

DCEO's

Did You Know

Microsoft's Internet Explorer is based upon NCSA Mosaic, which was developed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois. Explorer is distributed under a licensing agreement with Spyglass, Inc. A University of Illinois alum who had previously worked at the NCSA, launched another very popular Internet navigation system, Netscape.

Illinois' gross state product is fifth among the states with an estimated \$475 billion in 2001. If Illinois were a country it would rank 12th in the world

According to data provided with the most recent Economic Census, Illinois is the top state in sugar and confectionary product manufacturing; converted paper product manufacturing; forging and stamping; spring and wire product manufacturing; agriculture, construction, and mining machinery manufacturing; and grain and oilseed milling.

Illinois ranked fourth as the headquarters to 35 of the nation's largest companies on the 2002 *Fortune 500* list.

Site Selection magazine ranked Illinois the top state in the nation for economic development in 2001 and again in 2002.

Illinois has 18 companies listed on *Inc. Magazine's Inc. 500* in 2003, a listing of the fastest growing privately held companies in the U.S based on revenue growth over the last five years. Illinois tied Virginia for ninth in the number of firms on the list. Fourteen of these companies are in Chicago, which is ranked 5th as home to firms on the list.

There are an estimated 277,600 women-owned firms in Illinois, accounting for 31% of all privately held firms. They employ more than 515,000 people and generate \$58.3 billion in sales. Nationally, Illinois ranks fifth in the number of women-owned firms, third in employment, and fifth in sales.

Illinois' \$26.5 billion in exports ranked sixth among U.S. states in 2003. The top export sector was Machinery Manufacturing (excluding electrical) at \$6.9 billion. Other sectors with exports of at least \$1 billion include: Chemicals (\$3.9 billion); Computer and Electronic Products (\$3.7 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$2.9 billion); Electronic Equipment, Appliances, and Components (\$1.7 billion); Food and Kindred Products (\$1.3 billion); and Fabricated Metal Products (\$1.1 billion).

Illinois is home to 41 companies on *Fortune* magazine's list of most admired companies. Nine Illinois companies made *Fortune's* list of the best companies to work for.

Chicago's O'Hare Airport handled nearly 931,000 flights in 2003, making it the world's busiest. It served more than 66.5 million passengers in 2002 – 57.6 million domestic and 8.9 million international. It was also named the best airport in North America for the sixth year in a row by Business Traveler Magazine.

Three Illinois communities ranked in the top twenty among 141 housing markets nationwide in housing affordability during the fourth quarter of 2003: Springfield (5th), Peoria-Pekin (9th), and the Quad Cities (14th). Housing affordability is determined by the relationship between median family income and median home prices.

Illinois coal producers mine over 33 million tons of coal per year, accounting for 3% percent of U.S. production. More than 75% of Illinois coal is sold to out-of-state utilities.

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