

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 MSA 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.



Growth Dimensions for Belvidere-Boone County

200 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

Phone: 815.547.4252

Fax: 866.353.2772

www.growthdimensions.org

e-mail: cmwilliams@growthdimensions.org



Rockford Area Economic Development Council

100 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois 61101

Phone: 815.987.8118

Fax: 815.987.8129

www.rockfordil.com

e-mail: information@rockfordil.com



Legal Disclaimer

Information contained herein has been compiled to the best of our knowledge. Any inaccuracies can be reported to information@rockfordil.com.

ROCKFORD REGION Targeted Industry Analysis

Growth Dimensions for Belvidere-Boone County
Rockford Area Economic Development Council

Targeted Industries

Jacobs Engineering (formerly Carter-Burgess), a major national site selection and architectural/engineering firm, was commissioned by the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) to conduct a targeted industry analysis of Winnebago and Boone Counties of Northern Illinois, an area with a laborshed population of about 800,000 and a labor force of over 434,000. Methodology included regional site location and an input-output analysis. The Rockford Region was benchmarked against several competitor cities, including: Chicago, Illinois; Des Moines, Iowa; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Toledo, Ohio. *Note: industries identified by Jacobs Engineering in the list below are denoted with *.*

In addition, several key industries have been identified as emerging and evolving clusters in the area. Evolving clusters are existing area industries specifically targeted to grow the local concentration. Emerging clusters are targeted as being key, new industrial clusters for the Region, capable of leveraging existing clusters' strengths.

Targeted industries for the Area include:

Existing Clusters

Transportation Equipment Manufacturing and R&D*

Aerospace, "on & off-road" vehicle suppliers, R&D engineering

Industrial Machinery Manufacturing and R&D*

Machine tools, food processing equipment, medical equipment, R&D engineering

Logistics*

Retailers, pharmaceuticals and medical, 3rd party providers

Customer Service Centers*

Medical, insurance, banking, tech support

Metals Manufacturing and R&D*

Aerospace, "on and off-road" vehicle suppliers, Industrial Machinery, R&D Engineering

Food Processing*

Packaged and frozen foods

Chemicals Manufacturing*

Pharmaceuticals, ethanol, and related

Evolving Clusters

Aerospace Production*

Components manufacturing, engineering and testing

Professional Business Services

Engineering, accounting, legal

Emerging Clusters

Healthcare

Largest employer in area

Alternative Energy

Biomass, wind, solar, nuclear, hydro

Rail-Related Manufacturing

Manufacturing supply chain

Regional Market Uniqueness

- High quality of life in area
- 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

Key Conclusions

- The Rockford Region is the fastest growing Illinois MSA, and is an obvious distribution center location
- Rockford is America's best mid-sized international community
- By locating here target employers can save at least 6% over Chicago and 4% over Milwaukee.
- Engineers, particularly aerospace, electrical, and machine related, are relatively plentiful and easy to recruit locally.
- Due to the engineering center environment, R&D operations are well suited for the Rockford Area.
- In fact, 36,000 engineers reside in northern Illinois.
- Target prospects will be very satisfied with labor quality in the Rockford Area.
- Rockford colleges are a tremendous asset to new companies looking to jump-start a new work force.
- Relocation of corporate employees is an "easy sell" when you combine competitive prices and the good quality of life.
- Rockford is a center of metal working excellence



Targeted Industry Strengths

Aerospace Production

- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Presence of other aerospace R&D operations in the region
- Training and higher education access
- High quality of life and culture
- Access to an airport sites/buildings for testing and prototyping
- Available air service - Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) and Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD)
- Access to supply chain and component manufacturers

Alternative Energy

- Presence of alternative energy R&D operations in the region
- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Access to distribution lines, supply chain, and component manufacturers

Chemical Manufacturing

- Access to raw materials
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Available industrial sites with rail
- Water and sanitary sewer capacity
- High return on capital investment

Customer Service Centers

- Highly skilled workforce
- Telecommunications infrastructure in place
- Training incentives
- Existing Class B buildings
- Access to O'Hare air, RFD air service
- Large, critical mass of companies

Food Processing

- Access to raw materials
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Good market access
- Excess water & sewer capability
- Large, critical mass of companies

Healthcare

- Rapidly expanding workforce
- Training incentives
- Large regional location activity
- Growing, aging population
- Network of existing healthcare facilities, professionals

Industrial Machine Manufacturing

- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Many training opportunities
- Regional suppliers
- Large, critical mass of companies
- Good job and wage impact
- Access to supply chain and component manufacturers

Logistics

- I-90/I-39/U.S. 20 access
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Improved smaller sites (25-50 acres) with rail
- Highly skilled workforce
- No state inventory tax
- Large, critical mass of companies

Metals Manufacturing

- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Many potential sites with rail
- Low-cost existing buildings
- Access to suppliers
- Large, critical mass of companies
- Access to supply chain and component manufacturers

On and Off Road Vehicle

- Highly skilled workforce
- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Short distance to auto plants
- Good regional suppliers
- Large, critical mass of companies
- Good job and wage impact

Professional Business Services

- Growing number of population, business establishments
- Low cost of living
- Rapidly emerging young professional talent
- High quality of life and culturally diverse community
- Proximity to major metropolitan areas

Rail-Related Manufacturing

- Highly skilled workforce
- Access to R&D, engineering, and technical talent
- Access to air, land, sea transportation
- Good regional suppliers
- Large, critical mass of related companies
- Access to supply chain and component manufacturers
- High quality of life and culture
- Presence of R&D operations in the region
- Training and higher education access