

ILLINOIS

(Adapted by Mrs. Anders)



THE ECONOMY

Illinois is a wealthy state. It has good, rich, fertile land. It has lots of natural resources. It has highly developed communication systems. It has good transportation. It has skilled workers.



Illinois can have the same problems with its economy that other states in the heartland have. Problems come when Illinois industries have competition from overseas companies. Old, outdated equipment in factories can keep companies from making money. Sometimes the prices that farmers are paid for their crops will go down and keep the farmers from making very much money. But even when things don't look very good, Illinois can use its resources and the skills of its workers to overcome its problems.

THE FARMS

The state's best resource is its rich black soil. The fertile prairie sod keeps producing bountiful harvests. Illinois grows more soybeans than any other state. Illinois and Iowa trade off as the leading producers of corn.



Other important crops are:

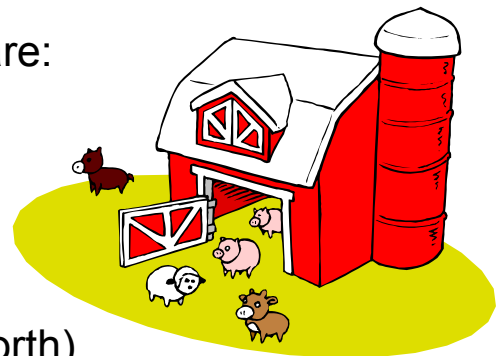
1. Oats
2. Wheat
3. Barley
4. Alfalfa
5. Peaches
6. Apples
7. Melons



Hogs are the chief meat animals raised in the state.

Other meat animals raised in the state are:

1. Beef cattle
2. Sheep
3. Dairy (in the north)
4. Poultry farming (in the north)



THE FARMS

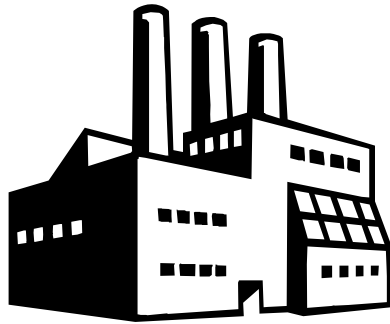


Illinois has approximately 105,000 farms. These farms cover 80% of the state. The average farm is 272 acres (110 hectares) in size. Many of the farms in Illinois are family-owned. Many of these family farms have trouble making money when times are bad and often end up in debt, owing money to their suppliers. Farmers are hard working and patient. They wait and hope for a good harvest and higher crop prices next year.



THE FACTORIES

Manufacturing provides about 1.2 million jobs for Illinois workers. There are over 18,000 factories in Illinois, most of them in the Chicago area.



Chicago factories make household appliances, railroad equipment, telephone equipment, and automobiles, among other items.

The city's 1,700 printing firms make books, magazines, telephone directories, and maps.

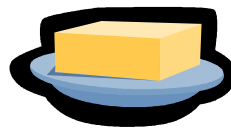
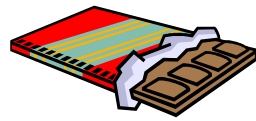


Moline calls itself the "Farm Implement Capital of the World."

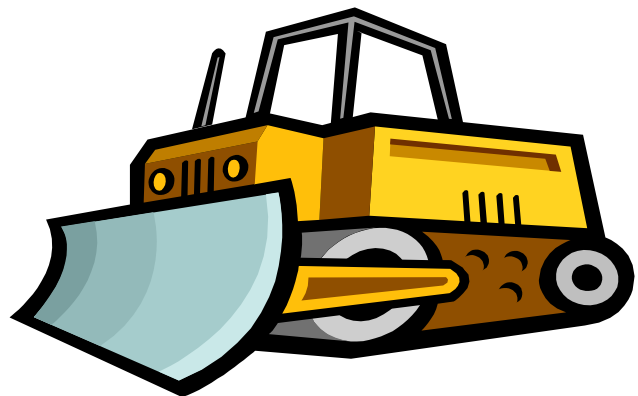
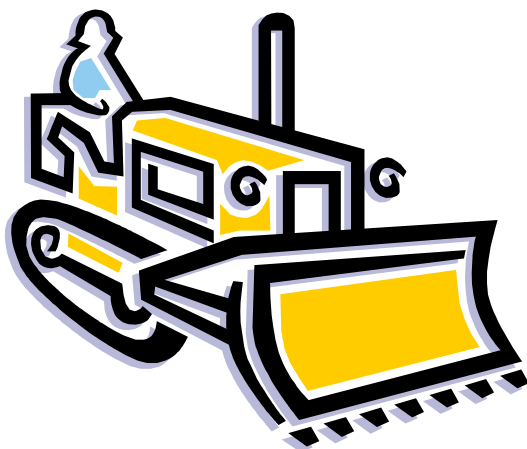


THE FACTORIES

Food processing is a \$5 billion a year business for the cities of Decatur, Granite City, Pekin, and Summit. Candy, butter, and cheese are produced in various parts of the state.



Until the late 1970's, the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria had 40,000 workers making huge bulldozers. It used to be the state's largest employer. Now there are only about half as many employees as there once were at Caterpillar. Overseas companies now make the same bulldozers for less money.



THE FACTORIES

There are two reasons for Caterpillar's failure. Foreign workers are paid less so it costs less to make the bulldozers. Caterpillar's factory equipment is old and slow but foreign factories are more modern with automated and computerized equipment.



The manufacturing areas in Illinois are sometimes called "The Rust Belt" because they are filled with old, worn-out equipment, just like Caterpillar. Illinois factories need to update and modernize if they want to be big businesses once again.

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

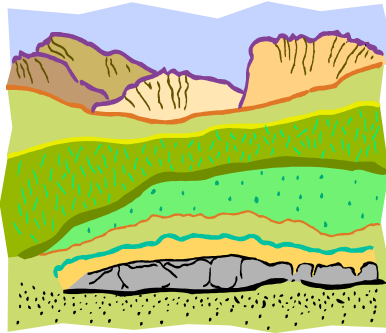
Illinois is a major supplier of coal in the United States. Coal beds lie under 2/3 of the state. Most of these coal beds are in the south. Illinois has more buried coal than any other state in the U.S.



The problem is that almost all of the buried coal is bituminous (soft) coal with a high sulfur content. When this coal is burned, it pollutes the air. Power companies and industries near big cities are not allowed to burn soft coal unless their smokestacks have scrubbers to remove the pollution. Scientists are working on ways to burn soft coal without polluting the air. This will help Illinois make better use of its coal resources.

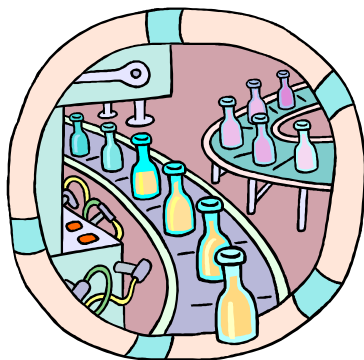


ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



Illinois soil is also rich in other minerals besides coal. Lead and zinc can be found in the Galena area. Natural gas is found in central Illinois. Clay, gravel, and limestone can be found throughout the state.

Silica sand, which is used to make glass, is found in large amounts in southern Illinois. The glass-bottle manufacturing plants in Alton and Streator are among the largest glass factories in the world.



Illinois also leads the U.S. in the mining of fluor spar, a mineral used in the steel and chemical industries.

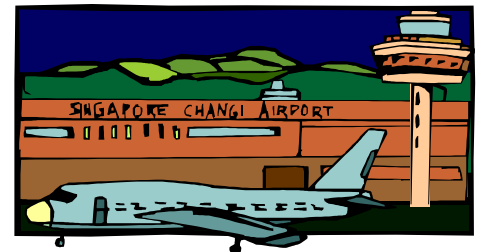
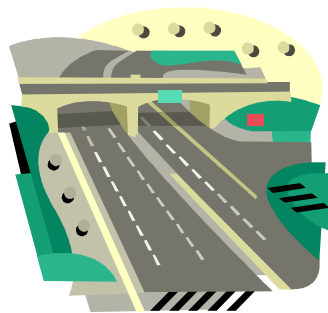
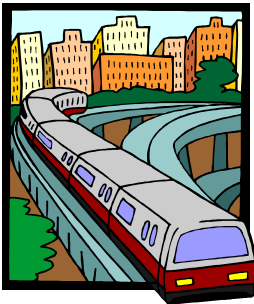
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Most Illinois electric plants burn coal to generate electricity. It is usually hard coal, which comes from outside of Illinois. One-third of the state's power comes from nuclear plants. Although Illinois was the birthplace of nuclear energy, many environmentalists worry about building more nuclear plants because of the possibility of accidents.

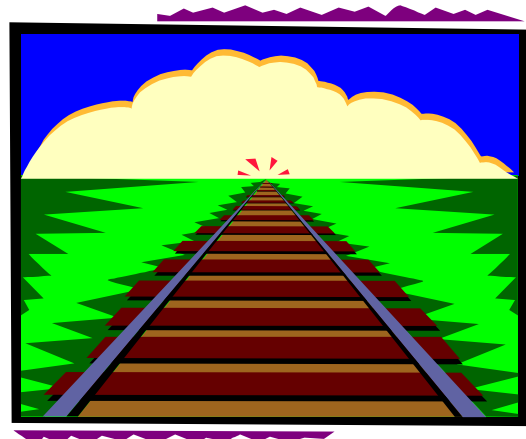


TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION

None of the state's farms, factories, or mines could keep working if railroads, highways, and airports did not link them. Illinois has some of the largest and most advanced transportation systems in the world.



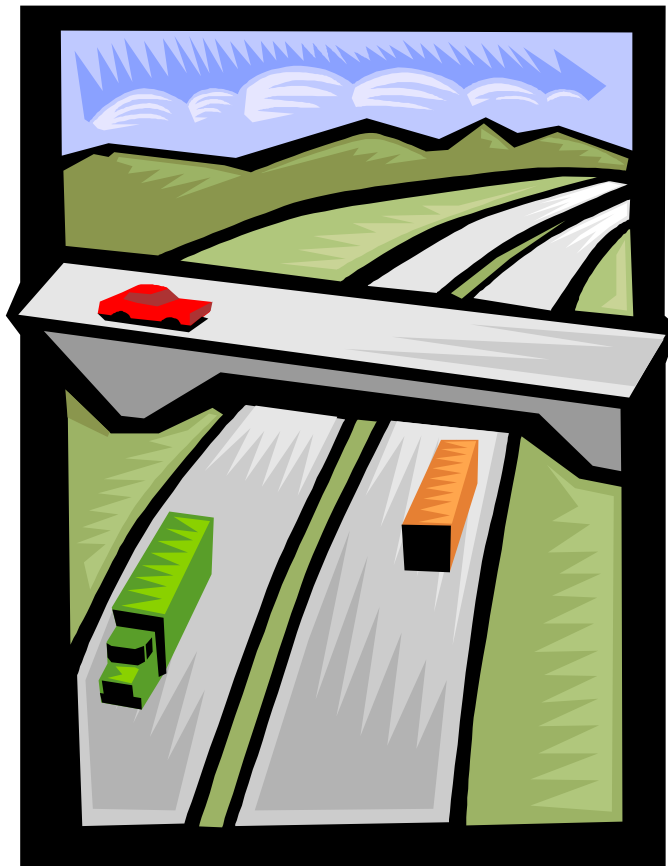
Railroads have been a major industry in Illinois since they began in the early 1800's. By 1900, the Illinois railroad industry boasted that no village in the state was more than 15 miles from railroad tracks.



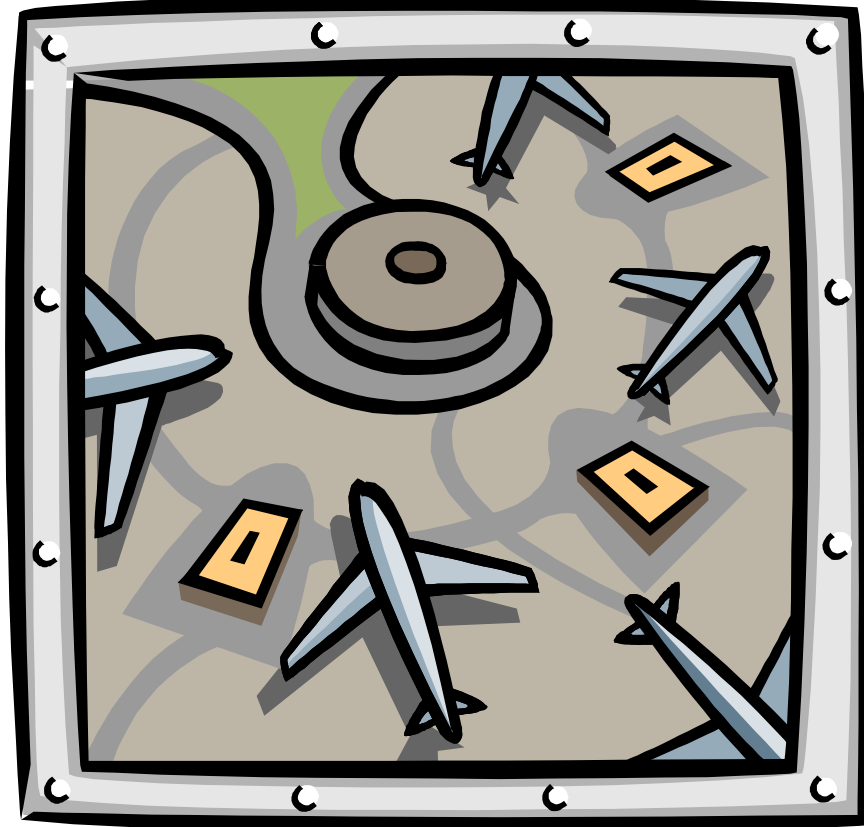
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION



Today, much of railroad shipping has been replaced by the trucking industry. Trucks transport freight up and down and around the state. Illinois ranks second in the nation in the total number of miles of interstate highway. Trucks easily move goods all around the state on the many highways in Illinois.



TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION



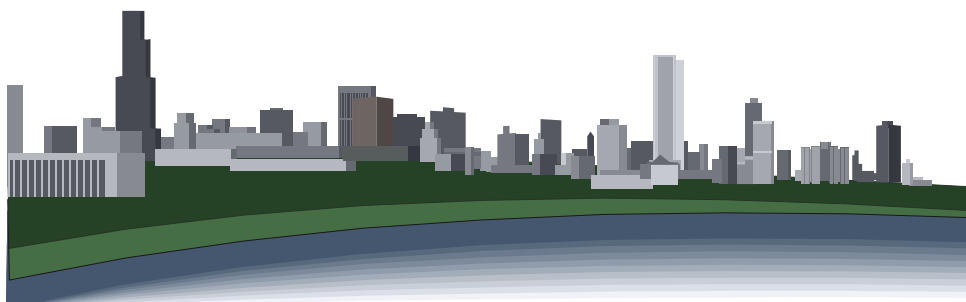
Chicago's O'Hare Field is the world's busiest commercial airport. On an average day 2,000 planes land or take off there. There are 95 smaller public airports scattered over the state.

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION

Canals have been very important in Chicago's transportation history. A shipping canal that linked Chicago to the Mississippi River was finished in 1848.



The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal was dug in the 1890's. This canal was an engineering miracle that reversed the flow of the Chicago River. Before the river was reversed, sewage went from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan. So the Sanitary and Ship Canal helped keep Lake Michigan clean.



Chicago became an international shipping port in 1959 when the St. Lawrence Seaway (a very large canal) connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION



Illinois has 720 newspapers, 300 radio stations, and 30 television stations. Johnson Publications, the largest black-owned firm in the nation is based in Chicago. It produces *Ebony*, *Jet*, *EM* and *Ebony Jr.* magazines. Until the late 1970's Chicago had four major daily newspapers. Today it has only two—the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Other major daily newspapers in the state include the *Springfield State Journal-Register*, the *Alton Telegraph*, the *Rockford Register-Star*, and the *Joliet Herald-News*.

