

Tennessee's Metropolitan and Micropolitan Population

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According to recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, about 4.2 million Tennesseans live in metropolitan areas. That total represents over 70 percent of the state's 5.8 million residents.

Introduction

Effective June 6, 2003, the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released revised definitions of the nation's Metropolitan Statistical Areas and introduced two new designations, Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Combined Statistical Areas. Definitions were then updated in December, 2003 to reflect population changes measured by the Census Bureau's most recent estimates.

The purpose of these designations is to identify population cores and the surrounding communities that have a high degree of interaction with the cores.

Definitions Of Metropolitan, Micropolitan, And Combined Statistical Areas

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCSA) have at least one urban cluster with population between 10,000 and 50,000, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.

Combined Statistical Areas (CSA) are comprised of two or more MSAs, or two or more MCSAs, or multiple MSAs and MCSAs, in combinations of adjacent areas with significant levels of employment interchange.

(All areas are defined in terms of whole counties.)



The Knoxville MSA includes Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Union counties.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Prior to the 2003 definition changes, Tennessee had seven Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Under the new guidelines, three were added, bringing the total to 10.

The most notable changes locally were the newly designated Morristown, TN MSA and the adjustments to the boundaries of the Knoxville MSA: Sevier County was dropped from the definition, leaving Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Union Counties comprising the MSA. Sevier County now represents the Sevierville Micropolitan Statistical Area.

Map 1: Tennessee Metropolitan Statistical Areas

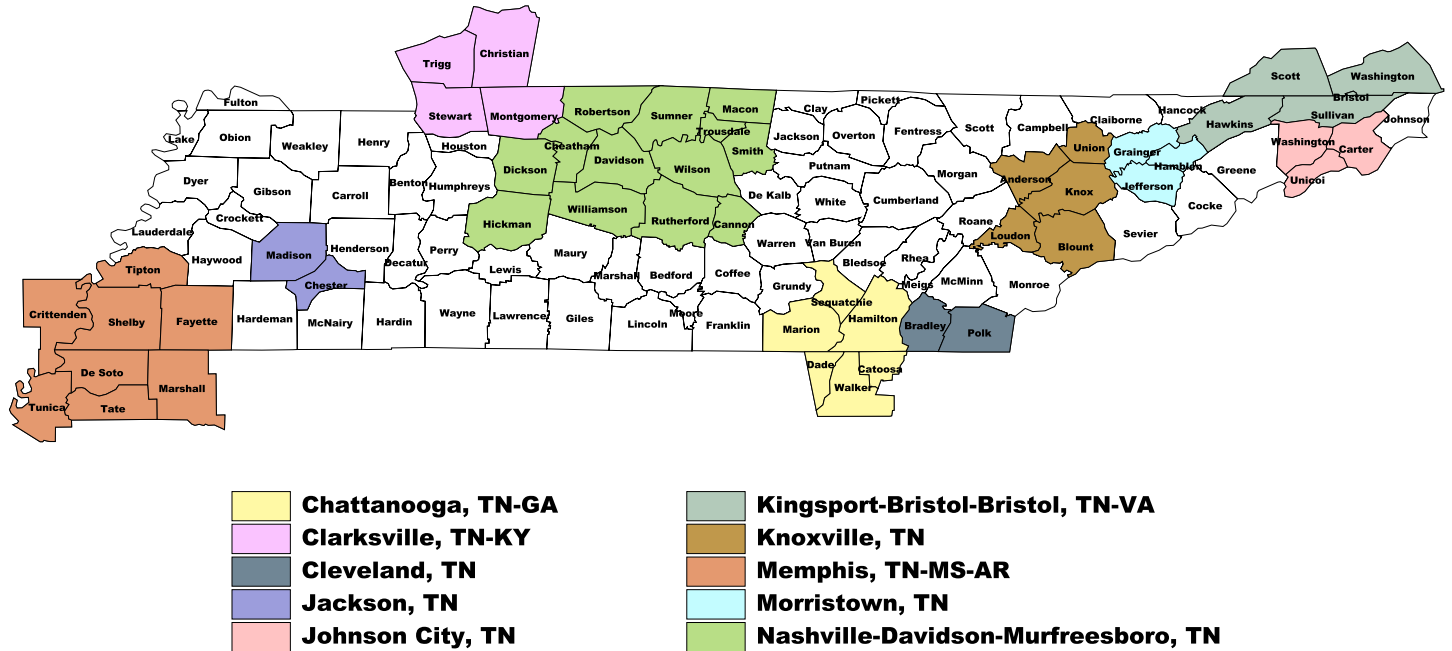


Table 1: Tennessee's Population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)	2003	2002	2001	2000
Chattanooga, TN-GA	485,927	483,039	479,984	477,133
Hamilton County	309,510	309,224	308,416	307,980
Marion County	27,880	27,788	27,780	27,771
Sequatchie County	11,958	11,767	11,532	11,412
Catoosa County, GA	58,085	56,449	54,872	53,660
Dade County, GA	15,910	15,733	15,529	15,188
Walker County, GA	62,584	62,078	61,855	61,122
Clarksville, TN-KY	236,700	234,739	233,776	232,707
Montgomery County	141,064	138,132	136,367	135,430
Stewart County	12,847	12,782	12,589	12,450
Christian County, KY	69,912	71,063	72,073	72,182
Trigg County, KY	12,877	12,762	12,747	12,645
Cleveland, TN	106,435	105,561	105,051	104,271
Bradley County	90,264	89,454	88,842	88,172
Polk County	16,171	16,107	16,209	16,099

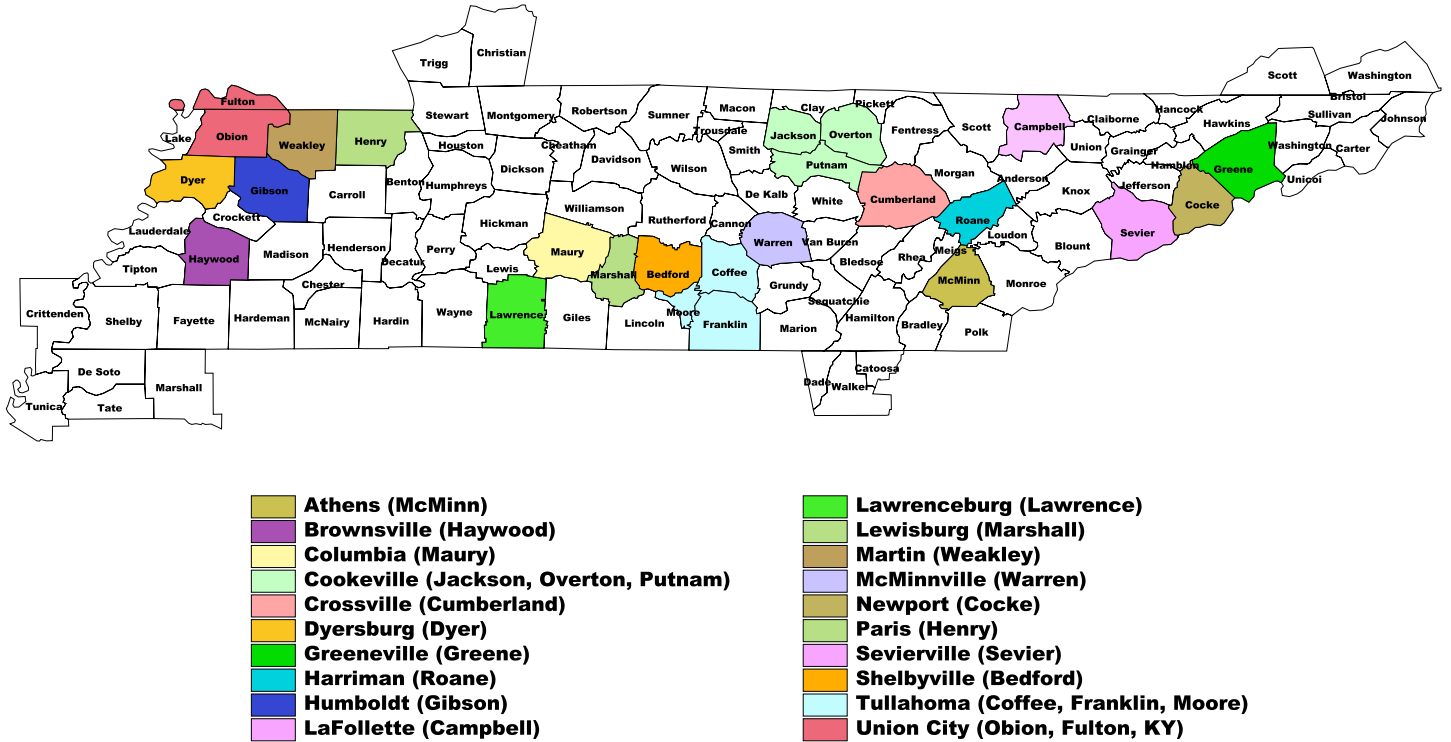
Table 1: Tennessee's Population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003 *(continued)*

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)	2003	2002	2001	2000
Jackson, TN	109,715	109,275	108,675	107,551
Chester County	15,842	15,926	15,811	15,545
Madison County	93,873	93,349	92,864	92,006
Johnson City, TN	186,181	183,625	182,047	181,953
Carter County	58,394	56,881	56,939	56,838
Unicoi County	17,709	17,639	17,569	17,650
Washington County	110,078	109,105	107,539	107,465
Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA	299,703	298,901	298,356	298,454
Hawkins County	55,037	54,714	54,208	53,695
Sullivan County	153,050	152,748	152,420	152,930
Scott County, VA	23,005	23,071	23,206	23,375
Washington County, VA	51,405	51,297	51,219	51,157
Bristol city, VA	17,206	17,071	17,303	17,297
Knoxville, TN	636,863	629,589	623,383	617,427
Anderson County	71,904	71,656	71,451	71,285
Blount County	111,510	109,795	108,018	106,244
Knox County	392,995	388,834	385,632	382,808
Loudon County	41,624	40,766	39,955	39,223
Union County	18,830	18,538	18,327	17,867
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,239,337	1,227,066	1,216,491	1,208,220
Fayette County	32,289	31,198	30,268	29,121
Shelby County	906,178	902,458	899,030	898,187
Tipton County	54,184	53,362	52,799	51,566
DeSoto County, MS	124,378	118,527	113,358	108,602
Marshall County, MS	35,442	35,178	34,955	35,070
Tate County, MS	25,794	25,577	25,526	25,452
Tunica County, MS	9,917	9,692	9,367	9,231
Crittenden County, AR	51,155	51,074	51,188	50,991
Morristown, TN	127,215	125,422	124,841	123,526
Grainger County	21,445	21,195	20,936	20,719
Hamblen County	58,851	58,431	58,819	58,227
Jefferson County	46,919	45,796	45,086	44,580
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro, TN	1,371,302	1,352,568	1,336,524	1,317,076
Cannon County	13,204	13,100	13,062	12,915
Cheatham County	37,364	37,054	36,560	36,108
Davidson County	569,842	569,439	571,380	569,910
Dickson County	44,935	44,251	43,757	43,333
Hickman County	23,352	23,233	22,712	22,438
Macon County	21,023	20,850	20,877	20,452
Robertson County	58,181	57,160	56,063	54,854
Rutherford County	202,310	195,591	189,367	183,424
Smith County	18,225	18,153	17,964	17,816
Sumner County	138,752	136,369	133,738	131,131
Trousdale County	7,447	7,386	7,367	7,323
Williamson County	141,301	136,645	132,400	128,095
Wilson County	95,366	93,337	91,277	89,277

MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Twenty Micropolitan Statistical Areas were designated in Tennessee:

Map 2: Tennessee Micropolitan Statistical Areas



Metropolitan And Micropolitan Shares Of Total State Population

Thirty-eight of Tennessee's 95 counties lie within Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Twenty-four more are found in Micropolitan Statistical Areas. (Fourteen counties in Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas also make the Tennessee roster of MSAs and MCSAs).

About 73 percent of Tennessee's residents live in metropolitan areas, totaling 4.2 million people (population in MSA counties outside the state is not included in these figures). Another 17 percent, or 982,000 people, reside in micropolitan areas. That leaves about 10 percent of the state's population living outside of a designated MSA or MCSA. This does not mean that only 10 percent of the population lives in rural settings though. Since the boundaries of MSAs and MCSAs are comprised of entire counties, many of which have both rural and urban areas, people can live in completely rural settings but still be considered part of metropolitan or micropolitan population centers.

The urban components of MSAs and MCSAs are *urbanized areas* and *urban clusters*, defined by the Census Bureau as densely populated core territory with settlement of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding population of at least 500 people per square mile. *Rural* consists of all other settlement outside the urbanized areas and urban clusters.

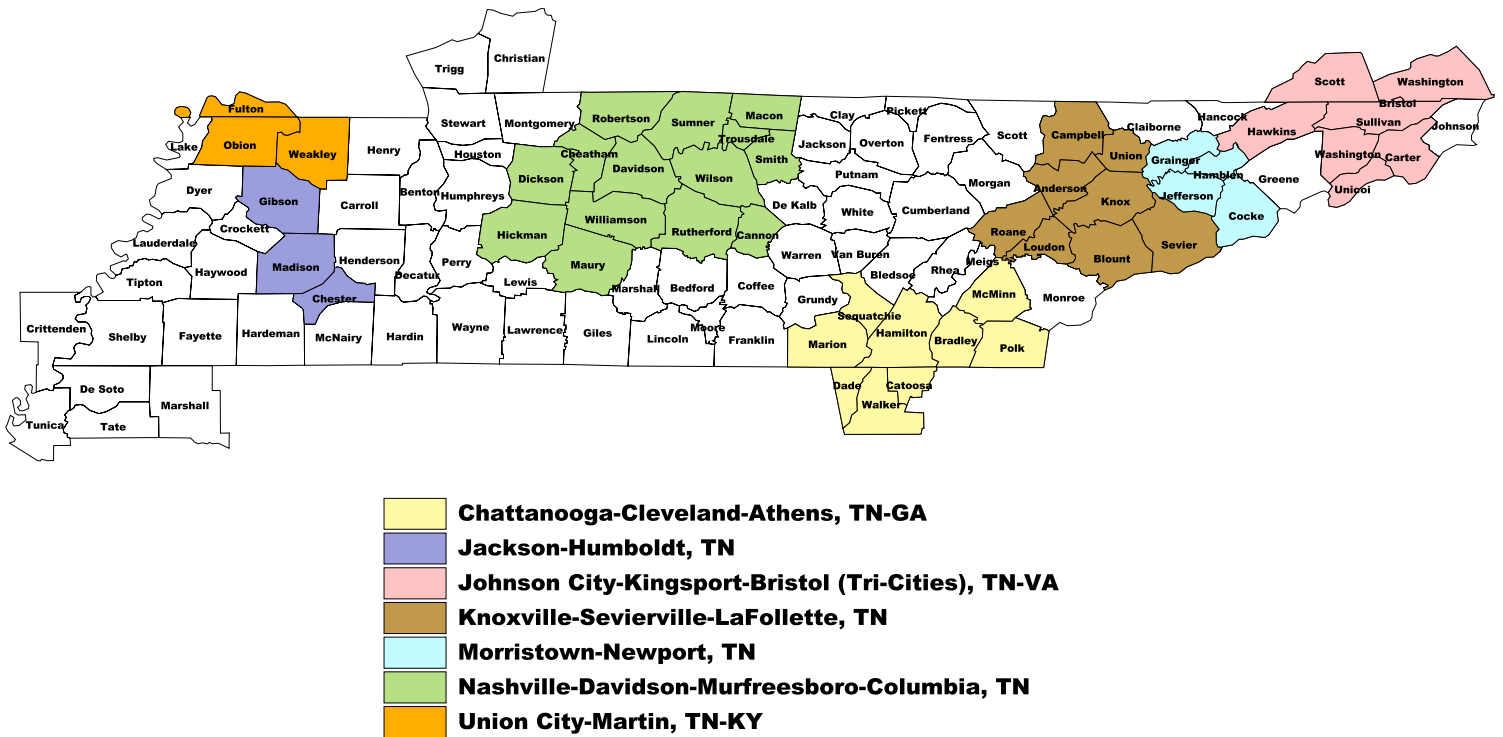
Table 2: Tennessee's Population in Micropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCSA)	2003	2002	2001	2000
Athens, TN (McMinn County)	50,632	50,163	49,758	49,178
Brownsville, TN (Haywood County)	19,626	19,584	19,837	19,822
Columbia, TN (Maury County)	73,198	71,507	70,235	69,723
Cookeville, TN	96,332	95,573	94,603	93,697
Jackson County	11,208	11,179	11,177	11,026
Overton County	20,151	20,230	20,206	20,192
Putnam County	64,973	64,164	63,220	62,479
Crossville, TN (Cumberland County)	49,391	48,696	47,699	47,015
Dyersburg, TN (Dyer County)	37,308	37,122	37,143	37,318
Greeneville, TN (Greene County)	63,991	63,659	63,349	63,040
Harriman, TN (Roane County)	52,424	52,237	51,958	51,944
Humboldt, TN (Gibson County)	47,922	48,089	48,066	48,166
LaFollette, TN (Campbell County)	40,125	39,943	39,875	39,935
Lawrenceburg, TN (Lawrence County)	40,704	40,618	40,069	39,956
Lewisburg, TN (Marshall County)	27,537	27,394	27,159	26,875
Martin, TN (Weakley County)	34,314	34,314	34,397	34,903
McMinnville, TN (Warren County)	39,129	38,685	38,707	38,405
Newport, TN (Cocke County)	34,329	34,055	33,677	33,617
Paris, TN (Henry County)	31,185	31,282	31,183	31,146
Sevierville, TN (Sevier County)	75,503	74,316	73,104	71,707
Shelbyville, TN (Bedford County)	40,253	39,242	38,545	37,815
Tullahoma, TN	96,066	95,275	94,172	93,280
Coffee County	49,643	49,183	48,580	48,167
Franklin County	40,512	40,138	39,758	39,346
Moore County	5,911	5,954	5,834	5,767
Union City, TN-KY	39,805	39,973	40,155	40,196
Obion County	32,386	32,418	32,386	32,492
Fulton County, KY	7,419	7,555	7,769	7,704

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS

Seven Combined Statistical Areas were formed in Tennessee:

Map 3: Tennessee Combined Statistical Areas



Who Uses Metropolitan And Micropolitan Area Designations?

A large company might be looking for a city in which to open a branch plant. A chamber of commerce might be developing a marketing campaign to sell the merits of its community. A public transit provider might be seeking funds to grow its operations. Whether or not a place fits within the boundaries of a metropolitan or micropolitan area can have an important impact on the choices made by decision-makers.

At the heart of the definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan areas is the notion of social and economic interaction between clusters of population. If a place fits into one of these categories, analysts know that minimum size thresholds have been met and that certain degrees of economic exchange are taking place between the communities included in the designated area. Conclusions can then be formulated about concepts such as a market area, service radius, affected population, and so on.

Also, the stringent and consistent criteria used by OMB to designate MSAs, MCSAs, or CSAs provide analysts with a measuring stick they can trust to be the same from place to place. As a result, these designations find considerable use among public and private sector agencies and organizations that have a need for evaluating cities.

Table 3: Tennessee's Population in Combined Statistical Areas, 2000-2003

Combined Statistical Areas (CSA)	2003	2002	2001	2000
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens, TN-GA	642,994	638,763	634,793	630,582
Chattanooga, TN-GA MSA	485,927	483,039	479,984	477,133
Cleveland, TN MSA	106,435	105,561	105,051	104,271
Athens, TN MCSA	50,632	50,163	49,758	49,178
Jackson-Humboldt, TN	157,637	157,364	156,741	155,717
Humboldt, TN MCSA	47,922	48,089	48,066	48,166
Jackson, TN MSA	109,715	109,275	108,675	107,551
Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol (Tri-Cities), TN-VA	485,884	482,526	480,403	480,407
Johnson City, TN MSA	186,181	183,625	182,047	181,953
Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA MSA	299,703	298,901	298,356	298,454
Knoxville-Sevierville-LaFollette, TN	804,915	796,085	788,320	781,013
Harriman, TN MCSA	52,424	52,237	51,958	51,944
Knoxville, TN MSA	636,863	629,589	623,383	617,427
LaFollette, TN MCSA	40,125	39,943	39,875	39,935
Sevierville, TN MCSA	75,503	74,316	73,104	71,707
Morristown-Newport, TN	161,544	159,477	158,518	157,143
Morristown, TN MSA	127,215	125,422	124,841	123,526
Newport, TN MCSA	34,329	34,055	33,677	33,617
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Columbia, TN	1,444,500	1,424,075	1,406,759	1,386,799
Columbia, TN MCSA	73,198	71,507	70,235	69,723
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro, TN MSA	1,371,302	1,352,568	1,336,524	1,317,076
Union City-Martin, TN-KY	74,119	74,287	74,552	75,099
Martin, TN MCSA	34,314	34,314	34,397	34,903
Union City, TN-KY MCSA	39,805	39,973	40,155	40,196

Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Area definitions as of December, 2003.
Population estimates tabulated on July 1 for each reported year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program,
County Population Estimates and Estimated Components of Change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003.
Released April, 2004.

Why Are Some Areas Metropolitan While Others Are Micropolitan?

As noted above, Sevier County is now a freestanding micropolitan area, and it is no longer a component of the Knoxville metropolitan area. The city of Sevierville, with its 2003 population of 14,167, qualifies as an urban cluster, and since its size is between 10,000 and 50,000 persons, the county meets the standards for a Micropolitan Statistical Area. However, other local centers like Maryville (in Blount County), with a 2003 population of 25,062, and Oak Ridge (in Anderson County), with a total population of 27,338, meet those same standards, but neither is designated a micropolitan area. Instead, they fall within the boundaries of the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area. Why are those two places included in the Knoxville MSA, while Sevierville stands alone?

The difference lies in the degree of social and economic integration. Anderson and Blount (as well as Loudon and Union) are considered *outlying counties* of the Knoxville MSA because they meet one or both of the following criteria: a) at least 25 percent of the employed residents of the outlying county work in the central county of the MSA (in this case, Knox), **or**, b) at least 25 percent of the employment in the outlying county is accounted for by workers who reside in the central county of the MSA.

According to the *2000 Census of Population and Housing*, about 8,100 Anderson workers, representing 26.4 percent of employed Anderson residents, commute to Knox County to work each day, meeting criterion "a." Also, more than 11,000 residents of Knox County commute to Anderson County, accounting for 25.2 percent of the Anderson County employment base, satisfying criterion "b." As a result, Anderson County demonstrates strong commuting ties to Knox County and is included in the Knoxville MSA.

Only about 13 percent of Blount County's work force comes from Knox County, but more than 27 percent of Blount residents commute to Knox for work. Accordingly, Blount is included in the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area. Similar rates of exchange are recorded between Knox and Loudon Counties, and Union County shows an overwhelming dependence on Knox for economic exchange – 53 percent of its workers head to Knox County each day for employment.

Sevier County, on the other hand, sends 6,522 workers to Knox, representing about 19 percent of Sevier's employed population. At the same time, 1,634 workers, or 5.0 percent of the Sevier employment base, are commuters from Knox County. Neither of the commuting minimums was met, so Sevier County is not included in the Knoxville MSA.

Additional Information Sources

Further information on Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Area definitions and changes can be reviewed at the following websites:

- The United States Office of Management and Budget: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy04/b04-03.html>
- The United States Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>
- The University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research: <http://cber.bus.utk.edu/census/tnmsadef.htm>

In addition to the population information provided in this Technical Report, the Metropolitan Planning Commission assembles and maintains an extensive collection of demographic data products, like population projections, thematic maps, and summary spreadsheets covering Knoxville, Knox County, and the five-county metropolitan area. Contact the MPC library or visit the website (www.knoxmpc.org) for more information.