

# Akron USA

Where  
**collaboration**  
brings  
**innovation**  
to life™



# Akron USA

## The City of Re-Invention

Since our founding in 1825, Akron has been driven by innovation. Again and again, we have re-invented ourselves. First, Akron was known for being at the forefront of the milling and machinery industry. Then we were called the rubber capital of the world. Now, we're recognized for advanced plastics and polymers with a biomedical focus. Each Akron innovation has led to the investment in the next. It's a continuous cycle ignited by a dynamic collaboration of great ideas, great people and great business.

All of Akron's industries – both then and now – have been fueled by this area's invaluable infrastructure. Back in the mid 1800s, Akron's strategic location along the canals and railroads gave companies access to raw materials and the ability to ship their products all over the world with relative ease. Today, Akron continues to boast plentiful amounts of fresh water, a reliable supply of natural gas and electricity, and a state-of-the-art communications network. Our transportation system is still enviable with air, rail, highway and waterway routes ensuring businesses convenient access to both domestic and global markets.

Most importantly, Akron merges our region's established expertise with a business-friendly approach. One that assists both new and established companies in building a presence and successfully growing their businesses. We're committed to doing whatever it takes to attract new companies to our city, as well as support them after they arrive.

Find out more about Akron USA, a city that's driven by innovation. A city that supports retention, growth and attraction. A city where collaboration brings innovation to life.



*Don & Phyllis*

**Don Plusquellic** | Mayor of Akron  
mayor@akronohio.gov

### Domestic Hub with Global Accessibility

Akron, Ohio, approximately 40 miles south of Cleveland, is centrally located between New York City and Chicago. With access to more than 160 trucking firms, highways, rail services, deep-water ports and airports (including CAK, one of the fastest-growing airports in the U.S.), we can easily connect businesses with domestic and foreign markets alike.

Moreover, Akron is considered a favorable entry point into both the U.S. and North American markets. Here, companies have access to the heart of the nation's fastest-growing, largest biomedical cluster, strategically positioned within the cross section of Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.



## Akron Quick Facts



Home to more than **400** polymer-related companies



Nearly **\$2 billion** in private capital investment made in 5 years <sup>1</sup>

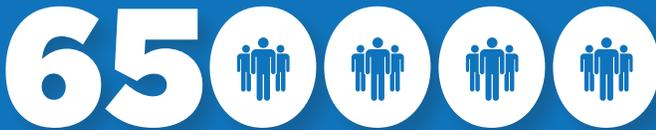


Approximately **50** startup companies located within the Akron Global Business Accelerator



More consumers within a **250-mile (400-km)** radius compared to any other U.S. metro market <sup>2</sup>

Metro population:



Number of nationally recognized hospitals and medical universities:

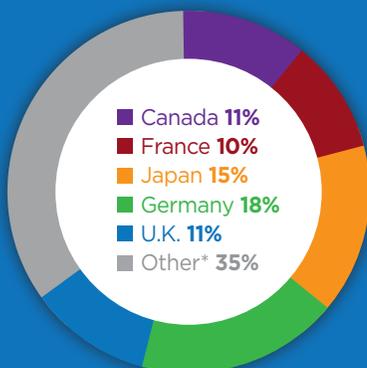
**4**

Number of colleges and universities within a 50-mile radius:

**45**

Ranking by size of Ohio metros:

**5**



International Investment in Greater Akron <sup>3</sup>

\*Including Finland, Israel, China, Slovenia and Sweden

## Ohio Quick Facts

Ohio is home to 2 of the top 4 angel funds in the U.S.

**#1 & #4**

State ranking for favorable business tax rates on new investments: <sup>4</sup>



Number of biomedical businesses in Northeast Ohio:

**MORE THAN 600**

“ In addition to strong support of local and domestic companies, **Akron has taken the lead in successful attraction initiatives of global innovative technologies and companies.** We live in a global village and will continue to pursue global innovations which can enhance our local economy and lifestyle. ”

**Don Plusquellic**

Mayor  
City of Akron

“ Over the past 20 years, the City of Akron and Greater Akron Chamber have worked together to **build an internationally recognized public-private partnership** that has successfully captured sustainable investment from around the globe. ”

**Daniel C. Colantone, CCE**

President and CEO  
Greater Akron Chamber

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)

<sup>2</sup> Cleveland Plus Business

<sup>3</sup> Greater Akron Chamber: International Investments, February 2012

<sup>4</sup> Ernst & Young LLP and the Council in State Taxation, Competitiveness of State and Local Business Taxes on New Investment, 2011

# Global Hub of Innovation

Akron is quickly becoming known as a global hub of innovation, attracting international technologies and companies looking for the convergence of higher education, healthcare, and public and private sector organizations and government. All with the willingness to experiment with new models and new alliances.

## Strong Cluster Industries

Greater Akron's robust cluster industries take advantage of common technologies, a shared labor pool, and close proximity to suppliers and buyers. Together, they cultivate new technologies critical to the city's economic growth and help ensure that new businesses are given every opportunity to succeed.

### Advanced Materials

Our region is home to the state's largest number of polymer companies employing more than 31,000 people. What's more, **The University of Akron College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering** is one of the most renowned in the world.

### Biomedical

The **Akron BioMedical Corridor** is a unique cluster of high-quality hospitals and universities, nationally recognized biomaterials research and development organizations, and startup biomedical companies that is already delivering novel technologies to the marketplace. [akronbiomedicalcorridor.com](http://akronbiomedicalcorridor.com)

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing has a long history in Akron. From milled cereal and rubber tires to clay pipes and children's toys, our city has been called a world leader in a wide variety of manufacturing arenas. Today, nearly 400 **metalworking** and related firms have created a one-of-a-kind industrial resource network within Northeast Ohio that provides capabilities unmatched in the U.S. The Greater Akron area also has the second-largest number of companies in Ohio within the **motor vehicle industry**, and the capability to excel in **automotive instrument controls and electronics manufacturing**.

## Emerging Cluster Industries

A large number of program design and software development firms support **information technology (IT)** and **medical imaging and devices**, two of the most promising clusters emerging in the Akron area. Akron also has been promoting the development of **renewable energy** and **clean water technology**. By using the city's infrastructure assets, Akron can help domestic and international companies commercialize their innovations in the U.S. marketplace. Akron is committed to assisting these clusters through collaboration and "technology bridge initiatives."

## Akron: The City Driven By Innovation

**1825**  
Ohio & Erie  
Canal Under  
Construction

**1852**  
Akron Manufactures  
First Clay Drainage  
Pipe, Becomes World's  
Top Producer

**1883**  
Akron Toy Company  
Catapults Modern-Day  
Toy Industry

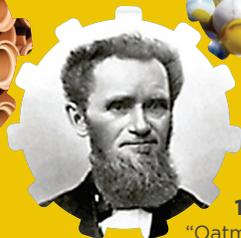
**1904**  
Akron Dedicates Its  
First City Hospital

**1846**  
Birth of Akron's Public  
School Plan, Adopted  
Throughout U.S.

**1856**  
"Oatmeal King"  
Launches Mass  
Production of  
Oat Bars

**Early 1900s**  
Three Big Tire  
Manufacturers  
Establish Akron  
Headquarters

**1909**  
The University of  
Akron Offers World's  
First Rubber  
Chemistry Courses



# The University of Akron



## Higher Education

With 13 colleges and universities within commuting distance and 32 others within a 50-mile radius, the Greater Akron area boasts the largest number of institutions of higher learning next to New York City.

- **The University of Akron** has the third-largest principal campus enrollment of Ohio's state universities.
- **Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)** is a premier health sciences university.
- **Kent State University** is Northeast Ohio's top producer of college graduates and the state's third-largest research university.

## Skilled Workforce and Intern Base

In addition to the high concentration of area colleges and universities giving Akron continual access to high-quality, low-cost interns and recent graduates, nearly 8,000 people annually relocate to this area. All of which gives the City of Akron a workforce pool that's so competent and diverse, it can help meet virtually any business goal.

## Nationally Ranked Hospitals

Ranked nationally by independent rating entities, **Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center** and **Summa Health System** annually attend to more than 1,300 beds, 1.5 million annual outpatient visits and 65,000 patient admissions. Plus, since Akron represents the perfect cross section of the U.S. population, these hospitals host the optimal environment for fast and effective pre-clinical and clinical trials, market testing and advanced insurance and reimbursement strategies.

## Unique International Bridges

Akron has established international bridges with leading innovative countries, such as Israel, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Slovenia and China, to help commercialize your products globally. As a result, the Greater Akron region is home to approximately 100 foreign-owned establishments employing more than 7,661 employees. We represent one of the largest metropolitan areas of employment by international companies in the State of Ohio and the only U.S. city to have invested in an Israeli incubator/business.

“ **The Technology Bridge between Akron and CE PoliMaT, Slovenia, is working.** The bridge is a collaborative platform for joint research, technology and commercialization projects, creating a soft landing for Slovenian startups and companies in the U.S. and vice versa. ”



**Mateja Dermastia**  
CEO, CE PoliMaT, Slovenia

**1930**  
Akron Named Birthplace of American Trucking Industry



**1990**  
Goodyear Polymer Science Center Opens at The University of Akron



**2010**  
State Designates Akron as Ohio Hub of Innovation and Opportunity



**2012**  
First Year of Akron BioInvestment Funds Operations



**1939**  
The University of Akron Establishes a Lab to Aid in Development of Synthetic Rubber with Support of a Federal Grant During WWII



**2006**  
City of Akron Establishes BioMedical Corridor



# Highly Collaborative Environment

Akron has a proven record of doing whatever it takes to attract companies of all sizes to our city – and supporting them after they arrive. To this end, the City of Akron’s leadership community has formed an alliance that knows how to leverage our assets for the greatest impact in your success. Together, we foster a thriving culture that supports entrepreneurship and business growth – one that helps to accelerate business development efforts. As a result, companies can accomplish more in less time here than in any other region.

## Access to Decision Makers and Opinion Leaders

Utilizing our strong, effective collaboration of public and private entities, the City of Akron can help you gain unparalleled access to the area’s most influential business and community leaders. These are highly approachable executives with mission-critical resources and networks that can connect you to cost-effective legal, tax, intellectual property and financial resources.

## Entrepreneurial Business Support

The **Akron Global Business Accelerator**, **Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA)**, **The University of Akron Research Foundation**, the **Greater Akron Chamber** and **Summit County** work together to help advance area companies to national and international levels. The Accelerator, in particular, provides technical, administrative, marketing and professional services that a business may not be able to otherwise secure or afford.

## Personalized Concierge Service

In addition to our assisting with business needs, the City of Akron provides unique personalized help in establishing your life and family in a new location. We assist with immigration, education, housing and more.

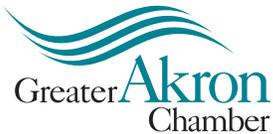
## Array of Financial Incentives

Akron’s business environment extends a wide range of financing options featuring grants for proof of concept, early-stage funds, angel networks and venture capital funds. Ohio is also gaining recognition for our favorable business climate, tax structure and business innovation support programs (such as the Ohio Third Frontier Commission) combined with low business and personal costs.

## Affordable, High-Quality Lifestyles

Akron has a lot to offer businesses. But the city provides plenty of personal advantages, too. Like state-of-the-art communications and transportation networks, affordable housing, low-cost utilities and a wide variety of cultural, leisure and popular attractions. All of which have resulted in Akron being named an All-American City three times (1981, 1995, 2008) by the National Civic League.

- Nationally recognized **Akron Art Museum**
- Distinguished **Akron Symphony Orchestra**
- **Lock 3** Outdoor Entertainment Center
- 40,000-acre **Cuyahoga Valley National Park**
- **Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens** and **Akron Civic Theater**
- **All-American Soap Box Derby**, **Bridgestone Invitational World Golf Championship**, **Akron Aeros Minor League Baseball** and **Akron Marathon**



**Bridgestone Americas** and **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company** are still reinvesting in Akron more than a century after being founded here. The development of Bridgestone’s state-of-the-art technical center (above) along with Goodyear’s new world headquarters (right) totaled more than \$1 billion in investments – all centered on keeping high-tech research and development jobs in the city.





# We've helped them. How can we help you?

The City of Akron understands and supports the retention, growth and attraction of local, national and international businesses. Discover what we can do for you. Go to [akronusa.org](http://akronusa.org) now.

“ I'm new to the area, and I have been extremely impressed with how **the City of Akron takes the extra steps to help businesses grow** - introductions to potential customers, access to funding sources and assistance with basic operations. ”



**Jeff Reedy**  
President and CEO  
7signal Solutions, Inc.

“ With the assistance of the City of Akron, FMI is developing a global business for Europe with planned new operations in Finland. **We appreciate the support of Akron in developing FMI's medical imaging business.** ”



**William McCroskey**  
Founder and Board Member  
FMI Medical Systems, Inc.

“ When approached to become Intellirod Spine CEO, **I insisted on moving the company to the Akron area.** The support of ABIA, local hospitals, spine surgeons and the regional investment community are keys to our continued success. ”



**Ric Navarro**  
President and CEO  
Intellirod Spine



# Where is Akron?

Akron, Ohio, is conveniently located within a 500-mile (800-km) radius of 42 major U.S. cities. So within an easy eight-hour drive of the Greater Akron area, you'll find:

- **57% of America's population**
- **55% of America's manufacturing plants**
- **60% of America's effective buying power**
- **65% of Canada's economic activity**

Put your company on the map with the help of Akron USA. Find out more at [akronusa.org](http://akronusa.org) now!

*Note: The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) considers 500 miles a one-day drive.*

## City of Akron

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**Akron USA**

## Driving Distances To Major Cities

Cleveland	40 miles (64 km)
Pittsburgh	110 miles (177 km)
Columbus	126 miles (203 km)
Detroit	190 miles (306 km)
Toronto	313 miles (504 km)
Washington, D.C.	350 miles (563 km)
Chicago	367 miles (591 km)
Philadelphia	409 miles (658 km)
New York	437 miles (703 km)
Boston	640 miles (1,030 km)

