

# Urban and Rural Areas 2005

	Population (thousands)						Average annual rate of change 2000-2005 (per cent)		Population of the largest urban agglomeration in 2005		
	Urban		Rural		Percentage urban		Urban	Rural	Agglomeration*	Population (thousands)	As percentage of urban population
	2005	2030	2005	2030	2005	2030					
<b>World</b>	<b>3 150 451</b>	<b>4 912 553</b>	<b>3 314 299</b>	<b>3 286 551</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>			
More developed regions <sup>1</sup>	898 061	1 011 061	313 204	239 597	74.1	80.8	0.5	-0.4			
Less developed regions <sup>2</sup>	2 252 390	3 901 492	3 001 095	3 046 954	42.9	56.1	2.7	0.5			
Least developed countries <sup>3</sup>	202 620	523 627	556 769	757 707	26.7	40.9	4.0	1.9			
Other less developed countries <sup>4</sup>	2 049 769	3 377 864	2 444 326	2 289 247	45.6	59.6	2.5	0.2			
Less developed regions <sup>5</sup>	1 713 071	3 019 680	2 217 088	2 473 173	43.6	55.0	2.6	1.1			
Sub-Saharan Africa	264 355	602 413	486 918	645 849	35.2	48.3	3.6	1.6			
<b>Africa</b>	<b>347 164</b>	<b>742 188</b>	<b>558 772</b>	<b>721 305</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>			
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>63 679</b>	<b>165 913</b>	<b>224 028</b>	<b>326 785</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>			
Burundi	755	3 314	6 793	12 616	10.0	20.8	6.1	2.7	Bujumbura	447	59.2
Comoros <sup>5</sup>	295	748	503	609	37.0	55.1	4.4	1.7	Moroni	44	14.8
Djibouti	683	1 104	110	96	86.1	92.0	2.7	-1.5	Djibouti	555	81.3
Eritrea	854	2 798	3 547	5 340	19.4	34.4	6.0	3.9	Asmara	551	64.5
Ethiopia	12 367	34 949	65 064	94 031	16.0	27.1	3.8	2.2	Addis Ababa	2 893	23.4
Kenya	7 106	20 027	27 150	40 579	20.7	33.0	3.2	1.9	Nairobi	2 773	39.0
Madagascar	4 989	12 713	13 617	19 604	26.8	39.3	3.4	2.6	Antananarivo	1 585	31.8
Malawi	2 210	6 920	10 674	14 766	17.2	31.9	4.8	1.8	Blantyre-Limbe	717	32.4
Mauritius <sup>6</sup>	527	752	717	691	42.4	52.1	0.8	1.1	Port Louis	146	27.7
Mozambique	6 828	15 885	12 964	13 719	34.5	53.7	4.3	0.9	Maputo	1 320	19.3
Réunion	725	971	60	37	92.4	96.3	2.2	-4.1	Saint-Denis	137	18.9
Rwanda	1 747	6 053	7 290	8 315	19.3	42.1	9.2	1.0	Kigali	779	44.6
Seychelles	43	64	38	32	52.9	66.6	1.6	0.1	Victoria	25	59.2
Somalia	2 896	7 634	5 332	7 670	35.2	49.9	4.3	2.6	Mogadishu (Mogadishu)	1 320	45.6
Uganda	3 627	14 886	25 190	57 192	12.6	20.7	4.2	3.3	Kampala	1 319	36.4
United Republic of Tanzania	9 277	21 720	29 052	34 458	24.2	38.7	3.6	1.5	Dar es Salaam	2 676	28.8
Zambia	4 054	7 922	7 584	9 785	35.0	44.7	1.8	1.7	Lusaka	1 260	30.8
Zimbabwe	4 667	7 454	8 343	7 246	35.9	50.7	1.9	-0.0	Harare	1 515	32.5
<b>Middle Africa</b>	<b>43 741</b>	<b>113 786</b>	<b>65 900</b>	<b>93 437</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>			
Angola	8 501	20 487	7 441	9 563	53.3	68.9	4.1	1.5	Luanda	2 766	32.5
Cameroon	8 915	16 320	7 407	6 501	54.6	71.5	3.6	-0.1	Douala	1 761	19.8
Central African Republic	1 536	2 696	2 501	2 875	38.0	48.4	1.6	1.2	Bangui	541	35.2
Chad	2 463	8 146	7 286	11 605	25.3	41.2	5.0	2.9	N'Djaména	888	36.0
Congo	2 406	6 060	1 593	2 491	60.2	70.9	3.6	2.1	Brazzaville	1 173	48.7
Dem. Republic of the Congo	18 477	57 757	39 072	59 737	32.1	49.3	4.3	2.1	Kinshasa	6 049	32.7
Equatorial Guinea	196	413	307	423	38.9	49.4	2.4	2.3	Malabo	96	48.9
Gabon	1 157	1 728	227	179	83.6	90.6	2.5	-2.1	Libreville	556	48.2
São Tomé and Príncipe	91	179	66	63	58.0	74.0	3.9	0.2	São Tomé	57	62.1
<b>Northern Africa</b>	<b>97 580</b>	<b>172 855</b>	<b>93 316</b>	<b>96 887</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>			
Algeria	20 804	34 081	12 050	10 625	63.3	76.2	2.7	-0.3	El Djazair (Algiers)	3 200	15.4
Egypt	31 662	57 682	42 371	49 375	42.8	53.9	2.0	1.8	Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	11 128	35.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	4 966	7 512	887	833	84.8	90.0	2.4	-0.2	Tarabulus (Tripoli)	2 098	42.2
Morocco	18 469	30 528	13 009	11 488	58.7	72.7	2.7	-0.2	Dar-el-Beida (Casablanca)	3 138	17.0
Sudan	14 771	33 080	21 462	21 431	40.8	60.7	4.4	0.4	Al-Khartoum (Khartoum)	4 518	30.6
Tunisia	6 595	9 291	3 508	3 089	65.3	75.0	1.7	0.0	Tunis	734	11.1
Western Sahara	313	681	29	47	91.6	93.6	2.7	1.7	El Aai'un	185	59.1
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>30 430</b>	<b>37 956</b>	<b>23 626</b>	<b>17 367</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-0.3</b>			
Botswana	1 013	1 195	752	448	57.4	72.1	1.6	-1.7	Gaborone	210	20.7
Lesotho	336	517	1 459	1 146	18.7	31.1	1.0	-0.1	Maseru	172	51.2
Namibia	713	1 361	1 318	1 280	35.1	51.5	3.0	0.6	Windhoek	289	40.5
South Africa	28 119	34 523	19 313	13 882	59.3	73.3	1.6	-0.4	Johannesburg	3 254	11.6
Swaziland	249	360	783	612	24.1	37.0	0.9	-0.0	Mancini	104	41.8
<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>111 734</b>	<b>251 678</b>	<b>151 903</b>	<b>186 828</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>			
Benin	3 382	8 519	5 057	7 301	40.1	53.9	4.1	2.6	Cotonou	719	21.3
Burkina Faso	2 418	8 512	10 810	17 686	18.3	32.5	5.2	2.7	Ouagadougou	926	38.3
Cape Verde	291	585	216	223	57.3	72.4	3.8	0.6	Praia	117	40.3
Côte d'Ivoire	8 165	15 893	9 989	10 991	45.0	59.1	2.5	0.9	Abidjan	3 577	43.8
Gambia	818	1 732	699	707	53.9	71.0	4.7	0.9	Banjul	381	46.6
Ghana	10 576	21 420	11 537	11 655	47.8	64.8	3.8	0.7	Accra	1 981	18.7
Guinea	3 100	8 014	6 302	8 478	33.0	48.6	3.4	1.6	Conakry	1 425	46.0
Guinea-Bissau	470	1 281	1 117	2 036	29.6	38.6	2.9	3.0	Bissau	367	78.1
Liberia	1 907	4 904	1 376	1 751	58.1	73.7	2.7	-0.4	Monrovia	936	49.0
Mali	4 118	12 996	9 400	14 417	30.5	44.8	4.8	2.2	Bamako	1 368	33.2
Mauritania	1 240	2 835	1 829	2 647	40.4	51.7	3.2	2.8	Nouakchott	637	51.3
Niger	2 346	8 259	11 611	22 378	16.8	27.0	4.1	3.2	Niamey	850	36.2
Nigeria	63 347	134 888	68 183	69 567	48.2	66.0	4.1	0.7	Lagos	10 886	17.2
Saint Helena <sup>7</sup>	2	3	3	3	38.9	49.8	-0.2	0.0	Half Tree Hollow	1	60.6
Senegal	4 844	9 936	6 814	8 741	41.6	53.2	2.8	2.1	Dakar	2 159	44.6
Sierra Leone	2 247	5 743	3 278	3 907	40.7	59.5	5.9	2.9	Freetown	799	35.6
Togo	2 463	6 147	3 682	4 339	40.1	58.6	4.5	1.6	Lomé	1 337	54.3
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1 552 944</b>	<b>2 636 623</b>	<b>2 352 471</b>	<b>2 235 850</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>			
<b>Eastern Asia</b>	<b>677 603</b>	<b>1 034 427</b>	<b>846 777</b>	<b>620 650</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>			
China <sup>8</sup>	531 817	872 671	784 026	573 781	40.4	60.3	3.1	-0.9	Shanghai	14 503	2.7
China, Hong Kong SAR <sup>9</sup>	7 041	8 610	—	—	100.0	100.0	1.2	—	Hong Kong	7 041	100.0
China, Macao SAR <sup>10</sup>	460	531	—	—	100.0	100.0	0.7	—	Macao	460	100.0
Dem. People's Republic of Korea	13 852	17 638	8 636	6 737	61.6	72.4	1.0	-0.2	P'yongyang	3 351	24.2
Japan	84 303	90 350	43 782	32 216	65.8	73.7	0.4	-0.2	Tokyo	35 197	41.8
Mongolia	1 501	2 220	1 146	1 161	56.7	65.7	1.2	1.1	Ulaanbaatar	863	57.5
Republic of Korea	38 630	42 406	9 187	6 754	80.8	86.3	0.7	-0.7	Seoul (Seoul)	9 645	25.0
<b>South-central Asia</b>	<b>492 647</b>	<b>943 816</b>	<b>1 118 249</b>	<b>1 253 825</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>			
Afghanistan	6 839	22 997	23 024	40 428	22.9	36.3	6.1	4.2	Kabul	2 994	43.8
Bangladesh	35 563	82 064	106 259	123 577	25.1	39.9	3.5	1.4	Dhaka	12 430	35.0
India	240	774	1 923	2 686	11.1	22.4	5.1	1.9	Mumbai (Bombay)	86	35.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	316 942	589 957	786 428	859 121	28.7	40.7	2.3	1.3	Tehran	18 196	5.7
Kazakhstan	8 498	9 738	6 328	4 818	57.3	66.9	0.1	-0.8	Almaty	1 156	13.6
Kyrgyzstan	1 884	2 968	3 379	3 463	38.8	46.2	1.4	1.1	Bishkek	798	42.3
Maldives	97	247	232	300	29.6	45.2	4.0	1.9	Male	89	91.5
Nepal	4 276	12 679	22 857	28 746	15.6	30.6	5.3	1.6	Kathmandu	815	19.1
Pakistan	55 040	122 572	102 895	123 751	34.9	49.8	3.0	1.5	Karachi	11 608	21.1
Sri Lanka	3 141	5 064	17 602	18 603	15.7	21.4	0.1	1.0	Columbo	652	20.8
Tajikistan	1 606	2 868	4 901	6 369	24.7	31.1	0.2	1.4	Dushanbe	549	34.2
Turkmenistan	2 235	3 757	2 998	2 513	46.2	59.9	1.9	1.0	Ashgabat	711	31.8
Uzbekistan	9 755	16 304	16 838	19 025	36.7	46.1	1.1	1.6	Tashkent	2 181	22.4
<b>South-eastern Asia</b>											

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## 2005

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## WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 2005 REVISION

### KEY FINDINGS

1. The twentieth century witnessed the rapid urbanization of the world's population. The global proportion of urban population increased from a mere 13 per cent in 1900 to 29 per cent in 1950 and, according to the 2005 Revision of *World Urbanization Prospects*, reached 49 per cent in 2005. Since the world is projected to continue to urbanize, 60 per cent of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2030. Reviewing the growth of the urban population worldwide gives the best indication of the scale of these dramatic developments: the urban population increased from 220 million in 1900 to 732 million in 1950, and is estimated to have reached 3.2 billion in 2005, thus more than quadrupling since 1950. According to the latest United Nations population projections, 4.9 billion people are expected to be urban-dwellers in 2030.

2. The urban population passed the 1 billion mark in 1961. It took 25 years to add another billion urban-dwellers and just 17 years more to add a third billion. Thus, the urban population reached 3 billion in 2003 and is projected to increase to 4 billion in 2018, 15 years later. By 2030, it is expected to be about 5 billion.

3. With an annual urban growth rate of 1.8 per cent, nearly double that projected for the total population (1 per cent), the world's urban population is expected to increase from 3.2 billion in 2005 to 4.9 billion in 2030, when 60 per cent of the global population is expected to live in urban areas.

4. Although the world is urbanizing rapidly, the number of rural-dwellers is high and still growing. However, as of 2019 the rural population is projected to decline slowly. Consequently, the number of rural-dwellers in 2030 is expected to be slightly lower than that in 2005 (3.3 billion). In 2005, 71 per cent of all rural-dwellers lived in Asia, primarily in India, China, Indonesia and Bangladesh, in order of rural population size.

5. Population growth will be particularly rapid in the urban areas of the less developed regions, averaging 2.2 per cent annually during 2005-2030. As a consequence, the urban population in the less developed regions will increase from 2.3 billion to 3.9 billion over the next 25 years.

6. Migration from rural to urban areas and the transformation of rural settlements into urban places are important determinants of the high urban population growth anticipated in the less developed regions. Assuming that migration and reclassification account for 40 to 50 per cent of urban population growth in the less developed regions, a total of 250 million to 310 million people in developing countries would be expected to become urban-dwellers between 2005 and 2015 either because they would migrate from rural to urban areas or because their rural settlements would become urban.

7. The urban population of the more developed regions is projected to increase very slowly, rising from 0.9 billion in 2005 to 1 billion in 2030. Between 2005 and 2030, its average annual growth rate is projected to be 0.5 per cent, about a third of the 1.4 per cent per year estimated for the period 1950-2005.

8. Urbanization is very far advanced in the more developed regions, where in 2005 almost three quarters (74 per cent) of the population lived in urban settlements. The proportion urban in the more developed regions is projected to increase to 81 per cent by 2030. In the less developed regions, the equivalent proportion was 43 per cent in 2005 and is projected to rise to 56 per cent by 2030.

9. Africa and Asia were the least urbanized areas in the world in 2005 (38 and 40 per cent, respectively). A combination of a large starting population and a projected rate of urban population growth that remains relatively high over the next 25 years results in a marked increase of the urban populations of both continents. By 2030, Asia will rank first and Africa second in terms of the number of urban-dwellers.

Indeed, in 2030, almost 7 out of every 10 urban residents in the world will be living in Africa or Asia. The proportion urban is projected to reach 54 per cent in Asia and 51 per cent in Africa by 2030.

10. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean was already highly urbanized, with 77 per cent of its population living in cities in 2005. By 2030, that proportion is projected to reach 84 per cent.

11. In Europe the proportion of the population residing in urban areas is expected to rise from 72 per cent in 2005 to 78 per cent in 2030. In Northern America, the increase in the proportion urban is projected to be from 81 per cent in 2005 to 87 per cent in 2030. In Oceania, the equivalent rise is from 71 per cent in 2005 to 74 per cent in 2030.

12. The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of mega-cities, that is, cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. Never before had such large populations been concentrated in cities. Since 1950 the number of mega-cities has risen from 2 to 20 in 2005. Two additional mega-cities are projected to emerge over the next decade, to reach 22 by 2015, among which 17 are located in developing countries. In 2005, mega-cities accounted for 9 per cent of the world's urban population.

13. The populations of mega-cities, being large, tend to grow less rapidly than other urban centres. Among the 20 mega-cities in existence 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). Only seven of the 20 mega-cities grew faster. Thus, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Lagos in Nigeria each grew by 5.8 per cent annually; Delhi in India by 4.1 per cent; Karachi in Pakistan by 3.6 per cent; Jakarta in Indonesia by 3.4 per cent; Mumbai (Bombay) in India by 3.1 per cent; and Manila in the Philippines by 2.5 per cent. For the future, six of the 22 mega-cities projected to exist in 2015 are projected to grow by more than 1.9 per cent per year, the average annual growth rate projected for

the global urban population during 2005-2015. These cities are: Lagos in Nigeria, Dhaka in Bangladesh, Karachi in Pakistan, Jakarta in Indonesia, Guangzhou in China and Delhi in India, in order of their annual growth rates.

14. With 35 million residents in 2005, the metropolitan area of Tokyo was by far the most populous urban agglomeration in the world. Tokyo had slightly more residents than the entire country of Kenya in 2005 (34 million). Tokyo was also the most populous capital in the world. After Tokyo, the next largest urban agglomerations were Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and the urban agglomeration of New York-Newark, with 19 million inhabitants each, followed by São Paulo and Mumbai (Bombay), with 18 million people each.

15. In 2015 Tokyo will still be the largest urban agglomeration with 35 million inhabitants, followed by Mumbai (Bombay) and Ciudad de México (Mexico City) with 22 million people each, and São Paulo with 21 million inhabitants.

16. Some cities dominate the urban system of their countries. The population of Al Kuwait (Kuwait City), for instance, accounted for 69 per cent of all urban residents in Kuwait in 2005. In the same year, 68 per cent of all urban residents in Puerto Rico lived in San Juan and 64 per cent of the urban population of Haiti resided in Port-au-Prince.

17. Small cities, that is, those with a population of fewer than 500,000 people, were the place of residence of about 51 per cent of all urban-dwellers in the world in 2005. Thus, the majority of urban-dwellers lived in fairly small urban settlements.

18. The spatial distribution of population has always figured prominently on the policy agenda of Governments. The Governments of developing countries have often expressed concern about being unable to provide basic services for their rapidly growing urban populations, including safe drinking water,

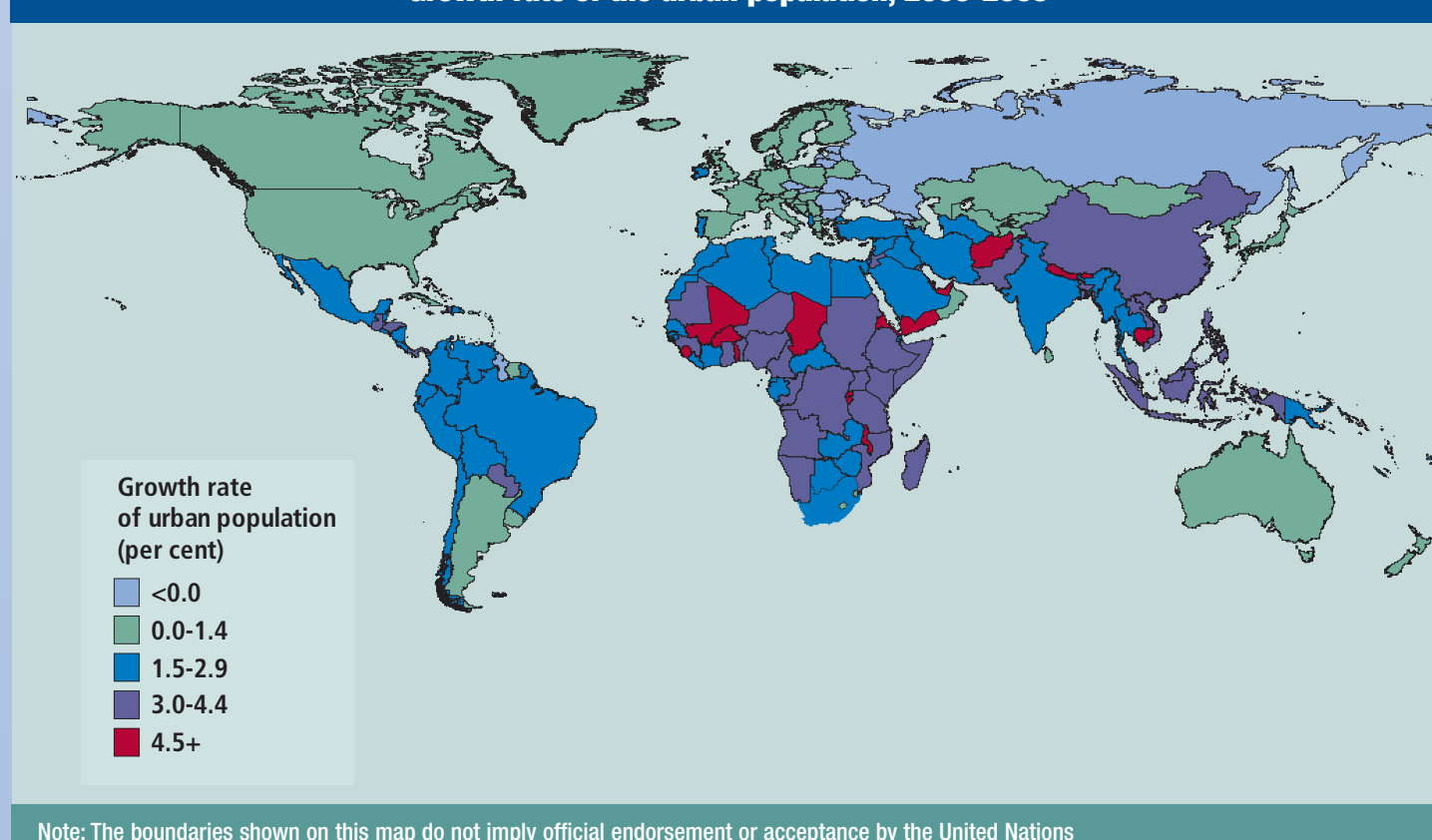
sanitation, affordable housing and public transportation. Measures used to shape the spatial distribution of the population have included policies to reduce migration to urban agglomerations by imposing internal migration controls; the creation of new centres of economic growth by, for instance, moving the national capital to a new location; incentives for businesses and industry to locate in medium-sized cities; and the development of infrastructure and services in smaller or medium-sized cities to attract businesses and migrants alike.

19. Today, almost half of humanity lives in cities. By 2030, three out of every five people on earth will likely reside in urban centres, and nearly half of the world's population will live in the cities of developing countries. Urbanization brings with it both opportunities and challenges. The more developed regions are highly urbanized, indicating that urbanization is a natural concomitant of development. In the developing world, urbanization has been rapid, but major areas, such as Africa and Asia, still lag far behind the rest of the world in their levels of urbanization. Countries in those regions, in particular, face the double challenge of rising urbanization and continued rural population growth. If the twenty-first century is to respond creatively to the many opportunities that the growth of urban areas brings, then the economic dynamics of cities have to be nurtured.

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Growth rate of the urban population, 2000-2005



Percentage of the population living in urban areas, 2005

