

**IR-19: Outline Map of the United States**



### Regional Cities

Because cities are different sizes and provide different jobs and services, there is a hierarchy to cities. As German geographer Walter Christaller wrote, all cities have certain purposes. Some cities are smaller than others, and their main purpose is to provide for larger cities. Some cities have a greater global importance economically; others have importance politically or socially.

Cities such as Denver, Colorado, and Portland, Oregon, play important roles on a regional scale. Most of Denver's population of 2.8 million is sufficient in size to be employed by the following leading industries in 2009.

- **Energy:** The US Department of Energy's leading research and development facility for renewable energy and energy efficiency is located in Denver.
- **Aerospace:** Nearly 20,000 jobs in the aerospace industry are located in the Denver metropolitan area alone, helping Colorado to have the third largest aerospace economy in the United States.
- **Bioscience:** About 520 companies employ more than 15,000 people in the bioscience field, and it is fueled by a highly educated populace, many of whom are graduates of one of the area's 10 institutions of higher learning.
- **Information Technology:** The 42,000 employees in the information technology industry give metropolitan Denver the third highest concentration of IT workers in the country.

Portland is located ideally on the West Coast and is well connected via air and water to Asian markets, making it an important center of trade and manufacturing. In 2009, companies such as Intel (15,500 local jobs), Nike (7,000 local jobs), and Precision Castparts (2,110 local jobs) supported the local economy through employing substantial numbers of people. Portland is not as large as other West Coast cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles, or San Diego, but the economic data supports a stable, economically diverse, and environmentally attractive place to live and work.



*The Columbia River runs through the northern parts of Portland, Oregon. In addition to recreation and fishing, the Columbia River also supports tremendous economic activity for the Port of Portland, which supports more than 40,000 local jobs.*

Denver and Portland have diverse and growing economies as well as ideal living conditions. Neither city, however, is economically, socially, or politically dominant in the United States. Combined statistical areas (CSAs) such as Boston, Atlanta,

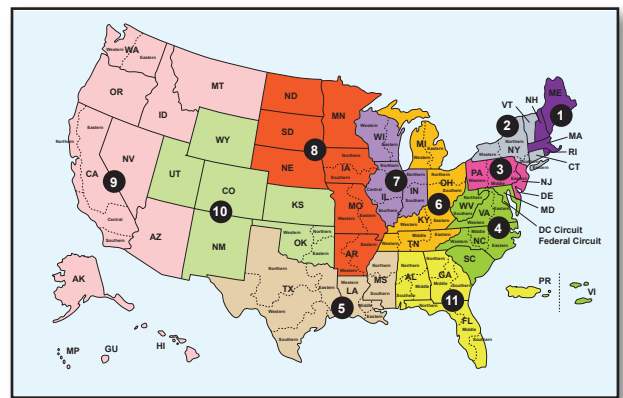
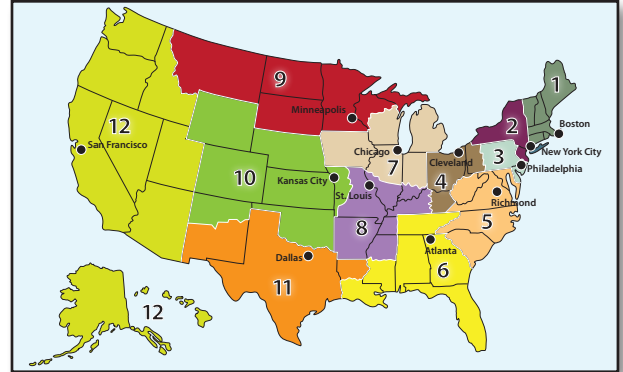
## IR-20: Regional Cities

Dallas, Chicago, and San Francisco are significantly more important to the economic fabric of the United States. Each of these cities is home to one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks and US Courts of Appeals (appellate courts or circuit courts) located in the United States.

### Locations of Important Regional Cities in the United States

Federal Reserve Bank	US Court of Appeals
1. Boston, Massachusetts	1st Circuit: Boston, Massachusetts
2. New York City, New York	2nd Circuit: New York City, New York
3. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	3rd Circuit: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
4. Cleveland, Ohio	4th Circuit: Richmond, Virginia
5. Richmond, Virginia	5th Circuit: New Orleans, Louisiana
6. Atlanta, Georgia	6th Circuit: Cincinnati, Ohio
7. Chicago, Illinois	7th Circuit: Chicago, Illinois
8. St. Louis, Missouri	8th Circuit: St. Louis, Missouri
9. Minneapolis, Minnesota	9th Circuit: San Francisco, California
10. Kansas City, Missouri	10th Circuit: Denver, Colorado
11. Dallas, Texas	11th Circuit: Atlanta, Georgia
12. San Francisco, California	DC Circuit: Washington, DC
13. (not applicable)	Federal Circuit: Washington, DC

These unique institutions do not operate like commercial banks where customers can deposit or withdraw funds from personal accounts or apply for loans for automobiles or homes. A Federal Reserve Bank is one part of the Federal Reserve System, which helps to supervise commercial banks within a region of the country primarily by moving currency into and out of circulation. Federal Reserve Banks also have many other functions. Cities such as Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Detroit, and Los Angeles tend to be social trendsetters in fashion, food, and entertainment. Politically, Washington, DC; Philadelphia; Cincinnati; and St. Louis are important because they each house one of the 13 United States Courts of Appeals. These courts are influential because of their authority to review US District Court decisions and set legal precedents. Note the spatial distribution of these courts. The geographic boundaries reflect the number of citizens within each court's jurisdiction. For example,



*Which cities have both a Federal Reserve Bank and a US Court of Appeals? What other economic, social, and political functions do these cities provide?*

## **IR-20: Regional Cities**

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the Second Court of Appeals contains only three states, whereas the Ninth Circuit Court contains nine states.

In addition, only about 100 cases are argued each year before the US Supreme Court. Consequently, many of the decisions made by the Courts of Appeals are final and binding decisions.

All the cities in the United States mentioned in this section are important regionally and have an important economic, social, or political impact on a regional basis. Some may be even more significant on a national level. The dominant city in the United States, however, is New York City. There is not another city that has as much economic, social, or political influence in the United States as New York City. According to the US Census Bureau in 2008, the total population of New York City proper was slightly more than 8.3 million people. The CSA represented about 19 million people, which equates roughly to one in 16 Americans living in the greater New York City area. These numbers are the largest of any city in the United States.

# IR-21: Regional Cities Note-Taking Guide—Reading to Learn

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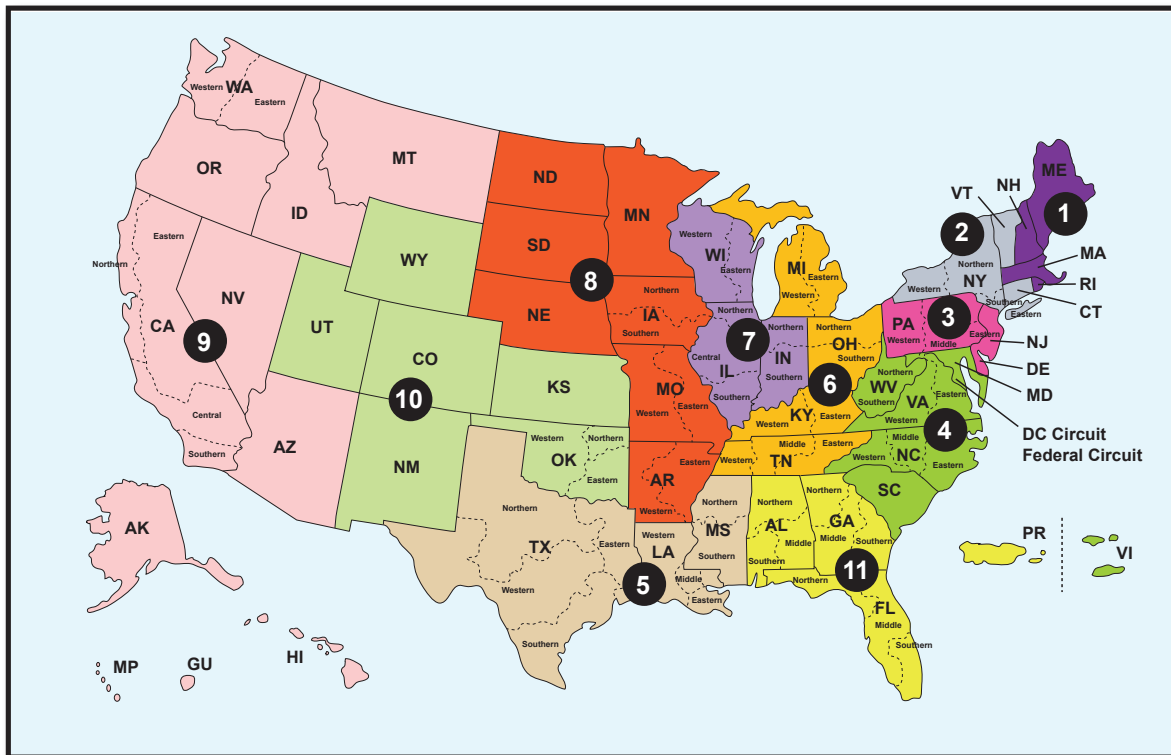
**Main Ideas**

**Details**


## IR-22: Regional Cities Assessment Items

- Which of the following best explains why Portland, Oregon, is an important regional city?
  - It contains the largest American cargo port on the Pacific coast.
  - It is a destination city and attracts tourists from all over the world.
  - The climatic conditions allow for year-round trading from an ice-free port.
  - It provides amenities and has a diverse population base that is welcoming to midsize companies.

Use the map below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.



- Which of the following statements is best supported by the map above?
  - The US Courts of Appeals are equidistant from each other.
  - The US Courts of Appeals are distributed based on population clusters.
  - The US Courts of Appeals are based on the number of lawyers in each region.
  - The US Courts of Appeals were established before the Civil War.