

Urban Agglomerations 2007

A translation table listing alternative English city names to the corresponding names in the original language is shown on the back of this wallchart.

Urban agglomeration	Country	Population (millions)		Rank ¹		Average annual rate of change (per cent)		Population residing in agglomeration, 2007, as percentage of	
		1975	2007	2007	2025	2005-2010	2020-2025	Total population	Urban population
A									
Abidjan	Côte d'Ivoire	1.0	3.8	60	58	3.2	2.1	19.7	41.0
Abuja	Nigeria	0.1	1.6	34	35	8.3	2.5	1.1	2.2
Accra	Ghana	0.7	2.1	34	35	3.2	2.1	9.0	18.3
Adana	Turkey	0.5	1.3	62	60	1.8	1.0	1.7	2.5
Adis Ababa	Ethiopia	0.9	3.1	62	55	3.5	3.8	3.7	22.4
Ahmedabad	India	0.9	1.1	11	11	0.4	0.2	6.3	7.7
Aggr	India	0.7	1.6	24	22	2.4	2.2	0.5	0.5
Ahmadabad	India	2.1	5.4	7	7	4.6	4.5	2.2	0.5
Al-Kuwayf (Kuwait City)	Kuwait	0.7	2.1	30	16	4.0	1.2	72.4	73.6
Al-Skandarīyah (Alexandria)	Egypt	2.2	4.2	57	67	6.5	2.0	1.6	5.5
Al-Khartoum (Khartoum)	Sudan	0.9	4.8	79	214	5.3	4.4	2.8	25.0
Allahabad	India	0.6	1.2	1.8	310	353	315	2.1	2.2
Al-Madinah (Medina)	Saudi Arabia	0.2	1.0	1.5	417	423	370	3.1	1.6
Almaty	Kazakhstan	0.9	1.2	1.4	226	351	379	0.7	7.8
Al-Mawasil (Mosul)	Iraq	0.4	1.3	2.1	368	324	265	3.2	2.1
Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	Egypt	6.4	11.9	15.6	17	13	13	1.7	15.8
Amman	Jordan	0.5	1.1	1.4	328	397	386	1.2	1.4
Amritsar	India	0.5	1.2	1.8	325	350	310	2.4	2.2
Amsterdam	Netherlands	1.0	1.0	1.1	187	410	425	0.4	0.2
Ankara	Turkey	1.7	3.7	4.8	99	77	84	1.8	0.8
Andian, Liaoning	China	1.1	1.6	2.2	163	241	254	1.1	0.3
Antananarivo	Madagascar	0.5	1.7	3.1	343	230	154	3.3	3.3
Ar-Riyadh (Riyadh)	Saudi Arabia	0.7	4.5	6.3	263	60	52	2.9	1.3
Asasol	India	0.3	1.3	2.0	404	321	282	2.5	2.2
Asunción	Paraguay	0.7	1.9	2.7	283	203	189	2.8	1.6
Athina (Athens)	Greece	2.7	3.2	3.2	46	97	143	0.2	0.5
Atlanta	United States of America	1.4	4.5	5.2	123	58	70	1.7	0.5
Auckland	New Zealand	0.7	1.2	1.5	256	344	369	2.1	0.5
Aurangabad	India	0.2	1.1	1.7	415	377	332	2.7	2.3
Austin	United States of America	0.3	1.2	1.4	396	360	382	1.9	0.6
B									
Baghdad	Iraq	2.6	5.1	8.1	50	49	43	2.0	1.9
Baku	Azerbaijan	0.8	1.7	2.1	248	224	266	2.0	0.6
Bahia Santos ²	Brazil	1.4	1.9	2.2	119	198	246	0.7	0.8
Baltimore	United States of America	1.7	2.3	2.6	102	160	200	1.0	0.6
Bamako	Mali	0.4	1.5	3.2	374	271	150	4.4	4.0
Bandung	Indonesia	1.3	2.4	3.4	130	153	138	2.2	1.3
Bangalore	India	2.1	6.8	9.7	67	36	31	2.2	2.0
Banghazi	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.3	1.2	1.6	399	358	347	2.6	1.1
Beijing	China	0.4	1.1	1.6	365	380	349	2.9	1.4
Beidou	China	0.9	2.0	2.9	202	186	174	2.8	1.3
Barcelona	Spain	3.7	4.9	5.2	33	50	69	1.0	0.0
Bérgamo (Bergamo)	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.5	1.1	1.4	335	374	377	2.1	0.9
Bogotá	Colombia	1.0	3.0	4.0	221	211	237	2.1	0.5
Bojnord (Bojnord)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1.5	1.8	2.2	114	206	251	1.8	0.5
Bolém	Brazil	6.0	11.1	14.5	18	16	15	1.8	1.0
Bolém	Brazil	0.7	2.2	2.7	264	172	188	2.7	0.6
Belo Horizonte	Brazil	1.9	5.6	6.7	80	43	50	2.3	0.5
Benin City	Nigeria	0.2	1.2	2.0	410	354	280	2.9	2.5
Benxi	China	0.7	1.0	1.3	262	421	390	0.9	1.4
Beograd (Belgrade)	Serbia	0.9	1.1	1.2	223	385	415	-0.2	0.5
Berlin	Germany	3.1	3.4	3.4	40	90	132	0.2	0.0
Bhopal	India	0.5	1.7	2.6	331	221	204	2.3	2.2
Birmingham	United Kingdom	2.4	2.3	2.3	58	159	226	0.1	0.1
Bogotá	Colombia	3.0	7.8	9.6	41	30	32	2.5	0.6
Boston	United States of America	4.5	5.0	5.7	59	75	75	1.0	0.5
Brazzaville	Congo	0.3	1.4	2.1	392	311	258	4.3	2.1
Bridgetown-Stamford	United States of America	0.7	1.0	1.2	265	418	411	1.3	0.7
Brisbane	Australia	0.9	1.9	2.2	197	204	239	2.0	0.6
Brussels-Bruxelles	Belgium	1.6	1.7	1.7	106	220	320	0.0	—
Bucaramanga	Colombia	0.4	1.0	1.3	364	424	400	2.1	0.9
București (Bucharest)	Romania	1.7	1.9	1.9	100	195	285	0.1	0.0
Budapest	Hungary	2.0	1.7	1.7	76	234	334	-0.4	-0.0
Buenos Aires	Argentina	8.7	12.8	13.8	7	10	16	0.8	0.2
Buffalo	United States of America	1.0	1.0	1.2	172	419	412	0.9	0.7
Bursa	Turkey	0.3	1.5	1.9	383	272	295	2.3	1.0
Busan	Republic of Korea	2.4	3.5	3.4	55	87	134	-0.6	-0.0
C									
Calgary	Canada	0.5	1.1	1.3	341	378	387	2.3	0.6
Call	Colombia	1.0	2.3	2.8	168	161	182	1.9	0.8
Campanas	Brazil	0.8	2.8	3.5	247	126	129	2.6	0.5
Capetown	South Africa	1.3	3.2	3.7	128	99	116	1.7	0.6
Caracas	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2.3	3.0	3.6	59	114	122	1.1	0.8
Changchun	China	1.6	3.2	4.3	110	100	91	2.2	1.2
Changde	China	0.7	1.5	2.0	267	278	283	1.5	1.3
Changsha, Hunan	China	0.9	2.6	3.7	194	138	120	2.9	1.2
Changzhou, Jiangsu	China	0.4	1.3	1.9	375	323	300	2.9	1.3
Chebyansk	Russian Federation	1.0	1.1	1.1	190	387	426	-0.1	-0.0
Chengdu	China	1.9	4.1	5.3	79	68	67	1.0	1.2
Chennai (Madras)	India	3.6	7.2	10.1	34	35	26	1.8	2.0
Chengde	United States of America	7.2	9.0	9.9	24	24	28	0.9	0.4
Chifeng	China	0.3	1.3	1.7	384	335	321	1.7	0.1
Chittagong	Bangladesh	1.0	4.5	7.6	174	56	46	3.6	2.7
Chongqing	China	2.4	6.5	8.3	54	39	40	1.0	1.1
Cincinnati	United States of America	1.2	1.6	1.9	140	242	302	1.1	0.6
Ciudad de Guatemala (Guatemala City)	Guatemala	0.7	1.0	1.7	259	411	328	2.3	2.6
Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	Mexico	10.7	19.0	21.0	3	3	6	0.8	0.3
Ciudad de Panamá (Panama City)	Panama	0.5	1.3	1.8	320	333	318	2.5	1.2
Ciudad Juárez	Mexico	0.5	1.3	1.6	336	316	346	1.3	0.7
Cleveland	United States of America	1.8	1.9	2.2	87	199	255	0.9	0.6
Coimbatore	India	0.8	1.7	2.5	237	231	212	2.2	2.2
Columbus, Ohio	United States of America	0.8	1.3	1.5	236	338	368	1.2	0.6
Conroy	China	0.5	1.5	2.9	319	270	175	2.1	3.5
Córdoba	Argentina	0.9	1.5	1.6	206	286	337	1.0	0.5
Coritiba	Brazil	0.9	3.1	3.8	201	107	114	2.7	0.5
D									
Daegu	Republic of Korea	1.3	2.5	2.5	131	148	216	-0.1	0.0
Daegun	Republic of Korea	0.5	1.5	1.7	327	280	355	0.9	0.0
Dakar	Senegal	0.8	2.6	4.2	244	137	96	3.2	2.5
Dalian	China	1.4	3.2	4.2	122	102	98	1.6	1.2
Dallas-Fort Worth	United States of America	2.2	4.8	5.4	64	51	66	1.2	0.4
Daqing	China	0.6	1.7	2.4	298	232	221	2.9	1.3
Dar es Salaam	United Republic of Tanzania	0.6	2.9	5.7	308	117	64	4.3	3.4
Dar-el-Béida (Gassabala)	Morocco	1.8	3.2	3.9	91	101	110	0.8	1.2
Dating, Shanghai	China	0.9	1.8	2.7	219	202	193	2.9	1.3
Davao	Philippines	0.5	1.4	2.1	332	301	271	2.8	1.6
Dhaka	Bangladesh	4.4	15.9	22.5	23	6	3	2.5	1.9
Dhaka	Bangladesh	1.2	2.3	2.7	143	158	191	1.3	0.5
Detroit	United States of America	3.9	4.1	4.6	29	69	82	0.8	0.5
Dhaka	Bangladesh	2.2	13.5	22.0	65	9	4	3.3	2.5
Dhanbad	India	0.5	1.2	1.9	322	343	305	2.2	2.2
Dimashq (Damascus)	Syrian Arab Republic	1.1	2.5	3.6	155	147	123	2.8	1.8
Dnipropetrovsk	Ukraine	1.0	1.1	1.0	185	402	430	-0.2	-0.0
Dongguan, Guangdong	China	0.9	4.5	6.2	207	57	54	2.3	1.2
Douala	Cameroon	0.4	1.9	3.0	352	197	162	3.5	1.9
Dubay (Dubai)	United Arab Emirates	0.2	1.4	2.1	422	310	270	3.5	1.8
Dublin	Ireland	0.8	1.1	1.3	230	398	391	1.1	1.2
Durban	South Africa	1.0	2.7	3.2	173	128	153	3.5	0.7
Durg-Bhilainagar	India	0.3	1.1	1.6	390	386	339	2.4	2.3
E									
Edmonton	Canada	0.5	1.1	1.3	313	399	405	1.8	0.6
Ekurhuleni (East Rand)	South Africa	1.0	3.0	3.5	180	113	127	2.3	0.6
El Djazair (Algiers)	Algeria	1.5	3.4	4.5	115	92	86	2.2	1.2
Esfahan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.8	1.6	2.2	251	245	248	2.1	1.1
F									
Faisalabad	Pakistan	0.9	2.6	4.3	205	134	93	2.6	2.6
Farisabad	India	0.2	1.4	2.1	423	306	263		



Names of cities or urban agglomerations are presented in their original language, according to the names used by National Statistical Offices or the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. If the country uses script with non-Latin characters, a transliteration of the original spelling into Latin script is used. If cities have established alternative names or English names, these names are added in parentheses.

English name	City name
Aleppo	Halab
Alexandria	Al-Aksandariyah
Algiers	El Djazair
Athens	Athinaí
Bangkok	Krung Thep
Beirut	Bayrut
Belgrade	Beograd
Banaras	Varanasi
Bombay	Mumbai
Bucharest	Bucuresti
Cairo	Al-Qahirah
Calcutta	Kolkata
Casablanca	Dar-el-Beida
Cochin	Kochi
Cologne	Köln
Copenhagen	København
Damascus	Dimashq
Dubai	Dubayy
East Rand	Ekurhuleni
Guatemala City	Ciudad de Guatemala
Hafa	Hefa
Havana	La Habana
Ho Chi Minh City	Thành Pho Ho Chi Minh
Homs	Hims
Khartoum	Al-Khartoum
Kiev	Kyiv
Kuwait City	Al Kuwait
Lisbon	Lisboa
Madras	Chennai
Meca	Makkah
Medina	Al-Madinah
Mexico City	Ciudad de México
Milan	Milano
Mogadishu	Muqdisho
Moscow	Moskva
Mosul	Al-Mawsil
Munich	München
Naples	Napoli
Panama City	Ciudad de Panamá
Phnom Penh	Phnum Penh
Poznań	Poznań
Prague	Praha
Riyadh	Ar-Riyadh
Rome	Roma
Rostov-on-Don	Rostov-na-Donu
Saint Petersburg	Sankt Peterburg
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	Tel Aviv-Yafo
Tripoli	Tarabulus
Turin	Torino
Vienna	Wien
Warsaw	Warszawa
Wulumoji	Ürümqi
Zürich	Zürich

WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 2007 REVISION

KEY FINDINGS

- The 2007 *Revision* corroborates that the world population will reach a landmark in 2008: for the first time in history the urban population will equal the rural population of the world and, from then on, the majority of the world population will be urban. The world population is expected to be 70 per cent urban in 2050.
- Between 2007 and 2050, the population living in urban areas is projected to gain 3.1 billion, passing from 3.3 billion in 2007 to 6.4 billion 2050. By mid-century the world urban population will likely be the same size as the world's total population in 2004. The urban areas of the world are expected to absorb all the population growth anticipated over the next four decades. Furthermore, most of the population growth expected in urban areas will be concentrated in the cities and towns of the less developed regions. Asia, in particular, is projected to see its urban population increase by 1.8 billion, Africa by 0.9 billion, and Latin America and the Caribbean by 0.2 billion. Population growth is therefore becoming largely an urban phenomenon concentrated in the developing world.
- Historically, the process of rapid urbanization first started in today's more developed regions. In 1920, just under 30 per cent of their populations was urban, and by 1950, more than half of their populations was living in urban areas. In 2007, high levels of urbanization, surpassing 80 per cent, characterized Australia, New Zealand and Northern America. Europe, with 72 per cent of its population living in urban areas, was the least urbanized major area in the developed world. By 2050, Australia, New Zealand and Northern America are all expected to be over 90 per cent urban, while Europe's level of urbanization is projected to be lower, at 84 per cent.
- Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has an exceptionally high level of urbanization (78 per cent), higher than that of Europe. Africa and Asia, in contrast, remain mostly rural, with 38 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively, of their populations living in urban areas. Over the coming decades, the level of urbanization is expected to increase in all major areas of the developing world, with Africa and Asia urbanizing more rapidly than the rest. Nevertheless, by mid-century, Africa and Asia are expected still to have lower levels of urbanization

than the more developed regions or Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Despite its low level of urbanization, in 2007 Asia was home to about half of the urban population in the world. Europe had the second highest share, at 16 per cent. Over the next four decades, Africa and Asia will experience a marked increase in their urban populations. In Africa the urban population is likely to treble, and in Asia it will more than double. By mid-century, most of the urban population of the world will be concentrated in Asia (64 per cent) and Africa (19 per cent).
- The world rural population is expected to reach a maximum of 3.5 billion in 2018 or 2019 and to decline slowly thereafter, to reach 2.8 billion in 2050. With the exception of Africa and Oceania, all major areas are expected to have smaller rural populations in 2050 than today. Africa's rural population may start to decline before the mid-century. Today, the majority of rural-dwellers live in Asia (71 per cent) and Africa (18 per cent) and the concentration of the world rural population in these two major areas combined is expected to increase, so that by 2050, 64 per cent of all rural inhabitants are projected to live in Asia and 27 per cent in Africa.
- The world urban population is highly concentrated in a few countries. In 2007, three quarters of the 3.3 billion urban-dwellers on Earth lived in 25 countries. China, India and the United States of America accounted for 35 per cent of the world urban population. Most of the 25 countries with the largest urban populations are highly urbanized, but seven have levels of urbanization ranging from 27 per cent to just over 50 per cent and they include some of the most populous countries in the world: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- Most countries have small urban populations. In 2007, two thirds of the 229 countries or areas considered had fewer than 5 million urban-dwellers and they accounted for 6 per cent of the world urban population.
- Similarly, the increases in the world urban population are concentrated in a few countries, with China and India projected to account together for about a third of the increase in the urban population in the

coming decades. Between 2007 and 2025, the urban areas of the world are expected to gain 1.3 billion people, including 261 million in China and 197 million in India, which account together for 35 per cent of the total increase. Nine additional countries are projected to contribute 29 per cent of the urban increment, with increases ranging from 20 million to 62 million. The countries involved are: the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria in Africa; Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines in Asia; Brazil and Mexico in Latin America; and the United States of America.

A further urban increment of 1.8 billion people is expected globally during 2025-2050, with India being the major contributor (377 million), followed by China (205 million). Together, the two most populous countries on Earth are expected to account for 32 per cent of urban growth during 2025-2050. In 2050, China will still have the largest urban population (1 billion), followed by India (0.9 billion).

In a few developed countries, the urban population will decrease. Despite the projected increases in the level of urbanization, overall population decline in several countries will lead to a reduction in the number of urban-dwellers. Between 2007 and 2025, the urban population of the Russian Federation and that of Ukraine are projected to decline by 8 million and 3 million, respectively. Between 2025 and 2050, more countries will experience reductions in the urban population. Those with the largest drops include Japan (a reduction of 4 million), the Republic of Korea (4 million), the Russian Federation (7 million) and Ukraine (4 million).

The rural population is even more highly concentrated in a few countries than the urban population. In 2007, 18 countries accounted for 75 per cent of the rural population and all but three (Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States) are located in Africa or Asia. India has the largest rural population (828 million), followed by China (767 million). Together, they account for 47 per cent of the world rural population.

As in the case of the urban population, most countries have small rural populations. In 2007, 69 per cent of the 229 countries or areas considered had at most 5 million rural inhabitants and accounted for 5 per cent of the world rural population. In three

quarters of them, the rural population is projected to decrease during 2007-2050.

The 3.3 billion urban-dwellers in 2007 were distributed unevenly among urban settlements of different sizes. Over half of the world urban population (52 per cent) lived in cities or towns with fewer than half a million inhabitants. Between 2007 and 2025, small urban centres are expected to absorb nearly half of the expected increase in the urban population.

Cities in the next size class, whose populations range from 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants, are numerous (460 in 2007, rising to 551 in 2025), but they account for just 10 per cent of the overall urban population. Medium-sized cities, with more than a million inhabitants but fewer than 5 million, are also numerous (382 in 2007, increasing to 524 in 2025), and they account for 23 per cent of the urban population.

Large cities, whose populations range from 5 million to just under 10 million, numbered 30 in 2007 and are expected to number 48 in 2025, but accounted for just 7 per cent of the urban population. Three quarters of these "mega-cities in waiting" are located in developing countries.

Mega-cities are urban agglomerations with at least 10 million inhabitants. There are today 19 mega-cities on Earth and their number is expected to increase to 27 in 2025. The proportion of people living in mega-cities is small. In 2007, 9 per cent of the world urban population resided in mega-cities, and by 2025 that share is expected to rise to almost 10 per cent. In relation to the entire world population, mega-cities account today for 4 per cent of the population, meaning that just 1 in 25 people on Earth live in mega-cities.

The distribution of the urban population by city size class varies among the major areas. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, urban-dwellers are more concentrated in the mega-cities than in the world as a whole: 14 per cent live in mega-cities. Relatively high concentrations of urban-dwellers in mega-cities are also found in Northern America (11 per cent) and Asia (10 per cent). In contrast, 58 per cent of urban-dwellers in Africa live in small urban centres with fewer than half a million inhabitants and 68 per cent of those in Europe do the same.

Asia has 11 mega-cities; Latin America has 4; Northern America, 2; and Africa and Europe have 1 each. Eleven of these mega-cities are capitals of their countries. By 2025, when the number of mega-cities rises to 27, Asia would have increased its number by 5, Africa by 2 and Europe by 1.

Large urban agglomerations are not necessarily experiencing fast population growth. Among the 19 mega-cities in 2007, 7 mega-cities are expected to have annual population growth in the period 2005-2010 below 1 per cent and just 3 above 2 per cent: Dhaka in Bangladesh (3.3 per cent per year), Delhi in India (2.5 per cent) and Karachi in Pakistan (2.4 per cent).

Faced with the numerous opportunities and challenges associated with urbanization, many Governments have consistently considered their population's spatial distribution as a concern. According to *World Population Policies 2007* (United Nations, 2008), as of 2007, 85 per cent of Governments expressed concern about their pattern of population distribution, a percentage that has changed little since the 1970s.

As the world becomes increasingly urban, decisions taken today in cities across the world will shape the economic, social and environmental future of humankind. Properly managed, urbanization can help in combating poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, but action to capitalize on the opportunities it presents and to address the challenges it raises must be prompt and sustained.

In addition to this wallchart, the results and analysis of the 2007 *Revision* will be issued in a working paper, in a report and on CD-ROM. A population database containing the results is available on the United Nations Population Division website at www.unpopulation.org. Enquiries and comments should be addressed to the Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA; fax number: 1 212 963 2147.



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Data on CD-ROM may be purchased from:

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