Population Change in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990–2003

Population Estimates and Projections

Issued September 2005

P25-1134

Current Population Reports

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This report examines the populations of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas of the United States, focusing on size, most populous areas, and fastest-growing areas, first for metropolitan statistical areas and then for micropolitan statistical areas.

It uses U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and estimates of the components of population change (see Methodology and Sources of Data), which can interact in different ways in different areas. The population within an area can change due to natural increase (more births than deaths) or natural decrease (more deaths than births) or net migration, which is the sum of net domestic migration and net international migration.[1] Rates for the components of change are expressed as annual rates per 1,000 population.

METRO AND MICRO AREA POPULATION

In 2003, 290.8 million people lived in the United States: 241.4 million (83.0 percent) in metro areas, 29.9 million (10.3 percent) in micro areas, and 19.5 million (6.7 percent) in territory outside core based statistical areas (CBSAs) (Table 1, Figure 1). (For background on metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, see the shaded box.) The distributions of the population within the three CBSA categories—metro areas, micro areas, and outside CBSAs—differed by region and division. Of the four regions (Appendix B lists the regions and divisions), the Northeast contained the highest percentage of its population in metro areas, 90.2 percent, while the Midwest had the lowest percentage, 76.2 percent. Among the nine divisions, the Pacific Division (West Region) contained the largest percentage of its population in metro areas, 93.7 percent, and conversely, the smallest percentages in micro areas, 4.7 percent, and territory outside CBSAs, 1.7 percent. In contrast, the East South Central (South Region) and West North Central (Midwest Region) Divisions contained the smallest proportions of their population in metro areas (63.4 percent and 64.9 percent, respectively) and the highest percentages in micro areas (20.6 percent and 17.3 percent, respectively) and in territory outside CBSAs (16.0 percent and 17.8 percent, respectively, Figure 1).

Population Growth Patterns

Between 2000 and 2003, the U.S. population grew 3.3 percent (Table 2). The population in metro areas grew by 3.8 percent, and the micro-area population increased by 1.6 percent. The outside-CBSA population experienced a growth rate of 0.5 percent.

[1] Net migration and its two components, net domestic migration and net international migration, may be either positive or negative. For example, net positive domestic migration indicates larger domestic in-migration than domestic out-migration, while net negative domestic migration indicates the opposite. Domestic migration refers to migration within the 50 states and the District of Columbia, while migration from outside the United States, including from Puerto Rico and U.S. Island Areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and by the U.S. population abroad, is treated as international migration.

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METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Definitions of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas—collectively known as core based statistical areas (CBSAs). Analysis in this report uses the December 2003 OMB definitions of CBSAs. These 2003 definitions are based on the application of the 2000 OMB Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas—which appeared in the *Federal Register* on December 27, 2000—to Census 2000 data as well as to July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2002, population estimates. Definitions also reflect local opinion in specified circumstances.

This report refers to metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas as "metro areas" and "micro areas." Both metro and micro areas are composed of one or more whole counties or equivalent entities. Metro areas contain at least one Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of 50,000 or more people, and micro areas contain at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 people. (Urbanized areas and urban clusters are discussed at <www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/ua_2k.html>.) Territory not included in either a metro or micro area is referred to as "outside CBSAs." The total population of a metro area or micro area may be much larger than the population of its urban cluster, and the total population of a micro area may be larger than the population of a metro area.

As of December 2003, 361 metro areas composed of 1,090 counties and county equivalents and 573 micro areas encompassing 690 counties and county equivalents were identified in the United States. Counties that are outside CBSAs numbered 1,361.

Analysis of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Under OMB standards prior to December 2000, the United States was divided into two categories: metropolitan areas and nonmetropolitan territory (the latter referring to all territory that did not qualify as metropolitan). With the introduction of micropolitan statistical areas under OMB's December 2000 standards, data may be aggregated to show metro areas, micro areas, and territory outside CBSAs. When appropriate, the metro and micro areas may be combined into a single CBSA category so that data would be presented for two categories (CBSAs and outside CBSAs).

For those interested in approximating categories used under older standards, data could be aggregated differently, combining the micro areas category with territory outside CBSAs to represent the older nonmetropolitan concept, leaving metro areas as the other category. Appendix A presents population data in a way that permits a "bridge" from the current approach to the previous one.

At the regional level, the population of the West grew the fastest between 2000 and 2003, followed by the South (Tables 2 and 3). Both natural increase and net migration were highest in the West and second highest in the South (Table 3). The Northeast and Midwest grew slower than the other two regions because of lower natural increase as well as negative net domestic migration.

Metro area populations grew fastest in the West and the South due to both relatively high rates of natural increase and relatively high rates of net migration (both net domestic and net international migration for the South and almost entirely net international migration for metro areas in the West, Tables 2 and 3). Among metro areas, the rate of natural increase was highest in the West, while the rate of net migration was highest in the South.

Micro area populations also grew fastest in the West and the South (Tables 2 and 3). For micro areas, the rates of both natural increase and net migration were highest in the West; the second highest rate of natural increase was in the South, while the second highest rate of net migration was in the Northeast (Table 3). The Midwest, the region with the slowest-growing micro areas, experienced negative net migration.

Population in territory outside CBSAs grew slower than metro or micro-area populations (Tables 2 and 3). While the fastest rate of growth for territory outside CBSAs was in the West, as was the case for metro areas and micro areas, the second fastest rate of growth was in the Northeast (Table 2), not the South as it was for metro areas and micro areas. Growth in the Northeast's population outside

Table 1.

Populations by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 1990, 2000, and 2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Numbers in thousands. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003)

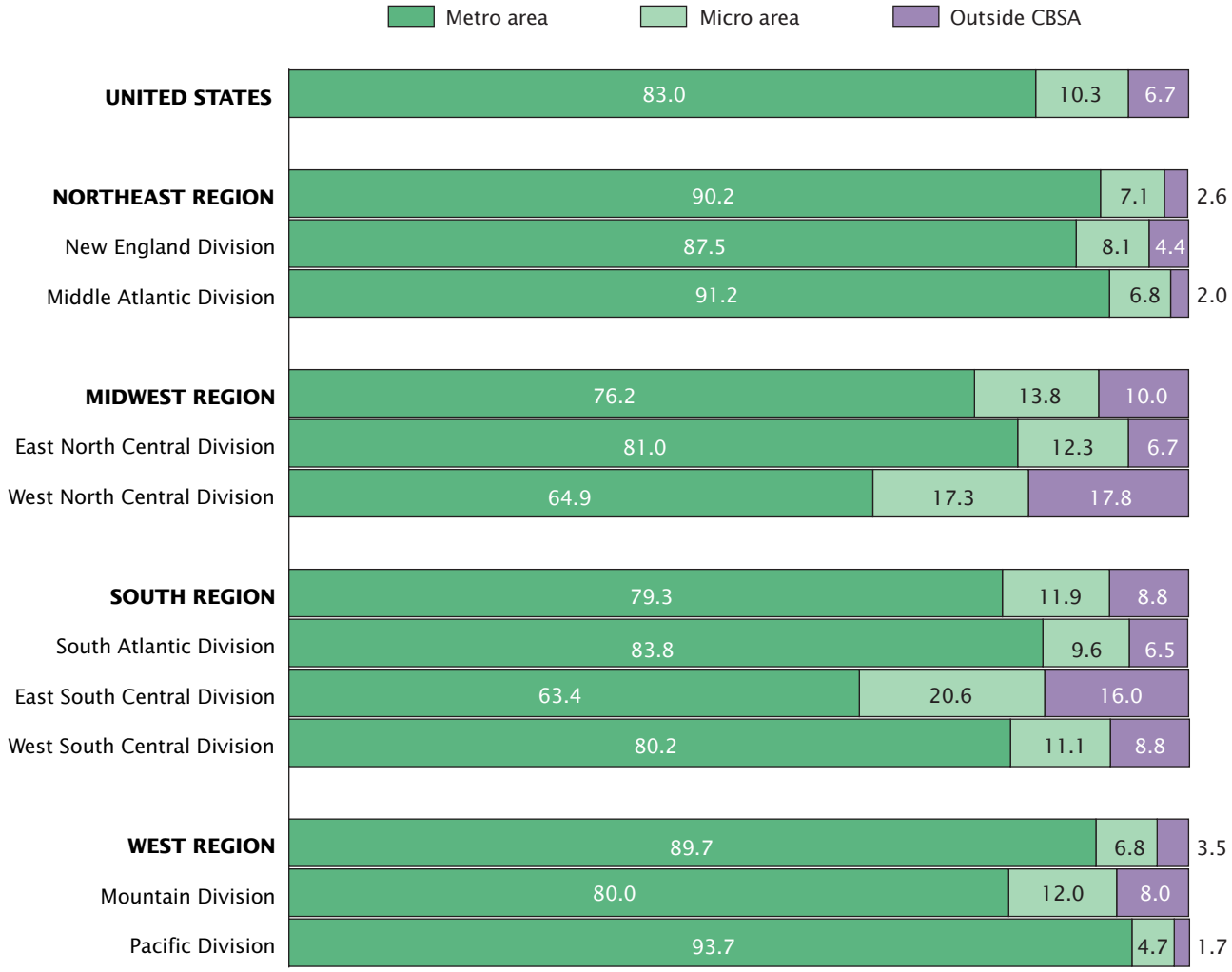
Geographic area	Total			Inside CBSAs						Outside CBSAs		
				Metropolitan			Micropolitan					
	1990	2000	2003	1990	2000	2003	1990	2000	2003	1990	2000	2003
United States	**248,710**	**281,423**	**290,810**	**203,941**	**232,581**	**241,396**	**26,745**	**29,412**	**29,887**	**18,024**	**19,430**	**19,527**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS												
Northeast Region	50,809	53,595	54,399	45,753	48,343	49,082	3,693	3,830	3,882	1,363	1,422	1,436
New England Division	13,207	13,923	14,205	11,569	12,193	12,431	1,056	1,120	1,153	582	609	622
Middle Atlantic Division	37,602	39,672	40,194	34,184	36,150	36,651	2,637	2,710	2,729	781	812	814
Midwest Region	59,669	64,395	65,406	44,917	48,862	49,842	8,460	8,970	9,022	6,292	6,563	6,543
East North Central Division	42,009	45,155	45,837	33,896	36,509	37,133	5,295	5,608	5,646	2,819	3,038	3,058
West North Central Division	17,660	19,240	19,569	11,022	12,353	12,708	3,165	3,362	3,376	3,473	3,525	3,485
South Region	85,446	100,235	104,538	66,157	78,876	82,876	10,903	12,217	12,450	8,386	9,142	9,212
South Atlantic Division	43,567	51,767	54,345	36,030	43,194	45,553	4,395	5,078	5,237	3,142	3,494	3,555
East South Central Division	15,176	17,023	17,342	9,436	10,723	10,990	3,172	3,533	3,580	2,568	2,767	2,772
West South Central Division	26,703	31,445	32,852	20,691	24,959	26,333	3,336	3,605	3,633	2,676	2,881	2,886
West Region	52,786	63,199	66,466	47,114	56,501	59,597	3,689	4,395	4,534	1,983	2,303	2,335
Mountain Division	13,659	18,173	19,384	10,515	14,376	15,500	1,832	2,260	2,327	1,312	1,538	1,557
Pacific Division	39,127	45,026	47,082	36,599	42,125	44,096	1,857	2,135	2,208	671	765	778

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Figure 1.

Percent Distribution of the Population by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: July 1, 2003

(See text for definitions of areas)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

CBSAs was attributable entirely to net migration—particularly net domestic migration—because natural decrease (more deaths than births) occurred. In fact, the Northeast's rate of net migration for territory outside CBSAs was the highest among the four regions. With both natural decrease and negative net migration, territory outside CBSAs in the Midwest decreased in population.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Growth in Metro Areas by Size Category

In 2003, 53.7 percent of the U.S. population lived in the 50 metro areas with populations of 1,000,000 or more (Table 4, Figure 2). Almost one-quarter of the U.S. population, 23.3 percent, lived in 1 of the 8 metro areas with a population of 5,000,000 or more. An additional 14.4 percent resided in the 12 metro areas with populations of 2,500,000 to 4,999,999, while 16.0 percent lived in the 30 metro areas with populations of 1,000,000 to 2,499,999 (Table 4, Figure 2).

All seven size categories shown in Table 4 experienced population growth between 2000–2003 and

Table 2.
Population Change by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 1990–2000 and 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Numerical change in thousands. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003)

Geographic area	2000–2003				1990–2000			
	Total	Metropolitan	Micropolitan	Outside CBSAs	Total	Metropolitan	Micropolitan	Outside CBSAs
NUMERICAL CHANGE								
United States	**9,387**	**8,815**	**475**	**97**	**32,713**	**28,641**	**2,667**	**1,406**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS								
Northeast Region	805	739	51	15	2,786	2,590	137	59
New England Division	283	238	32	13	716	624	64	28
Middle Atlantic Division	522	501	19	2	2,070	1,966	73	31
Midwest Region	1,011	980	51	–20	4,726	3,945	510	271
East North Central Division	682	624	37	20	3,146	2,613	314	219
West North Central Division	329	355	14	–40	1,580	1,331	197	52
South Region	4,304	4,000	233	71	14,789	12,719	1,314	756
South Atlantic Division	2,578	2,359	158	61	8,200	7,165	683	352
East South Central Division	318	267	46	5	1,847	1,287	361	198
West South Central Division	1,407	1,375	28	5	4,742	4,268	269	205
West Region	3,267	3,096	139	32	10,413	9,387	706	320
Mountain Division	1,211	1,125	67	19	4,514	3,861	428	226
Pacific Division	2,056	1,971	72	13	5,898	5,526	278	94
PERCENT CHANGE								
United States	**3.3**	**3.8**	**1.6**	**0.5**	**13.2**	**14.0**	**10.0**	**7.8**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS								
Northeast Region	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	5.5	5.7	3.7	4.3
New England Division	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.1	5.4	5.4	6.1	4.8
Middle Atlantic Division	1.3	1.4	0.7	0.2	5.5	5.8	2.8	4.0
Midwest Region	1.6	2.0	0.6	–0.3	7.9	8.8	6.0	4.3
East North Central Division	1.5	1.7	0.7	0.7	7.5	7.7	5.9	7.8
West North Central Division	1.7	2.9	0.4	–1.1	8.9	12.1	6.2	1.5
South Region	4.3	5.1	1.9	0.8	17.3	19.2	12.0	9.0
South Atlantic Division	5.0	5.5	3.1	1.7	18.8	19.9	15.5	11.2
East South Central Division	1.9	2.5	1.3	0.2	12.2	13.6	11.4	7.7
West South Central Division	4.5	5.5	0.8	0.2	17.8	20.6	8.1	7.7
West Region	5.2	5.5	3.2	1.4	19.7	19.9	19.1	16.2
Mountain Division	6.7	7.8	3.0	1.3	33.1	36.7	23.3	17.2
Pacific Division	4.6	4.7	3.4	1.6	15.1	15.1	15.0	14.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

1990–2000. Metro areas with populations of 2,500,000 to 4,999,999 grew the fastest (4.4 percent) between 2000 and 2003, followed by the metro areas with populations of 1,000,000 to 2,499,999 (4.0 percent). With a growth rate of 16.2 percent, metro areas with populations between 2,500,000 to 4,999,999 also grew the fastest among the size categories between 1990 and 2000.

The variations in population growth by size category reflect the contributions of natural increase and net migration (Table 5). Growth in the most populous areas was aided by relatively high rates of natural increase and international migration. In the case of metro areas with populations of 5,000,000 or more, international migration more than offset a negative rate of net domestic migration.

Overall, rates of natural increase were higher than rates of net migration for metro areas with 5,000,000 or more population and metro areas

Table 3.

Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Geographic area	Total	Natural increase			Net migration			Total	Natural increase			Net migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
	TOTAL							METROPOLITAN						
United States	**10.1**	**5.6**	**14.1**	**8.5**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**0.0**	**11.4**	**6.3**	**14.4**	**8.1**	**5.1**	**5.2**	**–0.1**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS														
Northeast Region	4.6	3.6	12.7	9.0	1.0	5.1	–4.0	4.7	4.0	12.9	8.9	0.8	5.5	–4.7
New England Division	6.2	3.2	12.1	8.9	3.1	4.1	–1.0	5.9	3.7	12.4	8.8	2.4	4.5	–2.1
Middle Atlantic Division	4.0	3.8	12.9	9.1	0.3	5.4	–5.1	4.2	4.1	13.1	9.0	0.2	5.9	–5.7
Midwest Region	4.8	4.6	13.6	9.0	0.2	2.6	–2.4	6.1	5.6	14.1	8.4	0.5	3.2	–2.6
East North Central Division	4.6	4.7	13.7	8.9	0.0	2.8	–2.8	5.2	5.4	14.0	8.6	–0.2	3.3	–3.5
West North Central Division	5.2	4.4	13.4	9.0	0.9	2.2	–1.3	8.7	6.2	14.1	7.9	2.6	2.8	–0.2
South Region	12.9	5.8	14.5	8.8	7.1	4.1	3.1	15.2	6.7	14.9	8.2	8.4	4.8	3.7
South Atlantic Division	15.0	4.8	13.8	9.0	10.1	4.6	5.5	16.4	5.3	13.9	8.6	10.9	5.1	5.8
East South Central Division	5.7	3.9	13.9	9.9	1.9	1.3	0.6	7.6	4.9	14.1	9.2	2.8	1.7	1.1
West South Central Division	13.5	8.4	16.2	7.8	5.1	4.7	0.4	16.5	9.8	16.8	7.0	6.6	5.5	1.2
West Region	15.5	7.9	15.0	7.0	7.5	6.6	0.9	16.4	8.4	15.2	6.8	7.9	7.1	0.8
Mountain Division	19.8	8.5	15.8	7.3	11.2	4.8	6.4	23.2	9.4	16.3	6.9	13.6	5.5	8.1
Pacific Division	13.7	7.7	14.7	7.0	6.0	7.3	–1.3	14.1	8.1	14.9	6.8	6.0	7.7	–1.7
	MICROPOLITAN							OUTSIDE CBSA						
United States	**4.9**	**2.8**	**12.9**	**10.1**	**2.2**	**1.6**	**0.6**	**1.5**	**0.8**	**12.0**	**11.2**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**–0.1**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS														
Northeast Region	4.1	0.6	10.6	10.0	3.3	0.7	2.6	3.1	–0.3	10.1	10.4	3.6	0.6	3.0
New England Division	8.8	0.9	10.3	9.4	7.9	1.0	7.0	6.3	–0.6	9.6	10.2	7.1	0.8	6.3
Middle Atlantic Division	2.2	0.5	10.8	10.3	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.7	–0.1	10.4	10.5	1.0	0.5	0.6
Midwest Region	1.8	2.6	12.5	9.9	–0.7	1.2	–1.9	–0.9	–0.1	11.5	11.6	–0.7	0.5	–1.2
East North Central Division	2.0	2.4	12.2	9.9	–0.1	0.9	–1.0	2.0	0.6	11.6	11.0	1.7	0.4	1.3
West North Central Division	1.3	3.0	13.0	10.0	–1.6	1.8	–3.5	–3.5	–0.6	11.5	12.1	–2.8	0.7	–3.4
South Region	5.8	3.2	13.8	10.6	2.7	1.7	1.0	2.4	1.1	12.7	11.6	1.4	1.1	0.3
South Atlantic Division	9.5	2.6	13.2	10.6	6.9	2.2	4.7	5.3	0.9	12.3	11.3	4.5	1.3	3.2
East South Central Division	4.0	2.8	13.6	10.8	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.6	1.6	13.1	11.4	–0.9	0.5	–1.3
West South Central Division	2.4	4.3	14.6	10.3	–1.8	1.9	–3.7	0.5	0.8	12.9	12.0	–0.2	1.4	–1.7
West Region	9.6	4.2	13.1	8.9	5.3	2.5	2.9	4.2	3.0	12.2	9.2	1.2	1.6	–0.4
Mountain Division	9.0	6.1	14.3	8.2	2.6	2.5	0.2	3.8	3.4	12.6	9.2	0.4	1.5	–1.1
Pacific Division	10.3	2.1	11.8	9.7	8.2	2.4	5.7	5.0	2.2	11.4	9.2	2.8	1.9	1.0

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Table 4.
Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas by Size Category: 1990–2000 and 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003. Size categories are based on 2003 population)

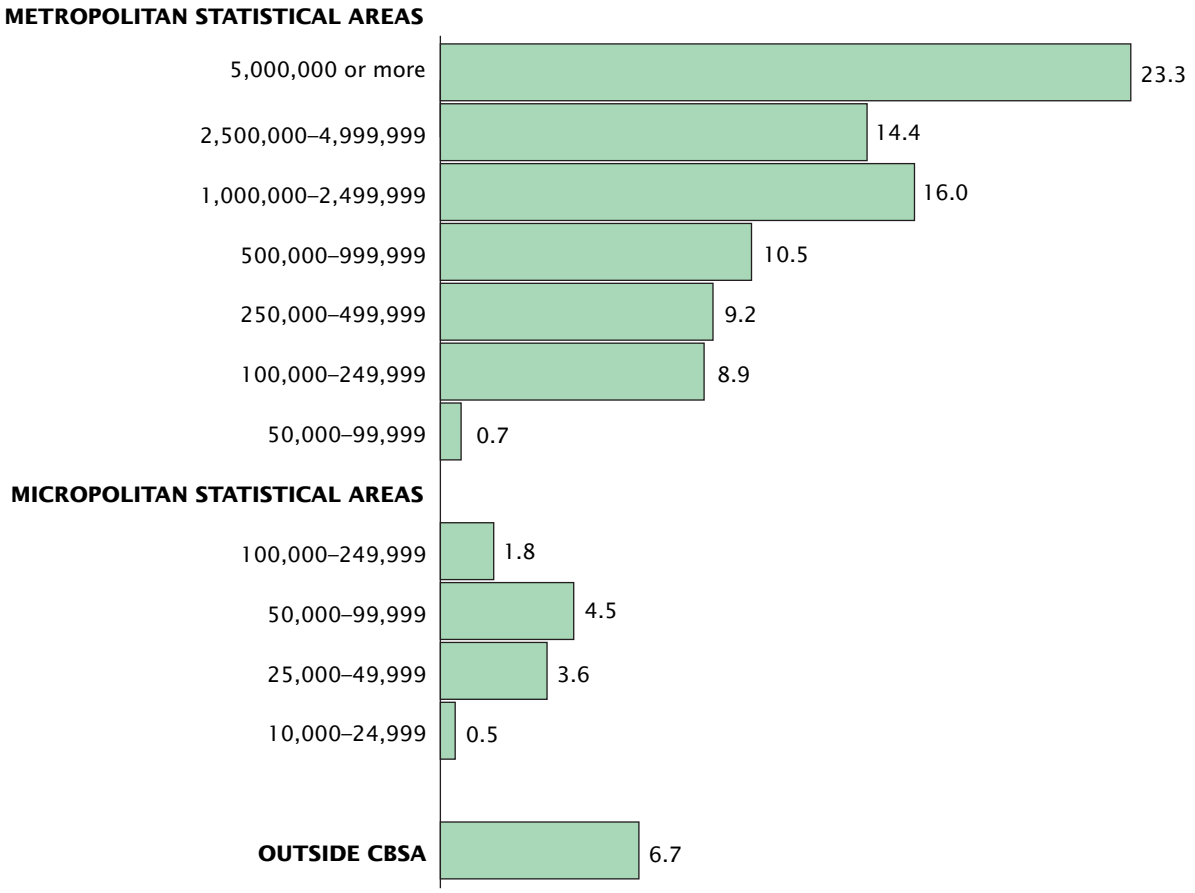
Size category	Number of areas			Population (thousands)			Population change			
		Gained population					Numerical (thousands)		Percent	
	Total	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990	2000	2003	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990–2000	2000–2003
Total for all metro areas	**361**	**336**	**303**	**203,941**	**232,581**	**241,396**	**28,641**	**8,815**	**14.0**	**3.8**
1,000,000 or more	50	48	46	131,181	150,216	156,250	19,035	6,034	14.5	4.0
5,000,000 or more	8	8	8	57,673	65,156	67,621	7,483	2,465	13.0	3.8
2,500,000–4,999,999	12	12	12	34,593	40,198	41,967	5,605	1,770	16.2	4.4
1,000,000–2,499,999	30	28	26	38,915	44,863	46,662	5,948	1,799	15.3	4.0
Less than 1,000,000	311	288	257	72,760	82,365	85,146	9,605	2,781	13.2	3.4
500,000–999,999	45	42	42	26,096	29,413	30,546	3,317	1,132	12.7	3.8
250,000–499,999	75	73	65	22,685	25,901	26,776	3,217	875	14.2	3.4
100,000–249,999	168	153	134	22,235	25,150	25,898	2,916	748	13.1	3.0
50,000–99,999	23	20	16	1,744	1,900	1,926	156	26	9.0	1.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Figure 2.

Percentage of the United States Population by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Status and Population Size Category of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: July 1, 2003

(See text for definitions of areas)



Note: The percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

with 1,000,000 to 2,499,999 population, while the rate of net migration was slightly higher than the rate of natural increase for metro areas with 2,500,000 to 4,999,999 population.

Less populous metro areas grew by somewhat lower rates than the more populous ones: metro areas with fewer than 1,000,000 people grew by 3.4 percent, compared with 4.0 percent for metro areas of 1,000,000 or more (Table 4). Among the smaller metro areas, three size categories—populations of 100,000 to 249,999, those of 250,000 to 499,999, and populations of 500,000 to 999,999—grew between 3.0 percent and 3.8 percent. Net migration contributed more than natural increase to the growth of metro areas in the category 500,000 to 999,999, while the opposite was the case for metro areas with populations of 100,000 to 249,999 and metro areas with populations of 250,000 to 499,999 (Table 5). Net international migration contributed more than net domestic migration to the growth of metro area populations in the three population size categories from 100,000 to 999,999. The relatively small growth that did occur in the least populous metro areas—those of 50,000 to 99,999—was entirely due to natural increase because net migration

Table 5.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in Metropolitan Statistical Areas by Size Category: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003. Size categories are based on 2003 population)

Size category	Total	Natural increase			Net migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Total for all metro areas	**11.4**	**6.3**	**14.4**	**8.1**	**5.1**	**5.2**	**–0.1**
5,000,000 or more	11.4	7.8	15.1	7.4	3.6	8.8	–5.2
2,500,000–4,999,999	13.3	6.5	14.3	7.8	6.6	5.5	1.2
1,000,000–2,499,999	12.1	6.1	14.3	8.2	5.9	3.8	2.1
500,000–999,999	11.6	5.6	14.1	8.4	6.1	3.3	2.8
250,000–499,999	10.2	5.2	13.9	8.6	5.0	3.0	2.0
100,000–249,999	9.0	4.7	13.6	8.8	4.4	2.3	2.1
50,000–99,999	4.2	4.4	13.3	8.9	–0.1	1.7	–1.8

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Table 6.
Population Change in the Most Populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990–2000 and 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003)

Rank in population size in 2003	Metropolitan statistical area title	Population (thousands)			Population change			
					Numerical (thousands)		Percent	
		1990	2000	2003	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990–2000	2000–2003
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	16,846	18,323	18,641	1,477	317	8.8	1.7
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	11,274	12,366	12,829	1,092	464	9.7	3.7
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	8,182	9,099	9,334	916	235	11.2	2.6
4	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,435	5,687	5,773	252	86	4.6	1.5
5	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	3,989	5,162	5,590	1,172	428	29.4	8.3
6	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	4,056	5,008	5,289	952	281	23.5	5.6
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	4,123	4,796	5,090	673	294	16.3	6.1
8	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	3,767	4,715	5,076	948	360	25.2	7.6
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	3,069	4,248	4,610	1,179	362	38.4	8.5
10	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,249	4,453	4,484	204	31	4.8	0.7
11	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,134	4,392	4,440	258	48	6.3	1.1
12	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	3,687	4,124	4,157	437	34	11.9	0.8
13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	2,589	3,255	3,642	666	388	25.7	11.9
14	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	2,238	3,252	3,593	1,013	342	45.3	10.5
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	2,559	3,044	3,142	485	98	18.9	3.2
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	2,539	2,969	3,084	430	115	16.9	3.9
17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	2,498	2,814	2,931	316	117	12.6	4.2
18	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,581	2,699	2,736	118	37	4.6	1.4
19	Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,382	2,553	2,616	171	63	7.2	2.5
20	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	2,068	2,396	2,532	328	136	15.9	5.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 7.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in the Most Populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank in population size in 2003	Metropolitan statistical area title	Total	Natural increase			Net migration		
			Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	5.3	6.3	14.3	8.0	–1.0	9.6	–10.6
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	11.3	9.7	15.7	6.1	1.7	10.5	–8.8
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	7.8	7.8	15.6	7.8	–0.1	6.8	–6.9
4	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	4.6	3.5	13.0	9.6	1.3	2.8	–1.5
5	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	24.5	11.8	17.7	5.9	12.4	8.9	3.5
6	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	16.8	4.4	13.7	9.3	12.4	13.2	–0.8
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	18.3	9.0	15.1	6.2	9.2	8.2	0.9
8	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	22.6	11.4	17.2	5.9	11.3	8.8	2.5
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	25.1	10.4	16.6	6.3	14.5	6.7	7.8
10	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	2.2	4.8	13.7	8.9	–2.6	3.4	–6.0
11	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	3.3	4.9	13.3	8.3	–1.6	6.2	–7.8
12	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	2.5	6.3	13.5	7.2	–3.9	9.8	–13.7
13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	34.6	8.8	15.7	7.0	25.4	4.7	20.6
14	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	30.7	9.7	17.1	7.3	20.8	8.0	12.8
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	9.7	6.2	12.9	6.8	3.7	5.7	–2.1
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	11.7	8.2	14.5	6.3	3.3	4.0	–0.6
17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	12.5	8.2	15.2	6.9	4.6	6.5	–1.8
18	St. Louis, MO-IL	4.2	3.8	13.3	9.5	0.5	1.7	–1.2
19	Baltimore-Towson, MD	7.5	4.0	13.3	9.3	2.9	2.2	0.7
20	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	17.0	0.0	11.9	11.9	16.8	3.9	12.8

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

was negative. Metro areas with 50,000 to 99,999 population were the only group to experience negative net migration.

Most Populous Metro Areas

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area was the largest metro area in 2003, with a population of 18.6 million people, followed by Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA and Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI, with populations of 12.8 million and 9.3 million, respectively (Table 6). With the exception of the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA metro area—which was 11th in 2000—each of the 10 largest metro areas in 2003 was also among the 10 largest in 2000; the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH Metropolitan Statistical Area, which was 10th in 2000, dropped to 11th in 2003.

Each of the 20 most populous areas grew between 2000–2003, ranging from highs of 11.9 percent and 10.5 percent for Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA and Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ, respectively, to lows of 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent for Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, respectively (Table 6). All 20 of these areas also grew between 1990 and 2000, led by the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA metro areas, which grew by 45.3 percent and 38.4 percent, respectively.

Natural increase played an important role in the growth of the largest metro areas between 2000 and 2003 (Table 7). In 13 of the 20 most populous metro areas, including 5 of the 8 metro areas with populations of 5,000,000 or more and 8 metro areas with 2,500,000 to 4,999,999 population, the rates of natural increase were higher than the rates of net migration.

For many of the largest metro areas, rates of net international migration were higher than net domestic migration, with many large metro areas experiencing negative net migration (Table 7). In 4 of the 20 most populous metro areas—Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA; Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA; Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ; and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL—the rate

of net domestic migration exceeded the rate of net international migration. The four most populous metro areas and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL, along with seven other areas with 2,500,000 to 4,999,999 population, experienced negative net domestic migration.

Fastest-Growing Metro Areas

Seventeen of the 20 fastest-growing metro areas had double-digit percentage growth between 2000 and 2003 (Table 8). The Greeley, CO Metropolitan Statistical Area—adjacent to the Denver-Aurora, CO Metropolitan Statistical Area—was the fastest-growing metro area in the United States, growing by 16.8 percent between 2000 and 2003. The second and third fastest-growing metro areas—St. George, UT (a new metro area) and Las Vegas-Paradise, NV—grew by 15.2 percent and 14.6 percent, respectively. Fourteen metro areas had growth rates between 10.0 and 14.0 percent. Twelve of the 20 fastest-growing metro areas were located in the West, while the other eight were located in the South.

In 18 of the 20 fastest-growing areas, rates of net migration exceeded rates of natural increase (Table 9). The exceptions were two metro areas located on the United States-Mexico border: McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr, TX and Laredo, TX. Both areas experienced a rate of natural increase larger than 20.0, higher than that of any of the other 20 fastest-growing metro areas.

While most of the fastest-growing metro areas (18 out of 20) experienced natural increase, one metro area—Prescott, AZ—had natural decrease, and a second metro area—Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL—had equal rates of births and deaths. Both areas had death rates greater than 11.0 (higher than in any of the other 20 fastest-growing metro areas). However, both areas were among the fastest-growing areas because of high rates of net domestic migration that more than compensated for the lack of natural increase.

Where metro areas grew 6.6 percent or more between 2000 and 2003, at least two times the national average, several patterns were evident (Figure 3). Some of the fastest-growing metro and micro areas—discussed in the following section—were located in southern California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, stretching from Hanford-Corcoran, CA and Bakersfield, CA on the west through Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA, then northeast through Pahrump, NV (a micro area) and Las Vegas-Paradise, NV to St. George, UT, and also extending through the Arizona areas of Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ (another micro area) and Prescott, AZ to Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ and Yuma, AZ. In addition, an area of fast-growing metro areas was located in northern Nevada and the Central Valley of California, extending from Reno-Sparks, NV to Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, CA (and including the Clearlake, CA micro area) through Stockton, CA, Modesto, CA, and Merced, CA, to Madera, CA. In Florida, a southwestern-Gulf Coast cluster of fast-growing metro areas extends from Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL on the north through Punta Gorda, FL and Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL to Naples-Marco Island, FL.

MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Micro Area Size Categories

Areas encompassing 50,000 to 99,999 people contained the highest percentage of the U.S. population (4.5 percent) of the four micro area size categories shown in Figure 2. The three other size categories, 25,000 to 49,999, 100,000 to 249,999, and 10,000 to 24,999, accounted for 3.6 percent, 1.8 percent, and 0.5 percent of the population, respectively.

Between 2000 and 2003, the largest size category of micro areas experienced the largest percentage change in population, 3.4 percent (Table 10). Micro areas of 50,000 to 99,999 and those of 25,000 to 49,999 grew by 1.8 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. Overall growth for the two larger categories (100,000 to 249,999 and 50,000 to 99,999) was due to both positive net migration and natural increase, while micro areas with 25,000 to 49,999 people grew because rates of natural increase more than compensated for negative net migration (Table 11). Among micro areas of 10,000–24,999, a relatively high rate of negative net domestic migration led to an overall decrease in population of 0.7 percent.

Table 8.
Population Change in the Fastest-Growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Ranked by percent change, 2000–2003. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank	Metropolitan statistical area title	Population (thousands)		Population change, 2000–2003	
		2000	2003	Numerical (thousands)	Percent
1	Greeley, CO	181	211	30	16.8
2	St. George, UT	90	104	14	15.2
3	Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	1,376	1,577	201	14.6
4	Naples-Marco Island, FL	251	287	35	14.0
5	Stockton, CA	564	633	69	12.3
6	Bend, OR	115	129	14	12.2
7	Gainesville, GA	139	156	17	12.1
8	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	3,255	3,642	388	11.9
9	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	441	492	51	11.6
10	McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr, TX	569	636	66	11.6
11	Raleigh-Cary, NC	797	884	87	11.0
12	Laredo, TX	193	214	20	10.6
13	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3,252	3,593	342	10.5
14	Austin-Round Rock, TX	1,250	1,378	128	10.2
15	Modesto, CA	447	492	45	10.1
16	Prescott, AZ	168	184	17	10.1
17	Merced, CA	211	232	21	10.0
18	Boise City-Nampa, ID	465	511	46	9.9
19	Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, CA	1,797	1,975	178	9.9
20	Orlando, FL	1,645	1,803	158	9.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Table 9.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in the Fastest-Growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Ranked by percent change, 2000–2003. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank	Metropolitan statistical area title		Natural increase			Net migration		
		Total	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
1	Greeley, CO	47.7	10.1	16.1	6.0	36.5	5.2	31.4
2	St. George, UT	43.6	11.5	18.7	7.2	31.8	1.9	29.8
3	Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	41.9	7.9	15.5	7.6	33.3	7.4	25.9
4	Naples-Marco Island, FL	40.3	3.7	12.7	9.0	35.9	10.2	25.7
5	Stockton, CA	35.6	8.9	16.3	7.4	26.2	5.8	20.4
6	Bend, OR	35.5	3.9	11.9	8.0	31.0	0.7	30.3
7	Gainesville, GA	35.0	12.4	19.4	7.0	22.5	12.6	9.9
8	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	34.6	8.8	15.7	7.0	25.4	4.7	20.6
9	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	33.8	0.0	11.4	11.4	32.8	4.4	28.4
10	McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr, TX	33.7	20.8	25.2	4.4	13.2	9.0	4.1
11	Raleigh-Cary, NC	32.0	10.1	15.8	5.7	21.7	6.6	15.0
12	Laredo, TX	31.0	25.0	29.2	4.3	6.4	9.2	–2.8
13	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	30.7	9.7	17.1	7.3	20.8	8.0	12.8
14	Austin-Round Rock, TX	29.9	12.2	17.0	4.7	17.2	7.3	9.9
15	Modesto, CA	29.6	8.4	15.9	7.5	20.9	5.0	15.9
16	Prescott, AZ	29.6	–1.4	9.9	11.3	30.2	2.2	28.1
17	Merced, CA	29.3	11.4	17.7	6.3	17.7	6.6	11.1
18	Boise City-Nampa, ID	29.0	9.8	16.2	6.4	19.0	2.8	16.3
19	Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, CA	29.0	6.4	13.6	7.3	22.4	5.5	16.9
20	Orlando, FL	28.3	6.1	13.9	7.8	21.5	5.9	15.6

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Figure 3.

Percent Change in Population for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003

(See text for definitions of areas.)

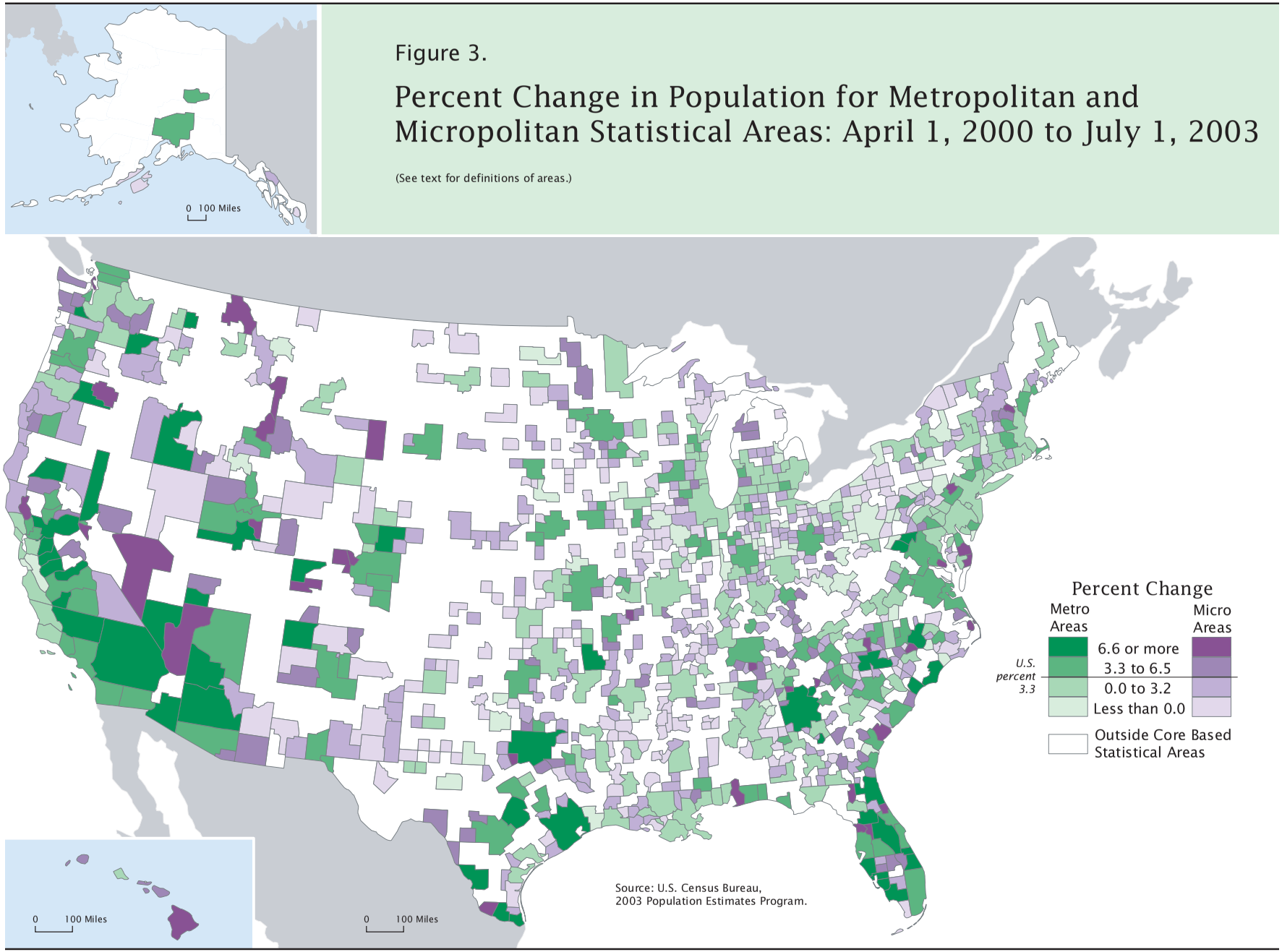


Table 10.
Population Change in Micropolitan Statistical Areas by Size Category: 1990–2000 and 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003. Size categories are based on 2003 population)

Size category	Number of areas			Population (thousands)			Population change			
		Gained population					Numerical (thousands)		Percent	
	Total	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990	2000	2003	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990–2000	2000–2003
Total for all micro areas...	**573**	**480**	**356**	**26,745**	**29,412**	**29,887**	**2,667**	**475**	**10.0**	**1.6**
100,000–249,999	40	35	32	4,429	5,042	5,212	613	170	13.8	3.4
50,000–99,999	189	164	135	11,566	12,731	12,961	1,165	230	10.1	1.8
25,000–49,999	276	237	165	9,417	10,258	10,342	841	84	8.9	0.8
10,000–24,999	68	44	24	1,334	1,382	1,372	49	–10	3.6	–0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 11.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in Micropolitan Statistical Areas by Size Category: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003. Size categories are based on 2003 population)

Size category		Natural increase			Net migration		
	Total	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Total for all micro areas	**4.9**	**2.8**	**12.9**	**10.1**	**2.2**	**1.6**	**0.6**
100,000–249,999	10.2	2.6	12.4	9.9	7.4	1.5	5.9
50,000–99,999	5.5	2.5	12.6	10.0	3.1	1.4	1.7
25,000–49,999	2.5	3.1	13.3	10.2	–0.5	1.7	–2.2
10,000–24,999	–2.2	3.8	13.8	10.0	–6.0	2.0	–8.0

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Most Populous Micro Areas

The Torrington, CT Micropolitan Statistical Area—located in the northwestern corner of Connecticut—was the largest micro area in 2003, with a population of approximately 188,000 (Table 12). Eighteen of the 20 most populous micro areas grew between 2000 and 2003; only Pottsville, PA and Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY experienced population decline. Both areas also lost population between 1990 and 2000.

Population growth for the largest micro areas was often due to high rates of net migration—in particular net domestic migration. Net migration exceeded natural increase for 16 of the 18 micro areas shown in Table 13 that grew between 2000 and 2003. Unlike the largest metro areas, where net international migration was often larger than net domestic migration, the largest micro areas had relatively little net international migration. In four of the largest micro areas, the net international migration rate was above 3.0: Salisbury, NC (3.1), Hilo, HI (3.4), Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC (4.3), and Kahului-Wailuku, HI (4.7). In two of the 18 micro areas in Table 13 that grew—Ottawa-Streator, IL and Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA—net international migration was larger than net domestic migration; in a third micro area, Salisbury, NC, the rates were equal.

Table 12.
Population Change in the Most Populous Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990–2000 and 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Data are for April 1, 1990; April 1, 2000, estimates base; and July 1, 2003)

Rank in population size in 2003	Micropolitan statistical area title	Population (thousands)			Population change			
					Numerical (thousands)		Percent	
		1990	2000	2003	1990–2000	2000–2003	1990–2000	2000–2003
1	Torrington, CT	174	182	188	8	6	4.7	3.1
2	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	93	155	171	62	16	65.8	10.5
3	Lebanon, NH-VT	155	167	171	12	4	7.9	2.2
4	Seaford, DE	113	157	168	43	11	38.3	7.3
5	Hilo, HI	120	149	158	28	10	23.6	6.6
6	East Stroudsburg, PA	96	139	154	43	16	44.9	11.4
7	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	102	142	154	40	12	39.0	8.7
8	Ottawa-Streator, IL	148	153	153	5	0	3.2	0.2
9	Thomasville-Lexington, NC	127	147	152	21	5	16.2	3.3
10	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	98	140	152	42	11	42.9	8.1
11	Pottsville, PA	153	150	148	–2	–2	–1.5	–1.6
12	Concord, NH	120	136	144	16	7	13.5	5.4
13	Traverse City, MI	106	131	138	25	7	23.3	5.2
14	Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	142	140	138	–2	–2	–1.5	–1.5
15	Kahului-Wailuku, HI	100	128	136	28	8	27.6	5.9
16	Salisbury, NC	111	130	134	20	4	17.8	2.8
17	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	93	123	133	30	11	32.0	8.7
18	Chambersburg, PA	121	129	133	8	4	6.8	3.0
19	Tupelo, MS	108	125	128	17	3	16.2	2.4
20	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA	119	127	128	7	1	6.2	1.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 13.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in the Most Populous Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank in population size in 2003	Micropolitan statistical area title		Natural increase			Net migration		
		Total	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
1	Torrington, CT	9.3	1.4	10.5	9.1	8.0	1.1	6.9
2	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	30.8	–1.1	11.2	12.3	31.1	2.0	29.1
3	Lebanon, NH-VT	6.6	0.5	9.1	8.5	6.3	1.1	5.2
4	Seaford, DE	21.6	1.5	12.5	11.0	19.9	2.2	17.6
5	Hilo, HI	19.5	6.0	14.1	8.1	13.4	3.4	10.1
6	East Stroudsburg, PA	33.2	2.5	10.5	8.0	29.7	1.0	28.7
7	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	25.6	7.1	14.8	7.7	18.3	4.3	14.0
8	Ottawa-Streator, IL	0.5	1.5	12.3	10.9	–0.7	0.8	–1.5
9	Thomasville-Lexington, NC	10.1	3.4	12.6	9.2	6.9	2.8	4.1
10	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	24.0	2.7	12.6	9.9	21.2	1.2	20.0
11	Pottsville, PA	–4.9	–4.8	9.6	14.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
12	Concord, NH	16.3	3.2	11.3	8.1	12.9	1.2	11.7
13	Traverse City, MI	15.5	2.7	11.1	8.4	12.7	0.7	11.9
14	Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	–4.7	0.3	11.1	10.8	–4.7	0.5	–5.3
15	Kahului-Wailuku, HI	17.5	7.4	14.1	6.7	10.2	4.7	5.5
16	Salisbury, NC	8.4	2.4	12.6	10.3	6.2	3.1	3.1
17	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	25.8	5.9	14.6	8.6	19.6	2.8	16.8
18	Chambersburg, PA	9.0	2.5	12.2	9.7	6.9	1.1	5.7
19	Tupelo, MS	7.2	4.7	14.8	10.2	2.9	0.5	2.4
20	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA	3.4	1.3	11.5	10.2	2.4	1.3	1.2

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Table 14.
Population Change in the Fastest-Growing Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Ranked by percent change, 2000–2003. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank	Micropolitan statistical area title	Population (thousands)		Population change, 2000–2003	
		2000	2003	Numerical (thousands)	Percent
1	Palm Coast, FL	50	62	12	24.8
2	Heber, UT	15	18	2	15.1
3	East Stroudsburg, PA	139	154	16	11.4
4	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	155	171	16	10.5
5	Kill Devil Hills, NC	30	33	3	10.5
6	The Villages, FL	53	59	6	10.4
7	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	41	45	4	9.9
8	Pahrump, NV	33	36	3	9.9
9	Granbury, TX	48	52	4	9.3
10	Dunn, NC	91	99	8	9.2
11	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	123	133	11	8.7
12	Clearlake, CA	58	63	5	8.7
13	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	142	154	12	8.7
14	Edwards, CO	49	54	4	8.7
15	Calhoun, GA	44	48	4	8.3
16	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	140	152	11	8.1
17	Bozeman, MT	68	73	5	8.0
18	Montrose, CO	33	36	3	7.6
19	Rio Grande City, TX	54	58	4	7.6
20	Lexington Park, MD	86	93	7	7.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Fastest-Growing Micro Areas

While 17 metro areas grew by at least 10 percent between 2000 and 2003, six micro areas had comparable rates of growth (Tables 8 and 14). The Palm Coast, FL Micropolitan Statistical Area—located south of the Jacksonville, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area—was the fastest-growing micro area in the United States between 2000–2003, experiencing 24.8 percent growth (Table 14). The next five fastest-growing micro areas were Heber, UT; East Stroudsburg, PA; Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ; Kill Devil Hills, NC; and The Villages, FL, with growth rates of 15.1 percent, 11.4 percent, 10.5 percent, 10.5 percent, and 10.4 percent, respectively.

Every region contained at least one of the 20 fastest-growing micro areas. Eleven of the fastest-growing areas were located in the South; seven were in the West, one was in the Midwest (Fort Leonard Wood, MO), and one was in the Northeast (East Stroudsburg, PA) (Table 14).

As was generally the case with the fastest-growing metro areas, rates of net migration in the fastest-growing micro areas tended to be higher than rates of natural increase (Table 15); only Rio Grande City, TX and Edwards, CO—possessing the two highest rates of natural increase among the micro areas in Table 15—had higher rates of natural increase than net migration. The influence of net migration is highlighted by the fact that 18 of the 20 fastest-growing micro areas had positive net domestic migration, and the two exceptions—Rio Grande City, TX and Edwards, CO—experienced high rates of net international migration (9.7 and 14.7 per 1,000 or more, respectively). Six of these fast-growing micro areas—Palm Coast, FL; Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ; The Villages, FL; Pahrump, NV; Granbury, TX; and Clearlake, CA—experienced natural decrease. In each of these six micro areas, growth was fueled by high rates of positive net domestic migration, above 25.0 in each case.

Some micro areas with growth rates that were at least twice the national average between 2000 and 2003 were part of larger bands of fast-growing metro and micro areas (Figure 3). In addition to the Pahrump, NV, Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ, and Clearlake, CA micro areas noted earlier, additional bands of growth involving fast-growing micro areas were adjacent to fast-growing metro areas. For example, one area of growth in northern Georgia centered around the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area and included the Calhoun, GA and Cornelia, GA micro areas, as well as the Gainesville, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area. Multiple clusters

Table 15.
Average Annual Rates of the Components of Population Change in the Fastest-Growing Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000–2003

(See text for definitions of areas. Rates per 1,000 average population. Ranked by percent change, 2000–2003. Data are for April 1, 2000, estimates base and July 1, 2003)

Rank	Micropolitan statistical area title		Natural increase			Net migration		
		Total	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
1	Palm Coast, FL	68.0	–4.2	7.5	11.8	70.3	1.4	68.9
2	Heber, UT	43.1	13.6	19.2	5.6	28.7	3.0	25.7
3	East Stroudsburg, PA	33.2	2.5	10.5	8.0	29.7	1.0	28.7
4	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	30.8	–1.1	11.2	12.3	31.1	2.0	29.1
5	Kill Devil Hills, NC	30.7	3.2	11.1	7.8	26.7	1.3	25.5
6	The Villages, FL	30.3	–4.7	7.8	12.5	34.3	1.4	32.9
7	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	29.1	7.3	14.0	6.7	21.2	0.7	20.6
8	Pahrump, NV	28.9	–3.6	9.2	12.8	32.3	1.5	30.8
9	Granbury, TX	27.4	–0.2	11.0	11.2	27.0	1.5	25.5
10	Dunn, NC	27.1	7.7	15.6	7.9	19.0	2.9	16.1
11	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	25.8	5.9	14.6	8.6	19.6	2.8	16.8
12	Clearlake, CA	25.6	–3.8	10.0	13.7	28.4	1.8	26.6
13	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	25.6	7.1	14.8	7.7	18.3	4.3	14.0
14	Edwards, CO	25.5	15.4	17.9	2.5	10.3	14.7	–4.4
15	Calhoun, GA	24.6	8.1	17.2	9.1	16.4	4.9	11.5
16	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	24.0	2.7	12.6	9.9	21.2	1.2	20.0
17	Bozeman, MT	23.6	6.3	11.5	5.2	17.1	1.3	15.8
18	Montrose, CO	22.6	5.3	14.6	9.3	17.2	1.8	15.4
19	Rio Grande City, TX	22.6	22.0	26.1	4.1	0.7	9.7	–9.1
20	Lexington Park, MD	22.5	7.9	14.2	6.4	14.5	0.6	13.9

Note: Total population change includes residual; see <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

of growth in Florida involved micro areas, including a northeastern cluster focused around the Jacksonville, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area and the adjacent micro areas of Palm Coast, FL and Lake City, FL. A second cluster in the central part of the state extended from the Ocala, FL metro area and the Homosassa Springs, FL and The Villages, FL micro areas through the Orlando, FL metro area to the Vero Beach, FL and Port St. Lucie-Fort Pierce, FL metro areas.

SUMMARY

From 2000 to 2003, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas experienced different rates of population change, with the effects on the size of their populations ranging from rapid growth to population decline. Of the 290.8 million people in the United States in 2003, more than 93 percent lived either in metro or micro areas. Between 2000 and 2003, growth in both metro and micro areas was fastest in the West, followed by the South. The rate of population growth outside CBSAs also was fastest in the West, followed by the Northeast. Some of the fastest-growing metro and micro areas were located in several bands in parts of the West and the South, including parts of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Georgia, and Florida.

In 2003, more than one-half of the U.S. population lived in the 50 metro areas with populations of 1,000,000 or more, with almost one-quarter of the U.S. population residing in metro areas with populations of 5,000,000 or more. In many of the most populous metro areas—led by the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA metro area—natural increase and net international migration contributed to population growth. Net migration—led in many cases by net domestic migration—usually made a larger contribution than natural increase to the growth of many of the largest micro areas, along with many of the fastest-growing metro areas and micro areas.

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA

This report uses estimates of the total population and components of change for the period April 1, 2000—July 1, 2003, and population counts from the 1990 census to analyze trends during the 1990 to 2003 period. The population universe is the resident population of the United States (50 states and

District of Columbia). Migration from outside the United States, including from Puerto Rico, U.S. Island Areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S Virgin Islands), and by the U.S. population abroad is treated as international migration.

The methodology used by the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program to produce population estimates for counties is available at <www.census.gov /popest/topics/methodology /2003_st_co_meth.html>. Each component of population change is estimated separately. Estimates for counties are then aggregated to create estimates for the set of areas in the report, including the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

This report uses average annual rates of the components of population change expressed per 1,000 average population.

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USER COMMENTS

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Or send e-mail to:
pop@census.gov

Appendix A.

Bridge Illustrating Current and Previous Approaches to Aggregating Populations of Statistical Areas: 2003

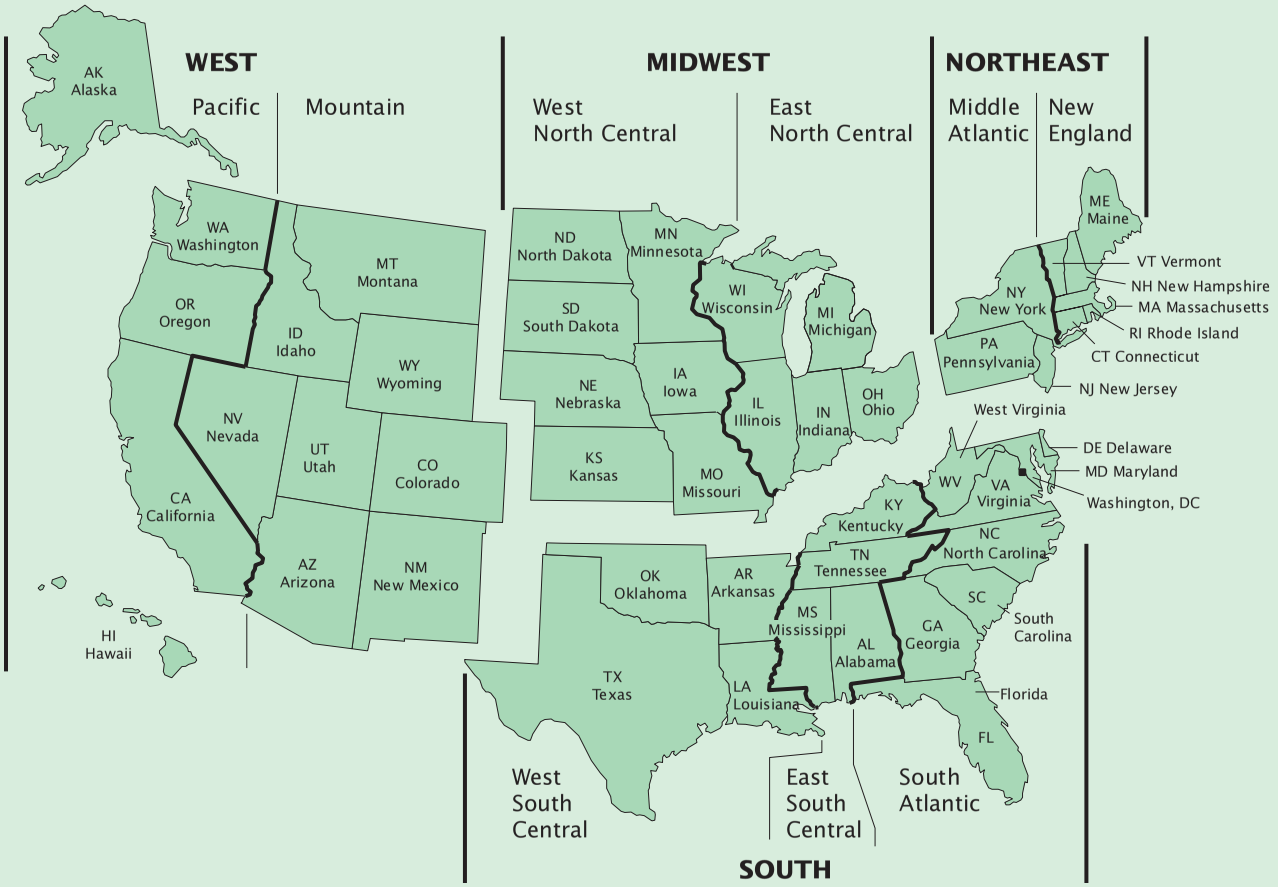
(See text for definitions of areas. Numbers in thousands. Data are for July 1, 2003)

Geographic area	Total A	Current approach 1			Current approach 2		Approximation of previous approach	
		Metro B	Micro C	Outside CBSA D	CBSA B + C	Outside CBSA D	Metro B	Nonmetro C + D
United States	**290,810**	**241,396**	**29,887**	**19,527**	**271,283**	**19,527**	**241,396**	**49,414**
REGIONS AND DIVISIONS								
Northeast Region	54,399	49,082	3,882	1,436	52,963	1,436	49,082	5,318
New England Division	14,205	12,431	1,153	622	13,583	622	12,431	1,775
Middle Atlantic Division	40,194	36,651	2,729	814	39,380	814	36,651	3,543
Midwest Region	65,406	49,842	9,022	6,543	58,863	6,543	49,842	15,565
East North Central Division	45,837	37,133	5,646	3,058	42,779	3,058	37,133	8,704
West North Central Division	19,569	12,708	3,376	3,485	16,084	3,485	12,708	6,861
South Region	104,538	82,876	12,450	9,212	95,326	9,212	82,876	21,662
South Atlantic Division	54,345	45,553	5,237	3,555	50,790	3,555	45,553	8,792
East South Central Division	17,342	10,990	3,580	2,772	14,570	2,772	10,990	6,351
West South Central Division	32,852	26,333	3,633	2,886	29,966	2,886	26,333	6,519
West Region	66,466	59,597	4,534	2,335	64,131	2,335	59,597	6,869
Mountain Division	19,384	15,500	2,327	1,557	17,827	1,557	15,500	3,884
Pacific Division	47,082	44,096	2,208	778	46,304	778	44,096	2,986

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates Program.

Appendix B.

Map of the United States, Showing Census Divisions and Regions



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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