## GENERAL TABLES OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

This Letter Circular has been prepared to meet requests from the general public for information on the system of weights and measures in use in the United States. It is divided into four parts, as follows:

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\text { and Measures } & \text { pages 2-4 } \\
\text { II. - - Tables of Metric Weights and Measures } & \text { pages } 5-6 \\
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Other and more detailed information on standards and units of weights and measures will be found in the following publications of the National Bureau of Standards:

Miscellaneous Publication M 64, "History of the Standard Weights and Measures of the United States." (Out of Print. Available in libraries.)

Miscellaneous Publication M 214, "Units of Weight and Measure-Definitions and Tables of Equivalents. "* (40 cents per copy.)

Letter Circular LC 930, "Standards of Length, Mass, and Time. "**

Letter Circular LC 957, "Units and Systems of Weights and Measures. "秋
*Sold by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
**Available from the National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C., upon request.

## I. - TABLES OF UNITED STATES CUSTOMARY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## LINEAR MEASURE

| 12 inches $($ in. $)$ | $=1$ foot $(\mathrm{ft})$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| 3 feet | $=1$ yard $(\mathrm{yd})$ |
| $5 \mathrm{l} / 2$ yards | $=1$ rod $(\mathrm{rd})$, pole, or perch $=161 / 2$ feet |
| 40 rods | $=1$ furlong (fur.) $=220$ yards $=660$ feet |
| 8 furlongs | $=1$ statute mile $(\mathrm{mi})=1,760$ yards $=5,280$ feet |
| 3 miles | $=1$ league $=5,280$ yards $=15,840$ feet |

$6,07610333 \ldots$ feet $=1$ nautical, geographical, or sea mile (International)
AREA MEASURE*

| 144 square inches (s 9 square feet | 1 square foot (sq ft) |
| :---: | :---: |
| $301 / 4$ square yards | $=1$ square $\operatorname{rod}(\mathrm{sq} \mathrm{rd})=2721 / 4$ square feet |
| 160 square rods | $=1$ acre $=4,840$ square yards $=43,560$ square feet |
| 640 acres | $=1$ square mile (sq mi) |
| 1 mile square | $=1$ section [of land) |
| 6 miles square | $=1$ township $=36$ sections $=36$ square miles |

CUBIC MEASURE*
$1,728$ cubic inches (cu in. $)=1$ cubic foot (cu ft)
27 cubic feet $\quad=1$ cubic yard (cu yd)
GUNTER'S OR SURVE YORS CHAIN MEASURE
7.92 inches (in.) $=1 \operatorname{link}(1 i)$

100 links $\quad=1$ chain $(\mathrm{ch})=4 \mathrm{rods}=66$ feet
80 chains $=1$ statute mile $(\mathrm{mi})=320 \mathrm{rods}=5,280$ feet

## LIQUID MEASURE**

4 gills $(\mathrm{gi})=1$ pint $(\mathrm{pt})[=28.875$ cubic inches $]$
2 pints $\quad=1$ quart (qt) $[=57.75$ cubic inches $]$
4 quarts $=1$ gallon (gal) $[=231$ cubic inches $]=8$ pints $=32$ gills
*Squares and cubes of units are sometimes abbreviated by using "superior" figures. For example, $\mathrm{ft}^{2}$ means square foot, and $\mathrm{ft}^{3}$ means cubic foot.
**When necessary to distinguish the liquid pint or quart from the dry pint or quart, the word "liquid" or the abbreviation "liq" should be used in combination with the name or abbreviation of the liquid unit.

## APOTHECARIES FLUD MEASURE

| 60 minims $(\min )$ | $=1$ fluid dram (fl dr) $[=0.2256$ cubic inch $]$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| 8 fluid drams | $=1$ fluid ounce (fi oz) $[=1.8047$ cubic inches $]$ |
| 16 fluid ounces | $=1$ pint $(p t)[=28.875$ cubic inches $]=128$ fluid drams |
| 2 pints | $=1$ quart $(q t)[=57.75$ cubic inches $]=32$ fluid ounces |
|  | $=256$ fluid drams |
| 4 quarts | $=1$ gallon (gal) $[=231$ cubic inches $]=128$ fluid ounces |
|  | $=1024$ fluid drams |

DRX MEASURE次
2 pints $(p t)=1$ quart (qt) $[=67.2006$ cubic inches $]$
8 quarts $=1$ peck $(\mathrm{pk})[=537.605$ cubic inches $]=16$ pints
4 pecks $=1$ bushel (buy $\mathbb{L}=2150.42$ cubic inches $\$=32$ quarts

## A VOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT**

[The "grain" is the same in avoirdupois, troy, and apothecaries weight. ]

| $2711 / 32$ grains | $=1$ dram $(\mathrm{dr})$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 16 drams | $=1$ ounce $(0 z)=4371 / 2$ grains |
| 16 ounces | $=1$ pound $(1 \mathrm{~b})=256 \mathrm{drams}=7000$ grains |
| 100 pounds | $=1$ hundredweight (cwt)**** |
| 20 hundredweights | $=1$ ton $(t n)=2000$ pounds*** |

In "gross" or "long" measure, the following values are recognized:
112 pounds $\quad=1$ gross or long hundredweight $\% *$
20 gross or long
hundredweights $=1$ gross or long ton $=2240$ pounds**
*When necessary to distinguish the dry pint or quart from the liquid pint or quart, the word "dry" should be used in combination with the name or abbreviation of the dry unit.
**When necessary to distinguish the avoirdupois dram from the apothecaries dram, or to distinguish the avoirdupois dram or ounce from the fluid dram or ounce, or to distinguish the avoirdupois ounce or pound from the troy or apothecaries ounce or pound, the.word "avoirdupois" or the abbreviation "avdp" should be used in combination with the name or abbreviation of the avoirdupois unit.
***When the terms "hundredweight" and "ton" are used ummodified, they are commonly understood to mean the 100 -pound hundredweight and the 2000 -pound ton, respectively; these units may be designated "net" or "short" when necessary to distinguish them from the corresponding units in gross or long measure.

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## TROY WEIGHT

[The "grain" is the same in avoirdupois, troy, and apothecaries weight.]
24 grains $=1$ pennyweight (dwt)
20 pennyweights $=1$ ounce troy $(0 z t)=480$ grains
12 ounces tray $=1$ pound troy $(1 \mathrm{lb} t)=240$ pennyweights $=5,760$ grains

## APOTHECARIES WEIGHT

【The "grain" is the same in avoirdupois, troy, and apothecaries weight. I
20 grains $=1$ scruple (s ap)
3 scruples $\quad=1$ dram apothecaries (dr ap) $=60$ grains
8 drams apothecaries $=1$ ounce apothecaries $(0 z a p)=24$ scruples $=480$ grains
12 ounces apothecaries $=1$ pound apothecaries $(1 b$ ap $)=96$ drams apothecaries $=288$ scruples $=5,760$ grains

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## II. --TABLES OF METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## LINEAR MEASURE

10 millimeters $(\mathrm{mm})=1$ centimeter $(\mathrm{cm})$
10 centimeters $=1$ decimeter $(\mathrm{dm})=100$ millimeters
10 decimeters $\quad=1$ meter $(\mathrm{m})=1,000$ millimeters
10 meters $\quad=1$ dekameter ( dkm )
10 dekameters $=1$ hectometer $(\mathrm{hm})=100$ meters
10 hectometers $=1$ kilometer $(\mathrm{km})=1,000$ meters

## AREA MEASURE

100 square millimeters $\left(\mathrm{mm}^{2}\right)=1$ square centimeter $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{2}\right)$
10,000 square centimeters $\quad=1$ square meter $\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)=1,000,000$ square millimeters
100 square meters
$=1$ are (a)
100 ares
100 hectares
$=1$ hectare $($ ha $)=10,000$ square meters
$=1$ square kilometer $\left(\mathrm{km}^{2}\right)=$
1,000,000 square meters

## VOLUME MEASURE

10 milliliters $(\mathrm{ml})=1$ centiliter $(\mathrm{cl})$

10 centiliters $\quad=1$ deciliter $(\mathrm{dl})=100$ milliliters
10 deciliters $\quad=1$ liter* $(1)=1,000$ milliliters
10 liters $=1$ dekaliter (dkl)
10 dekaliters $\quad=1$ hectoliter $(\mathrm{hl})=100$ liters
10 hectoliters $\quad=1$ kiloliter $(\mathrm{ki})=1,000$ liters
CUBIC MEASURE
1,000 cubic millimeters $\left(\mathrm{mm}^{3}\right)=1$ cubic centimeter $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{3}\right)$
1,000 cubic centimeters $\quad=1$ cubic decimeter $\left(\mathrm{dm}^{3}\right)=$
$1,000,000$ cubic millimeters
1,000 cubic decimeters $\quad=1$ cubic meter $\left(\mathrm{m}^{3}\right)=1$ stere $=$
1,000,000 cubic centimeters $=$
$1,000,000,000$ cubic millimeters
*The liter is defined as the volume occupied, under standard conditions. by a quantity óf pure water having a mass of 1 kilogram. This volume is very nearly equal to 1,000 cubic centimeters or 1 cubic decimeter; the actual metric equivalent is, 1 liter $=1,000.028$ cubrc centimeters. (The change in this'equivalent from the previously published value of $1,000,027$ is based on a recomputation of earlier data, carried out at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.) Thus the milliliter and the liter are larger than the cubic centimeter and the cubic decimeter, respectively, by 28 parts in $1,000,000$; except for determinations of high precision, this difference is so small as to be of no consequence.

## WEIGHT

| 10 milligrams $(\mathrm{mg})$ | $=1$ centigram $(\mathrm{cg})$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| 10 centigrams | $=1$ decigram $(\mathrm{dg})=100$ milligrams |
| 10 decigrams | $=1$ gram $(\mathrm{g})=1,000$ milligrams |
| 10 grams | $=1$ dekagram $(\mathrm{dkg})$ |
| 10 dekagrams | $=1$ hectogram $(\mathrm{hg})=100$ grams |
| 10 hectograms | $=1$ kilogram $(\mathrm{kg})=1,000$ grams |
| 1,000 kilograms | $=1$ metric ton $(\mathrm{t})$ |

NOTE.--In the metric system of weights and measures, designations of multiples and subdivisions of any unit may be arrvied, at by combining with the name of the unit the prefixes deka, hecto, and kilo, meaning, respectively, 10,100 , and 1,000 , and deci, centi, and milli, meaning, respectively, onetenth, one-hundredth, and one-thousandth. In some of the foregoing metric tables, some such multiples and subdivisions have not been included for the reason that these have little, if any, currency in actual usage.

In certain cases, particularly in scientific usage, it becomes convenient to provide for multiples larger than 1,000 and for subdivisions smaller than one-thousandth. Accordingly, the following prefixes have been introduced and these are now generally recognized.
myria, meaning 10,000
mega, meaning $1,000,000$
micro, meaning one-millionth
A special case is found in the term "micron" fabbreviated as $\mu$ [ the Greek letter mul), a coined word meaning one-millionth of a meter (equivaient to one-thousandth of a millimeter); a milli-micron (abbreviated as $m \mu$ ) is one-thousandth of a micron (equivalent to one-millionth of a millimeter), and a micromicron (abbreviated as $\mu \mu$ ) is one-millionth of a micron (equivalent to one-thousandth of a millimicron or to 0,000000001 millimeter.


## 2. UNITS OF AREA



| Units | Minims | Fluld drams | Fluld ounces | Gills | Liquid pints | Liquld quarls | Gailons | Mililiera | Liters | Cubic inches | Onita |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 minime $\sim$ | 1 | 0.0166667 | 0.00208333 | 0.000520833 | 0.000130208 | 0.000065104 | 0.000016276 | 0.0616102 | 0.0000616102 | 0.00375977 | $=1 \mathrm{minim}$ |
| 1 fluid dram $=$ | 60 | 1 | 0.125 | 0.03125 | 0.0078125 | 0.00350625 | 0.000976562 | 3.69661 | 0.00369661 | 0.225586 | $=1$ fluld dram |
| 1 fuld ounce ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 480 | 8 | 1 | 0.35 | 0.0625 | 0.03125 | 0.0078125 | 29.5729 | 0.0295729 | 1.80469 | $=1$ fuld ounce |
| 1 gll $=$ | 1920 | 32 | 4 | 1 | 0.25 | 0.12 T | 0.03125 | 118.292 | 0.118292 | 7.21875 | $=1 \mathrm{gill}$ |
| 1 liquid plat - | 7680 | 128 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.125 | 473.167 | 0.473167 | 28.875 | $=1$ liquid pint |
| 1 liquld quart ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 15360 | 256 | 32 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0.25 | 946.333 | 0.946333 | 57.75 | $=1$ liquld quart |
| $1 \mathrm{galion}=$ | 61440 | 1024 | 128 | 32 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3785.332 | 3.785 332 | 231 | -1 gallon |
| 1 millibiter ${ }^{\text {ajiter }}$ | 16.2311 | 0.270518 | 0.0338147 | 0.00845368 | 0.00211342 | 0.00105671 | 0.000264178 | 1 | 0.001 | 0.0610250 | $=1$ mulubier |
| 1 liter $=$ 1 cubse inch $=$ | 16231.1 <br> 265.974 | $270.518$ | $33.8147$ | $8.45368$ | 2.11342 | 1.05671 | 0.264178 | 1060 | 1 | 61.0250 | - 1 liler |
| 1 clsblc inch $=$ | 265.974 | 4.43290 | 0.554113 | $0.138528$ | 0.0346320 | 0.0173160 | 0.00432900 | 16. 3867 | 0.0163867 | 1 | -1 cubic lach |

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" "Avoir." is now abbreviated "avdp".
B. 2523

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## IV。--TABLES OF EQUIVALENTS

NOTES. --When the name of a unit is enclosed in brackets (thus, [ 1 hand]----), this indicates (1) that the unit is not in general current use in the United States, or (2) that the unit is believed to be based on "custom and usage" rather than on formal authoritative definition.

Equivalents involving decimals are, in most instances, rounded off to the third decimal place except where they are exact, in which cases these exact equivalents are so designated.

## LENGTHS


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1 inch (in.) 2. 540 centimeters
1 kilometer (km) ..... 0.621 mile
1 league (land) (3 statute miles
(4.828 kilometers
1 link (li) (Gunter's or surveyors) (7. 92 inches (exactly) ..... (0. 201 meter
[1 link (li) (engineers)] ..... (1 foot
(0. 305 meter
1 meter (m) (39. 37 inches (exactly) ..... (1.094 yards
1 micron ( $\mu$ [the Greek letter mu]) (0.001 millimeter (exactly) (0.00003937 inch (exactly)
1 mil(0.001 inch (exactly)(0. 0254 millimeter
1 mile (mi) (statute or land) ..... (5,280 feet
(1. 609 kilometers
[1 mile (mi) (nautical, geographical, (1. 152 statute miles or sea, former U.S. value)] (6, 080. 20 feet
(1.853 kilometers
1 mile (mi) (nautical, inter- national, and new U. S. value)
(1.852 kilometers (exactly)
(1.151 statute miles (6,076.10333...feet.
1 millimeter (mm) 0.03937 inch (exactly)
1 millimicron (m $m$ [the English letter (0.001 micron (exactly) $m$ in combination with the Greek- (0.00000003937 inch (exactly) letter mul)
1 point (typography)10.013837 inch (exactly)(0. 351 millimeter
(16 1/2 feet
$1 \operatorname{rod}(r d)$, pole, or perch- (5 1/2 yards
(5.029 meters
1 yard (yd) ..... 0.914 meter

## AREAS OR SURFACES



## CAPAUMTITS OR VOLUVIES

1 barrel（bbl），liquid 31 to 42 gallons＊
1 barrel（bbl），standard，for fruits， （7，056 cubic inches vegetables，anciother dry com－ 〈105 dry quarts modities except cranbexies （3． 281 bushels，struck measure
（5826 cubic inches
1 barrel（bbl），standard，cranjarmy （d6 45／64 dry quarts （2． 709 bushels，struck measure
1 bushel（bu）（U．S．）struck （2150． 42 cubic inches（exactly） measure （35． 238 liters
［1 bushel，heaped（U．S．）］ 8.447 .715 cubic inches （1． 278 bushels，struck measure＊
〔1 bushel（bu）（British Imperial）
（struck measure）］（1．032 U．S．bushels，（ struck measure（2219．36 cubic inches
$1 \operatorname{cord}(c d)$（firewood） 128 cubic feet
1 cubic centimeter（ $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ） 0.061 cubic inch
1 cubic decimeter $\left(\mathrm{dm}^{3}\right)$ 61.023 cubic inches
1 cubic foot（cu ft） （7．481 gallons
（28． 317 cubic decimeters
（0．554 fluid ounce
1 cubic inch（cu in．） （4． 433 fluid drams（16．387 cubic centimeters
1 cubic meter（ $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ ） ..... 1． 308 cubic yards

[^0]筷Frequenty recognized ac 1 ／4 buchels，struck measure

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 cubic yard (cu yd)-------------------------0.765 cubic meter |  |
| 1 cup, measuring - | (8 fluid ounces <br> (1/2 liquid pint |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { dram, fluid (or liquid) (fl dr) } \\ & \text { (U. S.) } \end{aligned}$ | (1/8 fluid ounce (0.226 cubic inch ( 3.697 milliliters |
| [1 dram, fluid (fl dr) (British)] | (0.961 U. S. fluid dram (0.217 cubic inch (3. 552 milliliters |
| 1 dekaliter ( ${ }^{\text {dkl }}$ )- | (2. 642 gallons <br> (1.135 pecks |
| 1 gallon (gal) (U. S.) | $(231$ cubic inches <br> (3.785 liters <br> 10.833 British gallon <br> (128 U. S. fluid ounces |
| $[1$ gallon (gal) (British Imperial) | (277. 42 cubic inches <br> 11.201 U. S. gallons <br> (4."546 liters <br> (160 British fluid ounces |
| 1 gill (gi) | (7.219 cubic inches (4. fluid ounces (0. 118 liter |
| 1 hectoliter (hl) | (26.418 gallons <br> (2. 838 bushels |
|  | (1.057 liquid quarts <br> (0.908 dry quart <br> (61.025 cubic inches |
| 1 milliliter (mi) | (0.271 fluid dram (16. 231 minims (0.061 cubic inch |
| ```1 ounce, fluid (or liquid) (fl oz) (U. S.)``` | (1.805 cubic inches <br> (29. 573 milliliters <br> (1.041 British fluid ounce |

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## WEIGHTS OR MASSES

| 1 carat (c) | (200 milligrams <br> (3.086 grains |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 dram apothecaries (dr ap) | (60 grains <br> (3.888 grams |
| 1 dram, avoirdupois (dr avdp)gamma, see microgram | (2711/32 (= 27.344 ) grains (1.772 grams |
| 1 grain | 64.799 milligrams |
| $1 \mathrm{gram}(\mathrm{g})$ | (15. 432 grains <br> (0.035 ounce, avoirdupois |
| 1 hundredweight, gross or long** (gross cwt) | (112 pounds <br> (50.802 kilograms |
| 1 hundredweight, net or short (cwt or net cwt)------- | (100 pounds <br> (45. 359 kilograms |
| 1 kilogram (kg) | 2.205 pounds |
| 1 microgram ( $\mathcal{Y}$ [the Greek letter gammal) | 0.000001 gram (exactly) |
| 1 milligram (mg) - | 0.015 grain |
| 1 ounce, avoirdupois (oz avdp) | (437.5 grains (exactly) <br> (0.911 troy or apothecaries ounce <br> (28. 350 grams |

*Used in assaying. The assay ton bears the same relation to the milligram that a ton of 2000 pounds avoirdupois bears to the ounce troy; hence the weight in milligrams of precious metal obtained from one assay ton of ore gives directly the number of troy ounces to the net ton.
**The gross or long ton and hundredweight are used commercially in the United States to only a limited extent, usually in restricted industrial fields. These units are the same as the British "ton" and "hundredweight."

| 1 ounce, troy or apothecaries (oz t or oz ap)-------- | (480 grairs <br> (1. 097 avoirdupois ounces <br> (31. 103 grams |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 pennyweight (dwt) | 1.555 grams |
| 1 pound, avoirdupois (lb avdp) | ```(7000 grains 11.215 troy or apothecaries \| pounds (453.592 grams``` |
| 1 pound, troy or apothecaries <br> (lb t or lb ap)-------- | (5760 grains <br> (0.823 avoirdupois pound <br> (373.242 grams |
| 1 scruple (s ap | (20 grains <br> (1.296 grams |
| 1 ton, gross or long* (gross tn) | $(2240$ pounds <br> (1. 12 net tons (exactly) <br> (1.016 metric tons |
| 1 ton, metric (t) | (2204.622 pounds <br> 10. 984 gross ton <br> (1. 102 net tons |
| 1 ton, net or short (tn or net tn) | (2000 pounds (0.893 gross ton (0.907 metric ton |

* The gross or long ton and hundredweight are used commercially in the United States to only a limited extent, usually in restricted industrial fields. These units are the same as the British "ton" and "hundredweight."


[^0]:    ＊There are a variety of＂barrels＂established by law or usage．For example．Federal taxes on fermented liquors are based on a barrel of 31 gallons；many State laws fix the＂barrel for liquids＂as $311 / 2$ gallons；one State fixes a 36 －gallon barrel for cistern measurement；Federal law recog－ mizes a 40 －gallon barrel for＂proof spirits＂；by custom， 42 gallons comprise a barrel of crude oil or petroleum products for statistical purposes，and this equivalent is recçnzed＂for liquids＂by four States．

