

# JOLIET, ILLINOIS



## HISTORY OF JOLIET, IL

Joliet, Il was laid out by James B. Campbell in 1834. Joliet was first incorporated as Juliet in 1837, but residents petitioned to rescind that status because of the tax expenses. Then Joliet was reincorporated under its new name in 1852.

Joliet hit its heyday after the Chicago Fire of 1871. Joliet was the home of many quarries and stone for buildings was in great need. A state penitentiary was also located in Joliet because of the abundance of stone for cell walls. In 1869, the Joliet steel mill was constructed and began to boom. The city began to grow as canal construction drew in Irish immigrants and the steel mill attracted thousands of southeastern Europeans. The success of Joliet's industrial side soon brought in many other industries ranging from the bottling of 7-Up to constructing pianos.

In 1983, Joliet hit an economic low point with an unemployment rate of 26 percent. In the 1990s, Joliet began to rebound through riverboat casinos and NASCAR races.

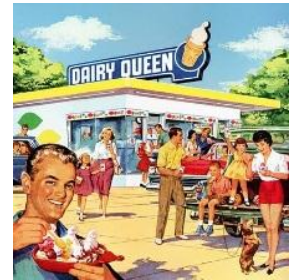
## FUN FACTS ABOUT JOLIET, IL

The Joliet Prison is featured in the television show *Prison Break* and the opening scene of *The Blues Brothers*.

The first Dairy Queen Drive-In was opened in Joliet in 1940.

The Rialto Square Theater, a favorite haunt of the infamous Al Capone, is in downtown Joliet.

Joliet's Lois Delander was crowned Miss America in 1927 at the age of 16. She went on to serve the longest reign in pageant history!



## JOLIET, IL AT A GLANCE:

- Unemployment Rate: 12.2%
- Population (2009): 147,633
- Land area: 38.1 sq. mi.
- Elevation: 600 ft.
- Median Household Income: \$53,675



## CLOSEST AIRPORT

Chicago Midway International Airport  
5700 South Cicero Avenue  
Chicago, Il 60638  
(773) 686-3700

## HOW FAR AWAY IS JOLIET, IL FROM...?

Pittsburgh, PA .....	474 miles
Washington DC .....	712 miles
Chicago, IL .....	44.4 miles
St. Louis, MO.....	262 miles
Atlanta, GA .....	726 miles
Reach Headquarters in Galeton, CO .....	936 miles

## WEB PAGE INFORMATION

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/676.html>  
<http://www.cityofjoliet.com/joliet.htm>

## HOTELS:

Holiday Inn ..... (815) 729-2000  
411 South Larkin Avenue  
Joliet, Il

Super 8..... (815) 725-8855  
1730 McConough Street  
Joliet, Il

