

Revised Labor Market Areas in New Hampshire

A labor market area is a general term used to describe an economically integrated region within which workers can readily change jobs without changing their place of residence. New Hampshire's labor market areas changed with the 2000 Census.

How do the changes affect you?

As a *data user*, these changes mean the data for the new areas is not comparable with the historical data previously published by the old areas. To update historical files with the revised historical files published by the new areas, please visit our Web site at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/.

Who is responsible for the change?

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviews the commuting patterns and economic dependence between counties every ten years. Effective June 2003, OMB designated Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA) as the new standard, replacing the old standard of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). According to OMB, a CBSA is a statistical geographic entity consisting of a county associated with at least one core (urbanized area or urban cluster) of at least 10,000 population. The CBSA must have adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured through commuting ties. In New England the CBSA is defined using cities and towns or groups of cities and towns rather than counties.

Metropolitan Areas

Similar to the old Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs), the new areas are now called MetroNECTAs and NECTA Divisions. These MetroNECTAs are core based statistical areas associated with at least one urbanized area that has a population of at least 50,000.

A NECTA Division is a city or town or group of cities and towns within a NECTA that contains a core with a population of at least 2.5 million.

Micropolitan Areas

The OMB introduced a new area, the Micropolitan area or MicroNECTA. A MicroNECTA is a core based statistical area with at least one urban cluster that has a population of at least 10,000, but less than 50,000. It must also have adjacent cities and towns or groups of cities and towns that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the "core" as measured through commuting ties.

Small Labor Market Areas

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), with input from this bureau, divided the remaining cities and towns not already classified as part of a NECTA. Unlike the NECTA, Labor Market Areas were based on just commuting patterns; population was not a direct factor.

Under the new area designations, New Hampshire now has thirteen small LMAs. Nine of these are entirely within the state's borders while four are New Hampshire portions of interstate small LMAs.

Unassigned Areas

The OMB process left four towns unassigned to any labor market area because the commuting patterns of their residents were not strong enough to show economic ties with a specific neighboring area. These towns are Deerfield, Newmarket, Northfield, and Nottingham.

Summary

In summary, the number of labor market areas (metropolitan areas, micropolitan areas, and small labor market areas) in New Hampshire increased from 18 to 27 as a result of the new designations. This total includes areas that are completely within the state's borders as well as the New Hampshire portion of interstate areas.