

**FIPS PUB 8-6**

Supersedes FIPS PUB 8-5

1984 October 31

Federal Information  
Processing Standards Publication 8-6

March 1995

**Announcing the Standard for**

**METROPOLITAN AREAS**  
**(including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs)**

[\(The Foreword, Abstract, and Key Words](#)

can be found at the end of this document.)

See [change notice 1](#) at the end of this document.

**Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 111 (d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100- 235.**

- 1. Name of Standard.** Metropolitan Areas (including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs), (FIPS PUB 8- 6).
- 2. Category of Standard.** Data Standards and Guidelines, Representations and Codes.
- 3. Explanation.** This standard specifies titles, components, and identification codes for the Metropolitan Areas (MAs) of the United States and Puerto Rico, including units called Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs), and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs), and related units called New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs). The general concept underlying Metropolitan Areas is that of a core area containing a large population nucleus together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. This revision incorporates minor editorial changes and technical changes that have been issued in change notices and supersedes FIPS PUB 8-5 in its entirety.
- 4. Approving Authority.** The Secretary of Commerce.
- 5. Maintenance Agency.** Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503.  
The maintenance agency is responsible for the content of the standard and will provide the National Institute of Standards and Technology with information on adopted changes. Change notices to the standard will be issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Users of the standard who need to be notified of changes may complete the

change notice request form included in this publication and return the form to the address indicated.

**6. Cross Index.**

- a. FIPS PUB 5-2: Codes for the Identification of the United States, the District of Columbia and the Outlying Areas of the United States, and Associated Areas;
- b. FIPS PUB 6-4: Counties and Equivalent Entities of the United States, Its Possessions and Associated Areas;
- c. FIPS PUB 55-2: Codes for Named Populated Places, Primary County Divisions, and Other Locational Entities of the United States and Outlying Areas.

**7. Applicability.** This data element and representation standard is made available for data interchange among executive departments and independent agencies and for Federal data interchange with the non-Federal sector including industry, State, local, and other governments, and the public at large.

**8. Implementation Schedule.** The data in this standard became effective on *June 30, 1983*. Use by Federal agencies is encouraged when such use contributes to operational benefits, efficiency or economy. Federal agencies that conduct statistical activities to collect and publish data for MAs should use the most recent definitions of MAs established by the Office of Management and Budget.

**9. Specifications.** Federal Information Processing Standard 8-6 (FIPS PUB 8-6). Metropolitan Areas (including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs), (affixed).

**10. Where to Obtain Copies of the Standard.** Copies of this publication, on magnetic tape, microfiche, or hard copy, are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 8-6 (FIPSPUB8-6), title and medium desired.

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**FIPS PUB 8-6**

Supersedes FIPS PUB 8-5

1984 October 31

## **Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 8-6**

March 1995

**Specifications for**

# **METROPOLITAN AREAS**

## **(including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs)**

**1. Explanation:** This standard specifies titles, components, and identification codes for the Metropolitan Areas (MAs) of the United States and Puerto Rico, including units called Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs), and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs), and related units called New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs).

Standard definitions of MAs, are issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to be used in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. OMB establishes the geographic definition of each area following detailed technical criteria and with the advice of the interagency Federal Executive Committee on Metropolitan Areas.

The general concept underlying these definitions is that of a core area containing of a large population nucleus together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. In effect, the definitions specify a boundary around each large city that includes most or all suburbs in addition to the city itself. Most definitions also include smaller satellite communities and some open country since, in general, entire counties form the MA building blocks. Some areas are defined around two, three, or more central cities.

Standard metropolitan definitions were first developed for the 1950 census and have been updated after each subsequent decennial census. The criteria used for defining MAs also have been revised several times. The current definitional standards were published in the Federal Register on *March 30, 1990*.

The major purpose of the MAs is to enable all Federal statistical agencies to use the same geographic definitions in tabulating and publishing data for metropolitan areas. MAs are defined in terms of counties because a wide range of statistical data New England, however, the definitions are produced in terms of cities and towns for the same reason (although county-based definitions are also prepared for that region).

The definitions are designed to serve for a wide variety of statistical and analytical uses. Adoption of the areas for any specific use should be judged, however, in terms of the appropriateness of the definitions for that use. While the definitions have been developed for statistical use by Federal agencies, State and local governments as well as private business firms have often found the definitions helpful in presenting metropolitan statistics.

By the 1990 standards, an area qualifies for recognition as an MSA in one of two ways: (1) if it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) if it includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area (of at least 50,000 population) with a total metropolitan

population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county(ies) containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include additional counties that have strong economic and social ties to the central county(ies) and meet specified requirements of metropolitan character. The ties are determined chiefly by census data on commuting to work. A metropolitan statistical area may contain more than one city of 50,000 population and may cross State lines.

An area that meets these requirements for recognition as an MSA but also has a total population of one million or more may be recognized as a CMSA if: (1) separate component areas can be identified within the entire area by meeting specified statistical criteria, and (2) local opinion indicates there is support for the component areas. If recognized, the component areas are designated PMSAs, and the entire area becomes a CMSA. If no PMSAs are recognized, the entire area is designated an MSA.

NECMAs are county-based alternatives to the city- and town-based metropolitan areas in New England. The NECMA for an MA or CMSA includes: (1) the county containing the first-named city in that MSA/CMSA title (this county may include the first-named cities of other MAs/CMSAs), and (2) each additional county having at least half its population in the MA/CMSA(s) whose first-named cities are in the county identified in step 1. NECMAs are not defined for individual PMSAs.

The definitions in this publication were announced by OMB to take effect ***June 30, 1993***. They reflect application of the published MA standards to demographic data drawn from the 1990 decennial census.

All metropolitan area definitions were reconsidered in the course of this revision process (which takes place every ten years).

There are currently 253 MAs, 19 CMSAs, 76 PMSAs, and 12 NECMAs. Every state has at least a portion of an MA; New Jersey and the District of Columbia are wholly included in MAs. One CMSA (comprising three PMSAs) and three MSAs are located in Puerto Rico. The CMSAs and MSAs now comprise a total of 806 counties and county equivalents outside of New England and Puerto Rico, 576 New England cities and towns (including one Indian reservation serving as a town equivalent), and 53 municipios (county equivalents) in Puerto Rico. The NECMAs comprise 30 counties in New England.

MAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs are categorized by their 1990 population size, as follows:

- Level A: areas of 1 million or more;
- Level B: areas of 250,000 or more; but less than 1 million
- Level C: areas of 100,000 or more, but less than 250,000;
- Level D: areas of less than 100,000.

All CMSAs, by definition, have one million population or more. The classification into levels enables users to adopt a shorter list of areas when appropriate for their purposes.

MAs are titled using the names of their largest, central cities, which are designated under the standards for each MA and CMSA. Up to three city names may appear in a title. Titles of most PMSAs also are based on central city names, but in certain cases consist of county names. Titles of CMSAs generally are based on the names of the MAs or CMSAs to which they pertain. Each area title also includes the names or abbreviations of the States into which the area extends.

MAs definitions established in 1993 generally are not subject to change until after the next national census in 2000. However, supplemental announcements of a few new MAs may be issued by OMB in the spring of each year, most often because additional cities have reached the 50,000 population level according to official estimates.

Further information on metropolitan areas may be obtained from:

Secretary  
Federal Executive Committee on Metropolitan Areas  
Population Division  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Washington, DC 20233-3400.

## **2. Data Tables:**

### **TABLE 1: METROPOLITAN AREAS AND PRIMARY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO**

This table lists MAs and PMSAs in the sequence of their identification codes, which is also, generally, in alphabetic order of their titles. The MA and PMSA identification codes consist of four digits. Included with each entry are the title, the "level code" (A, B, C, or D), and the Postal abbreviation and FIPS State code for each State and State equivalent in which the statistical area is located. For each PMSA, the two-digit identification code of its CMSA is given. CMSAs have both two- and four- digit codes. MAs may be distinguished from PMSAs by the lack of a CMSA code included in the entry. FIPS county codes are given for each county or county equivalent fully or partially included in an MSA or PMSA. For each MSA or PMSA located in the New England States, the FIPS place code is given for each city, town, or town equivalent included in the statistical area.

### **TABLE 2: CONSOLIDATED METROPOLITAN AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO**

This table lists CMSAs in the sequence of their CMSA codes, which is also in alphabetic order of their titles. Each entry includes the title of the CMSA and the titles of its component PMSAs, listed in order of their identification codes. The entry for each PMSA includes its "level code" as well as the Postal abbreviation and FIPS State Code of each State and State equivalent in which it is located.

Geographic components of each PMSA are listed. Each county or county equivalent is identified by its FIPS county code, and for each PMSA in New England, each city, town, or town equivalent is identified by its FIPS place code.

**TABLE 3: METROPOLITAN AREAS AND PRIMARY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS, BY STATE AND GEOGRAPHIC COMPONENTS**

This table is arranged in alphabetic order of the States (including the District of Columbia), followed by Puerto Rico. Under each State or state equivalent, its and county equivalents that are included in MAs or PMSAs are listed in alphabetic order. In the New England States, city and town components of MAs or PMSAs are listed in alphabetic order by county.

For each geographic component, the MA or PMSA in which it is located is given, along with the MA or PMSA identification code, "level code", and CMSA code, if any. Each geographic component is identified by county code or place code, as appropriate.

**TABLE 4: NEW ENGLAND COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREAS**

This table lists NECMAs in the sequence of their identification codes, which is also the alphabetic order of their titles. NECMA codes are four digits each. Also listed are the "level code" of each NECMA, and the Postal abbreviation and FIPS State code of the State(s) in which each NECMA is located. The counties and FIPS county codes of the geographic components of each NECMA are also listed.

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**The Foreword, Abstract, and Key Words follow:**

**FIPS PUB 8-6**

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PROCESSING STANDARDS PUBLICATION

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Institute of Standards and Technology

**METROPOLITAN AREAS  
(including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs)**

U.S. Department of Commerce,  
Ronald H. Brown, *Secretary*

National Institute of Standards and Technology,  
Arati Prabhakar, *Director*

**Foreword**

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is the official publication relating to standards and guidelines adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Section 111(d) of the Federal

Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100-235. These mandates have given the Secretary of Commerce and NIST important responsibilities for improving the utilization and management of computer and related telecommunications systems in the Federal Government. The NIST, through the Computer Systems Laboratory, provides leadership, technical guidance, and coordination of Government efforts in the development of standards and guidelines in these areas.

Comments concerning Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are welcomed and should be addressed to the Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, 20899.

James H. Burrows, *Director*  
Computer Systems Laboratory

### **Abstract**

This standard specifies names, principal components, and identification codes for the Metropolitan Areas (MAs) of the United States and Puerto Rico, including units called Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs), and related units called New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs). The general concept underlying the definitions of MAs and related units is that of a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. This revision supersedes FIPS PUB 8-5 in its entirety.

**Key words:** area; county; data; Federal; Federal Information Processing Standard; metropolitan; standard; statistics.

FIPS 8-6 Change Notice 1, issued September 23, 1999

The Bureau of the Census, Population Division, has issued the following changes to metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the years 1999 and 1998.

Effective June 30, 1999 with OMB Bulletin No.99-04, OMB defined two new metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) as follows:

Area title: Auburn-Opelika, AL MSA  
Components: Lee County, AL  
Central cities: Auburn, AL; Opelika, AL  
FIPS code: 0580

Area title: Corvallis, OR MSA  
Components: Benton County, OR  
Central cities: Corvallis, OR  
FIPS code: 1890

Also, Dade County, FL had been renamed Miami-Dade County.  
The county is within the Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL CMSA and the Miami, FL PMSA.  
The FIPS code for the county has been changed from 025 to 086. This change does not affect any metropolitan area definition or title.

Effective June 30, 1998 with OMB Bulletin No. 98-06, OMB defined one new MSA as follows:

Area title: Missoula, MT MSA  
Components: Missoula County, MT  
Central cities: Missoula, MT  
FIPS code: 5140

Also, Manchester town, Essex County, MA, was renamed Manchester-by-the-Sea.  
The town is within the Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA, Boston, MA-NH PMSA.

In addition, Augusta-Richmond County, GA is now listed as the central city of the Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC MSA. The former Augusta city, GA consolidated with Richmond County, GA in 1996. For statistical treatment, the central city excludes Blythe town and Hephzibah city, which are partially and wholly incorporated places within Richmond County, respectively.

If you have any questions regarding metropolitan area definitions, please call Darryl T. Cohen or Rodger Johnson at (301) 457-2419.

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