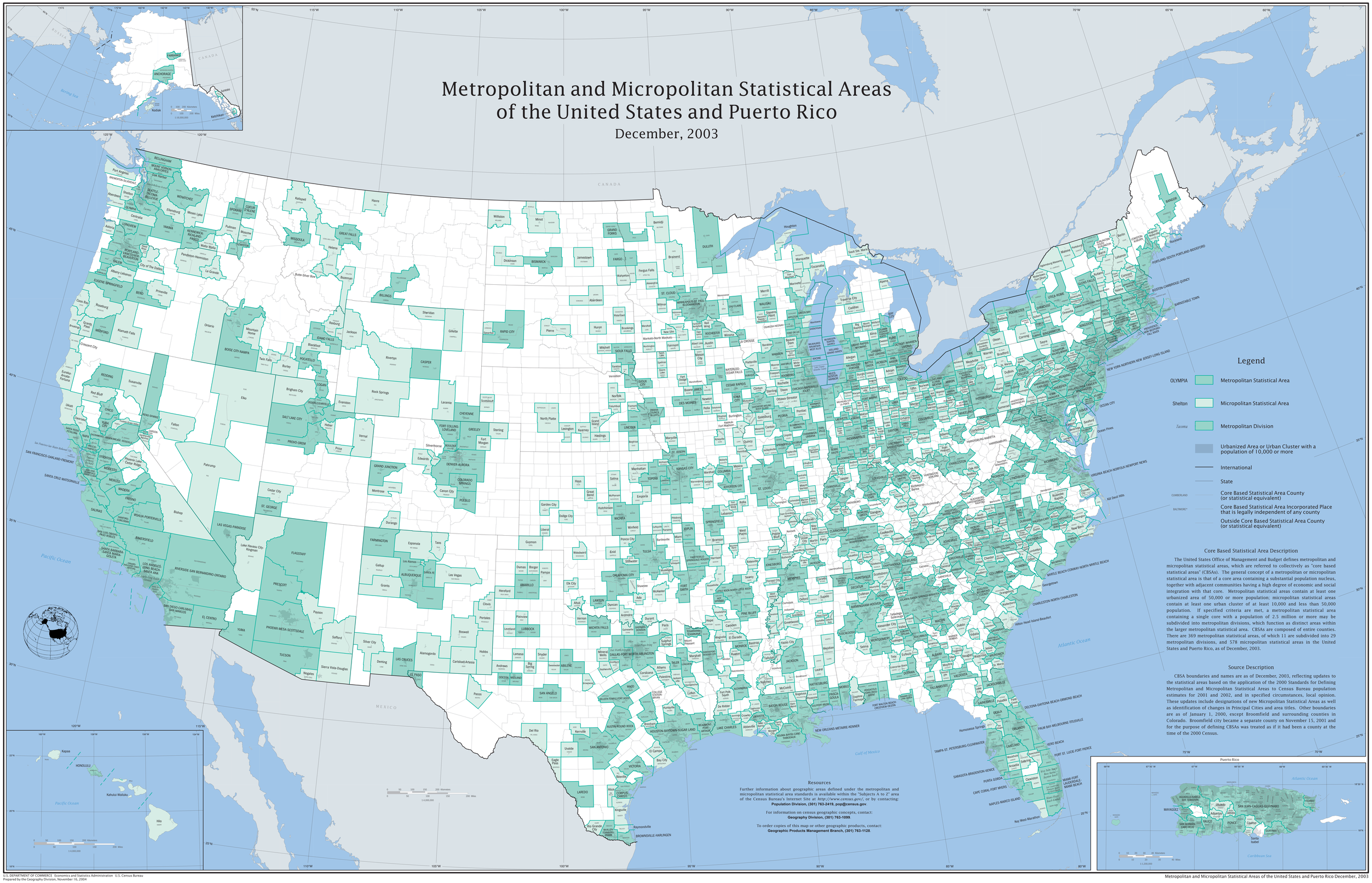
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico

December, 2003



Core Based Statistical Area Description

The United States Office of Management and Budget defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, which are referred to collectively as "core based statistical areas" (CBSAs). 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. Metropolitan statistical areas contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population; micropolitan statistical areas contain at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 and less than 50,000 population. 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 into metropolitan divisions, which function as distinct areas within the larger metropolitan statistical area. CBSAs are composed of entire counties. There are 369 metropolitan statistical areas, of which 11 are subdivided into 29 metropolitan divisions, and 578 micropolitan statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of December, 2003.

Source Description

CBSA boundaries and names are as of December, 2003, reflecting updates to the statistical areas based on the application of the 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas to Census Bureau population estimates for 2001 and 2002, and in specified circumstances, local opinion. These updates include designations of new Micropolitan Statistical Areas as well as identification of changes in Principal Cities and area titles. Other boundaries are as of January 1, 2000, except Broomfield and surrounding counties in Colorado. Broomfield city became a separate county on November 15, 2001 and for the purpose of defining CBSAs was treated as if it had been a county at the time of the 2000 Census.

Resources

Further information about geographic areas defined under the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area standards is available within the "Subjects A to Z" area of the Census Bureau's Internet Site at *http://www.census.gov/*, or by contacting: **Population Division, (301) 763-2419, pop@census.gov**.

For information on census geographic concepts, contact: **Geography Division, (301) 763-1099**.

To order copies of this map or other geographic products, contact: **Geographic Products Management Branch, (301) 763-1128**.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by the Geography Division, November 16, 2004