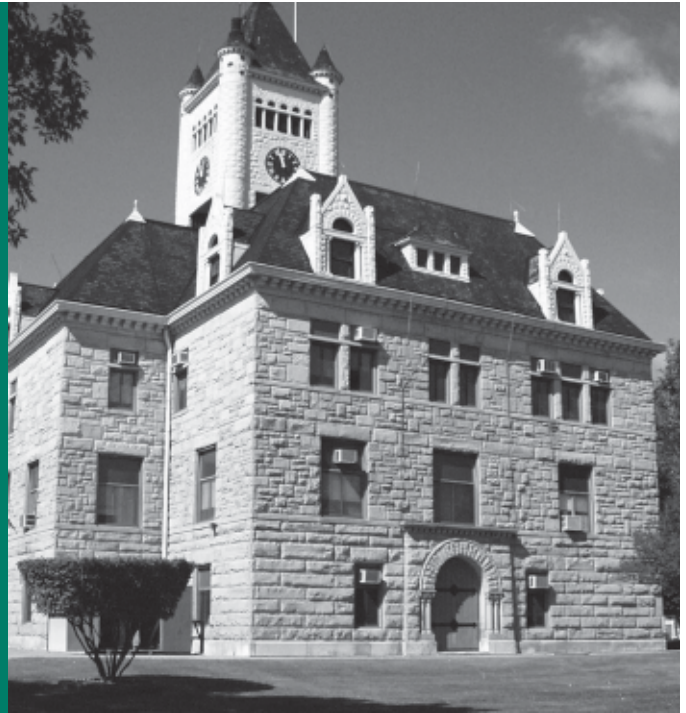


Mercer County, Illinois

FACT SHEET



Location

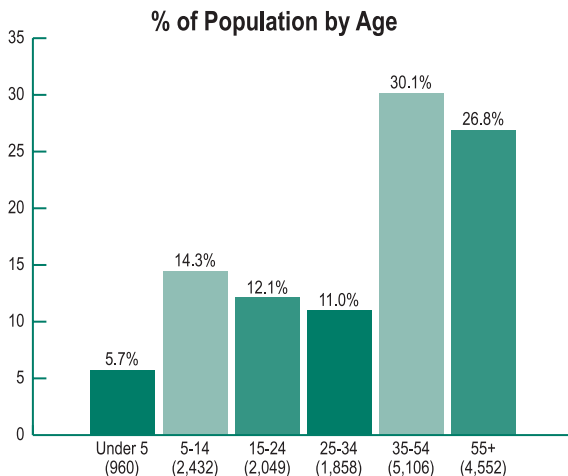
Mercer County is situated along U.S. Highway 67 and State Highways 17 and 94 in Illinois. Coast to coast transportation capacity is attainable by easy access to Interstates 74, 80, and 280 to the east and northeast.

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

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; *2010 Projection: Woods & Poole, 2005.

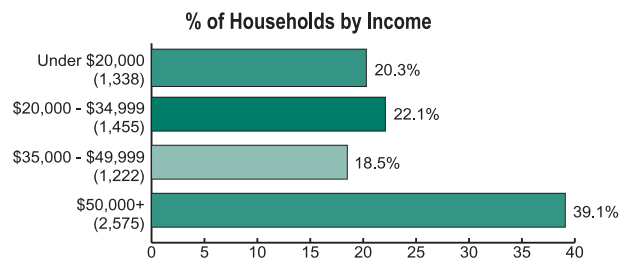


Market Comparison

(Population within 300 miles)

	Million
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



Median Household Income \$40,893
 Per Capita Income \$18,645
 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	Median Home Value
MERCER COUNTY	\$392	\$70,900
Quad Cities MSA	\$468	\$83,300
Midwest Region	\$533	\$102,000
United States	\$602	\$111,800

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

County Services

County Board	10 Elected Members
County Zoning & Building Ordinances in Effect	Yes
Number of Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs	11
Number of Auxiliary Deputies	12
K-9 Unit	Yes
Enhanced 911 Emergency Telephone System	Yes

Additional Public Services:

Accident Reconstructionist, AMBER Alerts, Crime Stoppers, DARE, Photo ID

Development Resources

- Aledo Tax Increment Financing District
- Ameren Economic Development Services
- Bi-State Regional Commission
- Black Hawk College East Campus Training Programs
- Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Associations
- Keithsburg Revolving Loan Program
- Mercer Growth Organization (MERGO)
- Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCREDA)
- Quad City Development Group (QCDG)
- Small Business Development Assistance
- Technology Transfer Center – Rock Island Arsenal

Housing

	Number of Homes	Percent
Total Housing Units	7,109	N/A
Total Single Family Homes	6,215	87.4
Other Homes	894	12.6

- 41.7% of Mercer County's housing units were build before 1939.

Residency (since 1995):	Percent
Lived in the same Mercer County residence	64.8
Lived in a different Mercer County residence	16.9
Lived elsewhere in the State of Illinois	11.4
Lived in another state in the U.S.	6.7
Lived in a foreign country or at sea	0.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

Media/Telecom

Newspapers	Daily and Sunday - 2, Weekly - 1
Radio Stations	1
Television Stations	6
Telephone Service: AT&T, Frontier Communications, Mc-Cleod, New Windsor Telephone, Qwest, Reynolds Telephone Co., Viola Telephone Company	
Cellular Service: Cingular/AT&T, GTE, i Wireless, Sprint/Nextel, U.S. Cellular, Verizon/MCI	
Broadband/DSL: AT&T/Yahoo High Speed Internet, Frontier Communications, McLeod, Mediacom, Qwest	
Internet Service Providers: LightEdge Solutions, Mediacom, QC Connect, Quad Cities Online, Tricom, Winco, Frontier Communications, Reynolds Telephone Co.	
Mail/Parcel Service: United Parcel Service operates distribution centers in the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities.	

Source: Compiled by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Selected 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 #792
 Westmer Community Unit School District #203

50 to 99 employees:

Aledo YMCA
 Aledo Community Unit School District #201
 Alexis Fire Equipment Company, Inc.
 Contigroup Companies, Inc.
 Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois
 Mercer County

Under 50 employees:

3-D Concrete, Inc.
 Bryce's Roofing
 Meminger Manufacturing
 Midwest Fibre Products, Inc.

Source: Dunn and Bradstreet MarketPlace, First Quarter 2006.

Employment by Industry

Civilian Labor Force	2004
Employment	8,763
Unemployment	587
% Unemployment	6.7%
Farm Employment	926
Nonfarm Employment	5,050
Forestry and Fishing	91
Construction	411
Manufacturing	344
Wholesale Trade	203
Retail Trade	665
Information	63
Finance and Insurance	292
Real Estate	160
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

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security – Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Commercial Services

Banks	7
Savings and Loans	1
Credit Unions	1
Total Deposits	\$277,886,956

Sources: Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), June 30, 2005; National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), December 2005.

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 access to all interstates 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. (Consolidated terminals by major carriers provide one day better service for just-in-time deliveries.)

Major Trucking Carriers in the region:

Adrian Carriers • Amhof Trucking • Black Hawk Freight • Dohrn Transfer • FedEx Freight • Roadway Express • Standard Forwarding • United Parcel Service (UPS) • USFreightways • Wenger 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
- 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. (2,134m), and 4,500 ft. (1,371m); all 150 ft. (46m) 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. (756m); width: 45 ft. (14m). 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.

Geography

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 streams (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 farmland (81.5% of Mercer County's land area).

Sources: *U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistical Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Soil Survey of Mercer County, Illinois.*

Climate

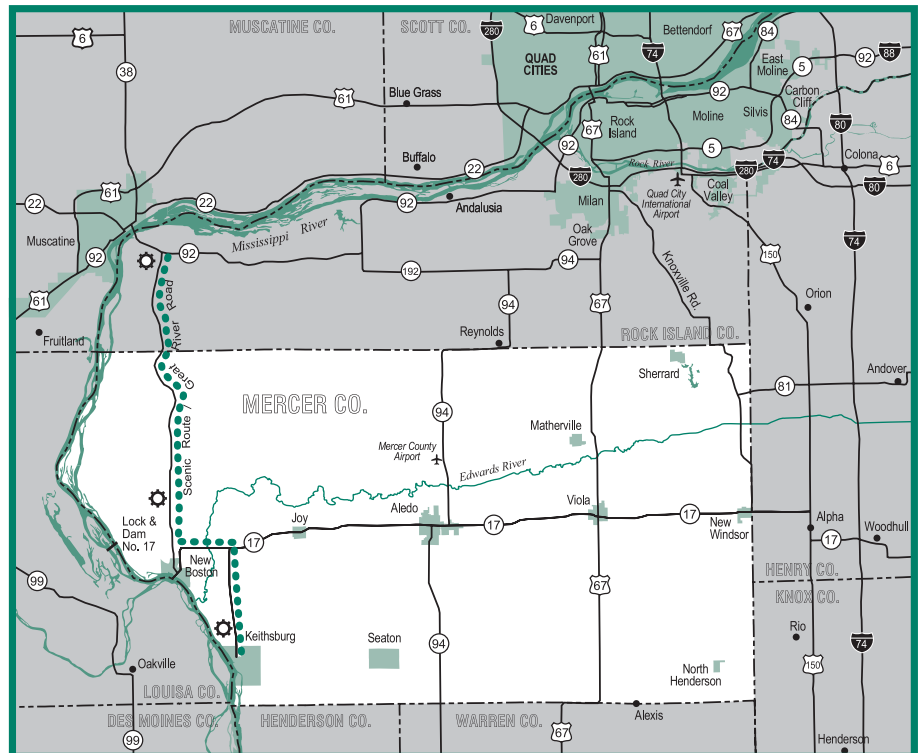
Average Winter Temperature 27.4°F/ -5°C
Average Summer Temperature 71.4°F/ 22°C
Average Annual Precipitation 36.0 inches/91.4 cm
Average Annual Snowfall 28.8 inches/73.2 cm

Source: *National Climatic Data Ctr., 1971-2000 avg. for Aledo.*

Road Mileage

Albuquerque, NM 1,285	Jacksonville, FL 1,139
Atlanta, GA 789	Kansas City, MO 392
Bismarck, ND 806	Los Angeles, CA 1,881
Boston, MA 1,158	Milwaukee, WI 243
Chicago, IL 202	Minneapolis, MN 380
Cincinnati, OH 406	New Orleans, LA 936
Dallas, TX 947	New York, NY 961
Denver, CO 870	Omaha, NE 317
Detroit, MI 455	Pittsburgh, PA 640
Houston, TX 1,178	Portland, OR 1,968
Indianapolis, IN 293	Salt Lake City, UT 1,245

Mercer County and Surrounding Area



Education

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

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, 2005.

Educational Attainment:

Residents age 25 and over with:	Percent
High School Diploma or higher:	84.9
Bachelor's, Graduate, or Professional Degree ..	12.7

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

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, IA • 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, Morrison, IL • Muscatine Community College, Muscatine, IA • Scott Community College, Pleasant Valley, IA • Southeastern Community College, West Burlington, IA

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics.

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, 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 old stone houses built during the Civil War.

Sites/Attractions/Lodging

Public Libraries	6
Campgrounds	5
City Parks	16
Marinas	1 (planned)
Golf Courses	1 Public, 1 Private
Swimming Pools	1 Public, 1 Private
Museums/Historical Societies	8
Hotels/Motels/Bed & Breakfasts	3

- The Mississippi River is located along the western border of Mercer County and offers extensive boating and recreational opportunities.
- The Rock River is located 25 miles northeast of central Mercer County and is navigable for recreation.
- The Edwards River runs through Mercer County and offers recreational opportunities such as fishing and canoeing.
- Other recreational offerings include: baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bowling alleys, senior citizen centers, fitness centers, gymnastics, YMCA, bingo, disc golf courses, a BMX race track, and the Mercer County Fairgrounds celebrating 150 years.

Religious Affiliations

Assemblies of God	2	Methodist	7
Baptist	3	Presbyterian	8
Catholic	5	Other	4
Lutheran	4		

Source: American Religion Data Archive, 2000.

Medical Care

Hospitals	1
Medical Doctors	17
Number of licensed hospital beds	39
Doctors of Osteopathic	1
Dentists	3
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

Presented by:



100 S.E. Third Street
Aledo, IL 61232
309.582.7814 (Voice)
309.582.2541 (Fax)

The mission of the Mercer Growth Organization (MERGO) is to expand current Mercer County businesses and attract new businesses to our communities by finding ways to offer incentives as well as helping secure financing.

With assistance from:

Bi-State Regional Commission

MERCER COUNTY has two INDUSTRIAL PARKS with available sites; for more information, please contact:

Aledo City Hall, 309.582.7241
Viola Village Hall, 309.596.2513

Published July 2006