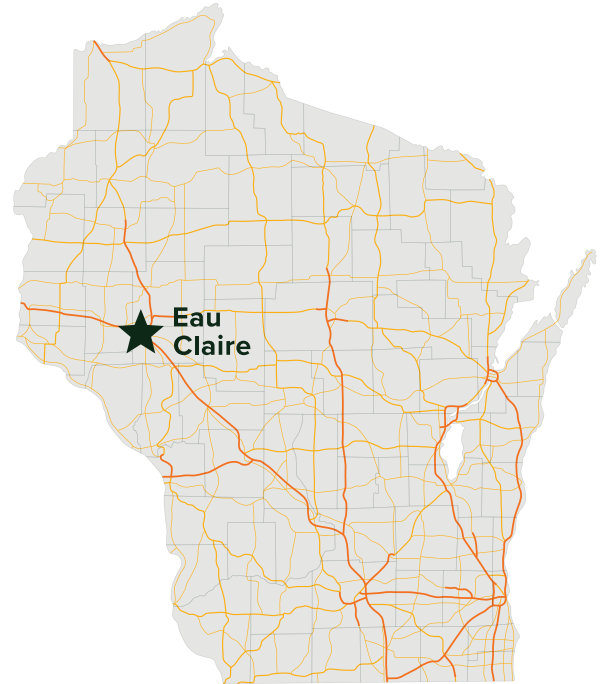


Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Competitive Advantages

Strategic Location

Eau Claire's convenient spot on I-94 between the Twin Cities and Chicago makes it a valuable **transportation hub** through which businesses can easily move goods and employees. The city is also centrally situated in the western half of the state and is just an hour and a half away from a major metropolitan area with a prominent international airport. This **proximity to a large consumer market** is especially advantageous for businesses that need increased supply chain efficiency and want to reach a broader customer base.



Distance to Metro Areas

City	Miles Away
Minneapolis-St. Paul	90 Miles
Milwaukee	246 Miles
Chicago	315 Miles
St. Louis	530 Miles
Detroit	600 Miles
Louisville	615 Miles
Cleveland	665 Miles

Eau Claire is located at the junction of Highway I-94 and Highway I-53 in Western Wisconsin.

Natural Resources

Eau Claire is home to an abundance of natural resources that enrich both the city's environment and quality of life.



Timber



Rivers & Lakes



Agricultural Land



Mining



Wildlife

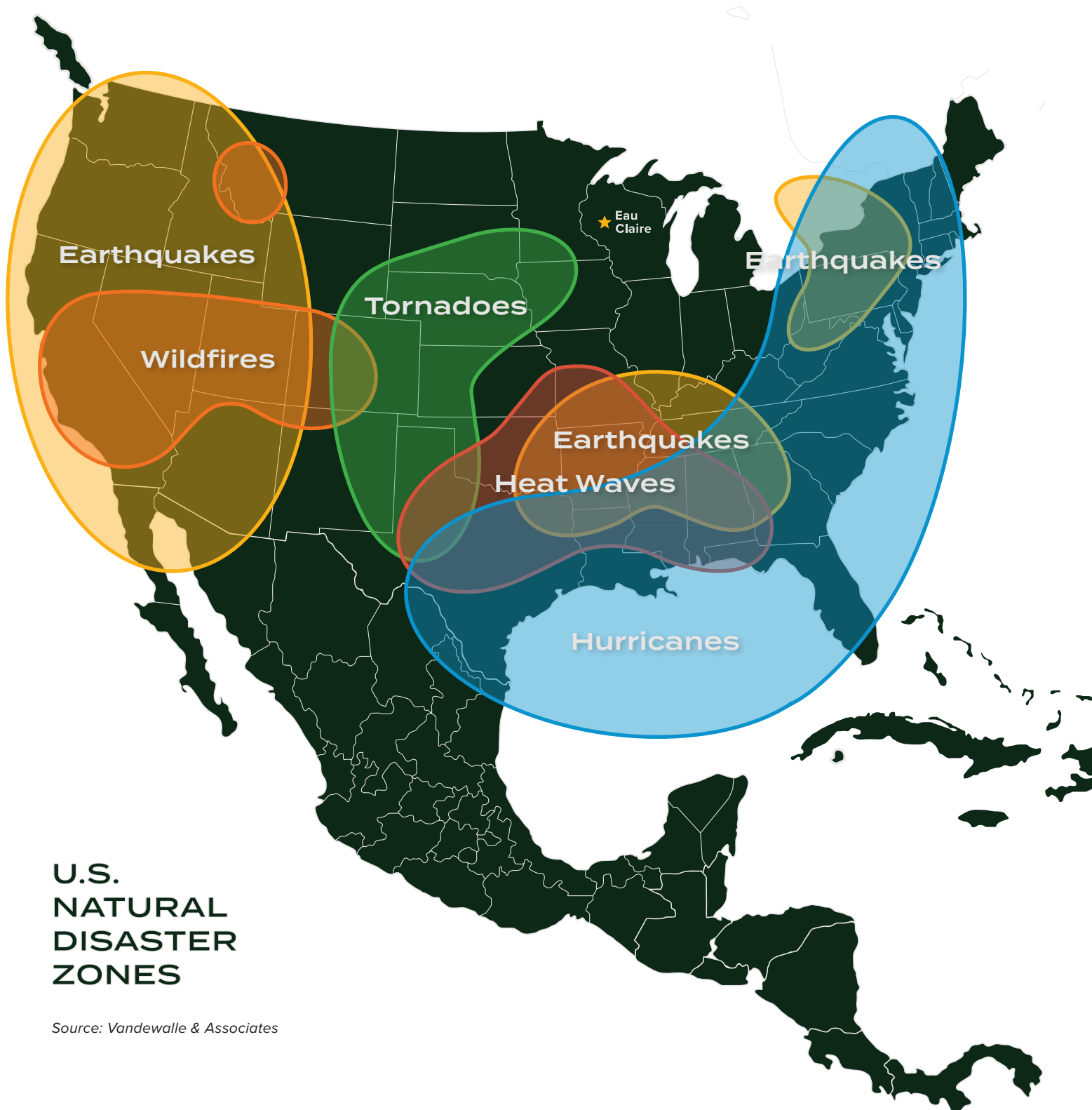


Renewable Energy

Climate Change & Disaster Resilience

In a time when natural disasters are becoming both more frequent and more severe, Eau Claire is an increasingly appealing location for businesses that can't absorb the costs of downtime and property loss.

According to the NOAA, FEMA, and USGS, the likelihood of experiencing major disaster events that could disrupt business operations for extended periods of time is considerably lower in Western Wisconsin compared to many other major metros in the United States. This makes Eau Claire an ideal location for companies seeking a stable operating environment. Plus, the reduced risk of natural disasters can lead to lower insurance premiums and fewer interruptions, ultimately contributing to greater financial stability and long-term growth for businesses in the area.



Source: Vandewalle & Associates

Infrastructure

Transportation

Eau Claire offers diverse transportation options ensuring convenient mobility for local residents and visitors, from air travel to comprehensive public transit systems. The regional airport provides easy access to national and international destinations, while the transit bus service covers extensive routes around the area. And the city features well-maintained roads and highways, bicycle paths, and pedestrian-friendly walkways that make it easy for travelers of all types to navigate.



Airports

Eau Claire is home to its own regional airport north of downtown, and it's about 90 miles from an international airport.

1 Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (EAU)

Offers daily flights to and from Minneapolis via Sun Country Airlines, business and medical jet charter services via Heartland Aviation, aircraft hangar facilities and repairs, and amenities such as rental cars and a full-service restaurant

2 Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

Offers daily flights to over 150 destinations via close to 20 airlines as well as business, medical, and shipping jet charter services, multiple hangar facilities and repairs, and amenities such as on-site hotels, rental cars, lounges, restaurants, shops

Type	EAU Regional Airport	MSP International Airport
Size	Small/Regional	Large/International
Daily Flights	1-2	450,000
Annual Passengers	25,000	35,000,000
Services	Inexpensive Parking, Secure Boarding, Full-Service Restaurant & Bar/Lounge, Taxi & Limousine Services, Rental Car Agencies, Eau Claire City Bus Service, Conference & Banquet Facilities	Power Port, HyperCharge, Travelex America, Foreign Currency Exchange, Lockers, Play Area, Family Rooms, Wireless Internet, Hotel Shuttles, Rental Car Agencies, Taxi & Bus Services
Carriers	Sun Country Airlines	Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta, Continental, Frontier, KLM, Royal Dutch, Mesaba/Northwest AirlinK, Northwest, Skywest (Delta), United, US Airways

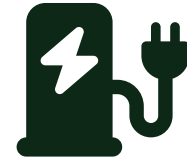
Railways

The Union Pacific Railroad provides full service transportation of goods through Eau Claire with a mainline connection between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago. There is also an inter-modal terminal 14 miles north of Eau Claire that is accessible via a four-lane divided highway.

- Twice weekly train service
- Fifth morning availability to and from the West Coast
- 2,500-ft-long inter-modal loading and unloading track
- On-site grain transfer facility

Buses

Eau Claire is connected to all major cities and most smaller communities through 4 inter-city bus lines: Greyhound, Wisconsin-Michigan Trailways, Wisconsin Northern Transportation, and Jefferson Lines. Commuters can also utilize several local options to get around town and to the Twin Cities.



1 Public Transit

The city operates 22 buses on 13 routes that encompass all of Eau Claire and go as far as the neighboring town of Altoona. Major employment centers are on the routes as well, as are several retail shopping centers and multiple stops near the local college campuses.

2 Rideshare Companies

Uber, Lyft, private taxis, and specialized shuttles are all available in Eau Claire. Plus, the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire offers shuttle services for students and staff that connect to various parts of the campus and several off-campus locations.

3 Airport Shuttles

National company Groome Transportation runs daily shuttles to the MSP Airport and offers van charter services throughout Western Wisconsin. Eau Claire-based Green Fleet also books electric vehicle rentals for trips throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Roadways & Highways

The city is intersected by several major highways, making it very accessible by road. Key routes provide efficient connections to major cities and support regional commerce in the area.

Roadway	Direction	Connects Eau Claire to...
Interstate 94	East/West	Minneapolis, Milwaukee
U.S. Highway 53	North/South	Superior, La Crosse
State Highway 93	North/South	Arcadia, Independence
State Highway 29	East/West	Green Bay, Wausau

Trucking

Over 30 trucking companies serve Eau Claire, and the city has a variety of express service carriers too. In addition to multiple regional shipping services, UPS and FedEx both have offices in the metro and provide overnight delivery.



Travelers can get anywhere within city limits in about 15 minutes.

Utilities

Eau Claire is known for providing reliable and efficient utilities to its residents and businesses.

Electricity & Gas

Xcel Energy and Eau Claire Energy Co-op provide electricity and natural gas services to the area. Both are known for their reliable service and commitment to renewable energy.

Cents/kWh	Commercial	Industrial
U.S. Average	\$12.52	\$7.91
WI IOU Average	\$13.25	\$8.53
Xcel Energy	\$10.45	\$12.74
Eau Claire Energy Co-op	\$12.90	N/A

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Xcel Energy, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (2024)



Water Supply

Eau Claire has a high-quality water supply sourced from deep wells and treated to meet stringent safety standards.

1 Distribution

The City provides approximately 3.5 billion gallons of water to businesses and residents through a treatment plant that has 15 operating wells. Purified water is then distributed through a network of city-funded pipes, pumps, and storage facilities.

2 Wastewater & Sewage Systems

The City also provides wastewater treatment and sewage systems. Its treatment plant purifies 2.76 billion gallons per year, resulting in over 98% removal efficiencies. In addition, 9 million gallons of bio solids are land-applied each year.



Waste Management

Eau Claire residents and businesses have access to curbside recycling, garbage pickup, yard waste collection, and composting through 4 area haulers.

Communications

Eau Claire is serviced by most major telecommunication providers, with AT&T, Charter Communications, and West Wisconsin Telecom Cooperative being the most prominent.

1 AT&T

AT&T delivers a full portfolio including an extremely secure network, voice, data and IP solutions, the fastest 5G network, and largest WiFi network. The company is also the only national provider to offer 100% IP-based television services, and their suite of IP-based business communications services is one of the most advanced.

2 Charter

Charter Communications is a leading broadband communications company and the fourth largest cable operator in the United States. They provide a full range of advanced broadband services to over 450 Wisconsin communities, including advanced video entertainment programming, high-speed internet, and telephone service.

3 West WI Telecom

West Wisconsin Telecom is a locally-owned and operated communications cooperative. Their fiber optic-based services include broadband internet, digital TV, telephone, information technology services, security and surveillance systems, voicemail, networking solutions, and website design and hosting for businesses.

Education

Eau Claire prides itself on the outstanding education opportunities offered to both students in K-12 grades and at the higher-education level.

1 Eau Claire Area School District

Eau Claire’s public school system enrolls approximately 11,000 students at its 1 early learning center, 13 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 high schools, and 2 charter schools each year. As a whole, Eau Claire’s has been rated in the top 15% of preferred school districts in the nation by a national independent study.

2 Regis Catholic Schools

This faith-based private education system enrolls approximately 800 students at its 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school each year. They offer advanced placement, honors, and distance learning courses for students who want to be challenged further, as well as tutoring and individual support for students who need additional help with subjects.



Education Level	Number of Schools	2023-24 Enrollment
Elementary Schools	16	4,477
Middle Schools	4	2,193
High Schools	3	1,746

Source: Eau Claire Area School District, Regis Catholic Schools (2024)

Colleges

Eau Claire has two renowned higher education institutions.



187 Programs

Across Both Universities



16,000+

Enrolled Each Year



3,300+

Graduates Each Year

University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire (UWEC) offers over 100 academic programs. The college has earned honors in the U.S. & News World Report’s Best American Colleges Guide, Kiplinger’s Finance magazine, and The Princeton Review. It has also been named among the best public regional universities in the Midwest and frequently ranks in the top five.

Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) offers 110 programs, 37 certificates, and 16 apprenticeships to an 11-county area through the Wisconsin Technical College System. The college is known for delivering innovative, applied education that supports area workforce needs by researching training needs and placing their graduates with local businesses.

Healthcare & Emergency Services

Eau Claire has 2 major hospitals: Mayo Clinic Health System and Marshfield Medical Center. Combined, these facilities have over 600 beds, and both are ranked highly in quality of care and patient safety. In addition to hospitals, Mayo Clinic Health System, Marshfield Clinic, and OakLeaf Medical Network have offices in Eau Claire that offer a wide range of healthcare services to patients. Emergency medical services (EMS), fire department, and police department are housed within the city and exist to serve the Eau Claire community when emergencies happen as well.