

## Florida Cities and Metro Areas

The US Census makes a great deal of information about cities (and everything else) available through its various publications, of which three are especially valuable:

*The Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Updated yearly, the StatAbstract (as those in the know call it) is an essential source of information on virtually every aspect of American society. You can find it at:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/01statab/stat-ab01.html>

*The County and City Data Book*, updated every five years, provides detailed information on states, counties, and cities sized 25,000 and up. Its Web address is:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/ccdb.html>

Finally, the *State and Metropolitan Area Data Book*, updated periodically, provides detailed information on states, metropolitan areas, counties comprising the metro areas, and central cities within the metro areas. It lives at:

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/smadb.html>

### **Learning Objectives**

#### *Skill*

- Familiarize students with these data resources and their contents by retrieving information on various Florida cities and metropolitan areas.

Here is a table of data showing Florida's four largest cities, the city populations of each, and the populations of the corresponding metro areas:

PLACE	City Pop'n (2000)	Metro Pop'n (2000)	% City/Metro
Jacksonville	735,617	1,034,604	71%
Miami	362,470	3,515,358	10%
Tampa	303,447	2,227,000	14%
Orlando	185,951	1,467,045	13%

Thus, Jacksonville is the largest legal city in Florida, but Miami is the largest metropolitan area. Note also the right-most column. It divides column 1 into column 2 and thus shows what percentage of the metro area population is in the corresponding legal city.

In addition to the Big Four, the US Census recognizes fifteen other metro areas in the state (or 19 altogether):

Metro Area	2000 Metro Area Population
Daytona Beach	465,925
Ft. Myers-Cape Coral	387,091
Ft. Pierce-Port St. Lucie	295,646
Ft. Walton Beach	167,580
Gainesville	198,326
Lakeland-Winter Haven	448,646
Melbourne-Titusville- Palm Bay	460,977
Naples	195,731
Ocala	237,308
Panama City	146,223
Pensacola	397,085
Punta Gorda	133,681
Sarasota-Bradenton	538,783
Tallahassee	260,611
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton	1,018,524

In the *County and City Data Book*, look up the corresponding populations of the legal cities in these 15 metro areas and calculate the percentage of the metro area population that is found within the corresponding legal city or cities. The city population data begin on page 644. (Note: in several cases, there is more than one legal city in the name of the metro area.) For instance, the 2000 population of Daytona Beach (the city) was 64,112; the metro area from the above table was 465,925;  $64,112/465,925 = 14\%$ . In other words, 14% of the Daytona Beach metropolitan area population actually lives in the legal city of Daytona Beach.

Now answer the following questions:

1. In which of these 15 metro areas is the calculated percentage the highest?
2. In which one is it the lowest?
3. Was the calculation impossible to do for any of the 15 metro areas listed? Why?
4. Looking at the column of percentages, what in general do you conclude about the relative sizes of the legal cities and the metropolitan areas?

While you are on the pages of the County and City Data Book that show data for Florida cities size 25,000 and up, also answer the following questions:

5. According to this Census listing, how many cities of size 25,000 and up are there in Florida?
6. Which of those cities grew the **fastest** between 1990 and 2000?
7. Which of them gained the **most people** between 1990 and 2000?
8. What was the total population gain for the state as a whole between 1980 and 1990?
  - a. Between 1990 and 2000?
9. Of all Florida cities, which has the largest **number** of Hispanics as of 2000?
10. Which has the highest **percentage** of Hispanics as of 2000?
11. Finally, which Florida city is **least** densely populated?

You are now finished with the County and City Data Book. The next and final part of this exercise is more challenging and deals with metro areas, not with legal cities. So go to the *State and Metropolitan Area Data Book*. Find the tables showing data on metropolitan areas. (Hint: They start on page 71.) You will see that there are ten tables dealing with the metro areas (B-1 to B-10) and showing data for every metro area in the country on such matters as population size, age structure, racial composition, public school enrollment, crime, poverty, cost of living, etc.

12. Imagine that you have just been hired by the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce and have been given the assignment to write a 250-word (roughly one page) **data-based** brochure extolling the virtues of the Orlando area as a place for people and businesses to settle. Write the brochure, making sure that every factual claim can be supported by data contained in the *State and Metropolitan Area Data Book*. In other words, assemble a detailed statistical profile of the Orlando metro area and using that profile, write the most positive one-page (250 word) statement you can justify given your statistical profile.