

Statistical Brief

Metropolitan Areas

You may not know it, but you probably live in a metropolitan area (MA). About 4 in every 5 Americans do!

MA's consist of a densely settled population core area of 50,000 or more containing a central city or cities, together with surrounding areas if a substantial percentage of their workers commute to the core area to work. MA's must have a total population of 100,000 or more (75,000 in New England) or a central city of 50,000 or more.

Three types of MA's are metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA's). (See the box on the back for definitions.) The total number of metro areas consists of the combined number of CMSA's and MSA's.

MSA's, CMSA's, and PMSA's are defined in terms of counties except in New England, where cities and towns are the building blocks.

Periodically, the number and boundaries of MA's are updated by the Office of Management

and Budget (OMB) to reflect changing population totals and commuting flows. This Brief takes a look at how America's metro areas changed as a result of OMB's latest redefinition,

effective June 30, 1993. These revised definitions are based on detailed data from the 1990 census, and population figures shown here are 1990 counts, unless otherwise noted.

Metro Area Leaders

(Metro areas are as of OMB's June 30, 1993 redefinition.)

Population

Most populous MA's
(millions): 1992 (estimate)

New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	19.7
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA	15.0
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	8.4
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV	6.9
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	6.4
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5.9
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT	5.4
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	5.2
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	4.2
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	4.0

Population Growth

MA's with the greatest percent increase in population: 1990-1992 (estimate)

Las Vegas, NV	13.9%
Laredo, TX	11.4%
Yuma, AZ	10.0%
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	9.8%
Anchorage, AK	8.6%

MA's with the greatest percent increase in population: 1980-1990

Punta Gorda, FL	89.8%
Naples, FL	76.9%
Ft. Pierce-Port St. Lucie, FL	66.1%
Ft. Myers-Cape Coral, FL	63.3%
Las Vegas, NV	61.5%

Age

MA's with the highest median age: 1990

Punta Gorda, FL	53.7
Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	46.3
Ft. Myers-Cape Coral, FL	42.2
Naples, FL	40.8
Ft. Pierce-Port St. Lucie, FL	40.5
Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA	40.4
Ocala, FL	40.2
Daytona Beach, FL	40.0
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, FL	40.0

Race and Hispanic Origin

MA's with the highest percentage of Blacks: 1990

Albany, GA	45.8%
Sumter, SC	43.2%
Pine Bluff, AR	43.1%
Jackson, MS	42.5%
Rocky Mount, NC	41.9%
Memphis, TN-AR-MS	40.7%

MA's with the highest percentage of Hispanics: 1990

Laredo, TX	93.9%
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	85.2%
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX	81.9%
El Paso, TX	69.6%
Las Cruces, NM	56.4%
Corpus Christi, TX	52.0%
San Antonio, TX	47.4%

Income

MA's with the highest median household income: 1989

Anchorage, AK	\$43,946
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV	\$41,922
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	\$41,459
Hartford, CT	\$41,194
Honolulu, HI	\$40,581
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT	\$38,921
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	\$38,567

Home Value

MA's with the highest median home value: 1990

Honolulu, HI	\$281,500
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	\$255,500
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, CA	\$249,200
San Luis Obispo-Atascadero-Paso Robles, CA	\$213,200
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA	\$209,800



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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

What became of the old metro areas?

Thanks to the redefinition, the number of MA's in the U.S. dropped from 284 to 268, as many existing areas merged with adjacent areas. Yet more of us live in MA's — 197.7 million in 1990, some 5 million more than prior to the redefinition. This is due to the creation of new MA's and the addition of nonmetropolitan territory to existing MA's. Here's what happened to the old lineup of 284 MA's:

- 25 areas are no longer independent MSA's, merging into other areas (17 of them became PMSA's within CMSA's). Eight MSA's and 8 CMSA's expanded as a result of these mergers.
- Another 58 areas added territory, 10 areas lost territory, and 6 both added and lost.
- 169 areas have the same boundaries as before.

In addition,

- 4 CMSA's (Buffalo, Hartford, Pittsburgh, and Providence) changed to MSA status, and their 11 PMSA's were abolished. Another 7 PMSA's were absorbed by adjacent PMSA's.
- 1 MSA converted to CMSA status (Sacramento) and 1 other CMSA was formed from former MSA's (Washington-Baltimore).
- 9 brand new MSA's were created. See table.

Meet the New Metro Areas (in descending size order)

San Luis Obispo-Atascadero-Paso Robles, CA
Myrtle Beach, SC
Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA
Rocky Mount, NC
Dover, DE
Punta Gorda, FL
Greenville, NC
Goldsboro, NC
Sumter, SC

MSA's, CMSA's, and PMSA's — What's the Difference?

Metro areas with a million or more people may be subdivided into PMSA's if population and commuting criteria are met and there is local support for PMSA's. When an area is divided into PMSA's, the entire area becomes a CMSA. Metro areas that are not subdivided are designated MSA's.

A number of MA's gain territory.

The most spectacular change resulted from the merger of the Washington, DC metro area (formerly the Nation's 8th most populous area with 3.9 million people) with Baltimore, MD (the 18th largest MA with 2.4 million) and Hagerstown, MD. The new Washington-Baltimore CMSA is now America's 4th largest metro area, with 6.7 million persons in 1990.

Three other metro areas added at least half a million people in the 1993 redefinition:

- The New York CMSA added nearly 1.5 million, absorbing the former New Haven and Waterbury, CT and Poughkeepsie, NY MSA's as PMSA's, and adding the Trenton, NJ PMSA from the Philadelphia CMSA.
- The Boston CMSA added well over 1 million by absorbing five adjacent MSA's — Worcester, MA, New Bedford, MA, Fitchburg-Leominster, MA, Manchester, NH, and Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester, NH-ME — as PMSA's.
- The Detroit-Ann Arbor CMSA gained 500,000, absorbing the Flint, MI MSA as a PMSA.

Another 21 MA's gained more than 100,000 each thanks to the redefinition.

The million club grows.

After redefinition, the Memphis and Greensboro–Winston-Salem–High Point MSA's were added to the list of MA's with at least 1 million people. Offset by the loss of a separate Baltimore MSA, this brings the total in the "one million club" to 40 areas. In 1990, 131 million persons lived in these 40 MA's — 53 percent of the Nation's population.

Of these 40 areas, 18 are CMSA's comprising 73 PMSA's. The remaining 22 areas are MSA's. The largest area not to be subdivided into PMSA's is Atlanta, ranking 13th in 1990.

More information:

- *Metropolitan Areas 1993* (OMB Bulletin No. 93-17) is a complete MA listing showing the components of each MA as of June 30, 1993, and the changes since 1990. A paper copy is available for \$19.50 from the National Technical Information Service (703-487-4650). Use order no. PB93-192-664.
- The 1990 census Supplementary Report CPH-S-1-1, *Metropolitan Areas as Defined by the Office of Management and Budget, June 30, 1993*, contains a wide variety of population and housing data for the new MA's. Call Customer Services (301-763-4100) for ordering information.
- To obtain 1992 population estimates for the new MA's, call 301-763-5002 for the PPL-2 listing.

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