

An **Urbanized Area** consists of a core of adjacent areas that satisfy certain criteria for population density and size. The core of the urban area normally consists of at least 50,000 people.

A **Metropolitan Area** consists of at least one urbanized area.

- Metropolitan areas are made up of counties.
- A metropolitan area normally contains a central county (or counties) containing a large share of employment and population, in addition to surrounding counties. The central county normally contains the **principal city**, the largest city in the area.
- An adjacent county is considered part of the metro area if at least 25% of its workers are employed within the central county or at least 25% of the jobs in the outlying county are filled by residents in the central county.

Adjacent metropolitan areas are now defined as **Combined Statistical Areas**.

The combined statistical area for Los Angeles presently consists of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Ventura and Riverside Counties.

The New York combined statistical area presently consists of twenty-three counties.

City	Population (2000)	percentage growth (1990-2000)
New York	8,008,278	9.4
Los Angeles	3,694,820	6
Chicago	2,896,016	4
Metro Area (combined statistical areas)		
New York/NJ/Long Island	21,199,865	8.4
Los Angeles/Anaheim/Riverside	16,373,645	12.7
Chicago/Gary/Lake County	9,157,540	11

New York

- in 1950 New York metro area population was 13.9 million; 9.3% of US population lived in New York metro area
- from 1950 to 1970 NY metro area grew by 29.6% to 18.1 million
- over period NY city maintained population (approx. 7.9 million)
- NY metro area population outside central city increased by 68%

- From 1970-1990 NY metro area stagnated; metro area population roughly unchanged over period
- NY city lost over half million people; 8% of population over period
- Growth in Metro area outside of NY city matched roughly loss in city

Los Angeles

- From 1950 to 1970 Los Angeles metro area doubled in population from 4.9 to 9.98 million
- From 1970 to 1990 LA metro area added 4.5 million more to 14.53 million (50% growth)
- City of Los Angeles grew continuously 1950 to 1990: from 1.97 million in 1950 to 3.48 million in 1990 (76% growth)
- Remaining part of Los Angeles metro area grew by 272% (3.5 times as fast)
 - Both areas experienced redistribution of population from central city to suburb.
 - If area is growing, redistribution doesn't cause absolute decline in central city population.
 - If area stagnating, central city population fell.