

Figure 3-7.

Ten Largest Metropolitan Districts and Metropolitan Areas in the United States: 1810 to 2010

(Population in thousands. Based on metropolitan districts and metropolitan areas of 100,000 or more population.

Data for 2010 are based on the core-based statistical area concept and have been adjusted to be generally comparable to data shown for 2010. See Chapter 3 text regarding the acronyms used from 1950 to 2010: SMA, SCA, SMSA, SCSA, CMSA, MSA, and CSA)



1790		1800		1810		1820	
1	None	None		Philadelphia	106	Philadelphia	135
2				New York	101	New York	133
1830		1840		1850		1860	
1	New York 216	New York 411		New York 773		New York 1,381	
2	Philadelphia 186	Philadelphia 260		Philadelphia 441		Philadelphia 615	
3		Boston 151		Boston 274		Boston 398	
4		New Orleans 105		Baltimore 184		Baltimore 231	
5		Baltimore 102		Cincinnati 144		Cincinnati 211	
6				New Orleans 135		New Orleans 181	
7				Albany-Troy 105		St. Louis 165	
8						Pittsburgh 138	
9						Albany-Troy 136	
10						Chicago 111	
1870		1880		1890		1900	
1	New York 1,893	New York 2,490		New York 3,417		New York 4,825	
2	Philadelphia 772	Philadelphia 1,003		Philadelphia 1,284		Chicago 1,860	
3	Boston 509	Boston 648		Chicago 1,167		Philadelphia 1,602	
4	St. Louis 326	Chicago 567		Boston 978		Boston 1,271	
5	Chicago 307	Baltimore 378		Pittsburgh 549		Pittsburgh 798	
6	Baltimore 289	St. Louis 360		Baltimore 478		St. Louis 636	
7	Cincinnati 272	Cincinnati 356		St. Louis 470		Baltimore 572	
8	Pittsburgh 218	Pittsburgh 331		Cincinnati 437		Cincinnati 499	
9	New Orleans 198	San Fran-Oak 280		San Fran-Oak 371		San Fran-Oak 450	
10	Albany-Troy 175	New Orleans 223		Minn-St. Paul 302		Cleveland 420	
1910		1920		1930		1940 (MDs)	
1	New York 6,830	New York 8,265		New York 10,590		New York 11,378	
2	Chicago 2,486	Chicago 3,255		Chicago 4,377		Chicago 4,501	
3	Philadelphia 1,963	Philadelphia 2,392		Philadelphia 2,848		Los Angeles 2,909	
4	Boston 1,552	Boston 1,800		Los Angeles 2,321		Philadelphia 2,889	
5	Pittsburgh 1,116	Pittsburgh 1,323		Boston 2,106		Detroit 2,186	
6	St. Louis 860	Detroit 1,182		Detroit 1,989		Boston 2,140	
7	San Fran-Oak 687	St. Louis 974		Pittsburgh 1,569		Pittsburgh 1,612	
8	Baltimore 660	Cleveland 930		San Fran-Oak 1,240		San Fran-Oak 1,333	
9	Cleveland 613	San Fran-Oak 904		St. Louis 1,220		St. Louis 1,302	
10	Cincinnati 568	Los Angeles 899		Cleveland 1,201		Cleveland 1,217	
1940 (MAs)		1950		1960		1970	
1	New York 11,661	New York SMA 12,912		New York SCA 14,759		New York SCSA 17,029	
2	Chicago 4,581	Chicago SMA 5,495		Chicago SCA 6,794		Los Angeles SCSA 9,972	
3	Philadelphia 3,064	Los Angeles SMA 4,368		Los Angeles SMSA 6,743		Chicago SCSA 7,612	
4	Los Angeles 2,916	Philadelphia SMA 3,671		Philadelphia SMSA 4,343		Philadelphia SCSA 5,621	
5	Boston 2,140	Detroit SMA 3,016		Detroit SMSA 3,762		Detroit SCSA 4,665	
6	Detroit 2,123	Boston SMA 2,370		San Fran-Oak SMSA 2,783		SF-Oak-SJ SCSA 4,423	
7	Pittsburgh 1,872	San Fran-Oak SMA 2,241		Boston SMSA 2,589		Boston SCSA 3,526	
8	San Fran-Oak 1,413	Pittsburgh SMA 2,213		Pittsburgh SMSA 2,405		Cleveland SCSA 3,000	
9	St. Louis 1,407	St. Louis SMA 1,681		St. Louis SMSA 2,060		Washington SMSA 2,861	
10	Cleveland 1,267	Cleveland SMA 1,466		Washington SMSA 2,002		Pittsburgh SMSA 2,401	
1980		1990		2000		2010	
1	New York SCSA 16,121	New York CMSA 18,087		New York CMSA 21,200		New York CSA 21,896	
2	Los Angeles SCSA 11,498	Los Angeles CMSA 14,532		Los Angeles CMSA 16,374		Los Angeles CSA 17,877	
3	Chicago SCSA 7,870	Chicago CMSA 8,066		Chicago CMSA 9,158		Chicago CSA 9,686	
4	Philadelphia SCSA 5,548	SF-Oak-SJ CMSA 6,253		Wash-Balt CMSA 7,608		Wash-Balt CSA 8,421	
5	SF-Oak-SJ SCSA 5,180	Philadelphia CMSA 5,899		SF-Oak-SJ CMSA 7,039		SJ-SF-Oak CSA 7,468	
6	Detroit SCSA 4,618	Detroit CMSA 4,665		Philadelphia CMSA 6,188		Bos-Prov CSA 7,353	
7	Boston SCSA 3,448	Boston CMSA 4,172		Boston CMSA 5,819		Philadelphia CSA 6,534	
8	Houston SCSA 3,101	Washington MSA 3,924		Detroit CMSA 5,456		Dallas-FW CSA 6,493	
9	Washington SMSA 3,061	Dallas-FW CMSA 3,885		Dallas-FW CMSA 5,222		Houston CSA 5,947	
10	Dallas-FW SCSA 2,975	Houston CMSA 3,711		Houston CMSA 4,670		Miami MSA 5,565	

Sources of data: Todd Kelly Gardner (1998), *The Metropolitan Fringe: Suburbanization in the United States Before World War II*; U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications; U.S. Office of Management and Budget (1975), *Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas* (revised edition). See www.demographicchartbook.com, References. Copyright © 2013 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.