



Greater Wichita Regional Snapshot – Complete Overview

A Region Built to Compete

The greater Wichita region combines more than a century of aerospace leadership with a diverse economy, skilled workforce and business-friendly environment. Known as the Air Capital of the World, the region is home to global industry leaders, an extensive supplier network and world-class research and workforce development institutions. In 2026, Global Location Strategies ranked Wichita the No. 1 U.S. metro for aerospace and defense investment, recognizing the region's manufacturing capabilities, supplier strength and workforce talent.

Beyond aerospace, the region's strengths span advanced manufacturing, information technology, transportation and logistics, food production and emerging industries such as music, biomedical research and digital health. The Wichita Biomedical CampusSM is central to this effort, creating new opportunities for collaboration, innovation and investment.

With competitive operating costs, a central U.S. location and a strong entrepreneurial culture, the greater Wichita region offers companies the resources and connections to grow, innovate and compete.

Regional Strengths

- **Recent national recognition:**
 - No. 1 U.S. metro for aerospace and defense investment by Global Location Strategies.
 - No. 1 fastest commute of 100 largest cities by the Business Journals.
 - No. 3 most affordable place to live by CNBC.
 - No. 4 best city to move to by Forbes.
- **Aerospace and defense leadership:** More than 100 years of aviation expertise, with major employers including Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier and Textron Aviation, alongside a network of more than 350 aerospace suppliers.
- **Space efforts:** Wichita companies are helping advance the nation's space exploration efforts, with more than 145 Kansas suppliers contributing to NASA's Artemis II mission.





Greater Wichita Partnership

- **Skilled workforce:** A workforce of more than 413,000, supported by a strong network of education (17 secondary schools in the region), research and workforce training institutions. Wichita State University (WSU), WSU Tech, Friends University, Newman University, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine help prepare talent for the region's growing industries. Additional assets include the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), the Hub for Advanced Manufacturing and Research (HAMR) and WSU's Innovation Campus, which connect education, applied research and industry.
- **Technology and innovation:** A growing information technology sector, with strengths in cybersecurity, engineering and applied research.
- **Central location and logistics:** Centrally located with access to major interstate and rail networks, connecting businesses to suppliers and customers nationwide.
- **Business-friendly environment:** Competitive operating costs, a low cost of living and a pro-business environment that supports company growth and investment.
- **Entrepreneurial ecosystem:** Home to nationally recognized companies and household brands, including Koch Inc., Cargill, Pizza Hut, White Castle and Coleman.
- **Emerging industries:** Growing opportunities in biomedical research, medical equipment manufacturing, space and defense, and other advanced industries.
- **Quality of life:** More than \$2 billion in recent downtown investment is transforming Wichita, with new development, amenities and experiences strengthening the region's appeal. Downtown Wichita continues to grow as a hub for dining, entertainment, housing and culture, anchored by a vibrant riverfront and the home of the Wichita Turbo Tubs, the city's Minor League Baseball team. Residents enjoy a thriving arts and culinary scene, major attractions, more than 100 miles of recreational trails, diverse neighborhoods, short commute times and a cost of living that makes it easier to enjoy all the region has to offer.

A Place to Build What's Next

The greater Wichita region's combination of industry expertise, talent, infrastructure and affordability creates opportunities for businesses at every stage. From established global manufacturers to emerging companies, the region offers the resources and partnerships to turn ambitious ideas into lasting growth.

