RUCA code – Primary: (choose one)

\_ 1 Metropolitan area core: primary flow within an urbanized area (UA)

\_ 2 Metropolitan area high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a UA

\_ 3 Metropolitan area low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a UA

\_ 4 Micropolitan area core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 (large UC)

\_ 5 Micropolitan high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a large UC

\_ 6 Micropolitan low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a large UC

\_ 7 Small town core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 2,500 to 9,999 (small UC)

\_ 8 Small town high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a small UC

\_ 9 Small town low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a small UC

\_ 10 Rural areas: primary flow to a tract outside a UA or UC

\_ 99 Not coded: Census tract has zero population and no rural-urban identifier information

RUCA code – Secondary: choose one (optional)

1 Metropolitan area core: primary flow within an urbanized area (UA)

\_ 1 No additional code

\_ 1.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a larger UA

2 Metropolitan area high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a UA

\_ 2 No additional code

\_ 2.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a larger UA

3 Metropolitan area low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a UA

\_ 3 No additional code

4 Micropolitan area core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 (large UC)

\_ 4 No additional code

\_ 4.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a UA

5 Micropolitan high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a large UC

\_ 5 No additional code

\_ 5.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a UA

6 Micropolitan low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a large UC

\_ 6 No additional code

7 Small town core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 2,500 to 9,999 (small UC)

\_ 7 No additional code

\_ 7.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a UA

\_ 7.2 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a large UC

8 Small town high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a small UC

\_ 8 No additional code

\_ 8.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a UA

\_ 8.2 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a large UC

9 Small town low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a small UC

\_ 9 No additional code

10 Rural areas: primary flow to a tract outside a UA or UC

\_ 10 No additional code

\_ 10.1 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a UA

\_ 10.2 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a large UC

\_ 10.3 Secondary flow 30% to 50% to a small UC

99 Not coded: Census tract has zero population and no rural-urban identifier information

Notes:

The rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes classify U.S. locations to reflect population density, urbanization, and daily commuting. The classification contains two levels. Whole numbers (1-10) delineate metropolitan, micropolitan, small town, and rural commuting areas based on the size and direction of the primary (largest) commuting flows. These 10 codes can be optionally further subdivided based on secondary commuting flows. Tables to determine RUCA codes from address or zip code are available on the USDA website.

Reference:

USDA Economic Research Service (2022). Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes. Economic Research Service, Department of Agriculture. [https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes. Accessed 2022-05-20](https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes.%20Accessed%202022-05-20).