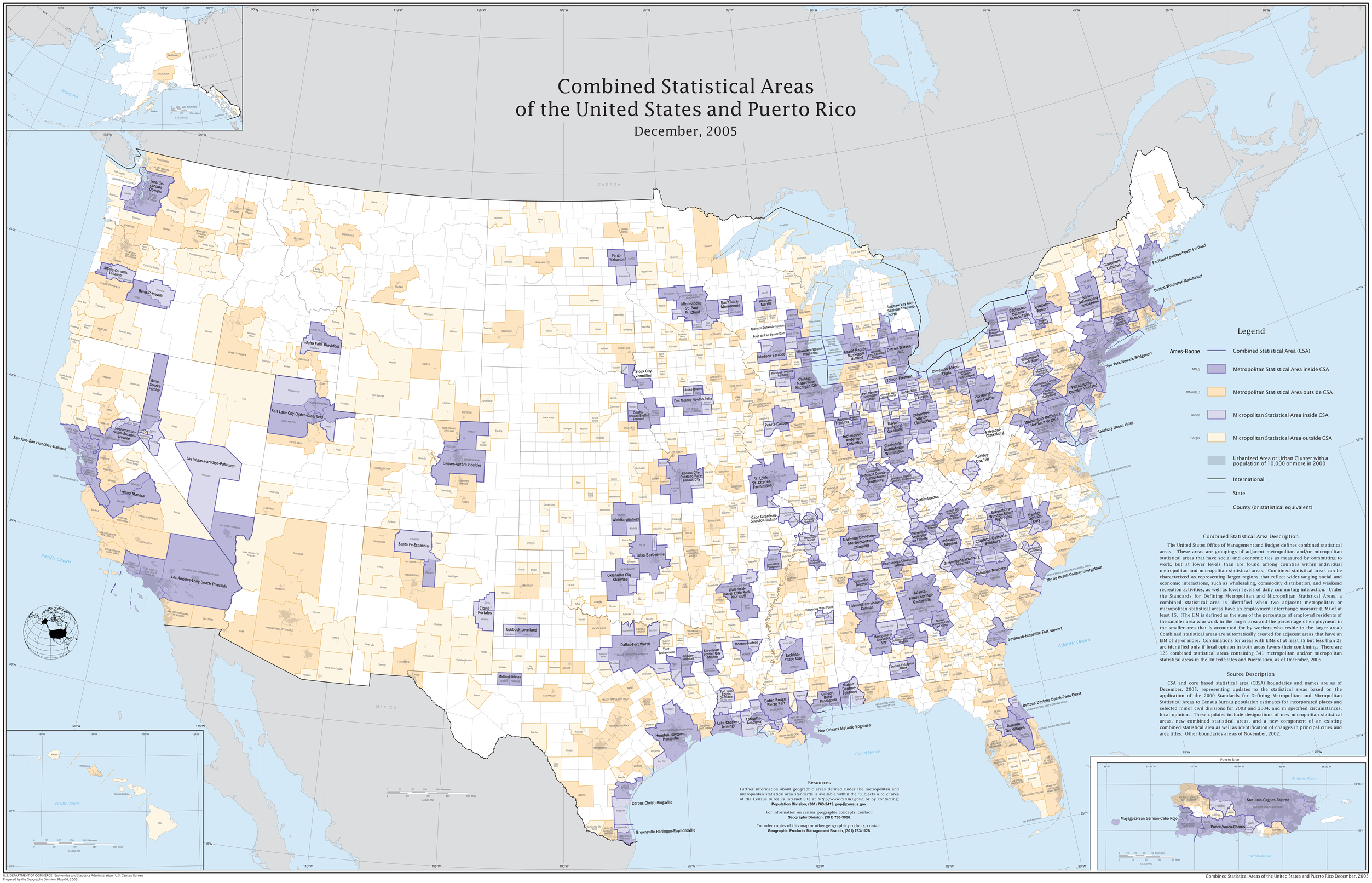
Combined Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico

December, 2005



Combined Statistical Area Description

The United States Office of Management and Budget defines combined statistical areas. These areas are groupings of adjacent metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas that have social and economic ties as measured by commuting to work, but at lower levels than are found among counties within individual metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Combined statistical areas can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect wider-ranging social and economic interactions, such as wholesaling, commodity distribution, and weekend recreation activities, as well as lower levels of daily commuting interaction. Under the Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, a combined statistical area is identified when two adjacent metropolitan or micropolitan statistical areas have an employment interchange measure (EIM) of at least 15. (The EIM is defined as the sum of the percentage of employed residents of the smaller area who work in the larger area and the percentage of employment in the smaller area that is accounted for by workers who reside in the larger area.) Combined statistical areas are automatically created for adjacent areas that have an EIM of 25 or more. Combinations for areas with EIMs of at least 15 but less than 25 are identified only if local opinion in both areas favors their combining. There are 125 combined statistical areas containing 341 metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of December, 2005.

Source Description

CSA and core based statistical area (CBSA) boundaries and names are as of December, 2005, representing 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 2003 and 2004, and in specified circumstances, local opinion. These updates include designations of new micropolitan statistical areas, new combined statistical areas, and a new component of an existing combined statistical area 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 Management Branch, (301) 763-1128.

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