

# Appendix C.

## Geographic Concepts

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### Geographic Concepts

#### STATES

States are the major political units of the United States. The District of Columbia is treated as a state equivalent in this publication. Tables A-1 through A-84 present data for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia.

For census purposes, states are often grouped into geographic regions and divisions. For reference, these areas are delineated on the state map on the inside of the front cover. However, Table A only uses an alphabetical state presentation.

#### METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are applied to U.S. Census Bureau data. The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The term “core based statistical area” (CBSA) refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

The major purpose of CBSAs is to enable all federal agencies to use the same geographic definitions in tabulating and publishing data for metropolitan and micropolitan areas. The definitions are designed to serve a wide variety of statistical and analytical purposes; adoption of the area for any specific purpose should be judged in terms of appropriateness for that purpose. While the definitions have been developed for statistical use by federal agencies, state and local governments as well as private business firms have often found the definitions helpful in presenting data for metropolitan and micropolitan areas.

The official 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas may be found on the OMB Web site at <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/metroareas122700.pdf>>. OMB Bulletin 08-01, which was issued on November 20, 2007, provides the listing of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas found in this publication; this document and related documents may be found at <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/omb/bulletins/fy2008/b08-01.pdf>>.

Metropolitan areas presented in tables B-1 through B-14 and C-1 through C-4 and micropolitan areas presented in table D-1 of this publication are those county-based areas defined originally as of June 6, 2003, and updated on November 20, 2007. A series of maps showing these areas appears on pages C-4 to C-15.

**Historical development.** In 1910, the Census Bureau introduced “metropolitan districts” as an area classification. This marked the first use by the Census Bureau of a unit for reporting population data for large cities, together with their suburbs. Originally, only cities of at least 200,000 population were designated as the core of a metropolitan district. By 1940, the concept had been expanded to apply to a city of 50,000 or more inhabitants. The metropolitan district was generally defined to include contiguous minor civil divisions (MCDs) and incorporated places having a population density of at least 150 persons per square mile; therefore, the boundaries did not necessarily follow county lines.

A major limitation of the metropolitan district concept, from the standpoint of statistical presentation, was that not many data items beyond those available from the census of population and housing were available for MCDs and smaller places. The applicability of the metropolitan district concept also was limited because other generally similar area classifications were in use (e.g., the industrial areas of the census of manufactures and the labor market areas of the Labor Department’s Employment and Training Administration), which were defined in different ways.

The standard metropolitan area (SMA) concept was developed in 1949 by the Bureau of the Budget (now OMB), with the advice of the newly established Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Areas, to overcome the above difficulties. It was designed so that a wide variety of statistical data on metropolitan areas might be presented for a uniform set of geographic areas. The SMAs consisted of one or more contiguous counties containing at least one city of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Additional counties had to meet certain criteria of metropolitan character and of social and economic integration with the central county in order to be included in an SMA.

Changes in the official criteria have been made at the time of each census since 1950. None of these changes have involved significant deviations from the basic metropolitan concept. Several modifications have been made in the rules for determining how large a city must be to have a metropolitan division defined. Criteria changes also have been made to reflect changing national conditions. For example,

the 1949 rule specified that a county must have less than 25 percent of its workers engaged in agriculture. However, with a rapidly decreasing proportion of the population engaged in farming, this requirement has been eliminated because practically no counties are still affected by it. In 1959, the designation “standard metropolitan area” was changed to “standard metropolitan statistical area” (SMSA) to emphasize the nature and purpose of the areas. The SMSA designation was changed to the MSA/CMSA/PMSA designations in June 1983. The term “core based statistical area” (CBSA) was adopted in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Currently defined metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are based on application of 2000 standards that appeared in the Federal Register on December 27, 2000, to 2000 decennial census data. Current metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area definitions were announced by OMB effective June 6, 2003, and subsequently updated. The lists of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas definitions may be found at <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metrodef.html>>.

**Defining metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.** The 2000 standards provide that each CBSA must contain at least one urban area of 10,000 or more population. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Under the standards, the county (or counties) in which at least 50 percent of the population resides within urban areas of 10,000 or more population, or that contain at least 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 or more population, is identified as a “central county” (counties). Additional “outlying counties” are included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties. Counties or equivalent entities form the geographic “building blocks” for metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

If 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.”

**Principal cities and metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area titles.** The largest city in each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is designated a “principal city.” Additional cities qualify if specified requirements are met concerning population size and employment. The title of each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area consists of the names of up to three of its principal cities and the name of each state into which the metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area extends. Titles of metropolitan divisions also typically are based on principal city names but in certain cases consist of county names.

**Defining New England city and town areas.** In view of the importance of cities and towns 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 NECTA 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.

**Changes in definitions over time.** Changes in the definitions of these statistical areas since the 1950 census have consisted chiefly of:

- The recognition of new areas as they reached the minimum required city or urbanized area population
- The addition of counties (or cities and towns in New England) to existing areas as new decennial census data showed them to qualify.
- In some instances, formerly separate areas have been merged, components of an area have been transferred from one area to another, or components have been dropped from an area. The large majority of changes have taken place on the basis of decennial census data. However, Census Bureau data serve as the basis for intercensal updates in specified circumstances.

Because of these historical changes in geographic definitions, users must be cautious in comparing data for these statistical areas from different dates. For some purposes, comparisons of data for areas as defined at given dates may be appropriate; for other purposes, it may be preferable to maintain consistent area definitions. Historical metropolitan area definitions are available for 1999, 1993, 1990, 1983, 1981, 1973, 1970, 1963, 1960, and 1950.

**Special metropolitan area notes found in this publication.** This report includes metropolitan statistical areas and consolidated metropolitan statistical areas defined by the Office of Management and Budget as of June 6, 2003, and updated in November 2007. There are 363 metropolitan statistical areas and 577 micropolitan statistical areas in the United States. In addition, there are eight metropolitan statistical areas and five micropolitan statistical areas in Puerto Rico not covered in this publication.

There are two metropolitan areas that we want to specially note for users. First, the Denver, CO, metropolitan had the special case involving the newly created county of Broomfield. Broomfield County, CO, was formed from parts of Adams, Boulder, Jefferson, and Weld Counties, CO, on

November 15, 2001, and is coextensive with Broomfield city. For purposes of defining and presenting data for metropolitan statistical areas, Broomfield City is treated as if it were a county at the time of the 1990 and 2000 censuses. The other area is the St. Louis, MO-IL area. A portion of Sullivan city in Crawford County, MO, is legally part of the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA. Census 2000 tabulations and intercensal estimates for the St. Louis, MO-IL metropolitan statistical area do not include this small area.

## **COUNTIES**

The primary political divisions of most states are termed “counties,” which are the basic building blocks for metropolitan areas. In Louisiana, these divisions are known as “parishes.” In Alaska, which has no counties, the county equivalents are the organized “boroughs” and the “census

areas” that are delineated for statistical purposes by the State of Alaska and the Census Bureau. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more cities that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states. These cities are known as “independent cities” and are treated as equivalent to counties for statistical purposes. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county for statistical purposes.

Tables C-1 through C-4 present data for the 363 metropolitan statistical areas and their 1,092 component counties defined as of November 2007. Table D-1 presents data for the 577 micropolitan statistical areas and their 694 counties likewise defined as of November 2007.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming



All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.

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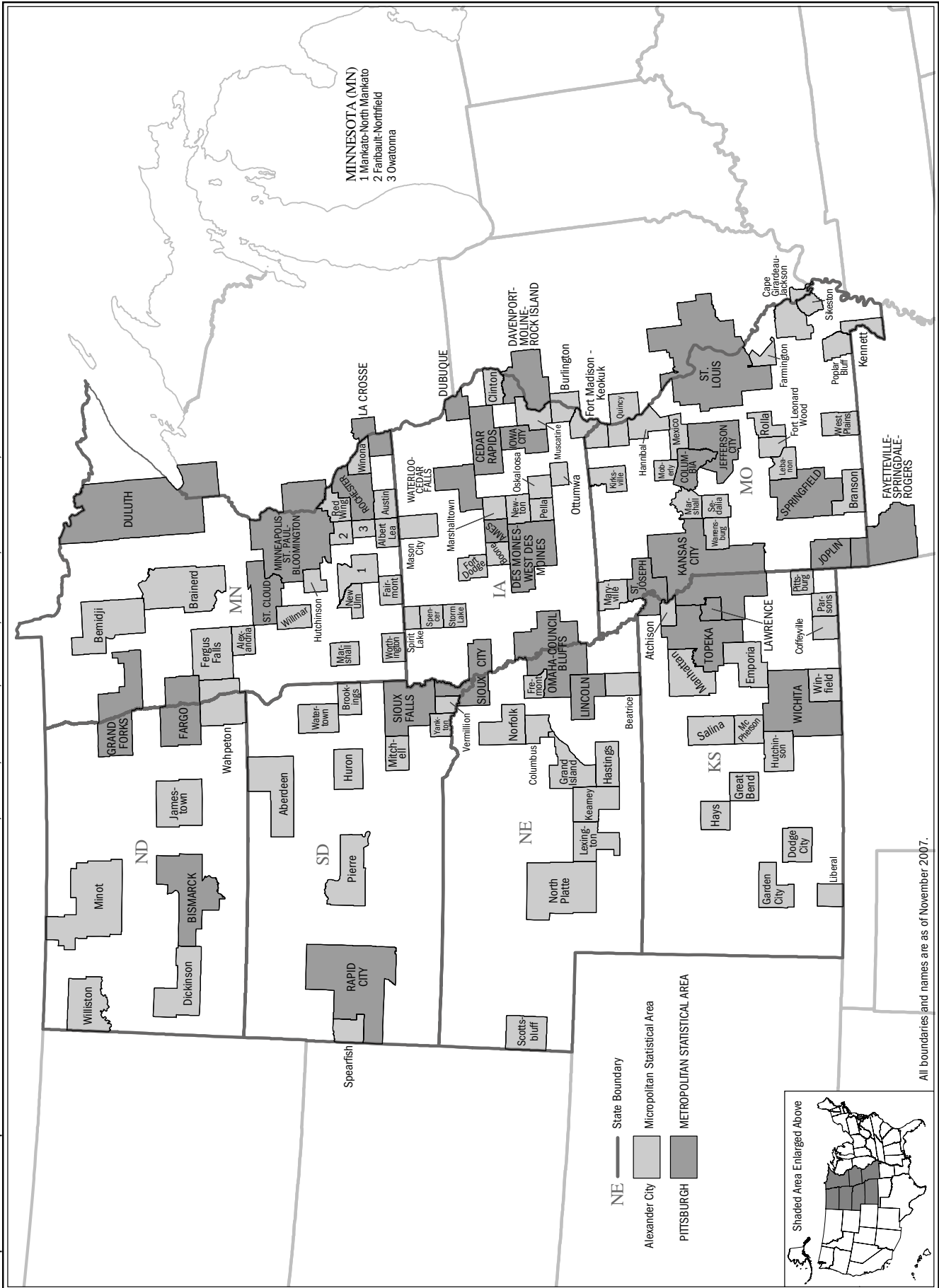
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah



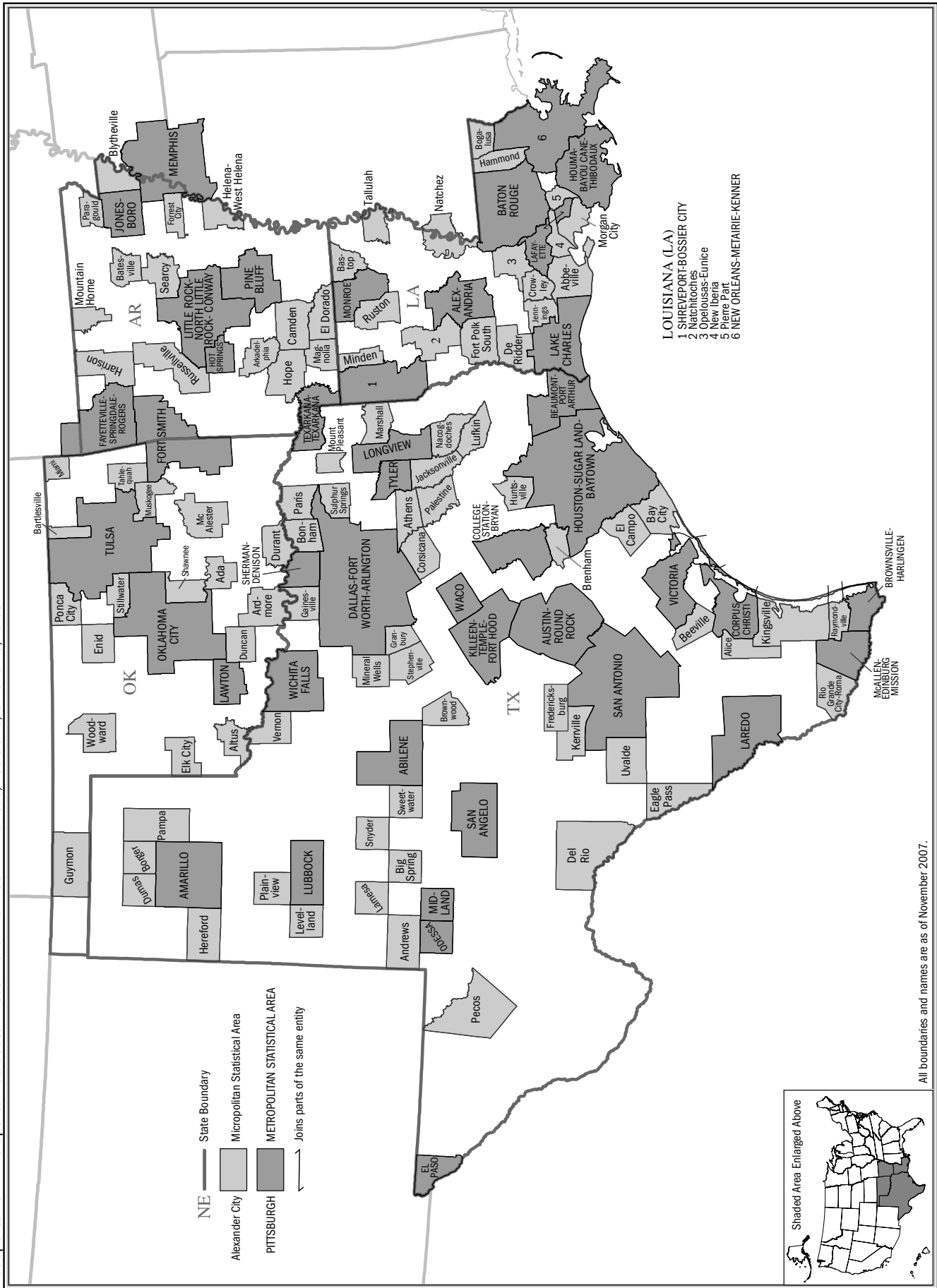
All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.

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Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota



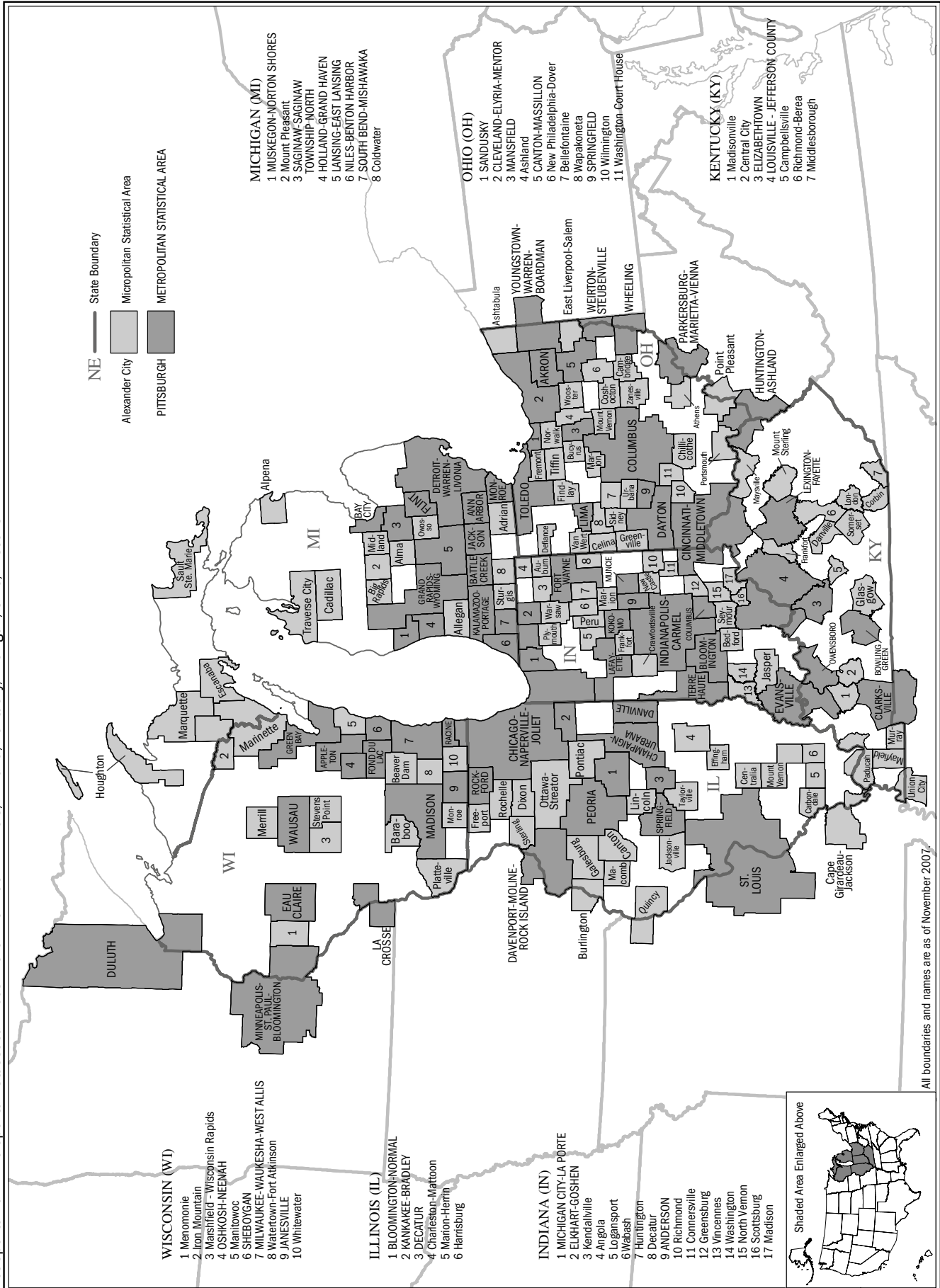
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas



All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.

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Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin

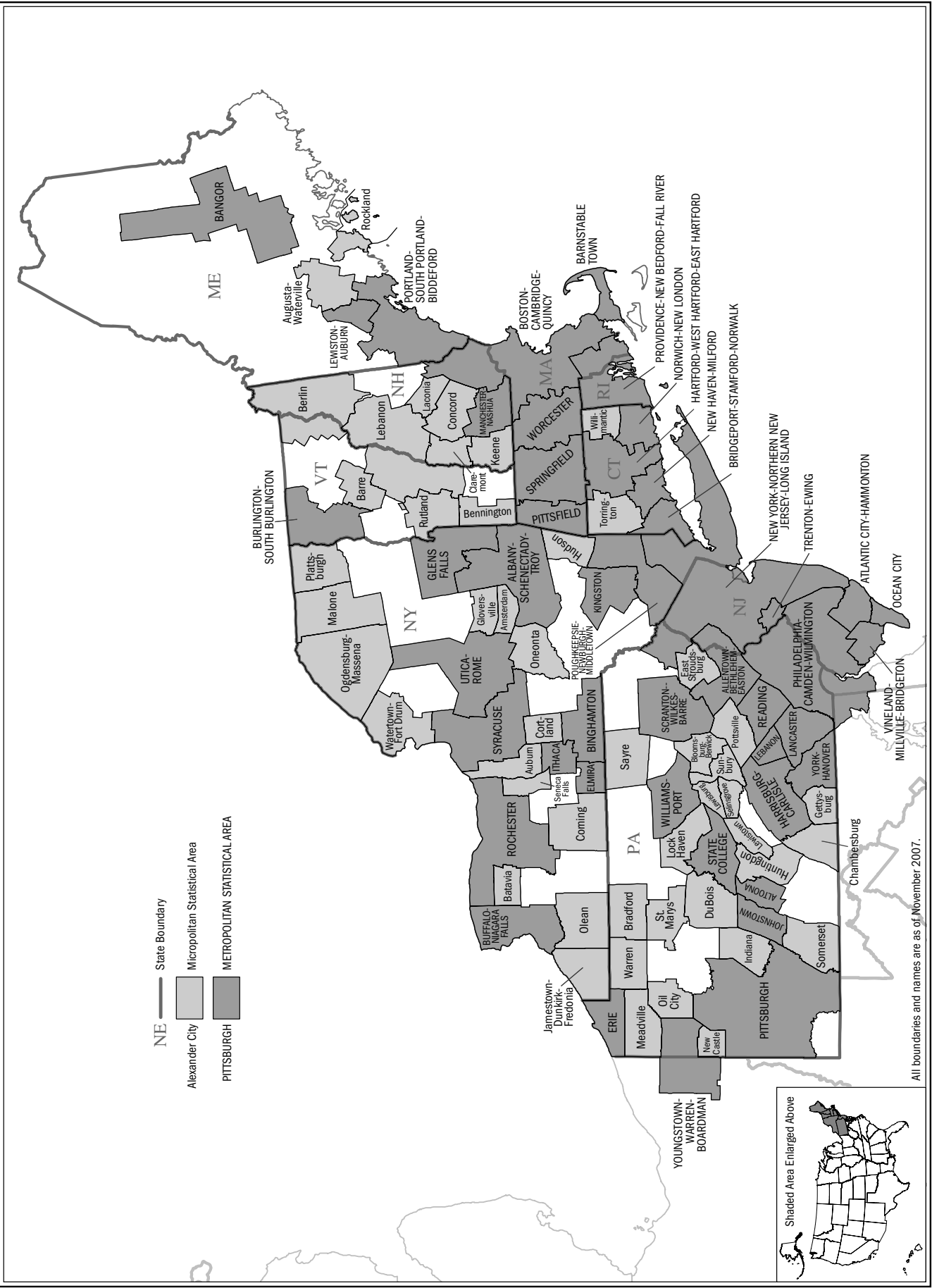


All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.





Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

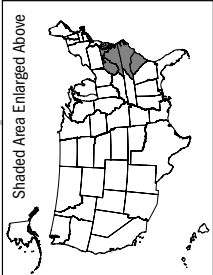


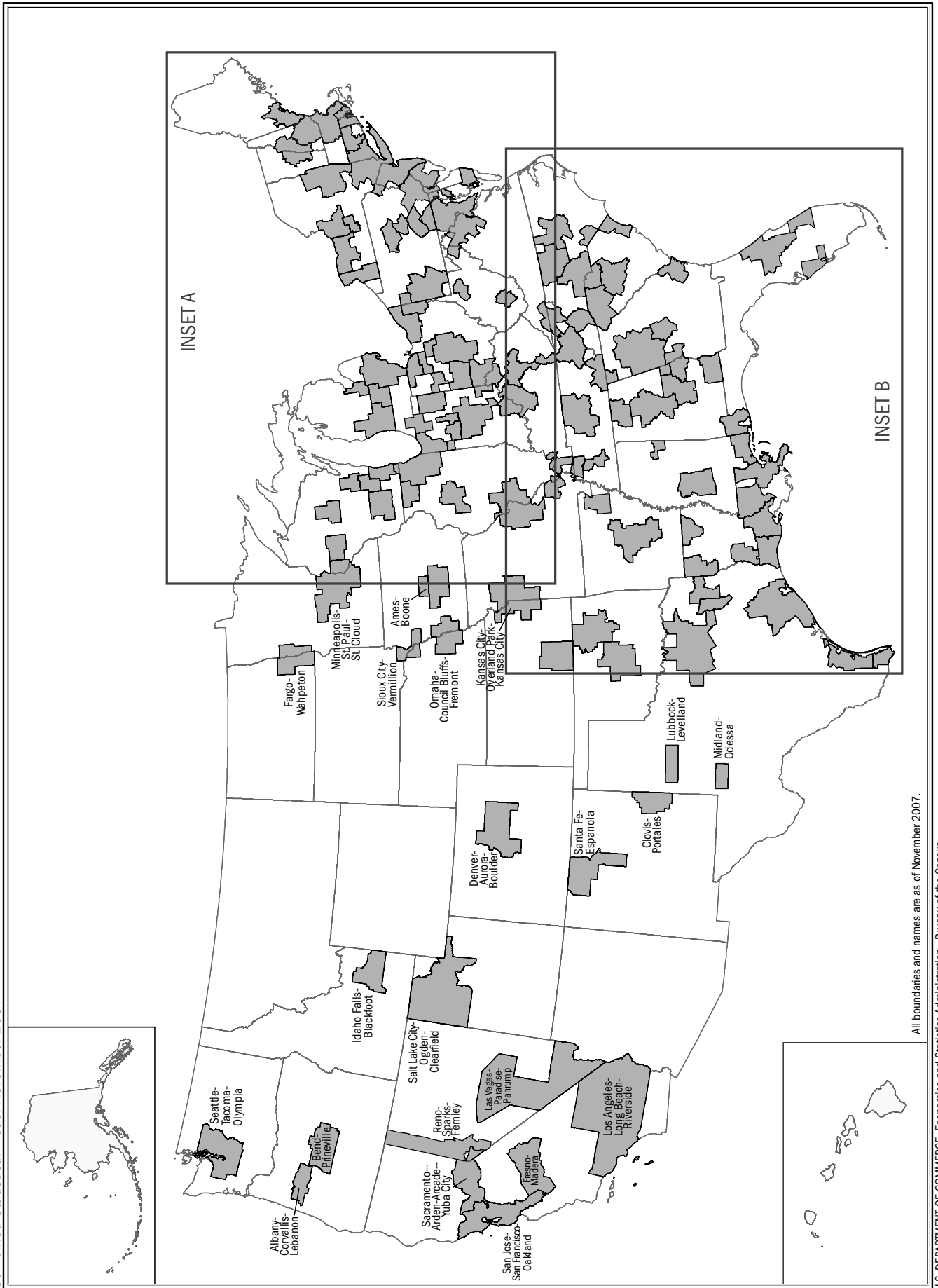
All boundaries and names are as of November 2007. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration Bureau of the Census

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: November 2007 - Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia



All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.

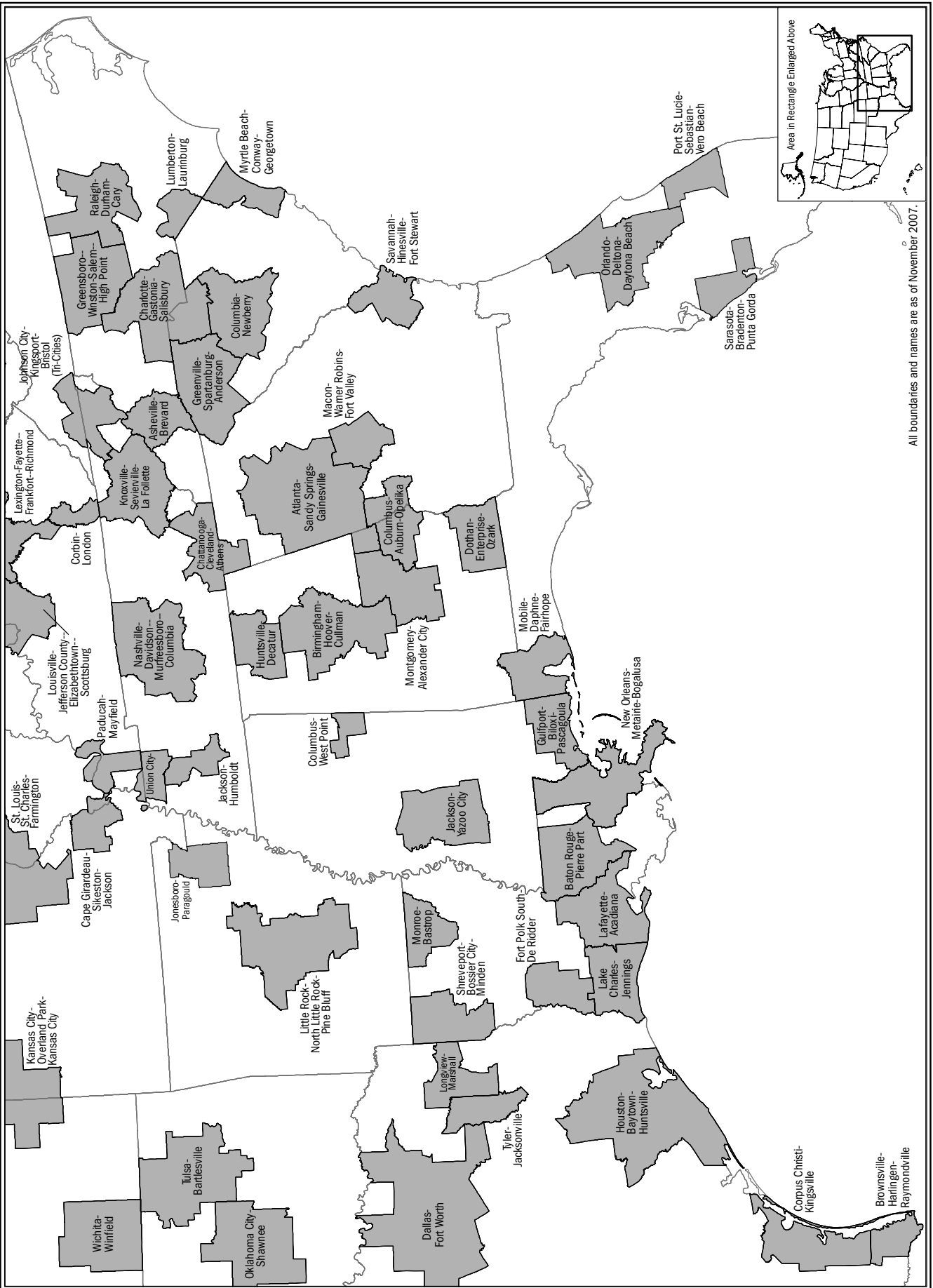




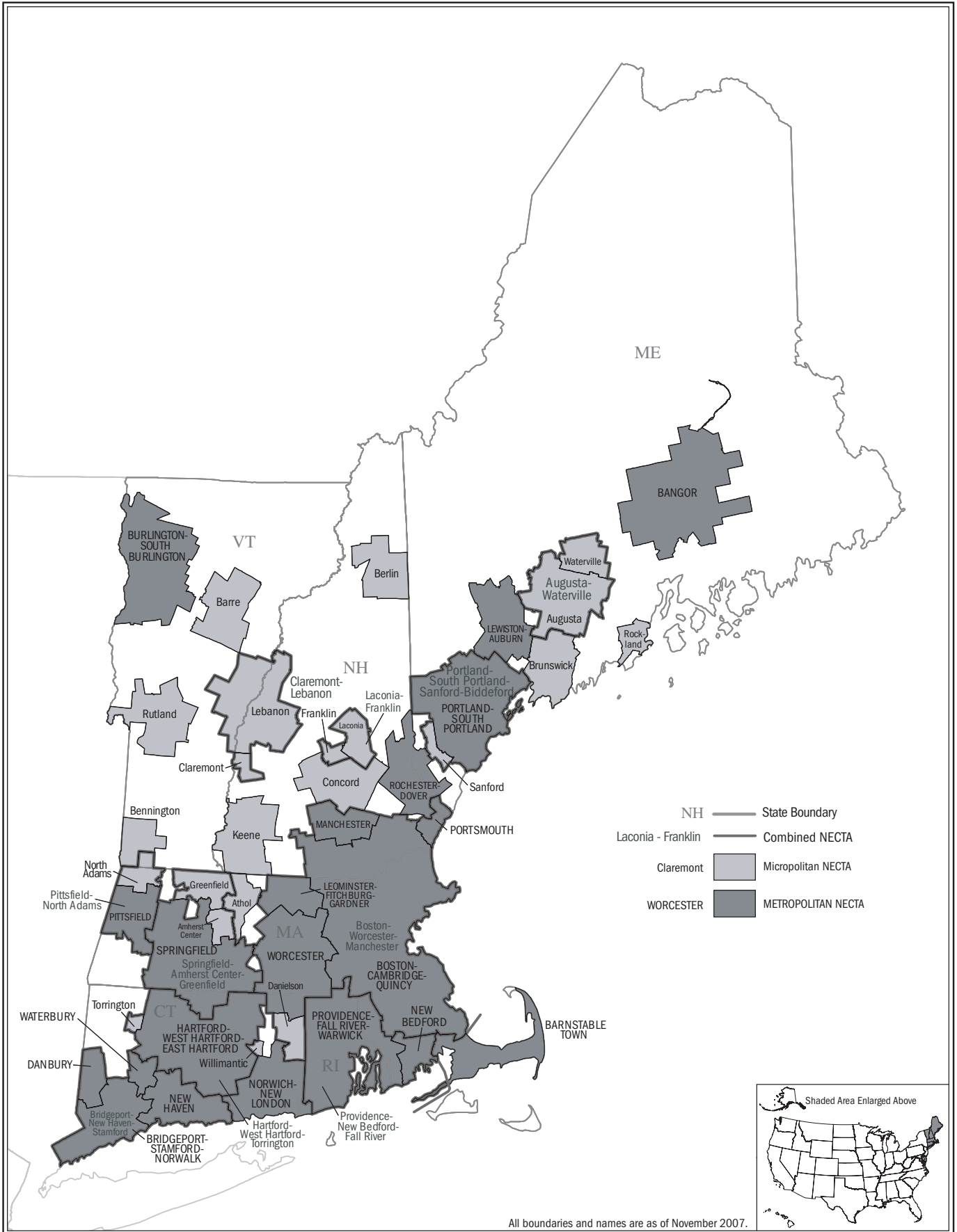
All boundaries and names are as of November 2007.



Combined Statistical Areas: November 2007 - INSET B



Metropolitan and Micropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs): November 2007



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