

# ILLINOIS FACT SHEET



## Illinois State Officials

Governor	Rod Blagojevich (D)
Lieutenant Governor	Patrick Quinn (D)
Attorney General	Lisa Madigan (D)
Secretary of State	Jesse White (D)
Comptroller	Daniel W. Hynes (D)
Treasurer	Judy Baar Topinka (R)

## U.S. Senators

Richard J. Durbin (D)
Peter G. Fitzgerald (R)

## Illinois Legislative Leaders

Senate President	Emil Jones, Jr. (D)
Senate Minority Leader	Frank Watson (R)
Speaker of the House	Michael J. Madigan (D)
House Minority Leader	Tom Cross (R)

## History

- French explorer Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette discovered the area known as Illinois in 1673.
- The Illinois area was organized as a territory on Feb. 3, 1809.
- Illinois became the 21st state to enter the Federal Union on Dec. 3, 1818.
- Shadrack Bond was the first Governor of Illinois in 1818.

## Capital Cities

- Kaskaskia — 1818 to 1820
- Vandalia — 1820 to 1839
- Springfield — December 1839 - present.

## State Capitol Building

- Illinois has had six State Capitol Buildings — one in Kaskaskia, three in Vandalia and two in Springfield.
- The fifth Capitol — the Old State Capitol in downtown Springfield — is where Abraham Lincoln served as a state legislator and is open to the public as a historic site.
- The sixth and present State Capitol is located at Second & Capitol Streets in Springfield and dates back to 1868. It took 20 years to complete the building at a cost of \$4.4 million.

## Legislature

Illinois is divided into 59 legislative and 118 representative districts. One state senator is elected from each legislative district, and one state representative is elected from each representative district, resulting in 177 members of the Illinois General Assembly.

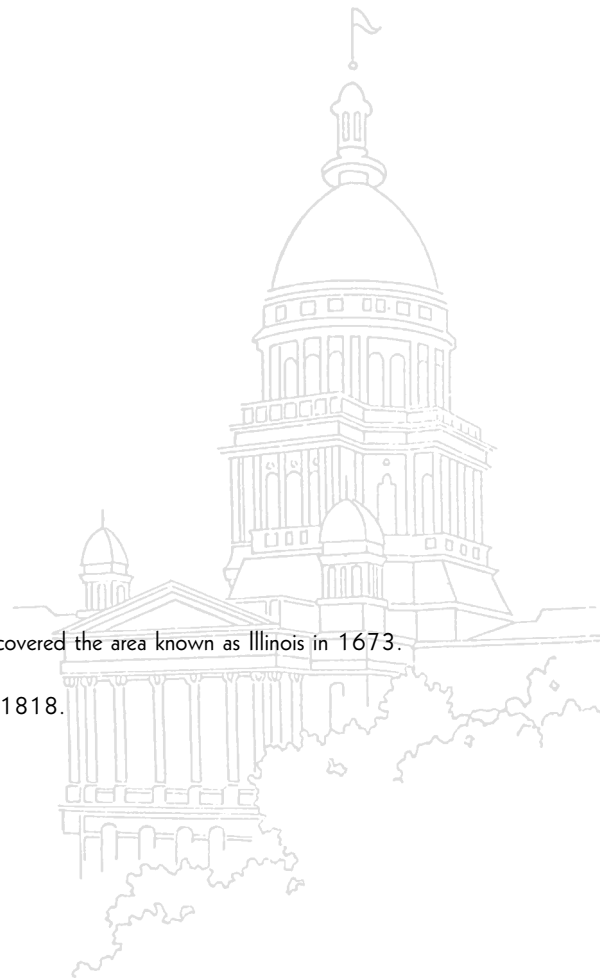
## State Symbols

The Great Seal of Illinois and the Illinois State Flag are two of the state's official symbols. Other symbols are:

state tree	White oak
state flower	Violet
state bird	Cardinal
state insect	Monarch butterfly
state fish	Bluegill
state mineral	Fluorite
state animal	White-tailed deer
state fossil	Tully Monster
state prairie grass	Big bluestem
state soil	Drummer-silty clay loam
state dance	Square dance
state slogan	"Land of Lincoln"
state nickname	"Prairie State"
state song	"Illinois"

## Population (Based on the 2000 U.S. census)

- Illinois is the 5th-most populous state in the country with 12,419,293.
- Illinois has 102 counties. The largest is Cook, which includes Chicago and its suburbs, with a population of 5,376,741. Pope County, located in the Shawnee National Forest in southeastern Illinois, is the smallest with 4,413 people.





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## Illinois' Six Most Populous Cities

Chicago	2,896,016
Cook County (northeast corner on Lake Michigan)	
Rockford	150,115
Winnebago County (north-central on Rock River)	
Aurora	142,990
DuPage/Kane/Kendall/Will Counties (west of Chicago)	
Naperville	128,358
DuPage/Will Counties (west of Chicago)	
Peoria	112,936
Peoria County (north-central on Illinois River)	
Springfield	111,454
Sangamon County (central on Sangamon River)	

## Geography

- Illinois is 385 miles long and 218 miles wide.
- Land and water areas measure 58,000 square miles.
- The highest point is 1,234 feet at Charles Mound in Jo Daviess County.
- The lowest point is 279 feet at Fort Defiance Point in Alexander County.

## Economy

- Illinois is a leader in agriculture, transportation, manufacturing and food processing.
- Illinois ranks 6th in the nation in exports with \$31.4 billion in 2000.
- Illinois ranks 5th in the nation in retail and food services sales, which totaled \$146.6 billion 2000.
- Illinois ranks 10th in the nation in per capita income with \$32,259 in 2000.

## Transportation

- With Lake Michigan to the northeast, the Mississippi bordering the west and its location in the Midwest, Illinois is the hub of America's transportation network and a mainstream of American shipping.
- Illinois ranks No.1 in the total value of truck shipments and the value of shipments originating in the state.
- Illinois has the third-largest highway system in the nation with 138,246 miles of roads.
- Illinois' nearly 8,000-mile network of railroads is the nation's second largest.
- Illinois has the nation's second-busiest airport — O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

## Industry/Manufacturing

- Illinois is a leader in the production of machinery, electronics, housewares, appliances, foods, grains and pet food, among other things.
- Illinois ranks 5th in the nation in the number of manufacturing establishments, with 17,653 plants employing approximately 877,000 people in 1999.

## Agriculture

- Illinois has approximately 78,000 farms on nearly 28 million acres.
- Illinois is the nation's leading soybean producer, with 460 million bushels harvested in 2000.
- Illinois is the second-leading state in corn production, with 1.7 billion bushels harvested in 2000.
- Other major agricultural commodities include wheat, sorghum, pork, beef, milk, fruits, vegetables and hay.

## Coal/Oil Production

- Illinois produces nearly 40.5 million tons of coal annually, ranking the state 7th among coal-producing states.
- Oil production in Illinois was 10 million barrels in 2001, ranking it 14th among oil-producing states.

## Technology

Illinois is a leader in information technology and biotechnology. The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana is home of the Center for Supercomputing Research & Development, and Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago is one of the largest state-of-the-art scientific laboratories and research centers in the country.

## Higher Education

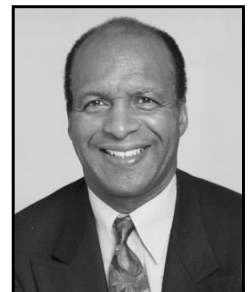
- Illinois ranks 4th in the nation in the number of institutions for higher education.
- Illinois has the third-largest community college system in the country.

## Illinois' Major Public Universities and their populations

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana	35,000
Illinois State University • Normal	20,500
University of Illinois at Chicago	25,000
Western Illinois University • Macomb	12,700
University of Illinois at Springfield	4,000
Northeastern Illinois University • Chicago	11,000
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	22,000
Eastern Illinois University • Charleston	10,000
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	12,300
Governors State University • University Park	9,300
Northern Illinois University • DeKalb	23,000
Chicago State University • Chicago	7,000

## Other Illinois Facts

- Illinois is home to the nation's tallest office building — the 110-story Sears Tower in Chicago.
- Chicago, Illinois is home to the second-largest post office in the country.
- The Illinois State Fair in Springfield boasts one of the largest livestock expositions in the country.
- Illinois has the seventh largest State Parks and Recreation areas with 305,000 acres serving 44,500 visitors annually.



**Jesse White**  
Illinois Secretary of State