The Hardship Index was developed by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government to compare economic conditions of one place to another. The Index standardizes demographic and socio-economic variables, including unemployment, age dependency, education, income level, crowded housing, and poverty, and then averages them together, yielding a score on a scale of 0-100. Higher values indicate greater hardship. The index was calculated only in areas that had data for 5 of the 6 variables.


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