

NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Ranks Fourth Nationally In Food Manufacturing

The Midwest Food Products Association ([MWFPA](http://www.mwfpa.org)) today touted Illinois' fourth-place ranking nationally for food manufacturing when measured by value of shipments. According to new figures derived from the latest U.S. Census Bureau's annual survey of manufacturers, Illinois, with \$43.6 billion in shipments, ranked behind California, Texas and Wisconsin. California remained the top state for food manufacturing, accounting for \$78.2 billion in shipments.

Nick George, president of the MWFPA, said the state's ranking is due in part "to Illinois' diversified portfolio of food processing industries, including well developed processing sectors such as corn, soybeans, hogs, beef cattle and other food products."

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According to the annual survey, Illinois' food manufacturing industry is a leading manufacturing employer in the state. More than 72,000 people were food processing employees in 2015, representing 13.4 percent of manufacturing employment in the state. It also accounted for \$3.5 billion in annual payroll and the industry's labor income represented 11.2 percent of Illinois' manufacturing total.

Other key findings from the Census Bureau's annual survey include:

- The food processing industry is Illinois' largest manufacturing industry as measured by value of shipments.
- The largest food processing sector, as measured by value of shipments, is grain and oilseed milling. In 2015, that sector reported \$10.7 billion in shipments (24.6 percent of total food manufacturing shipments).
- In 2015, the Illinois food manufacturing sector overall reported value added (the total worth contributed to a final product as a result of the manufacturing process) of \$15.4 billion, and capital expenditures of \$1 billion.
- Meat products processing employs the largest number of workers (18,591) accounting for 25.6% of all food manufacturing employment. The bakeries and tortilla manufacturing sector came in second place (16,292 employees) with 22.4%, followed by other food manufacturing (which includes industries with different production processes, such as snack food manufacturing; coffee and tea manufacturing; concentrate, syrup, condiment, and spice manufacturing; and, in general, an entire range of other miscellaneous food product manufacturing) with 14.6% (10,567 employees) of the food manufacturing workforce.
- The Illinois food manufacturing industry accounted for 16.9 percent of the total value of shipments by Illinois manufacturers in 2015.

George noted that Chicago alone has one of the largest concentrations of food-related businesses in the world and a large concentration of food processing firms is in the Rockford region. "Firms engaged in the processing of agricultural commodities add income and profits to the Illinois economy while they add value to the agricultural commodities themselves," added George. "They transform crops and livestock into products worth more in the world marketplace, and they provide employment and income opportunities to Illinois residents."