

## Lehigh Valley Demographics, Projections, and Economic Data: 2013

### Sources include:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation  
PA State Data Center  
US Census Bureau  
The Morning Call

*Titles are hyper-linked to postings on the [PSLV Institutional Planning Website](#).  
Refer to these links for additional information and complete articles.*

## CURRENT LEHIGH VALLEY POPULATION

### [Population Break-downs for Lehigh, Northampton, and Other Service Area Counties, 2010 \(US Census Bureau\)](#)

**Lehigh County: 349,497, Northampton County: 297,735**

Click on link above to access additional service area counties, race break-downs, and poverty level data

### [Lehigh County is Fastest Growing County in PA \(PA State Data Center\)](#)

**Lehigh County** is Pennsylvania's **fastest growing** county, according to the 2012 County Population Estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012, Lehigh County's total population increased from **349,497** to **355,245** residents, a growth-rate of **1.6 percent**.

## LEHIGH VALLEY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

### [2010-2040 Lehigh Valley Population Projections \(LVPC\)](#)

**The Lehigh Valley will increase by 35% from 2010 to 2040.**

Lehigh County will increase 11.5% per decade, while Northampton County will increase 11.9% per decade  
Northampton County is expected to experience 1.33 times as much net migration as Lehigh County (due to its closer proximity to New York and New Jersey).

## LEHIGH VALLEY ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

### [Lehigh Valley Holds on to Top 10 Economic Development Ranking \(The Morning Call\)](#)

**The Lehigh Valley hung on to its top 10 economic development status** in Site Selection magazine's 2012 ranking of metropolitan areas. It's the **fifth consecutive year** that the Lehigh Valley has broken into the top 10 in its category: metropolitan areas with populations between 200,000 and 1 million.

### [Lehigh Valley Recognized as Top Ten in the Nation \(LVEDC\)](#)

**Ranked seventh in the "Large-Sized Counties" segment** measuring populations between 150,000 and 499,999, Fourth Economy anointed Lehigh County based on the following criteria: investment, talent, sustainability, place and diversity. Specific indicators include **wage and employment growth, education levels, drive times, home values, minority business ownership, agricultural and manufacturing capacity and population density.**

### [Lehigh Valley Employment To Grow \(LVPC\)](#)

**-Lehigh County's employment will grow by 38.6% from 2010 to 2040.**

**-Northampton County's employment will grow by 36.4% from 2010 to 2040.**

The rate of employment growth from 2010-2040 (37.7%) in the **Lehigh Valley is expected to outpace the rate of employment growth nationally** (34.7%) over the same period. This suggests that the **Lehigh Valley will remain an economically competitive region** due to a variety of factors ranging from proximity to major markets, robust population growth, a growing labor force, and lower costs of production and labor in comparison to other markets.

### [Lehigh Valley Employment Forecast 2040 \(LVPC\)](#)

The Lehigh Valley lost more manufacturing jobs than the nation as a whole, but has **several industries such as arts, healthcare and management of companies that added more jobs than the nation.** This may suggest the Lehigh Valley has a **niche in those industries.** Overall employment will grow, adding 131,410 jobs to the local economy. The **majority of industries in the Lehigh Valley will see gains in employment.** The health care and social assistance sector is projected to gain the most jobs (38,817), followed by professional and business services (14,834), and construction (13,866).