Absorption (SM)	<b>\$59.96</b> Average Asking Rent (NNN)	<b>581K</b> Total Under Construction (SM)
<b>4.5%</b> Total Vacancy	<b>54K</b> 2019 Net Absorption (SM)	<b>-3.0%</b> YOY Rent Growth	<b>94K</b> 2019 Deliveries (SM)

## SUPPLY &amp; DEMAND (SM)



## ASKING RATE (PER SM)



Rents for industrial space more than 28,000 SM increased 5% year-over-year.

## INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

More than 28K SM	<b>6</b>	<b>316K SM</b>
Less than 14K SM	<b>3</b>	<b>32K SM</b>
Total	<b>18</b>	<b>581K SF</b>

\*No industrial buildings smaller than 14,000 SM are currently under construction.

## COLD STORAGE



A recent CBRE Research report identifies cold storage logistics as a “subsector to watch” in industrial real estate. The report identifies Lehigh Valley as a target market for this 260,000 square-meter regional subsector.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Cold Storage.

Sources: CoStar, LVEDC Research

# Lehigh Valley SNAPSHOT: OFFICE SPACE

## MARKET SUMMARY

*Inventory, not counting owner-occupied and medical office space, totals 1.5 million square-meters.*



<b>2.5 Million</b> Total Space (SM)	<b>7K</b> Q2 Net Absorption (SM)	<b>\$163.29</b> Average Asking Rent (NNN)	<b>27K</b> Total Under Construction (SM)
<b>6.9%</b> Total Vacancy	<b>-38K</b> 2019 Net Absorption (SM)	<b>3.6%</b> YOY Rent Growth	<b>1K</b> YTD Deliveries (SM)

## VACANCY RATE



 The overall office vacancy rate dropped by nearly 2 percentage points from Q1 to Q2 2019.

## ASKING RATE (PER SM)



 Asking rents for all combined classes of office space have increased 3.6% year-over-year.

## DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF OFFICE MARKET

	Inventory (SM)	Total Vacancy	Average Asking Rent (NNN)	YOY Rent Growth
<b>Not owner-occupied</b>	<b>1,754,481</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>\$162.32</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Not owner-occupied, excluding medical</b>	<b>1,500,493</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>\$165.12</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
<b>Not owner-occupied, excluding medical, more than 1,000 SM</b>	<b>1,311,679</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>\$168.03</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

\*Lehigh Valley's office market encompasses a variety of building categories and classes. This table provides alternative views of the market based on owner occupancy, use, and building size.

Sources: CoStar



## BROKER PERSPECTIVE

"We continue to see a strong demand for quality, well located office space from existing Lehigh Valley businesses as well as companies looking to grow and expand into the market. The demand is across all submarkets and product types."

**Philip M. Schenkel**

*Executive Vice President–Associate Director, JLL*



## Q2 2019 COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

### NOTABLE SALES

PROPERTY	BUYER	SELLER	SALE PRICE	MUNICIPALITY	CLASS
835 Hamilton St.	Somera Road	Plaza at 835 Hamilton Street LP	\$16,000,000	Allentown	Office
5100 W. Tilghman St.	Commerce Park LP	CRE CCC Allentown LLC	\$5,627,024	Upper Macungie Twp.	Office
5050 W. Tilghman St.	Commerce Park LP	CRE CCC Allentown LLC	\$5,476,270	Upper Macungie Twp.	Office
5000 W. Tilghman St.	Commerce Park LP	CRE CCC Allentown LLC	\$3,396,707	Upper Macungie Twp.	Office
734 Roble Rd.	Premium Waters Inc.	Roble Street Realty Inc.	\$2,700,000	Hanover Twp. (Lehigh)	Industrial
2030 Tilghman St.	ATS Investments LLC	Joseph Plunkett and R. Douglas Quay	\$1,900,000	Allentown	Office
101 S. 3rd St.	Matador Hospitality LLC	Sterling Enterprises of Hunterdon LLC	\$1,600,000	Easton	Office
6583 Ruch Rd.	Delco Innovations	Ruch Road Properties LLC	\$1,240,000	East Allen Twp.	Industrial
6666 Passer Rd.	TW Cooper LP	Michael Smale	\$1,200,000	Upper Saucon Twp.	Office
300 Bushkill St.	Cattell Property Management LLC	Northampton Farm Bureau	\$1,125,000	Tatamy	Industrial
101 E. Lexington St.	U.S. Specialty Properties LLC	James and Elizabeth Socci	\$1,000,000	Allentown	Industrial

### NOTABLE LEASES

PROPERTY	SM	LANDLORD REPRESENTATIVE	TENANT	MUNICIPALITY	CLASS
4200 Braden Blvd	44,200	JLL	Radial	Forks Township	Industrial
2900 Brodhead Rd	22,900	Lee & Associates	KPG Logistics	Bethlehem Twp.	Industrial
2980 Avenue B	8,000	Gelcor Realty	Executive Personal Computers	Bethlehem	Industrial
2147 Avenue C	3,000	Markward Group	Masters Home Solutions	Bethlehem	Industrial
81 Highland Ave	2,900	JLL	Innovative Control Systems	Hanover Twp. (Northampton)	Office

Source: Lehigh and Northampton County Real Estate Tax Records, LVEDC Research, CoStar

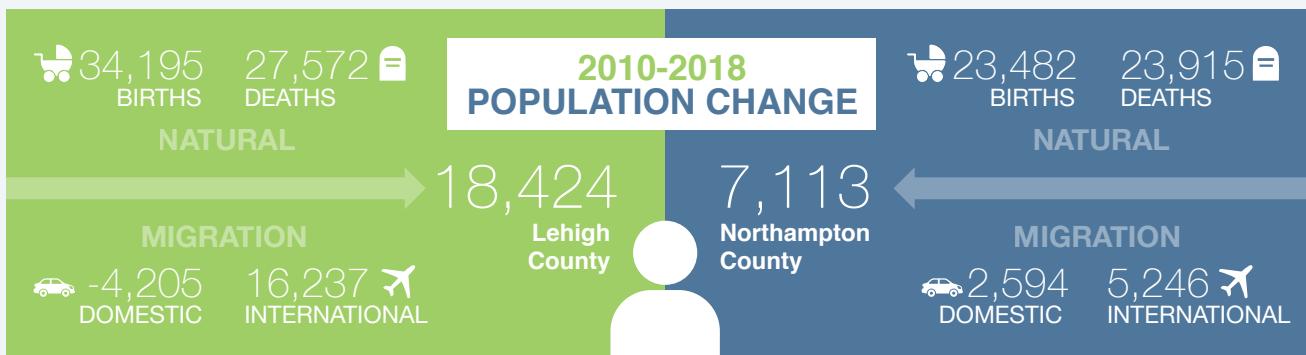


## COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE (2010-2018)

### LEHIGH VALLEY POPULATION

 672,907

*The region has grown by nearly 4% since the 2010 Census, primarily due to immigration.*



### LEHIGH VALLEY POPULATION FACTS (2010-2018)

- Lehigh is the fourth fastest growing among Pennsylvania's 67 counties
- Lehigh and Northampton are two among only 20 Pennsylvania counties with growing population
- Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton are among only 12 of Pennsylvania's 56 cities with growing population
- Upper Macungie added more residents than any township in Pennsylvania

*Source: Census Bureau 2018 Population Estimates*

*"The economy and population of the Lehigh Valley are growing together as people come here and new businesses start here. There is a direct connection between economic growth and population growth, because the biggest current factor in economic development is the workforce. Through our new Made Possible in Lehigh Valley initiative, we are making sure people from outside the region know Lehigh Valley is a place where you can create a life, a business, or a career on your terms."*

**Don Cunningham**

President & CEO, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC)

### LEHIGH VALLEY TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

YEAR	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
2014	286,707	\$13.8 Billion
2015	291,812	\$14.4 Billion
2016	298,486	\$14.9 Billion
2017	303,288	\$15.4 Billion
2018	308,554	\$15.9 Billion

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry*



## 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 lead the recruitment, growth, and retention of employers.

## Our Vision

Our vision is of a diverse Lehigh Valley economy that provides economic growth and opportunity for people of all skills and education 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 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