Paper and Packaging

This cluster contains the paper mills and manufacturers of paper products used for shipping, packaging, containers, office supplies, personal products, and similar products. The technical report, Metropolitan Chicago’s traded industry clusters, offers extensive data on the characteristics and performance of the Chicago region’s core industrial assets since 2001, available for download at [https://cmap.is/Traded-Clusters](https://cmap.is/Traded-Clusters).

In the Chicago region in 2017, this cluster consisted of

- **$2.0 billion** total output
- **15,700** jobs
- **250** establishments

Middle-skill workers have greater opportunity than the regional average.

- **$31,554** 25th wage percentile
- **$36,096** 50th wage percentile
- **$49,902** 75th wage percentile

Workers in this cluster tend to be more racially diverse than the regional labor force.

- **64%** non-white
- **31%** female
- **37%** over age 50

In recent years, the cluster’s competitive position held steady even though as it became more specialized in the national context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Job Change</th>
<th>Total Output Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>-32%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>-29%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>-46%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Freight trade geography, by value

- **22%** Chicago region
- **34%** Midwest
- **34%** Rest of U.S.
- **9%** Global

Source: CMAP analysis of Freight Analysis Framework data (FAF 4.4.1). Note: Data includes only the Illinois portion of the U.S. Census Bureau combined statistical area. Freight data is not provided for service clusters.