Logistics and Distribution for a Real-Time Economy
Going Global Starts in Ohio

Today’s environment requires customized services and delivery options that are flexible and faster than ever before. No matter what you make or where it needs to go, you can exceed consumer expectations with Ohio’s distribution and fulfillment solutions.

With a diverse and extensive infrastructure, a central location close to customers, a qualified industry workforce and a thriving tech culture, Ohio is the best place for logistics and distribution companies to excel in a highly digital age.

Getting You from Here to There

- UPS, DHL, FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service have six distribution and processing hubs in Ohio – more than any other Midwest state. Each major Ohio metropolitan area is within 100 miles of at least two outbound parcel services.

- Ohio has a strong transportation infrastructure with the nation’s fourth largest interstate system, 10 major rail yards, 13 intermodal terminals, seven commercial airports and three inland water ports.

- Ohio has nine foreign trade zones and is the only state in the Midwest with direct shipping routes to Europe for both container and heavy goods.

- Ohio is fast becoming a global hub for the research, testing and deployment of smart transportation technologies, with designated smart corridor routes for driverless and connected vehicles.

- Companies have access to a large pool of reliable and skilled workers. Over 150 educational providers in Ohio offer various degrees, certificates and programs related to occupations within the logistics and distribution industry.

- Low taxes keep costs down. Ohio has no commercial activity tax on products sold outside the state, no state tax on corporate profits and no state tax on personal property.
Ohio is an E-Commerce Hub

Thanks to e-commerce, speed and agility are more important than ever to transportation. From Ohio, you can reach large numbers of customers within a day, supporting the expectation of reliable, on-time delivery. As you grow, a network of retail, fintech and logistics and distribution companies make it possible to create, deliver and enhance value for both you and your customers.

Kroger and Ocado: Building the U.S.’s First-Ever Robotic Warehouse

Online grocery spending could rise to $100 billion annually by 2020, and as many as 70% of consumers could be shopping for products online.* Ohio-based Kroger, America’s largest grocery retailer, is proactive about the shift.

Kroger is partnering with U.K.-based Ocado, one of the world’s largest dedicated online grocery retailers, to launch America’s first state-of-the-art robotic customer fulfillment center (CFC). Like Ocado’s U.K. warehouses – one of which can pack up to 65,000 grocery orders weekly – the U.S. Kroger facilities will have fully automated grocery-packing robots moving along a grid.

The $55 million CFC will be 335,000 square feet and generate more than 400 jobs. Kroger’s initial CFC will be a model in its plan to open 20 CFCs in the U.S., creating a seamless customer experience that serves customers nationwide.

Kroger’s first CFC will be in its home headquarters region of Southwest Ohio and should be operational by spring 2021. Ohio has a strong food and agribusiness industry, an active tech environment and one of the nation’s best infrastructures. For Kroger, this means it can deliver fresh foods fast to customers both near and far. For Ohio, Kroger’s CFC reinforces the state’s importance in logistics and tech innovation.

“Kroger is proud to choose our home state of Ohio as the location for the first-of-its-kind customer fulfillment center in America. Kroger is committed to helping position Ohio, Cincinnati and our region as landmarks for innovation, further advancing the area’s digital and technology ecosystem.”

Rodney McMullen, chairman and CEO, Kroger

*Digital Readiness Assessment by Nielsen and Food Marketing Institute
Proximity to Customers and Markets

Ohio’s multimodal transportation capabilities provide easy national and global access. The flexibility of choice in how to move products lowers the cost of shipping.

Moreover, companies in Ohio are within a one day’s drive of 60% of the U.S. and Canadian population. That means that Ohio’s major cities - including Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland - and out-of-state cities such as New York City, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Nashville and Toronto are all within reach. Because getting things from point A to point B couldn’t be easier when point A is Ohio, companies who rely on transportation continue to invest here.

To learn about the partnerships and resources available in Ohio, visit JobsOhio.com or reach out to our team:

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