Why do business in Missouri?

Missouri has many assets for companies like yours looking to expand or locate, including a business climate that encourages growth, competitive incentives, a large highly skilled workforce, exceptional transportation infrastructure, and some of the lowest business costs of any state.

Let our numbers do the talking:

- **3rd most diversified economy** with a GDP over **$258 billion**
- **16th lowest cost of living**
- **6th lowest business energy costs** including electricity and fuel
- **State and local taxes cannot be changed without a public vote**
- **131 enhanced enterprise zones**
- **5th lowest taxes per capita**
- **7th best corporate income tax index**
- **17 freight railroads totaling more than 4,000 miles**
- **6th largest public road and highway system**
- **One of only 4 states to receive the AAA highest bond rating for 46 years or more**
- **Excellent regulatory and tax climate for business**
- **10th best regulatory environment** - Forbes
- **2 airports with international service**
Tools For You To Grow

Missouri’s diverse toolkit of strategic economic incentive programs helps businesses grow or locate in Missouri. Whether you run a small, family-owned business or a large corporate company, the state offers a variety of grants, loans and tax credits, giving you access to the resources your company needs to thrive. Missouri Works, the state’s newest economic tool, is a streamlined comprehensive incentive program that opens the door for more businesses to participate, encouraging investment and job creation. The program was passed on the guiding principles for business development programs adopted by more than 600 businesses and by leaders in education, labor and economic development. To learn more about Missouri’s economic tools, visit ded.mo.gov/Programs.aspx.

Enhance Your Workforce

Missouri has 2.67 million workers and more than one million Missourians hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. Additionally, the state has the 8th highest graduation rate and 138 post-secondary degree granting institutions, including Washington University, ranked the smartest college in America by Lumosity, that ensure a growing pool of technically trained job candidates.

The Show-Me State maintains a firm commitment to investing in a strong, intelligent and superior workforce. The state offers a variety of programs, including workforce training grants, allowing companies to upgrade the skills of their employees and enhance their ability to compete. In addition, our career specialists can help you recruit talent and connect you to the right candidates to fill open positions. Learn more at jobs.mo.gov/employer.

Get Your Goods On The Map: Start Exporting

With 96 percent of the world’s consumers living outside the U.S., exporting allows your company to diversify its portfolio and weather changes in the domestic economy. Missouri’s global economic impact is expanding; 2011 and 2012 were record export years, generating $28 billion in Missouri. And with free trade agreements with 18 countries, the state’s three foreign trade zones, located in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield, and 11 international offices around the world, Missouri is well equipped to help you access new global markets and grow your company. Exports account for 54 percent of output and growth in the top 100 metro areas and offer Missouri-based companies an opportunity to expand their client base. Export Missouri provides customized services and resources to validate your products and connect you to global demand. Take your company to the next level by taking your product around the world. Learn more at exportmissouri.mo.gov.