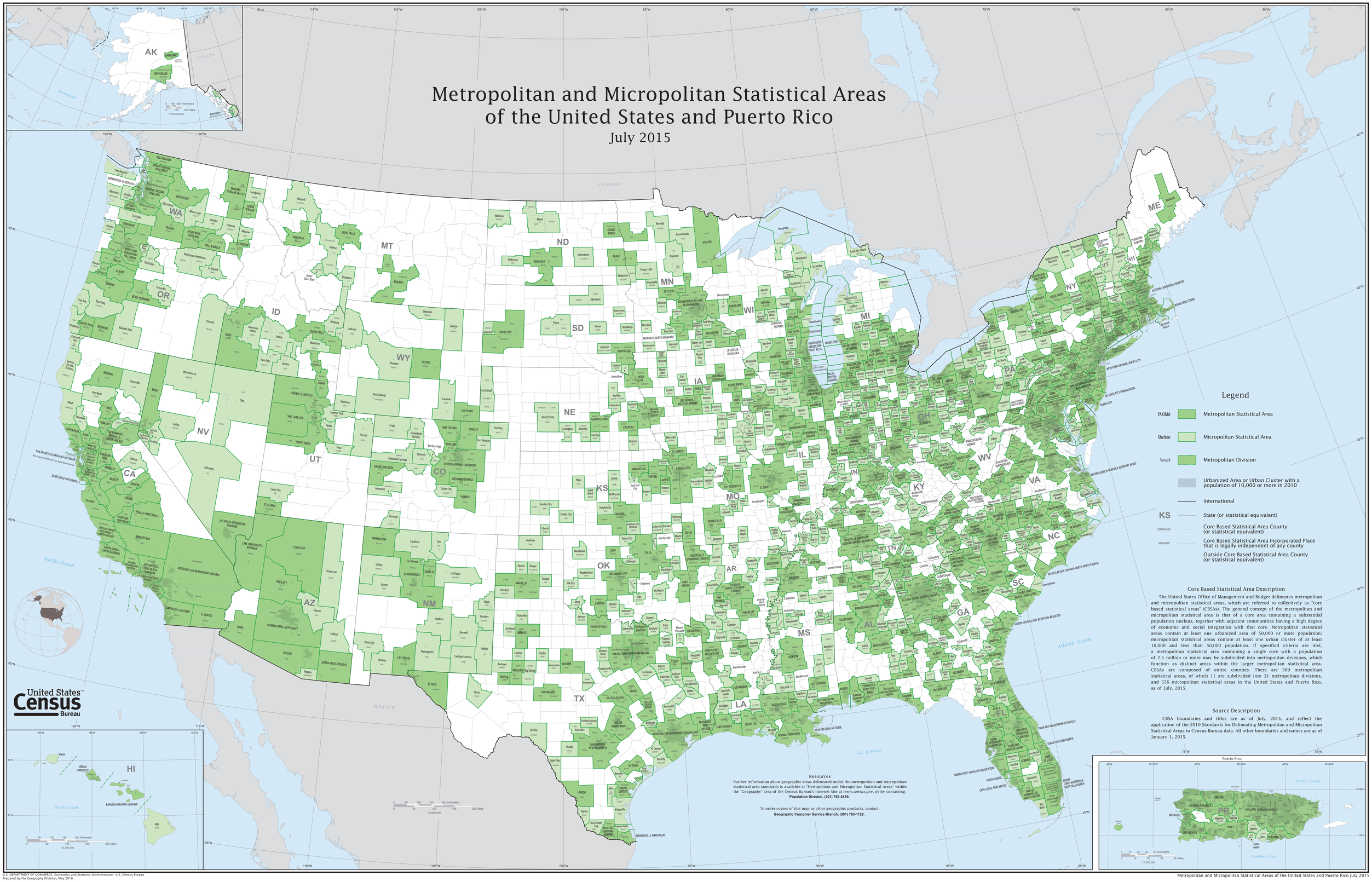
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico

July 2015



Core Based Statistical Area Description

The United States Office of Management and Budget delineates metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, which are referred to collectively as "core based statistical areas" (CBSAs). The general concept of the metropolitan and 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 389 metropolitan statistical areas, of which 11 are subdivided into 31 metropolitan divisions, and 556 micropolitan statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of July, 2015.

Source Description

CBSA boundaries and titles are as of July, 2015, and reflect the application of the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas to Census Bureau data. All other boundaries and names are as of January 1, 2015.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by the Geography Division, May 2016