

COMMENTARY TABLE 518.1 Occupant Load Factor

Use	(ft ² /person) ^a	(m ² /person) ^a
Assembly Use		
Concentrated use, without fixed seating	7 net	0.65 net
Less concentrated use, without fixed seating	15 net	1.4 net
Bench-type seating	1 person/18 linear in.	1 person/455 linear mm
Fixed seating	Use number of fixed seats	Use number of fixed seats
Waiting spaces	See 12.1.7.2 and 13.1.7.2 [of NFPA 101].	See 12.1.7.2 and 13.1.7.2 [of NFPA 101].
Kitchens	100	9.3
Library stack areas	100	9.3
Library reading rooms	50 net	4.6 net
Swimming pools	50 (water surface)	4.6 (water surface)
Swimming pool decks	30	2.8
Exercise rooms with equipment	50	4.6
Exercise rooms without equipment	15	1.4
Stages	15 net	1.4 net
Lighting and access catwalks, galleries, gridirons	100 net	9.3 net
Casinos and similar gaming areas	11	1
Skating rinks	50	4.6
Business Use (other than below)	150	14
Concentrated business use ^f	50	4.6
Airport traffic control tower observation levels	40	3.7
Collaboration rooms/spaces ≤450 ft ² (41.8 m ²) in area ^f	30	2.8
Collaboration rooms/spaces >450 ft ² (41.8 m ²) in area ^f	15	1.4
Day-Care Use	35 net	3.3 net
Detention and Correctional Use	120	11.1
Educational Use		
Classrooms	20 net	1.9 net
Shops, laboratories, vocational rooms	50 net	4.6 net
Health Care Use		
Inpatient treatment departments	240	22.3
Sleeping departments	120	11.1
Ambulatory health care	150	14
Industrial Use		
General and high hazard industrial	100	9.3
Special-purpose industrial	NA	NA
Mercantile Use		
Sales area on street floor ^{b,c}	30	2.8
Sales area on two or more street floors ^c	40	3.7
Sales area on floor below street floor ^c	30	2.8
Sales area on floors above street floor ^c	60	5.6
Floors or portions of floors used only for offices	See business use.	See business use.
Floors or portions of floors used only for storage, receiving, and shipping, and not open to general public	300	27.9
Mall structures ^d	Per factors applicable to use of space ^e	
Residential Use		
Hotels and dormitories	200	18.6
Apartment buildings	200	18.6
Board and care, large	200	18.6
Storage Use		
In storage occupancies	NA	NA
In mercantile occupancies	300	27.9
In other than storage and mercantile occupancies	500	46.5

Note: NA = not applicable. The occupant load is the maximum probable number of occupants present at any time.

^aAll factors are expressed in gross area unless marked "net."

Notes b through f contain specific load or egress considerations, such as when no direct egress to a street is available, for the occupancies referenced. Refer to NFPA 101 for further information.