

**CITY OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**



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Lawrence F. Hilliard, Director of Finance
Beth A. Mohylsky, Manager of Treasury and Accounting Operations

Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, LLP, Independent Auditors

**This Report was prepared by
The Department of Finance
Lawrence F. Hilliard, Director of Finance
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PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN

GENERAL

The City of Allentown is the county seat of Lehigh County and, with 106,632 residents, according to the U. S. Census Bureau 2000 estimate, ranks as Pennsylvania's third largest city. The Allentown-Bethlehem Metropolitan Statistical Area, comprised of Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties is the third largest urbanized area in the Commonwealth, with population estimated at 611,764. Only the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas have more residents. The City is strategically located within a 300-mile radius of the larger metropolitan areas on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

CITY GOVERNMENT

On April 23, 1996, the voters of the City of Allentown adopted a Home Rule Charter pursuant to the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, Act of April 13, 1972, P.L. 184, as amended, 53 P.S. Sections 2901 et seq. The City's Home Rule Charter took effect on the first Monday of January 1997. An elected Mayor with a four-year term serves as the chief executive of the City. A seven-member part-time City Council elected at large for four-year staggered terms, forms the legislative branch of the City government. The other elected City official is the City Controller who serves a four-year term. The City Council holds regular public meetings, at least twice a month, usually the first and third Wednesday of each month, in order to enact legislation in the form of ordinances and resolutions.

INDUSTRIES/LABOR FORCE

The Allentown area remains an attractive location for new and existing businesses. A number of major corporations, including, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Olympus, LSI and PPL have selected Lehigh County as their headquarters or as the location of their significant operations. Other major industries include apparel, electrical and electronic equipment and fabricated metal products. Investments have remained strong in Allentown and the Lehigh Valley area relative to the state and northeast as a whole.

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 78, U.S. Routes 22, 222 and 309 and several state highways radiate from the City and the Lehigh Valley and provide access to the major markets and ports of the East. The Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is located approximately three miles west of the City. Railroads serving the Lehigh Valley area include the Consolidated Rail Corporation and the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Conrail has a large classification yard in the Allentown area.

AMENITIES

The City of Allentown is home to a variety of cultural and educational facilities including two colleges, a AAA minor league baseball stadium, multiple museums, theater companies, orchestras, and bands. The City maintains 2,000 acres of park land, well above the national average. The downtown area is in a transition period and a major effort is being made to attract new enterprises to Hamilton Street. Increased downtown activity will become a catalyst for continuing interest in the area.