

- **Identifying Common Issues and Symptoms of residential foundations**  
Identifying Common Issues and Symptoms of residential foundations  
Spotting Early Warning Signs of Foundation Stress Recognizing Cracks and Shifts in Concrete Floors Understanding Sticky Doors and Window Alignment Pinpointing Sinking Spots around the Foundation Perimeter Tracking Water Intrusion as a Contributor to Structural Damage How Uneven Floors Reveal Deeper Foundation Concerns Identifying Subtle Changes in Exterior Walls When Hairline Drywall Cracks Indicate Movement Monitoring Seasonal Soil Movement for Foundation Clues Evaluating Soil Erosion and Its Impact on Stability Noting Shifting Porches and Deck Attachments Examining Sloping Floors for Underlying Settlement
- **Soil and Environmental Factors influencing home foundations**  
Soil and Environmental Factors influencing home foundations Examining Expansive Clay in Residential Areas Understanding Sandy Loam and Drainage Properties Measuring Soil Moisture for Stabilizing Foundations Impact of Freeze Thaw Cycles on Concrete Slabs Recognizing Erosion Patterns that Undermine Support Coordinating Landscaping to Control Soil Shifts Evaluating Groundwater Levels for Long Term Stability Identifying Seasonal Soil Movement in Coastal Regions Reviewing Impact of Tree Roots on Foundation Integrity Forecasting Effects of Prolonged Drought on Soil Behavior Managing Flood Risk through Strategic Elevation Observing Climate Trends for Anticipating Soil Swell
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## \* Understanding the science behind freeze-thaw damage in concrete.

Okay, let's talk about why concrete slabs crumble and crack when winter comes knocking, specifically focusing on the science of freeze-thaw damage. Obtaining permits is an essential step in any professional foundation repair service [residential foundation repair service](#) basement. We've all seen it, right? Perfectly good concrete driveways or sidewalks suddenly looking like they've aged a century after a particularly brutal winter. It's not just about the cold; it's about the water trapped inside and what happens when it turns to ice.

Concrete, despite appearing solid, is actually a porous material. Think of it like a really, really hard sponge. It's got tiny, microscopic pores and capillaries that can soak up water from rain, melting snow, or even just humidity in the air. Now, when temperatures drop below freezing, that water transforms into ice. And here's the kicker: water expands when it freezes, about 9% in volume.

Imagine that expansion happening inside the tiny confines of those concrete pores. It's like trying to stuff a too-big balloon into a small box. The ice exerts immense pressure on the surrounding concrete. This pressure can easily exceed the tensile strength of the concrete, the force it can withstand before it starts to tear apart. Over time, with repeated freeze-thaw cycles – water freezing, thawing, freezing again – these micro-cracks grow larger and larger.

It's not just the expansion of water itself that causes problems. There's also something called hydraulic pressure. As ice forms within the concrete, it blocks the escape routes for unfrozen water. This trapped water gets squeezed into smaller and smaller spaces, further increasing the pressure and accelerating the damage.

Think of it like this: you're trying to squeeze water out of a wet sponge, but you've blocked all the holes. The pressure builds up until something gives way. In the case of concrete, that "giving way" is the formation of cracks.

The type of concrete also plays a role. Concrete with a higher water-to-cement ratio tends to be more porous and therefore more susceptible to freeze-thaw damage. Air-entrained concrete, which contains intentionally introduced tiny air bubbles, is much more resistant. These air bubbles act as relief valves, providing space for the expanding ice to move into, reducing the pressure on the surrounding concrete matrix.

So, the next time you see a cracked concrete slab, remember it's not just the cold's fault. It's a complex interplay of water, expansion, pressure, and the inherent properties of the concrete itself, all working together to break down even the most seemingly solid structures. Understanding this science is crucial for designing more durable concrete structures that can withstand the rigors of freeze-thaw environments.

## \* Identifying common signs of freeze-thaw damage on residential concrete slabs.

Okay, so you're looking at your concrete slab – maybe it's your patio, your driveway, or even your foundation. You're probably wondering if those little cracks and surface imperfections are just normal wear and tear, or something more sinister. Living in a place where the temperature dips below freezing means you're dealing with the potential for freeze-thaw damage, and it's good to know what to look for.

Think of it like this: water gets into the tiny pores and cracks in the concrete. When the temperature drops, that water freezes and expands. Ice takes up more space than water, right? That expansion puts pressure on the concrete from the inside out. Then, when things warm up, the ice melts, leaving behind even more space for water to seep in during the next freeze. It's a repeating cycle of expansion and contraction, a relentless assault on the concrete's integrity.

So, what does this assault actually look like? Common signs include scaling, which is when the surface of the concrete starts to flake off in thin layers. It might look like someone took a sandblaster to it. You might also see surface cracking, those little hairlines that can eventually widen and deepen. Discoloration is another clue. Sometimes, the concrete will look lighter or darker in certain areas, especially where water tends to pool. And finally, keep an eye out for crumbling or spalling, which is when chunks of concrete actually break away, leaving behind pits or exposed aggregate.

The severity of these signs can vary depending on a few factors: the quality of the concrete itself, how much moisture it's exposed to, and how often it goes through those freeze-thaw cycles. It's better to catch these problems early, because ignoring them means they'll only get worse over time, potentially leading to more expensive repairs down the road. So, take a walk around your property and give your concrete slabs a good once-over. Knowing what to look for is the first step in protecting your investment.

#### **\* The impact of freeze-thaw cycles on different types of residential foundations.**

Okay, so let's talk about freeze-thaw cycles and how they mess with concrete slabs, especially in residential foundations. Think of it like this: water is sneaky. It gets into tiny cracks in your concrete, cracks that are probably already there thanks to the normal settling and aging of the house. Then, winter hits. That water freezes. And when water freezes, it expands. We're talking about a significant amount of force, pushing outward on the concrete from inside those little cracks.

Now, imagine this happening over and over again – freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw. It's like a tiny, relentless jackhammer working away inside your foundation. Each cycle widens those cracks just a little bit more. Over time, this can lead to significant damage. We're talking about spalling, where the surface of the concrete starts to flake off. We're talking about larger cracks developing, potentially compromising the structural integrity of the slab.

The type of concrete used matters too. A poorly mixed or cured slab is going to be more susceptible to freeze-thaw damage than a well-made one. The soil around the foundation also plays a role. If the soil retains a lot of moisture, it's going to contribute to more water getting into the concrete in the first place.

Ultimately, understanding the impact of freeze-thaw cycles is crucial for homeowners in colder

climates. It's a reminder to properly maintain your foundation, ensuring good drainage and sealing any existing cracks to prevent water intrusion. Ignoring it? Well, that's just asking for a headache, and a potentially expensive repair bill, down the road. It's a slow, insidious process, but definitely one to be aware of if you want your house to stay put.

**\* Preventative measures homeowners can take to minimize freeze-thaw damage.**

Okay, so you've got this concrete slab, right? Maybe it's your driveway, your patio, or even the foundation of your shed. You're probably not thinking about the microscopic war raging inside it every winter, but trust me, it's happening. Freeze-thaw cycles are like the slow, relentless enemy of concrete, and they can really do a number on your investment.

The basic problem is water. Concrete, even when it looks solid, is actually porous. It's got tiny little holes and cracks that water can seep into. Now, when the temperature drops below freezing, that water turns to ice. And here's the kicker: ice expands. That expansion puts pressure on the surrounding concrete, pushing and straining against it. Then, when things warm up again, the ice melts, the pressure releases, and the water seeps deeper, ready for the next freeze. Repeat this cycle over and over, winter after winter, and you're looking at some serious damage.

Think of it like this: imagine repeatedly bending a paperclip back and forth. Eventually, it's going to snap, right? That's kind of what's happening to your concrete on a microscopic level. Small cracks become bigger cracks, the surface starts to flake and scale (we call that spalling), and before you know it, you've got a real mess on your hands.

But don't despair! There are things you can do to fight back. The key is to minimize the amount of water that gets into the concrete in the first place. Think preventative measures.

First, make sure water drains away from the slab. Good grading is crucial. If water pools near the concrete, it's just begging to be absorbed. Keep gutters clean and downspouts extended so they're directing water away from the foundation.

Next, consider sealing the concrete. A good quality concrete sealer acts like a raincoat, preventing water from penetrating the surface. You'll need to reapply it periodically, depending on the product and the weather conditions, but it's a worthwhile investment.

Avoid using de-icing salts, especially those containing ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate. While they melt ice effectively, they can also chemically attack the concrete, accelerating the damage. If you absolutely must use de-icer, opt for calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, and use them sparingly. Better yet, shovel the snow and ice whenever possible.

Finally, keep the concrete clean. Debris like leaves and dirt can trap moisture against the surface, creating a perfect environment for freeze-thaw damage. A good sweep or a power wash now and then can make a big difference.

So, while you can't completely eliminate the impact of freeze-thaw cycles, taking these preventative measures will definitely help extend the life of your concrete slab and save you money in the long run.

Think of it as a little winter warfare on your own terms.

### **\* Repair options for concrete slabs damaged by freeze-thaw cycles.**

Okay, so your concrete slab took a beating from the freeze-thaw cycle, huh? Welcome to the club. It's a common problem, especially if you live anywhere that gets proper winters. The good news is, it's usually fixable, though the best approach depends on how extensive the damage is.

Think of it like a wound. If it's just a little nick, maybe some minor surface scaling or hairline cracks, you might get away with a simple resurfacing. This usually involves cleaning the area thoroughly, maybe applying a concrete bonding agent, and then troweling on a new layer of concrete or a cement-based topping. It's like putting on a bandage – it covers the superficial damage and protects the area.

But if the freeze-thaw really got in there, causing deeper, wider cracks or even spalling (where chunks of concrete break off), you're looking at something more serious. You might need to break out the jackhammer and remove the damaged concrete entirely. Then you'd patch the area with fresh concrete, making sure to properly consolidate it and cure it properly. Think of it as reconstructive surgery – you're removing the dead tissue and rebuilding the structure.

For larger areas or widespread damage, a full replacement might be the only sensible option. It sounds drastic, but sometimes it's the most cost-effective solution in the long run because you're starting with a solid foundation again. It's like admitting the old house is beyond repair and building a new one in its place.

Now, before you grab any tools, a crucial step is to figure out why the freeze-thaw damage happened in the first place. Was the concrete mix itself poor? Was there inadequate drainage? Was it improperly sealed? Addressing the underlying cause is key to preventing the same problem from recurring. Think of it like treating an infection – you need to kill the bacteria, not just cover up the symptoms.

Finally, sealing the repaired or replaced concrete is a *\*must\**. A good sealant acts like a raincoat for your concrete, preventing water from penetrating and starting the freeze-thaw cycle all over again. It's the preventative medicine that helps keep your concrete slab healthy for years to come. So, assess the damage, diagnose the cause, choose the appropriate repair, and seal it up. Good luck!

### **\* Choosing the right residential foundation repair service for freeze-thaw issues.**

Okay, so you've got a concrete slab, maybe it's your driveway, your patio, or even the foundation of your house. And you live somewhere where winter means freezing temperatures and snow, followed by a thaw. Sounds picturesque, right? Well, not so much for your concrete. Those freeze-thaw cycles? They can be a real headache.

Imagine water seeping into the tiny pores and cracks that naturally exist in concrete. When the temperature drops below freezing, that water expands as it turns to ice. This expansion puts pressure on the surrounding concrete. Think of it like trying to stuff too much into a suitcase – eventually, something's gotta give.

Now, one freeze-thaw cycle might not seem like a big deal. But imagine that happening hundreds of times over the years. Each time, the ice is pushing and stressing the concrete. Over time, this repeated stress weakens the material. Cracks widen, chunks can break off (we call that spalling), and the whole thing can start to crumble. It's like a slow-motion demolition derby, and the freeze-thaw cycle is the relentless driver.

The impact isn't just cosmetic, either. If we're talking about a foundation slab, these cracks can let in moisture, leading to even more problems like mold and structural damage. A cracked driveway is annoying, but a compromised foundation? That's a whole different ballgame.

So, understanding the impact of freeze-thaw cycles is crucial, especially if you live in a climate where it happens regularly. It's not about panicking, but about being aware and taking preventative measures. Things like proper sealing and drainage can help minimize the amount of water that gets into the concrete in the first place. And if you do notice cracks developing, addressing them early can prevent them from becoming major problems down the road. Because let's face it, nobody wants to watch their concrete slowly fall apart, one freeze-thaw cycle at a time.

### **\* The long-term costs associated with neglecting freeze-thaw damage.**

Okay, so we're talking about concrete slabs and how those pesky freeze-thaw cycles mess them up. We often focus on the immediate cracks and surface scaling, but what about the long game? What does ignoring that initial damage *\*really\** cost you down the road? Well, let's just say it's more than a quick patch job.

Think about it. That little crack, the one you might dismiss as just cosmetic, it's an entry point. Water gets in, freezes, expands, and widens the crack. Each cycle makes things worse. Over time, this seemingly minor issue becomes a major structural problem.

What starts as surface scaling can evolve into deep spalling, where chunks of concrete break off. Now you've got a safety hazard. Someone could trip, a vehicle could be damaged. That small crack? Now it's a liability.

And then there's the replacement cost. Let's be honest, if the damage is extensive enough, the entire slab needs to be ripped out and replaced. That's a major project involving labor, materials, and potentially disrupting your business or home life. Compare that to the relatively small cost of early intervention, like applying a sealant or making minor repairs, and it's a no-brainer.

Beyond the purely financial, there's the aesthetic cost. A crumbling, cracked concrete slab is just plain ugly. It detracts from the overall appearance of your property and can even lower its value. Nobody wants to look at a crumbling mess.

So, neglecting freeze-thaw damage isn't just about ignoring a few cracks. It's about setting yourself up for a cascade of problems, from safety hazards and aesthetic blight to major structural repairs and costly replacements. Addressing the initial damage is an investment, not an expense. It's about protecting your property and your wallet in the long run. It's about being proactive instead of reactive, and that's always a smarter, more cost-effective strategy.

## About basement waterproofing

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*Find sources:* "Basement waterproofing" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (April 2017) *(Learn how and when to remove this message)*

**Basement waterproofing** involves techniques and materials used to prevent water from penetrating the basement of a house or a building. Waterproofing a basement that is below ground level can require the application of sealant materials, the installation of drains and sump pumps, and more.

### Purpose

[edit]

Waterproofing is usually required by building codes for structures that are built at or below ground level. Waterproofing and drainage considerations are especially important in cases where ground water is likely to build up in the soil or where there is a high water table.

Water in the soil causes hydrostatic pressure to be exerted underneath basement floors and walls. This hydrostatic pressure can force water in through cracks, which can cause major structural damage as well as mold, decay, and other moisture-related problems.

### Methods

[edit]

Several measures exist to prevent water from penetrating a basement foundation or to divert water that has penetrated a foundation:

French Drain

○

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French drain

- Interior wall and floor sealers
- o Interior water drainage
- o Exterior drainage
- o Exterior waterproofing coatings
- o Box type waterproofing<sup>[1]</sup>
- o Foundation crack injections
- o French drains
- o Sump pump

## **Interior sealants**

[edit]

In poured concrete foundations, cracks and pipe penetrations are the most common entry points for seepage. These openings can be sealed from the interior. Epoxies, which are strong adhesives, or urethanes can be pressure injected into the openings, thus penetrating the foundation through to the exterior and cutting off the path of the seepage.

In masonry foundations, interior sealers will not provide permanent protection from water infiltration where hydrostatic pressure is present. However, interior sealers are good for preventing high atmospheric humidity inside the basement from absorbing into the porous masonry and causing spalling. Spalling is a condition where constant high humidity or moisture breaks down masonry surfaces, causing deterioration and shedding of the concrete surfaces.

Other coatings can be effective where condensation is the main source of wetness. It is also effective if the problem has minor dampness. Usually, interior waterproofing will not stop major leaks.

## **Interior water drainage**

[edit]

Although interior water drainage is not technically waterproofing, it is a widely accepted technique in mitigating basement water and is generally referred to as a basement waterproofing solution. Many interior drainage systems are patented and recognized by Building Officials and Code Administrators(BOCA) as being effective in controlling basement water.

A common system for draining water that has penetrated a basement involves creating a channel around the perimeter of the basement alongside the foundation footers. A French drain, PVC pipe, or other drainage system is installed in the newly made channel. The installed drain is covered with new cement.

The drainage system collects any water entering the basement and drains it to an internally placed sump pump system, which will then pump the water out of the basement. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends basement waterproofing with a water alarm and "battery-operated backup pump" as a preventive measure against the high cost of flooding.<sup>[2]</sup> Wall conduits (such as dimple boards or other membranes) are fastened to the foundation wall and



extend over the new drainage to guide any moisture down into the system.

## Exterior waterproofing

[edit]

Waterproofing a structure from the exterior is the only method the U.S. International Building Code (IBC) recognizes as adequate to prevent structural damage caused by water intrusion.

Waterproofing an existing basement begins with excavating to the bottom sides of the footings. Once excavated, the walls are then power washed and allowed to dry. The dry walls are sealed with a waterproofing membrane,<sup>[3]</sup> and new drainage tiles (weeping tiles) are placed at the side of the footing.

A French drain, PVC pipe, or other drainage system is installed and water is led further from the basement.

# Polymer

[edit]

Over the past ten years, polymer-based waterproofing products have been developed. Polymer-based products last for the lifetime of the building and are not affected by soil pH. Polymer-based waterproofing materials can be sprayed directly onto a wall, are very fast curing, and are semi-flexible, allowing for some movement of the substrate.

## Causes of water seepage and leaks

[edit]

Water seepage in basement and crawl spaces usually occurs over long periods of time and can be caused by numerous factors.

- Concrete is one of the most commonly used materials in home construction. When pockets of air are not removed during construction, or the mixture is not allowed to cure properly, the concrete can crack, which allows water to force its way through the wall.
- Foundations (footings) are horizontal pads that define the perimeter of foundation walls. When footings are too narrow or are not laid deep enough, they are susceptible to movement caused by soil erosion.
- Gutters and downspouts are used to catch rain water as it falls and to discharge it away from houses and buildings. When gutters are clogged or downspouts are broken, rainwater is absorbed by the soil near the foundation, increasing hydrostatic pressure.
- Weeping tile is a porous plastic drain pipe installed around the perimeter of the house. The main purpose of external weeping tile is preventing water from getting into a basement. However, these pipes can become clogged or damaged, which causes excess water to put

- pressure on internal walls and basement floors.
- Water build up inside window wells, after heavy rain or snow, can lead to leaks through basement window seams. Window well covers can be used to prevent water from accumulating in the window well.
  - Ground saturation is another common form of basement leaks. When the footing drain fails the ground around the basement can contain too much water and when the saturation point is met flooding can occur.

## Warning signs of water damage

[edit]

Signs that water is seeping into a basement or crawlspace often take years to develop and may not be easily visible. Over time, multiple signs of damage may become evident and could lead to structural failure.

- Cracked walls: Cracks may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or stair-stepped. Severe pressure or structural damage is evident by widening cracks.
- Buckling walls: Usually caused by hydrostatic pressure. Walls appear to be bowed inward.
- Peeling paint: Water seeping through walls may lead to bubbling or peeling paint along basement walls.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Efflorescence: White, powdery residue found on basement walls near the floor.
- Mold: Fungi that usually grow in damp, dark areas and can cause respiratory problems after prolonged exposure.

## Foundation crack injections

[edit]

Foundation crack injections are used when poured concrete foundations crack, either from settlement or the expansion and contraction of the concrete. Epoxy crack injections are typically used for structural purposes while hydrophobic or hydrophilic polyurethane injections are used to seal cracks to prevent penetration of moisture or water. Concrete is both strong and inexpensive, making it an ideal product in construction. However, concrete is not waterproof.

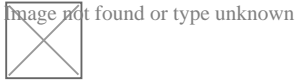
## References

[edit]

1. <sup>^</sup> Waheed, M. A. (11 July 2014). "Top tips to optimally use conventional waterproofing techniques". *Business Standard India*. Archived from the original on 5 July 2022. Retrieved 28 May 2021.
2. <sup>^</sup> "FloodSmart | How to Prepare for a Flood and Minimize Losses". Archived from the original on 9 May 2020. Retrieved 20 March 2020.
3. <sup>^</sup> Carter, Tim. "How to redirect water around a damp garage". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on 15 August 2016. Retrieved 2 November 2015.

4. ^ Chodorov, Jill. "Basement flooding may put a damper on your home sale". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on 18 May 2018. Retrieved 2 November 2015.

## About foundation



Look up ***foundation*** or ***foundations*** in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

**Foundation(s)** or **The Foundation(s)** may refer to:

## Common uses

[edit]

- Foundation (cosmetics), a skin-coloured makeup cream applied to the face
- Foundation (engineering), the element of a structure which connects it to the ground, and transfers loads from the structure to the ground
- Foundation (evidence), a legal term
- Foundation (nonprofit), a type of charitable organization
  - Foundation (United States law), a type of charitable organization in the U.S.
  - Private foundation, a charitable organization that might not qualify as a public charity by government standards

## Arts, entertainment, and media

[edit]

# Film and TV

[edit]

- *The Foundation*, a film about 1960s-1970s Aboriginal history in Sydney, featuring Gary Foley
- *The Foundation* (1984 TV series), a Hong Kong series
- *The Foundation* (Canadian TV series), a 2009–2010 Canadian sitcom
- "The Foundation" (*Seinfeld*), an episode
- *Foundation* (TV series), an Apple TV+ series adapted from Isaac Asimov's novels

# Games

[edit]

- *Foundation* (video game), a city-building game (2025)
- *Foundation*, an Amiga video game
- The Foundation, a character in 2017 game *Fortnite Battle Royale*

## Literature

[edit]

- Foundation (book series), a series of science fiction books by Isaac Asimov
  - *Foundation* (Asimov novel), the first book in Asimov's series, published in 1951
- *Foundation* (b-boy book), by Joseph G. Schloss
- *Foundation* (Lackey novel), a 2008 fantasy novel by Mercedes Lackey

## Music

[edit]

- The Foundations, a British soul group
- Foundations (EP), by Serj Tankian

## Albums

[edit]

- *Foundation* (Brand Nubian album)
- *Foundation* (Breakage album)
- *Foundation* (Doc Watson album)
- *Foundation* (Magnum album)
- *Foundation* (M.O.P. album)
- *Foundation*, a 1997 compilation album by Die Krupps
- *The Foundation* (Geto Boys album)
- *The Foundation* (Pep Love album), 2005
- *The Foundation* (Zac Brown Band album)
- *The Foundations* (album), by 4 Corners

## Songs

[edit]

- "Foundation", a 1983 song by Spandau Ballet from the album *True*

- "Foundation", a 1998 song by Brand Nubian from the eponymous album *Foundation*
- "Foundation", a 2009 song by M.O.P. from the eponymous album *Foundation*
- "Foundation", a 2010 song by Breakage from the eponymous album *Foundation*
- "Foundation", a 2015 song by Years & Years from *Communion*
- "Foundations" (song), by Kate Nash
- "The Foundation" (song), by Xzibit

## Other uses in arts, entertainment, and media

[edit]

- *Foundation – The International Review of Science Fiction*, a literary journal
- *The Foundation Trilogy* (BBC Radio), a radio adaption of Asimov's series
- The SCP Foundation, a fictional organization that is often referred to in-universe as "The Foundation"

## Education

[edit]

- Foundation degree, a British academic qualification
- Foundation school, a type of school in England and Wales
- Foundation Stage, a stage of education for children aged 3 to 5 in England
- University Foundation Programme, a British university entrance course

## Science and technology

[edit]

- Foundation (framework), a free collection of tools for creating websites and web applications by ZURB
- Foundation Fieldbus, a communications system
- Foundation Kit, an Apple API

## Companies

[edit]

- Foundation Medicine, a genomic profiling company

## See also

[edit]

- All pages with titles beginning with *Foundation*
- All pages with titles beginning with *The Foundation*
- Foundations of mathematics, theory of mathematics

## Disambiguation icon

This disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title **Foundation**.

If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article.

## About Chicago metropolitan area

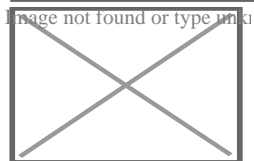
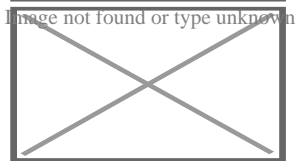
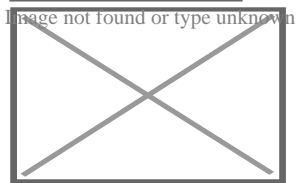
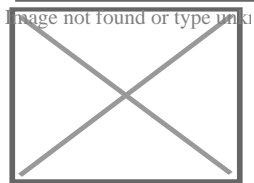
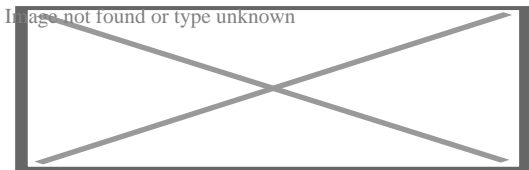
"Chicagoland" redirects here. For other uses, see Chicagoland (disambiguation).

# Chicago metropolitan area

Conurbation

Chicago–Naperville, IL–IN–WI

Combined Statistical Area



From top, left to right: Chicago skyline from Lakefront Trail at Northerly Island during sunrise, aerial view Evanston, view of Gold Coast, Downtown Naperville, view of Downtown Aurora

# Map

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## Map of Chicago–Naperville, IL–IN–WI CSA

Chicago–Naperville–Schaumburg, IL

Elgin, IL Metropolitan Division

Lake County, IL Metropolitan Division

Lake County–Porter County–Jasper Cty, IN

## Other Statistical Areas in the Chicago CSA

Kenosha, WI MSA

Ottawa, IL μSA

Michigan City–La Porte, IN MSA

Kankakee, IL MSA

City of Chicago

Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN MSA

Country  United States  Illinois

 Indiana

 Wisconsin  Chicago  Satellite cities

- - Aurora
- - Elgin
- - Crystal Lake
- - Joliet
- - Naperville
- - Schaumburg
- - Waukegan
- - Kankakee
- - Gary
- - Hammond

- - Michigan City
- - Kenosha

## Area

- Metro

10,856 sq mi (28,120 km<sup>2</sup>) Highest elevation

[<sup>1</sup>]

673 ft (205 m) Lowest elevation

[<sup>1</sup>]

579 ft (176 m) Population

- Density 886/sq mi (342/km<sup>2</sup>) • Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (2022)

9,441,957 [<sup>2</sup>] (3rd) • Combined Statistical Area (CSA) (2022)

9,806,184 [<sup>3</sup>] (4th) Demyonym Chicagolander GDP

[<sup>4</sup>]

- Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) \$894.862 billion (2023) • Combined Statistical Area (CSA) \$919.229 billion (2023) Time zone UTC−6 (CST) • Summer (DST) UTC−5 (CDT) Area codes 219, 224/847, 262, 312/872, 331/630, 574, 464/708, 773/872 and 779/815

The **Chicago metropolitan area**, also referred to as **Chicagoland**, is the largest metropolitan statistical area in the U.S. state of Illinois, and the Midwest, containing the City of Chicago along with its surrounding suburbs and satellite cities. Encompassing 10,286 square mi (28,120 km<sup>2</sup>), the metropolitan area includes the city of Chicago, its suburbs and hinterland, that span 13 counties across northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. The MSA had a 2020 census population of 9,618,502 and the combined statistical area, which spans 19 counties and additionally extends into southeast Wisconsin, had a population of nearly 10 million people.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The Chicago area is the third-largest metropolitan area in the United States and the fourth-largest metropolitan area in North America (after Mexico City, New York City, and Los Angeles), and the largest in the Great Lakes megalopolis. Its urban area is one of the 40 largest in the world.



According to the 2020 census, the metropolitan's population is approaching the 10 million mark. The metropolitan area has seen a substantial increase of Latin American residents on top of its already large Latino population, and the Asian American population also increased according to the 2020 Census. The metro area has a large number of White, Black, Latino, Asian, and Arab American residents, and also has Native American residents in the region, making the Chicago metropolitan area population truly diverse. The Chicago metropolitan area represents about 3 percent of the entire US population.

Chicagoland has one of the world's largest and most diversified economies. With more than six million full and part-time employees, the Chicago metropolitan area is a key factor of the Illinois economy, as the state has an annual GDP of over \$1 trillion.<sup>[7]</sup> The Chicago metropolitan area generated an annual gross regional product (GRP) of approximately \$700 billion in 2018.<sup>[8]</sup> The region is home to more than 400 major corporate headquarters, including 31 in the *Fortune* 500<sup>[9]</sup> such as McDonald's, United, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. With many companies moving to Chicagoland, and many current companies expanding, the area ranked as the nation's top metropolitan area for corporation relocations and expansions for nine consecutive years, the most consecutive years for any region in the country.<sup>[10]</sup>

The Chicago area is home to a number of the nation's leading research universities including the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University, and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). The University of Chicago and Northwestern University are consistently ranked as two of the best universities in the world.

There are many transportation options around the region. Chicagoland has three separate rail networks; the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, and the South Shore Line. The CTA operates elevated and subway lines that run primarily throughout the city, Downtown Chicago, and into some suburbs. The CTA operates some of its rail lines 24 hours a day, every day of the year, nonstop service, making Chicago, New York City, and Copenhagen the only three cities in the world to offer some 24 hour rail service running nonstop, everyday throughout their city limits. The Metra commuter rail network runs numerous lines between Downtown Chicago and suburban/satellite cities, with one line stretching to Kenosha, Wisconsin, which is part of the Chicago metropolitan area. The interurban South Shore Line runs between Downtown Chicago and the northwest Indiana portion of the metropolitan area. In addition, Amtrak operates Union Station in Downtown Chicago as one of its largest rail hubs, with numerous lines radiating to and from the station.

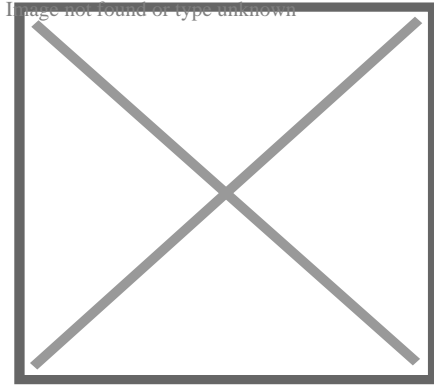
CTA bus routes serve the city proper, with some service into the suburbs. Pace bus routes serve the suburbs, with some service into the city. In addition, numerous CTA bus routes operate 24 hours a day, nonstop.

## **Definitions**

[edit]

# Chicago Metropolitan statistical area

[edit]



The Chicago–Naperville, IL–IN–WI Combined Statistical Area as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget:

- Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI MSA
- Michigan City–La Porte, IN MSA
- Kankakee, IL MSA
- Ottawa, IL MSA

The Chicago metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was originally designated by the United States Census Bureau in 1950. It comprised the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will, along with Lake County in Indiana. As surrounding counties saw an increase in their population densities and the number of their residents employed within Cook County, they met Census criteria to be added to the MSA. The Chicago MSA, now defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the **Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI Metropolitan Statistical Area**, is the third-largest MSA by population in the United States. The 2022 census estimate for the population of the MSA was 9,441,957.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Chicago MSA is further subdivided into four metropolitan divisions. A breakdown of the county constituents and 2021 estimated populations of the four metropolitan divisions of the MSA are as follows:<sup>[1]</sup>

Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (9,509,934)

- Chicago–Naperville–Schaumburg, IL Metropolitan Division (7,159,394)
  - Cook County, Illinois (5,173,146)
  - DuPage County, Illinois (924,885)
  - Grundy County, Illinois (52,989)
  - McHenry County, Illinois (311,122)
  - Will County, Illinois (697,252)

- *Elgin, IL Metropolitan Division* (750,869)
  - DeKalb County, Illinois (100,414)
  - Kane County, Illinois (515,588)
  - Kendall County, Illinois (134,867)
- *Lake County, IL Metropolitan Division* (711,239)
  - Lake County, Illinois (711,239)
- *Lake County–Porter County–Jasper County, IN Metropolitan Division* (719,700)
  - Jasper County, Indiana (33,091)
  - Lake County, Indiana (498,558)
  - Newton County, Indiana (13,808)
  - Porter County, Indiana (174,243)

## Combined statistical area

[edit]

The OMB also defines a slightly larger region as a combined statistical area (CSA). The **Chicago–Naperville, IL–IN–WI Combined Statistical Area** combines the following core-based statistical areas, listed with their 2021 estimated populations. The combined statistical area as a whole had a population of 9,806,184 as of 2022.<sup>[11]</sup>

- *Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI metropolitan statistical area* (9,509,934)
- *Kankakee, IL metropolitan statistical area* (106,601)
  - Kankakee County, Illinois (106,601)
- *Michigan City–La Porte, IN metropolitan statistical area* (112,390)
  - LaPorte County, Indiana (112,390)
- *Ottawa, IL micropolitan statistical area* (147,414)
  - Bureau County, Illinois (32,883)
  - LaSalle County, Illinois (108,965)
  - Putnam County, Illinois (5,566)

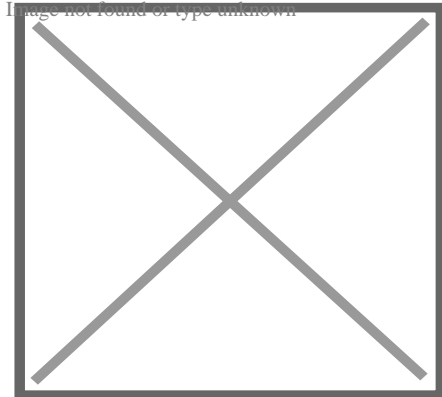
## United Nations' Chicago urban agglomeration

[edit]

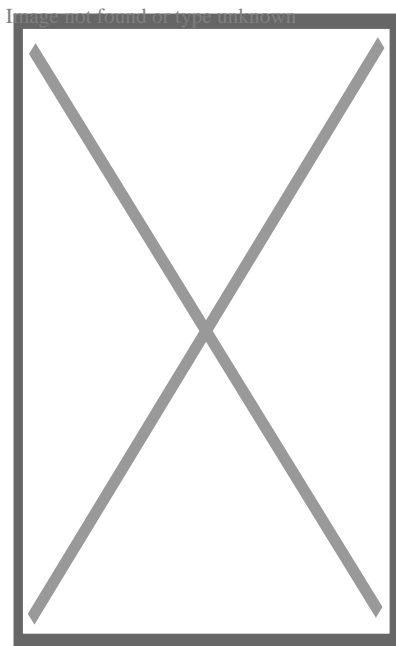
The Chicago urban agglomeration, according to the United Nations *World Urbanization Prospects* report (2023 revision), lists a population of 8,937,000.<sup>[12]</sup> The term "urban agglomeration" refers to the population contained within the contours of a contiguous territory inhabited at urban density levels. It usually incorporates the population in a city, plus that in the contiguous urban, or built-up area.

# Chicagoland

[edit]



Chicagoland by county and state<sup>[13]</sup>



A map of Chicagoland in relation to the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana

Chicagoland is an informal name for the Chicago metropolitan area. The term *Chicagoland* has no official definition, and the region is often considered to include areas beyond the corresponding MSA, as well as portions of the greater CSA.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

Colonel Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, usually gets credit for placing the term in common use.<sup>[14][15]</sup> McCormick's conception of Chicagoland stretched all the way to nearby parts of four states (Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa).<sup>[14]</sup> The first usage was in the *Tribune's* July 27, 1926, front page headline, "Chicagoland's Shrines: A Tour of Discoveries", for an article by reporter James O'Donnell Bennett.<sup>[16]</sup> He stated that Chicagoland

comprised everything in a 200-mile (320 km) radius in every direction and reported on many different places in the area. The *Tribune* was the dominant newspaper in a vast area stretching to the west of the city, and that hinterland was closely tied to the metropolis by rail lines and commercial links.<sup>[17]</sup>

Today, the *Chicago Tribune's* usage includes the city of Chicago, the rest of Cook County, eight nearby Illinois counties (Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Grundy, Will, and Kankakee), and the two Indiana counties of Lake and Porter.<sup>[18]</sup> Illinois Department of Tourism literature uses *Chicagoland* for suburbs in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, and Will counties,<sup>[19]</sup> treating the city separately. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce defines it as all of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.<sup>[20]</sup>

In addition, company marketing programs such as Construction Data Company's<sup>[21]</sup> "Chicago and Vicinity" region and the Chicago Automobile Trade Association's "*Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana*" advertising campaign are directed at the MSA itself, as well as LaSalle, Winnebago (Rockford), Boone, and Ogle counties in Illinois, in addition to Jasper, Newton, and La Porte counties in Indiana and Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties in Wisconsin, and even as far northeast as Berrien County, Michigan. The region is part of the Great Lakes Megalopolis, containing an estimated 54 million people.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## Collar counties

[edit]

The term "collar counties" is a colloquialism for the five counties (DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will) of Illinois that border Chicago's Cook County. After Cook County, they are also the next five most populous counties in the state. According to the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, there is no specifically known origin of the phrase, but it has been commonly used among policy makers, urban planners, and in the media. However, it also notes that as growth has spread beyond these counties, it may have lost some of its usefulness.<sup>[22]</sup>

## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

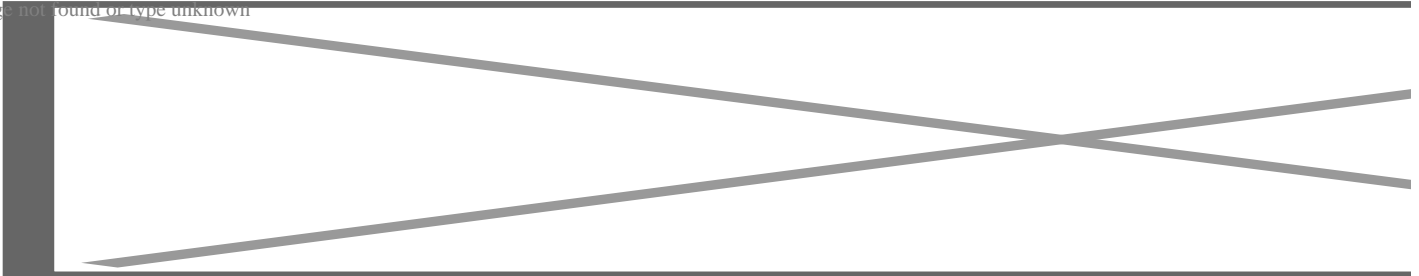
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Main article: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is an Illinois state agency responsible for transportation infrastructure, land use, and long-term economic development planning for the areas under its jurisdiction within Illinois.<sup>[23]</sup> The planning area has a population of over 8 million, which includes the following locations in Illinois:<sup>[24]</sup>

- Cook County
- DuPage County
- Kane County
- Kendall County
- Lake County
- McHenry County
- Will County

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Panorama of North Avenue Beach

## Geography and environment

[edit]

Further information: Geography of Chicago

The city of Chicago lies in the Chicago Plain, a flat and broad area characterized by little topographical relief. The few low hills are sand ridges. North of the Chicago Plain, steep bluffs and ravines run alongside Lake Michigan.

Along the southern shore of the Chicago Plain, sand dunes run alongside the lake. The tallest dunes reach up to near 200 feet (61 m) and are found in Indiana Dunes National Park. Surrounding the low plain are bands of moraines in the south and west suburbs. These areas are higher and hillier than the Chicago Plain. A continental divide, separating the Mississippi River watershed from that of the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River, runs through the Chicago area.

A 2012 survey of the urban trees and forests in the seven county Illinois section of the Chicago area found that 21% of the land is covered by the tree and shrub canopy, made up of about 157,142,000 trees. The five most common tree species are buckthorn, green ash, boxelder, black cherry, and American elm. These resources perform important functions in carbon storage, water recycling, and energy saving.<sup>[25]</sup><sup>[26]</sup>

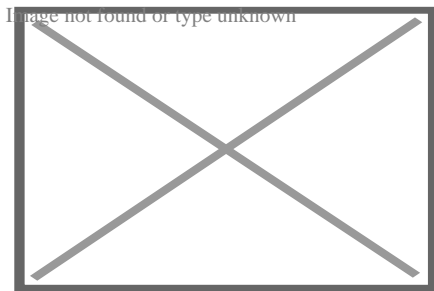
## The Chicago skyline

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Night aerial view of Chicago and vicinity

### Demographics

[edit]



Taken from the ISS on June 23, 2022; downtown Chicago is at the center by the lake.

As of 2022, the metropolitan area had a population of 9,442,159. The population density was 1,312.3 per square mile. The racial makeup was 50.1% Non-Hispanic White, 23.4% were Hispanic, 15.5% were Non-Hispanic African Americans, 7.2% were Asian, 0.1% were Non-Hispanic Native American, 0.4% identified as “some other race,” and 3.2% were non-Hispanic multiracial.<sup>[27]</sup>

According to 2022 estimates from the American Community Survey, the largest ancestries in the Chicago metro area were Mexican (18%), African (17.7%), German (12.8%), Irish (9.9%), Polish (8%), Italian (5.9%), English (5.2%), Indian (2.7%), Puerto Rican (2.3%), Filipino (1.7%), Swedish (1.5%), and Chinese (1.4%).<sup>[28][29][30][31]</sup>

The suburbs, surrounded by easily annexed flat ground, have been expanding at a tremendous rate since the early 1960s. Aurora, Elgin, Joliet, and Naperville are noteworthy for being four of the few boomburbs outside the Sun Belt, West Coast and Mountain States regions, and exurban Kendall County ranked as the fastest-growing county (among counties with a population greater than 10,000) in the United States between the years 2000 and 2007.<sup>[32]</sup>

Settlement patterns in the Chicago metropolitan area tend to follow those in the city proper: the northern and northwestern suburbs are generally affluent and upper-middle class, while the southern suburbs (sometimes known as Chicago Southland) have somewhat lower median incomes and a cost of living, with the exception being the southwest suburbs which contain many upper-middle class areas. Another exception to this is the West Side, which has a somewhat lower median income, but the western suburbs contain many affluent and upper-middle class areas. According to the 2000 Census, DuPage County as a whole had the highest median household income of any county in the Midwestern United States, although there are individual cities and towns in other surrounding counties in the metro that have even higher median incomes.

According to 2022 estimates from the U.S. Census, poverty rates of the largest counties from least poverty to most are as follows: McHenry 4.0%, Dupage 6.7%, Will 6.9%, Kane 7.8%, Lake 8.0%, and Cook 13.6%.<sup>[33]</sup> However, Cook County, which contains luxury high rises and expensive houses in sections of the city and expensive houses along the waterfront in the North Shore area, would also have the highest percentage of expensive homes in the region.

In an in-depth historical analysis, Keating (2004, 2005) examined the origins of 233 settlements that by 1900 had become suburbs or city neighborhoods of the Chicago metropolitan area. The settlements began as farm centers (41%), industrial towns (30%), residential railroad suburbs (15%), and recreational/institutional centers (13%). Although relations between the different settlement types were at times contentious, there also was cooperation in such undertakings as the construction of high schools.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## Population

[edit]

As the Chicago metropolitan area has grown, more counties have been partly or totally assimilated with the taking of each decennial census.

Census Area	Area Type	2020 census	2010 census	2000 census	1990 census	1980 Census	1970 census	1960 census	1950 census
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	Metropolitan	9,618,502	9,461,105	9,098,316	8,065,633	7,869,542	7,612,314	6,794,461	5,495,000
Cook County, Illinois	Metropolitan	5,275,541	5,194,675	5,376,741	5,105,067	5,253,655	5,492,369	5,129,725	4,508,000



<b>DeKalb County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	100,420	105,160	88,969	77,932	74,624	71,654	51,714	40,
<b>DuPage County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	932,877	916,924	904,161	781,666	658,835	491,882	313,459	154,
<b>Grundy County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	52,533	50,063	37,535	32,337	30,582	26,535	22,350	19,
<b>Kane County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	516,522	515,269	404,119	317,471	278,405	251,005	208,246	150,
<b>Kendall County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	131,869	114,736	54,544	39,413	37,202	26,374	17,540	12,
<b>McHenry County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	310,229	308,760	260,077	183,241	147,897	111,555	84,210	50,
<b>Will County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	696,355	677,560	502,266	357,313	324,460	249,498	191,617	134,
<b>Jasper County, Indiana</b>	Metropolitan	32,918	33,478	30,043	24,960	26,138	20,429	18,842	17,
<b>Lake County, Indiana</b>	Metropolitan	498,700	496,005	484,564	475,594	522,965	546,253	513,269	368,
<b>Newton County, Indiana</b>	Metropolitan	13,830	14,244	14,566	13,551	14,844	11,606	11,502	11,
<b>Porter County, Indiana</b>	Metropolitan	173,215	164,343	146,798	128,932	119,816	87,114	60,279	40,
<b>Lake County, Illinois</b>	Metropolitan	714,342	703,462	644,356	516,418	440,372	382,638	293,656	179,
<b>Kenosha County, Wisconsin</b>	Metropolitan	169,151	166,426	149,577	128,181	123,137	117,917	100,615	75,
<b>Kankakee County, Illinois</b>	Combined	107,502	113,449	103,833	96,255	102,926	97,250	92,063	73,

<b>LaSalle County, Illinois</b>	Combined	109,658	113,924	111,509	106,913	112,003	111,409	110,800	100,000
<b>Bureau County, Illinois</b>	Combined	33,244	34,978	35,503	35,688	39,114	38,541	37,594	37,000
<b>Putnam County, Illinois</b>	Combined	5,637	6,006	6,086	5,730	6,085	5,007	4,570	4,000
<b>LaPorte County, Indiana</b>	Combined	112,417	111,467	110,106	107,066	108,632	105,342	95,111	76,000
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI</b>	<b>Combined</b>	<b>9,986,960</b>	<b>9,686,021</b>	<b>9,312,255</b>	<b>8,385,397</b>	<b>8,264,490</b>	<b>8,089,421</b>	<b>7,204,198</b>	<b>5,911,000</b>

Counties highlighted in gray were not included in the MSA for that census. The CSA totals in blue are the totals of all the counties listed above, regardless of whether they were included in the Chicago Combined Statistical Area at the time.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Principal municipalities

[edit]

### Over 1,000,000 population

[edit]

- Chicago (2,746,388)

### Over 100,000 population

[edit]

- Aurora, Illinois (180,542)
- Joliet, Illinois (150,362)
- Naperville, Illinois (149,540)
- Elgin, Illinois (114,797)

## Over 50,000 population

[edit]

- Kenosha, Wisconsin (99,986)
- Waukegan, Illinois (89,321)
- Cicero, Illinois (85,268)
- Schaumburg, Illinois (78,723)
- Evanston, Illinois (78,110)
- Hammond, Indiana (77,879)
- Arlington Heights, Illinois (77,676)
- Bolingbrook, Illinois (73,922)
- Gary, Indiana (69,093)
- Palatine, Illinois (67,908)
- Skokie, Illinois (67,824)
- Des Plaines, Illinois (60,675)
- Orland Park, Illinois (58,703)
- Oak Lawn, Illinois (58,362)
- Berwyn, Illinois (57,250)
- Mount Prospect, Illinois (56,852)
- Tinley Park, Illinois (55,971)
- Oak Park, Illinois (54,583)
- Wheaton, Illinois (53,970)
- Downers Grove, Illinois (50,247)

View of Chicago greater metropolitan region and the dense downtown area from the Willis Tower

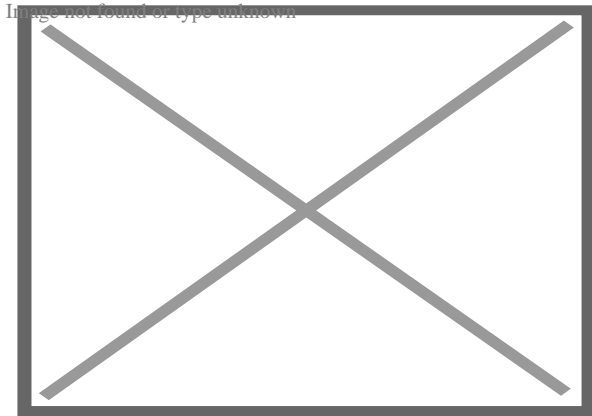
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View of Chicago greater metropolitan region and the North branch of the Chicago River from the Willis Tower

## Urban areas within

[edit]

Within the boundary of the 16-county Chicago Combined Statistical Area lies the Chicago urban area, as well as 26 smaller urban areas.<sup>[35]</sup> Some of the urban areas below may partially cross into other statistical areas. Only those situated primarily within the Chicago combined statistical area are listed here.



Urban areas contained within the Chicago combined statistical area as of the 2020 census:

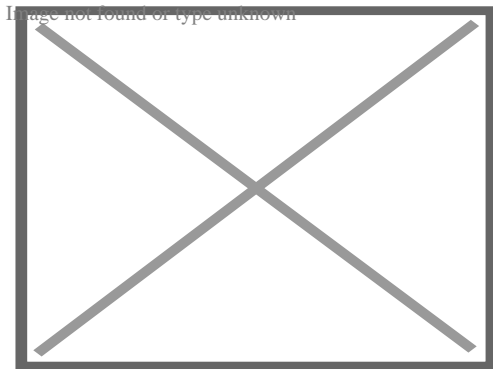
- Urban areas
- Counties in the Chicago MSA
- Counties in the Chicago CSA but not the MSA

Urban area	Population (2020 census)	Land area (sq mi)	Land area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (population / sq mi)	Density (population / km <sup>2</sup> )
Chicago, IL–IN	8,671,746	2,337.89	6,055.09	3,709.2	1,432.1
Round Lake Beach–McHenry–Grayslake, IL–WI	261,835	127.61	330.52	2,051.8	792.2
Kenosha, WI	125,865	56.17	145.48	2,240.8	865.2
Michigan City–La Porte, IN–MI	71,367	49.16	127.32	1,451.7	560.5
Kankakee, IL	66,530	31.66	82.00	2,101.4	811.3
DeKalb, IL	64,736	25.63	66.39	2,525.6	975.1
Valparaiso–Shorewood Forest, IN	51,867	33.64	87.12	1,542.0	595.4
Peru–LaSalle, IL	29,763	21.45	55.56	1,387.4	535.7
Woodstock, IL	25,298	9.31	24.10	2,718.7	1,049.7
Ottawa, IL	20,122	9.99	25.87	2,014.2	777.7
Streator, IL	16,209	8.12	21.04	1,995.3	770.4
Coal City–Braidwood, IL	15,837	10.29	26.65	1,539.4	594.4
Morris, IL	15,740	8.64	22.37	1,822.2	703.5
Lowell, IN	10,747	5.28	13.66	2,037.2	786.6
Manteno, IL	10,437	6.01	15.56	1,736.8	670.6

Harvard, IL	9,376	4.36	11.30	2,148.7	829.6
Princeton, IL	7,979	6.20	16.06	1,287.1	497.0
Marengo, IL	7,509	3.81	9.86	1,971.5	761.2
Lake Holiday, IL	7,313	4.30	11.14	1,700.5	656.6
Mendota, IL	6,918	2.85	7.38	2,426.2	936.8
Wilmington, IL	6,388	3.95	10.23	1,617.3	624.5
McHenry Northwest–Wonder Lake, IL	5,758	2.35	6.08	2,453.6	947.4
Hampshire, IL	5,699	2.72	7.06	2,091.4	807.5
Rensselaer, IN	5,509	3.23	8.37	1,703.9	657.9
Genoa, IL	5,484	2.20	5.69	2,498.0	964.5
Westville, IN	5,189	2.10	5.45	2,466.0	952.1
Marseilles, IL	4,660	2.39	6.19	1,948.4	752.3

## Economy

[edit]



Westward view from the Willis Tower in Chicago

Main article: Economy of Chicago

See also: List of companies in the Chicago metropolitan area, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and Economy of Illinois

The Chicago metropolitan area is home to the corporate headquarters of 57 Fortune 1000 companies, including AbbVie Inc., Allstate, Kraft Heinz, McDonald's, Mondelez International, Motorola, United Airlines, Walgreens, and more. The Chicago area also headquarters a wide variety of global financial institutions including Citadel LLC, Discover Financial Services, Morningstar, Inc., CNA Financial, and more. Chicago is home to the largest futures exchange in the world, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. In March 2008, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange announced its acquisition of NYMEX Holdings Inc, the parent company of the New York Mercantile Exchange and Commodity Exchange. CME'S acquisition of NYMEX was completed in August 2008.

A key piece of infrastructure for several generations was the Union Stock Yards of Chicago, which from 1865 until 1971 penned and slaughtered millions of cattle and hogs into standardized cuts of beef and pork. This prompted poet Carl Sandburg to describe Chicago as the "Hog Butcher for the World".<sup>[36]</sup>

The Chicago area, meanwhile, began to produce significant quantities of telecommunications gear, electronics, steel, crude oil derivatives, automobiles, and industrial capital goods.

By the early 2000s, Illinois' economy had moved toward a dependence on high-value-added services, such as financial trading, higher education, logistics, and health care. In some cases, these services clustered around institutions that hearkened back to Illinois's earlier economies. For example, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, a trading exchange for global derivatives, had begun its life as an agricultural futures market.

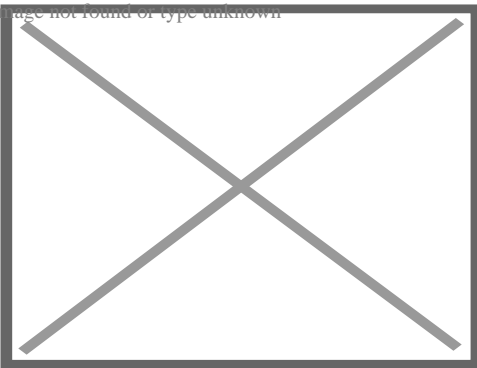
In 2007, the area ranked first among U.S. metro areas in the number of new and expanded corporate facilities.<sup>[37]</sup> It ranked third in 2008, behind the Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown and Dallas–Fort Worth metropolitan areas,<sup>[38]</sup> and ranked second behind the New York metropolitan area in 2009.<sup>[39]</sup>

*The Wall Street Journal* summarized the Chicago area's economy in November 2006 with the comment that "Chicago has survived by repeatedly reinventing itself."<sup>[40]</sup>

## Transportation

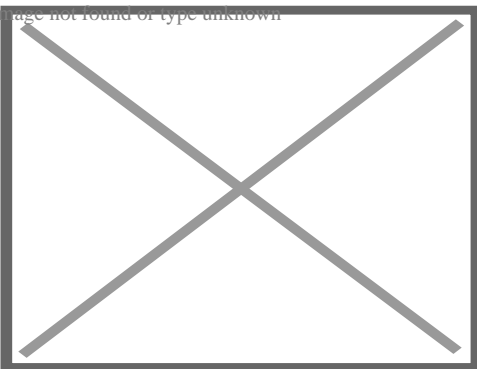
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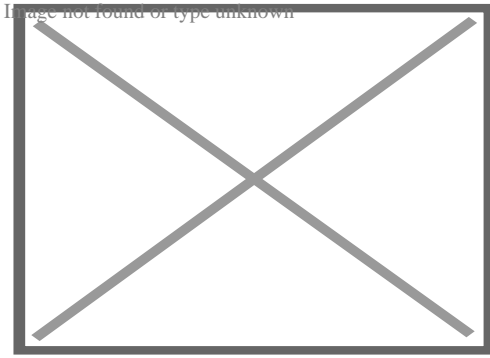


O'Hare Airport

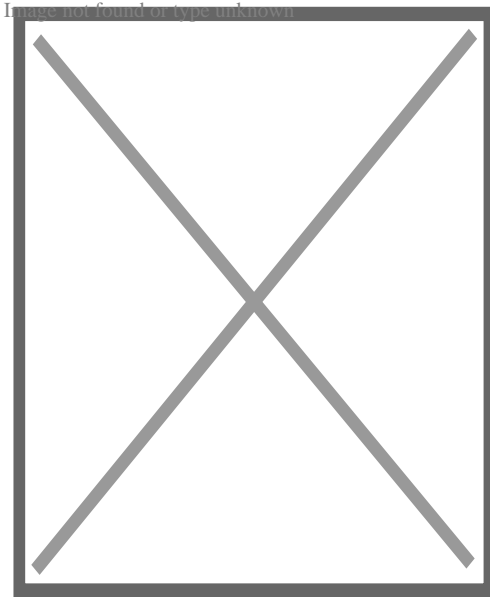
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Chicago 'L' in the Loop



Metra surface rail



The Eisenhower Expressway with the Chicago Transit Authority Blue Line tracks and the non-revenue ramp that leads to the Pink Line

Main articles: [Transportation in Chicago](#) and [Roads and freeways in Chicago](#)

## Major airports

[edit]

- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
- Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW)
- Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE) (located in the adjacent Milwaukee metropolitan area)
- Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) (located in the adjacent Rockford metropolitan area)
- Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYX)

# Commercial ports

[edit]

- Port of Chicago
- Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor

# Transit systems

[edit]

# Commercial freight

[edit]

Chicago has been at the center of the United States' railroad network since the 19th century. Almost all Class I railroads serve the area, the most in North America.<sup>[41]</sup>

# Passenger

[edit]

- Chicago Transit Authority trains, locally referred to as "the 'L' ", (after "elevated train") serving Chicago and the near suburbs
- Pace Suburban Bus operates suburban bus and regional vanpool, paratransit, and ride-matching services in the Chicagoland region.
- Metra run by the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation:
  - 4 lines serving southern Cook County and Will County
  - 3 lines serving western Cook County, DuPage County, and Kane County
  - 2 lines serving northern Cook County and Lake County
  - 1 line serving northern Cook County, Lake County, and Kenosha County
  - 1 line serving northwestern Cook County and McHenry County
- South Shore Line shares the Metra Electric Line in Illinois and connects Chicago to Gary, Michigan City, and ending at South Bend.
- Amtrak operates Union Station which is the major Amtrak passenger rail hub with connections to Metra and the within a few blocks of connections to several 'L' lines. Amtrak also operates



a connecting station out of Joliet.

## Major highways

[edit]

### Interstates

[edit]

- Interstate 41 (I-41) runs concurrently with Interstate 94 from the northern terminus of the Tri-State Tollway to Milwaukee.
- Interstate 55 (I-55) is the Adlai Stevenson Expy.
- I-355 is the Veterans Memorial Tollway (formerly North-South Tollway).
- I-57 is unofficially the "West Leg" of the Dan Ryan Expy.
- I-65 has no name, whether official or unofficial.
- I-80 is officially called the Borman Expy (cosigned with I-94), Kingery Expy (cosigned with I-94 for 3 miles), Tri-State Tollway (cosigned with I-294 for 4 miles) and is unofficially called the Moline Expy west of I-294.
- I-88 is the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (formerly East-West Tollway)
- I-90 is locally known as Jane Addams Tollway (formerly Northwest Tollway), John F. Kennedy Expy (cosigned with I-94), Dan Ryan Expy (cosigned with I-94), and Chicago Skyway Toll Bridge.
- I-94 is Tri-State Tollway in Lake County, Edens Spur, Edens Expy, John F. Kennedy Expy (cosigned with I-90), Dan Ryan Expy (cosigned with I-90), Bishop Ford Frwy (formerly Calumet Expy), Kingery Expy (cosigned with I-80) and Borman Expy (cosigned with I-80).
- I-190 is the John F. Kennedy Expy spur heading into Chicago-O'Hare Int'l Airport.
- I-290 is the Dwight D. Eisenhower Expy.
- I-294 is the Tri-State Tollway.

### Other main highways

[edit]

- US Routes in the Illinois part of the area include: US 6, US 12, US 14, US 20, US 30, US 34, US 41, US 45, and US 52.
- Illinois Route 53, an arterial north–south state highway running through Grundy, Will, DuPage, Cook and Lake counties
- Historic US Route 66's eastern terminus is in Chicago.

## Major corridors

[edit]

In addition to the Chicago Loop, the metro area is home to a few important subregional corridors of commercial activities. Among them are:

- Illinois Technology and Research Corridor, along the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (Interstate 88)
- Golden Corridor, along the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (Interstate 90)
- Lakeshore Corridor, along the Edens Expressway and Tri-State Tollway

## Culture

[edit]

# Sports

[edit]

Main article: Sports in Chicago

Listing of the professional sports teams in the Chicago metropolitan area

### Major league professional teams:

- Major League Baseball (MLB)
  - Chicago Cubs
  - Chicago White Sox
- National Football League (NFL)
  - Chicago Bears
- National Basketball Association (NBA)
  - Chicago Bulls
- National Hockey League (NHL)
  - Chicago Blackhawks
- Major League Soccer (MLS)
  - Chicago Fire FC

### Other professional teams:

- Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)
  - Chicago Sky
- National Women's Soccer League (NWSL)
  - Chicago Stars FC
- American Association of Professional Baseball (AA)

- Chicago Dogs
- Kane County Cougars
- Gary SouthShore RailCats
- American Hockey League (AHL)
  - Chicago Wolves
- NBA G League (NBAGL)
  - Windy City Bulls
- Major League Rugby (MLR)
  - Chicago Hounds

The Chicagoland Speedway oval track has hosted NASCAR Cup Series and IndyCar Series races. The Chicago Marathon is one of the World Marathon Majors. The Western Open and BMW Championship are PGA Tour tournaments that have been held primarily at golf courses near Chicago.

### **NCAA Division I College Sports Teams:**

- Atlantic 10 Conference
  - Loyola University Chicago Ramblers
- Big East Conference
  - DePaul University Blue Demons
- Big Ten Conference
  - Northwestern University Wildcats (Evanston)
- Mid-American Conference
  - Northern Illinois University Huskies (DeKalb)
- Missouri Valley Conference
  - University of Illinois Chicago Flames
  - Valparaiso University Beacons (Valparaiso, IN)
- Northeast Conference
  - Chicago State University Cougars

## **Cuisine**

[edit]

Further information: Chicago § Cuisine

- Chicago-style hot dog
- Chicago-style pizza
- Italian beef
- Caramel popcorn

# Media

[edit]

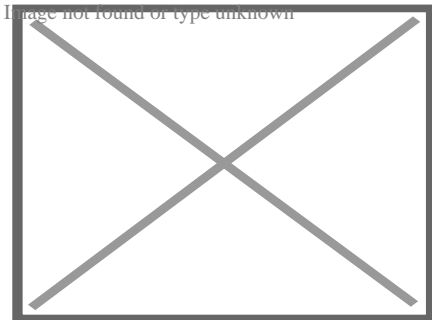
Main article: Media in Chicago

The two main newspapers are the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Local television channels broadcasting to the Chicago market include WBBM-TV 2 (CBS), WMAQ-TV 5 (NBC), WLS-TV 7 (ABC), WGN-TV 9 (Ind), WTTW 11 (PBS), MeTV 23, WCIU 26 (CW), WFLD 32 (FOX), WCPX-TV 38 (Ion), WSNS-TV 44 (Telemundo), WPWR-TV 50 (MyNetworkTV), and WJYS-TV 62 (The Way). Radio stations serving the area include: WBBM (AM), WBEZ, WGN (AM), WMBI, WLS (AM), and WSCR.

## Education

[edit]

Further information: List of school districts in Illinois, List of school districts in Indiana, and List of colleges and universities in Chicago



Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago

Elementary and secondary education within the Chicago metropolitan area is provided by dozens of different school districts, of which by far the largest is the Chicago Public Schools with 400,000 students.<sup>[42]</sup> Numerous private and religious school systems are also found in the region, as well as a growing number of charter schools. Racial inequalities in education in the region remain widespread, often breaking along district boundaries;<sup>[43]</sup> for instance, educational prospects vary widely for students in the Chicago Public Schools compared to those in some neighboring suburban schools.<sup>[44]</sup>

Historically, the Chicago metropolitan area has been at the center of a number of national educational movements, from the free-flowing Winnetka Plan to the regimented Taylorism of the Gary Plan.<sup>[45]</sup> In higher education, University of Chicago founder William Rainey Harper was a leading early advocate of the junior college movement; Joliet Junior College is the nation's oldest continuously operating junior college today.<sup>[46]</sup> Later U of C president Robert Maynard Hutchins was central to the Great Books movement, and programs of dialogic education arising from that legacy can be found today at the U of C, at Shimer College,<sup>[47]</sup> and in the City Colleges of Chicago

and Oakton College in the Northwest suburbs.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Area codes

[edit]

Main article: List of Illinois area codes

From 1947 until 1988, the Illinois portion of the Chicago metro area was served by a single area code, 312, which abutted the 815 area code. In 1988 the 708 area code was introduced and the 312 area code became exclusive to the city of Chicago.

It became common to call suburbanites "708'ers", in reference to their area code.

The 708 area code was partitioned in 1996 into three area codes, serving different portions of the metro area: 630, 708, and 847.

At the same time that the 708 area code was running out of phone numbers, the 312 area code in Chicago was also exhausting its supply of available numbers. As a result, the city of Chicago was divided into two area codes, 312 and 773. Rather than divide the city by a north–south area code, the central business district retained the 312 area code, while the remainder of the city took the new 773 code.

In 2002, the 847 area code was supplemented with the overlay area code 224. In February 2007, the 815 area code (serving outlying portions of the metro area) was supplemented with the overlay area code 779. In October 2007, the overlay area code 331 was implemented to supplement the 630 area with additional numbers.

Plans are in place for overlay codes in the 708, 773, and 312 regions as those area codes become exhausted in the future.

- 312 Chicago - City (The Loop and central neighborhoods, e.g. the Near North Side)
- 773 Chicago - City (Everywhere else within the city limits, excluding central area)
- 872 Chicago - City (overlay for 312 & 773, effective November 7, 2009)
- 847/224 (North and Northwest Suburbs)
- 630/331 (Outer Western Suburbs)
- 708 (South and Near West Suburbs)
- 815/779 (Rockford & Joliet: Far Northwest/Southwest Suburbs)
- 219 (Northwest Indiana)
- 574 (North-central Indiana)
- 262 (Southeast Wisconsin surrounding Milwaukee County)

## Proposed overlays




[edit]

- 464 overlay for 708 (January 21, 2022, rollout)

## See also

[edit]

Portals:

-  Chicago Image not found or type unknown
-  Illinois Image not found or type unknown
-  United States Image not found or type unknown
- Index of Illinois-related articles

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## External links

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## Chicago metropolitan area at Wikipedia's sister projects

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-  not found or type unknown **Data from Wikidata**
- *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2004), comprehensive coverage of city and suburbs, past and present
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- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
- About Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
- History of Metropolitan Areas
- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Population Totals and Components of Change: 2010–2019

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Chicago metropolitan area

**Major city**

- **Chicago**

- Aurora
- Berwyn
- Calumet City
- Crown Point
- Crystal Lake
- DeKalb
- Des Plaines
- Elgin
- Elmhurst
- Evanston
- Gary
- Hammond
- Highland Park
- Joliet
- Kenosha
- Naperville
- North Chicago
- Park Ridge
- Portage
- St. Charles
- Valparaiso
- Waukegan
- Wheaton

Chicago landsat image

**Cities  
(over 30,000 in 2020)**

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**Towns and villages  
(over 30,000 in 2020)**

- Addison
- Arlington Heights
- Bartlett
- Bolingbrook
- Buffalo Grove
- Carol Stream
- Carpentersville
- Cicero
- Downers Grove
- Elk Grove Village
- Glendale Heights
- Glenview
- Grayslake
- Gurnee
- Hanover Park
- Hoffman Estates
- Lombard
- Merrillville
- Mount Prospect
- Mundelein
- Niles
- Northbrook
- Oak Lawn
- Oak Park
- Orland Park
- Oswego
- Palatine
- Plainfield
- Romeoville
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- Streamwood
- Tinley Park
- Wheeling
- Wonder Lake
- Woodridge

## Counties

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- DuPage
- Grundy
- Jasper
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Kendall
- Kenosha
- Lake, IL
- Lake, IN
- McHenry
- Newton
- Porter
- Will

## Regions

- Great Lakes
- Northern Illinois
- Northern Indiana

## Sub-regions

- Chicago Southland
- Eastern Ridges and Lowlands
- Fox Valley (Illinois)
- Golden Corridor
- Illinois Technology and Research Corridor
- North Shore (Chicago)
- Northwest Indiana

Illinois, United States

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## State of Illinois

### **Springfield** (capital)

#### **Topics**

- Index
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## **Regions**

- American Bottom
- Bloomington–Normal metropolitan area
- Central Illinois
- Champaign–Urbana metropolitan area
- Chicago metropolitan area
- Collar counties
- Corn Belt
- Driftless Area
- Forgottonia
- Fox Valley
- Illinois–Indiana–Kentucky tri-state area
- Metro East
- Metro Lakeland
- Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- North Shore
- Northern Illinois
- Northwestern Illinois
- Peoria metropolitan area
- Quad Cities
- River Bend
- Rockford metropolitan area
- Southern Illinois
- Wabash Valley

- Alton/Granite City/Edwardsville
- Arlington Heights/Palatine
- Aurora/Naperville/Oswego/Plainfield
- Bartlett/Hanover Park/Streamwood
- Belleville/East St. Louis/Collinsville/O'Fallon
- Berwyn/Cicero
- Bloomington/Normal
- Bolingbrook/Romeoville
- Buffalo Grove/Wheeling
- Calumet City
- Canton
- Carbondale
- Carol Stream/Glendale Heights
- Centralia
- Champaign/Urbana
- Charleston/Mattoon
- Chicago
- Chicago Heights
- Crystal Lake/Algonquin
- Danville
- Decatur
- DeKalb/Sycamore
- Des Plaines/Mount Prospect/Park Ridge
- Dixon
- Downers Grove/Woodridge
- Effingham
- Elgin/Carpentersville
- Elmhurst/Lombard/Addison
- Evanston/Skokie
- Freeport
- Galesburg
- Glenview/Northbrook
- Harrisburg
- Jacksonville
- Joliet
- Kankakee/Bradley/Bourbonnais
- Lincoln
- Macomb
- Marion/Herrin
- Moline/East Moline/Rock Island
- Mount Vernon
- Mundelein
- Oak Lawn
- Oak Park
- Orland Park/Tinley Park
- Ottawa/Streator/LaSalle/Peru
- Peoria/Pekin/East Peoria/Morton/Washington
- Pontiac
- Quincy
- Rock Hill

**Municipalities**

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- Alexander
- Bond
- Boone
- Brown
- Bureau
- Calhoun
- Carroll
- Cass
- Champaign
- Christian
- Clark
- Clay
- Clinton
- Coles
- Cook
- Crawford
- Cumberland
- DeKalb
- DeWitt
- Douglas
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- Edwards
- Effingham
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- Ford
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- Hardin
- Henderson
- Henry
- Iroquois
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- Jasper
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- Jersey
- Jo Daviess
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- Kankakee
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- Knox
- Lake



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State of Indiana

## Indianapolis (capital)

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- o Fauna
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- o Paleontology
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## **Society**

- Abortion
- Culture
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- Homelessness
- LGBT rights
- Politics

**Largest cities**

- Anderson
- Bloomington
- Carmel
- Columbus
- Crown Point
- Elkhart
- Evansville
- Fishers
- Fort Wayne
- Gary
- Goshen
- Greenwood
- Hammond
- Indianapolis
- Jeffersonville
- Kokomo
- Lafayette
- Lawrence
- Michigan City
- Mishawaka
- Muncie
- New Albany
- Noblesville
- Portage
- Richmond
- South Bend
- Terre Haute
- Valparaiso
- Westfield
- West Lafayette

**Largest towns**

- Avon
- Brownsburg
- Clarksville
- Highland
- Merrillville
- Munster
- Plainfield
- Saint John
- Schererville
- Zionsville

- Adams
- Allen
- Bartholomew
- Benton
- Blackford
- Boone
- Brown
- Carroll
- Cass
- Clark
- Clay
- Clinton
- Crawford
- Daviess
- Dearborn
- Decatur
- DeKalb
- Delaware
- Dubois
- Elkhart
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Fountain
- Franklin
- Fulton
- Gibson
- Grant
- Greene
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Harrison
- Hendricks
- Henry
- Howard
- Huntington
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Jay
- Jefferson
- Jennings
- Johnson
- Knox
- Kosciusko
- LaGrange
- Lake
- LaPorte
- Lawrence
- Madison
- Marion
- Marshall

**Counties**

## Regions

- Central Indiana
  - East Central Indiana
  - Wabash Valley
- Northern Indiana
  - Northwest Indiana
    - Chicago metropolitan area
  - Michiana
- Southern Indiana
  - Indiana Uplands
  - Kentuckiana
  - Southwestern Indiana

## flag Indiana portal

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State of Wisconsin

## Madison (capital)

## Topics

- Outline
- Agriculture
  - Dairy industry
- Climate change
- Geography
  - Islands
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## **Society**

- Abortion
- Administrative divisions
- Cannabis
- Crime
- Culture
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- Economy
- Education
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- LGBT rights
- Politics

## **Regions**

- Apostle Islands
- Central Plain
- Chippewa Valley
- Door Peninsula
- Driftless Area
- Eastern Ridges and Lowlands
- Fox River Valley
- Great River Road
- Lake Superior Lowland
- Northern Highland
- Western Upland

## **Major metropolitan areas (pop. over 500,000)**

- Chicago metropolitan area
- Madison metropolitan area
- Milwaukee metropolitan area
- Twin Cities metropolitan area

## **Largest cities (pop. over 50,000)**

- Appleton
- Eau Claire
- Green Bay
- Janesville
- Kenosha
- La Crosse
- Madison
- Milwaukee
- Oshkosh
- Racine
- Waukesha
- West Allis

**Smaller cities  
(pop. 15,000 to 50,000)**

- Beaver Dam
- Beloit
- Brookfield
- Cudahy
- De Pere
- Fitchburg
- Fond du Lac
- Franklin
- Greenfield
- Hartford
- Hudson
- Kaukauna
- Manitowoc
- Marshfield
- Menasha
- Menomonie
- Mequon
- Middleton
- Muskego
- Neenah
- New Berlin
- Oak Creek
- Oconomowoc
- Onalaska
- River Falls
- Sheboygan
- South Milwaukee
- Stevens Point
- Sun Prairie
- Superior
- Watertown
- Wausau
- Wauwatosa
- West Bend
- Wisconsin Rapids

**Largest villages  
(pop. over 15,000)**

- Ashwaubenon
- Bellevue
- Caledonia
- Fox Crossing
- Germantown
- Howard
- Menomonee Falls
- Mount Pleasant
- Pleasant Prairie



**Counties**

- Adams
- Ashland
- Barron
- Bayfield
- Brown
- Buffalo
- Burnett
- Calumet
- Chippewa
- Clark
- Columbia
- Crawford
- Dane
- Dodge
- Door
- Douglas
- Dunn
- Eau Claire
- Florence
- Fond du Lac
- Forest
- Grant
- Green
- Green Lake
- Iowa
- Iron
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Juneau
- Kenosha
- Kewaunee
- La Crosse
- Lafayette
- Langlade
- Lincoln
- Manitowoc
- Marathon
- Marinette
- Marquette
- Menominee
- Milwaukee
- Monroe
- Oconto
- Oneida
- Outagamie
- Ozaukee
- Pepin
- Pierce
- Polk
- Port

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World's 50 most-populous urban areas

- |                     |                  |   |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. Tokyo            | 11. Kolkata      | 2 |
| 2. Jakarta          | 12. São Paulo    | 2 |
| 3. Delhi            | 13. New York     | 2 |
| 4. Guangzhou–Foshan | 14. Karachi      | 2 |
| 5. Mumbai           | 15. Dhaka        | 2 |
| 6. Manila           | 16. Bangkok      | 2 |
| 7. Shanghai         | 17. Beijing      | 2 |
| 8. Seoul            | 18. Moscow       | 2 |
| 9. Cairo            | 19. Shenzhen     | 2 |
| 10. Mexico City     | 20. Buenos Aires | 3 |

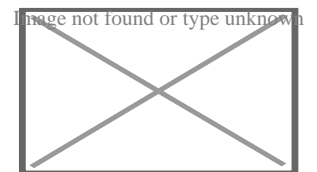
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Great Lakes megalopolis as defined by the RPA

Includes all metropolitan areas that have a population of 150,000 or greater according to the most recent national census.

**Great Lakes  
region cities**

- Brantford
- Buffalo–Niagara Falls
  - Buffalo
  - Niagara Falls
- Chicago
  - city
- Cleveland
  - city
- Detroit
  - city
- Duluth–Superior
  - Duluth
  - Superior
- Erie
  - city
- Grand Rapids
  - city
- Guelph
- Green Bay
  - city
- Hamilton
- Holland
- Kalamazoo
  - city
- Kenosha
- Lansing
  - city
- London
- Milwaukee
  - city
- Muskegon
- Niagara Region
  - St. Catharines
  - Niagara Falls
  - Welland
- Niles
- Oshawa
- Rochester, New York
  - city
- South Bend
  - city
- Thunder Bay
- Toledo
  - city
- Toronto
  - city
- Traverse City
  - city
- Waterloo Region



- Akron
  - city
- Altoona
- Ann Arbor
- Barrie
- Bloomington, Indiana
  - city
- Bloomington–Normal
  - Bloomington, Illinois
  - Normal
- Canton
  - city
- Champaign
  - city
- Cincinnati
  - city
- Columbus
  - city
- Dayton
  - city
- Eau Claire
  - city
- Elkhart
- Evansville
  - city
- Fargo
  - city
- Flint
- Fort Wayne
  - city
- Fox Cities
  - Appleton
  - Oshkosh
- Indianapolis
  - city
- Jackson
- Janesville–Beloit
- Kankakee
  - city
- Kingston
- La Crosse–Onalaska
  - La Crosse
  - Onalaska
- Lafayette
  - city
- Madison
  - city
- Mahoning Valley
  - Youngstown
- Miami Valley–Cincinnati

**Surrounding  
cities**

**Cities of states south of region**

- Elizabethtown
  - city
- Kansas City
  - city
- Louisville
  - city
- St. Louis
  - city
- Topeka
  - city
- Wheeling
  - city

**Other metro-regions**

- Quebec City–Windsor Corridor
- Golden Horseshoe
- Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area
- Detroit–Windsor
- Greater Pittsburgh
- Metro East

Other megaregions

**Authority control databases** Image not found or type unknown **Edit this at Wikidata**

- International**
- VIAF
  - FAST

- National**
- Germany
  - United States
  - Israel

**About Cook County**

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## Things To Do in Cook County

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Photo

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### **Sand Ridge Nature Center**

4.8 (96)

Photo

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### **River Trail Nature Center**

4.6 (235)

Photo

## Palmisano (Henry) Park

4.7 (1262)

### Driving Directions in Cook County

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#### Driving Directions From Palmisano (Henry) Park to

#### Driving Directions From Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens to

#### Driving Directions From Navy Pier to

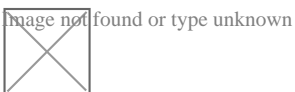
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<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Lake+Katherine+Nature+Center+and+Botanic+Gardens/United+Structural+Systems+of+Illinois%2C+Inc/@41.8918633,-87.8010774,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1sunknown!2m2!1d-87.8010774!2d41.6776048!1m5!1m1!1sChIJ-wSxDtinD4gRiv4kY3RRh9U!2m2!1d-88.1396465!2d42.0637725!3e2>

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### Reviews for

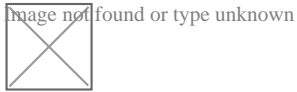
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**Jeffery James**

(5)

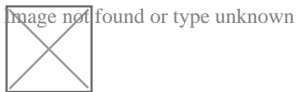
Very happy with my experience. They were prompt and followed through, and very helpful in fixing the crack in my foundation.



**Sarah McNeily**

(5)

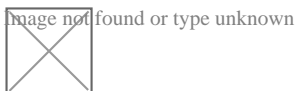
USS was excellent. They are honest, straightforward, trustworthy, and conscientious. They thoughtfully removed the flowers and flower bulbs to dig where they needed in the yard, replanted said flowers and spread the extra dirt to fill in an area of the yard. We've had other services from different companies and our yard was really a mess after. They kept the job site meticulously clean. The crew was on time and friendly. I'd recommend them any day! Thanks to Jessie and crew.



**Jim de Leon**

(5)

It was a pleasure to work with Rick and his crew. From the beginning, Rick listened to my concerns and what I wished to accomplish. Out of the 6 contractors that quoted the project, Rick seemed the MOST willing to accommodate my wishes. His pricing was definitely more than fair as well. I had 10 push piers installed to stabilize and lift an addition of my house. The project commenced at the date that Rick had disclosed initially and it was completed within the same time period expected (based on Rick's original assessment). The crew was well informed, courteous, and hard working. They were not loud (even while equipment was being utilized) and were well spoken. My neighbors were very impressed on how polite they were when they entered / exited my property (saying hello or good morning each day when they crossed paths). You can tell they care about the customer concerns. They ensured that the property would be put back as clean as possible by placing MANY sheets of plywood down prior to excavating. They compacted the dirt back in the holes extremely well to avoid large stock piles of soils. All the while, the main office was calling me to discuss updates and expectations of completion. They provided waivers of lien, certificates of insurance, properly acquired permits, and JULIE locates. From a construction background, I can tell you that I did not see any flaws in the way they operated and this an extremely professional company. The pictures attached show the push piers added to the foundation (pictures 1, 2 & 3), the amount of excavation (picture 4), and the restoration after dirt was placed back in the pits and compacted (pictures 5, 6 & 7). Please notice that they also sealed two large cracks and steel plated these cracks from expanding further (which you can see under my sliding glass door). I, as well as my wife, are extremely happy that we chose United Structural Systems for our contractor. I would happily tell any of my friends and family to use this contractor should the opportunity arise!



**Chris Abplanalp**

(5)

USS did an amazing job on my underpinning on my house, they were also very courteous to the proximity of my property line next to my neighbor. They kept things in order with all the dirt/mud they had to excavate. They were done exactly in the timeframe they indicated, and the contract was very details oriented with drawings of what would be done. Only thing that would have been nice, is they left my concrete a little muddy with boot prints but again, all-in-all a great job



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**Dave Kari**

(5)

What a fantastic experience! Owner Rick Thomas is a trustworthy professional. Nick and the crew are hard working, knowledgeable and experienced. I interviewed every company in the area, big and small. A homeowner never wants to hear that they have foundation issues. Out of every company, I trusted USS the most, and it paid off in the end. Highly recommend.

## Impact of Freeze Thaw Cycles on Concrete Slabs [View GBP](#)

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State : IL

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[Google Business Profile](#)

Company Website : <https://www.unitedstructuralsystems.com/>

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