

Housewares Exposition, the National Sporting Goods Association Show, and the Marine Trades Exhibit and Conference.

**Merchandise Mart:** The Mart Center is the largest and one of the most active American wholesale buying centres. The 585,000 m<sup>2</sup> (6.5 million square foot) centre includes the Merchandise Mart, the Apparel Center and Expo Center/Chicago.

As the market centre for more than a dozen industries, the Mart Center provides a successful business platform for the residential furnishings industry, the office furnishings and systems industry, the floor covering industry, the apparel industry, the gift industry, and most recently, the business products industry. The Mart Center hosts 22 seasonal markets each year as well as 40 trade shows annually, accounting for hundreds of thousands of buying visits. The Department of Commerce reports that the Mart Center is the headquarters for more than \$30 billion in annual retail sales in the Midwest.

**Kansas City —** Often called the world's food capital, estimated sales from farming and agriculture in Kansas City reached \$7.5 billion in 1981. Top employers: the U.S. government, TWA, General Motors, Bendix, Hallmark Cards and Western Electric. Kansas City is among the top five cities in flour production and grain elevator capacity, and ranks first in Foreign Trade Zone space and underground storage facilities. Retail sales for 1981 totalled more than \$8 billion. Kansas City is the centre of a seven-county metro area, and is one of the nation's major rail centres.

**St. Louis —** Second to Detroit in auto and truck assembly with Ford, GM, and Chrysler