

ERIE in the News and by the Numbers

Regional Investment —

The Erie region has seen more than \$1 billion in investment from new and existing companies, across a wide range of industries during the past 10 years.

Media Contact:

Jacob Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership | 814-454-7191

Employment —

Since December 2003, employment in the Erie MSA has grown by more than 4,500 jobs from 129,489 (12/03) to 134,073 (12/07).

Media Contact:

Jacob Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership | 814-454-7191

Housing —

According to a recent report in *Money* magazine, despite declining home prices in other areas of the Country, prices continued to rise in the Erie market (4.2% in the past year) while remaining relatively affordable.

Media Contact:

Tom Smith, Greater Erie Board of REALTORS® | 814-453-2744

Energy/Environment —

Erie is home to Lake Erie Biofuels, one of the leading producers of Biodiesel in the northeastern United States and Pennsylvania's first large-scale Biodiesel production facility

Media Contact:

Michael Noble, Lake Erie Biofuels | 814-528-9200

Last year, *CountryHome* magazine, in conjunction with *Sperling's BestPlaces*, named Erie to its list of *Best Green Cities in America*.

Tourism —

Visitors spend more than \$700 million a year in Erie County, generating over \$250 million in wage compensation to the 12,000+ people employed in the industry.

The percentage increase in the number of new hotel rooms in the Erie area led the Commonwealth in 2007. Erie's 2007 year end hotel occupancy average of 64% was also second highest to that of the Philadelphia region.

Media Contact:

John Oliver, VisitErie | 814-454-1000

Water —

While fresh water supplies are rapidly shrinking in other parts of the United States, Erie's water is clean, inexpensive and readily-available. During the past 15 years, more than \$200 million in improvements have been made to Erie's water systems, resulting in an excess system capacity of over 40 million gallons of water and sewage treatment per day. As an economic incentive, Erie Water Works offers a 40% discount to industrial developments for five years.

Media Contact:

Jacob Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership | 814-454-7191

The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership recognizes the difficulty and complexity journalists face when trying to convey the essence of a region — and its people — to readers, while also offering fair and comprehensive accounts of critical events and issues. Out of respect for your deadlines, and in an effort to provide balanced and accurate information on the Erie region, the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership has compiled the following facts, stats and experts to assist you.

Education —

Erie's four colleges and universities enroll more than 20,000 students annually, giving Erie County one of the highest percentages of college students in the Commonwealth.

Media Contacts:

Brian Pitzer, Edinboro University | 814-732-2193
Jennifer Mailey, Gannon University | 814-871-7470
Sheila Coon, Mercyhurst College | 814-824-3315
Bill Gonda, Penn State Behrend | 814-898-6570

Healthcare —

Erie is home to the largest medical school in the U.S.— Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). It was founded by Millcreek Community Hospital, a full-service, acute care facility which also operates the region's top adult and adolescent behavioral health care unit.

Media Contact:

Pierre Bellicini, LECOM | 814-866-6641

Erie's Hamot Medical Center was named to *HealthGrades'* 2008 list of *America's 50 Best Hospitals*.

Media Contact:

Charles Hagerty, Hamot Health Foundation | 814-877-6000

Erie's Saint Vincent Health System, served as a national education site for 30 U.S. hospitals in the *Centers for Medicaid and Medicare/Premier Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration* project study.

Media Contact:

Pete Sitter, Saint Vincent Health System | 814-452-5706

Additional Media Contacts —

Mark DiVecchio, Erie County Executive | 814-451-7440
Joe Sinnott, Mayor - City of Erie | 814-870-1206
Erie County Convention Center Authority | 814-453-7117
Erie Downtown Improvement District | 814-455-3743

ERIE, PA | By the Numbers

Erie County Population: 279,811

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 ACS

Total Workforce: 134,073

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (12/07)

Unemployment Rate: 4.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (12/07)

Employment Trend: Added 4,500+ ('03-'07)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (12/2003 - 12/2007)

Median Age: 38.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 ACS

Median Family Income: \$51,149

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 ACS

High School Graduates (25+): 87.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 ACS

Bachelor's Degree (25+): 22.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 ACS

ACCRA Cost of Living Index: 99.1

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 2006