

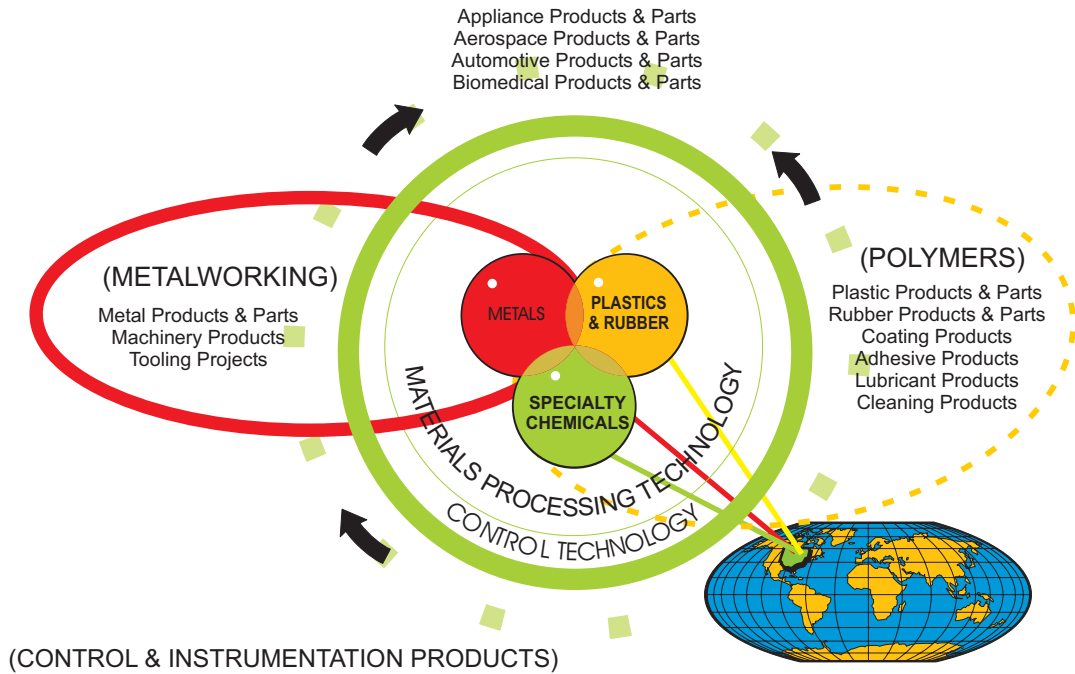
Regional Economic Overview

Great market potential is within an 8 hour drive (800 km) of the region ... 50 percent of America's population, 55 percent of its manufacturing plants and 60 percent of its effective buying power – plus the majority of the Canadian market. Nationwide access is provided by 7 interstate highways. Over 160 trucking firms, highways, rail services, airports and deep water ports link the region with domestic and foreign markets. The NEO Modal Terminal, a world class container handling facility in Stark County, provides highway/rail linkage for long distance and overseas freight.

In the last five years, more than \$1.5 billion in private capital was invested in 58 new plants, and 2,208 new jobs were created in the Greater Akron Region. In 2005, nearly \$409 was invested in 101 projects in the area, including 14 new plants and 87 expansions. The polymer and metalworking industries accounted for more than 50 percent of the investment.

Trade advantages and tax savings at Foreign Trade Zone #181, a general purpose zone near the Akron Canton Airport, and several subzones throughout the region, make the region a cost effective location for international companies who are expanding into the North American market. In addition, Enterprise Zones throughout the region allow similar tax advantages for companies carrying inventories.

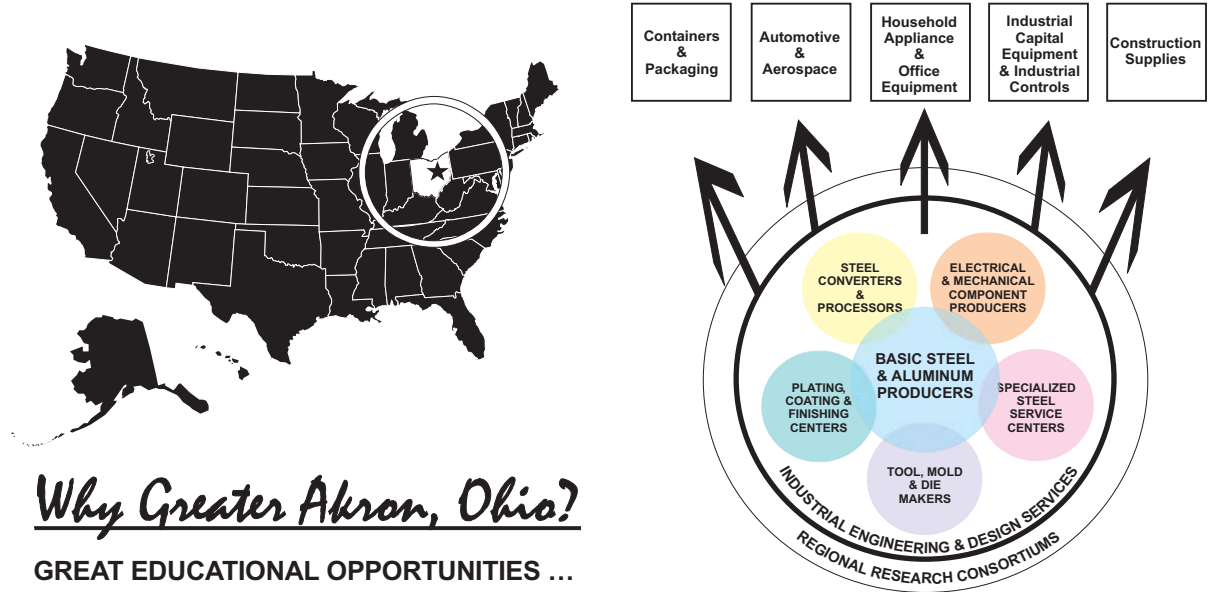
NORTHEASTERN OHIO PRODUCT & CAPABILITIES CLUSTERS*



*NOTE: The term "cluster" refers to a geographic concentration of interdependent companies within the same industry with common suppliers, labor pools, and institutions that together constitute an important competitive advantage for the region in that industry.

The Northeast Ohio Plastics Cluster

Ohio is home to custom molders, captive molders, resin processors, and equipment manufacturers. A study by CIT Group ranked Ohio #1 in plastics and polymers. Ohio also ranks #1 in rubber and miscellaneous plastic products and #2 in hoses, belts, gaskets, and packing. The Greater Akron Region is home to the largest number of polymer companies in Ohio, and the industry employs more than 31,000 people in the area. In addition, more than 550 metalworking firms, often combining in a unique industrial resource network, provide capabilities unmatched in the United States in areas ranging from steel manufacturing, metal finishing, heat treating, welding, complex machining, mold making and mold repairing using the best available technology, machinery building, rebuilding and design.



Why Greater Akron, Ohio?

GREAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ...

The University of Akron College of Engineering offers programs in electronic, manufacturing and mechanical technology. The University also offers B.A. Degrees in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Other Northeast Ohio universities offer degrees in Aerospace, Industrial, Metallurgical and Industrial Systems Control Engineering. A unique resource – the Akron Machining Institute – provides basic, thorough, full apprentice training to area firms. The school is owned by the eight-member Akron Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

Stark State Technical College gives working and non-working people in the community the competitive edge in today's high-tech world by enabling them to enrich their education and skills. The school offers degree programs in 25 technologies, one-year certificate programs and a variety of "career enrichment" courses. All programs are developed with input from local employers and professionals who serve on advisory committees with the purpose of designing and updating curricula to meet the educational needs of the community.

The metalworking and machine-making industries of this region have strong ties to this growing center of polymer production and research. The University of Akron's College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering is the only college in the world devoted to the study of polymers.

The Facts...

- The largest concentration of plastics and rubber plants in North America is in Northeast Ohio.
- More than 140,000 people work in Ohio's plastics and polymers industry at nearly 1,400 plastics industry establishments in Northeast Ohio.
- Greater Akron is home to the largest number of polymer companies in Ohio. The industry employs more than 30,000 people in the area.
- More than half of the total U.S. plastics consumption occurs within 500 miles (800 km) of Northeastern Ohio.
- Ohio's reputation as one of the nation's major plastic and polymer processors is enhanced by its plastics machinery industry. Today, Ohio ranks as the #1 state in the nation for the manufacture of plastics machinery, far ahead of the remaining forty-nine states – more than triples its nearest competitor.
- Custom compounding is another industry segment in which Ohio excels, employing nearly 3,200 people in turning utilitarian resins into specialty products.
- Manufacturing represents 16 percent of our workforce and Akron has become the center for engineered plastics and rotational molding.
- The combined resources of three major universities and an international industrial consortium make Greater Akron one of the leading liquid crystal and polymer research and development centers in the world.
- More than 800 metalworking, polymer and electronic firms help create a unique industrial resource network that supports automotive, industrial machinery, biomedical and consumer durables production.
- Almost 10 percent of U.S. plastics products manufacturing is done in Ohio.

Mission:

The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to promote economic development to benefit the people of the Greater Akron Region.

This information is provided by the Greater Akron Chamber and its contractual partners and is intended to be a general description of the Greater Akron Region. Please contact the Chamber for referral or more detailed information. All information is subject to change.

Source(s): 2006, Ohio Rubber & Plastics Industry



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PLASTICS & POLYMERS

Greater Akron, Ohio USA



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES & PRECISION MANUFACTURING