

# WALL STREET JOURNAL

## The Next Global Logistics Hubs

Philadelphia, Miami and Seattle are poised to join the ranks of global logistics hubs, according to a report from real-estate brokerage CBRE Inc.

Erica E. Phillips | November 19, 2015



Investment in a deeper port is one reason CBRE Inc. named Miami as an emerging logistics hub. *Photo: Bloomberg News*

Philadelphia, Miami and Seattle are poised to join the ranks of global logistics hubs, according to a report from real-estate brokerage CBRE Inc.

The U.S. cities were among 20 global metropolises identified by the firm as primed to become “major players in the network for global trade” over the next decade.

Emerging logistics centers benefit from infrastructure investment, pro-trade policies and direct connections to both manufacturing centers and growing populations of consumers, said David Egan, CBRE’s head of U.S. industrial research. Companies flock to cities with these traits, part of a global “hub and spoke” system for manufacturing supply chains and distribution networks.

“These places tend to cluster around major transportation hubs, major ports, major manufacturing and major consumption,” Mr. Egan said. “They’re places where cargo and people come together.” In addition to the U.S. cities named, CBRE singled out Berlin, Amsterdam, Busan, South Korea and Suzhou, China, among others.

The Eastern Pennsylvania region--encompassing Philadelphia, the Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg--has access to a "gigantic number of people" within just a few hours of travel, Mr. Egan said. Proximity to population centers is increasingly important in an economy where more shoppers are buying goods online and seeing their orders fulfilled and shipped from warehouses.

In Miami, investments in a deeper seaport and expanded transportation infrastructure are well-timed to make the city an entry point for goods headed to growing cities and manufacturing centers across the Southeast, CBRE said.

Seattle has a large port as well as a "mature and sophisticated technology and tech manufacturing economy," that connects the local region to global markets, Mr. Egan said.

The common threads among all of the emerging hubs, according to Mr. Egan, were a large population and a "very active port--in many cases a seaport or a big airport."