

Your Opportunity Region



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | August 2017 |

Did You Know...

Our region has the highest concentration of cold forming employment in the USA? The region's bloodline of manufacturing and innovation and has positioned itself as a leader in advanced manufacturing and the region's cold forming manufacturing industry demonstrates these capabilities.

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The RAEDC and the Rockford Region

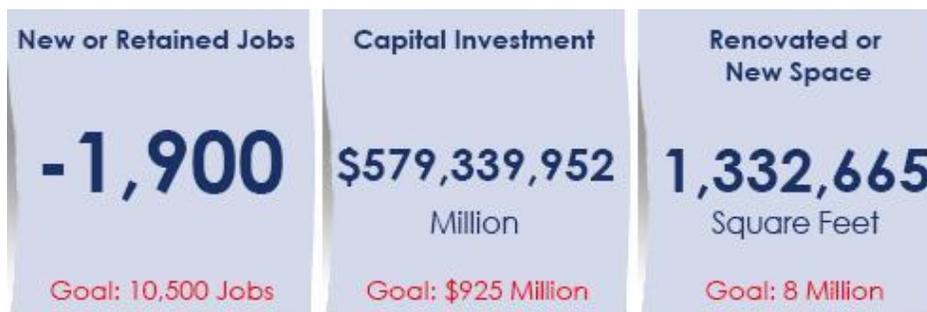
The RAEDC, as the Economic Development Organization for the region is also the data collection agency on all new capital investment in the area, retained and created jobs, and new or renovated space. As we continue the *Rockforward20/20* strategic plan, we will be informing all of you on project wins for our region as well as projects that we are working on with our various regional partners.

Measurements

Regional Impact Measurements

These figures represent the collective successes during the *Rockforward20/20* strategic plan. The plan began in January 2016 and will continue through December 2020.

The results shown below are for 20 months of the 60 month *Rockforward20/20* strategic plan. The baseline for New or Retained jobs is based on the December 2015 figure as reported by IDES.



There was an expansion project that closed as a win for the Rockford Region, resulting in an additional 44,000SF and a capital investment of \$2,750,000.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2017

Metropolitan Area	July 2017*	July 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	92,400	90,500	1,900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	58,200	56,900	1,300
Champaign-Urbana MSA	105,200	105,000	200
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,763,700	3,739,900	23,800
Danville MSA	27,800	28,200	-400
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	183,400	184,300	-900
Decatur MSA	50,900	51,300	-400
Elgin Metro Division	254,600	255,000	-400
Kankakee MSA	44,500	43,700	800
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	426,700	417,900	8,800
Peoria MSA	176,300	175,600	700
Rockford MSA	151,300	151,300	0
Springfield MSA	115,900	113,400	2,500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,800	233,100	1,700
Illinois Statewide	6,067,700	6,028,300	39,400

*Preliminary **Revised

The Year-Over-Year comparison in non-farm jobs shows no change from July 2016 to July 2017 for the Rockford MSA, which includes Winnebago and Boone Counties.

There are 5,204 jobs advertised online for July 2017; an increase of 240 when compared to July 2016, as reported by the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

The RAEDC has made changes to how it reports jobs in the region and is using Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) figures at the MSA level, which includes Boone and Winnebago Counties.

Regional Economic Measurements



These figures represent data from July 2017.

RAEDC Updates

Our Region Ranks First Again!

The region is competing against other metropolitan statistical areas much larger than ours and demonstrating the ability to provide this specialized form of manufacturing on a world-class level. We are still a Fastener Hub in the USA - We are #1!

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RAEDC to Attend NBAA

The RAEDC will join 27,000 industry professionals at the National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) three-day event in October. If your business is attending, contact Gerald Sagona, VP of National Business Development.

[EMAIL GERALD>>>](#)

Connect with Us Socially

The RAEDC shares informative and helpful news, events, and stories on our social networks. Be sure to connect with us so we can share your good news and events.



Regional News

Rivers Edge Tax Credit Extended through 2021

Governor Rauner has extended the Rivers Edge Tax Credit through December 31, 2021. This tax credit has contributed to the redevelopment of many properties along the Rock River, including the Prairie Street Brewhouse and the renovation of the Rockford Trust Building into loft-style apartments.

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Superior Joining Technologies Announces NADCAP Accreditation

Superior Joining Technologies (SJTI) announces NADCAP Accredited for both Fusion and Laser Welding. This new certification is an addition to their current NADCAP registration for special processes; Non-Destructive Testing, Magnetic Particle & Fluorescent Dye Penetrant. SJTI is 1 of 16 NADCAP Accredited Welding Facilities in Illinois, and 1 of 441 across the United States.

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Region Celebrates Rockford Day

The region celebrated the second annual Rockford Day, brought to you by Rockford Community Partners, on August 15. Rockford Day showcases the people, places, and things that make our region great with fun and interactive experiences throughout the city.

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Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Reports Record Breaking Year

Visitor Spending in Rockford and Winnebago County reached an all-time high in 2016 of \$353 million, directly creating/sustaining 2,888 jobs with \$85.51 million in payroll!

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RAEDC Annual Meeting

The graphic features a blue background with a large gear and a red line forming a stylized '7'. The text '7:2:1' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the text reads 'The RAEDC's Annual Meeting (Re)Defining the Goal: The True Path to Career Readiness in the 21st Century featuring Dr. Kevin Fleming'. In the top right corner, the Rockford Illinois USA logo is visible, with 'Rockford' in a large font, 'ILLINOIS USA' below it, and 'ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL' in a smaller font at the bottom.

November 15, 2017
Giovanni's Restaurant and Convention Center
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

(Re)Defining the Goal: The True Path for Career Readiness in the 21st Century
featuring Success in the New Economy producer & (Re)Defining the Goal
author, Dr. Kevin Fleming.



Dr. Fleming is a passionate advocate for ensuring all students enter the labor market with a competitive advantage. He currently supports over 40 Career & Technical Education programs as a Dean of Instruction, CTE at Norco College (part of Riverside Community College District, California) and serves as vice president for the California Community College Association for Occupational Education.

Watch the video & learn more about the Annual Meeting at RockfordIL.com.

Tables and Individual Tickets Available online
September 18, 2017 at www.RockfordIL.com/721.

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Upcoming Events

Doing Business with the City of Rockford - September 28

City of Rockford officials and representatives from the legal department and the community and economic development department will host an upcoming informational and networking opportunity. This session focuses on how to conduct business with the City of Rockford organization.

[REGISTER>>>](#)

FastPitch - Wednesday, October 4

The FastPitch Competition is your chance to prove the potential of your business idea, meet people who can help you succeed, and maybe win a cash prize! Deadline for participants to

submit their business pitches in writing for pre-qualification is Sept 21.

[LEARN MORE>>>](#)

Manufacturing Day, Rockford Region - Thursday, October 12

Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. For those who want to get involved in planning contact: Beth Mead, CEANCI Community Outreach Coordinator at 815-921-1650.

1 Million Cups - Wednesdays, 9 - 11am

Entrepreneurs present their startup companies and learn how the community can help their business flourish. These meetings are held on a weekly basis.

[LEARN MORE>>>](#)

Rockforward20/20

Rockforward20/20 represents a bold vision for our future, this aggressive plan will cultivate opportunities to create and retain over 10,000 jobs and significantly increase capital investment in the region.

Learn more at RockfordIL.com/Rockforward2020. If you have not set up a brief meeting to explore how you can get involved, contact Jimsi Kuborn at 815-969-4259 or jkuborn@rockfordil.com.



The RAEDC

The RAEDC often works behind the scenes due to the confidential nature of business projects. Plus, big deals take time: The average time from start to completion on the project wins is 329 days.

We are committed to persistence and continuity in our work: We market the Rockford Region to the world, influencing companies to locate or expand here. We support and promote growth within targeted industries through regional public-private collaboration. We assist prospective and existing companies by connecting them to resources for workforce development, available buildings, supply chain partners, incentives and more.

Together, we will continue the momentum into 2017 for an even stronger, more sustainable economy. **Together, we will Trailblaze, Inspire Action, Align, Seed and Serve!**

RAEDC Board of Directors & Staff
RockfordIL.com

ABOUT THE RAEDC

The primary role of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) is to collaboratively improve the economic strength of the Rockford Region by helping employers

retain and create quality jobs. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to learn what existing and new employers need to grow, and to serve as a one-stop resource for clients. The RAEDC seeks 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.

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