



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
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THE DIRECTOR

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OMB BULLETIN NO. 10-02

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS SUBJECT: Update of
Statistical Area Definitions and Guidance on Their Uses

- 1. Purpose:** This bulletin, which includes an attachment and an appendix, updates and supersedes OMB Bulletin No. 09-01, issued on November 20, 2008. The attachment to the bulletin provides detailed information on the update of statistical areas since that time. The bulletin also provides guidance to Federal agencies that use the definitions of these statistical areas for program administrative and fund allocation purposes.
- 2. Background:** Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(3) and 31 U.S.C. 1104(d) and Executive Order No. 10253 (June 11, 1951), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas for use in Federal statistical activities.
- 3. Update of Statistical Areas:** This bulletin provides the definitions of all Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas in the United States and Puerto Rico based on the standards published on December 27, 2000, in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 82228 - 82238) and Census 2000 data as well as Census Bureau population estimates for 2007 and 2008. The attachment provides details on the updates to the statistical areas, principal cities, and area titles to reflect changes in population estimates. The appendix to this bulletin provides complete lists of all statistical areas that are recognized under the standards. This will be the final update of the statistical areas prior to the 2010 Census of Population and Housing.
- 4. Effective Date:** The changes to the statistical areas contained in the attachment take effect immediately.
- 5. Guidance on Uses of Statistical Area Definitions:** All agencies that conduct statistical activities to collect and publish data for Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas should use the most recent definitions of these areas established by OMB.

OMB establishes and maintains the definitions of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas solely for statistical purposes. This classification is intended to provide nationally consistent definitions for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for a set of geographic areas. The Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards do not equate to an urban-rural classification; many counties included in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and many other counties, contain both urban and rural territory and populations.

Nonstatistical Program Uses of the Statistical Area Definitions: In periodically reviewing and revising the definitions of these areas, OMB does not take into account or attempt to anticipate any nonstatistical uses that may be made of the definitions, nor will OMB modify the definitions to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical program.

Thus, OMB cautions that Metropolitan Statistical Area and Micropolitan Statistical Area definitions should not be used to develop and implement Federal, state, and local nonstatistical programs and policies without full consideration of the effects of using these definitions for such purposes. These areas are not intended to serve as a general-purpose geographic framework for nonstatistical activities, and they may or may not be suitable for use in program funding formulas.

OMB recognizes that some legislation specifies the use of Metropolitan Statistical Areas for program purposes, including the allocation of Federal funds, and will continue to work with the Congress to clarify the foundations of these definitions and the resultant, often unintended consequences of their use for nonstatistical purposes.

In cases where there is no statutory requirement and an agency elects to use the Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Combined Statistical Area definitions in nonstatistical programs, it is the sponsoring agency's responsibility to ensure that the definitions are appropriate for such use. When an agency is publishing for comment a proposed regulation that would use the definitions for a nonstatistical purpose, the agency should seek public comment on the proposed use.

An agency using the statistical definitions in a nonstatistical program may modify the definitions, but only for the purposes of that program. In such cases, any modifications should be clearly identified as deviations from the OMB statistical area definitions in order to avoid confusion with OMB's official definitions of Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Areas.

Federal agencies that use the statistical area definitions for nonstatistical program purposes should note that the 2000 standards changed the terminology used for classifying the areas. Under the 1980 and 1990 standards there were two types of areas: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Areas and (2) Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas that consisted of Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The terms "Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area" and "Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area" are now obsolete.

Under the 2000 standards, "Metropolitan Statistical Area" and "Micropolitan Statistical Area" are the terms used for the basic set of county-based areas defined under this classification. In addition, the term "Metropolitan Division" is used to refer to a county or group of counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area that has a population core of at least 2.5 million. A Metropolitan Division is most generally comparable in concept, and equivalent to, the now obsolete Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area.

While a Metropolitan Division is a subdivision of a larger Metropolitan Statistical Area, it often functions as a distinct social, economic, and cultural area within the larger region. Metropolitan Divisions retain their separate statistical identities. Federal agencies will continue to provide detailed data for each Metropolitan Division, just as they did in the past for the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

If Federal agencies had been using the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas for program administrative and fund allocation purposes, they should now consider using the Metropolitan Division definitions, the comparable geographic units of the classification based on the 2000 standards. Research and analyses that previously used data for Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas should now use data for Metropolitan Divisions. Data users and analysts interested in demographic and economic patterns, trends, and processes within large Metropolitan Statistical Areas should consider data for specific Metropolitan Divisions when conducting analyses.

Users making comparisons with areas defined under the 1990 standards should note that when the 2000 standards were applied, the result, in some cases, was to create several areas from an existing Metropolitan Statistical Area. The resulting reconfigured areas may also qualify under the 2000 standards to form a complementary Combined Statistical Area, while retaining their separate designations as Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas. In these situations, the Combined Statistical Area may be the approximate geographic equivalent of the previous Metropolitan Statistical Area, and thus may be the more appropriate geographic unit for analytic and program purposes.

Federal agencies will be making economic and demographic data available for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, New England City and Town Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas. Because of sample sizes and associated data quality and confidentiality issues, there may be instances where agencies will produce data only at the level of Combined Statistical Areas.

6. Availability of Information on Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Area and New England City and Town Area Definitions: This bulletin is available from the OMB web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB> -- go to "Bulletins" or "Statistical Programs and Standards."

The 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg_statpolicy/.

Historical information about the definitions of the statistical areas is available from the Census Bureau's web site at <http://www.census.gov>.

7. Inquiries: Inquiries concerning the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards and the statistical uses of their definitions should be directed to Suzann Evinger (202-395-3093).

Inquiries about uses of the statistical area definitions in program administration or regulation should be directed to the appropriate agency.



Peter R. Orszag

Attachments

UPDATES TO STATISTICAL AREAS

This attachment highlights the updates to the statistical areas based on the application of the 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas to Census Bureau population estimates for July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008. The updates include designation of two micropolitan statistical areas and a combined statistical area as well as identification of changes in principal cities and area titles. The complete lists of statistical areas incorporating these changes are provided in the appendix to this bulletin.

Title Changes Resulting from Changes to the Order of Principal Cities Based on Population

4. Steubenville, OH replaces Weirton, WV as the most populous principal city in the Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH Metropolitan Statistical Area. New title: Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area. The new code is 44600.

OMB Bulletin No. 10-02 Appendix

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

METROPOLITAN DIVISIONS

MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS

NEW ENGLAND CITY AND TOWN AREAS

COMBINED NEW ENGLAND CITY AND TOWN AREAS

Lists 1 through 9

**Statistical and Science Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget**

Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, New England City and Town Areas, and Combined New England City and Town Areas

1. Brief Overview of the Classification

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in a *Federal Register* Notice (65 FR 82228 - 82238) on December 27, 2000. (The standards are available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg_statpolicy/.) That Notice also provides information on the multi-year public review process that preceded the adoption of the standards, and an explanation of the key terms used in the standards. The 2000 standards replace and supersede the 1990 standards for defining Metropolitan Areas. OMB's 2000 standards provide for the identification of the following statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico:

- Metropolitan Statistical Areas (including Metropolitan Divisions, where applicable)
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas
- Combined Statistical Areas
- New England City and Town Areas (including New England City and Town Area Divisions, where applicable)
- Combined New England City and Town Areas

Metropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. Micropolitan Statistical Areas – a new set of statistical areas – have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are defined in terms of whole counties (or equivalent entities), including in the six New England States. If the specified criteria are met, a Metropolitan Statistical Area containing a single core with a population of 2.5 million or more may be subdivided to form smaller groupings of counties referred to as Metropolitan Divisions.

The classification includes about 94 percent of the U.S. population – about 84 percent in metropolitan statistical areas and about 10 percent in micropolitan statistical areas. Of 3,142 counties in the United States, 1,100 will be in the 366 metropolitan statistical areas in the United States and 688 counties will be in the 576 micropolitan statistical areas (1,354 counties will remain outside the classification). (Under the 1990 standards, the classification as of June 1999 included 847 metropolitan counties and about 80 percent of the U.S. population.)

In view of the importance of cities and town in New England, the 2000 standards also provide for a set of geographic areas that are defined using cities and towns in the six New England states. The New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) are defined using the same criteria as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and are identified as either metropolitan or micropolitan, based, respectively, on the presence of either an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population or an urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population. If the specified criteria are met, a New England City and Town Area containing a single core with a population of at least 2.5 million may be subdivided to form smaller groupings of cities and towns referred to as New England City and Town Area Divisions.

If specified criteria are met, adjacent Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, in various combinations, may become the components of a new set of complementary areas called Combined Statistical Areas. For instance, a Combined Statistical Area may comprise two or more Metropolitan Statistical Areas, a Metropolitan Statistical Area and a Micropolitan Statistical Area, two or more Micropolitan Statistical Areas, or multiple Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas that have social and economic ties as measured by commuting, but at lower levels than are found among counties within Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The geographic components of Combined New England City and Town Areas are individual metropolitan and micropolitan NECTAs, in various combinations. The areas that combine retain their own designations as Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas (or

NECTAs) within the larger Combined Statistical Area (or Combined NECTA). Combinations for adjacent areas with an employment interchange of 25 or more are automatic. Combinations for adjacent areas with an employment interchange of at least 15 but less than 25 are based on local opinion as expressed through the Congressional delegations. Combined Statistical Areas can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect broader social and economic interactions, such as wholesaling, commodity distribution, and weekend recreation activities, and are likely to be of considerable interest to regional authorities and the private sector.

OMB's standards provide for the identification of one or more principal cities within each Metropolitan Statistical Area, Micropolitan Statistical Area, and NECTA. (The term "principal city" replaces "central city," the term used in previous standards.) Principal cities encompass both incorporated places and census designated places (CDPs). The decision to identify CDPs as principal cities represents a break with practice in previous standards that (with some exceptions) limited potential central city identification to incorporated places. In addition to identifying the more significant places in each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area or NECTA in terms of population and employment, principal cities also are used in titling Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Combined Statistical Areas, NECTAs, NECTA Divisions, and Combined NECTAs.

The geographic components of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Metropolitan Divisions are counties and equivalent entities (boroughs and census areas in Alaska, parishes in Louisiana, municipios in Puerto Rico, and independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia). The counties and equivalent entities used in the definitions of the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are those that were in existence as of January 1, 2008.

The 2000 standards do not provide for the categorization of the areas based on total population comparable to Levels A – D under the 1990 standards.

This appendix includes the following nine lists that provide information on the statistical areas that are recognized under the 2000 standards using data from Census 2000 and Census Bureau population estimates for 2007 and 2008:

- List 1 is an alphabetical list by title of 955 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.
- List 2 provides titles, definitions, principal cities, and Metropolitan Divisions for 374 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (366 in the United States and 8 in Puerto Rico).
- List 3 provides titles, codes, and definitions for the 29 Metropolitan Divisions within their respective Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
- List 4 presents the titles, definitions, and principal cities for 581 Micropolitan Statistical Areas (576 in the United States and 5 in Puerto Rico). The two new Micropolitan Statistical Areas are identified on the list.
- List 5 identifies 128 Combined Statistical Areas and their 358 component Metropolitan and/or Micropolitan Statistical Areas. One new Combined Statistical Area is identified in the list.
- List 6 identifies in each state the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas.
- List 7 provides titles, definitions, principal cities, and New England City and Town Area Divisions for 43 New England City and Town Areas.

List 8 provides titles and definitions for 10 Combined New England City and Town Areas and their 27 component New England City and Town Areas.

List 9 identifies in each state the New England City and Town Areas, the New England City and Town Area Divisions, and the Combined New England City and Town Areas.

2. Guidance on Presenting Data for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Combined Statistical Areas, NECTAs, NECTA Divisions, and Combined NECTAs

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas represent the basic set of county based areas defined under this classification. If specified criteria are met, Metropolitan Divisions are defined within Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have a single core with a population of at least 2.5 million. Not all Metropolitan Statistical Areas with urbanized areas of this size will contain Metropolitan Divisions. The criteria used to determine what counties are included in a Metropolitan Statistical Area are different from the criteria that are used to group counties in Metropolitan Divisions, which represent the subdivisions of (larger) Metropolitan Statistical Areas. As a result, it is generally not appropriate to rank or directly compare Metropolitan Divisions (or NECTA Divisions) with Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (or Metropolitan and Micropolitan NECTAs). However, because of the large population concentrations represented by Metropolitan Divisions, it may be desirable for some analyses, for example, to include Metropolitan Divisions in a table in which Metropolitan Statistical Areas are ranked. It would, of course, be appropriate to rank and compare Metropolitan Divisions. Even though Metropolitan Divisions represent subdivisions of (larger) Metropolitan Statistical Areas, they often function as distinct areas within Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Researchers analyzing demographic and economic patterns, trends, and processes within large Metropolitan Statistical Areas should also take into consideration data for specific Metropolitan Divisions. Research and analyses that previously made use of data for Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas should now use data for Metropolitan Divisions.

Because Combined Statistical Areas represent groupings of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (in any combination), they should not be ranked or compared with individual Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Because Combined New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) represent groupings of Metropolitan and Micropolitan NECTAs (in any combination), they should not be ranked or compared with individual Metropolitan and Micropolitan NECTAs.

3. Codes for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Combined Statistical Areas, New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs), NECTA Divisions, and Combined NECTAs

Codes for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, NECTAs, and NECTA Divisions will be 5 digits in length. This replaces the 4-digit code previously used. Codes for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Metropolitan Divisions fall within the 10000 to 49999 range and are assigned in alphabetical order by area title. Metropolitan Divisions are distinguished by a 5-digit code ending in "4." NECTA and NECTA Division codes fall within the 70000 to 79999 range and are assigned in alphabetical order by area title. NECTA Divisions will be distinguished by a 5-digit code ending in "4."

Combined Statistical Area and Combined NECTA codes will be 3 digits in length. Combined Statistical Area codes will fall within the 100 to 599 range. Combined NECTA codes will fall within the 700 to 799 range.

List 1

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

This list provides an alphabetical list by title of all 955 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The code for each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area also is provided. The two new Micropolitan Statistical Areas are shown in bold print.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area Title</u>
10420	Akron, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
11740	Ashland, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
11780	Ashtabula, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
11900	Athens, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
13340	Bellefontaine, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
15340	Bucyrus, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
15740	Cambridge, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
15940	Canton-Massillon, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
16380	Celina, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
17060	Chillicothe, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
17140	Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN Metropolitan Statistical Area
17460	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
18140	Columbus, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
18740	Coshocton, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
19380	Dayton, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
19580	Defiance, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
20620	East Liverpool-Salem, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
22300	Findlay, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
23380	Fremont, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
24820	Greenville, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
26580	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
30620	Lima, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
31900	Mansfield, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
32020	Marion, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
34540	Mount Vernon, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
35420	New Philadelphia-Dover, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
35940	Norwalk, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
37620	Parkersburg-Marietta-Vienna, WV-OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
38580	Point Pleasant, WV-OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
39020	Portsmouth, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
41780	Sandusky, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
43380	Sidney, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
44220	Springfield, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
44600	Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area
45660	Tiffin, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
45780	Toledo, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
46500	Urbana, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
46780	Van Wert, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
47540	Wapakoneta, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
47920	Washington Court House, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
48540	Wheeling, WV-OH Metropolitan Statistical Area
48940	Wilmington, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
49300	Wooster, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area
49660	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area
49780	Zanesville, OH Micropolitan Statistical Area