



Indiana: 'IN' a state of motion

Logistics driving economic development at "Crossroads of America"

So what makes logistics so special in Indiana that there is a complete directory dedicated to it? Pure and simple... this is Indiana's "thing." This is what the state does well and this is how it will grow its economy in the future.

Indiana is clearly a leader when it comes to this industry. Just check the numbers. As a state, Indiana ranks in the top 10 in more than 30 significant logistics-related categories, and in the top six for more than half of those, including number of interstates (1st), pass-through truck tonnage (2nd), freight railroads (4th), total truck tonnage (5th), rail carloads (6th) and trucking employment (6th)... just to name a few. And then there are also impressive rankings for largest cargo airport (7th), U.S. waterborne shipping (8th), NAFTA trade (9th) and warehouse-transportation employment (12th). Not bad for a state that only ranks 38th in geographic area and 14th in population.

But maybe the most important factor for Indiana as a logistics leader is that the median center of the U.S. population has been located inside its state lines since 1950. By being at the center of it all and building up critical transportation infrastructure, Indiana has positioned itself to capture significant benefits down the road as the experts predict explosive freight growth.

Certain regions are known for specific types of business - Florida: tourism; Silicon Valley: high-tech; Iowa: agriculture; Wall Street: financial. For Indiana, logistics is a natural outgrowth of the state's strong manufacturing base. No state has a higher percentage of manufacturing employment than Indiana, according to U.S. Census figures from 2005. And all that manufacturing requires every phase of logistics to get the raw materials in and finished product out.

So, as one of the top steel producing regions in the world, it also follows that Indiana ranks first in rail movements of primary metals, according to the Association of American Railroads. But beyond just being No.1, what's startling is that Indiana originated 18.5 percent of all U.S. rail tonnage of primary metals in 2005 - and also had nearly 15 percent of the terminations. Only one other state had more than 10 percent in either category. A region producing that much steel has got to have the transportation system to move it. And the same goes for other manufacturing areas.

Infrastructure and location are keys to Indiana's success in both manufacturing and logistics development. And these are things this state can hang its hat on going forward. For many areas, freight gets a bad rap. But in Indiana, freight is a friend! ■

Indiana Logistics Rankings

When compared to all other states, Indiana ranks in the top 10 in 30 significant logistics-related categories and in the top six for more than half of those. Not bad for a state that is only 38th in geographic area and 14th in population. Indiana ranks...

- 1st in interstates
- 1st in shortest distance to median center of U.S. population
- 1st in rail tons of primary metals originated (19% of U.S. total)
- 1st in rail tons of primary metals terminated (15% of U.S. total)
- 2nd in pass-through truck tonnage
- 2nd in world's largest FedEx air hubs (Indianapolis)
- 3rd in local freight railroads
- 4th in total freight railroads
- 4th in Class I railroads
- 4th in rail tons of petroleum products terminated
- 5th in truck tonnage
- 5th in local rail mileage
- 6th in rail carloads
- 6th in trucking employment
- 6th in rail tons of food products originated
- 6th in rail tons of waste & scrap material originated
- 7th in largest cargo airports (Indianapolis)
- 7th in NAFTA exports
- 8th in U.S. waterborne shipping
- 8th in rail tons of farm products terminated
- 8th in rail tons of coal terminated
- 8th in rail tons of metallic ores terminated
- 9th in freight shipped out of state
- 9th in NAFTA trade
- 9th in rail tons received
- 9th in rail miles
- 9th in Class I rail miles
- 9th in rail tons carried
- 9th in rail tons of coal originated
- 9th in petroleum products originated
- 10th in freight rail employment
- 11th in rail tons originated
- 12th in transportation-warehousing employment
- 12th in interstate miles
- 15th in total foreign & domestic waterborne shipping

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Texas Transportation Institute, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Transportation.