

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat

World Urbanization Prospects

The 1999 Revision



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NOTE

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The designations “developed” and “developing” countries and “more developed” and “less developed” regions are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

The term “country” as used in the text of this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

This publication has been issued without formal editing.

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PREFACE

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues and undertakes regular studies on population levels and trends, population estimates and projections, population policies, and population and development inter-relationships.

In particular, the Population Division is concerned with the following substantive areas: patterns of mortality, fertility and international and internal migration, including levels and trends, their causes and consequences, and socio-economic, geographic and gender differentials; spatial distribution of population between urban and rural areas and among cities; estimates and projections of population size, age and sex structure, spatial distribution and demographic indicators for all countries of the world; population and development policies at the national and international levels; and the relationship between socio-economic development and population change.

The work of the Population Division is published in a variety of formats, including electronically, in order to meet the needs of diverse audiences. These publications and materials are used by Governments, national and international organisations, research institutions and individuals engaged in social and economic planning, research and training, and by the general public.

This report presents the results of the United Nations *1999 Revision* of the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural populations and of urban agglomerations for major areas, regions and countries of the world. This *Revision* has been carried out by the Population Division in conjunction with the *1998 Revision* of the United Nations global population estimates and projections, published in *World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision*. It updates and supersedes previous estimates and projections published by the United Nations. Separately, wall charts entitled *Urban Agglomerations, 1999* and *Urban and Rural Areas, 1999* have been issued.

Diskettes containing the major results of the *1999 Revision* can be purchased from the Population Division. A description of the databases and the order form is given at the end.

Selected portions of this publication may also be accessed on the Population Division world wide web site at www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm. For further information, please contact the office of Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York 10017, USA.

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Explanatory notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

Various symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report, as follows:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the population is less than 500 persons.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Years given refer to 1 July.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the beginning year to 1 July of the end year.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. Those major areas are further divided geographically into 21 regions. In addition, the regions are classified as belonging, for statistical convenience, to either of two general groups: more developed and less developed regions. The less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The more developed regions comprise Northern America, Japan, Europe and Australia/New Zealand.