

# Population Change in Central and Outlying Counties of Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000 to 2007

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## Population Estimates and Projections

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### INTRODUCTION

This report examines population change and the demographic components of change from 2000 to 2007 for central and outlying counties of metropolitan statistical areas. Population change in metro areas and their component central and outlying counties will be examined through the configurations of census regions and divisions, metro area population size categories, and 12 of the most populous metro areas. Demographic components of change are births, deaths, and migration. The difference between the birth and death components is termed natural increase, and the migration component can consist of both net international migration and net domestic migration. Data used in this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.<sup>1</sup>

The report focuses on metro areas and the central and outlying counties that compose the areas—all metro area counties belong to one of these two categories, as defined by the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB). The 2006 area definitions are based upon the 2000 OMB Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas applied to Census 2000 data and Census Bureau population estimates.

### CENTRAL AND OUTLYING COUNTIES

The Office of Management and Budget is responsible for determining the geographic make-up of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Metro areas are associated with at least one Census Bureau-defined urbanized area, or core, of 50,000 or more population and consist of one or more whole counties (or county equivalents). Every metro area contains at least one central county. Some metro areas also contain one or more outlying counties.

The *central* county or counties of a metro area are those containing all or a substantial portion of the urbanized area. These counties, in turn, are used in measuring commuting with other counties that potentially qualify for inclusion in the metro area as *outlying* counties.

A county qualifies as outlying under the following circumstances: (1) one-quarter or more of the employed residents work in the central counties of the metro area, or (2) one-quarter or more of the employment is composed of workers who live in the central counties. Furthermore, outlying counties also include the counties of any smaller metro or micro area that are adjacent to the metro area and merge with it.

### Current Population Reports

By  
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<sup>1</sup> Net migration is the addition of net international migration and net domestic migration. Net international migration is any change of residence across the borders of the United States (50 states and District of Columbia). The U.S. Census Bureau makes estimates of net international migration for the nation, states, and counties. It estimates net international migration in four parts: (1) net international migration of the foreign born, (2) net migration between the United States and Puerto Rico, (3) net migration of natives to and from the United States, and (4) net movement of the Armed Forces population between the United States and overseas. Net domestic migration is the difference between domestic in-migration to an area and domestic out-migration from the same area during a time period. Domestic in- and out-migration consist of moves where both the origin and the destination are within the United States.

Table 1.  
**Distribution of U.S. Counties by Metropolitan Statistical Area Status and Type of County for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2007**

Geographic area	Total	Metro areas			Micro areas	Outside metro/micro areas
		Total	Central counties	Outlying counties		
<b>NUMBER</b>						
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>3,141</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>1,356</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>						
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>217</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>
New England Division .....	67	34	29	5	16	17
Middle Atlantic Division .....	150	89	75	14	37	24
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>1,055</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>529</b>
East North Central Division .....	437	173	107	66	120	144
West North Central Division .....	618	112	54	58	121	385
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>1,423</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>573</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	589	291	173	118	106	192
East South Central Division .....	364	118	55	63	92	154
West South Central Division .....	470	143	71	72	100	227
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>446</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>213</b>
Mountain Division .....	281	63	43	20	63	155
Pacific Division .....	165	69	61	8	38	58
<b>PERCENT</b>						
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>43.2</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>						
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>18.9</b>
New England Division .....	100.0	50.7	43.3	7.5	23.9	25.4
Middle Atlantic Division .....	100.0	59.3	50.0	9.3	24.7	16.0
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>50.1</b>
East North Central Division .....	100.0	39.6	24.5	15.1	27.5	33.0
West North Central Division .....	100.0	18.1	8.7	9.4	19.6	62.3
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>40.3</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	100.0	49.4	29.4	20.0	18.0	32.6
East South Central Division .....	100.0	32.4	15.1	17.3	25.3	42.3
West South Central Division .....	100.0	30.4	15.1	15.3	21.3	48.3
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>47.8</b>
Mountain Division .....	100.0	22.4	15.3	7.1	22.4	55.2
Pacific Division .....	100.0	41.8	37.0	4.8	23.0	35.2

Source: Office of Management and Budget, December 2006 definitions.

Overall, 1,092 U.S. counties or county equivalents (out of a U.S. total of 3,141) belong to metro areas. Of these, 668 qualified as central counties, and the other 424 qualified as outlying counties. The relative distributions of central and outlying counties differed by region and division (Table 1 and Figure 1). The Northeast is the region with the highest percentage of central counties, and the South is the region with the highest percentage of outlying counties.

### TOTAL POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION

In 2007, 251.9 million people lived in metro areas in the United States (Table 2). Ninety-two percent of the U.S. metro area population lived in central counties, with the remainder of the metro area population residing in outlying counties (Figure 2). Of the four regions (Appendix A), the Northeast contained the highest percentage of its metro area population in central counties, while the South contained

the smallest percentage. Among the nine divisions, New England possessed the highest percentage of its metro area population in central counties, 98 percent, while the East South Central Division contained the smallest, 82 percent.

### POPULATION CHANGE BY REGIONS AND DIVISIONS

#### Metro Areas

Metro area population growth between 2000 and 2007 was fastest

Figure 1.  
Metropolitan Statistical Area Central and Outlying Counties

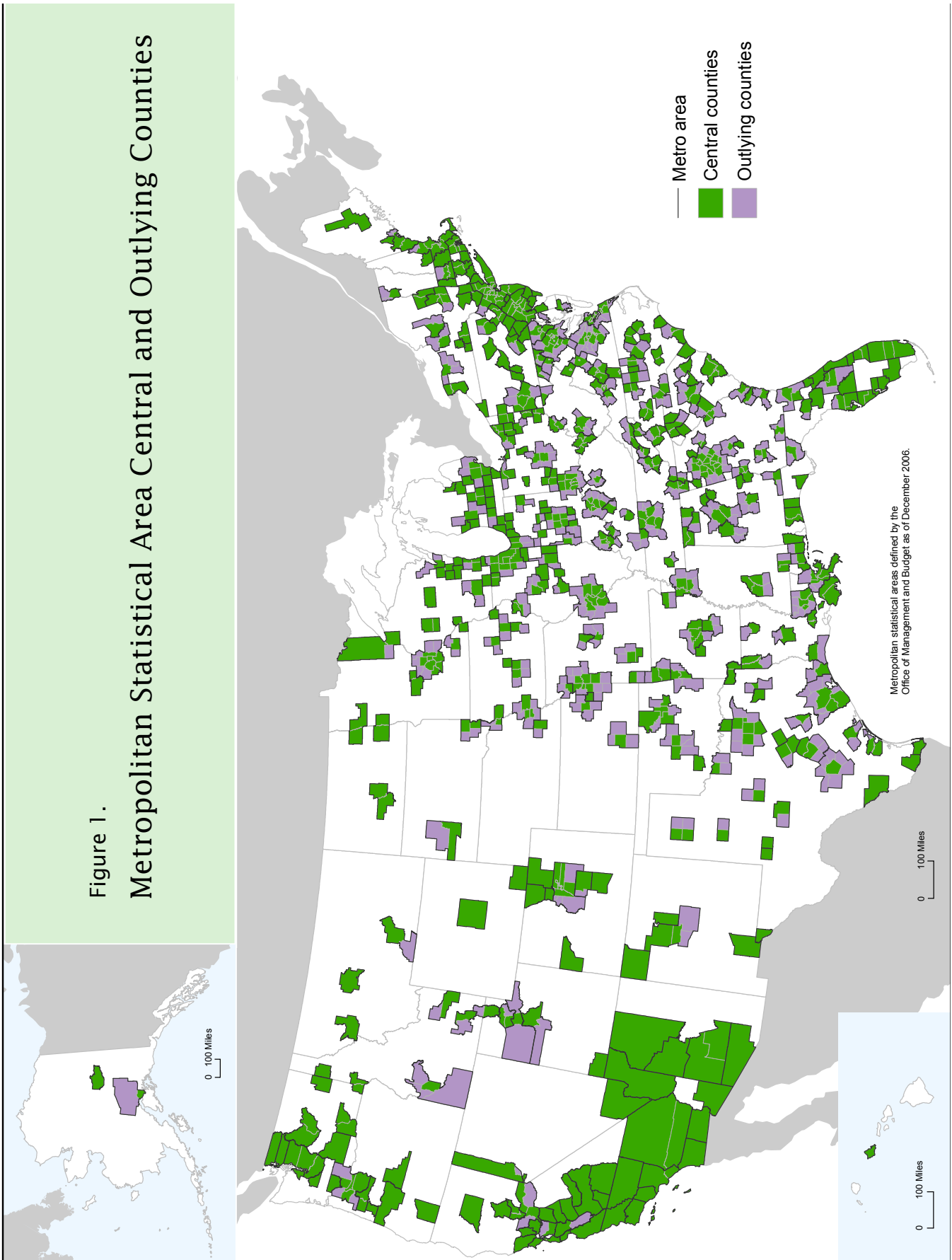


Table 2.

## Metropolitan Statistical Area Population by County Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2000 and 2007

(Numbers in thousands. Data are for April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007)

Geographic area	Total		Central counties		Outlying counties	
	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2007
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>232,787</b>	<b>251,882</b>	<b>214,441</b>	<b>231,135</b>	<b>18,346</b>	<b>20,748</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>						
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>48,343</b>	<b>49,363</b>	<b>46,968</b>	<b>47,964</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,399</b>
New England Division .....	12,193	12,475	11,922	12,190	271	285
Middle Atlantic Division .....	36,150	36,888	35,047	35,774	1,103	1,114
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>48,862</b>	<b>50,923</b>	<b>44,232</b>	<b>45,944</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>4,979</b>
East North Central Division .....	36,509	37,681	33,363	34,324	3,146	3,357
West North Central Division .....	12,353	13,241	10,869	11,620	1,484	1,621
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>78,927</b>	<b>88,439</b>	<b>68,563</b>	<b>76,297</b>	<b>10,363</b>	<b>12,142</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	43,245	48,844	38,379	43,103	4,866	5,741
East South Central Division .....	10,723	11,518	8,905	9,496	1,818	2,022
West South Central Division .....	24,958	28,077	21,279	23,699	3,679	4,378
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>56,655</b>	<b>63,158</b>	<b>54,678</b>	<b>60,930</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>2,228</b>
Mountain Division .....	14,530	17,492	14,078	16,949	453	543
Pacific Division .....	42,125	45,666	40,600	43,981	1,525	1,685

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

in the South and the West (Table 3). (Among the nine divisions, the Mountain experienced the highest percentage growth in its metro area population, 20 percent.) The metro area population grew by 4.2 percent in the Midwest (7.2 percent in the West North Central Division and 3.2 percent in the East North Central Division). The slowest growth, 2.1 percent, occurred in the Northeast (2.3 percent in New England and 2.0 percent in the Middle Atlantic Division).

Natural increase played a more important role than net migration in the growth of metro areas in the United States: natural increase exceeded net migration in metro areas in the United States as a whole, as well as in three of the four regions, the exception being the South (Table 4). Natural increase more than compensated for negative net migration in the Northeast and the Midwest.

### Central and Outlying Counties

U.S. outlying counties grew faster than central counties, 13 percent compared with 7.8 percent. In the Midwest, the South, and the West, outlying counties grew faster than central counties, while the opposite was the case for the Northeast (Table 3).

The South experienced a 17 percent population increase in outlying counties. This was the fastest growth rate for outlying counties in any region and compared with an 11 percent increase in central counties in the South. The percentage-point difference in growth between outlying and central counties in the South was the largest among the four regions.

In the Midwest, the population in outlying counties grew by 7.5 percent, almost twice the 3.9 percent growth of the population of central counties in the region.

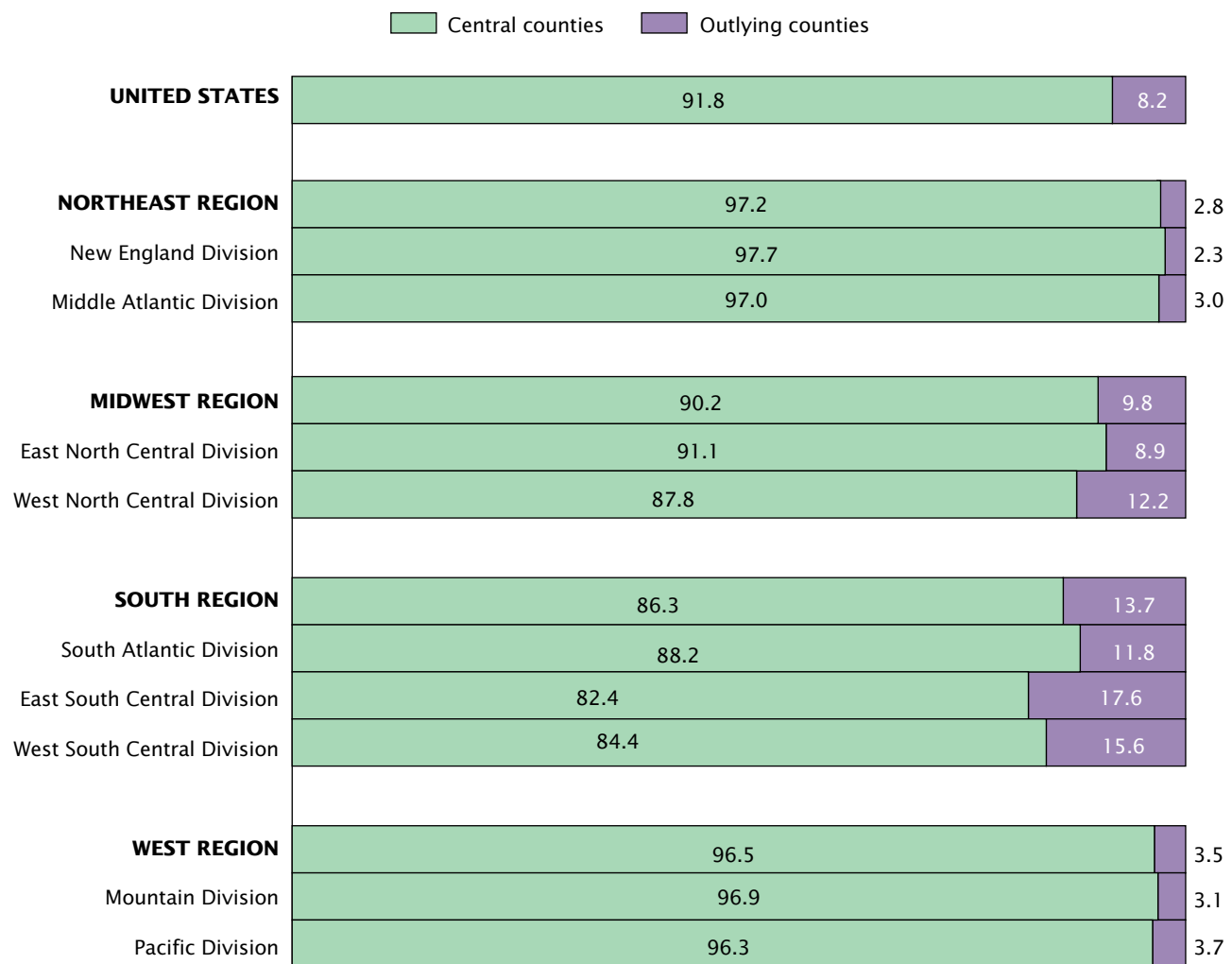
Growth reached 6.7 percent in the outlying counties and 2.9 percent in the central counties of the East North Central Division. The West North Central Division experienced 9.3 percent growth in the outlying counties with 6.9 percent growth in the central counties.

Compared with the South and the Midwest, the Northeast and the West experienced smaller differences in population growth between their outlying and central counties. The growth of outlying and central county populations in the Northeast was nearly equal, with a 1.8 percent increase in the former and a 2.1 percent increase in the latter. In the West, the population of outlying counties grew 1.2 percentage points more than the growth of the population of central counties.

The relative contributions of the demographic components of change differed between central

Figure 2.

**Percent Distribution of the Population by Metropolitan Statistical Area County Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2007**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

and outlying counties. Outlying counties in total received a larger contribution to their growth from net migration than from natural increase. Higher rates of net migration than natural increase occurred for outlying counties in every region except the Northeast and every division except the Middle Atlantic. The primary component of net migration that contributed to the growth of outlying counties was net domestic migration: outly-

ing counties in every region and in every division except the Pacific Division experienced higher rates of net domestic migration than net international migration (Table 4).

By contrast, natural increase played a more important role in the overall population growth of central counties. In three of the four regions—the exception was the South—the rate of natural increase in central counties exceeded that of net migration.

For the higher growth regions (the South and West), net international migration was a larger contributor than net domestic migration to central county growth. For the lower growth regions (the Northeast and Midwest), larger negative rates of net domestic migration influenced the overall regional population change more than smaller positive rates of net international migration. Among the nine divisions, the regional pattern held in the

Table 3.  
**Metropolitan Statistical Area Population Change by County Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2000–2007**

(Numerical change in thousands. Change is between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007)

Geographic area	Numerical change			Percentage change		
	Total	Central counties	Outlying counties	Total	Central counties	Outlying counties
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>19,095</b>	<b>16,694</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>						
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>1,020</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
New England Division .....	282	268	14	2.3	2.3	5.1
Middle Atlantic Division .....	738	727	10	2.0	2.1	0.9
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>2,060</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>
East North Central Division .....	1,172	961	211	3.2	2.9	6.7
West North Central Division .....	888	751	137	7.2	6.9	9.3
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>9,513</b>	<b>7,734</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	5,599	4,724	876	12.9	12.3	18.0
East South Central Division .....	795	590	204	7.4	6.6	11.2
West South Central Division .....	3,119	2,420	699	12.5	11.4	19.0
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>6,502</b>	<b>6,252</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Mountain Division .....	2,961	2,871	90	20.4	20.4	19.9
Pacific Division .....	3,541	3,381	160	8.4	8.3	10.5

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

Northeast and Midwest—with the exception of the West North Central Division of the Midwest—but did not hold in three of the five divisions in the South and West. The two divisions where net international migration was the larger contributor to growth were the West South Central (which includes Texas) and the Pacific (which includes California).

### Concentrations of Growth

Figure 3 illustrates concentrations of metro area counties that grew by the U.S. average of 7.2 percent or more. One band of growth spread from a portion of northern Nevada, through much of the Central Valley of California, and continued into the metro areas of southeastern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and southwestern Utah. Another concentration of growth included all of the central and outlying counties of three Texas metro areas: Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown; San Antonio; and Austin-Round Rock.

Yet another area of above-average growth was located along the Atlantic Coast of Florida, extending from the Jacksonville metro area south to the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach metro area (except Miami-Dade County), and along the Gulf Coast (with the exception of one county) extending from the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metro area south to the Naples-Marco Island metro area.

### POPULATION CHANGE BY METRO AREA POPULATION SIZE CATEGORIES

Population change in metro areas and their central and outlying counties also can be examined by area population size groups. Six metro area population size categories—based on 2000 populations—were analyzed: 5,000,000 or more, 2,500,000–4,999,999, 1,000,000–2,499,999, 500,000–999,999, 250,000–499,999, and fewer than 250,000.

In the largest metro areas—those with populations of 5,000,000 or more—97 percent of the population was in central counties in 2007. Midsized metro areas—those with populations of 1,000,000–2,499,999—had the smallest share of their population in central counties, 86 percent (Figure 4).

### Metro Areas

The two largest population size categories contained the slowest-growing and fastest-growing metro areas: 5.3 percent for metro areas with populations of 5,000,000 or more and 11 percent for metro areas with populations of 2,500,000–4,999,999 (Table 5). While both categories experienced comparable rates of natural increase, and these rates were higher than the rates of net migration, the slower growth of the first size category was largely attributable to high negative net domestic



Figure 3.  
 Percent Change in Metropolitan Statistical Area Central  
 and Outlying Counties: April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2007

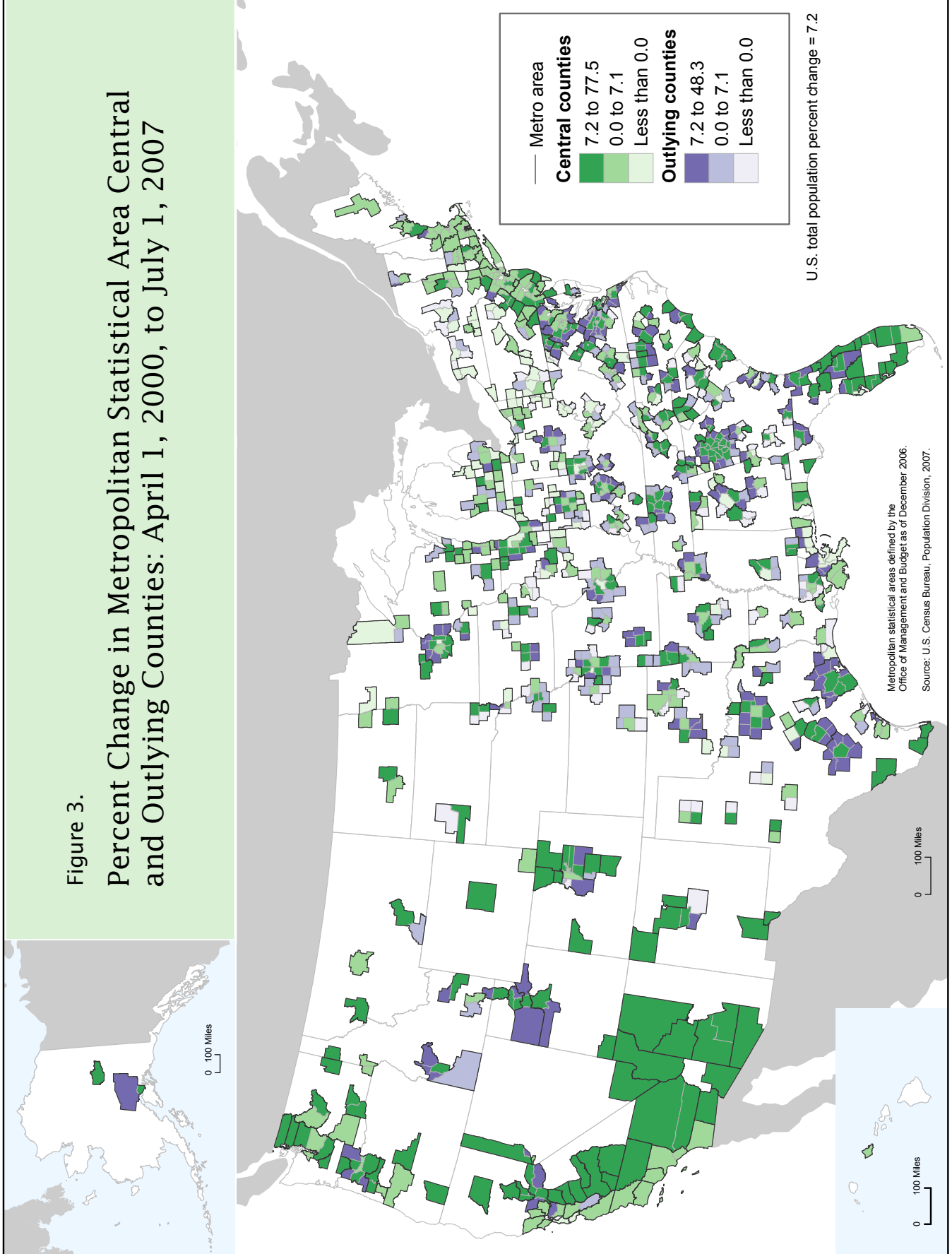


Table 4.

## Rates of the Components of Population Change by Metropolitan Statistical Area County Status for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: 2000–2007

(Rates per 1,000 average annual population are based on April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007)

Geographic area	Total population change <sup>1</sup>	Natural increase	Net migration		
			Total	International	Domestic
<b>METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS</b>					
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>10.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>					
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>–1.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>–6.4</b>
New England Division .....	3.2	3.7	–0.6	3.8	–4.4
Middle Atlantic Division .....	2.8	4.1	–1.9	5.1	–7.0
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>–0.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>–3.0</b>
East North Central Division .....	4.4	5.4	–1.3	2.8	–4.2
West North Central Division .....	9.6	6.8	2.6	2.3	0.4
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>15.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	16.8	5.5	11.1	4.2	6.9
East South Central Division .....	9.9	4.8	4.8	1.3	3.6
West South Central Division .....	16.2	9.6	6.7	4.5	2.2
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>15.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Mountain Division .....	25.5	9.6	15.8	4.4	11.4
Pacific Division .....	11.1	8.4	3.2	6.5	–3.3
<b>METROPOLITAN CENTRAL COUNTIES</b>					
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>10.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>–1.0</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>					
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>–1.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>–6.6</b>
New England Division .....	3.1	3.7	–0.7	3.9	–4.6
Middle Atlantic Division .....	2.8	4.2	–2.0	5.3	–7.3
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>–1.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>–3.9</b>
East North Central Division .....	3.9	5.6	–2.0	3.1	–5.0
West North Central Division .....	9.2	7.0	1.9	2.6	–0.6
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>14.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	16.0	5.7	10.0	4.5	5.5
East South Central Division .....	8.8	4.9	3.7	1.5	2.3
West South Central Division .....	14.8	10.2	4.7	5.0	–0.4
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>14.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Mountain Division .....	25.5	9.6	15.8	4.5	11.3
Pacific Division .....	11.0	8.5	3.0	6.5	–3.5
<b>METROPOLITAN OUTLYING COUNTIES</b>					
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>16.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Regions and Divisions</b>					
<b>Northeast Region</b> .....	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>
New England Division .....	6.8	3.5	3.9	0.9	3.1
Middle Atlantic Division .....	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.4
<b>Midwest Region</b> .....	<b>10.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
East North Central Division .....	9.0	4.1	5.2	0.5	4.7
West North Central Division .....	12.2	4.9	7.8	0.4	7.4
<b>South Region</b> .....	<b>21.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>
South Atlantic Division .....	22.8	4.2	19.0	1.4	17.6
East South Central Division .....	14.7	4.4	10.2	0.5	9.7
West South Central Division .....	23.9	6.3	18.1	1.7	16.4
<b>West Region</b> .....	<b>16.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Mountain Division .....	24.9	10.2	15.2	1.9	13.3
Pacific Division .....	13.8	6.4	7.9	4.8	3.1

– Represents or rounds to zero.

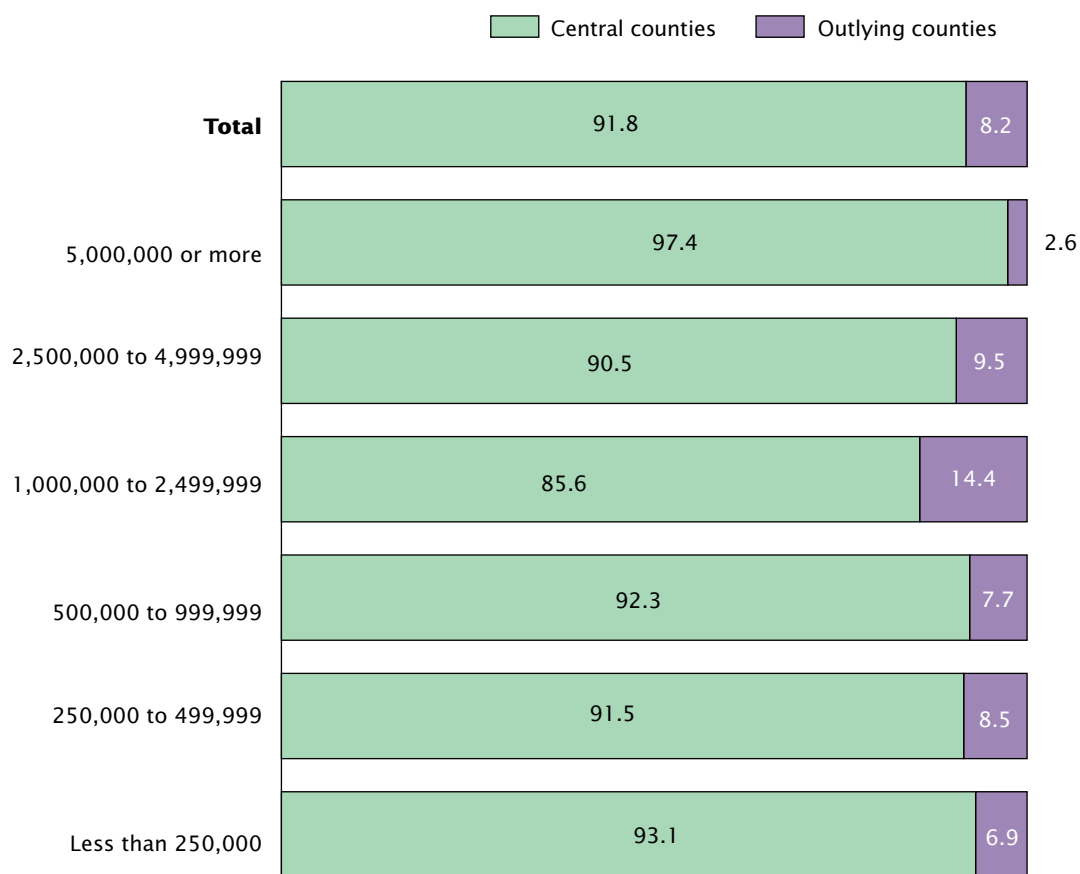
<sup>1</sup> Total population change includes a residual (see <[www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html)>); i.e., total population change is equal to natural increase + net migration + the residual.

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.



Figure 4.  
**Percent Distribution of the Population by Metropolitan Statistical Area County Status and Population Size: 2007**



Note: Size categories are based on April 1, 2000, estimates base population.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

migration, while the second category had a slight positive rate of net domestic migration (Table 6).

Among the other four size categories, which grew between 7.2 percent and 8.9 percent, natural increase and net migration made similar contributions (5–6 average annual rate per 1,000) to the growth of these areas (Tables 5 and 6). Within net migration, rates of net international migration decreased with each successively smaller size category, so that international

migration was a more important contributor than net domestic migration to the growth of the third and fourth size categories, but a smaller contributor than net domestic migration to the growth of the two smallest size categories.

### Central and Outlying Counties

Outlying counties grew faster than central counties in four of the six size categories, including the three most populous size categories (Table 5). In the most populous size

category, outlying counties grew more than five times as fast as central counties, 26 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively. Net domestic migration played an important role in this discrepancy: outlying counties in the largest size category possessed the highest positive rate of net domestic migration among outlying counties in all size categories, while central counties in this category possessed the highest negative rate of net domestic migration among central counties in all size categories.

Table 5.  
**Metropolitan Statistical Area Population Change by County Status and Population Size Category: 2000–2007**

(Numerical change in thousands. Change is between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007. Size categories are based on April 1, 2000, population)

Size category	Numerical change			Percentage change		
	Total	Central counties	Outlying counties	Total	Central counties	Outlying counties
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>19,095</b>	<b>16,694</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>
5,000,000 or more .....	2,958	2,644	315	5.3	4.9	25.8
2,500,000 to 4,999,999 .....	5,280	4,600	679	11.2	10.7	15.8
1,000,000 to 2,499,999 .....	4,131	3,164	967	8.9	7.9	15.4
500,000 to 999,999 .....	2,218	2,081	136	8.2	8.4	6.4
250,000 to 499,999 .....	2,514	2,277	237	8.7	8.6	9.8
Less than 250,000 .....	1,994	1,927	67	7.2	7.5	3.4

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

Table 6.  
**Rates of the Components of Population Change by Metropolitan Statistical Area County Status and by Population Size Category: 2000–2007**

(Rates per 1,000 average annual population are based on April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007. Size categories are based on April 1, 2000)

Size category	Total population change <sup>1</sup>	Natural increase	Net migration		
			Total	International	Domestic
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>–</b>
Central counties .....	10.3	6.6	3.6	4.6	–1.0
Outlying counties .....	16.9	4.8	12.5	1.4	11.1
5,000,000 or more .....	7.1	7.3	–0.4	7.7	–8.1
Central counties .....	6.5	7.2	–1.0	7.8	–8.8
Outlying counties .....	31.6	8.2	23.8	2.4	21.4
2,500,000 to 4,999,999 .....	14.6	7.8	6.0	5.1	0.9
Central counties .....	14.0	7.9	5.2	5.4	–0.2
Outlying counties .....	20.2	6.5	14.2	2.0	12.1
1,000,000 to 2,499,999 .....	11.8	5.8	6.1	3.1	3.0
Central counties .....	10.5	6.1	4.5	3.4	1.1
Outlying counties .....	19.7	4.2	15.9	1.3	14.6
500,000 to 999,999 .....	10.9	6.3	4.9	3.0	2.0
Central counties .....	11.1	6.5	4.9	3.1	1.8
Outlying counties .....	8.6	4.0	5.1	1.2	3.9
250,000 to 499,999 .....	11.5	5.5	6.3	2.3	4.0
Central counties .....	11.4	5.6	6.1	2.5	3.6
Outlying counties .....	12.9	4.0	9.4	0.9	8.6
Less than 250,000 .....	9.6	5.0	4.9	1.8	3.1
Central counties .....	9.9	5.2	5.1	1.9	3.3
Outlying counties .....	4.6	2.8	1.7	0.5	1.3

– Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Total population change includes a residual (see <[www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html)>); i.e., total population change is equal to natural increase + net migration + the residual.

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

Table 7.

## Metropolitan Statistical Area Population Change for the Most Populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas by County Status: 2000–2007

(Numerical change in thousands. Change is between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007. Ranked by April 1, 2000, population. Includes only metro areas with April 1, 2000, populations of 2,500,000 or more and at least one outlying county)

Geographic area	Numerical change			Percentage change		
	Total	Central county(ies)	Outlying county(ies)	Total	Central county(ies)	Outlying county(ies)
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA .....	493	480	12	2.7	2.6	26.6
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI .....	426	387	39	4.7	4.4	12.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX .....	984	721	263	19.1	16.7	30.9
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV .....	511	389	121	10.6	9.4	18.9
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX .....	913	743	170	19.4	18.6	23.6
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI .....	15	-21	36	0.3	-0.5	8.9
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH .....	91	81	9	2.1	1.9	8.3
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA .....	1,031	918	113	24.3	24.0	26.2
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA .....	80	9	71	1.9	0.3	7.5
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI .....	239	153	87	8.1	5.8	26.5
St. Louis, MO-IL .....	105	78	27	3.9	3.3	8.8
Baltimore-Towson, MD .....	115	69	46	4.5	3.2	11.2

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

Natural increase contributed more than net migration to the growth of central county populations in nearly every metro area population size category; the one exception was the second-smallest size category (Table 6). Besides natural increase, net international migration was an important component of change among central counties in the larger metro areas. Positive net international migration more than compensated for negative net domestic migration in the second-most populous size category, and it exceeded net positive domestic migration in the next two size categories. In the two smallest size categories, net domestic migration exceeded net international migration. In the largest size category, domestic out-migration exceeded the rate of international in-migration, resulting in the only size category to experience decline in the net migration component for central counties.

Once again, outlying counties experienced nearly the opposite situation: the rate of net migration

surpassed the rate of natural increase for all size categories except the smallest size category. In every size category, net domestic migration provided a larger proportion of the growth of outlying counties than net international migration.

### POPULATION CHANGE IN THE MOST POPULOUS METRO AREAS

#### Metro Areas

Table 7 focuses on the 12 metro areas that contained a 2000 population of 2,500,000 or more and contained at least one outlying county.

All 12 metro areas grew between 2000 and 2007. The fastest growth occurred in the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA; Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX; and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX metro areas, with growth rates of 24 percent, 19 percent, and 19 percent, respectively. At a growth rate of 0.3 percent, the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI metro area was the slowest growing of the 12 metro areas (Table 7).

In addition to being the fastest-growing metro areas in the group, the Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas were also the only ones in the group with positive net domestic migration (Table 8).

### Central and Outlying Counties

While the populations of central counties increased in 11 of the 12 metro areas, outlying counties experienced an increase in population and grew at a faster rate than central counties in every instance. At the same time, central counties gained more people than outlying counties in 10 of the 12 metro areas: the two exceptions were the Detroit and San Francisco-Oakland metro areas (Table 7).

For the central counties of 10 of the 12 areas, natural increase was a larger contributor to population change than net migration. One exception was the Atlanta area, which had the highest rate of net domestic migration. The other exception was the Detroit area,

Table 8.

### Rates of the Components of Population Change for the Most Populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas by County Status: 2000–2007

(Rates per 1,000 average annual population are based on April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007. Ranked by April 1, 2000, population. Includes only metro areas with April 1, 2000, populations of 2,500,000 and at least one outlying county)

Metropolitan statistical area	Total population change <sup>1</sup>	Natural increase	Net migration		
			Total	International	Domestic
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA .....	3.7	6.1	-4.2	8.4	-12.5
Central county(ies) .....	3.6	6.2	-4.3	8.4	-12.6
Outlying county(ies) .....	32.4	0.6	32.0	0.3	31.7
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI .....	6.3	7.7	-1.4	5.9	-7.3
Central county(ies) .....	5.9	7.8	-1.9	6.0	-7.9
Outlying county(ies) .....	16.0	5.7	10.8	1.7	9.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX .....	24.0	11.5	13.0	7.4	5.6
Central county(ies) .....	21.3	11.9	9.8	8.3	1.5
Outlying county(ies) .....	36.9	9.5	27.9	2.7	25.2
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV .....	13.9	9.2	4.2	6.9	-2.7
Central county(ies) .....	12.3	9.6	2.1	7.9	-5.8
Outlying county(ies) .....	23.8	7.1	17.1	0.7	16.4
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX .....	24.3	11.3	11.5	7.3	4.2
Central county(ies) .....	23.5	12.1	9.5	8.1	1.4
Outlying county(ies) .....	29.1	7.0	22.4	2.9	19.5
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI .....	0.5	4.6	-5.4	2.9	-8.3
Central county(ies) .....	-0.7	4.5	-6.8	3.1	-9.9
Outlying county(ies) .....	11.7	4.9	7.4	0.6	6.7
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH .....	2.8	4.6	-3.0	5.2	-8.2
Central county(ies) .....	2.6	4.6	-3.2	5.4	-8.6
Outlying county(ies) .....	11.0	4.7	6.9	1.0	5.9
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA .....	29.9	10.1	16.1	5.4	10.7
Central county(ies) .....	29.6	10.5	15.1	5.9	9.1
Outlying county(ies) .....	32.0	6.9	25.6	1.0	24.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA .....	2.7	6.5	-3.3	8.5	-11.9
Central county(ies) .....	0.4	6.4	-5.6	9.5	-15.1
Outlying county(ies) .....	9.9	6.5	4.0	5.4	-1.4
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI .....	10.7	8.7	2.5	3.3	-0.9
Central county(ies) .....	7.7	8.5	-0.2	3.8	-4.0
Outlying county(ies) .....	32.3	9.9	22.6	0.3	22.3
St. Louis, MO-IL .....	5.3	4.1	-0.4	1.4	-1.8
Central county(ies) .....	4.4	4.2	-1.6	1.5	-3.2
Outlying county(ies) .....	11.6	3.5	8.7	0.2	8.6
Baltimore-Towson, MD .....	6.1	4.3	0.5	1.7	-1.2
Central county(ies) .....	4.4	4.1	-1.4	2.0	-3.3
Outlying county(ies) .....	14.6	5.1	10.0	0.5	9.4

<sup>1</sup> Total population change includes a residual (see <[www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html)>); i.e., total population change is equal to natural increase + net migration + the residual.

Note: The April 1, 2000, estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1, 2007, other geographic program changes, and the Count Question Resolution program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2007.

which had a higher rate of net out-migration from its central counties than natural increase. In 9 of the 12 areas, net domestic migration was a larger contributor to population change than net international

migration. In 8 of these 9 areas, the contribution was a negative one, with large domestic out-migration responsible for the relatively lower growth of these areas (Table 8). Among 3 of the 4 fastest growing of

these 12 areas, international migration played a more substantial role (Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Washington, DC). Atlanta was the only area where an influx of domestic migration to the central counties

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exceeded the rate of international migration to the central counties.

By contrast, net migration exceeded natural increase in the outlying counties of 11 of the 12 metro areas; the exception was the San Francisco-Oakland metro area. The same 11 metro areas' outlying counties experienced higher rates of net domestic migration than net international migration, while the one exception to this trend, the San Francisco-Oakland metro area, experienced negative net domestic migration.

## CONCLUSIONS

The paper examined population change in metro areas, along with their central and outlying counties, for the period 2000 to 2007. The metro area population grew fastest in the South and the West. The metro area population tended to grow more through natural increase than net migration and, within the net migration component, more through net international migration than net domestic migration.

Central counties accounted for approximately 92 percent of the U.S. metro area population in 2007, while outlying counties accounted for the remainder. Outlying counties, which grew faster than central counties nationwide, also grew faster in the Midwest, the South, and the West. In addition, outlying counties grew faster than central counties in the three most populous size categories (those with 1

million or more residents), as well as in metro areas with 250,000 to 499,999 population.

Outlying counties, as a whole, grew more through net migration than natural increase (and more through net domestic migration than net international migration). Overall, central counties followed the opposite pattern, with a larger proportion of their growth attributable to natural increase than to net migration (and more to net international migration than to net domestic migration). Examination of these overall patterns revealed variations by population size category and among specific metro areas of 2,500,000 or more population.

## METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA

This report used estimates of the total resident population and components of change for the period April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2007. The methodology used by the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program to produce population estimates for counties is available at [www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/2007-st-co-meth.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/2007-st-co-meth.html).

The Census Bureau develops county population estimates using a component of population change method in which administrative records are used to estimate the household and group quarters populations. For the household population, the components of population change are births, deaths, net domestic migration, and net international migration.<sup>2</sup> The

Census Bureau measures change in the nonhousehold, or group quarters, population by the net change in the population living in group quarters facilities.

A major assumption underlying this approach is that changes in selected administrative or survey data sources closely approximate the components of population change. Therefore, the Census Bureau separately estimates each component of population change based on administrative records, including registered births and deaths, federal income tax returns, medicare enrollees, and military movement. The Census Bureau also incorporates data from the American Community Survey into the estimates.

Estimates for counties were then aggregated to create estimates for the set of areas analyzed in the report, including metropolitan statistical areas. This report used average annual rates of the components of population change expressed per 1,000 average population.

Potential sources of nonsampling error in the population estimates process include: (1) potential errors (such as differential undercoverage or overcoverage by demographic characteristics) in the sample enumeration that serves as the base of the postcensal estimates; and (2) potential errors in the components of change (such as births, deaths, domestic migration, and net international migration) used to carry forward the population estimates.

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<sup>2</sup> In addition, there is a residual. The residual represents change in the population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component of population change.

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## CONTACTS

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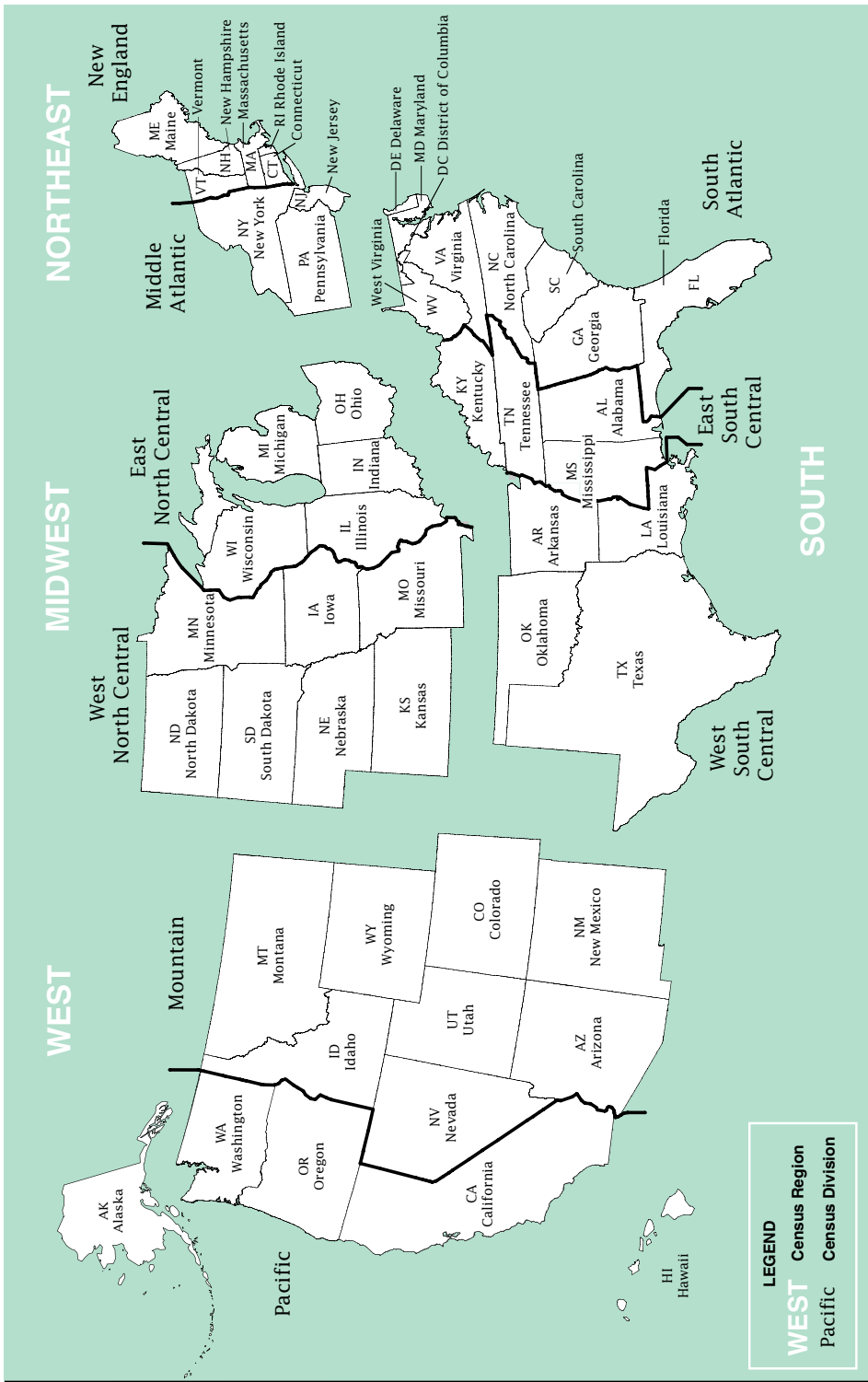
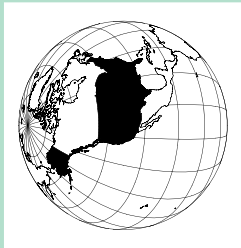
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# Appendix A. Map of the United States, Showing Census Regions and Divisions



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



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