



Profile: The Lehigh Valley

This profile of the Lehigh Valley (the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ metropolitan area) demonstrates its contribution to state and national economies, and highlights the area's critical assets that drive regional and national prosperity.

Orientation

Population, 2006	800,336 people ⁺
Population change since 2000	58,292 people (+7.9 percent)
Change in principal cities since 2000	2,109 people (+1.0 percent)
Employment, 2007	344,000 jobs ⁺
Employment change since 2003	18,100 jobs (+5.6 percent)
Manufacturing jobs, 2007	39,800 jobs ⁺
Share of jobs in manufacturing, 2007	11.6 percent
Change in manufacturing jobs since 2003	-3,800 jobs (-8.7 percent)



Economic Contribution to Pennsylvania

Gross Domestic Product, 2005	\$22,880,000,000 [^]	0.2 percent of U.S. total 4.7 percent of PA total
GDP per job, 2005	\$74,606 [^]	85.0 percent of U.S. average 91.0 percent of PA average
Employment in largest export clusters, 2004		
Education and knowledge creation	11,045 jobs	3.7% of metro employment
Financial services	9,320 jobs	3.1% of metro employment
Business services	7,741 jobs	2.6% of metro employment
Metal manufacturing	4,054 jobs	1.4% of metro employment
Distribution services	3,885 jobs	1.3% of metro employment

Fortune 500 headquartered firms (2)

Company	Rank	Industry
Air Products and Chemicals	275	Chemicals
PPL	336	Utilities: Gas and electric

Critical Assets

Innovation

Patents per 100,000 people, 2005	31.0	122.9 percent of U.S. average
NSF/NIH funding per capita, 2005	\$15.45	23.6 percent of U.S. average
Venture capital funding per capita, 2006	\$24.5	27.9 percent of U.S. average
R&D workers per 1,000 workers, 2005	0.8	19.9 percent of U.S. average
Research university enrollment per 1,000 people, 2005	8.0	63.3 percent of U.S. average
Lehigh University	6,034 students	
Percent of traded sector employment in "strong" clusters*	29.5 percent	56.1 percent of 100-metro average
Strong clusters (25,358 employees in 9 clusters)		
Apparel		
Biopharmaceuticals		
Chemical products		
Education and knowledge creation		
Furniture		
Leather and related products		
Lighting and electrical equipment		
Medical devices		
Power generation and transmission		

Human Capital

Share of adults with associate's degree, 2006	32.4 percent	94.1 percent of U.S. average
Share of adults with bachelor's degree, 2006	24.4 percent	90.4 percent of U.S. average
Share of adults with graduate degree, 2006	8.9 percent	90.2 percent of U.S. average

Infrastructure

Air passenger boardings per capita, 2005	0.5	21.4 percent of U.S. average
Freight vehicle miles traveled per capita, 2005	914	113.1 percent of U.S. average
Public transit passenger miles per capita, 2005	29	18.1 percent of U.S. average
Share of population in high-broadband areas, 2004	56.1 percent	98.7 percent of U.S. average

Quality Places

Share of metropolitan jobs in principal cities, 2005	27.0 percent	54.8 percent of U.S. average
Share of metro jobs within 3 miles of downtown, 2004	27.0 percent	124.5 percent of 100-metro average
Share of population living in older towns and cities	61.2 percent	108.6 percent of PA average
Miles of waterfront per 100,000 people	44.1	113.3 percent of 100-metro average
Performing arts establishments per 100,000 people, 2005	2.3	73.9 percent of U.S. average
Historic properties per 100,000 people, 2005	18.2	66.8 percent of U.S. average

+These figures include the New Jersey portion of the metro area

^These figures represent only the Pennsylvania (in-state) portions of GDP and GDP per job

* A "strong" cluster within a metro is a traded cluster that has a location quotient—a measure of regional specialization—that places it in the top 20 percent of all metro areas

Sources: Brookings analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard University; Fortune Magazine; U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; National Science Foundation; National Institutes of Health; Thompson Financial; Ned Hill calculations of Economy.com data; Carnegie Foundation; National Center for Education Statistics; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Transit Administration; Internal Revenue Service; ESRI