

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 1,534 Science and Engineering Doctorates awarded in 2009. These graduates are joining the existing 24,200 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 20 and the University of Chicago ranked among the top 20 Medical Schools.

Financial Resources

According to the PricewaterhouseCoopers Money Tree Survey, in 2010 Illinois ranked in the top 10 states in the nation for total venture capital investments between 2005 and 2010. Illinois ranks third in R&D expenditures by universities and colleges, and eighth in Industry-performed R&D.

Technology Infrastructure

Illinois is home to many 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 to over 250 telecommunications establishments that collectively employ about 6,800 workers. Leading telecommunications firms located in the state include Tellabs, Motorola, Shure, and Westell.

Information Technology: The IT cluster employs 72,400 workers at over 12,200 Illinois establishments. The largest IT firms in Illinois include Navteq and CDW. Illinois has strengths to support linking information technologies with biotech, bioinformatics and nanotechnology, providing major future drivers of innovation.

Electronics: Illinois' 1,715 electronics establishments employ 32,900 workers. Electronics is also a major Illinois exporter. The state is home to such firms as Honeywell and Methode Electronics

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 2,000 establishments and 62,600 employees, and is supported by Illinois' federal labs as well as the state's top-notch research universities.

Advanced Materials: More than 1,250 establishments manufacture advanced materials in Illinois, employing 62,600 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, and Pactiv.

Advanced Manufacturing: Over 8,600 establishments comprise the advanced manufacturing cluster in Illinois. This cluster employs nearly 215,000 workers, accounting for 20 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, 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 over 219,000 Illinois workers at over 14,800 establishments. Prominent companies include United Airlines, American Airlines, and United Parcel Service.

Transportation Technology: More than 13,300 people are employed at 330 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 15,900 Technology Support establishments in Illinois employ more than 107,000 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 278,000 workers in Illinois. Two of the world's top 10 international exchanges are in Chicago, including the Chicago Board of Trade 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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Illinois Establishments and Employment by Cluster

Cluster	Establishments	Employment
Advanced Manufacturing	8,615	215,153
Advanced Materials	1,261	47,428
Biotechnology	2,012	62,610
Electronics	1,715	32,880
Financial Services	21,498	278,421
Information Technology	12,234	72,362
Technology Support	15,856	107,996
Telecommunications	266	6,762
Transportation & Logistics	14,803	219,050
Transportation Technology	332	13,309

Source: 2010 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Contact: Brian Selinger, Deputy Director, Office of Policy Development, Planning & Research, 217.557.0513, Brian.Selinger@illinois.gov