Metro and Nonmetro Counties in New York

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 36 counties in New York are part of metropolitan areas, and 15 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan category defines counties that include an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 plus surrounding counties that are linked through commuting ties. These areas often represent important economic and trade centers in rural areas. The remaining 11 counties in New York are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 91.9 percent of New York residents live in metropolitan areas, 5.9 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 2.3 percent live in noncore areas.
Population

New York’s population in 2005 was 19,254,630, up 1.5 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in New York increased by 5.5 percent.
Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metro areas of New York outpaced the nonmetro areas in both time periods.

During the 1990s, 22 counties in New York lost population, 11 metro and 11 nonmetro counties. The fastest growth during this time was in Richmond County in the New York-Northern NJ-Long Island Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 17.1 percent during the 1990s.

From 2000 to 2005, 26 counties in New York lost population (13 metro and 13 nonmetro counties). The fastest growth in this time period was in Orange County in the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 9.2 percent from 2000 to 2005.
The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they experienced population loss from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. In New York, 14 counties are classified as population loss counties.

Race / Ethnicity

The population in New York is 73.9 percent white and 17.5 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).
Within New York, the metropolitan population is 72.1 percent white and 18.7 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 94.6 percent white and 3.1 percent African American, and the noncore population is 94.6 percent white and 3.8 percent African American.

People of Hispanic origin make up 16.0 percent of New York’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within New York, people of Hispanic origin make up 17.2 percent of the metropolitan population, 2.8 percent of the micropolitan population, and 3.7 percent of the noncore population. In three New York counties, the Hispanic population accounts for a significant portion of total population: Bronx (51.0%), New York (26.7%), and Queens (25.9%).

Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in New York is shown in the chart to the right. The percent of the population in the 25 to 44 age groups is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is greater in the nonmetro areas.
Poverty

The poverty rate in New York in 2003 was 14.3 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within New York, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 4.6 percent in Putnam County to 26.8 percent in Bronx County.

Educational Attainment

The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor’s Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S and 27.4 percent in New York. In metro areas of New York, this percentage is 28.3 percent, compared to only 16.5 percent in nonmetro areas.
The chart below compares the educational attainment of New York’s metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with a B.S. degree or higher is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with only a high school diploma is greater in the nonmetro areas.

The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000.” In New York, three counties are classified as low education counties (2 metro and 1 nonmetro).
Health Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population, the infant mortality rate, the percent of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and the percent of the population age 65 and over (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within New York, several areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within New York, several areas in the state are designated as primary care HPSAs for the total or low income populations.
Per Capita Income

Per capita income in New York has exceeded national per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in New York was $38,264, compared to $33,050 for the nation.

Within New York, 2004 per capita income ranged from $20,531 in Allegany County to $89,328 in New York County.
Nonmetro per capita income in New York has lagged behind metro areas over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was $39,415, compared to $25,242 in nonmetro areas.

The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In New York the gap was at its largest in 2001 and at its smallest in 1974. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 64.0 percent of metro per capita income.
Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in New York (14.2%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Health care and social assistance was the second largest employment sector in New York (13.4%).

The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of New York counties by this typology, illustrating the diversity in the state.
Unemployment

The unemployment rate in New York in 2005 was 5.0 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within New York, the 2005 unemployment rate ranged from 3.2 percent in Tompkins County to 7.5 percent in Bronx County.

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in several parts of New York. The map below shows the market value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for New York counties. In 5 counties the value was over $100 million, and in Suffolk County the value was over $200 million.
Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is an important component to economic development today. Unfortunately, data that allow us to measure entrepreneurial activity and trends is difficult to ascertain, particularly at the county level. The CFED Development Report Card for the States rates each state on its entrepreneurial energy, “evaluating the extent to which new firms are generated and whether they are contributing to employment growth.” While this is a state-level ranking, it provides useful insight as to how a state is performing. New York’s ranking is “A”.

As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.

Entrepreneurship in New York:
Self Employed as a Percent of Nonfarm Private Employment, 2003

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Nonemployer Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System
Nonmetro Recreation Counties

The Economic Research Service’s classification of nonmetro recreation counties captures the recreational opportunities and development in many rural parts of the nation. The classification is based on a number of factors, including employment and income derived from recreation-related activities, seasonal housing units within the county, and receipts from hotels and motels. Nationally, 334 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties, and 6 are located in New York. Counties that were nonmetro in 1993 or in 2003 are classified. Ulster County was a nonmetro county in the 1993 classifications.
Data Sources and References

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Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Classifications
http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html

Nonemployer Statistics
http://www.census.gov/epcd/nonemployer/

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/saipe.html
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