



## Springfield, Illinois Fact Sheet

LOCATION	Springfield, Illinois, the capital of Illinois and the seat of Sangamon County government, is located at the intersection of Interstates 55 and 72. Chicago lies 200 miles northeast of Springfield; St. Louis and Indianapolis lie 100 miles southwest and 195 miles due east, respectively.
POPULATION	Approximately 112,000
ECONOMY	Balanced between the public and private sectors, Springfield has a well-diversified economic base. It serves as headquarters for 14 nationally known insurance companies and more than 165 state, regional and national associations. The community is a known leader in the health care industry, with a medical school and two major hospitals, as well as a world-renowned heart surgery institute. Springfield's consumer market area lies within a ten-county region, encompassing 5,839 square miles, and supports products for export throughout the world, ranging from pastry mixes, livestock and poultry feeds to space-age electronics.
GOVERNMENT	Springfield is the hub of Illinois political activity. One of the largest and most influential states in the U.S., the State Capitol building explodes with legislative activity each fall and spring. The city also serves as the seat of county government. The local government is based on a strong mayoral-aldermanic city council.
HISTORY	A pioneer settlement started in 1820 when John Kelly built the first log cabin at the northeast corner of Second and Jefferson Streets. Springfield's fertile soil and trading opportunities attracted other settlers from North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky. Originally called Calhoun, Springfield received its permanent name in 1832 and was designated the state capital in 1837 with the help of a young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln.
EDUCATION	The University of Illinois at Springfield, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield College in Illinois and Robert Morris College offer students a diverse selection of higher education opportunities.

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**Page 2**  
**Springfield Facts**

CLIMATE	Moderate year-round temperatures. In the summer months, average temperatures range from 70-85° and in the winter months they range from 30-40°.
ACCOMMODATIONS	With 38 hotel properties and more than 4,000 sleeping rooms, Springfield's accommodations range from luxury four-star properties to budget facilities. Springfield also offers several historic bed and breakfast properties.
MEETINGS / CONVENTIONS	Springfield's Prairie Capital Convention Center offers more than 65,000 sq. ft. of meeting and convention space. The 360-acre Illinois State Fairgrounds can accommodate virtually any size event with its many facilities. The city's four major convention hotels include the Crowne Plaza, Hilton, Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center and the Renaissance, all of which can accommodate small meetings to large conventions.
TRANSPORTATION	Capital Airport provides many daily commuter flights serving St. Louis and Chicago's O'Hare and Midway. Amtrak runs several times daily between downtown Chicago and St. Louis. Springfield Mass Transit provides intra-city bus service, while several taxi firms offer transportation within the city, as well as airport service. Greyhound provides inter-city bus service.
SIGHTSEEING	Nearly one million visitors annually come to see Springfield's historic Abraham Lincoln sites, which include the Lincoln Home and Neighborhood, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, Old State Capitol, Lincoln Tomb, Lincoln's New Salem, and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. Other attractions include the Dana-Thomas House, the Illinois State Capitol and the Executive Mansion.
YEAR-ROUND EVENTS	Springfield offers hundreds of exciting events throughout the year. Old Capitol Art Fair and Springfield Air Rendezvous in May, International Carillon Festival in June, Illinois State Fair and LPGA State Farm Classic in August, International Route 66 Mother Road Festival and Springfield Mile in September and First Night Springfield on New Year's Eve are some of the major annual events.
SHOPPING	From charming, one-of-kind boutiques to national department chains, Springfield offers something for every shopping need. The historic downtown area is brimming with specialty shops, antique stores, bakeries, clothing boutiques, art galleries and more. The city's West Side is home to White Oaks Mall, (the largest central Illinois indoor shopping facility), national discount shopping centers, home improvement stores, state-of-the-art computer and home entertainment stores, fashion boutiques and more.

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