

Revised Statistical Definitions of Metropolitan



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
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OMB BULLETIN NO. 95-04

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Revised Statistical Definitions of Metropolitan Areas (MAs) and Guidance on Uses of MA Definitions

1. **Purpose:** This Bulletin establishes two new Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and a new central city in an existing MSA. It also provides guidance on the use of the statistical definitions of Metropolitan Areas (MAs).
2. **Background:** Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(d)(3) and 31 U.S.C. 1104(d) and E.O. No. 10253 (June 11, 1951), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines MAs for use in Federal statistical activities. OMB updates these definitions each June, adding new areas that qualify as MAs and cities that qualify as central cities for MAs.
3. **New MSAs:** Flagstaff, Arizona-Utah, is defined as a Level CMSA (FIPS Code 2620) effective June 30, 1995. The Flagstaff, Arizona-Utah MSA comprises Coconino County, Arizona, and Kane County, Utah. Its central city is Flagstaff, Arizona.

Grand Junction, Colorado, is defined as a Level D MSA (FIPS Code 2995) effective June 30, 1995. The Grand Junction, Colorado MSA comprises Mesa County, Colorado. Its central city is Grand Junction, Colorado.

4. **New central city:** Lenoir, North Carolina qualifies as a new central city of the Hickory-Morganton, NC MSA (FIPS Code 3290). With this central city addition, the title for the MSA becomes Hickory-Morganton-

Lenoir, NC MSA.

5. **Metropolitan Areas:** This Bulletin gives the definitions of all MAs in the United States and Puerto Rico, based on the standards published on March 30, 1990, in the Federal Register (55 FR 12154-12160), the 1990 Decennial Census data, and 1992 and 1994 Census Bureau population estimates. A total of 256 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are recognized. There are 19 Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs), consisting of 76 Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs). List I provides titles and definitions of all MSAs; List II presents similar information for CMSAs and PMSAs. List III identifies the MSAs, CMSAs, and PMSAs of each State. List IV provides titles and definitions for the New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs). MSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs are categorized by their 1990 population size, as follows:

Level A -- Areas of 1 million or more

Level B -- Areas of 250,000 to 999,999

Level C -- Areas of 100,000 to 249,999

Level D -- Areas of less than 100,000

6. **Uses of Metropolitan Area Definitions:** All agencies that conduct statistical activities to collect and publish data for MAs should use the most recent definitions of MAs established by OMB.

OMB establishes and maintains the definitions of the MAs solely for statistical purposes. In periodically reviewing and revising the MA definitions, OMB does not take into account or attempt to anticipate any nonstatistical uses that may be made of the definitions, nor will OMB modify the definitions to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical program.

We recognize that some legislation specifies the use of metropolitan areas for programmatic purposes, including allocating Federal funds. For example, as called for by the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1882(d)(2), the Health Care Financing Administration uses MAs to define labor market areas and gather hospital wage data that are used in developing a hospital wage index for the labor related portion of a hospital's standardized Medicare payment. We will continue to work with the Congress to clarify the foundations of the metropolitan area definitions and the resultant, often unintended consequences of their use for nonstatistical purposes.

In cases where there is no statutory requirement and an agency elects to use the MA definitions in a nonstatistical program, it is the sponsoring agency's responsibility to ensure that the definitions are

appropriate for such use. When an agency is publishing for comment a proposed regulation that would use the MA definitions for a nonstatistical purpose, the agency should seek public comment on the proposed use of the MA definitions. Please refer to M-94-22 on Use of Metropolitan Area Definitions issued by OMB on May 5, 1994, for further information.

7. **List of Metropolitan Area Definitions:** Copies of the list of Metropolitan Areas as of June 30, 1995, are available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Document Sales, 5205 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161 (703-487-4650) (Accession Number PB95-208880). This list is also available through NTIS in electronic form (Wordperfect 5.1) (Accession Number PB95-503371).
8. **Inquiries:** Inquiries concerning MA standards and the statistical uses of MA definitions should be directed to Maria E. Gonzalez (202-395-7313).

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Director

Metropolitan Areas 1995

METROPOLITAN AREAS 1995
LISTS I-IV
Statistical Policy Office
Office of Management and Budget
Attachments to OMB Bulletin No. 95-04

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan areas (MAs) following the official standards published in the Federal Register (55 FR 12154-12160) on March 30, 1990. MAs comprise metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). These areas are defined in terms of entire counties, except in the six New England States where they are defined in terms of cities and towns. New England county metropolitan areas (NECMAs) are an alternative set of county-based areas defined for New England states.

Effective June 30, 1995, there are 256 MSAs, 19 CMSAs, and 76 PMSAs, including 3 MSAs, 1 CMSA, and 3 PMSAs in Puerto Rico. Attached are four lists containing the definitions of these areas based on the MA standards published in the Federal Register on March 30, 1990, the 1990 Decennial Census data, and 1992 and 1994 Census Bureau population estimates. List I is a comprehensive alphabetical listing of all MSAs, CMSAs, and PMSAs. It presents the definition and central cities for each MSA, and identifies each CMSA and PMSA by title only (referring the user to List II for their definitions). List II provides definitions of each CMSA and its component PMSAs. Both List I and List II present central cities in the order in which they appear in the area title and then in descending order of their 1990 populations. List III identifies the MSAs, CMSAs, and PMSAs by State, with cross references to the list on which to find each area's definition and central cities. Parentheses around MA titles in List III indicate that an area recently has become part of another or has a new title. List IV specifies the definitions of 12 NECMAs.

The first column of each list contains Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the Department of Commerce to standardize the coding of electronic data processing information. NIST has assigned a unique four digit code for each MSA, PMSA, and NECMA and a unique two digit code for each CMSA.

- [List I - Metropolitan Areas](#) (48 pages, 52 kb)
- [List II - Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas & Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas](#) (24 pages, 25 kb)
- [List III - Metropolitan Areas Arranged by State](#) (19 pages, 23 kb)
- [List IV - Definitions of New England County Metropolitan Areas](#) (2 pages, 5 kb)