



# How Does the U.S. Census Bureau Define "Rural"? A Story Map

This story map contains interactive web maps, information, and images to help explain how the Census Bureau defines "rural."

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Rural America
A story map

How Does the Census Bureau Define Rural?

Where Can I Find Data for Rural Areas?

Did You Know These Rural Facts?

### How Does the U.S. Census Bureau Define "Rural?"

explaining sparse settlement throughout much of the Great Plains and the Intermountain West. The population density map on the right depicts this clustering effect.

Pan and zoom around the map to find clusters of rural population by census tract. A census tract can be a mixture of urban and rural population.

**Rural population density by census tract (2010)\***

Highest concentration of rural population

Lowest concentration of rural population

\*Population density analysis conducted within each state

Completely urban census tracts

Federal lands

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [2010 Census Summary File 1 Table P2](#) and [Cartographic Boundary Shapefiles \(2010\)](#); U.S. Geological Survey, [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PADUS\)](#)



Read the story  
[go.usa.gov/x8yPZ](http://go.usa.gov/x8yPZ)



Watch the video  
[youtu.be/MxI-pgRdyPs](http://youtu.be/MxI-pgRdyPs)