RUCA Data
Code Definitions: Version 2.0

1 Metropolitan area core: primary flow within an Urbanized Area (UA)
1.0 No additional code
1.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a larger UA

2 Metropolitan area high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a UA
2.0 No additional code
2.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a larger UA

3 Metropolitan area low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a UA
3.0 No additional code

4 Micropolitan* area core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster (UC) of 10,000 through 49,999 (large UC)
4.0 No additional code
4.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a UA
4.2 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA

5 Micropolitan* high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a large UC
5.0 No additional code
5.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a UA
5.2 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA

6 Micropolitan* low commuting: primary flow 10% to 30% to a large UC
6.0 No additional code
6.1 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA

7 Small town core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 2,500 through 9,999 (small UC)
7.0 No additional code
7.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a UA
7.2 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a large UC
7.3 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA
7.4 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a large UC

8 Small town high commuting: primary flow 30% or more to a small UC
8.0 No additional code
8.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a UA
8.2 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a large UC
8.3 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA
8.4 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a large UC

9 Small town low commuting: primary flow 10% through 29% to a small UC
9.0 No additional code
9.1 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA
9.2 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a large UC

10 Rural areas: primary flow to a tract outside a UA or UC (including self)
10.0 No additional code
10.1 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a UA
10.2 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a large UC
10.3 Secondary flow 30% through 49% to a small UC
10.4 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a UA
10.5 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a large UC
10.6 Secondary flow 10% through 29% to a small UC

UA=Urbanized Area

UC=Urban Cluster

*The county-based term "micropolitan" was introduced by the Census Bureau per the 2000 Census. These Urban Clusters of from 10,000-49,999 population have historically been counted as Non Metropolitan (OMB definition) and their definition has not substantially changed. The term is used in this table for consistency. Alternatively the term "*__Large Rural__*" or "Large Rural City/Town" could be substituted for "micropolitan" (the "Large Rural" link provides a pdf that includes the substitution). If the Census Bureau had taken a less urbancentric view, they might have named the "micropolitan" category something more rural oriented like "macro-rural". In addition, on the alternate table "small town" is labeled "small rural town" and "rural areas" is labeled "isolated small rural areas".

Note: When thinking about the RUCA coding scheme, it is important not only to think of the stated criteria for a code but to consider the specific criteria for the other codes that did not apply and that allowed a Census tract/ZIP code area to be coded with a specific code.

Sidebar

Data Overview

Code Definitions

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General Methods

ZIP code RUCA Approximation

Uses

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Demographics

Remote/Frontier and Travel Distance/Time

Urbanized Area and Urban Cluster

RUCA Version History

Version 1.11

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