Mercer County, Illinois

FACT SHEET

Location
Mercer County is situated along U.S. Highway 67 and State Highways 17 and 94 in Illinois. Coast to coast transportation capacity is attainable by easy access to Interstates 74, 80, and 280 to the east and northeast.

The 300-mile market represents over 13% of the nation’s population and seven major metropolitan areas including Chicago, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Omaha, and St. Louis.

Population
Total Population ........................................... 16,957
Number of Households ................................. 6,624
2010 Projected Population ........................... 17,430
Median Age ............................... 39.5


Market Comparison
(Data for 2000)

MERCER COUNTY .......... 36.9
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN .... 15.3
St. Louis, MO ....................... 34.3
Kansas City, MO ................. 17.9
Omaha, NE ......................... 12.3

Income Data

Income Source

Under $15,000.......................... 27.1%
$15,000 - $24,999 .............. 22.3%
$25,000 - $44,999 ........... 18.9%
$45,000 - $99,999 ........ 19.8%
$100,000 and over ........ 9.7%

Median Household Income .......... $40,893
Per Capita Income .................. $18,615
Total Retail Sales .................... $126,996 million
Retail Sales Tax Receipts .......... $5,02 million

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Sales and Marketing Management (VNU Business Media, Inc.), 2005;
and Illinois Department of Revenue, 2005.

Housing Costs

Median Gross Rent ................. $500
Median Home Value ......... $99,000

MERCER COUNTY .......... $392
Quad Cities MSA ............... $468
Midwest Region ................. $533
United States ................ $602

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Education

Type .................. Number Enrollment
Community Unit School Districts .......... 3 ................. 3,269
Elementary ...... 6 .................. 1,630
Junior High ....... 3 .................. 634
Senior High School .......... 1 ................. 1,005

Student-Teacher Ratio: 13.5 to 1 - All Grades
Average Expenditure Per Student: $4,361.33
Average Drop-out Rate: 1.3% (State of Illinois Average: 4%)
Average High School Graduation Rate: 91.1% (State of Illinois Average: 87.4%)


Economic Development

Retail Sales Tax Receipts .................... $5.02 million
Total Retail Sales ........................... $126.996 million


Religious Affiliations

Assemblies of God ................. 2 Methodist ............ 1
Baptist .......................... 3 Presbyterian 1,630
Catholic .......................... 5 Other ................. 4
Lutheran .......................... 4


Medical Care

Hospitals ........................................... 1
Medical Doctors ......................... 17
Number of licensed hospital beds .... 39
Doctors of Osteopathic ................. 1
Doctors of Chiropractic ................. 5
Number of Nursing Homes ............ 2
Number of licensed nursing home beds 175
Number of assisted living beds ......... 66

Source: Bi-State Regional Commission

History

Named after Revolutionary War hero General Hugh Mercer, Mercer County was chartered in 1835 as part of the old Northwest Territory and the Military Tract. Abraham Lincoln, as part of the militia in the Blackhawk War, marched through the County in 1832 and returned in 1834 to survey the town of New Boston. The western portion of the county along the Mississippi River is part of the Yellowbanks Territory, named by the Sauk and Fox Indians because of the yellow sand soil along the riverbank. New Boston and Keithsburg are the focal points of Yellowbanks in Mercer County. Aledo, with a population of 3,613, is the county seat and is known for its old stone houses built during the Civil War.
Mercer County encompasses 561 square miles and is the 45th largest of the 102 counties in the State of Illinois. The area consists of gently rolling uplands and steppes (tributaries of the Mississippi River), with elevations ranging from 810 feet above sea level in the uplands near New Windsor to 530 feet in an area along the Mississippi River near Keithsburg. Much of the land is used for agriculture with a total of 292,719 acres of farm land (81.5% of Mercer County’s land area).


**Climate**

Average Winter Temperature 27.4°F -5°C
Average Summer Temperature 71.4°F 22°C
Average Annual Precipitation 36.0 inches/91.4 cm
Average Annual Snowfall 28.8 inches/73.2 cm


**Media/Telecom**


Source: Compiled by Bi-State Regional Commission.

**Transportation**

Highway Serving Area: Interstates: I-74, 80, 88, and 280 Federal: U.S. 61, 67, and 150 State: IL 17, 81, 92, and 94

Motor Freight Service: There is a network of all interstate east-west and north-south.

Major Trucking Carriers in the region: Adrian Carriers, Amholt Trucking, Black Hawk Freight, Dohrn Transfer, FedEx Freight, Roadway Express, Standard Forwarding, United Parcel Service (UPS), USFreightways, Wenger Transport, 

Air Service (Commercial): The Quad City International Airport is located within 25 miles and offers approximately 60 daily flights with one-stop service to 8 convenient hubs:

- AirTran to Atlanta and Orlando
- American Eagle to Chicago O’Hare and Dallas-Ft. Worth
- Delta Connection to Atlanta and Orlando
- Northwest Airlink to Detroit, Memphis, and Minneapolis/St. Paul
- United Express to Chicago O’Hare and Denver

Other Amenities: 

- On-site U.S. Customs Port of Entry and Civil Air Patrol 
- Fixed Base Operator (Elliott Aviation)
- Airfield – Fully instrumented, three runway system
- Runway lengths: 10,000 ft. (3,048 m), 7,000 ft. (2,134 m), and 4,500 ft. (1,371 m), all 150 ft. (46 m) wide

Major Air Freight Carriers: Bax Global, DHL/Danzas Air & Ocean, DHL Express, FedEx Freight, Roadway Express, United Parcel Service (UPS), USFreightways, Wenger Transport.

**Geography**

Mercer County is the 45th largest of the 102 counties in the State of Illinois. The area is bounded by gently rolling uplands, steppes (tributaries of the Mississippi River), with elevations ranging from 810 feet above sea level in the uplands near New Windsor to 530 feet in an area along the Mississippi River near Keithsburg. Much of the land is used for agriculture with a total of 292,719 acres of farm land (81.5% of Mercer County’s land area).

Selecting Major Employers

Over 100 employees:
- General Grind & Machine, Inc.
- Mercer County Hospital
- Mercer County Nursing Home

Sherrard Community Unit School District #200
- Wal-Mart Store #279
- Walmart Community Unit School District #203

50 to 99 employees:
- Aledo YMCA
- Aledo Community Unit School District #201
- Aledo Fire Equipment Company, Inc.
- Conting Group Companies, Inc.
- Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois
- Mercer County

Under 50 employees:
- 3-O Concrete, Inc.
- Brico’s Roofing
- Meminger Manufacturing
- Midwest Fibre Products, Inc.

Source: Dunn and Bradstreet MarketPlace, First Quarter 2006.

Employment by Industry

Civilian Labor Force
- Employment .............................................. 8,763
- Unemployment .................................. 876
- Farm Employment ........................... 2,926
- Nonfarm Employment ..................... 5,050
- Forestry and Fishing ....................... 11
- Construction ........................................ 411
- Manufacturing .............................. 344
- Wholesale Trade .......................... 203
- Retail Trade ................................ 665
- Finance and Insurance ............. 63
- Real Estate ........................................ 460
- Professional and Technical .......... 172
- Administrative ............................. 174
- Arts, Entertainment and Recreation .... 96
- Accommodation and Food Services .... 214
- Other Services, except Public Administration .... 550
- Government ...................................... 1,200


Transportation

Highway Serving Area:
- Interstate: I-74, 80, 88, and 280
- Federal: U.S. 61, 67, and 150

Motor Freight Traffic:
- There is a network of interstate and intrastate east-west and north-south.
- The Quad City Metropolitan Statistical Area, just north of Mercer County, is served by over 200 motor freight carriers.
- With major break-bulk facilities located in the region, consistent service to and from Mercer County is assured.

Major Trucking Carriers in the region:
- Adrian Carriers
- Amtick Trucking
- Black Hawk Freight
- Dohn Transfer
- FedEx Freight
- Roadway Express
- USFreightways
- Wenske Truck Line

Air Service (Commercial):
- The Quad City International Airport is located within 25 miles and offers approximately 60 daily flights with one-stop service to 8 convenient hubs:
  - AirTran to Atlanta and Orlando
  - American Eagle to Chicago O'Hare and Dallas-Ft. Worth
  - Delta Connection to Atlanta and Orlando
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- On-site U.S. Customs Port of Entry and Civil Air Patrol
- Fixed Base Operator (Elliott Aviation)
- Airfield - Fully instrumented, three runway system
- Runway lengths: 10,000 ft. (3,048 m), 7,000 ft. (2,134 m), and 4,500 ft. (1,371 m); all 150 ft. (46 m) wide
- Major Air Freight Carriers:
  - Bax Global
  - DHL/Danzas Air & Ocean
  - DHL Express
  - UPS Supply Chain Solutions

Air Service (Municipal):
- The Mercer County Airport offers fuel and storage availability.
- Runway length: 2,480 ft. (756 m); width: 45 ft. (14 m)
- Lindell Aerial Ag Service - private firm specializing in crop dusting, seeding, and spraying.

Sources: Bi-State Regional Commission, Mercer County Airport and Quad City International Airport.

Waterway/Barge:
- The Mississippi River, with its 9-foot channel and 10-month navigation season, forms the western border of Mercer County.
- Two barge terminals are located along the Mississippi in Mercer County.
Educational Institutions:

Mercer County is within close proximity (60 miles) to many colleges and universities where individuals can pursue a number of higher education goals while maintaining a full-time job and residency in Mercer County.

4-Year Institutions:
- Ashford University, Clinton, IA • Augustana College, Rock Island, IL • Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA • Hamilton Technical College, Davenport, IA • Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, IA • Kaplan University, Davenport, IA • Knox College, Galesburg, IL • Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL • Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, IA • Quad City Graduate Center, Rock Island, IL • St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA • Trinity College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Rock Island, IL • University of Iowa, Iowa City • Western Illinois University Regional Center, Moline, IL

2-Year Institutions:
- Blackhawk College - East Campus, Kewanee, IL • Blackhawk College - Quad Cities Campus, Moline, IL • Carl Sandburg Junior College, Galesburg, IL • Clinton Community College, Clinton, IA • Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA • Morrison Institute of Technology, Morris, IL • Muscatine Community College, Muscatine, IA • Scott Community College, Pleasant Valley, IA • Southeastern Community College, West Burlington, IA • Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Religious Affiliations:

- Assemblies of God
- Baptist
- Catholic
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Presbyterian

Medical Care:

- Hospitals
- Doctors
- Dentists
- Doctors of Chiropractic
- Number of licensed hospital beds
- Number of licensed nursing home beds
- Number of assisted living beds

Sources:
- Bi-State Regional Commission

The mission of MERCER has two INDUSTRIAL PARKS with available space for new, expanding industries, and contact: Aledo City Hall, 309.582.7241 Viola Village Hall, 309.596.2513

Historical Context:

Named after Revolutionary War hero General Hugh Mercer, Mercer County was chartered in 1835 as part of the old Northwest Territory and the Military Tract. Abraham Lincoln, as part of the militia in the Blackhawk War, marched through the County in 1832 and returned in 1834 to survey the town of New Boston. The western portion of the county along the Mississippi River is part of the Yellowbanks Territory, named by the Sauk and Fox Indians because of the yellow sandy soil along the riverbank. New Boston and Keithsburg are the focal points of Yellowbanks in Mercer County. Aledo, with a population of 3,613, is the county seat and is known for its own stone houses built during the Civil War.

Income Data:


Market Comparison:

- Population within 30 miles

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- Median Age: 39.5

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