
State of Illinois Defense Industry Adjustment (DIA) Program

Rockford Region Economic Profile

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD



**Nathalie P. Voorhees Center
for Neighborhood and
Community Improvement**



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Regional Economic Profile

The purpose of this regional economic profile is to provide an overview of a region's economy in terms of its current composition, changes in employment, and occupations. Each indicator is analyzed in comparison with the state and national averages to provide a better understanding of local status and trends. A comparative understanding of a region's economy in terms of compositional change and performance informs policy makers and analysts to better position the region in the national economy. To the extent that data are available, the profile analyzes changes over a period of 10 years-long enough to reveal important dynamics, but short enough to focus on the kinds of local changes that may be malleable through regional planning activity.

Drawing on local and national data sources, this profile considers both the fundamental economic conditions and sectoral drivers of the regional economy. The economic indicators/industrial data items being analyzed are divided into three main groups:

Basic economic indicators: Indicators that measure economic conditions and help evaluate regional economic performance: (1) Employment and its sectoral distribution, (2) Unemployment rate, (3) Unemployment insurance claims, (4) Annual wages, and (5) Occupations. Descriptive analysis of these indicators help determine how the local economy is faring relative to its position in the past or its current position as measured against a referent economy (i.e., the nation or the state).

Dependency on government employment: Analysis of government employment as a share of total regional employment helps assess the degree to which regional employment base depends on the federal or state/local government activities. Besides examining changes in government/private sector portion of employment over time, the analysis identifies the regional employment base that is directly attributable to the Department of Defense (employment at the military base) or related departments (e.g., employment at Hospitals administrated by the Department of Veterans Affairs).

Defense related industrial activities: The profile identifies specific manufacturing and professional/technical services industries in which businesses may be performing defense contract work or are part of the defense industry supply chain. Some of the establishments operating in such industries are owned by the federal government and perform work assigned to them by local bases or the Department of Defense. Unlike such cases where the amount and type of economic activity are relatively predictable, economic activities performed by private sector establishments are far less detectable through the publicly available secondary data sources on which this profile relies. In a region with an economy as industrially specialized as Rockford, private sector establishments might be carrying out defense contract work at various levels originating from different parts of the country. Given this challenge, the profile focuses on those industries that show heavy regional specialization and in which businesses are believed to be performing defense contract work or constitute part of defense supply chain. By analyzing regional employment trends in these industries in comparison with the nation, the profile explores the "defense activity-industrial performance" nexus. Finally, the region's share of national defense contracts is analyzed, and local industries that perform substantial work originating from the Department of Defense are identified.

Regional Economic Highlights

- Manufacturing, health care, and retail trade accounted for the largest shares of any sector in 2014, representing 22.1 percent, 15.2 percent, and 10.5 percent of regional employment, respectively.
- Manufacturing, administrative services, and health care created the most jobs over the period of 2010-2014, adding a combined 7,862 jobs in the region.
- Current regional employment is still below the pre-recession level. During the same period, the U.S. economy performed somewhat better. Employment in the Rockford Region expanded 5.1 percent from 2010 to 2014, but lagged the national growth rate of 6.9 percent.
- Relative to the nation and Illinois, the private sector accounts for a large portion of employment in the two-county region. On the other hand, state and local governments account for a small (around 10%) portion of regional employment. Likewise, the federal government accounts for a relatively small portion of employment in the two-county region.
- The 2015 unemployment rate in the region (7.0%) is higher than both the national unemployment rate (5.3%) and the state rate (5.9%). After peaking during the recession (2009), recent year regional insurance claims to a large extent seem to have returned to their pre-recession levels.
- The current annual average wage for all industries in the region is \$42,943 and it is below the national and Illinois figures (average annual wages for all industries in Illinois was \$54,106; and \$51,364 in the U.S.). There has not been a significant change in difference between regional and national wages in the last ten years.
- The region is specialized in various manufacturing industries. Among those, machinery manufacturing (NAICS 333); fabricated metal product manufacturing (NAICS 332); and transportation equipment manufacturing (NAICS 336) are likely the most closely related to defense.
- Defense contracts have been in the range of less than 1 percent of gross regional product for the last ten years although it appears to be trending higher in recent years.
- Regional employment in the machinery manufacturing declined substantially during the recession and has not completely recovered yet. Regional employment in fabricated metal product manufacturing closely follows the national trend, but still below the pre-recession levels. Regional employment in the transportation equipment manufacturing is showing a fluctuating pattern in the last ten years. Since the recession ended in 2010, employment in transportation equipment manufacturing in the region increased faster than the U.S.
- Four major growth occupation groups are: Architecture and Engineering Occupations; Protective Service Occupations; Personal Care and Service Occupations; Production Occupations.

Employment by Sector and Industry

Manufacturing is the largest industry by employment in the region. The manufacturing sector employed 31,545 workers in 2014, more than 22 percent of total employment in the two-county region. The dominance of the manufacturing sector in regional employment is clearer when compared to the nation (Table 1). The share of manufacturing in national employment is nearly 9% (corresponding figure for Illinois is 10%). After manufacturing, health care and retail trade are the two largest sectors. These three sectors together account for nearly half of total regional employment in 2014.

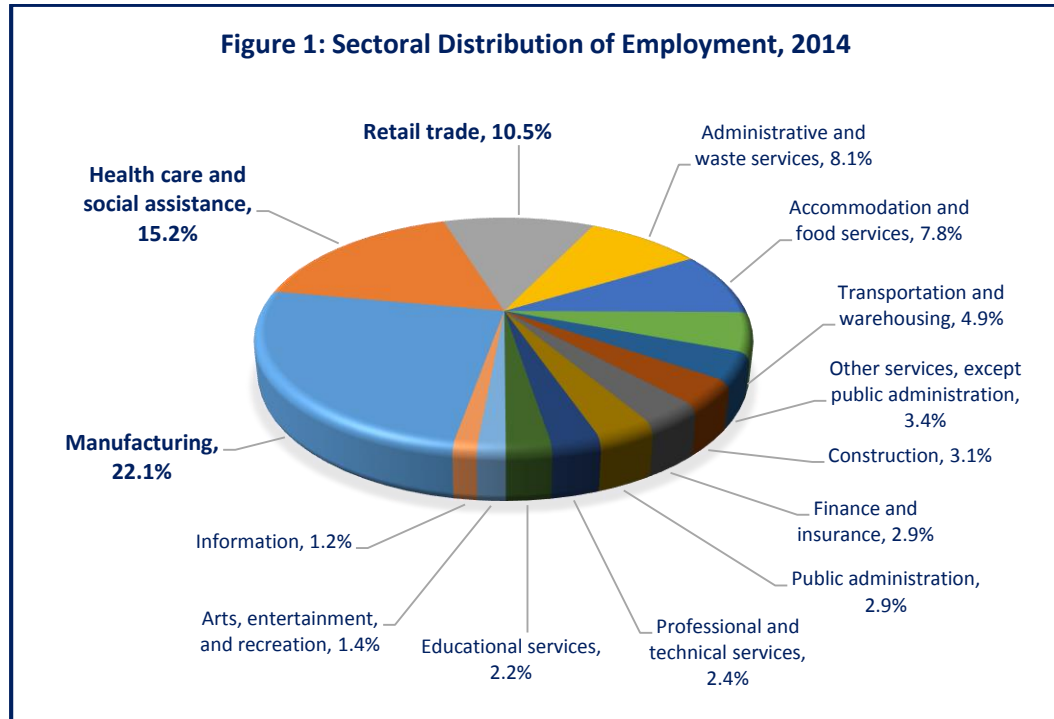


Table 1: Top Industries by Employment, 2014

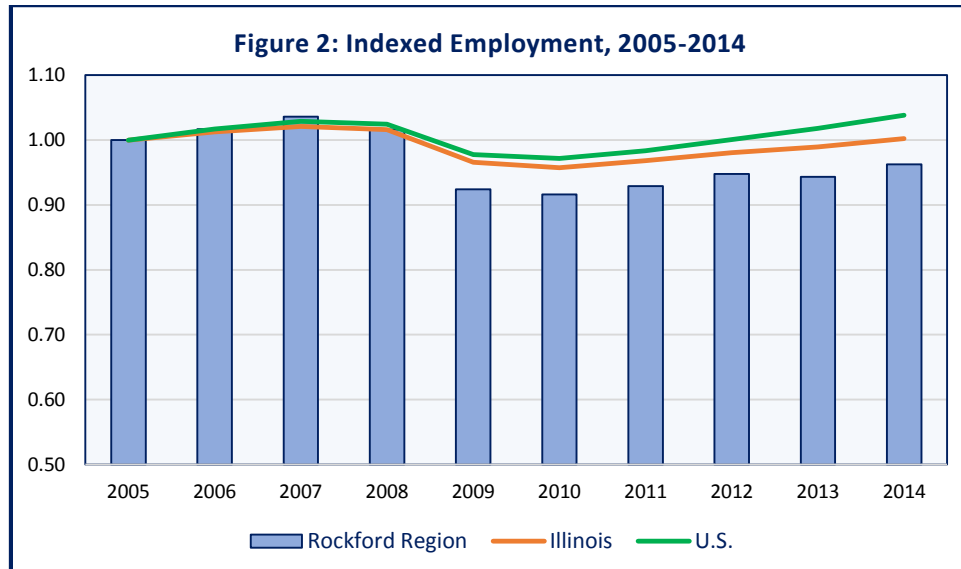
Industry	Two-county region			United States		
	Rank	Employment	Share	Rank	Employment	Share
Manufacturing	1	31,545	22.1%	4	12,202,114	8.9%
Health care and social assistance	2	21,729	15.2%	1	19,783,384	14.5%
Retail trade	3	14,971	10.5%	2	15,406,097	11.3%
Administrative and waste services*	4	11,569	8.1%	6	8,657,458	6.3%
Accommodation and food services	5	11,107	7.8%	3	12,622,094	9.2%
Transportation and warehousing*	6	6,933	4.9%	12	5,325,471	3.9%
Other services, except public administration	7	4,914	3.4%	13	4,274,676	3.1%
Construction*	8	4,484	3.1%	9	6,290,487	4.6%
Finance and insurance	9	4,126	2.9%	11	5,664,688	4.1%
Public administration*	10	4,102	2.9%	8	7,221,251	5.3%
Professional and technical services	11	3,429	2.4%	7	8,453,203	6.2%
Educational services*	12	3,116	2.2%	5	12,200,960	8.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation*	13	1,940	1.4%	15	2,480,359	1.8%
Information	14	1,648	1.2%	14	2,875,116	2.1%
Real estate and rental and leasing	15	1,093	0.8%	16	2,083,636	1.5%
Wholesale trade*	16	379	0.3%	10	5,816,318	4.3%
Management of companies and enterprises	17	182	0.1%	17	2,154,136	1.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting*	18	179	0.1%	18	1,237,636	0.9%
Unclassified	19	48	0.0%	21	215,085	0.2%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction*	20	5	0.0%	19	842,095	0.6%
Utilities*	21	-	0.0%	20	802,552	0.6%
Total with Data Suppression		127,499	100%		136,608,816	100%
Total without Data Suppression		142,866	100%		136,613,609	100%

*Industries for which employment data are suppressed. Shares are calculated using total without data suppression.

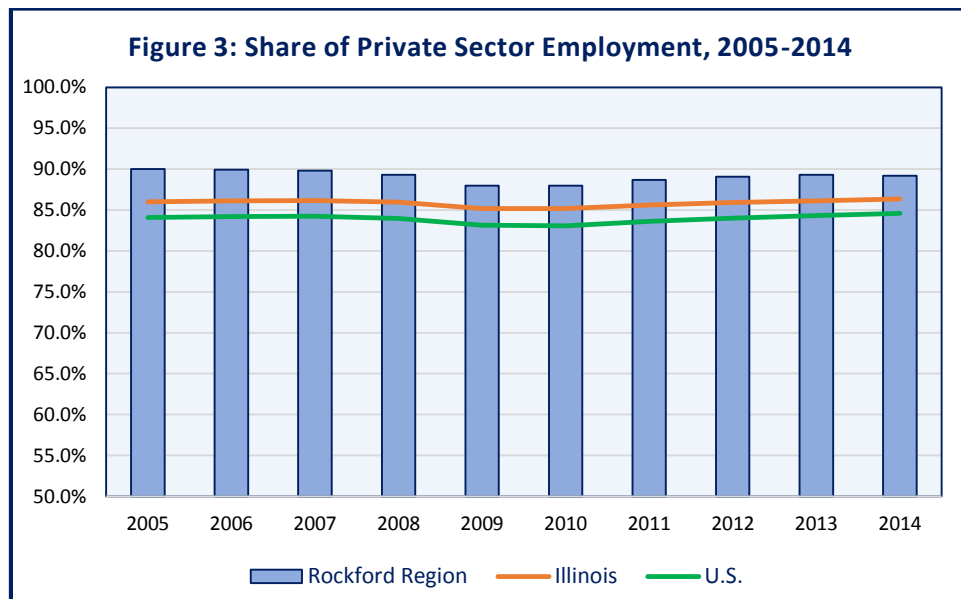
Although the regional economy continues to expand after the recession ended in 2010, current regional employment has not reached the pre-recession level yet (Table 2). During the same period, the U.S. economy performed slightly better and the current national employment level surpassed the pre-recession level. Differences in employment growth can also be seen in Figure 2 where employment levels for the two-county region, Illinois, and the U.S. are shown as shares of 2005 employment.

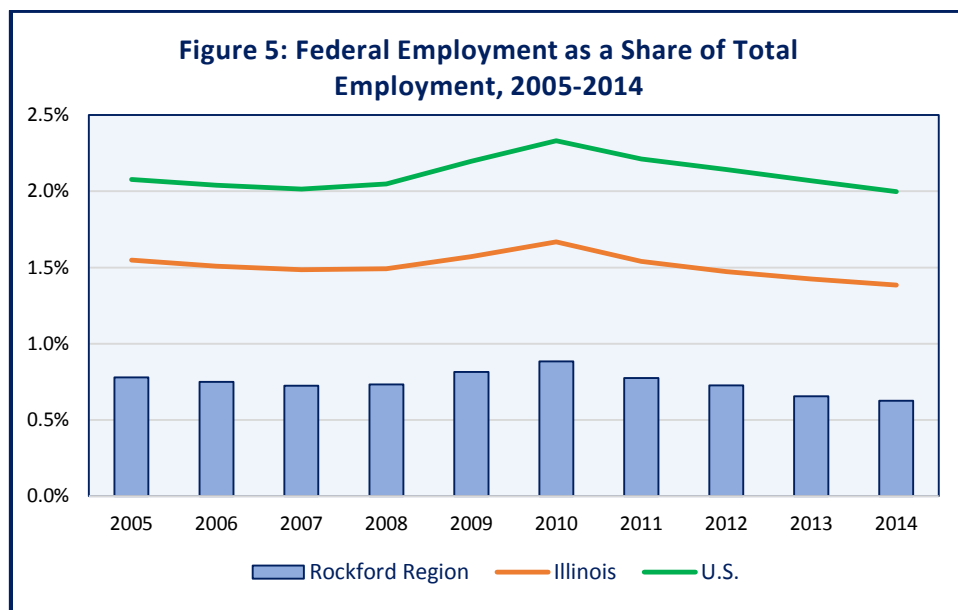
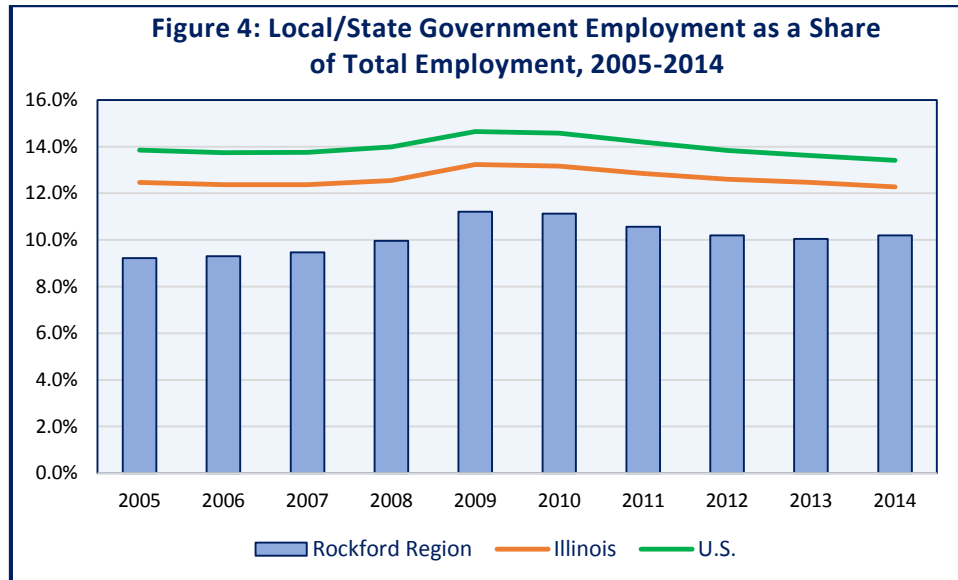
Table 2: Employment by Region, 2008-2014

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Region	150,858	137,136	135,970	137,840	140,653	139,999	142,866
Illinois	5,841,692	5,551,930	5,502,322	5,566,648	5,636,918	5,687,541	5,762,156
U.S.	134,805,659	128,607,842	127,820,442	129,411,095	131,696,378	133,968,434	136,613,609



Relative to the nation and Illinois, the private sector accounts for a large portion of employment in the two-county region. On the other hand, state and local governments account for only around 10% of regional employment, a share much smaller than the share observed for the nation or the state of Illinois. Likewise, federal government accounts for a relatively small portion of employment in the two-county region. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2014, there were 894 federal employees in the Rockford Region, down from 1,157 in 2005.





Unemployment Rate

Current unemployment rate in the region (7.0%) is higher than both the national unemployment rate (5.3%) and the state rate (5.9%).¹ After rising sharply during the recession years of 2009 and

¹ The unemployment rate is a measure of an economy’s realized potential in terms of providing jobs to those looking for work. It is a lagging indicator and generally falls following a period of economic growth. Low unemployment rate suggests a tight labor market that cannot accommodate new firms unless there is growth in the local labor market. Conversely, a high unemployment rate suggests there is hardship in the

2010, the regional unemployment rate has fallen in recent years, but it is still higher than the pre-recession levels (Figure 6). This could be indicative of industrial and/or occupational changes occurring in the regional economy relative to the nation, or that the region still continues to recover from the recession. There are small variations among counties in the region in terms of the unemployment rate. Interestingly, Boone County had higher unemployment rates until the recession year of 2009, since then Winnebago County has slightly higher unemployment rates.

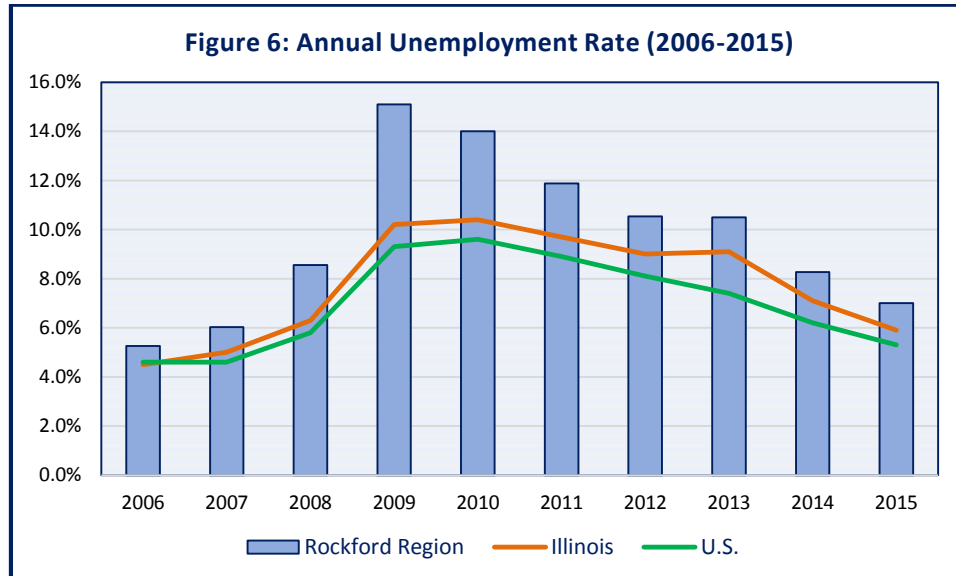


Table 3: Unemployment Rate (%) by County and Region, 2006-2015

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Boone County	5.5	6.5	9.3	15.4	13.8	11.8	10.4	10.2	7.9	6.6
Winnebago County	5.2	5.9	8.4	15.0	14.0	11.9	10.6	10.5	8.3	7.1
Two-County Region	5.3	6.0	8.6	15.1	14.0	11.9	10.5	10.5	8.3	7.0
Illinois	4.5	5.0	6.3	10.2	10.4	9.7	9.0	9.1	7.1	5.9
U.S.	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.4	6.2	5.3

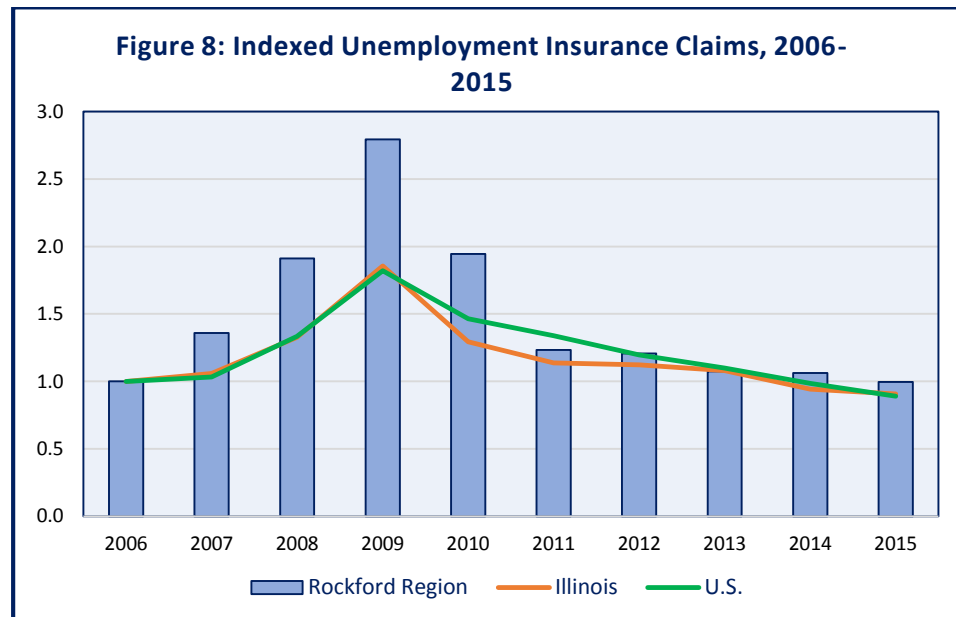
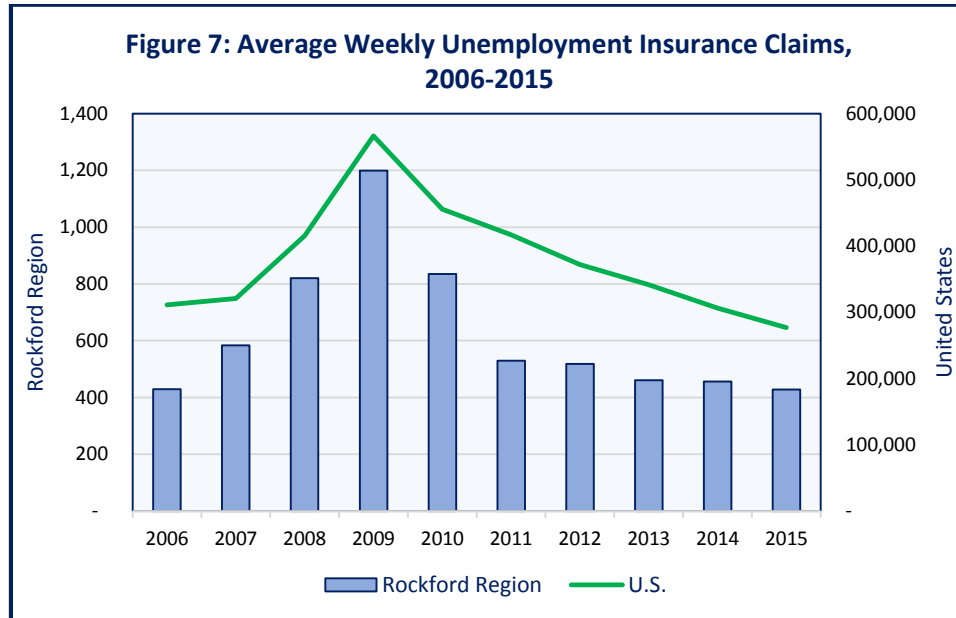
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

After peaking during the recession (2009), recent regional insurance claims to a large extent seem to have returned to their pre-recession levels (Figure 7).² Overall, the trend for the two-county

local economy and active economic development efforts are needed. It is important to determine whether the unemployment is associated with specific industries and occupations.

² Initial unemployment insurance claims are a leading indicator of economic conditions and are used in the analysis of current unemployment trends. New claims anticipate subsequent movement in the economy, primarily measuring emerging unemployment.

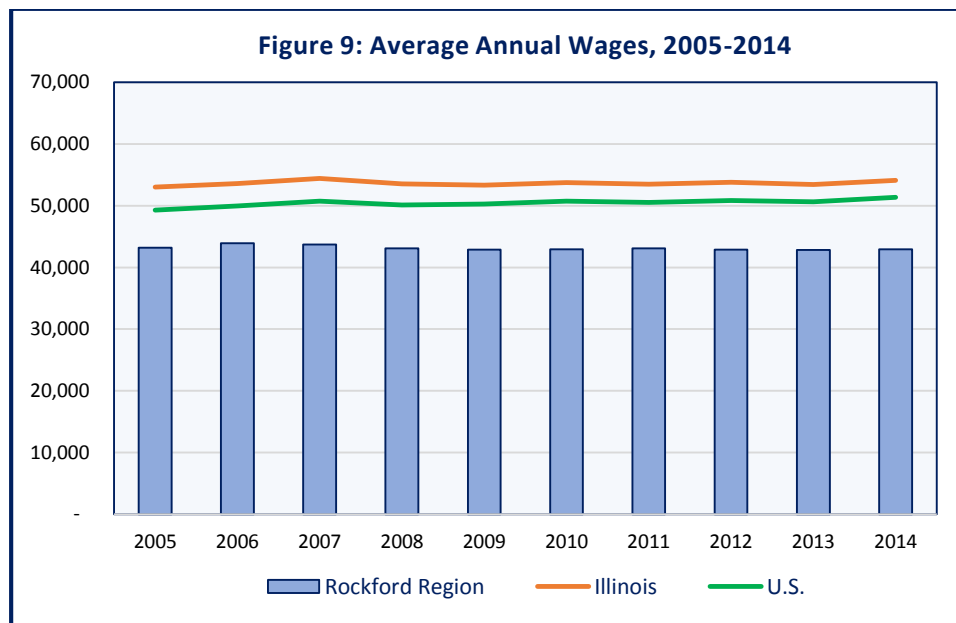
region is very similar to trends observed for Illinois, or the U.S. Similar to the national and statewide trends, the region experienced a higher number of claims during the recession years of 2008, 2009, and 2010, but the most recent claims are around pre-recession levels. In Figure 8, initial unemployment claims for the two-county region, Illinois, and the U.S. are shown as a share of 2006 initial unemployment claims. Current initial claims in the region appear to have returned to their pre-recession levels in 2015.



Annual Wages

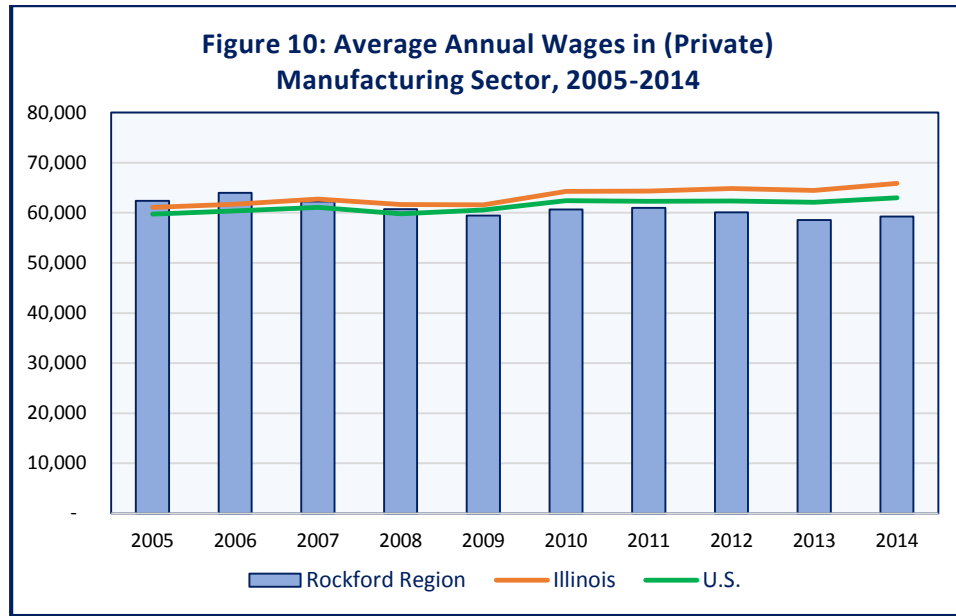
The current average wage for all industries in the region is \$42,943. This figure is below the national and Illinois figures (According to 2014 estimates, average annual wages for all industries in Illinois was \$54,106 and \$51,364 in the U.S.).³ Figure 9 depicts average annual wages for the economy as a whole while Figure 10 examines average annual wages for just the manufacturing sector. Different trends are observed in terms of changes in wages for the economy as a whole and the manufacturing sector. In the last ten years, while average regional wages for all industries have been consistently below the national and Illinois figures, regional wages for the manufacturing sector has been almost at the same level as the national average. However, since 2011, wages in the manufacturing sector stagnated in the region while increasing slightly in the U.S. as well as in Illinois.

The manufacturing sector is selected for the analysis of changes in wages compared to the economy as a whole for two reasons. First, it provides the largest employment in the region. Second, given the agglomeration of this sector in the region (relative the nation as well as Illinois), we would expect to see higher wages in this sector than the regional economy as a whole.⁴ In fact, as illustrated in Figure 9 and 10, while average regional wages for all industries are below the national and Illinois figures, regional wages for the manufacturing sector, at least until 2009, are almost at the same level as the national average and only slightly below the Illinois figure.



³ Annual wages are a key to understanding what the standard of living is in the local economy. Earnings from employment in the form of wages remain the primary source of income for individuals to support themselves and their families. Industry-level annual wages are also considered as an indicator of a region’s competitiveness. All monetary figures are in 2014 dollars. Previous year wages are adjusted for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI) deflators published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

⁴ This comparison can be considered a (rough) measure of the extent to which the region is specialized in a manufacturing industry that pays less or more overall.



Regional Industrial Specialization

The two-county region appears to be specialized in at least ten 3-digit NAICS industries (Table 4).⁵ Four of these industries are manufacturing. The following three industries and businesses operating in these industries are either performing defense related contract work or are part of defense industry supply chain: Machinery manufacturing (NAICS 333); Fabricated metal product manufacturing (NAICS 332); Transportation equipment manufacturing (NAICS 336). Besides being regionally concentrated, these three industries are a major source of employment in the region. They together account for two thirds of total manufacturing employment and nearly 17% of total regional employment in 2014.

⁵This specialization is determined by location quotients. Location quotients (LQs) are a relatively simple measure consisting of ratios that compare a region’s distribution of employment to a reference region (U.S.). These ratios are interpreted as relative regional concentration or industrial specialization. Industries with LQs greater than 1.25 are interpreted as regionally concentrated because these are likely to be the export base industries whose further growth will stimulate the overall economy.

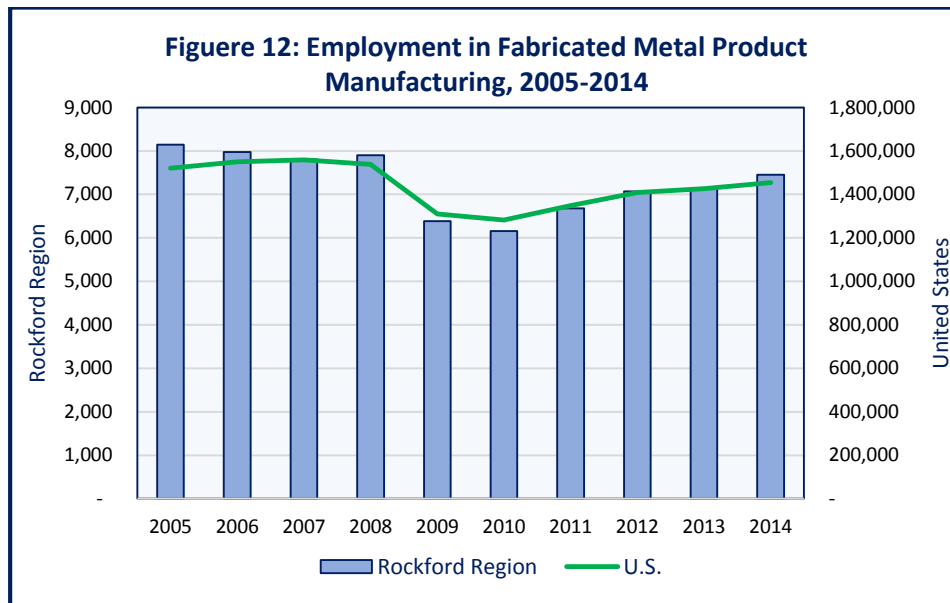
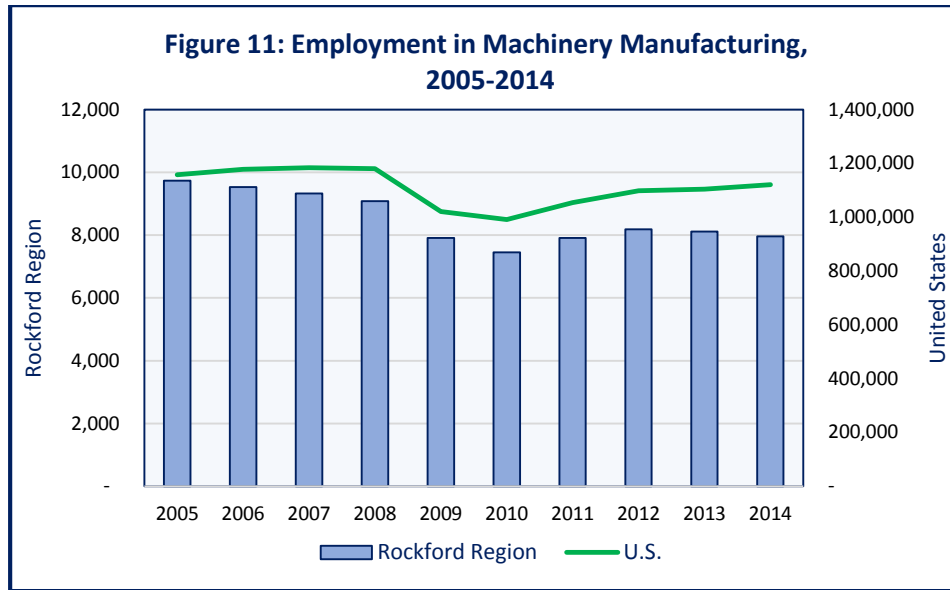
Table 4: Industries with Relatively High Location Quotients, 2014

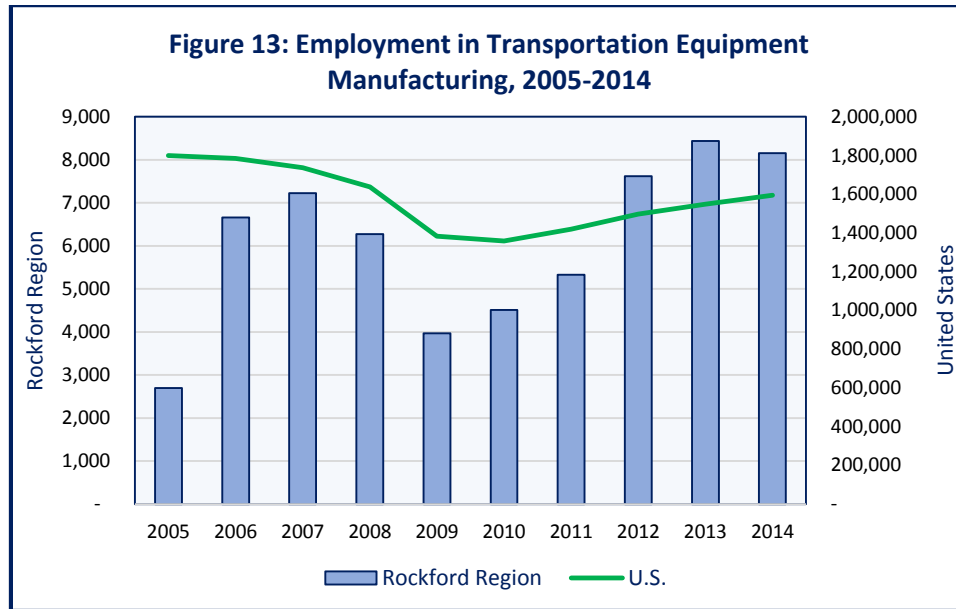
NAICS Code	Industry	U.S.	Rockford-Region	LQ
333	Machinery manufacturing	1,120,463	7,963	6.80
332	Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,453,560	7,450	4.90
336	Transportation equipment manufacturing	1,595,831	8,155	4.89
492	Couriers and messengers	564,346	1,511	2.56
493	Warehousing and storage*	749,002	1,852	2.36
442	Furniture and home furnishings stores	452,790	806	1.70
335	Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.*	377,794	647	1.64
561	Administrative and support services	8,236,623	11,353	1.32
711	Performing arts and spectator sports*	457,294	614	1.28
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	3,459,606	4,643	1.28
Total Employment with Data Suppression		136,594,884	128,116	N.A.
Total Employment without Data Suppression		136,613,609	142,866	N.A.

* Industries for which employment data at the regional level are suppressed. LQs are likely underestimated for these industries.

Given their size in the two-county regional economy and potential supply-chain linkages to the defense industry, the following figures examine regional employment levels in these industries in comparison with national trends. Regional employment in machinery manufacturing declined substantially during the recession years and has not completely recovered yet. While national employment is increasing constantly since 2010, regional employment remained the same between 2011 and 2014.

Regional employment in fabricated metal product manufacturing closely follows the national trend, but still below the pre-recession levels. Regional employment in transportation equipment manufacturing is showing a fluctuating pattern during the last ten years. Except year 2005, when the data was not disclosed completely, employment levels in other years reflecting changes occurring in the regional economy. Since the recession ended in 2010, employment in transportation equipment manufacturing in the region increased faster than the U.S.





Occupations

There are three major growth occupation groups: Architecture and Engineering Occupations; Protective Service Occupations; Personal Care and Service Occupations; Production Occupations (Table 5). Occupation groups with increased occupational employment LQ values over time indicate that industries that demand these occupations are probably growing and might demand equivalent or similar occupations in the future (Table 6). Understanding the current and changing occupation mix of a region informs policy makers and analysts about occupational requirements of local industries. Specifically, they could inform educational and workforce training policies and programs for growing and/or specialized industries. For example, employment growth in transportation equipment manufacturing (NAICS 336) discussed above are probably related to growth in Architecture and Engineering Occupations and Production Occupations.

Table 5: Changes in Major Occupation Groups in Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area and U.S., 2010-2015

Occ. Code	Occupation Title	Region			U.S.		
		2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change
11-0000	Management Occupations	6,130	6,970	13.7%	6,022,860	6,936,990	15.2%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	5,190	4,550	-12.3%	6,090,910	7,032,560	15.5%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	1,350	1,350	0.0%	3,283,950	4,005,250	22.0%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	1,930	2,790	44.6%	2,305,530	2,475,390	7.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	290	490	69.0%	1,064,510	1,146,110	7.7%
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	2,010	1,710	-14.9%	1,901,180	1,972,140	3.7%
23-0000	Legal Occupations	540	480	-11.1%	992,650	1,062,370	7.0%
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	9,160	9,370	2.3%	8,457,870	8,542,670	1.0%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occ.	1,340	1,410	5.2%	1,716,640	1,843,600	7.4%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	9,320	9,660	3.6%	7,346,580	8,021,800	9.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	4,260	4,510	5.9%	3,962,930	3,989,910	0.7%
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	2,190	3,280	49.8%	3,187,810	3,351,620	5.1%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	11,560	11,630	0.6%	11,027,340	12,577,080	14.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occ.	3,790	3,820	0.8%	4,175,550	4,407,050	5.5%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	2,930	3,960	35.2%	3,425,220	4,307,500	25.8%
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	13,220	14,020	6.1%	13,437,980	14,462,120	7.6%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	19,800	21,680	9.5%	21,503,800	21,846,420	1.6%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	40	0	-100.0%	408,040	454,230	11.3%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	4,310	4,050	-6.0%	5,072,530	5,477,820	8.0%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,180	5,660	9.3%	4,928,960	5,374,150	9.0%
51-0000	Production Occupations	18,860	22,380	18.7%	8,236,340	9,073,290	10.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	13,730	12,890	-6.1%	8,547,980	9,536,610	11.6%
00-0000	All Occupations	137,110	146,690	7.0%	127,097,160	137,896,660	8.5%

Table 6: Occupational Employment Location Quotients, Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2015*

Occ. Code	Occupation Title	2010	2015
11-0000	Management Occupations	0.94	0.94
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	0.79	0.61
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	0.38	0.32
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	0.78	1.06
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	0.26	0.40
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	0.98	0.82
23-0000	Legal Occupations	0.50	0.42
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	1.00	1.03
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occ.	0.72	0.72
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1.18	1.13
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	1.00	1.06
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	0.64	0.92
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	0.97	0.87
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occ.	0.84	0.81
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	0.79	0.86
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	0.91	0.91
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	0.85	0.93
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	0.08	0.00
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	0.79	0.69
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	0.97	0.99
51-0000	Production Occupations	2.12	2.32
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1.49	1.27
00-0000	All Occupations	1.00	1.00

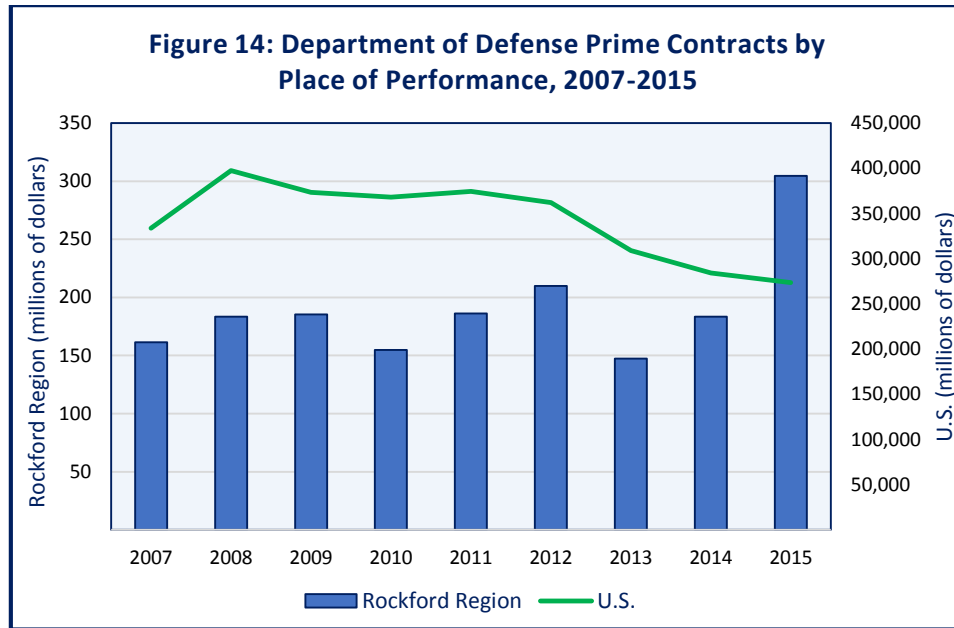
*Reference region in LQ calculations is U.S.

Trends in Department of Defense Contracts

Since 2007, the Department of Defense spent at least \$150 million dollars on average annually in the Rockford region (Figure 14).⁶ Although these contracts constitute around 1 percent of the gross regional product, they support regionally concentrated industries and is substantial for regional businesses in industries listed in Table 7.⁷ It is worth noting that the region's share in the national defense spending appears to be increasing in recent years: such is the case between 2013 and 2015 when contracts performed in the region increased from \$147 billion to \$305 million.

⁶ Contracts spending data are not adjusted for inflation. Data are derived from USASpending.gov, which is a publicly available, searchable website operated by the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of the Fiscal Service. Also, figures for the region are a low-end tally of contracting dollars because the data source includes only direct contracts and not subcontracts.

⁷ According to U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Rockford MSA's gross regional product was \$14.4 billion in 2014.



In 2015, \$304.6 million worth of DoD contracts were performed in the Rockford region. Businesses operating in manufacturing, wholesale trade, and professional and technical services received the most contract dollars obligated in FY 2015 (Table 7). The top four industries include: Electrical equipment and wiring merchant wholesalers (423610); Process and logistics consulting services (NAICS 541614); Aircraft engine and engine parts manufacturing (336412); and, Other aircraft parts and equipment (NAICS 336413). As discussed above, businesses in transportation equipment manufacturing (NAICS 336), fabricated metal product manufacturing (NAICS 332) and machinery manufacturing (NAICS 333) appear to be performing a substantial amount of DoD contracts in the region.

Table 7: Industries with DoD Prime Contracts Valued at least \$1 million, Fiscal Year 2015

NAICS Code	Industry	Sum of dollars obligated	Share (%)
423610	Electrical equipment and wiring merchant wholesalers	167,229,375	54.9
541614	Process and logistics consulting services	34,921,104	11.5
336412	Aircraft engine and engine parts mfg.	30,940,358	10.2
336413	Other aircraft parts and equipment	30,934,150	10.2
325998	Other miscellaneous chemical product mfg.	10,813,098	3.5
332216	Saw blade and handtool manufacturing	8,376,242	2.7
333415	Ac, refrigeration, and forced air heating	6,030,045	2.0
333612	Speed changer, drive, and gear manufacturing	4,835,869	1.6
332991	Ball and roller bearing manufacturing	1,215,480	0.4
336390	Other motor vehicle parts manufacturing	1,215,082	0.4
236220	Commercial building construction	1,051,149	0.3
	Subtotal	297,561,953	97.7
	Other Industries	7,110,973	2.3
	General Total	304,672,926	100

Summary

Overall, compared to the nation, the two-county regional economy appears to be different in terms of industrial composition. Manufacturing is the largest industry by employment in the region and workers in this sector enjoy relatively higher wages compared to the workers in other local sectors. After manufacturing, health care and retail trade are the two largest sectors. These three sectors together constituted approximately 48 percent of total regional employment in 2014. There has not been a significant change in the sectoral distribution of employment in the two-county region in the last five years. In 2010, these three industries were also the largest employers.

Although the regional economy continues to expand after the recession ended in 2010, similar to the trend in Illinois, current regional employment is still behind the pre-recession point. During the same period, the U.S. economy performed slightly better and the current national employment level surpassed pre-recession level. Relatively slow growth in employment in the two-county region could be explained by (1) creation of fewer new jobs, (2) slower population growth, or (3) a declining labor force participation rate. The unemployment rate in the two-county Rockford region has been historically above the national average.

Definitions & Data Sources

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed. People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. The labor force is made up of the employed and the unemployed (16 years of age and over). The remainder—those who have no job and are not looking for one—are counted as *not in the labor force*. Many who are not in the labor force are going to school or are retired. Family responsibilities keep others out of the labor force. Since the mid-1990s, typically fewer than 1 in 10 people not in the labor force reported that they want a job (BLS). Unemployment rate reported for the two-county region is calculated using weighted average for two counties that comprise the region.

Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information and Analysis

http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Annual_Average_Data.aspx

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims

UI claims data are widely used as an indicator of labor market conditions. Unemployment insurance (UI) programs are administered at the state level and provide assistance to jobless people who are looking for work. Workers who lose their jobs may file applications to determine if they are eligible for UI assistance. These applications are referred to as "initial claims." Claimants who meet the eligibility requirements must file "continuing claims" for each week that they seek benefits. While the UI claims data provide useful information, they are not used to measure total unemployment because they exclude several important groups. Not all workers are covered by UI programs. For example, self-employed workers, unpaid family workers, workers in certain not-for-profit organizations, and several other small (primarily seasonal) worker categories are not covered. Over the past decade, only about one-third of the total unemployed, on average, received regular UI benefits.

Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information and Analysis

http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Annual_Average_Data.aspx

The U.S. Department of Labor

<http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp>

Wages

Wages include bonuses, stock options, severance pay, profit distributions, cash value of meals and lodging, tips and other gratuities, and, in some States, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans such as 401(k) plans. Average annual wages reported for the two-county region are calculated using weighted average for two counties that comprise the region.

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

<http://www.bls.gov/cew/datatoc.htm>

Employment

The QCEW employment count is a total derived from quarterly contribution reports filed by almost every employer in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It counts only filled jobs, whether full or part-time, temporary or permanent, by place of work. The quarterly reports include the establishment's monthly employment levels for the pay periods that include the twelfth of the month. Because the QCEW data is based on an establishment census which counts only filled jobs, it is likely that a multi-job holder will be counted two or more times in QCEW data.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).
<http://www.bls.gov/cew/datatoc.htm>

Occupations

An occupation is a set of activities or tasks that employees are paid to perform. Employees that perform essentially the same tasks are in the same occupation, whether or not they are in the same industry. Some occupations are concentrated in a few industries, while other occupations are found in the majority of industries. Occupations data derived from the occupational employment statistics (OES). The OES survey is a semi-annual mail survey of non-farm establishments. Note that Military Specific Occupations are not surveyed in OES.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).
<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm>

Department of Defense Contracts

USA Spending reports two different locations for DoD contract awards: (1) The Recipient Location and (2) The Place of Performance. The *recipient location* is usually the headquarters of the entity receiving a federal award while the *place of performance* includes the location for the project being funded by the award or the location where products or services have been purchased for a project being funded by an award. Contract awards reported in this profile are based on the *place of performance*. And, regional contracts figures are approximation as they are derived from zip code-level data points. The following zip codes are considered to be roughly representative of the two-county Rockford region: 61008, 61011, 61012, 61016, 61024, 61024, 61038, 61063, 61065, 61072, 61073, 61077, 61079, 61080, 61088, 61101, 61102, 61103, 61104, 61105, 61106, 61107, 61108, 61109, 61110, 61111, 61112, 61114, 61115, 61125, 61126, 61130, 61131, 61132.

Annual contract figures are an aggregation of awards that occurred in a single fiscal year. The federal government operates on a fiscal year that begins on October 1st and ends the following September 30th.

The U.S. Treasury Department Bureau of the Fiscal Service.
<https://www.usaspending.gov/DownloadCenter/Pages/dataarchives.aspx>