

The Rockford Area: America's Best – Mid-Sized International Region



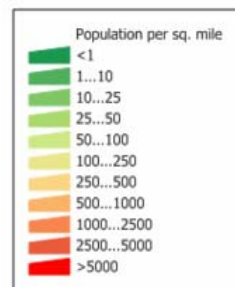
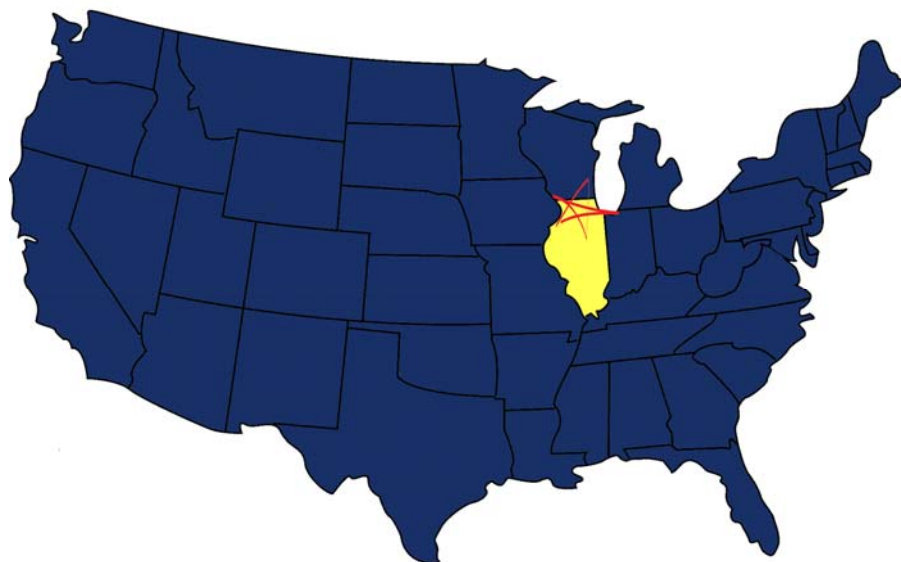
Rockford is Well Located

In the world, Illinois has:

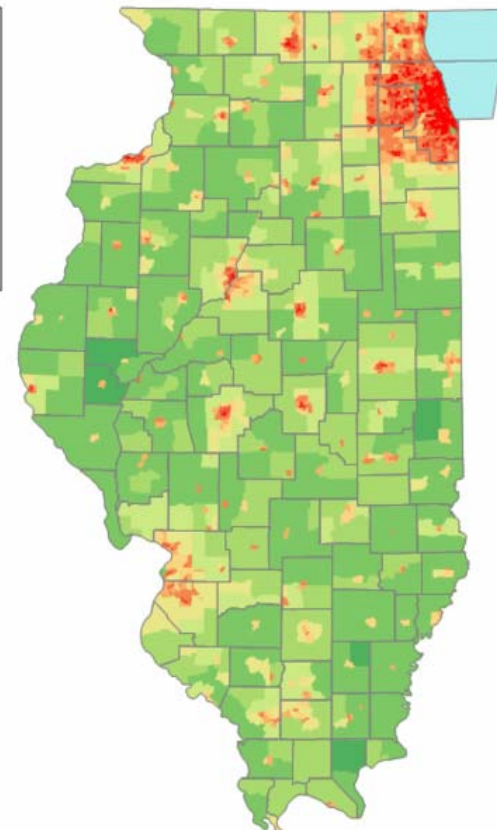
- 2nd busiest airport (O'Hare International)
- 3rd largest multi-modal port system

In the US, Illinois is:

- 1st in Interstate and railroad connections
- 5th largest Economy (\$589b)
- 5th most populated state



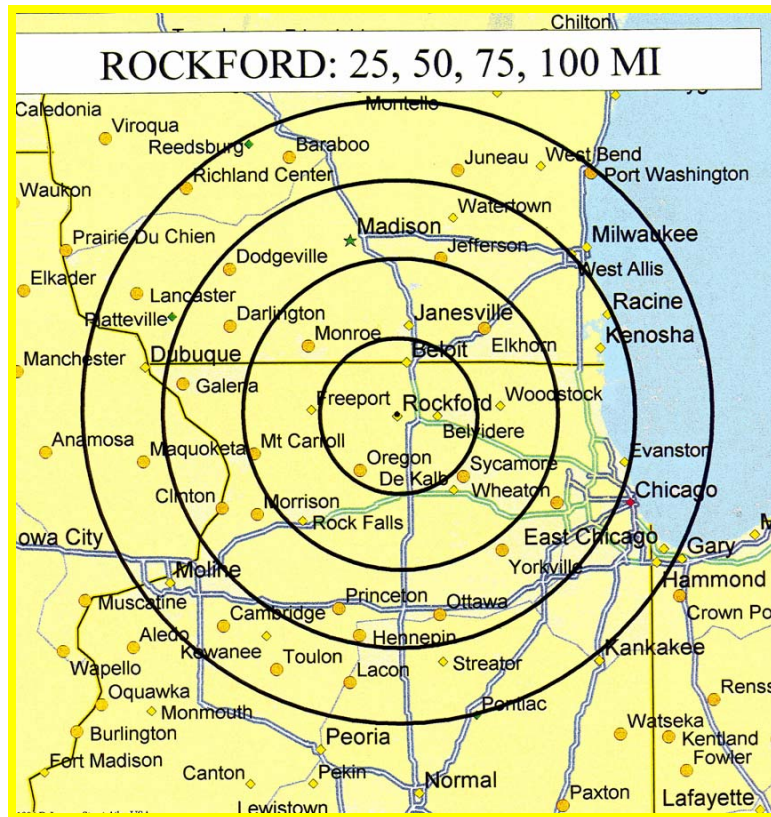
Source: U. S. Census Bureau
Census 2000 Summary File 1
population by census tract.



Rockford is part of the Chicago Market

Our strategic location provides access to:

- Over 800,000 people within a 30-40 minute commute, and is the fastest growing MSA in Illinois
- O'Hare International Airport within 60 minutes
- Over 13 million people within a two hours driving radius
- Approximately 80% of US households within a 24 hour truck drive
- Chicago's downtown CBD within 90 minutes



Rockford is a Center of Metal Working Excellence

Concentrated Manufacturing Talent above the National Average:

- 7.2 times, Machinery Manufacturing employment and R&D
- 4.2 times, Metals Manufacturing and R&D
- 3.4 times, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing and R&D
- 1.5 times above the Illinois average in engineer employment

Leading Manufacturing Community

- 1st in aerospace manufacturing in Illinois
- 2nd in manufacturing employment in Illinois
- 2nd in “on & off” road vehicle manufacturing in Illinois
- 2nd in industrial machine manufacturing in Illinois

Nearly 25% of the Rockford area's workforce is employed in manufacturing, twice the national average.



Rockford's Target Industries

Industries that best fit Rockford's strengths and services:

- Transportation Equipment Manufacturing and R&D
 - Aerospace, On & Off road Vehicles, Rail Manufacturing
- Industrial Machinery Manufacturing and R&D
 - Machine Tools, Food Processing and Medical Equipment
- Logistics and Distribution
 - Air, Rail, Truck
- Back Office and Call Centers
- Metals Manufacturing and R&D
- Food Processing
- Chemicals & Plastics Manufacturing
 - Pharmaceutical & Ethanol
- Health Care Related Service



Rockford has an Available Labor Force

The Pathfinders (2007) Labor Availability Report:

- 30-minute labor-shed population of over 800,000
- Estimated workforce of over 435,000 people
- 65,500 people are underemployed
- 16,800 unemployed
- 46,200 employed but interested in changing employers
- 2,500 not currently in workforce but considering re-entering

The Pathfinders (2007) Analysis of Commuting Workforce:

- Estimated 42,600 commute out of the Rockford MSA daily
- 73% would consider taking a comparable job in the MSA.
- Largest group, 15%, are tied to manufacturing

Current (12/10) Unemployment Rate Rockford MSA:

- 13%

Rockford is the fastest growing MSA in Illinois.



Rockford Enjoys Good Labor Relations

The Rockford Area's labor quality is rated as above average in :

- Turnover
- Absenteeism
- Productivity
- Attitude
- Drug use
- Trainability
- Communications
- Basic skills

Labor availability is rated as above average for:

- Engineering
- Skilled
- Semiskilled
- Unskilled



Rockford is Educated

There are over 75 institutions of higher learning in driving distance...



Rockford is Well Connected to the World

“I-39 has the distinct advantage of being the only interstate connecting the northern cluster of interstates (I-90, I-94, I-80, I-88) with the central cluster of interstates in Illinois (I-74, I-55, I-70, I-57, I-64)....



...As a result the highway system of the I-39 corridor is one of the most connected in the country for both domestic and international trade.”

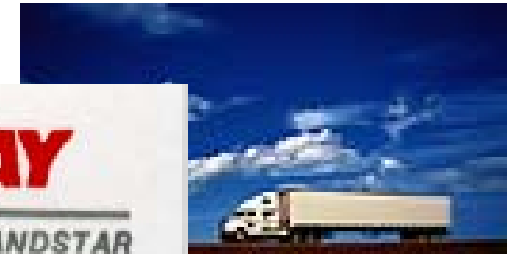
--St. Onge Co.



Rockford is an In-Land Port

Integration of Air Cargo, Truck, and Rail Service:

- Four of the seven Class-one railroads
- Two of the largest air cargo aggregators
- Over 60 motor freight carriers



Chicago's Third International Airport

Leading US & International Airport

- 2nd fastest-growing air cargo airport in the U.S.
- 19th fastest growing cargo airport in the world
- 21th largest cargo airport in the US
- 85th largest in the world for cargo tonnage

Modern Facility

- 24/7 FAA Air Traffic Control Tower
- Hard-surface runways
 - 10,000 ft (Primary)
 - 8,200 ft (Secondary)
- Cat III/II Instrument Landing System
 - allows landing in zero visibility conditions
- International Arrival Gate
- U.S. Customs Port of Entry
- De-icing fluid retention and processing facility on-site



The Chicago Rockford International Airport

Capabilities

- Independent airspace from O'Hare, Midway, Chicago/Gary, Mitchell Field (Milwaukee)
- Accommodates largest aircraft flying
 - Airbus 380
 - Antonov 225
- Non-stop service to Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle East and South America

Services

- Foreign Trade Zone Benefits (FTZ #176)
- 24/7 customs and federal inspections
- Multiple FBO's means a full spectrum of aviation related services
- USDA inspections
- 6,600 acres in the Global Trade Park
 - 3,000+ acres of airport land for development
 - 200+ airside acres
 - 2000+ acres for industrial and commercial projects



Rockford has a Superior Quality of Life

More than 7,000 parkland acres

- 185 public parks
- 21 public golf courses
- 6 country clubs
- 9 public libraries
- 10 museums
- 12 art galleries
- 1 symphony orchestra
- 4 community theatres
- 2 indoor ice arenas
- 2 water parks
- 4th lowest cost of living in the Midwest



Rockford is home to the Rockford IceHogs AHL hockey team, official farm team for the Chicago Blackhawks.



Rockford is an International City



The Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza

Future Aspirations:

- World Trade Center Office
- Additional Sister Cities

Current Attributes:

- Top 4% in diversity in Illinois
- Nine Sister Cities
- International Gate at Airport
- Immigration Services
- FTZ #176
- Immigration through Investment Zone
- Participated in 6 international trade delegations in 2009
- Region had export growth of 49% from 2005 – 2008
- Over 100 companies from over 20 countries invest in the Rockford Area
- Hosted 10 international trade delegations in 2009
- USEAC office located in Rockford



Rockford

I L L I N O I S  U S A

ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

