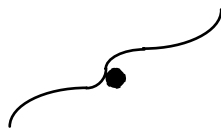


Large Cities of the United States

Before we can analyze the large cities of the United States, it is necessary to define “large” and “cities.” A normal cut-off for large in the United States is one million. We all agree New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago are large cities; and Montpelier, Vermont, and Valdosta, Georgia, are not. But what about Seattle or Salt Lake City or Virginia Beach? Or Gary, Indiana, or Fort Worth, Texas? Let’s first look at traditional definitions of cities, then select the best for our purposes.

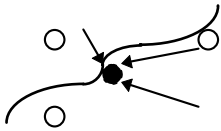
The Incorporated City

Perhaps the original concept of city involved a single community, with its own government and established boundaries. This is the “Incorporated City,” the city that elects its own mayor, that usually maintains its own police and fire departments, and that is easiest to define for most people. As American cities became population magnets, the borders of large cities were expanded, so that Brooklyn and the Bronx joined Manhattan in New York City, Georgetown became part of Washington, and Germantown was annexed into Philadelphia. About a century ago, however, neighboring cities began to resist annexation. And some unincorporated territory surrounding major cities fought annexation as well, so that defining some communities by the incorporated definition failed to adequately describe Boston and Baltimore, and never described such cities as Kansas City or Cincinnati, where state boundaries prevented the city from annexing all the people nearby.



The Urbanized Area

The US Government, in one effort to consistently define a city’s size, defines an “Urbanized Area” for each community of 50,000 or more people. This area includes adjacent territory, within incorporated limits or not, within the same state or not, with a population density of at least 500 people per square mile, so long as the total population of the area is at least 50,000. This makes a comparison possible between Cleveland, surrounded by communities with no desire to be annexed by the central city, and San Diego, which has annexed virtually all the densely settled territory around the historic city boundaries.



The urbanized area also picks up the population of the fringe cities developing at the outskirts of the community. These can be older, established cities that have been overtaken by the growth of another city, such as Worcester, Massachusetts, and Newark, New Jersey; or can be newly developed retail/office/residential sites such as Tyson’s Corner near Washington or College Boulevard near Kansas City.

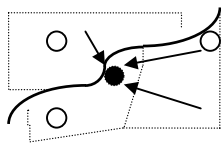
The drawback to the urbanized area definition is that population density is difficult to determine. In fact, the Census Bureau lists the urbanized areas at the time of the decennial census, then makes no updates unless a special census is conducted later.

While an accurate picture of true community size, urbanized areas are not practical tools for more than a year or two each decade.

(The Census Bureau has also defined “Urban Clusters” for areas less than 50,000 people but still having at least 2,500 people within a densely populated community. Like Urbanized Areas, Urban Clusters are only updated at the time of censuses.)

Core Based Statistical Areas

To standardize data for government purposes, the Office of Management and Budget has defined “Core Based Statistical Areas” throughout the United States and its possessions.



These are defined by county boundaries (or by the equivalent of counties for those few states that are not entirely covered by counties). Since counties are easily recognizable entities that rarely change borders, and for which regular population updates are made, the business world has accepted the CBSA definitions as standard. Since the boundaries include entire counties, some non-urbanized territory is

included. The population in such areas is so small compared to the urbanized area that the error is usually negligible. Thus, Mount Rainier and the Utah Salt Flats are both located in CBSA territory, but both are so sparsely settled that population figures for the Seattle and Salt Lake CBSAs are scarcely affected. Following government and business practice, then, large cities will be defined by their CBSA populations.

For very large CBSAs (those with at least two-and-a-half million people) the Census Bureau allows subdivisions. The New York Core Based Statistical Area has nearly 18,000,000 people in parts of three states, but the Census Bureau allows the Area to subdivide itself into New York Metropolitan Division, Newark Metropolitan Division, Edison Metropolitan Division, and so on. Since these subdivisions depend upon local preferences, they can be indicative of actual marketing boundaries; but as measures of total population, the CBSA boundaries are more useful. Otherwise, Miami appears to be the same size as Tampa-St. Petersburg; but only because the millions of people in neighboring Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach wanted to be listed separately from Miami on the Metropolitan Division lists.

(Since the “core” of core-based statistical areas can be either urbanized areas or urban clusters, the Office of Management and Budget lists two subdivisions of CBSAs: Metropolitan areas are based on urbanized areas (50,000 or more people in the core) and micropolitan areas are based on urban clusters (10,000 to 49,999 people in the core). The largest micropolitan area, defined by entire counties, is Torrington, Connecticut, with less than 200,000 people. While this is larger than many metropolitan areas, it will not qualify as a “large city” for this study.)

Largest Cities in the United States

There are 49 cities in the United States with at least one million people, based upon the 2002 population estimates within the CBSA borders. These cities together contain over half the population (53%) of the United States, according to 2002 census bureau

estimates. They include Seattle and Virginia Beach, but not Salt Lake City. Gary, Indiana, is included within the Chicago population, and Fort Worth, Texas, is part of the Dallas CBSA. Full definitions of boundaries are available from the Research Center as well as from the US Government. A map is included in this report, along with a page listing the 49 million-plus CBSAs of the United States.

Combined Statistical Areas

The Office of Management and Budget does provide an additional list of “Combined Statistical Areas” that could be used for determining large cities. While based primarily on interdependent commuting patterns, there is also provision for local choice as to whether the adjoining CBSAs should be combined. Thus, Lawrence, Kansas, is not part of the Kansas City CSA while Atchison, much further from the city core, is included. At this point, most lists of major cities do not make use of the CSA definitions, so this report does not use them, either.

Cultural Note

In seven of the forty-nine major cities, the White, non-Spanish population is less than 50% of the total, with Los Angeles at only 35.6%. Pittsburgh has the largest percentage at 89.3%. Overall, more than one-third of the large-city population is from a cultural group other than White, non-Spanish.

Nazarenes in Large Cities

While 54% of the 2002 USA population lives in one of these 49 areas, only one-third of our active congregations (organized churches or reported NewStarts) are in these areas, and only 30% of our members are.

In the nation, 222 of every 100,000 people are Nazarene members. But only 125 in 100,000 living in the 49 largest cities are Nazarene members. Milwaukee's ratio is poorest, at 10 per 100,000, with New Orleans close behind at 19. At the upper end, Oklahoma City claims 797 of every 100,000 people and Kansas City claims 641.

Largest Cities of the United States, 2002

49 CBSAs with 1,000,000 or More People



These CBSAs are defined by assigning one or more entire counties to a major population concentration. The CBSA then takes the name of the largest urbanized area or urban cluster within its borders.

The US government only reports on population within the national borders. Thus, Detroit and San Diego are actually larger cities than the map and following table indicate, since many of their outlying areas are in Canada and Mexico, respectively. El Paso, Texas, is the only smaller city whose total population probably exceeds one million; but about half of this total is in Mexico, so El Paso is not included in these reports.

49 Large Cities in the United States, 2002
with Nazarene statistics

Large City (Core Based Statistical Area)	2002 Population	2000- 2002 Growth	2000 Anglo %	2002 Active Nazarene Congregations	2002 Nazarene Members	2002 Nazarenes per 100K
New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA	18,603,110	1.5%	53.4%	108	8,210	44
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	12,745,084	3.1%	35.6%	134	12,538	98
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	9,286,207	2.1%	59.3%	63	7,370	79
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,751,803	1.1%	70.7%	34	3,533	61
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	5,484,061	6.2%	59.0%	64	6,236	114
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	5,232,107	4.5%	44.0%	45	6,684	128
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	5,026,217	4.8%	55.3%	35	4,212	84
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	4,986,399	5.7%	48.2%	37	3,457	69
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	4,529,256	6.6%	60.4%	33	2,557	56
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,484,140	0.7%	69.8%	34	5,602	125
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,445,899	1.2%	80.7%	48	4,288	96
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	4,179,500	1.4%	49.0%	30	2,056	49
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	3,515,184	8.0%	47.2%	39	6,322	180
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3,500,151	7.6%	65.8%	37	6,545	187
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3,125,833	2.7%	75.9%	40	7,027	225
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,054,637	2.9%	84.8%	10	1,247	41
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	2,906,660	3.3%	54.9%	25	3,106	107
St. Louis, MO-IL	2,729,045	1.1%	78.1%	44	3,923	144
Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,601,990	1.9%	66.3%	16	1,796	69
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	2,490,295	3.9%	76.0%	31	3,488	140
Pittsburgh, PA	2,418,198	-0.5%	89.3%	35	2,241	93
Denver-Aurora, CO	2,280,579	5.7%	70.8%	15	4,342	190
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	2,147,832	0.0%	74.6%	21	2,093	97
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	2,040,746	1.5%	84.9%	62	6,753	331
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	2,016,357	4.6%	81.6%	35	6,013	298
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	1,930,191	7.4%	63.6%	24	3,307	171
Kansas City, MO-KS	1,889,315	2.9%	78.9%	64	12,102	641
San Antonio, TX	1,786,620	4.4%	40.6%	20	1,621	91
Orlando, FL	1,752,192	6.5%	65.1%	35	4,228	241
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	1,739,443	0.2%	44.1%	14	782	45
Columbus, OH	1,659,893	2.9%	81.1%	43	9,355	564
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	1,613,159	1.9%	84.4%	10	1,260	78
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	1,612,929	2.3%	61.0%	10	1,038	64
Indianapolis, IN	1,574,680	3.3%	80.6%	45	6,491	412
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	1,522,164	10.6%	60.1%	4	513	34
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	1,512,504	0.8%	74.5%	4	146	10
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	1,410,292	6.0%	69.4%	19	1,953	138
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro, TN	1,353,096	3.1%	79.0%	47	6,921	511
Austin-Round Rock, TX	1,349,291	8.0%	60.7%	7	957	71
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1,315,254	-0.1%	54.8%	6	256	19
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,230,554	2.1%	51.9%	18	1,741	141
Louisville, KY-IN	1,182,832	1.8%	83.1%	22	1,704	144
Jacksonville, FL	1,177,602	4.9%	70.7%	19	1,854	157
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	1,168,100	1.7%	77.4%	4	614	53
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Tonawanda, NY	1,163,148	-0.6%	82.5%	7	380	33
Richmond, VA	1,126,262	2.7%	64.0%	15	2,149	191
Oklahoma City, OK	1,121,271	2.4%	73.5%	60	8,931	797
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	1,068,177	1.5%	69.1%	30	1,962	184
Rochester, NY	1,042,782	0.5%	81.5%	7	836	80

Total Large Cities	153,883,041	3.1%	61.6%	1,609	192,740	125
Total USA	288,368,698	0.5%	67.8%	4,906	639,330	222
% in Large Cities	53%			33%	30%	