

Global Access from Illinois

Illinois has long been aware of the significance of international trade. The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment 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 OTI 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 OTI'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 OTI world presence in nine strategic regions throughout the world: Brussels, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Mexico City, Warsaw, Toronto, Johannesburg, Shanghai and Jerusalem.

These levels are integral to fulfilling the OTI 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 2006 were more than \$42.08 billion. Nearly 448,400 Illinois jobs are linked to exports.

Illinois ranks #1 in the Midwest as a destination for foreign investment. The state has attracted over 4,669 foreign establishments that employ more than 310,000 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 170 export managing/trading companies and 125 international freight forwarders and custom house brokers maintain offices in Illinois. Over 70 nations maintain consulates in the state and over 30 international banks have established branches or representative offices in Chicago.

Illinois hosted over 1.5 million international visitors in 2005 that spent nearly \$1.7 billion. The top international markets were Canada, UK, Mexico, Germany and Japan.

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Foreign Consulates in Illinois

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

Top Exporting States

Rank	State	2006 Exports (Billions)
	U.S.	1,037.1
1	Texas	150.9
2	California	127.7
3	New York	57.4
4	Washington	53.1
5	Illinois	42.1
6	Michigan	40.4
7	Florida	38.5
8	Ohio	37.8
9	New Jersey	27.0
10	Pennsylvania	26.3

Top Illinois Exports

Rank	Industry	2006 Exports (Millions)
	All Industries	42,084.6
1	Machinery, except electrical	11,793.7
2	Chemicals	5,832.5
3	Computer and electronic products	5,439.6
4	Transportation equipment	4,713.5
5	Electrical equipment	2,859.8
6	Food and kindred products	1,935.6
7	Fabricated metal products	1,650.9
	Miscellaneous manufactured products	
8		1,580.4
9	Primary Metals	1,084.7
10	Plastics and Rubber Products	1,075.9

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FOREIGN TRADE OFFICES

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