

Rockford/Belvidere MSA

Within 60 miles of the Chicago/Rockford International Airport, the workforce exceeds 2.1 million workers, of which 12.7 percent are in skilled manufacturing positions. Within 25 miles of the Airport, there is a labor force of 250,000 with a manufacturing concentration of 15.3 percent.



Most recently the community worked with regional partners to attract AAR to the Chicago Rockford International Airport by guaranteeing a supply of 500 A&P mechanics through the Rock Valley College (RVC) Aviation Maintenance Technology Program.



For the retention of Woodward, the community built a Mechanical Engineering program specifically to feed our aerospace companies within the region. The Northern Illinois University/Rock Valley College engineering program started in 2016 and has 150 potential students in the pipeline.



The hospital systems within the region are expanding considerably with an investment exceeding \$1.5B over the next few years. To ensure success, the region has expanded a 4-year Registered Nursing program with a partnership between Rock Valley College (RVC) and St. Anthony College of Nursing. More than 300 nursing students utilize the new \$32M Health Sciences Center on the RVC campus.



Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in Belvidere employs 4,567, adding 300 employees for production of the Jeep Cherokee; and has invested \$23.5 million the past year this year.



Yanfeng Automotive Interiors has created 550 full time equivalent jobs mostly in injection molding in a new 336,000-square-foot building in Belvidere.



Magna International has created 460 full time equivalent jobs in Belvidere as part of a \$1.2 investment in expansion to produce parts for the Belvidere assembly plant.



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The I-39 Logistics Corridor offers over 550,000 workers in 14 counties, including the greater Rockford-Belvidere laborshed area with over 164,000 workers; the DeKalb-Rochelle-Dixon laborshed area with nearly 100,000 workers, the Ottawa-LaSalle-Peru-Mendota-Princeton laborshed area with over 81,000 workers; and the Bloomington-Normal laborshed area with nearly 190,000 workers.

PRO-BUSINESS CLIMATE

Communities within the corridor welcome business, are efficient, dependable and easy to work with, and offer fast-track building-permit processing, TIF districts, training programs, Foreign Trade Zones, Enterprise Zones, low tax rates, advance telecommunications infrastructure, and significant capacities of water, electricity and natural gas.

ADVANCED EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The universities, community colleges and technical schools within the corridor offer degree programs, custom-designed technical training and specialized business services. Northern Illinois University (DeKalb), Illinois State University (Bloomington/Normal), University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine, and other liberal arts colleges are the area's prime recruitment resources.



Archer Daniels Midland Company will construct a flour milling facility in Mendota, located in the northern part of LaSalle County, creating 100 new jobs. "The mill will grind different varieties of wheat in order to meet the demand of bakers throughout the Midwest, according to the company's announcement," according to ADM's announcement.



"The Bloomington-Normal workforce makes our company successful here. Education levels of workers along with the quality of educational institutions in BN are an integral factor in Afni's local success." Afni is a worldwide customer contact solutions company with 760 employees and headquartered in Bloomington-Normal.



3M established a presence in DeKalb in 1985 as the first 3M mechanized distribution center. Since then, 3M operations have expanded six times include four buildings. The DeKalb operations serve as the main distribution facility for five of the six 3M business units and export operations.

Regions served by the facility include North America, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Latin and South America. In 2016, the company added 400 new jobs.



Target's general manager reports that there "... is a thriving and talented workforce in the DeKalb County area, which eases staffing and hiring needs. The campus of Northern Illinois University provides a ready pool of knowledgeable talent as well as great partnerships for case studies and consulting projects." In year 2016, Target added 350 employees as part of a redeployment of its facility to serve a larger territory.



DiversiFoam Products manufactures extruded polystyrene foam (XPS), expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) and fabricates polyisocyanurate foam billets for use in construction, insulation, packaging and OEM applications and has been operating in Mendota since 1995. The \$4 million investment will increase the facility from 100,000 to 170,000 square feet, and add 20 new jobs to its existing 60 jobs.

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