

Rural Land Consumption

This table ranks the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas (by employment) based on the amount of rural acres consumed per new housing unit from 1980 to 2000. To read more on metropolitan areas' performance on key indicators of productive, inclusive, and sustainable growth, please see the recent Brookings report, "MetroPolicy: Shaping a New Federal Partnership for a Metropolitan Nation," available at www.blueprintprosperity.org.

Metro	Rural acres consumed per new housing unit, 1980 to 2000	Rank
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	0.02	1
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	0.04	2
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	0.05	3
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	0.10	4
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	0.11	5
Tucson, AZ	0.15	6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	0.19	7
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	0.20	8
Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL	0.22	9
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	0.24	10
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	0.25	11
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	0.25	12
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	0.26	13
El Paso, TX	0.26	14
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	0.29	15
Salt Lake City, UT	0.36	16
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	0.36	17
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	0.40	18
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	0.41	19
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	0.42	20
Orlando-Kissimmee, FL	0.43	21
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	0.44	22
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	0.44	23
Baltimore-Towson, MD	0.50	24
New Haven-Milford, CT	0.51	25
Denver-Aurora, CO	0.52	26
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	0.54	27
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	0.57	28
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	0.59	29
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	0.69	30
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	0.70	31
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	0.70	32
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	0.72	33
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	0.73	34
Jacksonville, FL	0.74	35
Austin-Round Rock, TX	0.75	36
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	0.78	37
San Antonio, TX	0.78	38
Knoxville, TN	0.79	39
Albuquerque, NM	0.80	40
Trenton-Ewing, NJ	0.82	41
Stockton, CA	0.86	42
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	0.89	43
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	0.91	44
Bakersfield, CA	0.92	45
Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	0.92	46

Metro	Rural acres consumed per new housing unit, 1980 to 2000	Rank
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	0.94	47
Raleigh-Cary, NC	1.06	48
Colorado Springs, CO	1.08	49
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	1.17	50
Indianapolis, IN	1.20	51
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	1.22	52
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	1.24	53
Akron, OH	1.30	54
Dayton, OH	1.32	55
Lancaster, PA	1.32	56
Madison, WI	1.33	57
Fresno, CA	1.44	58
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	1.46	59
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	1.51	60
Oklahoma City, OK	1.54	61
Baton Rouge, LA	1.59	62
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	1.60	63
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1.62	64
Columbia, SC	1.64	65
Boise City-Nampa, ID	1.64	66
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1.67	67
Worcester, MA	1.69	68
Des Moines, IA	1.76	69
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	1.77	70
Springfield, MA	1.78	71
Kansas City, MO-KS	1.81	72
Jackson, MS	1.91	73
Columbus, OH	1.94	74
Greensboro-High Point, NC	2.07	75
Lexington-Fayette, KY	2.09	76
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	2.13	77
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro, TN	2.35	78
Greenville, SC	2.43	79
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	2.62	80
Durham, NC	2.77	81
St. Louis, MO-IL	2.83	82
Wichita, KS	2.87	83
Toledo, OH	2.96	84
Chattanooga, TN-GA	3.12	85
Tulsa, OK	3.12	86
Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR	3.37	87
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	3.54	88
Syracuse, NY	3.55	89
Louisville, KY-IN	3.61	90
Richmond, VA	3.64	91
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	3.81	92
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	4.03	93
Rochester, NY	4.10	94
Pittsburgh, PA	4.34	95
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	4.68	96
Lansing-East Lansing, MI	5.28	97
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	6.01	98
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	7.59	99
99-metro average (Honolulu, HI is excluded)	0.90	

These figures report the amount of rural acres—areas of land with fewer than one housing unit per 40 acres—consumed for each new housing unit built between 1980 and 2000.

Source: Brookings analysis of housing density data compiled by David Theobald, Colorado State University.