

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

World Urbanization Prospects

The 2001 Revision



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

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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.

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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.

The Population Division work encompasses the following substantive areas: the study of mortality, fertility, international and internal migration, including their levels and trends as well as their causes and consequences; estimates and projections of the distribution of the population between urban and rural areas and in cities; estimates and projections of population size, age and sex structure, and demographic indicators for all countries of the world; the documentation and analysis of population and development policies at the national and international levels; and the study of the relationship between socio-economic development and population change.

This report presents the results of the *2001 Revision* of the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural populations for major areas, regions and countries of the world and of all urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2000. The data in this *Revision* are consistent with the total populations estimated and projected according to the medium variant of the *2000 Revision* of the United Nations global population estimates and projections, published in *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision*¹. This *Revision* updates and supersedes previous estimates and projections published by the United Nations. Wall charts entitled *Urban Agglomerations, 2001* and *Urban and Rural Areas, 2001* are now available.

Diskettes containing the major results of the *2001 Revision* can be purchased from the Population Division. A description of the databases and the order form is given beginning on page 319.

This publication may also be accessed on the Population Division world wide web site at www.unpopulation.org. For further information about the *2001 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, please contact the office of Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York 10017, USA.

¹*World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XIII.8).

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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 (..) indicates that the item is not applicable.
- Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.
- An em dash (—) indicates that the value is zero (magnitude zero).
- 0 and/or 0.0 indicates that the population is less than 500 persons.
- 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, countries and areas are classified as belonging, for statistical convenience, to three general groups: more developed regions, less developed regions and least developed countries. The more developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. The less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean, plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, include 49 countries, of which 34 are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in Oceania. These countries are also included in the less developed regions.