

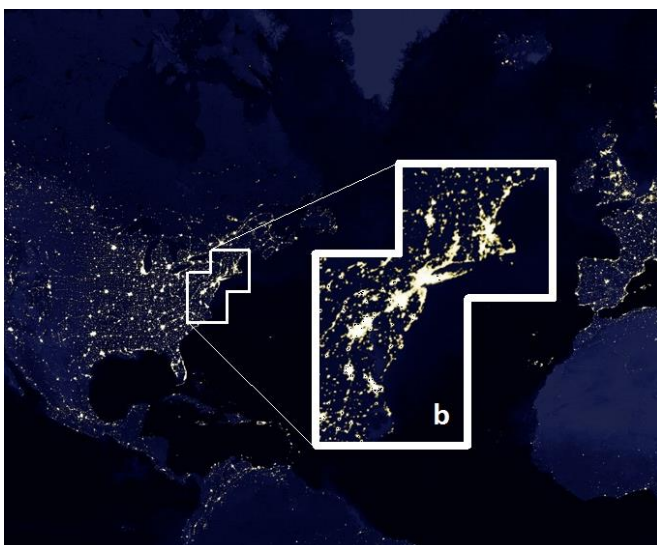
THE BOSWASH MEGALOPOLIS

A **megalopolis** (sometimes improperly called a **megapolis**) or **megaregion** is typically defined as a chain of roughly adjacent metropolitan areas. It was used by Jean Gottmann in 1954, to describe the chain of metropolitan areas along the northeastern seaboard of the U.S. extending from Boston, Massachusetts through New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and ending in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia.



In the course of the centuries, the cities between Boston in the north and Washington in the south have fused into an approximately 750-kilometre-long agglomeration comprising numerous large city cores, a so-called megalopolis, for which the term BosWash has been coined. With some 45 million inhabitants, the band of cities accounts for 15 % of the US population – on less than 5 % of the country's territory. The city regions are statistically divided into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). These areas must have one or more cities with at least 50,000 inhabitants at their centre, and environs with an urban structure. 366 MSAs exist in the USA, no less than four of the ten largest MSAs being in BosWash with a combined population of nearly 35 million people.

In first place in 2008 was New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island with 19 million people; in fifth place was Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington with 5.8 million inhabitants; ninth place was held by



Washington-Arlington-Alexandria with its 5.4 million inhabitants, and in tenth place was Boston-Cambridge-Quincy with 4.5 million people.

BosWash has an outstanding national and international significance not only on account of the size of its population. A high proportion of the USA's industrial value creation is generated here, and with Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Yale, three of the world's most prestigious universities are situated in the region.

Bibliography

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Question

1. Read these cards about the advantages and disadvantages of the megacities. What is your opinion?

Megacities offer a lot more opportunity in terms of culture, nightlife, restaurants and leisure activities than smaller cities do.

The nicer areas of the megacities are often very small and very expensive forcing people to live in the poorer areas.

Megacities have a wider range of business opportunities.

Megacities often have high crime rates due to the large numbers of people living there.

Often these cities are more environmentally friendly than smaller cities due to the easy access to public transport and the smaller living spaces which require less heating and electricity.

Due to the large numbers of people megacities often struggle to keep up with the demand for services and often schools are full and hospital waiting times the longest in the country.

Megacities often have a wide range of job opportunities due to their size.

Due to the large numbers of people often the competition for jobs is hard.

Megacities often hold major sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. These events also attract tourists in to the cities.

People living in megacities often do not have as good a quality of life as people not living in the city due to the smaller amount of living space and higher cost of

Megacities usually home large monuments or important council buildings.

In larger cities the rich are often very rich and the poor are often very poor.

Megacities often have expensive high rise living which attracts young professionals in to the area.

Often the overcrowding in these cities leads to slum creation or sub-standard housing on the edges of cities.

