

BUSINESS REFERENCE WEB SITES

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Broad Topics and General Information

Business.gov

<http://www.business.gov/>

This is the “Official Business Link to the U.S. Government.” Find information on starting a business, licenses and permits, finance and taxes, compliance with the law, loans and grants, and much more. There's a discussion forum, and downloadable forms are also available.

Entrepreneur.com

<http://entrepreneur.com>

Covering topics from A to Z, this web site will lead a small business owner to information and articles on developing business plans, marketing, sales, advertising, management, human resources, finances, technology, and many other relevant topics.

Small Business Planner

<http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html>

The U.S. Small Business Administration hosts this web site which includes information and resources for all stages of a business lifecycle. Step-by-step information is provided on planning, starting, operating, and closing a small business. The web site also includes a free assessment for individuals thinking about starting a business and on-line courses covering a variety of topics.

State of Illinois Business Portal

<http://business.illinois.gov/>

This Illinois State government site provides information on starting, running, and changing a business in the State of Illinois. Information is provided on understanding finances, human resources, registrations, licensing, taxes, available grants, loans and other incentives. Forms specific to Illinois businesses are also available.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.uschamber.com/default>

Find links to Chambers of Commerce across the United States, including American chambers abroad.

International Information

Foreign Consular Offices in the U.S.

<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>

Compiled by the U.S. State Department, this site contains the official listing of the foreign consular offices in the United States and recognized consular officers. The list is offered as a convenience to organizations and persons who must deal with consular government agencies, such as state tax officials, international trade organizations, chambers of commerce, etc.

International Organizations

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/intl.html>

Links at this University of Michigan web site allow you to search for international government agencies, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and information on treaties.

Nationmaster

<http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>

This web site can be used as a data source and a handy way to graphically compare nations. NationMaster is a vast compilation of data from such sources as the CIA World Factbook, UN, and OECD. Using the form available on the site, you can generate maps and graphs on a variety of statistics.

Legal Topics

Employment Law Guide: Laws, Regulations and Technical Assistance Service

<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/index.htm>

This Guide contains news articles, provides access to forms, and describes the statutes and regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that affect business and workers. Topics include wages, health plans and benefits, unemployment and much more.

Employment Law Information Network

<http://www.elinfont.com/>

A variety of topics regarding employees in the workplace can be found on this site. There is information on employment laws, policies, and issues, updated copies of recent articles on changes in federal and state employment laws, and summaries of recent employment law cases.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

<http://www.eeoc.gov>

The EEOC web site offers information on EEO laws including those on discrimination and sexual harassment. Guidance is available on the definitions of the various forms of discrimination, the responsibilities of businesses, strategies for prevention, alternative methods of resolving complaints, enforcement statistics, as well as training and outreach resources.

NOLO.com

www.nolo.com

NOLO, a well-known publisher of legal books, software and forms, provides free information here on a variety of topics including establishing various forms of businesses, human resource issues, patents, copyright, trademarks, etc. They also offer their publications for sale.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration -Employer Responsibility

<http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/worker/employer-responsibility.html>

This web site provides information on employers' legal responsibilities under OSHA. Information is also provided on training, recordkeeping, and enforcement.

Legally Required Posters

Illinois Department of Labor

<http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/Posters/poster.htm>

This site contains the posters that are legally required by the State of Illinois. The posters are in English and Spanish and can be printed in color or black and white.

U.S. Department of Labor --Posters

<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/topics/posters.htm>

This is a great source for identifying and printing federally required posters. If you are not sure which posters are required for a particular business, there are a series of questions to answer and the required posters will be identified. Posters are in English or Spanish.

Statistical and Demographic Information

American Fact Finder

http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

Hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau, this web site contains demographic information by state, county and city/town. It includes population, housing, economic, and geographic data.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/>

This government web site provides economic data, consumer and producer price indices, and unemployment statistics.

HUD State of the Cities Data System (SOCDS) Quick Link Retrieval: Select City in Illinois

<http://socds.huduser.org/quicklink/screen2.odt?statestring=17>

This is a great resource for demographic and statistical information for cities in Illinois. Historical comparative information and trends are included. Statistics and demographic information are provided on population, housing and home ownership, housing problems, race/ethnicity and immigrants, educational attainment, poverty and income, family with own children by family type, employment labor force, unemployment rates, employment by occupations and industries, crime, building permits, mobility and self care limitations, and much more.

Illinois Business Data

http://business.illinois.gov/business_data.cfm

The State of Illinois has created this central location to access a variety of statistical and demographic data for the State of Illinois, its counties, and many of its communities. In addition to population data, economic, workforce and Illinois infrastructure statistics are available. Projections are also available for selected demographic information.

Statistical Abstract

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The Statistical Abstract contains a collection of frequently requested statistics on social, economic, and international subjects including state rankings, state and country profiles and economic indicators.

Taxes

Illinois Taxes

<http://business.illinois.gov/taxes.cfm>

This section of the Illinois government web site provides direct access for tax registration, forms, online filing services, and other information on tax incentives, rates, and assistance for businesses.

Tax and Accounting Site Directory

<http://www.taxsites.com/>

This easy to navigate site is designed for people who are primarily searching for accounting and tax information, products, and services.

Tax Information for Businesses

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/index.html>

This section of the Internal Revenue Service's web site has information on starting, operating, changing, and closing various types of businesses. In addition to tax information, there are tips and guides, on-line tutorial programs, forms and publications (many can be downloaded), and a news e-letter with current information of interest to businesses.

Teen Workers

Illinois State Laws Governing the Employment of Teens

<http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/laws/Law205.htm>

Use this site to review the laws and find information on child labor hours and restrictions. Information is also provided to assist those under age 16 in obtaining a work permit.

OSHA and Teen Workers

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/employers.html>

This site from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration provides information on safety and health laws when teens are employed. Some statistics are provided as well as suggestions on preventing workplace injuries.

What Jobs Youth Can Do

<http://youthrules.dol.gov/jobs.htm>

The U.S. Department of Labor has compiled a quick guide to assist in understanding the types of employment youth can have based on age.

Other Topics

KnowThis.com: Marketing Virtual Library

<http://www.knowthis.com/>

This virtual library of web resources is intended for those interested in all aspects of marketing and marketing management. It includes such topics such as planning, writing a marketing plan, consumer behavior, advertising, selling, promotion, and more.

Occupational Information Network

<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

This federal web site contains information on the work activities, tasks, skills, knowledge, tools and technology, work context, work styles, and values for thousands of jobs. Information is also provided on federal, state and regional salaries, projected future growth, and projected needs. Information on this web site can be used for identifying types of positions needed, developing job descriptions, developing job interview questions, and understanding the job market.

Hiring Foreign Workers

<http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/hiring.cfm>

This site provided by the U.S. Dept. of Labor has links to forms, commonly asked questions, and information needed to hire foreign workers on a temporary or permanent basis

Best Small Business Blogs

<http://www.forbes.com/bow/b2c/category.jhtml?id=320>

In addition to listed the best blogs of 2010, Forbes.com provides a weekly pick of a particularly interesting, informative or unique blog.

Looking in the Library?

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| Accounting | 657.2 |
| Advertising | 659.1 |
| Business card/letterhead design | 741.6 & 741.685 |
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