

## Micropolitan Areas Overview

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### Definition of Core Based Statistical Areas

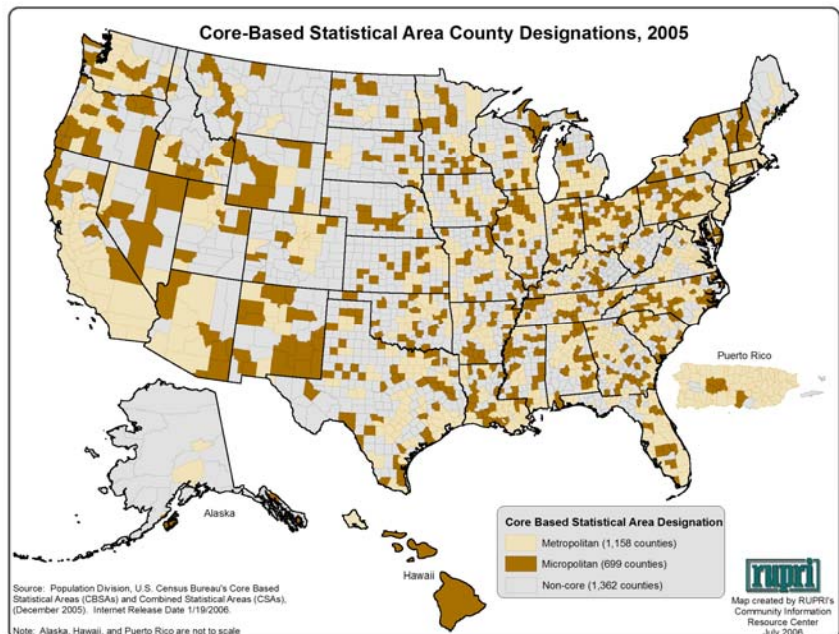
Core Based Statistical Areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and include both Metropolitan Areas and Micropolitan Areas. Both classifications are county-based. Metropolitan areas have a core county with an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent counties linked through commuting ties. Micropolitan areas have a core county with an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 population, plus adjacent counties linked through commuting ties.

The most recent listing of Core Based Statistical Areas for the United States and Puerto Rico (December 2005) by the Office of Management and Budget includes 369 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (361 in the U.S. and 8 in Puerto Rico), and 582 Micropolitan Statistical Areas (577 in the U.S. and 5 in Puerto Rico). Areas may contain one or many counties, and many cross state lines.

### Counties in Micropolitan Areas

The 582 Micropolitan Areas in the U.S. and Puerto Rico include 699 counties. 486 micropolitan areas are comprised of a single county, and 96 micropolitan areas have multiple counties.

<u>Number of Micro Areas with:</u>	
One County	486
Two Counties	77
Three Counties	17
Four Counties	2
<i>Total Micro Areas:</i>	<i>582</i>



### Population Size

The population size of micropolitan areas has a wide range. Based on 2005 population estimates (U.S. Census Bureau), the smallest micropolitan area in terms of population size is Pecos, TX, with a total population of 11,638, and the largest micropolitan area is Torrington, CT, with a total population of 190,071. Though the core urban areas of micropolitan areas are smaller than those of metropolitan areas, not all micropolitan areas are smaller in population size than metropolitan areas. There are in fact nearly 200

micropolitan areas in which the total population exceeds the population of the smallest metropolitan area (Carson City, NV population 56,062), and there are over 150 metropolitan areas whose total population is less than the population of the largest Micropolitan Area (Torrington, CT, population 190,071).

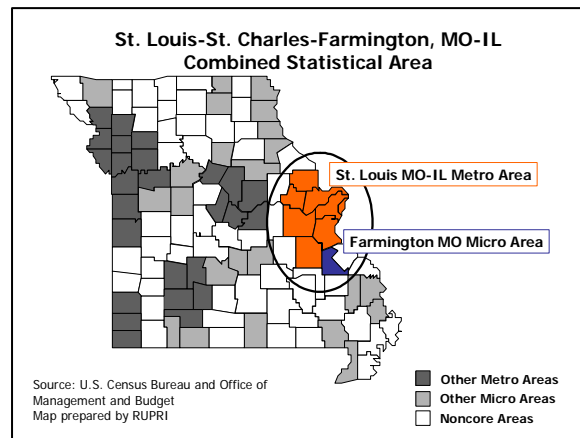
### Micropolitan Areas in Combined Statistical Areas

Combined Statistical Areas are formed when two or more Core Based Statistical Areas have a high degree of integration, as measured by an employment interchange measure. There are 125 Combined Statistical Areas in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. A Combined Statistical Area may include a combination of Metropolitan Areas and Micropolitan Areas. 169 Micropolitan Areas in the U.S and Puerto Rico are part of Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs):

<u>Combined Statistical Areas:</u>		<u>Micropolitan Areas in CSAs:</u>	
Mix of Metro and Micro Areas	93	CSA is mix of Metro and Micro Areas	142
Metro Areas Only	19	CSA has Micro Areas Only	27
Micro Areas Only	13		
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>169</i>

*Example:*

*The Farmington-MO Micropolitan Statistical Area and the St. Louis-MO-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area are combined to form the St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL Combined Statistical Area.*



The micropolitan areas that are included in Combined Statistical Areas represent ones that have a high degree of interaction with, and geographic proximity to, other micropolitan areas or larger metropolitan areas.

At the same time, there are several micropolitan areas that are geographically isolated; that is, not contiguous to a metropolitan or another micropolitan area. *Examples:*

