

# The Midwest



# The Midwest

- **Middle West**, also called **Midwest**, or **North Central States** is a US region lying midway between the Appalachian and Rocky mountains and north of the Ohio River and the 37th parallel. Actually composed of two regions, the Northwest Territory, or the Old Northwest, and the Great Plains, the Middle West has become more an idea than a region: an area of immense diversity but somehow consciously representative of a national average.
- Emerging transportation arteries, first canals and then railroads, linked the Middle West with Eastern markets and firmly established it as part of the industrially expanding North, thus concluding a process begun in 1787 when slavery was outlawed in the Northwest Territory.
- After the American Civil War, the growth experienced by the Middle West was dramatic. Transportation, immigration, and industrialization all played a part. By 1890 Chicago, not even 60 years old, had become the second largest city in the country, and the Middle West accounted for 29 percent of the country's manufacturing employment and nearly one-third of its value added by manufacture.
- The Great Plains, however, developed more slowly. Westward migration tended to skip the Plains for the West Coast, and it was not until the late 1800s, when most American Indians had been subjugated, barbed-wire fencing had been introduced, and railroads had penetrated the interior, that the Plains experienced rapid settlement by farmers, ranchers, and tradesmen.
- The region has continued to be the most important economic region in the country, leading all other sections in value added by manufacture and in total value of farm marketings.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/381455/Middle-West>



# The Amish

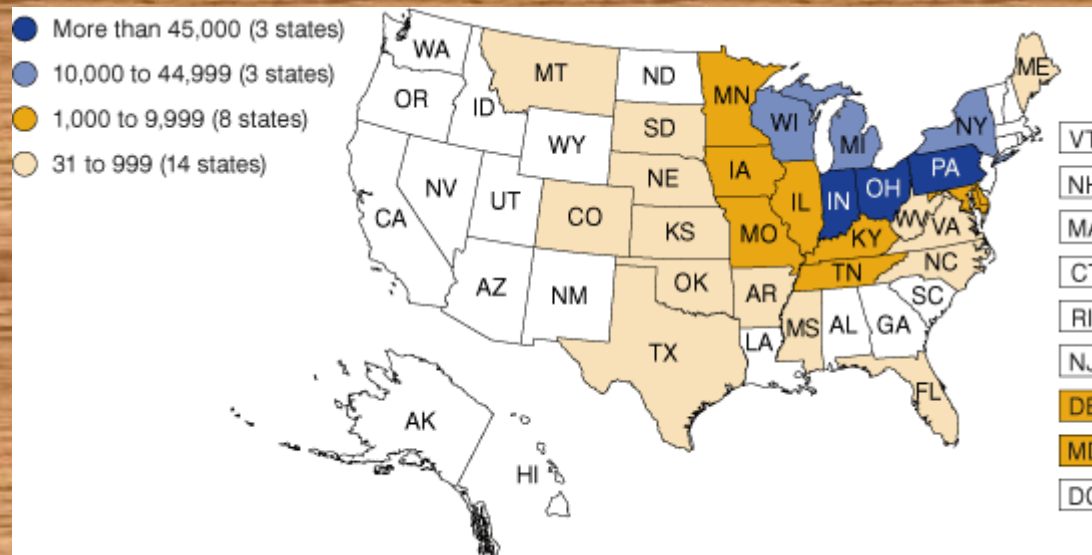
- **Amish**, also called **Amish Mennonite**, member of a Christian group in North America. The church originated in the late 17th century among followers of Jakob Ammann.
- Jakob Ammann (c. 1644–c. 1730) was a Mennonite leader whose controversial teachings caused a schism among his coreligionists in Switzerland and southern Germany.
- Amish communities sprang up in Switzerland, Germany, Russia, and Holland, but emigration to North America in the 19th and 20th centuries and assimilation with Mennonite groups gradually eliminated the Amish in Europe.
- The Amish began emigrating to North America early in the 18th century; they first settled in eastern Pennsylvania, where a large settlement remains. Schism and disruption occurred after 1850 because of tensions between the “new order” Amish, who accepted social change and technological innovation, and the “old order,” or traditional, Amish, who largely did not. During the next 50 years, about two-thirds of the Amish formed separate, small churches of their own or joined either the Mennonite Church or the General Conference Mennonite Church.
- Most traditional Amish are members of the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church. In the early 21st century there were about 250,000 Amish living in more than 200 Old Order Amish settlements in the United States and Canada; the largest were located in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas, and others were found in Wisconsin, Maine, Missouri, and Minnesota.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/20820/Amish>



# The Amish

- Nineteen percent of the Amish in America live in Indiana. According to the latest U.S. Religious Census, approximately 241,000 Amish adherents were spread across 28 states in 2010. Ohio had the highest number of Amish (59,103), followed by Pennsylvania (58,009) and Indiana (45,144).



<http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2012/nov-dec/article2.asp>



# Mount Rushmore Memorial

- The Mount Rushmore sculpture ensemble quickly became one of the United States' great iconic images. The memorial is now one of the top tourist attractions in the country.





- **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**, colossal sculpture in the Black Hills of southwestern South Dakota, U.S. Huge representations of the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, each about 60 feet (18 metres) tall, are carved in granite on the southeast side of Mount Rushmore.
- The mountain itself, at an elevation of 5,725 feet (1,745 metres), was named in 1885 for Charles E. Rushmore, a New York lawyer. The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) assumed administration of the site in 1933.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/394747/Mount-Rushmore-National-Memorial>



# The Midwest



- The Breadbasket of the USA
- The **breadbasket** or the **granary** of a country is a region which, because of richness of soil and/or advantageous climate, produces an agricultural surplus which is often considered vital for the country as a whole. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breadbasket>
- The Midwest is called the **breadbasket** because many cereal crops are grown there. This is because the soil in this region is very fertile. Wheat, oats, and corn are some grains grown in the Midwest.



# Detroit, Michigan

- **Detroit** is located on the Detroit River (connecting Lakes Erie and St. Clair) opposite Windsor, Ontario, Canada. It was founded in 1701 by a French trader, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who built a fort on the river and named it Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit in honour of his patron; later the British called it simply Detroit. In the 20th century the city's name became synonymous with the American automotive industry.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/159597/Detroit>



# Chicago, Illinois



- **Chicago**, city, seat of Cook county, northeastern Illinois, U.S. With a population hovering near three million, Chicago is the state's largest and the country's third most populous city. In addition, the greater Chicagoland area—which encompasses northeastern Illinois and extends into southeastern Wisconsin and northwestern Indiana—is the country's third largest metropolitan area and the dominant metropolis of the Midwest.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/110319/Chicago>



# Sears Tower / Willis Tower, Chicago

- **Willis Tower**, formerly (1973–2009) **Sears Tower**, skyscraper office building in Chicago, Illinois, that is one of the world's tallest buildings. The Sears Tower opened to tenants in 1973, though construction was not actually completed until 1974. Built for Sears, Roebuck and Company, the structure reaches 110 floors and a height of 1,450 feet (442 metres), excluding broadcast antennas and their supports.
- The Sears Tower was the world's tallest building until 1996, when it was surpassed by the Petronas Twin Towers (1,483 feet [451.9 metres]) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 2009 incoming tenant Willis Group Holdings, an insurance brokerage firm based in London, changed the building's name to Willis Tower.



<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/531007/Willis-Tower>