

DEFINING ECONOMIC DISTRESS: EIG'S INDEX EXPLAINED

Seven Metrics Measuring Economic Well-Being Across The Country

EIG created an advanced new way to identify pockets of economic distress around the U.S. Here's how we did it:



1. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Percent of population 25 years and over with a high school degree.



2. HOUSING VACANCY RATE

Percent of habitable housing that is unoccupied.



3. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The share of the labor force that is unemployed.



4. POVERTY LEVEL

Percent of population living under the poverty line.



5. MEDIAN INCOME RATIO

Ratio of the zip code's median income to the state's median income.



6. PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT

Percent increase/decrease in the number of individuals employed.



7. PERCENT CHANGE IN ESTABLISHMENTS

Percent change in number of business establishments within zip code.



Detroit, MI	94%	Fresno, CA	48%
Memphis, TN	68%	Las Vegas, NV	46%
Milwaukee, WI	55%	Chicago, IL	42%
Atlanta, GA	52%	Tucson, AZ	39%
Baltimore, MD	48%	Houston, TX	38%

SOURCE: Based on data obtained from the American Community Survey (5-years estimates 2009-2013) and Zip Code Business Patterns (ZCBP 2009, 2012), Census Bureau. Data for 1-5 comes from 2013, data for 6&7 comes from 2009-2012.

NOTE: Percent of the population in distress is determined by measuring the population in each city that lives in a zip code that falls into the top 15 percent of the most distressed zip codes in the country. Only cities with populations > 400,000 are taken into account.