THE LIVABILITY INDEX 1.1

Why was the Livability Index created?

**Vision:** Communities support residents across the lifespan in realizing their fullest potential and ability to age in place.

**Goal:** Provide residents and community leaders with an interactive, online tool that enables them to visualize their performance against key indicators of livability.

Main Objectives

- State and local changes in policy, planning, and investment
- Inform key stakeholders
- Community resident participation
- Help communities become more livable for residents of all ages

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## The Livability Index Overview

### Livability Index Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>General topic areas that define the type of characteristics found within a community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attributes</td>
<td>Qualities or features regarded as a characteristic of a livable community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metrics</td>
<td>Measure how livable communities are in the present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies</td>
<td>Actions that communities can take to improve livability over time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# The Livability Index Overview

## Categories & Attributes

### Housing
- Housing Accessibility
- Housing Options
- Housing Affordability
- Commitment to Livability

### Health
- Healthy Behaviors
- Access to Health Care
- Quality of Health Care
- Commitment to Livability

### Transportation
- Convenient Transportation Options
- Transportation Costs
- Safe Streets
- Accessible System Design
- Commitment to Livability

### Environment
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Resilience
- Energy Efficiency
- Commitment to Livability

### Neighborhood
- Proximity to Destinations
- Mixed-use Neighborhoods
- Compact Neighborhoods
- Personal Safety
- Neighborhood Quality
- Commitment to Livability

### Engagement
- Internet Access
- Civic Engagement
- Social Engagement
- Equal Rights
- Commitment to Livability

### Opportunity
- Equal Opportunity
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Multi-generational Communities
- Local Fiscal Health
- Commitment to Livability
THE LIVABILITY INDEX OVERVIEW

Metrics & Policies

Metrics and policies are the indicators used to measure livability. They are drawn from over 50 sources of data.

Metrics

- Metrics indicate how livable communities are in the present by measuring community characteristics.
- 40 metrics are used in the Livability Index; 21 of those evaluate livability at the neighborhood scale.
- Each category contains 4-9 metrics.
- Metrics must be relevant and subject to direct/indirect influence by state and local policymakers.

Policies

- Policies are actions communities can take to improve livability over time.
- 20 state and local policies are evaluated in the Livability Index.
Getting started is simple!

Users may enter their address, city, state, or zip code on the Livability Index's homepage, found at:

www.aarp.org/livabilityindex.
Viewing the Results

A total score is given, ranging from 0 to 100.

Customize the score to reflect the categories that matter most.

Each category is given a score, ranging from 0 to 100. Category scores are then averaged to calculate the total score.

Click the arrow for a detailed analysis of the metrics and policies.

Print a full report of the results.

Map overlays provide further geographic analysis.

Use the map to compare the neighborhood’s total score with surrounding communities.

Click on the pin to compare up to three exact locations.

Areas are color-coded based on their total score.
.nav_title

Customizing Your Score

Greater emphasis on transportation has increased the score from 55 to 57.
## Navigating the Livability Index

### Comparing Locations

Up to three locations can be compared.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>St. Louis, St Louis City County, Missouri</th>
<th>St. Louis County, Missouri</th>
<th>St. Clair County, Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INDEX SCORE</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affordability and access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to life, work, and play</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and convenient options</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean air and water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention, access, and quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic and social involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPPORTUNITY</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion and possibilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click the box for a detailed analysis of the metrics and policies of each location.
Evaluating Metrics & Policies

A breakdown of a community’s metrics and policies is provided by category.

Determine if the location performs in the top, middle, or bottom tier of the country on metrics.

Learn about available resources that can help your community become more livable.

Learn if the community receives credit for state or local policies and programs.

Click the box for a description of the metrics and policies.
Navigating the Livability Index

Using Map Overlays

Users may select from a variety indicators for a geographic analysis of the livability score components.

Map showing the transportation score of each region.

The city of St. Louis has a transportation score in the 54+ range (68).
Let’s give it a try!

www.aarp.org/livabilityindex
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us on the Web!

AARP’s Livability Index
www.aarp.org/livabilityindex

AARP Public Policy Institute
www.aarp.org/ppi
@AARPpolicy

AARP Livable Communities Resources
www.aarp.org/livablepolicy
www.aarp.org/livable

AARP Great Places Blogs by PPI Livable Communities Team

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