

# Global Access from Illinois

Illinois has long been aware of the significance of international trade. The Illinois Trade Office within the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity was established in 1965 to assist Illinois companies in locating distribution channels for their products in foreign markets. Illinois was among the first states to operate an international trade office when it opened a facility in Brussels, Belgium in 1968.

Today, the state has expanded its breadth and depth in the promotion of international trade and the responsibility of attracting foreign direct investment. The ITO provides Illinois companies with a variety of export programs and services through a multi-level infrastructure comprising:

- **Local Assistance** -- Six International Trade Centers and two NAFTA Opportunity Centers are located in five areas throughout the state and provide expert individualized assistance for small and medium-sized Illinois firms looking to succeed in exporting.
- **State Assistance** – The ITO's Chicago Headquarters is the center for Illinois export assistance efforts, and identifies and participates in international trade events throughout the world with small/medium-sized Illinois firms.
- **International Assistance** -- Foreign Offices represent the ITO world presence in eight strategic regions throughout the world: Brussels, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Mexico City, Warsaw, Toronto, Johannesburg and Shanghai.

These levels are integral to fulfilling the ITO mission to create Illinois jobs through increased Illinois exports and foreign direct investment.

International markets play a critical role in the Illinois economy. International powerhouses such as Caterpillar Inc., Deere & Company, Archer Daniels Midland, Motorola, Abbott Labs and Boeing, are headquartered in Illinois, helping to make Illinois the sixth largest

exporting state in the nation. Exports of manufactured goods and agricultural products from Illinois in 2002 were more than \$33 billion. Nearly 602,300 Illinois jobs are linked to exports.

Illinois ranks #1 in the Midwest as a destination for foreign investment. The state has attracted over 5,800 foreign establishments that employ more than 335,000 Illinoisans.

Illinois' advantages include O'Hare International Airport, among the world's busiest, which is served by all of the major international carriers. Thirteen port districts are located in the state, offering companies direct links to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Foreign trade zones, which offer low-cost production and warehousing facilities for imported and export-bound products, are located at the Illinois International Port District in Chicago, the Tri-City Regional Port District in Granite City, and in Peoria, Rockford, the Quad Cities, Lawrenceville, and Decatur.

More than 150 export managing/trading companies and more than 100 international freight forwarders and custom house brokers maintain offices in Illinois. Over 70 nations maintain consulates in the state and over 40 international banks have established branches or representative offices in Chicago.

Illinois hosted nearly 1.1 million international visitors in 2002. In 2001, International Visitors spent more than \$1.5 billion in Illinois. Most international visitors come from Canada, Mexico, UK, Japan and Germany.

Updated: February 2004

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## Foreign Consulates in Illinois

Argentina	Cyprus	Honduras	Mexico	Slovak Republic
Australia	Czech Republic	Hungary	Nepal	South Africa
Austria	Denmark	Iceland	The Netherlands	Spain
Barbados	Dominican Republic	India	New Zealand	Sweden
Belgium	Ecuador	Indonesia	Norway	Switzerland
Belize	Egypt	Ireland	Panama	Tanzania
Bolivia	El Salvador	Israel	Peru	Thailand
Brazil	Finland	Italy	Philippines	Turkey
Burundi	France	Jamaica	Poland	Uganda
Canada	Germany	Japan	Portugal	Ukraine
Chile	Ghana	Jordan	Romania	United Kingdom
China	Greece	Korea	Rwanda	Uruguay
Columbia	Grenada	Liberia	Sao Tome & Principe	Venezuela
Costa Rica	Guatemala	Lithuania	Serbia and Montenegro	
Croatia	Haiti	Luxemburg	Singapore	

## Top Exporting States

Rank	State	2003 Exports (Billions)
	U.S.	\$723.7
1	TEXAS	\$98.8
2	CALIFORNIA	\$94.0
3	NEW YORK	\$39.2
4	WASHINGTON	\$34.2
5	MICHIGAN	\$32.9
6	OHIO	\$29.8
7	ILLINOIS	\$26.5
8	FLORIDA	\$25.0
9	MASSACHUSETTS	\$18.7
10	LOUISIANA	\$18.4
11	NEW JERSEY	\$16.8
12	INDIANA	\$16.4
13	PENNSYLVANIA	\$16.3
14	GEORGIA	\$16.3
15	NORTH CAROLINA	\$16.2

Source: MISER

Updated: March 2004

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