LEHIGH VALLEY
Lehigh Valley ranks in the **Top 5** best-performing regions for economic development in the Northeastern United States.

*Top 5 Regions: New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston, Lehigh Valley*

*Site Selection Magazine, 2016, 2017.*
THERE IS A REASON THE LEHIGH VALLEY IS DIFFERENT.

The region’s access to markets, space, capital, and talented 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, start here, and thrive here.

Be the next success story.
Located 60 minutes north of Philadelphia and 90 minutes west of New York City, the financial capital of the world. Lehigh Valley is the 69th largest metropolitan region in the United States, with a $39.1 billion GDP.

Lehigh Valley is one of the fastest-growing and third most populous region in the state of Pennsylvania, with a population of more than 665,000 residents.
ACCESS TO MARKETS

**Connectivity to a variety of major markets**

- **Centrally located** within a day’s drive to more than 100 million consumers.
- **Ideally situated** to reach anywhere in the world, within one hour drive of direct flights to London, Paris, Berlin, Shanghai, Tokyo, Mexico City, and Dubai.
- **Freight rail service** by Norfolk Southern and CSX, with container transfer point at Bethlehem Intermodal Terminal.
- **Direct interstate highway access** 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.
- **Import / Export incentives** available through Foreign Trade Zone #272.

ACCESS TO SPACE

**Abundant commercial, industrial and investment properties**

- **Total commercial office market** rentable building area: 26.5 million SF (2.5 million SM)
- **Office Vacancy:** 7.9%
- **Average Office Rent:** $14.31/SF ($154/SM)
- **Total Industrial building market** rentable building area: 119.5 million SF (11.1 million SM)
- **Industrial Vacancy:** 6.3%
- **Average Industrial Rent:** $5.78/SF ($62/SM)

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

**Access to a large variety of international, regional, and local banks**

- **205 bank branches** with more than $13.2 billion in deposits in 2017.
- Active **local venture capital** and angel network.

ACCESS TO LABOR

**The region is home to a diverse workforce.**

- **665,000 total population**
  - > 30 million within 100 mile radius
- **345,000 labor force**
  - > 1.4 million within one hour drive
- **4.8% unemployment rate**

- **More than 7,800 graduates/year** from 13 higher education institutions
- **1,200+ STEM degrees** awarded annually
- **High availability of engineering graduates**
GOVERNMENT IMPACT ON BUSINESS

Pro-Business Environment

>> Multiple state and local tax incentives
>> Personal income tax: 3.07%
>> Corporate net income tax: 9.99%

RESOURCES

Substantial opportunities for new business development

>> Logistics and transportation megahub for the United States
>> Over $130 million in farm product sales from 140,000 acres of farmland
>> 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 price to compare
   >> Commercial / Industrial: $6.33/MCF
>> Lehigh Valley served by PPL and FirstEnergy

LEHIGH VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LVEDC)

Accredited Economic Development Organization

>> Member of International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
>> Public-private partnership
>> Regional shared services and resource center focused on helping businesses locate here and 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
>> College placement to all eight Ivy League schools in the past five years

Higher Education
>> Nine 4-year Lehigh Valley universities, including Lafayette College and Lehigh University, as well as two nationally-ranked community colleges
>> 15% of all community college degrees awarded in PA come from Lehigh Valley community colleges.
>> Three career and technical schools with nearly 1,000 completions/year

Residential Living
>> Diverse mix of urban, rural, and suburban landscapes, from farms to towns to cities.
>> Median home price: $200,000
>> Median apartment rent: $950/month

Healthcare
>> Two major health networks, Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke’s University Health Network, rank among the best in the nation

Recreational Activities
>> Outdoor recreation includes skiing, boating, rafting, golfing, biking, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and more

Cultural Activities
>> Cultural amenities include a symphony, museums, a casino, and award-winning music and arts destinations

Sports Activities
>> Home to three professional sports teams; AAA affiliate of Philadelphia Phillies, AHL affiliate of Philadelphia Flyers, USL affiliate of Philadelphia Union, and Trexlertown’s Valley Preferred Cycling Center, a world-class velodrome

Nearby Attractions
>> Close to historic sites of Philadelphia, shopping and theatre districts of New York City, resort destinations of the Pocono Mountains, and the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean

Business Profile

Headquartered in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Air Products supplies a unique portfolio of atmospheric gases, process and specialty gases, performance materials, equipment and services.

The company touches the lives of consumers around the globe every day. With over 20,000 employees and operations in more than 50 countries, Air Products serves customers across a wide range of industries from food and beverage, health and personal care to energy, transportation and semiconductors.

Just a few of the other major global businesses that call the Lehigh Valley home include:
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 create partnerships to lead the recruitment, growth, and retention of employers.