

Technology In Illinois

Illinois' Technology Foundations

Illinois is a top location for high tech industry. With a strong K-12 educational system, affordable and highly regarded colleges and universities, a skilled workforce, available capital, a dynamic business climate, an established technology infrastructure, and favorable quality of life, Illinois offers technology companies a location in which to thrive.

Human Capital

According to the latest figures from the National Science Foundation, Illinois ranked sixth in the U.S. with 1,332 Science and Engineering Doctorates awarded in 2005. These graduates are joining the existing 25,320 Doctorial Scientists and Engineers working in the state. US News and World Reports ranked The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ranked fifth nationally for their graduate engineering program, while Northwestern University was ranked at 21 and the University of Chicago also ranked among the top 20 Medical Schools.

Financial Resources

According to the PricewaterhouseCoopers Money Tree Survey, in 2007 Illinois ranked in the top 15 states in the nation for total venture capital investments. Illinois ranks seventh in R&D expenditures by universities and colleges, and eighth in Industry-performed R&D.

Technology Infrastructure

Illinois is home to hundreds of federal research labs. Argonne National Laboratory is the leading federal laboratory in the state, focusing on advanced materials, chemicals and energy technologies, as well as transportation technology and biotechnology. Illinois' assets also include Fermilab, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, the USDA National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, and the National Center for Food Safety. In addition, the state is home to nonprofit research centers

including the Gas Technology Institute. A number of research centers also specialize in the emerging field of nanotechnology, including facilities at Argonne, Northwestern University and the University of Illinois' Beckman Institute.

Technology Industry Clusters

Telecommunications: Illinois is home more than 1,800 telecommunications establishments that collectively employ about 58,700 workers. Leading telecommunications firms located in the state include Tel-labs, Andrew Corporation, Motorola, Shure, and Westell.

Information Technology: The IT cluster employs 73,000 workers at over 7,200 Illinois establishments. The largest IT firms in Illinois include Lucent Technologies and CDW. Illinois has strengths to support linking information technologies with biotech, bioinformatics and nanotechnology, providing major future drivers of innovation.

Electronics: Illinois' 1,254 electronics establishments employ 36,890 workers. Electronics is also a major Illinois exporter. The state is home to such firms as Honeywell, Methode Electronics, and Siemens.

Biotechnology: Illinois has a strong presence in the field of medical technology. Biotech and pharmaceutical giants have a strong presence. Some of the most prominent biotech companies in Illinois include Abbott Laboratories, Baxter Healthcare, Argonne National Laboratories, and Hospira. Altogether, the biotech cluster includes about 1,400 establishments and 49,000 employees, and is supported by Illinois' federal labs as well as the state's top-notch research universities.

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Advanced Materials: More than 1,160 establishments manufacture advanced materials in Illinois, employing 64,400 workers. Proximity of raw materials suppliers and primary/secondary producers of plastics-related components, and access to ongoing research at the state's premier universities and laboratories, help the industry maintain a competitive edge. Prominent companies in this sector include Medline Industries, Solo Cup, Prairie Packaging, and Tenneco Packaging.

Advanced Manufacturing: Over 8,200 establishments comprise the advanced manufacturing cluster in Illinois. This cluster employs nearly 282,800 workers, accounting for 23 percent of high tech employment in the state. Advanced manufacturing firms are technology-intensive and innovative. The cluster particularly supports other manufacturing and high tech industries. Prominent firms include Caterpillar, Olin, Granite City Steel, Deere, and Illinois Tool Works.

Transportation and Logistics: Illinois' central location and well-developed transportation infrastructure provide tremendous potential for expanding logistics-related services. This sector employs nearly 209,000 Illinois workers at over 11,000 establishments. Prominent companies include United Airlines, American Airlines, and United Parcel Service.

Transportation Technology: More than 17,300 people are employed at 284 Transportation Technology establishments, primarily in two major sectors: engine technology and aerospace. Prominent companies include Hamilton Sundstrand, Northrup, Champion Labs, Collins & Aikman, and Woodward Governor.

Technology Support: A key Illinois advantage is its cluster of professional service providers. Chicago is

considered the "consulting capital" of America. Nearly 8,900 Technology Support establishments in Illinois employ more than 100,000 workers. Prominent firms include Hewitt Associates and Accenture.

Financial Services: One of Illinois' largest and most established clusters is Financial Services, making the state a global leader in the securities and brokerage businesses, banking and insurance. This sector employs over 340,000 workers in Illinois. Two of the world's top 10 international exchanges are in Chicago, including the Chicago Board of Trade, which recently merged with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange.

Business Dynamism

Illinois is a global leader with a strong economy. Per capita GSP in Illinois is among the highest in the U.S., and overall GSP is 5th highest in the country. Illinois is also the fifth largest exporting state in the nation. Seventy-five nations maintain consulates in the state and over 30 international banks have established branches or representative offices in Chicago. Illinois ranks first in the Midwest as a destination for foreign investment, as well. Advantages include O'Hare International Airport, 12 port districts, and six foreign trade zones. More than 150 export managing/trading companies and more than 100 international freight forwarders and customs house brokers have offices in Illinois.

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Cluster	Establishments	Employment
Advanced Manufacturing	8,270	282,819
Advanced Materials	1,169	64,416
Biotechnology	1,405	49,008
Electronics	1,254	36,893
Financial Services	22,612	348,091
Information Technology	7,234	73,537
Technology Support	8,957	100,073
Telecommunications	1,844	58,277
Transportation & Logistics	11,080	209,302
Transportation Technology	284	17,322

Source: 2006 County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau