

# 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 \$2.4 billion in private capital was invested in 122 new plants in the Greater Akron Region. In 2009, nearly \$88 million was invested in 38 projects in the Akron Region, including 14 new plants and 24 expansions. Private investment in the machinery industry accounted for approximately 50% of the investment.

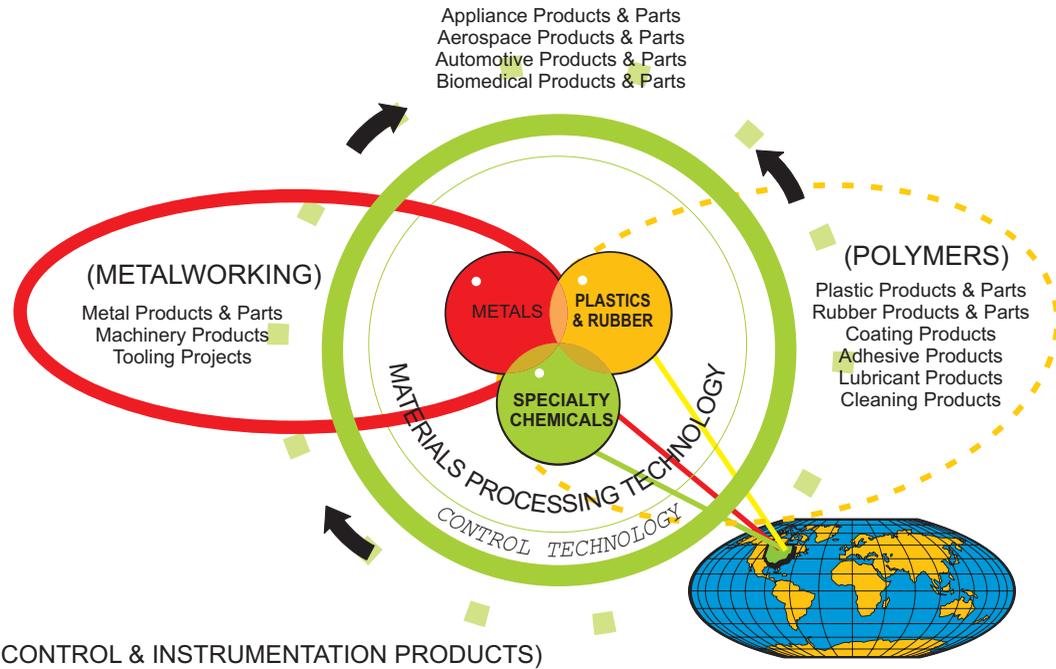
**Trade advantages and tax savings** at Foreign Trade Zone #181, a general purpose zone near the Akron Canton Airport, and several sub-zones throughout the region, make the region a cost effective location for international companies who are expanding into the North American market. In addition, Enterprise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

# Machinery Industry Clusters in Northeast Ohio

Based on the latest Gross State Product figures, Ohio ranks fourth in the nation in machinery production; as judged by the dollar value-added at industry establishments, Ohio led the nation in the production of other general purpose machinery, and was second in metalworking machinery. Northeast Ohio has the state's highest concentration of machinery industry and in the Akron Region it represents a large industry cluster, employing over 6,200 people in more than 210 establishments. The industry is combining an unique industrial resource network, providing 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.



## NORTHEASTERN OHIO PRODUCT & CAPABILITIES CLUSTERS\*



## Why Greater Akron, Ohio?

### GREAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ...

The University of Akron College of Engineering offers programs in electronic, manufacturing and mechanical technology. The University of Akron 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.

Stark State Technical College gives working and non-working people in the community a competitive edge in today's high-tech world by allowing them to improve 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.

\*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 Facts...

- There are approximately 2,075 machinery industry establishments in Ohio employing 84,400 people; those figures represent 7.4 percent of the U.S. industry's establishments and 7.2 percent of its work force.
- Metalworking and other general-purpose machinery (NAICS 3335 and 3339) are the two largest machinery industry groups in Ohio, with over 1,450 establishments and over 46,700 employees between them.
- The industry is diffused across the state, with at least one such establishment in 86 counties. The majority of jobs are in Cuyahoga, Montgomery, Hamilton, Summit, Franklin, Lake, Auglaize, Clermont and Lorain Counties.
- The greatest concentrations of industry employment in Ohio occur in welding and soldering equipment (333992 – 26.7 percent of the U.S.), metal forming machine tools (333513 – 24.2 percent), rolling mill machinery (333516 – 20.2 percent) and plastics and rubber industry machinery (33322 – 17.5 percent).
- Forty-five companies on Fortune magazine's U.S.-1,000 or Global-500 lists have machinery industry establishments in Ohio. Five of them maintain their world headquarters in Ohio: Cooper Tire & Rubber, Dana, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Parker Hannifin, and Timken. Lincoln Electric Holdings is the largest employer in Ohio's machinery industry with 3,500 people. Illinois Tool Works is second with over 2,300, and Crown Equipment is third with about 2,200. Other companies employing 1,000 to 1,999 people in Ohio include 3M, Berkshire-Hathaway, Emerson Electric, Gorman-Rupp, Isuzu and MTD Products.
- Greater Akron and the surrounding Northeast Ohio Region has a long and rich tradition associated with machine making and in particular, the manufacturing of injection molding machines. In fact, Ohio is the center of the largest concentration of injection molding machine-making plants in the United States.

### Mission:

The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development and prosperity for 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.

Sources: Ohio Department of Development, Industry Series: 2008 Iron & Steel Industry in Ohio  
Ohio Department of Development, 2009 Private Investment Survey  
U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 County Business Patterns



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# Innovative Technologies & Precision Manufacturing