

An aerial photograph of a large city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense urban area with many skyscrapers in the center and a vast expanse of lower-rise buildings and residential areas extending to the mountains in the background. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Metropolitan Areas,  
Core Cities &  
Principal Cities  
*Population: 2000-2008*

DEMOGRAPHIA

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Cover Photograph: Los Angeles (downtown, Hollywood & San Fernando Valley)

**Table 1**

**Population Trends: Metropolitan Areas Over 1,000,000: 2000-2008 by Geography**

	2000	2008	Change	%
Metropolitan Areas	152,382,483	166,564,617	14,182,134	9.3%
Core Cities	43,818,674	45,922,606	2,103,932	4.8%
<i>Pre-WW2 Core Cities</i>	20,172,850	20,219,342	46,492	0.2%
<i>Pre-WW2 Core Cities with Suburbs</i>	18,472,298	19,723,295	1,250,997	6.8%
<i>Suburban Core Cities (Post WW2)</i>	5,173,526	5,979,969	806,443	15.6%
Suburbs	108,563,809	120,642,011	12,078,202	11.1%
<i>Suburbs Classified by OMB as Principal Cities</i>	17,968,287	19,334,689	1,366,402	7.6%
<i>Suburbs Not Classified as Principal Cities</i>	90,595,522	101,307,322	10,711,800	11.8%

Calculated from US Bureau of the Census Data

For classification of core cities, see Table 3

2008 Population of "Suburbs Classified as Principal Cities" is slightly understated because there are no late official estimates for 7 "census designated places." (which are not cities): 2000 estimates used.

**Table 2**  
**Metropolitan Area, Principal Cities & Core Cities Population: 2000 to 2008**  
**Metropolitan Areas over 1,000,000 Population**

Metropolitan Area Principal Cities (OMB)	Metropolitan Area		Principal Cities (OMB)		Core Cities		X
	2000	2008	2000	2008	2000	2008	
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	18,352,743	18,968,501					
New York, NY			8,015,681	8,363,710	8,015,681	8,363,710	
Newark, NJ			272,773	278,980			
White Plains, NY			53,318	57,342			
New Brunswick, NJ			48,321	51,149			
Edison, NJ			97,809	99,706			
Wayne, NJ			54,163	53,918			
Union, NJ			54,533	53,673			
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	12,398,950	12,768,395					
Los Angeles, CA			3,703,766	3,833,995	3,703,766	3,833,995	
Long Beach, CA			462,241	463,789			
Santa Ana, CA			338,559	339,130			
Anaheim, CA			329,245	335,288			
Irvine, CA			146,745	207,500			
Glendale, CA			195,350	197,176			
Pomona, CA			148,131	152,699			
Pasadena, CA			134,563	143,080			
Torrance, CA			138,253	140,820			
Orange, CA			129,944	136,392			
Fullerton, CA			126,538	131,868			
Costa Mesa, CA			109,475	110,080			
Burbank, CA			100,486	102,968			
Compton, CA			93,668	93,851			
Carson, CA			89,992	92,366			
Santa Monica, CA			84,378	87,664			
Newport Beach, CA			77,445	79,661			
Tustin, CA			67,723	71,814			
Montebello, CA			62,234	61,906			
Monterey Park, CA			60,183	61,234			
Gardena, CA			57,943	58,554			
Arcadia, CA			53,211	56,248			
Fountain Valley, CA			55,041	55,516			
Paramount, CA			55,388	55,236			
Cerritos, CA			51,579	51,326			
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	9,117,732	9,515,636					
Chicago, IL			2,895,843	2,853,114	2,895,843	2,853,114	
Joliet, IL			108,188	146,125			
Naperville, IL			129,407	143,117			
Elgin, IL			94,923	106,330			
Gary, IN			102,475	95,920			
Evanston, IL			74,139	77,693			
Arlington Heights, IL			76,522	73,399			
Schaumburg, IL			75,333	71,716			
Skokie, IL			63,357	66,620			
Des Plaines, IL			57,081	57,062			
Hoffman Estates, IL			49,689	53,641			
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	5,196,188	6,301,085					
Dallas, TX			1,190,422	1,279,910	1,190,422	1,279,910	
Fort Worth, TX			544,026	703,073			
Arlington, TX			334,816	374,417			
Plano, TX			224,564	267,480			
Irving, TX			191,951	201,358			

Carrollton, TX			110,251	125,595		
McKinney, TX			56,110	121,211		
Denton, TX			83,567	119,454		
Richardson, TX			92,520	101,589		
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,693,275	5,940,496				
Philadelphia, PA			1,513,812	1,447,395	1,513,812	1,447,395
Camden, NJ			79,769	79,383		
Wilmington, DE			72,706	72,592		
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	4,739,414	5,726,705				
Houston, TX			1,978,217	2,242,193	1,978,217	2,242,193
Sugar Land, TX			64,850	80,704		
Baytown, TX			66,550	70,330		
Galveston, TX			57,504	57,086		
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	5,025,806	5,501,752				
Miami, FL			363,117	413,201	363,117	413,201
Fort Lauderdale, FL			171,119	183,126		
Pompano Beach, FL			100,338	101,943		
West Palm Beach, FL			82,738	98,779		
Boca Raton, FL			83,156	85,670		
Miami Beach, FL			88,086	84,633		
Deerfield Beach, FL			74,431	74,584		
Boynton Beach, FL			60,582	68,291		
Delray Beach, FL			60,368	64,092		
Homestead, FL			31,924	57,936		
Kendall, FL			75,226	75,226		X
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	4,281,905	5,385,586				
Atlanta, GA			420,624	537,958	420,624	537,958
Sandy Springs, GA			84,955	82,674		
Marietta, GA			63,460	67,562		
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	4,821,031	5,377,936				
Washington, DC			571,723	591,833	571,723	591,833
Arlington, VA			189,582	209,969		
Alexandria, VA			129,340	143,885		
Rockville, MD			47,822	60,734		
Frederick, MD			53,105	59,213		
Gaithersburg, MD			52,871	58,744		
Bethesda, MD			55,227	55,227		X
Reston, VA			56,407	56,407		X
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,402,611	4,544,705				
Boston, MA			589,387	609,023	589,387	609,023
Cambridge, MA			101,643	105,596		
Quincy, MA			88,225	92,339		
Newton, MA			83,913	82,139		
Waltham, MA			59,269	60,236		
Peabody, MA			48,321	51,331		
Framingham, MA			66,957	64,885		
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,457,471	4,423,781				
Detroit, MI			945,349	912,062	945,349	912,062
Warren, MI			138,097	133,939		
Livonia, MI			100,652	91,220		
Dearborn, MI			97,836	86,477		
Troy, MI			81,003	80,264		
Farmington Hills, MI			82,052	78,522		
Southfield, MI			78,318	75,392		
Pontiac, MI			67,656	66,095		
Taylor, MI			65,977	60,619		
Novi, MI			47,480	54,054		
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3,278,661	4,287,323				
Phoenix, AZ			1,326,385	1,567,924	1,326,385	1,567,924

Mesa, AZ			403,045	463,552		
Scottsdale, AZ			204,270	235,371		
Tempe, AZ			158,838	175,523		
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	4,136,658	4,260,236				
San Francisco, CA			777,532	808,976	777,532	808,976
Oakland, CA			400,712	404,155	400,712	404,155
Fremont, CA			204,323	202,867		
Hayward, CA			140,610	142,061		
Berkeley, CA			103,041	101,371		
San Mateo, CA			92,709	92,256		
San Leandro, CA			79,757	77,880		
Redwood City, CA			75,495	74,060		
Pleasanton, CA			64,303	66,828		
Walnut Creek, CA			64,687	63,486		
South San Francisco, CA			60,631	62,502		
San Rafael, CA			56,134	55,602		
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	3,277,578	4,092,831				
Riverside, CA			257,787	295,357	257,787	295,357
San Bernardino, CA			188,976	198,580		
Ontario, CA			158,634	171,691		
Victorville, CA			64,515	110,318		
Temecula, CA			68,722	97,100		
Chino, CA			70,033	83,031		
Hemet, CA			59,382	70,991		
Redlands, CA			63,958	69,689		
Colton, CA			48,036	50,517		
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3,052,379	3,356,637				
Seattle, WA			563,906	598,541	563,906	598,541
Tacoma, WA			193,864	197,181		
Bellevue, WA			112,834	123,771		
Everett, WA			96,278	98,212		
Kent, WA			80,600	83,978		
Renton, WA			51,491	62,266		
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	2,981,616	3,237,612				
Minneapolis, MN			382,525	382,605	382,525	382,605
St. Paul, MN			286,767	279,590	286,767	279,590
Bloomington, MN			85,132	81,280		
Plymouth, MN			66,037	71,486		
Eagan, MN			63,732	63,985		
Eden Prairie, MN			55,245	61,191		
Minnetonka, MN			51,117	50,081		
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	2,824,987	3,019,274				
San Diego, CA			1,228,015	1,279,329	1,228,015	1,279,329
Carlsbad, CA			79,385	96,374		
San Marcos, CA			55,851	79,114		
National City, CA			54,286	58,680		
St. Louis, MO-IL	2,701,634	2,818,688				
St. Louis, MO			346,864	354,361	346,864	354,361
St. Charles, MO			60,725	64,386		
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	2,404,273	2,730,007				
Tampa, FL			304,168	340,882	304,168	340,882
St. Petersburg, FL			248,778	245,314		
Clearwater, FL			109,361	105,774		
Largo, FL			74,244	72,732		
Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,557,501	2,677,712				
Baltimore, MD			648,587	636,919	648,587	636,919
Towson, MD			51,793	51,793		X
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	2,194,022	2,500,384				
Denver, CO			556,067	598,707	556,067	598,707

Aurora, CO			277,814	319,057		
Broomfield, CO			39,558	54,858		
Pittsburgh, PA	2,429,023	2,355,391				
Pittsburgh, PA			333,816	310,037	333,816	310,037
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	1,936,108	2,203,745				
Portland, OR			529,866	557,706	529,866	557,706
Vancouver, WA			146,571	163,186		
Hillsboro, OR			71,061	93,638		
Beaverton, OR			79,623	91,757		
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	2,014,665	2,158,643				
Cincinnati, OH			331,259	333,336	331,259	333,336
Middletown, OH			51,618	51,422		
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	1,808,442	2,101,138				
Sacramento, CA			409,244	463,794	409,244	463,794
Roseville, CA			81,309	112,660		
Folsom, CA			52,723	67,788		
Rancho Cordova, CA			53,731	62,265		
Woodland, CA			49,721	54,567		
Arden-Arcade, CA			96,025	96,025		X
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	2,147,948	2,094,051				
Cleveland, OH			476,571	433,748	476,571	433,748
Elyria, OH			56,088	54,979		
Mentor, OH			50,338	51,825		
Orlando-Kissimmee, FL	1,656,835	2,060,968				
Orlando, FL			193,166	230,519	193,166	230,519
Kissimmee, FL			48,990	62,291		
Kansas City, MO-KS	1,842,924	2,046,083				
Kansas City, MO			441,832	451,572	441,832	451,572
Overland Park, KS			150,658	171,231		
Kansas City, KS			146,787	142,562		
San Antonio, TX	1,719,262	2,030,691				
San Antonio, TX			1,163,956	1,351,305	1,163,956	1,351,305
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	1,393,370	1,879,093				
Las Vegas, NV			484,480	558,383	484,480	558,383
Paradise, NV			186,070	186,070		X
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	1,739,669	1,810,646				
San Jose, CA			898,501	948,279	898,501	948,279
Sunnyvale, CA			131,849	132,109		
Santa Clara, CA			102,409	110,200		
Mountain View, CA			70,711	71,348		
Milpitas, CA			62,858	67,503		
Palo Alto, CA			58,590	59,395		
Cupertino, CA			52,562	53,637		
Columbus, OH	1,619,514	1,779,822				
Columbus, OH			715,555	754,885	715,555	754,885
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	1,531,156	1,720,796				
Indianapolis, IN			782,200	798,382	782,200	798,382
Carmel, IN			53,585	66,769		
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	1,340,417	1,706,469				
Charlotte, NC			570,091	687,456	570,091	687,456
Gastonia, NC			67,727	72,505		
Rock Hill, SC			50,685	67,339		
Concord, NC			56,709	66,311		
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	1,580,387	1,670,225				
Virginia Beach, VA			426,488	433,746		
Norfolk, VA			234,264	234,220	234,264	234,220
Newport News, VA			180,579	179,614		
Hampton, VA			146,416	145,494		
Portsmouth, VA			100,429	100,577		

Austin-Round Rock, TX	1,265,715	1,654,100				
Austin, TX			663,673	757,688	663,673	757,688
Round Rock, TX			62,955	104,446		
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	1,586,744	1,599,312				
Providence, RI			173,853	171,557	173,853	171,557
New Bedford, MA			93,860	91,365		
Fall River, MA			92,070	90,931		
Warwick, RI			85,947	84,483		
Cranston, RI			79,433	79,980		
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreeseboro--Franklin, TN	1,317,580	1,556,368				
Nashville, TN			545,858	596,462	545,858	596,462
Murfreeseboro, TN			71,060	101,753		
Franklin, TN			45,943	58,481		
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	1,502,305	1,550,451				
Milwaukee, WI			596,976	604,477	596,976	604,477
Waukesha, WI			65,893	68,008		
West Allis, WI			61,034	59,416		
Jacksonville, FL	1,126,224	1,316,528				
Jacksonville, FL			736,531	807,815	736,531	807,815
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,208,269	1,298,529				
Memphis, TN			690,075	669,651	690,075	669,651
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	1,165,132	1,249,739				
Louisville, KY			551,608	557,224	551,608	557,224
Richmond, VA	1,100,196	1,227,115				
Richmond, VA			197,733	202,002	197,733	202,002
Oklahoma City, OK	1,097,874	1,207,519				
Oklahoma City, OK			507,564	551,789	507,564	551,789
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	1,150,915	1,191,170				
Hartford, CT			124,179	124,062	124,179	124,062
West Hartford, CT			61,086	60,495		
Middletown, CT			45,676	48,030		
East Hartford, CT			49,952	48,571		
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1,315,616	1,168,547				
New Orleans, LA			483,635	311,853	483,635	311,853
Kenner, LA			70,382	66,942		
Metairie, LA			146,136	146,136		X
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	1,169,159	1,124,055				
Buffalo, NY			292,192	270,919	292,192	270,919
Niagara Falls, NY			55,440	51,345		
Tonawanda, NY			77,960	71,720		
Cheektowaga, NY			93,853	87,788		
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	1,053,394	1,123,146				
Birmingham, AL			242,048	228,798	242,048	228,798
Hoover, AL			63,427	71,020		
Salt Lake City, UT	972,653	1,111,600				
Salt Lake City, UT			181,803	181,698	181,803	181,698
Raleigh-Cary, NC	804,436	1,090,408				
Raleigh, NC			290,084	392,552	290,084	392,552
Cary, NC			97,380	129,545		
Rochester, NY	1,041,595	1,033,155				
Rochester, NY			219,446	206,886	219,446	206,886
Tucson, AZ	848,521	1,009,832				
Tucson, AZ			489,359	541,811	489,359	541,811
Total	152,382,483	166,564,617	61,786,961	65,257,295	43,818,674	45,922,606

Data compiled from US Bureau of the Census

For classification of core cities, see Table 3

X indicates census designated place with no 2008 population estimate. 2000 estimate used.

**Table 3**  
**Metropolitan Areas and Core Cities**

Metropolitan Area	Core City (ies)	Type of Core City
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	Atlanta	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Austin-Round Rock, TX	Austin	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Baltimore-Towson, MD	Baltimore	Pre-WW2 Core City
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	Birmingham	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	Boston	Pre-WW2 Core City
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	Buffalo	Pre-WW2 Core City
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	Charlotte	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	Chicago	Pre-WW2 Core City
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	Cincinnati	Pre-WW2 Core City
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	Cleveland	Pre-WW2 Core City
Columbus, OH	Columbus	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	Dallas	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	Denver	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	Detroit	Pre-WW2 Core City
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	Hartford	Pre-WW2 Core City
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	Houston	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	Indianapolis	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Kansas City, MO-KS	Kansas City	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	Las Vegas	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	Los Angeles	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	Louisville	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	Memphis	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	Miami	Pre-WW2 Core City
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	Milwaukee	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	Minneapolis	Pre-WW2 Core City
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	St. Paul	Pre-WW2 Core City
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	Nashville	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	New Orleans	Pre-WW2 Core City
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	New York	Pre-WW2 Core City
Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Orlando-Kissimmee, FL	Orlando	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metrop	Philadelphia	Pre-WW2 Core City
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	Phoenix	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh	Pre-WW2 Core City
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	Portland	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	Providence	Pre-WW2 Core City
Raleigh-Cary, NC	Raleigh	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Richmond, VA	Richmond	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	Riverside	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Rochester, NY	Rochester	Pre-WW2 Core City
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	Sacramento	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Salt Lake City, UT	Salt Lake City	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
San Antonio, TX	San Antonio	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	San Diego	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs



San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	San Francisco	Pre-WW2 Core City
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	Oakland	Pre-WW2 Core City
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	San Jose	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	Seattle	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
St. Louis, MO-IL	St. Louis	Pre-WW2 Core City
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	Tampa	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Tucson, AZ	Tucson	Suburban Core City (Post -WW2)
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	Norfolk	Pre-WW2 Core City with Suburbs
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro	Washington	Pre-WW2 Core City

See: Core City Classification Definitions

## **DEFINITION OF CORE CITY CLASSIFICATIONS**

Core cities are the historically dominant municipalities in metropolitan areas. A core city was the largest city in the metropolitan area (or the county, where there was no metropolitan area) in 1950, which was conducted at the time that the great automobile oriented expansion of urban areas was beginning.

A second core city is designated if it qualifies would qualify as a Pre-World War II Core City if it were the largest in the metropolitan area in 1950. Such an additional core city must share a common border with the largest city and have had a population at least 50% as large as the largest city in 1950. There are two metropolitan areas with two core cities, San Francisco-Oakland (San Francisco and Oakland) and Minneapolis-St. Paul (Minneapolis and St. Paul).

***Pre-World War II Core Cities:*** core cities that have essentially the same boundaries as in 1950. There are 21 Pre-World War II Core Cities in the major metropolitan areas (Over 1,000,000 in 2008). These core cities were largely built before the automobile became dominant, and once were predominately walking and transit cities.

New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco are probably the best examples.

***Pre-World War II Core Cities with Suburbs:*** Many pre-World War II core cities either included wide swaths of vacant developable land in 1950 or annexed substantial amounts of vacant or suburban land after 1950. These cities have cores that are similar to the Pre-World War II Core Cities, but also include suburbs that are little different than the inner suburbs outside the city.

For example, in 1950, Los Angeles contained substantial amounts of non-urban land that was developed in the San Fernando Valley, which was eventually covered with suburban development. Other cities, such as Milwaukee, Portland, Seattle, Austin and Houston annexed considerable suburban land after 1950. These annexations did not always result in increased population. For example, Salt Lake City doubled its land area between 1950 and 2000, yet retained essentially the same population. Milwaukee nearly doubled its land area, yet lost 40,000 residents.

***Suburban Core Cities:*** A number of core cities developed predominantly after World War II and as a result, have little, if any pre-World War II core.

The largest of the Suburban Core Cities is Phoenix. Charlotte, Orlando and Las Vegas are also examples of Suburban Core Cities.