

## **DISCOVER IOWA**

Located in the Midwestern region of the United States, an area often referred to as "America's Heartland," lowa is comprised of 145,741 square kilometers of land and over three million people. The state is located west of Chicago, Illinois, and bordered by the Mississippi River on the east and the Missouri River on the west.

For businesses seeking to expand or relocate, lowa offers a tremendous set of advantages and attributes to help businesses of all sizes grow and succeed!

The state's central geographic location and abundance of transportation options and intermodal services make it a quick and easy place to distribute product and manufacturing resources. Investments in basic infrastructure components such as airports, railroads, highways and ports – as well as communication infrastructure such as broadband and wireless – keep lowa businesses well-connected.

The major American metropolitan areas of Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha and Minneapolis/St. Paul are only a few hours' drive from Iowa's borders. Three of the nation's main interstate highways pass through Iowa. Interstate 35 goes north and south from the Canadian to the Mexican borders, Interstate 80 runs east and west from New York to California and Interstate 29 provides integral access to markets in western Iowa and beyond.

lowa is widely recognized for its leading position in the agricultural sector, particularly corn, soybean, pork and egg production. As a result, the state is known for its food processing and commodity industries. But the state's economy is diversified and also has core strengths in advanced manufacturing, biosciences and financial services.

## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Advanced manufacturing is a major driver of the lowa economy, and the critical mass of expertise here is well worth investigating for a competitive advantage.

- Advanced manufacturing is lowa's largest industry contributing \$35 billion annually to the state's economy.
- lowa has 11 times the concentration of agricultural and construction equipment manufacturing compared to the rest of the nation.
- Approximately 25.7% of lowa's manufacturing GDP comes from the food processing industry, and the state is said to produce 8% of the nation's food supply.
- In 2021, lowa launched its Manufacturing 4.0 initiative to accelerate industry growth amid the technology revolution.

lowa's top performing industry divisions hold a strong position in the United States. Industrial metal processing, automation precision machinery, environment control systems, digital and electronic devices and power generation equipment are highly specialized, surpassing the national trend.

Other key industries include:

- Aerospace and defense
- Industrial chemicals
- Construction components

- Commercial and industrial motor vehicles
- Food and food ingredients
- Printing and packaging
- Medical drugs and devices

Manufacturing companies in lowa appreciate being able to access a portion of their electricity from wind energy. lowa boasts some of the nation's most efficient wind resources. In addition, seven major transmission lines converge in lowa to allow Midwestern wind power to be distributed into various regional transmission systems.

- lowa is first in the nation in renewable energy production with a percentage of total power output at 62%. (Energy Information Administration, 2023)
- lowa ranks third among the 50 U.S. states in current clean power output, with 13,280 MW installed. (American Clean Power, 2024)



## BIOSCIENCE R&D EXPENDITURES IN IOWA PER CAPITA ARE 13% HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

SOURCE: BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ORGANIZATION, 2021

IOWA HAS THE
HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF
EMPLOYEES IN VACCINE AND
IMMUNOTHERAPY BIOLOGICAL
MANUFACTURING IN THE U.S.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 2022

# IOWA IS THE PRODUCER OF ETHANOL AND BIODIESEL

SOURCE: U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, 2023

## **BIOSCIENCES**

lowa is capitalizing on its success in agriculture and its research capabilities in plant, animal and human biosciences to build a thriving biosciences industry. From startup companies to globally respected industry leaders in research and development, lowa's bioscience enterprises are discovering the innovations that will spur future economic growth.

lowa's preeminence in the bioeconomy platform stems from not only having some of the most fertile land in the nation but is also a result of leveraging its natural strengths. Consequently, the state has become a world leader in the use of biotechnology to enhance the value of crops and to supply value-added, plant-based materials to new and expanding markets.

#### Iowa's Bioscience Platforms:

- Precision and Digital Agriculture
- Vaccines, Immunotherapeutics and Diagnostics
- Biobased Products
- Medical Innovations
- lowa exported \$620 million in pharmaceutical products to 72 countries. (WISERTrade, 2023)
- lowa leads the nation in ethanol production with 41 operating ethanol plants that have a capacity of 4.8 billion gallons [18.3 billion liters]. (Energy Information Administration, 2023)
- lowa has production capacity to produce 27% of the total U.S. ethanol capacity. (Energy Information Administration, 2022)
- lowa is the nation's leading biodiesel producer with 11 biodiesel refineries producing a combined capacity of approximately 483 million gallons [1.8 billion liters]. (Energy Information Administration, 2023)
- lowa has production capacity to produce nearly 21% of the total U.S. biodiesel capacity. (Energy Information Administration, 2022)
- lowa provides the nation's second-largest supply of biomass with the ability to harvest 56 million dry tons [about 50.8 million metric tons] of biomass per year (total cellulosic and crop biomass). (U.S. Department of Energy Bioenergy Technology Office, 2023)
- lowa is leading the way in developing and expanding the market for value-added biomassbased fuels and chemicals because of the state's concentration of raw material and abundant agricultural resources.
- In 2016, lowa signed into law the Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit program. This program aims to incentivize the production of high-value "building block" chemicals that can be processed into end-use consumer products.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

lowa has built an environment that fosters success for insurance and finance companies. In lowa, the insurance industry accounts for 11% of the state's GDP. For insurance companies, lowa's value proposition is quite compelling – with one of the lowest premium tax rates in the nation, no premium tax on sales of annuities or qualified life insurance plans, plus a dedicated supply of highly trained and productive workers, it's no accident that lowa is a powerhouse in this industry.

- lowa ranks second in the U.S. in insurance industry output as a percent of GDP.
   (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022)
- · lowa is acknowledged as a leader in insurance regulation.
- lowa's insurance division has earned a reputation for promoting efficient, responsive and fair policies.
- lowa is an innovation hub for insurance technology (insurtech) that could revolutionize
  the industry. Iowa's Global Insurance Accelerator is the world's first business accelerator
  focused on insurtech.
- In 2022, lowa established the first-of-its-kind early-stage internship program for the insurance industry to bolster the talent pipeline.

In addition, lowa's commitment to the information solutions arena is most clearly demonstrated in recent data center investments by globally recognized companies. These companies invest in lowa to take advantage of its:

- Low utility costs
- Low incidence of catastrophic natural disasters
- Access to renewable energy



## **COMPANIES AT WORK IN IOWA**

























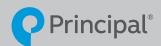
























## **EDUCATION AND INNOVATION**

Top educational institutions are the foundation of lowa's thriving economy. A dedicated commitment to education contributes to lowa's high school graduation rate, which is among the highest in the country. Over 98% of lowa's workforce finished high school, with 81% obtaining some further technical training or attending a college or university.

lowa consistently earns high marks among education experts. Not only does the state boast the highest high school graduation rate and the third-highest college graduation rate in the U.S., but lowa is also one of the smartest states with its students consistently outperforming its counterparts on national standardized tests.

With renowned research capabilities at lowa's three public universities — along with research parks near both lowa State University (Ames) and the University of lowa (lowa City) — lowa's strong educational foundation also supports innovation for lowa companies. Adding resources from the fiber-optic linked network of 15 community colleges and a variety of public-private partnerships, lowa offers comprehensive R&D resources to develop and transfer new technologies to business operations throughout the state.

A skilled, industrious and available workforce is typically one of the most crucial factors for company success and a top priority in lowa's effort to assist business growth. lowa's community colleges and industry-driven workforce development programs provide technically skilled worker training and services to support lowa businesses by increasing the skills of an already productive lowa workforce. The combination of a Midwest work ethic and a leading education system results in one of the most enviable workforces anywhere.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

lowans enjoy a luxury difficult to find in many places...life balance. lowa is a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. lowans are hard-working and friendly people with unyielding compassion and character. The state offers quality public education, endless entertainment opportunities, safe communities and short commutes. As the state with the #1 lowest cost of living and the #1 lowest housing costs in the U.S., lowa is a place to meet not only company objectives but also financial goals (CNBC, 2023; WalletHub, 2023).

## **BUSINESS ADVANTAGES**

lowa's economic climate has never been more favorable. In fact, the state ranks in the top 10 for jobs in the U.S. In addition, few states match lowa's outstanding record of fiscal responsibility. Companies operating in lowa benefit from a business-friendly state government, business-minded tax incentives and a skilled and productive workforce.

#### The following key business advantages make lowa the ideal destination for investors:

- Low cost of doing business lower industrial leasing, insurance, electricity, real estate and construction costs
- Right-to-work state (law guarantees no person can be required, as a condition of employment, to join or not to join, nor to pay dues to a labor union)
- · Tax credits available for research and development activities
- lowa is ranked as the lowest-risk, highest resilience economy of any state. (The Council of State Governments, 2020)

#### Iowa's Favorable Tax Climate

- lowa corporate income tax
  - Single-factor (based only on the percentage of total sales income within the state of lowa)
  - Non-unitary tax (only the lowa facility's sales income may be subject to tax) means a lower tax rate
  - Numerous lowa income tax credits available depending upon investment and job creation
  - Gradually being lowered to culminate in one of the most competitive rates in the nation at 5.5%
- · No sales or use taxes on manufacturing machinery equipment and computers
- No sales or use taxes on energy used in the manufacturing process
- No personal property (inventory) tax
- Personal property is not assessed for tax purposes
- No property tax on industrial machinery and equipment
- lowa personal income tax rate gradually being lowered to a flat and fair 3.8%



## **IOWA: AT A GLANCE**

#### **Geography and Demographics**

- Population: 3,207,004 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023)
- · Population of 36 million in a seven-state regional market
- · Land size: 145,741 sq. km including 1,036 sq. km of inland water area
- 85% (12.3 million hectares) of the state's land is arable one of the highest U.S. percentages

#### **Economy**

- · Gross State Product: \$197.8 billion (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023)
- · Income per capita: \$58,769 (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022)
- lowa is the second-wealthiest of agricultural states with total farm cash receipts of \$44.8 billion. (USDA, 2022)
- · lowa ranks No. 1 in the U.S. for fiscal responsibility (CATO Institute, 2022)

#### **Business Climate**

- lowa is consistently in the top 10 states for labor force participation rate.
   (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- · Iowa offers the most apprenticeship programs in the U.S. (U.S. Department of Labor)
- lowa ranks No. 1 for cost of living. (CNBC, 2023)
- lowa ranks No. 7 for jobs in the U.S. (U.S. News & World Report, 2021)
- Three of Iowa's Metropolitan Statistical Areas are listed as Best Places for Business by Forbes magazine; Des Moines was ranked tenth in the nation. (Forbes, 2019)
- lowa consistently has one of the lowest costs of doing business in the country. (CNBC, 2021)
- lowa's average industrial electricity cost per kWh is 14% below the U.S. average. (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2023)

#### **International Trade**

lowans understand that we all live and compete in a global economy. That's why lowa's businesses are constantly working to develop or expand into international markets by offering products, services and expertise worldwide.

- In 2023, Iowa exported over \$27 billion in manufactured and value-added goods.
   (WISERTrade)
- 82% of lowa exporters are considered small- to medium-sized companies.
- · lowa's top five export markets are Canada, Mexico, China, Japan and Brazil.
- The state's top export product categories include: oil seeds, meat, machinery, vehicles and cereals.

## LEARN MORE

The lowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) works with businesses and communities to bolster lowa's economy and position the state for growth. IEDA can assist businesses by providing the following:

- Direct financial assistance, tax credits and job training funds for job creation and new capital investment projects
- · Confidential location reviews and site location assistance to businesses considering lowa
- Technical assistance for lowa businesses or businesses considering expansion, as well as new companies to lowa and foreign direct investment
- Access to a free searchable database of information on existing buildings, available sites and lowa communities
- · Regulatory process assistance provided to businesses considering lowa

Please visit **iowaeda.com** for more information on how lowa can assist you, and to learn more about lowa's business climate, assistance and expansion programs, available buildings, sites and more.

## **CONTACT US**

Contact IEDA via email at **opportunities@iowaeda.com** or phone at 1.800.245.4692 or +1.515.348.6200 (international). All inquiries will be handled confidentially.



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