

Distances between metropolitan areas
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Overview

This dataset contains the distances (defined as fastest driving distances according to Bing maps) between the central business districts of every metropolitan area in the continental US.

Variables

- **cbsa1**: CBSA code for starting metro
- **name1**: Name of starting metro
- **cbsa2**: CBSA code of ending metro
- **name2**: Name of ending metro
- **dist**: Distance in kilometers between starting and ending metro

To save you the search, there are .62 miles in a kilometer.

Construction

To construct the data, I started with the geocodes of central business districts provided by Matt Holian at <http://mattholian.blogspot.com/2013/05/central-business-district-geocodes.html>.

I then calculated the distance between each combination of metros using an R interface to the Bing Maps API written by Ari Friedman and available from <https://rdr.io/github/gsk3/taRifx.geo/man/georoute.html>.

Geography

The unit of geography is the Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA).

Using the crosswalk provided at <http://www.nber.org/data/cbsa-msa-fips-ssa-county-crosswalk.html>, it is possible to map these areas to Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and counties. Note that the mapping between CBSAs and MSAs is not one-to-one and that the crosswalk uses MSA definitions from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services which may differ from those used in other datasets (for example, the MSA codes used in IPUMS are based on the 1990 Census).

Citation

If you find this dataset useful, please consider citing the paper for which it was originally created:

Gardner, John and Josh Hendrickson. 2017. "If I Leave Here Tomorrow: An Option View of Migration when Labor Market Quality Declines." Southern Economic Journal.