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Explanation of how improper gutter downspouts can lead to foundation damage.

Certainly! Expert contractors use specialized techniques to stabilize shifting foundations [foundation repair service areas](#) asset.

When it comes to maintaining a home, one might not immediately think of the humble gutter downspout as a critical component in preventing major structural issues. However, improper gutter downspouts can indeed lead to significant foundation damage over time. Let's delve into how this happens and why extending gutter downspouts can offer extra protection.

Gutters serve the essential function of channeling rainwater away from the roof and the sides of a house. When working correctly, they prevent water from pooling near the foundation. However, if gutter downspouts are too short or not extended far enough from the house, water can still end up close to the foundation.

Here's a step-by-step look at the process:

1. **Water Accumulation**: Rainwater flows into the gutters and then down the downspouts. If the downspouts don't extend far enough away from the house, the water will drop close to the foundation.
2. **Soil Saturation**: The soil around the foundation becomes overly saturated with water. This can lead to an increase in soil volume due to the water content, a phenomenon known as soil expansion.
3. **Hydrostatic Pressure**: As the soil expands, it exerts pressure on the foundation walls. Prolonged or excessive hydrostatic pressure can cause the foundation to crack or shift.
4. **Erosion**: Additionally, the force of falling water can erode the soil around the foundation. Over time, this erosion can undermine the structural integrity of the foundation, leading to settling or even collapse in extreme cases.
5. **Mold and Mildew**: Excess moisture near the foundation can also create a hospitable environment for mold and mildew, which can further degrade the structural materials.

Extending gutter downspouts is a relatively simple yet effective solution to these problems. By ensuring that downspouts extend at least four to six feet away from the house, preferably with underground drainage systems, homeowners can significantly reduce the risk of water accumulating near the foundation.

In summary, improper gutter downspouts can lead to foundation damage through a series of interconnected issues involving water accumulation, soil saturation, hydrostatic pressure, erosion, and mold growth. Extending gutter downspouts is a practical and affordable

measure that can provide extra protection, ensuring the longevity and stability of a home's foundation.

Discussion on the benefits of extending gutter downspouts for extra protection.

Sure, here's a human-like discussion on the benefits of extending gutter downspouts for extra protection:

When it comes to maintaining a home, one of the often overlooked but incredibly important aspects is the proper management of rainwater runoff. Extending gutter downspouts is a simple yet effective strategy that offers a multitude of benefits. Let's dive into why this small modification can make a big difference.

First and foremost, extending gutter downspouts helps to direct rainwater away from the foundation of your home. This is crucial because water pooling near the foundation can lead to a host of problems, including erosion, cracks, and even basement flooding. By ensuring that water is channeled further away, you significantly reduce the risk of these issues, ultimately saving you from costly repairs down the line.

Another significant benefit is the prevention of waterlogging in your yard. When rainwater is allowed to pool close to your home, it can saturate the soil, making it difficult for grass and plants to thrive. Extended downspouts help to disperse water more evenly, keeping your landscape healthy and avoiding muddy, uneven patches.

Additionally, extending your gutter downspouts can enhance the overall aesthetic of your property. Many homeowners choose to incorporate decorative elements or extensions that not only serve a functional purpose but also add a touch of style to their home's exterior. This can be particularly appealing if you're looking to increase your home's curb appeal for a potential sale.

Furthermore, extended downspouts contribute to better maintenance of your gutters. When water is efficiently directed away from your home, it reduces the strain on your gutter system, making it less likely to become clogged or damaged. This means you'll spend less time and money on gutter cleaning and repairs.

Lastly, consider the environmental benefits. By effectively managing rainwater runoff, you're contributing to better water management practices. This can help reduce erosion in local waterways and promote healthier ecosystems.

In conclusion, extending gutter downspouts is a practical and beneficial modification for any homeowner. It protects your home's foundation, improves your yard's health, enhances aesthetic appeal, eases maintenance, and contributes to environmental sustainability. It's a small change with substantial rewards.

Step-by-step guide on how to extend gutter downspouts effectively.

Extending gutter downspouts is a practical solution to improve the drainage system around your home, ensuring water is directed away from the foundation and preventing potential water damage. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to extend your gutter downspouts effectively.

First, assess the current positioning of your downspouts. It's important to ensure that water is being directed at least four to six feet away from your home's foundation to prevent erosion and basement flooding. If your downspouts aren't extending far enough, you'll need to plan an extension.

Begin by purchasing extension pipes that match the diameter of your existing downspouts. These can typically be found at home improvement stores. You'll also need some additional materials such as downspout brackets, elbows if you plan to change the direction of the water flow, and possibly some sealant to ensure a watertight connection.

The next step is to cut the existing downspout to the desired length. Use a hacksaw or a fine-toothed saw to make a clean cut. It's crucial to measure accurately to ensure the extension will reach the desired distance from your home.

Once cut, slide the extension pipe onto the end of the existing downspout. If the fit is snug, you might not need additional brackets, but for extra security, use downspout brackets to hold the extension in place. These brackets can be screwed into the side of the downspout and the extension pipe to create a sturdy connection.

If you need to redirect the flow of water, install an elbow fitting. This will allow you to guide the water away from your home at an angle. Simply cut the downspout at the point where you want to install the elbow, slide the elbow onto the end of the downspout, and then attach the extension pipe to the other end of the elbow.

Finally, check all connections for leaks. You can do this by running water through the gutter system and observing where it exits the downspout. If you notice any leaks, apply some sealant to the joints to ensure a tight fit.

In conclusion, extending your gutter downspouts is a straightforward process that can significantly enhance the effectiveness of your home's drainage system. By following these steps, you can ensure that water is efficiently directed away from your home, protecting your foundation and landscaping from potential water damage.

Tips for choosing the right materials and tools for gutter downspout extension.

When it comes to extending gutter downspouts for added protection, selecting the right materials and tools is crucial to ensuring the job is done efficiently and effectively. Here are some tips to help you make the best choices:

Firstly, consider the material of the existing gutters. If your gutters are made of aluminum, it's best to use aluminum extensions to maintain uniformity and prevent any potential corrosion issues that can arise from mixing metals. For gutters made of vinyl, opt for vinyl extensions to ensure a seamless fit and finish.

Next, think about the length of the extension you need. Measure the distance from your current downspout outlet to the area where you want the water to be directed. This will help you determine the appropriate length of the extension. It's often a good idea to go a bit longer than you think you need to ensure the water is directed far enough away from your home's foundation.

When it comes to tools, having the right ones can make the installation process much smoother. Basic tools you'll need include a tape measure, a hacksaw or tin snips for cutting the extensions to size, and screws or clamps to secure the extensions in place. If you're working with metal gutters, a deburring tool can be useful for smoothing any rough edges after cutting.

Additionally, consider the climate in your area. If you live in a region with heavy rainfall or freezing temperatures, you may want to choose extensions that are specifically designed to withstand these conditions. Look for extensions that are reinforced or have additional features like built-in filters to prevent debris from clogging the downspouts.

Lastly, don't forget about safety. When working on gutters and downspouts, always use a sturdy ladder and consider wearing non-slip footwear to prevent accidents. If you're uncomfortable working at heights, it might be worth hiring a professional to ensure the job is done safely and correctly.

By carefully selecting the right materials and tools, you can extend your gutter downspouts effectively, providing your home with the extra protection it needs against water damage.

Common mistakes to avoid when extending gutter downspouts.

When it comes to extending gutter downspouts for extra protection, there are several common mistakes that homeowners often make. Avoiding these pitfalls can save you time, money, and hassle in the long run. Here are some key mistakes to watch out for:

1. ****Improper Measurement****: One of the most frequent errors is failing to measure the necessary length accurately. Downspouts need to extend far enough away from your home to ensure water doesn't pool near the foundation, which can lead to erosion and basement flooding. A general rule of thumb is to extend them at least four to six feet away from the

house.

2. ****Neglecting Slope****: Ensuring that your extended downspouts have a proper slope is crucial. Water should flow away from your home, not towards it. If the extension isn't angled correctly, water can back up and cause issues. Use a level to check the slope and make adjustments as needed.
3. ****Using Inadequate Materials****: Another common mistake is using low-quality materials for the extension. Cheaper materials may not withstand the elements as well, leading to quicker degradation and potential leaks. Invest in durable materials like PVC or metal to ensure longevity.
4. ****Ignoring Local Climate Conditions****: Different regions have varying weather patterns, and it's important to consider these when extending your downspouts. In areas with heavy rainfall, you may need more robust extensions and additional drainage solutions to handle the volume of water.
5. ****Poor Connection Points****: Ensuring a secure and watertight connection between the existing downspout and the extension is vital. Loose or improperly connected sections can lead to leaks and reduced efficiency. Use appropriate connectors and sealants to create a strong bond.
6. ****Overlooking Maintenance****: Extended downspouts require regular maintenance to function effectively. Ignoring this can lead to clogs, debris buildup, and eventual failure. Make it a habit to check and clean your downspouts seasonally to prevent issues.
7. ****Failing to Consider Aesthetics****: While functionality is paramount, don't overlook the aesthetic aspect. Poorly designed or installed extensions can be eyesores. Choose extensions that complement your home's style and consider painting them to match your gutters.

By avoiding these common mistakes, you can ensure that your extended gutter downspouts provide the extra protection your home needs, keeping it safe from water damage and ensuring a more efficient gutter system.

Maintenance tips for extended gutter downspouts to ensure long-lasting protection.

Sure, here's a short essay on maintenance tips for extended gutter downspouts to ensure long-lasting protection.

Maintaining extended gutter downspouts is crucial for ensuring they provide long-lasting protection for your home. Here are some practical tips to keep your gutters in top condition.

Regular Cleaning: The most important step in maintaining your gutters is to clean them regularly. Debris such as leaves, twigs, and dirt can accumulate, leading to clogs and water overflow. Use a ladder to safely access your gutters and remove any buildup. For easier

cleaning, consider installing gutter guards, which can significantly reduce the amount of debris that enters your gutters.

Check for Damage: Inspect your gutters and downspouts for any signs of damage, such as cracks, leaks, or loose sections. Even small cracks can lead to significant water damage over time. If you notice any issues, repair them promptly to prevent further damage. Use gutter repair tape or call a professional for more extensive repairs.

Ensure Proper Slope: Gutters need to have a slight slope towards the downspouts to ensure water flows efficiently. Check that your gutters are properly aligned and adjust them if necessary. This will help prevent water from pooling and overflowing.

Clean Downspouts: Just like the gutters, downspouts can also get clogged with debris. Use a garden hose to flush out any buildup inside the downspouts. You can also use a downspout cleaning tool to remove stubborn clogs.

Paint or Seal: If your gutters are made of metal, consider painting or sealing them to protect against rust and corrosion. For gutters made of other materials, ensure they are kept clean and free of mildew or moss, which can weaken the material over time.

Trim Overhanging Branches: Trees can be a significant source of debris in your gutters. Trim back any branches that hang over your roof to reduce the amount of leaves and twigs that fall into your gutters.

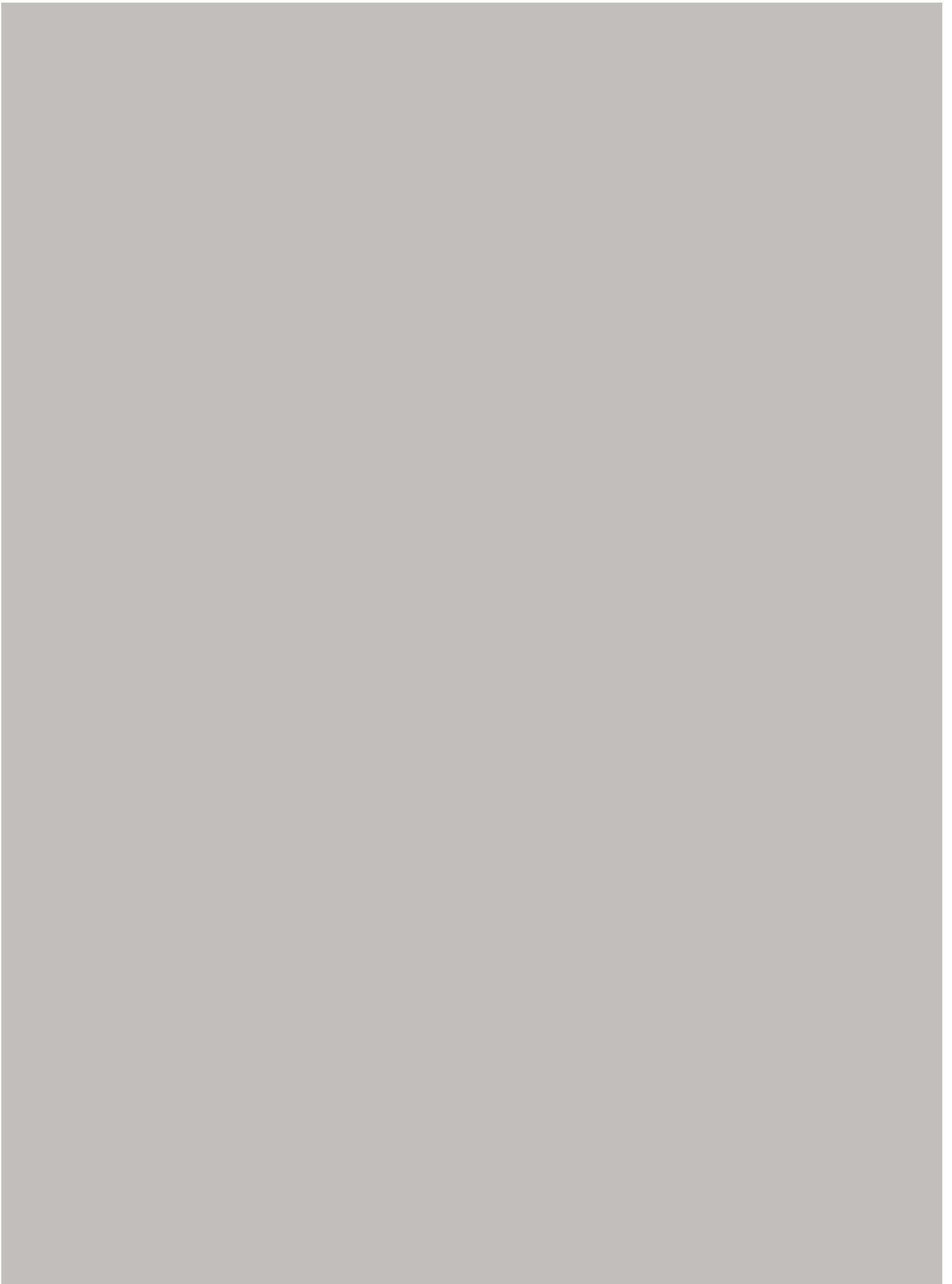
Professional Inspection: Consider having a professional inspect your gutters annually. They can identify potential issues that you might miss and provide expert advice on maintenance and repairs.

By following these maintenance tips, you can ensure that your extended gutter downspouts continue to provide effective protection for your home, preventing water damage and maintaining the integrity of your roof and foundation.

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Residential Foundation Repair Services

Strong Foundations, Strong Homes



About Chicago metropolitan area

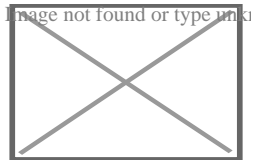
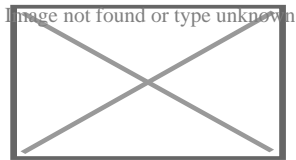
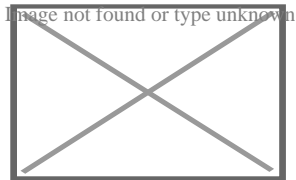
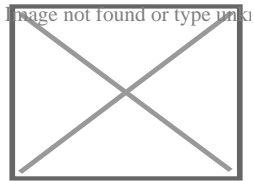
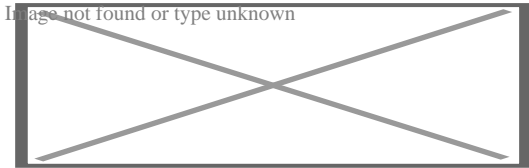
"Chicagoland" redirects here. For other uses, see Chicagoland (disambiguation).

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  States  Illinois

 Indiana

 Wisconsin  Core city  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 km²) Highest elevation

[¹]

673 ft (205 m) Lowest elevation

[¹]

579 ft (176 m) Population

- Density 886/sq mi (342/km²) • Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (2022)

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

9,806,184 [³] (4th) Demonym Chicagolander GDP

[⁴]

- 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 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.

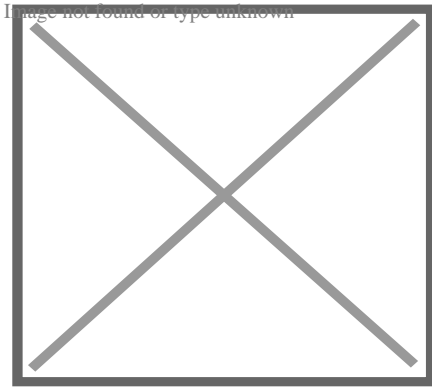
CTA bus routes serve the city proper, with some service into the suburbs. Pace bus routes serve the suburbs, with some service into the city. In addition, numerous CTA bus routes operate 24 hours a day, nonstop.

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

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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)

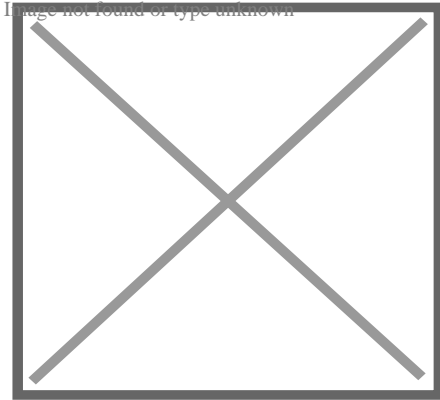
United Nations' Chicago urban agglomeration

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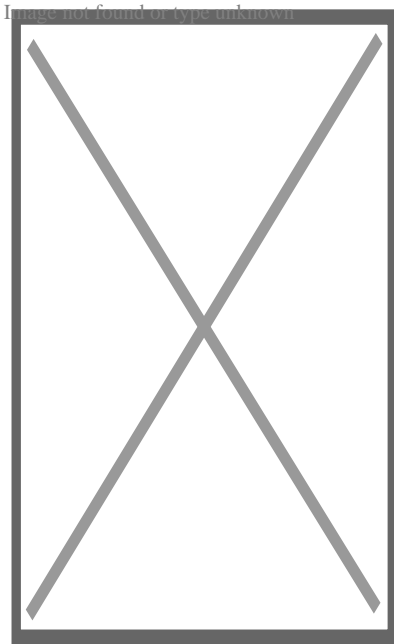
The Chicago urban agglomeration, according to the United Nations *World Urbanization Prospects* report (2023 revision), lists a population of 8,937,000.^[12] The term "urban agglomeration" refers to the population contained within the contours of a contiguous territory inhabited at urban density levels.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

Chicagoland

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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

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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

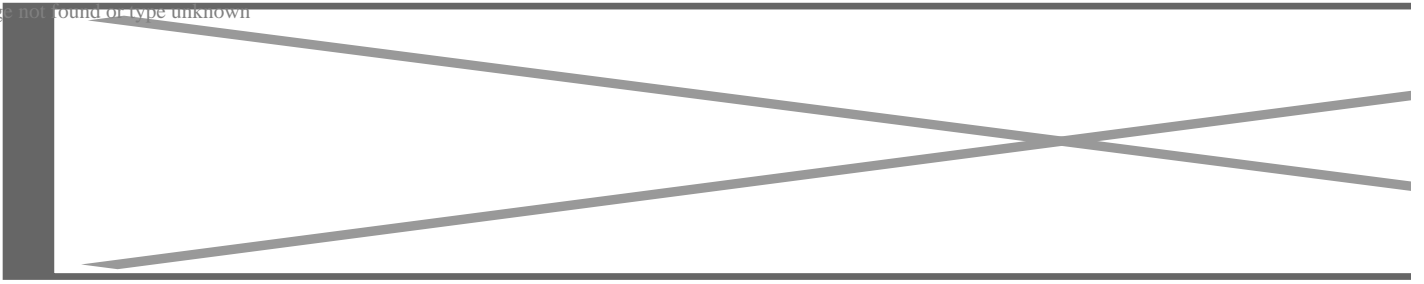
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Main article: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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

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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]

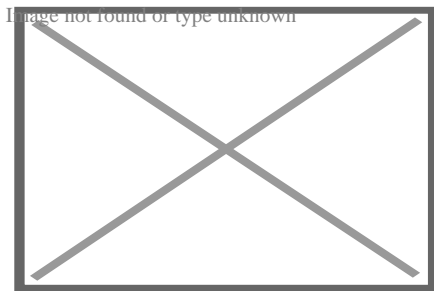
The Chicago skyline

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Night aerial view of Chicago and vicinity

Demographics

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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	5,495,000
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

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

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	37,000
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	76,000
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	5,911,000

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

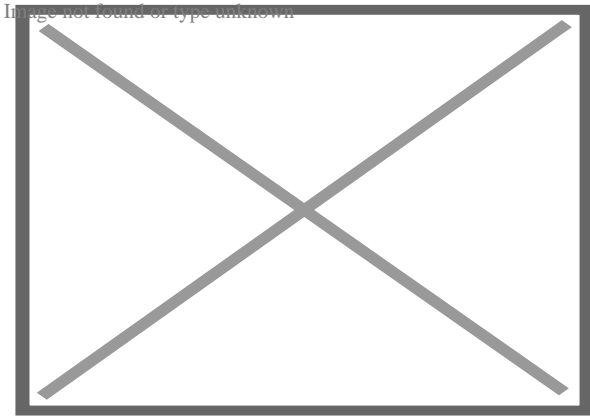
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View of Chicago greater metropolitan region and the North branch of the Chicago River from the Willis Tower

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:

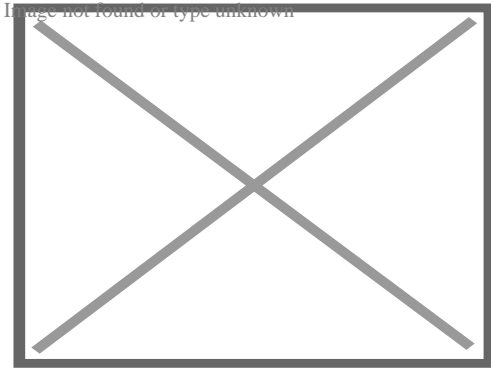
- Urban areas
- Counties in the Chicago MSA
- Counties in the Chicago CSA but not the MSA

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.

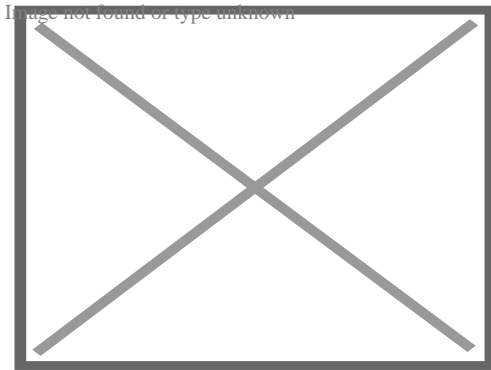
By the early 2000s, Illinois' economy had moved toward a dependence on high-value-added services, such as financial trading, higher education, logistics, and health care. In some cases, these services clustered around institutions that hearkened back to Illinois's earlier economies. For example, the 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]

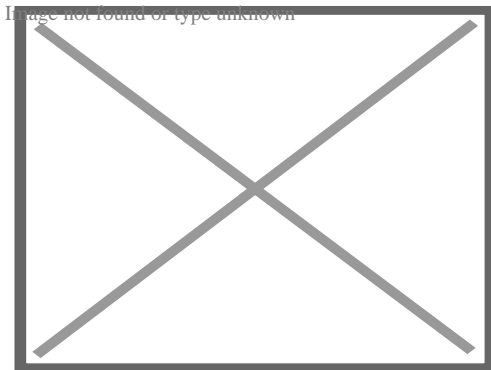
The Wall Street Journal summarized the Chicago area's economy in November 2006 with the comment that "Chicago has survived by repeatedly reinventing itself."^[40]

Transportation

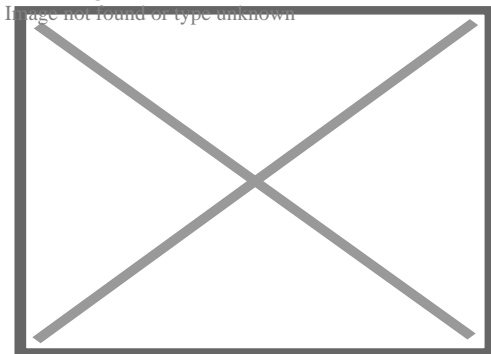
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O'Hare Airport

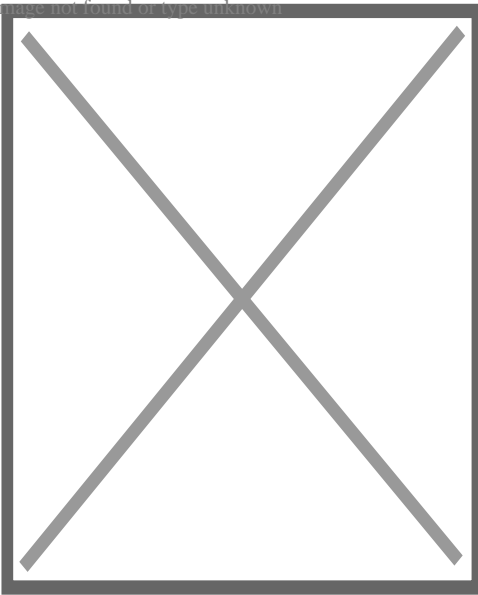


Chicago 'L' in the Loop



Metra surface rail

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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 (GYG)

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]

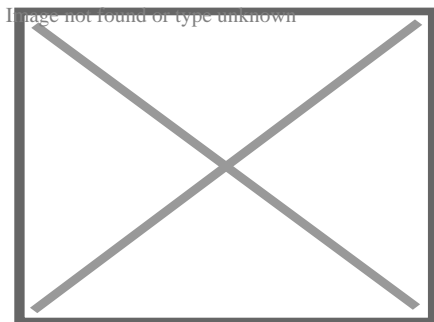
Main article: Media in Chicago

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:

-  Chicago type unknown
-  Illinois or type unknown
-  United States type unknown
- Index of Illinois-related articles

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External links

[edit]

Chicago metropolitan area at Wikipedia's sister projects

-  not found or type unknown Definitions from Wiktionary

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-  **Media from Commons**

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-  **Travel information from Wikivoyage**

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-  **Data from Wikidata**

- *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2004), comprehensive coverage of city and suburbs, past and present
- U.S. Census Urbanized Area Outline Map (2000)
- Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City, IL-IN-WI Combined Statistical Area (2012) map
- Illinois CBSAs and Counties (2013) map
- U.S. Census Bureau Chicago city, Illinois QuickFacts
- 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**

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

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- 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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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
- Rock Hill

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

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State of Indiana

Indianapolis (capital)

Topics

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

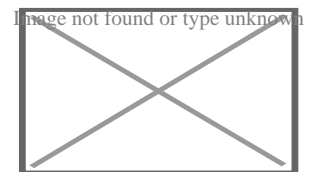
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Great Lakes megalopolis as defined by the RPA

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 load-bearing wall

A **load-bearing wall** or **bearing wall** is a wall that is an active structural element of a building, which holds the weight of the elements above it, by conducting its weight to a foundation structure below it.

Load-bearing walls are one of the earliest forms of construction. The development of the flying buttress in Gothic architecture allowed structures to maintain an open interior space, transferring more weight to the buttresses instead of to central bearing walls. In housing, load-bearing walls are

most common in the light construction method known as "platform framing". In the birth of the skyscraper era, the concurrent rise of steel as a more suitable framing system first designed by William Le Baron Jenney, and the limitations of load-bearing construction in large buildings, led to a decline in the use of load-bearing walls in large-scale commercial structures.

Description

[edit]

A **load-bearing wall** or **bearing wall** is a wall that is an active structural element of a building—that is, it bears the weight of the elements above said wall, resting upon it by conducting its weight to a foundation structure.^[1] The materials most often used to construct load-bearing walls in large buildings are concrete, block, or brick. By contrast, a curtain wall provides no significant structural support beyond what is necessary to bear its own materials or conduct such loads to a bearing wall.^[2]

History

[edit]

Load-bearing walls are one of the earliest forms of construction.^[3] The development of the flying buttress in Gothic architecture allowed structures to maintain an open interior space, transferring more weight to the buttresses instead of to central bearing walls. The Notre Dame Cathedral is an example of a load-bearing wall structure with flying buttresses.^[4]

Application

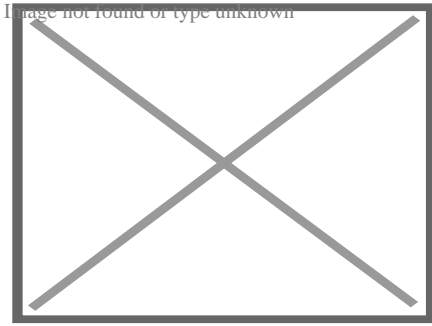
[edit]

Depending on the type of building and the number of floors, load-bearing walls are gauged to the appropriate thickness to carry the weight above them. Without doing so, it is possible that an outer wall could become unstable if the load exceeds the strength of the material used, potentially leading to the collapse of the structure. The primary function of this wall is to enclose or divide space of the building to make it more functional and useful. It provides privacy, affords security, and gives protection against heat, cold, sun or rain.^[5]

Housing

[edit]

In housing, load-bearing walls are most common in the light construction method known as "platform framing", and each load-bearing wall sits on a wall sill plate which is mated to the lowest base plate. The sills are bolted to the masonry or concrete foundation.^[6]

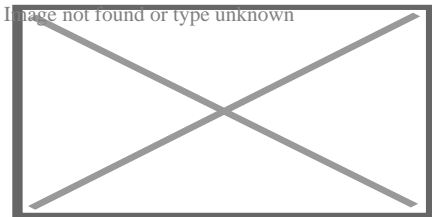


A beam of PSL lumber installed to replace a load-bearing wall at the first floor of a three-story building.

The *top plate* or *ceiling plate* is the top of the wall, which sits just below the platform of the next floor (at the ceiling). The *base plate* or *floor plate* is the bottom attachment point for the wall studs. Using a top plate and a bottom plate, a wall can be constructed while it lies on its side, allowing for end-nailing of the studs between two plates, and then the finished wall can be tipped up vertically into place atop the wall sill; this not only improves accuracy and shortens construction time, but also produces a stronger wall.

Skyscrapers

[edit]



The Chicago Willis Tower uses a *bundle* of tube structures which, in turn, include numerous outer wall columns.

Due to the immense weight of skyscrapers, the base and walls of the lower floors must be extremely strong. Pilings are used to anchor the building to the bedrock underground. For example, the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building as well as the world's tallest structure, uses specially treated and mixed reinforced concrete. Over 45,000 cubic metres (59,000 cu yd) of concrete, weighing more than 110,000 t (120,000 short tons) were used to construct the concrete and steel foundation, which features 192 piles, with each pile being 1.5 m diameter × 43 m long (4.9 ft × 141 ft) and buried more than 50 m (160 ft) deep.^[7]

See also

[edit]

- Column – in most larger, multi-storey buildings, vertical loads are primarily borne by columns / pillars instead of structural walls
- Tube frame structure – Some of the world's tallest skyscrapers use load-bearing outer frames – be it single tube (e.g. the old WTC Twin Towers), or *bundled* tube (e.g. the Willis Tower or

the Burj Khalifa)

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[edit]

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About Cook County

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Things To Do in Cook County

Photo

Sand Ridge Nature Center

4.8 (96)

Photo

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River Trail Nature Center

4.6 (235)

Photo

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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

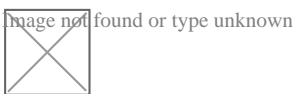
Driving Directions From Navy Pier to

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Navy+Pier/United+Structural+Systems+of+Illinois%2C+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+Garden%2C+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+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>

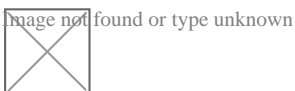
Reviews for



Jeffery James

(5)

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

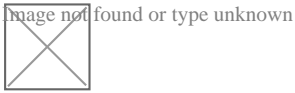


Sarah McNeily

(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

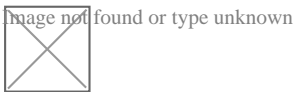
an area of the yard. We've had other services from different companies and our yard was really a mess after. They kept the job site meticulously clean. The crew was on time and friendly. I'd recommend them any day! Thanks to Jessie and crew.



Jim de Leon

(5)

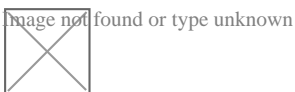
It was a pleasure to work with Rick and his crew. From the beginning, Rick listened to my concerns and what I wished to accomplish. Out of the 6 contractors that quoted the project, Rick seemed the MOST willing to accommodate my wishes. His pricing was definitely more than fair as well. I had 10 push 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



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.

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