

Power Up Your Automotive Manufacturing and Supply Business



The Auto Parts Capital of the World

For well over 100 years, the Toledo/Northwest Ohio region has served as a major location for research, innovation, development and production in the automotive industry. Throughout this past century, the region has utilized its core expertise of manufacturing knowledge and its proximity to Detroit to develop a robust cluster in the industry.

Toledo was home to Willys-Overland Motor Company, which pumped out Jeep brand products, including more than 350,000 military vehicles during World War II. That plant eventually gave way to Chrysler's state-of-the-art \$1.2 billion facility constructed in 2001, and later a \$2.1 billion expansion in 2006. Nearby, the GM Transmission Plant continues to grow with a recent investment of \$260 million to add an eight-speed transmission line. Both Chrysler and GM have other Northwest Ohio facilities in Perrysburg and Defiance, respectively. Ford also recently invested \$500 million to upgrade its Lima-based engine plant. Our region's central location and access to three of the country's most traveled highways (I-75, I-80, I-90), allows companies to reach nearly half of the U.S. and Canadian markets in a one-day drive.

Companies in the region have extensive material expertise in ferrous and non-ferrous metals, plastics, glass, fiberglass and composite materials. Many of Northwest Ohio's automotive parts manufacturers operate non-union production facilities, employing thousands of workers.

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private economic development organization serving 20 counties in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. In collaboration with JobsOhio, a statewide corporation leading Ohio's job creation efforts, we work aggressively to meet the site selection needs of clients and consultants. Contact us to learn how we can help power up your automotive manufacturing and supply business.

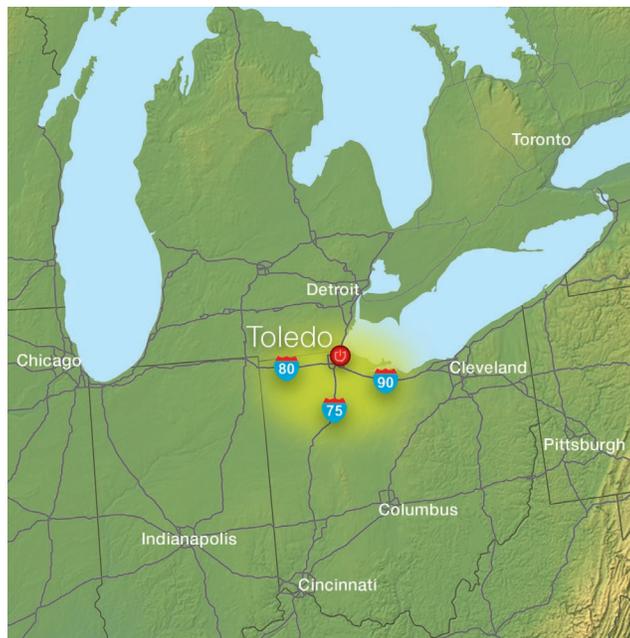
Regional Assets

Workforce

Northwest Ohio boasts 82 companies operating in the automotive industry employing more than 23,000 workers. For years, the Northwest Ohio workforce has been recognized as the best and most productive in North America. Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne was quoted as saying, "The quality of the workforce in Toledo is outstanding." Local assembly, transmission and engine plants have all been named most productive by the highly respected *Harbour Report*. Hiring companies will also find a deep pool of candidates from some of the top engineering programs including the University of Toledo and University of Michigan.

Location

The Toledo region borders Michigan and is just 45 miles from Detroit, the automotive capital of the world. This region is directly in the center of the largest concentration of automotive production, engineering and administrative activity in North America.



Supply Chain

Northwest Ohio has extensive Tier I, Tier II and Tier III automotive suppliers and broad expertise in tool and die, stamping, blanking, machining, extruding, casting, injection molding, coating and other automotive processes. Ohio ranks second in the nation for total number of Tier I suppliers, which equates to 350 businesses.

Logistics

The Toledo region and Ohio are recognized globally for fast, effective routing of goods and services worldwide. Along with a major highway system, several Class I rail lines move through the region, loading such products as auto parts and completed automobiles, making Toledo one of the top five rail hubs in the U.S. Additionally, the Port of Toledo provides a water route to the world for raw materials, outgoing products and plant equipment.

Energy, Natural Resources, Sites

Northwest Ohio offers some of the lowest industrial electric rates in the Midwest, currently as low as 4.73 cents per kilowatt hour. Its proximity to the shale industry makes Northwest Ohio extremely cost competitive for natural gas. This region is adjacent to the Great Lakes – the world's largest supply of fresh water – and businesses benefit from predictable and moderate weather patterns. Numerous sites of various acreages are available for investment.

Major companies in the automotive manufacturing and supply industry located in Northwest Ohio:

