



MINNESOTA



THRIVING IN THE NORTH

Expand. Innovate. Flourish.



AMERICA'S TOP STATE FOR BUSINESS

Minnesota was named the top state for business in 2015 by CNBC, when ranked by ten categories of workforce, cost of doing business, infrastructure, economy, quality of life, technology & innovation, education, business friendliness, cost of living and access to capital.

★ MINNESOTA ★

AMERICA'S TOP STATE FOR BUSINESS



For more information on how to expand, innovate and flourish in our great state, go to www.mn.gov/deed/business



THE WORKFORCE OF MINNESOTA

EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEES

Homegrown or transplanted, our top-tier workforce is diverse, diligent and most importantly, inventive.

Supplying this stream of sought-after employees is our nation-leading education system, which fosters productivity and innovation. From pre-K to post-secondary, we recognize that we are preparing our young minds to fuel the future growth of our state, and this recognition is reflected in the caliber of our educational institutions.

Minnesota ranks fourth in number of residents with high school diplomas

(92.4%) and 11th in percentage with a bachelor's degree (33.5%).

The University of Minnesota serves more than 68,000 students, and our private colleges accounted for 9,556 bachelor's degrees and 4,561 graduate degrees awarded in the 2011-2012 school year.

We are unrivaled in our commitment to collaboration with business and industry, and we take pride in our private sector having all the necessary talent to remain a national corporate leader. Our talent pool includes a wide range of high-tech and science-based employees,

high-level management expertise, trade and production professionals, and business-services personnel — from law to advertising.

We are not shy about our reputation for working hard (and smart), and we expect our employees to reflect this in their performance. We are proud of the people who work here, the breakthroughs we support and the goods, services and ideas that come out of our state.

We have the fourth-highest labor force participation rate in the nation (69.8%), according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.





INDUSTRY IN MINNESOTA

FROM PACEMAKERS TO SOLAR PANELS

Our top industries are diverse yet well balanced — leading to a culture of corporate cross-pollination that drives success.

Medical and Biological Technology

We are the national leader in medical and biotechnology industries and consistently rank among the top U.S. states in key life science indicators. Some global industry leaders include Medtronic, Starkey Laboratories, Inc., Boston Scientific, St. Jude Medical and 3M Health Care.

Manufacturing

Our manufacturing sector is the backbone of our economy, with nearly \$20 billion in manufactured exports in 2014.

Agriculture

On the northern tip of America's breadbasket, we rank as the top producer of oats, second-largest producer of corn and the third-largest producer of spring wheat and soybeans.

Clean Tech and Renewable Energy

Ranked in the top five states for clean technology and renewable energy, we have a thriving collection of wind, solar, hydroelectric and biofuel companies that are making a brighter future for residents far beyond our borders.



“When it comes to manufacturing, Minnesota really has a strong supply chain. We can get everything that we need right here – buying locally – in Minnesota. Not every area has the same type of access to supply as we do in Minnesota.”

*- Traci Tapani
Owner/Co-president of Wyoming Machine*





FROM POINT A TO POINT B

LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN MINNESOTA

Movement of goods, services and people — all the things that make a business tick — are vital to the success of any company. We have premier transportation, communication and energy infrastructures from which our successful business climate has bloomed. Logistically speaking, our network of ports, roads, rails, waterways and airports are among the best in the nation. In 2014, we were ranked as the fifth-best state for business infrastructure by CNBC — and here's why.

Waterways

We have four ports on Lake Superior including Taconite Harbor, Silver Bay, Two Harbors and Duluth/Superior. Their combined transported tonnage in 2012 was 61 million net tons, which is more than the entire state of Louisiana. The Mississippi River starts at Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota and stretches over 222 miles across the state. Along the way are five port areas whose combined 2012 waterway-transported tonnage was 10.7 million net tons.

Air

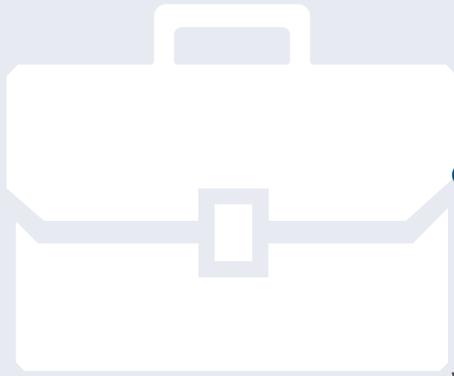
We have three international airports — Minneapolis-St. Paul, Duluth and Rochester International Airport. In 2014, MSP alone accommodated landings and takeoffs to 137 nonstop destinations, including 114 domestic and 23 international markets. Additionally, we have more than 135 public-use airports.

Rail

We have 4,444 route miles of railroads serviced by 21 railroad companies. Our rail system handles some of the largest volumes in the country — more than 250 million tons a year — and accounts for about one-quarter of the state's total annual freight tonnage.







QUALITY OF LIFE IN MINNESOTA

HAPPY PEOPLE = PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE

When your employees are given the best setting to thrive in their personal lives, your business benefits. We are consistently rated as a top state for quality of life in a variety of indicators.

- #1 Best State**
(Politico, 2014)
- #2 Best Quality of Life**
(USA TODAY, 2014)
- #3 Best State to Make a Living**
(Forbes, 2014)

We offer world-class health care. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester has been ranked as the best hospital in the country. The Mall of America is the biggest indoor mall in the country, drawing 40 million visitors annually, 40 percent of whom are tourists. Our state park system includes 76 state parks and recreation areas, 13 state trails and 62 state forest campgrounds and day-use areas. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northern Minnesota is frequently seen on “Top Ten Places To Visit Before You Die” lists.





“We believe deeply that we have a responsibility to give back to this community. I think its part of the reason why Minnesota and the Twin Cities are such great places to live and work. People who live here are generous with both their time and wallet, and that’s important.”

– Phil Trier
Twin Cities Market President of USBank





GLOBAL IMPACT OF MINNESOTA

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER

We are home to 17 companies on the Fortune 500 list of largest publicly traded firms in the United States, and a number of world-famous privately held companies. Here you'll find 706 foreign-owned firms that employ about 101,000 people,



MINNESOTA'S FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES (2015)

	Company	Industry
1	United Health Group, Inc.	Health Care Insurance
2	Target Corporation	General Merchandisers
3	CHS, Inc.	Food Distribution
4	Best Buy Company, Inc.	Specialty Retail
5	3M Company	Diversified Products
6	U.S. Bancorp	Commercial Banks
7	Supervalu, Inc.	Food & Drug Stores
8	General Mills, Inc.	Food Products
9	Land O'Lakes, Inc.	Food Products
10	Ecolab, Inc.	Chemicals
11	C.H. Robinson Worldwide	Transportation and Logistics
12	Ameriprise Financial, Inc.	Diversified Financial Services
13	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Utilities
14	Hormel Foods Corporation	Food Products
15	The Mosaic Company	Chemicals
16	Thrivent Financial	Life & Health Insurance
17	St. Jude Medical	Medical Equipment

MINNESOTA'S TOP PRIVATELY HELD COMPANIES

Company	Industry
Cargill	Farm Products
Carlson Companies	Lodging
Schwan's Foods	Food Products
Andersen Windows	General Building Materials
Rosen's Diversified	Meat Products
M.A. Mortenson	Heavy Construction
Holiday Companies	Grocery Stores

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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“We’ve got a really strong work ethic here in Minnesota. That’s really hard to find.”

– Jeff Degrange | VP of Direct Digital Manufacturing | Stratasys

