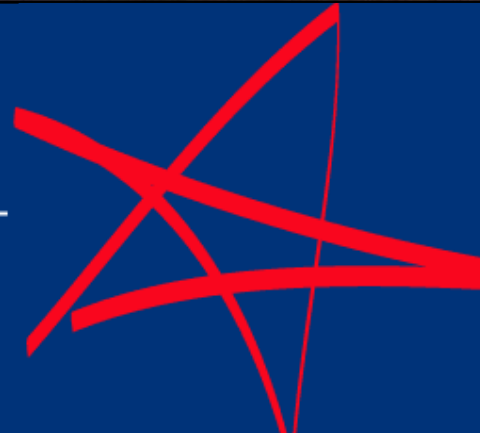


# Welcome to America's Best Mid-sized International Region



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ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



# Rockford MSA Attributes

## Population of 350,000

- Fifth largest MSA in Illinois
- City of Rockford is the Second Largest Central City
- Fastest growing MSA in Illinois

## Labor Shed Population of over 800,000

- 435,000 in workforce
- 42,600 commute out of MSA
- Approximately 75,000 underemployed in the labor shed

## Industry Concentration

- ~23% manufacturing employment
  - First in aerospace industry
  - Second in on & off road vehicle manufacturing
  - Second in industrial machine manufacturing



# Rockford MSA Attributes

## Hard and Soft Infrastructure Assets

- Chicago Rockford International Airport
  - 19<sup>th</sup> largest cargo airport in U.S.
  - Second fastest growing cargo airport in U.S.
  - Among top 5% of equipment grade facilities
- Interstate connectivity
  - I-90/I-39
    - Most interconnected North/South interstate in Midwest
  - Over 60 motor freight carriers
- Rail access
  - UP Global III Intermodal Hub
  - Four of seven class one rails
- Educational institutions
  - Over 75 post-secondary institutions in region



# Export Trade

## Rockford Area's Export Trade Statistics are growing:

Exports grew 49% from 2005 to 2008

\$1.5 Billion in exports from the Rockford Area in 2008

Exports made up 12% of the Rockford Area's GMP in 2008

Primary exports from region include:

- Machinery
- Transportation Equipment
- Electrical Equipment, Appliances, and components
- Computer and Electronic Products
- Fabricated Metal Products

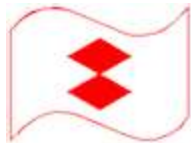
Primary world destinations include:

- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- European Union
- Free Trade Area of the Americas
- North America Free Trade Agreement



# Foreign Direct Investment

Over 100 companies invest in the Rockford Area from over 20 countries including:



Rockwell Automation, Inc.



A Tomkins Company



astellas



Crystal Bridge to the Future



TH Foods, Inc.



# Developing Sister City Relationships

The Rockford Area currently has nine sister city relations:



Brovary, Ukraine



Changzhou, China



Borgholm, Sweden



Ferentino, Italy



Taszar, Hungary



Cluj-Napoca, Romania



Vaux-le-Pénil, France



Schwieberdingen, Germany



Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan

Rockford currently has one industrial trade agreement:



Lidkoping, Sweden

In 2009 we celebrated our 10 year anniversary with our sister city Changzhou, when we attended the International Forum on Science and Technology & Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation in Changzhou.



# Trade Missions and Delegations

The Rockford Area has hosted trade delegations from these countries:

2008

Wanxiang Group (China)  
Changzhou (China)  
Guiyang (China)  
Chinese Investment Promotion  
Agency (China)  
Tsinghua University (China)  
Lidkoping (Sweden)

2009

Inner Mongolia, China (2 delegations)  
CEIBS Alumni Automobile Industry Club  
(China)  
Wanxiang Group (China – 2 delegations)  
Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce  
Lidkoping, Sweden  
Central Asia Research Council (Turkey)  
State Bank of India, EEPC (India)  
Shaanxi (China)

The Rockford Area participated in trade missions to these countries:

2008: China, Canada, Sweden

2009: China, Sweden, Italy (3 trips), France



# International Conferences and Seminars

## Abroad:

- Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurial Days (Rockford and Sweden)
- International Bioenergy Days (Sweden)
- Paris Air Show (France)
- Forum on Science and Technology and Economic Cooperation (China)

## Domestic:

- Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Trade Show (Chicago)
- International Manufacturing Technology Show (Chicago)
- International Economic Development Council Annual Meetings (Columbus, OH)

## Rockford:

- Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurial Days
- Go Global International Trade Conference
- International Bioenergy Days



# Welcome to America's Best Mid-sized International Region



The Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza.

## Current Attributes:

- Top 4% in diversity in Illinois
- Nine Sister Cities
- International Gate at Airport
- Immigration Services
- Foreign Trade Zone #176
- Immigration through Investment Zone
- Participated in 6 international trade delegations in 2009
- Hosted 10 international trade delegations in 2009
- Export growth of 49% from 2005 – 2008
- Over 100 Foreign Direct Investments from over 20 countries
- USEAC office



# Rockford

I L L I N O I S  U S A

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