



FACT SHEET 7

MEGA-CITIES

- In 1950, there were two mega-cities with 10 million or more inhabitants. By 2005, their number had increased to 20 and it is projected that there will be 22 mega-cities in 2015. Developing countries will have 17 of these 22 mega-cities in 2015.
- With 35 million residents in 2005, the metropolitan area of Tokyo was by far the most populous urban agglomeration in the world.
- Tokyo was followed by Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and New York-Newark, each with 19 million residents, and São Paulo, with 18 million people.
- In 2005, mega-cities accounted for about 9.3 per cent of the world's urban population. In 2015, mega-cities are expected to account for 9.4 per cent of the world's urban population.

TABLE 6. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD AND DEVELOPMENT GROUPS, BY AREA OF RESIDENCE AND SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000, 2005 AND 2015

Development group	Area of residence and size of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)	Population (millions)				Percentage distribution			
		1975	2000	2005	2015	1975	2000	2005	2015
World	Urban area	1 516	2 845	3 150	3 819	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	53	240	293	359	3.5	8.4	9.3	9.4
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	117	194	204	273	7.7	6.8	6.5	7.1
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	317	636	713	910	20.9	22.4	22.6	23.8
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	170	278	318	347	11.2	9.8	10.1	9.1
	Fewer than 500,000	859	1 497	1 622	1 930	56.6	52.6	51.5	50.5
More developed regions	Urban area	701	874	898	945	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	42	85	88	91	6.1	9.8	9.8	9.6
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	50	42	54	67	7.1	4.8	6.0	7.1
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	137	192	194	200	19.5	21.9	21.6	21.2
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	73	79	82	87	10.5	9.0	9.1	9.2
	Fewer than 500,000	398	476	480	500	56.9	54.5	53.4	52.9
Less developed regions.....	Urban area	815	1 971	2 252	2 874	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	11	154	204	268	1.3	7.8	9.1	9.3
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	68	152	150	206	8.3	7.7	6.7	7.2
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	180	444	519	710	22.1	22.5	23.0	24.7
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	97	199	237	260	11.9	10.1	10.5	9.0
	Fewer than 500,000	460	1 021	1 142	1 430	56.5	51.8	50.7	49.8



FACT SHEET 7 (CONTINUED)

MEGA-CITIES

TABLE 7. POPULATION OF CITIES WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE, 1950, 1975, 2000, 2005 AND 2015

1950		1975		2000		2005		2015	
City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)
1	New York-Newark 12.3	1	Tokyo 26.6	1	Tokyo 34.4	1	Tokyo 35.2	1	Tokyo 35.5
2	Tokyo 11.3	2	New York-Newark 15.9	2	Ciudad de México (Mexico City) 18.1	2	Ciudad de México (Mexico City) 19.4	2	Mumbai (Bombay) 21.9
		3	Ciudad de México (Mexico City) 10.7	3	New York-Newark 17.8	3	New York-Newark 18.7	3	Ciudad de México (Mexico City) 21.6
				4	São Paulo 17.1	4	São Paulo 18.3	4	São Paulo 20.5
				5	Mumbai (Bombay) 16.1	5	Mumbai (Bombay) 18.2	5	New York-Newark 19.9
				6	Shanghai 13.2	6	Delhi 15.0	6	Delhi 18.6
				7	Kolkata (Calcutta) 13.1	7	Shanghai 14.5	7	Shanghai 17.2
				8	Delhi 12.4	8	Kolkata (Calcutta) 14.3	8	Kolkata (Calcutta) 17.0
				9	Buenos Aires 11.8	9	Jakarta 13.2	9	Dhaka 16.8
				10	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana 11.8	10	Buenos Aires 12.6	10	Jakarta 16.8
				11	Osaka-Kobe 11.2	11	Dhaka 12.4	11	Lagos 16.1
				12	Jakarta 11.1	12	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana 12.3	12	Karachi 15.2
				13	Rio de Janeiro 10.8	13	Karachi 11.6	13	Buenos Aires 13.4
				14	Al-Qahirah (Cairo) 10.4	14	Rio de Janeiro 11.5	14	Al-Qahirah (Cairo) 13.1
				15	Dhaka 10.2	15	Osaka-Kobe 11.3	15	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana 13.1
				16	Moskva (Moscow) 10.1	16	Al-Qahirah (Cairo) 11.1	16	Manila 12.9
				17	Karachi 10.0	17	Lagos 10.9	17	Beijing 12.9
				18	Manila 10.0	18	Beijing 10.7	18	Rio de Janeiro 12.8
						19	Manila 10.7	19	Osaka-Kobe 11.3
						20	Moskva (Moscow) 10.7	20	Istanbul 11.2
								21	Moskva (Moscow) 11.0
								22	Guangzhou, Guangdong 10.4



FACT SHEET 7 (CONTINUED)

MEGA-CITIES

- Mega-cities are not the fastest growing cities in the world. Of the 20 mega-cities identified in 2005, 13 had populations that grew by less than the average annual growth rate of the world's urban population during 1975-2005 (2.4 per cent).
- Between 1975-2005, only Dhaka in Bangladesh, Lagos in Nigeria, Delhi in India, Karachi in Pakistan, Jakarta in Indonesia, Mumbai (Bombay) in India and Manila in the Philippines experienced urban population growth higher than 2.4 per cent.

TABLE 8. POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE IN 2005 AND THEIR AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1975-2005 AND 2005-2015

Urban agglomeration	Population (millions)				Average annual rate of change (percentage)	
	1975	2000	2005	2015	1975-2005	2005-2015
1 Tokyo.....	26.6	34.4	35.2	35.5	0.93	0.08
2 Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	10.7	18.1	19.4	21.6	1.99	1.05
3 New York-Newark.....	15.9	17.8	18.7	19.9	0.55	0.60
4 São Paulo	9.6	17.1	18.3	20.5	2.15	1.13
5 Mumbai (Bombay).....	7.1	16.1	18.2	21.9	3.15	1.84
6 Delhi	4.4	12.4	15.0	18.6	4.08	2.12
7 Shanghai	7.3	13.2	14.5	17.2	2.28	1.72
8 Kolkata (Calcutta).....	7.9	13.1	14.3	17.0	1.98	1.73
9 Jakarta.....	4.8	11.1	13.2	16.8	3.37	2.41
10 Buenos Aires.....	8.7	11.8	12.6	13.4	1.20	0.65
11 Dhaka.....	2.2	10.2	12.4	16.8	5.81	3.04
12 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana.....	8.9	11.8	12.3	13.1	1.07	0.63
13 Karachi	4.0	10.0	11.6	15.2	3.56	2.67
14 Rio de Janeiro	7.6	10.8	11.5	12.8	1.39	1.07
15 Osaka-Kobe	9.8	11.2	11.3	11.3	0.45	0.04
16 Al-Qahirah (Cairo).....	6.4	10.4	11.1	13.1	1.82	1.66
17 Lagos	1.9	8.4	10.9	16.1	5.84	3.94
18 Beijing	6.0	9.8	10.7	12.9	1.91	1.82
19 Manila.....	5.0	10.0	10.7	12.9	2.53	1.90
20 Moskva (Moscow).....	7.6	10.1	10.7	11.0	1.12	0.34

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to their population size in 2005.



FACT SHEET 7 (CONTINUED)

MEGA-CITIES

- Among the six most populous mega-cities in the world in 2005 – Tokyo, Ciudad de México (Mexico City), New York-Newark, São Paulo, Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi – Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi had annual population growth rates above 2.4 per cent.
- Compared to 1950, the population of Delhi in 2005 was about 11 times larger; that of São Paulo was 8 times larger, and that of Ciudad de México (Mexico City) was almost 7 times larger.
- In the future, the growth of the major mega-cities is projected to slow down, both in more developed regions as well as less developed regions. However, there will be more variation in growth rates in less developed regions. It is anticipated that Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi will be growing faster than Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and São Paulo. Both Tokyo and New York-Newark will experience very low population growth, resulting in the virtual stagnation of their population size.

Figure 8. Population growth of the six most populous mega-cities, 2005

