#### WikipediA

# List of geographic centers of the United States

This is a **list of geographic centers** of each <u>U.S. state</u> and each inhabited <u>territory</u>. Note that the geographic center of the 50 states is northeast of <u>Belle Fourche</u> in <u>Butte County</u>, South <u>Dakota 44°58′N 103°46′W</u>, <sup>[1]</sup> while that of the <u>contiguous 48 states</u> is near <u>Lebanon</u> in <u>Smith County</u>, <u>Kansas 39°50′N 98°35′W</u>. <sup>[1]</sup> The geographic center of North America lies near <u>Rugby</u>, North <u>Dakota 48°10′N 100°10′W</u>, though this designation has no official status. <sup>[1]</sup> In 2017, a new calculation of the geographic center of North America put it near the town of Center, North Dakota. <sup>[2]</sup>

The geographic center of the *entire* U.S. (i.e. the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories) has never been calculated.

#### **Contents**

Geographic centers of the states and the District of Columbia

**Updated list of geographic centers** 

Geographic centers of the U.S. territories

See also

**Notes** 

References

General

## Geographic centers of the states and the District of Columbia

The list given below has been only slightly modified since it was first produced by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the early 1920s.<sup>[3]</sup> At that time, the center for a state was found by suspending a cardboard cutout of the state by a string, and then drawing a vertical line from the suspension point. After rotating the cutout 90 degrees and drawing another vertical line from the new suspension point, the intersection of the two vertical lines was used as the geographic center.<sup>[4]</sup> The result is dependent upon the type of projection used.

Geographic centers of the states of the United States and the District of Columbia

State or federal district	County	Location	Coordinates	
X Alabama	Chilton County	Clanton	32°50′5″N 86°38′0″W	
Alaska	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Tanana	64°43′54″N 152°28′12″W	
<u>Arizona</u>	Yavapai County	Camp Verde		
Arkansas	Pulaski County	Little Rock		
<u> California</u>	Madera County	North Fork	37°9′58″N 119°26′58″W	
Colorado	Park County	40 mi (64 km) west of <u>Colorado Springs</u> , southwest of <u>Castle Rock</u>	39°00′00″N 105°32′50″W	
Connecticut	Hartford County	Berlin		
<u> Delaware</u>	Kent County	11 mi (18 km) southwest of Dover	38°58′48″N 75°30′42″W	
District of Columbia	District of Columbia[note 1]	Near 4th and L Streets, Northwest	38°54′15″N 77°00′58″W	
<b>Florida</b>	Hernando County	12 mi (19 km) north-northwest of Brooksville	28°40′53″N 82°27′36″W	
Georgia	Twiggs County	18 mi (29 km) southeast of Macon	32°39′43.6″N 83°26′17.9″W	
Hawaii	Maui County	off-shore southwest of Molokai and west of Lanai		
<u>Idaho</u>	Custer County	on the Yankee Fork River, southwest of Challis		
Illinois	Sangamon County	1.5 mi (2.4 km) southeast of Rochester	39°44′21.5″N 89°30′13.1″W	
Indiana	Hendricks County	2 mi (3.2 km) west of Avon	39°45′57.7″N 86°26′28.6″W	
lowa	Story County	5 mi (8.0 km) northeast of Ames		
Kansas	Barton County	15 mi (24 km) northeast of Great Bend		
Kentucky	Boyle County	3 mi (4.8 km) north-northwest of Danville		
<u>&amp;</u> Louisiana	Avoyelles Parish	3 mi (4.8 km) southeast of Marksville		
Maine	Piscataquis County	18 mi (29 km) north of Dover-Foxcroft	45°15′11.9982″N 69°13′59.9988″W	
<b>Maryland</b>	Prince George's County	4.5 mi (7.2 km) northwest of Davidsonville		

		10 mi (10 km) mouthweat of Waranatar in	40°00/07 60″N
Massachusetts	Worcester County	12 mi (19 km) northwest of Worcester, in Rutland	42°22′37.62″N 71°55′30.93″W
Michigan	Wexford County	5 mi (8.0 km) north-northwest of Cadillac	
Minnesota	Crow Wing County	10 mi (16 km) southwest of Brainerd	
Mississippi	Leake County	9 mi (14 km) west-northwest of Carthage	
Missouri	Miller County	20 mi (32 km) southwest of Jefferson City	
<u>Montana</u>	Fergus County	11 mi (18 km) west of Lewistown	
Nebraska	Custer County	10 mi (16 km) northwest of Broken Bow	41°31′30″N 99°51′42″W
Nevada Nevada	Lander County	26 mi (42 km) southeast of Austin	
New Hampshire	Belknap County	3 mi (4.8 km) east of <u>Ashland</u>	
New Jersey	Burlington County 5 mi (8.0 km) southeast of <u>Trenton</u>		40°4′12″N 74°33′30″W
New Mexico	Torrance County	12 mi (19 km) south-southwest of Willard	
New York	Madison County	26 mi (42 km) southwest of <u>Utica</u> , near <u>Syracuse</u>	
North Carolina	— Chatham County 10 mi (16 km) northwest of Santord		
North Dakota	Sheridan County 5 mi (8.0 km) southwest of McClusky		
<u>Ohio</u>	Knox County	north-northeast of Columbus	
Oklahoma	Oklahoma County	8 mi (13 km) north of Oklahoma City	
Oregon	egon Crook County 25 mi (40 km) south-southeast of Prineville		
Pennsylvania	Centre County	2.5 mi (4.0 km) southwest of Bellefonte, in State College	
Rhode Island	Kent County 1-mile (1.6 km) south-southwest of Crompton		41°40′18″N 71°34′36″W
South Carolina	Richland County	13 mi (21 km) southeast of Columbia	
South Dakota	Hughes County	8 mi (13 km) northeast of Pierre	
Tennessee	Rutherford County	5 mi (8.0 km) northeast of Murfreesboro	

<u>Texas</u>	McCulloch County	15 mi (24 km) northeast of Brady	31°23′29.52″N 99°10′14.34″W
Utah	Sanpete County	3 mi (4.8 km) north of Manti	
Vermont	Vermont Washington		
Virginia	Buckingham County	5 mi (8.0 km) southwest of Buckingham	
Washington	Chelan County	10 mi (16 km) west-southwest of Wenatchee	
West Virginia	Braxton County	4 mi (6.4 km) east of Sutton	
Wisconsin	Wood County	9 mi (14 km) southeast of Marshfield	44°26′16.00″N 90°07′48.67″W
wyoming Wyoming	Fremont County	58 mi (93 km) east-northeast of <u>Lander</u> <sup>[5]</sup>	42°58′18″N 107°40′18″W

## Updated list of geographic centers

Although there have been different definitions offered for the geographic center, an intuitive one, and one used by the USGS, is "the center of gravity of the surface, or that point on which the surface of the area would balance if it were a plane of uniform thickness."<sup>[6]</sup> An updated list of geographic centers using this definition (which is equivalent to the state's <u>centroid</u>) is given below. It was derived by minimizing the sum of squared great circle distances from all points of land in a state (including islands, but not coastal waters, following the earlier practice of the USGS). It represents a slight improvement over the list originally published <sup>[7]</sup>

The geographic center of the contiguous United States, determined in this way, is at (39.8000 N, 99.1086 W); this is 2.7 miles from Agra, Kansas, 4.7 miles from Kensington, Kansas, and 27.9 great circle miles west of the longstanding designated center of Lebanon, Kansas.

Updated geographic centers of the states of the United States and the District of Columbia

ordinates
N 86.8287°W
N 152.2782°W
N 111.6602°W
_

Arkansas	14.2 mi (22.9 km) northwest of Little Rock	34.8938°N 92.4426°W
California	36 mi (58 km) northeast of Madera	37.1841°N 119.4696°W
<b>Colorado</b>	29.2 mi (47.0 km) northwest of Pikes Peak	38.9972°N 105.5478°W
Connecticut	1.1 mi (1.8 km) east of East Berlin	41.6219°N 72.7273°W
<b>Delaware</b>	11.7 mi (18.8 km) south of <u>Dover</u>	38.9896°N 75.5050°W
ightharpoonup District of Columbia	Near 3rd and P Streets, Northwest	38.9101°N 77.0147°W
<b>Florida</b>	5.8 mi (9.3 km) northwest of Brooksville	28.6305°N 82.4497°W
Georgia	17.7 mi (28.5 km) southeast of Macon	32.6415°N 83.4426°W [8]
Hawaii	27.7 mi (44.6 km) off-shore south of Wailea-Makena	20.2927°N 156.3737°W
Idaho	21.4 mi (34.4 km) west-southwest of Challis	44.3509°N 114.6130°W
Illinois	28.8 mi (46.3 km) northeast of Springfield	40.0417°N 89.1965°W
Indiana	10.8 mi (17.4 km) northwest of Indianapolis	39.8942°N 86.2816°W
lowa	7 mi (11 km) northeast of Ames	42.0751°N 93.4960°W
<b>Kansas</b>	22.6 mi (36.4 km) northeast of Great Bend	38.4937°N 98.3804°W
Kentucky	3.4 mi (5.5 km) southwest of Lebanon	37.5347°N 85.3021°W
<u>&amp;</u> Louisiana	5.8 mi (9.3 km) southeast of Marksville	31.0689°N 91.9968°W
Maine	12.6 mi (20.3 km) northwest of Dover-Foxcroft	45.3695°N 69.2428°W
Maryland Maryland	3.3 mi (5.3 km) north of Bowie	39.0550°N 76.7909°W
Massachusetts	Irving St. and Wellington St., Worcester	42.2596°N 71.8083°W
Michigan	6.6 mi (10.6 km) west of Cadillac	44.3467°N 85.4102°W
Minnesota	10 mi (16 km) southwest of Brainerd	46.2807°N 94.3053°W
Mississippi	7.7 mi (12.4 km) west-northwest of Carthage	32.7364°N 89.6678°W
Missouri	21 mi (34 km) southwest of Jefferson City	38.3566°N 92.4580°W
Montana	10.1 mi (16.3 km) west of Lewistown	47.0527°N 109.6333°W
Nebraska	12.3 mi (19.8 km) northwest of Broken Bow	41.5378°N 99.7951°W
Nevada	26 mi (42 km) southeast of Austin	39.3289°N 116.6312°W
New Hampshire	2.6 mi (4.2 km) east of Ashland	43.6805°N 71.5811°W
New Jersey	4.3 mi (6.9 km) southeast of Trenton	40.1907°N 74.6728°W
New Mexico	13.8 mi (22.2 km) south-southwest of Willard	34.4071°N 106.1126°W

New York	11.5 mi (18.5 km) south-southeast of Oneida	42.9538°N 75.5268°W
North Carolina	12.7 mi (20.4 km) northwest of Sanford	35.5557°N 79.3877°W
North Dakota	2.7 mi (4.3 km) southwest of McClusky	47.4501°N 100.4659°W
Ohio	24.9 mi (40.1 km) north-northeast of Columbus	40.2862°N 82.7937°W
Oklahoma	4.4 mi (7.1 km) south of Edmond	35.5889°N 97.4943°W
Oregon	29.1 mi (46.8 km) southeast of Prineville	43.9336°N 120.5583°W
Pennsylvania Pennsylvania	2.7 mi (4.3 km) southwest of Bellefonte, in State College	40.8781°N 77.7996°W
Rhode Island	2.4-mile (3.9 km) west of Crompton, in West Warwick	41.6762°N 71.5562°W
South Carolina	9.7 mi (15.6 km) southeast of Columbia	33.9169°N 80.8964°W
South Dakota	7.9 mi (12.7 km) northeast of Pierre	44.4443°N 100.2263°W
Tennessee	2.5 mi (4.0 km) northeast of Murfreesboro	35.8580°N 86.3505°W
Texas	23.6 mi (38.0 km) north of Brady	31.4757°N 99.3312°W
Utah	3.1 mi (5.0 km) northwest of Manti	39.3055°N 111.6703°W
Vermont	3.7 mi (6.0 km) southeast of Roxbury	44.0687°N 72.6658°W
Virginia	16.6 mi (26.7 km) west of Buckingham	37.5215°N 78.8537°W
Washington	7 mi (11 km) west-southwest of Wenatchee	47.3826°N 120.4472°W
West Virginia	4.9 mi (7.9 km) east-southeast of Sutton	38.6409°N 80.6227°W
Wisconsin	9.3 mi (15.0 km) east-southeast of Marshfield	44.6243°N 89.9941°W
Wyoming	60.6 mi (97.5 km) east-northeast of Lander	42.9957°N 107.5512°W

## Geographic centers of the U.S. territories

Very little information exists about the geographic centers of the <u>U.S.</u> territories. In a geological survey of all geographic centers in the U.S., the U.S. <u>Department of the Interior</u> did not measure the geographic centers of the U.S. territories. <sup>[9]</sup> Similarly, the <u>USGS</u> does not include the territories in its list of geographic centers. <sup>[1]</sup> In terms of each territory's land area, only one territory (<u>Puerto Rico</u>) has a confirmed geographic center. <sup>[10]</sup> There are also official geographic centers of territorial <u>exclusive economic zones</u>, though those geographic centers are based on a territory's territorial waters (not land area).

#### Geographic centers of the U.S. territories

Territory	County- equivalent	Location	Coordinates
American Samoa	North of Manu'a District (EEZ) Eastern District (Tutuila center)	The geographic center of American Samoa's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 35.08 miles (56.45 km) northeast of the island of Ta'ū. [11] The geographic center of Tutuila (the main island) is about 1.03 miles (1.65 km) southwest of Fagatogo. [12]	13.851669°S 169.057621°W (EEZ center) 14.290078°S 170.702787°W (Tutuila center)
Guam	Guam <sup>[note 2]</sup>	The geographic center of Guam's exclusive economic zone is in the Pacific Ocean, about 73.65 miles (118.53 km) west-southwest of Cocos Island and 76.08 miles (122.45 km) west-southwest of the main island of Guam. [13]  The exact geographic center of the main island of Guam is unknown [14] — it is probably somewhere within the village of Chalan Pago-Ordot, because that is the default center starting point of Guam on Google Maps. [15]	12.976952°N 143.581362°E (Center of EEZ) 13.443976°N 144.767149°E (Chalan Pago- Ordot)
Northern Mariana Islands	Northern Islands Municipality	The geographic center of the Northern Mariana Islands' exclusive economic zone is in the Pacific Ocean, about 18.33 miles (29.50 km) northeast of the island of Pagan. [16]	18.318329°N 146.028419°E (EEZ center)
Puerto Rico	Orocovis Municipality	The geographic center of Puerto Rico is in the <u>Orocovis</u> <u>Municipality</u> , about 2.58 miles (4.15 km) west of the main town of Orocovis.[10]	18.222264°N 66.430278°W
U.S. Virgin Islands	Between Saint Thomas and Saint Croix	The exact geographic center of the U.S. Virgin Islands is unknown — the default center starting point for the U.S. Virgin Islands on Google Maps is located in the Caribbean Sea, [15] 18.21 miles (29.30 km) south-southeast of Saint Thomas and 18.31 miles (29.47 km) north of Saint Croix — note that this point is the approximate center of the 3 main islands, not the center of the exclusive economic zone	18.048155°N 64.803436°W
U.S. Minor Outlying Islands	[note 3]	There is no information about the geographic centers of the islands in the U.S. Minor Outlying Islands (or the U.S. Minor Outlying Islands as a whole).	

## See also

- Centroid
- Geographical centre
- List of extreme points of the United States
- List of extreme points of U.S. states

- List of U.S. states by elevation
- Mean center of the United States population
- Geographic center of the United States
- Geographic center of the contiguous United States

#### **Notes**

- 1. The U.S. Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia as a state-equivalent and a county-equivalent for statistical purposes.
- 2. All of Guam is counted as one county-equivalent by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 3. Each of the 9 island groups in the U.S. Minor Outlying Islands is counted as a county-equivalent by the U.S. Census Bureau.

#### References

- 1. <a href="https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/Elevations-Distances/elvadist.html">https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/Elevations-Distances/elvadist.html</a> "Elevations and Distances in the United States." USGS. Retrieved June 2019.
- 2. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/</a> Smithsonian.com. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/</a> Smithsonian.com. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/</a> Smithsonian.com. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/</a> Smithsonianmag.com. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-1-180961932/</a> Smithsonianmag.com. <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-calculations-reposition-geographical-center-north-america-north-ameri
- 3. Douglas, E.M. 1923. Boundaries, Areas, Geographic Centers, and Altitudes of the United States and Several States. Bulletin 689. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, DC.
- 4. Adams, Oscar, S. 1932. Geographical Centers. The Military Engineer 24, 138: 586-587.
- 5. "The Geography of Wyoming" (http://www.netstate.com/states/geography/wy\_geography.htm).
- 6. Van Zandt, Franklin. 1966. Boundaries of the United States and the Several States. Bulletin 1212. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, DC.
- Rogerson, P. 2015. A New Method for Finding Geographic Centers, with Application to the U.S. States. The Professional Geographer. Published online Aug 15, 2015;
   DOI:10.1080/00330124.2015.1062707
   http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00330124.2015.1062707#.Vd30QflVhBc Retrieved
  - http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00330124.2015.1062707#.Vd30QflVhBc Retrieved 2015-08-26
- 8. A marker, dated 1981, at a nearby road intersection states: "The Geologic Survey Branch of the Department of Natural Resources determined the central point to be at latitude 32° 38' 46" N., longitude 83° 25' 54" W."
- 9. <a href="https://pubs.usgs.gov/unnumbered/70039437/report.pdf">https://pubs.usgs.gov/unnumbered/70039437/report.pdf</a> "Geographic centers of the United States." U.S. Department of the Interior. Retrieved June 2019.
- 10. <a href="http://disfrutaorocovis.com/en/historic-sites-2/geographic-center-of-puerto-rico">http://disfrutaorocovis.com/en/historic-sites-2/geographic-center-of-puerto-rico</a> Disfruta Orocovis. Geographic Center of Puerto Rico. Retrieved June 2019.
- 11. <a href="http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=8444">http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=8444</a> Marineregions.org. Marine Gazetteer Placedetails American Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone. Retrieved July 3, 2019.
- 12. <a href="https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/oceania/as.htm">https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/oceania/as.htm</a> Worldatlas.com. American Samoa. Retrieved July 3, 2019.

- 13. <a href="http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=48957">http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=48957</a> Marineregions.org. Marine Gazetteer Placedetails. Guam Exclusive Economic Zone. Retrieved June 2019.
- 14. <a href="https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/oceania/gu.htm">https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/oceania/gu.htm</a> Worldatlas.com. Guam. Retrieved July 3, 2019.
- https://www.google.com/maps/place/Guam
   https://www.google.com/maps/place/USVI
   Google Mpas Guam / U.S. Virgin Islands. Retrieved July 3, 2019.
- 16. <a href="http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=48980">http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=48980</a> Marineregions.org. Marine Gazetteer Placedetails Northern Mariana Islands Exclusive Economic Zone. Retrieved June 2019.

#### General

- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Geographic Center of the United States" (http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/PUBS\_LIB/GeoCenter\_USA1.pdf) (PDF). ngs.noaa.gov. Retrieved 2011-01-08.
- "States and Capitals" (http://www.50states.com). 50states.com. 2009. Retrieved 2009-03-22.
- "Geography of the 50 States" (http://www.netstate.com/states/geography). *Netstate.com*. 29 February 2008. Retrieved 2009-03-22.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php? title=List\_of\_geographic\_centers\_of\_the\_United\_States&oldid=954272723"

This page was last edited on 1 May 2020, at 15:24 (UTC).

Text is available under the <u>Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License</u>; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the <u>Terms of Use and Privacy Policy</u>. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the <u>Wikimedia Foundation</u>, Inc., a non-profit organization.