

Global Access

Illinois has long been aware of the significance of international trade. The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment (OTI) 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 -- Eleven International Trade Centers and two NAFTA Opportunity Centers are located 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, New Delhi, 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 2010

were \$50.1 billion. 632,800 Illinois jobs are linked to exports.

The state has attracted 1,600 foreign firms with 5,700 locations that employ 288,000 people.

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 many 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 1.2 million international visitors in 2007 that spent almost \$2.0 billion. The top international markets were Canada, UK, Mexico, Germany and Japan.

Foreign Consulates in Illinois

Argentina	Croatia	Haiti	Luxemburg	Singapore
Australia	Cyprus	Honduras	Mexico	Slovak Republic
Austria	Czech Republic	Hungary	Monaco, 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	2010 Exports (Billions)
	U.S.	1,278.3
1	Texas	207.0
2	California	143.2
3	New York	69.7
4	Florida	55.4
5	Washington	53.4
6	Illinois	50.1
7	Michigan	44.8
8	Ohio	41.5
9	Louisiana	41.4
10	Pennsylvania	34.9

Top Illinois Exports

Rank	Industry	2010 Exports (Millions)
	Total All Industries	50,058.29
1	Machinery, Except Electrical	12,491.75
2	Chemicals	6,479.25
3	Computer And Electronic Products	5,488.47
4	Transportation Equipment	5,326.88
5	Food And Kindred Products	2,641.17
6	Electrical Equipment, Appliances, And Components	2,638.34
7	Fabricated Metal Products, Neso	2,247.80
8	Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities	2,225.39
9	Agricultural Products	1,450.77
10	Plastics And Rubber Products	1,363.75

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Global Access From Illinois

FOREIGN TRADE OFFICES

State of Illinois India Office

Mr. Jyotirmoy Bhattacharjee, Manager
H-1512, C.R. Park
New Delhi 110019
India
Phone: 011-91-11-40508782
Fax: 011-91-11-40508782
Email: info@illinoistrade.in

State of Illinois Canada Office

Mr. Jeffrey Johnson, Managing Director
1 Eva Road, Suite 301
Toronto, Ontario M9C 4Z5, Canada
Phone: 416-695-9888
Fax: 416-695-9891
Email: toronto@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois Central European Office

Mr. Maciej Cybulski, Managing Director
Chmielna 8
Rooms 309-310
00-020 Warsaw, Poland
Phone: 011(48) 22-827-5961
Fax: 011(48) 22-827-7089
Email: warsaw@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois Far East Office

Mr. Norman Li, Managing Director
2808, 28/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wanchai, Hong Kong
Phone: 011(852) 2544-3863
Fax: 011(852) 2543-6246
Email: hongkong@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois Latin America & Caribbean Office

Mr. Raymundo Flores, Managing Director
Paseo de La Reforma 265, Piso 14
Col. Cuauhtémoc
06500 Mexico D.F.
Phone: 011-52-55-5533-6666/5165
Fax: 011-52-55-5533-5163
Email: mexicocity@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois Middle East Office

Mr. Sherwin Pomerantz, President
Atid EDI Ltd.
POB 45005, Kiryat Mada 5
Har Hotzvim Technology Park
91450 Jerusalem, Israel
Phone: 011 (972) 2-571-0199
Fax: 011 (972) 2-571-0713
E-mail: Sherwin@atid-edi.com

State of Illinois North Asia/Oceania Office

Mr. Motoshi Yamada, Managing Director
Crest Terrace Ichigaya #101
2-1 Ichigaya Sadohara-cho
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0842 Japan
Phone: 011(81) 3-3268-8011
Fax: 011(81) 3-3268-8700
Email: tokyo@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois Shanghai Office

Zachary Zhao, Managing Director
Suite 631 US Commercial Ctr., Shanghai Ctr.
1376 Nanjing Rd. West, Shanghai 200040
China
Phone: 011(86) 21-6279-7640
Fax: 011(86) 21-6279-7607
Email: shanghai@illinoistrade.org

State of Illinois West European Office

Ms. Sharon Stead-Galantino, Managing Director
28-30 Boulevard de la Cambre, Bte 2
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: 011(32) 2-646-5730
Fax: 011(32) 2-646-5511
Email: brussels@illinoistrade.org



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Contact: Brian Selinger, Deputy Director, Office of Policy Development, Planning & Research, 217.557.0513, Brian.Selinger@illinois.gov