

The U.S. Metro System

Presented by

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Core Based Statistical Areas

The basic units of the system

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas**
- **Metropolitan Divisions**

- **Micropolitan Statistical Areas**

- **Combined Statistical Areas**

Source: Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 05-02, Appendix

Basic Building Block of the System

- **The county is the basic unit of all CBSAs.**
 - **County boundaries seldom change.**
 - **There is much data available at the county level.**
- **Complications**
 - **Some counties in West are very large; much rural space.**
 - **Metro areas overlap state boundaries; can generate inconsistent data.**

Definition: Metropolitan Statistical Area

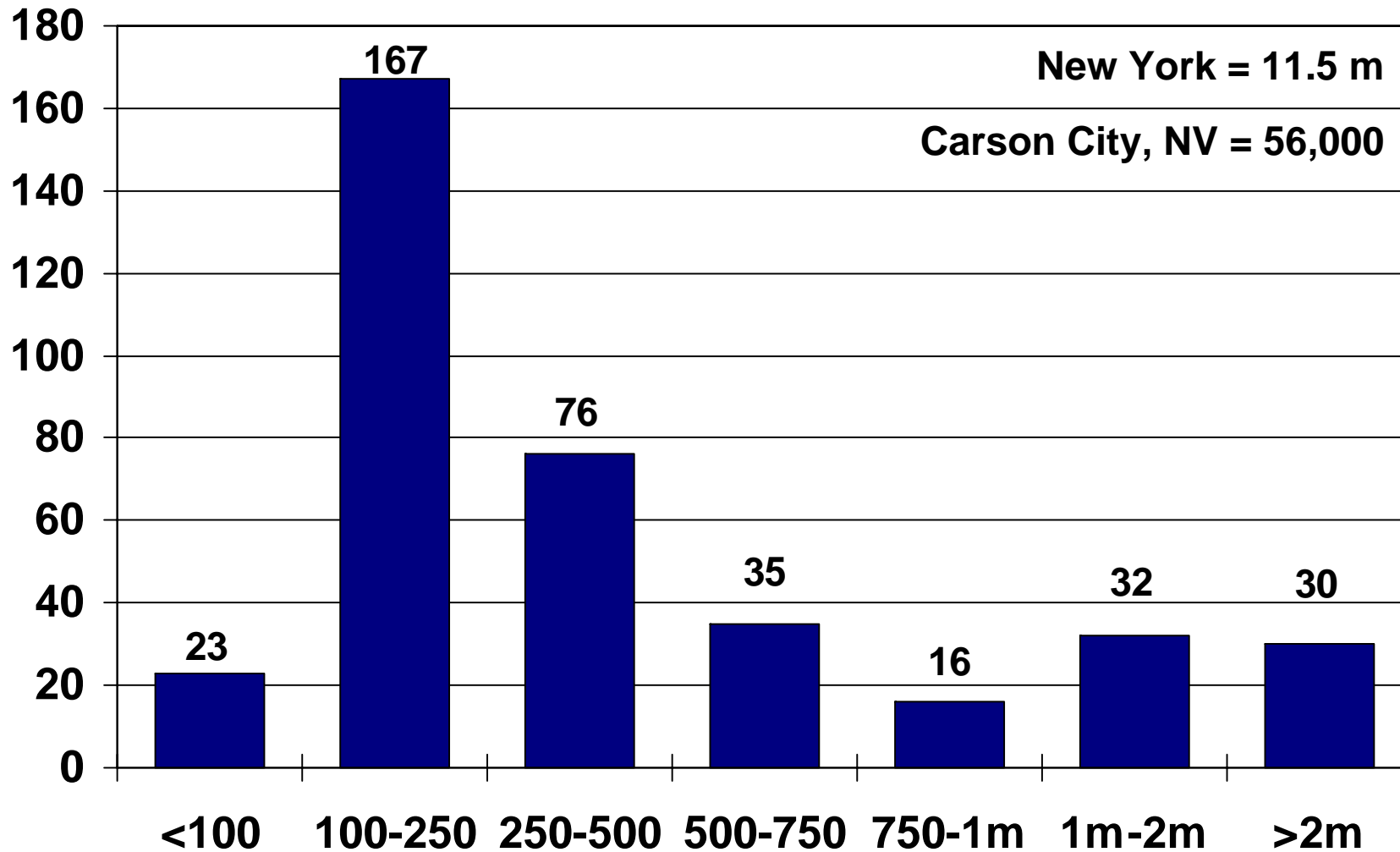
- **Made up of at least one county with one urbanized area of 50,000 population or more.**
- **Includes adjacent counties with strong commuting ties.**
 - **Commuting patterns can be:**
 - **Into central county**
 - **Out of central county**
 - **Between suburban counties**

Definition: Metropolitan Divisions

- **A metropolitan area with a single core and population of 2.5 million may be subdivided into metropolitan divisions.**
- **11 metro areas are divided into 29 divisions.**
 - **Boston, Chicago, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington DC.**
- **If divisions exist, Economy.com uses them as the basic unit of analysis.**

Most Metro Areas Are Moderate in Size

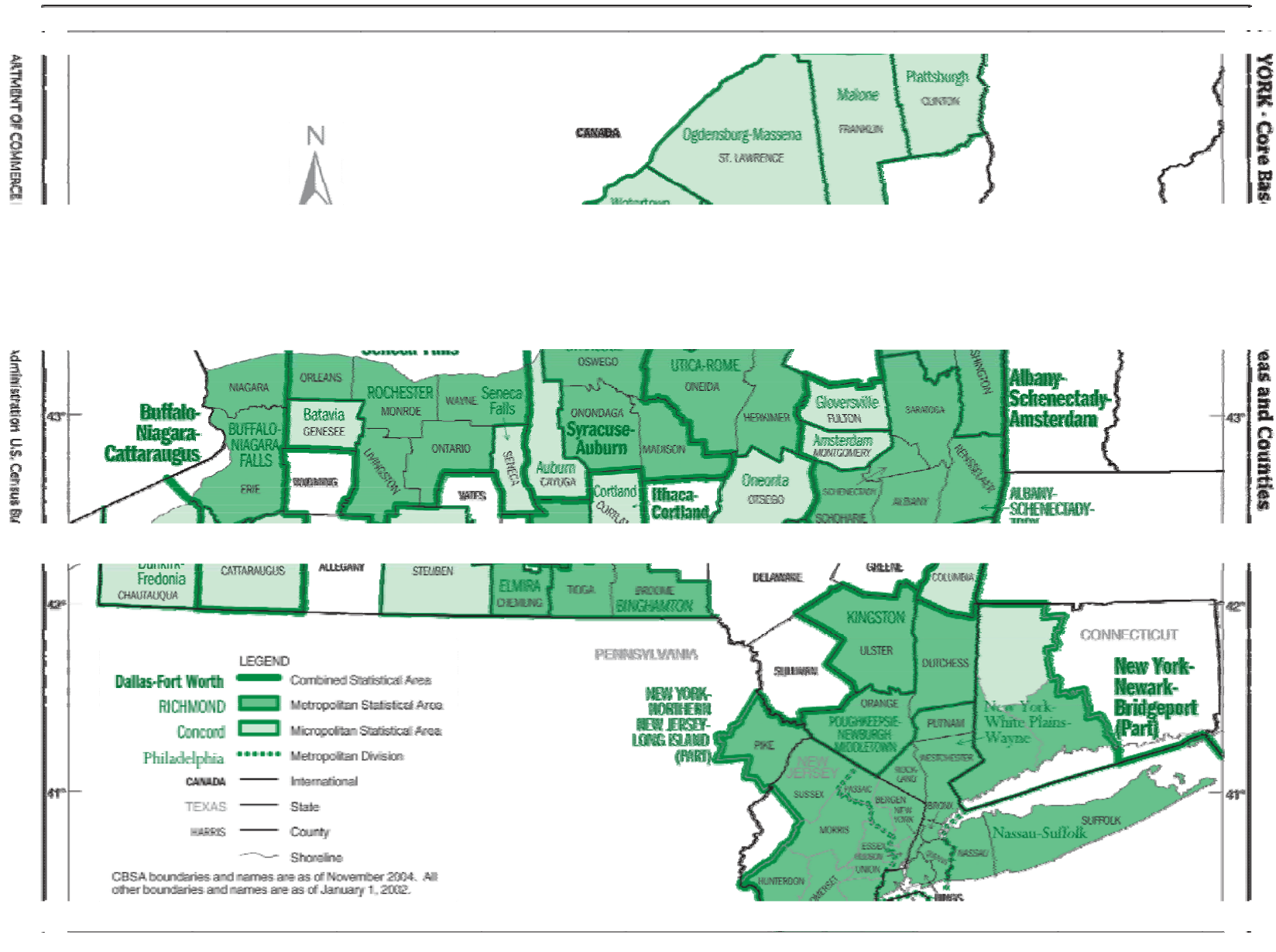
Number of metro areas or divisions by population size class, ths



Definition: Micropolitan Statistical Areas, New as of 2000

- **A county with an urban cluster of more than 10,000 but less than 49,999 persons. Plus adjacent counties tied by commuting patterns.**
- **Most are single county areas**
- **Little data is released specifically for micro areas.**

Example: New York



Add Them Up...

- **Total counties = 3,141**
- **Micro counties = 692 in 575 micro areas**
- **Metro counties = 1,090 in 361 metro areas**
- **29 metro divisions within 11 metro areas**

361 metro areas

- 11 metro areas with divisions

+ 29 divisions

= 379 AREAS OF ANALYSIS

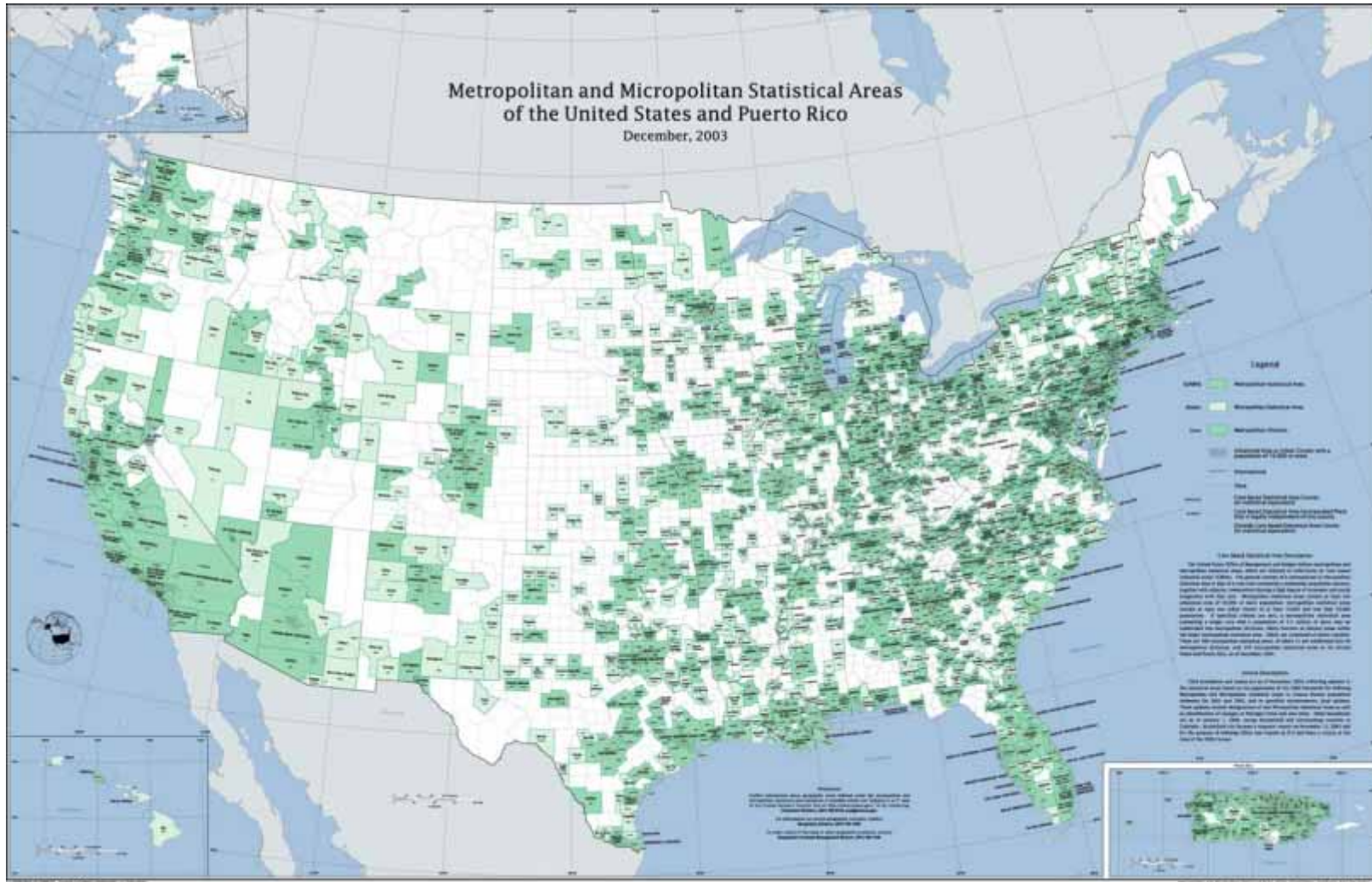
Coverage of U.S. Population

% of total U.S. population

- **93% in all Core Based Statistical Areas**
- **83% in Metropolitan Areas**
- **10% in Micropolitan Areas**

- **7% in non-CBSA areas**

Metro and Micro Areas Cover 93% of The Population



- **Every 10 years with census update:**
 - Add new counties to existing metro areas.
 - Create new metro areas.
 - Revise Definitions
- **Data revisions:**
 - Data revisions go back usually at least 10 years.
 - Some monthly employment data revised back to 2000 only.
 - Economy.com estimates as much history as possible.

Providers of Metropolitan Area Data

- **Census Bureau (Commerce Dept.)**
 - Demographics, construction permits
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics (Labor Dept.)**
 - Employment by industry, unemployment rates
- **Bureau of Economic Analysis (Commerce)**
 - Income
- **Private Sources**
 - National Association of Home Builders, National Association of Realtors, commercial real estate advisors.