



Total Employment

This EnviroAtlas map layer estimates the total number of jobs in 2010 within each U.S. Census block group.

Why is total employment important?

Total employment is one of many measures or variables used by city planners to examine the proportions of residents, jobs, and services in urban areas and to guide development planning for efficient city designs and transit networks. Total employment gives an overall view of the total number of jobs within each block group. The value for block group total employment is also used as a component in other more complex metrics such as employment density (jobs/acre) or workers per job equilibrium index.

Workplaces that are centrally located and accessible to more households can reduce not only vehicle miles traveled (VMT) but fuel consumption and [greenhouse gas emissions](#) (GHGs) associated with employee commuting trips. Dispersion of employment to the suburbs has created reduced worker accessibility due to longer average trip distances, increased traffic, and lack of public transit in outlying areas. To counter this trend, Smart Growth planning programs promote land use diversity and the development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of residences, employment opportunities, and services that allow residents to drive less and walk, bike, or use transit more often.

How can I use this information?

Identifying total employment by census block group within an area of study can be useful in a number of different urban planning contexts. Planners may want to promote increased housing in neighborhoods with high employment opportunities and a low working population. They may identify neighborhoods with optimal numbers of jobs and housing that can support new or enhanced transit service. Localities may also consider employment numbers when prioritizing neighborhood improvements such as sidewalks, street lighting, or bike lanes. This map may be compared to other EnviroAtlas demographic and Smart Location data, such as employment type and wage class data.

How were the data for this map created?

The [2010 Census](#) provided a count of the number of jobs per census block group. The 2010 [Census LEHD](#) (Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics) gave total employment at the census block group level for all states except Massachusetts. Total employment (TotEmp) was noted for



each block group from the LEHD WAC tables, using the C000 field (total number of jobs). Massachusetts employment data (2011) came from InfoUSA.

What are the limitations of these data?

A block-group is a collection of census blocks, the smallest area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is important to remember that jobs are not distributed evenly throughout the area of a block-group. Using the aerial-image base map will give an indication of the proportions of developed and undeveloped land in each census block group. The U.S. Census Bureau maintains a website on methodology and [reliability of data](#).

How can I access these data?

EnviroAtlas data can be viewed in the interactive map, accessed through web services, or downloaded. Data from the [2010 U.S. Census](#) may be viewed and downloaded from the census website.

Where can I get more information?

Access the metadata for the data layer from the drop down menu on the interactive map table of contents. More details about this metric are available in the [Smart Location Database User Guide](#). To ask specific questions about this data layer, please contact the [EnviroAtlas Team](#).

Acknowledgments

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