



## Location

Sterling is located in central Illinois, with easy access to major population areas such as Chicago, Rockford and the Quad Cities. Sterling's central location on I-88 offers an excellent transportation network, with rapid access to major regional interstates, a main line for the Union Pacific railroad, and convenient access to regional and international airports.

## Regional population base 100,000

### Transportation

Our central location is backed by a strong transportation network.

#### Highways:

- I-88 (a key east/west route)
- I-39
- I-80
- I-74

#### Rail:

- Main line for Union Pacific Railroad

Direct connections to West coast, Chicago, Clinton, Iowa port, and Global III Intermodal hub

#### Air Service:

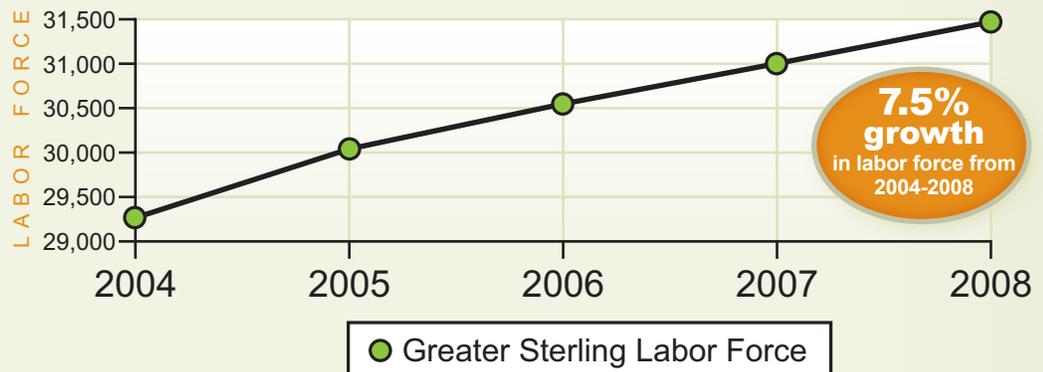
- Whiteside County airport (4 miles from Sterling)
- Quad City International airport (50 miles from Sterling)
- Chicago Rockford International airport (66 miles from Sterling)
- O'Hare International airport (111 miles from Sterling)  
Global III Intermodal hub

#### Major Motor Carriers:

- Rock River Cartage
- Con-Way Central Express
- Dohrn Transfer Company
- Northern Illinois Transit

### Labor Shed

The Greater Sterling area has a stable workforce population and competitive labor rates.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Cost of Living

The Greater Sterling area offers an overall cost of living that is 23% lower than national averages.

CITY	OVERALL	FOOD	UTILITIES	MEDIAN HOME COST	MISC.
Chicago, IL	126	106	106	\$510,400	106
Cedar Rapids, IA	82	89	145	\$152,400	99
Dubuque, IA	81	94	136	\$146,600	96
Des Moines, IA	81	90	131	\$142,900	99
Omaha, NE	81	92	125	\$154,400	97
Kansas City, MO	80	103	94	\$140,800	102
Rockford, IL	79	101	127	\$114,000	100
Peoria, IL	78	96	89	\$128,100	106
<b>Sterling, IL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>\$94,000</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Sperling's Best Places

## Utilities

Sterling has a deregulated power system, a low-cost and reliable natural gas supply, water/sewer with excess capacity to support future growth, and multiple provider options for basic and high-speed data services.

### Electric:

- Deregulated power system
- Provider: Commonwealth Edison  
[www.ucm.com](http://www.ucm.com)

### Natural Gas:

- Two major transmission lines
- Provider: Nicor Gas  
[www.nicor.com/en\\_us/commercial/default.htm](http://www.nicor.com/en_us/commercial/default.htm)

### Water:

- Sourced from five wells; combined capacity of 5.2 million gallons/day
- Provider: Illinois American Water Company

### Sewer:

- Municipally owned
- Current capacity of 4.4 million gallons/day; can be expanded to 9 million gallons/day

### Telecommunications:

- Basic and high-speed available
- Providers: AT&T, Insight Cable, T6 Broadband

## Taxes

### Corporate Income Tax

4.8% of net income (statewide)

### Personal Income

3% of net income (statewide)

### Personal Property Tax

2.5% of net income

### Inventory

None in the state of Illinois

### Sales

6.75%

Source: Illinois Department of Revenue

### Workers' Compensation

Cost for a typical manufacturing job in Illinois is \$3.65 per \$100 of payroll.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Incentives

The Greater Sterling Development Corporation and the Whiteside County Enterprise Zone offer a variety of programs designed for qualifying new, expanding and relocating businesses.

### Tax credits

- 0.5% investment tax credits on machinery, equipment and existing buildings
- \$500 tax credit for each job created for which a certified dislocated worker is hired

### Tax exemption

- 5% tax exemption on machinery used or consumed in operation of pollution control facilities to qualifying companies
- 5% state utility tax exemption

### Tax abatements

- Five-year property tax abatement (from 35% to 94%) for qualifying new construction/renovation
- Ten-year property tax abatement for qualifying new construction/renovation projects that create 500 full-time jobs and invest at least \$25,000

## Spotlights

### Sauk Valley Community College Wind Energy Certificate Program

- Helping to meet national demand for turbine maintenance and repair skills
- One of the few such programs in the country

### Sterling Small Business Technology Center

- Over 13 successful regional businesses got their start at the Center's Business Incubator
- Offers space, office resources, business consulting services, and networking opportunities

### CGH Medical Center \$24 Million Expansion

- New 66,000 sq. ft. wing with new surgical suites and private rooms with improved security
- High-field GE MRI equipment

## Education

The Greater Sterling area has a well-respected public school system, a variety of private K-12 schools, and many local and regional college options.

### K-12

**Sterling Schools**  
[www.sterlingschools.org](http://www.sterlingschools.org)  
PreK-12

**Saint Mary's School**  
[www.smsterling.org](http://www.smsterling.org)  
PreK-8

**Christ Lutheran School**  
[www.christlutherschool.com](http://www.christlutherschool.com)  
PreK-8

**Newman Central Catholic High School**  
[www.newmancchs.org](http://www.newmancchs.org)  
Grades 9-12

**Sterling Christian School**  
[www.sterlingchristian.com](http://www.sterlingchristian.com)  
PreK-12

### Local/Regional Colleges and Universities

**Sauk Valley Community College**  
[www.svcc.cc.il.us/](http://www.svcc.cc.il.us/)

**Augustana College**  
[www.augustana.edu/](http://www.augustana.edu/)

**WIU- Quad Cities Campus**  
[www.wiu.edu/qc/](http://www.wiu.edu/qc/)

**Morrison Institute of Technology**  
[www.morrison.tec.il.us/](http://www.morrison.tec.il.us/)

**Ashford University**  
[www.ashford.edu/home/](http://www.ashford.edu/home/)

**Northern IL University**  
[www.niu.edu/](http://www.niu.edu/)

## Healthcare

Sterling is a regional leader in quality healthcare, with two excellent resources that provide a wealth of high-technology solutions and services.

**CGH Medical Center**  
[www.cghmc.com](http://www.cghmc.com)  
24-hour trauma care, 25 specialty areas, diagnostic imaging

**Sterling-Rock Falls Clinic**  
[www.srfc.com](http://www.srfc.com)  
60 Physicians, 20 specialty areas, three offices

## Whiteside County Major Employers in Select Target Industries:

### SECTOR: MANUFACTURING

Company	Product/Service	Employees
Wahl Clipper Corporation	Personal care appliances	700
Stanley National Hardware	Builders' hardware	500
Drives, Inc.	Steel chain	500
Sterling Steel, LLC	Steel rod	300
General Electric	Appliance controls	150
Frantz Manufacturing Company	Steel bearings, carbon steel balls	125
Tyco Valves/Flow Control (Penberthy)	Liquid level gauges	102
Astec Mobile Screens	Heavy Equipment	100

### SECTOR: DISTRIBUTION/LOGISTICS

Wal-Mart Mech. Distribution Center #7024	Distribution center	1,000+
Self Help Enterprises	Assembly & Packaging	310

### SECTOR: OFFICE

Lee Wayne/Halo Corporation	Promotional items	150
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