WHERE WE STAND

An Update from

EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

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REDEFINING ST. LOUIS AND OUR PEER REGIONS

During the past decade, many citizens in the St. Louis region have made changes in where they live and work and how far they commute. New business and housing developments have also allowed residents to relocate further from the city center. As a result, the geographic boundaries that define the St. Louis region are changing. The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is responsible for overseeing many of the federal government's regulatory policies, recognized these changes and, in 2003, redefined the official boundaries of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area, or MSA. An MSA describes a hub of population and economic activity in an area, as well as the neighboring communities that are economically and socially connected to that core. The OMB defines MSAs so that federal and state agencies have consistent definitions for collecting and publishing statistical information about geographic areas.

This issue of *Where We Stand Update* examines the revised definitions of the St. Louis metropolitan area and our 34 peer regions. *Where We Stand* is a publication prepared by East-West Gateway staff that compares St. Louis to its peer regions in over 80 indicators of economic, social, physical and fiscal well-being.

THE NEW BOUNDARIES FOR ST. LOUIS

The new MSA boundaries result in a significant increase in both population and land area for the St. Louis MSA. The MSA increased from 12 to 16 counties to include Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren and Washington counties and the City of St. Louis in Missouri. Despite the new MSA boundaries, East-West Gateway Council of Governments continues to serve the 8-county region of Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois and Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties and the City of St. Louis in Missouri. These eight counties continue to represent the economic and social core of the greater St. Louis region that is the focus of East-West Gateway's work.

The new boundaries resulted in a 35 percent increase in land area for the St. Louis MSA, from 6,392 square miles to 8,649 square miles. With the addition of new land comes increased population, so the redefinition of MSA boundaries also affected St. Louis' population rankings. With the expanded boundaries in the St. Louis area, population increased 4 percent, with 2,698,687 people residing within the new boundaries. This increase does not necessarily indicate population growth within the former boundaries, but rather reflects that population counts are now including a larger land area.

HOW THE NEW BOUNDARIES AFFECT OUR RANKINGS

MSA boundaries have also been outlined for St. Louis peer regions, which are 34 metropolitan areas that 1) have a population of 950,000 or more and 2) are either within 500 miles of St. Louis or have an economic function similar to that of the St. Louis region.

The process of redefining MSA boundaries will affect the rankings of various *Where We Stand* indicators. As a result, with the reclassification of MSA boundaries, evaluating changes in the MSAs and comparing peer regions across time will be more challenging. Updated rankings will not only reflect actual social, economic, fiscal changes within a MSA, but also changes to its physical boundaries. As the St. Louis area grows in shape and size, changes will occur in how we compare with our peers regions in the national marketplace as measured by these indicators.

For example, when considering the new MSA boundaries, the St. Louis region now ranks 5th in land area, as compared to its previous third-place ranking (see chart on back page). This change indicates that the land area of several our St. Louis' peer regions increased relative to St. Louis when the official MSA boundaries were changed.

Among our peer regions, St. Louis now ranks 17th in population, as compared to its ranking of 14 under the previous MSA boundaries. Even though the St. Louis region saw an increase in population from 1990 to 2000, the region dropped in rankings relative to our peer regions. Moving ahead of St. Louis in population rankings were Miami, which moved from 18th to 6th in population rankings, and San Francisco, which jumped ahead from 23rd in population to claim 12th place in rankings.

POPULATION

(New MSA Boundaries)
2000

1	**New York**	**18,323,002**
2	Los Angeles	12,365,627
3	Chicago	9,098,316
4	Philadelphia	5,687,147
5	Dallas	5,161,544
6	Miami	5,007,564
7	Washington DC	4,796,183
8	Houston	4,715,407
9	Detroit	4,452,557
10	Boston	4,391,344
11	Atlanta	4,247,981
12	San Francisco	4,123,740
	Average	3,625,278
13	Phoenix	3,251,876
14	Seattle	3,043,878
15	Minneapolis	2,968,806
16	San Diego	2,813,833
17	**St. Louis**	**2,698,687**
18	Baltimore	2,552,994
19	Pittsburgh	2,431,087
20	Denver	2,157,756
21	Cleveland	2,148,143
22	Cincinnati	2,009,632
23	Portland	1,927,881
24	Kansas City	1,836,038
25	San Antonio	1,711,703
26	Columbus	1,612,694
27	Indianapolis	1,525,104
28	Milwaukee	1,500,741
29	Charlotte	1,330,448
30	Nashville	1,311,789
31	Austin	1,249,763
32	Memphis	1,205,204
33	Louisville	1,161,975
34	Oklahoma City	1,095,421
35	**Salt Lake City**	**968,858**

HIGHER — AVERAGE — LOWER

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Several peer regions saw significant increases in land area or population due to the MSA redefinitions, which is the primary reason for the decline in St. Louis MSA's rankings. Salt Lake City experienced the most dramatic change—the metro area lost 27 percent of its population as a result of the new MSA boundaries, but increased in land area by almost 500 percent. Previously the Salt Lake City MSA ranked 32nd in land area with 1,617 square miles, now they rank 2nd with 9,539 square miles. The MSA boundary reclassification also contributed to increases in land area for Dallas and Houston, allowing these metro areas to move ahead of St. Louis in land area rankings. New York also experience a significant increase in land area, growing by 489 percent under the new MSA boundaries.

Several MSAs experienced a significant loss in both population and land area under the newly assigned definitions. Charlotte lost 11 percent of its population and had an 8 percent loss in land area. The Cleveland MSA lost 4.6 percent of its population and 26 percent of its land area. Washington D.C. experienced a loss of 3 percent in population and a 14 percent loss in land area. The boundaries of six of St. Louis' peer regions did not change, including Austin, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix and San Diego.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To see additional information about *Where We Stand*, as well as charts and maps depicting boundary changes for the St. Louis MSA and its peer regions, please see our website at www.ewgateway.org/wws/wws.htm.

For more information about the US Office of Management and Budget, please visit http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/.

Go to additional charts and maps

LAND AREA

(New MSA Boundaries)
In square miles, 2003

1	**Phoenix**	**14,573**
2	Salt Lake City	9,539
3	Dallas	8,990
4	Houston	8,928
5	**St. Louis**	**8,649**
6	Denver	8,385
7	Atlanta	8,376
8	Kansas City	7,858
9	San Antonio	7,341
10	Chicago	7,212
11	New York	6,726
12	Portland	6,684
13	Minneapolis	6,063
14	Seattle	5,894
	Average	5,725
15	Nashville	5,687
16	Washington DC	5,626
17	Oklahoma City	5,518
18	Pittsburgh	5,280
19	Miami	5,126
20	Los Angeles	4,851
21	Philadelphia	4,630
22	Memphis	4,572
23	Cincinnati	4,398
24	Austin	4,224
25	San Diego	4,200
26	Louisville	4,135
27	Columbus	3,984
28	Detroit	3,914
29	Indianapolis	3,864
30	Boston	3,507
31	Charlotte	3,099
32	Baltimore	2,609
33	San Francisco	2,473
34	Cleveland	2,004
35	**Milwaukee**	**1,460**

HIGHER
AVERAGE
LOWER

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, OMB, 2003

WHERE WE STAND

Gateway Tower
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

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WWS Update: REDEFINING THE ST. LOUIS REGION

Population Rankings

Under the previous MSA boundaries, St. Louis ranked 14th in population among our peer metros. Subsequent to the boundary redefinition, the population increased 3.7 percent, with 2,698,687 people residing within the new boundaries.

Population Density Rankings

Population density measures persons per square mile. After the new MSA boundaries were assigned, St. Louis moved up in population density rankings relative to its peers, from a ranking of 28 to the current ranking of 24. This jump in ranking occurred despite the fact that St. Louis actually lost population density following the MSA boundary redefinitions. While the previous MSA boundaries measured 407 persons per square mile, there are now only 312 persons per square mile in the new boundaries. The drop in population density reflects the lower concentration of people in the newly added counties.

POPULATION
(Previous MSA Boundaries)
2000

1	**Los Angeles**	**9,519,338**
2	New York	9,314,235
3	Chicago	8,272,768
4	Philadelphia	5,100,931
5	Washington DC	4,923,153
6	Detroit	4,441,551
7	Houston	4,177,646
8	Atlanta	4,112,198
9	Dallas	3,519,176
10	Boston	3,406,829
11	Phoenix	3,251,876
Average		2,978,201
12	Minneapolis	2,968,806
13	San Diego	2,813,833
14	**St. Louis**	**2,603,607**
15	Baltimore	2,552,994
16	Seattle	2,414,616
17	Pittsburgh	2,358,695
18	Miami	2,253,362
19	Cleveland	2,250,871
20	Denver	2,109,282
21	Portland	1,918,009
22	Kansas City	1,776,062
23	San Francisco	1,731,183
24	Cincinnati	1,646,395
25	Indianapolis	1,607,486
26	San Antonio	1,592,383
27	Columbus	1,540,157
28	Milwaukee	1,500,741
29	Charlotte	1,499,293
30	Salt Lake City	1,333,914
31	Austin	1,249,763
32	Nashville	1,231,311
33	Memphis	1,135,614
34	Oklahoma City	1,083,346
35	**Louisville**	**1,025,598**

PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION DUE TO BOUNDARY CHANGE
2000

1	**San Francisco**	**138.2**
2	Miami	122.2
3	New York	96.7
4	Dallas	46.7
5	Los Angeles	29.9
6	Boston	28.9
7	Seattle	26.1
8	Cincinnati	22.1
Average		15.7
9	Louisville	13.3
10	Houston	12.9
11	Philadelphia	11.5
12	Chicago	10.0
13	San Antonio	7.5
14	Nashville	6.5
15	Memphis	6.1
16	Columbus	4.7
17	**St. Louis**	**3.7**
18	Kansas City	3.4
19	Atlanta	3.3
20	Pittsburgh	3.1
21	Denver	2.3
22	Oklahoma City	1.1
23	Portland	0.5
24	Detroit	0.2
25	Austin	0.0
25	Baltimore	0.0
25	Milwaukee	0.0
25	Minneapolis	0.0
25	Phoenix	0.0
25	San Diego	0.0
31	Washington DC	-2.6
32	Cleveland	-4.6
33	Indianapolis	-5.1
34	Charlotte	-11.3
35	**Salt Lake City**	**-27.4**

NEW POPULATION DENSITY
persons per square mile
2000

1	**New York**	**2,724**
2	Los Angeles	2,549
3	San Francisco	1,668
4	Chicago	1,262
5	Boston	1,252
6	Philadelphia	1,228
7	Detroit	1,138
8	Cleveland	1,072
9	Milwaukee	1,028
10	Baltimore	979
11	Miami	977
12	Washington DC	853
Average		717
13	San Diego	670
14	Dallas	574
15	Houston	528
16	Seattle	516
17	Atlanta	507
18	Minneapolis	490
19	Pittsburgh	460
20	Cincinnati	457
21	Charlotte	429
22	Columbus	405
23	Indianapolis	395
24	**St. Louis**	**312**
25	Austin	296
26	Portland	288
27	Louisville	281
28	Memphis	264
29	Denver	257
30	Kansas City	234
31	San Antonio	233
32	Nashville	231
33	Phoenix	223
34	Oklahoma City	199
35	**Salt Lake City**	**102**

HIGHER
AVERAGE
LOWER

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

WWS Update: REDEFINING THE ST. LOUIS REGION

LAND AREA

(Previous MSA Boundaries)

In square miles, 2000

1	**Phoenix**	**14,573**
2	Washington DC	6,509
3	**St. Louis**	**6,392**
4	Dallas	6,186
5	Atlanta	6,124
6	Minneapolis	6,063
7	Houston	5,920
8	Kansas City	5,406
9	Chicago	5,062
10	Portland	5,028
11	Pittsburgh	4,626
12	Seattle	4,424
13	Oklahoma City	4,247
14	Austin	4,224
15	San Diego	4,200
Average		4,141
16	Nashville	4,073
17	Los Angeles	4,061
18	Detroit	3,897
19	Philadelphia	3,855
20	Denver	3,761
21	Indianapolis	3,523
22	Charlotte	3,377
23	Cincinnati	3,342
24	San Antonio	3,326
25	Columbus	3,141
26	Memphis	3,006
27	Cleveland	2,706
28	Baltimore	2,609
29	Louisville	2,072
30	Boston	2,022
31	Miami	1,946
32	Salt Lake City	1,617
33	Milwaukee	1,460
34	New York	1,142
35	**San Francisco**	**1,016**

PERCENT CHANGE IN LAND AREA

In square miles, 2000

1	**Salt Lake City**	**489.9**
2	New York	489.0
3	Miami	163.4
4	San Francisco	143.4
5	Denver	122.9
6	San Antonio	120.7
7	Louisville	99.6
8	Boston	73.4
Average		63.4
9	Memphis	52.1
10	Houston	50.8
11	Kansas City	45.4
12	Dallas	45.3
13	Chicago	42.5
14	Nashville	39.6
15	Atlanta	36.8
16	**St. Louis**	**35.3**
17	Seattle	33.2
18	Portland	32.9
19	Cincinnati	31.6
20	Oklahoma City	29.9
21	Columbus	26.8
22	Philadelphia	20.1
23	Los Angeles	19.5
24	Pittsburgh	14.1
25	Indianapolis	9.7
26	Detroit	0.4
27	Phoenix	0.0
27	Minneapolis	0.0
27	Austin	0.0
27	San Diego	0.0
27	Baltimore	0.0
27	Milwaukee	0.0
33	Charlotte	-8.2
34	Washington DC	-13.6
35	**Cleveland**	**-25.9**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

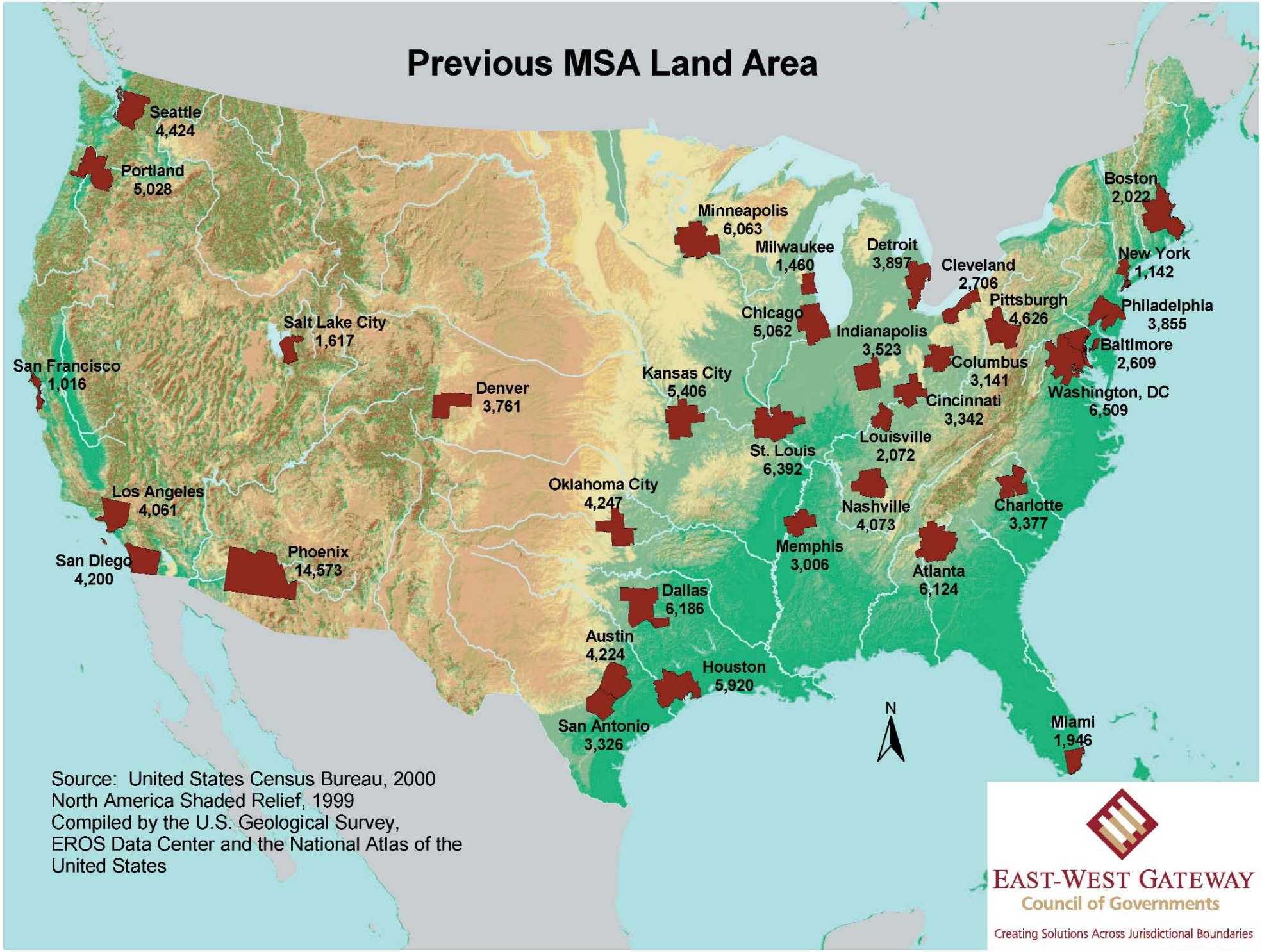
Land Area Rankings

Previously ranked 3rd among its peer regions in land area, the St. Louis MSA now ranks 5th. When the new boundaries increased the MSA from 12 to 16, land area expanded by 35.3 percent. Several peer regions have increased significantly in land area or population, which is the primary reason for the decline in St. Louis MSA's ranking.

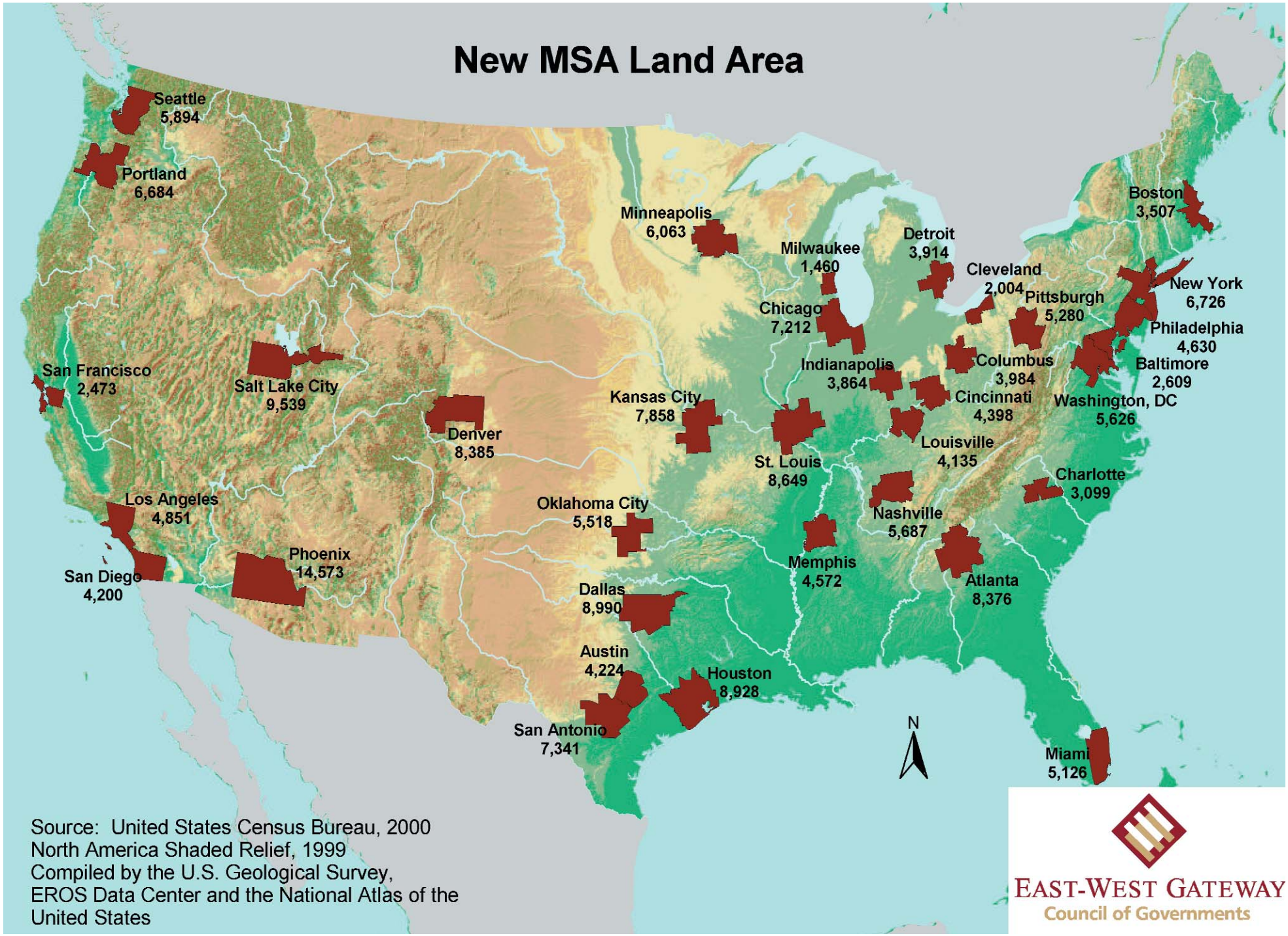
Previous Land Area map

New Land Area map

Previous MSA Land Area



New MSA Land Area



Source: United States Census Bureau, 2000
North America Shaded Relief, 1999
Compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey,
EROS Data Center and the National Atlas of the
United States

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