

Starting with January 2005 information, statistical areas for reporting nonfarm employment and labor force estimates will change

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The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has used commuting patterns data from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census to update statistical area definitions. Not only has the geography of the labor market areas in New Hampshire changed, but a major change in nomenclature has occurred as well. The update included defining the new core based statistical areas. Each metropolitan statistical area (MetroSA) must have a core of at least 50,000 or more inhabitants. The micropolitan statistical areas (MicroSA) have a core population of between 10,000 and 50,000. For New England, as in the past, cities, towns, and unincorporated places, because of their importance in the region, will continue to be used to build the areas. In New England the new areas will be called Metropolitan and Micropolitan NECTAs (New England City and Town Areas). The rest of the nation's statistical areas are composed of counties.

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The new definitions of statistical areas will have a significant impact in New Hampshire. Instead of the 18 labor market areas that had been established with the 1990 census, there are now 23 areas, including micro and metro and small labor market areas\*, contained within New Hampshire plus 4 areas that combine parts of New Hampshire with bordering states. Both the Current Economic Statistics and Local Areas Unemployment Statistics programs will introduce these new areas with the January 2005 estimates which are scheduled to be published in March 2005.

More detailed information will follow at a later date.

\* Small Labor Market areas are defined independently by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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