

Other important facts include: 15,026 manufacturers in Chicago with sales of over \$70 billion; 51,399 retailers in the metro area with sales of over \$35.8 billion in 1981; 14,012 wholesalers in the metro area with sales of over \$74.4 billion (in 1977); 62,765 service establishments in the area do an \$8.9 billion business (1977); the Midwest Stock Exchange; the world's leading grain futures market; the Chicago Board of Trade; the Mercantile Exchange; the Mid America Commodity Exchange; O'Hare Airport, the world's largest and busiest, handling 828,530 tons of freight and mail annually.

The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau/McCormick Place: Each year, Chicago hosts more than 650 conventions and 180 trade shows, which attract a total of 2.5 million visitors and generate over \$1 billion in revenue for the city's economy.

The dominant venue for trade show activity is Chicago's McCormick Place, a \$100 million multi-level facility which has 108 000 m² (1.2 million square feet) of "prime" exhibit and meeting space.

A majority of the trade shows in Chicago are national in scope and a substantial number are on an international scale. Foreign firms, including a large number of Canadian companies, participate in these shows, recognizing their importance as a means of establishing their credibility as viable suppliers not only in the United States but in world markets as well. Many Canadian exhibitors utilize assistance programs and may be found exhibiting solo or in a national stand. Among the shows having the greatest number of Canadian participants are the National Restaurant Association Show, the Consumer Electronics Show, the National