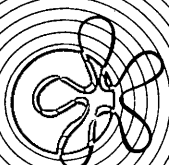


Geographic Centers of the United States



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOGRAPHIC CENTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

There is no generally accepted definition of geographic center, and no completely satisfactory method for determining it. Because of this, there may be as many geographic centers of a State or country as there are definitions of the term. The geographic center of an area may be defined as the center of gravity of the surface, or that point on which the surface of the area would balance if it were a plane of uniform thickness.

No marked or monumented point has been established by any government agency as the geographic center of either the 50 States, the conterminous United States, or the North American Continent. However, a monument was erected in Lebanon, Kansas, by a group of citizens who hired engineers to determine the position of the "geographic center" of the United States.

Meades Ranch triangulation station, about 12 miles north of Lucas, Kansas, is sometimes confused with the geographic center of the

United States. This triangulation station is the reference point for all property lines and city, county, State, and international boundaries on the North American Continent that are tied to the national triangulation networks of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America. It is located at latitude 39°12'26.686", longitude 98°32'30.506". This triangulation station is the base point or origin of geodetic positions and directions in the triangulation net of the United States because it is at the junction of the main east-west transcontinental triangulation arc stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast and the main north-south arc, which follows approximately the 98th meridian from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande.

Because many factors, such as the curvature of the earth, large bodies of water, and irregular surfaces, affect the determination of centers of gravity, the following positions should be considered as approximations only.

		Latitude	Longitude
Conterminous United States (48 States)	Near Lebanon, Smith County, Kansas	39°50'	98°35'
Continental United States (49 States)	Near Castle Rock, Butte County, South Dakota	44°59'	103°38'
The United States (50 States)	West of Castle Rock, Butte County, South Dakota	44°58'	103°46'
North American Continent	6 miles west of Balta, Pierce County, North Dakota	48°10'	100°10'

*Other information on geographic centers is contained in the following references: Adams, Oscar S., 1932, Geographical centers: The Military Engineer, v. 24, no. 138, p. 586-587; Culley, Frank L., 1949, Meades Ranch triangulation station: The Military Engineer, v. 41, no. 280, p. 98-99.

State	County	Locality
Alabama	Chilton	12 miles southwest of Clanton.
Alaska	- -	63°50'N., 152°00'W., 60 miles northwest of Mt. McKinley.
Arizona	Yavapai	55 miles east-southeast of Prescott.
Arkansas	Pulaski	12 miles northwest of Little Rock.
California	Madera	35 miles northeast of Madera.
Colorado	Park	30 miles northwest of Pikes Peak.
Connecticut	Hartford	At East Berlin.
Delaware	Kent	11 miles south of Dover.
District of Columbia	- -	Near Fourth and L Streets NW.
Florida	Hernando	12 miles north-northwest of Brookville.
Georgia	Twiggs	18 miles southeast of Macon.
Hawaii	Hawaii	20°15'N., 156°20'W., off Maui Island.
Idaho	Custer	At Custer, southwest of Challis.
Illinois	Logan	28 miles northeast of Springfield.
Indiana	Boone	14 miles north-northwest of Indianapolis.
Iowa	Story	5 miles northeast of Ames.
Kansas	Barton	15 miles northeast of Great Bend.
Kentucky	Marion	3 miles north-northwest of Lebanon.
Louisiana	Avoyelles	3 miles southeast of Marksville.
Maine	Piscataquis	18 miles north of Dover.
Maryland	Prince Georges	4½ miles northwest of Davidsonville.
Massachusetts	Worcester	North part of city of Worcester.
Michigan	Wexford	5 miles north-northwest of Cadillac.
Minnesota	Crow Wing	10 miles southwest of Brainerd.
Mississippi	Leake	9 miles west-northwest of Carthage.
Missouri	Miller	20 miles southwest of Jefferson City.
Montana	Fergus	12 miles west of Lewiston.
Nebraska	Custer	10 miles northwest of Broken Bow.
Nevada	Lander	24 miles southeast of Austin.
New Hampshire	Belknap	3 miles east of Ashland.
New Jersey	Mercer	5 miles southeast of Trenton.
New Mexico	Torrance	12 miles south-southwest of Willard.
New York	Madison	12+ miles south of Oneida and 26+ miles southwest of Utica.
North Carolina	Chatham	10 miles northwest of Sanford.
North Dakota	Sheridan	5 miles southwest of McClusky.
Ohio	Delaware	25 miles north-northeast of Columbus.
Oklahoma	Oklahoma	8 miles north of Oklahoma City.
Oregon	Crook	25 miles south-southeast of Prineville.
Pennsylvania	Centre	2½ miles southwest of Bellefonte.
Rhode Island	Kent	1 mile south-southwest of Crompton.
South Carolina	Richland	13 miles southeast of Columbia.
South Dakota	Hughes	8 miles northeast of Pierre.
Tennessee	Rutherford	5 miles northeast of Murfreesboro.
Texas	McCulloch	15 miles northeast of Brady.
Utah	Sanpete	3 miles north of Manti.
Vermont	Washington	3 miles east of Roxbury.
Virginia	Buckingham	5 miles southwest of Buckingham.
Washington	Chelan	10 miles west-southwest of Wenatchee.
West Virginia	Braxton	4 miles east of Sutton.
Wisconsin	Wood	9 miles southeast of Marsfield.
Wyoming	Fremont	58 miles east-northeast of Lander.

Note:

Later data for Nevada: 26 miles southeast of Austin, approximately at $39^{\circ}19'N.$ - $119^{\circ}38'W.$



In its assigned function as the Nation's principal natural resource agency, the Department of the Interior bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum yields, and that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress, prosperity, and security of America, now and in the future.