



# ROCKFORD REGION Logistics

## The Cluster

The Rockford Region's logistics infrastructure is a global asset. Rockford, as part of the Chicagoland Area, is recognized as a "best logistics site" for connectivity by air, rail, road, IT & low cost of operations.

## Central Location

The Rockford Area is part of the Greater Chicago Region, the largest multi-modal port in the United States, and the 3rd largest in the world. Your company can have direct access to all major world markets, and quick access to all of North America. From Rockford, approximately 80% of U.S. households can be reached within a 24-hour truck drive.

## Supportive Business Environment

In the Rockford Region, local governments understand and support companies that do business globally. Local companies benefit from:

- U.S. Customs Port of Entry with 24/7 federal inspection service
- Foreign Trade Zone #176
- Onsite, same day Centralized Examination Station (CES)

## Major Players and the Supply Chain

Over 60 service carriers and terminals can be found in the Rockford Area. The Rockford Region also boasts:

- The Union Pacific's Global III Intermodal Hub
- WATCO's multi-product transload facility
- The Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD)
- UPS' 2nd largest U.S. air operation (3rd largest globally!)

## Regional Market Uniqueness

- High quality of life
- Low cost of living
- Excellent infrastructure network and access, central location to north-south and east-west markets
- Low transportation costs
- Low labor costs
- Positive labor/management relations
- Available/productive labor force
- Competitive utility infrastructure in place, reliable service
- Affordable sites and buildings
- Enterprise Zone, TIF, Industrial Development Revenue Bond and Revolving Loan Fund programs, and other incentives available
- Educational assets and workforce training available
- Quality community services in place
- Pro-development oriented communities
- Rural/urban environment
- Proximity to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison amenities

## Strengths in Local Cluster

- I-90, I-43, I-39, I-88 access
- Excellent IT connections/ options
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Improved sites with rail
- Highly skilled workforce
- No state inventory tax or personal property tax
- Large, critical mass of companies and services
- Next day delivery to every North American zip code
- Two shift, next day delivery possible
- O'Hare International's air cargo, package, commercial options



## Air

The Rockford Region provides access to four world class airports:

*O'Hare International Airport (ORD)* – 60 minutes from Rockford, has over 60 daily direct international flights.

*Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD)* –

- RFD is among the top 20 air cargo airports in North America.
- UPS offers Parcel Sorting and Bulk Cargo. BAX Global (Schenker) has air operations.
- Direct International service is possible and two shift, next-day service is guaranteed.
- RFD received the Diamond Award as the top-ranked airport in North America in its "landed weight" category.
- Independent airspace allows for uncongested airspace.
- 10,000 ft primary runway can land the largest airplanes, including the Airbus A380 & the Antonov 225.

*General Mitchell International Airport (MKE)* – Approximately a 30 minute drive, Mitchell offers many direct domestic & international flight options.

*Midway Airport (MDW)* – Approximately a 2-hour drive, Midway offers direct connect service, international and domestic.

## Road

St. Onge Co., a supply chain consultant says, "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," all within a 2-hour truck drive of Rockford.

## Rail

Four class one railroads provide service to the Rockford Area: BNSF, CN, CP & UP. UP's Global III has excess capacity and is connected to West Coast ports. Direct service to Canada's East & West Coast ports is available. Intermodal operations in the adjoining Chicago Area serve East Coast ports. The region is served by the short line Illinois Railway and WATCO's transload operation.

## Targeted Industries

- Aerospace Production
- Alternative Energy
- Chemical Manufacturing
- Customer Service Centers
- Food Processing
- Healthcare
- Industrial Machine Manufacturing
- Logistics
- Metals Manufacturing
- On & Off Road Vehicle
- Professional Business Services
- Rail-Related Manufacturing

## For More Information

The Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) and Growth Dimensions for Belvidere-Boone County are nonprofit economic development agencies whose primary roles are to enhance wealth creation in the Rockford Region by marketing the area and helping employers retain and create quality jobs. We work closely with many partners to serve as a one-stop resource for clients, to improve the competitiveness of the region and to engage the community in the work of economic development.

## Services Available

- Database of available sites and building profiles
- Wage and labor market information
- General, statistical, economic and demographic info
- Employer training program information
- Energy cost information and comparisons
- Business climate cost analysis
- Coordination of state and local incentives
- Business financing programs
- Relocation services

## Location

The Rockford Region sits contiguous to the Chicago Metropolitan Area in Northern Illinois and includes Boone and Winnebago Counties. Rockford is 65 miles northwest of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, 90 miles east of the Mississippi River and adjacent to the Wisconsin state line. Its location allows for easy access to regional, national, and international markets. All information, unless otherwise noted, is for the Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). We are globally connected with nine Rockford Region sister cities. These relationships enhance our business and cultural connections worldwide.



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