Upstream Metals

This cluster consists manufacturers of metal products such as pipes, metal closures, wires, springs, and related products, as well as iron and steel mills and foundries and related metal processors. 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.

In the Chicago region in 2017, this cluster consisted of

- **$2.2 billion** total output
- **16,800** jobs
- **420** establishments

Workers in this cluster tend to be more racially diverse than the regional labor force.
- **56%** non-white
- **20%** female
- **44%** over age 50

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

- **$32,782** 25th
- **$36,458** 50th
- **$56,965** 75th

wage percentiles

- **32%** of workers have an associate’s degree or higher
- **63%** of jobs typically require at least 2 months of on-the-job training

In 2016, this cluster generated approximately

- **$31.2 billion** in freight shipments that originate, terminate, or circulate regionally.

Freight mode share, by value

- **87%** Truck
- **8%** Multimodal
- **3%** Rail

Freight trade geography, by value

- **14%** Chicago region
- **41%** Midwest
- **33%** Rest of U.S.
- **13%** Global

In recent years, the cluster’s competitive position weakened as it became less specialized in the national context.

- **-26%** jobs
- **-16%** total output

Chicago

- **+2%** jobs
- **+1%** total output

Detroit

- **-26%** jobs
- **-4%** total output

Houston

Note: Job change is from 2001-17, and total output change is from 2007-17.

Source: CMAP analysis of Economic Modeling Specialists International data (Emsi 2018.4).

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Source: CMAP analysis of Freight Analysis Framework data (FAF 4.4.1).

Source: CMAP analysis of Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, 2017 American Community Survey data.