

THE INNOVATIVE METROPOLIS:

FOSTERING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN

CHICAGO

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

State/Province: Illinois

Country: USA

Köppen Classification: Humid Continental

Political Adjacencies: Situated in the greater Chicagoland area

Land Area: 227 square miles

Spatial Adjacencies: Situated on a continental divide at the site of the Chicago Portage, the connection point of the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes watersheds, and beside Lake Michigan. The Chicago River runs through downtown while the Calumet River flows in the industrial far South Side.

Municipality Population: 2,707,120

Metropolitan Population: 9,461,105

Population Density: 11,864.4/square mile

Racial Distribution: 45% White, 32.9% Black or African American, 13.4% Other, 5.5% Asian, 2.7% two or more racial groups, 0.5% American Indian

Language: English

City Inception/Incorporation Date: 1837

Year at which Population Reached 1 Million People: 1890

POLICIES AND ORGANIZATION

Current Strategic Plan: Central Plan

Link: https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/central_area_plandraft.html

Major Development Distinction:

Agents of Urban Development: Chicago Plan Commission, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Development Agency: World Business Chicago - Attracts Fortune 500 companies

Link: <http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/>

Development Agency: Metropolitan Planning Council

Link: <http://www.metroplanning.org/index.html>

Development Agency: Metropolis Strategies - Public/private group dealing with regional economy

Link: <http://www.metropolisstrategies.org/>

Sustainability Plan: Sustainable Chicago 2015

Link: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/progs/env.html>

ECONOMICS

Largest Industry of Employment: Professional and business services

Shipping: Great Lakes Ports Total Tonnage (short tons) for Chicago was 18,000,000 in 2009

Port: Chicago is the largest inland general cargo port in America.

Link: <http://www.iipd.com/>

Air:

O'Hare International Airport

66,774,738 passengers (2011)

1,376,552 tons of cargo (2011)

Link: <http://www.aci.aero/Data-Centre/Annual-Traffic-Data/Cargo/2010-final>

Chicago Midway International Airport

18,777,126 passengers (2011)

26,091 tons of cargo (2011)

Link: <http://www.aci-na.org/content/airport-traffic-reports>

Exchanges: Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Stock Exchange, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Chicago Mercantile Exchange

Fortune 500 Companies: 32

Contemporary Economic Engines: Finance, tourism, manufacturing, printing, publishing, food processing

Major Recent Development: New York City Mayor and Chairman of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Michael Bloomberg and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announce the launch of two major new initiatives: a Green Growth Initiative and a Sustainable Infrastructure Finance Network.

Regional Economic Partners: The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Link: <http://www.glslcities.org/>

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Agency: Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety Management

Water

Management: The Bureau of Water Supply

Link: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/provdrs/supply.html>

Source: Lake Michigan

Daily Usage: ~1.7 billion gallons/day

Per Capita Usage: ~100 gallons/day

Reserves: n/a

Flood/Drought History: In 1992, downtown Chicago flooded as a result of a damaged wall of a utility tunnel beneath the Chicago River.

Link: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water.html>

Waste Management

Public/Private – Department Name: Department of Streets and Sanitation (Public)

Link: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/streets.html>

Waste Production: 7,668,097 tons

Waste Per Capita: ~3,000 pounds annually (2007)

Link: http://igpa.uillinois.edu/IR_2010/PDF/pg70-80z_Waste&Recycling.pdf

Sewer System

Controlling Agency: Department of Water Management

Link: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water.html>

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Link: <https://www.mwrd.org/irj/portal/anonymous/Home>

Energy

Chicago Climate Action Plan

Link: http://www.chicagoclimateaction.org/pages/renewable_energy_sources/13.php

City of Chicago: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Link: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/progs/env/energy_efficiencyandrenewables.html

Source: Coal, nuclear, solar, natural gas

Quantity: 837 billion KBTU (2005)

Link: <http://www.cntenergy.org/media/Chicago-Regional-Energy-Snapshot.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

Major Airports: O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway International Airport

Major Highways and Interstates: 4 major interstates

Light Rail: Metra System

11 lines, 241 stations

Since 1984, Metra has put \$5 billion into the commuter rail system servicing the Chicagol and area.

Bike Plan: Goal of creating 645-mile bike network

Chicago Bicycle Plan

Link: <http://www.chicagobikes.org/public/SFC.php>

Cars Per 1,000 People: 591

Public Transportation Options: A 2009 census found that 12.5% of Chicago-area workers used public transport.

Link: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-15.pdf>

QUALITY OF LIFE

Median Income: \$43,628 (2011)

Minimum Hourly Wage: \$8.25

Unemployment Percentage: 8.6%

Link: https://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=z1ebjpgk2654c1_&met_y=unemployment_rate&idim=city:PS410250&fdim_y=seasonality:U&dl=en&hl=en&q=unemployment%20in%20portland

Average Commute Time: 30.7 minutes