

# Economic Development Capacity Index

## What is the Economic Development Capacity Index?

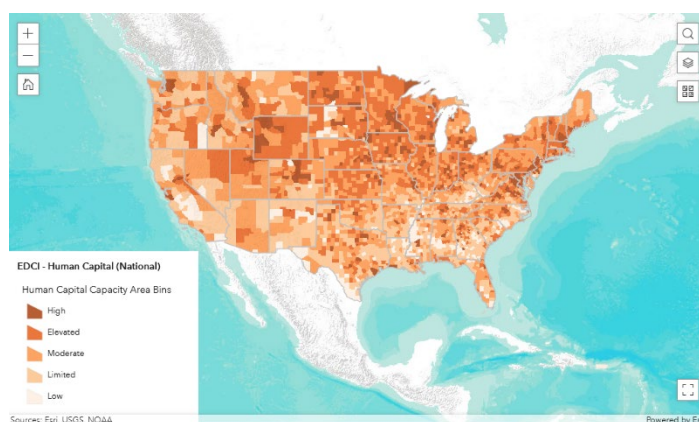
The [Economic Development Capacity Index \(EDCI\)](#), developed through a partnership between the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the [National Economic Research and Resilience Center](#) at Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne), uses publicly available data to assess critical elements that contribute to a county's overall economic development capacity. Economic development capacity is comprised of the knowledge, skills, assets, and resources that foster prosperity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and high quality of life in a community.

## What does the EDCI measure?

The EDCI brings together 53 indicators across five major capacity areas:

- Financial
- Human Capital
- Industry Composition
- Infrastructure
- Institutions and Partnerships

Specifically, the EDCI provides county-level quantitative and qualitative scores by capacity area, as well as the national percentile, relative to the rest of the nation, for each individual indicator. Argonne and EDA identified each of these capacity areas and the associated indicators through engagement with economic development subject matter experts, a review of economic development literature, and an evaluation of publicly available data.



*Map of the EDCI Human Capital Focus Area Results*

## How can the EDCI be used?

The EDCI can be used to support or inform economic development planning, project identification, or applications for assistance. It is intended to provide an accessible breakdown and evaluation of the constituent components of economic development capacity. Within the [web mapping application](#), users can view overall quantitative and qualitative scores for each capacity area. In addition, they can view results for individual indicators to better understand relative strengths and challenges within a given capacity area. Data have been relativized to a national scale to facilitate comparisons and analyses at different spatial scales. Moving forward, the EDCI will be updated annually. In future years, it will enable communities and other economic development stakeholders to evaluate how capacity changes as a result of economic development investments and initiatives.

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