

2017 Chicago Community Area Economic Hardship Index

Introduction:

The aim of this index is to examine the conditions of economic hardship within Chicago community areas. Economic hardship is the difficulty resulting from not having enough collective economic resources available to families in a specified area.

Indicators of economic hardship have been developed into an index to measure the economic conditions of Chicago Community Areas. This economic hardship index utilizes multiple indicators to provide a more comprehensive view of economic hardship than single indicators. Utilizing American Community Survey data, this fact sheet contains economic hardship index values for Chicago Community Areas.

Methodology:

The Chicago Community Area economic hardship index calculation is based on the "Intercity Hardship Index." By Richard P. Nathan and Charles F. Adams, Jr. in "Understanding Urban Hardship," *Political Science Quarterly* 91 (Spring 1976): 47-62.

Economic Hardship Scores:

The economic hardship score is the average of six variables that have been standardized on a scale from 0 to 100.

The six variables include:

- Unemployment (over the age of 16 years),
- Education (over 25 years of age without a high school diploma)
- Per capita income level
- Poverty (below the federal poverty level)
- Crowded housing (housing units with more than one person per room)
- Dependency (population under 18 or over 64 years of age)

Higher hardship index scores indicate worse economic conditions.

A chart of economic hardship index values can be found on page 3. Variable values can be found on pages 4-6.

Data Source:

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is a national monthly survey that produces demographic, socioeconomic, employment, income, education and behavioral estimates for households and individuals. About 3.54 million addresses are sampled each year nationwide.

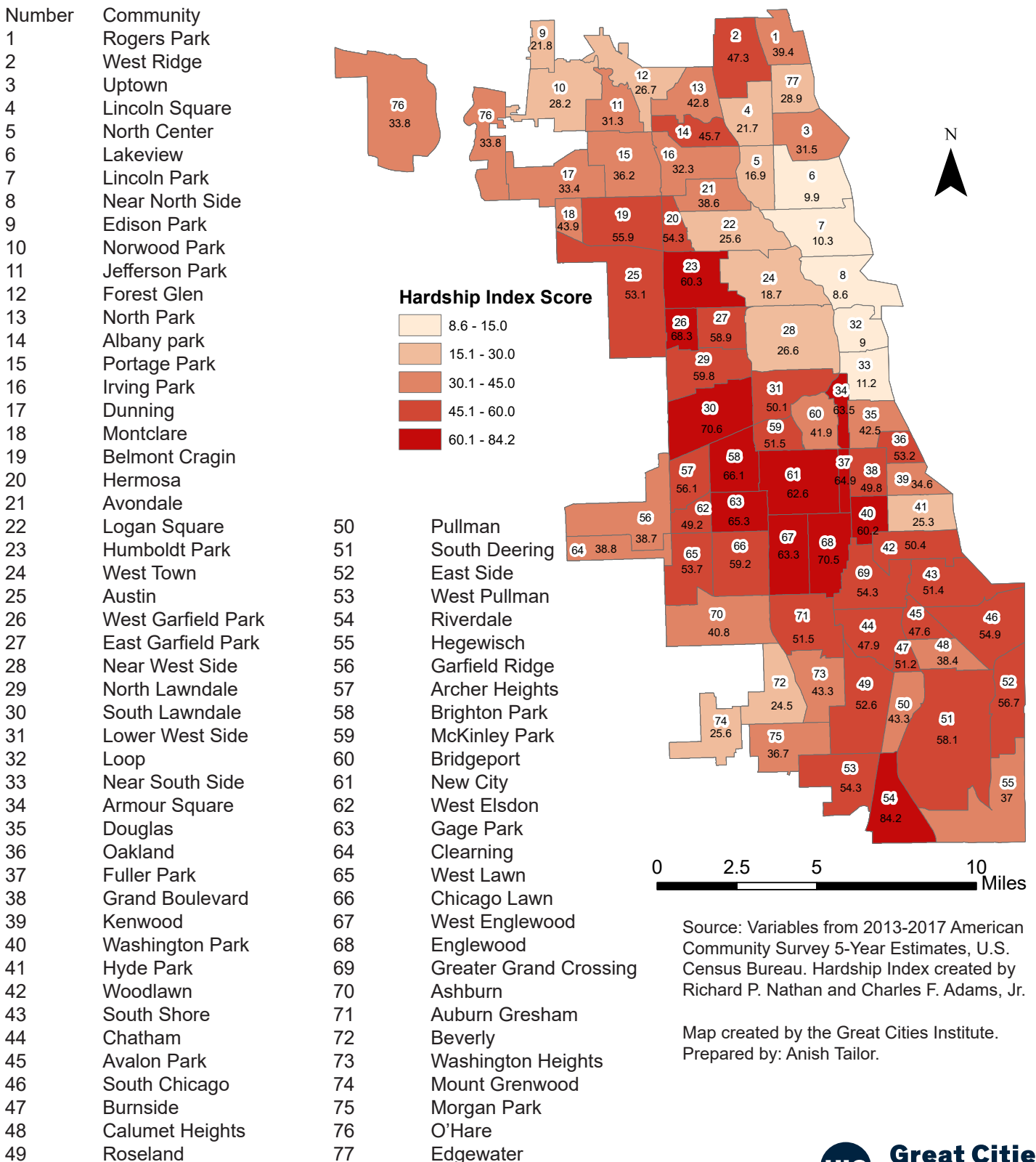
2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates were used to calculate index values by census tracts. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software was used to aggregate census tract data and geographies into Chicago Community Area boundaries. However, some Census tracts do not directly overlay with Community Area boundaries. Therefore, some data that is within the tract, but outside the boundary may be included. This data is generally marginal.

Data Highlights:

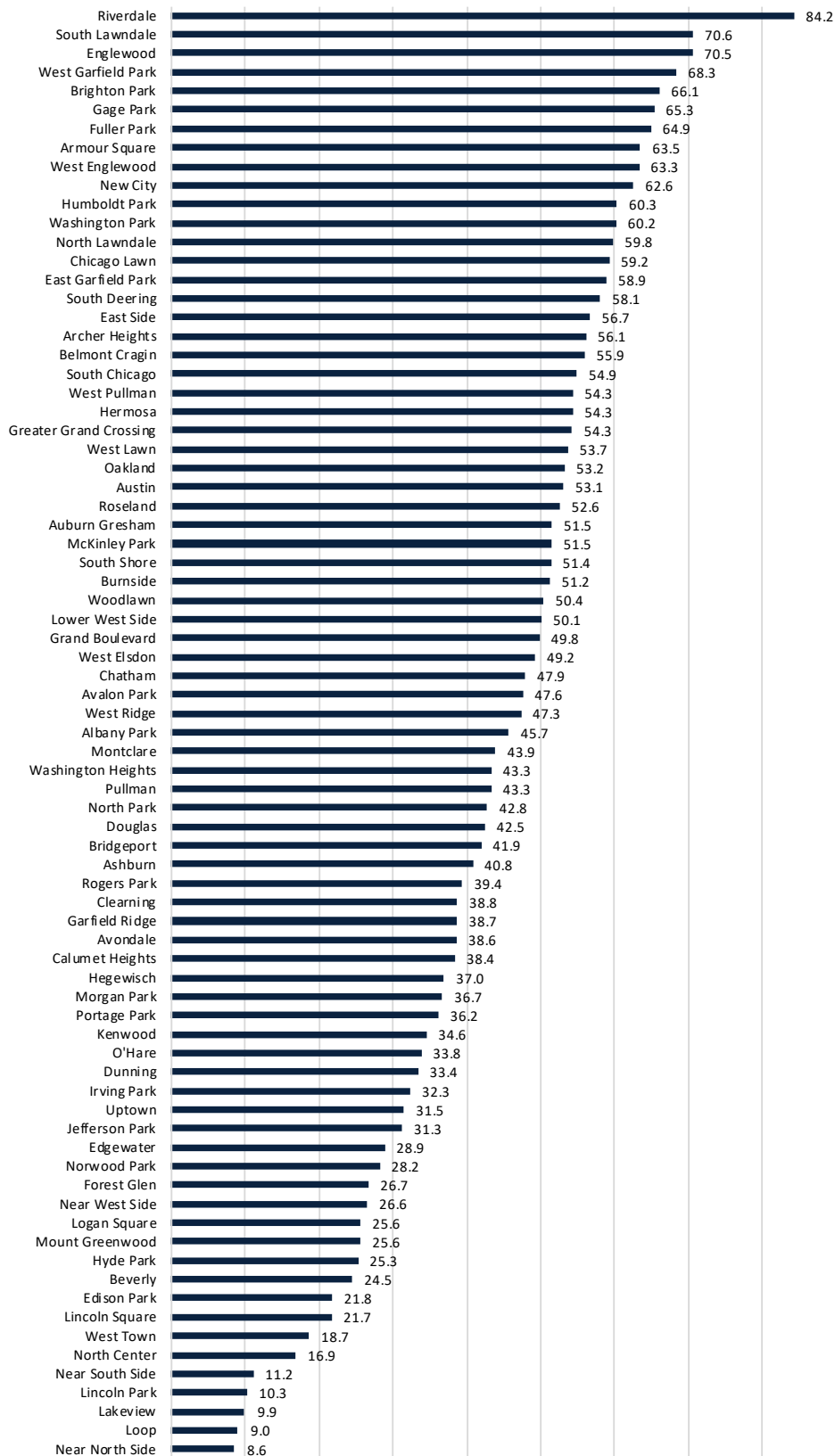
- The three community areas with the lowest Hardship Index Score were the same as in 2014: Near North Side (8), Loop (9.0), and Lakeview (9.9).
- The next two lowest scores are Lincoln Park (10.3) and Near South Side (11.2). The five community areas with the lowest Hardship Index Score all share borders, and are all located along Lake Michigan.
- North Center was included in the bottom six lowest scores, but has increased its Hardship Index Score from 14.9 in 2014 to 16.9 in 2017.
- The community areas with the highest hardship index score are Riverdale on the far South Side (84.2), South Lawndale (70.6) and Englewood (70.5).
- As with the previous survey, Logan Square (25.6 hardship index score), West Town (18.7), and Near West Side (26.6) border the area with the lowest hardship index score to their east.
- There were four community areas that saw an increase in hardship index values by over five points. Armour Square had the highest increase from 56.6 in 2013, to 63.5 in 2017. North Park, South Deering, and Avalon Park also had increases of more than five points.
- Six community areas saw a decrease in their hardship index values of over five points. The largest decrease was New City, from 69.1 in 2013 to 62.6 in 2017. The other five community areas with large decreases were: Washington Park, Irving Park, Lower West Side, North Lawndale, and Gage Park.

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Hardship Index Values in Chicago Community Areas, 2013-2017



Hardship Index Values by Chicago Community Areas, 2013-2017



Community Area	Community Area Number	Hardship Index Score	Percent of Crowded Housing	Percent of Households with Income Below Poverty Level	Unemployment rate for population Age 16 and Over	Percent Aged 25 and Over with no High School Diploma	Percent of Population Under Age 18 and Over Age 64	Per Capita Income
Rogers Park	1	39.4	6.6	22.6	7.7	9.5	26.2	\$25,874
West Ridge	2	47.3	7.7	16.8	8.6	11.7	37.9	\$24,721
Uptown	3	31.5	4.7	21.3	6.6	7.8	24.3	\$37,869
Lincoln Square	4	21.7	1.7	10.8	4.2	6.0	25.8	\$44,432
North Center	5	16.9	0.7	5.2	3.6	4.4	32.2	\$64,494
Lakeview	6	9.9	1.6	9.2	3.1	1.6	19.5	\$67,066
Lincoln Park	7	10.3	1.1	10.7	3.1	1.7	22.9	\$73,965
Near North Side	8	8.6	1.9	10.8	3.9	1.9	23.7	\$91,948
Edison Park	9	21.8	1.0	4.3	2.9	3.6	37.7	\$51,423
Norwood Park	10	28.2	1.3	8.0	4.7	5.7	38.7	\$40,219
Jefferson Park	11	31.3	2.9	7.4	5.7	8.2	35.2	\$35,183
Forest Glen	12	26.7	1.0	6.5	3.8	3.8	42.8	\$47,342
North Park	13	42.8	5.0	15.5	7.0	8.7	42.7	\$28,173
Albany Park	14	45.7	8.6	16.5	7.1	14.3	32.0	\$25,848
Portage Park	15	36.2	3.5	13.2	7.0	10.7	33.0	\$28,866
Irving Park	16	32.3	3.5	10.3	5.8	10.3	30.2	\$31,043
Dunning	17	33.4	2.0	9.6	5.1	9.0	37.4	\$29,080
Montclare	18	43.9	4.7	15.6	7.5	15.3	36.9	\$26,831
Belmont Cragin	19	55.9	8.2	18.7	9.2	22.2	36.6	\$17,965
Hermosa	20	54.3	6.6	22.3	7.4	24.0	35.1	\$17,896
Avondale	21	38.6	3.3	16.4	5.5	16.4	30.5	\$26,860
Logan Square	22	25.6	2.7	13.0	4.2	7.9	26.0	\$41,065
Humboldt Park	23	60.3	9.1	30.1	12.1	16.9	38.5	\$15,849
West Town	24	18.7	2.0	11.5	4.7	7.0	21.0	\$54,429
Austin	25	53.1	4.4	28.1	15.4	13.6	38.6	\$17,586
West Garfield Park	26	68.3	8.0	40.5	20.0	15.5	43.0	\$12,483

Community Area	Community Area Number	Hardship Index Score	Percent of Crowded Housing	Percent of Households with Income Below Poverty Level	Unemployment rate for population Age 16 and Over	Percent Aged 25 and Over with no High School Diploma	Percent of Population Under Age 18 and Over Age 64	Per Capita Income
East Garfield Park	27	58.9	4.7	40.7	18.5	12.7	38.5	\$14,638
Near West Side	28	26.6	4.2	20.5	8.3	5.6	22.2	\$50,394
North Lawndale	29	59.8	4.4	37.8	19.9	14.2	38.9	\$13,236
South Lawndale	30	70.6	13.6	30.3	8.7	28.8	35.3	\$11,345
Lower West Side	31	50.1	6.1	22.1	7.0	22.2	32.0	\$21,131
Loop	32	9.0	2.8	11.3	4.6	1.4	16.7	\$77,722
Near South Side	33	11.2	2.4	10.0	3.0	2.7	24.1	\$82,859
Armour Square	34	63.5	5.7	38.2	11.7	25.0	40.4	\$19,067
Douglas	35	42.5	2.4	32.8	15.0	7.7	30.4	\$24,056
Oakland	36	53.2	2.5	33.2	22.6	9.1	40.1	\$20,884
Fuller Park	37	64.9	1.7	33.8	30.7	20.0	41.7	\$17,515
Grand Boulevard	38	49.8	2.0	32.5	19.6	9.7	38.7	\$24,616
Kenwood	39	34.6	1.8	23.7	10.8	5.5	35.4	\$42,491
Washington Park	40	60.2	3.9	38.9	23.2	10.0	42.2	\$14,203
Hyde Park	41	25.3	1.6	23.3	6.7	2.2	26.4	\$41,719
Woodlawn	42	50.4	3.5	35.2	16.9	8.2	36.7	\$19,117
South Shore	43	51.4	3.2	36.9	18.9	7.5	37.5	\$20,067
Chatham	44	47.9	2.9	26.1	19.0	8.0	37.9	\$21,416
Avalon Park	45	47.6	1.9	23.5	17.8	9.8	40.6	\$22,578
South Chicago	46	54.9	3.4	28.9	20.3	11.6	41.1	\$16,996
Burnside	47	51.2	1.3	24.9	22.3	10.4	41.1	\$17,678
Calumet Heights	48	38.4	2.0	13.7	12.3	8.1	37.8	\$27,488
Roseland	49	52.6	2.2	24.0	24.3	9.6	41.8	\$19,755
Pullman	50	43.3	2.0	21.1	17.4	8.6	35.9	\$23,659
South Deering	51	58.1	3.2	27.3	22.4	14.1	43.4	\$16,207
East Side	52	56.7	5.3	18.5	18.1	18.1	41.0	\$17,931

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West Pullman	53	54.3	3.2	23.9	25.1	10.1	41.1	\$18,007
Riverdale	54	84.2	10.5	58.8	35.6	9.3	47.6	\$9,601
Hegewisch	55	37.0	3.0	15.2	8.3	9.5	34.3	\$27,546
Garfield Ridge	56	38.7	3.6	6.3	9.4	12.4	37.5	\$28,925
Archer Heights	57	56.1	9.7	15.9	9.2	17.9	40.2	\$18,497
Brighton Park	58	66.1	12.7	23.2	10.9	24.2	37.7	\$15,552
McKinley Park	59	51.5	5.5	23.1	12.0	18.4	34.6	\$19,923
Bridgeport	60	41.9	4.7	18.4	8.9	15.1	30.2	\$25,373
New City	61	62.6	8.2	28.0	18.3	17.1	39.4	\$14,267
West Elsdon	62	49.2	6.4	10.7	11.8	16.2	37.7	\$19,283
Gage Park	63	65.3	12.1	18.5	13.7	22.4	39.0	\$13,605
Cleaving	64	38.8	3.6	9.9	10.1	9.9	36.4	\$25,722
West Lawn	65	53.7	6.8	14.5	13.1	18.6	38.7	\$18,633
Chicago Lawn	66	59.2	5.2	27.4	22.0	17.2	37.2	\$14,618
West Englewood	67	63.3	3.3	30.5	31.6	14.0	41.8	\$14,836
Englewood	68	70.5	4.0	42.4	34.1	16.1	41.5	\$12,777
Greater Grand Crossing	69	54.3	3.2	35.4	22.0	9.1	37.9	\$16,719
Ashburn	70	40.8	3.3	11.3	13.0	9.6	36.9	\$23,990
Auburn Gresham	71	51.5	1.9	27.9	21.1	11.3	39.2	\$18,473
Beverly	72	24.5	0.3	5.5	6.2	2.3	39.7	\$44,979
Washington Heights	73	43.3	1.4	20.2	18.3	7.2	38.2	\$22,275
Mount Greenwood	74	25.6	2.4	4.6	3.1	2.8	36.4	\$36,365
Morgan Park	75	36.7	0.4	15.5	11.7	5.8	41.4	\$29,636
O'Hare	76	33.8	2.8	14.1	7.7	8.8	31.2	\$28,606
Edgewater	77	28.9	4.1	15.8	6.2	7.3	25.2	\$38,748