

# 2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria

The Census Bureau's urban-rural classification is fundamentally a delineation of geographical areas, identifying both individual urban areas and the rural areas of the nation. The Census Bureau's urban areas represent densely developed territory, and encompass residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses.

For the 2010 Census, an urban area will comprise a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core. To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters. The Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas:

- Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people;
- Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people.

"Rural" encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area.

## About the 2010 Urban Areas

---

March 26, 2012

### **Press Release Announcing the Urban Areas for the 2010 Census**

The nation's urban population increased by 12.1 percent from 2000 to 2010.

---

[\[//www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010\\_census/cb12-50.html\]](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb12-50.html)

### **Federal Register Notices**

Federal Register notices that relate to geographic concepts, programs, and procedures. Notices from Geography Division only.

---

[\[/programs-surveys/geography/about/federal-register-notices.html\]](http://programs-surveys/geography/about/federal-register-notices.html)

### **Visualizations of the 2010 Urban Areas**

Various thematic maps on the 2010 Census urban areas.

---

[\[/programs-surveys/geography/library/visualizations.2010.html\]](http://programs-surveys/geography/library/visualizations.2010.html)

### **2010 Census Urban Area Facts**

Tallies, percentages and rankings of urban and rural areas in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas

---

[\[/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/ua-facts.html\]](http://programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/ua-facts.html)

### **2010 Census Urban Area FAQs**

Frequently asked questions about the 2010 Census Urban Areas.

---

[\[https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/2010ua\\_faqs.pdf\]](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/2010ua_faqs.pdf)

## Urban, Urbanized Area, Urban Cluster, and Rural Population, 2010 and 2000: United States

Area	Number of 2010 Urban Areas	Population		Percentage of Total Population	
		2010	2000	2010	2000
United States	3,573	308,745,538	281,421,906		
Urban		249,253,271	222,360,539	80.7%	79.0%
Urbanized Areas	486	219,922,123	192,323,824	71.2%	68.3%
Urban Clusters	3,087	29,331,148	30,036,715	9.5%	10.7%
Rural		59,492,267	59,061,367	19.3%	21.0%

## Urban, Urbanized Area, Urban Cluster, and Rural Population, 2010 and 2000: Puerto Rico

Area	Number of 2010 Urban Areas	Population		Percentage of Total Population	
		2010	2000	2010	2000
Puerto Rico	19	3,725,789	3,808,610		
Urban		3,493,256	3,590,994	93.8%	94.3%
Urbanized Areas	11	3,379,977	3,476,691	90.7%	91.3%
Urban Clusters	8	113,279	114,303	3.0%	3.0%
Rural		232,533	217,616	6.2%	5.6%

## List of 2010 Census Urban Areas

- ☒ A national 2010 urban area file containing a list of all urbanized areas and urban clusters (including Puerto Rico and the Island Areas) sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_list\\_all.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_list_all.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ A national list of all 2010 urbanized areas (including Puerto Rico and the Island Areas) sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_list\\_ua.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_list_ua.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ A national list of all 2010 urban clusters (including Puerto Rico and the Island Areas) sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_list\\_uc.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_list_uc.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ A national, state-sorted list of all 2010 urbanized areas and urban clusters for the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Island Areas first sorted by state FIPS code, then sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_st\\_list\\_all.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_st_list_all.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ A national, state-sorted list of all 2010 urbanized areas for the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Island Areas first sorted by state FIPS code, then sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_st\\_list\\_ua.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_st_list_ua.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ A national, state-sorted list of all 2010 urban clusters for the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Island Areas first sorted by state FIPS code, then sorted by UACE code [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua\\_st\\_list\\_uc.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/ua_st_list_uc.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]

## List of Population, Land Area, and Percent Urban and Rural in 2010 and Changes from 2000 to 2010



- ☒ Percent Urban and Rural in 2010 by State [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PctUrbanRural\\_State.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PctUrbanRural_State.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ Percent Urban and Rural in 2010 by State and County [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PctUrbanRural\\_County.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PctUrbanRural_County.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]
- ☒ Changes in Urbanized Areas From 2000 to 2010 [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PopAreaChngeUA.xls\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ua/PopAreaChngeUA.xls) [[1.0 MB](#)]

### Record Layouts

Here you will find field names and descriptions for our files.

[\[http://programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/records-layout.html\]](http://programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/records-layout.html)

### Urban Area Criteria for the 2010 Census

-  Differences Between the Census 2000 and 2010 Census Urban Area Criteria [\[http://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/2000\\_2010uadif.pdf\]](http://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/2000_2010uadif.pdf) [[1.0 MB](#)]
-  Federal Register Notice containing the final Urban Area Criteria for the 2010 Census [\[https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2011/08/24/2011-21647/urban-area-criteria-for-the-2010-census\]](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2011/08/24/2011-21647/urban-area-criteria-for-the-2010-census)

## Other Census Urban Area Information

## Geography Program Visualizations

Data made visual with charts, tables, maps, and other graphic elements. They are often interactive and contain text for labeling, not narration.

---

[\[/programs-surveys/geography/library/visualizations.html\]](/programs-surveys/geography/library/visualizations.html)

## Geography Reference Maps

Maps that show the boundaries and names (or other identifiers) of geographic areas for which the Census Bureau tabulates statistical data.

---

[\[/geographies/geographies/reference-maps.html\]](/geographies/geographies/reference-maps.html)

Mapping File

## TIGER/Line Shapefiles

View all the available mapping files from the Geography program.

---

[\[/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html\]](/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html)

Reference File

## Relationship Files

View all the available relationship files from the Geography program.

---

[\[/geographies/reference-files/time-series/geo/relationship-files.html\]](/geographies/reference-files/time-series/geo/relationship-files.html)

## Presentations

Download available Geography presentations.

---

[\[/programs-surveys/geography/about/training/presentations.html\]](/programs-surveys/geography/about/training/presentations.html)

## Related Information

---

Urban and Rural [\[/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html\]](/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html)

2000 Urbanized Areas [\[/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/2000-urbanized-areas.html\]](/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/2000-urbanized-areas.html)

*Last Revised: December 2, 2019*