



LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

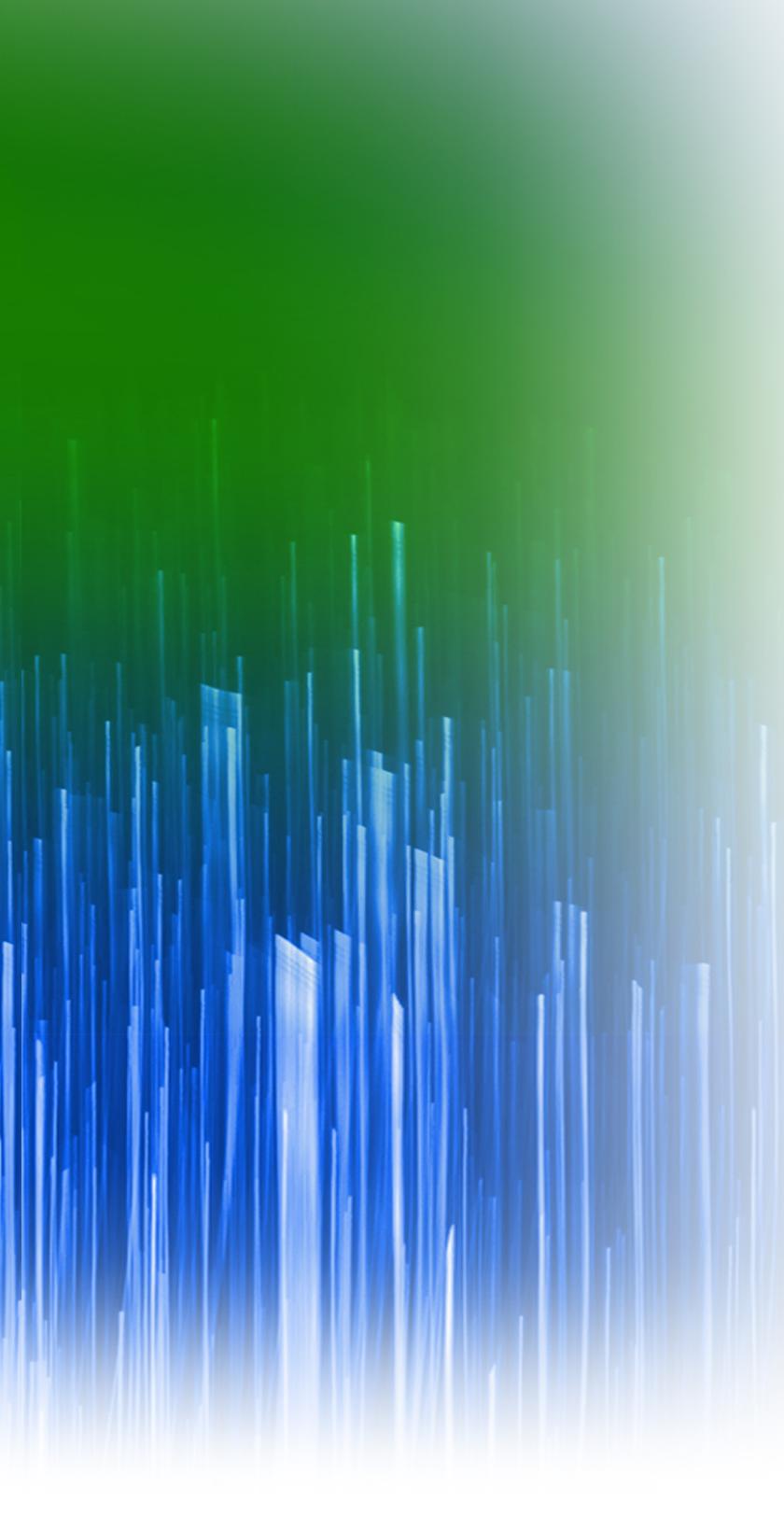
Published XXXX 2026

This material is based upon work supported by the Federal Highway Administration under Agreement No. - #C920001370. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation. The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (MPO) is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination requirements of civil right statutes, executive orders, regulations and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. Accordingly, the MPO is dedicated to ensuring that the program beneficiaries are not excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or economic status. Documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodation or those with questions should call Hannah Milagio, Regional Planner for Community Engagement, at 610-246-4544

LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS





Executive Summary	5
Introduction	11
Population & Regional Economic Profile ...	15
Geographic Mobility	30
Population Growth	34
Migration to the Lehigh Valley	43
Generational Projections	46
Supporting Employment Data/Studies	54
Future Forces	56
Appendices	61
Appendix A: Methodology	62
Appendix B: Regional & Municipal Forecasts	63



**WORKFORCE
BOARD**
LEHIGH VALLEY

LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

Fueling the Workforce:

New residents are revving the Valley's economic engine

These forecasts are a critical component of the region's long-range transportation planning process, as mandated under federal statutes such as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. By projecting changes in population, workforce, and industry composition, LVPC ensures that transportation plans, infrastructure investments, and land-use strategies are grounded in anticipated regional growth patterns.

POPULATION PROJECTION

816,287

+ 18.6% Growth by 2025

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTION

404,976

+ Up from 25% by 2050

These federally guided forecasts provide planners, municipalities, and stakeholders with the data necessary to anticipate travel demand, assess economic development impacts, and support sustainable, and coordinated planning across Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

The most recent employment and population forecasts conducted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), in partnership with the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley suggest that the Lehigh Valley is projected to experience steady employment and population growth through 2050. The region's population is projected to increase by 18.6%, rising from 688,409 in 2022 to 816,287, with Lehigh County growing faster than Northampton County (21.7% versus 14.7%).

Employment across the Valley is projected to expand by approximately 24.9%, from 324,248 to 404,976 jobs, with Northampton County experiencing a slightly higher growth rate (25.5%) than Lehigh County (24.6%). This reflects Northampton's ability to expand across a broader range of industries and capitalize on fast-growing sectors, while Lehigh's growth remains concentrated in larger industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, wholesale trades and construction.

By 2050, the top eight industries are expected to account for roughly 74% of total jobs in the Valley. Transportation and Warehousing will continue to drive the largest absolute gains, reflecting the region's strategic role as a logistics hub. Healthcare and Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, and Management of Companies and Enterprises are also projected to grow substantially, strengthening the Valley's knowledge-based and high-skill employment base.

Smaller, fast-growing sectors, particularly in Northampton County, are projected to play an outsized role in overall employment growth, diversifying the local economy and enhancing resilience. In contrast, sectors such as Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services, Education, and Finance are projected to contract in Lehigh County, partially offsetting gains from dominant industries.

Demographically, the Valley will see growth across all age groups. The working-age population (25–64) is projected to increase from 350,469 to 426,320 (i.e., 21.6%), supporting the region's labor force and economic capacity. School-age populations (5–19) are projected to rise by 19.5%, while the 0–4 age group will grow by 13.2%, highlighting the continued need for K–12 and early childhood services.

The population aged 65 and older will increase by 12.4%, emphasizing demand for senior services, healthcare, and age-friendly infrastructure. In terms of racial and ethnic composition, minority populations are projected to grow substantially, with Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations collectively comprising over 43% of the region by 2050, up from 22% in 2010.

The 2050 Horizon

The region is growing larger, more diverse and economically stronger. Employment growth is projected to outpace population growth, signaling a deepening economic engine.

Projected Minority
Population Share
by 2050

Up from 22% in 2010

+43%

Adaptable Growth:

Building a flexible foundation for a sustainable economy

Migration and commuting patterns will continue to shape where people live and work in the Lehigh Valley. Inflows from nearby states and other Pennsylvania counties will affect the labor market, housing demand, and transportation planning.

These projections have limits. They do not fully account for the potential impact of emerging industries such as bio-fabrication, additive manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and advanced logistics. While these sectors are still developing in the Lehigh Valley, rapid growth could significantly change employment trends, infrastructure needs, and land use patterns beyond what current forecasts show.

Planners should use these projections as a starting point, while remaining flexible and responsive to technological change and shifts in industry. Overall, the LVPC's forecasts suggest the Lehigh Valley will continue to grow as a diverse, strategically located metropolitan region. Coordinating population, employment, and industry trends in planning efforts will be key to supporting sustainable growth, economic competitiveness, and inclusive development.

IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL PLANNING

- Serve as a core component of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, supporting coordinated investment and regional growth management efforts
- Helps anticipate employment and population growth, thereby guiding regional strategies for housing, infrastructure, and land use
- Support growth in both dominant industries and smaller, high-growth sectors to ensure economic diversification and resilience
- Expand infrastructure, services, and housing to accommodate population growth across all age groups
- Plan for workforce development and training tailored to targeted industries as the region becomes increasingly diverse
- Monitor emerging industries and anticipate their impact on land use, industrial space, and transportation networks

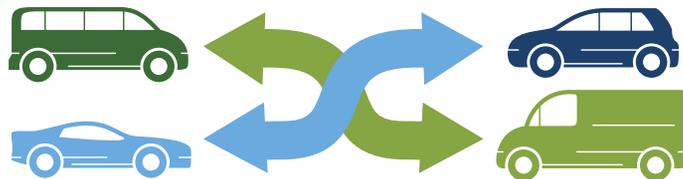


LVPC PROJECTIONS

(Starting Point)

Forecasts for Population & Employment suggest continued growth as a diverse, strategic region.

Rapid growth could significantly change employment, infrastructure, and land use.



MIGRATION & COMMUTING PATTERNS

Inflows from nearby states and PA counties will shape the region's labor market, housing and transportation



POTENTIAL IMPACT OF EMERGING INDUSTRIES

- Bio-fabrication
- Additive manufacturing
- AI
- Robotics
- Advanced logistics



**WORKFORCE
BOARD**
LEHIGH VALLEY

LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

POPULATION & REGIONAL
**ECONOMIC
PROFILE**

Precision Planning for a Region on the Move

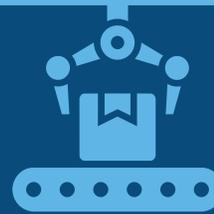
Its strategic location, economic diversity and evolving industrial landscape position the Lehigh Valley as an important center for freight, distribution, and innovation, while also presenting ongoing planning considerations for land use, infrastructure, and community development.

An analysis of employment and population density provides additional insight into how growth is distributed across the region. Employment density was calculated by dividing the total number of jobs in each block by its total number of square acres. Population density was calculated by dividing the total population in each block by its total square footage.

These metrics were derived using Census 2020 block-level data, integrating residential employment and population estimates to identify concentrated areas of activity. Density heatmaps were developed to visualize spatial patterns of growth, highlighting urban cores, employment centers and emerging development corridors, which will inform future land use and transportation planning.

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S POPULATION (708,000 RESIDENTS)

REFLECTS ITS GROWING SIGNIFICANCE
AS AN ECONOMIC HUB, FOSTERING
DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS
VARIOUS INDUSTRIES



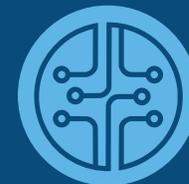
Manufacturing



Logistics

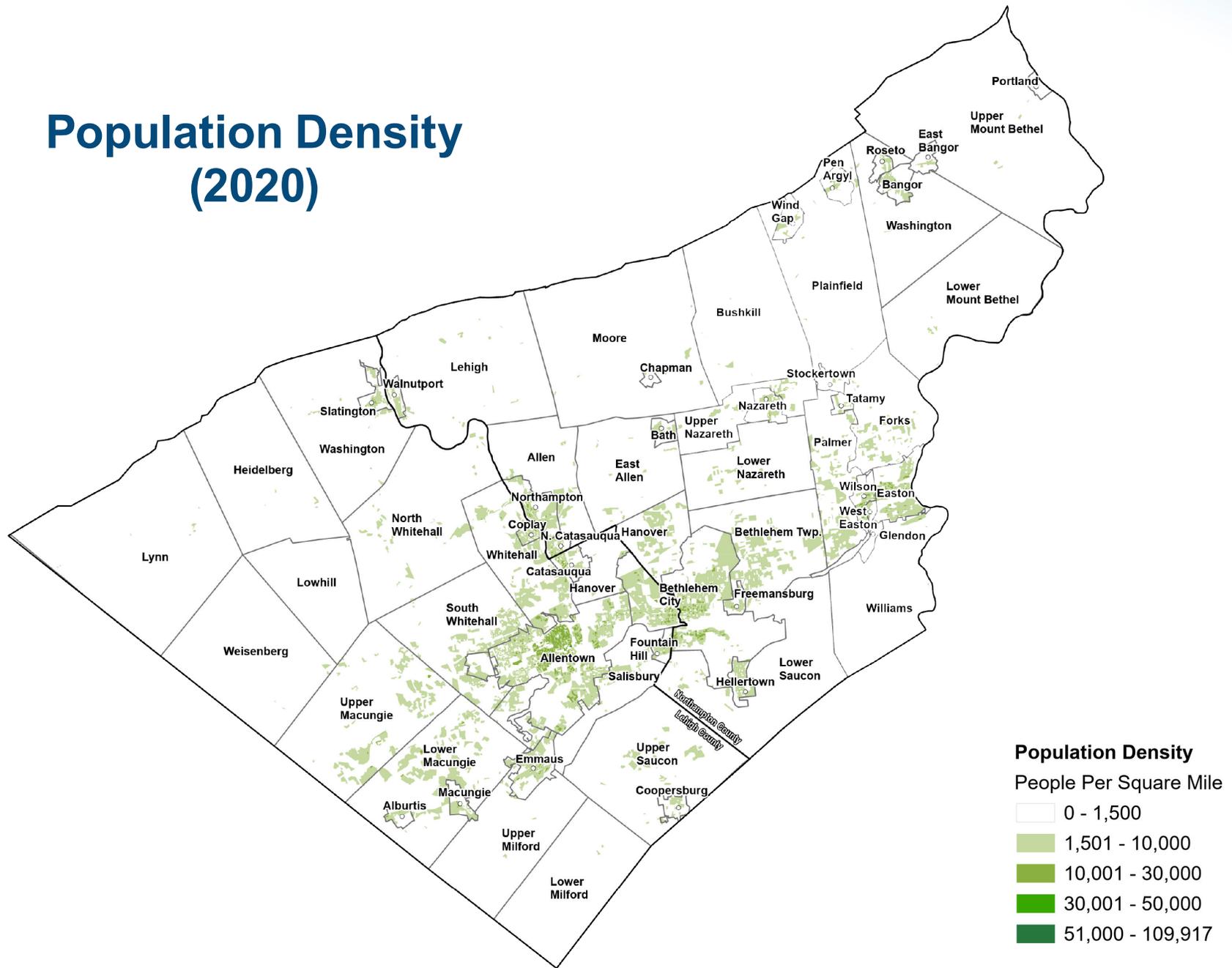


Healthcare



Technology

Population Density (2020)



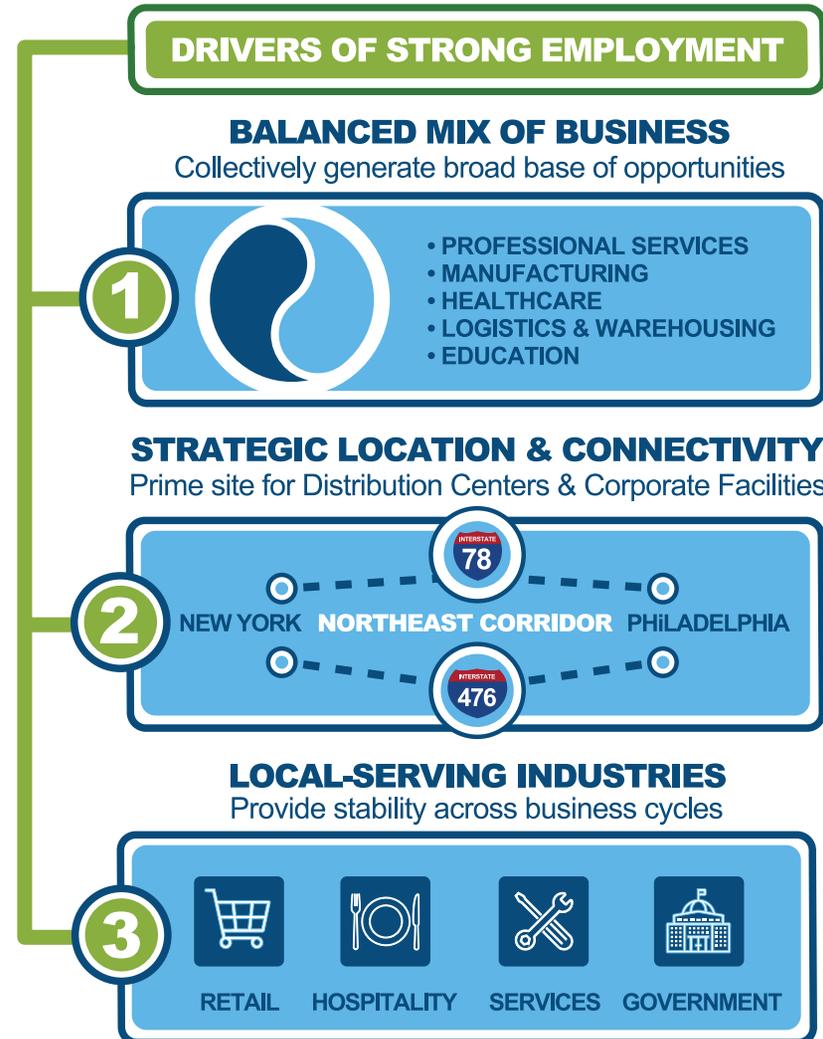
Lehigh Valley: With one job for every two residents, our economy doesn't just grow, it thrives.

The jobs-to-population ratio is a simple metric that compares the number of jobs in a region to its total population, offering insight into the strength of the local employment base. A higher ratio suggests more employment opportunities relative to the number of residents, which can indicate economic vitality and regional attractiveness.

This figure compares well with thriving peer metro areas, highlighting the region's strong employment base. This is because of the region benefiting from a balanced mix of industries, including manufacturing, logistics and warehousing, healthcare, education and professional services, which collectively generate a broad base of employment opportunities.

Its location within the Northeast corridor, situated between New York City and Philadelphia and connected by major interstate highways, has made it a prime site for distribution centers and corporate facilities.

At the same time, the region retains a strong base of local-serving industries that provide stability across business cycles. This combination of geographic advantages, industrial diversity and accessibility helps explain why the Lehigh Valley sustains a higher concentration of jobs relative to its population compared with peer metro areas.

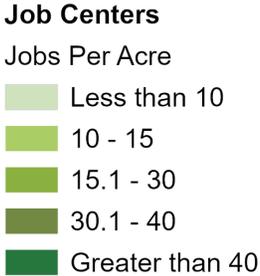
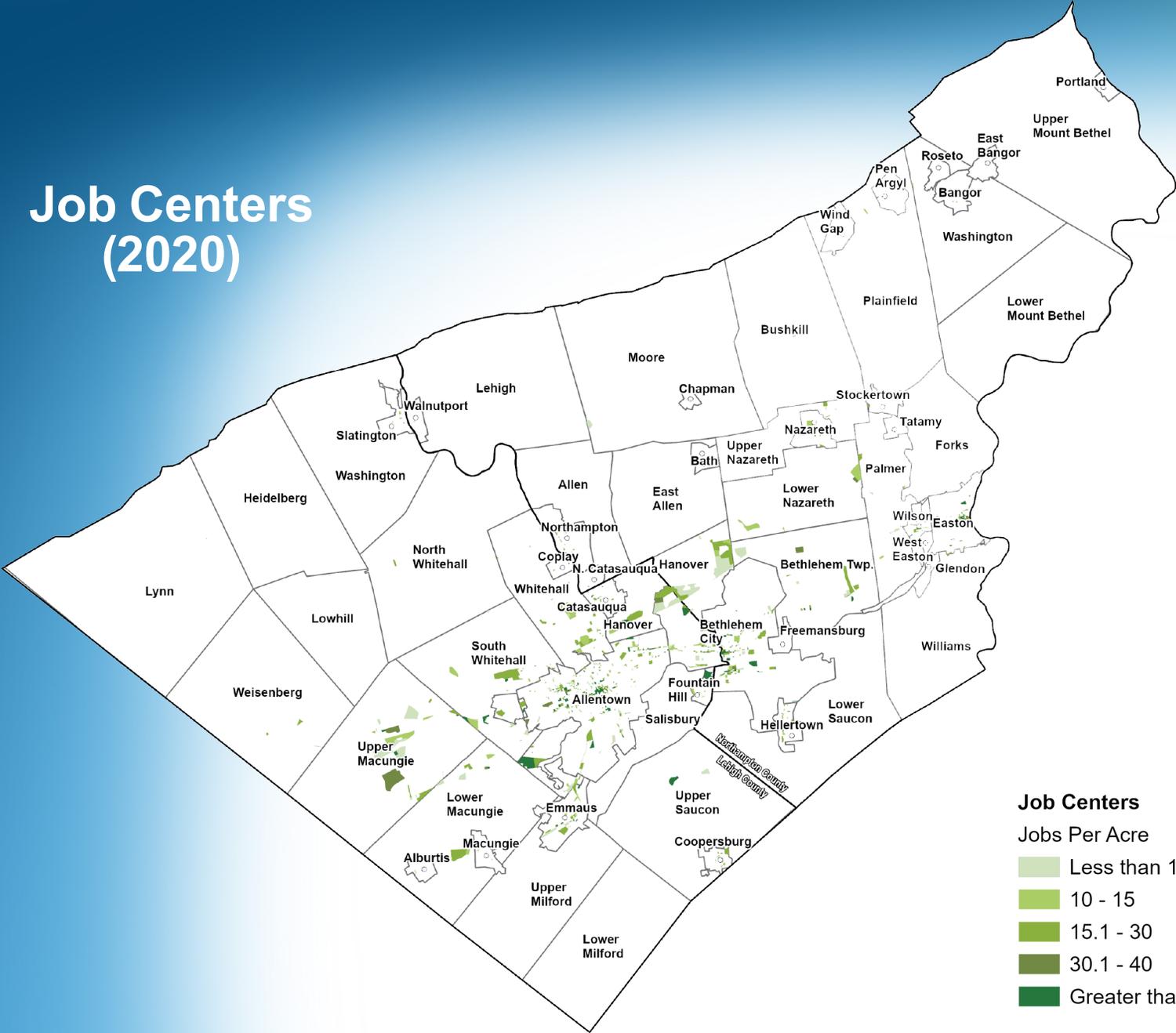


COMPARISON WITH OTHER METRO AREAS AROUND THE COUNTRY

COMPARABLE METRO AREAS	JOBS-TO-POPULATION RATIO	2023 POPULATION	2023 EMPLOYMENT
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL, NC	0.572	594,291	339,670
HARRISBURG-CARLISLE, PA	0.551	597,894	329,714
AKRON, OH	0.549	699,508	384,303
RALEIGH-CARY, NC	0.519	1,449,594	752,242
GRAND RAPIDS-WYOMING-KENTWOOD, MI	0.518	1,154,320	598,453
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA, NC-SC	0.513	2,712,818	1,390,440
ALBANY-SCHENECTADY-TROY, NY	0.513	902,372	462,787
INDIANAPOLIS-CARMEL-GREENWOOD, IN	0.509	2,106,327	1,071,500
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA	0.498	866,764	429,182
ATLANTA-SANDY SPRINGS-ROSWELL, GA	0.498	6,176,937	3,076,193
TOLEDO, OH	0.498	602,977	300,128
DAYTON-KETTERING-BEAVERCREEK, OH	0.494	813,608	401,535
PITTSBURGH, PA	0.492	2,443,921	1,203,131
LANCASTER, PA	0.488	555,151	270,645
WORCESTER, MA	0.45	861,664	387,931
PALM BAY-MELBOURNE-TITUSVILLE, FL	0.442	620,533	274,054

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2019–2023

Job Centers (2020)



Between 2001 and 2023, economic output expanded dramatically, with Lehigh County's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing 128.9% and Northampton County's GDP increasing 184.8%, well above Pennsylvania's 131.8% growth. Trade activity remained robust, with Lehigh County exporting \$24.1 billion and importing \$21.5 billion, and Northampton county exporting \$14.4 billion while importing \$20.7 billion in 2023.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS BY REGION

REGION	2023 INDUSTRIES	2023 EXPORT	2023 IMPORT	2001 GDP	2023 GDP	GDP GROWTH
LEHIGH COUNTY	323	\$24,093.49M	\$21,534.92M	\$13,772.91M	\$31,524.51M	→ 128.88%
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	329	\$14,415.86M	\$20,717.98M	\$6,396.8M	\$18,223.6M	→ 184.8%
PENNSYLVANIA	505	\$473,175.1M	\$550,815.72M	\$427,689.52M	\$991,412.14M	→ 131.8%

Source: IMPLAN. GDP was calculated from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and figures in the table are based on the 2025 year dollar values. Industries represent the numer of businesses in the area.

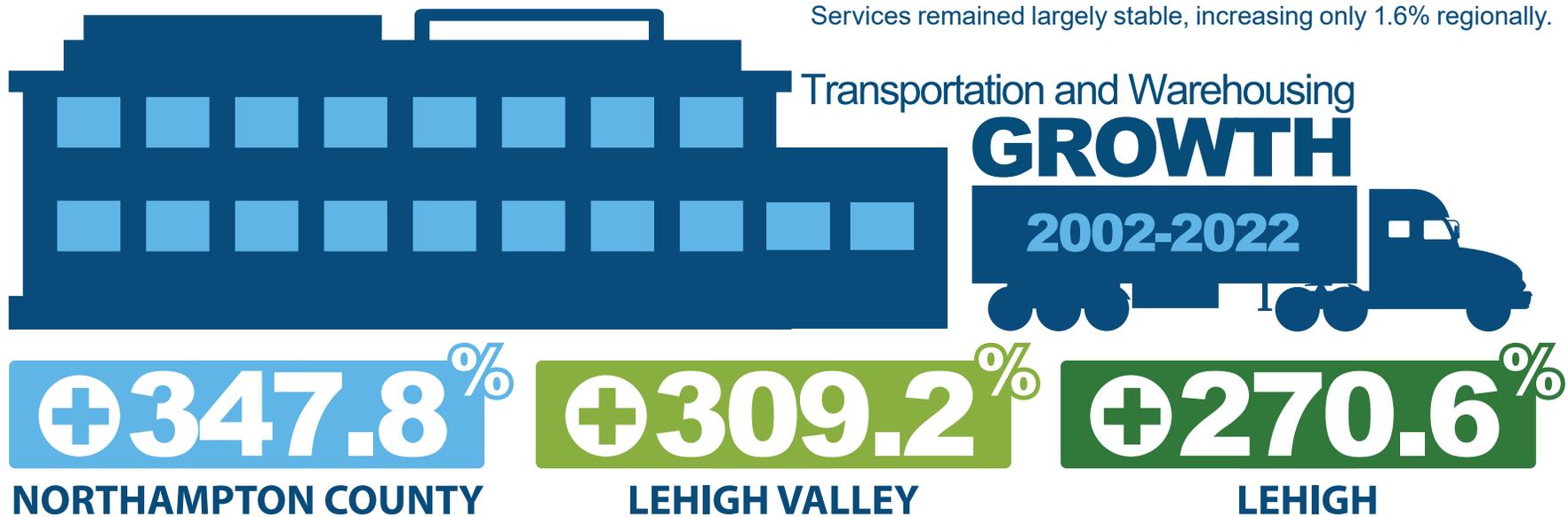
Two Decades of Growth: Lehigh Valley as a Supply Chain Powerhouse

Between 2002 and 2022, the Lehigh Valley's employment landscape underwent significant transformation. Transportation and Warehousing saw the most dramatic growth, expanding more than threefold regionally, with Lehigh up 270.6% and Northampton up 347.8%, reflecting the Valley's increasing role as a logistics and distribution hub.

Healthcare and Social Assistance nearly doubled in Lehigh (90.8%) and Northampton (84.1%), contributing to an 89.4% regional rise, driven by population growth and rising demand for medical services. Management of Companies and Enterprises more than doubled across the Valley, with a 101.5% regional increase, highlighting expansion in corporate and administrative infrastructure.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services grew substantially, rising 54.9% regionally, reflecting a strengthening knowledge-based economy. Other sectors, including Administrative Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Accommodation and Food Services; Agriculture; Forestry; Fishing and Hunting; Educational Services; Retail and Wholesale Trade; and Construction, experienced moderate growth regionwide.

On the other hand, Manufacturing declined 17.7% regionally. Information sector fell sharply, losing 46.7% regionwide, and Utilities dropped 68.3% across the Valley. Finance and Insurance declined 29% regionally, driven primarily by a 49% loss in Northampton County. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing declined slightly overall (-6.2%), while Other Services remained largely stable, increasing only 1.6% regionally.



Labor Market Dynamics by Sector & Region (2002-2022)

SECTOR	LEHIGH			NORTHAMPTON			LEHIGH VALLEY		
	2002	2022	CHANGE	2002	2022	CHANGE	2002	2022	CHANGE
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	274	350	27.74%	51	221	333.33%	325	571	75.69%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	426	55	-87.09%	25	68	172.00%	451	123	-72.73%
Utilities	2,124	592	-72.13%	550	257	-53.27%	2,674	849	-68.25%
Construction	6,436	7,244	12.55%	4,861	4,280	-11.95%	11,297	11,524	2.01%
Manufacturing	28,580	19,650	-31.25%	14,310	15,643	9.32%	42,890	35,293	-17.71%
Wholesale Trade	7,617	8,058	5.79%	2,851	4,643	62.86%	10,468	12,701	21.33%
Retail Trade	16,786	18,350	9.32%	9,799	11,834	20.77%	26,585	30,184	13.54%
Transportation and Warehousing	5,353	19,840	270.63%	3,450	15,448	347.77%	8,803	35,288	300.86%
Information	3,886	2,040	-47.50%	2,573	1,406	-45.36%	6,459	3,446	-46.65%
Finance and Insurance	6,232	5,538	-11.14%	5,546	2,818	-49.19%	11,778	8,356	-29.05%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	2,109	1,711	-18.87%	704	928	31.82%	2,813	2,639	-6.19%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6,525	10,247	57.04%	2,843	4,266	50.05%	9,368	14,513	54.92%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,319	6,725	102.62%	594	1,161	95.45%	3,913	7,886	101.53%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	9,583	14,243	48.63%	4,189	6,194	47.86%	13,772	20,437	48.40%
Educational Services	2,392	3,116	30.27%	4,399	4,673	6.23%	6,791	7,789	14.70%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	23,503	44,852	90.84%	6,280	11,564	84.14%	29,783	56,416	89.42%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,643	2,117	28.85%	704	1,327	88.49%	2,347	3,444	46.74%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,565	10,838	2.58%	5,523	9,917	79.56%	16,088	20,755	29.01%
Other Services	5,255	5,130	-2.38%	3,449	3,716	7.74%	8,704	8,846	1.63%

*Note: Red shades indicated negative growth, while blue shades indicate positive growth. The stronger the shade, the higher the magnitude of the change.

Source: US Census Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics dataset

A Region on the Rise: 25% Growth. 80,000 Jobs.

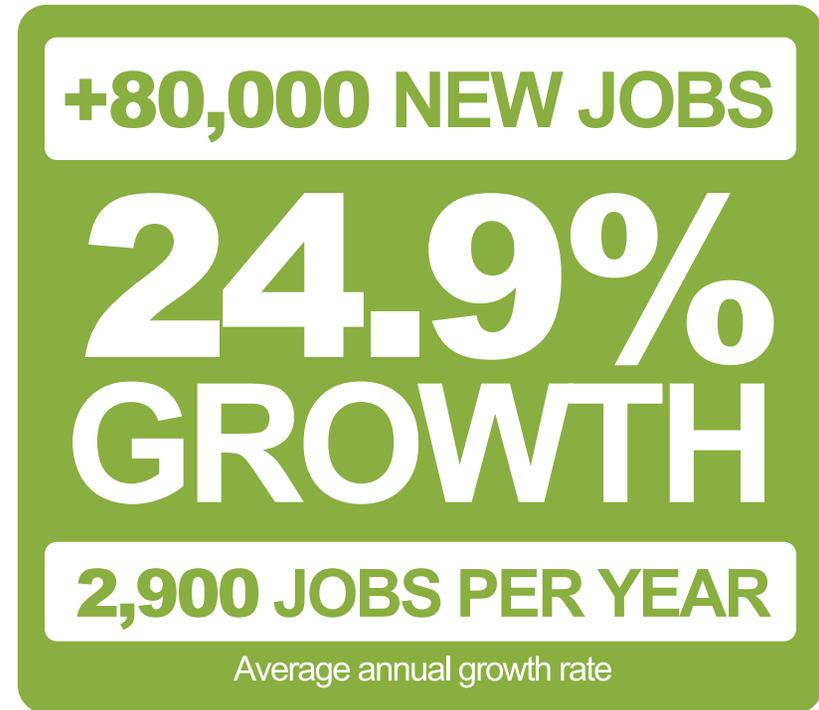
The Lehigh Valley is projected to add more than 80,000 jobs by 2050, growing from 324,248 in 2022 to 404,976, representing 24.90% increase, or an average of about 2,900 jobs per year.

Lehigh County is expected to see jobs rise from 208,767 to 260,036, an increase of 24.56%, while Northampton County is projected to experience slightly faster growth, from 115,480 to 144,939 jobs, or 25.51%.

Altogether, this expansion reflects steady, long-term employment growth across the region, with Northampton county's higher percentage growth highlighting its growing role within the regional economy. Although Northampton County's population growth is projected to be slightly lower than Lehigh County's, its employment is expected to grow slightly faster.

This reflects factors such as available land for commercial and industrial development, the location of emerging sectors like logistics and advanced manufacturing, and Northampton County's role within regional economic networks that attract new jobs.

This reflects factors such as available land for commercial and industrial development, the location of emerging sectors like logistics and advanced manufacturing, and Northampton County's role within regional economic networks that attract new jobs.



LEHIGH VALLEY JOB GROWTH PROJECTION

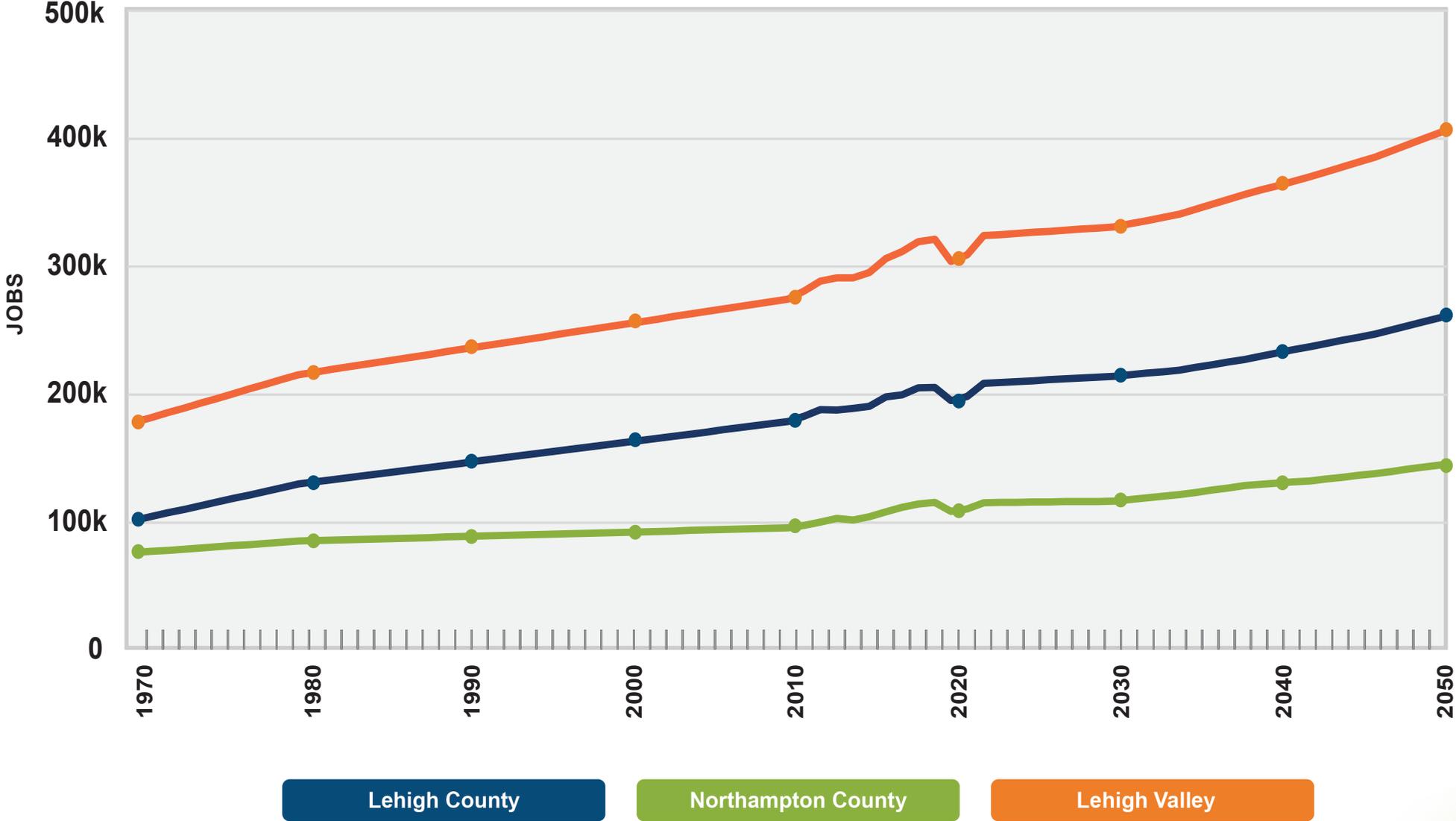
2022 **324,248** JOBS



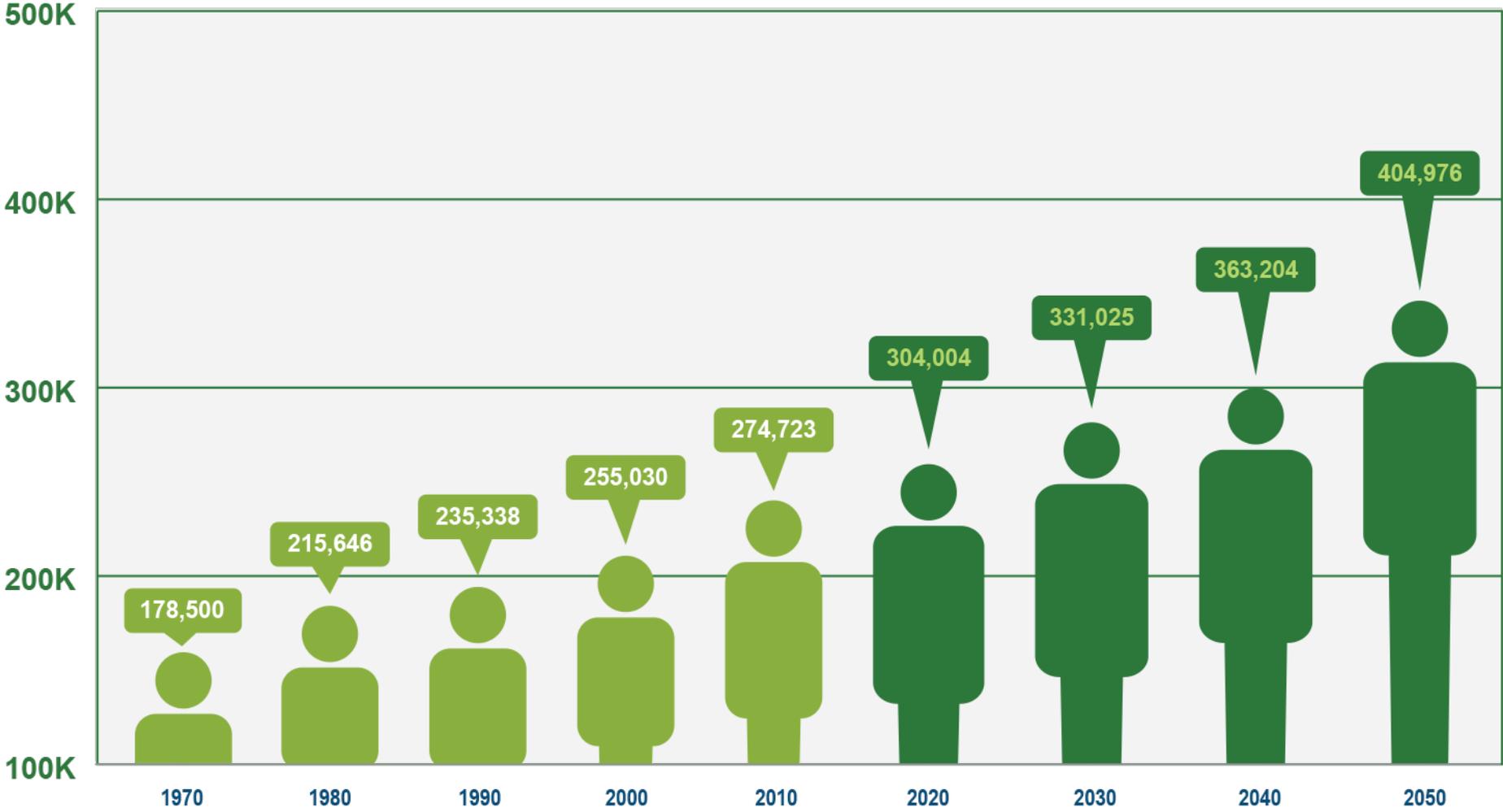
2050 **404,976** JOBS



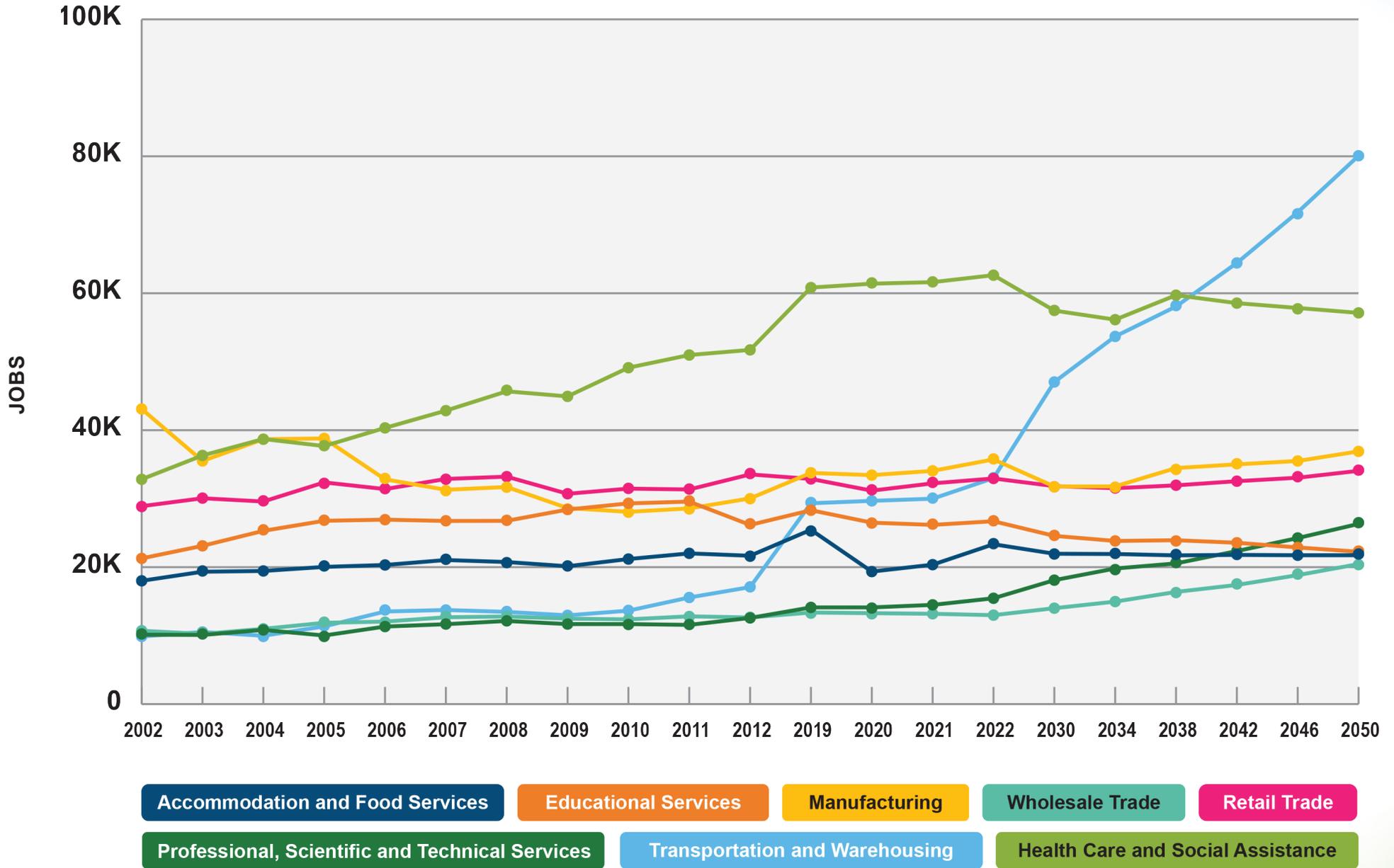
Lehigh Valley Job Trends Projections (1970-2050)



LEHIGH VALLEY JOB TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS (1970-2050)



Top Eight Job Sectors Trends and Projections (2002-2050)



Note: These 8 sectors were selected based on numbers of jobs in 2050.

Scaling Up: Not just powered by industry giants, but strengthened by rising sectors.

Between 2022 and 2050, Northampton County's job growth is projected to outpace Lehigh County's because it is expected to expand more broadly across a wider range of industries and avoid some of the contractions facing Lehigh County. The most dramatic difference is in management of companies, where Northampton County nearly tripled its employment base with a 195% increase, compared to an 87% gain in Lehigh County, signaling a significant concentration of corporate and administrative functions in Northampton County.

Similarly, professional, scientific and technical services are expected to grow by nearly 75% in Northampton County, slightly faster than Lehigh's 68%, strengthening its base of high-skilled employment.

In consumer-facing industries, Northampton County diverges sharply from Lehigh County: while Lehigh loses jobs in retail trade (-8%) and accommodation and food services (-17%), Northampton County grows in both (+22% and +4%, respectively), reflecting stronger local demand and service-sector resilience. Although Lehigh maintains stronger absolute job gains in transportation and warehousing, Northampton County's growth in this sector is also substantial (115%), reinforcing the Valley's logistics hub status.

Taken together, Northampton County's ability to combine fast-growing corporate and professional employment with continued expansion in retail and service industries explains why its overall job growth rate surpasses that of Lehigh, even though Lehigh County remains larger in total jobs.

The divergent economic trends compared to Lehigh County stem from the role of smaller industries: in Northampton County, sectors like management of companies and professional services, though modest in size, grow rapidly and have an outsized impact on overall employment. This scaling up diversifies Northampton County's economy and boosts resilience. By contrast, Lehigh County's larger base concentrates growth in logistics and construction, while contractions in retail, food services and education weigh it down.

For the Valley, the lesson is clear; future growth will rely not only on dominant anchors but also on nurturing smaller, fast-growing industries that disproportionately drive diversification and long-term expansion.

Labor Market Dynamics by Sector and Region (2022-2050)

SECTOR	LEHIGH			NORTHAMPTON			LEHIGH VALLEY		
	2022	2050	CHANGE	2022	2050	CHANGE	2022	2050	CHANGE
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	380	169	-55.51%	245	254	3.50%	625	423	-32.38%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	61	38	-37.59%	65	64	-0.82%	126	103	-18.62%
Utilities	765	1,064	39.04%	444	564	27.09%	1,209	1,628	34.65%
Construction	7,647	11,729	53.38%	4,516	7,119	57.63%	12,163	18,848	54.96%
Manufacturing	20,358	21,034	3.32%	15,376	15,873	3.23%	35,734	36,907	3.28%
Wholesale Trade	8,360	13,416	60.47%	4,629	7,030	51.87%	12,989	20,446	57.41%
Retail Trade	20,418	18,828	-7.79%	12,534	15,239	21.59%	32,952	34,067	3.38%
Transportation and Warehousing	19,304	50,645	162.35%	13,696	29,432	114.90%	33,000	80,077	142.65%
Information	2,276	1,214	-46.67%	1,445	1,561	8.01%	3,721	2,775	-25.43%
Finance and Insurance	5,703	3,866	-32.22%	2,873	2,058	-28.37%	8,576	5,923	-30.93%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	1,848	1,375	-25.62%	1,001	633	-36.78%	2,849	2,007	-29.54%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	11,017	18,558	68.44%	4,438	7,756	74.77%	15,455	26,314	70.26%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	6,839	12,810	87.31%	1,204	3,555	195.31%	8,043	16,365	103.47%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	15,797	26,561	68.14%	6,757	10,744	59.00%	22,554	37,305	65.40%
Educational Services	13,730	10,000	-27.17%	12,974	12,249	-5.59%	26,704	22,248	-16.68%
Health Care and Social Assistance	49,410	45,820	-7.27%	13,226	11,314	-14.45%	62,636	57,135	-8.78%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,632	2,407	-8.55%	1,742	1,386	-20.45%	4,374	3,793	-13.29%
Accommodation and Food Services	12,314	10,221	-17.00%	11,031	11,518	4.42%	23,345	21,739	-6.88%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	5,880	5,844	-0.61%	4,091	4,183	2.25%	9,971	10,027	0.56%
Public Administration	4,028	4,440	10.23%	3,194	2,407	-24.65%	7,222	6,847	-5.20%

*Note: Red shades indicated negative growth, while blue shades indicate positive growth. The stronger the shade, the higher the magnitude of the change.

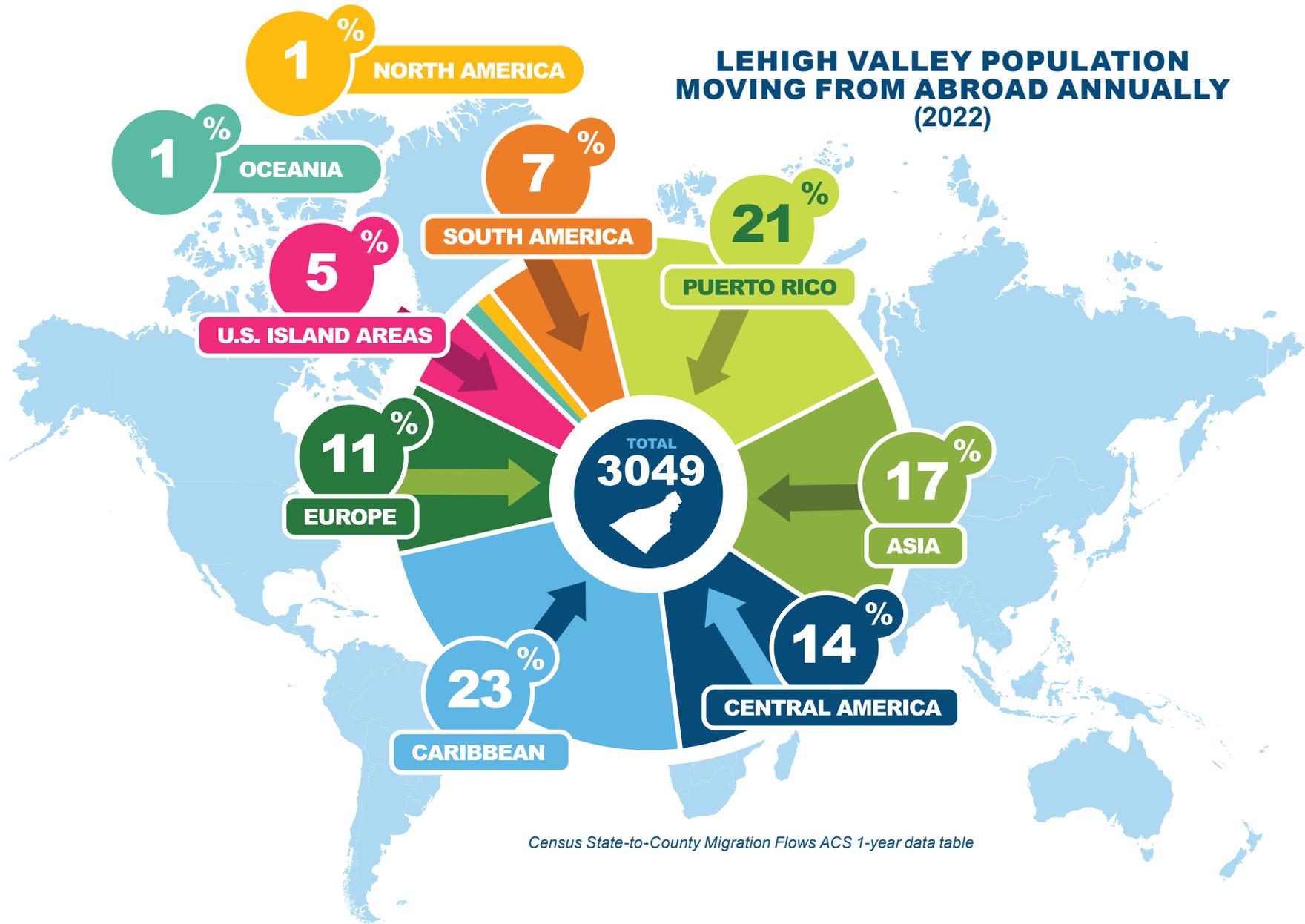
GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

Geographic mobility has been an essential component of population growth in the Lehigh Valley. People have moved to the Lehigh Valley from different locations such as other counties in Pennsylvania, different states or abroad. In 2020, the Lehigh Valley recorded an influx of 32,023 people, resulting in a net population influx of 4,324 residents. Of these people who moved to the Valley, over 12,000 individuals relocated from other counties within Pennsylvania, while 16,636 moved from other states, and 3,032 moved from abroad. This breakdown highlights that most of the population moving into the Lehigh Valley originates from out-of-state populations.

Among the people who moved from different states, nearly half came from New Jersey and New York, reflecting the Lehigh Valley's geographic advantage in Northeastern Pennsylvania, situated just a short distance from both states. At the same time, people moving out from the Valley to New York and New Jersey was comparatively limited, totaling only about 3,000 residents. As a result, the Lehigh Valley maintains a strong positive balance of people moving in from these two states compared to those moving out, underlining its attractiveness as a destination for households seeking new economic and lifestyle opportunities.

People moving from abroad are another important component of demographic change, although they represent only a small share of those relocating to the Lehigh Valley. The largest share came from the Caribbean (23%), followed by Asia (17%) and Central America (14%). These movements underscore the growing diversity of the Lehigh Valley, as well as the role of international inflows in supporting the region's labor market and cultural vitality.

LEHIGH VALLEY POPULATION MOVING FROM ABROAD ANNUALLY (2022)



Census State-to-County Migration Flows ACS 1-year data table

COMMUTING PATTERNS

In 2022, the Lehigh Valley's economy remained strongly connected to surrounding labor markets as shown here.

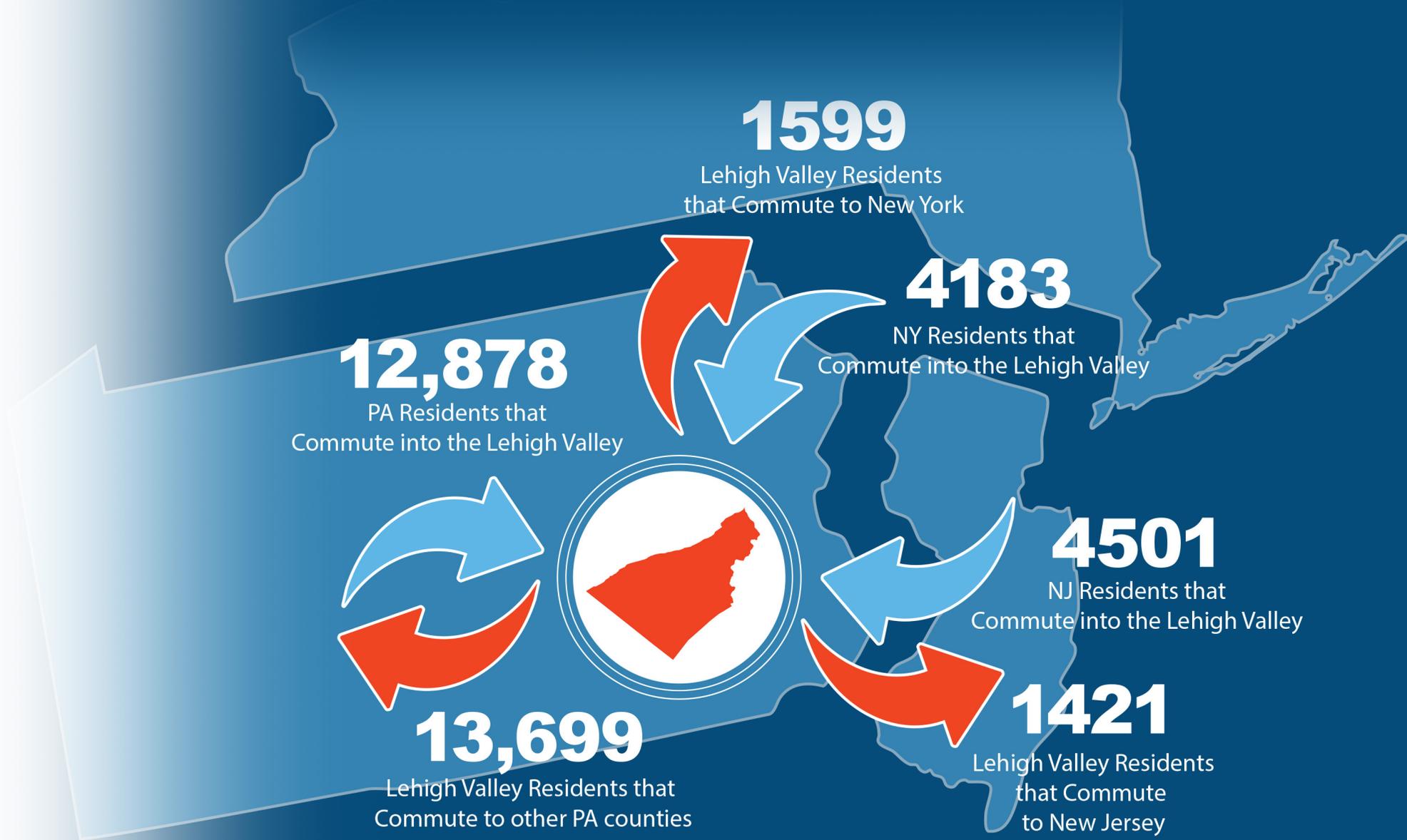
Approximately 12,878 workers migrated from other parts of Pennsylvania into the Lehigh Valley for employment, while 13,699 Lehigh Valley residents traveled to jobs elsewhere in the state. This internal connectivity underscores the Valley's role as a major employment center in eastern Pennsylvania drawing in workers from surrounding counties while also sending residents to other growing job markets across the Commonwealth.

The region is now a net importer of workers, which is a change from just six years earlier, when more workers were commuting out of the region for work than commuting in.

In 2022, approximately 4,501 workers from New Jersey and 4,183 from New York commuted into the Lehigh Valley, compared to 1,421 and 1,599 Valley residents traveling in the opposite direction, respectively. Together, these inbound movements from New Jersey and New York illustrate the Valley's expanding economic reach and its role as both an employment hub and a commuting bridge connecting Pennsylvania with the larger Northeast megaregion.



STATE TO STATE MIGRATION



Census Migration/Geographic: County to County Flows: 2016-2020 ACS

HISTORICAL AND FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH

Lehigh Valley's historically consistent population growth is projected to persist for the next several decades. LVPC's previous forecasts suggested faster growth in Northampton County compared to Lehigh County, reflecting uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, when people moving out from more congested areas temporarily boosted Northampton County's outlook.

However, updated data show that within two years after the pandemic, both counties returned to their normal growth patterns, which is why the latest projections no longer anticipate Northampton County outpacing Lehigh County in population growth.



POSITIVE MIGRATION TRENDS OVER THE PAST DECADE

Between 2010 and 2020, the region, on an average, experienced a net in-flow of 3,531 people per year, adding up to roughly 35,000 new residents over the decade. Extending the window to 2012–2022, it averaged a net in-flow of 4,522 people annually, adding up to about 45,000 over the decade, reflecting a noticeable uptick of 11,601 people during the COVID-19 pandemic, when moving pressures and lifestyle shift intensified. The region experienced negative net population outflow only once, in 2012, and the model projects that net geographic mobility will remain positive through 2050.

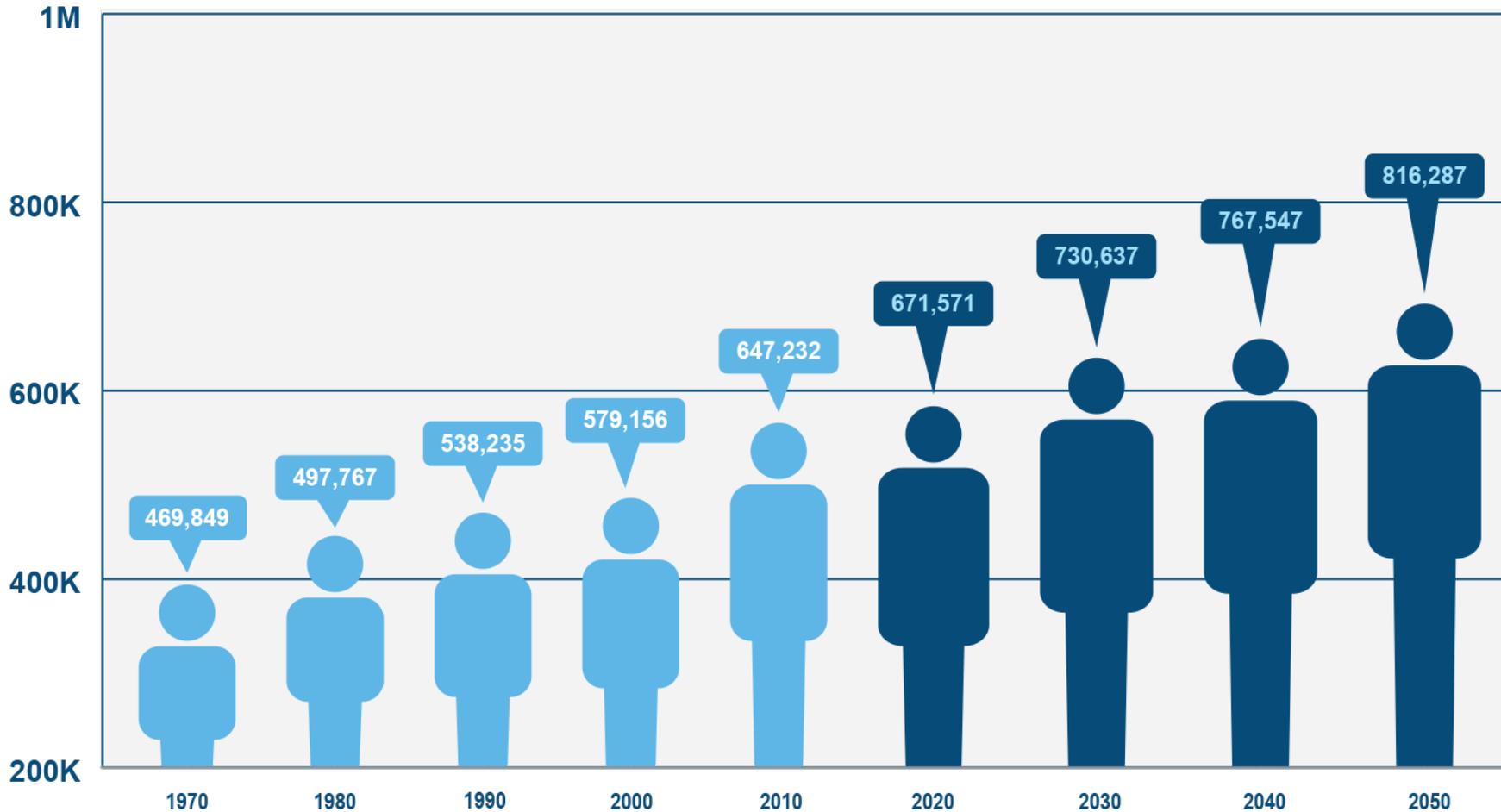


**WORKFORCE
BOARD**
LEHIGH VALLEY

Lehigh Valley Employment & Population Projections

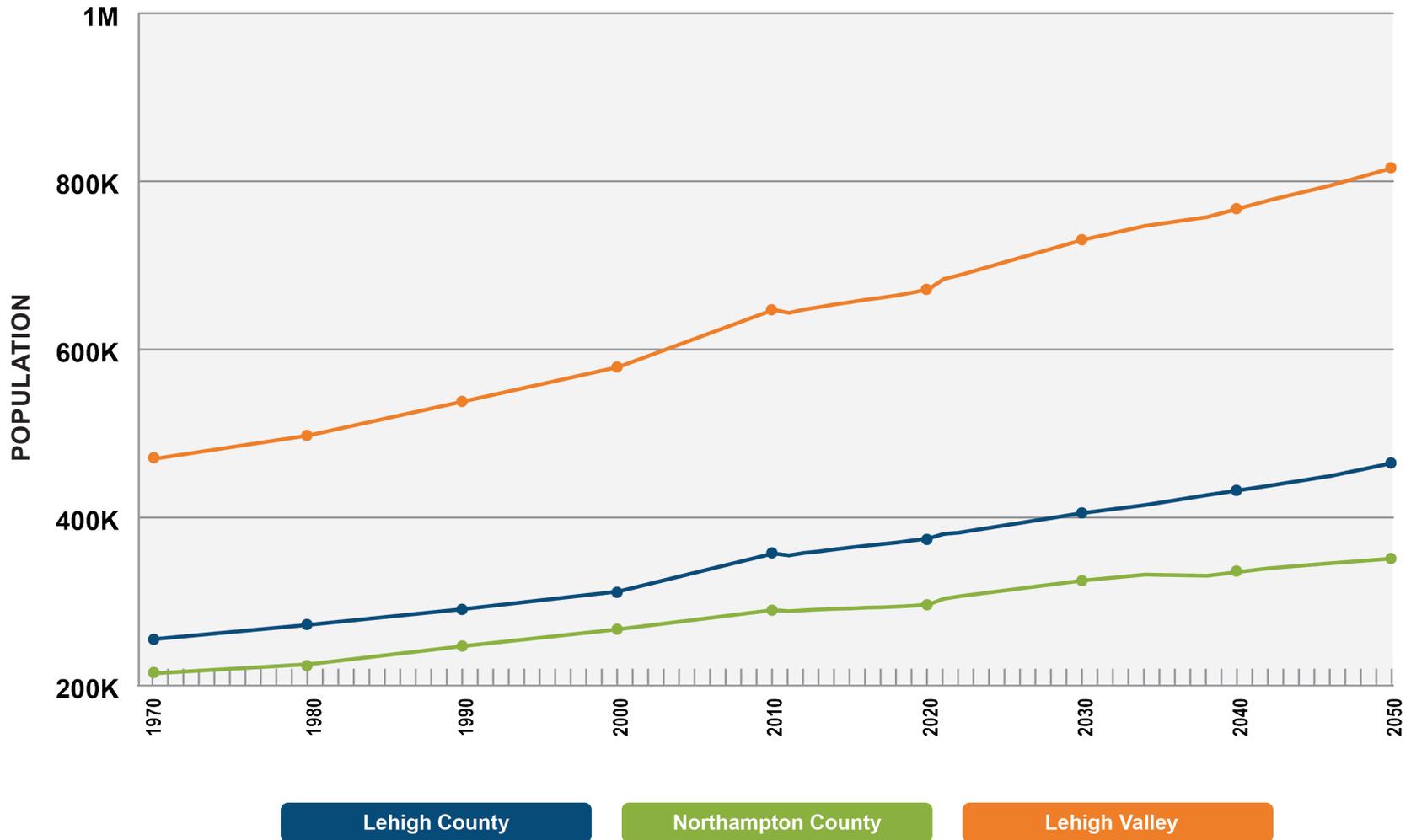
POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

(1970-2050)



Projections show that between 2022 and 2050, the region's population will grow by 18.56%, from 688,409 to 816,287 residents. This represents an increase of roughly 128,000 people.

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE LEHIGH VALLEY REGION (1970-2050)



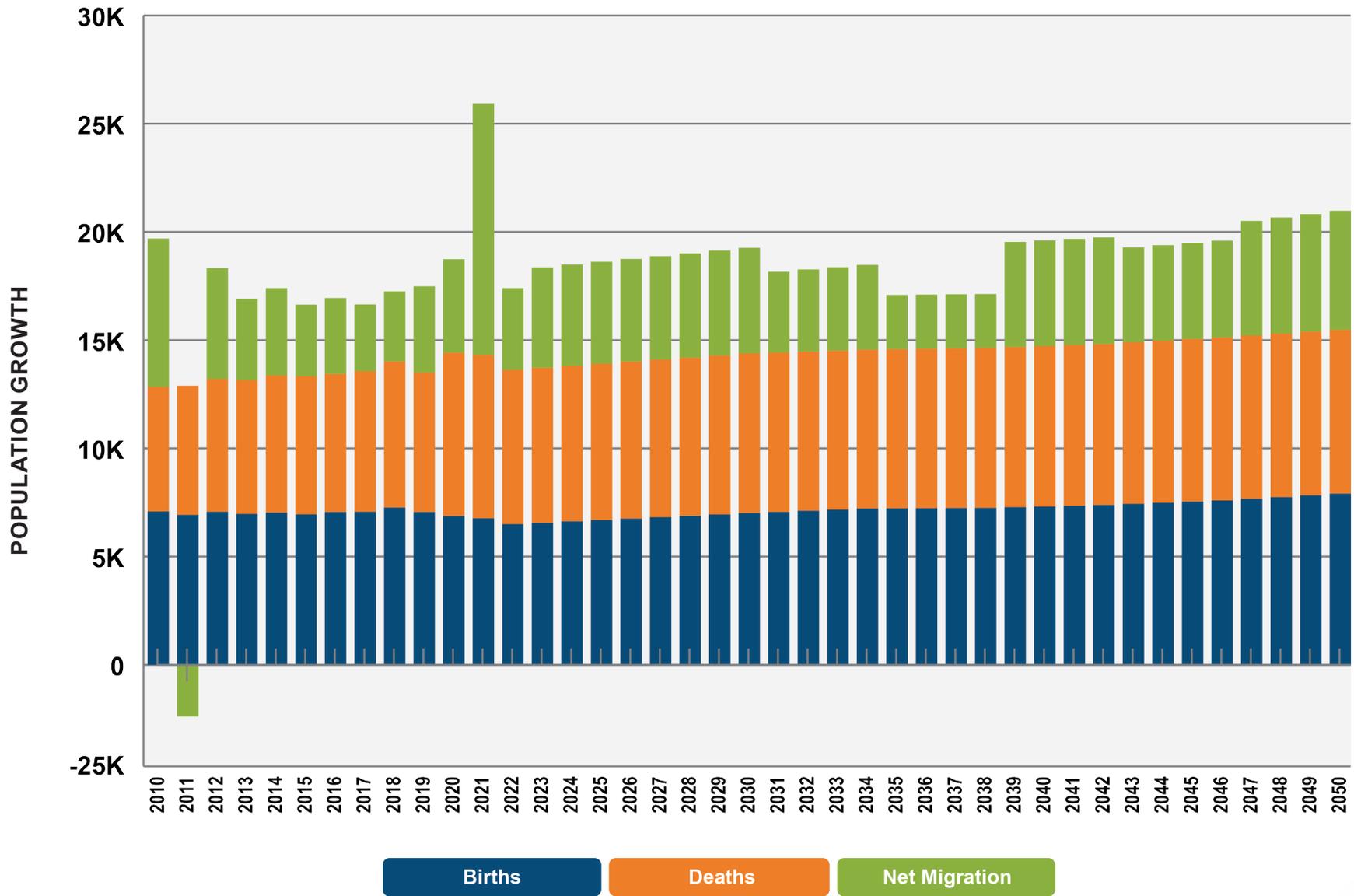
POPULATION GROWTH FACTORS

Forecasts indicate that on average, between **2022 and 2050**, the Lehigh Valley is expected to gain about 4,570 people per year as a result of people moving into the Valley. This translates to nearly 46,000 additional people moving into the the Valley each decade. People's decisions to move are shaped by a combination of economic, lifestyle, and familial factors.

On the economic side, job availability, competitive wages, and business opportunities are powerful attractors. On the lifestyle side, considerations such as infrastructure quality, sense of community, cost of living, commuting options, and housing availability play equally important roles. Additionally, family ties, such as the presence of relatives at the destination or responsibilities toward family members, can strongly influence the choice of moving and the selection of destination.



COMPONENTS OF POPULAR GROWTH (2010-2050)



MIGRATION TO THE LEHIGH VALLEY

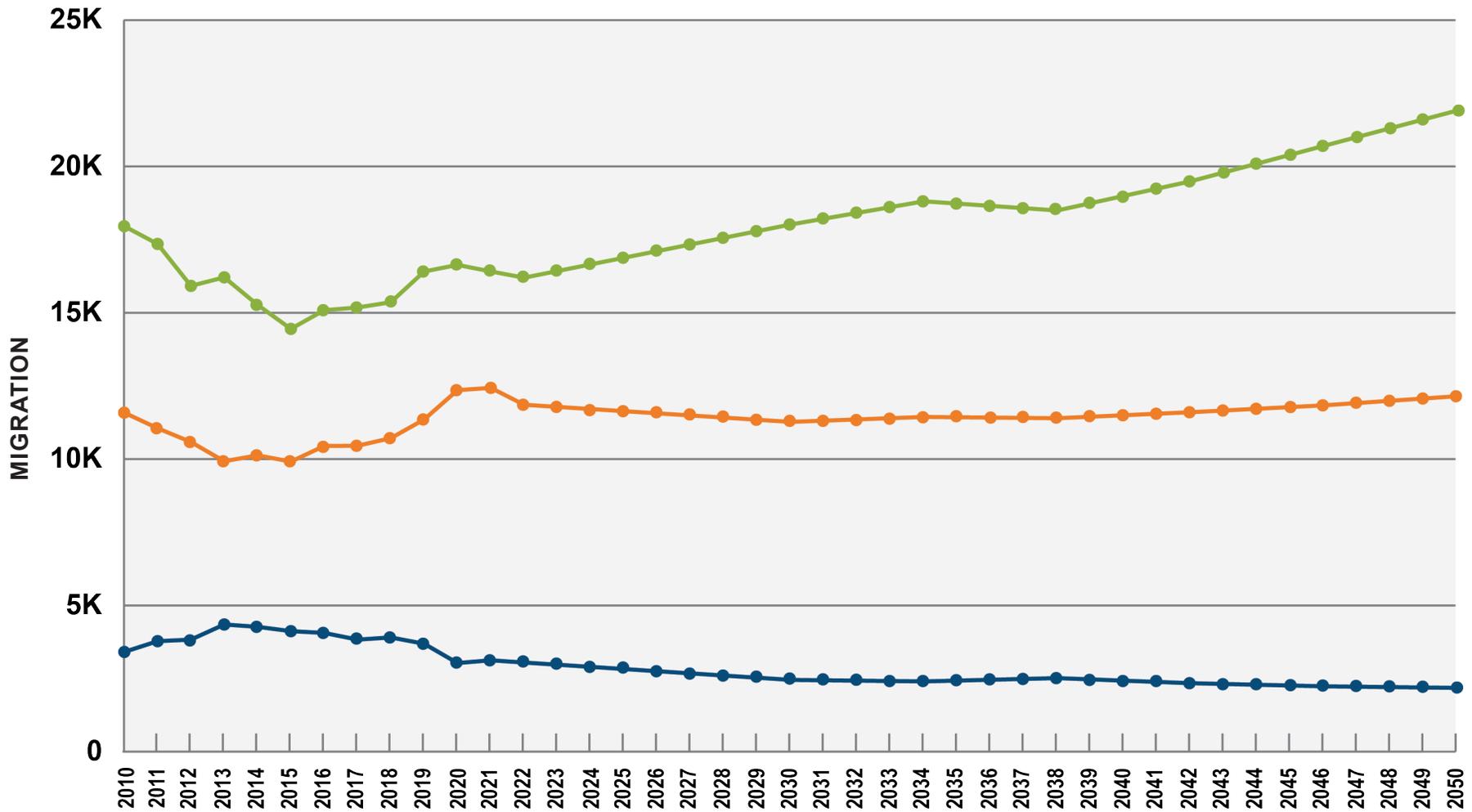
(2010-2050)

This figure breaks down historical and projected migration trends by type: international, out-of-state, and within Pennsylvania. Moving from other states has historically been the largest source of new residents in the Lehigh Valley, while moving from abroad has been the smallest.

This pattern is expected to continue through 2050.

In 2022, the Lehigh Valley received 11,857 people moving from other Pennsylvania counties, 16,199 from other states, and 3,049 from abroad. By 2050, moving from within Pennsylvania is expected to rise slightly to 12,149 (2.46% increase), while moving from other states will grow more substantially to 21,910 (35.25% increase). In contrast, moving from abroad is projected to decline by 867 people, a 28.45% decrease from 2022 levels.

MIGRATION TO THE LEHIGH VALLEY (2010-2050)



Moving from Abroad

Moving from Different State

Moving from Different County Within Pennsylvania

Note: For the numbers in "Moving from Different Counties Within Pennsylvania", we controlled for migrations between Lehigh and Northampton County. We used Census' "County to County Migration" from 2020 to calculate the share of migration between Lehigh and Northampton County and apply the ratio to our data for controlling the county migration variable.

AGE GROUP GROWTH

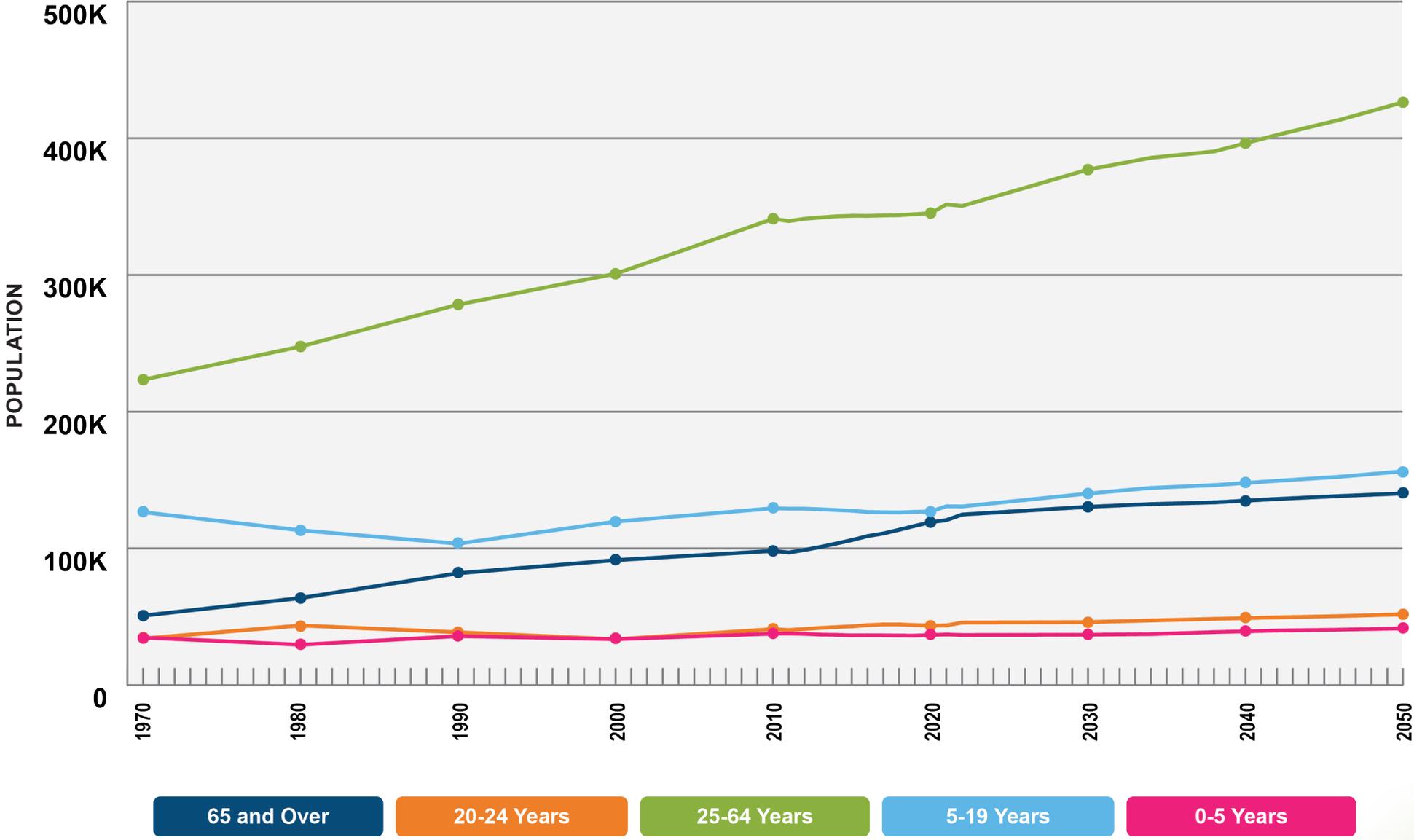
Between 2022 and 2050, the Lehigh Valley is projected to grow across all age groups, driven by both natural population increase and immigration. The working-age population (25–64) is expected to rise from 350,469 to 426,320 — an increase of 75,851 people, or 21.6% — strengthening the region’s labor force and economic capacity.

The school-age population (5–19) will grow from 130,689 to 156,146, adding 25,457 individuals, or 19.5%, highlighting the need for expanded K–12 education and youth services. Young adults aged 20–24 is projected to increase from 45,785 to 51,797, a gain of 6,012 people, or 13.1%, reflecting continued influx of college-age residents and early-career workers.

The youngest children (0–4) are expected to grow from 36,689 to 41,533, an addition of 4,844 children, or 13.2%, emphasizing demand for early childhood programs and family-oriented services. Meanwhile, the population aged 65 and older will rise from 124,777 to 140,220, an increase of 15,443 individuals, or 12.4%, underscoring the growing importance of senior services, healthcare and age-friendly infrastructure.

Collectively, these demographic trends indicate that the Lehigh Valley will not only expand in size but also age steadily over the coming decades. The significant growth of the working-age population supports ongoing economic activity, while increases in both younger and older age groups highlight the region’s need for comprehensive planning across education, healthcare and social services to ensure a resilient, thriving community.

AGE COHORTS PROJECTIONS (1970-2050)



GENERATIONAL PROJECTIONS

The New Lehigh Valley: A Multi-Generational Transition After 2030.

It is projected that from 2022 to 2050, the Lehigh Valley will undergo significant generational shifts in its population structure. Older cohorts will continue to decline sharply. The Silent Generation, numbering nearly 40,000 in 2022, will disappear entirely by the late 2040s, while the Baby Boomer population is expected to fall from about 143,000 in 2022 to fewer than 19,000 by 2050. Generation X will remain a major component through the 2030s, but its population will shrink from roughly 140,000 in 2022 to about 83,500 by mid-century.

In contrast, Millennials and Generation Z will increasingly dominate the adult population and workforce. Millennials are projected to grow from about 137,000 in 2022 to a peak of nearly 175,000 in the mid-2040s, before beginning a gradual decline, positioning them as the primary drivers of labor force participation and household formation. Generation Z will rise from approximately 145,000 in 2022 to almost 165,000 by 2050, complementing Millennials in shaping the region's labor market and consumer base.

Younger cohorts will play a growing role in sustaining long-term population growth. Generation Alpha is projected to increase steadily from about 75,000 in 2022 to more than 159,000 by 2050, more than doubling in size. Generation Beta, which emerges in the mid-2020s, is expected to expand rapidly, surpassing 168,000 by 2050. Generation Gamma will appear in the mid-2040s and grow quickly, reaching over 51,000 by 2050.

Together, these shifts highlight a generational transition: as the Baby Boomers and Silent Generation fade, the region's demographic and economic dynamics will increasingly be driven by Millennials, Gen Z, and the rising Alpha, Beta and Gamma cohorts. As expected, these trends suggest a continuing transition toward a younger population structure after 2030, with Millennials, Gen Z, and newer cohorts driving economic activity, household formation and future labor supply, while older generations gradually exit the population.



THE CHANGING FACES OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

2022–2050 Generational Projections

The Silent Generation (1928–1945) - Dramatic reduction by 2040

Baby Boomers (1946–1964) - Fewer than 19,000 by 2050

Generation X (1965–1980) - 140,000 in 2022 to about 83,500 by mid-century

Millennials / Gen Y (1981–1996) - 175,000 in the mid-2040s

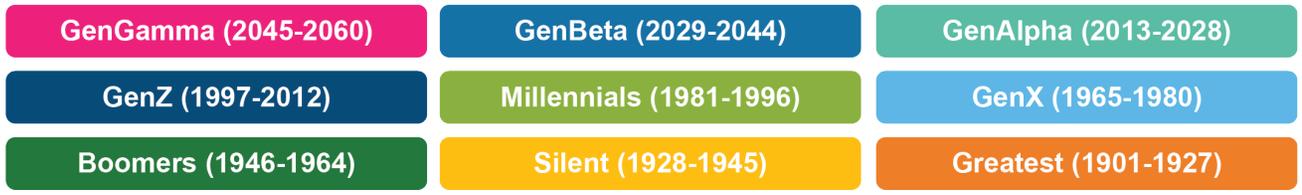
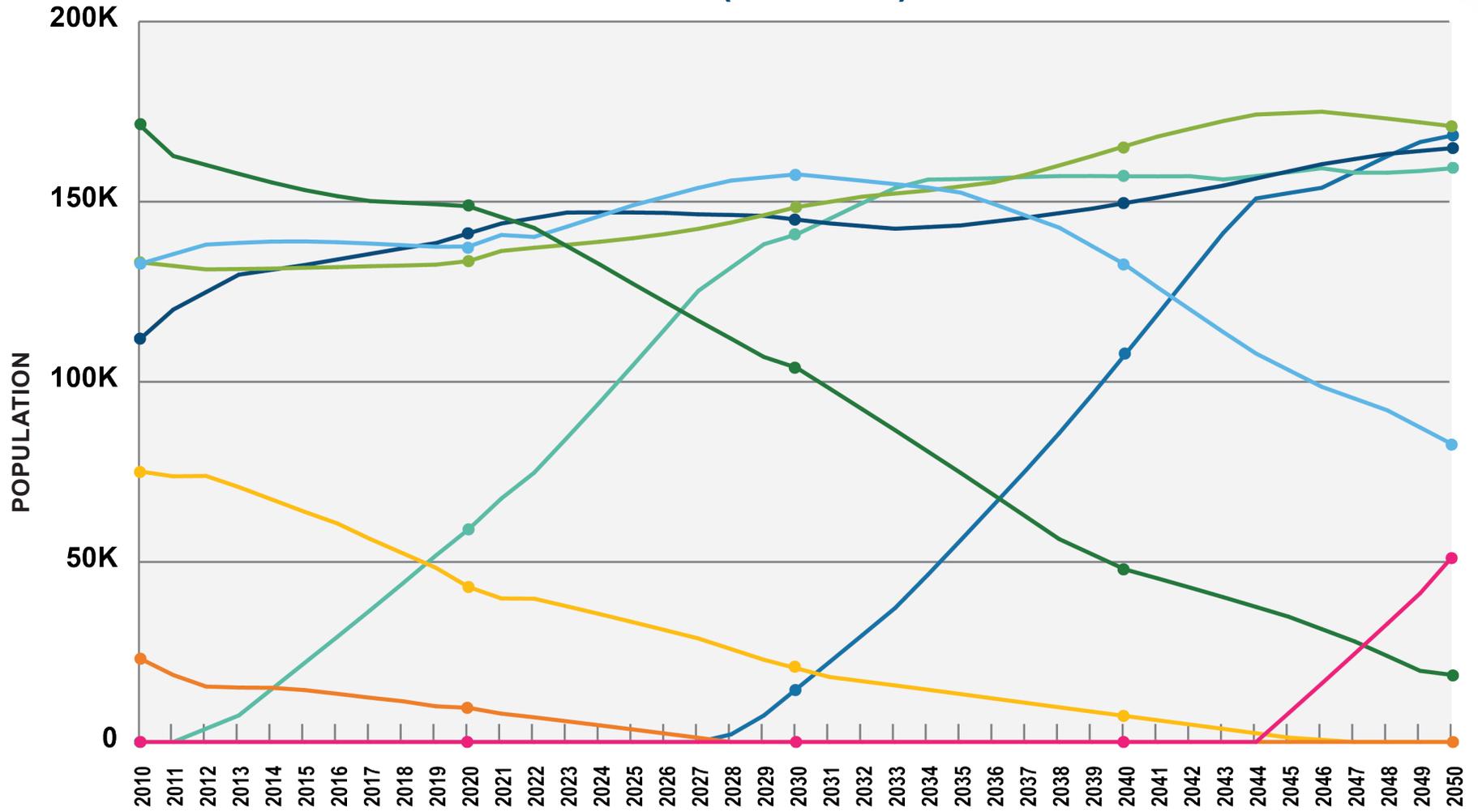
Generation Z (1997–2012) - 145,000 in 2022 to almost 165,000 by 2050

Generation Alpha (2013–2024) - 75,000 in 2022 to more than 159,000 by 2050

Generation Beta (2025–2039) - Rapid Expansion, surpassing 168,000 by 2050

Generation Gamma (2040–2054) - Over 51,000 by 2050

GENERATIONAL TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS (2010-2050)

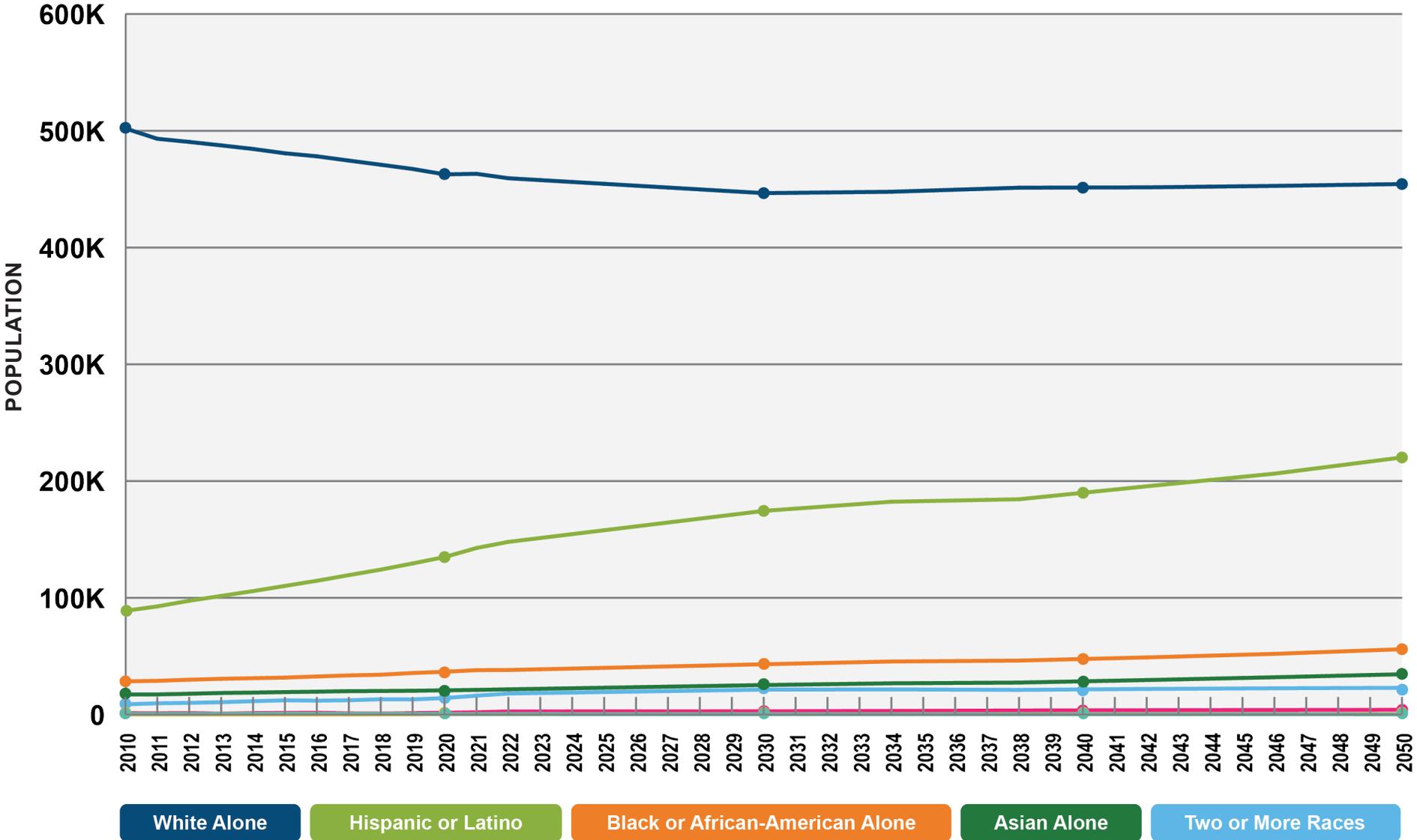


RACE/ETHNICITY PROJECTIONS

Over the next several decades, the Lehigh Valley is projected to experience significant demographic shifts. Between 2010 and 2050, the share of White Non-Hispanic population is expected to decline from 78% to 57%, while the share of Hispanic population rises from 14% to 28%. The Asian Non-Hispanic population is projected to grow modestly from 3% to 4%, and the Black Non-Hispanic population from 4% to 7%.

Over the next several decades, the Lehigh Valley is projected to experience significant demographic shifts. Between 2010 and 2050, the share of White Non-Hispanic population is expected to decline from 78% to 57%, while the share of Hispanic population rises from 14% to 28%. The Asian Non-Hispanic population is projected to grow modestly from 3% to 4%, and the Black Non-Hispanic population from 4% to 7%.

RACE/ETHNICITY TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS (2010-2050)



POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH

Population and job growth in the Lehigh Valley are projected to be both substantial and unevenly distributed across its 62 municipalities between 2020 and 2050. Due to its variety, it is essential to closely navigate changes for each sub-division.

The largest gains in both population and jobs will be concentrated in Upper Macungie Township and Allentown City, underscoring the strong relationship between employment opportunities and population expansion.

By 2050, Upper Macungie Township is expected to add nearly 28,900 new residents, a 116.7% increase since 2020, alongside more than 20,700 new jobs, representing a 33.2% gain. This growth reflects the township's strategic location along I-78 and Route 100, which has made it a regional hub for logistics and manufacturing industries.

TOP 10 MUNICIPAL POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH (2020-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	POPULATION GROWTH NUMBERS	POPULATION GROWTH RATE	MUNICIPALITIES	JOB GROWTH NUMBERS	JOB GROWTH RATE
Upper Macungie Township	28,898	116.69%	Upper Macungie Township	20,703	33.21%
City of Allentown	17,596	14.52%	City of Allentown	9,586	55.43%
Palmer Township	8,016	37.44%	City of Bethlehem	10,641	21.46%
South Whitehall Township	7,285	36.65%	Lower Macungie Township	6,759	36.91%
Lower Macungie Township	6,934	21.34%	Upper Saucon Township	5,087	63.70%
Bethlehem Township	5,433	22.52%	Palmer Township	3,324	35.81%
North Whitehall Township	5,195	31.78%	Fountain Hill Borough	3,177	35.99%
City of Bethlehem	4,584	6.06%	North Whitehall Township	3,125	57.50%
Upper Saucon Township	4,890	28.72%	Lower Saucon Township	3,015	252.53%
Whitehall Township	3,626	13.09%	Northampton Borough	2,817	113.31%

Note: "Growth numbers" represent the changes in population between 2020 and 2050. The table is sorted by the largest growth numbers.

Note: "Growth numbers" represent the changes in jobs between 2020 and 2050. The table is sorted by the largest growth numbers.

POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT SHIFTS

Regional cooperation to lead change.

Population and job growth in the Lehigh Valley are projected to be both substantial and unevenly distributed across its 62 municipalities between 2020 and 2050. Due to its variety, it is essential to closely navigate changes for each subdivision.

The largest gains in both population and jobs will be concentrated in Upper Macungie Township and Allentown City, underscoring the strong relationship between employment opportunities and population expansion.

By 2050, Upper Macungie Township is expected to add nearly 28,900 new residents, a 116.7% increase since 2020, alongside more than 20,700 new jobs, representing a 33.2% gain. This growth reflects the township's strategic location along I-78 and Route 100, which has made it a regional hub for logistics and manufacturing industries.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that Upper Macungie already ranks among the largest municipalities in terms of employment, driven by industries such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, administrative services, waste management, and transportation and warehousing as of 2023. This well-established industrial base attracts new businesses and stimulates broader economic activity, creating a cycle of job creation and population growth.

Allentown demonstrates a different growth dynamic. The city is projected to gain 17,596 residents (14.5%) and nearly 9,600 jobs (55.4%), reflecting its ongoing revitalization. Expanding healthcare and education sectors, coupled with reinvestment in its downtown, have positioned Allentown as both a cultural and economic driver in the Lehigh Valley. Its growing immigrant and young professional populations add further momentum.

Population and job growth within the Lehigh Valley are projected to be both substantial and unevenly distributed across its 62 municipalities between 2020 and 2050. Due to its variety, it is essential to closely navigate changes for each subdivision.

2020-2050

LEHIGH VALLEY GROWTH PROJECTIONS

SUBSTANTIAL & UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION ACROSS 62 MUNICIPALITIES

UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP

+116.7%

POPULATION GROWTH



+33.2%

JOB GROWTH

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

+14.5%

POPULATION GROWTH



+55.4%

JOB GROWTH

SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT DATA/STUDIES

Lehigh and Northampton counties rank among the top ten counties in Pennsylvania for population growth since 2020. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, through its Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (CWIA), periodically identifies High Priority Occupations (HPOs) that are critical to the state's economy.

In 2025, a total of 176 occupations were designated as high priority, including positions in healthcare, manufacturing and transportation, three of the Lehigh Valley's core industries. These industries not only anchor the regional economy but also serve as a magnet for employment-based migration from other Pennsylvania counties and neighboring states like New York and New Jersey.

To meet this growing demand, the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley (WBLV) administers a variety of industry-focused training programs designed to align the region's labor supply with employer needs. These initiatives focus on upskilling, reskilling and developing youth talent pipelines, particularly in healthcare, manufacturing and transportation. By ensuring a steady flow of skilled workers, WBLV helps sustain the region's competitive advantage while supporting long-term economic stability.

Data from the Workforce Board's industry dashboards further underscore this strength, showing a consistent historical increase in wages across the four largest industries in the region: Healthcare, Manufacturing, Transportation & Warehousing, and Retail Trade. Wage competitiveness plays a critical role in attracting and retaining workers. For example, Census data indicate that healthcare employees in the Lehigh Valley earn approximately 12% more than the Pennsylvania average and 5.2% more than their counterparts in New Jersey. Meanwhile, workers in transportation and warehousing receive wages comparable to state and regional benchmarks.

These favorable wage trends reinforce the Lehigh Valley's appeal to job seekers. Competitive compensation, paired with robust training programs and strong industry clusters, creates a dynamic labor market that supports local career growth and attracts new residents seeking better opportunities. For many potential employees, wages are a decisive factor when considering a career change or relocation, and the Lehigh Valley's labor market advantages position the region as a leading destination for talent and investment.



**BOTH LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON
COUNTIES RANK AMONG THE TOP
10 COUNTIES IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR
POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 2020.**

FUTURE FORCES

The projections on employment and population through 2050 presented in this report are based on observed historical trends and the current composition of Lehigh Valley's industries, household locations, migration patterns, and demographics. These projections reflect growth trends derived from available data and established modeling approaches. However, the industrial and economic landscape of Lehigh Valley is rapidly evolving in ways not fully captured by these projections.

Emerging sectors, such as bio-fabrication, advanced manufacturing, additive manufacturing, large-scale 3D printing, energy storage, autonomous logistics, and artificial intelligence and robotics-related industries, have the potential to significantly influence land use, infrastructure demand, freight patterns, and labor requirements.

These industries remain in the early stages locally, and comprehensive quantitative data on potential employment, freight intensity and infrastructure needs are limited or not yet available. Additionally, the projections do not account for the impacts of aging infrastructure or planned new infrastructure investments, which may affect transportation, utilities and industrial development patterns.

As a result, while the projections provide a reliable view based on current trends, they should be interpreted as a baseline scenario rather than a definitive forecast. The Valley may experience shifts in industrial composition, building reuse, or freight patterns if these emerging sectors grow more quickly than currently observed.

For example: Emerging industries typically demand new and specialized skill sets from local workforce. Their growth can attract workers with these skills from outside the region, while also prompting the local labor force to upskill or reskill in response to new opportunities. Such dynamics have the potential to reshape the job market and population trends in unexpected ways. Over time, they may influence not only employment structures but also educational attainment levels, workforce age distribution, racial and ethnic composition, patterns of industrial space utilization and the broader economic trajectory of the region.

Future updates to these projections should incorporate data from ongoing market monitoring, municipal reporting on industrial tenants, and regional economic development tracking to better account for these near-term emerging forces. Recognizing these future forces allows the Valley's planners and decision-makers to proactively guide industrial growth and infrastructure investment, while supporting community outcomes in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.



BIO-FABRICATION

Could increase demand for high-tech industrial space, specialized utilities (e.g., water, electricity, temperature control) and specialized freight services.



ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

Could localize production, reduce the movement of finished goods but increase the transport of specialized raw materials.



ADVANCED LOGISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

May alter truck traffic patterns and regional road congestion beyond what current trends suggest.



AI AND ROBOTICS SECTORS

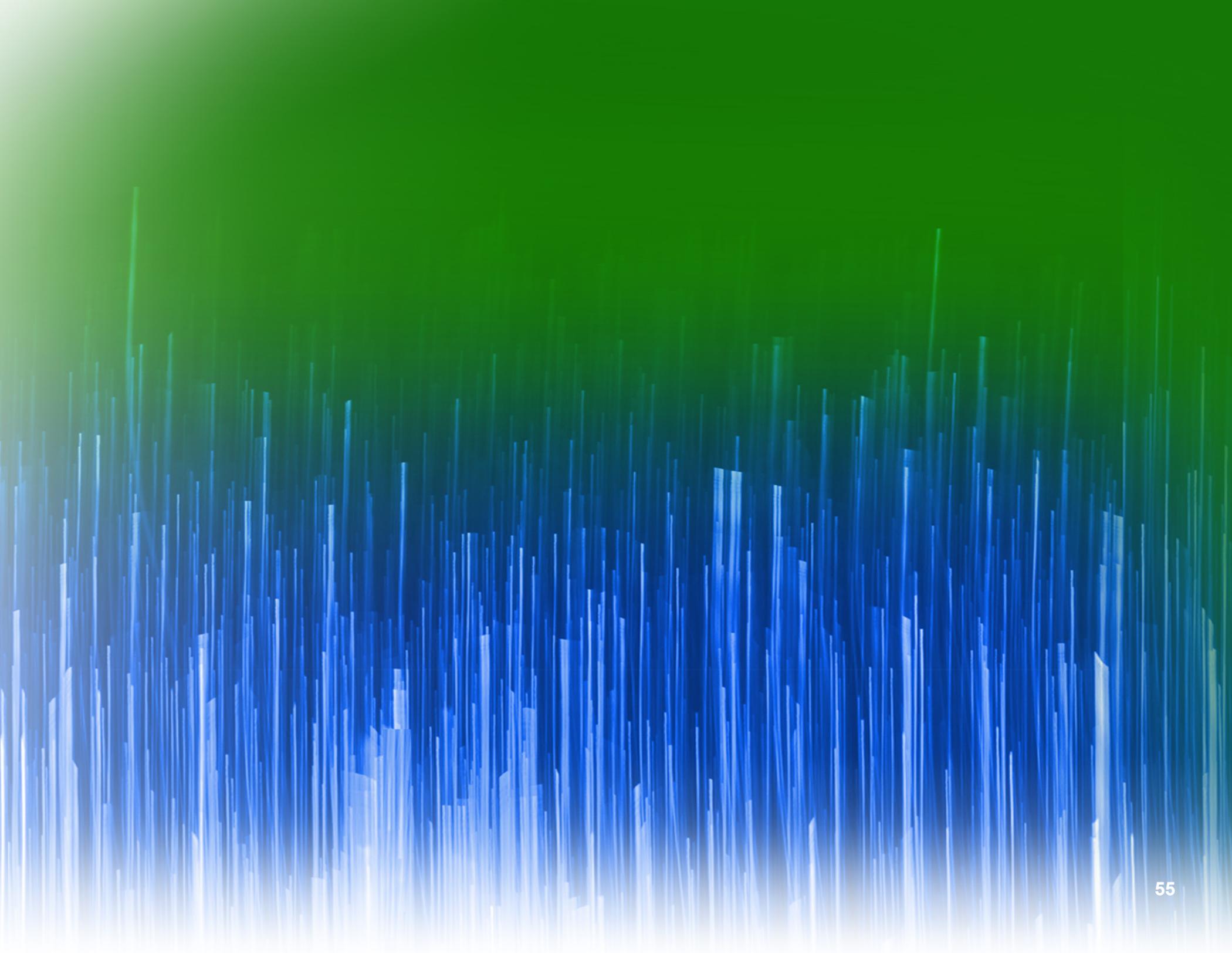
Could generate high-skill, high-wage employment in technology, automation, and data-driven industrial processes, creating demand for flexible industrial space and specialized infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

The Lehigh Valley is projected to experience steady growth through 2050, with Lehigh and Northampton Counties playing a central role in shaping Pennsylvania's economic future. Notably, it is projected to have substantial job growth, about 80,000 jobs. Lehigh County's growth is expected to be driven by major industries such as logistics and construction, while Northampton County's may see a more diverse mix of emerging sectors.

Our forecast shows that Lehigh Valley will add about 128,000 population by 2050, and this population growth would mainly be due to consistent domestic migration and births.

Furthermore, with population increases across all age groups and rising diversity, the region will require thoughtful investments in housing, transportation, education, and public services to ensure benefits for all residents. While these forecasts provide a valuable foundation for planning, they cannot fully anticipate how emerging industries, or technological advancements might alter future trends. As such, they should be used as a guide, with flexibility and adaptability built into regional planning efforts. By integrating these insights, the Lehigh Valley can foster a resilient, competitive and inclusive future for its communities.





**WORKFORCE
BOARD**
LEHIGH VALLEY

LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A METHODOLOGY

LVPC previously used Regional Economic Model Inc. (REMI)¹¹ forecasts at the county scale and reallocated them to municipalities through regression and proportional allocation, an approach that smoothed out critical intra-county variation and assumed local growth followed simple scaling rules. In contrast, its new deep learning framework (LSTM–Attention model) eliminates this disaggregation bias by working directly at the municipal level and capturing localized demographic and economic dynamics, such as commuting patterns, neighborhood change, and housing supply, that are missed in top-down models.

Unlike REMI¹², which relies on national occupation weights, equilibrium assumptions, and macroeconomic structural constraints, LVPC’s LSTM–Attention model is data-driven, flexible, and sensitive to nonlinear, bottom-up development signals.

The framework integrates American Community Survey¹³, Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics dataset¹⁴, and Pennsylvania Department of Health data¹⁵ (2010–2022) on births, deaths, housing, jobs, labor force participation, migration categories, commuting and demographic composition, using nine years of historical input to predict four years ahead. The Long Short-Term Memory¹⁶ (LSTM) detects temporal patterns and nonlinear interactions, while the attention mechanism¹⁷ identifies the most influential years and shocks (e.g., COVID-19), refining outputs before feeding them into fully connected layers.

¹¹ *Regional Economic Models, Inc. (2021, September). Socioeconomic Indicators (SEI) Module Documentation. REMI.*

Retrieved from <https://www.remi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/REMI-SEI-Documentation.pdf> Page #8.

¹² *REMI PI+, TRANSIGHT Model Equations: https://www.remi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PI_v1-1_Model_Equations.pdf*

¹³ *American Community Survey (ACS) Data: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>*

¹⁴ *US Census Bureau Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics Dataset: <https://lehd.ces.census.gov/>*

¹⁵ *Pennsylvania Department of Health: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/health-statistics>*

¹⁶ *Graves, A. (2012). Long short-term memory. Supervised sequence labelling with recurrent neural networks, 37-45.*

¹⁷ *Niu, Z., Zhong, G., & Yu, H. (2021). A review on the attention mechanism of deep learning. Neurocomputing, 452, 48-62.*

¹⁸ *Zhang, Z. (2018, June). Improved adam optimizer for deep neural networks.*

In 2018 IEEE/ACM 26th international symposium on quality of service (IWQoS) (pp. 1-2). IEEE



Regional Safe Streets for All Grant Application

LVPC is applying on behalf for all 62 communities

If awarded:

1. Single Transportation Safety Strategy
2. Measurable Outcomes
3. List of Costed Projects developed with Municipalities
4. Municipal Planning and Engineering Technical Assistance Program for Projects
5. Investment Strategy (federal, state, capital plans)
6. Implementation Timeline

We need your support!



APPENDIX B REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL FORECASTS

Population Forecasts by Age (2010-2050)

AGE	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	GROWTH*	%
Under 5 years	37,637	36,688	36,859	39,361	41,533	3,896	10.4%
5-9 years	40,546	37,257	43,859	47,443	50,421	9,875	24.4%
10-14 years	42,228	43,796	48,258	51,589	56,078	13,850	32.8%
15-19 years	46,607	45,924	48,031	48,811	49,917	3,310	7.1%
20-24 years	40,945	43,622	46,120	49,024	51,797	10,852	26.5%
25-29 years	37,162	42,675	44,688	47,034	52,863	15,701	42.3%
30-34 years	37,290	42,290	42,021	42,794	45,601	8,311	22.3%
35-44 years	85,480	81,096	92,836	97,840	103,782	18,302	21.4%

* <https://www.lehighvalley.org/news/life-sciences/15-million-biopharma-expansion-in-lehigh-valley-could-support-100-jobs/>

AGE	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	GROWTH*	%
45-54 years	100,240	87,548	94,530	97,229	102,485	2,245	2.2%
55-59 years	43,497	47,213	53,740	58,685	64,543	21,046	48.4%
60-64 years	37,390	44,270	49,256	52,818	57,048	19,658	52.6%
65-74 years	47,771	66,677	73,468	75,766	78,145	30,374	63.6%
75-84 years	34,149	33,535	37,764	39,844	42,243	8,094	23.7%
85 years and over	16,290	18,980	19,205	19,312	19,833	3,543	21.7%
TOTAL	647,232	671,571	730,638	767,543	816,284	169,052	26.1%

Lehigh County Population Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Alburtis Borough	1,142	1,428	1,415	2,117	2,361	2,604	2,493	2,510	2,636	32	1.23%
City of Allentown	109,527	103,758	105,090	106,632	118,032	121,156	127,324	133,617	138,752	17,596	14.52%
City of Bethlehem (LC)	20,621	19,865	18,867	19,029	19,343	19,881	20,609	19,970	19,352	-529	-2.66%
Catasauqua Borough	5,702	6,711	6,662	6,588	6,436	6,592	6,579	6,671	6,836	244	3.70%
Coopersburg Borough	2,326	2,595	2,599	2,582	2,386	2,306	2,569	2,778	2,742	436	18.91%
Coplay Borough	3,642	3,130	3,267	3,387	3,192	3,204	3,454	3,355	3,341	137	4.28%
Emmaus Borough	11,511	11,001	11,157	11,313	11,211	11,438	12,598	13,821	14,880	3,442	30.09%
Fountain Hill Borough	5,384	4,805	4,637	4,614	4,597	4,693	4,757	4,818	5,250	557	11.87%
Hanover Township (LC)	1,217	2,223	2,243	1,913	1,571	1,867	2,400	2,585	2,758	891	47.72%
Heidelberg Township	1,532	2,691	3,250	3,279	3,416	3,538	3,453	3,687	3,792	254	7.18%
Lower Macungie Township	8,814	12,958	16,871	19,220	30,633	32,492	35,121	37,279	39,426	6,934	21.34%
Lower Milford Township	2,189	2,865	3,269	3,617	3,775	3,989	4,267	5,383	5,996	2,007	50.31%
Lowhill Township	1,002	1,356	1,602	1,869	2,173	2,190	2,237	2,322	2,412	222	10.14%

MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Lynn Township	2,047	2,733	3,220	3,849	4,229	4,401	4,438	4,573	4,637	236	5.36%
Macungie Borough	1,414	1,899	2,597	3,039	3,074	3,159	3,433	3,583	3,669	510	16.14%
North Whitehall Township	6,819	8,820	10,827	14,731	15,703	16,346	17,986	19,548	21,541	5,195	31.78%
Salisbury Township	11,390	12,259	13,401	13,498	13,505	13,939	13,605	14,260	15,444	1,505	10.80%
Slatington Borough	4,687	4,277	4,678	4,434	4,232	4,307	4,161	4,243	4,182	-125	-2.90%
South Whitehall Township	14,210	15,919	18,261	18,028	19,180	19,880	23,169	25,130	27,165	7,285	36.64%
Upper Macungie Township	4,390	7,446	8,757	13,895	20,063	24,765	32,491	41,446	53,663	28,898	116.69%
Upper Milford Township	3,992	5,013	6,304	6,889	7,292	7,846	8,185	8,362	8,876	1,030	13.13%
Upper Saucon Township	7,954	9,635	9,775	11,939	14,808	17,029	18,997	19,759	21,919	4,890	28.72%
Washington Township (LC)	3,732	5,152	6,356	6,588	6,624	6,777	6,740	6,630	6,561	-216	-3.19%
Weisenberg Township	1,737	2,272	3,246	4,144	4,923	5,237	5,540	6,289	7,852	2,615	49.93%
Whitehall Township	18,323	21,538	22,779	24,896	26,738	27,702	30,008	30,484	31,328	3,626	13.09%
Grand Total	255,304	272,349	291,130	312,090	349,497	367,338	396,614	423,103	455,010	87,672	25.09%

Northampton County Population Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Allen Township	1,856	2,465	2,626	2,630	4,269	4,981	5,588	5,752	6,307	1,326	26.62%
Bangor Borough	5,425	5,006	5,383	5,319	5,273	5,229	5,600	5,636	5,799	570	10.90%
Bath Borough	1,829	1,953	2,358	2,678	2,693	2,682	2,878	2,931	2,991	309	11.52%
City of Bethlehem (NC)	52,065	50,554	52,561	52,300	55,639	55,690	56,579	57,980	60,803	5,113	9.18%
Bethlehem Township	9,071	12,094	16,425	21,171	23,730	24,122	31,961	26,959	29,555	5,433	22.52%
Bushkill Township	3,387	4,469	5,512	6,982	8,178	8,541	8,833	9,355	10,027	1,486	17.40%
Chapman Borough	191	255	254	234	199	149	312	361	400	251	168.46%
East Allen Township	2,737	3,605	4,572	4,903	4,903	4,955	5,364	5,766	6,494	1,539	31.06%
East Bangor Borough	905	955	1,006	979	1,172	1,098	1,131	1,145	1,199	101	9.20%
City of Easton	30,256	26,027	26,276	26,263	26,800	27,274	29,262	30,115	29,886	2,612	9.58%
Forks Township	3,748	4,612	5,923	8,419	14,721	15,650	16,680	17,289	18,029	2,379	15.20%
Freemansburg Borough	1,681	1,879	1,946	1,897	2,636	2,617	2,956	3,015	3,149	532	20.33%
Glendon Borough	637	354	391	367	440	408	621	660	642	234	57.35%
Hanover Township (NC)	5,434	6,073	7,176	9,563	10,866	11,530	12,074	12,825	13,895	2,365	20.51%

MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Hellertown Borough	6,613	6,025	5,662	5,606	5,898	5,835	6,552	7,198	7,780	1,945	33.33%
Lehigh Township	6,086	7,985	9,296	9,728	10,526	10,438	10,685	10,787	11,220	782	7.49%
Lower Mount Bethel Township	2,531	2,745	3,187	3,228	3,101	3,074	3,523	3,768	3,839	765	24.89%
Lower Nazareth Township	2,091	3,535	4,483	5,259	5,674	6,397	8,156	10,055	8,039	1,642	25.67%
Lower Saucon Township	5,371	7,372	8,448	9,884	10,772	10,817	12,028	12,812	13,454	2,637	24.38%
Moore Township	3,791	7,519	8,418	8,673	9,198	9,378	10,121	9,937	10,712	1,334	14.22%
Nazareth Borough	5,815	5,443	5,713	6,023	5,746	5,705	7,289	7,723	8,181	2,476	43.40%
North Catasauqua Borough	2,941	2,554	2,867	2,814	2,849	2,830	3,527	3,448	3,502	672	23.75%
Northampton Borough	8,389	8,240	8,717	9,405	9,926	9,869	10,240	10,874	11,856	1,987	20.13%
Palmer Township	12,684	13,926	14,965	16,809	20,691	21,412	22,988	25,836	29,428	8,016	37.44%
Pen Argyl Borough	3,668	3,388	3,492	3,615	3,595	3,551	3,587	3,699	3,762	211	5.94%
Plainfield Township	4,288	4,833	5,444	5,668	6,138	6,223	7,366	7,831	8,212	1,989	31.96%
Portland Borough	612	540	516	579	519	549	624	669	680	131	23.86%
Roseto Borough	1,538	1,484	1,555	1,653	1567	2,198	1,816	1,916	1,954	-244	-11.10%

Northampton County Population Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Stockertown Borough	753	661	641	687	927	910	1,058	1,067	1,047	137	15.05%
Tatamy Borough	891	910	873	930	1,203	1,047	1,075	1,125	1,120	73	6.97%
Upper Mount Bethel Township	3,343	4,247	5,476	6,063	6,706	6,894	7,196	7,980	7,951	1,057	15.33%
Upper Nazareth Township	3,605	3,407	3,413	4,426	6,231	6,956	8,716	9,274	9,868	2,912	41.86%
Walnutport Borough	1,942	2,007	2,055	2,043	2,070	2,030	2,057	2,107	2,107	77	3.79%
Washington Township (NC)	3,037	3,205	3,759	4,152	5,122	5,250	5,537	5,780	5,836	586	11.16%
West Easton Borough	1,123	1,033	1,163	1,152	1,257	1,311	1,336	1,405	1,411	100	7.63%
Williams Township	3,282	3,843	3,982	4,470	5,884	6,096	6,518	7,090	7,548	1,452	23.82%
Wilson Borough	8,482	7,564	7,830	7,682	7,896	7,809	9,233	9,293	9,510	1,701	21.78%
Wind Gap Borough	2,270	2,651	2,741	2,812	2,720	2,728	2,957	2,977	3,081	353	12.94%
Grand Total	214,368	225,418	247,105	267,066	297,735	304,233	334,024	344,440	361,274	57,041	19.16%

EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS

Lehigh County Employment Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Alburtis Borough	161	289	435	462	473	312	194%
City of Allentown	48,739	42,463	43,957	47,129	52,049	3,310	7%
City of Bethlehem (LC)	13,520	13,827	14,021	15,225	15,202	1,682	12%
Catasauqua Borough	852	859	1,452	1,679	2,231	1,379	162%
Coopersburg Borough	960	1,154	1,170	1,290	1,305	345	36%
Coplay Borough	543	466	969	1,248	1,355	812	150%
Emmaus Borough	5,213	4,788	5,041	5,632	7,147	1,934	37%
Fountain Hill Borough	5,149	8,829	10,711	11,225	12,006	6,857	133%
Hanover Township (LC)	10,169	9,305	8,237	7,389	6,780	-3,389	-33%
Heidelberg Township	676	780	865	894	1,097	421	62%
Lower Macungie Township	6,793	10,610	14,116	15,964	17,369	10,576	156%
Lower Milford Township	446	517	994	1,334	1,859	1,413	317%
Lowhill Township	323	442	557	579	625	302	93%
Lynn Township	310	374	424	418	428	118	38%

Lehigh County Employment Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Macungie Borough	770	671	704	812	879	109	14%
North Whitehall Township	5,643	5,434	4,369	5,809	8,559	2,916	52%
Salisbury Township	11,653	14,656	14,595	14,293	15,969	4,316	37%
Slatington Borough	608	618	484	632	7,01	93	15%
South Whitehall Township	14,542	15,610	17,519	17,460	17,442	2,900	20%
Upper Macungie Township	24,496	37,349	43,576	50,037	58,052	33,556	137%
Upper Milford Township	1,045	1,150	1,759	2,546	3,592	2,547	244%
Upper Saucon Township	8,169	7,958	10,200	11,284	13,045	4,876	60%
Washington Township (LC)	401	457	733	872	928	527	131%
Weisenberg Township	2,160	3,127	3,733	4,403	5,800	3,640	169%
Whitehall Township	13,554	10,978	11,014	10,467	10,883	-2,671	-20%
Grand Total	176,895	192,711	211,635	229,083	255,075	78,881	45%

EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS

BY MUNICIPALITY (1970-2050)

Northampton County Employment Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Allen Township	920	2,083	2,389	2,557	3,061	2,141	233%
Bangor Borough	1,131	766	1,223	1,416	1,694	563	50%
Bath Borough	558	536	806	918	1,011	453	81%
City of Bethlehem (NC)	18,236	25,108	27,430	30,795	34,375	16,139	89%
Bethlehem Township	11,873	13,308	11,484	13,415	11,740	-133	-1%
Bushkill Township	721	1,023	1,624	2,341	3,483	2,762	383%
Chapman Borough	5	50	111	143	175	170	3,400%
East Allen Township	1,827	2,245	2,199	2,906	3,803	1,976	108%
East Bangor Borough	83	63	189	210	239	156	188%
City of Easton	8,633	6,932	7,214	8,429	8,685	52	1%
Forks Township	5,427	5,880	5,441	5,689	5,914	487	9%
Freemansburg Borough	206	292	482	517	659	453	220%
Glendon Borough	111	253	301	390	386	275	248%
Hanover Township (NC)	11,413	13,392	13,505	14,175	13,698	2,285	20%

Northampton County Employment Forecast by Municipality (1970-2050)

MUNICIPALITIES	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Hellertown Borough	1,148	1,653	2,072	2,399	2,877	1,729	151%
Lehigh Township	832	969	868	999	1,264	432	52%
Lower Mount Bethel Township	354	521	758	839	950	596	168%
Lower Nazareth Township	5,892	8,083	7,736	7,523	7,957	2,065	35%
Lower Saucon Township	2,534	1,194	2,050	3,143	4,209	1,675	66%
Moore Township	997	988	1,980	1,059	1,492	495	50%
Nazareth Borough	3,588	1,991	2,827	3,191	3,860	272	8%
North Catasauqua Borough	177	287	524	489	458	281	159%
Northampton Borough	2,714	2,486	2,772	3,869	5,303	2,589	95%
Palmer Township	7,140	9,283	9,445	10,307	12,607	5,467	77%
Pen Argyl Borough	652	727	919	976	1,046	394	60%
Plainfield Township	1,504	1,249	1,428	2,050	2,931	1,427	95%
Portland Borough	118	200	202	231	296	178	151%
Roseto Borough	139	109	193	247	296	157	113%

MUNICIPALITIES	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	Growth (2010-2050)	Growth %
Stockertown Borough	276	475	441	491	521	245	89%
Tatamy Borough	400	171	525	524	500	100	25%
Upper Mount Bethel Township	1,161	1,330	1,384	1,580	1,800	639	55%
Upper Nazareth Township	1,129	2,152	2,790	3,248	4,080	2,951	261%
Walnutport Borough	598	560	464	503	507	-91	-15%
Washington Township (NC)	401	457	971	1,111	1,078	677	169%
West Easton Borough	143	188	298	360	390	247	173%
Williams Township	649	772	1,151	1,528	1,893	1,244	192%
Wilson Borough	3,017	2,741	2,360	2,731	3,053	36	1%
Wind Gap Borough	1,121	826	833	822	910	-211	-19%
Grand Total	97,828	111,343	119,389	134,121	149,201	51,373	53%



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

MEMBERS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Brendan Cotter, **Chair**

Ryan Meyer, **Vice Chair**

Becky A. Bradley, AICP, **Secretary**

Matthew Tuerk, City of Allentown

David Petrik (Alt.), City of Allentown

J. William Reynolds, City of Bethlehem

Basel Yandem (Alt.), City of Bethlehem

Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., City of Easton

David Hopkins (Alt.), City of Easton

Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT District 5-0

Nick Raio, PennDOT Central

Nyomi Evans (Alt.), PennDOT Central

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Richard Molchany (Alt.), **Chair**

David Hopkins (Alt.), **Vice Chair**

Becky A. Bradley, AICP, **Secretary**

Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County

Lamont G. McClure, Jr., Northampton County

Mike Emili (Alt.), Northampton County

Matthew Tuerk, City of Allentown

David Petrik (Alt.), City of Allentown

J. William Reynolds, City of Bethlehem

Michael Alkhal (Alt.), City of Bethlehem

Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., City of Easton

Owen O'Neil, LANTA

Thomas Stoudt,
Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority

Chris Kufro, PennDOT District 5

Jim Mosca, PE, PennDOT Central

Nick Raio (Alt.), PennDOT Central



WORKFORCE
BOARD
LEHIGH VALLEY

Lehigh Valley Employment & Population Projections



MEMBERS

SENIOR STAFF MANAGEMENT

Nancy Dischinat, **Executive Director**

Stephen Barron, **Fiscal Director**

Sarah Lutz, **Assistant Workforce Director**

Lilian Rodriguez, **Executive Assistant**

Venessa Torres, **Executive Assistant**

Nanse Wolfington, **Director of Compliance**

BOARD OFFICERS

Jane Brooks, **Chair**

Regional Manager, Community Affairs

Highmark Blue Shield

Morten Rasmussen, **Vice Chair**

VP Operations Human Resource & Compensation

B. Braun Medical Inc.

Stephen Patterson, **Secretary/Treasurer**

Chief Lending Officer

Fleetwood Bank

Keith Reynolds, **Ex-Officio**

President

Reynolds Business Systems, Inc.



Dr. Christopher Amato, **Chair**
 Christina “Tori” Morgan, **Vice Chair**
 Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen, **Treasurer**

MEMBERS

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong
 Richard Molchany (Alt.)
 Matthew Tuerk
 Jennifer Gomez (Alt.)
 Ron Beitler
 Percy H. Dougherty, PhD
 Bob Elbich

Sunny Ghai
 Phil Ginder
 Kent H. Herman, Esq.
 Steven L. Glickman RA, CSI
 Michael Drabenstott
 Dennis Klusaritz
 Diane Kelly

Northampton County

Lamont G. McClure, Jr.
 Tina Smith (Alt.)
 Salvatore Panto, Jr.
 Carl Manges (Alt.)
 Andrew Elliott
 Charles W. Elliott, Esq.
 Jean Versteeg

John Gallagher
 Judith Haldeman
 Rachel Leon
 John McGorry
 Stephen Melnick
 Scott Minnich
 Edward Nelson

Both Counties

J. William Reynolds
 Basel Yandem (Alt.)

Santo Napoli
 Owen O’Neil
 Stephen Repasch
 John Inglis III

Crystal Rose
 Jessica Cope
 Kenneth Kraft



**WORKFORCE
 BOARD**
 LEHIGH VALLEY



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

PLANNING TEAM

Becky A. Bradley, AICP

Executive Director

David Cohen, AICP

Director of Administration

Tracy L. Oscavich

Director of Administration

Susan Myerov, AICP

Director of Environmental Planning

Samantha Pearson

Director of Development

Vicki Weidenhammer

Controller

Matt Assad

Managing Editor

Denjam Khadka

Senior Civil/Environmental Engineer

Subham Kharel, PhD

Senior Data and Analytics Planner

Geoffrey A. Reese, PE

Master Planner and Engineer

Jill Seitz, AICP

Chief Community and

Regional Planner

Faria Urmey, AICP, CNU-A, LEED AP

Regional Plan Program Manager

Chris Embert

Creative Manager

Minsoo Park

Economist

Giovanna Rizkallah

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Engineer

and Innovation Planner

Evan Gardi

Transportation Planner

Taylor Beasley

Graphic Design and

Publication Coordinator

Mackenzie Geisner

Geographic Information

Systems Planner

Clay Karnis

Geographic Information

Systems Planner

Christian Martinez

Environmental Planner

Hannah Milagio

Regional Planner for

Community Engagement

Corinne Ruggiero, SEO

Environmental Planner

Mary Grace Collins

Community Fellow

Peter Lentz

Environmental Planning Intern



WORKFORCE
BOARD
LEHIGH VALLEY

LEHIGH VALLEY
**EMPLOYMENT
& POPULATION**
PROJECTIONS

CONTACT US

EMAIL: PLANNING@LVPC.ORG
PHONE: 1 (610) 264-4544

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

615 WATERFRONT DR SUITE 201,
ALLENTOWN, PA 18102

LVPC.ORG

