
II. ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

Overview

The Canadian consulate general in Chicago has responsibility for a three-state territory composed of Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. These states, with a total population in excess of 21 million, sit at the heart of the midwestern United States and remain one of the most important economic regions in the country.

The diversified economy rests on the triple base of agriculture, heavy manufacturing and services. From this strength has developed the largest concentration of medium and small-sized manufacturing companies in the U.S., the major transportation and distribution centre of the country and the second-largest financial centre in the United States. The region also leads in exports, enjoying an overall surplus with many countries, including Canada. In 1982, Canadian exports to the territory totalled CDN \$4.107 billion and imports totalled CDN \$4.514 billion. The three states have approximately 10 per cent of the U.S. population and account for nearly 15 per cent of the U.S. GNP. Wisconsin and Missouri are less heavily industrialized than Illinois, but both enjoy significant manufacturing activity, most notably automobile and truck manufacture, chemicals, electrical equipment and aerospace products. A measure of its strength and diversity is that over 130 of America's publicly-held manufacturers have their headquarters in this area and more than 400 firms have Canadian investments.

Illinois

Illinois is by far the largest and most important state in the region and Chicago dominates Illinois as the population and financial centre. As well, the city is host to more major trade shows and conventions than any other, is headquarters to many national associations, and is the location of a number of nationally-recognized colleges and universities.

Two-thirds of the U.S. GNP is produced within a 500-mile market region of Illinois and the state is