

President Cichanowski and
Commissioners
Port Authority of Winona, Minnesota
July 14, 2022

Winona is a Regional Center for employment, shopping, healthcare, education, recreation, and numerous entertainment events. The City has long been known for its entrepreneurial spirit and successes. A key objective of the City is to encourage and support the expansion of existing businesses and to cultivate the development of new businesses. Many new and long-standing businesses call Winona home. The following summary of businesses is a sample of some of these businesses.

Winona is known for its wide array of composite companies, many of which were founded here. Solvay (aero and computer industries) manufactures thermosets and molding compounds. RTP Company (founded in Winona) is a compounder of raw material for the composite industry. Wenonah Canoe (founded in Winona) is a leading worldwide manufacturer of composite canoes and kayaks including models that have been used by Olympic teams and recreational users. Avient was founded in Winona as PlastiComp and is an innovator in long-fiber thermoplastic molding. CodaBow, supported by professional musicians across the world, creates award-winning musical bows with graphite-fiber construction, which produce fine sound and quality performance without warping or fatigue.

Agriculture is prevalent in the Midwest and local companies process those commodities and transport them throughout the nation. Malteurop North America is one of the world's largest manufacturers of malt, which craft brewers, distilleries and food producers use to create their products. Bay State Milling Co. is a producer of whole and ancient grains, rye and traditional bakery flour for bakers, food manufacturers and distributors. Gypsoil manufactures a gypsum product, which is used as a soil amendment. Winona's transportation networks allow for the transportation of agricultural commodities including soybeans, corn fertilizer and gypsum. Most of the agricultural products are shipped via waterborne transportation through the City's Commercial Harbor.

Equipment manufacturers include Thern Inc. and Peerless Industrial Group. Thern Inc. (founded in Winona) manufactures material handling equipment such as winches, hoists and cranes with emphasis on niche market products such as the winch to hold and lower the New York City Times Square ball that is dropped on New Year's Eve. Peerless Industrial Group (founded in Winona, 1917) is the market leader in the design, manufacturing, and supply of chain, overhead lifting, cargo control and traction products in North America.

As a distributor and manufacturer, Fastenal (founded in Winona, 1967) is an expert consultant, a logistics company, a technology provider, and a distributor of wide ranging industrial and construction products. Hal Leonard Publishing (founded in Winona, 1947) is the largest publisher of educational music and songbooks, sheet music, orchestral and choral arrangements, eBooks, digital sheet music, and apps, which are distributed internationally. WinCraft Inc. (now Fanatics), founded in Winona in 1967, is the leading manufacturer of licensed and promotional products for retailers, professional sports teams, concessionaries, colleges, businesses, distributors, and schools.

Other manufacturers in Winona include JR Watkins and Midwest Co-Pack. JR Watkins is an award-winning manufacturer of spices and natural products that was founded in Plainview, MN and moved to Winona. Midwest Co-Pack LLC (founded in Winona, 2017) is a certified food process manufacturer that serves as the primary supplier for contract manufacturing of Midwest-based food brands, gummy candy and health products.

Winona is known as the Stained Glass capital of the U.S. Many stained-glass companies were founded in Winona, where the glass was fabricated, repaired and installed. Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser Studio has performed award winning restoration on two of the largest Tiffany windows in the world; in addition to restoration this studio provides repairs, preservation, conservation and new creations.

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As a designer and manufacturer of rolling stock rail products, Miller Ingenuity (founded in Winona) creates products used in over 100 countries for 50 years. They were the original inventor and OEM of traction motor lubricators and gear case seals for the companies of GE and EMD.

Electronic manufacturers in Winona include Benchmark and BCS Automotive Solutions. Benchmark manufactures printed circuit board assemblies and system integration products for medical, complex industrial, computing and data centers. Watlow designs and manufactures industrial heaters, temperature sensors, controllers and supporting software for various industries. BCS Automotive Solutions is a manufacturer of automotive parts.

Telecommunications provide local businesses and residents the ability to interact with others worldwide. Hiawatha Broadband Communications Inc. (founded in Winona, 1997) provides residential and business voice, data and video services to communities across southern Minnesota. Spectrum – Charter Communications is a provider of internet and cable television services.

Winona offers multiple educational opportunities. Winona State University (founded in Winona, 1858) offers more than 80 majors and programs to its more than 6,500 Winona students. Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (founded in 1912) offers more than 40 majors and programs to its nearly 1,000 Winona undergrad students. Minnesota State College Southeast is a technical and community college that offers almost 50 programs in 8 career areas to its nearly 300 students. Within Winona are the Public School District 861, 3 Charter Schools and 5 Private Schools including one international residency high school.

Winona provides options when it comes to healthcare. Winona Health (founded in Winona, 1894) has been recognized as a Top 100 Rural and Community Hospital since 2017. With more than 90 physicians and associate providers in 13 specialties, 1,000 staff members, and 330 volunteers, Winona Health provides 49 hospital beds, 110 nursing home beds, 60 assisted living apartments and 20 assisted living apartments for memory care. Gundersen Lutheran Health Care System – Winona Campus opened in 2019 and offers multiple specialties and services including urgent care, dental specialties, eye clinic, sports medicine, lab and infusion services.

There are many financial institutions in Winona including Merchants National Bank (founded in Winona, 1875). The bank was constructed in 1912 and was designed by architects Purcell and Elmslie, and is the largest and most famous example of the Prairie School of Architecture. WNB Financial (founded in Winona, 1874) constructed its 204 Main Street building over two years and opened in 1916. It was designed by George Washington Maher and features monumental columns in the front entrance, Italian marble, a massive steel vault, and Tiffany stained-glass windows.

Many of these businesses have made investments in their Winona presence by redeveloping and expanding their buildings. In the last few years, some of these developments have redesigned Winona's downtown. The City and the Port Authority of Winona continue to encourage development in downtown Winona with Opportunity Winona.

PORT AUTHORITY FUNDS

General Fund—The General Fund is used to account for all Port Authority activities that are not specifically required to be accounted for in another Port Authority fund. (The Port Authority's activities are to create jobs and expand the property tax base through industrial and economic development as pursued by the City.)

Special Revenue Funds—The following funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes: