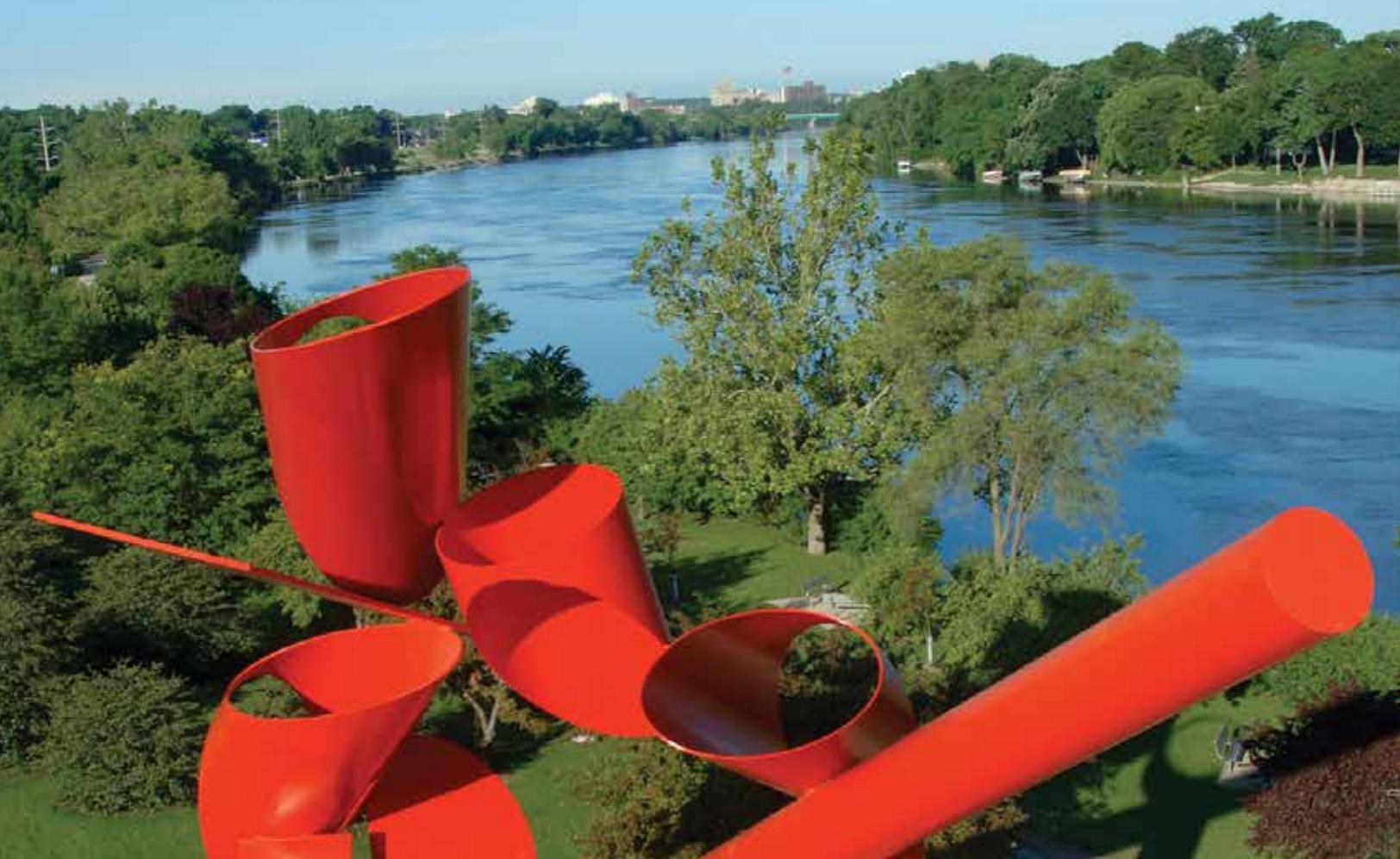


Rockford

I L L I N O I S  U S A

ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growth & Opportunity



RockfordIL.com



Rockford is Your Opportunity Region

Locating your company to the Rockford, IL Region makes good business sense! The Rockford Region provides an educated and skilled workforce, critical logistics, and a low cost of living -ideal for both business growth and employee satisfaction.

SPEED TO MARKET

We deliver custom-built facilities that meet company needs better than any spec building could. With our speed to market approval process buildings can start producing income much quicker than in the Chicago suburbs.

WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY

The area has the workforce you're looking for. The Rockford MSA has a primary labor force of 176,700 while our secondary labor shed includes **515,000** workers within a **45-minute commute**.

Individuals who live in the suburbs can commute to Rockford in the same or less time it takes to commute to Chicago.

INCENTIVES

The Rockford Region offers an array of incentive programs for new and expanding businesses. These programs are designed to assist a wide selection of qualifying companies in various stages of growth.

Your Workforce Opportunity Region

SKILLED WORKFORCE



21%
Rockford MSA



10%
Illinois



8.5%
USA

The region has established nimble, industry-specific, and customized education-to-workforce pipelines ensuring we have the skilled workforce essential to filling jobs that are good today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Skilled manufacturing workforce in the Rockford Region out ranks the state-wide and national levels.

Our workforce solution is what sets the region apart

- The NIU@RVC partnership allows students to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering for under \$40,000 total while staying in Rockford.
- The Rockford Campus of University of Illinois Medical School is home to all four years of medical school.
- OSF Healthcare has partnered with Rock Valley College (RVC) for a 4-year nursing degree.
- RVC offers a FAA approved degree program and an Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanic certification program.
- RVC offers stacked credentialed certificates and degrees programs through the Advanced Manufacturing Center.
- Apprenticeship programs are offered by many regional trade unions.

Your Opportunity Region's Targeted Growth Industries

The region's wide range of industry clusters such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and automotive combined with great logistical location provides plenty of opportunities for your business.



The region offers multiple diverse clusters of advanced manufacturing capabilities at twice the national average in manufacturing employment.



Companies located here serve industry leaders like Airbus, The Spaceship Company, and the US Military, which benefit from a strong supply chain and a highly skilled workforce.



Our region has a long history of agribusiness from machinery development to crop production. We understand the entire crop cycle from planting to processing.



We have both the cold storage facilities to meet your needs as well as multiple 3PLs to get your food where it needs to be without reducing the quality.



Our workforce understands the demand for high-tolerance requirements related to manufacturing and packaging in the healthcare manufacturing industry.



From the Internet of Getting Things Done to data centers the Rockford Region is an untapped resource for developing innovative technology solutions.

Your Location & Logistics Opportunity Region

LOGISTICAL DREAMLAND

We are #1 in interstate and railroad connections. Businesses located here can reach Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City, Milwaukee, and St. Louis within one trucking-day.

The Chicago Rockford International Airport cargo business is experiencing double digit year-over-year growth; with later drop-off times, faster turnaround time, and lower fees than O'Hare International Airport.

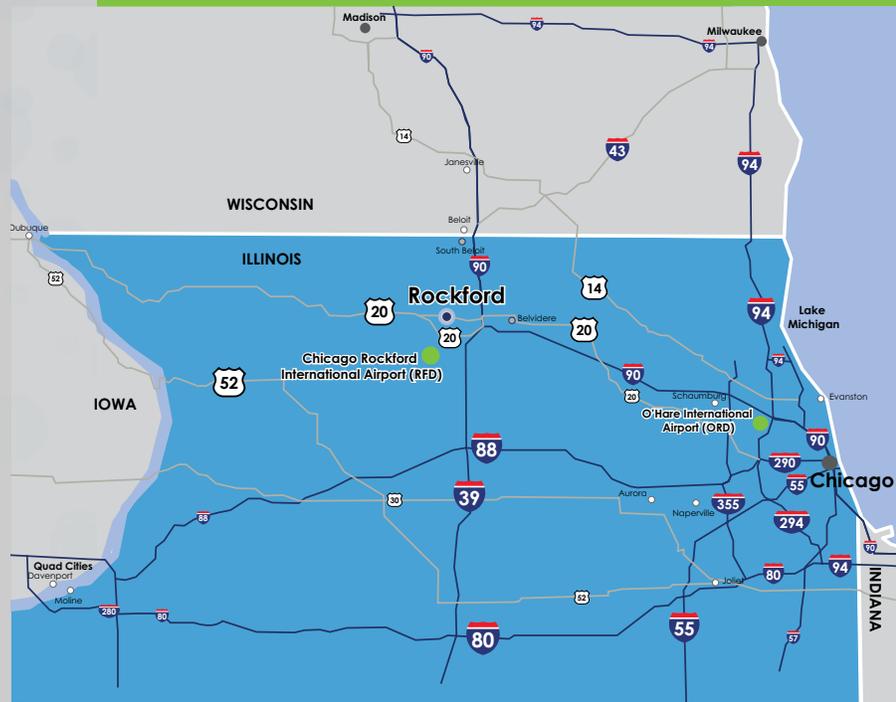


AFFORDABLE UTILITIES ON SHOVEL-READY PROPERTIES

Illinois is ranked **3rd** in the country for electrical grid modernization, 10 spots ahead of our closest Midwest neighbor.

Illinois' electricity costs are **4% lower** than our neighboring states average and **10% lower** than the national average.

The region's qualified sites program combines national site selection standards and the region's strengths and assets including site availability, logistics, infrastructure, and utilities.



Your Award Winning Opportunity Region

IndustryWeek

#4

IndustryWeek
Best Places
to Work in
Manufacturing in
the Nation

smartasset™

#4

SmartAsset
Healthcare
access & home
affordability
(3rd straight year)

MILKEN INSTITUTE

#5

Milken Institute
Best-Performing
Cities for Job
Growth

Forbes

#6

Forbes
Easiest Places to
Make Your Mark

USATODAY

#6

USA Today
Fastest Growing
Housing Market

Reader's
Digest

Top 15

Reader's Digest
Best Places to
Move to in the
Nation

Your Employees' Opportunity Region

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our cost of living is **18% lower** than the national average leaving you with more time and more money.

Wherever you choose to call home the average commute is **20 minutes**.

The Rockford Region is home to communities both large and small, providing a wide array of lifestyle options from downtown lofts to quiet tree-lined historic neighborhoods. Live near the river or in a rural home with plenty of space around you.

RECREATION

The Rockford Region knows how to balance hard work and relaxation with world class recreation facilities and an award winning park district.

We have world-class attractions and activities throughout the year.

12 Art Galleries **14** Golf Courses
15 Museums **185** Parks & Conservation Areas
500+ Diverse Restaurants & Microbreweries

You don't need to leave the area to have fun but if you want to plan a day trip or even a weekend trip our close proximity to Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, and the Quad Cities offer diverse choices.