

# 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.



## FOOD ON THE TABLE

The Mid-America EDC region produces 40% of the nation's food supply (USDA 2013). There are more than 6,800 food processing and manufacturing establishments in the region (2013).

## DRIVING HARD

The automotive cluster of the Mid-America EDC region has more than 3,300 establishments, employing over 440,000 people. This is 52% of the total employed in the cluster in the United States.

## INSURING AMERICA

The insurance services cluster of the Mid-America EDC has over 8,000 establishments, employing more than 385,000 people, 26% of the total number employed in the cluster in the United States.

## WE MEAN BUSINESS

There are 225 Fortune 1000 company headquarters in the MidAmerica EDC 10-state region. The most common industries concentrated in the Fortune 1000 companies are food products, automobile parts and suppliers, and the insurance industry.

# BIG BUSINESS

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.

## Outstanding for Logistics and Transportation

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.

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.

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.



Learn more at [MidAmericaEDC.org](http://MidAmericaEDC.org)

# R&D

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**  
**Biocatalysis 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**

## Universities, Colleges and Research and Development

The region is home to internationally recognized universities and colleges as well as national labs and centers for innovation and research.



### SPARK IMAGINATION

*There are about 750 public and private universities and colleges in the Mid-America EDC region.*



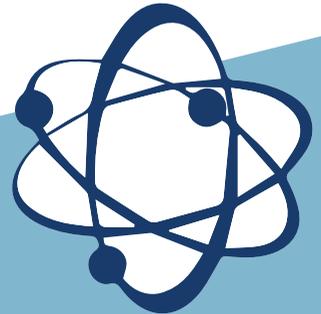
### DO THE RESEARCH

*The region is home to 21 of the top 101 research universities in the United States (according to the Council of State Governments Midwest). Twelve (12) of the 60 members of the Association of American Universities are located in the Mid-America EDC region. American research universities perform more than half of all basic research in the United States.*



### CREATE NEW

*The region is home to 40 national laboratories. Four worth noting are the Ames Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, the Glenn Research Center, and the Sanford Underground Research Facility. These labs are centered on some of the common assets and strengths of the region – energy, aerospace and engineering.*



## 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.



Mid-America EDC members are dedicated economic development professionals who share best practices to make you more valuable to your organization. Mid-America EDC is the best resource for making contact with site selectors, advancing regional economic development programs, and accessing thought leadership. **Learn more at [MidAmericaEDC.org](http://MidAmericaEDC.org)**