

Quick Reference Guide



ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING



AEROSPACE



AUTOMOTIVE



FOOD
PROCESSING



CUSTOMER SERVICE
CALL CENTER



HEALTHCARE



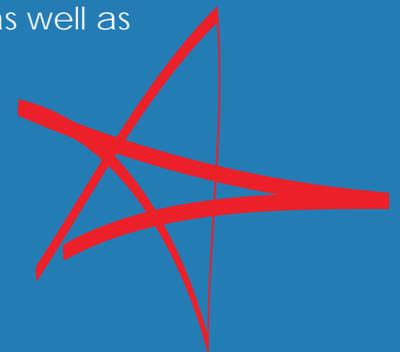
HYDRAULICS



LOGISTICS &
DISTRIBUTION

YOUR OPPORTUNITY REGION

The Rockford MSA, encompassing Boone and Winnebago Counties, is a great place to locate or expand your business. Doing business here provides opportunities and advantages including a skilled workforce, great logistics, and a low cost of living. These vital assets make the area ideal for employers as well as employees.





Get to know the Rockford MSA and all of its assets.

Location

The Rockford MSA sits contiguous to the Chicago Metropolitan Area in Northern Illinois and includes Boone and Winnebago Counties. Our region is 65 miles northwest of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, 90 miles east of the Mississippi River, and adjacent to the Wisconsin state line. Its location allows for easy access to regional, national, and international markets.

We are globally connected with international firms and generate \$2.3 billion in annual exports. The MSA manufactures items used around the world.

Mean Elevation (above sea level).....715 feet
Latitude.....N 42° 16' 07"
Longitude.....W 89° 05' 48"

Income Characteristics

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015 1-year estimates

Median Household Income.....\$51,036
Mean Household Income.....\$64,934
Per Capita Personal Income.....\$26,281

Quick Facts

The current investment exceeds \$1.5 billion in the Rockford MSA

- \$812 million healthcare industry investment by four healthcare systems
- \$350 million investment at the Fiat Chrysler Automobile plant as the company retools for the production of the Jeep Cherokee
- \$300 million investment in the new 450,000SF facility by Woodward, Inc.
- \$40 million maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility completed for AAR Corp. at Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) to repair wide-body jets.
- \$20 million terminal expansion at RFD

We are a Region of Opportunity

The Rockford MSA ranks #6 on the "Forbes' Opportunity Cities: 19 Places Where It May Be Easier to Make Your Mark."

It's never been easier to get around

The tollway has been expanded. Our gateway entrances at Genoa Road, Irene Road, South Main Street, and West State Street have been completed.

The place to be

City Market, Friday Night Flix, Tough Mudder, Rockford ProAm, Stroll on State, Boone County Fair, Screw City Beer Festival, Heritage Days and Hometown Christmas in Belvidere- these are just a few of the events that have given thousands of people something cool to do. And did we mention the mix of eclectic shops, bars, and restaurants?

NOTE: All information provided in the Quick Reference Guide, unless otherwise noted, is for the Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Cost of Living Index

Source: C2ER (2015 Annual Average). Using data provided by community researchers, key expenses in dozens of major cities are compared. Costs include housing, utilities, transportation and health care.

New York (Manhattan), NY	227.4
San Diego, CA	144.8
Chicago, IL	116.2
Denver, CO	109.6
Minneapolis, MN	108.2
Madison, WI	104.5
Joliet-Will County, IL	100.9
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI	100.3
Quad Cities (Davenport-Moline-Rock Island), IL-IA	98.6
Peoria, IL	98.2
Austin, TX	96.0
Phoenix, AZ	95.9
Champaign-Urbana, IL	95.6
Detroit, MI	95.3
Wichita, KS	93.1
St. Louis, MO	92.5
Rockford, IL	92.1
Indianapolis, IN	91.1
Columbus, OH	90.5
Des Moines, IA	89.8
Springfield, IL	88.9

Climate

Source: National Weather Service

Average Winter Temp	24.2° F	-4.33° C
Average Summer Temp	71.8° F	22.1° C
Average Annual Rainfall	36.24 in	92.05 cm
Average Annual Snowfall	36.70 in	91.44 cm
Average Annual Days At or Below Freezing		133.5
Heating Degree Days		6,569
Cooling Degree Days		820

Population Characteristics

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

Population Trends	2015	2010	2000
Rockford MSA	340,663	349,224	321,042
City of Rockford	148,278	152,938	151,826
Winnebago County	287,078	295,101	278,989
Boone County	53,585	54,123	42,053

Gender	#	%
Male	166,726	49.9
Female	173,937	51.1

Age Structure	#	%
0-14 years	66,909	19.6
15-19 years	22,930	6.7
20-24 years	21,557	6.3
25-34 years	40,732	12.0
35-54 years	89,348	26.2
55-64 years	45,466	13.3
65 years and over	53,721	15.8

Population Growth	2010-2015	2000-2010
Population Change	-8,561	19,621
Annual Growth Rate	-0.245%	0.407%

Wider Population

Source: Missouri Census Data Center, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates

Within 25 miles	507,758
Within 50 miles	2,440,752
Within 100 miles	13,474,624



Courtesy of the RACVB



Logistics & Distribution

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015 1-year estimates, RMTD

We are number one in interstate and railroad connections. Four interstates run through the region, with 75 percent of U.S. businesses within a 24-hour truck drive. Union Pacific's largest intermodal facility is 30 minutes south of Rockford in Rochelle, IL.

All of this with proximity to the major markets of Chicago, IL, Madison, WI, and Milwaukee, WI but without all the congestion!

Major Routes Serving Area

- Interstates: I-90, I-88, I-39, I-43
- Federal Highways: U.S. Route 20, U.S. Route 51
- State Highways: IL 2, 26, 38, 64, 70, 72, 75, 76, 173, 251

Public Transportation

- Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD)
 - 17 routes, 41 vehicles
 - Service hours: 5:15 am - 11:10 pm
- Intercity Bus: Coach USA/Van Galder Bus Company
 - Daily service to O'Hare: 17 trips inbound, 19 outbound between 3:30 am and 11 pm
 - 12 trips daily both to/from Downtown Chicago/Union Station
 - 10 trips daily both to/from Midway Airport

Means of Transportation	#	%
Car/Truck/Van (alone)	131,804	85.4
Car/Truck/Van (carpool)	13,994	9.1
Public Transportation	1,045	0.7
Walk	939	0.6
Taxi/Motorcycle/Bike/Other	1,174	0.8
Work at Home	5,307	3.4

Mean travel time to work.....22.8 minutes

Transit Time from Rockford MSA

City	Highway Miles	Days by Rail	Days by Truck	Hours by Truck
Atlanta	761	5	2	12.5
Chicago	90	1	<1/2	1.5
Cleveland	422	4	1	6.5
Dallas	830	3	3	14.5
Denver	909	4	3	14
Detroit	373	4	<1	6
Kansas City	412	2	<1	7
Los Angeles	1,967	6	4	28.5
Milwaukee	90	1	<1/2	1.5
Minneapolis	353	3	<1	5
New Orleans	999	5	3	14.5
New York	889	5	3	13.5
St. Louis	297	2	<1	4.5

Access to Markets

Source: Airport data and industry reports, U.S. Census Bureau MSA Business Patterns (2014)

Air Service

Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD)

- Driving distance from I-39/90 Interchange: 11 miles
- 31st largest air cargo airport in the U.S. (2015)
- UPS's second-largest North American air hub
- AAR Corp. maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility
- 9 nonstop passenger destinations
- 10,000 and 8,200 feet of hard surface runway
- Can land any aircraft operating today
- Category III instrument landing system
- Centerline and touchdown zone lighting
- Foreign Trade Zone benefits (FTZ #176)
- 24/7 customs, federal inspections
- CES (Centralized Examination Station)
- Multiple FBOs - full spectrum of aviation services
- Public warehousing
- 3,000+ acres of airport land for development
 - 200+ airside acres
 - 2,000+ acres for industrial, commercial projects

Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)

- Driving distance from I-39/90 interchange: 61 miles
- Fourth-busiest passenger airport in the world, top 20 in cargo (2015)
- 45 passenger, 30 cargo airlines
- Nonstop service to 49 international destinations

Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW)

- Driving distance from I-39/90 interchange: 86 miles
- Nonstop service to 73 cities
- 24th busiest passenger airport in U.S.

Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport (MKE)

- Driving distance from I-39/90 interchange: 89 miles
- Nonstop service to 37 cities
- 50th busiest passenger airport in U.S. (2015)

Motor Freight Carriers

Local	50
Long-Distance Truckload	33
Long-Distance Less Than Truckload	17
Specialized.....	54

Rail Service

Rail carriers serving area: BNSF, UP, CN, CP

Shortline rail serving area: Illinois Railway

- Continuous switching service
- Intermodal service available
- Transload service available
- UP Global 3 intermodal facility 25 miles south of MSA





Incentives

Source: Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Common within the Rockford MSA communities work enthusiastically with new and expanding companies to create a higher standard of living for the region's residents. Incentives are an investment in the future economic well-being of a company and as such a return on investment of jobs, tax revenue, community cooperation, and capital investment is expected. Incentives and a location decision must make good fiscal sense to all parties involved.

This region offers an array of incentive programs for new and expanding businesses as well as entrepreneurs. These programs are designed to assist a wide selection of qualifying companies in various stages of their economic growth.

State-designated Enterprise Zones

Belvidere/Boone County, Global Trade Park, Loves Park/Machesney Park, Rockford I-90, and Rockford EZ 1.

Tax Increment Financing Districts

Rockford, Cherry Valley, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Rockton, and South Beloit.

Flexible Financing

Industrial Development Revenue Bond and Revolving Loan Fund programs available.

Immigration Through Investment

A new incentive program where foreign companies investing in the region can receive EB-5 Visas.

Foreign Trade Zone #176

The RAEDC administers FTZ #176 (Foreign Trade Zone #176) on behalf of the Chicago Rockford International Airport.

The FTZ program is a partnership of the U.S. government and private sector importers. Each approved location is specially-designated area and considered to be outside of U.S. Customs territory. For that reason, when cargo arrives in the country for an FTZ operator, it does not immediately clear Customs. The cargo receives preferential treatment with duties deferred, reduced or eliminated. In addition, there are supply chain, inventory control and other savings available through the FTZ program.

For information regarding participation, contact your local economic development organization.

Utilities

Source: Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

The Rockford MSA has competitive utility costs and a modern infrastructure, offering a lower cost of doing business with high-quality resources. Illinois is ranked 3rd in the country for grid modernization, 10 spots ahead of its closest Midwest neighbor.

ELECTRIC

ComEd

(Investor-owned): Serves most of the MSA. Top 10% in reliability nationally. Business incentives are available.

Rock Energy

(Co-Op): Serves a small northern portion of the MSA. It is a non-profit serving 27,000 customers in two states.

NATURAL GAS

Nicor Gas

(Investor-owned): Serves most of the MSA. It is the largest natural gas distributor in Northern Illinois. Energy rebates are available.

Rock Energy

(Co-Op): Serves small northern portion of MSA. It is a non-profit serving 27,000 customers in two states.

WATER AND SEWER

The region is considered attractive for its water capacity, quality, and service.

Industrial Services

Source: U.S. Census Bureau MSA Business Patterns (2014)

The Rockford MSA has a robust industrial supply-chain and is a top logistics distribution center.

Machine Shops.....	105
Tool and Die Shops.....	36
Waste Management and.....	23
Remediation Services	

Landfills

Winnebago Reclamation Services, Veolia ES Orchard Hills Landfill, Rochelle Sanitary Landfill, or Area Disposal Service Inc.

Telecommunications

Source: Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Industry Reports

Business and residential customers within the Rockford MSA have access to robust broadband services. This has attracted large businesses, data centers, customer service call centers, and research and development operations, as well as their employees.

Comcast Business has more than 250 miles of fiber optics in the area, delivering Internet speeds up to 10 Gbps with options for even greater speeds.

In 2016, the Rockford MSA – as part of the Chicago region – was one of the first five regions nationally to get Comcast’s DOCSIS 3.1 Gigabit Internet service. Other consumer wired and wireless broadband companies provide service to the region.

iFiber provides up to 1 Gbps network transport services for the public and private sector on a 900-mile fiber network across nine Northern Illinois counties. This includes multiple business service providers available to ensure redundancy.

Dark fiber exists throughout the region, particularly along interstates 90 and 39.

A redundant fiber loop connects the Rockford MSA to Chicago and other networks.

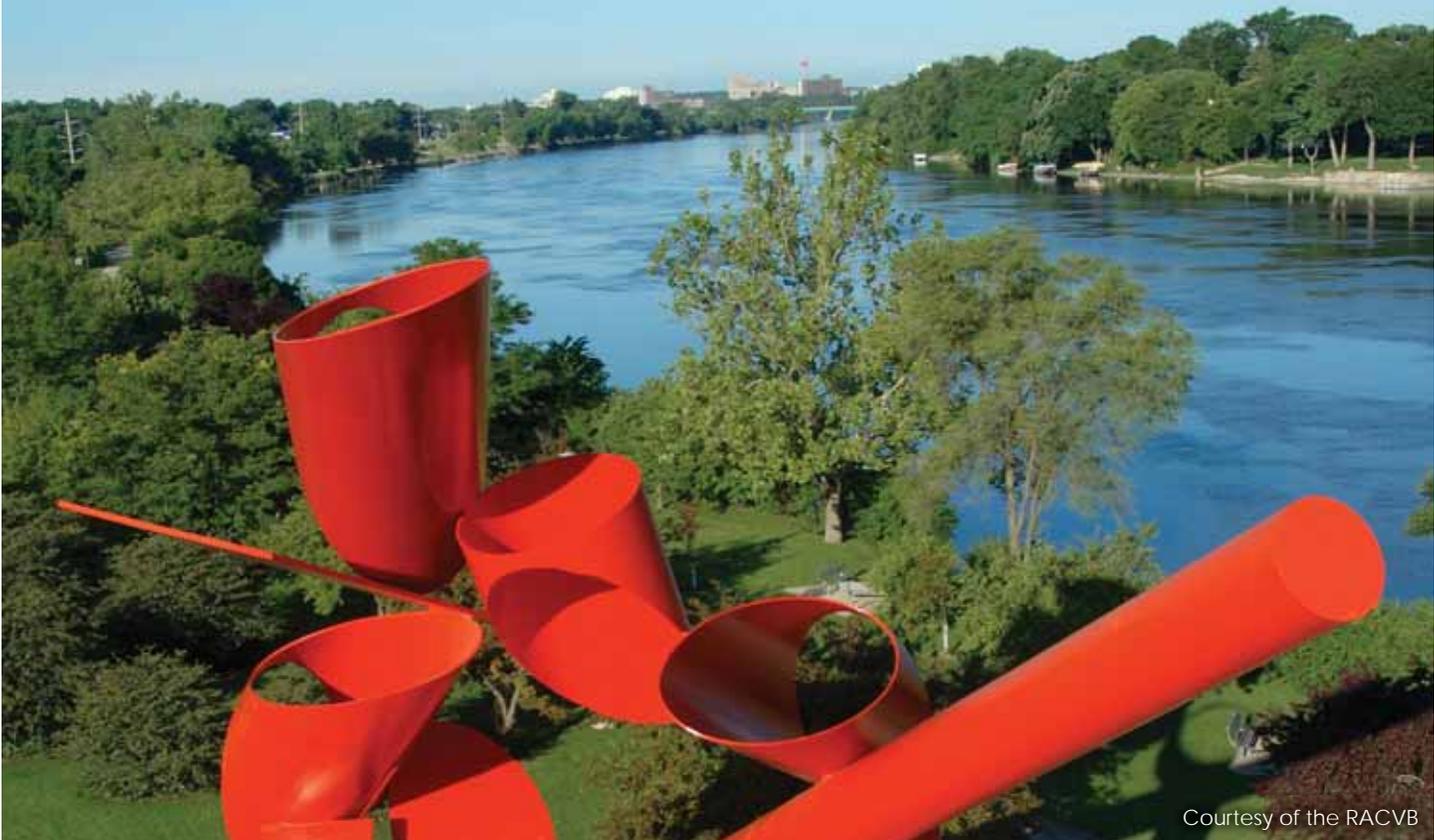
Major Regional Employers

Source: Company and media reports

The primary workforce is experienced – 55 percent have more than 10 years on the job. The workforce is multi-skilled – 63 percent have experience in a second field. Existing employers noted “the great work ethic and labor pool here”.

Firm Name	Employment
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.....	4,323
Product/Service.....	Automotive
Rockford Public Schools.....	3,525
Product/Service.....	Education
Mercyhealth.....	3,195
Product/Service.....	Healthcare
SwedishAmerican Health System.....	2,988
Product/Service.....	Healthcare
OSF Healthcare.....	2,800
Product/Service.....	Healthcare
UTC Aerospace Systems.....	2,200
Product/Service.....	Aircraft Components
Wal-Mart Stores.....	1,611
Product/Service.....	Retail
Woodward.....	1,540
Product/Service.....	Aerospace Manufacturing
Packaging Coordinators Inc.	1,500
Product/Service.....	Pharmaceutical Packaging
Winnebago County.....	1,449
Product/Service.....	Government
Harlem Consolidated Schools.....	1,191
Product/Service.....	Education

Firm Name	Employment
City of Rockford.....	1,076
Product/Service.....	Government
UPS.....	900
Product/Service.....	Parcel Sorting Hub
Lowe’s.....	900
Product/Service.....	Distribution Center, Retail Stores
Belvidere Community Schools.....	870
Product/Service.....	Education
Mondelez International.....	850
Product/Service.....	Chewing Gum
EGS Customer Care.....	800
Product/Service.....	Telemarketing
General Mills.....	675
Product/Service.....	Cereal/Snack Bars
Taylor Co.....	671
Product/Service.....	Ice Cream Machines
Syncreon.....	600
Product/Service.....	Automotive Supplier



Courtesy of the RACVB

Education

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015 1-year estimates, Illinois Board of Higher Education, school reports

Access to educational opportunities is varied and outstanding in the Rockford MSA, which is home to many colleges, universities and technical schools that provide diverse postsecondary opportunities. Within the commuting range there are over 45 higher education institutions. Locally within the Rockford MSA, over 12,000 students are enrolled in post-secondary institutions.

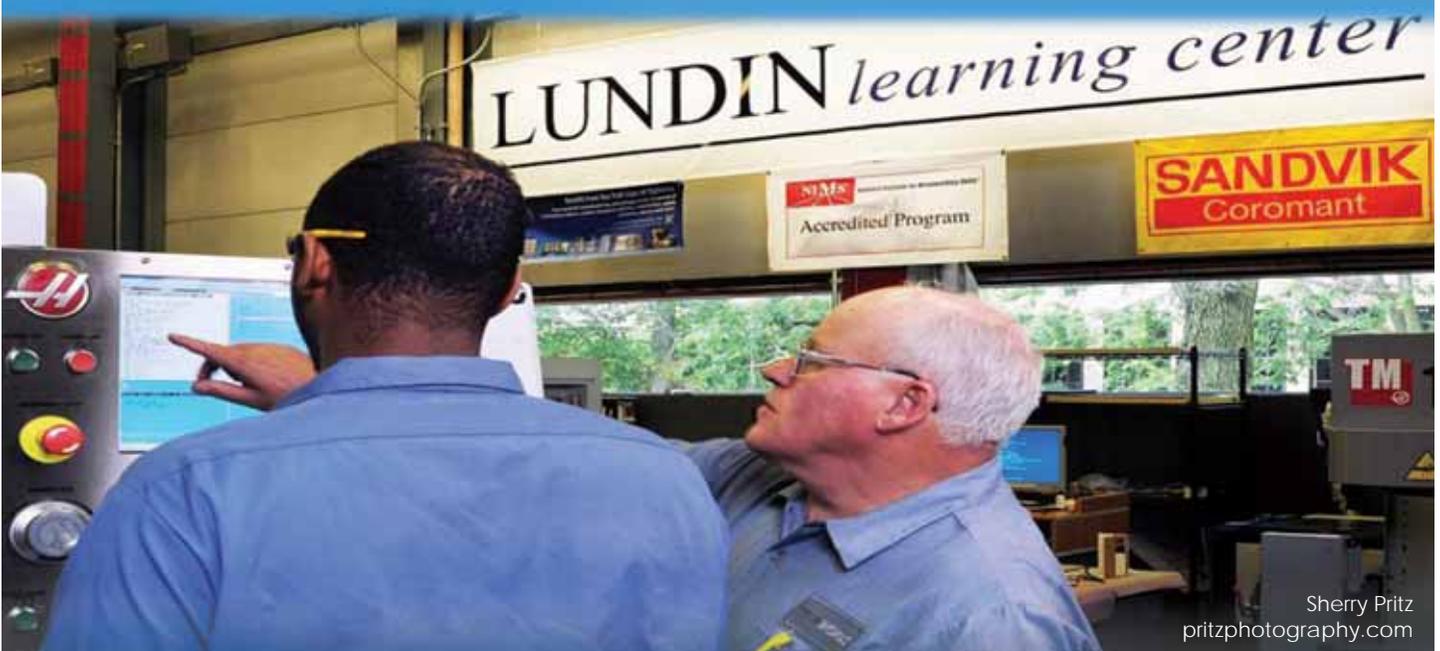
In 2015, Rockford Public Schools District 205 was named the 3rd Ford Next Generation Model Community in the nation, one of just 17 in the nation to receive the distinction. Rockford Public Schools District 205 was recognized for their high school curriculum redesign, which began with the rollout of the academy model in 2010.

Metro Area Attainment	#	%
Persons 25 years and older	228,899	100.0
- Less than 9th grade.....	11,076	4.8
- 9th to 12th grade, no diploma.....	18,990	8.3
- High school graduate/equivalence...	74,913	32.7
- Some college, no degree.....	53,710	23.5
- Associate degree.....	19,530	8.5
- Bachelor's degree.....	32,418	14.2
- Graduate/professional degree.....	18,262	8.0

Metro K - 12 Enrollment	#	%
Total Enrollment.....	61,035	100.0
Total Public.....	51,854	85.0
Total Private.....	9,181	15.0

Institutions of Higher Learning within Commuting Distance	Enrollment
4-year	
Beloit College (Beloit, WI).....	1,208
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Rockford, IL).....	16
Judson University (Rockford, IL).....	182
Judson University (Elgin, IL).....	1,061
Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL).....	20,130
Northern Illinois University (Rockford, IL).....	1,000
Rockford University (Rockford, IL).....	1,090
St. Anthony College of Nursing (Rockford, IL).....	332
Upper Iowa University (Rockford, IL).....	100
University of Illinois - College of Medicine (Rockford, IL)....	175
University of Wisconsin (Whitewater, WI).....	10,971

Career, Technical and Other Types of Schools	Enrollment
Blackhawk Technical College (Janesville, WI).....	8,600
Highland Community College (Freeport, IL).....	4,000
Kishwaukee College (Malta, IL).....	4,717
Rasmussen College (Rockford, IL).....	550
Rock Valley College (Rockford, IL).....	7,937
Rockford Career College (Rockford, IL).....	560



Sherry Pritz
pritzphotography.com

The Rockford MSA is comprised of communities focused on exceptional quality of life for both its residents and its companies. Striving to be a Top 25 community, the region is competitive with the best in the US and throughout the world. For the second year in a row, SmartAssest has ranked the Rockford MSA 4th nationally in their annual study of healthcare access and affordable housing.

Rockford is the state’s third-largest city and an attractive regional center for people to live, work, and play. The cost of living is approximately 18% lower than the national average. This leaves you with more time and more money.

The region is home to communities both large and small and provides a wide array of lifestyle options from downtown lofts to quiet tree-lined historic neighborhoods. Live near a river or in a rural home with plenty of space around you. Wherever you choose to call home consider the average commute is 20 minutes. And of course the people are famous for their friendliness.

For additional information regarding quality of life, attractions, and events visit: www.GoRockford.com.

Healthcare

Source: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, Area Health Resources Files

Rockford MSA residents enjoy the highest-quality in medical care from three health systems in the region.

Hospital	Number of Beds
Mercyhealth/Rockford Memorial Hospital.....	391
SwedishAmerican Hospital.....	333
SwedishAmerican Medical Center Belvidere.....	34
OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center.....	254

Number of Physicians (M.D.).....	801
Number of Dentists (D.D.S.).....	189

Retail Trade

Source: 2012 Economic Census of the U.S.; Illinois Department of Revenue, 2016;

Total Retail Sales.....	\$4,147,506,000
Number of Retail Establishments.....	1,094

Retail Sales Tax

State.....	6.25%
County.....	1.0 to 1.5%
Municipal*.....	0.0 to 2.0%

*Special business districts in certain communities have higher rates.



Max Gersh
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Rockford Register Star and rrstar.com

Quality of Life

Source: Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau MSA Business Patterns (2014), 2010 U.S. Religion Census

The positive business environment is matched by a great quality of life! We have world-class attractions and activities throughout the year; which can be accessed without the congestion and hassle associated with major metropolitan areas. The advantages include big-city lifestyle but with a small town feel. We have world-class attractions and activities throughout the year; which can be accessed without the congestion and hassle associated with major metropolitan areas.

Exercise, Sports, Recreation

Public Parks.....	185
Parkland Acres.....	>7,100
Forest Preserve and Conservation Acres.....	>13,000
Public Swimming Pools.....	6
Fitness and Recreational Sports Facilities.....	28
Public Golf Courses.....	14
Country Clubs.....	4
Indoor Ice Arenas.....	3
Indoor Sports Centers.....	2
Outdoor Sports Centers.....	2
Water Parks.....	1

Spectator Sports: Rockford IceHogs AHL hockey team (affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks); Rockford Rivets collegiate baseball; Rockford Speedway

Other Resources

Motels/Hotels.....	28
- Number of rooms.....	2,966
Restaurants.....	496
- Capacity of largest banquet room.....	1,000
Civic Center....BMO Harris Bank Center - Seating capacity.....	10,000
Financial Institutions.....	101
Radio Stations	19
TV Stations.....	14
Daily Newspapers.....	2
Weekly Newspapers.....	5
Fire Insurance Rating	
- City of Belvidere, Boone County.....	4
- City of Rockford, Winnebago County.....	2

Places of Worship

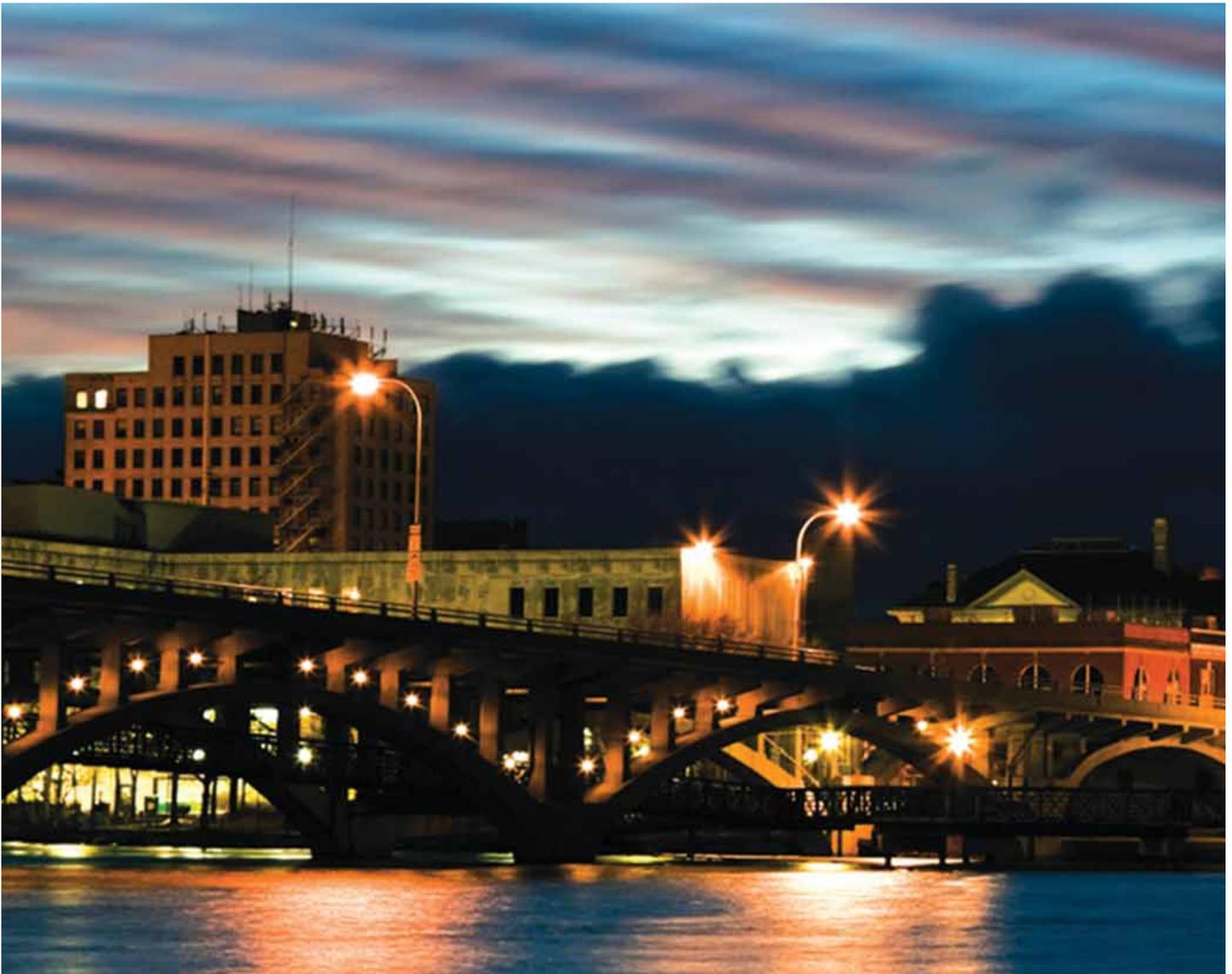
Protestant Churches.....	269
Catholic Churches.....	17
Latter-Day Saints Congregations.....	5
Orthodox Churches.....	3
Buddhist Temples.....	4
Mosques.....	1
Unitarian Universalist Churches.....	2
Jewish Synagogues.....	2
Baha'i Centers.....	1

Culture and Arts

Public Libraries.....	14
Museums.....	15
Art Galleries.....	9
Symphony Orchestra.....	1
Community Theaters.....	6



Courtesy of the RACVB



About Rockford Area Economic Development Council

The role of the RAEDC is to collaborate with regional stakeholders to cultivate opportunities for primary job growth that increase the economic well-being of our region. The RAEDC markets the region to attract new capital investment, while assisting existing business with resources for sustainable growth. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to improve the competitiveness of the region by taking what it learns from the region's employers and engaging the community in the daily work of economic development. As the economic development organization for the region, the RAEDC also serves as the area's data collection agency on all new capital investment, retained and created quality jobs, and renovated commercial/industrial space.

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www.RockfordIL.com

Rockford
ILLINOIS USA

ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

About Growth Dimensions

Established in 1979, Growth Dimensions provides a progressive and cooperative environment which improves the quality of life by fostering economic opportunity and personal growth. With economic development partners throughout Belvidere-Boone County, Growth Dimensions is advancing a coordinated economic development strategy to create jobs, promote community assets and stimulate capital investment through business retention and attraction efforts.

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 **Growth
Dimensions**

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