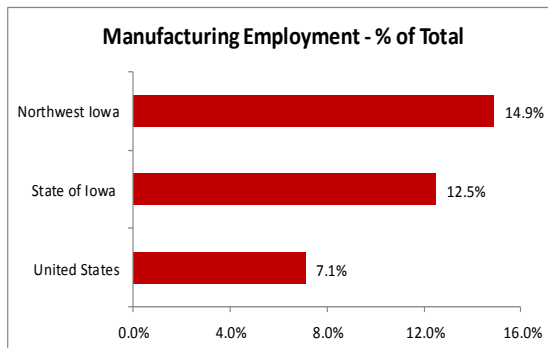




Advanced Manufacturing Opportunities in Northwest Iowa

Manufacturing, Northwest Iowa's Leading Sector

In 2010, the Manufacturing Sector accounted for 14.9% of total employment in the six-county Northwest Iowa Region, which is more than double the national percentage for this Sector.



From 2003 to 2010, the Manufacturing sector grew by 1.5% in Northwest Iowa while this Sector declined by -18.9% nationally.

Skilled Workforce

Northwest Iowa has a strong heritage in Manufacturing. Studies have shown Iowa to have a highly skilled workforce, and Northwest Iowa workers are renowned for reliability, loyalty, adaptability, and overall productivity. A recent study shows that our Region draws its labor from about 100,000 potential workers living in the Region and its surrounding counties.

Benefits of a Northwest Iowa Location

- Large Manufacturing Sector
- Available skilled workforce
- Education and training programs to prepare students and workers for careers in Advanced Manufacturing
- Excellent transportation systems
- Available industrial buildings and sites
- Favorable business climate

Education & Training

One of the key assets of Northwest Iowa is the Region's educational systems. Two of the K-12 school systems in Northwest Iowa have been named to the Top 100 Schools list compiled by *U.S. News and World Report*. Annually, the average scores of the Region's students on the ACT and SAT college entrance examinations are significantly higher than the national averages.

Located in Northwest Iowa are two community colleges - Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) and Western Iowa Technical Community College (WIT) - and two four-year colleges - Dordt College and Northwestern College. The NCC Business and Industry Training Center offers courses in lean manufacturing, computer skills, quality assurance, and safety, plus "soft skills" training.





Advanced Manufacturing

The Iowa New Jobs Training Program provides employers, which are expanding their existing operation in Iowa or are locating a new operation to the State, with employee training. This training is customized to meet the employer's needs and is available through Iowa's community colleges.

Transportation & Warehousing

There are over 300 companies in the Northwest Iowa Region that are in the Transportation & Warehousing Sector. Employment in the Sector accounts for 5.2% of the Region's total employment, which is greater than this Sector's percentage employment in the State of Iowa (3.9%) and the U.S. (3.6%).

Located in the middle of the United States, Northwest Iowa offers multi-modal connections to major markets in the Midwest and throughout the U.S. The Region offers easy 4-lane access to two east-west Interstates (I-90 and I-80) and two north-south Interstates (I-29 and I-35).

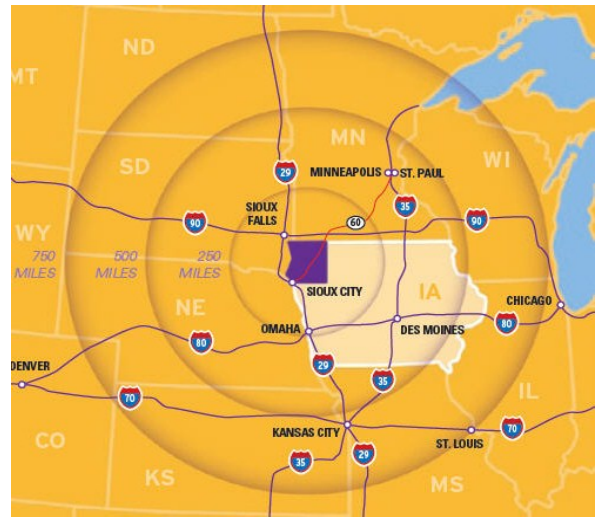
Northwest Iowa is at the center of the country's railroad network. Union Pacific (UP), Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), and the Canadian National (CN) all serve the region, as do the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railway and the regional D&I Railroad. There are several private airports in the region, and commercial air service is available in nearby Sioux City, IA and Sioux Falls, SD.

Available Buildings & Sites

More than 25 industrial and commercial facilities are available in the Region, with more than 500,000 square feet of building space. There are 16 industrial and business parks in Northwest Iowa, as well as large areas of land that can be used for advanced manufacturing.

Business Climate

Northwest Iowa's strong business climate is reflected in its relatively low unemployment, which was 4.3% in July 2011 compared to 6.0% for Iowa and 9.1% nationally. Iowa is a Right-to-Work state that offers a business-friendly regulatory environment. Attractive local and state business incentives are available to companies locating in the state as well as Iowa companies that are expanding in state.



Northwest Iowa Development

Economic developers from the six counties in the northwest corner of Iowa have joined together to form Northwest Iowa Development. Through this regional economic development organization, we are able to provide a unified, regionally-targeted approach to developing and marketing the Region to attract quality new corporate locations as well as assist the employers in Northwest Iowa in their expansions. In addition, we are dedicated to developing and attracting the skilled workers needed by our employers.

We are available to assist you with your site location project.