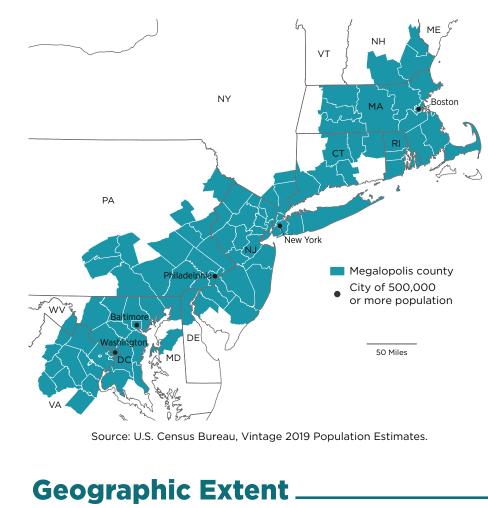
## Megalopolis



northeastern United States that extends from northern Virginia to southern New Hampshire and is anchored by Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Roughly 50 million people, nearly 1 out of every 6 Americans, live in a band of 103 counties stretching along the Atlantic coast. Geographer Jean Gottmann's 1961 in-depth study, "Megalopolis: The Urbanized Northeastern Seaboard of the United States," identified the region as a distinctive entity composed of a string of large metropolitan areas.

Megalopolis is a region within the

Megalopolis included counties he described as being within

"1950 metropolitan areas" and

Gottmann's delineation of

"counties added by 1960 for this study." He constructed Megalopolis from multiple perspectives, focusing on interactions of populations and economic activities in a large set of counties that he considered to have a metropolitan character. For this infographic, Megalopolis comprises all counties in current (2020) official metropolitan statistical areas (metro areas) that contain at least one of Gottmann's 1950 metropolitan counties. ties to the core county or counties. The Megalopolis region defined in this way consists of

Megalopolis Trenton-2020 metro area boundary 1950 Gottmann metropolitan county Other 2020 metro area county 50 Miles Atlantic City-Sources: Office of Management and Budget, March 2020 metropolitan statistical area delineations: Gottmann, 1961. Metro areas contain a population concentration, or core, of at least 50,000 and consist of the county or counties containing the core plus any other counties with strong commuting

20 current, contiguous metro areas that contain 103 counties.

The Megalopolis region's population density of 1,242 people per square mile is well above the density of 93 people per square mile for the United States as a whole.1 <sup>1</sup>Population density is expressed as people per square mile of land area.

## Megalopolis // United States 0

100,000

10,000

1.000

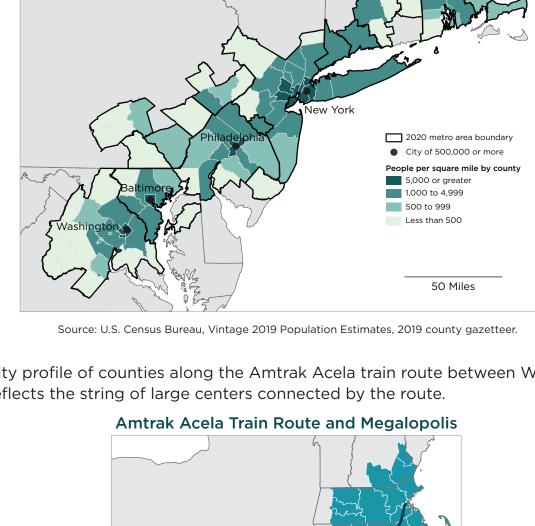
densities exceeding 500 people per square mile.

**Population Density\_** 

per sa. mile 500 1,000 1,500 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates, 2019 county gazetteer.

the western portion of the Hartford metro area have population densities of 1,000 or greater per square mile.<sup>2</sup> Additional groups of counties having population densities of 1,000 or greater per square mile occur in portions of the Washington and Baltimore metro areas in the southwestern part of Megalopolis and portions of the Boston and Providence metro areas in the northeastern part of the region. Many of the region's counties have population

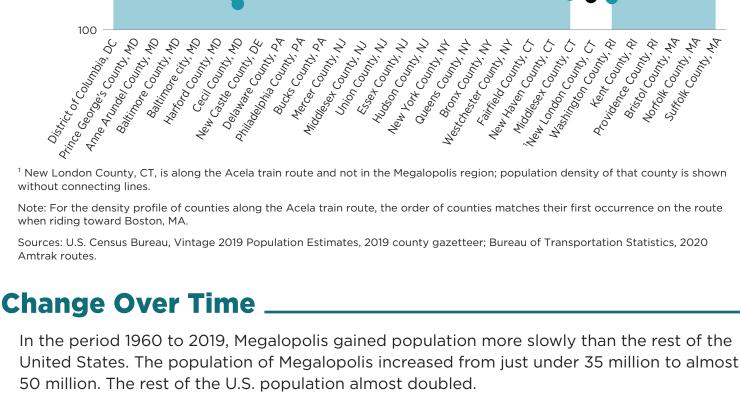
A contiguous group of counties from the southern portion of the Philadelphia metro area to



Population Density of Counties Along the Acela Train Route People per square mile

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2020 Amtrak routes.

50 Miles



 United States outside Megalopolis Megalopolis Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates, 1960 Census.

34.8

1960

2019

49.6

Population (millions)

20

Population (millions)

Percentage of Megalopolis and the United States

Population by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2019

Megalopolis United States

Megalopolis

**United States** 

**United States** 

Seven of the ten most populous counties of Megalopolis in 1960 also appear in the "top ten" list for 2019, though the size rankings of most of those counties changed. The largest county in both years was Kings County, NY (Brooklyn), with a population of about 2.6 million in Ten Most Populous Counties in Megalopolis: 1960 and 2019 Kings County, NY Philadelphia County, PA Queens County, NY New York County, NY Bronx County, NY Nassau County, NY Middlesex County, MA Baltimore city, MD Essex County, NJ Westchester County, NY Kings County, NY Queens County, NY New York County, NY Middlesex County, MA Philadelphia County, PA Suffolk County, NY Bronx County, NY Nassau County, NY Fairfax County, VA

Montgomery County, MD

All of the current metro areas that constitute Megalopolis saw increases in population

Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT Worcester, MA-CT Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT New Haven-Milford, CT Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Springfield, MA Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA Lancaster, PA York-Hanover, PA Reading, PA Manchester-Nashua, NH Trenton-Princeton, NJ Atlantic City-Hammonton, NJ Barnstable Town, MA

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates, 1960 Census; Office of Management and Budget, March 2020 metropolitan statistical area delineations

The Megalopolis region overall has lower percentages of children and young adults (ages 0

to 24) than the United States as a whole. Most remaining categories in the working-age population (ages 25 to 64) are somewhat above the percentage for the entire country. In addition, the Black or African American alone and Asian alone populations constituted

slightly higher proportions of the Megalopolis population when compared to the nation in

Female

**Demographic Characteristics** 

Percentage of Total Population of Megalopolis

and the United States by Age and Sex: 2019

Megalopolis 🔲 United States

Bachelor's degree

Associate's degree

Some college, no degree

9th to 12th grade, no diploma

Megalopolis

High school graduate (includes equivalency)

its entirety.

Male

Black or African American alone 50-54 45-49 40-44 Alaska Native alone 35-39 30-34 Asian alone 25-29 20-24 Native Hawaiian and 15-19 Other Pacific Islander alone 10-14 Two or More Races 40 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates.

Less than 9th grade<sup>1</sup> 15 25 20 30 Percent <sup>1</sup>Estimates for Megalopolis and the United States are not significantly different. Note: Percent distribution of the population 25 years and older. Data based on a sample. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates. **Means of Transportation to Work** Megalopolis, compared to the entire United States, had a higher percentage of its commuting workers use the following means of transportation to work: (1) public transportation (excluding taxicab), (2) walked, and (3) other means. In contrast, the United States had a higher percentage of its commuting workers use a car, truck, or van. Car, truck, or van **Public transportation** 

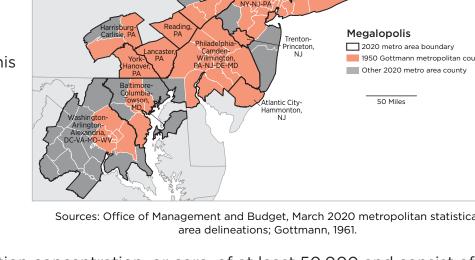
(excluding taxicab)

Walked

**Industry Concentration** Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining Construction

Retail trade Production, transportation, and material moving Transportation and warehousing. and utilities 20 30 40 Percent distribution Information Finance and insurance, and real estate, and rental and leasing Megalopolis United States Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative, and waste management services Note: Percent distribution of the civilian-employed Educational services, and health care and social assistance population 16 years and older. Data based on a sample. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, Arts, entertainment, and recreation, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at and accommodation and food services <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>. Other services, except public administration

30



**Population Density: 2019** People

<sup>2</sup> Metro area titles are shortened in the text to the name of the largest city. They are presented in full in maps and graphs. Population Density of Counties in Megalopolis: 2019 Boston

The density profile of counties along the Amtrak Acela train route between Washington and Boston reflects the string of large centers connected by the route. Acela route Megalopolis county

Population (millions) of Megalopolis and the United States Outside Megalopolis: 1960 and 2019 278.6 144.5

Washington metro area population surpassed that of the Philadelphia and Boston metro areas. Also, the number of metro areas in Megalopolis having at least five million in population increased from one to three. Megalopolis Population by Metro Area New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD 1960 2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates, 1960 Census.

between 1960 and 2019. The New York metro area was the most populous in both years. The

## 85+ Hispanic origin 30-84 Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 75-79 Race (non-Hispanic) 65-69 White alone 60-64 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2019 Population Estimates. **Educational Attainment** Compared to the nation as a whole, Megalopolis had a higher percentage of its adult population with a (1) bachelor's degree and (2) graduate or professional degree. By comparison, the region had a lower percentage in categories such as (3) high school graduate (includes equivalency); (4) some college, no degree; and (5) associate's degree. Graduate or professional degree

Other means Notes: Percent distribution of workers 16 years and older who did not work from home. Data based on a sample. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

The "other means" category includes taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, and other means of transportation.

**Industry and Occupation Characteristics** 

Compared to the entire United States, the region had a higher percentage of its

employment in industry categories such as (1) finance and insurance, and real estate, and rental and leasing, (2) professional, scientific, and management, and administrative, and waste management services, and (3) educational services, and health care and social

assistance. In contrast, the region had a lower percentage of its employment in categories such as (4) agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, (5) manufacturing, and (6)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.

retail trade. In terms of occupation concentration, Megalopolis had a higher percentage of its employment in the (1) management, business, science, and arts occupations category. The region had a lower percentage of its employment in categories such as (2) natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, and (3) production, transportation, and material moving occupations. **Occupation Concentration** Management, business, science, and arts Manufacturing Sales and office Wholesale trade

Natural resources, construction,

and maintenance

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.

0 10 20

**U.S. Department of Commerce** 

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

census.gov

Public administration

Connect with us

@uscensusbureau

50