Illinois is the fifth most populous state in the country with a population of 12,830,632. Illinois has 102 counties. The largest in population is Cook, which includes Chicago and its suburbs, with 2,695,598 people. Hamilton County, located in the Shawnee National Forest in southeastern Illinois, is the smallest in population with 4,320 people.

Illinois' Major Public Universities and their populations (2011)
- University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana: 44,520
- Illinois State University: Normal: 19,094
- University of Illinois at Chicago: 26,589
- Western Illinois University: Macomb: 12,200
- University of Illinois at Springfield: 5,137
- Northern Illinois University: 11,631
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale: 17,964
- Eastern Illinois University: Charleston: 11,178
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: 14,055
- Governors State University: University Park: 5,674
- Northern Illinois University: DeKalb: 21,138
- Chicago State University: 7,235

Illinois History
- French explorer Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette discovered the area known as Illinois in 1673.
- The Illinois area was organized as a territory on February 3, 1809.
- Illinois became the 21st state to enter the Federal Union on December 3, 1818.
- Vandalia — 1820 to 1839
- Springfield — December 1839 to present

Illinois Facts
- Illinois is home to the nationally and internationally acclaimed Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.
- Illinois lays claim to our nation's 44th President, Barack Obama, whose home is in Chicago.
- Illinois boasts the state's tallest office building — the 110-story Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) in Chicago.

Economy
- Illinois is a leader in agriculture, transportation, manufacturing and food processing.
- Illinois leads the nation in exports with $65.8 billion.
- Illinois leads the nation in retail and food services sales, which totaled $178.9 billion in 2009.
- Illinois ranks seventh in the nation in the number of institutions for higher education.
- Illinois has approximately 74,300 farms on nearly 27 million acres.

Agriculture
- Illinois is a leader in soybean production, with 461.6 million bushels harvested in 2013.
- Illinois is the nation's leading soybean producer, with 461.6 million bushels harvested in 2013.
- Illinois is home to the nationally and internationally acclaimed Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

Coal/Oil Production
- Illinois produced nearly 48.5 million tons of coal in 2012, ranking the state fifth among coal-producing states.
- Oil production in Illinois was 26,765 barrels in 2012, ranking it 14th among oil-producing states.

Transportation
- Illinois is the hub of America's transportation network and a mainstream of American shipping.
- Illinois is a leader in agriculture, transportation, manufacturing and food processing.
- Illinois ranks seventh in the nation in the number of institutions for higher education.
- Illinois has the third-largest community college system in the country.
- Illinois has approximately 74,300 farms on nearly 27 million acres.
- Illinois is the nation's leading soybean producer, with 461.6 million bushels harvested in 2013.
- Illinois is the sixth-largest State Parks and Recreation areas in the nation, with 487,176 acres serving 42,293,523 visitors annually.
Illinois State Officials
Governor ............................. Bruce Rauner (R)
Lieutenant Governor ................. Evelyn Sanguineti (R)
Attorney General ........................ Lisa Madigan (D)
Secretary of State ........................ Jesse White (D)
Comptroller ............................. Leslie Geissler Munger (R)
Treasurer ................................ Michael Frerichs (D)

U.S. Senators
Dick Durbin (D)
Mark Kirk (R)

Illinois Legislative Leaders
Senate President ........................ John J. Cullerton (D)
Senator Minority Leader .................. Christine Radogno (R)
Speaker of the House .................... Michael J. Madigan (D)
House Minority Leader ................... Jim Durkin (R)

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• The Illinois area was organized as a territory on February 3, 1809.
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• The sixth and present State Capitol is located at Second and Capitol Streets in Springfield and dates back to 1868. It took 20 years to complete the building at a cost of $4.3 million.

Population (2010 U.S. Census)
• Illinois is the fifth-most populous state in the country with a population of 12,830,632.
• Illinois has 102 counties. The largest in population is Cook, which includes Chicago and its suburbs, with 5,194,675 people. Hendricks County, located in the Shinnecock National Forest in southeastern Illinois, is the smallest in population with 4,320 people.

State Symbols
The Great Seal of Illinois and the Illinois State Flag are two of the state’s official symbols. Other state symbols are:

- Amphibian: Eastern Tiger Salamander
- Animal: White-tailed Deer
- Bird: Cardinal
- Dance: Square Dance
- Fish: Bluegill
- Flower: Violet
- Fossil: Tuffly Monster
- Fruit: Goldfruit Apple
- Insect: Monarch Butterfly
- Mineral: Fluorite
- Nickname: Prairie State
- Pisces: Bald Eagle
- Rattle: Painted Turtle
- Shrimp: "Land of Lincoln"
- Shell: Popcorn
- Song: "Illinois"
- Tree: White Oak

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Agriculture
• Illinois is the nation’s leading soybean producer, with 401.6 million bushels harvested in 2013.
• Illinois is a leader in food processing.
• Illinois is the second-leading state in corn production, with 31.1 billion bushels harvested in 2013.

Technology
• Illinois is a leader in information technology and biotechnology. The University of Illinois at Chicago is home of the Center for Supercomputing Research & Development, and Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago is one of the largest of the state’s scientific laboratories and research centers in the country.

Higher Education
• Illinois has the third-largest community college system in the country.

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- Southern Illinois University Carbondale: 17,900
- Eastern Illinois University: 11,137
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: 14,055
- Governors State University: 5,674
- Northern Illinois University: 5,674
- DePaul University: 21,138
- Chicago State University: 7,335

Other Illinois Facts
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