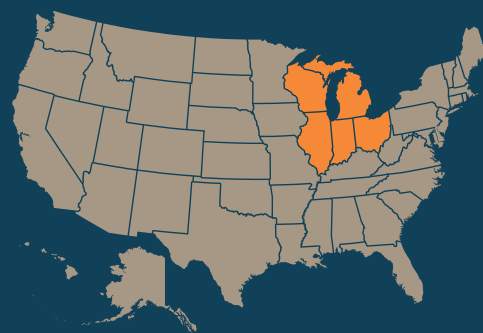


LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

REGIONAL PROFILE SERIES

US Census Geographic Division: East North Central



With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and Michigan State University (MSU)'s Center for Regional Food Systems conducted a 2015 survey of local government activity around food systems. The survey sought to understand how local government policies, programs, plans, and other activities support food production, processing, distribution, access, or disposal. The survey was distributed to all counties and to all municipalities that are in ICMA's database, which generally includes those with populations of at least 2,500.

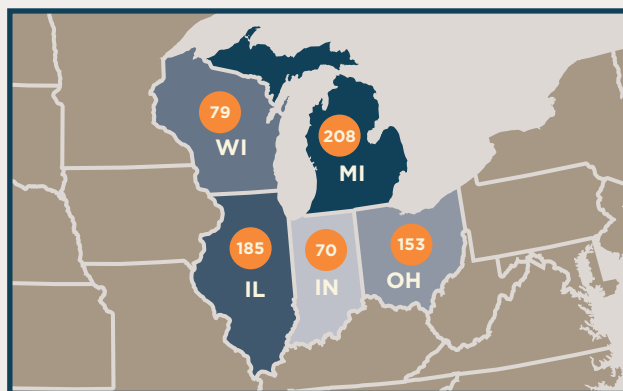
This series of briefings summarizes responses according to the nine geographic divisions as¹ defined by the US Census Bureau and provides complementary information from additional secondary data sources.

About the Region²

The East North Central (ENC) region, comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin occupies 242,903 square miles of land in the northern United States to the east of the Mississippi River and contributes approximately \$2.5 billion to the country's GDP. The region's 46.8 million residents account for 14.6% of the country's total population and are approximately 75% Caucasian, 12% African American, 8% Hispanic, and 3% Asian. Most are high school graduates (89%) and almost a third (27.9%) hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

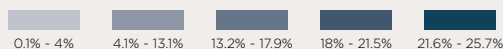
The region faces an unemployment rate of 8.5% which is only slightly higher than the national average at 8.3%. Although the region's median household income is lower than the national average (\$53,889) at \$51,786, its poverty rate is also lower at 15.2% compared to 15.5%. Its main industries are health care and social assistance, and manufacturing. Only 1.3% of the civilian workforce works in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industries despite 51% of the region's land is taken up by farms.

Responses to 2015 ICMA-MSU Food Systems Survey



LEGEND

Survey response rate



= Total responses to survey

1 Note that while the Census defines "regions" as aggregated divisions/larger groups of states, we use the terms division and region interchangeably in this series.

2 All demographic data from US Census, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, and US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Contact: surveyresearch@icma.org

For more information: www.icma.org/food-system-profiles | www.foodsystems.msu.edu

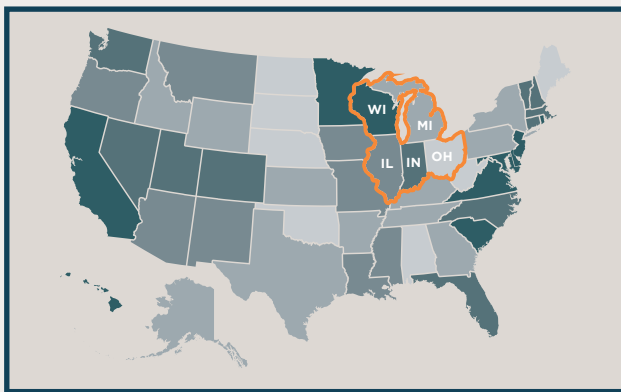
Published March 2018

Overall Measures of Food Systems Support

While local governments may not necessarily consider food systems among their core responsibilities, there are innumerable opportunities for them to influence—intentionally or not—how food is produced, processed, distributed, accessed, and disposed in a community. Our survey included a list of 24 example activities local governments could support, such as farmers markets or other types of food retail, emergency food provision, agricultural or food-related economic development, or initiatives around health (see the subsequent “data by theme” discussion in this brief for the full set of activities). 73% of total local governments responding to this section of the survey indicated they support at least one, and an average of 3.44 of the 24 specific activities via policy, program, or matter of practice.

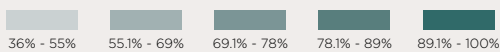
In the East North Central region, the average number of activities supported by responding local governments in each state fell below the national average. However, 80% of Wisconsin local governments indicated support for at least one activity. While in comparison, Ohio had the lowest rate of support for at least one activity (45%), the local governments responding supported the highest average number of activities (3.24) in the region.

Rate of Local Governments Reporting Support for any Food Activity, 2015

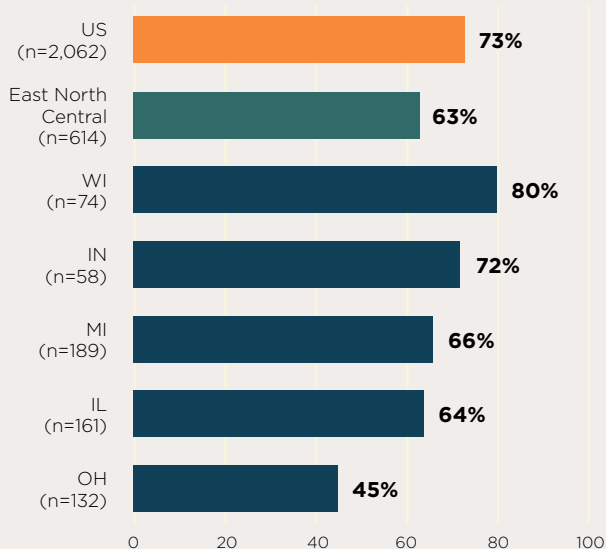


LEGEND

Rate of support



Percentage of Local Governments Supporting Any Food Systems Activity



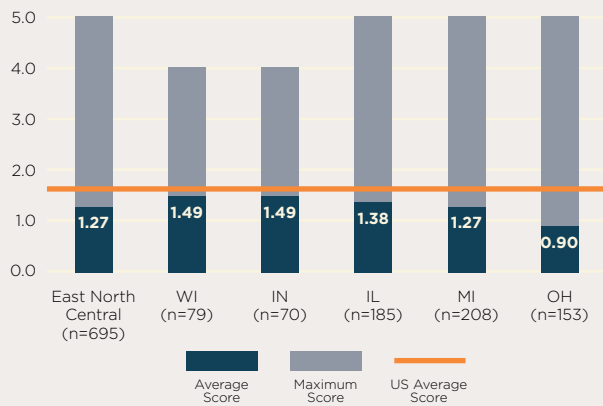
Average, Maximum Number of Food Activities Supported by Local Governments, 2015

	AVG NUMBER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED	MAX NUMBER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED
US (n=2,062)	3.4	24
East North Central (n=614)	2.5	24
OH (n=132)	3.2	21
IL (n=161)	2.6	24
WI (n=74)	2.5	23
IN (n=58)	2.3	19
MI (n=189)	1.8	24

We calculated an overall measurement, the **Support Score**, on a scale of 0-5 based on the local government’s responses indicating various forms of support for local food activities:

- Food systems are addressed in an official plan or strategy, such as a master plan, economic development plan, strategic plan, or other specific type (1 point)
- The local government participates in some form in a food council, commission or coalition (1 point)
- Local government staff provides at least informal, ad hoc support to local food efforts in the community or region (1 point)
- The local government provides policy or programmatic support to any of the 24 specific food systems activities included in our survey (up to 2 points, scaled to the total number of activities supported)

Average, Maximum Support Scores



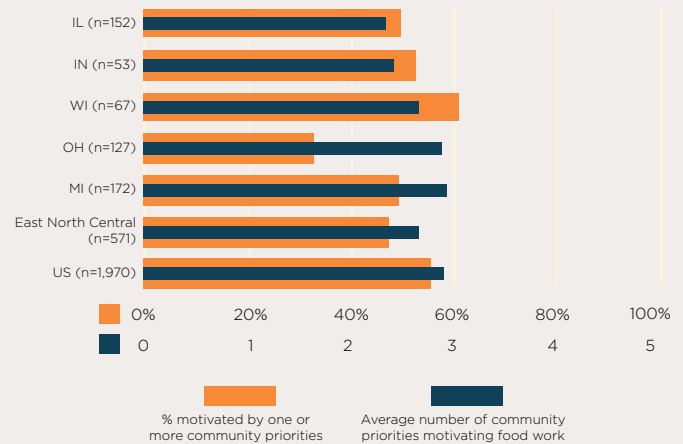
The overall East North Central average and each of its states' average are all below that national average Support Score of 1.69. Indiana and Wisconsin have the highest average score for the region of 1.49, and Ohio's is lowest at 0.9. The light green bars in the chart indicate the maximum score observed in each state and the region.

Local Government Motivations, Departments Responsible for Food Activity

Nationally, 56% of local governments associated their food-related plans, policies, and/or programs with at least one, and an average of 2.9 community priorities such as public health, community development, and economic development. This suggests that a majority of responding local governments see food as a topic that cuts across multiple community interests. In the East North Central region, Michigan's responses are similar to the national data. While only about a third of Ohio local governments indicated a motivation to address food, those that did also identified a higher number of motivations—so even in a state where it is much less common for local governments to articulate a connection to food, those that are motivated to do so still see it as multifaceted issue.

55% of local governments nationwide and 47% in the East North Central region also indicated at least one municipal department had responsibility for food related programs or policies.

Extent of Motivation to Address Food



The thick bars in this chart represent the rate of local governments in each state that indicated a motivation to address food issues. The thin bars indicate the average number of community priorities that local governments in each state linked to food systems.

	US	ENC
% local gov'ts where at least one dep't responsible for food programs or policies	55%	47%

IN PRACTICE

Counter to the state's overall statistic, Franklin County, Ohio (2015 population: 1,163,414) achieved the maximum support score of 5. The county reported several collaborations with the City of Columbus (2015 population: 787,033), such as a community garden grant program, a healthy corner store initiative, and a healthy food incentive program matching the value of food assistance benefits. In 2014, with support from a local nonprofit, they formally launched a joint effort to develop a Local Food Action Plan, which was adopted by both governing bodies in November 2016 (see columbus.gov/LFAP for more information).

DATA BY THEME

The following section contains primary and secondary data related to three thematic areas: community health and security, production and infrastructure, and economic development.

Within each theme, we developed an index reflecting the extent of local government support reported for related specific activities included in our survey. The specific activities included are listed under each theme; note that several appear in multiple themes (farmers markets, the most common activity supported overall, are included in all three). Average and maximum scores are provided for each index.



THEME: Community Health & Security^{7,3,4}

SECONDARY INDICATORS	US	ENC	IL	IN	MI	OH	WI
% adults who are overweight or obese, 2015 ³	64.5%	n/a	66.2%	66.5%	66.2%	66.5%	66.0%
% households receiving food stamps/ SNAP, 2015 ⁴	13.2%	14.2%	13.1%	12.5%	16.7%	15.0%	12.9%
% household-level food insecurity and very low food security, average 2013-15 ⁵	13.7%	n/a	11.1%	14.8%	14.9%	16.1%	11.3%
% children in households that were food insecure at some point during the year, 2014 ⁶	20%	18.4%	17%	20%	15%	22%	17%
Estimated Children's Participation Rate in National School Lunch Program, 2015 ⁷	56.0%	54.6%	51.0%	66.1%	51.6%	53.3%	56.4%

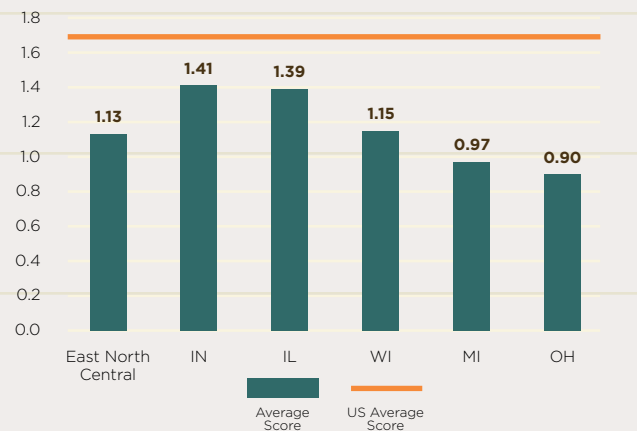
Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Establishing groceries in underserved areas
- Encouraging healthy food in corner stores
- Expanding acceptance of food assistance benefits
- Expanding purchasing power of food assistance benefits
- Providing healthy food in government facilities
- Promoting healthy eating, obesity prevention
- Restrictions on unhealthy food
- Emergency food provision
- Surplus food donation
- Providing land for community gardens
- Providing water for community gardens

Scores

A maximum score of 12 is possible for this index. All East North Central region states and the region overall score lower than the national average of 1.67 for the Community Health & Security Index.



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3 Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts
 4 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
 5 USDA Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2013, 2014, and 2015 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements
 6 Annie E. Casey National Kids Count Database
 7 Calculated using USDA Food and Nutrition Service and US Census data

IN PRACTICE

The Township of Rock Island, IL (2015 population: 17,776) partners with local organizations to support several of these types of activities, such as community gardens and promoting healthy choices. They also provide space and funding for local food pantries and community meals.



THEME: Production & Infrastructure

12345

SECONDARY INDICATORS	US	ENC	IL	IN	MI	OH	WI
Land in square miles, 2010 ⁸	3,531,905	242,903	55,519	35,826	56,539	40,861	54,158
Number of farms, 2016 ⁹	2,060,000	324,300	72,200	57,500	51,400	74,500	68,700
% land in farms, 2012	40%	51%	75%	64%	27%	54%	42%
Civilian workforce 16 years and over by industry: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 2015 ¹⁰	2.0%	1.3%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	2.5%
% of principal farm operators classified as "beginning famers" (<10 years of operation), 2012 ¹¹	22.24%	19.13%	18.11%	19.25%	19.50%	20.01%	18.92%
Market value of agricultural products directly sold for human consumption, 2012 ¹²	\$1.3 billion	n/a	\$33 million	\$27 million	\$59 million	\$47 million	\$47 million

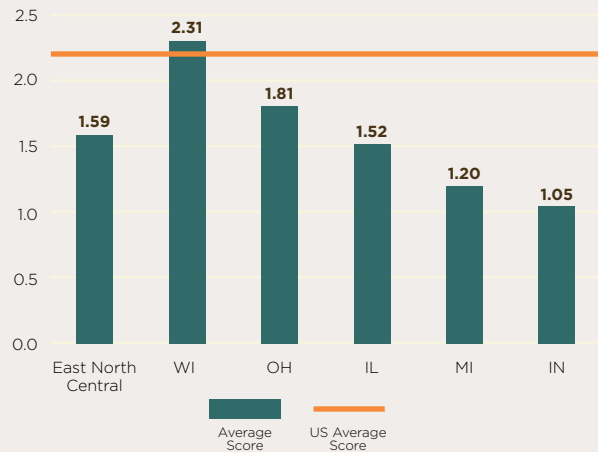
Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Providing land for community gardens
- Providing water for community gardens
- Encouraging green roofs, edible landscaping
- Farmland preservation
- Support for value-added processing
- Promoting composting
- Keeping of residential/urban livestock
- Allowing sales at farm stands, gardens, etc.
- Creating/operating food hubs
- Encouraging food trucks, mobile vending, pop-up food businesses

Scores

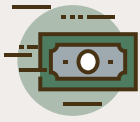
A maximum score of 11 is possible for this index, and the national average is 2.18. While most states and the overall region score below the national average, Wisconsin's average Production & Infrastructure Index of 2.31 exceeds the national average.



8 US Census Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing database
 9 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 10 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
 11 Calculated using Census of Agriculture data, National Agricultural Statistics Service
 12 Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

IN PRACTICE

The town of Westport, WI (2015 population: 3,950), outside of the state's capital city coordinates with surrounding incorporated communities on agricultural land preservation policies. The City of Janesville (2015 population: 63,575) promotes food production and processing as part of its economic development strategy.



THEME: Economic Development ²³⁴

SECONDARY INDICATORS	US	ENC	IL	IN	MI	OH	WI
Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2015 Inflation-adjusted dollars), 2015 ¹³	53,889	51,786	57,574	49,255	49,576	49,429	53,357
People whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level, 2015 ¹⁴	15.5%	15.2%	14.3%	15.4%	16.7%	15.8%	13.0%
Unemployment rate, 2015 ¹⁵	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%	7.8%	9.8%	8.2%	6.3%
State minimum wage, 1/1/17 ¹⁶	\$7.25	n/a	\$8.25	\$7.25	\$8.90	\$8.15/ \$7.25	\$7.25

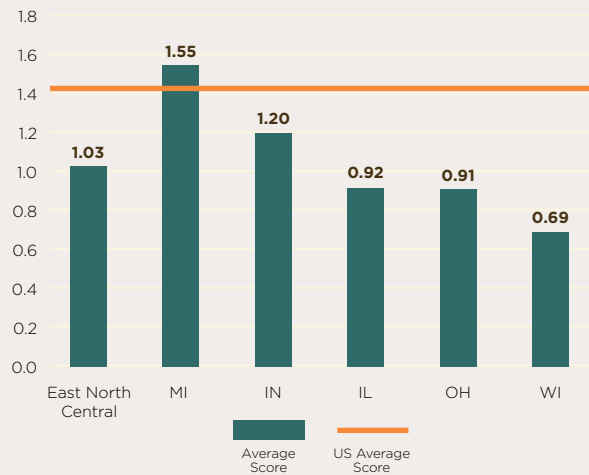
Index

This index is based on the following activities included in the ICMA-MSU survey:

- Establishing and maintaining farmers markets
- Buying local in government facilities
- Allowing sales at farm stands, gardens, etc.
- Creating/operating food hubs
- Food-related job creation
- Promoting agri- or food tourism
- Farmland preservation
- Support for value-added processing
- Encouraging food trucks, mobile vending, pop-up food businesses
- Food-related brownfield redevelopment

Scores

A maximum score of 10 is possible for this index, and the national average is 1.42. Michigan's average Economic Development Index score of 1.55 is the only one in the region to exceed the national average.



¹³ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

¹⁴ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

¹⁵ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

¹⁶ National Conference of State Legislatures, from US Department of Labor and state web sites

IN PRACTICE

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the County of Marquette (2015 population: 67,077) worked with its regional planning agency to secure funding for a feasibility study on the establishment of a new food processing facility to serve the region, potentially repurposing a former military base. Downstate in Muskegon County (2015 population: 172,188), community foundation, grant, and private dollars were leveraged to conduct a food hub feasibility study and implementation plan.