|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic\*** | **Metropolitan**  **Total** | **Largea** | **Smallb** | **Non-Metropolitan**  **Total** |  | **Micro** | **Non-CBSA** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Educ Attainment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| % less than HS | 18 | 18 | 18 | 24 |  | 22 | 25 |
| % HS | 27 | 26 | 31 | 35 |  | 34 | 36 |
| % College | 55 | 56 | 51 | 41 |  | 44 | 39 |
| **Industry of Employment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| % Farm | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |  | 4 | 9 |
| % Manufacturing | 11 | 11 | 15 | 15 |  | 16 | 15 |
| % Retail | 16 | 16 | 18 | 17 |  | 18 | 16 |
| % Services | 33 | 34 | 29 | 24 |  | 25 | 23 |
| **Occupation of Employment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| % Manager, professional | 35 | 36 | 31 | 27 |  | 28 | 26 |
| % Technical, sales, admin | 27 | 28 | 26 | 24 |  | 24 | 23 |
| % Labor | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 |  | 11 | 12 |
| **Earnings per nonfarm job** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All jobs | 37 | 38 | 29 | 25 |  | 27 | 24 |
| Manufacturing | 51 | 53 | 41 | 34 |  | 37 | 32 |
| Retail | 20 | 20 | 16 | 15 |  | 16 | 15 |
| Services | 33 | 34 | 25 | 20 |  | 22 | 19 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* Brown, D.L, Cromartie, John B., Kulcsar, Laszlo, “Micropolitan areas and the measurement of American urbanization”, 2004 *Kluwer Academic Publisher*, Netherlands

a More than 250,000 persons

b 50,000-250,000 persons

**Presence of “urban” services and facilities by county type, 2000**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service or Facility** | **Percent provided in county** |  |  |  |
|  | **Small Metropolitana** |  | **Micropolitan** | **Non-Core Based(ie. rural)** |
| Scheduled Passenger Air Service | 52 |  | 23 | 7 |
| Scheduled inter-country bus service | 97 |  | 69 | 38 |
| Local Bus service | 97 |  | 59 | 30 |
| Museumb | 73 |  | 52 | 25 |
| Daily Newspaper | 97 |  | 88 | 22 |
| National or region al Hotel Franchise | 100 |  | 94 | 41 |
| Four year college | 81 |  | 40 | 10 |
| Library w/Multiple Branches | 78 |  | 57 | 34 |
| Commercial TV stationsc | 73 |  | 37 | 11 |
| General Hospitald | 100 |  | 100 | 72 |
| **N** | **33** |  | **92** | **129** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

A 50,000-250,000 persons

B Art, science, or natural history w/focus beyond local county

C With local news and advertising

D With at least two or four of following services: emergency rooms, physical therapy, cardiac care, or MRI;

**Urban and Rural Areas**

Statistics have been split into urban and rural categories in decennial census publications for over a century. The definition of "urban" has changed over time in response to changes in settlement patterns, data use needs, and technology available for use in defining urban areas. The Census Bureau has continued to define "rural" as all territory, persons, and housing units not defined as urban. In the censuses of 1880, 1890, and 1900, places were deemed urban based on minimum population sizes of 8,000, 4,000, and 2,500 inhabitants.

Beginning in 1910, the minimum population threshold to be categorized as an urban place was set at 2,500. "Urban" was defined as including all territory, persons, and housing units within an incorporated area that met the population threshold. The 1920 census marked the first time in which over 50 percent of the U.S. population was defined as urban.

The Census Bureau revised the urban definition for the 1950 census by adopting the urbanized area concept, to better account for increased growth in suburban areas outside incorporated places of 50,000 or more population. This change made it possible to define densely-populated but unincorporated territory as urban. The Census Bureau continued to identify as urban those places that had populations of 2,500 or more and were located outside urbanized areas. The Census Bureau also officially identified unincorporated places (referred to as census designated places (CDPs) starting with the 1980 census) located outside urbanized areas for the first time in 1950, and designated as urban any that contained at least 2,500 people within its boundaries. In 1960, the Census Bureau also adopted a population density threshold of at least 1,000 people per square mile for urbanized areas.

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau adopted the urban cluster concept, for the first time defining relatively small, densely settled clusters of population using the same approach as was used to define larger urbanized areas of 50,000 or more population, and no longer identified urban places located outside urbanized areas. In addition, all urbanized areas and urban clusters were delineated solely on population density, without reference to place boundaries (for the 1950 through 1990 censuses, places were included in, or excluded from, urbanized areas in their entirety; exceptions were made for incorporated places containing substantial amounts of sparsely populated territory).