Mid-America’s Place of Strength in the US Economy

In 2012, the Mid-America region was responsible for 17.7% of the US GDP, and every state in the region has experienced positive GDP over the last three years. Located in the middle of the United States, the region is the perfect place for national and international companies to operate due to the ease of logistics and transportation in and out of the region. The region boasts a comparably affordable cost of living and operation as well as a skilled labor force. Advantages of the Mid-America Region, includes strong industry clusters in automotive and food industries.

The industry boasts strong connectivity. In the center of the country, the region is well-poised for companies that have business on both US coasts as well as overseas.

Outstanding for Logistics and Transportation

The region is home to all of the Class I railroads and several short line railroads.

Transportation and logistics is a common, significant strength and asset of the region. Business Facilities magazine noted that the region hosts the 3rd largest intermodal port in the world. The region is also home to the largest freshwater port in the world, the busiest border crossings in North America, is a center link of the NAFTA corridor, and the 2nd largest FedEx air hub worldwide.

There are approximately 80 commercial ports in the region and large maritime ports on the Great Lakes, Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers. Waterways and commercial ports are found on Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Illinois River, and Ohio River.

There are more than 10,000 miles of primary Interstate highways in the region that provide connections to the east and west coast, gulf coast, Mexico and Canada.

There are more than 6,800 food processing and manufacturing establishments in the region (2013).

Many of the well-known, household names, of Fortune 1000 companies have headquarters in the region including:

- AAR Corp.
- Abbott Laboratories
- Allstate Insurance
- Archer Daniels Midland Co.
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Best Buy
- Boeing
- Caterpillar
- Con Agra Foods
- Cummins
- Deere & Company
- Discover Financial Services
- Dow Chemical
- Eli Lilly & Co.
- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
- Ford Motor Company
- General Mills Co.
- General Motors Co.
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber
- Harley Davidson
- Hyundai
- Johnson Controls, Inc.
- J M Smucker Co.
- Kellogg Co.
- Kia Motors
- Kohl’s
- Kraft Foods
- Land O’Lakes
- Macy’s
- McDonald’s Corp.
- Motorola Solutions Inc.
- Nationwide Mutual Insurance
- Nissan North America
- Owens Corning
- Polaris Industries
- Proctor & Gamble Co.
- Rockwell Automation
- Sears
- Snap-On Tools
- Target Corp.
- Toro Co.
- Toyota
- Union Pacific Railroad
- United Continental Holdings
- US Bancorp
- USG Corp.

Learn more at MidAmericaEDC.org
The research universities house several research institutes and initiatives; some of the areas of focus are:

- Bio-economy
- Metabolic biology
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
- Bioanalytical and Bioprocessing
- Genomics and Bioinformatics
- Archeology
- Advanced Algal and Plant Phenotyping
- Bioenergy
- Autism, Intellectual and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Water sciences
- Nanoscience
- Molecular engineering
- Molecular pediatric services
- Cardiovascular research
- Cancer and other chronic diseases
- Supercomputing – advanced computational research
- Eye research
- Fusion technology
- Engine research
- Dairy research
- Environmental remote sensing
- Wind energy
- Skin diseases

Positioned Well for New Energy Production and Conservation

Nearly 15 billion gallons of ethanol are produced in the United States per year. 78% of the US ethanol is produced in the Mid-America EDC states region.

The “Blue” Economy - The region has abundant fresh water resources and is positioned as a leader in water technology in the US and North America. The lakes and rivers of the Mid-America region are important from a transportation and logistics standpoint. The Global Council is a unique asset, as water technology is a key industry driver for many states in the Midwest.

Affordable Costs of Operation

When a national site consultant was recently asked why one of his clients relocated operations from the West Coast to the Mid-America EDC region, he responded “skill sets and corresponding cost of talent. The location offered a lower cost profile than the west coast and the reliability of the talent/labor was great.”

Educational attainment for high school graduation and college attainment exceed the national average

Five of the top most livable states are in the region

Both household incomes and home ownership rates are above the national average, and this is an indication of health of a community and quality of life. Additionally, median value of homes are significantly below the US rate.