

Tennessee's Metropolitan and Micropolitan Population

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MPC contact person:

Terry Gilhula
215-2500

MPC website and email:

www.knoxmpc.org
contact@knoxmpc.org

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

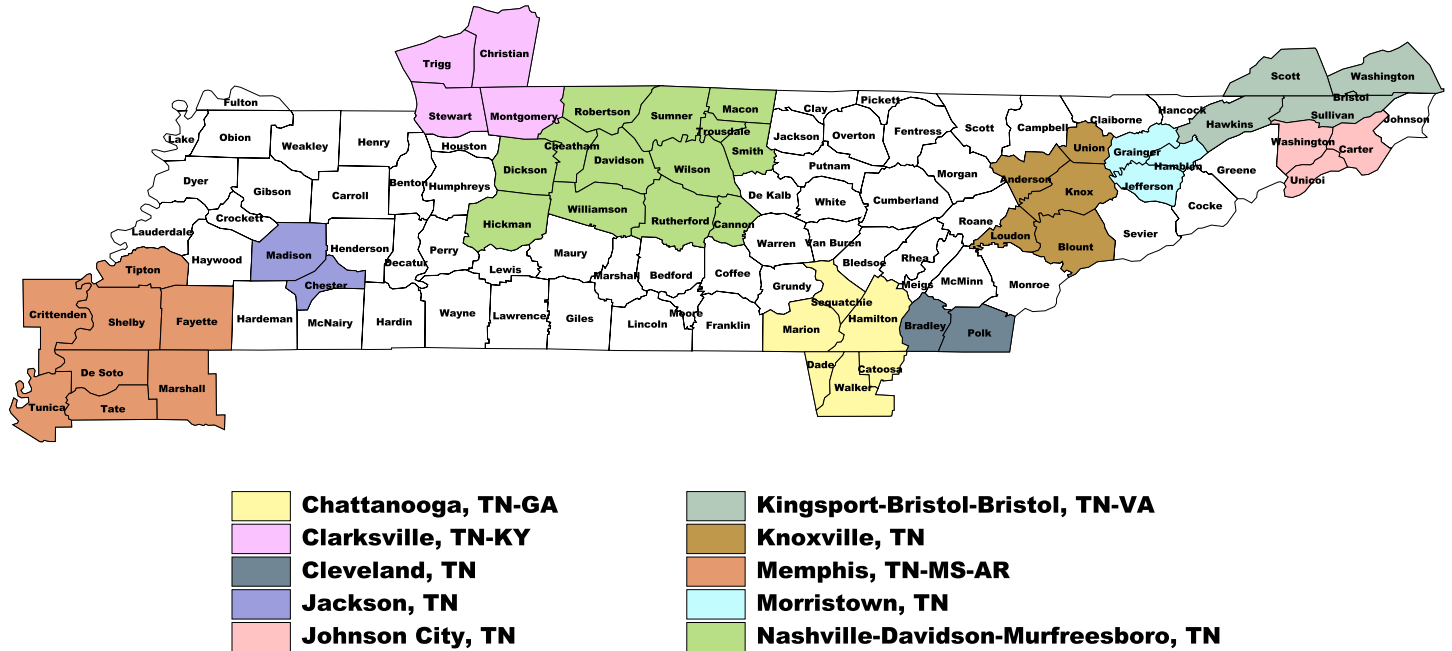


Table 1: Tennessee's Population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003

| 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 |

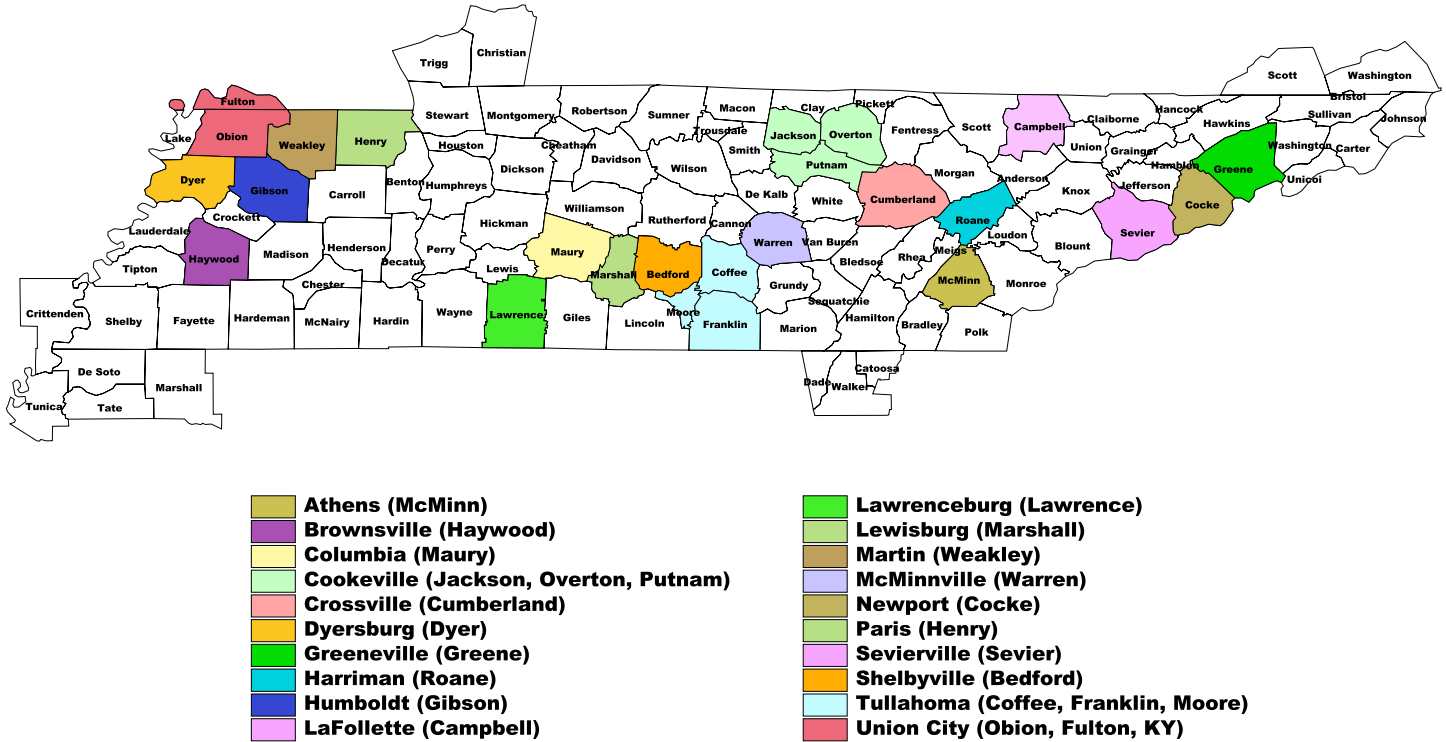
Table 1: Tennessee's Population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003 *(continued)*

| 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.

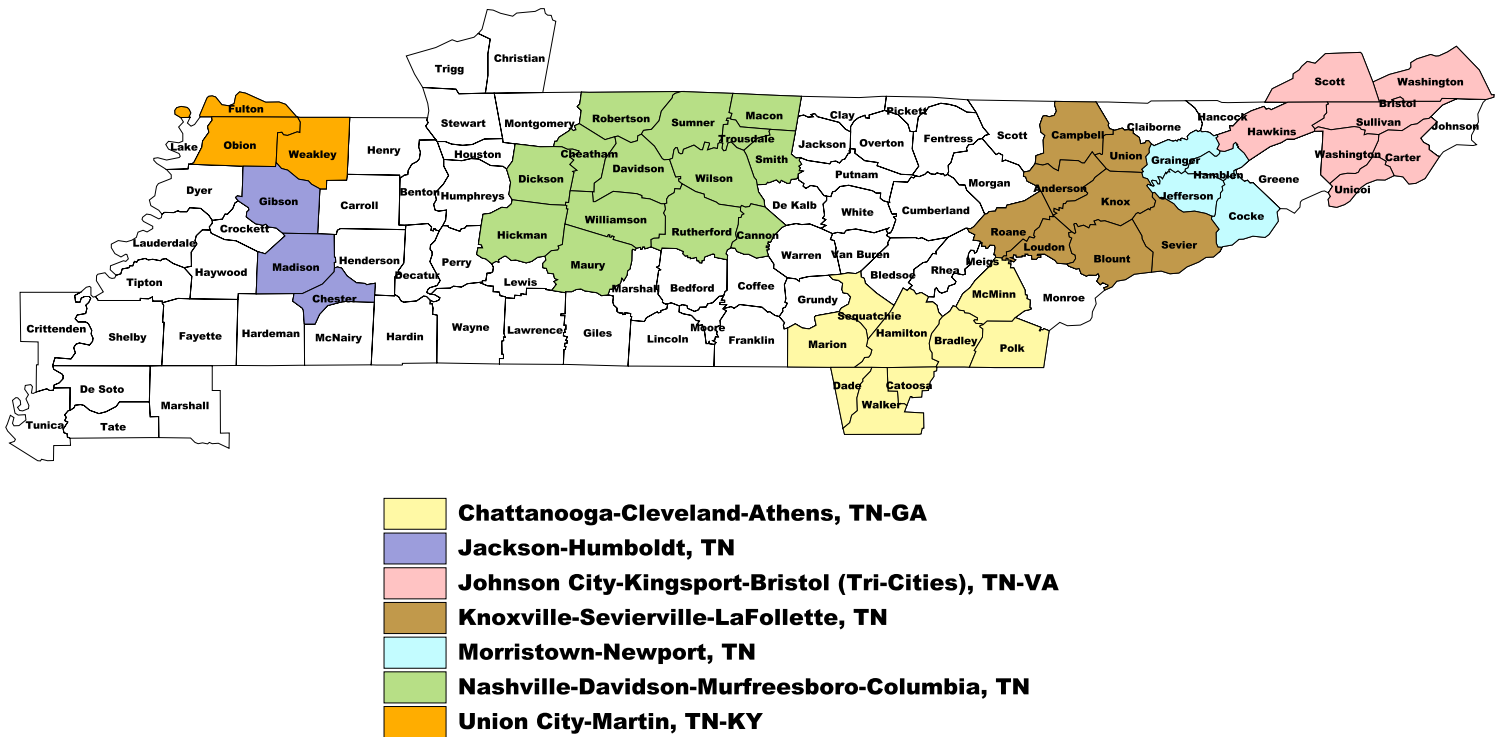
Table 2: Tennessee's Population in Micropolitan Statistical Areas, 2000-2003

| 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.