

# Laclede Group Inc. Fundamental Company Report Including Financial, SWOT, Competitors and Industry Analysis

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## Abstracts

Laclede Group Inc. Fundamental Company Report provides a complete overview of the company's affairs. All available data is presented in a comprehensive and easily accessed format. The report includes financial and SWOT information, industry analysis, opinions, estimates, plus annual and quarterly forecasts made by stock market experts. The report also enables direct comparison to be made between Laclede Group Inc. and its competitors. This provides our Clients with a clear understanding of Laclede Group Inc. position in the [Utilities](#) Industry.

The report contains detailed information about Laclede Group Inc. that gives an unrivalled in-depth knowledge about internal business-environment of the company: data about the owners, senior executives, locations, subsidiaries, markets, products, and company history.

Another part of the report is a SWOT-analysis carried out for Laclede Group Inc.. It involves specifying the objective of the company's business and identifies the different factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieving that objective. SWOT-analysis helps to understand company's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and possible threats against it.

The Laclede Group Inc. financial analysis covers the income statement and ratio trend-charts with balance sheets and cash flows presented on an annual and quarterly basis. The report outlines the main financial ratios pertaining to profitability, margin analysis, asset turnover, credit ratios, and company's long-

term solvency. This sort of company's information will assist and strengthen your company's decision-making processes.

In the part that describes Laclede Group Inc. competitors and the industry in whole, the information about company's financial ratios is compared to those of its competitors and to the industry. The unique analysis of the market and company's competitors along with detailed information about the internal and external factors affecting the relevant industry will help to manage your business environment. Your company's business and sales activities will be boosted by gaining an insight into your competitors' businesses.

Also the report provides relevant news, an analysis of PR-activity, and stock price movements. The latter are correlated with pertinent news and press releases, and annual and quarterly forecasts are given by a variety of experts and market research firms. Such information creates your awareness about principal trends of Laclede Group Inc. business.

## **About Laclede Group Inc.**

The Laclede Group, Inc., a public utility holding company, provides natural gas service through its regulated utility operations.

### Segments

#### Regulated Gas Distribution segment

The Regulated Gas Distribution segment includes the regulated operations of Laclede Gas Company (Laclede Gas or the Utility), Laclede Group's primary subsidiary and core business unit. Laclede Gas is a public utility engaged in the retail distribution and sale of natural gas. Laclede Gas is the natural gas distribution utility in Missouri, serving approximately 630,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the City of St. Louis and parts of 10 counties in eastern Missouri.

**Natural Gas Supply:** The Utility focuses its gas supply portfolio around natural gas suppliers with equity ownership or control of assets situated to complement Laclede's regionally diverse firm transportation arrangements. Laclede Gas utilizes both Mid-Continent and Gulf Coast gas sources to provide a level of supply diversity.

In 2010, Laclede Gas purchased natural gas from 30 different suppliers to meet gas sales and storage injection requirements. Natural gas purchased by Laclede Gas for delivery to its utility service area through the Mississippi River Transmission Corporation (MRT) system totaled 62.2 billion cubic feet (Bcf). The Utility also holds firm transportation on various other interstate pipeline systems that provide access to gas supplies upstream of MRT. In addition to deliveries from MRT, 7.9 Bcf of gas was purchased on the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company system, and 10.1 Bcf on the Southern Star Central Pipeline system. The Utility's commercial and industrial customers purchased their own gas and delivered 15.0 Bcf to them through Utility's distribution system.

**Underground Natural Gas Storage:** Laclede Gas has a contractual right to store approximately 23.1 Bcf of gas in MRT's storage facility located in Unionville, Louisiana. MRT's tariffs allow injections into storage from May 16 through November 15 and require the withdrawal from storage of all but 2.2 Bcf from November 16 through May 15. In addition, Laclede Gas supplements flowing pipeline gas with natural gas withdrawn from its own underground storage field located in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties in Missouri. The field is designed to provide 0.30 Bcf of natural gas withdrawals on a peak day and annual withdrawals of approximately 4 Bcf of gas based on the inventory level that Laclede plans to maintain.

#### Non-Regulated Gas Marketing segment

The Non-Regulated Gas Marketing segment includes Laclede Energy Resources, Inc. (LER), a wholly-owned subsidiary engaged in the marketing of natural gas and related activities on a non-regulated basis. LER markets natural gas to both on-system Utility transportation customers and customers outside of Laclede Gas' traditional service territory, including retail and wholesale customers.

As of September 30, 2010, LER utilized 13 interstate pipelines and approximately 80 suppliers to market natural gas to its customers, including retail and wholesale customers primarily in the Midwest. LER served approximately 150 retail customers and approximately 100 wholesale customers. Through its retail operations, LER offers natural gas marketing services to industrial customers, while its wholesale business consists of buying and selling natural gas to other marketers, producers, utilities, power generators, pipelines, and municipalities.

#### Other Subsidiaries

Laclede Pipeline Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Laclede Group, operates a pipeline under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction that connects the propane storage and vaporization facilities of Laclede Gas to third-party propane supply terminal facilities located in Illinois, which allows Laclede Gas to receive propane that is vaporized to supplement its natural gas supply and meet demands on its distribution system. Laclede Pipeline also provides transportation services to third parties.

Laclede Investment LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Laclede Group, invests in other enterprises and has made loans to various joint ventures engaged in real estate development.

Laclede Gas Family Services, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Laclede Energy Resources, Inc., is a registered insurance agency in the State of Missouri.

Laclede Development Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Laclede Group, participates in real estate development, primarily through joint ventures.

Laclede Venture Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Laclede Development Company, offers services for the compression of natural gas to third parties who desire to use or to sell compressed natural gas for use in vehicles.

## History

The Laclede Group, Inc. was founded in 1857.

The above Company Fundamental Report is a half-ready report and contents are subject to change.

It means that we have all necessary data in our database to prepare the report but need **2-3 days** to complete it. During this time we are also updating the report with respect to the current moment. So, you can get all the most recent data available for the same price. Please note that preparation of additional types of analyses requires extra time.

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## ANALYSIS FEATURES

### SWOT Analysis

SWOT, which stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, is an analytical framework that identifies the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable for a company.

### Enhanced SWOT Analysis

Enhanced SWOT is a 3x3 grid that arranges strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats into one scheme:

How to use the strengths to take advantage of the opportunities?

How to use the strengths to reduce likelihood and impact of the threats?

How to overcome the weaknesses that obstruct taking advantage of the opportunities?

How to overcome the weaknesses that can make the threats a reality?

Upon answering these questions a company can develop a project plan to improve its business performance.

### PESTEL Analysis

PESTEL (also termed as PESTLE) is an ideal tool to strategically analyze what influence different outside factors – political, economic, sociocultural, technological, environmental and legal – exert on a business to later chart its long term targets.

Being part of the external analysis when carrying out a strategic assessment or performing a market study, PESTEL gives an overview of diverse macro-environmental factors that any company should thoughtfully consider. By perceiving these outside environments, businesses can maximally benefit from the opportunities while minimizing the threats to the organization.

## Key Factors Examined by PESTEL Analysis:

**Political** – What opportunities and pressures are brought by political bodies and what is the degree of public regulations' impact on the business?

**Economic** – What economic policies, trends and structures are expected to affect the organization, what is this influence's degree?

**Sociological** – What cultural and societal aspects will work upon the demand for the business's products and operations?

**Technological** – What impact do the technological aspects, innovations, incentives and barriers have on the organization?

**Environmental** – What environmental and ecological facets, both locally and farther afield, are likely to predetermine the business?

**Legal** – What laws and legislation will exert influence on the style the business is carried out?

## **IFE, EFE, IE Matrices**

The Internal Factor Evaluation matrix (IFE matrix) is a strategic management tool helping audit or evaluate major weaknesses and strengths in a business's functional areas. In addition, IFE matrix serves as a basis for identifying and assessing relationships amongst those areas. The IFE matrix is utilised in strategy formulation.

The External Factor Evaluation matrix (EFE matrix) is a tool of strategic management that is typically utilised to assess current market conditions. It is an ideal instrument for visualising and prioritising the threats and opportunities a firm is facing.

The essential difference between the above mentioned matrices lies in the type of factors incorporated in the model; whilst the latter is engaged in internal factors, the former deals exceptionally with external factors – those exposed to social, political, economic, legal, etc. external forces.

Being a continuation of the EFE matrix and IFE matrix models, the Internal External matrix (IE matrix) rests upon an investigation of external and internal business factors

integrated into one suggestive model.

## **Porter Five Forces Analysis**

The Porter's five forces analysis studies the industry of operation and helps the company find new sources of competitive advantage. The analysis surveys an industry through five major questions:

What composes a threat of substitute products and services?

Is there a threat of new competitors entering the market?

What is the intensity of competitive rivalry?

How big is the bargaining power of buyers?

How significant is the bargaining power of suppliers?

## **VRIO Analysis**

VRIO stands for Value, Rarity, Imitability, Organization. This analysis helps to evaluate all company's resources and capabilities and bring them together into one aggregate table that includes:

Tangible resources

Financial

Physical

Technological

Organizational

Intangible resources

Human

Innovation and Creativity

## Reputation

### Organizational capabilities

The result of the analysis gives a clear picture of company's competitive and economic implications, answering the questions if the resources mentioned above are:

Valuable?

Rare?

Costly to imitate?

Organized properly?

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