America’s Smartland: Transportation for People, Products and Energy

The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together the governors of Midwestern states to work cooperatively on public policy issues of significance to the region. The MGA states include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

For more information on the MGA, visit www.midwesterngovernors.org

Strong Work Ethic, Entrepreneurial, Innovative, Bioscience, Energy, Manufacturing, Transportation Crossroads, Sensational Standard of Living, Quality Education, Skilled Workforce

Working as a dynamic whole, the MGA region’s unique assets are greater than the sum of its parts. The Midwest is the crossroads for much of the nation’s economic activity, with a robust freight industry and a rich network of roads, trails, rails and airports second to none. Here you will find a world-class work ethic and a welcoming climate for businesses and job growth, as reflected by our diverse mix of industries. Add to this vibrant cities and towns—both urban and rural—high-quality schools, cutting-edge universities and research institutions, easy access to breathtaking outdoor recreation in all four seasons, and cultural amenities that rival any in the world, and you begin to understand how this region became both breadbasket and manufacturer to the world. This unique standard of living and economic resilience is matched by an uncommon decency among people here, making this an exceptional place to live, raise a family, get an education, start a business, or grow an industry. Beyond its physical and intellectual assets, the Midwest has a cultural tradition of cooperation and a legacy of innovation—based on its pioneer and agricultural heritage—that makes it a natural home for new cutting-edge technologies, whether in advanced manufacturing, the biosciences or energy production.
Transportation is key to connecting Midwestern goods to the global marketplace.

The Midwest has a long tradition of serving as a transportation hub for people and goods, including agriculture, energy, and both manufactured and raw materials. The economic vitality of the region hinges on access to safe, convenient, reliable and affordable transportation. The many transportation options available—including highways, rail, transit, water, and air—offer the geographic location of the region, and the Midwest's status as a leading manufacturing and exporting region in the nation is supported by 2.4 million trucked and over 10,000 trains that passed through the region's 11 land-border ports of entry in 2013. Over 166 million passengers and over 3.5 million metric tons of cargo were handled by the top 5 Midwest airports in 2013. With at least seven airports designated as hubs for major U.S. carriers, and 25 international airports, the Midwest provides non-stop flights to over 60 international destinations.6

The Midwest's location on the Great Lakes, as well as the crossroads of America, why the Midwest is the nation's heartland, as well as the crossroads of America. The Midwest's status as a leading manufacturing and exporting region in the nation is supported by 2.4 million trucked and over 10,000 trains that passed through the region's 11 land-border ports of entry in 2013. Over 166 million passengers and over 3.5 million metric tons of cargo were handled by the top 5 Midwest airports in 2013. With at least seven airports designated as hubs for major U.S. carriers, and 25 international airports, the Midwest provides non-stop flights to over 60 international destinations.6

In 2011, only 6% of the total cargo in metric tons, 2013

Waterborne Commerce Distributions (2013)

midwestern connections of all kinds are key to connecting Midwestern goods to the global marketplace.

Rail Traffic Originated in MGA States (2013, percentage based on tonnage)

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Rail Traffic Terminated in MGA States (2013, percentage based on tonnage)

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Midwest’s Domestic freight comes through five key ports: Duluth-Superior on the Great Lakes, as well as the crossroads of America, why the Midwest is the nation's heartland, as well as the crossroads of America. The Midwest’s status as a leading manufacturing and exporting region in the nation is supported by 2.4 million trucked and over 10,000 trains that passed through the region’s 11 land-border ports of entry in 2013. Over 166 million passengers and over 3.5 million metric tons of cargo were handled by the top 5 Midwest airports in 2013. With at least seven airports designated as hubs for major U.S. carriers, and 25 international airports, the Midwest provides non-stop flights to over 60 international destinations.6

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