

# Logistics in Illinois

Illinois is a natural for warehousing and distribution facilities. Located at the center of the nation with excellent transportation infrastructure, Illinois is a cost-effective location for storing and distributing products regionally, nationally and internationally. In fact, nearly 300 of the Fortune 500 companies operate major regional or national distribution centers in Illinois.

With over 3,000 public warehousing facilities, readily available sites or buildings, and a wide array of terminals, freight forwarders and transportation companies, Illinois offers businesses the ability to quickly meet their long- or short-range distribution needs.

Illinois boasts two of the nation's largest rail gateways: Chicago, the nation's primary rail gateway, and East St. Louis. More than fifty railroads provide service to every corner of the nation from Illinois.

Illinois has more than 2,000 miles of interstate highway - more than all but two other states. Three coast-to-coast interstates (I-80, I-90 and I-70) pass through Illinois. Major east/west/north/south interchanges are located at more than a dozen locations. An additional 35,000 miles of state highways augment the interstate system.

Illinois is ranked number one in total value of truck shipments with \$794.5 billion and is also ranked number one in value of shipments originating in the state with \$164.7 billion worth of goods shipped.

Illinois has the second largest airport system in the country with 118 public use airports, 273 heliports and over 1,000 aviation facilities. This means that an airport capable of handling business jets serves virtually every city with a population above 30,000. The crown jewel is Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, one of the world's busiest airports, through which 1.6 millions tons of cargo and 69 million travelers pass each year.

Illinois' waterways also contribute to the state's superiority in warehousing and distribution. Illinois has 1,118 miles of navigable waterways that provide the state with a direct link between the Atlantic Ocean (through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway) and the Gulf of Mexico. The Port of Chicago is the world's third largest

intermodal port and offers shippers 2 large multi-ship facilities. The port is also served by seven railroads with direct access to Interstates 90 and 94. Twelve other port districts are located along Illinois rivers. The Illinois International Port District in Chicago and the Tri-City Regional Port District near St. Louis are Foreign Trade Zones, and there are also Foreign Trade Zones in Rockford, Peoria, the Quad Cities and Lawrenceville.

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## Warehousing and Distribution in Illinois

Description	Establishments by number of employees			Total Estab- lishments	Total Employed
	1-49	50-249	250 or more		
General freight trucking	3,138	159	27	3,324	58,950
Specialized freight trucking	2,402	66	3	2,471	20,302
Road transportation support activities	290	7	1	298	2,688
Freight transportation arrangement	790	48	5	843	12,460
Other transportation support activities	71	9	1	81	1,959
Warehousing & storage	293	43	1	337	7,748
Wholesale -- Motor vehicle and parts	894	81	7	982	17,330
Wholesale -- Furniture/Home furnishings	626	34	1	661	7,787
Wholesale -- Lumber, construction materials	579	19	1	599	6,095
Wholesale -- Professional & commercial equip.	1,693	137	25	1,855	44,559
Wholesale -- Metal & mineral	757	73	4	834	15,650
Wholesale -- Electrical goods	1,688	112	15	1,815	32,425
Wholesale -- Hardware, plumbing & heating	1,093	46	2	1,141	14,376
Wholesale -- Machinery, equipment & supplies	3,695	158	9	3,862	48,142
Wholesale -- Miscellaneous durable goods	1,710	57	9	1,776	18,757
Wholesale -- Paper & paper product	853	38	6	897	15,738
Wholesale -- Drugs & druggists' sundries	238	34	12	284	14,697
Wholesale -- Apparel, piece goods & notions	557	13	2	572	5,404
Wholesale -- Grocery & related product	1,593	153	29	1,775	43,650
Wholesale -- Farm product raw material	806	11	-	817	6,333
Wholesale -- Chemical & allied products	808	33	1	842	9,689
Wholesale -- Petroleum & petroleum products	377	13	2	392	5,252
Wholesale -- Beer, wine, distilled alcoholic beverage	170	33	4	207	7,234
Wholesale -- Miscellaneous nondurable goods	1,577	66	21	1,664	30,373
TOTALS	26,698	1,443	188	28,329	447,598

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2001 County Business Patterns

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