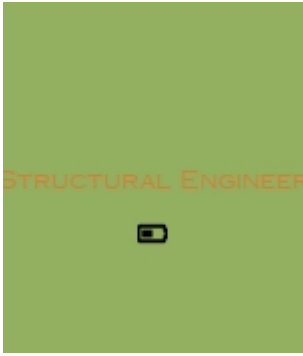




- **Identifying Common Issues and Symptoms of residential foundations**
Identifying Common Issues and Symptoms of residential foundations Spotting Early Warning Signs of Foundation Stress Recognizing Cracks and Shifts in Concrete Floors Understanding Sticky Doors and Window Alignment Pinpointing Sinking 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
- **About Us**



*** Identifying signs of porch or deck detachment affecting foundation integrity.**

Okay, so you're strolling around your house, maybe admiring the sunset from your porch, and something just **feels** off. Advanced monitoring tools improve the accuracy of foundation repair assessments [foundation repair service near me](#) I-beam. That feeling could be your intuition picking up on something real, something potentially serious: your porch or deck might be starting to pull away from the main house, and that detachment could be messing with your foundation.

Think of it like this: your porch and deck are basically extensions of your home. They're attached, ideally, in a way that distributes weight and stress evenly. But over time, weather, poor construction, or just plain old settling can cause things to shift. The first clues are often subtle. Maybe the deck boards feel a little bouncy in a spot they didn't before. Perhaps you notice a widening gap between the porch and the house's siding. These aren't necessarily cause for immediate panic, but they're definitely worth investigating.

More obvious signs? Look for cracks in the foundation near where the porch or deck attaches. Are they new? Have they gotten bigger lately? Also, check the ledger board – that's the piece of lumber that connects the deck to the house. Is it pulling away? Are the fasteners rusty or broken? If the ledger board is failing, the whole deck is compromised.

The big concern here is foundation integrity. As the porch or deck detaches, it can put undue stress on specific points of the foundation. This can lead to cracks, shifting, and even water damage. If water gets into those cracks, it can freeze and expand in the winter, making the problem even worse. A compromised foundation is a serious issue that can require expensive repairs.

So, keep an eye on your porch and deck. Don't ignore those subtle signs that something might be amiss. Early detection and repair can save you a lot of headaches (and a lot of money) down the road. When in doubt, call in a qualified contractor or structural engineer to take a look. They can assess the situation and recommend the best course of action to keep your house (and your porch) standing strong.

*** Common causes of shifting porches and decks.**

Okay, so you've noticed your porch or deck isn't quite...right. Maybe it's a little wobbly, or there's a noticeable gap where it meets the house. That shifting, that unsettling feeling that something's not quite square, usually boils down to a few common culprits. It's rarely a single cause, more often a combination of factors working against your structure.

First off, think about the ground. Mother Nature's not always the most stable foundation. Soil expands and contracts with moisture changes. Think of heavy rains followed by scorching summers. That movement puts tremendous pressure on the support posts and footings of your porch or deck. If those footings weren't properly sized or installed to begin with, or if the soil around them wasn't adequately compacted, they can sink or shift over time, dragging the whole structure with them.

Then there's the wood itself. Wood rots. Plain and simple. Especially if it's in contact with the ground or exposed to the elements without proper treatment. Rot weakens the structural members, making them less able to bear the load. Termites and other wood-boring insects can exacerbate the problem, turning solid beams into Swiss cheese. That weakening can lead to sagging and shifting.

Finally, don't underestimate the importance of proper attachment to the house. The ledger board, that critical piece of wood that connects the deck or porch to your house, is a common point of failure. If it wasn't properly flashed to prevent water intrusion, rot can set in quickly. Furthermore, if the fasteners used to attach the ledger board to the house weren't strong enough or properly spaced, they can pull away over time, leading to separation and shifting.

So, you see, it's a bit of a perfect storm. Ground movement, wood rot, and faulty attachments can all contribute to a shifting porch or deck. Identifying the specific causes is the first step towards getting it fixed and making sure your outdoor space is safe and enjoyable again.

*** The impact of improper attachments on residential foundations.**

Okay, so you've got a porch or deck that's starting to look a little...off. Maybe it's pulling away from the house, or leaning at a strange angle. While it might just seem like an aesthetic issue, that shifting could be a red flag pointing to a bigger problem: improper attachments to your home's foundation. We're talking about the kind of problem that can lead to significant structural damage if left unchecked.

Think of it this way: your porch or deck isn't just resting against your house; it's typically bolted or connected in some way to the foundation. If those connections weren't done correctly in the first place – maybe the wrong type of fasteners were used, or the connection points weren't properly waterproofed – then you're setting the stage for trouble. Over time, weather, soil movement, and just the settling of the house itself can put stress on those weak points.

What happens next? Water can seep in around the attachments, leading to rot and corrosion, weakening the wood and the concrete. The constant push and pull can crack the foundation itself. And because the porch or deck is tied to the house, that movement can transfer to the main structure, potentially causing cracks in walls, sticking doors, or uneven floors inside.

Basically, a shifting porch or deck is like a canary in a coal mine. It's telling you something's not right below the surface, and ignoring it can lead to much more expensive and extensive repairs down the road. Getting a professional inspection to assess the attachments and the foundation itself is the best way to catch these problems early and prevent them from snowballing into major structural headaches. It's a small investment that could save you a lot of money – and a lot of worry – in the long run.

*** Inspection methods for evaluating porch and deck connections.**

Okay, so you're looking at a porch or deck and something just feels...off. Maybe it's a little saggy, maybe it wiggles when you walk on it a bit too enthusiastically. One of the first things you gotta do is check those connections, where the deck or porch meets the house. That's where a lot of the trouble

starts. But how do you actually **inspect** those connections?

Well, the first thing is your eyes. A good visual inspection is paramount. Look for obvious signs of rot, especially where wood meets wood. Use a screwdriver or awl to probe suspicious areas. If the wood gives way easily, you've got rot. Check for cracked or split wood around the connections. See if any fasteners – nails, screws, bolts – are rusted, loose, or missing entirely. Rust stains running down the wood are a big red flag.

Beyond the visual, get physical. Gently try to wiggle the deck or porch. If you can see movement between the ledger board (the board attached to the house) and the house itself, that's a bad sign. Feel around the ledger board for any give. If it feels spongy or detached in any areas, you've likely got a problem.

Pay special attention to how the deck is attached to the house. Is it just nailed in? Or are there proper lag screws or through-bolts with washers and nuts? Look for signs of proper flashing. That flashing is crucial to prevent water from getting behind the ledger board and rotting the house framing. If the flashing is damaged, missing, or improperly installed, you're almost guaranteed to have problems down the line.

Finally, think about the hardware itself. Are the connectors galvanized or stainless steel? Regular steel will rust quickly and weaken. Look for signs of corrosion on the connectors. Even if they look okay on the surface, give them a wiggle. If they're loose or wobbly, they need to be addressed.

It's important to remember that if you're not comfortable with this kind of inspection or if you find significant issues, it's best to call in a qualified professional. Structural issues with decks and porches can be serious, and it's better to be safe than sorry. They'll have the experience to properly assess the situation and recommend the necessary repairs.

*** Repair solutions for detached or failing porch and deck attachments.**

Okay, so you've noticed your porch or deck is, well, feeling a little... loose. Maybe there's a wobble, a sag, or a disconcerting gap where things used to be flush and happy. That shifting and detaching? It's not just an aesthetic problem; it's a safety issue brewing. Before you picture yourself tumbling into the rose bushes, let's talk about fixing it.

First, a little detective work is in order. What's failing? Is it the connection between the deck ledger board and the house? Are the posts sinking or rotting at the base? Maybe the joists are pulling away from the beams. Identifying the specific point of failure is key to choosing the right repair.

For ledger board issues, which are common, you might need to reinforce the connection to the house. This could involve adding more lag screws or through-bolts, making sure they're properly sized and spaced for the load. Flashing is critical here – preventing water from getting behind the ledger board is paramount to prevent further rot. Sometimes, especially with older homes, the house framing itself is compromised, requiring more extensive repairs.

If your posts are sinking or rotting, replacement is usually the best option. You'll need to properly support the deck while you remove the old post and install a new, pressure-treated one. Make sure

the new post is properly footed, extending below the frost line to prevent future movement. Consider using concrete piers or adjustable post bases for added stability and protection from moisture.

Loose joists or beam connections often require reinforcing with metal connectors like joist hangers or angle brackets. Make sure you're using the correct type and size of connector for the intended load, and that they're properly fastened with approved nails or screws. Sometimes, sistering a new joist alongside the damaged one can provide additional support.

Regardless of the specific repair, safety should be your top priority. If you're not comfortable working at heights or dealing with structural issues, it's best to call in a professional. A qualified contractor can properly assess the damage, recommend the appropriate repairs, and ensure the work is done safely and to code. A little investment now can save you a lot of headaches (and potential injuries) down the road. After all, a sturdy porch or deck isn't just a nice place to relax; it's an extension of your home, and it should be built to last.

*** Preventing future problems with proper construction and maintenance.**

Okay, so you've noticed your porch is leaning a bit, or maybe your deck is pulling away from the house. That's definitely a bummer, but don't panic. Often, these things happen due to the ground settling or just the natural expansion and contraction of wood over time. But the key is to deal with it promptly. Ignoring a shifting porch or a loosening deck attachment is like ignoring a small leak in your roof – it'll only get worse and more expensive.

The real takeaway here isn't **just** fixing the immediate problem. It's about preventing future headaches. And that boils down to two things: proper construction and diligent maintenance.

Think about it: if the original porch or deck wasn't built on a solid foundation, or if the materials used weren't suitable for the climate, it was almost destined to fail eventually. That initial investment in quality materials and skilled labor pays off tenfold down the line. Using pressure-treated lumber where it's needed, ensuring proper drainage away from the foundation, and using the right type of fasteners – these are all crucial.

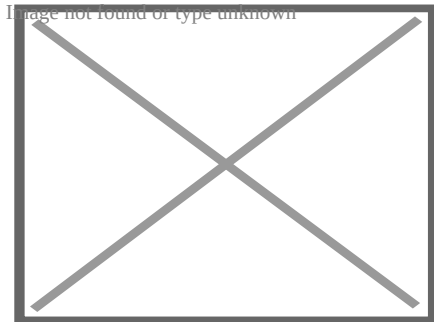
But even the best-built structure needs love. Maintenance is where you become your deck's or porch's best friend. Regularly inspect the connections, look for signs of rot or insect damage, and address any issues promptly. Tighten loose bolts, replace damaged boards, and re-stain or seal the wood every few years to protect it from the elements. It's like changing the oil in your car – small, regular actions that keep everything running smoothly and prevent major breakdowns.

Ultimately, a little preventative medicine – in the form of careful construction and consistent maintenance – can save you a lot of money, stress, and potential safety hazards in the long run. So, fix that shifting porch, secure those deck attachments, and then commit to keeping an eye on things. Your future self will thank you.



About home improvement

For the 1990s sitcom, see [Home Improvement \(TV series\)](#). For other uses, see [Home improvement \(disambiguation\)](#).



Merchandise on display in a hardware store

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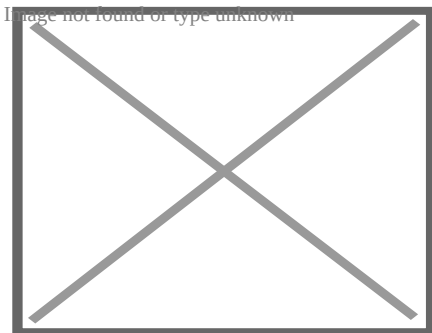
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The concept of **home improvement**, **home renovation** or **remodeling** is the process of renovating, making improvements or making additions to one's home.^[1] Home improvement can consist of projects that upgrade an existing home interior (such as electrical and plumbing), exterior (masonry, concrete, siding, roofing) or other improvements to the property (i.e. garden work or garage maintenance/additions). Home improvement projects can be carried out for a number of different reasons; personal preference and comfort, maintenance or repair work, making a home bigger by adding rooms/spaces, as a means of saving energy, or to improve safety.^[2]

Types of home improvement

[edit]



Man painting a fence

While "home improvement" often refers to building projects that alter the structure of an existing home, it can also include improvements to lawns, gardens, and outdoor structures, such as gazebos and garages. It also encompasses maintenance, repair, and general servicing tasks. Home improvement projects generally have one or more of the following goals:^[*citation needed*]

Comfort

[edit]

- Upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC).
- Upgrading rooms with luxuries, such as adding gourmet features to a kitchen or a hot tub spa to a bathroom.
- Increasing the capacity of plumbing and electrical systems.
- Waterproofing basements.
- Soundproofing rooms, especially bedrooms and baths.

Maintenance and repair

[edit]

Maintenance projects can include:

- Roof tear-off and replacement.
- Replacement or new construction windows.
- Concrete and masonry repairs to the foundation and chimney.
- Repainting rooms, walls or fences
- Repairing plumbing and electrical systems
- Wallpapering
- Furniture polishing
- Plumbing, home interior and exterior works
- Shower maintenance

Additional space

[edit]

Additional living space may be added by:

- Turning marginal areas into livable spaces such as turning basements into recrooms, home theaters, or home offices – or attics into spare bedrooms.
- Extending one's house with rooms added to the side of one's home or, sometimes, extra levels to the original roof. Such a new unit of construction is called an "add-on".^[3]

Saving energy

[edit]

Homeowners may reduce utility costs with:

- Energy-efficient thermal insulation, replacement windows, and lighting.
- Renewable energy with biomass pellet stoves, wood-burning stoves, solar panels, wind turbines, programmable thermostats,^[4] and geothermal exchange heat pumps (see autonomous building).

Safety, emergency management, security and privacy

[edit]

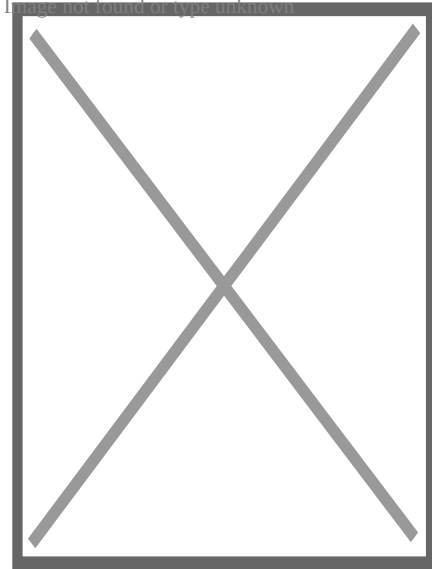
The need to be safer or for better privacy or emergency management can be fulfilled with diversified measures which can be improved, maintained or added. Secret compartments and passages can also be conceived for privacy and security.

- Interventions for fire protection and avoidance. Possible examples are fire sprinkler systems for automatic fire suppression, smoke detectors for fire detection, fire alarm systems, or passive fire protection (including some wildfire management strategies).
- Technical solutions to increase protection from natural disasters, or geotechnical and structural safety (e.g. hurricane or seismic retrofit).
- Interventions and additions to increase home safety from other hazards, like falls, electric injuries, gas leaks or home exposure to environmental health concerns.
- Physical security measures:
 - Access control systems and physical barriers, which can include fences, physical door and window security measures (e.g. grilles, laminated glass, window shutters), locks;
 - Security lighting, security alarms and video surveillance.
- Safes and vaults.
- Spaces for emergency evacuation, like emergency exits and rarer escape tunnels.
- Spaces which provide protection in the event of different emergencies: areas of refuge, storm cellars (as protection from tornadoes and other kinds of severe weather), panic rooms, bunkers and bomb shelters (including fallout shelters), etc.
- Home renovations or additions used to increase privacy can be as simple as curtains or much more advanced, such as some structural surveillance counter-measures. They may overlap with physical security measures.

- Public utility outage preparedness, like backup generators for providing power during power outages .

Home improvement industry

[edit]



Screws and bolts in an OBI home improvement store in Poland

Further information: Hardware store

Home or residential renovation is an almost \$300 billion industry in the United States,^[5] and a \$48 billion industry in Canada.^[6]^{*[full citation needed]*} The average cost per project is \$3,000 in the United States and \$11,000–15,000 in Canada.

Professional home improvement is ancient and goes back to the beginning of recorded civilization. One example is Sergius Orata, who in the 1st century B.C. is said by the writer Vitruvius (in his famous book *De architectura*) to have invented the hypocaust. The hypocaust is an underfloor heating system that was used throughout the Roman Empire in villas of the wealthy. He is said to have become wealthy himself by buying villas at a low price, adding spas and his newly invented hypocaust, and reselling them at higher prices.^[7]

Renovation contractors

[edit]

Perhaps the most important or visible professionals in the renovation industry are renovation contractors or skilled trades. These are the builders that have specialized credentials, licensing and experience to perform renovation services in specific municipalities.

While there is a fairly large "grey market" of unlicensed companies, there are those that have membership in a reputable association and/or are accredited by a professional organization. Homeowners are recommended to perform checks such as verifying license and insurance and checking business references prior to hiring a contractor to work on their house.

Because interior renovation will touch the change of the internal structure of the house, ceiling construction, circuit configuration and partition walls, etc., such work related to the structure of the house, of course, also includes renovation of wallpaper posting, furniture settings, lighting, etc.

Aggregators

[edit]

Aggregators are companies that bundle home improvement service offers and act as intermediary agency between service providers and customers.

In popular culture

[edit]

Home improvement was popularized on television in 1979 with the premiere of *This Old House* starring Bob Vila on PBS. American cable channel HGTV features many do-it-yourself shows, as does sister channel DIY Network.^[8] Danny Lipford hosts and produces the nationally syndicated *Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford*. Tom Kraeutler and Leslie Segrete co-host the nationally syndicated *The Money Pit Home Improvement Radio Show*.

Movies that poked fun at the difficulties involved include: *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948), starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy; *George Washington Slept Here* (1942), featuring Jack Benny and Ann Sheridan; and *The Money Pit* (1986), with Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. The sitcom *Home Improvement* used the home improvement theme for comedic purposes.

See also

[edit]

-  not found or type unknown Housing portal

- Home repair
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance, repair and operations

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Further reading

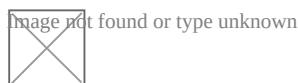
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External links

[edit]

-  Media related to Home improvement at Wikimedia Commons



Wikibooks has a book on the topic of: ***Kitchen Remodel***

- v
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Rooms and spaces of a house

Shared rooms

- Bonus room
- Common room
- Den
- Dining room
- Family room
- Garret
- Great room
- Home cinema
- Kitchen
 - dirty kitchen
 - kitchenette
- Living room
- Gynaecium
 - harem
- Andron
 - man cave
- Recreation room
 - billiard room
- Shrine
- Study
- Sunroom

Private rooms

- Bathroom
 - toilet
- Bedroom / Guest room
 - closet
- Bedsit / Miniflat
- Boudoir
- Cabinet
- Nursery

Spaces

- Atrium
- Balcony
- Breezeway
- Conversation pit
- Cubby-hole
- Deck
- Elevator
 - dumbwaiter
- Entryway/Genkan
- Fireplace
 - hearth
- Foyer
- Hall
- Hallway
- Inglenook
- Lanai
- Loft
- Loggia
- Overhang
- Patio
- Porch
 - screened
 - sleeping
- Ramp
- Secret passage
- Stairs/Staircase
- Terrace
- Veranda
- Vestibule

**Technical, utility
and storage**

- Attic
- Basement
- Carport
- Cloakroom
- Closet
- Crawl space
- Electrical room
- Equipment room
- Furnace room / Boiler room
- Garage
- Janitorial closet
- Larder
- Laundry room / Utility room / Storage room
- Mechanical room / floor
- Pantry
- Root cellar
- Semi-basement
- Storm cellar / Safe room
- Studio
- Wardrobe
- Wine cellar
- Wiring closet
- Workshop

Great house areas

- Antechamber
- Ballroom
- Kitchen-related
 - butler's pantry
 - buttery
 - saucery
 - scullery
 - spicery
 - still room
- Conservatory / Orangery
- Courtyard
- Drawing room
- Great chamber
- Great hall
- Library
- Long gallery
- Lumber room
- Parlour
- Sauna
- Servants' hall
- Servants' quarters
- Smoking room
- Solar
- State room
- Swimming pool
- Turret
- Undercroft

Other

- Furniture
- Hidden room
- House
 - house plan
 - styles
 - types
- Multi-family residential
- Secondary suite
- Duplex
- Terraced
- Detached
- Semi-detached
- Townhouse
- Studio apartment

**Architectural
elements**

- Arch
- Balconet
- Baluster
- Belt course
- Bressummer
- Ceiling
- Chimney
- Colonnade / Portico
- Column
- Cornice / Eaves
- Dome
- Door
- Ell
- Floor
- Foundation
- Gable
- Gate
 - Portal
- Lighting
- Ornament
- Plumbing
- Quoins
- Roof
 - shingles
- Roof lantern
- Sill plate
- Style
 - list
- Skylight
- Threshold
- Transom
- Vault
- Wall
- Window

- Backyard
- Driveway
- Front yard
- Garden
 - roof garden
- Home
- Home improvement
- Home repair
- Shed
- Tree house

Related

-  Category: Rooms

About Chicago metropolitan area

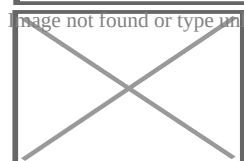
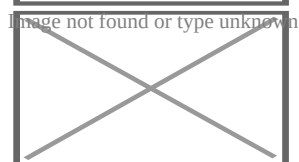
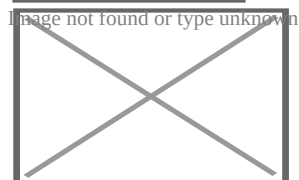
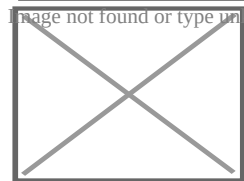
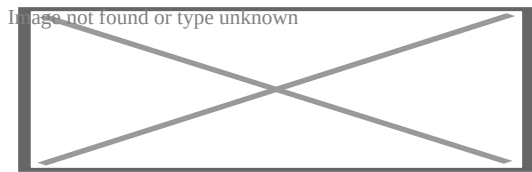
"Chicagoland" redirects here. For other uses, see Chicagoland (disambiguation).

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

CountryUnited StatesStatesIllinois

Indiana

WisconsinCore cityChicagoSatellite cities

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

- - Hammond
- - Michigan City
- - Kenosha

Area

- Metro

10,856 sq mi (28,120 km²)Highest elevation

[¹]

673 ft (205 m)Lowest elevation

[¹]

579 ft (176 m)Population

- Density886/sq mi (342/km²) • Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (2022)

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

9,806,184 [³] (4th)DemonymChicagolanderGDP

[⁴]

- Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)\$894.862 billion (2023) • Combined Statistical Area (CSA)\$919.229 billion (2023)Time zoneUTC−6 (CST) • Summer (DST)UTC−5 (CDT)Area codes219, 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 km²), 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.[⁵][⁶] 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.^[7] The Chicago metropolitan area generated an annual gross regional product (GRP) of approximately \$700 billion in 2018.^[8] The region is home to more than 400 major corporate headquarters, including 31 in the *Fortune* 500^[9] 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.^[10]

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.

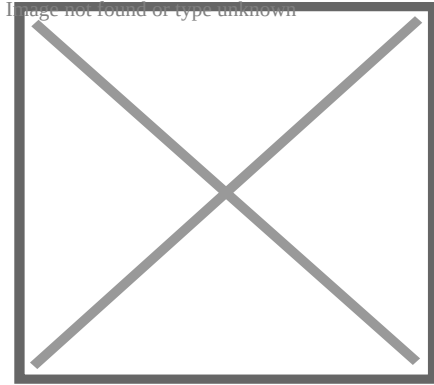
CTA bus routes serve the city proper, with some service into the suburbs. Pace bus routes serve the suburbs, with some service into the city. In addition, numerous CTA bus routes operate 24 hours a day, nonstop.

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.^[11]

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:^[11]

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.^[11]

- *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)

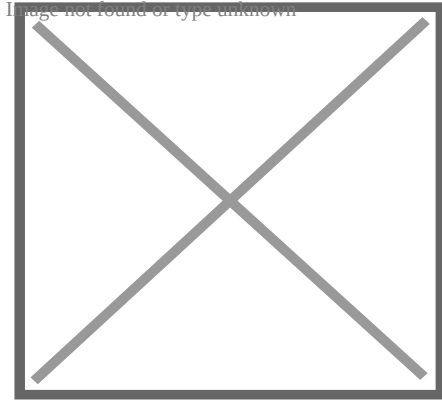
United Nations' Chicago urban agglomeration

[edit]

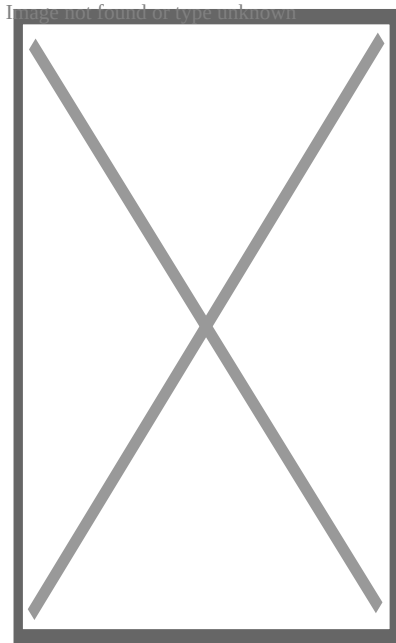
The Chicago urban agglomeration, according to the United Nations *World Urbanization Prospects* report (2023 revision), lists a population of 8,937,000.^[12] The term "urban agglomeration" refers to the population contained within the contours of a contiguous territory inhabited at urban density levels. 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^[13]



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.^[*citation needed*]

Colonel Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, usually gets credit for placing the term in common use.^{[14][15]} McCormick's conception of Chicagoland stretched all the way to nearby parts of four states (Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa).^[14] 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.^[16] 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.^[17]

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.^[18] Illinois Department of Tourism literature uses *Chicagoland* for suburbs in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, and Will counties,^[19] treating the city separately. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce defines it as all of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.^[20]

In addition, company marketing programs such as Construction Data Company's^[21] "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.^[citation needed]

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.^[22]

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

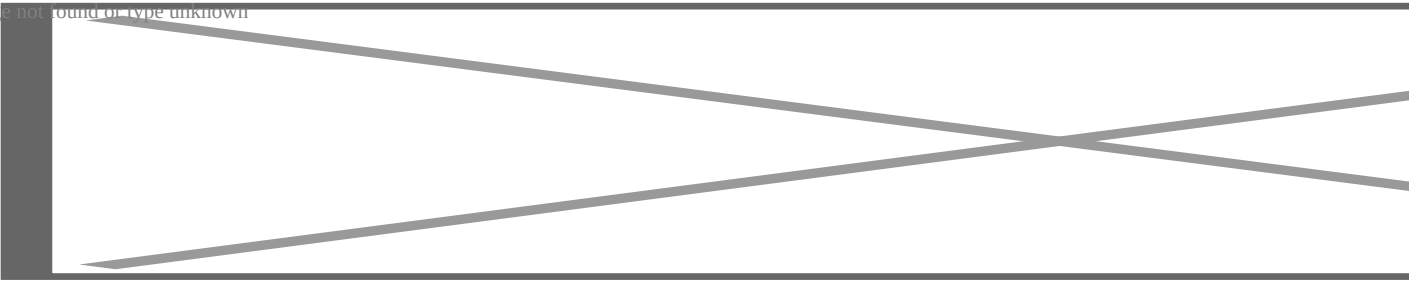
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Main article: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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.^[23] The planning area has a population of over 8 million, which includes the following locations in Illinois:^[24]

- 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.^[25]^[26]

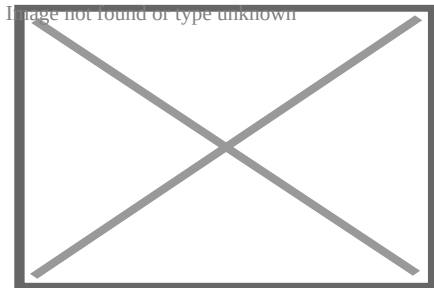
The Chicago skyline

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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.^[27]

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%).^{[28][29][30][31]}

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.^[32]

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%.^[33] 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.^[citation needed]

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	5,499,000

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	4,508,111
DeKalb County, Illinois	Metropolitan	100,420	105,160	88,969	77,932	74,624	71,654	51,714	40,111
DuPage County, Illinois	Metropolitan	932,877	916,924	904,161	781,666	658,835	491,882	313,459	154,111
Grundy County, Illinois	Metropolitan	52,533	50,063	37,535	32,337	30,582	26,535	22,350	19,111
Kane County, Illinois	Metropolitan	516,522	515,269	404,119	317,471	278,405	251,005	208,246	150,111
Kendall County, Illinois	Metropolitan	131,869	114,736	54,544	39,413	37,202	26,374	17,540	12,111
McHenry County, Illinois	Metropolitan	310,229	308,760	260,077	183,241	147,897	111,555	84,210	50,111
Will County, Illinois	Metropolitan	696,355	677,560	502,266	357,313	324,460	249,498	191,617	134,111
Jasper County, Indiana	Metropolitan	32,918	33,478	30,043	24,960	26,138	20,429	18,842	17,111
Lake County, Indiana	Metropolitan	498,700	496,005	484,564	475,594	522,965	546,253	513,269	360,111
Newton County, Indiana	Metropolitan	13,830	14,244	14,566	13,551	14,844	11,606	11,502	11,111
Porter County, Indiana	Metropolitan	173,215	164,343	146,798	128,932	119,816	87,114	60,279	40,111
Lake County, Illinois	Metropolitan	714,342	703,462	644,356	516,418	440,372	382,638	293,656	179,111
Kenosha County, Wisconsin	Metropolitan	169,151	166,426	149,577	128,181	123,137	117,917	100,615	79,111

Kankakee County, Illinois	Combined	107,502	113,449	103,833	96,255	102,926	97,250	92,063	73,000
LaSalle County, Illinois	Combined	109,658	113,924	111,509	106,913	112,003	111,409	110,800	100,000
Bureau County, Illinois	Combined	33,244	34,978	35,503	35,688	39,114	38,541	37,594	33,000
Putnam County, Illinois	Combined	5,637	6,006	6,086	5,730	6,085	5,007	4,570	4,000
LaPorte County, Indiana	Combined	112,417	111,467	110,106	107,066	108,632	105,342	95,111	70,000
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	Combined	9,986,960	9,686,021	9,312,255	8,385,397	8,264,490	8,089,421	7,204,198	5,910,000

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.^[34]

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

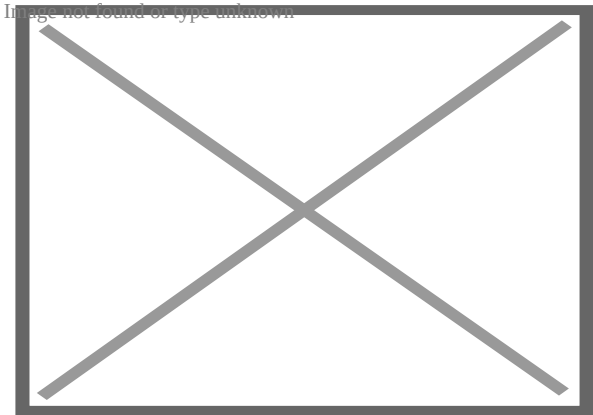
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View of Chicago greater metropolitan region and the North branch of the Chicago River from the Willis Tower

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.^[35] 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:

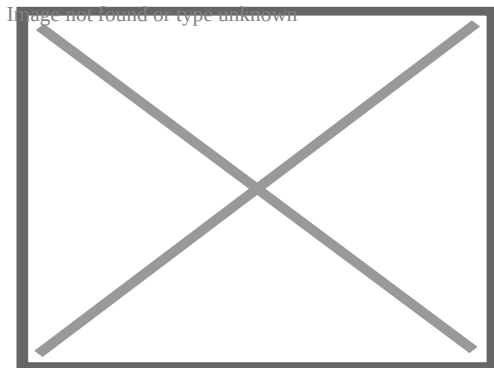
- Urban areas
- Counties in the Chicago MSA
- Counties in the Chicago CSA but not the MSA

Urban area	Population (2020 census)	Land area (sq mi)	Land area (km ²)	Density (population / sq mi)	Density (population / km ²)
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".^[36]

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.

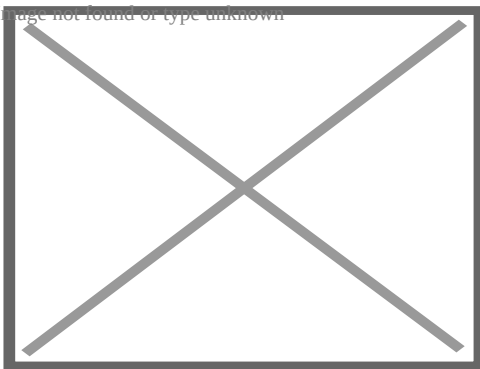
In 2007, the area ranked first among U.S. metro areas in the number of new and expanded corporate facilities.^[37] It ranked third in 2008, behind the Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown and Dallas–Fort Worth metropolitan areas,^[38] and ranked second behind the New York metropolitan area in 2009.^[39]

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

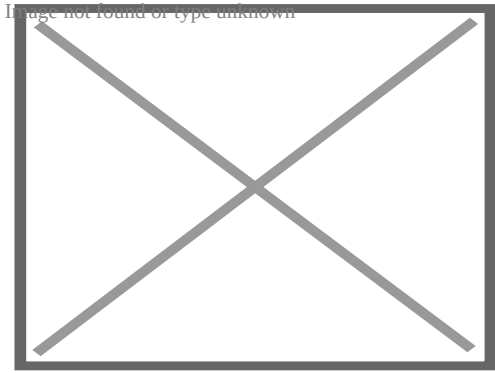
Transportation

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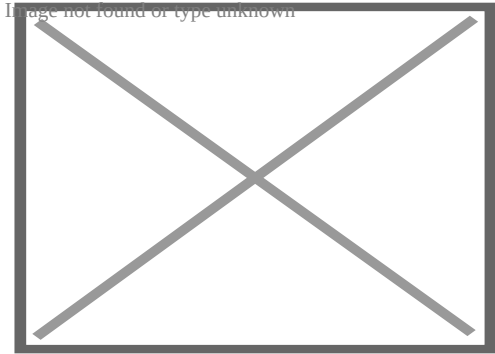
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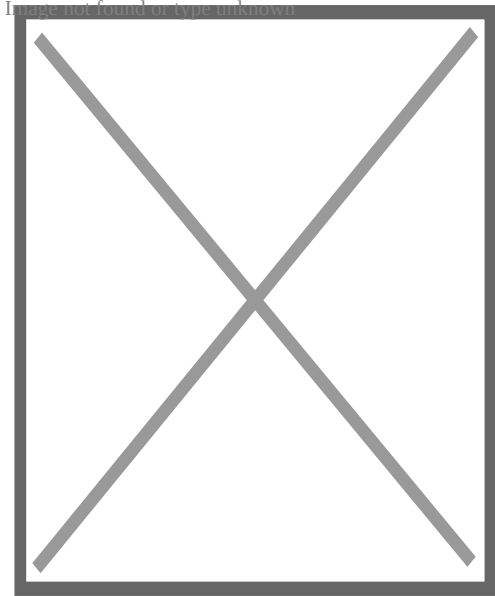
O'Hare Airport



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 (GGY)

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.^[41]

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]

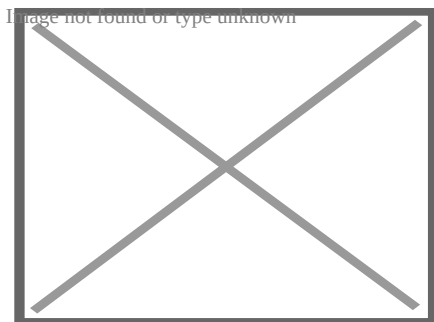
Main article: Media in Chicago

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.^[42] 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;^[43] for instance, educational prospects vary widely for students in the Chicago Public Schools compared to those in some neighboring suburban schools.^[44]

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.^[45] 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.^[46] 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,^[47] and in the City Colleges of Chicago and Oakton College in the Northwest suburbs.^[48]

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:

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-  United States Image missing: type unknown
- Index of Illinois-related articles

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 -  not found or type unknown Travel information from Wikivoyage
 -  not found or type unknown Data from Wikidata
-
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 - o Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City, IL-IN-WI Combined Statistical Area (2012) map
 - o Illinois CBSAs and Counties (2013) map
 - o U.S. Census Bureau Chicago city, Illinois QuickFacts
 - o Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
 - o About Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
 - o History of Metropolitan Areas
 - o Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Population Totals and Components of Change: 2010–2019
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Chicago metropolitan area

Major city

- o **Chicago**

Chicago landsat image

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

- 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

**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

- Cook
- DeKalb
- 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

- v
- t
- e



Chicago

- Architecture
- Beaches
- Climate
- Colleges and universities
- Community areas
- Crime
 - gangs
- Culture
- Demographics
- Economy
 - companies
- Expressways
- Flag
- Geography
- Government
- Harbor
- History
 - politics
 - timeline
- Landmarks
- Literature
- Media
 - Newspapers
- Metropolitan area
- Museums
- Neighborhoods
- Parks
 - list
- People
 - music
 - musicians
 - theater
- Public schools
 - list
- Skyscrapers
- Sports
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Visual arts

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- v
- t
- e

State of Illinois

Springfield (capital)

Topics

- Index
- Abortion
- African Americans
- Buildings and structures
- Census areas
- Climate change
- Crime
- Communications
- Culture
- Delegations
- Earthquakes
- Economy
- Education
- Energy
- Environment
- Geography
- Government
- Health
- History
- Homelessness
- Languages
- Law
- Military
- Music
- People
- Politics
- Portal
- Protected areas
- Science and technology
- Sister cities
- Society
- Sports
- Symbols
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Windmills

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

Municipalities

- Adams
- Alexander
- Bond
- Boone
- Brown
- Bureau
- Calhoun
- Carroll
- Cass
- Champaign
- Christian
- Clark
- Clay
- Clinton
- Coles
- Cook
- Crawford
- Cumberland
- DeKalb
- DeWitt
- Douglas
- DuPage
- Edgar
- Edwards
- Effingham
- Fayette
- Ford
- Franklin
- Fulton
- Gallatin
- Greene
- Grundy
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Hardin
- Henderson
- Henry
- Iroquois
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Jefferson
- Jersey
- Jo Daviess
- Johnson
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Kendall
- Knox
- Lake

- v
- t
- e

State of Indiana

Indianapolis (capital)

- Topics
- Index
 - Outline
 - Census-designated places
 - City nicknames
 - Climate
 - climate change
 - Fauna
 - Geography
 - Ghostlore
 - History
 - Hoosiers
 - Music
 - National Natural Landmarks
 - NRHP listings
 - National Historic Landmarks
 - Paleontology
 - Protected areas
 - Scouting
 - Sports
 - State historical markers
 - State historic sites
 - Symbols
 - Tallest buildings
 - Time
 - Tourist attractions
 - Transportation

Government

- Code
- Constitution
- Congressional districts
 - delegations
- Elections
- Governor
 - list
- General Assembly
 - House
 - Senate
- Supreme Court
- Taxation

Society

- Abortion
- Culture
- Crime
- Demographics
- Economy
- Education
- Gun laws
- Gambling
- 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

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

- v
- t
- e

State of Wisconsin

Madison (capital)

Topics

- Outline
- Agriculture
 - Dairy industry
- Climate change
- Geography
 - Islands
 - Lakes
- Governors
- Delegations
- History
- People
- Sports
- Symbols
- Tourist attractions

Society

- Abortion
- Administrative divisions
- Cannabis
- Crime
- Culture
- Demographics
- Economy
- Education
- Gun laws
- 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

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World's 50 most-populous urban areas

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

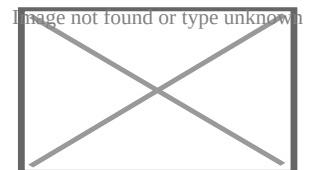
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Great Lakes megalopolis as defined by the RPA

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

**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 [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

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

Driving Directions From Palmisano (Henry) Park to

Driving Directions From Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens to

Driving Directions From Navy Pier to

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Navy+Pier/United+Structural+Systems+of+Illinois%2C+Inc/@41.8918633,-87.6050944,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1sunknown!2m2!1d-87.6050944!2d41.8918633!1m5!1m1!1sChIJ-wSxDtinD4gRiv4kY3RRh9U!2m2!1d-88.1396465!2d42.0637725!3e0>

<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>

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Palmisano+%28Henry%29+Park/United+Structural+Systems+of+Illinois%2C+Inc/@41.8918633,-87.6490151,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1sunknown!2m2!1d-87.6490151!2d41.8429903!1m5!1m1!1sChIJ-wSxDtinD4gRiv4kY3RRh9U!2m2!1d-88.1396465!2d42.0637725!3e1>

Reviews for

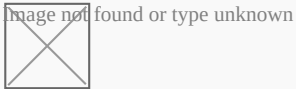


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Jeffery James

(5)

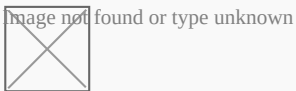
Very happy with my experience. They were prompt and followed through, and very helpful in fixing the crack in my foundation.



Sarah McNeily

(5)

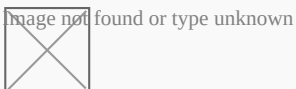
USS was excellent. They are honest, straightforward, trustworthy, and conscientious. They thoughtfully removed the flowers and flower bulbs to dig where they needed in the yard, replanted said flowers and spread the extra dirt to fill in an area of the yard. We've had other services from different companies 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.

Noting Shifting Porches and Deck Attachments[View GBP](#)

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

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