Pennsylvania
WORK SMART. LIVE HAPPY.
#BeHappyInPA
Welcome to Pennsylvania.

You often hear that you can’t have it all, but in Pennsylvania, you’ll start believing you can.

Pennsylvania’s founding principles of freedom, tolerance, and innovation — first established by William Penn — have echoed throughout our history and growth as a commonwealth, and continue to guide our progress today. Every year, millions boldly pursue — and find — their happiness here, taking to heart the spirit of the words proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence. Our rich history certainly plays a large factor, but our success ultimately comes down to the welcoming, visionary, and driven residents who live and work here.
PENNSYLVANIA.
WORK SMART.
LIVE HAPPY.

Erie, PA
Pennsylvania is leading the way for successful businesses and communities with innovation, imagination, and a legendary can-do spirit.

Pennsylvanians are innovators, from Ben Franklin through the talent behind today’s robotics and health sciences startups. The global economy demands fast-paced innovation at all levels, and Pennsylvania is getting the job done — from pioneering the latest technological and scientific advances and developing collaborative support networks for early-stage entrepreneurs, to pursuing smart, creative approaches to community development and workforce training.
WE ARE AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE.
Pennsylvania’s robust economy rivals the size of many countries and offers all the amenities of such, but our business climate remains approachable, supportive, and personal.

Our economic size and diversity ensure stability and provide the resources and cost-effective access businesses need to grow.
WE WORK SMART.

Urban Outfitters,
Philadelphia, PA
Our workforce is characterized by a special combination of education, experience, and curiosity, and is driven by our legendary can-do spirit.

As a result, new technology is being discovered and developed every day. It’s in our DNA. Pennsylvanians built this nation, and that spirit and drive — and our state’s founding principles of openness and tolerance — continue to push their work and abilities to new heights.
WE PRODUCE LEADERS.
Pennsylvania’s education system produces the workforce that drives our economy.

Some of the strongest schools in the country can be found in the Keystone State, including those that top national and global rankings. In addition to being a national leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, Pennsylvania has some of the best graduate programs for business and computer engineering.
WE INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS.
In Pennsylvania, we value our early education and K-12 education system.

Ensuring our youngest students receive a world-class education is vital to our future success. Pennsylvania has made early and important progress in delivering more resources to schools and classrooms, and fostering collaborative, cross-sector dialogue to support STEM education, work-based learning, career pathways, and college access and completion.
WE INSPIRE INNOVATION
Pennsylvania is growing into a tech titan.

Recent research from Brookings shows that we have significant regional hubs helping to create a perfect mix of environment and resources to inspire and commercialize innovation. Shared factors, such as research-oriented institutions, high-growth companies, and tech and creative startups in vibrant, amenity-rich residential and commercial environments, are setting these metros apart in the tech landscape.
ENTREPRENEURS THRIVE HERE.
We proudly help entrepreneurs and small businesses turn their ideas, hopes, and dreams into reality.

It’s no surprise that one million small businesses call Pennsylvania home — we are a hotbed of innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity. From startup, to launch, to ongoing growth, we proudly offer resources, technical assistance, and a collaborative and supportive environment to help our small businesses succeed.
Technology is driving our economy.
From the life sciences and robotics to self-driving vehicles, advanced manufacturing, and more, Pennsylvania’s tech industry is in the fast lane.

It’s supported by a thriving innovation ecosystem that comprises exceptional regional economic development partners, access to critical venture capital, and impactful collaborations between our researchers, higher education institutions, and businesses.
We have a powerful advantage.

MarkWest Houston Processing and Fractionation Facility, Washington, PA.
Pennsylvania’s abundant natural resources position the state for unparalleled growth in both energy and manufacturing.

We are investing in power generation and distributed energy systems that combine natural gas with alternative energy technologies to achieve clean, reliable, and efficient energy.
MAKING MORE THAN HISTORY.

Aerotech Inc., Pittsburgh, PA
We’re training the next generation of manufacturing workers, focusing on advanced technical and STEM skills.

Pennsylvania has been a leader in manufacturing since the beginning, and you’ll find that our world-class R&D institutions, technology commercialization programs, technical and industrial resources, and skilled workforce combine to create a unique advantage for businesses.
We’re shaping the future.
With a growing downstream sector and abundant natural gas resources, Pennsylvania’s plastics industry is rich in resources, know-how, and opportunity.

Thanks to our abundant natural gas reserves, Pennsylvania provides plastics manufacturers with a stable, local feedstock they can transform into everything from food packaging, medical devices, and textiles to construction materials, adhesives, and more.
WE TAKE A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO SUCCESS.

Cognition Therapeutics, Pittsburgh, PA
Pennsylvania has long been known for its research excellence, and is a national leader in testing and medical labs, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals.

Our life sciences ecosystem is driven by our thoughtful leadership, talent, and businesses, which are supported by world-class R&D institutions, top-notch universities and incubators, technical assistance, and strategic investments in venture capital, technology, and infrastructure.
WE’RE THE BEST IN OUR FIELD.
Pennsylvania’s reputable agribusiness industry represents more than two centuries of heritage and quality.

Agribusiness is a leading economic driver in Pennsylvania, producing quality products — like food and hardwoods — from farm to table and forest to factory. It also boasts a strategic location and offers a comprehensive infrastructure to deliver its products.
DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH.
Gov. Wolf is committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness.

One of Gov. Wolf’s first executive orders was dedicated to improving the participation of small and diverse businesses — minority-, women-, LGBT-, veteran- and disabled-owned business — in state government contracting and the commonwealth’s overall economy.

In the top 6 states with the highest concentrations of LGBTBE-owned businesses, saw a 36.7% increase in minority small business ownership from 2007-2012.

Has welcomed 6,300+ refugees from 30+ countries since October 2015.

6,300+ foreign-owned firms employing 334K+ workers.

Pennsylvania is a place founded centuries ago on the idea that all are welcome, and can practice their faith and culture as they see fit.

We still live by that grand idea today, not only because it is right to do so — it is — but also because it’s smart. We want to continue the rich tradition of openness and inclusiveness, so that when people are choosing where to go to school, begin their professional lives, or raise their family, they know that Pennsylvania is open to them.
BUSINESS IS WELCOME.
Pennsylvania wants all businesses to succeed.

We have the right environment to empower companies, whether they’re a corporate headquarters, manufacturing facility, or state-of-the-art R&D lab.
WE’RE RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.

Johnstown, PA
We know companies aren’t confined by borders, and neither are we.

Pennsylvania provides easy access to top assets within our own borders — and those of our neighbors as well. Being well-connected and having the highest ranked cost of living in the Northeast U.S. — that’s something we think everyone can appreciate.
WE MOVE AT THE SPEED OF BUSINESS.

Susquehanna River, Harrisburg, PA
Pennsylvania’s infrastructure is comprehensive and internationally connected.

With nearly half-a-trillion dollars’ worth of goods and services moving through our state transportation system every year, businesses have confidence that they and their products have the reach they need to be effective.
WE’LL BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS.
Pennsylvania is a thriving global competitor in trade and investment.

Today, more than 6,300 foreign-owned firms employing over 334,200 workers have business operations in Pennsylvania. It’s a list that’s growing — and for good reason!
PURSUE YOUR HAPPINESS HERE.

Poconos, PA
We recognize that successful businesses depend on vibrant communities — and vice versa.

Our unique blend of both is what makes life in the Keystone State invigorating, fulfilling, and downright happy. And when you need a break from business, Pennsylvania is right there with ways to help you jumpstart your brain, push your limit in the greater-than-great outdoors, learn something new, or relax with friends with the latest craft beer or wine in hand.
YOUR EMPLOYEES WILL LIVE HAPPY.
Our residents are happy, fulfilled, and excited to call Pennsylvania home.

From urban cityscapes to countryside communities and everything in between, Pennsylvanians can find the perfect place to work, live, and pursue their happiness. Our cost of living is extremely competitive with surrounding states, our real estate is affordable, and our health care system offers some of the best hospitals in the nation.

- Ranked lowest cost of living in Northeast U.S.
- Median home value is $161,800 versus the U.S. average of $201,900
- Average commute time of only 26.3 minutes
- 2nd lowest marginal personal income tax rate among states that levy the tax
- Home to the #2 K-12 school district in the U.S., with 4 PA districts ranked in the top 20
- 3 of the top 20 hospitals in the U.S.
- 3 PA cities rank in the top 10 cities for millennials
- 121 state parks that are free to the public
WE DO IT FIRST.
JOIN US IN
CREATING HISTORY.
During the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania not only provided the foundational keystone for our nation’s new, revolutionary democracy – it also served as the ideological compass for American values of freedom, innovation, and tolerance.

No other state is home to as many “firsts” as Pennsylvania can claim. In addition to the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, we are the birthplace of the first hospital, university, stock exchange, and more.
YOU’LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

Woolrich Manufacturing Facility, Woolrich, PA
Businesses don’t just succeed here — they become American legacies.

Pennsylvania is the culmination of more than 200 years of revolutionary industry and intellect that began with the birth of our country. Since then, our state has proved to be a crucible for bold and imaginative ideas and thinkers, resulting in longstanding, successful legacies that are now common household names across the United States. We are proud of our legacy companies — including Hershey, Woolrich, Martin Guitar, Crayola, Armstrong World Industries, Comcast, and Aramark — which have shaped our communities and influenced the course of American history.
WE’RE HERE FOR YOU.
We recognize the vital relationship between communities and businesses, and work to ensure that every Pennsylvanian (or person doing business here) is able to Work Smart and Live Happy.

The Department of Community and Economic Development’s mission is to encourage the shared prosperity of all Pennsylvanians by supporting good stewardship and sustainable development initiatives across our commonwealth. With a keen eye toward diversity and inclusiveness, we act as advisors and advocates, providing strategic technical assistance, training, and financial resources to help our communities and industries flourish.

Learn more at dced.pa.gov
See what others are saying.
“All of us at Aramark are dedicated to living and leading by personally and professionally Enriching and Nourishing the Lives of others. We believe in that principle so strongly that I made it our mission when I joined the company.”
—Eric J. Foss, Chairman, President & CEO, Aramark

Erie is not only our namesake, it’s our home. Our employees live here and our agents are small business owners here. We recruit and retain a team with a strong work ethic, dedication to their communities and are focused on doing the right thing. For 90+ years, Erie Insurance has made a choice to stay in Erie and contribute to its economic growth. We’re proud to call Northwest Pennsylvania home.
—Timothy NeCastro, President and CEO, Erie Insurance

“Pennsylvania has a significant role in the nation’s tech economy. Tech is attracted to Pennsylvania’s many world-class colleges and universities and the state’s highly educated workforce.”
—Matthew Kazmierczak, vice president of TechAmerica Foundation and author of Cyberstates

“SEKISUI Polymer Innovations is committed to continued investments in central Pennsylvania because of access to an incredible natural resource – the talented, creative, and engaged people of central Pennsylvania. Our business model depends on advanced manufacturing skills. The combination of state support and local commitment to workforce development makes this the ideal location to manufacture next generation materials for growing global markets like aviation, mass transit, medical devices, robotics, and autonomous vehicles.”
—Ronn Cort, President and COO, Sekisui SPI

“As supply chains have become much more heavily focused on getting access to highest number of people in the shortest period of time, there’s been a big push to try and create an equivalent of the Inland Empire on the East Coast. The Lehigh Valley is really where it’s all sprung up.”
—David Egan, CBRE head of Industrial and Logistics Research for the Americas