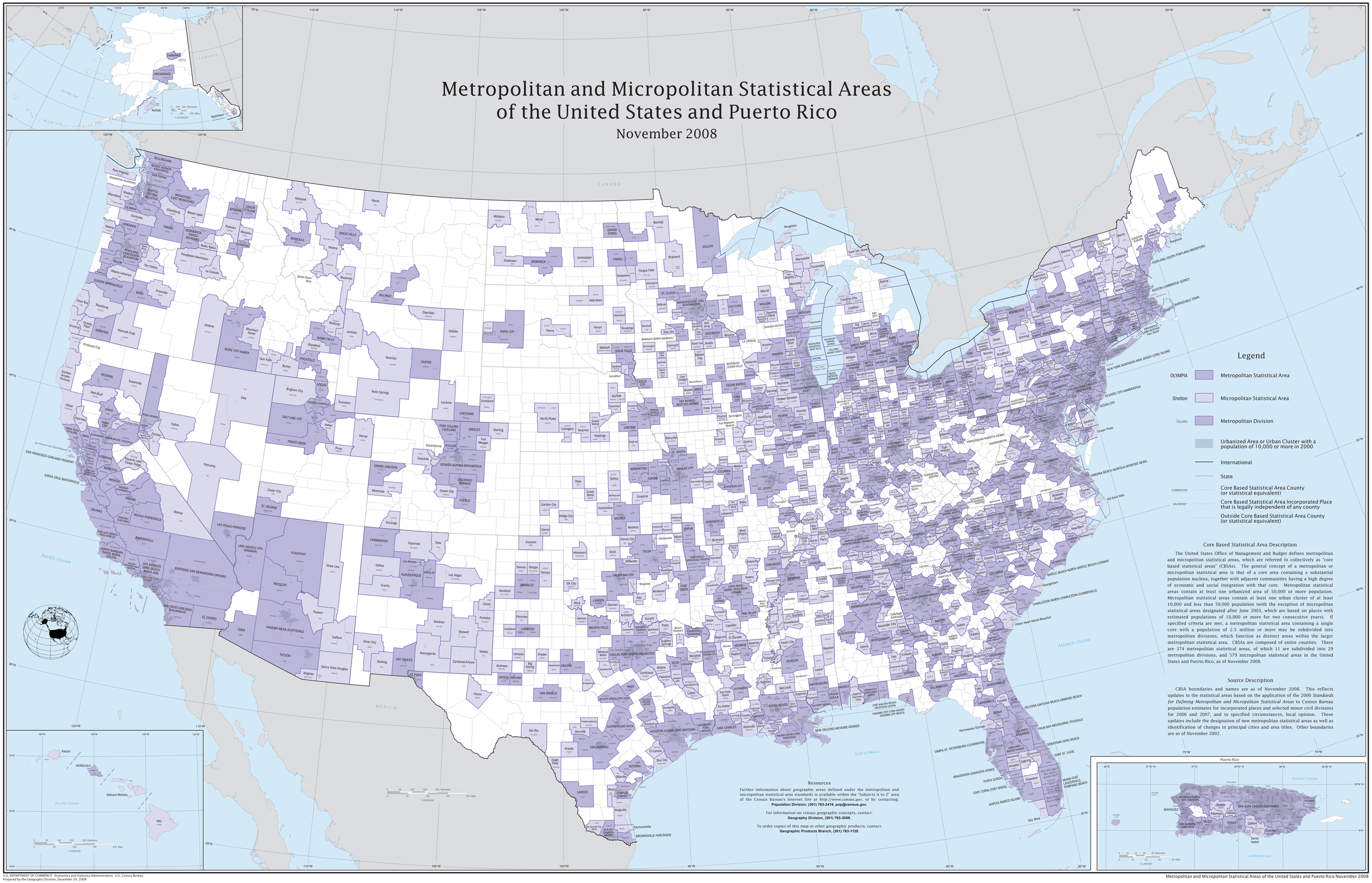
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico

November 2008



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 (with the exception of micropolitan statistical areas designated after June 2003, which are based on places with estimated populations of 10,000 or more for two consecutive years). 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 374 metropolitan statistical areas, of which 11 are subdivided into 29 metropolitan divisions, and 579 micropolitan statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of November 2008.

Source Description

CBSA boundaries and names are as of November 2008. This reflects 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 incorporated places and selected minor civil divisions for 2006 and 2007, and in specified circumstances, local opinion. These updates include the designation of new metropolitan statistical areas as well as identification of changes in principal cities and area titles. Other boundaries are as of November 2002.

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) 763-3056.

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by the Geography Division, December 24, 2008