

IV. URBANIZATION PATTERNS AND RURAL POPULATION GROWTH AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Urbanization patterns at the country level are much more varied than at the regional level. Furthermore, for most countries, the changes experienced over the second half of the twentieth century were remarkable. Thus, whereas in 1950 only a quarter of the 228 countries or areas in the world had more than 46 per cent of their population living in urban areas, by 2000 nearly half had 57 per cent or more of their population living in urban areas. If the country-level projections presented in this volume prove approximately correct, by 2030 over three-quarters of all countries or areas will have over half of their population in urban areas.

In most countries the urban population has grown in parallel to the proportion urban. However, because most countries have small or medium-sized populations, their urban populations remain small. Thus, in 2000 three-quarters of all countries and areas had urban populations of less than 7 million persons. At the same time, 25 countries accounted for 75 per cent of the urban population in the world. China and India had the largest urban populations, at 456 million and 279 million, respectively. In 1950 the United States had about half again as many urban dwellers as either China or India, but by 2000 China had over twice the urban population of the United States and India 27 per cent more. Most developed countries with relatively large urban populations in 2000 had experienced low rates of urban population growth during 1950-2000 (below 2 per cent per year), whereas most developing countries had experienced considerably higher annual rates of urban population growth (ranging between 2 per cent and 6 per cent), the highest being those of Bangladesh and Nigeria (5.9 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively).

In 2030, 28 countries are expected to account for 75 per cent of the world's urban population, and eight for over half. China and India have projected urban populations of 883 million and 576 million, respectively. Only 7 of the 28 countries with large urban populations in 2030 will be in the more developed regions, down from 9 of 25 in

2000. In 1950, in contrast, of the 17 countries accounting for 75 per cent of the world's population, 11 were in the developed regions. These changes reflect the striking shift in the world's urban population from the more developed to the less developed countries that has taken place since 1950 and is expected to continue during the twenty-first century.

The rural population of the world continues to be concentrated in developing countries. Although three-quarters of all countries or areas of the world had rural populations of less than 7.2 million persons in 2000, the largest rural populations are considerably higher than the largest urban populations: 819 million in China and 730 million in India. Just 17 countries accounted for 75 per cent of the total rural population in 2000, including only two developed countries (the Russian Federation and the United States). In comparison to the urban growth rates of the 25 countries that comprised 75 per cent of the urban population in 2000, the growth rates of the rural population among these 17 countries during 1950-2000 were considerably lower. Thus, none grew at rates above 3 per cent per year and only four had rural growth rates higher than 2 per cent per year (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Thailand), while for three others average annual rural growth rates were negative (Brazil, Japan and the Russian Federation).

During 2000-2030, more than half of the countries or areas of the world are expected to experience negative growth rates of the rural population, so that their rural populations will decrease. Among the 18 countries expected to account for 75 per cent of the world's rural population in 2030, only seven—Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda and Yemen—are likely to experience rural growth rates above 1 per cent per year. Although the rural populations of a few populous countries, such as Bangladesh and India (in addition to Pakistan), are still expected to increase, that of China is projected to decline significantly,

so that by 2030 it will have over 200 million fewer rural inhabitants than India (601 million versus 833 million). Most countries that are projected to see their rural populations rise by 2030 are in Africa, South-central Asia and developing Oceania. For the rest of the world, the rapid rise of urbanization coupled with a reduction of overall population growth will result in reductions of the rural population. The following sections further discuss these trends at the country level.

A. THE LEVEL OF URBANIZATION

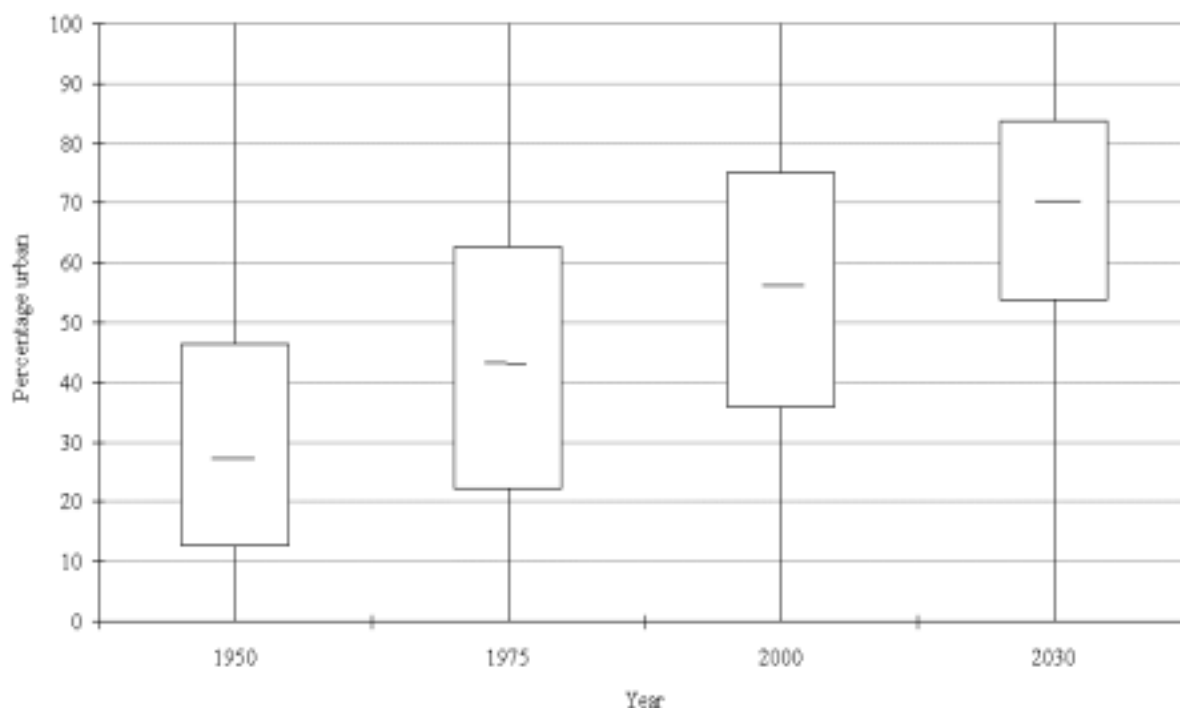
The countries of the world are at very different stages of the transition to a largely urban popula-

tion. To analyze major trends in urbanization among the 228 countries or areas of the world, their distribution by level of urbanization is considered first (table 28). Figure 14 displays the changing distribution over time, showing for each time point the interquartile range of the distribution as a central box (that is, half of all countries or areas of the world fall within the range represented by the lower and upper boundaries of the box), with the lines that extend beyond the upper and lower boundaries of the box indicating the ranges for the upper and lower quarters of the distribution. The position of the median is indicated by a line inside the box. The distributions presented in figure 14 are for the levels of urbanization of countries and areas in 1950, 1975, 2000

TABLE 28. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION URBAN IN 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Percentage urban</i>			
	<i>1950</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2030</i>
All countries or areas				
Lower extreme.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lower quartile	12.5	22.0	35.6	53.5
Median	28.4	43.2	56.7	70.4
Upper quartile.....	46.3	62.8	75.1	83.7
Upper extreme.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	33.8	40.8	39.5	30.2
Countries with more than 150,000 inhabitants in 2000				
Lower extreme.....	0.4	3.2	6.2	14.2
Lower quartile	10.6	21.3	35.3	53.9
Median	27.0	43.5	57.1	70.5
Upper quartile.....	42.9	62.8	74.7	82.7
Upper extreme.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	32.3	41.5	39.4	28.8
Countries with less than 150,000 inhabitants in 2000				
Lower extreme.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lower quartile	19.0	27.0	37.3	53.0
Median	40.6	42.8	52.7	69.2
Upper quartile.....	63.0	66.8	81.4	88.4
Upper extreme.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	43.9	39.9	44.1	35.4

Figure 14. Distribution of countries by level of urbanization, 1950, 1975, 2000 and 2030



and 2030. In all cases, the extremes of the distribution are 0 and 100, since there have always been and there are expected to remain a few countries or areas that are totally rural or totally urban.

As table 28 and figure 14 show, the median level of urbanization has been rising steadily from 1950 to 2000, doubling from 28.4 per cent to 56.7 per cent, and is projected to reach 70 per cent in 2030. Concomitantly, the position of the central part of the distribution (the box) has been moving upward as the level of urbanization of most countries has risen. Furthermore, the width of the box (the interquartile range), which indicates the amount of variation around the median, has been changing. In 1950, most countries had low urbanization levels (in 3 out of every 4 countries the proportion urban was below 46 per cent) and there was relatively little variation around the median because the process of differentiation in terms of level of urbanization was still at its initial stages. By 1975, not only had the median increased markedly but the interquartile range had risen from 34 percentage points to 41. But as more and more countries caught up with the rapidly urbanizing ones during the last quarter of the

twentieth century, the variation around the median began to decline. By 2000 the interquartile range stood at 39.5 percentage points. If the projected paths toward increased urbanization hold, by 2030 the median level of urbanization will be 70 per cent and the interquartile range will have declined to 30 percentage points. This value will be lower than the value for 1950, indicating an increasing homogeneity among countries with respect to their levels of urbanization. In addition, by 2030 the upper quarter of the distribution will be more concentrated, ranging from 84 per cent to 100 per cent (table 28), while the lower quarter will be more extended than in previous years.

One reason for the growing diversity in the level of urbanization at the lower end of the distribution is that a few countries or areas with small territories and small populations are expected to maintain a rural character for longer than countries or areas with larger populations, perhaps because small rural societies with limited natural resources face more constraints to urbanization than better endowed countries. To explore this hypothesis, table 28 shows the distribution by level of urbanization of countries with more than 150,000 in-

habitants in 2000 separately from that of countries with smaller populations. A comparison of the two shows that in 1950 the small countries or areas tended to have higher levels of urbanization than the large countries. Their median level of urbanization was 41 per cent whereas that of the larger countries was 27 per cent. In addition, the lower and the upper quartiles of the distribution of the small countries were higher than those of the large countries, resulting in an interquartile range of 44 for the small countries versus 32 for the larger countries in 1950. Over time, the median of the distribution of small countries has fallen below that of large countries, but the upper quartile has been and is expected to remain above that of large countries, implying that at the upper end of the distribution small countries tend to display higher levels of urbanization than large ones. At the same time, at the lower end of the distribution, small countries show greater dispersion than large countries, with larger differences between the lower quartile and the lower extreme. In 1950, for instance, the lower quarter of the distribution of small countries ranged from 0 to 19 per cent urban whereas that of large countries had a range of 0.4 per cent to 10.6 per cent urban, or about half as wide. By 2000, large countries in the lower quarter of the distribution had levels of urbanization ranging from 6 per cent to 35 per cent, narrower than the 0 to 37 per cent range of small countries. In 2030, the respective ranges are expected to be 14 per cent to 54 per cent urban for large countries and 0 to 53 per cent urban for small ones. That is, small countries are responsible for extending the lower part of the distribution of all countries to zero and thus increasing its overall dispersion, a finding suggesting that some small countries are indeed slow at embarking on the urbanization process.

But are there many small countries with consistently low proportions urban over time? To answer this question, table 29 displays the least urbanized countries or areas in the world as of 1950, 2000 and 2030. They are those countries with levels of urbanization ranging from 0 to half the distance between the lower extreme and the lower quartile of the distribution of large countries (table 28). The reduction in the length of the list over time is indicative of the increasing levels of urbanization that characterize larger countries over

time. Thus in 1950 a low level of urbanization was anything at or below 5.5 per cent, but because the level of urbanization rose over time, by 2000 a “low” level is anything below 21 per cent, and by 2030 anything below 34 per cent.

The lists of countries in table 29 reveal that three areas—Pitcairn, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna Islands—are the ones consistently showing a zero proportion urban. They are all places with very small populations: Pitcairn has less than a thousand inhabitants, Tokelau has around 1,500, and Wallis and Futuna Islands have 14,500. With the exception of these three areas, all other countries or areas appearing in both the list for 1950 and that for 2000 in table 29 experienced an increase in the proportion urban. Rwanda, for instance, saw its level of urbanization rise from 1.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent between 1950 and 2000, although it is the least urbanized country in 2000, and will continue to be the least urbanized until 2030. The proportion urban for Burundi also rose, from 2 per cent in 1950 to 9 per cent in 2000 and it is expected to reach nearly 22 per cent in 2030. For Bhutan the equivalent figures are 2 per cent, 7 per cent and 18 per cent. But for a number of countries with low levels of urbanization in 2000, table 29 does not show the corresponding level in 1950. Among them, East Timor and Montserrat experienced slight reductions in the proportion urban. In East Timor it fell from 9.9 per cent in 1950 to 7.5 per cent in 2000, and in Montserrat from 22 per cent to 13 per cent. In East Timor, the protracted occupation of its territory probably contributed to the reversal of the normal process of urbanization while in Montserrat, the location of its capital near an active volcano which erupted in 1997 was likely responsible for the reduction in the level of urbanization recorded.

However, the number of small countries or areas is too small to conclude that a small population *per se* represents a drawback to urbanization. In fact, small populations often live in places that are highly urbanized. Thus, among the most highly urbanized countries in the world, the proportion of countries or areas with small populations (less than 150,000 in 2000) or with populations ranging from 150,000 to one million inhabitants is large. Table 30 lists the most urbanized countries or areas in 1950, 2000 and 2030.

TABLE 29. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH LOW PROPORTIONS OF THEIR POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS IN 1950, 2000 AND 2030 BY RANK ORDER

<i>Rank Country or area</i>	<i>Percentage urban in 1950</i>	<i>Rank Country or area</i>	<i>Percentage urban in 2000</i>	<i>Rank Country or area</i>	<i>Percentage urban in 2030</i>
1 Pitcairn ^a	0.0	1 Pitcairn ^a	0.0	1 Pitcairn ^a	0.0
2 Tokelau ^a	0.0	2 Tokelau ^a	0.0	2 Tokelau ^a	0.0
3 Wallis and Futuna Islands ^a	0.0	3 Wallis and Futuna Islands ^a	0.0	3 Wallis and Futuna Islands ^a	0.0
4 Botswana	0.4	4 Rwanda	6.2	4 Rwanda	14.2
5 Papua New Guinea	0.7	5 Bhutan	7.1	5 East Timor ^b	15.0
6 Lesotho	1.0	6 East Timor ^b	7.5	6 Bhutan	17.9
7 Swaziland ^b	1.4	7 Burundi	9.0	7 Burundi	21.9
8 Rwanda	1.8	8 Nepal	11.8	8 Montserrat ^a	24.9
9 Burundi	2.0	9 Montserrat ^a	13.0	9 Nepal	26.1
10 Bhutan	2.1	10 Uganda	14.2	10 Uganda	29.5
11 Nepal	2.3	11 Malawi	14.7	11 Malawi	30.1
12 Mauritania	2.3	12 Ethiopia	15.5	12 Papua New Guinea	30.5
13 Oman	2.4	13 Burkina Faso	16.5	13 Ethiopia	31.0
14 Mozambique	2.5	14 Cambodia	16.9	14 Burkina Faso	32.3
15 Uganda	3.1	15 Papua New Guinea	17.4	15 Thailand	33.1
16 Comoros ^b	3.4	16 Eritrea	18.7		
17 Malawi	3.5	17 Lao People's Dem. Republic	19.3		
18 United Republic of Tanzania	3.8	18 Solomon Islands ^b	19.7		
19 Burkina Faso	3.8	19 Thailand	19.8		
20 Chad	3.9	20 Niger	20.6		
21 Bangladesh	4.2				
22 Ethiopia	4.6				
23 Niger	4.9				
24 Benin	5.0				
25 Guinea	5.5				

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

The cut-off point for each list is the mid-point of the interval from the upper quartile to the upper extreme of the distribution for all countries (table 28). As in the case of the least urbanized countries, this produces lists of different lengths for different periods, lengths than in themselves indicate changes over time in the distribution of countries by level of urbanization.

As expected, 10 of the 20 most urbanized countries in 1950 were either small countries or countries with less than a million inhabitants, and among the remaining countries or areas, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China,

Singapore and Uruguay each had only from one million to three million inhabitants; Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands each had between 8 million and 11 million inhabitants, and only the United Kingdom had more than 50 million inhabitants. By 2000, 32 countries or areas were identified as most urbanized, having at least 87.6 per cent of their populations living in urban areas, 20 of which had fewer than one million inhabitants. Among the others, Argentina and the United Kingdom had the largest populations, with 37 million and 59 million respectively. They were followed by Belgium, the Netherlands and Australia, with populations ranging from 10 million to

TABLE 30. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH HIGH PROPORTIONS OF THEIR POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS IN 1950, 2000 AND 2030 BY RANK ORDER

Rank	Country or area	Percentage urban in 1950	Rank	Country or area	Percentage urban in 2000	Rank	Country or area	Percentage urban in 2030
1	Anguilla ^a	100.0	1	Anguilla ^a	100.0	1	Anguilla ^a	100.0
2	Cayman Islands ^a	100.0	2	Cayman Islands ^a	100.0	2	Cayman Islands ^a	100.0
3	Gibraltar ^a	100.0	3	China, Hong Kong SAR	100.0	3	China, Hong Kong SAR	100.0
4	Holy See ^a	100.0	4	Gibraltar ^a	100.0	4	Gibraltar ^a	100.0
5	Monaco ^a	100.0	5	Holy See ^a	100.0	5	Holy See ^a	100.0
6	Nauru ^a	100.0	6	Monaco ^a	100.0	6	Monaco ^a	100.0
7	Singapore	100.0	7	Nauru ^a	100.0	7	Nauru ^a	100.0
8	Bermuda ^a	100.0	8	Singapore	100.0	8	Singapore	100.0
9	Andorra ^a	98.1	9	Bermuda ^a	100.0	9	Bermuda ^a	100.0
10	China, Macao SAR ^b	96.9	10	Guadeloupe ^b	99.6	10	Guadeloupe ^b	99.9
11	Belgium	91.5	11	China, Macao SAR ^b	98.8	11	China, Macao SAR ^b	99.2
12	United Kingdom	84.2	12	Belgium	97.3	12	Belgium	98.4
13	Netherlands	82.7	13	Kuwait	96.0	13	Western Sahara ^b	98.2
14	China, Hong Kong SAR	82.5	14	Western Sahara ^b	95.4	14	Martinique ^b	97.9
15	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ^a	80.0	15	Martinique ^b	94.9	15	Kuwait	97.4
16	Uruguay	78.0	16	Qatar ^b	92.7	16	Luxembourg ^b	96.0
17	Bahamas ^b	76.7	17	Iceland ^b	92.5	17	Qatar ^b	95.9
18	Greenland ^a	76.3	18	Andorra ^a	92.4	18	Australia	95.9
19	Australia	75.1	19	Bahrain ^b	92.2	19	Bahrain ^b	95.8
20	Iceland ^b	73.8	20	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ^a	92.1	20	Uruguay	95.4
			21	Uruguay	91.9	21	Iceland ^b	95.3
			22	Israel	91.6	22	Malta ^b	94.9
			23	Luxembourg ^b	91.5	23	Israel	94.6
			24	Malta ^b	90.9	24	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ^a	94.6
			25	Australia	90.7	25	Lebanon	93.9
			26	San Marino ^a	90.2	26	San Marino ^a	93.6
			27	Lebanon	89.7	27	United Arab Emirates	93.3
			28	Netherlands	89.5	28	Bahamas ^b	92.9
			29	United Kingdom	89.5	29	Saudi Arabia	92.6
			30	Bahamas ^b	88.5	30	Netherlands	92.6
			31	Argentina	88.2	31	United Kingdom	92.4
			32	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	87.6	32	Andorra ^a	92.0
						33	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	92.0
						34	Argentina	91.9

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

20 million. The rest are smaller countries or areas with 2 million to 7 million inhabitants each. That is, very high levels of urbanization are associated with fairly small populations—a pattern not expected to change markedly in the future. Thus, the

countries or areas projected to be the most urbanized by 2030 are the same as those for 2000, except that two new ones are added: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, 19 of the 34 most urbanized countries or areas in 2030

will have a population of less than a million, and among the 15 others, the same ones will be the largest, led by the United Kingdom, Argentina and Saudi Arabia, with more than 44 million inhabitants each; followed by Belgium, the Netherlands and Australia, with populations ranging from 10 million to 25 million. The rest are countries whose populations are expected to range from 2 million to 10 million inhabitants in 2030. It bears noting that seven small countries or areas plus Singapore have been totally urban since 1950 and that by 2000 they were joined by Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China, the most populous area with 100 per cent of its population living in an urban environment (nearly 7 million inhabitants in 2000).

Table 30 shows that the most urbanized countries or areas are located in Europe, the Caribbean, Oceania, South America, South-eastern Asia and Western Asia. Only one of the most urbanized areas, Western Sahara, is located in Africa, and its population is very small. In contrast, about a third of the least urbanized countries are in Africa, the rest being in Oceania, South-central Asia and South-eastern Asia (table 29). These results are consistent with the differences among regions discussed in chapter II in terms of average regional levels of urbanization.

Table 31 presents the distributions of countries by level of urbanization and by major area. Those distributions reveal not only the differences among major areas but also the degree of homogeneity within each of them. Africa, for instance, displays the lowest amount of variability around the median, although the interquartile range has been increasing, particularly at the upper end as some countries become increasingly urbanized. Thus in 1950 most countries of Africa had very low levels of urbanization and displayed a large degree of homogeneity. By 2000, although they had become more heterogeneous, levels of urbanization were still fairly concentrated around the median and the interquartile range had a width of just 21 percentage points although the overall range of the distribution had become wider, going from 6 per cent to 95 per cent urban. In 2030 the range of the distribution is expected to decrease somewhat as urbanization advances in countries at

TABLE 31. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS BY MAJOR AREA, ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION URBAN IN 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Percentage urban</i>			
	<i>1950</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2030</i>
Africa				
Lower extreme.....	0.4	3.2	6.2	14.2
Lower quartile	4.8	15.2	30.0	49.2
Median.....	9.6	21.3	36.4	56.4
Upper quartile.....	18.7	33.8	50.6	69.2
Upper extreme	67.8	68.9	95.4	98.2
Interquartile range	13.9	18.6	20.6	20.0
Asia				
Lower extreme.....	2.1	3.5	7.1	15.0
Lower quartile	12.4	19.4	27.6	44.4
Median.....	25.9	45.1	56.4	67.5
Upper quartile.....	38.3	60.9	78.0	84.7
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	25.9	41.5	50.4	40.3
Europe				
Lower extreme.....	13.7	20.0	21.4	34.6
Lower quartile	24.5	48.3	59.0	68.8
Median.....	42.6	58.3	67.9	76.4
Upper quartile.....	62.4	77.1	86.3	89.7
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	37.9	28.8	27.3	20.9
Americas				
Lower extreme.....	6.5	11.8	13.0	24.9
Lower quartile	31.5	40.1	51.8	67.3
Median.....	40.6	50.5	69.2	78.7
Upper quartile.....	57.8	72.3	81.0	88.4
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	26.3	32.2	29.2	21.0
Oceania				
Lower extreme.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lower quartile	9.0	19.7	22.0	38.3
Median.....	23.2	31.3	44.3	58.7
Upper quartile.....	47.0	54.6	60.7	71.8
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Interquartile range	38.0	34.9	38.7	33.5

the lower end of the scale, but homogeneity will still be high, with the central half of the distribution ranging from 49 per cent to 69 per cent, just 20 percentage points in width.

Asia and the Americas, which include Latin America, the Caribbean and Northern America, displayed a moderate level of variation around the median in 1950 (both had an interquartile range of about 26 percentage points in width) when urbanization levels in Asia were still low and those in the Americas were already moderately high. In the next half century the variation around the median doubled in Asia to 50 percentage points while it rose only slightly in the Americas to 29 percentage points. These changes reflect the growing heterogeneity in urbanization levels in Asia, a continent comprising at the same time small countries or areas that are highly urbanized and the most populous countries in the world with low levels of urbanization. In the Americas, in contrast, there has been a rapid increase in urbanization levels in almost every country, a process expected to continue, resulting not only in high median levels of urbanization similar to those of the developed world, but also in increasing homogeneity among countries and a reduction of the interquartile range (to 21 percentage points in 2030).

Europe, comprising only more developed regions, is also the only major area where variability around the median has been declining consistently over time as the interquartile range has fallen from 38 percentage points in 1950 to 27 percentage points in 2000 and is projected to drop still further to 21 percentage points by 2030. This reduction reflects the high degree of homogeneity among European countries in terms of patterns of urbanization and the advanced stages that most of them have already reached in the transition to a nearly universal urban way of life. By 2030 over three quarters of the countries in Europe are expected to be at least 69 per cent urban.

Lastly, in Oceania, where small countries predominate, the range of variation around the median is affected by the bimodal nature of the distribution of countries by level of urbanization. Consequently, Oceania is the only major area where the lower extreme remains at 0 and forces

the lower part of the distribution to become more elongated as time elapses. Furthermore, although Australia, New Zealand and some of the small areas in Oceania are highly urbanized, the larger part of the countries or areas in Oceania remain less urbanized than their counterparts in Asia or the Americas. Because of the co-existence of such different groups, by 2000 Oceania displays the second highest degree of variation around the median and is still expected to evince a high degree of heterogeneity in 2030.

B. THE SIZE AND GROWTH OF THE URBAN POPULATION

Countries differ not only in the level of urbanization but also in the size of their urban populations. As the distribution of countries and areas according to urban population size shows, the variation in urban population size has been increasing (table 32). Both the unprecedented population growth that many countries experienced during the second half of the twentieth century and their rising levels of urbanization have resulted in increasing numbers of people living in urban areas. Yet, in the majority of countries or areas the number of urban dwellers remains modest, with the median urban population size being 2.1 million persons in 2000, up from 269,000 in 1950. Furthermore, three-quarters of all countries or areas have at most 7 million urban dwellers today. Although both the median and the upper quartile of the distribution of countries by urban population size are expected to double by 2030,

TABLE 32. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE URBAN POPULATION IN 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

Indicator	Urban population (thousands)			
	1950	1975	2000	2030
All countries or areas				
Lower extreme.....	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	24	68	231	378
Median.....	269	863	2 127	3 918
Upper quartile.....	1 616	3 626	7 006	14 329
Upper extreme	101 244	162 157	456 340	883 421
Interquartile range ...	1 592	3 558	6 775	13 951

most countries will still have small urban populations by then, half with fewer than 4 million urban dwellers and three-quarters with under 14.5 million. In addition, a quarter of all countries or areas of the world are expected to have at most 378,000 urban dwellers in 2030.

Although the urban populations of most countries are small and expected to remain small, countries at the upper end of the distribution have large numbers of urban dwellers living in complex urban systems where single cities can have populations of 10 million or more. The countries accounting for 75 per cent of the urban population of the world in 1950, 2000 and 2030 are listed in table 33. In 1950, when most countries outside of Europe and Northern America were still in the early stages of urbanization, only 17 countries accounted for three-quarters of the world's urban population. The United States headed the list with 101 million urban dwellers, followed by China and India with 69 million and 61 million respectively, though both had very low levels of urbanization (12.5 per cent and 17.3 per cent, respectively). The next six slots corresponded to developed countries (Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy and France, in order of urban population size). In total, 11 of the 17 countries in the list were developed countries, most in Europe. The list for 1950 included also three countries in Latin America (Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, in order of urban population size) and three developing countries in Asia (China, India and Indonesia, ordered by urban population size). By 2000, along with the overall increase in the urban population of the world, the number of countries accounting for three-quarters of it had increased to 25, the majority (16) belonging to the developing world. China and India headed the list, having seen their urban populations increase over five-fold each. Among other Asian countries, Indonesia rose from fifteenth to seventh place, and Pakistan, Iran, the Philippines, Turkey, the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh, in order of urban population size, joined the group. There were also additions from Africa (Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa) and Latin America (Colombia). Moreover, most of the developed countries with large urban populations in both 1950 and 2000 saw their ranking in the list

increase between the two dates and two dropped out, Poland and the Netherlands.

By 2030, as urbanization continues to spread throughout the world, the number of countries expected to account for 75 per cent of the world's urban population is anticipated to rise to 28, most of them in the developing world. Indeed, only 7 of the 11 developed countries appearing in the lists for 1950 and 2000 are expected to remain in 2030, but all are moved farther down the list as they are displaced by the larger urban populations of developing countries. Among the latter, China and India will continue to have the largest urban populations, but Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Mexico are also expected to rank high, occupying places 4 to 8. With the exception of South Africa, all the developing countries appearing in the list for 2000 remain in that for 2030, but six countries are added: three in Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania), two in Asia (Saudi Arabia and Viet Nam), and one in Latin America (Venezuela). In addition, Spain and the Ukraine drop out. That is, by 2030, 11 developing countries in Asia are expected to be among those with the largest urban populations in the world, accompanied by 5 in Latin America and another 5 in Africa.

A comparison of the countries accounting for three-quarters of the urban population with those accounting for the same proportion of the total population of the world reveals interesting differences (tables 33 and 34). In 1950, 6 of the 21 countries that accounted for 75 per cent of the world population were not among the 17 countries accounting for three-quarters of the urban population, mainly due to their low levels of urbanization (table 35). They were, in order of population size, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Viet Nam, Egypt and Turkey. Conversely, Argentina and the Netherlands were on the list of countries accounting for most of the urban population but not on that of the most populous countries in the world. In 2000 only four of the 27 most populous countries were not on the list of the 28 with the highest numbers of urban dwellers, namely, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Thailand and Viet Nam. However, five highly urbanized coun-

TABLE 33. COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING FOR 75 PER CENT OF THE WORLD URBAN POPULATION ORDERED BY POPULATION SIZE, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 1950 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 2000 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 2030 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>
1	United States of America	101 244	13.5	1	China	456 340	15.9	1	China	883 421	17.7
2	China	69 528	22.7	2	India	279 045	25.7	2	India	575 684	29.3
3	India	61 695	31.0	3	United States of America	218 678	33.3	3	United States of America	302 775	35.4
4	Germany	49 170	37.5	4	Brazil	138 287	38.2	4	Brazil	204 928	39.5
5	Russian Federation	45 909	43.6	5	Russian Federation	106 063	41.9	5	Indonesia	180 069	43.1
6	United Kingdom	42 609	49.3	6	Japan	100 089	45.4	6	Nigeria	140 078	45.9
7	Japan	42 065	54.9	7	Indonesia	86 943	48.4	7	Pakistan	133 226	48.6
8	Italy	25 584	58.3	8	Mexico	73 531	51.0	8	Mexico	110 439	50.8
9	France	23 494	61.4	9	Germany	71 798	53.5	9	Japan	102 819	52.9
10	Brazil	19 707	64.1	10	United Kingdom	53 162	55.3	10	Bangladesh	98 554	54.9
11	Ukraine	14 609	66.0	11	Nigeria	50 175	57.1	11	Russian Federation	94 618	56.8
12	Spain	14 526	67.9	12	Pakistan	46 757	58.7	12	Philippines	84 552	58.4
13	Mexico	11 832	69.5	13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	45 023	60.3	13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	82 333	60.1
14	Argentina	11 206	71.0	14	France	44 649	61.9	14	Germany	71 203	61.5
15	Indonesia	9 863	72.3	15	Philippines	44 295	63.4	15	Turkey	69 279	62.9
16	Poland	9 607	73.6	16	Turkey	43 844	64.9	16	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	65 064	64.2
17	Netherlands	8 362	74.7	17	Italy	38 512	66.3	17	United Kingdom	56 621	65.4
				18	Republic of Korea	38 269	67.6	18	Egypt	54 102	66.5
				19	Bangladesh	34 354	68.8	19	Colombia	52 703	67.5
				20	Ukraine	33 657	70.0	20	France	51 742	68.5
				21	Argentina	32 662	71.1	21	Republic of Korea	47 554	69.5
				22	Colombia	31 566	72.3	22	Viet Nam	45 485	70.4
				23	Spain	30 974	73.3	23	Argentina	44 954	71.3
				24	Egypt	28 970	74.3	24	Saudi Arabia	41 453	72.2
				25	South Africa	24 629	75.2	25	Ethiopia	39 401	72.9
								26	Italy	38 641	73.7
								27	United Republic of Tanzania	36 361	74.4
								28	Venezuela	33 547	75.1

TABLE 34. COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING FOR 75 PER CENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION BY ORDER OF POPULATION SIZE, 1950, 2000, 2030

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 1950 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 2000 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Population in 2030 (thousands)</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>
1	China	554 760	22.0	1	China	1 275 133	21.1	1	China	1 484 619	18.0
2	India	357 561	36.2	2	India	1 008 937	37.7	2	India	1 408 923	35.0
3	United States of America	157 813	42.5	3	United States of America	283 230	42.4	3	United States of America	358 486	39.3
4	Russian Federation	102 702	46.6	4	Indonesia	212 092	45.9	4	Indonesia	282 851	42.7
5	Japan	83 625	49.9	5	Brazil	170 406	48.7	5	Pakistan	272 664	46.0
6	Indonesia	79 538	53.0	6	Russian Federation	145 491	51.1	6	Brazil	226 496	48.8
7	Germany	68 376	55.7	7	Pakistan	141 256	53.4	7	Bangladesh	222 613	51.5
8	Brazil	53 975	57.9	8	Bangladesh	137 439	55.7	8	Nigeria	220 393	54.1
9	United Kingdom	50 616	59.9	9	Japan	127 096	57.8	9	Mexico	134 910	55.8
10	Italy	47 104	61.8	10	Nigeria	113 862	59.7	10	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	132 630	57.4
11	France	41 829	63.4	11	Mexico	98 872	61.3	11	Ethiopia	127 025	58.9
12	Bangladesh	41 783	65.1	12	Germany	82 017	62.7	12	Russian Federation	121 420	60.4
13	Pakistan	39 659	66.7	13	Viet Nam	78 137	64.0	13	Japan	121 285	61.8
14	Ukraine	37 298	68.1	14	Philippines	75 653	65.2	14	Philippines	112 575	63.2
15	Nigeria	29 790	69.3	15	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	70 330	66.4	15	Viet Nam	110 080	64.5
16	Spain	28 009	70.4	16	Egypt	67 884	67.5	16	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	104 455	65.8
17	Mexico	27 737	71.5	17	Turkey	66 668	68.6	17	Egypt	99 492	67.0
18	Viet Nam	27 367	72.6	18	Ethiopia	62 908	69.6	18	Turkey	89 920	68.1
19	Poland	24 824	73.6	19	Thailand	62 806	70.7	19	Thailand	79 525	69.0
20	Egypt	21 834	74.5	20	United Kingdom	59 415	71.6	20	Germany	77 678	70.0
21	Turkey	20 809	75.3	21	France	59 238	72.6	21	United Republic of Tanzania	65 588	70.8
				22	Italy	57 530	73.6	22	France	62 935	71.5
				23	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	50 948	74.4	23	Uganda	62 677	72.3
				24	Ukraine	49 568	75.2	24	Myanmar	62 538	73.1
								25	Colombia	62 071	73.8
								26	United Kingdom	61 297	74.5
								27	Yemen	57 526	75.2

TABLE 35. LEVEL OF URBANIZATION AND URBANIZATION RATES FOR THE COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST URBAN POPULATIONS, 1950 TO 2030

Rank	Country	Percentage urban			Urbanization rate (percentage)		Urban growth rate (percentage)	
		1950	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
1	China.....	12.5	35.8	59.5	2.10	1.69	3.76	2.20
2	India.....	17.3	27.7	40.9	0.94	1.30	3.02	2.41
3	United States of America.....	64.2	77.2	84.5	0.37	0.30	1.54	1.08
4	Brazil.....	36.5	81.2	90.5	1.60	0.36	3.90	1.31
5	Indonesia.....	12.4	41.0	63.7	2.39	1.47	4.35	2.43
6	Nigeria.....	10.1	44.1	63.6	2.94	1.22	5.62	3.42
7	Pakistan.....	17.5	33.1	48.9	1.27	1.30	3.81	3.49
8	Mexico.....	42.7	74.4	81.9	1.11	0.32	3.65	1.36
9	Japan.....	50.3	78.8	84.8	0.90	0.25	1.73	0.09
10	Bangladesh.....	4.3	25.0	44.3	3.55	1.91	5.93	3.51
11	Russian Federation.....	44.7	72.9	77.9	0.98	0.22	1.67	-0.38
12	Philippines.....	27.1	58.6	75.1	1.54	0.83	4.20	2.15
13	Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	27.0	64.0	78.8	1.73	0.69	4.58	2.01
14	Germany.....	71.9	87.5	91.7	0.39	0.15	0.76	-0.03
15	Turkey.....	21.3	65.8	77.0	2.25	0.53	4.58	1.53
16	Dem. Rep. of the Congo.....	19.1	30.3	49.1	0.92	1.61	3.78	4.80
17	United Kingdom.....	84.2	89.5	92.4	0.12	0.11	0.44	0.21
18	Egypt.....	31.9	42.7	54.4	0.58	0.81	2.85	2.08
19	Colombia.....	42.1	75.0	84.9	1.15	0.41	3.57	1.71
20	France.....	56.2	75.4	82.2	0.59	0.29	1.28	0.49
21	Republic of Korea.....	21.4	81.9	90.5	2.69	0.34	4.35	0.72
22	Viet Nam.....	11.6	24.1	41.3	1.45	1.80	3.55	2.94
23	Argentina.....	65.3	88.2	91.9	0.60	0.14	2.14	1.06
24	Saudi Arabia.....	15.9	86.2	92.6	3.38	0.24	7.08	2.87
25	Ethiopia.....	4.6	15.5	31.0	2.43	2.31	4.89	4.65
26	Italy.....	54.3	66.9	76.1	0.42	0.43	0.82	0.01
27	United Republic of Tanzania.....	3.8	32.3	55.4	4.28	1.81	7.27	3.89
28	Venezuela.....	46.8	86.9	91.8	1.24	0.18	4.35	1.56
29	South Africa.....	43.1	56.9	73.5	0.55	0.86	2.86	0.91
30	Ukraine.....	39.2	67.9	75.6	1.10	0.36	1.67	-0.56
31	Spain.....	51.9	77.6	84.5	0.81	0.28	1.51	-0.02
32	Poland.....	38.7	62.3	72.5	0.95	0.50	1.84	0.32
33	Netherlands.....	82.7	89.5	92.6	0.16	0.11	1.06	0.26

tries appeared on the list of countries with large numbers of urban dwellers although their overall population did not qualify them for the list of most populous countries, namely, Argentina, Colombia, the Republic of Korea, Spain and South Africa. By 2030, four of the most populous countries (Myanmar, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen)

are not expected to be among those with the largest numbers of urban dwellers, and five of the latter (Argentina, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela) are not expected to be among the most populous countries. Despite differences between the two sets of countries, the large degree of overlap between the two indicates

that urban populations are tending to follow the concentration patterns of the overall world population.

Because the countries in table 33 account for large proportions of the urban population of the world, it is of interest to consider the dynamics of their urbanization process. Table 35 presents the changing proportion urban, the rate of urbanization and the growth rate of the urban population for each of the 33 countries appearing at least once in table 33, and table 36 presents the countries from table 33 ordered according to the pro-

portion urban. As already noted, the countries with large urban populations vary considerably with respect to level of urbanization. In 1950, the proportion urban among them ranged from 12 per cent in Indonesia to 84 per cent in the United Kingdom (table 36). At that time, with the exception of Argentina and Japan, all the populous countries having more than half of the population in urban areas were in Europe or Northern America. Eastern European and Latin American countries occupied the next tier of countries with large urban populations and had urbanization levels ranging from 36 per cent to 45 per cent. The

TABLE 36. COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING FOR 75 PER CENT OF THE WORLD URBAN POPULATION IN 1950, 2000 AND 2030, ORDERED BY LEVEL OF URBANIZATION

Rank	Country	Percentage urban in 1950		Percentage urban in 2000		Percentage urban in 2030		
		Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country	
1	United Kingdom	84.2	1	United Kingdom	89.5	1	Saudi Arabia	92.6
2	Netherlands	82.7	2	Argentina	88.2	2	United Kingdom	92.4
3	Germany	71.9	3	Germany	87.5	3	Argentina	91.9
4	Argentina	65.3	4	Republic of Korea	81.9	4	Venezuela	91.8
5	United States of America	64.2	5	Brazil	81.2	5	Germany	91.7
6	France	56.2	6	Japan	78.8	6	Republic of Korea	90.5
7	Italy	54.3	7	Spain	77.6	7	Brazil	90.5
8	Spain	51.9	8	United States of America	77.2	8	Colombia	84.9
9	Japan	50.3	9	France	75.4	9	Japan	84.8
10	Russian Federation	44.7	10	Colombia	75.0	10	United States of America	84.5
11	Mexico	42.7	11	Mexico	74.4	11	France	82.2
12	Ukraine	39.2	12	Russian Federation	72.9	12	Mexico	81.9
13	Poland	38.7	13	Ukraine	67.9	13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	78.8
14	Brazil	36.5	14	Italy	66.9	14	Russian Federation	77.9
15	India	17.3	15	Turkey	65.8	15	Turkey	77.0
16	China	12.5	16	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	64.0	16	Italy	76.1
17	Indonesia	12.4	17	Philippines	58.6	17	Philippines	75.1
			18	South Africa	56.9	18	Indonesia	63.7
			19	Nigeria	44.1	19	Nigeria	63.6
			20	Egypt	42.7	20	China	59.5
			21	Indonesia	41.0	21	United Republic of Tanzania	55.4
			22	China	35.8	22	Egypt	54.4
			23	Pakistan	33.1	23	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	49.1
			24	India	27.7	24	Pakistan	48.9
			25	Bangladesh	25.0	25	Bangladesh	44.3
						26	Viet Nam	41.3
						27	India	40.9
						28	Ethiopia	31.0

populous countries in developing Asia—China, India and Indonesia—came next, all with levels of urbanization under 20 per cent.

Today the most urbanized countries with large urban populations include several in the less developed regions, led by Argentina with 88 per cent of its population urban in 2000, followed by the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, each with 74 per cent or more of their populations living in urban areas, and then by Turkey and Iran, each with about 65 per cent of the population urban (table 36). However, most of the highly urbanized countries with large urban populations in 2000 still belong to the more developed regions. Among the 16 countries with large urban populations and a level of urbanization of 64 per cent or more, 8 are in Europe or Northern America. The other nine countries with large urban populations in 2000 have considerably lower levels of urbanization, with only the Philippines and South Africa having more than half of their populations urban. The other seven are located in Africa or Asia and have levels of urbanization ranging from 25 per cent to 44 per cent. They include the most populous countries in the world, namely China, India and Indonesia.

The urbanization levels of most of the countries with large urban populations are expected to rise markedly during 2000-2030. Among the 28 countries with large urban populations in 2030, 17 are projected to be over 75 per cent urban and just 7 of those countries are in the more developed regions. In addition, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania are projected to be more than 50 per cent urban by 2030. However, the populous countries of South-central Asia, namely, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, will still be less than 50 per cent urban.

In general, countries at high levels of urbanization tend to experience low rates of urbanization because a high proportion urban cannot keep on rising at a fast pace for long. Conversely, countries with a low percentage of their population in urban areas can and often do experience a rapid increase of that percentage. Consequently, the countries of Europe, Northern America and Latin America, with fairly high proportions of their populations urban, display low rates of urbaniza-

tion during 1950-2000 and even more so during 2000-2030 (under half of a per cent per year). In contrast, high rates of urbanization (over 2 per cent per year during 1950-2000 and over 1 per cent during 2000-2030) are characteristic of most of the African and Asian countries with large urban populations (table 34). Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania exhibited particularly high annual rates of urbanization during 1950-2000 (ranging from just over 2 per cent to 4.3 per cent). During 2000-2030, expected rates of urbanization tend to be lower, but Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam are all projected to see their proportion urban rise at rates equal or higher than 1.5 per cent per year.

The rate of urbanization is determined by both the rate of growth of the urban population and that of the total population. Positive rates of urbanization result when the urban population grows at a faster rate than the total population. But the pace of urban population growth depends on the natural increase of the urban population and the population gained by urban areas through both net rural-urban migration and the reclassification of rural settlements into cities and towns. All three components of urban growth were large in developing countries up to 2000, since the level of natural increase was high in most of them until the 1970s and, as part of the process of modernization, their urban settlements expanded both geographically (by annexation and reclassification) and demographically (by attracting rural dwellers). As table 37 shows, among the countries with the largest urban populations, the rate of growth of the urban population has been particularly high in countries of Asia and Africa, 10 of which experienced average urban growth rates higher than 4 per cent per year during 1950-2000. Only one country in Latin America, Venezuela, experienced a similar rate of urban population growth. Latin American countries have experienced, in general, more moderate urban growth rates during 1950-2000, though they were still high by historical standards. Similarly, the most populous countries, China and India, saw their urban populations grow at more than 3 per cent per year during 1950-2000. In contrast, urban growth rates among the most populous developed

TABLE 37. COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST URBAN POPULATIONS ORDERED BY RATE OF GROWTH OF THE URBAN POPULATION IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Urban growth rate in 1950-2000 (percentage)</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Urban growth rate in 2000-2030 (percentage)</i>
1	United Republic of Tanzania	7.27	1	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4.80
2	Saudi Arabia	7.08	2	Ethiopia	4.65
3	Bangladesh	5.93	3	United Republic of Tanzania	3.89
4	Nigeria	5.62	4	Bangladesh	3.51
5	Ethiopia	4.89	5	Pakistan	3.49
6	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4.58	6	Nigeria	3.42
7	Turkey	4.58	7	Viet Nam	2.94
8	Indonesia	4.35	8	Saudi Arabia	2.87
9	Venezuela	4.35	9	Indonesia	2.43
10	Republic of Korea	4.35	10	India	2.41
11	Philippines	4.20	11	China	2.20
12	Brazil	3.90	12	Philippines	2.15
13	Pakistan	3.81	13	Egypt	2.08
14	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	3.78	14	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2.01
15	China	3.76	15	Colombia	1.71
16	Mexico	3.65	16	Venezuela	1.56
17	Colombia	3.57	17	Turkey	1.53
18	Viet Nam	3.55	18	Mexico	1.36
19	India	3.02	19	Brazil	1.31
20	South Africa	2.86	20	United States of America	1.08
21	Egypt	2.85	21	Argentina	1.06
22	Argentina	2.14	22	South Africa	0.91
23	Poland	1.84	23	Republic of Korea	0.72
24	Japan	1.73	24	France	0.49
25	Russian Federation	1.67	25	Poland	0.32
26	Ukraine	1.67	26	Netherlands	0.26
27	United States of America	1.54	27	United Kingdom	0.21
28	Spain	1.51	28	Japan	0.09
29	France	1.28	29	Italy	0.01
30	Netherlands	1.06	30	Spain	-0.02
31	Italy	0.82	31	Germany	-0.03
32	Germany	0.76	32	Russian Federation	-0.38
33	United Kingdom	0.44	33	Ukraine	-0.56

countries were considerably lower, in no case surpassing 2 per cent per year.

The future is expected to see a reduction of the range of variation of the urban growth rates of countries with large urban populations, but marked differences will remain. In most of the European countries with large populations, the

rate of urban growth is projected to be low or negative, while in the larger countries of the Americas, annual urban growth rates are projected to be moderate, ranging from 1.1 per cent to 1.7 per cent. The highest urban growth rates (above 3 per cent per year) are expected in countries of sub-Saharan Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the United Re-

public of Tanzania) and in some of the most populous countries of Asia (Bangladesh and Pakistan). However, most large countries of Asia are expected to experience considerably lower rates of urban population growth, ranging from 1.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

Table 38 shows the distribution of countries of the world according to rates of growth of the urban population in the past half century and as projected to 2030. For all countries, the median rate of growth observed in 1950-2000 is 3.5 per cent per year, or nearly double the median rate of 1.8 per cent per year expected in 2000-2030. Half of all countries experienced annual urban growth rates ranging between 2 per cent to 4.7 per cent in 1950-2000, and half are likely to be in the range of 0.8 per cent to 3 per cent per year during 2000-2030. Median rates of growth are somewhat lower in both time periods for the smallest countries, but the interquartile ranges are not as different from those of all countries as they were in the case of the distribution of countries according to proportion urban (table 28).

Examination of the countries or areas having the highest and lowest rates of urban population growth during 1950-2000 shows that those with high urban growth rates tended to have very small urban populations in 1950 (table 39). In fact, the eight areas with the highest urban growth rates in 1950-2000 all had tiny urban populations at the beginning of the period, each with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants. Among the 25 countries with the highest urban growth rates, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and the Sudan were the only three with over half a million urban dwellers in 1950. At the other end of the distribution (table 40), among the 25 countries experiencing the lowest urban growth rates, 14 had fewer than 150,000 inhabitants each in 2000 and at most 44,000 urban dwellers in 1950. Another nine countries with low urban growth rates during 1950-2000 were located in Europe. Their urban populations grew slowly after 1950 partly because natural increase was low and partly because, having already reached high levels of urbanization, the expansion of urban centres through migration or reclassification could no longer occur on a large scale. A similar situation characterized Uruguay, the only medium-sized country of Latin America included in the group

TABLE 38. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS ACCORDING TO THE GROWTH RATE OF THE URBAN POPULATION, 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Indicator	Urban growth rate (percentage)	
	1950-2000	2000-2030
All countries or areas		
Lower extreme	-3.6	-0.8
Lower quartile.....	2.0	0.8
Median.....	3.5	1.8
Upper quartile	4.7	3.0
Upper extreme	12.5	5.7
Interquartile range.....	2.6	2.2
Countries with largest urban populations		
Lower extreme	0.4	-0.6
Lower quartile.....	1.7	0.3
Median.....	3.6	1.5
Upper quartile	4.4	2.4
Upper extreme	7.3	4.8
Interquartile range	2.7	2.1
Countries with more than 150,000 inhabitants in 2000		
Lower extreme	0.4	-0.8
Lower quartile.....	2.3	0.7
Median.....	3.6	1.9
Upper quartile	4.9	3.2
Upper extreme	12.5	5.7
Interquartile range.....	2.7	2.5
Countries with less than 150,000 inhabitants in 2000		
Lower extreme	-3.6	-0.3
Lower quartile.....	1.0	0.8
Median.....	2.2	1.7
Upper quartile	3.5	2.3
Upper extreme	6.0	4.8
Interquartile range.....	2.5	1.5

experiencing low rates of urban growth during 1950-2000.

Over the course of the next thirty years, all countries are expected to experience a reduction in their rates of urban population growth, so that the upper extreme of the distribution of urban growth rates for the period 2000-2030 is expected

TABLE 39. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST URBAN GROWTH RATES IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	Country or area	Urban growth rate (percentage) 1950-2000	Urban population in 1950 (thousands)	Rank	Country or area	Urban growth rate (percentage) 2000-2030	Urban population in 2000 (thousands)
1	Botswana	12.49	1	1	Uganda	5.75	3 299
2	Oman	10.34	11	2	Burundi	5.56	569
3	United Arab Emirates	9.73	17	3	Niger	5.54	2 228
4	Lesotho	8.79	7	4	Yemen	5.50	4 534
5	Mauritania	8.76	19	5	Bhutan	5.42	149
6	Papua New Guinea	8.63	11	6	Burkina Faso	5.32	1 905
7	Swaziland ^b	8.41	4	7	Somalia	5.14	2 413
8	Comoros ^b	7.38	6	8	Solomon Islands ^b	5.10	88
9	Mozambique	7.29	153	9	Rwanda	4.85	468
10	United Republic of Tanzania	7.27	299	10	Liberia	4.81	1 308
11	Saudi Arabia	7.08	509	11	Afghanistan	4.81	4 762
12	Qatar ^b	7.01	16	12	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4.80	15 427
13	Kenya	6.75	350	13	Montserrat ^a	4.75	0
14	Benin	6.53	101	14	Chad	4.67	1 876
15	Western Sahara ^b	6.50	9	15	Ethiopia	4.65	9 762
16	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	6.38	191	16	Eritrea	4.65	685
17	Cape Verde ^b	6.27	12	17	Nepal	4.61	2 730
18	Jordan	6.25	170	18	Mali	4.59	3 427
19	Djibouti ^b	6.05	26	19	Malawi	4.56	1 665
20	Uganda	6.04	161	20	Angola	4.53	4 492
21	Kuwait	6.04	90	21	Cambodia	4.52	2 216
22	Andorra ^a	5.99	4	22	Maldives ^b	4.27	80
23	Sudan	5.93	579	23	Madagascar	4.26	4 710
24	Bangladesh	5.93	1 774	24	Sierra Leone	4.19	1 614
25	Côte d'Ivoire	5.90	365	25	East Timor ^b	4.07	55

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

to be considerably lower than that estimated for 1950-2000 (5.7 per cent versus 12.5 per cent, as shown in table 38). Furthermore, there will be a reduction in the variation of urban growth rates among all countries, so that the interquartile range will decrease from 2.7 to 2.2 percentage points; this reduction being more marked among small countries. However, more countries or areas will have negative rates of urban growth, with the number increasing from 4 in 1950-2000 to 11 in 2000-2030, all of the latter being countries or areas in Europe (table 40). In addition, urban popu-

lation growth rates are expected to be very low in another 12 European countries or areas as well as Armenia and in Japan. That is, the lowest rates of urban population growth projected for 2000-2030 are concentrated in Europe. In contrast, the highest annual rates of urban population growth projected for 2000-2030, which vary between 4.1 per cent and 5.8 per cent, are expected in countries of Africa and Asia all but two of which (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia) had urban populations with fewer than 5 million inhabitants in 2000 (table 39).

TABLE 40. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE LOWEST URBAN GROWTH RATES IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	Country or area	Urban growth rate (percentage) 1950-2000	Urban population in 1950 (thousands)	Rank	Country or area	Urban growth rate (percentage) 2000-2030	Urban population in 2000 (thousands)
1	Montserrat ^a	-3.61	3	1	Estonia	-0.80	967
2	Niue ^a	-0.97	1	2	Bulgaria	-0.72	5 363
3	Holy See ^a	-0.50	1	3	Ukraine	-0.56	33 657
4	Channel Islands ^a	-0.08	44	4	Russian Federation	-0.38	106 063
5	Antigua and Barbuda ^a	0.23	21	5	Latvia	-0.33	1 463
6	Austria	0.42	4 411	6	Gibraltar ^a	-0.33	27
7	United Kingdom	0.44	42 609	7	Georgia	-0.13	2 962
8	Gibraltar ^a	0.45	21	8	Sweden	-0.03	7 364
9	Belgium	0.47	7 902	9	Germany	-0.03	71 798
10	East Timor ^b	0.51	43	10	Hungary	-0.02	6 434
11	Saint Kitts and Nevis ^a	0.56	10	11	Spain	-0.02	30 974
12	Latvia	0.75	1 005	12	Czech Republic	0.00	7 653
13	Germany	0.76	49 170	13	Holy See ^a	0.00	1
14	Italy	0.82	25 584	14	Belgium	0.00	9 976
15	Denmark	0.89	2 904	15	Belarus	0.01	7 073
16	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ^a	0.91	4	16	Italy	0.01	38 512
17	Sweden	0.93	4 618	17	Lithuania	0.04	2 532
18	Grenada ^a	0.99	22	18	Switzerland	0.05	4 834
19	Monaco ^a	1.01	20	19	Japan	0.09	100 089
20	Bermuda ^a	1.05	37	20	Denmark	0.12	4 527
21	Netherlands	1.06	8 362	21	Austria	0.15	5 436
22	Cook Islands ^a	1.11	7	22	United Kingdom	0.21	53 162
23	Aruba ^a	1.12	29	23	Armenia	0.25	2 545
24	Hungary	1.12	3 667	24	Netherlands	0.26	14 197
25	Uruguay	1.13	1 746	25	Romania	0.26	12 360

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

C. THE SIZE AND GROWTH OF THE RURAL POPULATION

Countries vary considerably according to the size of their rural populations. Although the rural population of every country has grown more slowly over the past fifty years than its urban population, rural growth has been robust in many developing countries, with the result that the range of variation of rural population growth rates has increased since 1950. As a result, the largest rural population in the world (that of China) has risen from 485 million in 1950 to 819 million in 2000

(table 41). Similarly, in the past fifty years there has been a consistent increase of the median and the quartiles of the distribution of countries or areas according to size of the rural population. Yet in 2000 half of the countries or areas in the world had less than 1.63 million rural inhabitants and in three-quarters the rural population did not surpass 7.2 million. Over the next thirty years, the median is expected to decline as a result of reductions in the rural population of a growing number of countries, so that by 2030 half of the countries or areas in the world are each expected to have less than 1.5 million inhabitants in rural areas and the larg-

TABLE 41. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

Indicator	Rural population (thousands)			
	1950	1975	2000	2030
All countries or areas				
Lower extreme	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	54	67	90	85
Median	1 093	1 299	1 627	1 463
Upper quartile	4 039	5 037	7 220	8 689
Upper extreme	485 232	766 362	818 793	833 238
Interquartile range	3 985	4 970	7 129	8 604

est rural population in the world, which will then correspond to India, will likely be lower than 835 million (table 41).

The urbanized countries of the developed world have been experiencing declines in their rural populations for some time. In Europe, this has meant that the distribution of countries by rural population size has become more compressed as the upper extreme has declined (table 42). Europe is in fact the only major area where all the location parameters of the distribution of countries by rural population size, including the median, have been declining since 1950. By 2030 the largest rural population in Europe will be 27 million, down from 39 million in 2000 and 57 million in 1950. No other region has as yet experienced reductions of the rural population such as those experienced by Europe, but between 2000 and 2030 most countries in the Americas are expected to follow similar trends. In the other three major areas, all the indicators of rural population size, which rose from 1950 to 2000, will also continue to grow in the future. Thus the median rural population in Asia increases from 2.3 million in 1950 to 4.3 million in 2000 and will likely reach 5.1 million in 2030, while the median in Africa rises from 2 million in 1950 to 5.4 million in 2000 and to 7.4 million in 2030. Other location indicators are also expected to increase, since most countries in Africa and Asia are projected to see their rural populations grow from 2000 to 2030. Furthermore, the interquartile ranges for Africa and Asia, which rose substantially between 1950 and 2000, are expected to continue increasing be-

tween 2000 and 2030, indicating growing variability in rural population sizes. Trends and projections in Oceania mirror those of Africa and Asia, with increasing trends in the median and interquartile ranges over the two periods.

Since 1950 rates of rural population growth have varied widely and will continue to do so across countries or areas over the next thirty years. Between 1950 and 1975, average annual rates of rural population growth varied from -3.3 per cent to 9.7 per cent, and during 1975-2000 from -6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent (table 43). The median rural growth rate fell from 1.4 per cent to 0.7 per cent per year between those two periods. In 2000-2030 the median is expected to become negative, indicating that the norm among the countries or areas of the world will be to have declining rural populations. In addition, less than a quarter of the countries of the world are expected to experience rural growth rates equal or higher to 1 per cent per year and no country is expected to experience a rural growth rate higher than 3 per cent per year during 2000-2030. Whereas over the period 1950-1975, the rural growth rates falling in the central half of the distribution ranged from 0.1 per cent per year to 2 per cent per year, by 1975-2000 the central range of the distribution already encompassed some negative values, going from -0.4 per cent to 1.8 per cent per year. In a continuation of those trends, the interquartile range will move markedly toward lower rural growth rates during 2000-2030, varying between -1 per cent per year and 0.8 per cent per year. In fact, the number of countries with negative rates of rural population growth increased from 49 during 1950-1975 to 74 in 1975-2000 and is expected to reach 116 during 2000-2030. That is, more than half of all countries or areas are expected to see their rural populations decrease over the course of the next thirty years.

Table 44 lists the 25 countries that have experienced or are likely to experience the lowest rates of rural population growth, all of which have either declining rural populations or no rural populations at all. During 1950-2000, the vast majority (17 of 25) were small countries or areas with overall populations of less than one million in 2000. Five of the remaining eight were countries

TABLE 42. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS BY MAJOR AREA, ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Rural population (thousands)</i>			
	<i>1950</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2030</i>
Africa				
Lower extreme	4	4	2	1
Lower quartile	445	630	812	998
Median	2 029	3 209	5 369	7 389
Upper quartile.....	3 932	5 993	10 048	13 813
Upper extreme.....	26 769	42 042	63 687	87 624
Interquartile range	3 488	5 363	9 235	12 815
Asia				
Lower extreme	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	445	636	628	872
Median	2 293	2 890	4 334	5 054
Upper quartile.....	11 341	16 720	19 485	21 752
Upper extreme.....	485 232	766 362	818 793	833 238
Interquartile range	10 896	16 083	18 857	20 880
Europe				
Lower extreme	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	338	279	188	122
Median	1 952	1 615	1 808	1 441
Upper quartile.....	5 725	4 812	3 548	2 098
Upper extreme.....	56 793	45 064	39 428	26 802
Interquartile range	5 388	4 533	3 360	1 976
Americas				
Lower extreme	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	26	36	30	23
Median	229	374	270	182
Upper quartile.....	1 944	2 776	2 965	2 941
Upper extreme.....	56 569	58 008	64 553	55 710
Interquartile range	1 918	2 740	2 935	2 918
Oceania				
Lower extreme	0	0	0	0
Lower quartile	4	6	7	8
Median	27	45	50	56
Upper quartile.....	55	94	131	155
Upper extreme.....	2 046	2 294	3 973	6 053
Interquartile range	51	87	124	147

TABLE 43. INDICATORS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES AND AREAS ACCORDING TO THE GROWTH RATE OF THE RURAL POPULATION, 1950-1975, 1975-2000 AND 2000-2030

Indicator	Rural growth rate (percentage)		
	1950-1975	1975-2000	2000-2030
All countries or areas ^a			
Lower extreme.....	-3.3	-6.3	-2.7
Lower quartile.....	0.1	-0.4	-1.0
Median.....	1.4	0.7	-0.2
Upper quartile.....	2.0	1.8	0.8
Upper extreme.....	9.7	6.4	3.0
Interquartile range.....	2.0	2.2	1.7

^a The upper and lower extremes are not strictly the values corresponding to all countries or areas in each group. The very high or very low values resulting from the transition from no rural population to a positive number or from a positive number to zero rural population were excluded. Those types of transitions happen in countries with small populations, such as China Hong Kong SAR, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Guadeloupe and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.

of Europe characterized by both low rates of overall population growth and increasing urbanization. The other three were the highly urbanized city States of Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China, and Singapore, in addition to Lebanon. During 2000-2030, the 25 countries expected to experience the lowest rates of rural population growth (or the fastest rates of rural population decline) include 13 countries or areas with small populations, six countries in Europe, and four in Asia plus Australia and South Africa.

At the other end of the distribution, the 25 countries experiencing the highest rates of rural population growth during 1950-2000 and 2000-2030 are listed in table 45. Once more, a number of small countries or areas with populations below one million in 2000 are prominent in both periods. In fact 11 countries or areas in 1950-2000 and 4 in 2000-2030 had fewer than 100,000 rural inhabitants at the beginning of each period. Smaller rural populations seem more likely than larger ones to experience high rates of growth. Of more importance are high rates of rural population growth in countries with at least a million inhabitants. In 1950 there were 11 such countries in the list, eight in Africa and three in Asia. During 2000-2030, the 19 countries with more than a million rural dwellers in 2000 among the 25 expected to experience the highest rates of rural population growth in-

clude 15 in Africa (the two with the largest rural populations being the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia) and four in Asia (Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen).

As in the case of the urban population, the countries experiencing the highest rates of rural population growth are usually not those with the largest rural populations. The countries with the largest rural populations, which together accounted for 75 per cent of the rural population of the world in 1950, 2000 and 2030, are listed in table 46. They amounted to 20 in 1950, 17 in 2000 and will likely be 18 in 2030. In 1950 seven of the 20 countries on the list were developed countries. By 2000, only three developed countries remained on the list of those with the largest rural populations, namely, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States. In addition, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, three populous developing countries that experienced rapid urbanization during 1950-2000, no longer appeared among the countries with the largest rural populations in 2000. By that date, only one Latin American country, Brazil, still had a sufficiently large rural population as to be included in the list. Among the 17 countries with the largest rural populations, the majority (nine) were in Asia and four in Africa. The top five countries were China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan in order of rural population size. As of 2000, China and India together accounted for nearly half of the total rural population of the world.

By 2030, 18 countries are expected to account for three-quarters of the rural population of the world, including only one developed country, the United States. The other 17 include six countries in Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) and 11 in Asia. The rural population of China will likely decline by about 200 million between 2000 and 2030, while that of India is expected to increase by about 100 million, so that India's rural population is expected to surpass that of China in 2030. Those two countries will be followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia in order of rural population size. In 2030, those five countries will account for about 55 per cent of all rural dwellers in the world.

TABLE 44. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE LOWEST RURAL GROWTH RATES IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	Country or area	Rural growth rate (percentage)		Rank	Country or area	Rural growth rate (percentage)
		1950-2000	2000-2030			
1	Anguilla ^a	Negative		1	Anguilla ^a	Negative
2	Cayman Islands ^a	Negative		2	Cayman Islands ^a	Negative
3	China, Hong Kong SAR	Negative		3	China, Hong Kong SAR	Negative
4	Gibraltar ^a	Negative		4	Gibraltar ^a	Negative
5	Holy See ^a	Negative		5	Holy See ^a	Negative
6	Monaco ^a	Negative		6	Monaco ^a	Negative
7	Nauru ^a	Negative		7	Nauru ^a	Negative
8	Singapore	Negative		8	Singapore	Negative
9	Bermuda ^a	Negative		9	Bermuda ^a	Negative
10	Guadeloupe ^b	-8.63		10	Guadeloupe ^b	Negative
11	Martinique ^b	-4.23		11	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^a	Negative
12	San Marino ^a	-3.11		12	Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ^a	Negative
13	Malta ^b	-2.46		13	Pitcairn ^a	Negative
14	Luxembourg ^b	-2.37		14	Martinique ^b	-2.66
15	Montserrat ^a	-2.35		15	Portugal	-2.31
16	Lebanon	-2.27		16	Estonia	-1.98
17	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^a	-2.07		17	Australia	-1.93
18	Belgium	-1.99		18	Bulgaria	-1.89
19	Niue ^a	-1.88		19	Georgia	-1.88
20	Bulgaria	-1.47		20	Ukraine	-1.83
21	Czech Republic	-1.40		21	Republic of Korea	-1.78
22	Belarus	-1.31		22	Belgium	-1.70
23	Pitcairn ^a	-1.30		23	Malta ^b	-1.69
24	Saint Helena ^a	-1.29		24	Hungary	-1.68
25	Portugal	-1.29		25	South Africa	-1.58

NOTE: Entries have been labelled negative when countries have reached a rural population of zero and, consequently, the normal calculation of the rural growth rate yields a value of minus infinity.

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

In general, the countries having large rural populations are expected to remain mainly rural. Thus, as table 47 shows, in 2000 only five of the 17 countries accounting for three-quarters of the world rural population had less than half of their population living in rural areas (Brazil, Japan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and the United States). By 2030, six of the 18 are expected to be primarily urban countries in terms of population distribution, namely, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States. In addition, during 1950-2000 most of the countries that in 2000 accounted for three-quarters of the world's rural population exhibited rates of rural population

growth ranging between 1 per cent per year to 2.5 per cent per year. China's rural population grew at a rate of 1.05 per cent per year but that of India maintained a considerably higher growth rate at 1.81 per cent per year. Four countries maintained average annual rates of rural population growth higher than 2 per cent per year, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Thailand. Only three of the countries with large rural populations in 2000 maintained on average a negative rate of rural population growth during 1950-2000: Brazil, Japan and the Russian Federation. The rural population of the United States grew but at a very low average annual rate of 0.26 per cent. Despite the

TABLE 45. COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST RURAL GROWTH RATES IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	Country or area	Rural growth rate (percentage) 1950-2000	Rural population in 1950 (thousands)	Rank	Country or area	Rural growth rate (percentage) 2000-2030	Rural population in 2000 (thousands)
1	Andorra ^a	8.88	0	1	Yemen	2.99	13 815
2	Northern Mariana Islands ^a	4.74	3	2	Andorra ^a	2.88	7
3	United Arab Emirates	3.79	52	3	Uganda	2.64	20 001
4	Marshall Islands ^a	3.14	4	4	Niger	2.54	8 604
5	Qatar ^b	2.99	9	5	Somalia	2.47	6 365
6	Solomon Islands ^b	2.95	82	6	Liberia	2.47	1 605
7	United States Virgin Islands ^a	2.93	15	7	Burkina Faso	2.40	9 630
8	Tajikistan	2.81	1 082	8	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2.14	35 521
9	Belize	2.76	30	9	Montserrat ^a	2.09	3
10	Uganda	2.75	5 050	10	Burundi	2.07	5 787
11	Turkmenistan	2.73	667	11	Chad	2.03	6 010
12	Côte d'Ivoire	2.64	2 410	12	Solomon Islands ^b	2.00	359
13	Uzbekistan	2.58	4 330	13	Northern Mariana Islands ^a	1.99	34
14	Niger	2.57	2 379	14	Bhutan	1.94	1 936
15	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2.56	9 857	15	Afghanistan	1.93	17 003
16	Micronesia (Fed. States of) ^a	2.53	25	16	Occupied Palestinian Terr.	1.92	1 059
17	French Guiana ^b	2.49	12	17	Angola	1.87	8 642
18	Malawi	2.49	2 779	18	Rwanda	1.77	7 141
19	Jordan	2.48	303	19	Maldives ^b	1.74	211
20	Kenya	2.48	5 915	20	Mali	1.72	7 924
21	Vanuatu ^b	2.47	45	21	Eritrea	1.72	2 973
22	Gambia	2.47	263	22	Ethiopia	1.67	53 146
23	Rwanda	2.47	2 082	23	French Guiana ^b	1.65	41
24	Yemen	2.45	4 066	24	Sierra Leone	1.57	2 791
25	Zimbabwe	2.41	2 452	25	Malawi	1.52	9 643

^a Countries that in 2000 had less than 150,000 inhabitants.

^b Countries that in 2000 has at least 150,000 inhabitants but less than a million.

slow or negative growth of their rural populations, these countries remained on the list for 2000 because they had very large rural populations in 1950.

Among the countries that will likely account for three-quarters of the world's rural population in 2030, only the rural populations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Yemen are expected to grow faster than 2 per cent per year, with those of four others—Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nepal and Pakistan—expected to experience average annual rural growth rates in the range of 1 per cent to 2 per cent. In addition, four coun-

tries with large rural populations in 2030—China, Indonesia, Myanmar and the United States—are expected to experience negative rural population growth during 2000-2030. In China, the rural population is projected to decline at a rate of -1.03 per cent per year. That is, out of the 18 countries expected to have the largest rural populations in 2030, 11 are projected to experience low or even negative rates of rural population growth during 2000-2030. Nevertheless as the majority of the rural populations of the world go into steady declines, the world's rural population will remain concentrated in a few countries, especially the most populous ones in Asia and Africa.

TABLE 47. RURAL GROWTH RATE AND PERCENTAGE RURAL FOR THE COUNTRIES
WITH THE LARGEST RURAL POPULATIONS, 1950-2030

Rank in 1950	Country or area	Rural population (thousands)			Rural growth rate (percentage)		Percentage rural		
		1950	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950	2000	2030
1	China.....	485 232	818 793	601 199	1.05	-1.03	87.5	64.2	40.5
2	India.....	295 866	729 893	833 238	1.81	0.44	82.7	72.3	59.1
3	Indonesia.....	69 675	125 149	102 782	1.17	-0.66	87.6	59.0	36.3
4	Russian Federation.....	56 793	39 428	26 802	-0.73	-1.29	55.3	27.1	22.1
5	United States of America.....	56 569	64 553	55 710	0.26	-0.49	35.8	22.8	15.5
6	Japan.....	41 560	27 007	18 466	-0.86	-1.27	49.7	21.2	15.2
7	Bangladesh.....	40 009	103 085	124 059	1.89	0.62	95.8	75.0	55.7
8	Brazil.....	34 268	32 119	21 568	-0.13	-1.33	63.5	18.8	9.5
9	Pakistan.....	32 710	94 499	139 438	2.12	1.30	82.5	66.9	51.1
10	Nigeria.....	26 769	63 687	80 314	1.73	0.77	89.9	55.9	36.4
11	Viet Nam.....	24 181	59 321	64 595	1.79	0.28	88.4	75.9	58.7
12	Ukraine.....	22 688	15 911	9 178	-0.71	-1.83	60.8	32.1	24.4
13	Italy.....	21 520	19 018	12 135	-0.25	-1.50	45.7	33.1	23.9
14	Germany.....	19 206	10 218	6 475	-1.26	-1.52	28.1	12.5	8.3
15	France.....	18 335	14 588	11 192	-0.46	-0.88	43.8	24.6	17.8
16	Ethiopia.....	17 586	53 146	87 624	2.21	1.67	95.4	84.5	69.0
17	Thailand.....	17 570	50 352	53 232	2.11	0.19	89.5	80.2	66.9
18	Turkey.....	16 367	22 824	20 641	0.67	-0.34	78.7	34.2	23.0
19	Republic of Korea.....	16 010	8 471	4 970	-1.27	-1.78	78.6	18.1	9.5
20	Mexico.....	15 906	25 341	24 471	0.93	-0.12	57.3	25.6	18.1
21	Myanmar.....	14 951	34 529	33 399	1.67	-0.11	83.8	72.3	53.4
22	Egypt.....	14 863	38 914	45 390	1.93	0.51	68.1	57.3	45.6
23	Philippines.....	14 570	31 358	28 024	1.53	-0.37	72.9	41.4	24.9
24	Dem. Rep. of the Congo.....	9 857	35 521	67 566	2.56	2.14	80.9	69.7	50.9
25	Uganda.....	5 050	20 001	44 190	2.75	2.64	96.9	85.8	70.5
26	Nepal.....	8 308	20 313	30 824	1.79	1.39	97.7	88.2	73.9
27	Afghanistan.....	7 679	17 003	30 369	1.59	1.93	94.2	78.1	60.1
28	United Republic of Tanzania.....	7 587	23 792	29 228	2.29	0.69	96.2	67.7	44.6
29	Yemen.....	4 066	13 815	33 925	2.45	2.99	94.2	75.3	59.0