

Selected Indicators on Decentralization, Urbanization, and the Environment



The following data presentation conventions are used in this section.

Italics indicate data for years or periods other than those specified. The closest available year is shown instead.

Aggregates of ratios are generally calculated as weighted averages of the ratios (indicated by the letter *w*), using the value of the denominator as a weight.

The letter *t* denotes totals where missing values are imputed.

The letter *s* denotes totals where missing values are not imputed.

The symbol – means not applicable.

The symbol . . means not available.

Table A.1. Decentralization

Data on national and subnational government revenue and expenditure are from the electronic edition of the *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook* (GFS) of the International Monetary Fund. Data on subnational elections, on tiers of elected subnational governments, and on the number of jurisdictions are from “How Many Tiers? How Many Jurisdictions? A Review of Decentralization

Structures across Countries,” by Marianne Fay, a *World Development Report 1999/2000* background paper. The data were compiled from a variety of sources, including the Area Handbook Series published by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress; the CIA *World Factbook 1998*; *The Statesman’s Yearbook 1998–99*; *Local Finance in the Fifteen Countries of the European Union*, published by DEXIA in 1997; *The Directory of Local Government Systems in Africa*, published in 1998 by the Municipal Development Program; “Decentralization in the ECA Region: Progress and Prospects,” by Deborah Wetzel and Jonathan Dunn, a World Bank paper (1998); and various World Bank country reports. This information was cross-checked with World Bank country teams and country diplomatic representatives in Washington.

Share of subnational government in total public expenditure is calculated from information in the GFS. It is the ratio of expenditure by subnational (intermediate and local) governments to

total expenditure by all levels of government. Both current and capital transfers among levels of government are excluded to prevent double counting. Using the IMF's GFS codes, the formula is $[\text{CII local} + (\text{CIII} - \text{C3.2} - \text{C7.1.1}) \text{intermediate}] / [\text{CII local} + (\text{CIII} - \text{C3.2} - \text{C7.1.1}) \text{intermediate} + (\text{CIII} - \text{C3.2} - \text{C7.1.1}) \text{consolidated central government}]$. **Share of subnational government in total tax revenue** is calculated from information in the GFS. It is the ratio of tax revenue (GFS code AIV) collected by subnational governments to total tax revenue collected by all levels of government. The 1990 figure is in italics if the data were not available for 1990 and were replaced by data from the year, in the period 1988–92, closest to 1990 for which data were available. The 1997 figure is in italics if the data were not available for 1997 and were replaced by data for the most recent year for which data were available in the period 1993–97. The entry for either column under **subnational elections** is "Yes" if the most recent data indicate that elections are held at that level and that an elected government is currently in place. "No+" indicates that, although the legislature is elected, a nominated executive head (for example, a mayor or governor) holds significant powers. **Number of elected subnational tiers** indicates the number of tiers of currently sitting elected government below the central or federal government. It excludes subnational governments headed by an appointed executive who holds significant powers. **Number of jurisdictions** indicates, for each tier of subnational elected government, the number of separate jurisdictions at that tier. At the intermediate level, it indicates the number of states (in federations), provinces, or province equivalents; at the local level, it indicates the number of municipalities or equivalent local governments. Comparisons should be made with care, as the size and functions of subnational governments vary from country to country, and even within countries.

Table A.2. Urbanization

Data on urban population are from the United Nations' *World Urban Prospects: The 1996 Revision*. Total population figures are World Bank estimates. Data on access to sanitation in urban areas are from the World Health Organization. The table includes those economies with populations exceeding 1 million for which data are available for at least 5 of the 11 indicators, including the most recent data on access to sanitation.

Estimates of the population of a city or metropolitan area depend on the boundaries chosen. For exam-

ple, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, contains 6.8 million people in the 700-square-kilometer core of the city, but the greater metropolitan area covers 2,100 square kilometers and is home to more than 10 million. Thus, depending on which boundaries are used, Tehran's population can vary from 11 percent to 18.5 percent of the total population of Iran.

When urban boundaries are redefined in the world's more populous countries, such as China or India, it can significantly alter the estimate of the world's urban population. In the mid-1990s, for example, when China's State Statistical Bureau reclassified many of the country's hundreds of towns as cities, it more than doubled the measured share of China's urban population. At the end of 1996 about 43 percent of the country's population was considered urban, compared with only 20 percent in 1994. Estimates by international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank indicate that 47 percent of the world's population is urban, but using the new figures for China would suddenly increase that share to more than half. Because the estimates in the table are based on national definitions of what constitutes an urban area, cross-country comparisons should be made with caution.

Aggregate measures for regions and income groups include all 210 economies for which data are available.

Urban population is the combined midyear population of all areas defined as urban in each country, as reported to the United Nations. **Urban population by size of city** shows a breakdown of the urban population according to city size. **Population share of largest city** is the percentage share of the urban population living in the country's largest metropolitan area. This is a measure of concentration of the urban population. **Access to sanitation in urban areas** is the share of the urban population served by connections to public sewers or other systems such as pit privies, pour-flush latrines, septic tanks, communal toilets, and similar facilities.

Table A.3. Urban living conditions

Data are from the Global Urban Indicators database of the Urban Indicators Programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). The table shows selected indicators and cities from the UNCHS data set, which covers 46 key urban indicators and 237 cities. Cities are included in the table if data for at least 6 indicators were available out of the 11 shown.

The data should be used with care. Countries may use different data collection methods and definitions,

making comparisons misleading. Also, the sample is biased toward smaller cities. Data are available only for 1993, so no inferences can be made about conditions improving or worsening.

Urban area refers to the city proper, the suburban fringe, and any other built-up, thickly settled areas lying outside but adjacent to the city boundaries. **Urban population** refers to the population of the urban agglomeration, a contiguous inhabited territory defined without regard to administrative boundaries. **Average household income** is the average of household incomes by quintile. Household income is income of all household members from all sources, including wages, pensions or benefits, business earnings, rents, and the value of any business or subsistence products consumed (for example, foodstuffs). **Income differential** is the ratio of the average household income in the top quintile to that in the bottom quintile. **House price-income ratio** is the average house price divided by the average household income. **Crowding** is measured as the median floor area of usable living space per person. **Work trips by public transportation** is the percentage of trips to work made by bus or minibus, tram, or train. Other means of transport commonly used in developing countries, such as taxis, ferries, rickshaws, or animals, are not included. **Travel time to work** is the average time in minutes, for all modes, for a one-way trip to work. **Households with sewerage connection** is the percentage of households with a connection to sewerage. **Households with regular waste collection** is the percentage of households served by regular waste collection, whether household-by-household collection or regular “dumpster” group collection. It does not include households that transport their own garbage to a local dump. **Households with access to potable water** is the percentage of households with access to potable water within 200 meters of the dwelling, where potable water is water that is free from contamination and safe to drink without further treatment.

Table A.4. Environment

Data on carbon dioxide emissions are from the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Data on elec-

tricity and fossil fuel production are from the International Energy Agency. Data on biodiversity are from the World Conservation Monitoring Center’s *Biodiversity Data Sourcebook 1994* and the World Conservation Union’s (IUCN) *1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* and *1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants*. Data on fisheries are from the *Yearbook of Fishery Statistics*, volume 82, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), supplemented by data that the FAO makes available electronically to the World Bank. Data selection is based on availability and on the global significance of each economy on these measures. Economies are included if their carbon dioxide emissions exceed 2 percent of the world total, fossil fuel production is over 50 million metric tons, the number of threatened bird and mammal species exceeds 100, or the marine fish catch is over 10 million metric tons. The aggregate measures by income level and region include all economies (out of a maximum of 210) for which data are available and aggregation is possible.

Carbon dioxide emissions refers to emissions stemming from the burning of fossil fuels and the manufacture of cement. It includes carbon dioxide produced during consumption of solid, liquid, and gas fuels and gas flaring. **Electricity production** is measured at the terminals of all alternator sets at the power station. The percentage from fossil fuel is the share produced by oil, petroleum products, coal, and natural gas. **Fossil fuel production** is total production of all types of fossil fuels, converted to metric tons of crude oil of equivalent energy content. **Mammal and bird species** excludes whales and includes birds within wintering ranges of countries. **Higher plant species** refers to native vascular plant species. The number of species threatened is the number classified by the IUCN as endangered, vulnerable, rare, indeterminate, previously endangered but now stabilized, or insufficiently known. **Annual marine catch** is the total catch of fish taken for all purposes (commercial, industrial, recreation, and subsistence) by all types and classes of fishing units (individual fishermen, fishing vessels, etc.) from the waters of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and their adjacent seas.