

Akron, Ohio

Situated south of Cleveland, along the Ohio-Erie Canal, Akron was the fastest growing city in America during the teens and 20s. The rubber industry attracted people from all over the world to work here. From 1910 to 1920, Akron's population went from 69,000 to 210,000. By the mid 20s, Akron's population was in the 300,000s.

Akron: The name "Akron" was derived from a Greek work meaning "high." [History of Akron](#)
State [Ohio](#)
County [Summit](#)
Current Population 199,110 (2010 census)
198,549 (2012, estimate)
City size: 62.03 square miles (2010)
Founded 1825

Weather: Moderate: ([cityrating.com](#))
Spring-Summer-Fall average 63.5 degrees
Fall-Winter-Spring average 35.9 degrees

Best Nickname: University of Akron "Zips"
10 million people live within a 150-mile radius of Akron
50% of American population live within a 500-mile radius of Akron

Fifth largest city in Ohio

Home of the Akron Aeros, the Cleveland Indians AA minor league baseball team.

Home to the Ohio Ballet

Home to the Akron Symphony Orchestra

Once known as the "Rubber Capital of the World," now a world-renowned center for polymer research and development. There are 400 polymer-related companies located in the Akron area.

Akron ranked third nationally in manufacturing job growth (2011), *bizjournals.com*

Newsweek listed Akron 5th of ten high-tech havens in 2001. In 2008 "City of Invention" was added to the seal when the All-America City Award was received for the 3rd time.

AKRON IS THE HOME OF...

- Ice cream cones, hamburgers and caramel corn snacks were invented in Akron by Charles E. Menches
- The first graded school system in the United States and where the concept of a school superintendent was created
- The highest point on the Ohio-Erie Canal
- The first synthetic rubber tire, marketed in 1940
- The first balloon tire in 1924
- The first long distance electric railway in the world, the ABC Line – Akron, Bedford, Cleveland

- The birthplace of the trucking industry
- The world's largest model train display at the Depot, at Quaker Square (former site of the Quaker Oats Co.)
- One of the largest buildings without interior supports, the Loral Airdock – where Goodyear once built blimps – is 22 stories high and could accommodate four football games at once. Its height and atmosphere actually produce rain inside.
- The first breakfast cereal, now Quaker Oats
- Processed cereals developed by Akron's Ferdinand Schumacher, the oatmeal king
- Alcoholics Anonymous, founded in Akron by "Dr. Bob" (Smith) and "Bill W." (Wilson) in 1935
- America's first toy company, S.C. Dyke Co., manufacturer of marbles
- The first automobile police patrol wagon, in 1899
- Derby Downs, home of the All-American Soap Box Derby, the world's greatest amateur racing event
- The first artificial fish bait, made by Pflueger Fishing Tackle Company
- Abolitionist John Brown, and the site of Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" speech on freedom from slavery (1851)
- Inventure Place, the world's first transactive science museum, and home of the National Inventors Hall of Fame
- The Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club every August
- The largest small business incubator in the state and one of the largest in the world
- Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, considered the finest example of Tudor Revival architecture in America, built by Frank A. Seiberling, founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Where can you go to sleep in a renovated grain silo (a place called Quaker Square), visit one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in America, and explore an interactive science museum of invention? Akron, Ohio, of course. The City of Invention. A three-time All-America City that was given first place in the City Livability Award competition by the United States Conference of Mayors in 1999.

Akron is the home of the National Inventor's Hall of Fame and Inventure Place – an interactive museum of invention, the All-American Soap Box Derby, Alcoholics Anonymous, oatmeal, artificial fishing bait, the World Championship - Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament, and Stan Hywet Hall - one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in America.

Akron was founded by Simon Perkins in 1825 and developed into a canal town on the Ohio & Erie Canalway. As railroads replaced the canal system, the rubber industry grew under the entrepreneurship of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Goodrich, F.A. Seiberling and Harvey Firestone. The presence of B.F. Goodrich Tire, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Firestone Tire and General Tire led Akron to become the Rubber Capital of the World. Great cereal mills, such as the Quaker Oats Company, were also located in Akron.

Now, Akron is a world-renowned center of polymer research and development. The Polymer Science Institute of the University of Akron has made us an international leader in education in

the polymer field. More than 35,000 people in the Akron area are employed in approximately 400 polymer-related companies. Akron is also home to many small manufacturing firms and has a large variety of retail establishments and shopping complexes.

Fifty percent of America's population lives within a 500-mile radius of Akron, and within a 150-mile radius there are approximately 10 million people. Akron has easy access to a network of superhighways and is a major trucking hub. A market potential of 111 million people live within a day's drive of Akron.

High-quality, affordable housing makes Akron an attractive place to live. The availability of green space provided by 6,600 acres of Metropolitan Parks, just moments from residential areas, makes Akron a pleasing combination of urban convenience and pastoral beauty. The park system includes a 25-mile bike and hike trail.

Akron is also home to the Ohio Ballet, The Akron Symphony Orchestra, and E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, which brings Broadway plays and many world-famous entertainers to the city. We are also home to the Akron Rubber Ducks, the Cleveland Indians AA baseball team. Canal Park is the new state-of-the-art baseball stadium on Main Street in downtown Akron. The historic Ohio & Erie Canalway runs just beyond center field. It has been developed to provide a scenic area that includes a bike and hike trail and picnic area for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Source: <https://www.akronohio.gov/cms/visitors/index.html>

Some attractions related to Akron's history and the AICGS project:

Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens

The Stan Hywet Hall and Garden is the previous house of F.A. Seiberling who was also the founder of the world famous Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The house and grounds span 65,000 square feet and feature a 65 room house built in the Tudor Revival style. There are 20 acres of scenic grassy lawns here, as well as a conservatory and flower gardens. Recently built on the site is a play garden for younger visitors which is filled with interactive garden exhibits like a Splash Fountain and an archeological dig.

Akron Fossils and Science Center

The Akron Fossils and Science Center is a museum just outside of Akron which is dedicated to the topic of creationism and intelligent design. The museum first opened in 2005 and was the brainchild of a local science teacher and has a wide range of interactive exhibits to teach children about science and fossils. To that end, you will find items such as the jawbone of a woolly mammoth, a large range of fossils, dinosaur teeth, and even bones and eggs. There is also a mastodon skeleton and games that teach you about amino acids and proteins.

Akron Art Museum

Anyone who likes architecture and art should head to the Akron Art Museum where you will find a huge range of pieces that stretch across seven different galleries. The collections here start from 1850 into the present and there is a large gallery with modern and contemporary art work. As well as traditional paintings you will find sculptures, photography exhibitions, and paper drawings. The building itself is also a sight to be seen and used to be a Renaissance revival building from the 19th century until it was restored and mixed with glass and steel to create something truly exceptional.

Kent State University Museum

The Kent State University Museum has eight different galleries that feature static and rotating exhibitions of art work in different forms. If you love all kinds of art then this is definitely not to be missed, as you will find a huge range of genres under one roof, including textiles, furniture, glassware, paintings, and decorative pieces. The works here include those of both local and international artists, and you will find art work from all over the world on display should you visit. Pieces range from the 18th century until the modern day, and are a fascinating collection of decorative items from different places and times.

Akron Newspaper: <https://www.beaconjournal.com/>