

Toledo (Ohio) in Microsoft Encarta (abridged)

INTRODUCTION: Toledo (Ohio), city in northwestern Ohio extending along both banks of the Maumee River where it empties into Lake Erie. Toledo is a major port of the Great Lakes.

Toledo's climate is moderated somewhat by proximity to Lake Erie. Extreme temperatures are rare, but the city has frequent cloudiness and high humidity. In January the average high temperature is 0°C (32°F) and the average low is -8°C (17°F); in July the highs average 29°C (84°F) and lows average 16°C (61°F). Annual precipitation totals 810 mm (32 in).

PEOPLE: Toledo had 313,619 inhabitants in 2000. The population of the city declined 6.1 percent between 1980 and 1990 and 5.8 percent between 1990 and 2000.

According to the 2000 census, whites are 70.2 percent of the population, blacks 23.5 percent, Asians 1 percent, Native Americans 0.3 percent, and people of mixed heritage or not reporting ethnicity 4.9 percent. Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders numbered 76 at the time of the census. Hispanics, who may be of any race, are 5.5 percent of the people. The Hispanics first came to the city in part as migrant workers employed on surrounding farms. Toledo also has a small but strongly cohesive Lebanese community.

City Landscape: The Toledo region maintains a number of significant educational and cultural institutions. In the city are the University of Toledo and the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo.

The Toledo Art Museum possesses, in addition to its collection of paintings and statuary, one of the world's finest displays of glass art. A symphony orchestra, ballet company, opera, and several theater groups stage regular performances. The Wolcott House Museum Complex preserves six historic and authentically furnished buildings to depict the life of 19th-century Maumee Valley residents, while the Wildwood Manor House opens to view an industrialist's mansion. A unique underwater look at hippopotamuses is one of the attractions at the Toledo Zoo. The Toledo Botanical Gardens occupy a site at the western edge of the city.

Toledo's lake and river setting provides ample opportunities for outdoor activities. The extensive Toledo Metroparks system includes trails along the towpath of a 19th-century canal, a water-powered gristmill, and an historic battlefield. Along the lakeshore is Maumee Bay State Park and the Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge.

While Toledo has no major league sports teams, it supports a widely known minor league baseball team, the Mud Hens. Professional golf has long included Toledo as part of its venue.

ECONOMY: Manufacturing accounts for roughly one-fifth of all employment in the Toledo metropolitan region. Traditionally two types of manufacturing have been important to Toledo's economy—glass and automotive.

Toledo's proximity to the center of vehicle manufacturing in Detroit, Michigan, accounts for the importance of the automotive industry. Toledo supplies parts to automobile assembly plants, even though many assembly plants have moved away from Detroit in recent years. Leading automotive-related employers in the metropolitan area are DaimlerChrysler (Jeep vehicle assembly), General Motors (auto and truck transmissions), Cooper Tire and Rubber (hoses and seals), and the Dana Corporation (vehicular component parts).

Major glass and related companies include Libbey Incorporated (glass manufacturing), Owens-Illinois (glass, plastics, and paper), Owens Corning (glass fiber, building products, and materials), and Libbey-Owens-Ford (glass). Other products manufactured in the region are processed foods, refined petroleum, furniture and cabinets, and plastics.

The Port of Toledo is one of the largest deepwater ports on the Great Lakes. Coal and iron ore, grain, and a wide range of general cargoes are the three primary categories of shipping.



Working with the text:

- 1) Read the text, look up unknown words and underline info that is of special interest to you.
- 2) Being invited to Toledo, how would you travel there? (Consult your atlas in finding relevant info.) What changes in weather conditions do you have to prepare for?
- 3) If for whatever reason your family was moved to Toledo, how would your parents make a living there (given their work experience)?
- 4) Considering the ethnic mix-up of Toledoans, whose cultural background would you be interested in? Give reasons for your choice.