[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Chicago** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is the third most populous city in the [United States](/wiki/United_States). With over 2.7 million residents, it is the most populous city in the state of [Illinois](/wiki/Illinois) and the [Midwestern United States](/wiki/Midwestern_United_States). The [Chicago metropolitan area](/wiki/Chicago_metropolitan_area), often referred to as Chicagoland, has nearly 10 million people and is the third-largest in the U.S.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Chicago was incorporated as a city in 1837, near a [portage](/wiki/Chicago_Portage) between the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) and the [Mississippi River watershed](/wiki/Mississippi_watershed), and grew rapidly in the mid-nineteenth century.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The city is an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, and transportation: [O'Hare International Airport](/wiki/O'Hare_International_Airport) is the second [busiest airport in the world when measured by aircraft traffic](/wiki/World's_busiest_airports_by_aircraft_movements); the region also has the largest number of U.S. highways and rail road freight.[[3]](#cite_note-3) In 2012, Chicago was listed as an alpha global city by the [Globalization and World Cities Research Network](/wiki/Globalization_and_World_Cities_Research_Network),[[4]](#cite_note-4) and ranked seventh in the world in the 2014 [Global Cities Index](/wiki/Global_cities#Global_Cities_Index).[[5]](#cite_note-5) Chicago has the third largest [gross metropolitan product](/wiki/Gross_metropolitan_product) in the United States—about $630.3 billion according to 2014-2016 estimates.[[6]](#cite_note-6) The Chicago metropolitan area is also home to several universities, including [Northwestern University](/wiki/Northwestern_University), [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago), and [University of Illinois at Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Illinois_at_Chicago).

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Chicago had 50.2 million international and domestic visitors.[[7]](#cite_note-7) [Chicago's culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Chicago) includes the visual arts, novels, film, theater, especially [improvisational comedy](/wiki/Improvisational_comedy), and music, particularly [jazz](/wiki/Music_of_Chicago), [blues](/wiki/Chicago_blues), [soul](/wiki/Chicago_soul), [gospel](/wiki/Gospel_music)[[8]](#cite_note-8) and [house music](/wiki/House_music). It also has professional sports teams in each of the [major professional leagues](/wiki/Major_professional_sports_leagues_in_the_United_States_and_Canada). Chicago has many nicknames, the best-known being the [Windy City](/wiki/Origin_of_Chicago's_%22Windy_City%22_nickname).[[9]](#cite_note-9)

## Contents

* 1 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 Beginnings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Founding and 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 1.3 20th and 21st centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
* 2 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.1 Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.2 Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.3 Communities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.4 Streetscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 2.5 Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 2.6 Monuments and public art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 2.7 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 3 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 3.1 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 4 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 5 Culture and contemporary life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 5.1 Entertainment and the arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 5.2 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 5.3 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 5.4 Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 6 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
* 7 Parks and Greenspace[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
* 8 Law and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 8.1 Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 8.2 Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 8.3 Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
* 9 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
  + 9.1 Schools and libraries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
* 10 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]
* 11 Notes and references[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]
* 12 Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]
* 13 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Beginnings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|Traditional](/wiki/File:Pottawatomi_Fashion_at_the_Field_Museum_in_Chicago.jpg) [Potawatomi](/wiki/Potawatomi) regalia on display at the [Field Museum](/wiki/Field_Museum) The name "Chicago" is derived from a French rendering of the Native American word *shikaakwa*, known to botanists as [*Allium tricoccum*](/wiki/Allium_tricoccum), from the [Miami-Illinois language](/wiki/Miami-Illinois_language).[[10]](#cite_note-10)[Template:Request quotation](/wiki/Template:Request_quotation), [[11]](#cite_note-11)[Template:Request quotation](/wiki/Template:Request_quotation), [[12]](#cite_note-12)[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed) The first known reference to the site of the current city of Chicago as "Checagou" was by [Robert de LaSalle](/wiki/René-Robert_Cavelier,_Sieur_de_La_Salle) around 1679 in a memoir.[[13]](#cite_note-13) [Henri Joutel](/wiki/Henri_Joutel), in his journal of 1688, noted that the wild garlic, called "chicagoua", grew abundantly in the area.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In the mid-18th century, the area was inhabited by a Native American tribe known as the [Potawatomi](/wiki/Potawatomi_people), who had taken the place of the [Miami](/wiki/Miami_tribe) and [Sauk and Fox](/wiki/Sac_and_Fox_Nation) peoples.[[14]](#cite_note-14) The first known non-indigenous permanent settler in Chicago was [Jean Baptiste Point du Sable](/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Point_du_Sable). Du Sable was of African and French descent and arrived in the 1780s.[[15]](#cite_note-15)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)[[16]](#cite_note-16) He is commonly known as the "Founder of Chicago."

In 1795, following the [Northwest Indian War](/wiki/Northwest_Indian_War), an area that was to be part of Chicago was turned over to the United States for a military post by native tribes in accordance with the [Treaty of Greenville](/wiki/Treaty_of_Greenville). In 1803, the [United States Army](/wiki/United_States_Army) built [Fort Dearborn](/wiki/Fort_Dearborn), which was destroyed in 1812 in the [Battle of Fort Dearborn](/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Dearborn) and later rebuilt.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The [Ottawa](/wiki/Odawa_people), [Ojibwe](/wiki/Ojibwe), and Potawatomi tribes had ceded additional land to the United States in the 1816 [Treaty of St. Louis](/wiki/Treaty_of_St. Louis). The Potawatomi were forcibly removed from their land after the [Treaty of Chicago](/wiki/Treaty_of_Chicago) in 1833.[Template:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)[[17]](#cite_note-17)

### Founding and 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

On August 12, 1833, the Town of Chicago was organized with a population of about 200.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Within seven years it grew to more than 4,000 people. On June 15, 1835, the first public land sales commenced with [Edmund Dick Taylor](/wiki/Edmund_Dick_Taylor) as U.S. receiver of public moneys. The City of Chicago was incorporated on Saturday, March 4, 1837 and for several decades was the fastest growing city in the world.[[18]](#cite_note-18) As the site of the [Chicago Portage](/wiki/Chicago_Portage),[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) the city became an important transportation hub between the eastern and western United States. Chicago's first railway, [Galena and Chicago Union Railroad](/wiki/Galena_and_Chicago_Union_Railroad), and the [Illinois and Michigan Canal](/wiki/Illinois_and_Michigan_Canal) both opened in 1848. The canal allowed [steamboats](/wiki/Steamboat) and [sailing ships](/wiki/Sailing_ship) on the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) to connect to the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River).[Template:SfnpTemplate:SfnpTemplate:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

A flourishing economy brought residents from rural communities and [immigrants](/wiki/Immigration_to_the_United_States) from abroad. Manufacturing and retail and finance sectors became dominant, influencing the American economy.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The [Chicago Board of Trade](/wiki/Chicago_Board_of_Trade) (established 1848) listed the first ever standardized 'exchange traded' forward contracts, which were called [futures contracts](/wiki/Futures_contract).[[20]](#cite_note-20) [thumb|left|An artist's rendering of the](/wiki/File:Chicago-fire1.jpg) [Great Chicago Fire of 1871](/wiki/Great_Chicago_Fire) In the 1850s, Chicago gained national political prominence as the home of Senator [Stephen Douglas](/wiki/Stephen_Douglas), the champion of the [Kansas–Nebraska Act](/wiki/Kansas–Nebraska_Act) and the "popular sovereignty" approach to the issue of the spread of slavery.[[21]](#cite_note-21) These issues also helped propel another Illinoisan, [Abraham Lincoln](/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln), to the national stage. Lincoln was nominated in Chicago for US President at the [1860 Republican National Convention](/wiki/1860_Republican_National_Convention). He defeated Douglas in the general election, and this set the stage for the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War).[[22]](#cite_note-22) To accommodate [rapid population growth](/wiki/Chicago#Demographics) and demand for better sanitation, the city improved its infrastructure. In February 1856, Chicago's Common Council approved [Chesbrough's](/wiki/Ellis_S._Chesbrough) plan to build the United States' first comprehensive sewerage system.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The project [raised much of central Chicago](/wiki/Raising_of_Chicago) to a new grade. While elevating Chicago, and at first improving the health of the city, the untreated sewage and industrial waste now flowed into the [Chicago River](/wiki/Chicago_River), then into [Lake Michigan](/wiki/Lake_Michigan), polluting the primary source of fresh water for the city.

The city responded by tunneling two miles (3 km) out into Lake Michigan to newly built [water cribs](/wiki/Water_cribs_in_Chicago). In 1900, the problem of sewage contamination was largely resolved when the city completed a major engineering feat. It reversed the flow of the Chicago River so that the water flowed away from Lake Michigan rather than into it. This project began with the construction and improvement of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and was completed with the [Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal](/wiki/Chicago_Sanitary_and_Ship_Canal) that connects to the [Illinois River](/wiki/Illinois_River), which flows into the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River).[Template:SfnpTemplate:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

In 1871, a [Great Chicago Fire](/wiki/Great_Chicago_Fire) destroyed an area of about 4 miles long and 1 mile wide, a large section of the city at the time.[Template:SfnpTemplate:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) Much of the city, including railroads and [stockyards](/wiki/Union_Stock_Yard), survived intact,[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) and from the ruins of the previous wooden structures arose more modern constructions of steel and stone. These set a precedent for worldwide construction.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) During its rebuilding period, Chicago constructed the world's [first skyscraper](/wiki/Home_Insurance_Building) in 1885, using [steel-skeleton](/wiki/Steel_frame) construction.[[25]](#cite_note-25)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

The city grew significantly in size and population by incorporating many neighboring townships between 1851 and 1920, with the largest annexation happening in 1889, with five townships joining the city, including the [Hyde Park Township](/wiki/Hyde_Park_Township,_Cook_County,_Illinois), which now comprises most of the [South Side of Chicago](/wiki/South_Side_of_Chicago) and the far southeast of Chicago, and the [Jefferson Township](/wiki/Jefferson_Township,_Cook_County,_Illinois), which now makes up most of [Chicago's Northwest Side](/wiki/Northwest_Side,_Chicago).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The desire to join the city was driven by municipal services the city could provide its residents.

[thumb|left|Court of Honor at the](/wiki/File:Court_of_Honor_and_Grand_Basin.jpg) [World's Columbian Exposition](/wiki/World's_Columbian_Exposition) in 1893 Chicago's flourishing economy attracted huge numbers of new immigrants from [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and migrants from the [Eastern United States](/wiki/Eastern_United_States). Of the total population in 1900, more than 77% were either foreign-born or born in the United States of foreign parentage. [Germans](/wiki/Germans), [Irish](/wiki/Irish_people), [Poles](/wiki/Poles), [Swedes](/wiki/Swedes) and [Czechs](/wiki/Czechs) made up nearly two-thirds of the foreign-born population (by 1900, whites were 98.1% of the city's population).[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Labor conflicts](/wiki/Labor_history_of_the_United_States) followed the industrial boom and the rapid expansion of the labor pool, including the [Haymarket affair](/wiki/Haymarket_affair) on May 4, 1886. Concern for social problems among Chicago's immigrant poor led [Jane Addams](/wiki/Jane_Addams) to co‑found [Hull House](/wiki/Hull_House) in 1889.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Programs developed there became a model for the new field of [social work](/wiki/Social_work).[[30]](#cite_note-30) During the 1870s and 1880s, Chicago attained national stature as the leader in the movement to improve public health. City, and later state laws, that upgraded standards for the medical profession and fought urban epidemics of cholera, smallpox, and yellow fever were both passed and enforced. These laws became templates for public health reform in other cities and states.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The city established many large, well-landscaped [municipal parks](/wiki/Chicago_Park_District), which also included public sanitation facilities. The chief advocate for improving public health in Chicago was [Dr. John H. Rauch, M.D.](/wiki/John_Henry_Rauch). Rauch established a plan for Chicago's park system in 1866. He created Lincoln Park by closing a cemetery filled with shallow graves, and in 1867, in response to an outbreak of cholera he helped establish a new Chicago Board of Health. Ten years later he became the secretary and then the president of the first Illinois State Board of Health, which carried out most of its activities in Chicago.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In the 19th century, Chicago became the nation's railroad center, and by 1910 over 20 railroads operated passenger service out of 6 different downtown terminals.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)[[33]](#cite_note-33) In 1883, Chicago's railway managers needed a general time convention, so they developed the standardized system of North American [time zones](/wiki/Time_zone).[[34]](#cite_note-34) This system for telling time spread throughout the continent.

In 1893, Chicago hosted the [World's Columbian Exposition](/wiki/World's_Columbian_Exposition) on former marshland at the present location of [Jackson Park](/wiki/Jackson_Park_(Chicago)). The Exposition drew 27.5 million visitors, and is considered the most influential world's fair in history.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago), formerly at another location moved to the same South Side location in 1892. The term "midway" for a fair or carnival referred originally to the [Midway Plaisance](/wiki/Midway_Plaisance), a strip of park land that still runs through the University of Chicago campus and connects the [Washington](/wiki/Washington_Park_(Chicago_park)) and Jackson Parks.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37)

### 20th and 21st centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Haymarket_Square,_Chicago_Circa_1905_(front).png)[Haymarket Square](/wiki/Haymarket_affair) circa 1905 [thumb|Men outside a soup kitchen in the](/wiki/File:Unemployed_men_queued_outside_a_depression_soup_kitchen_opened_in_Chicago_by_Al_Capone,_02-1931_-_NARA_-_541927.jpg) [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) (1931) [thumb|Chicago skyline from Northerly Island in 1941](/wiki/File:Chicago_skyline_from_Northerly_Island.jpg) During World War I and the 1920s there was a major expansion in industry. The availability of jobs attracted African-Americans from the [Southern United States](/wiki/Southern_United_States). Between 1910 and 1930, the African-American population of Chicago increased dramatically, from 44,103 to 233,903.[[38]](#cite_note-38) This [Great Migration](/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)) had an immense cultural impact, called the [*Chicago Black Renaissance*](/wiki/Chicago_Black_Renaissance)*,* part of the [New Negro Movement](/wiki/New_Negro_Movement), in art, literature, and music.[[39]](#cite_note-39) Continuing racial tensions and violence, such as the [Chicago Race Riot of 1919](/wiki/Chicago_Race_Riot_of_1919), also occurred.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The ratification of the 18th amendment to the Constitution in 1919 made the production and sale (including exportation) of alcoholic beverages illegal in the United States. This ushered in the beginning of what is known as the Gangster Era, a time that roughly spans from 1919 until 1933 when [Prohibition](/wiki/Prohibition) was repealed. The 1920s saw [gangsters](/wiki/American_gangsters_during_the_1920s), including [Al Capone](/wiki/Al_Capone), [Dion O'Banion](/wiki/Dion_O'Banion), [Bugs Moran](/wiki/Bugs_Moran) and [Tony Accardo](/wiki/Tony_Accardo) battle law enforcement and each other on the streets of Chicago during the [Prohibition](/wiki/Prohibition_in_the_United_States) era.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Chicago was the location of the infamous [St. Valentine's Day Massacre](/wiki/St._Valentine's_Day_Massacre) in 1929, where [Al Capone](/wiki/Al_Capone) sent men to gun down members of his rival gang, North Side, led by [Bugs Moran](/wiki/Bugs_Moran).[[42]](#cite_note-42) In 1924, Chicago was the first American city to have a homosexual-rights organization, the [Society for Human Rights](/wiki/Society_for_Human_Rights). This organization produced the first American publication for homosexuals, [*Friendship and Freedom*](/wiki/Friendship_and_Freedom). Police and political pressure soon caused it to disband.[[43]](#cite_note-43) In 1933, Chicago Mayor [Anton Cermak](/wiki/Anton_Cermak) was fatally wounded in [Miami, Florida](/wiki/Miami,_Florida) during a [failed assassination](/wiki/List_of_United_States_presidential_assassination_attempts_and_plots#Franklin_D._Roosevelt) attempt on President-elect [Franklin D. Roosevelt](/wiki/Franklin_D._Roosevelt). In 1933 and 1934, the city celebrated its centennial by hosting the [Century of Progress](/wiki/Century_of_Progress) International Exposition [Worlds Fair](/wiki/Worlds_Fair).[[44]](#cite_note-44) The theme of the fair was technological innovation over the century since Chicago's founding.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In March 1937, there was a violent strike by about 3,500 drivers for Checker and Yellow Cab Companies which included rioting that went on for weeks. The cab companies hired "strike breakers", and the cab drivers union hired "sluggers" who ragged through the downtown Chicago area looking for cabs and drivers not participating in the strike.[[46]](#cite_note-46) On December 2, 1942, physicist [Enrico Fermi](/wiki/Enrico_Fermi) conducted the world's first controlled [nuclear reaction](/wiki/Chicago_Pile-1) at the [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago) as part of the top-secret [Manhattan Project](/wiki/Manhattan_Project). This led to the creation of the atomic bomb by the United States, which it used in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) in 1945.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Mayor [Richard J. Daley](/wiki/Richard_J._Daley), a [Democrat](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), was elected in 1955, in the era of [machine politics](/wiki/Political_machine). Starting in the early 1960s due to [blockbusting](/wiki/Blockbusting), many white residents, as in most American cities, left the city for the suburban areas. Whole neighborhoods were completely changed based on race.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Structural changes in industry, such as globalization and job outsourcing, caused heavy losses of jobs for lower skilled workers. In 1966, [Martin Luther King, Jr.](/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.) and [Albert Raby](/wiki/Albert_Raby) led the [Chicago Freedom Movement](/wiki/Chicago_Freedom_Movement), which culminated in agreements between Mayor Richard J. Daley and the movement leaders.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Two years later, the city hosted the tumultuous [1968 Democratic National Convention](/wiki/1968_Democratic_National_Convention), which featured physical confrontations both inside and outside the convention hall, with anti-war protesters, journalists and bystanders being savagely beaten by police.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Major construction projects, including the Sears Tower (now known as the [Willis Tower](/wiki/Willis_Tower), which in 1974 became the [world's tallest building](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_and_structures_in_the_world)), [University of Illinois at Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Illinois_at_Chicago), [McCormick Place](/wiki/McCormick_Place), and [O'Hare International Airport](/wiki/O'Hare_International_Airport), were undertaken during Richard J. Daley's tenure.[[51]](#cite_note-51) In 1979, [Jane Byrne](/wiki/Jane_Byrne), the city's first female mayor, was elected. She helped reduce crime in the [Cabrini-Green](/wiki/Cabrini-Green) housing project and led Chicago's school system out of a financial crisis.[[52]](#cite_note-52) In 1983, [Harold Washington](/wiki/Harold_Washington) became the first black mayor of the city of Chicago. Washington's first term in office directed attention to poor and previously neglected minority neighborhoods. He was re‑elected in 1987 but died of a heart attack soon after.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Washington was succeeded by 6th ward [Alderman](/wiki/Alderman) [Eugene Sawyer](/wiki/Eugene_Sawyer) who was elected by the Chicago City Council and served until a special election.

[Richard M. Daley](/wiki/Richard_M._Daley), son of Richard J. Daley, was elected in 1989. His accomplishments included improvements to parks and creating incentives for [sustainable development](/wiki/Sustainable_development). After successfully standing for re-election five times, and becoming Chicago's longest serving mayor, Richard M. Daley declined to run for a seventh term.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55) On February 23, 2011, former [Illinois Congressman](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) and White House Chief of Staff, [Rahm Emanuel](/wiki/Rahm_Emanuel), won the mayoral election, beating five rivals with 55 percent of the vote,[[56]](#cite_note-56) and was sworn in as Mayor on May 16, 2011. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[center|700px|thumb|Chicago skyline April 18, 2009, from](/wiki/File:Chicago_sunrise_1.jpg) [Northerly Island](/wiki/Northerly_Island) looking northwest. [center|700px|thumb|alt=Buildings along the sides of a river in a panorama view|The](/wiki/File:20090524_Buildings_along_Chicago_River_line_the_south_border_of_the_Near_North_Side_and_Streeterville_and_the_north_border_of_Chicago_Loop,_Lakeshore_East_and_Illinois_Center.jpg) [Chicago River](/wiki/Chicago_River), with the [Near North Side](/wiki/Near_North_Side,_Chicago) and [Streeterville](/wiki/Streeterville) on the right, the [Chicago Loop](/wiki/Chicago_Loop), [Lakeshore East](/wiki/Lakeshore_East), and [Illinois Center](/wiki/Illinois_Center) on the left, and [Trump Tower](/wiki/Trump_International_Hotel_and_Tower_(Chicago)) at the jog in the river in the center. This view is looking west from [Lake Shore Drive's Outer Drive Bridge](/wiki/Outer_Drive_Bridge). [center|500px|thumb|Chicago July 10, 2012, from](/wiki/File:Chicago_skyline,_viewed_from_John_Hancock_Center.jpg) [John Hancock Center](/wiki/John_Hancock_Center) looking south. [center|800px|thumb|Chicago skyline at dusk, from](/wiki/File:Chicago_from_North_Avenue_Beach_June_2015_panorama_2.jpg) [North Avenue Beach](/wiki/North_Avenue_Beach) looking south.

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|left|Downtown and the North Side with beaches lining the waterfront.](/wiki/File:Full_chicago_skyline.jpg) Chicago is located in northeastern Illinois on the southwestern shores of [Lake Michigan](/wiki/Lake_Michigan). It is the principal city in the [Chicago Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Chicago_Metropolitan_Area), situated in the [Midwestern United States](/wiki/Midwestern_United_States) and the [Great Lakes region](/wiki/Great_Lakes_region_(North_America)). Chicago rests on a [continental divide](/wiki/Continental_divide) at the site of the [Chicago Portage](/wiki/Chicago_Portage), connecting the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River) and the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) [watersheds](/wiki/Drainage_basin). The city lies beside huge freshwater Lake Michigan, and two rivers—the [Chicago River](/wiki/Chicago_River) in downtown and the [Calumet River](/wiki/Calumet_River) in the industrial far South Side—flow entirely or partially through Chicago.[Template:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) Chicago's history and economy are closely tied to its proximity to Lake Michigan. While the Chicago River historically handled much of the region's waterborne cargo, today's huge [lake freighters](/wiki/Lake_freighter) use the city's [Lake Calumet Harbor](/wiki/Port_of_Chicago) on the South Side. The lake also provides another positive effect, moderating Chicago's climate; making waterfront neighborhoods slightly warmer in winter and cooler in summer.[[57]](#cite_note-57) When Chicago was founded in 1833, most of the early building was around the mouth of the Chicago River, as can be seen on a map of the city's original 58 blocks.[[58]](#cite_note-58) The overall [grade](/wiki/Land_grading) of the city's central, built-up areas, is relatively consistent with the natural flatness of its overall natural geography, generally exhibiting only slight differentiation otherwise. The average land elevation is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level). The lowest points are along the lake shore at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), while the highest point, at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), is the morainal ridge of [Blue Island](/wiki/Blue_Island,_Illinois) in the city's far south side.<ref name=neiu>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Chicago Loop](/wiki/Chicago_Loop) is the central business district, but Chicago is also a city of [neighborhoods](/wiki/Chicago#Neighborhoods). [Lake Shore Drive](/wiki/Lake_Shore_Drive) runs adjacent to a large portion of Chicago's lakefront. Some of the parks along the waterfront include [Lincoln Park](/wiki/Lincoln_Park), [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)), [Burnham Park](/wiki/Burnham_Park_(Chicago)) and [Jackson Park](/wiki/Jackson_Park_(Chicago)). There are twenty-four public [beaches](/wiki/Chicago_beaches) across [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of the waterfront.<ref name=usabeaches>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Landfill extends into portions of the lake providing space for [Navy Pier](/wiki/Navy_Pier), [Northerly Island](/wiki/Northerly_Island), the [Museum Campus](/wiki/Museum_Campus_Chicago), and large portions of the [McCormick Place](/wiki/McCormick_Place) Convention Center. Most of the city's high-rise commercial and residential buildings are close to the waterfront.

An informal name for the entire [Chicago metropolitan area](/wiki/Chicago_metropolitan_area) is "Chicagoland". There is no precise definition for the term "Chicagoland", but it generally means the entire conurbation. The [Chicago Tribune](/wiki/Chicago_Tribune), which coined the term, includes the city of Chicago, the rest of [Cook County](/wiki/Cook_County,_Illinois), eight nearby Illinois counties: [Lake](/wiki/Lake_County,_Illinois), [McHenry](/wiki/McHenry_County,_Illinois), [DuPage](/wiki/DuPage_County,_Illinois), [Kane](/wiki/Kane_County,_Illinois), [Kendall](/wiki/Kendall_County,_Illinois), [Grundy](/wiki/Grundy_County,_Illinois), [Will](/wiki/Will_County,_Illinois) and [Kankakee](/wiki/Kankakee_County,_Illinois), and three counties in [Indiana](/wiki/Indiana): [Lake](/wiki/Lake_County,_Indiana), [Porter](/wiki/Porter_County,_Indiana) and [LaPorte](/wiki/LaPorte_County,_Indiana).[[59]](#cite_note-59) The Illinois Department of Tourism defines Chicagoland as Cook County without the city of Chicago, and only Lake, DuPage, Kane and Will counties.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The [Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce](/wiki/Chicagoland_Chamber_of_Commerce) defines it as all of Cook and DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Chicago-lighthouse.jpg)[Chicago Harbor Lighthouse](/wiki/Chicago_Harbor_Light)

### Communities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Chicago_community_areas_map.svg)[Community areas](/wiki/Community_areas_in_Chicago) of the City of Chicago. Major sections of the city include the central business district, called [The Loop](/wiki/Chicago_Loop), and the North, the [South](/wiki/South_Side,_Chicago), and [West Sides](/wiki/West_Side,_Chicago).[[62]](#cite_note-62) The three sides of the city are represented on the [Flag of Chicago](/wiki/Flag_of_Chicago) by three horizontal white stripes.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The North Side is the most densely populated residential section of the city, and many high-rises are located on this side of the city along the lakefront.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The South Side is the largest section of the city, encompassing roughly 60% of the city's land area. The South Side contains the [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago) and most of the facilities of the [Port of Chicago](/wiki/Port_of_Chicago).[[65]](#cite_note-65) In the late 1920s, sociologists at the University of Chicago subdivided the city into 77 distinct [community areas](/wiki/Community_areas_in_Chicago), which can further be subdivided into over 200 informally defined [neighborhoods](/wiki/Neighborhoods_in_Chicago).[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67)

### Streetscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Chicago's streets were laid out in a [street grid](/wiki/Grid_plan) that grew from the city's original townsite plat, which was bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, North Avenue on the north, Wood Street on the west, and 22nd Street on the south.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Streets following the [Public Land Survey System](/wiki/Public_Land_Survey_System) section lines later became arterial streets in outlying sections. As new additions to the city were platted, city ordinance required them to be laid out with eight streets to the mile in one direction and sixteen in the other direction (about one street per 201 meters by two in the other direction). The grid's regularity provided an efficient means of developing new real estate property. A scattering of diagonal streets, many of them originally Native American trails, also cross the city (Elston, Milwaukee, Ogden, Lincoln, etc.). Many additional diagonal streets were recommended in the [Plan of Chicago](/wiki/Burnham_Plan), but only the extension of [Ogden Avenue](/wiki/Ogden_Avenue_(Chicago)) was ever constructed.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

Many of the city's residential streets have a wide patch of grass and/or trees between the street and the sidewalk itself.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) This helps to keep pedestrians on the sidewalk further away from the street traffic. Chicago's [Western Avenue](/wiki/Western_Avenue_(Chicago)) is the longest continuous urban street in the world.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Other famous streets include [Michigan Avenue](/wiki/Michigan_Avenue_(Chicago)), [State Street](/wiki/State_Street_(Chicago)), [Clark Street](/wiki/Clark_Street_(Chicago)), and [Belmont Avenue](/wiki/Belmont_Avenue_(Chicago)). The [City Beautiful movement](/wiki/City_Beautiful_movement) inspired Chicago's boulevards and parkways.

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|160px|right|The](/wiki/File:2010-03-03_1856x2784_chicago_chicago_building.jpg) [*Chicago Building*](/wiki/Chicago_Building) (1904–05) is a prime example of the [Chicago School](/wiki/Chicago_school_(architecture)), displaying both variations of the Chicago window. The destruction caused by the Great Chicago Fire led to the largest building boom in the history of the nation. In 1885, the first [steel-framed high-rise building](/wiki/Steel_frame), the [Home Insurance Building](/wiki/Home_Insurance_Building), rose in the city as Chicago ushered in the [skyscraper era](/wiki/Early_skyscrapers),[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) which would then be followed by many other cities around the world.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Today, Chicago's skyline is among the world's tallest and most dense.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Some of the United States' tallest towers are located in Chicago; [Willis Tower](/wiki/Willis_Tower) (formerly Sears Tower) is the second tallest building in the [Western Hemisphere](/wiki/Western_Hemisphere) after [One World Trade Center](/wiki/One_World_Trade_Center), and [Trump International Hotel and Tower](/wiki/Trump_International_Hotel_and_Tower_(Chicago)) is the third tallest in the country.[[72]](#cite_note-72) The Loop's historic buildings include the [Chicago Board of Trade Building](/wiki/Chicago_Board_of_Trade_Building), the [Fine Arts Building](/wiki/Fine_Arts_Building_(Chicago)), [35 East Wacker](/wiki/35 East_Wacker), and the [Chicago Building](/wiki/Chicago_Building), [860-880 Lake Shore Drive Apartments](/wiki/860-880_Lake_Shore_Drive_Apartments) by [Mies van der Rohe](/wiki/Mies_van_der_Rohe). Many other architects have left their impression on the Chicago skyline such as Daniel Burnham, Louis Sullivan, Charles B. Atwood, John Root, and Helmut Jahn.[[73]](#cite_note-73)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

The [Merchandise Mart](/wiki/Merchandise_Mart), once first on the [list of largest buildings in the world](/wiki/List_of_largest_buildings_in_the_world), currently listed as 44th largest (as of September 9, 2013), had its own [zip code](/wiki/Zip code) until 2008, and stands near the junction of the North and South branches of the Chicago River.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Presently, the four tallest buildings in the city are [Willis Tower](/wiki/Willis_Tower) (formerly the Sears Tower, also a building with its own zip code), [Trump International Hotel and Tower](/wiki/Trump_International_Hotel_and_Tower_(Chicago)), the [Aon Center](/wiki/Aon_Center_(Chicago)) (previously the Standard Oil Building), and the [John Hancock Center](/wiki/John_Hancock_Center). [Industrial districts](/wiki/Industrial_district), such as some areas on the [South Side](/wiki/South_Side_(Chicago)), the areas along the [Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal](/wiki/Chicago_Sanitary_and_Ship_Canal), and the [Northwest Indiana](/wiki/Northwest_Indiana) area are clustered.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

Chicago gave its name to the [Chicago School](/wiki/Chicago_school_(architecture)) and was home to the [Prairie School](/wiki/Prairie_School), two movements in architecture.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Multiple kinds and scales of houses, townhouses, condominiums, and apartment buildings can be found throughout Chicago. Large swaths of the city's residential areas away from the lake are characterized by brick [bungalows](/wiki/Bungalow) built from the early 20th century through the end of World War II. Chicago is also a prominent center of the [Polish Cathedral style](/wiki/Polish_Cathedral_style) of [church architecture](/wiki/Church_architecture). The Chicago suburb of [Oak Park](/wiki/Oak_Park,_Illinois) was home to famous architect [Frank Lloyd Wright](/wiki/Frank_Lloyd_Wright), who had designed The [Robie House](/wiki/Robie_House) located near the [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Monuments and public art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[right|160px|thumb|Replica of](/wiki/File:2004-08-08_1580x2800_chicago_republic.jpg) [Daniel Chester French's](/wiki/Daniel_Chester_French) [Statue of the Republic](/wiki/Statue_of_the_Republic) at the site of the [World's Columbian Exposition](/wiki/World's_Columbian_Exposition).

Chicago is famous for its outdoor [public art](/wiki/Public_art) with donors establishing funding for such art as far back as [Benjamin Ferguson's](/wiki/Benjamin_F._Ferguson) 1905 trust.[[78]](#cite_note-78) A number of Chicago's public art works are by modern figurative artists. Among these are [Chagall's Four Seasons](/wiki/Four_Seasons_(Chagall)); the [Chicago Picasso](/wiki/Chicago_Picasso); [Miro's Chicago](/wiki/Miró's_Chicago); [Calder's](/wiki/Alexander_Calder) [Flamingo](/wiki/Flamingo_(sculpture)); [Oldenburg's](/wiki/Claes_Oldenburg) [Batcolumn](/wiki/Batcolumn); [Moore's](/wiki/Henry_Moore) [Large Interior Form, 1953-54](/wiki/Large_Interior_Form,_1953-54), [Man Enters the Cosmos](/wiki/Man_Enters_the_Cosmos) and [Nuclear Energy](/wiki/Nuclear_Energy_(sculpture)); [Dubuffet's](/wiki/Jean_Dubuffet) [Monument with Standing Beast](/wiki/Monument_with_Standing_Beast), [Abakanowicz's](/wiki/Magdalena_Abakanowicz) [Agora](/wiki/Agora_(sculpture)); and, [Anish Kapoor's](/wiki/Anish_Kapoor) [Cloud Gate](/wiki/Cloud_Gate) which has become an icon of the city. Some events which shaped the city's history have also been memorialized by art works, including the [Great Northern Migration](/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)) ([Saar](/wiki/Alison_Saar)) and the [centennial of statehood for Illinois](/wiki/Illinois_Centennial_Memorial_Column). Finally, two fountains near the Loop also function as monumental works of art: [Plensa's](/wiki/Jaume_Plensa) [Crown Fountain](/wiki/Crown_Fountain) and [Burnham](/wiki/Daniel_Burnham) and Bennett's [Buckingham Fountain](/wiki/Buckingham_Fountain).

More representational and portrait statuary includes a number of works by [Lorado Taft](/wiki/Lorado_Taft) ([Fountain of Time](/wiki/Fountain_of_Time), [The Crusader](/wiki/Lawson_Monument), [Eternal Silence](/wiki/Eternal_Silence_(sculpture)), and the [Heald Square Monument](/wiki/Heald_Square_Monument) completed by [Crunelle](/wiki/Leonard_Crunelle)), [French's](/wiki/Daniel_Chester_French) [Statue of the Republic](/wiki/Statue_of_the_Republic), [Edward Kemys's Lions](/wiki/Edward_Kemeys), [Saint-Gaudens's](/wiki/Augustus_Saint-Gaudens) [Abraham Lincoln: The Man](/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln:_The_Man) (a.k.a. Standing Lincoln) and [Abraham Lincoln: The Head of State](/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln:_The_Head_of_State) (a.k.a. Seated Lincoln), Brioschi's [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus_(Grant_Park)), [Meštrović's](/wiki/Ivan_Meštrović) [The Bowman and The Spearman](/wiki/The_Bowman_and_The_Spearman), [Dallin's](/wiki/Cyrus_Edwin_Dallin) [Signal of Peace](/wiki/Signal_of_Peace), [Fairbanks's](/wiki/Avard_Fairbanks) [The Chicago Lincoln](/wiki/The_Chicago_Lincoln), [Boyle's](/wiki/John_Boyle_(sculptor)) [The Alarm](/wiki/The_Alarm_(Boyle)), [Polasek's](/wiki/Albin_Polasek) [memorial](/wiki/Midway_Plaisance#Origin_of_the_name) to [Masaryk](/wiki/Tomáš_Garrigue_Masaryk), memorials along *Solidarity Promenade* to [Kościuszko](/wiki/Tadeusz_Kościuszko), [Havliček](/wiki/Karel_Havlíček_Borovský) and [Copernicus](/wiki/Nicholas_Copernicus) by [Chodzinski](/wiki/Kazimierz_Chodzinski), [Strachovský](/wiki/Josef_Strachovský), and [Thorvaldsen](/wiki/Bertel_Thorvaldsen), a [memorial to General Logan](/wiki/John_A._Logan#Legacy) by [Saint-Gaudens](/wiki/Augustus_Saint-Gaudens), and [Kearney's](/wiki/John_Kearney_(artist)) [Moose (W-02-03)](/wiki/Moose_(W-02-03)). A number of statues also honor recent local heroes such as [Michael Jordan](/wiki/Michael_Jordan_statue) (by [Amrany](/wiki/Omri_Amrany) and [Rotblatt-Amrany](/wiki/Julie_Rotblatt-Amrany)), [Stan Mikita](/wiki/Stan_Mikita), and [Bobby Hull](/wiki/Bobby_Hull) outside of the [United Center](/wiki/United_Center); [Harry Caray](/wiki/Harry_Caray) (by [Amrany](/wiki/Omri_Amrany) and Cella) [outside Wrigley field](/wiki/Chicago_Cubs#Jack_Brickhouse_and_Harry_Caray), [Jack Brickhouse](/wiki/Jack_Brickhouse) (by [McKenna](/wiki/Jerry_McKenna)) next to the [WGN](/wiki/WGN-TV) studios, and [Irv Kupcinet](/wiki/Irv_Kupcinet) at the [Wabash Avenue Bridge](/wiki/Wabash_Avenue_Bridge).[[79]](#cite_note-79) There are preliminary plans to erect a 1:1‑scale replica of [Wacław Szymanowski's](/wiki/Wacław_Szymanowski) [*Art Nouveau*](/wiki/Art_Nouveau) statue of [Frédéric Chopin](/wiki/Frédéric_Chopin) found in [Warsaw's](/wiki/Warsaw) [Royal Baths](/wiki/Royal_Baths_Park) along Chicago's lakefront in addition to a different sculpture commemorating the artist in [Chopin Park](/wiki/Chopin_Park_(Chicago)) for the 200th anniversary of [Frédéric Chopin's](/wiki/Frédéric_Chopin) birth.[[80]](#cite_note-80)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The city lies within the [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) zone ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): *Dfa*), and experiences four distinct seasons. [Summers](/wiki/Summer) are warm to hot and often humid, with a July daily average of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). In a normal summer, temperatures can exceed [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) as many as 21 days. [Winters](/wiki/Winter) are cold and snowy with few sunny days, and the normal January high is just below freezing. [Spring](/wiki/Spring_(season)) and [autumn](/wiki/Autumn) are mild seasons with low humidity. Dewpoint temperatures in the summer range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in June to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in July.<ref name=NOAA/> The city is part of the [USDA](/wiki/USDA) Plant [Hardiness zone](/wiki/Hardiness_zone) 6a, transitioning to 5b in the suburbs.[[81]](#cite_note-81) According to the [National Weather Service](/wiki/National_Weather_Service), Chicago's highest official temperature reading of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) was recorded on July 24, 1934,[[82]](#cite_note-82) although [Midway Airport](/wiki/Chicago_Midway_International_Airport) reached [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) one day prior and recorded a [heat index](/wiki/Heat_index) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the [1995 heatwave](/wiki/1995_Chicago_heat_wave).[[83]](#cite_note-83) The lowest official temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) was recorded on [January 20, 1985](/wiki/January_1985_Arctic_outbreak), at O'Hare Airport.[[83]](#cite_note-83) The city can experience extreme winter [cold waves](/wiki/Cold_wave) and summer [heat waves](/wiki/Heat_wave) that may last for several consecutive days. [Thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorms) are common during the spring and summer months which may sometimes produce hail, high winds, and [tornadoes](/wiki/Tornadoes).[[84]](#cite_note-84) Like other major cities, Chicago also experiences [urban heat island](/wiki/Urban_heat_island), making the city and its suburbs milder than surrounding rural areas, especially at night and in winter. Also, the proximity to [Lake Michigan](/wiki/Lake_Michigan) keeps lakefront Chicago cooler in early summer and milder in winter than areas to the west.[[85]](#cite_note-85) [Template:Chicago weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Chicago_weatherbox)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) During its first hundred years, Chicago was one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. When founded in 1833, fewer than 200 people had settled on what was then the American frontier. By the time of its first census, seven years later, the population had reached over 4,000. In the forty years from 1850 to 1890, the city's population grew from slightly under 30,000 to over 1 million. At the end of the 19th century, Chicago was the fifth largest city in the world,[[86]](#cite_note-86) and the largest of the cities that did not exist at the dawn of the century. Within sixty years of the [Great Chicago Fire of 1871](/wiki/Great_Chicago_Fire), the population went from about 300,000 to over 3 million,[[87]](#cite_note-87) and reached its highest ever-recorded population of 3.6 million for the 1950 census.

From the last two decades of the 19th century, Chicago was the destination of waves of immigrants from [Ireland](/wiki/Ireland), Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, including [Italians](/wiki/Italians), [Jews](/wiki/Jews), [Poles](/wiki/Poles), [Lithuanians](/wiki/Lithuanians), [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs) and [Czechs](/wiki/Czechs).[[88]](#cite_note-88) To these ethnic groups, the basis of the city's industrial [working class](/wiki/Working_class), were added an additional influx of [African-Americans](/wiki/African-Americans) from the [American South](/wiki/Southern_United_States) — with Chicago's black population doubling between 1910 and 1920 and doubling again between 1920 and 1930.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In the 1920s and 1930s, the great majority of African Americans moving to Chicago were clustered in a so‑called "[Black Belt](/wiki/Black_Belt_(region_of_Chicago))" on the city's South Side.[[88]](#cite_note-88) By 1930, two-thirds of Chicago's African-American population lived in sections of the city which were 90% black in racial composition.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Chicago's South Side emerged as America's second largest urban black concentration, following New York's [Harlem](/wiki/Harlem).[[88]](#cite_note-88)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Racial composition** | **2010**[**[89]**](#cite_note-89) | **1990**[**[90]**](#cite_note-90) | **1970**[**[90]**](#cite_note-90) | **1940**[**[90]**](#cite_note-90) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) | 45.0% | 45.4% | 65.6% | 91.7% |
| —Non-Hispanic | 31.7% | 37.9% | 59.0%[[91]](#cite_note-91) | 91.2% |
| [Black or African American](/wiki/African_American) | 32.9% | 39.1% | 32.7% | 8.2% |
| [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) | 28.9% | 19.6% | 7.4%[[91]](#cite_note-91) | 0.5% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 5.5% | 3.7% | 0.9% | 0.1% |

As of the [2010 census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census),[[92]](#cite_note-92) there were 2,695,598 people with 1,045,560 households living in Chicago. More than half the population of the state of Illinois lives in the Chicago metropolitan area. Chicago is one of the United States' most densely populated major cities, and the largest city in the [Great Lakes Megalopolis](/wiki/Great_Lakes_Megalopolis). The racial composition of the city was:

* 45.0% [White](/wiki/White_American) (31.7% [non-Hispanic whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_whites));
* 32.9% [Black or African American](/wiki/African_American);
* 28.9% [Hispanic or Latino (of any race)](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans);
* 13.4% from some other race;
* 5.5% [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) (1.6% Chinese, 1.1% Indian, 1.1% Filipino, 0.4% Korean, 0.3% Pakistani, 0.3% Vietnamese, 0.2% Japanese, 0.1% Thai);
* 2.7% from [two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American);
* 0.5% [American Indian](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States).

Chicago has a [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) population of 28.9%. (Its members may belong to any race; 21.4% Mexican, 3.8% Puerto Rican, 0.7% Guatemalan, 0.6% Ecuadorian, 0.3% Cuban, 0.3% Colombian, 0.2% Honduran, 0.2% Salvadoran, 0.2% Peruvian)[[93]](#cite_note-93) The city's previous largest ethnic group, non-Hispanic white, declined from 59% in 1970 to 31.7% in 2010.[[90]](#cite_note-90) According to the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](/wiki/American_Community_Survey) data estimates for 2008-2012, the median income for a household in the city was $47,408, and the median income for a family was $54,188. Male full-time workers had a median income of $47,074 versus $42,063 for females. About 18.3% of families and 22.1% of the population lived below the poverty line.[[94]](#cite_note-94) According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey, the ancestral groups having 10,000 or more persons in Chicago were:[[95]](#cite_note-95)[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* Irish: (137,799)
* Polish: (134,032)
* German: (120,328)
* Italian: (77,967)
* American: (37,118)
* English: (36,145)
* African American: (32,727)
* Russian: (19,771)
* Arab: (17,598)
* European: (15,753)
* Swedish: (15,151)
* Greek: (15,129)
* French (except Basque): (11,410)
* Ukrainian: (11,104)
* West Indian (except Hispanic groups): (10,349)

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

Persons identifying themselves as "Other groups" were classified at 1.72 million, and unclassified or not reported were approximately 153,000.[[95]](#cite_note-95)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:St_Mary_of_the_Angels_interior_090307.jpg)[St. Mary of the Angels](/wiki/St._Mary_of_the_Angels_(Chicago)) is one of the three "[Polish Cathedrals](/wiki/Polish_Cathedral_style)" located in the neighborhood of [Bucktown](/wiki/Logan_Square,_Chicago#Bucktown). 71% of Chicagoans identify as Christian, 7% identity with other faiths and 22% have no religious affiliation.[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) Chicago also has many [Jews](/wiki/Jews), [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim), [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhists), [Hindus](/wiki/Hindus), and others. Chicago is the headquarters of several religious denominations, including the [Assyrian Church of the East](/wiki/Assyrian_Church_of_the_East), the [Evangelical Covenant Church](/wiki/Evangelical_Covenant_Church) and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America). The [Fourth Presbyterian Church](/wiki/Fourth_Presbyterian_Church_(Chicago)) is one of the biggest [Presbyterian](/wiki/Presbyterian) congregations in the U.S.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The first two [Parliament of the World's Religions](/wiki/Parliament_of_the_World's_Religions) in 1893 and 1993 were held in Chicago.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Many international religious leaders have visited Chicago, including [Mother Teresa](/wiki/Mother_Teresa), the [Dalai Lama](/wiki/14th_Dalai_Lama),[[99]](#cite_note-99) and [Pope John Paul II](/wiki/Pope_John_Paul II) in 1979.[[100]](#cite_note-100)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Federal-reserve-bank-of-chicago.JPG)[Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago](/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_Chicago) [upright|thumb|The](/wiki/File:Chicago_Board_Of_Trade_Building.jpg) [Chicago Board of Trade Building](/wiki/Chicago_Board_of_Trade_Building) Chicago has the third largest [gross metropolitan product](/wiki/Gross_metropolitan_product) in the United States—about $630.3 billion according to 2014-2016 estimates. [[6]](#cite_note-6) The city has also been rated as having the most balanced economy in the United States, due to its high level of diversification.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Chicago was named the fourth most important business center in the world in the MasterCard Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Additionally, the Chicago metropolitan area recorded the greatest number of new or expanded corporate facilities in the United States for calendar year 2014.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The Chicago metropolitan area has the third largest science and engineering work force of any metropolitan area in the nation.[[104]](#cite_note-104) In 2009 Chicago placed 9th on the [UBS](/wiki/UBS_AG) list of the world's richest cities.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Chicago was the base of commercial operations for industrialists [John Crerar](/wiki/John_Crerar_(industrialist)), [John Whitfield Bunn](/wiki/John_Whitfield_Bunn), [Richard Teller Crane](/wiki/Richard_Teller_Crane), [Marshall Field](/wiki/Marshall_Field), [John Farwell](/wiki/John_Farwell), [Julius Rosenwald](/wiki/Julius_Rosenwald) and many other commercial visionaries who laid the foundation for Midwestern and global industry.

Chicago is a major world financial center, with the [second largest central business district](/wiki/Chicago_Loop) in the United States.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The city is the headquarters of the [Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago](/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_Chicago) (the Seventh District of the Federal Reserve). The city has major financial and [futures exchanges](/wiki/Futures_exchange), including the [Chicago Stock Exchange](/wiki/Chicago_Stock_Exchange), the [Chicago Board Options Exchange](/wiki/Chicago_Board_Options_Exchange) (CBOE), and the [Chicago Mercantile Exchange](/wiki/Chicago_Mercantile_Exchange) (the "Merc"), which is owned, along with the [Chicago Board of Trade](/wiki/Chicago_Board_of_Trade) (CBOT) by Chicago's [CME Group](/wiki/CME_Group). The CME Group, in addition, owns the [New York Mercantile Exchange](/wiki/New_York_Mercantile_Exchange) (NYMEX), the Commodities Exchange Inc. (COMEX) and the [Dow Jones Indexes](/wiki/Dow_Jones_Indexes).[[106]](#cite_note-106) Perhaps due to the influence of the [Chicago school of economics](/wiki/Chicago_school_of_economics), the city also has markets trading unusual contracts such as [emissions](/wiki/Emissions_trading) (on the [Chicago Climate Exchange](/wiki/Chicago_Climate_Exchange)) and [equity style indices](/wiki/Eugene_Fama#Fama-French_three-factor_model) (on the [U.S. Futures Exchange](/wiki/U.S. Futures_Exchange)). [Chase](/wiki/Chase_(bank)) Bank has its commercial and retail banking headquarters in Chicago's [Chase Tower](/wiki/Chase_Tower_(Chicago)).[[107]](#cite_note-107) The city and its surrounding metropolitan area contain the third largest labor pool in the United States with about 4.48 million workers, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[108]](#cite_note-108) In addition, the state of Illinois is home to 66 [Fortune 1000](/wiki/Fortune 1000) companies, including those in Chicago.[[109]](#cite_note-109) The city of Chicago also hosts 12 Fortune Global 500 companies and 17 Financial Times 500 companies. The city claims one [Dow 30](/wiki/Dow_Jones_Industrial_Average) company: [aerospace](/wiki/Aerospace) giant [Boeing](/wiki/Boeing), which moved its headquarters from [Seattle](/wiki/Seattle) to the [Chicago Loop](/wiki/Chicago_Loop) in 2001.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) Two more Dow 30 companies, [Kraft Foods](/wiki/Kraft_Foods) and [McDonald's](/wiki/McDonald's) are in the Chicago suburbs, as are [Sears Holdings Corporation](/wiki/Sears_Holdings_Corporation) and the technology spin-offs of [Motorola](/wiki/Motorola). The headquarters of [United Continental Holdings](/wiki/United_Continental_Holdings), are in the [United Building](/wiki/United_Building) and its operations center and its [United Airlines](/wiki/United_Airlines) subsidiary are in the [Willis Tower](/wiki/Willis_Tower) in Chicago.

[thumb|right|200px|Racks of meat in cold storage in a meat locker in Chicago as photographed by](/wiki/File:Stanley_Kubrick_-_refrigerated_racks_of_meat_cph.3d02347.jpg) [Stanley Kubrick](/wiki/Stanley_Kubrick) for [Look Magazine](/wiki/Look_(American_magazine)) in 1949 Manufacturing, printing, publishing and food processing also play major roles in the city's economy. Several medical products and services companies are headquartered in the Chicago area, including [Baxter International](/wiki/Baxter_International), [Boeing](/wiki/Boeing), [Abbott Laboratories](/wiki/Abbott_Laboratories), and the Healthcare Financial Services division of [General Electric](/wiki/General_Electric). In addition to Boeing, which located its headquarters in Chicago in 2001, and United Airlines in 2011, GE Transportation moved its offices to the city in 2013, as did [ThyssenKrupp](/wiki/ThyssenKrupp) North America, and agriculture giant [Archer Daniels Midland](/wiki/Archer_Daniels_Midland).[[3]](#cite_note-3) Moreover, the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, which helped move goods from the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) south on the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River), and of the railroads in the 19th century made the city a major transportation center in the United States. In the 1840s, Chicago became a major [grain](/wiki/Cereal) port, and in the 1850s and 1860s Chicago's pork and beef industry expanded. As the major meat companies grew in Chicago many, such as [Armour and Company](/wiki/Armour_and_Company), created global enterprises. Though the meatpacking industry currently plays a lesser role in the city's economy, Chicago continues to be a major transportation and distribution center. Lured by a combination of large business customers, federal research dollars, and a large hiring pool fed by the area's universities, Chicago is also the site of a growing number of web [startup companies](/wiki/Startup_companies) like [CareerBuilder](/wiki/CareerBuilder), [Orbitz](/wiki/Orbitz), [37signals](/wiki/37signals), [Groupon](/wiki/Groupon), [Feedburner](/wiki/Feedburner), and [NowSecure](/wiki/Nowsecure).[[112]](#cite_note-112) Chicago has been a hub of the [Retail](/wiki/Retail) sector since its early development, with [Montgomery Ward](/wiki/Montgomery_Ward), [Sears](/wiki/Sears), and [Marshall Field's](/wiki/Marshall_Field's). Today the Chicago metropolitan area is the headquarters of several retailers, including [Walgreens](/wiki/Walgreens), [Sears](/wiki/Sears_Holdings_Corporation), [Ace Hardware](/wiki/Ace_Hardware), [Claire's](/wiki/Claire's), [ULTA Beauty](/wiki/ULTA_Beauty) and [Crate & Barrel](/wiki/Crate_&_Barrel).

Late in the 19th century, Chicago was part of the bicycle craze, with the [Western Wheel Company](/wiki/Western_Wheel_Company), which introduced [stamping](/wiki/Stamping_(metalworking)) to the production process and significantly reduced costs,[[113]](#cite_note-113) while early in the 20th century, the city was part of the automobile revolution, hosting the [Brass Era car](/wiki/Brass_Era_car) builder [Bugmobile](/wiki/Bugmobile_(automobile_company)), which was founded there in 1907.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Chicago was also the site of the [Schwinn Bicycle Company](/wiki/Schwinn_Bicycle_Company).

Chicago is a major world convention destination. The city's main convention center is [McCormick Place](/wiki/McCormick_Place). With its four interconnected buildings, it is the largest convention center in the nation and third largest in the world.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Chicago also ranks third in the U.S. (behind [Las Vegas](/wiki/Las_Vegas) and [Orlando](/wiki/Orlando,_Florida)) in number of conventions hosted annually.[[116]](#cite_note-116)

## Culture and contemporary life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|upright|left|A Chicago jazz club](/wiki/File:ChicagoJazzClubAndys.jpg) [thumb|upright|right|The](/wiki/File:New_National_Hellenic_Museum_during_the_day.jpg) [National Hellenic Museum](/wiki/National_Hellenic_Museum) in Greektown is one of several ethnic museums comprising the [Chicago Cultural Alliance](/wiki/Chicago_Cultural_Alliance). The city's waterfront location and nightlife has attracted residents and tourists alike. Over a third of the city population is concentrated in the lakefront neighborhoods from [Rogers Park](/wiki/Rogers_Park,_Chicago) in the north to [South Shore](/wiki/South_Shore,_Chicago) in the south.<ref name=2000-demographics-map>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city has many upscale dining establishments as well as many ethnic restaurant districts. These districts include the [Mexican American](/wiki/Mexican_American) neighborhoods, such as [Pilsen](/wiki/Pilsen,_Chicago) along 18th street, and *La Villita* along 26th Street; the [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Ricans_in_Chicago) enclave of [Paseo Boricua](/wiki/Paseo_Boricua) in the [Humboldt Park](/wiki/Humboldt_Park,_Chicago) neighborhood; [Greektown](/wiki/Greektown,_Chicago), along South [Halsted Street](/wiki/Halsted_Street), immediately west of downtown;[[117]](#cite_note-117) [Little Italy](/wiki/Little_Italy,_Chicago), along Taylor Street; [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Chicago) in [Armour Square](/wiki/Armour_Square,_Chicago); [Polish Patches](/wiki/Polish_Patches) in [West Town](/wiki/West_Town,_Chicago); [Little Seoul](/wiki/Koreatown#Chicago,_Illinois) in [Albany Park](/wiki/Albany_Park,_Chicago) around Lawrence Avenue; [Little Vietnam](/wiki/Little_Vietnam,_Chicago) near [Broadway](/wiki/Broadway_(Chicago)) in Uptown; and the [Desi](/wiki/Desi) area, along [Devon Avenue](/wiki/Devon_Avenue_(Chicago)) in [West Ridge](/wiki/West_Ridge,_Chicago).[[118]](#cite_note-118) Downtown is the center of Chicago's financial, cultural, governmental and commercial institutions and the site of [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)) and many of the city's skyscrapers. Many of the city's financial institutions, such as the [CBOT](/wiki/Chicago_Board_of_Trade) and the [Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago](/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_Chicago), are located within a section of downtown called "[The Loop](/wiki/Chicago_Loop)", which is an eight-block by five-block area of city streets that is encircled by elevated rail tracks. The term "The Loop" is largely used by locals to refer to the entire downtown area as well. The central area includes the [Near North Side](/wiki/Near_North_Side,_Chicago), the [Near South Side](/wiki/Near_South_Side,_Chicago), and the [Near West Side](/wiki/West_Loop), as well as the Loop. These areas contribute famous [skyscrapers](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Chicago), abundant restaurants, [shopping](/wiki/Magnificent_Mile), [museums](/wiki/Museum_Campus), a [stadium](/wiki/Soldier_Field) for the [Chicago Bears](/wiki/Chicago_Bears), [convention facilities](/wiki/McCormick_Place), [parkland](/wiki/List_of_Chicago_parks), and [beaches](/wiki/Beaches_in_Chicago).

[Lincoln Park](/wiki/Lincoln_Park) contains the [Lincoln Park Zoo](/wiki/Lincoln_Park_Zoo) and the [Lincoln Park Conservatory](/wiki/Lincoln_Park_Conservatory). The [River North Gallery District](/wiki/River_North_Gallery_District,_Near_North_Side,_Chicago) features the nation's largest concentration of contemporary art galleries outside of New York City. [Lakeview](/wiki/Lake_View,_Chicago) has [Boystown](/wiki/Boystown,_Chicago), which, along with [Andersonville](/wiki/Andersonville,_Chicago), are the best-known [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) neighborhoods.

The South Side neighborhood of [Hyde Park](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Chicago) contains the [University of Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Chicago) (U of C), ranked one of the world's top ten universities;[[119]](#cite_note-119) and the [Museum of Science and Industry](/wiki/Museum_of_Science_and_Industry_(Chicago)). The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long [Burnham Park](/wiki/Burnham_Park_(Chicago)) stretches along the waterfront of the South Side. Two of the city's largest parks are also located on this side of the city: [Jackson Park](/wiki/Jackson_Park_(Chicago)), bordering the waterfront, hosted the [World's Columbian Exposition](/wiki/World's_Columbian_Exposition) in 1893, and is the site of the aforementioned museum; and slightly west sits [Washington Park](/wiki/Washington_Park_(Chicago_park)). The two parks themselves are connected by a wide strip of parkland called the [Midway Plaisance](/wiki/Midway_Plaisance), running adjacent to the University of Chicago. The South Side hosts one of the city's largest parades, the annual African American [Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic](/wiki/Bud_Billiken_Parade_and_Picnic), which travels from [Bronzeville](/wiki/Bronzeville,_Chicago) to Washington Park. [Ford Motor Company](/wiki/Ford_Motor_Company) has an [automobile assembly plant](/wiki/Chicago_Assembly) located in [Hegewisch](/wiki/Hegewisch,_Chicago), and most of the facilities of the [Port of Chicago](/wiki/Port_of_Chicago) are also on the South Side.

The West Side holds the [Garfield Park Conservatory](/wiki/Garfield_Park_Conservatory), one of the largest collections of tropical plants in any U.S. city. Prominent Latino cultural attractions found here include [Humboldt Park's](/wiki/Humboldt_Park_(Chicago_park)) [Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture](/wiki/Institute_of_Puerto_Rican_Arts_and_Culture) and the annual Puerto Rican People's Parade, as well as the [National Museum of Mexican Art](/wiki/National_Museum_of_Mexican_Art) and [St. Adalbert's Church](/wiki/St._Adalbert's_in_Chicago) in [Pilsen](/wiki/Pilsen,_Chicago). The Near West Side holds the [University of Illinois at Chicago](/wiki/University_of_Illinois_at_Chicago) and [Oprah Winfrey's](/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey) [Harpo Studios](/wiki/Harpo_Studios).

The city's distinctive accent, made famous by its use in films like [*The Blues Brothers*](/wiki/The_Blues_Brothers) and television programs like the [*Saturday Night Live*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live) skit "[Bill Swerski's Superfans](/wiki/Bill_Swerski's_Superfans)", is an advanced form of [Inland Northern American English](/wiki/Inland_Northern_American_English). This dialect is also found in other cities bordering the Great Lakes such as [Cleveland](/wiki/Cleveland), [Milwaukee](/wiki/Milwaukee), [Detroit](/wiki/Detroit), and [Rochester, New York](/wiki/Rochester,_New_York), and most prominently features a rearrangement of certain vowel sounds, such as the [short 'a'](/wiki/Phonological_history_of_English_short_A) sound as in "cat", which can sound more like "kyet" to outsiders. Many Chicagoans do not speak with this accent, especially recent arrivals and nonwhites, but it remains well associated with the city.[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Entertainment and the arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Renowned Chicago theater companies include the [Goodman Theatre](/wiki/Goodman_Theatre) in the Loop; the [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](/wiki/Steppenwolf_Theatre_Company) and [Victory Gardens Theater](/wiki/Victory_Gardens_Theater) in Lincoln Park; and the [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](/wiki/Chicago_Shakespeare_Theater) at Navy Pier. [Broadway In Chicago](/wiki/Broadway_In_Chicago) offers Broadway-style entertainment at five theaters: the [Ford Center for the Performing Arts Oriental Theatre](/wiki/Ford_Center_for_the_Performing_Arts_Oriental_Theatre), [Bank of America Theatre](/wiki/Bank_of_America_Theatre), [Cadillac Palace Theatre](/wiki/Cadillac_Palace_Theatre), [Auditorium Building](/wiki/Auditorium_Building) of Roosevelt University, and [Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place](/wiki/Broadway_Playhouse_at_Water_Tower_Place). [Polish language](/wiki/Polish_language) productions for [Chicago's large Polish speaking population](/wiki/Poles_in_Chicago) can be seen at the historic [Gateway Theatre](/wiki/Gateway_Theatre_(Chicago)) in [Jefferson Park](/wiki/Jefferson_Park,_Chicago). Since 1968, the [Joseph Jefferson Awards](/wiki/Joseph_Jefferson_Award) are given annually to acknowledge excellence in theater in the Chicago area. Chicago's theater community spawned modern [improvisational theater](/wiki/Improvisational_theater), and includes the prominent groups [The Second City](/wiki/The_Second_City) and [I.O.](/wiki/IO_Theater) (formerly ImprovOlympic).

The [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Chicago_Symphony_Orchestra) (CSO) performs at [Symphony Center](/wiki/Symphony_Center), and is recognized as one of the best orchestras in the world.[[121]](#cite_note-121) Also performing regularly at [Symphony Center](/wiki/Symphony_Center) is the [Chicago Sinfonietta](/wiki/Chicago_Sinfonietta), a more diverse and multicultural counterpart to the CSO. In the summer, many outdoor concerts are given in [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)) and [Millennium Park](/wiki/Millennium_Park). [Ravinia Festival](/wiki/Ravinia_Festival), located [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) north of Chicago, is the summer home of the CSO, and is a favorite destination for many Chicagoans. The [Civic Opera House](/wiki/Civic_Opera_House_(Chicago)) is home to the [Lyric Opera of Chicago](/wiki/Lyric_Opera_of_Chicago). The [Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago](/wiki/Lithuanian_Opera_Company_of_Chicago) was founded by [Lithuanian Chicagoans](/wiki/Lithuanians_in_the_Chicago_area) in 1956,[[122]](#cite_note-122) and presents operas in [Lithuanian](/wiki/Lithuanian_language).

The [Joffrey Ballet](/wiki/Joffrey_Ballet) and [Chicago Festival Ballet](/wiki/Chicago_Festival_Ballet) perform in various venues, including the [Harris Theater](/wiki/Harris_Theater_(Chicago,_Illinois)) in [Millennium Park](/wiki/Millennium_Park). Chicago has several other contemporary and jazz dance troupes, such as the [Hubbard Street Dance Chicago](/wiki/Hubbard_Street_Dance_Chicago) and [Chicago Dance Crash](/wiki/Chicago_Dance_Crash).

Other live-music genre which are part of the city's cultural heritage include [Chicago blues](/wiki/Chicago_blues), [Chicago soul](/wiki/Chicago_soul), [jazz](/wiki/Jazz), and [gospel](/wiki/Gospel_music). The city is the birthplace of [house music](/wiki/House_music) and is the site of an influential [hip-hop scene](/wiki/Chicago_hip_hop). In the 1980s, the city was a center for [industrial](/wiki/Industrial_music), [punk](/wiki/Punk_rock) and [new wave](/wiki/New_wave_music). This influence continued into the [alternative rock](/wiki/Alternative_rock) of the 1990s. The city has been an epicenter for [rave](/wiki/Rave) culture, since the 1980s. A flourishing independent rock music culture brought forth Chicago [indie](/wiki/Independent_music). [Annual festivals](/wiki/List_of_festivals_in_Chicago) feature various acts, such as [Lollapalooza](/wiki/Lollapalooza) and the [Pitchfork Music Festival](/wiki/Pitchfork_Music_Festival). A 2007 report on the Chicago music industry by the [University of Chicago Cultural Policy Center](/wiki/Harris_School_of_Public_Policy_Studies) ranked Chicago third among metropolitan U.S. areas in "size of music industry" and fourth among all U.S. cities in "number of concerts and performances."[[123]](#cite_note-123) Chicago has a distinctive fine art tradition. For much of the twentieth century, it nurtured a strong style of figurative [surrealism](/wiki/Surrealism), as in the works of [Ivan Albright](/wiki/Ivan_Albright) and [Ed Paschke](/wiki/Ed_Paschke). In 1968 and 1969, members of the [Chicago Imagists](/wiki/Chicago_Imagists), such as [Roger Brown](/wiki/Roger_Brown_(artist)), [Leon Golub](/wiki/Leon_Golub), [Robert Lostutter](/wiki/Robert_Lostutter), [Jim Nutt](/wiki/Jim_Nutt), and [Barbara Rossi](/wiki/Barbara_Rossi) produced bizarre representational paintings.

Chicago contains a number of large, outdoor works by well-known artists. These include the [Chicago Picasso](/wiki/Chicago_Picasso), [*Miró's Chicago*](/wiki/Miró's_Chicago), [*Flamingo*](/wiki/Flamingo_(sculpture)) and [*Flying Dragon*](/wiki/Flying_Dragon_(Calder)) by [Alexander Calder](/wiki/Alexander_Calder), [*Agora*](/wiki/Agora_(sculpture)) by [Magdalena Abakanowicz](/wiki/Magdalena_Abakanowicz), [*Monument with Standing Beast*](/wiki/Monument_with_Standing_Beast) by [Jean Dubuffet](/wiki/Jean_Dubuffet), [*Batcolumn*](/wiki/Batcolumn) by [Claes Oldenburg](/wiki/Claes_Oldenburg), [*Cloud Gate*](/wiki/Cloud_Gate) by [Anish Kapoor](/wiki/Anish_Kapoor), [*Crown Fountain*](/wiki/Crown_Fountain) by [Jaume Plensa](/wiki/Jaume_Plensa), and the [*Four Seasons*](/wiki/Four_Seasons_(Chagall)) mosaic by [Marc Chagall](/wiki/Marc_Chagall).

Chicago also has a nationally televised Thanksgiving parade that occurs annually. The [McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade](/wiki/McDonald's_Thanksgiving_Parade) is seen across the nation on [WGN-TV](/wiki/WGN-TV) and [WGN America](/wiki/WGN_America), featuring a variety of diverse acts from the community, marching bands from across the country, and is the only parade in the city to feature inflatable balloons every year.[[124]](#cite_note-124)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Ferries offer sightseeing tour along the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.](/wiki/File:Chicago_River_ferry.jpg) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Michigan_Avenue_-_Chicago.jpg)[The Magnificent Mile](/wiki/The_Magnificent_Mile) hosts numerous upscale stores, as well as landmarks like the [Chicago Water Tower](/wiki/Chicago_Water_Tower) [thumb|upright|View of](/wiki/File:Navy_pier.jpg) [Navy Pier](/wiki/Navy_Pier) from the 23rd floor of [Lake Point Tower](/wiki/Lake_Point_Tower)

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Chicago attracted 50.17 million domestic leisure travelers, 11.09 million domestic business travelers and 1.308 million overseas visitors.[[125]](#cite_note-125) These visitors contributed more than [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$) billion to Chicago's economy.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Upscale shopping along the [Magnificent Mile](/wiki/Magnificent_Mile) and [State Street](/wiki/State_Street_(Chicago)), thousands of restaurants, as well as Chicago's eminent architecture, continue to draw tourists. The city is the United States' third-largest [convention](/wiki/Convention_(meeting)) destination. A 2011 study by [Walk Score](/wiki/Walk_Score) ranked Chicago the fourth most walkable of fifty largest cities in the United States.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Most conventions are held at [McCormick Place](/wiki/McCormick_Place), just south of [Soldier Field](/wiki/Soldier_Field). The historic [Chicago Cultural Center](/wiki/Chicago_Cultural_Center) (1897), originally serving as the [Chicago Public Library](/wiki/Chicago_Public_Library), now houses the city's Visitor Information Center, galleries and exhibit halls. The ceiling of its Preston Bradley Hall includes a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Tiffany glass](/wiki/Tiffany_glass) dome. [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)) holds [Millennium Park](/wiki/Millennium_Park), [Buckingham Fountain](/wiki/Buckingham_Fountain) (1927), and the [Art Institute of Chicago](/wiki/Art_Institute_of_Chicago). The park also hosts the annual [Taste of Chicago](/wiki/Taste_of_Chicago) festival. In Millennium Park, there is the reflective [*Cloud Gate*](/wiki/Cloud_Gate) sculpture. Cloud Gate, a public sculpture by Indian-born British artist Anish Kapoor, is the centerpiece of the AT&T Plaza in Millennium Park. Also, an outdoor restaurant transforms into an [ice rink](/wiki/Ice_rink) in the winter season. Two tall glass sculptures make up the [Crown Fountain](/wiki/Crown_Fountain). The fountain's two towers display visual effects from LED images of Chicagoans' faces, along with water spouting from their lips. [Frank Gehry's](/wiki/Frank_Gehry) detailed, stainless steel band shell, the [Jay Pritzker Pavilion](/wiki/Jay_Pritzker_Pavilion), hosts the classical [Grant Park Music Festival](/wiki/Grant_Park_Music_Festival) concert series. Behind the pavilion's stage is the [Harris Theater for Music and Dance](/wiki/Harris_Theater_(Chicago,_Illinois)), an indoor venue for mid-sized performing arts companies, including the [Chicago Opera Theater](/wiki/Chicago_Opera_Theater) and [Music of the Baroque](/wiki/Music_of_the_Baroque).

[Navy Pier](/wiki/Navy_Pier), located just east of [Streeterville](/wiki/Streeterville), is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long and houses retail stores, restaurants, museums, exhibition halls and auditoriums. In the summer of 2016, Navy Pier will have constructed their new DW60 Ferris wheel. Dutch Wheels a world renowned company that manufactures ferris wheels was selected to design the new wheel.[[127]](#cite_note-127) It will feature 42 navy blue gondolas that can hold up to eight adults and two kids. It will also have entertainment systems inside the gondolas as well as a climate controlled environment. The DW60 will stand at approximately 196 ft (60 m), which is 46 ft taller than the previous wheel. The new DW60 will be the first in the United States and will be the sixth tallest in the U.S.[[128]](#cite_note-128) Chicago was the first city in the world to ever erect a ferris wheel.

On June 4, 1998, the city officially opened the [Museum Campus](/wiki/Museum_Campus), a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) lakefront park, surrounding three of the city's main museums, each of which is of national importance: the [Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum](/wiki/Adler_Planetarium_&_Astronomy_Museum), the [Field Museum of Natural History](/wiki/Field_Museum_of_Natural_History), and the [Shedd Aquarium](/wiki/Shedd_Aquarium). The Museum Campus joins the southern section of [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)), which includes the renowned [Art Institute of Chicago](/wiki/Art_Institute_of_Chicago). [Buckingham Fountain](/wiki/Buckingham_Fountain) anchors the downtown park along the lakefront. The [University of Chicago Oriental Institute](/wiki/University_of_Chicago_Oriental_Institute) has an extensive collection of [ancient Egyptian](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) and [Near Eastern](/wiki/Near_East) archaeological artifacts. Other museums and galleries in Chicago include the [Chicago History Museum](/wiki/Chicago_History_Museum), the [Driehaus Museum](/wiki/Driehaus_Museum), the [DuSable Museum of African American History](/wiki/DuSable_Museum_of_African_American_History), the [Museum of Contemporary Art](/wiki/Museum_of_Contemporary_Art,_Chicago), the [Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](/wiki/Peggy_Notebaert_Nature_Museum), the [Polish Museum of America](/wiki/Polish_Museum_of_America), the [Museum of Broadcast Communications](/wiki/Museum_of_Broadcast_Communications), the [Pritzker Military Library](/wiki/Pritzker_Military_Library), the [Chicago Architecture Foundation](/wiki/Chicago_Architecture_Foundation), and the [Museum of Science and Industry](/wiki/Museum_of_Science_and_Industry_(Chicago)).

With an estimated completion date of 2020, the [Barack Obama Presidential Center](/wiki/Barack_Obama_Presidential_Center) will be housed at the University of Chicago in [Hyde Park](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Chicago) and include both the Obama presidential library and offices of the Obama Foundation.[[129]](#cite_note-129) The Willis Tower (formerly named Sears Tower) is a popular destination for tourists. The Willis Tower has an observation deck open to tourists year round with high up views overlooking Chicago and Lake Michigan. The observation deck includes an enclosed glass balcony that extends 10 feet out on the side of the building. Tourists are able to look straight down.

In 2013, Chicago was chosen as one of the "Top Ten Cities in the United States" to visit for its restaurants, skyscrapers, museums, and waterfront, by the readers of [*Condé Nast Traveler*](/wiki/Condé_Nast_Traveler).[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Giordanos_stuffed_pizza.jpg)[Chicago-style pizza](/wiki/Chicago-style_pizza) [thumb|right| A](/wiki/File:Polish_Market_in_Chicago.jpeg) [Polish](/wiki/Poles_in_Chicago) market in Chicago Chicago lays claim to a large number of regional specialties that reflect the city's ethnic and working-class roots. Included among these are its nationally renowned [deep-dish pizza](/wiki/Chicago-style_pizza); this style is said to have originated at [Pizzeria Uno](/wiki/Uno_Chicago_Grill).[[132]](#cite_note-132) The Chicago-style thin crust is also popular in the city.[[133]](#cite_note-133) The [Chicago-style hot dog](/wiki/Chicago-style_hot_dog), typically an all-beef hot dog, is loaded with an array of toppings that often includes pickle relish, [yellow mustard](/wiki/Mustard_(condiment)#Yellow_mustard), pickled [sport peppers](/wiki/Chili_pepper), [tomato](/wiki/Tomato) wedges, [dill pickle](/wiki/Dill_pickle) spear and topped off with [celery salt](/wiki/Celery_salt) on a [poppy seed](/wiki/Poppy_seed) [bun](/wiki/Hot_dog_bun).[[134]](#cite_note-134) Enthusiasts of the Chicago-style dog frown upon the use of [ketchup](/wiki/Ketchup) as a garnish, but may prefer to add [giardiniera](/wiki/Giardiniera).[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137) There are several distinctly Chicago sandwiches, among them the [Italian beef](/wiki/Italian_beef) sandwich, which is thinly sliced beef simmered in [au jus](/wiki/Au_jus) and served on an Italian roll with sweet peppers or spicy giardiniera. A popular modification is the Combo—an Italian beef sandwich with the addition of an Italian sausage. Another is the [Maxwell Street Polish](/wiki/Maxwell_Street_Polish), a grilled or deep-fried [kielbasa](/wiki/Kielbasa) — on a hot dog roll, topped with grilled onions, yellow mustard, and hot sport peppers.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Ethnically originated creations include [chicken Vesuvio](/wiki/Chicken_Vesuvio), with roasted bone-in chicken cooked in oil and garlic next to garlicky oven-roasted potato wedges and a sprinkling of green peas. Another is the Puerto Rican-influenced [jibarito](/wiki/Jibarito), a sandwich made with flattened, fried green plantains instead of bread. There is also the [mother-in-law](/wiki/Mother-in-law_(sandwich)), a tamale topped with chili and served on a hot dog bun.[[139]](#cite_note-139) The tradition of serving the [Greek](/wiki/Greeks) dish, [saganaki](/wiki/Saganaki) while aflame, has its origins in Chicago's Greek community.[[140]](#cite_note-140) The appetizer, which consists of a square of fried cheese, is doused with [Metaxa](/wiki/Metaxa) and [flambéed](/wiki/Flambéed) table-side.[[141]](#cite_note-141) A number of well-known chefs have had restaurants in Chicago, including [Charlie Trotter](/wiki/Charlie_Trotter), [Rick Tramonto](/wiki/Rick_Tramonto), [Grant Achatz](/wiki/Grant_Achatz), and [Rick Bayless](/wiki/Rick_Bayless). In 2003, [*Robb Report*](/wiki/Robb_Report) named Chicago the country's "most exceptional dining destination."[[142]](#cite_note-142) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Carl_Sandburg_NYWTS.jpg)[Carl Sandburg's](/wiki/Carl_Sandburg) most famous description of the city is as *"Hog Butcher for the World/Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat/ Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler,/ Stormy, Husky, Brawling, City of the Big Shoulders."*

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Chicago literature finds its roots in the city's tradition of lucid, direct journalism, lending to a strong tradition of [social realism](/wiki/Social_realism). In the [*Encyclopedia of Chicago*](/wiki/Encyclopedia_of_Chicago), [Northwestern University](/wiki/Northwestern_University) Professor Bill Savage describes Chicago fiction as prose which tries to *"capture the essence of the city, its spaces and its people."* The challenge for early writers was that Chicago was a frontier outpost that transformed into a global metropolis in the span of two generations. Narrative fiction of that time, much of it in the style of "high-flown romance" and "genteel realism", needed a new approach to describe the urban social, political, and economic conditions of Chicago.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Nonetheless, Chicagoans worked hard to create a literary tradition that would stand the test of time,[[144]](#cite_note-144) and create a "city of feeling" out of concrete, steel, vast lake, and open prairie.[[145]](#cite_note-145) Much notable Chicago fiction focuses on the city itself, with social criticism keeping exultation in check.

At least, three short periods in the [history of Chicago](/wiki/History_of_Chicago) have had a lasting influence on [American Literature](/wiki/American_Literature).[[146]](#cite_note-146) These include from the time of the [Great Chicago Fire](/wiki/Great_Chicago_Fire) to about 1900, what became known as the Chicago Literary Renaissance in the 1910s and early 1920s, and the period of the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) through the 1940s.

What would become the influential [*Poetry*](/wiki/Poetry_(magazine)) magazine was founded in 1912 by [Harriet Monroe](/wiki/Harriet_Monroe), who was working as an [art](/wiki/Art) [critic](/wiki/Critic) for the [*Chicago Tribune*](/wiki/Chicago_Tribune). The magazine discovered such poets as [Gwendolyn Brooks](/wiki/Gwendolyn_Brooks), [James Merrill](/wiki/James_Merrill), and [John Ashbery](/wiki/John_Ashbery).[[147]](#cite_note-147) [T. S. Eliot's](/wiki/T. S. Eliot) first professionally published poem, "[The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock](/wiki/The_Love_Song_of_J. Alfred_Prufrock)", was first published by *Poetry*. Contributors have included [Ezra Pound](/wiki/Ezra_Pound), [William Butler Yeats](/wiki/William_Butler_Yeats), [William Carlos Williams](/wiki/William_Carlos_Williams), [Langston Hughes](/wiki/Langston_Hughes), and [Carl Sandburg](/wiki/Carl_Sandburg), among others. The magazine was instrumental in launching the [Imagist](/wiki/Imagist) and [Objectivist](/wiki/Objectivist_poets) poetic movements.

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[*Sporting News*](/wiki/Sporting_News) named Chicago the "Best Sports City" in the United States in 1993, 2006, and 2010.[[148]](#cite_note-148) Along with Boston, Chicago is the only city to continuously host major professional sports since 1871, having only taken 1872 and 1873 off due to the Great Chicago Fire. Additionally, Chicago is one of the six cities in the United States to have won championships in [the four major professional leagues](/wiki/Major_professional_sports_leagues_in_the_United_States_and_Canada) and, along with New York and Los Angeles, is one of three cities to have won soccer championships as well. Several major franchises have won championships within recent years – the Bears (1985), the Bulls (91, '92, '93, '96, '97, and '98), the White Sox (2005), the Blackhawks (2010, 2013, 2015), and the Fire (1998).

The city has two [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) (MLB) teams: the [Chicago Cubs](/wiki/Chicago_Cubs) of the National League play in [Wrigley Field](/wiki/Wrigley_Field) on the North Side; and the [Chicago White Sox](/wiki/Chicago_White_Sox) of the American League play in [U.S. Cellular Field](/wiki/U.S._Cellular_Field) on the South Side. Chicago is the only city that has had more than one MLB franchise every year since the AL began in 1901 (New York hosted only one between 1958 and early 1962). The Cubs are the oldest Major League Baseball team to have never changed their city;[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) they have played in Chicago since 1871, and continuously so since 1874 due to the Great Chicago Fire. They have played more games and have more wins than any other team in Major League baseball since 1876.[[149]](#cite_note-149) They have won two World Series titles, but have the dubious honor of having the two longest droughts in American professional sports: They have not won their sport's title since [1908](/wiki/1908_Chicago_Cubs_season), and have not participated in a World Series since [1945](/wiki/1945_Chicago_Cubs_season), both records.

The White Sox have played on the South Side continuously since 1901, with all three of their home fields throughout the years being within blocks of one another. They have won three World Series titles (1906, 1917, 2005) and six American League pennants, including the first in 1901. The Sox are fifth in the American League in all-time wins, and sixth in pennants.

The [Chicago Bears](/wiki/Chicago_Bears), one of the last two remaining charter members of the [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League) (NFL), have won nine [NFL Championships](/wiki/List_of_NFL_champions), including the 1985 [Super Bowl XX](/wiki/Super_Bowl XX). The other remaining charter franchise, the [Chicago Cardinals](/wiki/History_of_the_Chicago_Cardinals), also started out in the city, but is now known as the [Arizona Cardinals](/wiki/Arizona_Cardinals). The Bears have won more games in the history of the NFL than any other team,[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) and only the [Green Bay Packers](/wiki/Green_Bay_Packers), their longtime rivals, have won more championships. The Bears play their home games at [Soldier Field](/wiki/Soldier_Field). Soldier Field re-opened in 2003 after an extensive renovation.

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:20070909_Chicago_Half_Marathon.JPG)[Chicago Half Marathon](/wiki/Chicago_Half_Marathon) on [Lake Shore Drive](/wiki/Lake_Shore_Drive) on the [South Side](/wiki/South_Side_(Chicago)).

The [Chicago Bulls](/wiki/Chicago_Bulls) of the [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA) is one of the most recognized basketball teams in the world.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) During the 1990s, with [Michael Jordan](/wiki/Michael_Jordan) leading them, the Bulls won six NBA championships in eight seasons.<ref name=bulls\_dynasty>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[150]](#cite_note-150) They also boast the youngest player to win the [NBA Most Valuable Player Award](/wiki/NBA_Most_Valuable_Player_Award), [Derrick Rose](/wiki/Derrick_Rose), who won it for the [2010–11 season](/wiki/2010–11_NBA_season).[[151]](#cite_note-151) The [Chicago Blackhawks](/wiki/Chicago_Blackhawks) of the [National Hockey League](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) (NHL) began play in 1926, and are one of the "[Original Six](/wiki/Original_Six)" teams of the NHL. The Blackhawks have won six [Stanley Cups](/wiki/Stanley_Cup), including in 2010, 2013, and [2015](/wiki/2015_Stanley_Cup_Finals). Both the Bulls and the Blackhawks play at the [United Center](/wiki/United_Center).

|  |
| --- |
| + Major league professional teams in Chicago (ranked by attendance) |
| **Club** | **League** | **Sport** | **Venue** | **Attendance** | **Founded** | **Championships** |
| [Chicago Bears](/wiki/Chicago_Bears) | [NFL](/wiki/National_Football_League) | [Football](/wiki/American_football) | [Soldier Field](/wiki/Soldier_Field) | 62,358 | 1919 | 9 [Championships](/wiki/NFL_Championships) (1 [Super Bowl](/wiki/Super_Bowl)) |
| [Chicago Cubs](/wiki/Chicago_Cubs) | [MLB](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [Wrigley Field](/wiki/Wrigley_Field) | 42,495 | 1870 | 2 [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) wins |
| [Chicago White Sox](/wiki/Chicago_White_Sox) | [MLB](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [U.S. Cellular Field](/wiki/U.S._Cellular_Field) | 40,615 | 1900 | 3 [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) |
| [Chicago Blackhawks](/wiki/Chicago_Blackhawks) | [NHL](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) | [Ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [United Center](/wiki/United_Center) | 21,775 | 1926 | 6 [Stanley Cups](/wiki/Stanley_Cup) |
| [Chicago Bulls](/wiki/Chicago_Bulls) | [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | [United Center](/wiki/United_Center) | 21,716 | 1966 | 6 NBA Championships |
| [Chicago Fire](/wiki/Chicago_Fire_Soccer_Club) | [MLS](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) | [Soccer](/wiki/Association_football) | [Toyota Park](/wiki/Toyota_Park) | 16,409 | 1997 | 1 [MLS Cup](/wiki/MLS_Cup), 1 [Supporters Shield](/wiki/Supporters_Shield) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The [Chicago Fire Soccer Club](/wiki/Chicago_Fire_Soccer_Club) is a member of [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) (MLS) and plays at [Toyota Park](/wiki/Toyota_Park) in suburban [Bridgeview](/wiki/Bridgeview,_Illinois), after playing its first eight seasons at [Soldier Field](/wiki/Soldier_Field). The Fire have won one league title and four [U.S. Open Cups](/wiki/Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup), since their founding in 1997. In 1994, the United States hosted a successful [FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1994_FIFA_World_Cup) with games played at [Soldier Field](/wiki/Soldier_Field). The [Chicago Sky](/wiki/Chicago_Sky) is a professional basketball team based in [Rosemont, Illinois](/wiki/Rosemont,_Illinois), playing in the [Women's National Basketball Association](/wiki/Women's_National_Basketball_Association) (WNBA). They play home games at the [Allstate Arena](/wiki/Allstate_Arena). The team was founded before the 2006 WNBA season began.

The [Chicago Marathon](/wiki/Chicago_Marathon) has been held each year since 1977 except for 1987, when a half marathon was run in its place. The Chicago Marathon is one of six [World Marathon Majors](/wiki/World_Marathon_Majors).[[152]](#cite_note-152) Five area colleges play in [Division I](/wiki/Division_I_(NCAA)) conferences: two from major conferences — the [DePaul Blue Demons](/wiki/DePaul_Blue_Demons) ([Big East Conference](/wiki/Big_East_Conference)) and the [Northwestern Wildcats](/wiki/Northwestern_Wildcats) ([Big Ten Conference](/wiki/Big_Ten_Conference)) — and three from other D1 conferences — the [Chicago State Cougars](/wiki/Chicago_State_Cougars) ([Western Athletic Conference](/wiki/Western_Athletic_Conference)); the [Loyola Ramblers](/wiki/Loyola_Ramblers) ([Missouri Valley Conference](/wiki/Missouri_Valley_Conference)); and the [UIC Flames](/wiki/UIC_Flames) ([Horizon League](/wiki/Horizon_League)).[[153]](#cite_note-153)

## Parks and Greenspace[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) When Chicago was incorporated in 1837, it chose the motto *Urbs in Horto*, a [Latin](/wiki/Latin) phrase which means "City in a Garden". Today, the [Chicago Park District](/wiki/Chicago_Park_District) consists of more than 570 parks with over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [municipal parkland](/wiki/Municipal_park). There are 31 sand [beaches](/wiki/List_of_beaches_in_Chicago,_Illinois), a plethora of museums, two world-class conservatories, and 50 nature areas.[[154]](#cite_note-154) [Lincoln Park](/wiki/Lincoln_Park), the largest of the city's parks, covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and has over 20 million visitors each year, making it third in the number of visitors after [Central Park](/wiki/Central_Park) in [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City), and the [National Mall and Memorial Parks](/wiki/National_Mall_and_Memorial_Parks) in [Washington, D.C.](/wiki/Washington,_D.C.)[[155]](#cite_note-155) There is an historic [boulevard system](/wiki/Chicago_boulevard_system),[[156]](#cite_note-156) a network of wide, tree-lined [boulevards](/wiki/Boulevard) which connect a number of Chicago [parks](/wiki/Parks_in_Chicago).<ref name=WTTW>["Biking the Boulevards with Geoffrey Baer"](http://www.wttw.com/main.taf?p=74,3), WTTW. Retrieved March 31, 2016.</ref> The boulevards and the parks were authorized by the Illinois legislature in 1869.[[157]](#cite_note-157) A number of [Chicago neighborhoods](/wiki/Neighborhoods_of_Chicago) emerged along these roadways in the 19th century.<ref name=WTTW/> The building of the boulevard system continued intermittently until 1942. It includes nineteen boulevards, eight parks, and six [squares](/wiki/Town_square), along twenty-six miles of interconnected streets.[[158]](#cite_note-158) Part of the system in the [Logan Square Boulevards Historic District](/wiki/Logan_Square_Boulevards_Historic_District) was listed in the [National Register of Historic Places](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places) in 1985.[[159]](#cite_note-159) With berths for more than 6,000 boats, the Chicago Park District operates the nation's largest municipal harbor system.[[160]](#cite_note-160) In addition to ongoing beautification and renewal projects for the existing parks, a number of new parks have been added in recent years, such as the [Ping Tom Memorial Park](/wiki/Ping_Tom_Memorial_Park) in Chinatown, [DuSable Park](/wiki/DuSable_Park_(Chicago)) on the Near North Side, and most notably, [Millennium Park](/wiki/Millennium_Park), which is in the northwestern corner of one of Chicago's oldest parks, [Grant Park](/wiki/Grant_Park_(Chicago)) in the Chicago Loop.

The wealth of greenspace afforded by Chicago's parks is further augmented by the [Cook County Forest Preserves](/wiki/Cook_County_Forest_Preserves), a network of open spaces containing forest, [prairie](/wiki/Prairie), [wetland](/wiki/Wetland), streams, and lakes that are set aside as natural areas which lie along the city's outskirts,[[161]](#cite_note-161) including both the [Chicago Botanic Garden](/wiki/Chicago_Botanic_Garden) in [Glencoe](/wiki/Glencoe,_Illinois) and the [Brookfield Zoo](/wiki/Brookfield_Zoo) in [Brookfield](/wiki/Brookfield,_Illinois).[[162]](#cite_note-162) [Washington Park](/wiki/Washington_Park_(Chicago_park)) is also one of the city's biggest parks; covering nearly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The park is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places listings in South Side Chicago](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_South_Side_Chicago).

## Law and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

### Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Daley_Plaza_060716.jpg)[Daley Plaza](/wiki/Daley_Plaza) with [Picasso statue](/wiki/Chicago_Picasso) and [City Hall](/wiki/Chicago_City_Hall) in background. State law courts are in the Daley Plaza Building at right The government of the City of Chicago is divided into executive and [legislative](/wiki/Legislature) branches. The [Mayor of Chicago](/wiki/Mayor_of_Chicago) is the chief executive, elected by general election for a term of four years, with no term limits. The current mayor is [Rahm Emanuel](/wiki/Rahm_Emanuel). The mayor appoints commissioners and other officials who oversee the various departments. As well as the mayor, Chicago's clerk and treasurer are also elected citywide. The [City Council](/wiki/Chicago_City_Council) is the legislative branch and is made up of 50 aldermen, one elected from each [ward](/wiki/Wards_of_the_United_States) in the city.[[163]](#cite_note-163) The council takes official action through the passage of [ordinances](/wiki/Local_ordinance) and resolutions and approves the city budget.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The [Chicago Police Department](/wiki/Chicago_Police_Department) provides law enforcement and the [Chicago Fire Department](/wiki/Chicago_Fire_Department) provides fire suppression and emergency medical services for the city and its residents. Civil and criminal law cases are heard in the [Cook County Circuit Court](/wiki/Cook_County_Circuit_Court) of the State of Illinois court system, or in the [Northern District of Illinois](/wiki/Northern_District_of_Illinois), in the federal system. In the state court, the public prosecutor is the Illinois [State's Attorney](/wiki/State's_Attorney); in the Federal court it is the United States [Attorney](/wiki/District_Attorney).

### Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) During much of the last half of the 19th century, Chicago's politics were dominated by a growing [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) organization. During the 1880s and 1890s, Chicago had a powerful radical tradition with large and highly organized socialist, [anarchist](/wiki/Anarchism) and labor organizations.[[165]](#cite_note-165) For much of the 20th century, Chicago has been among the largest and most reliable Democratic strongholds in the United States; with Chicago's Democratic vote the state of Illinois has been "[solid blue](/wiki/Red_states_and_blue_states)" in [presidential elections](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election) since 1992. Even before then, it was not unheard of for Republican presidential candidates to win handily in downstate Illinois, only to lose statewide due to large Democratic margins in Chicago. The citizens of Chicago have not elected a [Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) mayor since 1927, when [William Thompson](/wiki/William_Hale_Thompson) was voted into office. The strength of the party in the city is partly a consequence of Illinois state politics, where the Republicans have come to represent rural and farm concerns while the Democrats support urban issues such as Chicago's public school funding. Chicago contains less than 25% of the state's population, but 8 of Illinois' 19 [U.S. Representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) have part of Chicago in their [districts](/wiki/Illinois's_congressional_districts).

[Machine politics](/wiki/Machine_politics) persisted in Chicago after the decline of similar machines in other large U.S. cities.[[166]](#cite_note-166) During much of that time, the city administration found opposition mainly from a liberal "independent" faction of the Democratic Party. The independents finally gained control of city government in 1983 with the election of [Harold Washington](/wiki/Harold_Washington) (in office 1983–1987). From 1989 until May 16, 2011, Chicago was under the leadership of its longest serving mayor, [Richard M. Daley](/wiki/Richard_M._Daley), the son of Richard J. Daley. On May 16, 2011, [Rahm Emanuel](/wiki/Rahm_Emanuel) was sworn in as the 55th mayor of Chicago. Because of the dominance of the Democratic Party in Chicago, the Democratic [primary](/wiki/Primary_election) vote held in the spring is generally more significant than the general elections in November for U.S. House and Illinois State seats. The aldermanic, mayoral, and other city offices are filled through nonpartisan elections with runoffs as needed.

Formerly a state legislator representing Chicago and later a US Senator, the city is home of United States President [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) and First Lady [Michelle Obama](/wiki/Michelle_Obama).

### Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Chicago_Police_SUV.jpg)[Chicago Police Department](/wiki/Chicago_Police_Department) SUV, 2011 Chicago had a murder rate of 18.5 per 100,000 residents in 2012, ranking 16th among cities with 100,000 people or more.[[167]](#cite_note-167) This was higher than in New York City and Los Angeles, the two largest cities in the United States, which have lower murder rates and lower total homicides. However, it was less than in many smaller American cities, including [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans), [Newark](/wiki/Newark,_New_Jersey), and [Detroit](/wiki/Detroit), which had 53 murders per 100,000 residents in 2012.[[168]](#cite_note-168) According to reports in 2013, "most of Chicago's violent crime comes from gangs trying to maintain control of drug-selling territories",[[169]](#cite_note-169) and is specifically related to the activities of the [Sinaloa Cartel](/wiki/Sinaloa_Cartel), which by 2006 had decided to seek to control illicit drug distribution, against local street gangs.[[170]](#cite_note-170) Violent crime rates vary significantly by area of the city, with more economically developed areas having low rates, but other sections have much higher rates of crime.[[169]](#cite_note-169) In 2013, the violent crime rate was 910 per 100,000 people;[[171]](#cite_note-171) the murder rate was 10.4 -- while high crime districts saw 38.9, low crime districts saw 2.5 murders per 100,000.[[172]](#cite_note-172) The number of murders in Chicago peaked at 970 in 1974, when the city's population was over 3 million people (a murder rate of about 29 per 100,000), and it reached 943 murders in 1992, (a murder rate of 34 per 100,000).[[173]](#cite_note-173) However, Chicago and other major U.S. cities, experienced a significant reduction in violent crime rates through the 1990s, falling to 448 [homicides](/wiki/Homicide) in 2004, its lowest total since 1965 and only 15.65 murders per 100,000). Chicago's homicide tally remained low during 2005 (449), 2006 (452), and 2007 (435) but rose to 510 in 2008, breaking 500 for the first time since 2003.[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175) In 2009, the murder count fell to 458 (10% down).[[176]](#cite_note-176) and in 2010 Chicago's murder rate fell to 435 (16.14 per 100,000), a 5% decrease from 2009 and lowest levels since 1965.[[177]](#cite_note-177) In 2011, Chicago's murders fell another 1.2% to 431 (a rate of 15.94 per 100,000).[[178]](#cite_note-178) but shot up to 506 in 2012.[[179]](#cite_note-179)[[180]](#cite_note-180) In 2012, Chicago ranked 21st in the United States in numbers of homicides per person, but in the first half of 2013 there was a significant drop per-person, in all categories of violent crime, including homicide (down 26%).[[181]](#cite_note-181) Chicago ended 2013 with 415 murders, the lowest number of murders since 1965, and overall crime rates dropped by 16 percent.[[182]](#cite_note-182) (In 1965, there were 397 murders.[[183]](#cite_note-183))

Jens Ludwig, director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, estimated that shootings cost the city of Chicago $2.5 billion in 2012.[[184]](#cite_note-184) In 2014, the Chicago police department reported a total murder count of 390 through December 20, 2014, according to the Chicago Suntimes. That means that Chicago was able to record their lowest number of murder totals in close to five years for the second continuous calendar year, despite an overall increase in shootings. The Cook County medical examiner's office had reported a total of 410 homicides with 16 of those including fatal police shootings, all within the same time period.

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[thumb| Since its completion in 1991, the](/wiki/File:Harold_Washington_Library,_Chicago,_IL_-_front_oblique.jpg) [Harold Washington Library](/wiki/Harold_Washington_Library) has appeared in [*Guinness World Records*](/wiki/Guinness_World_Records) as the largest public library building in the world [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Schools and libraries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Chicago Public Schools](/wiki/Chicago_Public_Schools) (CPS) is the governing body of the [school district](/wiki/School_district) that contains over 600 public elementary and high schools citywide, including several selective-admission magnet schools. There are eleven selective enrollment high schools in the Chicago Public Schools,[[185]](#cite_note-185)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Durban**](/wiki/Durban) (South Africa) *1997*

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Galway**](/wiki/Galway) (Ireland) *1997*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Moscow**](/wiki/Moscow) (Russia) *1997*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Lucerne**](/wiki/Lucerne) (Switzerland) *1998*[[226]](#cite_note-226)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Delhi**](/wiki/Delhi) (India) *2001*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Amman**](/wiki/Amman) (Jordan) *2004*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Belgrade**](/wiki/Belgrade) (Serbia) *2005*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Lahore**](/wiki/Lahore) (Pakistan) *2007*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Busan**](/wiki/Busan) (South Korea) *2007*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [**Bogotá**](/wiki/Bogotá) (Colombia) *2009*

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Chicago Wilderness](/wiki/Chicago_Wilderness)
* [List of cities with the most skyscrapers](/wiki/List_of_cities_with_the_most_skyscrapers)
* [List of fiction set in Chicago](/wiki/List_of_fiction_set_in_Chicago)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in Central Chicago](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Central_Chicago)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in North Side Chicago](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_North_Side_Chicago)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in South Side Chicago](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_South_Side_Chicago)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in West Side Chicago](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_West_Side_Chicago)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Notes and references[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

Notes

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

References

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Spoken Wikipedia](/wiki/Template:Spoken_Wikipedia) [Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Official website](http://www.cityofchicago.org/)
* [Choose Chicago](http://www.choosechicago.com/) *official tourism website*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Maps of Chicago from the American Geographical Society Library](http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=all&CISOBOX1=Illinois&CISOFIELD1=statep&CISOOP2=all&CISOBOX2=chicago+%28ill%29+--+maps&CISOFIELD2=subjec&CISOROOT=/agdm&t=s)
* [Template:HALS](/wiki/Template:HALS)
* [Chicago - LocalWiki](https://localwiki.org/chicago//) Local Chicago Wiki

[Template:Chicago](/wiki/Template:Chicago) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Chicago, Illinois](/wiki/Category:Chicago,_Illinois) [Category:Cities in the Chicago metropolitan area](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_the_Chicago_metropolitan_area) [Category:1833 establishments in Illinois](/wiki/Category:1833_establishments_in_Illinois) [Category:Cities in Cook County, Illinois](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Cook_County,_Illinois) [Category:Cities in DuPage County, Illinois](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_DuPage_County,_Illinois) [Category:Cities in Illinois](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Illinois) [Category:County seats in Illinois](/wiki/Category:County_seats_in_Illinois) [Category:Inland port cities and towns of the United States](/wiki/Category:Inland_port_cities_and_towns_of_the_United_States) [Category:Populated places established in 1833](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_established_in_1833) [Category:Populated places on the Great Lakes](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_on_the_Great_Lakes) [Category:Articles containing video clips](/wiki/Category:Articles_containing_video_clips)