

Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
100 West Randolph, Ste. 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601
Adam Pollet, Director
312-814-7179

“Our state’s tax and regulatory environment is so anticompetitive that our state government hands out millions of dollars per year just to keep employers in Illinois. We should be out recruiting new businesses and jobs to Illinois instead of spending our time and resources struggling to hang onto the jobs we have.”

—Gov.-elect Bruce Rauner in his job creation position paper



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Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)

Illinois
Pop. (2014): 12,915,494 Pop. growth 2014–2019: 2.47%
Median household income: \$65,229 Median age: 36.6
Right-to-work state: No



Legislative Update

• UI LABS broke ground on the new Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII) in October 2014, receiving an investment of \$70 million from the U.S. Department of Defense and matching investment from industry, university and state and local government partners.

• After voters signaled their approval in a ballot question, the Illinois Senate Executive Committee passed a bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$10 per hour in 2015, then to \$10.50 per hour in 2016 and \$11 per hour by 2017.

Did You Know?

Cronus Fertilizers is building a \$1.4-billion fertilizer plant in Tuscola. The Illinois location was chosen out of 76 sites in nine states. The facility will create 2,000 construction jobs and 175 permanent jobs. The Cronus plant is one of the largest private investments in central Illinois since Mitsubishi Motors North American opened its plant in 1998.

1871, a tech incubator and co-working space located in Chicago’s Merchandise Mart, was ranked 9th in

the world in a survey of 800 business incubators in 60 countries by UBI Index.

GEN magazine ranked Chicago 10th in its top 10 list of US bio-pharma clusters. The publication pointed out that Chicago and the surrounding suburbs were 8th in number of patents granted and the region was 9th in venture capital funding, attracting close to \$87 million, with \$48.4 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2014

Company	City	County	Type	New/ Expansion	Product	Investment (\$ millions)	Employment
Cronus Chemicals LLC	Tuscola	Douglas	MF	N	Fertilizer	\$1,400	175
Valence Health	Chicago	Cook	HQ	E	Consulting Services	500	125
Forsythe Technology Inc.	Elk Grove Village	Cook		N	Data Center	130	
Amazon.com	to be determined		DW	N	Retail Merchandise	75	1,000
Sprout Social Inc.	Chicago	Cook	HQ	N	Admin Services	64	200
William Wrigley Jr. Co.	Yorkville	Kendall	MF	E	Gum Confections Mfg.	50	75
AAR Corporation	Rockford	Winnebago	MF	N	Aircraft Parts	40	500
Cloverleaf Cold Storage Co.	Monmouth	Warren	DW	N	Cold Storage	30	155
Joliet Cold Storage	Joliet	Will	DW	N	logistics provider	28	
Fresenius Kabi USA	Melrose Park	Cook	MF/DW	E	Pharmaceuticals	25	65
Neovia Logistics Services	Joliet	Will	DW	N	Logistics	25	130
eBay Inc.	Chicago	Cook	DW	N	Retail Merchandise		

MF = Manufacturing HQ = Headquarters OF = Office DW = Distribution/Warehouse



A riverboat cruise through the city and past Willis Tower
Photo courtesy of World Business Chicago



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