



3.10 Urbanization

	Urban population				Population in urban agglomerations of more than one million			Population in largest city		Access to sanitation			
	millions		% of total population		% of total population			% of urban population		Urban % of population		Rural % of population	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1995	2015	1980	1995	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a
Albania	0.9	1.4	34	40	0	0	0	..	..	..	97	..	10
Algeria	8.1	17.6	44	59	11	13	16	25	23	95	..	70	..
Angola	1.5	4.0	21	33	13	20	29	63	61	27	34	16	8
Argentina	23.3	32.3	83	89	35	39	36	43	38	76	80	35	42
Armenia	2.0	2.6	66	69	34	35	41	51	50	..	..	..	..
Australia	12.6	15.9	86	85	47	58	57	26	23	..	..	..	..
Austria	4.9	5.2	65	65	27	26	27	42	40	..	100	..	100
Azerbaijan	3.3	4.5	53	57	26	24	27	48	43	..	67	..	..
Bangladesh	12.5	29.4	14	23	5	9	15	26	33	21	77	2	30
Belarus	5.4	7.2	57	71	14	17	20	24	25	..	..	..	..
Belgium	9.4	9.9	95	97	12	11	11	13	11	..	100	..	100
Benin	0.9	2.4	27	41	0	0	0	..	..	45	54	4	6
Bolivia	2.4	4.9	46	61	14	17	20	30	28	51	77	22	39
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.5	1.6	36	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	..	12
Botswana	0.1	0.8	15	49	0	0	0	..	..	79	91	13	41
Brazil	80.5	132.9	66	80	27	33	34	16	13	33	74	2	43
Bulgaria	5.4	5.7	61	69	12	16	19	20	21	..	100	..	96
Burkina Faso	0.6	1.9	9	17	0	0	0	44	52	38	78	5	11
Burundi	0.2	0.6	4	8	0	0	0	..	..	..	60	..	50
Cambodia	0.8	1.7	12	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cameroon	2.7	6.8	31	47	6	10	15	19	22	..	73	..	21
Canada	18.6	23.3	76	77	29	36	35	16	19	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	0.8	1.4	35	40	0	0	0	..	..	36	..	9	..
Chad	0.8	1.7	19	23	0	0	0	40	55	..	74	..	7
Chile	9.1	12.6	81	85	33	36	35	41	41	79	82	21	..
China	192.3	385.7	20	31	8	11	14	6	4	..	58	..	7
Hong Kong, China	4.6	6.7	92	100	91	95	74	100	95	..	..	..	..
Colombia	18.2	29.8	64	73	21	27	27	20	22	96	76	13	33
Congo, Dem. Rep.	7.8	14.3	29	30	..	..	..	28	34	8	23	..	4
Congo, Rep.	0.7	1.7	41	61	0	0	0	67	67	..	15	..	4
Costa Rica	1.0	1.7	43	47	0	0	0	61	59	100	100	88	95
Côte d'Ivoire	2.8	6.5	35	45	15	21	35	44	48	13	59	20	51
Croatia	2.3	2.6	50	57	0	0	0	28	38	72	71	27	26
Cuba	6.6	8.3	68	75	20	20	22	29	27	..	71	..	51
Czech Republic	7.6	7.7	75	75	12	12	13	15	16	..	..	..	..
Denmark	4.3	4.5	84	85	27	25	25	32	30	..	100	..	100
Dominican Republic	2.9	5.3	51	64	25	33	36	50	65	72	76	59	83
Ecuador	3.7	7.7	47	63	14	26	31	30	26	79	87	34	34
Egypt, Arab Rep.	17.9	27.6	44	45	23	23	25	38	38	..	20	..	5
El Salvador	1.9	2.8	42	46	0	0	0	39	48	89	78	35	59
Eritrea	0.3	0.7	14	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..
Estonia	1.0	1.0	70	69	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	4.0	10.2	11	17	3	4	7	30	28	..	..	..	..
Finland	2.9	3.4	60	66	0	0	0	22	32	100	100	100	100
France	39.5	44.3	73	75	21	21	20	23	22	..	100	..	90
Gabon	0.3	0.9	50	79	0	0	0	..	..	..	79	..	67
Gambia, The	0.1	0.4	20	31	0	0	0	..	..	..	83	..	23
Georgia	2.6	3.3	52	60	22	25	31	42	42	..	..	..	..
Germany	64.7	71.5	83	87	38	41	43	10	9	..	..	..	..
Ghana	3.4	6.9	31	37	9	10	14	30	27	47	53	17	36
Greece	5.6	6.3	58	60	31	35	38	54	50	..	100	..	94
Guatemala	2.6	4.2	37	39	0	0	0	29	57	73	91	42	50
Guinea	0.9	2.2	19	31	12	23	39	65	81	54	..	1	10
Guinea-Bissau	0.1	0.3	17	23	0	0	0	..	..	21	32	13	17
Haiti	1.3	2.6	24	34	13	18	26	55	63	42	42	14	16
Honduras	1.2	3.1	35	51	0	0	0	33	37	22	81	38	53



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	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1995	2015	1980	1995	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a
Hungary	6.1	6.4	57	64	19	20	22	34	31	..	100	..	85
India	158.8	272.0	23	28	6	10	12	5	6	25	46	1	2
Indonesia	32.9	79.0	22	39	7	13	16	18	12	30	73	30	40
Iran, Islamic Rep.	19.4	37.5	50	61	13	22	25	26	20	90	89	30	37
Iraq	8.5	15.8	66	71	26	22	23	39	28	30	..	..	..
Ireland	1.9	2.2	55	59	0	0	0	48	44	..	100	..	100
Israel	3.4	5.4	89	91	37	35	31	41	39	..	100	..	99
Italy	37.6	38.5	67	67	26	20	21	14	11	..	100	..	100
Jamaica	1.0	1.4	47	55	0	0	0	..	..	92	89	90	59
Japan	89.0	99.3	76	79	34	37	40	25	28	..	..	..	..
Jordan	1.3	3.3	60	73	29	28	35	49	39	91	..	61	..
Kazakhstan	8.0	8.8	54	56	6	8	10	12	14	..	..	..	..
Kenya	2.7	9.2	16	31	5	8	14	32	23	75	69	39	81
Korea, Dem. Rep.	10.1	13.8	57	60	10	11	13	18	19	100	..	100	..
Korea, Rep.	21.7	37.3	57	80	37	52	55	2	2	100	100	100	100
Kuwait	1.2	1.8	90	97	60	69	55	67	71	100	100	100	100
Kyrgyz Republic	1.4	1.6	38	34	0	0	0	..	..	78	87	..	31
Lao PDR	0.4	1.1	13	22	0	0	0	..	..	..	70	..	13
Latvia	1.7	1.7	68	69	0	0	0	49	53	..	90	..	..
Lebanon	2.2	3.7	74	89	..	..	..	55	52	94	100	18	100
Lesotho	0.2	0.5	13	26	0	0	0	..	..	22	..	11	7
Libya	2.1	4.6	69	87	38	66	81	38	40	..	90	..	75
Lithuania	2.1	2.5	61	68	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Macedonia, FYR	1.0	1.2	54	61	0	0	0	..	..	62	68	9	13
Madagascar	1.6	4.1	18	28	0	0	0	29	25	8	50	..	3
Malawi	0.6	2.3	9	22	0	0	0	..	..	88	70	56	51
Malaysia	5.8	12.4	42	56	7	6	7	16	11	..	100	..	89
Mali	1.2	3.0	19	29	0	0	0	40	35	90	58	5	21
Mauritania	0.4	1.4	27	55	0	0	0	..	..	..	44	..	19
Mauritius	0.4	0.5	42	41	0	0	0	..	..	100	100	95	100
Mexico	44.8	70.9	66	74	27	28	26	31	25	77	81	15	26
Moldova	1.6	2.0	40	46	0	0	0	..	..	..	96	..	9
Mongolia	0.9	1.6	52	62	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Morocco	8.0	15.1	41	55	11	18	22	26	23	85	69	13	18
Mozambique	1.6	6.4	13	38	6	14	24	47	41	51	53	..	12
Myanmar	8.1	12.0	24	27	7	9	14	27	35	34	42	15	40
Namibia	0.2	0.5	23	30	0	0	0	..	..	..	77	..	12
Nepal	0.9	2.6	7	11	0	0	0	..	..	5	34	0	3
Netherlands	12.5	14.0	88	89	7	14	14	8	8	..	100	..	100
New Zealand	2.6	3.2	83	86	0	0	0	30	30	..	..	..	..
Nicaragua	1.5	2.7	50	55	22	27	32	43	47	35	34	16	27
Niger	0.7	2.0	13	20	0	0	0	..	..	20	71	3	4
Nigeria	19.1	51.0	27	42	6	11	15	23	23	30	61	..	21
Norway	2.9	3.3	71	75	0	0	0	..	..	..	100	..	100
Oman	0.3	1.9	32	81	0	0	0	..	..	60	98	25	72
Pakistan	23.2	47.3	28	36	11	19	25	22	23	48	53	4	19
Panama	1.0	1.5	50	56	0	0	0	62	67	99	99	61	81
Papua New Guinea	0.4	0.8	13	17	0	0	0	..	..	51	82	3	11
Paraguay	1.3	2.8	42	55	0	0	0	52	43	66	..	40	..
Peru	11.2	17.9	65	72	26	32	33	39	40	67	62	13	10
Philippines	18.1	42.7	38	57	12	13	15	33	24	..	88	..	64
Poland	20.7	25.1	58	65	18	18	20	16	14	..	100	..	100
Portugal	2.9	6.1	29	61	13	19	24	46	33	..	100	..	100
Puerto Rico	2.1	2.9	67	74	34	30	29	51	48	..	..	..	..
Romania	10.9	12.5	49	56	9	9	10	18	17	..	81	..	3
Russian Federation	97.0	113.1	70	77	16	19	20	8	8



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	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1995	2015	1980	1995	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a	1982-85 ^a	1990-96 ^a
Rwanda	0.2	0.5	5	6	0	0	0	..	..	60	..	60	..
Saudi Arabia	6.2	17.5	66	85	19	21	23	16	17	100	100	33	55
Senegal	2.0	4.2	36	46	18	24	31	48	47	..	83	..	40
Sierra Leone	0.8	1.7	24	35	0	0	0	..	..	30	17	6	8
Singapore	2.3	3.2	100	100	100	100	86	100	100	85	100	..	..
Slovak Republic	2.6	3.1	52	57	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	0.9	1.0	48	50	0	0	0	..	..	90	100	80	95
South Africa	13.3	21.9	48	53	11	20	23	12	11	..	79	..	12
Spain	27.2	30.4	73	77	20	18	18	16	14	..	100	..	100
Sri Lanka	3.2	4.3	22	23	0	0	0	..	..	..	33	..	58
Sudan	3.7	9.7	20	34	6	9	14	31	27	20	79	1	4
Sweden	6.9	7.4	83	83	17	17	19	20	21	..	100	..	100
Switzerland	3.6	4.8	57	68	0	0	0	20	19	..	100	..	100
Syrian Arab Republic	4.1	8.2	47	54	28	28	36	34	28	58	77	33	35
Tajikistan	1.4	1.7	34	28	0	0	0	..	..	..	83	..	14
Tanzania	2.7	9.8	15	31	5	6	9	30	22	93	97	40	83
Thailand	7.9	12.8	17	21	10	11	15	59	55	50	98	44	95
Togo	0.6	1.4	23	32	0	0	0	..	..	34	57	8	13
Trinidad and Tobago	0.7	0.9	63	73	0	0	0	..	..	..	97	..	92
Tunisia	3.3	6.0	52	64	17	23	27	35	31	64	100	29	85
Turkey	19.5	46.2	44	73	17	24	25	23	19	..	99	..	90
Turkmenistan	1.3	2.1	47	45	0	0	0	..	..	..	70	..	5
Uganda	1.1	2.8	9	14	0	0	0	42	40	40	75	10	55
Ukraine	30.9	34.1	62	68	14	16	19	7	8	..	70	..	8
United Arab Emirates	0.7	2.3	72	85	0	0	0	31	41	93	..	22	..
United Kingdom	50.0	52.8	89	89	25	23	23	15	15	..	100	..	100
United States	167.5	207.5	74	77	36	39	39	9	8	..	..	..	..
Uruguay	2.5	3.0	85	91	42	41	40	49	46	59	56	59	..
Uzbekistan	6.5	9.0	41	38	11	10	12	28	26	..	46	..	5
Venezuela, RB	12.0	20.1	79	86	16	27	28	21	16	57	64	5	30
Vietnam	10.3	15.0	19	20	5	7	9	27	25	..	43	..	15
West Bank and Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	1.6	4.0	19	24	0	0	0	..	..	..	40	..	14
Yugoslavia, FR (Serb./Mont.)	4.5	5.5	46	52	11	13	16	24	22	..	..	..	..
Zambia	2.3	3.8	40	39	9	15	23	23	37	56	40	41	..
Zimbabwe	1.6	4.0	22	34	0	13	..	39	40	100	99	5	48
World	1,760.2 s	2,717.5 s	40 w	46 w	14 w	16 w	18 w	18 w	17 w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w
Low income	543.3	1,077.2	22	30	7	10	13	13	13	..	56	..	10
Excl. China & India	182.1	405.7	22	31	6	10	14	27	27	..	..	..	..
Middle income	622.2	961.5	56	65	18	22	24	22	21	..	..	..	..
Lower middle income	346.5	511.3	51	58	14	17	20	21	22	..	..	..	..
Upper middle income	275.8	450.2	63	77	24	29	29	23	19	62	..	25	..
Low & middle income	1,165.5	2,038.8	32	41	10	14	16	18	17	..	..	..	..
East Asia & Pacific	310.2	616.7	22	34	9	12	15	12	9	..	61	..	13
Europe & Central Asia	249.3	314.1	59	66	14	16	18	15	15	..	..	..	..
Latin America & Carib.	233.8	373.9	65	75	24	28	28	27	25	60	..	18	..
Middle East & N. Africa	83.5	164.0	48	57	17	21	24	31	27	..	..	..	..
South Asia	201.2	360.9	22	28	6	10	13	9	11	28	46	1	2
Sub-Saharan Africa	87.5	209.1	23	33	5	8	12	28	29	..	..	..	..
High income	594.7	678.8	75	77	30	32	33	17	17	..	..	..	..
Europe EMU	203.7	225.8	74	78	25	25	25	16	15	..	100	..	97

a. Data are for the most recent year available in the period.



About the data

The population of a city or metropolitan area depends on the boundaries chosen. For example, in 1990 Beijing, China, contained 2.3 million people in 87 square kilometers of “inner city” and 5.4 million people in 158 square kilometers of “core city.” The population of “inner city and inner suburban districts” was 6.3 million, and that of “inner city, inner and outer suburban districts, and inner and outer counties” was 10.8 million. (For most countries, the last definition is used.)

Estimates of the world’s urban population would change significantly if China, India, and a few other populous nations were to change their definition of urban centers. According to China’s State Statistical Bureau, by the end of 1996 urban residents accounted for about 43 percent of China’s population, while in 1994 only 20 percent of the population was considered urban. Besides the continuous migration of people from rural to urban areas, one of the main reasons for this shift was the rapid growth in the hundreds of towns reclassified as cities in recent years. Because the estimates in the table are based on national definitions

of what constitutes a city or metropolitan area, cross-country comparisons should be made with caution.

To estimate urban populations, the United Nations’ ratios of urban to total population were applied to the World Bank’s estimates of total population (see table 2.1). The resulting urban population estimates were used to calculate the population in the largest city as a percentage of the urban population.

Access to sanitation services in urban areas is defined as the percentage of the urban population served by connections to public sewers or household systems such as pit privies, pour-flush latrines, septic tanks, communal toilets, and similar facilities. Access to sanitation in rural areas is included to allow comparison of rural and urban access. The rural population with access is defined as those with adequate means of disposal, such as pit privies, pour-flush latrines, and the like. These definitions and definitions of urban areas vary, however, so comparisons between countries can be misleading (see *Definitions* for table 2.15).

Definitions

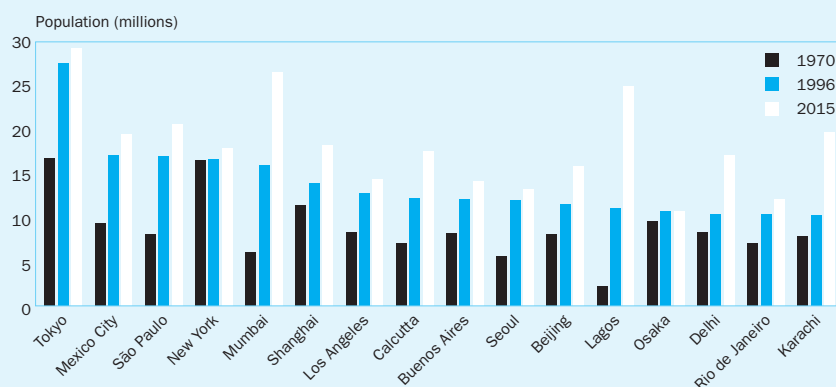
- **Urban population** is the midyear population of areas defined as urban in each country and reported to the United Nations (see *About the data*).
- **Population in urban agglomerations of more than one million** is the percentage of a country’s population living in metropolitan areas that in 1990 had a population of more than one million people.
- **Population in largest city** is the percentage of a country’s urban population living in that country’s largest metropolitan area.
- **Access to sanitation** is the percentage of the urban or rural population served by connections to public sewers or household systems such as pit privies, pour-flush latrines, septic tanks, communal toilets, and similar facilities.

Data sources

The data on urban population come from the United Nations Population Division’s *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1998 Revision*, and the data on population in urban agglomerations and in the largest city are from the United Nations Population Division’s *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1996 Revision*. The total population figures are World Bank estimates. The data on access to sanitation in urban and rural areas are from the World Health Organization.

Figure 3.10

The world’s largest cities continue to boom



Source: United Nations Population Division 1996b.

The world’s urban agglomerations with populations of 10 million or more are projected to grow even more in the next 15 years.