Department of Economic and Social Affairs

World Urbanization Prospects

The 2001 Revision

United Nations

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

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United Nations New York, 2002

NOTE

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

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

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

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PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Two dots (..) indicates that the item is not applicable.
- Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.
- An em dash (—) indicates that the value is zero (magnitude zero).
- 0 and/or 0.0 indicates that the population is less than 500 persons.
- A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.
- A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.
- Years given refer to 1 July.
- Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the beginning year to 1 July of the end year.

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

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. Those major areas are further divided geographically into 21 regions. In addition, countries and areas are classified as belonging, for statistical convenience, to three general groups: more developed regions, less developed regions and least developed countries. The more developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. The less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean, plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, include 49 countries, of which 34 are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in Oceania. These countries are also included in the less developed regions.

I. WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 2001 REVISION

Since 1988 the Population Division of the United Nations has been issuing every two years revised and updated estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations of all countries in the world and of their major urban agglomerations. Each revision of the urban, rural and city projections is consistent with the most recent revision of the estimates and projections of the total population, also prepared biennially by the Population Division. The previous set of urban, rural and city population projections was entitled *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1999 Revision*, which was consistent with the *1998 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*. This report presents the results of the *2001 Revision* of *World Urbanization Prospects* which, albeit based on urban and city population data available through 2001, are consistent with the size of the total population of each country as estimated or projected in the *2000 Revision* of *World Population Prospects* (United Nations, 2001a, 2001b and 2002).

The *2001 Revision* presents estimates and projections of the total, urban and rural populations of the world, its 21 regions and five major areas for the period 1950-2030 (table 1), as well as for the 228 countries or areas of the world. It also provides estimates and projections of the population of urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2000 for the period 1950-2015. To estimate and project the urban population of each country, the information needed is a time series of the total population together with the proportion of the population living in urban areas. The total population is obtained from the estimates and the medium-fertility variant of the *2000 Revision* of *World Population Prospects* (United Nations, 2001a, 2001b and 2002). Estimates of the proportion of the population living in urban areas are obtained from national data sources. The most common source is the population census, although in some countries, national authorities use data derived from population registers or administrative statistics to estimate the proportion urban. Thus for each country a time series of estimates of the proportion urban is available, although reference dates for the estimates do not necessarily coincide from one country to another. Furthermore, the time series for each country does not always cover the period 1950-2000. Hence, to obtain comparable estimates for all countries over the period 1950-2000 at intervals of five years, interpolation or extrapolation among the available national estimates is required. Beyond 2000, projections are carried out using the method described in chapter VII. That method derives projections of the proportion urban on the basis of changes occurring between the two most recent national estimates available by assuming that the pace of growth of the proportion urban tends to decline as that proportion increases. Consequently, projected values are highly dependent on the most recent recorded experience for each country.

The projections for city populations are carried out in a similar fashion, although more information is required as input. Specifically, the population of a city should be available for at least two points in time together with estimates of the total urban and the total population of a country. The data required are normally obtained from the results of population censuses, although for some countries population registers, other types of administrative registers for the population of cities or the results of suitably expanded population surveys can be used by national statistical offices to provide the required information. Because censuses are normally carried out once every decade, countries requiring updated information on the population of the major cities often produce official estimates of city populations with more recent reference dates. For countries whose latest census is several years old, such estimates have in some cases been used as input in preparing the estimates and projections presented in this volume.

As in the case of projections of the urban population, projections of city populations tend to be heavily influenced by the most recent recorded change in the size of a city's population. Because city growth is more volatile than that of the urban population as a whole, the projected city populations are less robust than the projected total urban

TABLE 1. DEFINITION OF MAJOR AREAS AND REGIONS

Africa

Eastern Africa

Burundi
Comoros
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Réunion
Rwanda
Seychelles
Somalia
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Middle Africa

Angola
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Sao Tome and Principe

Northern Africa

Algeria
Egypt
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Morocco
Sudan
Tunisia
Western Sahara

Southern Africa

Botswana
Lesotho
Namibia
South Africa
Swaziland

Western Africa

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cape Verde
Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
St. Helena
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

Asia

Eastern Asia

China
China, Hong Kong SAR
China, Macao SAR
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Japan
Mongolia
Republic of Korea

South-central Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

South-eastern Asia

Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
East Timor
Indonesia
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Viet Nam

Western Asia

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Cyprus
Georgia
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Occupied Palestinian Territory
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Syrian Arab Republic
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

TABLE 1 (*continued*)

Europe

Eastern Europe

- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Poland
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Slovakia
- Ukraine

Northern Europe

- Channel Islands
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Faeroe Islands
- Finland
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Sweden
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Southern Europe

- Albania
- Andorra
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Holy See
- Italy
- Malta
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Slovenia
- Spain
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Yugoslavia

Western Europe

- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- Switzerland

Latin America and the Caribbean

Caribbean

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Martinique
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United States Virgin Islands

Central America

- Belize
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama

South America

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
- French Guiana
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

TABLE 1 (*continued*)

Northern America

Bermuda
Canada
Greenland
Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon
United States of America

Oceania

Australia/New Zealand	*Melanesia*	*Micronesia*	*Polynesia*
Australia	Fiji	Guam	American Samoa
New Zealand	New Caledonia	Kiribati	Cook Islands
	Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	French Polynesia
	Solomon Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Niue
	Vanuatu	Nauru	Pitcairn
		Northern Mariana Islands	Samoa
		Palau	Tokelau
			Tonga
			Tuvalu
			Wallis and Futuna Islands

List of least developed countries

Afghanistan	Gambia	Niger
Angola	Guinea	Rwanda
Bangladesh	Guinea-Bissau	Samoa
Benin	Haiti	Sao Tome and Principe
Bhutan	Kiribati	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Lesotho	Solomon Islands
Cambodia	Liberia	Somalia
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Sudan
Central African Republic	Malawi	Togo
Chad	Maldives	Tuvalu
Comoros	Mali	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritania	United Republic of Tanzania
Djibouti	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar	Yemen
Eritrea	Nepal	Zambia
Ethiopia		

population, especially when long projection periods are involved. For that reason, city projections are made only over a 15-year horizon (from 2000 to 2015).

The *2001 Revision* presents estimates and projections for 524 urban agglomerations that were estimated to have at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000. This number is 7.3 per cent higher than the 488 urban agglomerations covered by the *1999 Revision*.

As previous *Revisions*, the *2001 Revision* uses data on urban areas and on cities or urban agglomerations that reflect national definitions. Some countries report data referring to both (i) the "city proper", that is, the population living within the administrative boundaries of a city, and (ii) the "urban agglomeration" associated with the city. Because the urban agglomeration refers to the population contained within the contiguous territory inhabited at urban levels of residential density (irrespective of whether that population lives within or outside the administrative boundaries of the city), data referring to urban agglomerations are preferred as indicators of the dynamics of urban expansion. However, users of the estimates and projections in this volume should be aware that the urban agglomerations associated with major cities are often a combination of several cities that are functionally linked but remain distinct from an administrative perspective. For instance, the urban agglomeration of Tokyo, which is today and is expected to remain the most populous of the world, includes the cities of Chiba, Kawasaki and Yokohama. In the *2001 Revision*, data classified in terms of urban agglomeration were used for 90 countries or areas, while data were based on the concept of city proper for 109 countries or areas. For an additional 13 countries, the data referred to metropolitan areas. Among the other 16 countries or areas of the world, in nine the data for the capital city referred to the urban agglomeration whereas the criterion used in reporting data for other cities varied. In three countries the criterion used could not be ascertained, and for the other four, different criteria were used to report the population of different cities.

A. KEY FINDINGS

1. The world's urban population reached 2.9 billion in 2000 and is expected to rise to 5 billion by 2030. Whereas 30 per cent of the world population lived in urban areas in 1950, the proportion of urban dwellers rose to 47 per cent by 2000 and is projected to attain 60 per cent by 2030 (table 2). At current rates of change, the number of urban dwellers will equal the number of rural dwellers in the world in 2007.

2. Virtually all the population growth expected at the world level during 2000-2030 will be concentrated in urban areas. During that period the urban population is expected to increase by 2.1 billion persons, just slightly below the 2.2 billion persons that will be added to the world population (table 2).

3. Almost all of the population increase expected during 2000-2030 will be absorbed by the urban areas of the less developed regions whose population will likely rise from approximately 2 billion in 2000 to just under 4 billion in 2030. The urban population of the more developed regions is expected to increase slowly, passing from 0.9 billion in 2000 to 1 billion in 2030.

4. During 2000-2030, the world's urban population is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.9 per cent, nearly double the rate expected for the total population of the world (1 per cent per year). At that rate of growth, the world's urban population will double in 38 years (table 2).

5. Population growth will be particularly rapid in the urban areas of less developed regions, averaging 2.4 per cent per year during 2000-2030, consistent with a doubling time of 29 years. In contrast, the rural population of the less developed regions is expected to increase very slowly, at just 0.2 per cent per year during 2000-2030.

TABLE 2. SELECTED INDICATORS FOR THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, 1950-2030

Development group	Population (billions)				Growth rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
A. Population size and growth								
Total population								
World	2.52	4.07	6.06	8.27	1.75	1.04	40	67
More developed regions	0.81	1.05	1.19	1.22	0.76	0.07	91	998
Less developed regions	1.71	3.02	4.87	7.05	2.10	1.24	33	56
Urban population								
World	0.75	1.54	2.86	4.98	2.68	1.85	26	38
More developed regions	0.45	0.73	0.90	1.00	1.40	0.38	50	185
Less developed regions	0.30	0.81	1.96	3.98	3.73	2.35	19	29
Rural population								
World	1.77	2.52	3.19	3.29	1.18	0.10	59	714
More developed regions	0.37	0.31	0.29	0.21	-0.45	-1.09	..	..
Less developed regions	1.40	2.21	2.90	3.08	1.46	0.20	48	352

B. Urban indicators

	Percentage urban				Urbanization rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
World	29.8	37.9	47.2	60.2	0.92	0.81	75	86
More developed regions	54.9	70.0	75.4	82.6	0.63	0.31	..	..
Less developed regions	17.8	26.8	40.4	56.4	1.63	1.11	42	62

6. Rural-urban migration and the transformation of rural settlements into cities are important determinants of the high population growth expected in urban areas of the less developed regions over the next thirty years. In combination with the universal reduction of fertility levels that is expected to occur in the future, these changes will lead to the eventual reduction of the rural population of the less developed regions whose growth rate will become negative in 2025-2030 for the first time. Therefore, it is expected that the rural population of the less developed regions will reach a peak around 2025 and then begin to decline, just as the rural population of the more developed regions has done since 1950.

7. The process of urbanization is already very advanced in the more developed regions, where 75 per cent of the population lived in urban areas in 2000. Nevertheless, the concentration of population in cities is expected to increase further so that, by 2030, 83 per cent of the inhabitants of the more developed countries will be urban dwellers (table 2).

8. The level of urbanization is considerably lower in the less developed regions, where

40 per cent of the population lived in urban areas in 2000. This proportion is noticeably higher than it was in 1950 (18 per cent) and is expected to rise substantially, to reach 56 per cent by 2030. Thus, by 2030, the less developed regions will reach a level of urbanization similar to that exhibited by the more developed regions in 1950.

9. There are marked differences in the level and pace of urbanization among the major areas constituting the less developed regions of the world. Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole is highly urbanized, with 75 per cent of its population living in urban settlements in 2000, a proportion higher than that of Europe. Moreover, this proportion is twice as high as the one estimated for Africa or Asia. With 37 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas in 2000, Africa and Asia are considerably less urbanized and, consequently, are expected to experience rapid rates of urbanization during 2000-2030. It is expected that by 2030, 53 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, of their inhabitants will live in urban areas. At that time, 84 per cent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will be urban, a level similar to that of Northern America, the most highly urbanized area of the world by 2030 (table 3).

10. In Europe and Northern America, the percentage of the population living in urban areas is expected to rise from 73 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively, in 2000 to 81 per cent and 85 per cent in 2030. The increase in Oceania is likely to be smaller, from 74 per cent in 2000 to 77 per cent in 2030.

11. Despite their high levels of urbanization, the combined number of urban dwellers in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania (1.2 billion) is smaller than the number in Asia (1.4 billion), one of the least urbanized major areas of the world in 2000. Furthermore, by 2030, Asia and Africa will each have higher numbers of urban dwellers than any other major area of the world, and Asia will account for 54 per cent of the urban population of the world, up from 48 per cent in 2000 (table 3).

12. Asia also has and is expected to have the largest rural population of the world during 2000-2030, amounting to 2.3 billion persons both in 2000 and in 2030. Africa, with 498 million rural inhabitants in 2000, is expected to see its rural population rise to 702 million by 2030, remaining the major area with the second largest rural population during the period. Except for Africa and Oceania, all major areas are expected to experience a reduction in their rural population between 2000 and 2030 (table 3). As a consequence of regional trends, the world rural population will remain virtually stable during 2000-2030, varying between 3.2 billion and 3.3 billion (table 2).

13. Although urban areas will encompass an increasing share of the world population, the proportion of people living in very large urban agglomerations or mega-cities is still small. In 2000, 3.7 per cent of the world population resided in cities of 10 million inhabitants or more and by 2015 that proportion is expected to rise to 4.7 per cent. In addition, 2.8 per cent of the world population in the year 2000 lived in cities with populations ranging from 5 million to 10 million inhabitants, and the projected figure for 2015 is 3.7 per cent. On the whole, by 2015, merely 8.4 per cent of the world population is expected to reside in large urban agglomerations of 5 million inhabitants or more (table 4).

14. In both the more and the less developed regions, the proportion of people living in large urban agglomerations (5 million inhabitants or more) is low, amounting to 5.9 per cent in the less developed regions and to 9 per cent in the more developed regions in 2000. By 2015, the relative increase in that proportion will be greater for less developed regions, where it will rise to 8.1 per cent, a level closer to the 9.5 per cent expected for the more developed regions.

TABLE 3. SELECTED INDICATORS FOR THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION BY MAJOR AREA, 1950-2030

Major area	Population (millions)				Growth rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
A. Population size and growth								
Total population								
Northern America	172	243	314	396	1.21	0.77	57	89
Latin America and the Caribbean	167	322	519	723	2.27	1.11	31	63
Oceania	13	21	31	42	1.77	1.05	39	66
Europe	548	676	727	670	0.57	-0.27	123	..
Asia	1 399	2 397	3 672	4 950	1.93	0.99	36	70
Africa	221	406	794	1 489	2.56	2.10	27	33
Urban population								
Northern America	110	180	243	335	1.59	1.07	44	65
Latin America and the Caribbean	70	198	391	608	3.44	1.47	20	47
Oceania	8	15	23	32	2.14	1.19	32	58
Europe	287	455	534	540	1.24	0.04	56	1 947
Asia	244	592	1 376	2 679	3.46	2.22	20	31
Africa	32	102	295	787	4.42	3.27	16	21
Rural population								
Northern America	62	64	71	61	0.28	-0.49	251	..
Latin America and the Caribbean	97	124	127	116	0.55	-0.33	127	..
Oceania	5	6	8	10	0.98	0.61	71	114
Europe	261	221	193	131	-0.60	-1.31	..	..
Asia	1 155	1 805	2 297	2 271	1.37	-0.04	50	..
Africa	188	304	498	702	1.94	1.14	36	61

B. Urban indicators

	Percentage urban				Urbanization rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
Northern America	63.9	73.8	77.4	84.5	0.38	0.30	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.9	61.4	75.4	84.0	1.18	0.36	..	..
Oceania	61.6	72.2	74.1	77.3	0.37	0.14	..	..
Europe	52.4	67.3	73.4	80.5	0.68	0.31	..	..
Asia	17.4	24.7	37.5	54.1	1.53	1.23	45	57
Africa	14.7	25.2	37.2	52.9	1.86	1.17	37	59

NOTE: Major areas are ordered according to the percentage urban in 2000.

15. The proportion of the world population living in small cities is considerably larger, though it is increasing at a slower pace. In 2000, 24.8 per cent of the world population lived in urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants and by 2015 that proportion will likely rise to 27.1 per cent (table 4). Furthermore, 52.5 per cent of all urban

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND THAT OF MORE AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS BY AREA OF RESIDENCE AND SIZE CLASS OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Development group	*Area of residence and size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)*	*Population (millions)*			*Percentage distribution*		
		1975	*2000*	*2015*	*1975*	*2000*	*2015*
World	Total	4 066	6 057	7 207	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Urban area	1 543	2 862	3 869	37.9	47.2	53.7
	10 million or more	68	225	340	1.7	3.7	4.7
	5 million to 10 million	122	169	264	3.0	2.8	3.7
	1 million to 5 million	332	675	960	8.2	11.1	13.3
	500,000 to 1 million	176	290	354	4.3	4.8	4.9
	Fewer than 500,000	844	1 503	1 950	20.8	24.8	27.1
	Rural area	2 523	3 195	3 338	62.1	52.8	46.3
More developed regions	Total	1 048	1 191	1 214	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Urban area	734	898	954	70.0	75.4	78.6
	10 million or more	36	67	71	3.4	5.7	5.8
	5 million to 10 million	62	39	45	5.9	3.3	3.7
	1 million to 5 million	145	216	243	13.9	18.1	20.0
	500,000 to 1 million	69	77	74	6.5	6.5	6.1
	Fewer than 500,000	422	498	522	40.3	41.8	43.0
	Rural area	314	294	259	30.0	24.6	21.4
Less developed regions	Total	3 017	4 865	5 994	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Urban area	809	1 964	2 915	26.8	40.4	48.6
	10 million or more	32	158	270	1.1	3.2	4.5
	5 million to 10 million	60	130	218	2.0	2.7	3.6
	1 million to 5 million	186	458	718	6.2	9.4	12.0
	500,000 to 1 million	108	213	280	3.6	4.4	4.7
	Fewer than 500,000	422	1 005	1 429	14.0	20.7	23.8
	Rural area	2 209	2 901	3 078	73.2	59.6	51.4

dwellers lived in settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants in 2000, a proportion that is expected to decline slightly by 2015 but still remain over 50 per cent. Consequently, the trend towards concentration of the population in larger urban settlements has not yet resulted in a marked decline of either the proportion or the number of persons living in smaller urban settlements.

16. In more developed regions, the concentration of population in small urban settlements is even more marked than at the world level. Thus, in 2000, 41.8 per cent of the population in developed countries lived in urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants and by 2015 that proportion is expected to rise to 43.0 per cent. In less developed regions, where the majority of the population still resides in rural areas, the proportion of people living in small cities was 20.7 per cent in 2000 and will likely rise to 23.8 per cent by 2015 (table 4).

17. Not only do the largest cities account for relatively low proportions of the world population but in addition their share of the annual growth of the urban population is expected to be moderate. During 2000-2015, cities of 5 million inhabitants or more are expected to absorb 20.9 per cent of the annual increment in the urban population,

whereas urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants will absorb 44.4 per cent (table 5). In both cases, cities in the less developed regions will absorb most of that increase. Thus the large cities of developing countries are projected to account for 19.9 per cent of the increase in the world's urban population and small cities in those countries will account for 42 per cent of that increase. Overall, the largest shares of the increase in the world urban population will be attributed to urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants and cities with a population ranging between 1 and 5 million inhabitants.

18. With 26.5 million inhabitants, Tokyo is the most populous urban agglomeration in the world in 2001, followed by São Paulo (18.3), Mexico City (18.3), New York (16.8) and Mumbai (16.5). By 2015, Tokyo will remain the largest urban agglomeration with 27.2 million inhabitants, followed by Dhaka, Mumbai (Bombay), São Paulo, Delhi and Mexico City, all of which are expected to have more than 20 million inhabitants (table 6).

19. The population in large urban agglomerations will rise not only as a result of population growth in today's populous cities but also because the number of such cities is expected to keep on rising. Thus the number of cities with 5 million inhabitants or more is expected to increase from 40 in 2001 to 58 in 2015. Among those cities, the number of mega-cities (those with 10 million inhabitants or more) will likely rise from 17 in

TABLE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL URBAN INCREMENT BY SIZE CLASS OF URBAN SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP, 1975-2000 AND 2000- 2015

Development group	*Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)*	*Average annual population increment (millions)*		*Percentage distribution of the overall urban increment*	
		1975-2000	*2000-2015*	*1975-2000*	*2000-2015*
World	Total	79.6	76.7	..	..
	Urban area	52.8	67.2	100.0	100.0
	Cities of 10 million or more	6.3	7.7	11.9	11.5
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	1.9	6.3	3.6	9.4
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	13.7	19.1	26.0	28.4
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	4.5	4.3	8.6	6.4
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	26.3	29.8	49.9	44.4
More developed regions	Total	5.7	1.5	..	..
	Urban area	6.6	3.8	12.4	5.6
	Cities of 10 million or more	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.3
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	-0.9	0.4	-1.7	0.6
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	2.8	1.8	5.4	2.6
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	0.4	-0.2	0.7	-0.3
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	3.0	1.6	5.7	2.4
Less developed regions	Total	73.9	75.2	..	..
	Urban area	46.2	63.4	87.6	94.4
	Cities of 10 million or more	5.0	7.5	9.5	11.1
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	2.8	5.9	5.3	8.8
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	10.9	17.3	20.6	25.7
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	4.2	4.5	7.9	6.7
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	23.3	28.2	44.2	42.0

TABLE 6. POPULATION OF CITIES WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE, 1950, 1975, 2001 AND 2015
(*millions*)

1950			*1975*			*2001*			*2015*		
	City	*Population*		*City*	*Population*		*City*	*Population*		*City*	*Population*
1	New York	12.3	1	Tokyo	19.8	1	Tokyo	26.5	1	Tokyo	27.2
			2	New York	15.9	2	São Paulo	18.3	2	Dhaka	22.8
			3	Shanghai	11.4	3	Mexico City	18.3	3	Mumbai (Bombay)	22.6
			4	Mexico City	10.7	4	New York	16.8	4	São Paulo	21.2
			5	São Paulo	10.3	5	Mumbai (Bombay)	16.5	5	Delhi	20.9
						6	Los Angeles	13.3	6	Mexico City	20.4
						7	Calcutta	13.3	7	New York	17.9
						8	Dhaka	13.2	8	Jakarta	17.3
						9	Delhi	13.0	9	Calcutta	16.7
						10	Shanghai	12.8	10	Karachi	16.2
						11	Buenos Aires	12.1	11	Lagos	16.0
						12	Jakarta	11.4	12	Los Angeles	14.5
						13	Osaka	11.0	13	Shanghai	13.6
						14	Beijing	10.8	14	Buenos Aires	13.2
						15	Rio de Janeiro	10.8	15	Metro Manila	12.6
						16	Karachi	10.4	16	Beijing	11.7
						17	Metro Manila	10.1	17	Rio de Janeiro	11.5
									18	Cairo	11.5
									19	Istanbul	11.4
									20	Osaka	11.0
									21	Tianjin	10.3

2001 to 21 in 2015 (table 6). Most of the large cities are located in developing countries. Just 9 of the 40 cities with 5 million inhabitants or more in 2001 were located in developed countries and the equivalent figures are 10 out of 58 in 2015.

20. Large urban agglomerations do not necessarily experience fast population growth. In fact, some of the fastest growing cities have small populations and, as population size increases, the growth rate of a city's population tends to decline. However, some of today's mega-cities have experienced high rates of population growth over the past 25 years. Thus, Dhaka in Bangladesh grew at an average annual rate of 7 per cent during 1975-2000 and Delhi in India increased at a rate of 4.1 per cent annually over the same period. But they are exceptional cases. Among the 17 mega-cities of 2001, just 5 grew at rates above 3 per cent per year during 1975-2000 and 8 experienced moderate or low growth (below 2 per cent per year). In the future, just four of today's mega-cities are projected to exhibit growth rates of 3 per cent or more (Dhaka, Delhi, Jakarta and Karachi) and 9 will likely experience very low growth, at below 1 per cent per year (table 7).

B. ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT

In addition to this introductory chapter, this report contains seven additional chapters plus the Annex tables displaying in detail the results of the *2001 Revision* of World Urbanization Prospects. Chapters II to VI present an in-depth analysis of the results of the *2001 Revision;* chapter VII presents the methodology used in estimating and

TABLE 7. POPULATION AND GROWTH RATE OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH MORE THAN 10 MILLION INHABITANTS IN 2001, 1975-2015

	Urban agglomeration	Population (millions)				Growth rate (percentage)	
		1975	2000	2001	2015	1975-2000	2000-2015
1	Tokyo	19.8	26.4	26.5	27.2	1.16	0.19
2	São Paulo	10.3	18.0	18.3	21.2	2.21	1.11
3	Mexico City	10.7	18.1	18.3	20.4	2.10	0.82
4	New York	15.9	16.7	16.8	17.9	0.21	0.47
5	Mumbai (Bombay)	7.3	16.1	16.5	22.6	3.13	2.26
6	Los Angeles	8.9	13.2	13.3	14.5	1.57	0.62
7	Calcutta	7.9	13.1	13.3	16.7	2.02	1.66
8	Dhaka	2.2	12.5	13.2	22.8	7.00	3.99
9	Delhi	4.4	12.4	13.0	20.9	4.13	3.45
10	Shanghai	11.4	12.9	12.8	13.6	0.48	0.36
11	Buenos Aires	9.1	12.0	12.1	13.2	1.10	0.61
12	Jakarta	4.8	11.0	11.4	17.3	3.31	3.00
13	Osaka	9.8	11.0	11.0	11.0	0.45	0.00
14	Beijing	8.5	10.8	10.8	11.7	0.95	0.49
15	Rio de Janeiro	8.0	10.7	10.8	11.5	1.16	0.54
16	Karachi	4.0	10.0	10.4	16.2	3.69	3.19
17	Metro Manila	5.0	10.0	10.1	12.6	2.75	1.56

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to their population size in 2001.

projecting the urban population and that of cities; and chapter VIII presents a compilation of the sources used in preparing the *2001 Revision* and the concepts underlying the statistics used as input.

The chapters on the analysis of results are organized in two groups—first on urban and rural population growth and urbanization trends, and second on city growth and its implications for the urban hierarchy. Chapters II to IV are in the first group and chapters V and VI in the second. Chapter II covers urbanization prospects and rural population growth at the world level, for the more developed and less developed regions, and for the major areas of the world (i.e., Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania). It provides an overview of the main findings from the *2001 Revision* and should be useful for readers seeking a quick assessment of the state of the world's urbanization and its future prospects. Chapter III discusses urbanization trends, the growth of the urban population and trends in rural population growth at the level of 21 regions constituting the world. Its findings are more detailed than those in chapter II and provide further insights into the diversity of experiences across major areas. Chapter IV takes the analysis of urbanization dynamics and rural population growth down to the level of the individual country. The results presented depend on the measures of urban and rural population dynamics used in different countries, which vary considerably (chapter VIII).

Chapters V and VI present results on the dynamics of population growth at the level of cities or groups of cities. Chapter V discusses the distribution of population growth across the urban hierarchy by considering cities grouped in different size classes. The focus is on population growth by city size class at the world level, as well as for more developed and less developed regions and for the major areas of the world. In chapter VI the focus is on the population growth of large cities viewed individually, that is, cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2000. The diversity of experience is stressed, with special attention given to cities with at least 5 million inhabitants.

II. THE PROSPECTS FOR WORLD URBANIZATION AND RURAL POPULATION GROWTH

The world urban population is estimated to have reached 2.9 billion in 2000, a figure nearly four times as large as that estimated for 1950 (0.8 billion). Indeed, over the second half of the twentieth century, the world urban population increased at an average annual rate of 2.68 per cent, implying that it doubled, on average, every 26 years. In comparison, the total population of the world increased at an average annual rate of 1.75 per cent, doubling every 40 years (table 2). The difference between those two rates of growth, that is, between the growth rate of the urban population and that of the total population, is the rate of growth of the proportion urban. Thus, between 1950 and 2000, the world population urbanized rapidly, with the proportion urban increasing at a rate of 0.92 per cent per year, rising from 30 per cent in 1950 to 47 per cent in 2000. As a result of these unprecedented trends, the population of the world, which during most of human history had lived mainly in rural settlements and grew very slowly, is on the verge of becoming more urban than rural for the first time in history. According to current projections, the fifty per cent mark will be crossed in 2007, and forever after the majority of the world population will be urban.

Although urbanization of the world population is expected to continue, its pace is expected to be slower in the future, with both the size of the urban population and the proportion urban likely to grow less rapidly than in the recent past. Thus, during 2000-2030, the world urban population is projected to increase at a rate of 1.85 per cent per year, nearly a full percentage point lower than the urban growth rate estimated for 1950-2000. The decline in the speed of growth will be smaller for the proportion urban, which is expected to rise at a robust 0.81 per cent per year during 2000-2030, with the result that by 2030 the population of the world will likely be 60 per cent urban and urban dwellers will number 5 billion.

In contrast to the rapid rise of the world's urban population, the growth of the rural population has been slowing markedly during the latter half of the twentieth century. In 1950, 7 out of every 10 persons on earth lived in rural areas and numbered 1.8 billion. During the subsequent half century, rural population growth averaged 1.2 per cent per year, with the result that the rural population nearly doubled, reaching 3.2 billion by 2000. However, in the next thirty years (2000-2030), there will be almost no rural population growth, so that the number of rural inhabitants will only rise from 3.2 billion to 3.3 billion.

These trends imply that virtually all the expected world population growth in 2000-2030 will be in urban areas. During that period the urban population will likely increase by 2.1 billion persons, from 2.9 billion to 5 billion, about the same number that will be added to the population of the world as a whole, which is projected to rise from 6.1 billion in 2000 to 8.3 billion in 2030. Since natural increase is generally lower in urban than in rural areas and is expected to decline in both, the substantial growth expected in the urban population will be fueled by both rural-urban migration and the geographic expansion of urban settlements through annexations and the transformation of rural villages into cities. This process has been important in the past and will continue to be important, especially for the developing world, where the potential for the emergence of new urban settlements is still high. Indeed, in assessing the future of urbanization it is crucial to consider the contrasting experiences of the more and the less developed regions. The following section discusses in some detail the past and future patterns of urban and rural growth in those regions.

A. CONTRASTING TRENDS BETWEEN THE LESS DEVELOPED AND THE MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS

Striking differences are apparent between the more developed and the less developed regions with respect to patterns of urbanization. While most of the population of the less developed re-

gions currently lives in rural areas, the bulk of the population of the more developed regions resides in urban areas. Moreover, the urban population of the less developed regions has been growing considerably faster than that of the more developed regions, and as a result, its share of the world urban population has been rising (figure 1). In 1950 the urban population of more developed regions was considerably higher than that of the less developed regions (446 million versus 304 million), so that the more developed regions accounted for 60 per cent of the world urban population at a time when they had just 32 per cent of the world's inhabitants. But already in the 1950s the patterns of growth of the urban populations of the more developed and the less developed regions were showing signs of divergence, with the former growing more slowly. As a consequence, by 1975 the urban population of the less developed regions had surpassed that of the more developed regions (810 million versus 734 million) and the difference increased rapidly thereafter. In 2000, over twice as many urban dwellers are estimated to live in the less developed regions as in the more developed regions (2 billion versus 0.9 billion—see table 2). The less developed regions today account for 69 per cent of the world urban population and 80 per cent of the total population (table 8). As the developing world becomes increasingly urbanized, the difference between these two figures will decline. By 2030, with 4 billion urban dwellers, the less developed regions will have 80 per cent of the world urban population and 85 per cent of the total. Correspondingly, with 1 billion urban dwellers, the more developed regions will account for only 20 per cent of the urban population and 15 per cent of the total world population.

Sustained high fertility and declining mortality caused the fast population growth experienced by the less developed regions until about 1970; despite substantial reductions of fertility in most regions

Figure 1. Estimated and projected urban population in the world, the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2030

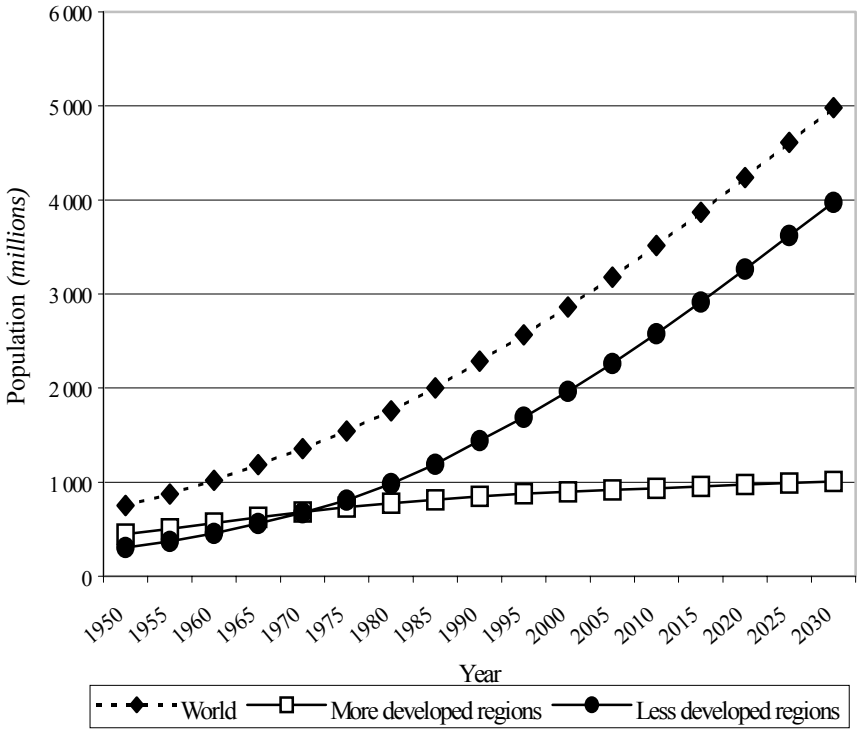


TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF THE WORLD IN THE MORE DEVELOPED AND THE LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS, 1950-2030

	Percentage of the world population			
Development group	*1950*	*1975*	*2000*	*2030*
Total population				
More developed regions	32.3	25.8	19.7	14.7
Less developed regions.....	67.7	74.2	80.3	85.3
Urban population				
More developed regions	59.5	47.6	31.4	20.2
Less developed regions.....	40.5	52.4	68.6	79.8
Rural population				
More developed regions	20.8	12.5	9.2	6.4
Less developed regions.....	79.2	87.5	90.8	93.6

since that time, population growth in the less developed regions has remained high. The urban populations of developing countries, despite generally having lower fertility than that of the overall population, have experienced particularly high growth partly because of high rural-urban migration and the expansion of urban localities through the transformation of rural settlements into urban ones. As a result, urban areas of the less developed regions have been absorbing a rising share of the annual increment to the world urban population. As table 9 shows, the annual increment of the urban population rose steadily from 24 million persons in 1950-1955 to 43 million in 1975-1980 and 59 million in 1995-2000. The next 25 years are expected to see a steady rise of the annual increment of the urban population until it reaches a peak of 75 million in 2020-2025 and then drops slightly to 74 million in 2025-2030. The overall increase of the annual increment of the urban population has been accompanied by a dramatic change in its distribution between the more and the less developed regions. Whereas in 1950-1955 the urban areas of the less developed regions absorbed 55 per cent of the annual increment of the world urban population, by 1995-2000 they were absorbing 93 per cent and by 2025-2030 they are expected to absorb 96 per cent (figure 2 and table 9). As the absolute increase of the urban population of less developed regions has been rising, that of the more developed regions has been slowing down. In 1995-2000, the urban areas of more developed regions grew by only 4.4 million persons annually whereas 55 million were added every year to the urban areas of less developed regions. By 2025-2030 it is expected that 71 million persons will be added annually to the urban population of the less developed regions whereas the urban areas of more developed regions will gain under 3 million new residents every year.

Not only are the urban areas of less developed regions absorbing most of the population growth in urban areas worldwide, they are also increasingly absorbing most of the growth of the total world population. Thus, whereas in 1950-1955 the increase in the population of the urban areas of the less developed regions accounted for 28 per cent of the total increment to the world population, by 1995-2000 that increase accounted for 69 per cent and by 2020-2025 it will account for all of world population growth. Figure 3 shows that, in contrast to the annual increment to the world population, which began falling after 1985-1990 when it reached a peak of 86 million, the annual increment to the urban population of the less developed regions is expected to continue to increase steadily until at least 2025-2030.

Urban areas are also absorbing most of the growth occurring within regions. In the more developed regions, only the urban areas gained population during 1950-1995, while the rural areas lost population (table 9). In contrast, both the urban and the rural populations of less developed regions have been growing steadily, though urban areas are absorbing a rising share of the annual population increment. In 1950-1955 their annual population gain was 36 per cent of the total gain in developing countries, a figure that doubled to 73 per cent in 1995-2000. By 2025-2030 the annual increase in the urban population of less developed regions is expected to surpass that of the total population of those regions by 6 per cent. By that time, the urban areas of more developed regions will barely be growing, and their growth will be countered by a decline by almost the same amount in their rural population.

The contrasting trends in urban growth between the more and the less developed regions are also apparent when population growth rates are considered. As figure 4 shows, the growth rate of the urban population of the less developed regions has

TABLE 9. ANNUAL INCREMENT OF THE TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF THE WORLD, MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS, 1950-2030

(Millions)

Period	*World*			*More developed regions*			*Less developed regions*			*Urban increment of less developed regions as percentage of*	
	Total population	*Urban population*	*Rural population*	*Total population*	*Urban population*	*Rural population*	*Total population*	*Urban population*	*Rural population*	*World urban increment*	*World total increment*
1950-1955.....	47.0	24.3	22.7	10.1	11.0	-0.9	37.0	13.4	23.6	54.9	28.4
1955-1960.....	53.1	28.9	24.2	10.4	12.3	-1.9	42.7	16.7	26.0	57.6	31.4
1960-1965.....	62.7	33.4	29.3	10.2	12.5	-2.2	52.5	21.0	31.5	62.7	33.4
1965-1970.....	71.4	34.4	37.0	8.2	11.4	-3.3	63.2	23.0	40.3	66.7	32.2
1970-1975.....	74.9	37.2	37.7	8.0	10.3	-2.3	66.9	26.9	40.0	72.3	35.9
1975-1980.....	72.8	42.7	30.1	6.9	8.0	-1.1	65.9	34.7	31.2	81.3	47.7
1980-1985.....	79.0	48.9	30.0	6.4	7.2	-0.8	72.5	41.7	30.8	85.3	52.8
1985-1990.....	86.1	57.0	29.1	6.7	7.3	-0.6	79.4	49.7	29.7	87.2	57.7
1990-1995.....	81.4	55.9	25.5	5.1	5.8	-0.7	76.3	50.1	26.1	89.6	61.6
1995-2000.....	79.0	59.3	19.7	3.5	4.4	-1.0	75.5	54.8	20.7	92.5	69.4
2000-2005.....	76.9	63.0	13.8	1.9	3.7	-1.8	74.9	59.3	15.6	94.1	77.2
2005-2010.....	76.9	67.4	9.6	1.5	3.8	-2.3	75.5	63.6	11.9	94.4	82.6
2010-2015.....	76.3	71.2	5.2	1.1	3.8	-2.8	75.2	67.3	7.9	94.6	88.2
2015-2020.....	74.4	73.5	0.9	0.8	3.8	-3.0	73.6	69.7	3.9	94.8	93.7
2020-2025.....	71.5	74.7	-3.2	0.2	3.5	-3.3	71.3	71.2	0.1	95.3	99.6
2025-2030.....	66.7	74.0	-7.4	-0.5	2.8	-3.2	67.1	71.3	-4.1	96.3	106.9

Figure 2. Annual urban increment in the more developed and the less developed regions and percentage of total urban increment represented by the urban increment of the less developed regions

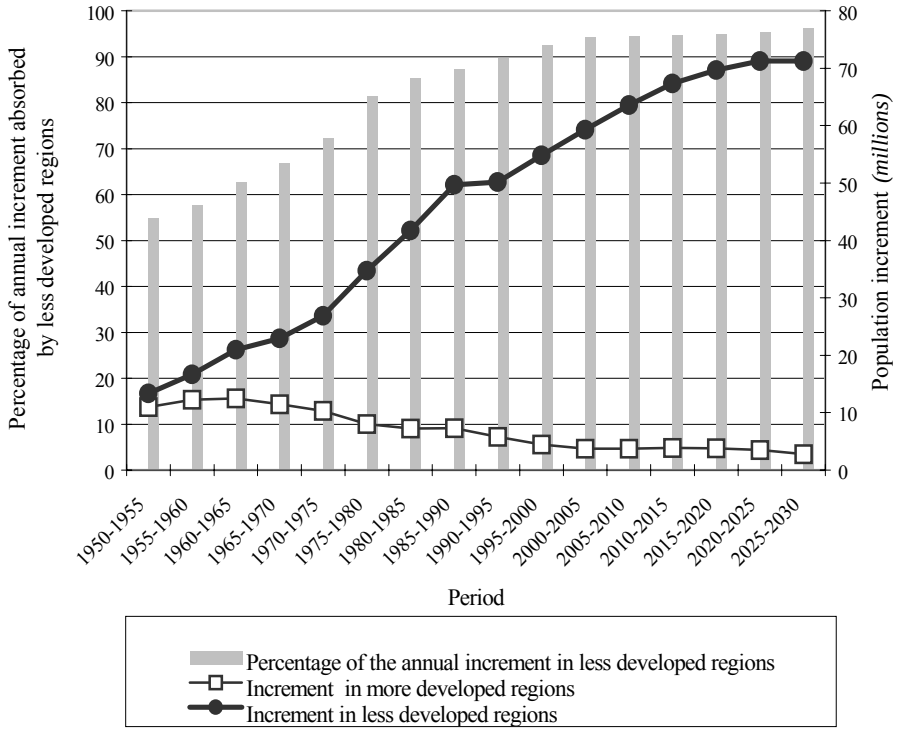


Figure 3. Annual increment of the world population, annual urban increment in the less developed regions and percentage of total increment represented by urban increment of the less developed regions

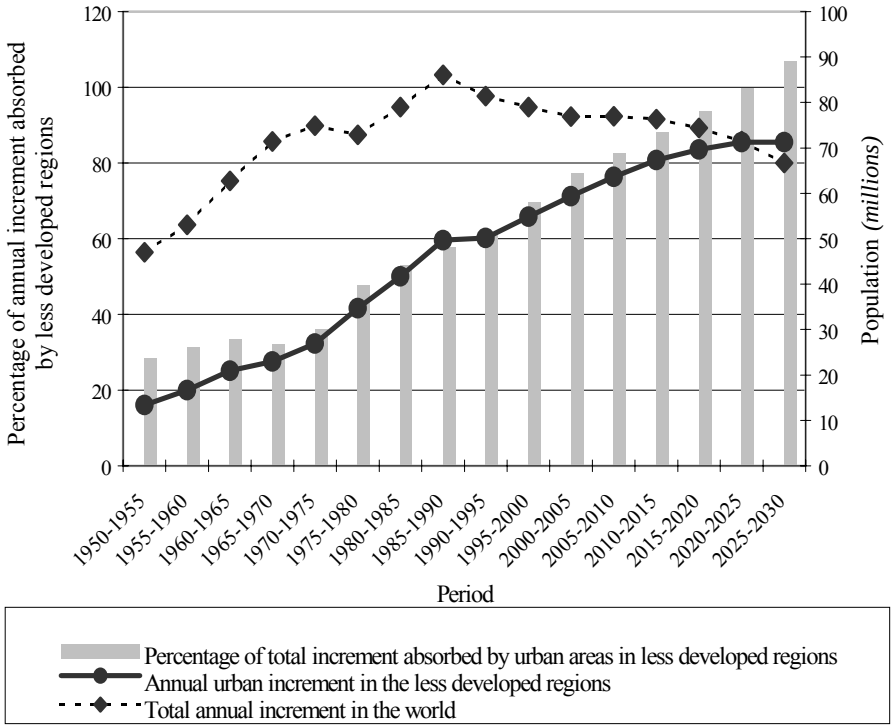
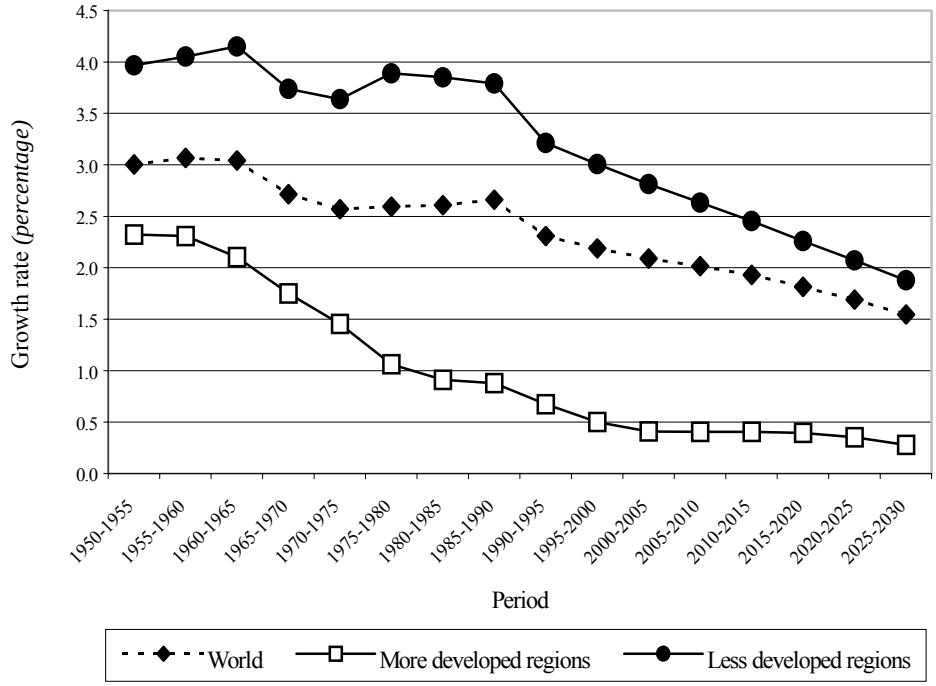


Figure 4. Growth rates of the urban population of the world, the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2030



been considerably higher than that of the urban population of more developed regions during 1950-1995, and the difference is expected to remain high. Furthermore, whereas the urban growth rate of the more developed regions has been declining fairly steadily since 1950, that of the less developed regions fluctuated during 1950-1995 showing no marked tendency to decrease before 1985-1990 (table 10). The first major drop of the urban growth rate in the less developed regions occurred between 1985-1990 and 1990-1995 when it declined from 3.8 to 3.2 per cent per year. For 1995-2000, the urban growth rate in the less developed regions is estimated at 3 per cent per year, six times that for the more developed regions (0.5 per cent per year), a divergence which is expected to be accentuated in the future. One way of assessing the implications of the differences in urban growth rates between the more developed and the less developed regions is to note that, if the urban population of the less developed regions were to continue growing at the average annual rate expected during 2000-2030, it would double in 29 years. In contrast, for the more developed regions, it would double in 185 years (table 2).

An intriguing feature of past trends in the urban growth rate of less developed regions is its fluctuating pattern before 1995. As figure 5 shows, that pattern is determined by trends in urban growth in China, which in 2000 accounted for 21 per cent of the urban population in less developed regions. Thus, the urban growth rate of the less developed regions excluding China shows no fluctuations: it rises initially from 3.9 per cent per year in 1950-1955 to 4.2 per cent per year in 1960-1965 and then declines steadily to reach 2.9 per cent in 1995-2000. In contrast, the annual rate of urban growth in China has fluctuated markedly, from 4.3 per cent in 1950-1955 to 2.2 per cent in 1970-1975, rising again to reach 5 per cent in 1985-1990 and then dropping to 3.5 per cent in 1995-2000 (table 11). As figure 6 shows, the trends in urban population growth in China do not reflect similar changes in overall population growth. Instead, the decline in urban population growth stems largely from the virtual stagnation of the proportion urban during 1965-1975, which coincided with the Cultural Revolution, a programme of radical political and socio-economic reform and civil strife that was accompanied by the forceful relocation of large numbers of urban dwellers to rural areas. The reduction of the

TABLE 10. URBAN, RURAL AND TOTAL POPULATION IN THE WORLD, MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS, AND THEIR ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1950-2030

	Population (millions)				*Growth rate (percentage)*		
Year	*World*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*	*Period*	*World*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*
				A. Total			
1950	2 519	814	1 706				
1955	2 755	864	1 891	1950-1955	1.79	1.20	2.06
1960	3 020	916	2 104	1955-1960	1.84	1.17	2.14
1965	3 334	967	2 366	1960-1965	1.98	1.09	2.35
1970	3 691	1 008	2 683	1965-1970	2.04	0.83	2.51
1975	4 066	1 048	3 017	1970-1975	1.93	0.78	2.35
1980	4 430	1 083	3 347	1975-1980	1.72	0.65	2.07
1985	4 825	1 115	3 710	1980-1985	1.71	0.59	2.06
1990	5 255	1 148	4 106	1985-1990	1.71	0.59	2.03
1995	5 662	1 174	4 488	1990-1995	1.49	0.44	1.78
2000	6 057	1 191	4 865	1995-2000	1.35	0.30	1.61
2005	6 441	1 201	5 240	2000-2005	1.23	0.16	1.48
2010	6 826	1 208	5 617	2005-2010	1.16	0.12	1.39
2015	7 207	1 214	5 994	2010-2015	1.09	0.09	1.30
2020	7 579	1 218	6 362	2015-2020	1.01	0.06	1.19
2025	7 937	1 219	6 718	2020-2025	0.92	0.02	1.09
2030	8 270	1 217	7 054	2025-2030	0.82	-0.04	0.98
				B. Urban			
1950	751	447	304				
1955	873	501	371	1950-1955	3.00	2.32	3.97
1960	1 017	563	454	1955-1960	3.07	2.31	4.05
1965	1 184	625	559	1960-1965	3.04	2.10	4.15
1970	1 357	682	674	1965-1970	2.71	1.75	3.74
1975	1 543	734	809	1970-1975	2.57	1.46	3.64
1980	1 756	774	982	1975-1980	2.60	1.06	3.89
1985	2 001	810	1 191	1980-1985	2.61	0.91	3.85
1990	2 286	847	1 439	1985-1990	2.66	0.88	3.79
1995	2 565	876	1 690	1990-1995	2.31	0.67	3.21
2000	2 862	898	1 964	1995-2000	2.19	0.50	3.01
2005	3 177	916	2 261	2000-2005	2.09	0.41	2.81
2010	3 514	935	2 579	2005-2010	2.02	0.41	2.63
2015	3 869	954	2 915	2010-2015	1.93	0.41	2.45
2020	4 237	973	3 263	2015-2020	1.81	0.40	2.26
2025	4 610	991	3 620	2020-2025	1.69	0.35	2.07
2030	4 981	1 005	3 976	2025-2030	1.54	0.28	1.88

TABLE 10 (*continued*)

Year	Population (millions)			Period	Growth rate (percentage)		
	World	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*		*World*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*
				C. Rural			
1950	1 769	367	1 402				
1955	1 882	363	1 520	1950-1955	1.24	-0.25	1.62
1960	2 003	353	1 650	1955-1960	1.24	-0.52	1.64
1965	2 149	342	1 807	1960-1965	1.41	-0.65	1.82
1970	2 334	326	2 009	1965-1970	1.65	-0.97	2.11
1975	2 523	314	2 209	1970-1975	1.55	-0.72	1.90
1980	2 674	309	2 365	1975-1980	1.16	-0.36	1.37
1985	2 824	305	2 519	1980-1985	1.09	-0.26	1.26
1990	2 969	302	2 667	1985-1990	1.01	-0.19	1.15
1995	3 096	298	2 798	1990-1995	0.84	-0.23	0.96
2000	3 195	294	2 901	1995-2000	0.63	-0.32	0.72
2005	3 264	285	2 979	2000-2005	0.43	-0.62	0.53
2010	3 312	273	3 039	2005-2010	0.29	-0.83	0.40
2015	3 338	259	3 078	2010-2015	0.16	-1.03	0.26
2020	3 342	244	3 098	2015-2020	0.03	-1.21	0.13
2025	3 326	228	3 098	2020-2025	-0.10	-1.38	0.00
2030	3 289	212	3 078	2025-2030	-0.22	-1.47	-0.13

Figure 5. Comparison of the urban growth rate of China and of the less developed regions excluding China

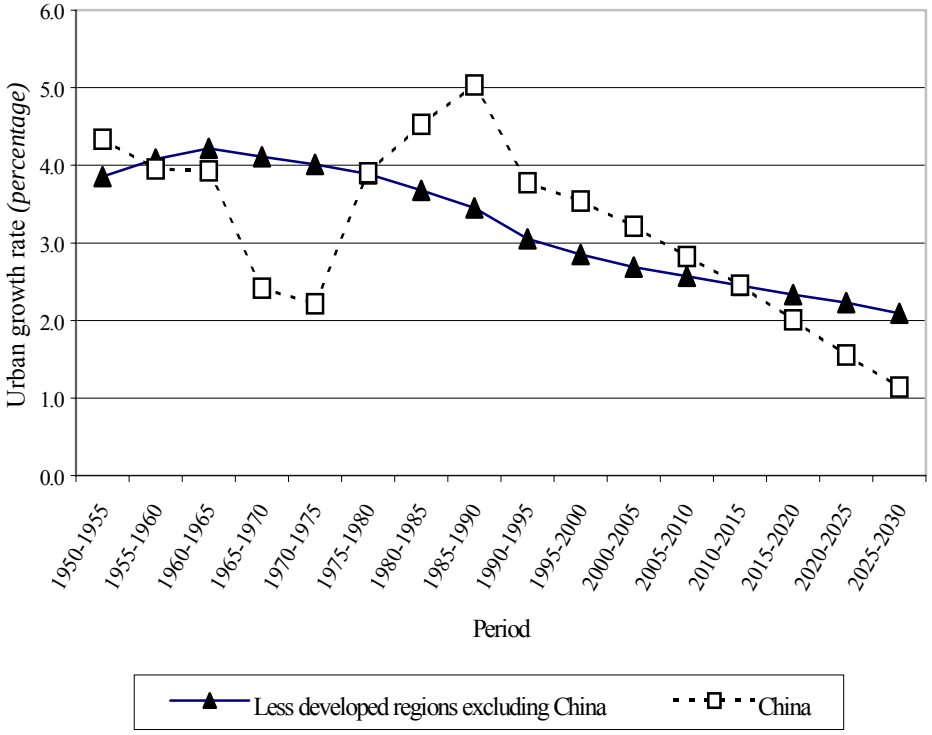


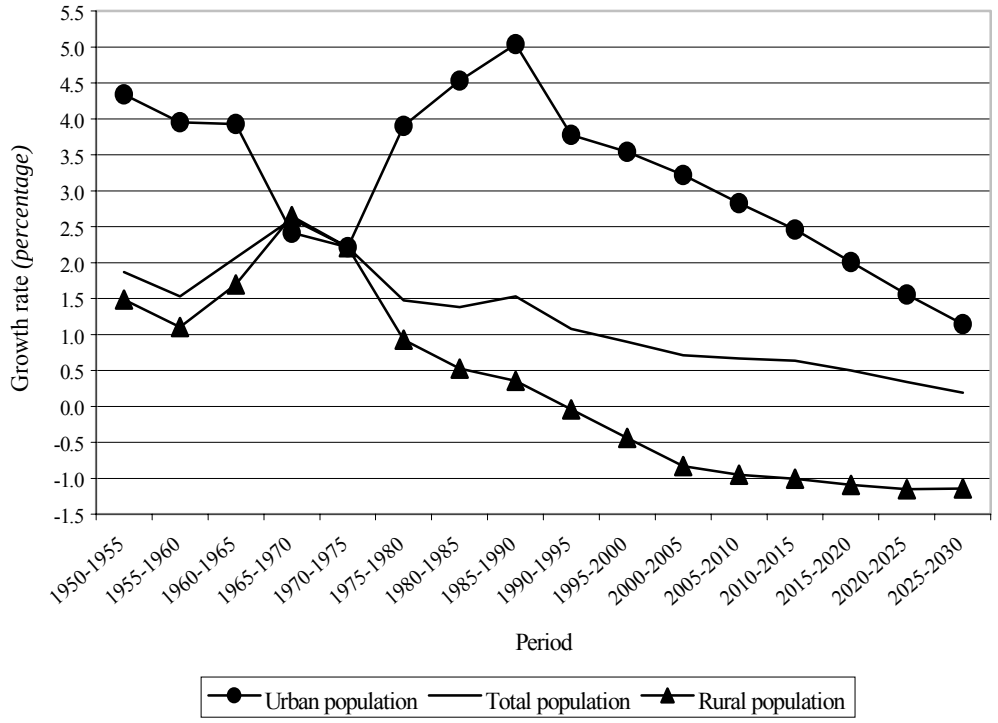
TABLE 11. PERCENTAGE URBAN AND GROWTH RATE OF THE URBAN, RURAL AND TOTAL POPULATION, CHINA, 1950-2030

Period	Percentage urban at the beginning of the period	Growth rate (percentage)		
		Urban population	Rural population	Total population
1950-1955	12.5	4.34	1.49	1.87
1955-1960	14.2	3.95	1.10	1.53
1960-1965	16.0	3.93	1.70	2.07
1965-1970	17.6	2.42	2.65	2.61
1970-1975	17.4	2.21	2.21	2.21
1975-1980	17.4	3.90	0.93	1.48
1980-1985	19.6	4.53	0.53	1.38
1985-1990	23.0	5.04	0.35	1.53
1990-1995	27.4	3.78	-0.04	1.08
1995-2000	31.4	3.54	-0.44	0.89
2000-2005	35.8	3.22	-0.83	0.71
2005-2010	40.6	2.83	-0.95	0.67
2010-2015	45.2	2.46	-1.01	0.63
2015-2020	49.5	2.01	-1.09	0.50
2020-2025	53.4	1.56	-1.15	0.34
2025-2030	56.7	1.14	-1.14	0.19

proportion urban reflects both the real effects of that programme as well as the use of an official definition of urban that might not have provided an adequate measure of the actual changes taking place in the urban system. However, the lack of census information for the entire period 1960-1980 limits the possibility of assessing the accuracy of the official estimates available. The census of 1982 provides the first comprehensive source of data on the urban population of China, its cities and towns since the 1950s. Starting in 1983 the official criteria to determine the geographical demarcation of cities and towns have changed several times (Zhang and Zhao, 1998), leading to increases in the number of localities considered as urban. Reclassification has therefore played an important role in determining measured urbanization trends in China since 1980. This fact should be borne in mind in interpreting trends in urban growth in China as well as their effects on overall urban growth in the less developed regions.

The more and less developed regions also differ markedly in rural population trends. Thus, whereas

Figure 6. Growth rates of the total, urban and rural population of China, 1950-2030



the rural population of more developed regions has been declining steadily during at least the latter half of the twentieth century, that of less developed regions has been growing (table 10). In fact, the growth rate of the rural population of less developed regions peaked at 2.1 per cent per year in 1965-1970 and has been declining ever since. By 1995-2000, the rural growth rate of less developed regions stood at just 0.7 per cent per year and is expected to drop to zero by 2020-2025 before becoming negative (figure 7).

The diverging patterns of growth of the rural populations of the more developed and the less developed regions have resulted in a significant redistribution of the rural population. In 1950, the 367 million rural dwellers in the more developed regions constituted 21 per cent of the rural population of the world, whereas by 2000, the number of rural dwellers in the more developed regions (294 million) accounted for only 9 per cent of the total rural population. This share is expected to drop to 6 per cent, as the rural population in developed countries declines to 212 million persons (table 10). That is, between 1950 and 2030, the rural population of the more developed regions is expected to decline by 42 per cent.

In comparison, the rural population of less developed regions has continued to grow, from 1.4 billion in 1950 to 2.9 billion in 2000, more than doubling over those 50 years. But the next 30 years are expected to witness a major reduction in this rural population growth: to less than 200 million and all in the next 20 years. The rural population of less developed regions will therefore reach 3.1 billion by 2020 and is expected to start to decline slowly thereafter (table 10).

As a consequence of the contrasting patterns of growth of the urban and rural populations of the more and the less developed regions, the two regions have experienced and are expected to experience different trends in the growth of the proportion urban. As already noted, the more developed regions were already highly urbanized by 1950, when over half (55 per cent) of their population lived in urban areas. At that time, the less developed regions had just 18 per cent of their inhabitants living in cities and towns (table 12). However, because the

Figure 7. Average annual growth rate of the rural population in the world, the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2030

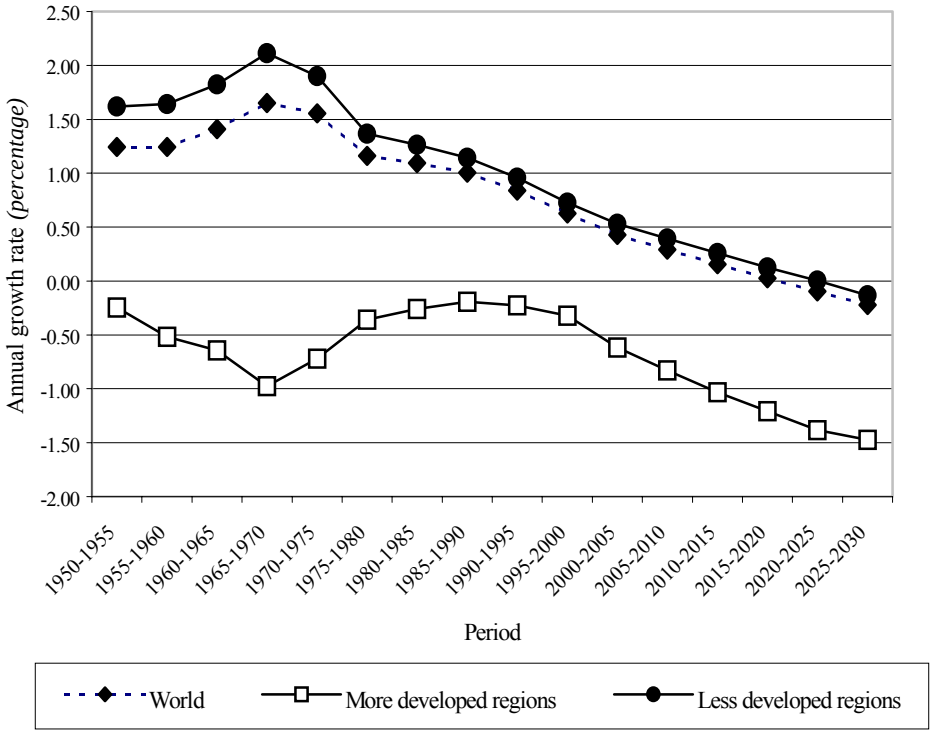


TABLE 12. PROPORTION URBAN AND RATE OF URBANIZATION FOR THE WORLD, THE MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS AND THE LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS, 1950-2030

	Proportion urban (percentage)				*Urbanization rate (percentage)*		
Year	*World*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*	*Period*	*World*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*
1950.....	29.8	54.9	17.8				
1955.....	31.7	58.0	19.6	1950-1955	1.22	1.12	1.91
1960.....	33.7	61.4	21.6	1955-1960	1.23	1.14	1.91
1965.....	35.5	64.6	23.6	1960-1965	1.07	1.02	1.80
1970.....	36.8	67.7	25.1	1965-1970	0.68	0.92	1.23
1975.....	37.9	70.0	26.8	1970-1975	0.64	0.68	1.29
1980.....	39.6	71.5	29.3	1975-1980	0.88	0.42	1.82
1985.....	41.5	72.7	32.1	1980-1985	0.90	0.33	1.79
1990.....	43.5	73.7	35.0	1985-1990	0.95	0.29	1.76
1995.....	45.3	74.6	37.7	1990-1995	0.82	0.23	1.44
2000.....	47.2	75.4	40.4	1995-2000	0.84	0.21	1.39
2005.....	49.3	76.3	43.1	2000-2005	0.86	0.25	1.33
2010.....	51.5	77.4	45.9	2005-2010	0.86	0.29	1.24
2015.....	53.7	78.6	48.6	2010-2015	0.84	0.32	1.16
2020.....	55.9	79.9	51.3	2015-2020	0.81	0.33	1.07
2025.....	58.1	81.3	53.9	2020-2025	0.77	0.34	0.98
2030.....	60.2	82.6	56.4	2025-2030	0.72	0.32	0.90

growth of the urban population of less developed regions was rapid in relation to that of the total population, between 1950 and 2000 the proportion urban had more than doubled, reaching 40 per cent. In the more developed regions, the proportion urban rose by less, reaching three-fourths of the total by 2000. The projected proportion urban in 2030 is 83 per cent for the more developed regions and 56 per cent for the less developed regions. Thus by that date there will still be ample room for the expansion of the proportion urban in the less developed regions whereas that of the more developed regions will be nearing an upper limit. Such a contrast is made clearer by considering the rate of urbanization (i.e., the growth rate of the proportion urban). As table 12 shows, since 1980 the more developed regions have had a low rate of urbanization, ranging between 0.2 and 0.4 per cent per year, rates which are expected to continue in the future. In contrast, the rate of urbanization of the less developed regions, which was mostly 1.8 per cent to 1.9 per cent per year from 1950 to 1990, is expected to remain above 1 per cent per year until 2025 and will still be 0.9 per cent in 2025-2030. At that rate, the proportion urban in the less developed regions would reach 70 per cent by 2054.

The differences in the levels of urbanization between the more developed and the less developed regions are also apparent when one considers the distribution of countries and areas in each group according to the proportion urban (table 13). In 1950, three-quarters of the 173 countries or areas in the less developed regions had at most 38 per cent of their population living in urban area, whereas half of the 55 countries or areas in the more developed regions already had over 50 per cent of their population living in urban areas. By 2000, half of the countries or areas of the less developed regions had at least 49 per cent of the population living in urban areas, with half of the developed countries having over 73 per cent. By 2030, three-quarters of

TABLE 13. DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS IN MORE DEVELOPED AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS BY THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS, 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2030

	1950	*1975*	*2000*	*2030*
		Less developed regions		
Lower extreme.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lower quartile	9.5	19.6	32.1	49.1
Median.....	23.5	35.6	49.4	64.4
Upper quartile.....	37.9	54.0	69.5	79.3
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		More developed regions		
Lower extreme.....	13.7	20.0	21.4	34.6
Lower quartile	27.8	51.5	59.7	70.7
Median.....	50.1	66.4	72.9	80.5
Upper quartile.....	69.9	81.5	88.5	91.8
Upper extreme	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NOTE: The upper and lower extremes indicated the highest and lowest values observed; the lower quartile, the median and the upper quartile divide the distribution into four parts, each with the same number of observations. Consequently, half of the observed values fall between the two quartiles and the median is an indicator of the center of the distribution.

all countries in the less developed regions will be at least 49 per cent urban and even the least urbanized country in the more developed regions will attain a level of urbanization above 34 per cent. Furthermore, the population in three-quarters of the countries in the more developed regions will be at least 70 per cent. The marked upward shift in the distributions of countries by level of urbanization underscores the momentous change that has taken place in the twentieth century, a change that is expected to continue and result in a highly urbanized world during the twenty-first century. Nevertheless, there is and will continue to be considerable variation among countries and among major areas and regions in terms of the level of urbanization. The next section explores those differences by major area.

B. PATTERNS OF URBAN AND RURAL GROWTH IN THE MAJOR AREAS

The different patterns of urbanization observed at the level of more developed and less developed regions are the result of varying experiences among the areas that constitute those regions. Europe and Northern America, in the developed world, exhibit high levels of urbanization (i.e. high proportions of the population living in urban areas) and slowing rates of urban population growth. In the developing world, Africa and Asia remain largely rural in 2000, whereas Latin America and the Caribbean has a proportion urban similar to that of the developed countries, having urbanized rapidly since 1950. Oceania, which straddles the developed and the developing world, is also highly urbanized (table 14). Despite its low level of urbanization, Asia, because of its large population, has the largest number of persons living in urban areas (1.4 billion), followed by Europe, with 534 million urban dwellers, Latin America and the Caribbean with 391 million, and Africa with 295 million. Because of the high urban population growth rates expected in Africa and Asia, by 2030 those two major areas will have the largest numbers of urban dwellers in the world: 2.7 billion in Asia and 787 million in Africa, although they will still be the least urbanized major areas of the world.

In 1950 Asia was the second least urbanized major area, with 17.4 per cent of its population living in cities and towns. By 2000 that proportion had risen to 37.5 per cent. Despite the robust rate of urbanization that Asia is expected to experience during 2000-2030 (1.23 per cent per year, the highest of any major area), its proportion urban will still be only 54 by 2030 (table 14).

Africa, which in 1950 had the lowest proportion urban, experienced the fastest rate of urbanization of any major area during 1950-2000 and saw its percentage urban rise from 14.7 in 1950 to 37.2 in 2000. Although Africa's average rate of urbanization over the next 30 years is expected to be lower than during the second half of the twentieth century (1.17 per cent per year instead of 1.86 per cent per year), it will still be high and will result in a level of urbanization of 52.9 per cent by 2030. That is, if the projected trends hold, by 2030 the level of urbanization in both Africa and Asia will have passed the 50 per cent mark and their populations will have become more urban than rural.

Compared to Africa and Asia, the level urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean was already high by 1950 when the region had

TABLE 14. PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS AND URBANIZATION RATE BY MAJOR AREA, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Major area	Percentage urban			Urbanization rate (percentage)	
	1950	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
World	29.8	47.2	60.2	0.92	0.81
Africa	14.7	37.2	52.9	1.86	1.17
Asia	17.4	37.5	54.1	1.53	1.23
Europe	52.4	73.4	80.5	0.68	0.31
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.9	75.4	84.0	1.18	0.36
Northern America	63.9	77.4	84.5	0.38	0.30
Oceania	61.6	74.1	77.3	0.37	0.14

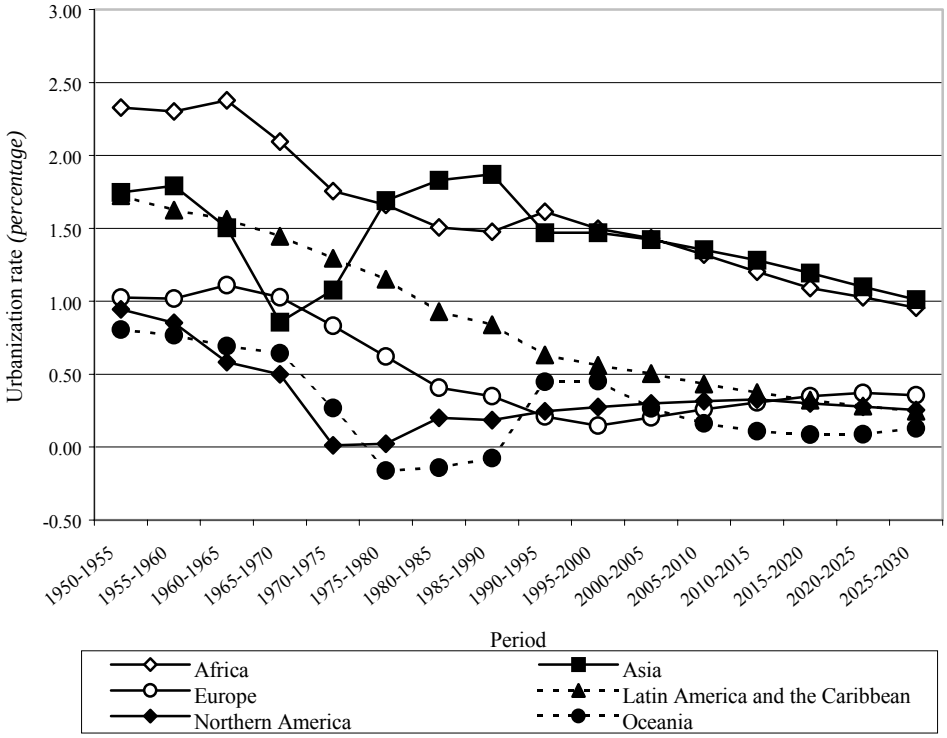
41.9 per cent of its population living in urban areas. Although this level of urbanization was lower than that of Europe or Northern America in 1950, over the next 50 years Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a rapid increase in the proportion urban, averaging 1.18 per cent per year. Consequently, by 2000, the proportion urban in Latin America and the Caribbean had reached levels similar to those characterizing Europe and Northern America (table 14). With three-quarters of their populations living in urban areas, those three major areas are expected to experience a marked decline of the rate of urbanization, and the proportion urban is expected to rise only moderately to reach values between 80 per cent and 85 per cent by 2030.

Oceania, the major area with the smallest population, was the second most urbanized area in 1950, when already 61.6 per cent of its population lived in cities. Since then it has experienced the lowest rate of urbanization in the world, at 0.37 per cent per year, becoming 74.1 per cent urban by 2000, a proportion that is expected to rise only slightly by 2030 to reach 77.3 per cent (table 14).

A more detailed picture of trends in urbanization in the major areas can be obtained by considering changes in the rates of urbanization over time (figure 8). The rate of urbanization, defined as the growth rate of the proportion urban, is equal to the difference between the growth rate of the urban population and that of the total population. Consequently, its trajectory over time is likely to reflect changes taking place in the urban growth rate. As figure 8 shows, there is considerable variation across major areas in rates of urbanization. Only Latin America and the Caribbean displays a smoothly declining trend, dropping steadily from 1.73 per cent per year in 1950-1955 to 0.25 per cent per year in 2025-2030 (table 15). In Africa, whose rates of urbanization have generally been the highest in the world since at least the middle of the twentieth century, the rate of urbanization declined markedly from 1960-1965 to 1985-1990, dropping from 2.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent per year. It increased slightly thereafter but is projected to follow a smooth downward trend in the future and to dip below one per cent per year by 2025-2030. In contrast with Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, the rate of urbanization in Asia shows no clear trend before 1990, fluctuating sharply over the period. These fluctuations reflect those experienced by China, which is home to 30 per cent of the urban population in Asia (figure 9). As discussed earlier in relation to the urban growth rate of the less developed regions, such fluctuations are related both to historical events that arrested urbanization in China during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and to the official definitions of urban used up to the 1980s, which in all likelihood did not reflect adequately the ongoing expansion of urban areas.

The urbanization rates experienced by Europe, Northern America and Oceania have been considerably lower than those of the developing world, and fell markedly in all three between 1960-1965 and 1975-1980. In Oceania, that decline led to negative rates of urbanization in 1975-1990. In

Figure 8. Urbanization rates for major areas, 1950-2030



Northern America the urbanization rate dropped to nearly zero in the 1970s and recovered to somewhere in between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent per year in the 1980s and 1990s. Europe experienced higher urbanization rates than the other two major areas from 1950 to 1990, but by 1995-2000 its rate of urbanization was just 0.15 per cent per year. Over the projection period both Europe and Northern America are expected to see their urbanization rates fluctuate around 0.3 per cent per year. Such projected values imply continued increases in the level of urbanization of both regions. In contrast, future urbanization rates of Oceania are expected to be very low, at about 0.1 per cent per annum, and will result in very small increases of the proportion urban in that major area.

The reduction of the urbanization rates experienced by Europe, Northern America and Oceania between 1965 and 1980 has been referred to as "counter-urbanization," a process that entailed a shift in population distribution down the urban hierarchy. Although counter-urbanization does not necessarily mean that urban dwellers resettle in rural areas, in highly urbanized countries it was associated with faster growth of non-metropolitan populations compared with that in metropolitan areas (Korcelli, 1984; Champion, 1991 and 1998) and in some countries an increase of the rate of growth of the rural population was also observed. Thus, as figure 10 shows, the growth rate of the rural population of Europe, despite remaining negative over almost the whole 1950-2030 period, showed some recuperation between 1970 and 2000. A more significant increase occurred in both Northern America and Oceania, where the growth rate of the rural population rose markedly between 1965-1970 and 1970-1975 (figure 10 and table 16). In Oceania, the rural growth rate continued to increase for another 15 years before falling rapidly towards 0.13 per cent by 1995-2000. In Northern America the growth spurt of the rural population recorded in the early 1970s lasted for a decade before a decline set in, so that by 1995-2000 its rate of rural population growth stood also at 0.13 per cent per year (table 16).

In terms of the major areas of the less developed world, two types of trends are discernible in terms

TABLE 15. URBANIZATION RATE BY MAJOR AREA AND QUINQUENNIUM, 1950-2030

Period	Urbanization rate (percentage)					
	Africa	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Latin America and the Caribbean*	*Northern America*	*Oceania*
1950-1955.....	2.33	1.75	1.03	1.73	0.94	0.81
1955-1960.....	2.30	1.79	1.02	1.62	0.85	0.77
1960-1965.....	2.38	1.50	1.11	1.56	0.58	0.69
1965-1970.....	2.09	0.86	1.03	1.45	0.50	0.64
1970-1975.....	1.76	1.08	0.83	1.29	0.01	0.27
1975-1980.....	1.66	1.69	0.62	1.15	0.02	-0.16
1980-1985.....	1.51	1.83	0.41	0.93	0.20	-0.14
1985-1990.....	1.48	1.87	0.35	0.84	0.19	-0.08
1990-1995.....	1.61	1.47	0.21	0.63	0.25	0.45
1995-2000.....	1.50	1.47	0.15	0.56	0.27	0.45
2000-2005.....	1.43	1.42	0.20	0.50	0.30	0.27
2005-2010.....	1.32	1.35	0.26	0.43	0.32	0.16
2010-2015.....	1.20	1.28	0.31	0.37	0.33	0.11
2015-2020.....	1.09	1.19	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.09
2020-2025.....	1.03	1.10	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.09
2025-2030.....	0.96	1.01	0.36	0.25	0.25	0.13

Figure 9. Trends in the urbanization rate of Asia and China, 1950-2030

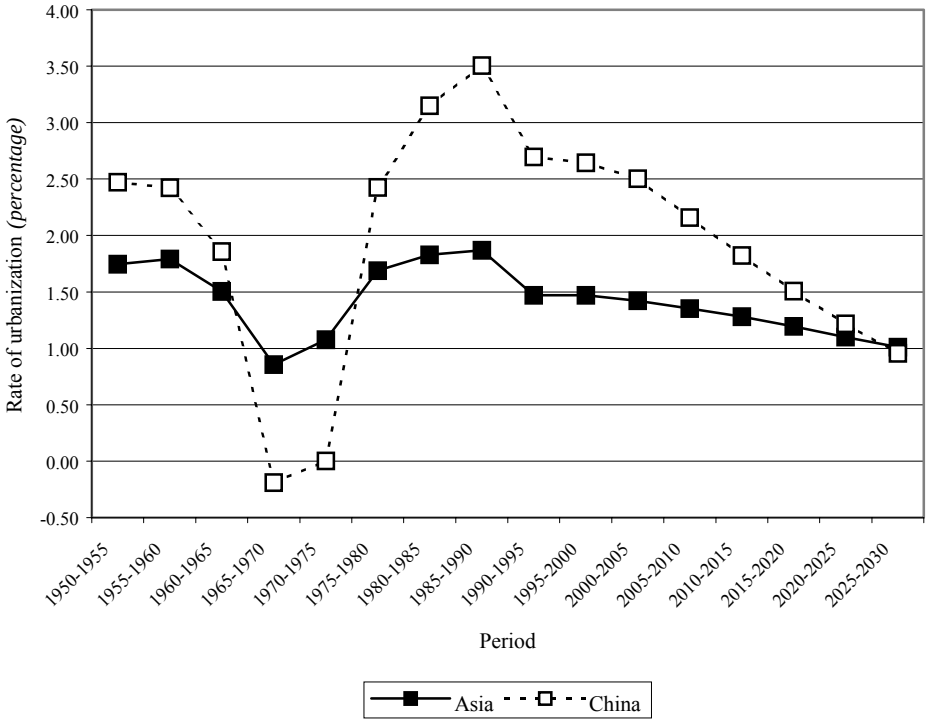
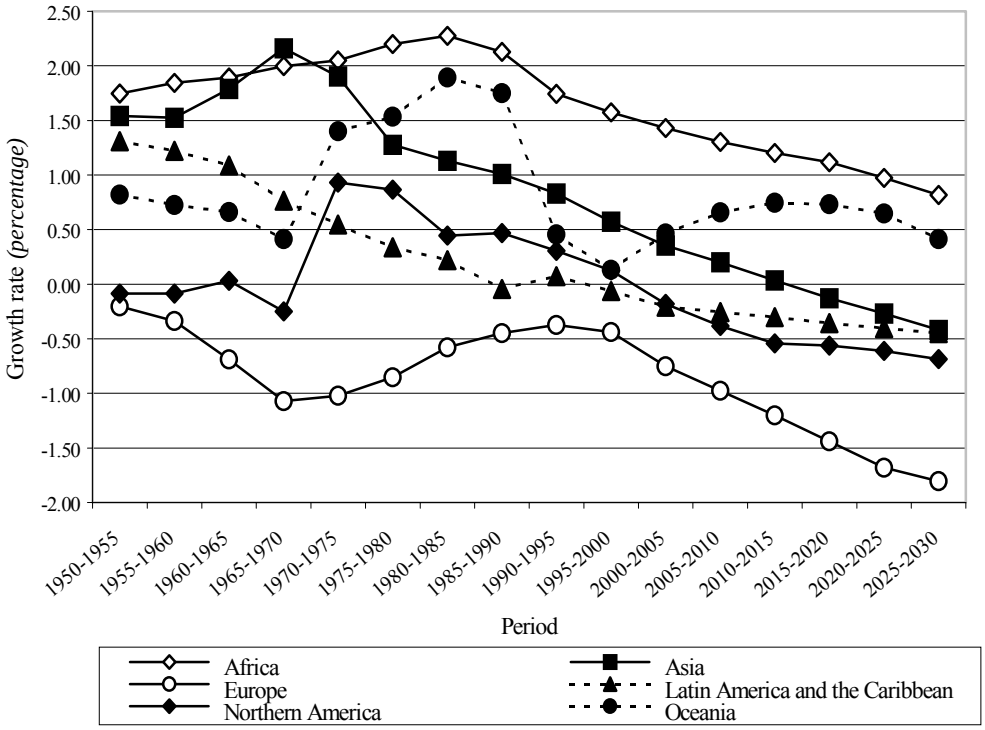


Figure 10. Growth rate of the rural population of major areas, 1950-2030



of rural growth rates. The major area constituted by Latin America and the Caribbean has seen its rural growth rate decline steadily so that by 1995-2000 it was negative. Africa and Asia, in contrast, both experienced initial increases in the rates of growth of their rural populations, during 1950-1985 and 1955-1970, respectively. In the case of Africa, declining mortality combined with sustained high fertility produced the increase in the rural population growth rate, which reached a peak of 2.3 per cent per year in 1980-1985 and is estimated to have declined to 1.6 per cent per year by 1995-2000. In Asia, the highest growth rate of the rural population occurred in 1965-1970, when rural growth reached 2.2 per cent per year, largely as a result of the high rural growth rate in China. Since then, the growth rate of the rural population of Asia has been declining steadily so that by 1995-2000 it had reached 0.6 per cent per year.

For all major areas, the projections of the rural population entail a steady reduction of the rural growth rate (figure 10), but it is noteworthy that by the end of the projection period the major areas will vary considerably in terms of rates of growth of their rural populations. Thus, by 2025-2030, Europe's rural population is expected to be declining at a rate of 1.8 per cent per year; that of Northern America by 0.7 per cent per year; and those of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean will both be falling at rates of around 0.4 per cent per year. The main region where the rural population is expected to be increasing is Africa, where it will be growing at an annual rate of 0.8 per cent per year. Oceania is also expected to continue experiencing positive rural growth, varying from 0.4 per cent to 0.7 per cent per year during 2000-2030 (table 16).

As a result of such trends, the number of rural inhabitants in Africa is expected to more than triple between 1950 and 2030, rising from 188 million in 1950 to 498 million in 2000 and reaching 702 million by 2030 (table 17). In Oceania the rural population will also continue to grow, passing from 5 million in 1950 to 8 million in 2000 and to 10 million by 2030. In Asia, the major area with the largest number of rural inhabitants, the rural population is estimated to have grown from 1.2 billion in 1950 to 2.3 billion in 2000, and al-

TABLE 16. AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH OF THE URBAN, THE RURAL AND THE TOTAL POPULATION IN THE WORLD AND MAJOR AREA, 1950-1955 TO 2025-2030
(Percentage)

Major area	*1950-1955*	*1955-1960*	*1960-1965*	*1965-1970*	*1970-1975*	*1975-1980*	*1980-1985*	*1985-1990*	*1990-1995*	*1995-2000*	*2000-2005*	*2005-2010*	*2010-2015*	*2015-2020*	*2020-2025*	*2025-2030*
								Urban growth rate (percentage)								
World	3.00	3.07	3.04	2.71	2.57	2.60	2.61	2.66	2.31	2.19	2.09	2.02	1.93	1.81	1.69	1.54
Africa	4.50	4.63	4.85	4.68	4.37	4.45	4.38	4.26	4.16	3.91	3.76	3.55	3.35	3.16	2.99	2.79
Asia	3.67	3.76	3.71	3.27	3.32	3.55	3.68	3.72	3.05	2.87	2.68	2.52	2.34	2.14	1.93	1.72
Europe	2.01	2.01	2.07	1.70	1.42	1.11	0.79	0.78	0.39	0.11	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.04	-0.03
Latin America and the Caribbean	4.38	4.32	4.31	4.02	3.74	3.47	3.00	2.72	2.35	2.12	1.93	1.73	1.54	1.36	1.20	1.05
Northern America	2.65	2.62	2.04	1.60	0.98	0.96	1.23	1.21	1.32	1.31	1.18	1.13	1.12	1.08	1.01	0.90
Oceania	2.99	2.94	2.81	2.56	2.35	0.96	1.41	1.49	2.03	1.82	1.51	1.32	1.20	1.10	1.02	0.97
								Rural growth rate (percentage)								
World	1.24	1.24	1.41	1.65	1.55	1.16	1.09	1.01	0.84	0.63	0.43	0.29	0.16	0.03	-0.10	-0.22
Africa	1.75	1.84	1.89	2.00	2.05	2.20	2.27	2.13	1.74	1.57	1.43	1.30	1.20	1.12	0.97	0.82
Asia	1.54	1.52	1.79	2.16	1.90	1.28	1.13	1.01	0.83	0.57	0.35	0.20	0.04	-0.13	-0.27	-0.42
Europe	-0.20	-0.34	-0.69	-1.07	-1.02	-0.85	-0.58	-0.45	-0.37	-0.44	-0.75	-0.98	-1.20	-1.44	-1.68	-1.80
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.31	1.22	1.09	0.77	0.55	0.34	0.22	-0.04	0.07	-0.06	-0.21	-0.25	-0.30	-0.36	-0.40	-0.45
Northern America	-0.09	-0.08	0.03	-0.25	0.93	0.87	0.44	0.47	0.31	0.13	-0.18	-0.38	-0.54	-0.56	-0.61	-0.69
Oceania	0.82	0.73	0.66	0.41	1.40	1.53	1.89	1.75	0.46	0.13	0.47	0.66	0.75	0.73	0.65	0.41
								Total growth rate (percentage)								
World	1.79	1.84	1.98	2.04	1.93	1.72	1.71	1.71	1.49	1.35	1.23	1.16	1.09	1.01	0.92	0.82
Africa	2.17	2.33	2.47	2.59	2.61	2.79	2.87	2.78	2.54	2.41	2.33	2.23	2.15	2.07	1.97	1.84
Asia	1.93	1.97	2.20	2.42	2.25	1.86	1.85	1.85	1.57	1.40	1.26	1.16	1.06	0.94	0.83	0.71
Europe	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.68	0.59	0.49	0.38	0.43	0.18	-0.04	-0.18	-0.21	-0.25	-0.28	-0.33	-0.39
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.65	2.70	2.75	2.57	2.45	2.32	2.07	1.88	1.72	1.56	1.42	1.29	1.17	1.04	0.92	0.80
Northern America	1.70	1.77	1.46	1.10	0.97	0.93	1.03	1.02	1.08	1.04	0.88	0.82	0.80	0.78	0.73	0.65
Oceania	2.18	2.17	2.12	1.92	2.08	1.12	1.55	1.57	1.59	1.37	1.24	1.16	1.09	1.01	0.94	0.84

TABLE 17. URBAN, RURAL AND TOTAL POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS IN THE WORLD BY MAJOR AREA, 1950-2030

Major area	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1975*	*1980*	*1985*	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*	*2015*	*2020*	*2025*	*2030*
								Urban population (millions)									
World	751	873	1 017	1 184	1 357	1 543	1 756	2 001	2 286	2 565	2 862	3 177	3 514	3 869	4 237	4 610	4 981
Africa	32	41	51	65	82	102	128	159	197	243	295	356	426	503	589	685	787
Asia	244	293	354	426	501	592	707	850	1 023	1 191	1 376	1 573	1 784	2 005	2 231	2 458	2 679
Europe	287	318	351	389	424	455	481	501	521	531	534	535	536	538	540	541	540
Latin America and the Caribbean	70	87	108	134	164	198	235	273	313	352	391	431	470	507	543	577	608
Northern America	110	125	143	158	171	180	189	201	213	228	243	258	273	288	305	320	335
Oceania	8	9	10	12	14	15	16	17	19	21	23	24	26	28	29	31	32
								Rural population (millions)									
World	1 769	1 882	2 003	2 149	2 334	2 523	2 674	2 824	2 969	3 096	3 195	3 264	3 312	3 338	3 342	3 326	3 289
Africa	188	206	226	248	274	304	339	380	422	461	498	535	571	607	642	674	702
Asia	1 155	1 248	1 347	1 473	1 641	1 805	1 924	2 035	2 141	2 232	2 297	2 338	2 361	2 366	2 350	2 319	2 271
Europe	261	258	254	245	233	221	212	206	201	198	193	186	177	167	155	143	131
Latin America and the Caribbean	97	104	110	116	121	124	126	128	127	128	127	126	125	123	121	118	116
Northern America	62	62	61	62	61	64	66	68	70	71	71	70	69	67	65	63	61
Oceania	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	10
								Total population (millions)									
World	2 519	2 755	-660	-440	-1 100	-660	-440	-1 100	-660	-440	-1 100	6 441	6 826	7 207	7 579	7 937	8 270
Africa	221	246	277	313	356	406	467	539	619	703	794	892	997	1 110	1 231	1 358	1 489
Asia	1 399	1 541	1 700	1 898	2 142	2 397	2 631	2 885	3 164	3 423	3 672	3 911	4 145	4 371	4 582	4 777	4 950
Europe	548	576	605	635	657	676	693	707	722	729	727	721	713	705	695	684	670
Latin America and the Caribbean	167	191	218	250	285	322	361	401	440	480	519	557	594	630	664	695	723
Northern America	172	187	204	220	232	243	255	268	283	298	314	328	342	356	370	384	396
Oceania	13	14	16	17	19	21	23	24	26	29	31	32	34	36	38	40	42
								Percentage urban									
World	29.8	31.7	33.7	35.5	36.8	37.9	39.6	41.5	43.5	45.3	47.2	49.3	51.5	53.7	55.9	58.1	60.2
Africa	14.7	16.5	18.5	20.8	23.1	25.2	27.4	29.6	31.8	34.5	37.2	40.0	42.7	45.3	47.9	50.4	52.9
Asia	17.4	19.0	20.8	22.4	23.4	24.7	26.9	29.4	32.3	34.8	37.5	40.2	43.0	45.9	48.7	51.4	54.1
Europe	52.4	55.1	58.0	61.3	64.6	67.3	69.4	70.9	72.1	72.9	73.4	74.2	75.1	76.3	77.6	79.1	80.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.9	45.7	49.5	53.6	57.6	61.4	65.1	68.1	71.1	73.3	75.4	77.4	79.0	80.5	81.8	83.0	84.0
Northern America	63.9	67.0	69.9	72.0	73.8	73.8	73.9	74.7	75.4	76.3	77.4	78.5	79.8	81.1	82.3	83.5	84.5
Oceania	61.6	64.1	66.6	68.9	71.2	72.2	71.6	71.1	70.8	72.4	74.1	75.1	75.7	76.1	76.4	76.8	77.3

though it is expected to reach nearly 2.4 billion in 2015, it will likely decline to slightly less than 2.3 billion by 2030. Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to see its rural population drop from 127 million in 2000 to 116 million in 2030, or about 9 per cent. In Northern America, the rural population is likely to decline by 14 per cent during 2000-2030, from 71 million to 61 million. The decline of the rural population in Europe is expected to be more marked, amounting to 32 per cent (from 193 million to 131 million).

Changes in the size of the rural population of the major areas will result in a significant redistribution of the rural population of the world by major area. As table 18 shows, Europe's share of the rural population, which has already dropped from 14.8 per cent in 1950 to 6 per cent in 2000, is expected to fall to 4 per cent in 2030. The share of Northern America will also be cut significantly, from 3.5 per cent in 1950 to 2.2 per cent in 2000 and 1.9 per cent in 2030. Latin America and the Caribbean will also see its share drop by two percentage points, from 5.5 per cent in 1950 to 4 per cent in 2000 and 3.5 per cent in 2030. Meanwhile, the shares of Africa and Asia will both increase markedly. By 2030, Africa is expected to be the home of 21.3 per cent of the world's rural

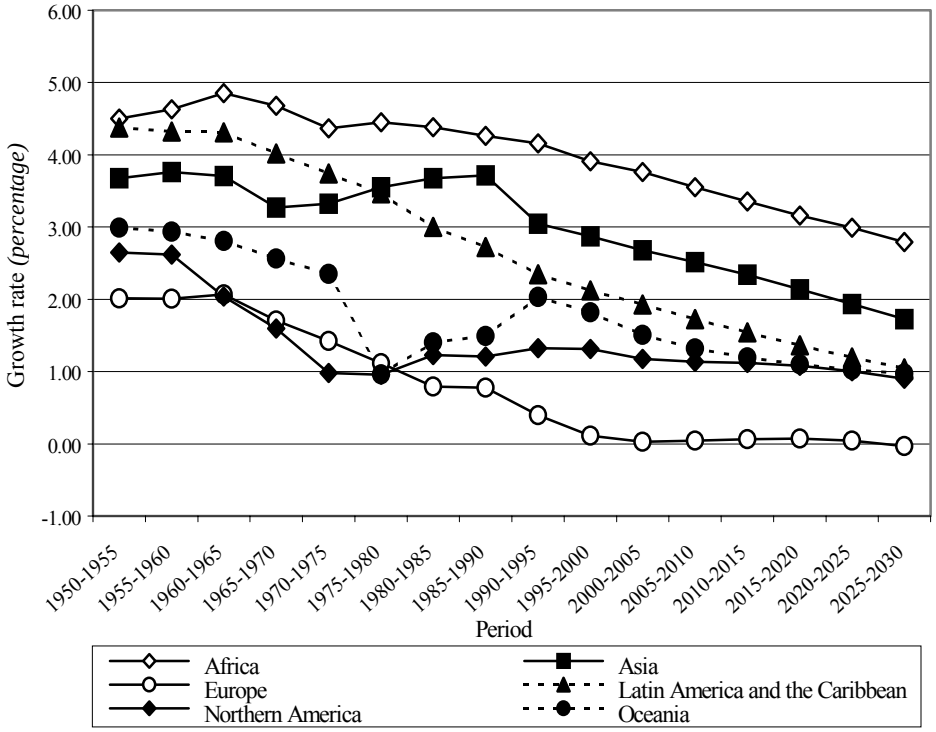
TABLE 18. KEY INDICATORS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF MAJOR AREAS, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Major area	*Population (millions)*			*Percentage distribution*			*Growth rate (percentage)*	
	1950	*2000*	*2030*	*1950*	*2000*	*2030*	*1950-2000*	*2000-2030*
				A. Urban population				
World	751	2 862	4 981	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.68	1.85
Africa	32	295	787	4.3	10.3	15.8	4.42	3.27
Asia	244	1 376	2 679	32.5	48.1	53.8	3.46	2.22
Europe	287	534	540	38.3	18.7	10.8	1.24	0.04
Latin America and the Caribbean	70	391	608	9.3	13.7	12.2	3.44	1.47
Northern America	110	243	335	14.6	8.5	6.7	1.59	1.07
Oceania	8	23	32	1.0	0.8	0.6	2.14	1.19
				B. Rural population				
World	1 769	3 195	3 289	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.18	0.10
Africa	188	498	702	10.7	15.6	21.3	1.94	1.14
Asia	1 155	2 297	2 271	65.3	71.9	69.0	1.37	-0.04
Europe	261	193	131	14.8	6.0	4.0	-0.60	-1.31
Latin America and the Caribbean	97	127	116	5.5	4.0	3.5	0.55	-0.33
Northern America	62	71	61	3.5	2.2	1.9	0.28	-0.49
Oceania	5	8	10	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.98	0.61
				C. Total population				
World	2 519	6 057	8 270	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.75	1.04
Africa	221	794	1 489	8.8	13.1	18.0	2.56	2.10
Asia	1 399	3 672	4 950	55.5	60.6	59.8	1.93	0.99
Europe	548	727	670	21.8	12.0	8.1	0.57	-0.27
Latin America and the Caribbean	167	519	723	6.6	8.6	8.7	2.27	1.11
Northern America	172	314	396	6.8	5.2	4.8	1.21	0.77
Oceania	13	31	42	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.77	1.05

population, double its share in 1950 (10.7 per cent); and Asia will remain the home for the vast majority of the world's rural dwellers. By 2030, 69 per cent of the rural population will live in Asia, somewhat less than the proportion of the rural population living in Asia today (72 per cent) but higher than its share in 1950 (65 per cent).

The redistribution of the world urban population over time parallels in many ways that of the rural population. As table 16 indicates, the relative urban growth rates across major areas tend to be similar to the rural growth rates. Africa, for instance, has experienced and is expected to continue to experience the highest urban and rural growth rates. Asia has experienced the second highest rates of urban and rural population growth. It is followed by Oceania in terms of rural population growth and by Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of urban growth. At the other extreme, Europe has had and is expected to have the lowest rates of both urban and rural population growth. As figure 11 shows, variations in the urban growth rate over time echo, as expected, those of the rate of urbanization, since they are a function of that measure and the overall rate of population growth. Africa's rate of urban population growth has thus been very high, averaging 4.4 per cent per year during 1950-2000 and it is expected to remain above 3 per cent per year over most of the projection period. The urban growth rate of Latin America and the Caribbean was close to that of Africa in 1950-1955, but has declined rapidly, reaching 2.1 per cent in 1995-2000 and being expected to drop to 1 per cent by 2025-2030 (table 16). In Asia, the urban growth rate shows the fluctuations associated with the urbanization trends experienced by China and remained high, averaging 3.5 per cent per year during 1950-2000 (table 18). By 1995-2000, the urban growth rate in Asia stood at 2.9 per cent per year, and is expected to decline to 1.7 per cent by 2025-2030. In Europe, Northern America and Oceania, urban growth rates declined markedly between approximately 1960 and 1980, during the period of counter-urbanization, but recovered in both Northern America and Oceania in 1980-2000, though in Europe they kept declining. As a result, by 1995-

Figure 11. Growth rate of the urban population of the major areas, 1950-2030



2000, the urban population of Europe was growing at just 0.1 per cent per year, whereas those of Northern America and Oceania were rising at 1.3 per cent and 1.8 per cent per year, respectively. Further reductions of the urban growth rate are projected for these three major areas so that by 2025-2030 the urban population of Europe will be starting to decline slowly, while those of Northern America and Oceania will be growing at annual rates of 0.9 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

The rapid urban growth experienced by the major areas of the developing world has resulted in large numbers of urban dwellers. Africa's urban population increased nine-fold between 1950 and 2000, rising from 32 million to 295 million in half a century (table 18). The urban populations of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean increased by more than five-fold each, from 244 million to 1.4 billion in Asia, and from 70 million to 391 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. The number of urban dwellers in Northern America more than doubled (from 110 million to 243 million), while that in Oceania tripled (from 8 million to 23 million). Even the urban population of Europe, whose growth rates were low, increased by 90 per cent, from 287 to 534 million. Given the large differences in urban growth rates across areas, a significant redistribution of the world's urban population resulted: Africa's share more than doubled, from 4.3 per cent in 1950 to 10.3 per cent in 2000; Asia gained 15 percentage points, from 32.5 per cent to 48.1 per cent; and the share of Latin America and the Caribbean rose from 9.3 per cent to 13.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the shares of Europe and Northern America fell, from 38.3 per cent to 18.7 per cent in Europe (by half) and from 14.6 per cent to 8.5 per cent in Northern America.

Over the next thirty years, expected differences in urban population growth will accentuate the redistribution of the urban population that begun during 1950-2000. Africa's urban population will increase by another 2.6 times between 2000 and 2030, and Asia's will nearly double. With 787 million urban dwellers in 2030, Africa will have 16 per cent of the total world urban population, while Asia will have 54 per cent, or 2.7 billion persons. Between the two, they will account for nearly 70 per cent of the urban population of the world. All other major areas are expected to see their shares of the world urban population decline, even though their urban populations are all projected to increase substantially. The urban population of Latin America and the Caribbean will increase by over half, from 391 million in 2000 to 608 million in 2030, but its share will decline from 14 per cent to 12 per cent. The share of Northern America is expected to decline from 8.5 per cent to 6.7 per cent although its urban population will likely increase by 30 per cent. But the largest reduction expected is in Europe's share, which will decrease from 18.7 per cent to 10.8 per cent between 2000 and 2030 as a result of its low urban population growth (table 18).

Given their high urban growth rates and their growing shares of the world urban population, Africa and Asia account for a large proportion of the increment of the urban population. During 1950-2000, 66.1 per cent of the 42.2 million persons that were added annually to the urban population of the world were in Africa and Asia (table 19). And the shares of both are expected to increase over the next thirty years, with Asia alone accounting for 61.5 per cent of the total annual increment to the world urban population while Africa will account for 23.2 per cent. That is, Africa and Asia will together absorb nearly 85 per cent of the average annual increase of the urban population over the next thirty years (or about 60 million persons annually). All other major

TABLE 19. AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREMENT OF THE URBAN POPULATION AND ITS DISTRIBUTION AMONG MAJOR AREAS, 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

	Annual increment to the urban population (millions)		*Percentage distribution of annual increment*	
Major area	*1950-2000*	*2000-2030*	*1950-2000*	*2000-2030*
World	42.2	70.6	100.0	100.0
Africa	5.3	16.4	12.5	23.2
Asia	22.6	43.4	53.6	61.5
Europe	4.9	0.2	11.7	0.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.4	7.2	15.2	10.2
Northern America	2.7	3.1	6.3	4.3
Oceania	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5

areas will see their shares of the average annual increment to the urban population decline. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Northern America the magnitude of the reductions expected is around a third in each case. Europe is expected to see its future share of the average annual increment of the urban population reduced to almost nothing.

The rapid growth of the urban populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean combined with the expected reductions of population growth in rural areas has important implications for the geographical distribution of population growth. Between 1950 and 2000, the average annual increment of the urban population of Asia accounted for 32 per cent of the average annual increment of the total population of the world, which is estimated at 71 million. During 2000-2030, when the world population is expected to increase annually by about 74 million persons, the urban areas of Asia will account for 59 per cent of that increment. Similarly, the share accounted for by the growth of the urban population of Africa will increase markedly, from 7.5 per cent of the average annual population increment in 1950-2000 to 22 per cent of that expected during 2000-2030. Consequently, between 2000 and 2030, the urban areas of Asia and Africa will together absorb 81 per cent of the increment in the total world population. Since the growth of the urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean will account for a further 10 per cent, these results imply that almost all of the population growth expected over the next thirty years (91 per cent) will be concentrated in the cities and towns of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

III. ANALYSIS OF URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION GROWTH AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

The marked differences in urbanization trends among major areas discussed in chapter II become more varied when the focus is on the 21 regions that constitute them. In Oceania, for instance, Australia/New Zealand, the most urbanized region of the world, with 90 per cent of its population urban in 2000, coexists with Melanesia, the least urbanized region of the world, with barely 24 per cent urban (table 20). In Europe, Northern Europe and Western Europe are among the most highly urbanized regions with more than 83 per cent of their respective populations urban, but Eastern Europe and Southern Europe have significantly lower levels of urbanization, at 68 per cent and 66 per cent, respectively. In the Americas, South America, with nearly 80 per cent of its population urban, has a slightly higher level of urbanization than Northern America (77 per cent urban), but Central America (which is dominated statistically by Mexico) and the Caribbean are less urbanized (68 per cent and 63 per cent respectively). Nevertheless, in all the regions of Europe and the Americas, urbanization is high, having a proportion urban at or above 63 per cent. In Africa and Asia by contrast, only Western Asia, with 65 per cent of its population urban, has reached a level of urbanization similar to those in Europe or the Americas. Northern Africa and Southern Africa have moderate levels of urbanization, at around 50 per cent each, but they are considerably higher than in the other regions of Africa and Asia. Eastern Africa, with about a quarter of its population urban, and South-central Asia with barely 30 per cent of the population urban are among the least urbanized regions of the world.

With low levels of urbanization and large populations, regions of Asia account for most of the rural population of the world. Nearly a third of all rural inhabitants in the world live in South-central Asia, with another 27 per cent in Eastern Asia and 10 per cent in South-eastern Asia. Thus, in 2000 almost 7 out of every 10 rural dwellers lived in those three regions, a proportion that is expected to fall only slightly during 2000-2030. As noted in chapter II, most major areas of the world, and therefore most regions within them, are expected to begin experiencing a reduction of the rural population at some point during 2000-2030.

The urban population of the world is also concentrated in a few regions, but it is not as highly concentrated as the rural population. Despite their low levels of urbanization, Eastern Asia and South-central Asia have the largest urban populations and together account for 37 per cent of all urban dwellers. South America, Northern America, Eastern Europe, South-eastern Asia and Western Europe, in decreasing order, follow as the regions housing the largest urban populations of the world, each with 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the world total. But even together with Eastern Asia and South-central Asia, they account for just 74 per cent of all urban dwellers. By 2030, seven regions will also account for the same share, but will include Western Asia and Western Africa instead of Eastern Europe and Western Europe. In fact, during 2000-2030 the urban populations of all regions of Europe are expected to increase little if at all, with the urban population of Eastern Europe being expected to decline. The urban populations of all other regions, with the only exception of Australia/New Zealand, are expected to grow at more than 1 per cent per year and very rapid growth, at more that 3 per cent per year, is expected in Eastern Africa, Middle Africa, Western Africa and Melanesia.

A. URBAN POPULATION GROWTH

In 1950, the most urbanized regions of the world were those of Europe plus Australia/New Zealand, Northern America and South America. However, because of their large populations, certain regions of the developing world also had large numbers of urban dwellers even if their levels of urbanization were low. Thus, in 1950 Eastern Asia had the largest urban population in the world although its level of urbanization was only

TABLE 20. INDICATORS OF URBANIZATION FOR REGIONS OF THE WORLD, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Major area, region	Urban population (millions)			Percentage urban			Urban growth rate (percentage)		Growth rate of the total population (percentage)		Urbanization rate (percentage)	
	1950	2000	2030	1950	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
Africa												
Eastern Africa	3	61	207	5.3	24.5	41.8	5.77	4.05	2.69	2.27	3.08	1.77
Middle Africa	4	34	120	14.2	35.5	52.7	4.41	4.21	2.58	2.89	1.83	1.32
Northern Africa	13	85	166	24.7	48.9	63.3	3.74	2.23	2.37	1.37	1.37	0.86
Southern Africa	6	27	37	38.2	53.9	70.0	3.00	1.05	2.31	0.18	0.69	0.87
Western Africa	6	88	258	10.1	39.3	57.1	5.33	3.58	2.62	2.34	2.71	1.25
Asia												
Eastern Asia	121	617	1 065	18.0	41.6	62.7	3.25	1.82	1.58	0.46	1.67	1.36
South-central Asia	83	441	969	16.6	29.8	44.0	3.34	2.62	2.18	1.32	1.16	1.30
South-eastern Asia	26	196	407	14.8	37.5	56.5	4.02	2.44	2.15	1.07	1.87	1.36
Western Asia	13	122	238	26.7	64.7	72.4	4.41	2.23	2.64	1.85	1.77	0.38
Europe												
Eastern Europe	87	208	194	39.3	68.2	75.3	1.75	-0.22	0.65	-0.55	1.10	0.33
Northern Europe	57	79	84	72.7	83.1	87.2	0.66	0.22	0.39	0.06	0.27	0.16
Southern Europe	48	96	102	44.2	66.3	76.1	1.38	0.19	0.57	-0.27	0.81	0.46
Western Europe	96	151	159	67.9	82.6	87.6	0.92	0.18	0.52	-0.02	0.39	0.20
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Caribbean	6	24	35	35.5	63.1	73.5	2.75	1.26	1.60	0.75	1.15	0.51
Central America	15	92	151	39.8	68.2	77.1	3.67	1.65	2.59	1.24	1.08	0.41
South America	49	275	422	43.6	79.6	87.9	3.44	1.42	2.24	1.09	1.21	0.33
Northern America	110	243	335	63.9	77.4	84.5	1.59	1.07	1.21	0.77	0.38	0.30
Oceania												
Australia/New Zealand	8	21	27	74.6	89.9	94.9	2.01	0.92	1.63	0.74	0.37	0.18
Melanesia	0.1	1.5	4.2	5.9	23.7	36.3	5.04	3.32	2.25	1.89	2.79	1.43
Micronesia	0.04	0.2	0.5	25.8	43.6	57.8	3.48	2.76	2.44	1.82	1.05	0.94
Polynesia	0.0	0.2	0.5	21.0	40.2	53.8	3.18	2.10	1.89	1.13	1.29	0.97

18 per cent (tables 20 and 21). In the developing world, large numbers of urban dwellers lived also in South-central Asia, where urbanization levels were low but the total population was large, and in South America, where the level of urbanization was high. But most regions with large numbers of urban dwellers in 1950 were in the developed world: Northern America and the four regions of Europe.

By 2000, only three of the more developed regions remain among the eight with the largest urban populations, each with over 100 million urban residents. These three are Northern America, Eastern Europe and Western Europe (table 21). Thus, South-central Asia has moved to second place, followed by South America. Eastern Asia remains the region with the largest number of urban dwellers and all other regions of Asia are among those having the largest numbers of urban inhabitants. At the other end of the spectrum, the regions of Oceania have the smallest urban populations, mainly because their overall populations are also small. Among regions with medium-sized urban populations, Central America, with 92 million urban dwellers, has maintained rank number 10, while all the regions of Africa have seen their ranks drop as a result of the rapid growth of the urban populations.

At the end of the projection period the ranks of the three regions with the largest urban populations remain the same as in 2000, but those of Northern America and especially of Eastern Europe increase. Spectacular movements up the list are expected for South-eastern Asia, Western Africa and Eastern Africa. Among the more developed regions, only Northern America is expected to remain among the eight with the largest urban populations, and Western Europe will drop to eleventh place, following Northern Africa. Southern Europe will drop from ninth to fourteenth place.

TABLE 21. REGIONS OF THE WORLD ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THEIR URBAN POPULATIONS IN 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Rank	*Region*	*Urban population (millions) 1950*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Urban population (millions) 2000*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Urban population (millions) 2030*
1	Eastern Asia	121.25	1	Eastern Asia	616.8	1	Eastern Asia	1064.8
2	Northern America	109.66	2	South-central Asia	440.9	2	South-central Asia	968.9
3	Western Europe	95.62	3	South America	275.3	3	South America	421.6
4	Eastern Europe	86.64	4	Northern America	243.0	4	South-eastern Asia	407.2
5	South-central Asia	82.88	5	Eastern Europe	207.6	5	Northern America	335.0
6	Northern Europe	56.80	6	South-eastern Asia	196.0	6	Western Africa	258.1
7	South America	49.22	7	Western Europe	151.3	7	Western Asia	237.8
8	Southern Europe	48.17	8	Western Asia	121.8	8	Eastern Africa	206.7
9	South-eastern Asia	26.30	9	Southern Europe	96.1	9	Eastern Europe	194.2
10	Central America	14.69	10	Central America	92.2	10	Northern Africa	166.2
11	Western Asia	13.41	11	Western Africa	88.1	11	Western Europe	159.5
12	Northern Africa	13.15	12	Northern Africa	85.2	12	Central America	151.1
13	Australia/New Zealand	7.56	13	Northern Europe	79.0	13	Middle Africa	119.6
14	Western Africa	6.12	14	Eastern Africa	61.4	14	Southern Europe	101.7
15	Caribbean	6.04	15	Middle Africa	33.9	15	Northern Europe	84.5
16	Southern Africa	5.96	16	Southern Africa	26.7	16	Southern Africa	36.6
17	Middle Africa	3.74	17	Caribbean	23.9	17	Caribbean	35.0
18	Eastern Africa	3.44	18	Australia/New Zealand	20.6	18	Australia/New Zealand	27.1
19	Melanesia	0.12	19	Melanesia	1.5	19	Melanesia	4.2
20	Polynesia	0.05	20	Polynesia	0.2	20	Micronesia	0.5
21	Micronesia	0.04	21	Micronesia	0.2	21	Polynesia	0.5

Changes in the ranks of regions according to urban population size result from differences in growth rates in the past and expected differences over the projection period. Between 1950 and 2000, the urban populations of less developed regions have grown faster than those of more developed regions, with the highest rates of urban population growth recorded in the regions of Africa (with the exception of Southern Africa), Melanesia, Western Asia and South-eastern Asia (table 22). Urban growth rates in these seven regions during 1950-2000 ranged from 3.7 per cent per year in Northern Africa to 5.8 per cent per year in Eastern Africa. Eastern Africa, Western Africa and Melanesia all experienced annual rates of urban growth above 5 per cent. As a result, the urban population of Eastern Africa increased from just 3 million persons in 1950 to 61 million in 2000, and that of Western Africa increased nearly fifteen-fold, rising from 6 million in 1950 to 88 million in 2000. Yet, despite its rapid urban population growth, Eastern Africa remains among the least urbanized regions of the world, with just 25 per cent of its population living in urban areas in 2000, and Western Africa has reached a proportion urban of only 39 per cent. As table 22 indicates, the same two regions are expected to continue having the highest rates of urban population growth so that, by 2030, their overall urban population will likely amount to 465 million, larger than the urban population expected for Eastern and Western Europe combined (table 20). Middle Africa also experienced fast urban population growth during 1950-2000, at an annual rate of 4.4 per cent. Its urban population is expected to experience the most rapid increase of any region during 2000-2030 (at 4.2 per cent per year), to reach 120 million in 2030, or more than that expected for Southern Europe.

As table 22 shows, the two regions of Asia that had the highest annual rates of urban population

TABLE 22. REGIONS OF THE WORLD ACCORDING TO THE AVERAGE ANNUAL URBAN RATE OF GROWTH DURING 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	*Region*	*Urban growth rate (percentage) 1950-2000*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Urban growth rate (percentage) 2000-2030*
1	Eastern Africa	5.77	1	Middle Africa	4.21
2	Western Africa	5.33	2	Eastern Africa	4.05
3	Melanesia	5.04	3	Western Africa	3.58
4	Western Asia	4.41	4	Melanesia	3.32
5	Middle Africa	4.41	5	Micronesia	2.76
6	South-eastern Asia	4.02	6	South-central Asia	2.62
7	Northern Africa	3.74	7	South-eastern Asia	2.44
8	Central America	3.67	8	Western Asia	2.23
9	Micronesia	3.48	9	Northern Africa	2.23
10	South America	3.44	10	Polynesia	2.10
11	South-central Asia	3.34	11	Eastern Asia	1.82
12	Eastern Asia	3.25	12	Central America	1.65
13	Polynesia	3.18	13	South America	1.42
14	Southern Africa	3.00	14	Caribbean	1.26
15	Caribbean	2.75	15	Northern America	1.07
16	Australia/New Zealand	2.01	16	Southern Africa	1.05
17	Eastern Europe	1.75	17	Australia/New Zealand	0.92
18	Northern America	1.59	18	Northern Europe	0.22
19	Southern Europe	1.38	19	Southern Europe	0.19
20	Western Europe	0.92	20	Western Europe	0.18
21	Northern Europe	0.66	21	Eastern Europe	-0.22

growth during 1950-2000 were Western Asia and South-eastern Asia, at 4.4 and 4 per cent, respectively. Between 1950 and 2000, the urban population of South-eastern Asia rose almost eight-fold, from 26 million to 196 million, while that of Western Asia rose nine-fold, from 13 million to 122 million. Even though the rates of urban population growth are expected to decline substantially in both regions, the sizes of the urban populations already attained by 2000 ensures substantial increases in absolute terms. Thus, South-eastern Asia, with an expected urban growth rate of 2.4 per cent per year, is projected to have 407 million urban dwellers in 2030, while Western Asia, whose rate of urban population growth is expected to drop by half (to 2.2 per cent per year), will likely attain 238 million urban dwellers. These two regions combined will have more urban dwellers than the whole of Europe.

Rapid urban growth has also occurred in Northern Africa, the second most urbanized region of Africa today. Growing at 3.7 per cent per year, its urban population increased from 13 million to 85 million between 1950 and 2000, and although its projected growth rate is expected to fall by 40 per cent to 2.2 per cent per year, its urban population is projected to rise to 166 million in 2030.

Southern Africa experienced the slowest rate of urban population growth of Africa during 1950-2000, at 3 per cent per year (table 22). This relatively low urban growth rate was related to the fact that Southern Africa was the most urbanized area of Africa in 1950 and experienced therefore a slower rate of urbanization than the rest of the continent. In addition, overall population growth has been slower in Southern Africa that in the rest of Africa because its fertility started to decline earlier that in other regions of the continent. More recently, increasing mortality stemming from the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS has also contributed to maintain a low overall rate of population growth. In the future, Southern Africa is expected to remain the most urbanized region of Africa, with its proportion urban rising from 54 per cent in 2000 to 70 per cent in 2030. Its urban population, which stood at 27 million in 2000, is expected to rise at an annual rate of 1 per cent, to reach 37 million in 2030.

Central America and South America had relatively moderate urban population growth rates of 3.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent per year during 1950-2000. As a result, their urban populations—already moderate in size in 1950—increased considerably, to 92 million in Central America and 275 million in South America by 2000. Although the urban growth rates expected for both regions during 2000-2030 will be markedly lower than those of regions discussed above (1.7 per cent for Central America and 1.4 for South America), the large population base already attained means that the absolute increases will be sizable. Thus, Central America's urban population is expected to reach 151 million and that of South America 422 million by 2030. Note that urban growth in the Caribbean was lower than in the two regions of Latin America during 1950-2000 (at 2.8 per cent per year), and will likely continue to be lower in the future (at 1.3 per cent in 2000-2030). Nevertheless, its urban population increased four-fold from 1950 to 2000 (from 6 million to 24 million) and is expected to rise by about half over the next thirty years to reach 35 million urban inhabitants.

Fast urban growth has occurred in Melanesia, along with moderate growth in Micronesia and Polynesia. All three regions are likely to continue experiencing fairly rapid urban growth in the future, with the urban population of each expected to grow about two and a half times between 2000 and 2030. Given their small urban populations, the numbers involved are small. However, since most of the countries or areas in these regions are small islands, the rapid urban growth expected may strain available resources.

Eastern Asia, and South-central Asia had moderately high urban growth rates during 1950-2000, and have the two largest urban populations in the world, at 617 and 441 million, respectively. Given the large total populations of these regions and their potential for future urban growth because of their low-to-moderate levels of urbanization, they will both continue to have the largest urban populations in the world. However, they are expected to differ considerably with regard to their expected future rates of urban population growth. South-central Asia, whose urban population is estimated to have grown at 3.3 per cent per year

during 1950-2000, is expected to have an average annual urban growth rate of 2.6 per cent during 2000-2030, whereas Eastern Asia, whose rate of urban growth in the past half century was 3.2 per cent, is expected to see its urban growth rate decline to 1.8 per cent per year. As a result of the considerable difference of their respective urban population growth rates, by 2030 South-central Asia will have an urban population almost close in size to that of Eastern Asia (969 million versus 1,065 million).

The regions with the lowest rates of urban population growth during 1950-2000 are those in the more developed world (table 22). Among them, Australia/New Zealand had the highest urban growth rate, at 2 per cent per year. At the other extreme, the urban populations of Western Europe and Northern Europe grew at rates lower than one per cent per year. The rates of growth of the remaining areas of Europe and Northern America were intermediate, ranging from 1.4 per cent per year to 1.8 per cent per year. During 2000-2030, average urban growth rates in all the more developed regions will be below 1.1 per cent per year, with those of all regions of Europe staying below 0.25 per cent per year. In contrast, the urban populations of Australia/New Zealand and Northern America are expected to grow at rates close to one per cent per year. As a result of these divergent trends, the urban populations of Northern America and Australia/New Zealand are expected to increase by about a third (from 21 million to 27 million in Australia/New Zealand, and from 243 million to 335 million in Northern America), whereas the urban populations of the regions of Europe will barely change or, as in the case of Eastern Europe, may experience a slight decline by 2030. The slow growth of the urban population of the regions of Europe results partly from the expected reduction of their overall populations.

The different patterns of urban growth at the regional level lead to changes in the distribution of the world's urban population among the regions. As table 23 shows, the major change in the distribution took place between 1950 and 2000, when the share of Eastern Asia rose from 16 per cent to 22 per cent, that of South-central Asia from 11 to 15 per cent, and that of South America from 7 per cent to nearly 10 per cent. The next thirty years are expected to see only small changes in the shares of the different regions, with the share of the two largest together rising from 37 per cent in 2000 to 41 per cent in 2030. The combined shares of Eastern, Western and Middle Africa will all rise significantly, from 6.4 per cent in 2000 to 11.7 per cent in 2030. Concomitantly, the joint shares of Northern America and all four regions of Europe, which in 1950 accounted for 53 per cent of the world's urban population, declined to 27 per cent in 2000 and will likely drop to only 17.5 per cent by 2030. Among the less developed regions, all those in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Southern Africa are expected to see their shares decrease during 2000-2030.

B. RURAL POPULATION GROWTH

Echoing the differences among regions in urban population growth, differences in the growth rates of rural populations across regions are also large. In addition, the regions of Africa and the less developed regions of Oceania had the highest rural growth rates, while those of Europe and Australia/New Zealand were negative in the past half century (table 24). But there is considerable diversity within major areas, especially within Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.

During 1950-2000 and until 2030, Eastern Asia and South-central Asia have had and will continue having the highest numbers of rural inhabitants among all world regions (table 25). But, whereas Eastern Asia started with the largest rural population in 1950 (551 million), its modest rate of rural population growth during 1950-2000 (0.9 per cent per year), which was about half that experienced by the rural population of South-central Asia (1.8 per cent per year), has led to a reversal of ranks among the two regions, so that by 2000 South-central Asia ranked first with a rural population of 1,040 million and Eastern Asia second with 864 million. During 2000-2030, the rural population of South-central Asia is expected to continue growing at about 0.6 per cent per year, but that of Eastern Asia is expected to decline at a rate of about –1 per cent per year. As a result, the rural population of South-central Asia will be virtually double that of Eastern Asia by 2030, a

TABLE 23. WORLD URBAN POPULATION DISTRIBUTED BY REGION, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

1950				2000				2030			
Rank	*Region*	*Percentage*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Percentage*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Percentage*	*Cumulative percentage*
1	Eastern Asia	16.1	16.1	1	Eastern Asia	21.6	21.6	1	Eastern Asia	21.4	21.4
2	Northern America	14.6	30.8	2	South-central Asia	15.4	37.0	2	South-central Asia	19.5	40.8
3	Western Europe	12.7	43.5	3	South America	9.6	46.6	3	South America	8.5	49.3
4	Eastern Europe	11.5	55.0	4	Northern America	8.5	55.1	4	South-eastern Asia	8.2	57.5
5	South-central Asia	11.0	66.1	5	Eastern Europe	7.3	62.3	5	Northern America	6.7	64.2
6	Northern Europe	7.6	73.6	6	South-eastern Asia	6.8	69.2	6	Western Africa	5.2	69.4
7	South America	6.6	80.2	7	Western Europe	5.3	74.5	7	Western Asia	4.8	74.2
8	Southern Europe	6.4	86.6	8	Western Asia	4.3	78.7	8	Eastern Africa	4.1	78.3
9	South-eastern Asia	3.5	90.1	9	Southern Europe	3.4	82.1	9	Eastern Europe	3.9	82.2
10	Central America	2.0	92.1	10	Central America	3.2	85.3	10	Northern Africa	3.3	85.5
11	Western Asia	1.8	93.8	11	Western Africa	3.1	88.4	11	Western Europe	3.2	88.7
12	Northern Africa	1.8	95.6	12	Northern Africa	3.0	91.3	12	Central America	3.0	91.8
13	Australia/New Zealand	1.0	96.6	13	Northern Europe	2.8	94.1	13	Middle Africa	2.4	94.2
14	Western Africa	0.8	97.4	14	Eastern Africa	2.1	96.3	14	Southern Europe	2.0	96.2
15	Caribbean	0.8	98.2	15	Middle Africa	1.2	97.4	15	Northern Europe	1.7	97.9
16	Southern Africa	0.8	99.0	16	Southern Africa	0.9	98.4	16	Southern Africa	0.7	98.7
17	Middle Africa	0.5	99.5	17	Caribbean	0.8	99.2	17	Caribbean	0.7	99.4
18	Eastern Africa	0.5	100.0	18	Australia/New Zealand	0.7	99.9	18	Australia/New Zealand	0.5	99.9
19	Melanesia	0.0	100.0	19	Melanesia	0.1	100.0	19	Melanesia	0.1	100.0
20	Polynesia	0.0	100.0	20	Polynesia	0.0	100.0	20	Micronesia	0.0	100.0
21	Micronesia	0.0	100.0	21	Micronesia	0.0	100.0	21	Polynesia	0.0	100.0

TABLE 24. RURAL POPULATION AND RURAL GROWTH RATE BY REGION, 1950-2030

Region	Rural population (millions)			Rural rate of growth (percentage)	
	1950	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
Eastern Africa	61.8	188.9	288.0	2.23	1.41
Middle Africa	22.6	61.5	107.3	2.01	1.85
Northern Africa	40.2	89.0	96.6	1.59	0.27
Southern Africa	9.6	22.8	15.7	1.73	-1.25
Western Africa	54.3	136.1	194.1	1.84	1.18
Eastern Asia	551.2	864.2	633.3	0.90	-1.04
South-central Asia	415.5	1 040.0	1 233.9	1.84	0.57
South-eastern Asia	151.8	326.1	313.3	1.53	-0.13
Western Asia	36.8	66.5	90.5	1.18	1.03
Eastern Europe	133.6	96.6	63.8	-0.65	-1.38
Northern Europe	21.3	16.1	12.4	-0.56	-0.87
Southern Europe	60.8	48.8	31.9	-0.44	-1.42
Western Europe	45.3	31.8	22.5	-0.71	-1.15
Caribbean	11.0	14.0	12.6	0.49	-0.35
Central America	22.3	43.0	44.9	1.32	0.15
South America	63.8	70.5	58.0	0.20	-0.65
Northern America	62.0	71.1	61.3	0.28	-0.49
Australia/New Zealand	2.6	2.3	1.5	-0.21	-1.55
Melanesia	2.0	5.0	7.3	1.83	1.29
Micronesia	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.89	0.85
Polynesia	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.33	0.27

dramatic change from their relative shares in 1950 or even in 2000.

South-eastern Asia, with 152 million rural inhabitants in 1950 to 326 million in 2000, has ranked third in terms of rural population size since 1950. Although its rural population is expected to decline slowly during 2000-2030 to reach 313 million in 2030, the region will maintain its third place until that time. Consequently, between 1950 and 2030, Eastern Asia, South-central Asia and South-eastern Asia have accounted and will continue to account for most of the rural population of the world: 63 per cent in 1950, 70 per cent in 2000 and 66 per cent in 2030.

As table 25 shows, there is also considerable stability in terms of the regions with the lowest numbers of rural inhabitants: they are all in Oceania. Perhaps the most interesting development within that group is that, whereas the rural population of Australia/New Zealand was the largest in the group in 1950, by 2000 it was surpassed by that of Melanesia. Indeed, the low rural population growth rates of Australia/New Zealand contrast markedly with those of the less developed regions of Oceania, all of which have experienced and are expected to experience rural population growth rates that are among the highest in the world (table 26). Nevertheless, the small population base of those regions implies that their share of the world rural population will remain very low (around 0.3 per cent).

In contrast with the rankings in terms of rural population size of the three largest regions of Asia

TABLE 25. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RURAL POPULATION OF THE WORLD BY REGION, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Rank	*Region*	*Population in 1950 (millions)*	*Percentage in 1950*	*Cumulative percentage in 1950*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Population in 2000 (millions)*	*Percentage in 2000*	*Cumulative percentage in 2000*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Population in 2030 (millions)*	*Percentage in 2030*	*Cumulative percentage in 2030*
1	Eastern Asia	551.2	31.2	31.2	1	South-central Asia	1 040.0	32.6	32.6	1	South-central Asia	1 233.9	37.5	37.5
2	South-central Asia	415.5	23.5	54.7	2	Eastern Asia	864.2	27.0	59.6	2	Eastern Asia	633.3	19.3	56.8
3	South-eastern Asia	151.8	8.6	63.2	3	South-eastern Asia	326.1	10.2	69.8	3	South-eastern Asia	313.3	9.5	66.3
4	Eastern Europe	133.6	7.6	70.8	4	Eastern Africa	188.9	5.9	75.7	4	Eastern Africa	288.0	8.8	75.0
5	South America	63.8	3.6	74.4	5	Western Africa	136.1	4.3	80.0	5	Western Africa	194.1	5.9	80.9
6	Northern America	62.0	3.5	77.9	6	Eastern Europe	96.6	3.0	83.0	6	Middle Africa	107.3	3.3	84.2
7	Eastern Africa	61.8	3.5	81.4	7	Northern Africa	89.0	2.8	85.8	7	Northern Africa	96.6	2.9	87.1
8	Southern Europe	60.8	3.4	84.8	8	Northern America	71.1	2.2	88.0	8	Western Asia	90.5	2.8	89.9
9	Western Africa	54.3	3.1	87.9	9	South America	70.5	2.2	90.2	9	Eastern Europe	63.8	1.9	91.8
10	Western Europe	45.3	2.6	90.5	10	Western Asia	66.5	2.1	92.3	10	Northern America	61.3	1.9	93.7
11	Northern Africa	40.2	2.3	92.7	11	Middle Africa	61.5	1.9	94.2	11	South America	58.0	1.8	95.5
12	Western Asia	36.8	2.1	94.8	12	Southern Europe	48.8	1.5	95.8	12	Central America	44.9	1.4	96.8
13	Middle Africa	22.6	1.3	96.1	13	Central America	43.0	1.3	97.1	13	Southern Europe	31.9	1.0	97.8
14	Central America	22.3	1.3	97.4	14	Western Europe	31.8	1.0	98.1	14	Western Europe	22.5	0.7	98.5
15	Northern Europe	21.3	1.2	98.6	15	Southern Africa	22.8	0.7	98.8	15	Southern Africa	15.7	0.5	99.0
16	Caribbean	11.0	0.6	99.2	16	Northern Europe	16.1	0.5	99.3	16	Caribbean	12.6	0.4	99.3
17	Southern Africa	9.6	0.5	99.7	17	Caribbean	14.0	0.4	99.8	17	Northern Europe	12.4	0.4	99.7
18	Australia/New Zealand	2.6	0.1	99.9	18	Melanesia	4.9	0.2	99.9	18	Melanesia	7.3	0.2	99.9
19	Melanesia	2.0	0.1	100.0	19	Australia/New Zealand	2.3	0.1	100.0	19	Australia/New Zealand	1.5	0.0	100.0
20	Polynesia	0.2	0.0	100.0	20	Polynesia	0.4	0.0	100.0	20	Polynesia	0.4	0.0	100.0
21	Micronesia	0.1	0.0	100.0	21	Micronesia	0.3	0.0	100.0	21	Micronesia	0.4	0.0	100.0

TABLE 26. REGIONS ORDERED BY THE AVERAGE ANNUAL RURAL GROWTH RATE IN 1950-2000 AND 2000-2030

Rank	*Region*	*Rural growth rate (percentage) 1950-2000*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Rural growth rate (percentage) 2000-2030*
1	Eastern Africa	2.23	1	Middle Africa	1.85
2	Middle Africa	2.01	2	Eastern Africa	1.41
3	Micronesia	1.89	3	Melanesia	1.29
4	Western Africa	1.84	4	Western Africa	1.18
5	South-central Asia	1.84	5	Western Asia	1.03
6	Melanesia	1.83	6	Micronesia	0.85
7	Southern Africa	1.73	7	South-central Asia	0.57
8	Northern Africa	1.59	8	Northern Africa	0.27
9	South-eastern Asia	1.53	9	Polynesia	0.27
10	Polynesia	1.33	10	Central America	0.15
11	Central America	1.32	11	South-eastern Asia	-0.13
12	Western Asia	1.18	12	Caribbean	-0.35
13	Eastern Asia	0.90	13	Northern America	-0.49
14	Caribbean	0.49	14	South America	-0.65
15	Northern America	0.28	15	Northern Europe	-0.87
16	South America	0.20	16	Eastern Asia	-1.04
17	Australia/New Zealand	-0.21	17	Western Europe	-1.15
18	Southern Europe	-0.44	18	Southern Africa	-1.25
19	Northern Europe	-0.56	19	Eastern Europe	-1.38
20	Eastern Europe	-0.65	20	Southern Europe	-1.42
21	Western Europe	-0.71	21	Australia/New Zealand	-1.55

and those of Oceania, the relative ranks of all other regions have changed considerably (table 25). Thus in 1950, the rural populations of Eastern Europe, South America and Northern America ranked fourth, fifth and sixth, but by 2000 they all had dropped considerably because of the slow or even negative growth of their rural populations. In Eastern Europe, the rural population declined by a third, from 134 million in 1950 to 97 million in 2000, reflecting the second lowest rate of rural population growth in the world during 1950-2000, at –0.65 per cent per year (table 26). In comparison, the rural populations of Northern America and South America grew at low but positive rates (0.3 and 0.2 per cent per year, respectively). During 2000-2030 all three regions are expected to experience a reduction in their rural populations, with Eastern Europe's declining at –1.4 per cent per year. As a consequence, the rural population of Eastern Europe, which was fourth in the world in 1950 and sixth in 2000 is expected to fall to ninth by 2030 (table 25). All other regions of Europe, whose rural populations have been declining and will continue to do so, will account for decreasing proportions of the world's rural population. Future reductions of the rural population in those regions are related both to continuing urbanization and to the expected reduction of the overall population in each region (table 20). In general, therefore, the ranks of the different regions of Europe are expected to increase between 2000 and 2030. The sole exception is Western Europe, whose projected rate of rural population decline is slightly lower than those of Eastern and Southern Europe.

In 1950, the rural populations of the regions of Africa alternated with those of the regions of Europe in terms of size. Eastern Africa had the largest rural population in the continent, followed

by Western Africa and Northern Africa. Southern Europe and Western Europe had rural populations similar in size to those regions of Africa. But over the next fifty years, the rural populations of the regions of Africa would experience some of the highest rural growth rates in the world while those of the European regions would be negative and among the lowest in the world (table 26). Consequently, by 2000 the rural populations of the African regions moved up the list while those of the European regions moved down (table 25). By 2000, the rural populations of Eastern Africa and Western Africa had become the fourth and fifth largest in the world, with 189 million and 136 million persons, respectively. Both regions are also projected to experience relatively high rates of rural growth during 2000-2030 (table 26). Northern Africa and especially Middle Africa have also moved up in the table as their rural populations increased rapidly. The rural growth rate of Middle Africa has been especially high and will continue to be high (2 per cent per year in 1950-2000 and 1.9 per cent per year in 2000-2030), leading to more than a four-fold increase of the rural population from 1950 to 2030 and making of Middle Africa the region with the sixth largest rural population in 2030 (up from thirteenth in 1950 and eleventh in 2000). As a result of rapid rates of rural population growth, by 2030 these four regions of Africa will follow the three largest regions of Asia in having the highest numbers of rural dwellers. By that time, Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Middle Africa and Northern Africa will account for 21 per cent of the rural population of the world, double the share they had in 1950 (10 per cent).

It is important to underscore that whereas during 1950-2000 only the regions of Europe experienced a reduction in the absolute size of the rural population, during 2000-2030 over half of all regions of the world (11 of the 21) are expected to experience such reductions (table 26). Among the less developed regions, Eastern and South-eastern Asia, the Caribbean and South America, as well as Southern Africa are expected to have negative rates of rural population growth. The cases of the two regions in Asia and South America have been discussed above. In the Caribbean and Southern Africa negative rural population growth is related to the low rate of increase expected for the total population as well as a sizable increase projected for the proportion urban.

It is also worth noting the wide diversity of rates of rural population growth in the different regions constituting the major areas of the world, a diversity which is expected to intensify in the future (table 26). This diversity makes the general trends discussed at the level of major areas in chapter II seem somewhat simplistic. In Africa, for instance, the annual rates of rural population growth at the regional level range from 1.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent in 1950-2000, and are projected to range from 0.3 per cent in Southern Africa to 1.9 per cent in Middle Africa during 2000-2030. In Asia the range in 1950-2000 was 0.9 per cent to 1.8 per cent, while in 2000-2030 it is expected to be from –1 per cent in Eastern Asia to 1 per cent in Western Asia. In Oceania the range of the rural growth rates in 1950-2000, from –0.2 per cent to 1.9 per cent, is expected to widen to become –1.6 per cent in Australia/New Zealand to 1.3 per cent in Melanesia during 2000-2030; while in Europe the change in the width of the equivalent range is expected to be considerably smaller, from –0.4 per cent to –0.7 per cent in the first period to –0.9 per cent to –1.4 per cent in the second. In the Americas, rural growth rates varied from 0.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent in 1950-2000 and are anticipated to cover a range of –0.6 per cent to 0.15 per cent during 2000-2030.

In sum, with rising urbanization throughout the world, rural population growth has been dampened in every region, and in the most highly urbanized regions, rural population growth has been low or negative over the past fifty years. The future is expected to witness an accentuation of those trends, with the proviso that certain regions with low to moderate levels of urbanization and where overall population growth remains robust (mainly Eastern Africa, Middle Africa and Western Africa) will still experience moderate to high rates of rural population growth. In 14 of the 21 regions of the world, the rate of growth of the rural population is projected to be 0.27 per cent per year or lower during 2000-2030 and in 11 it will be negative, including all the regions of Europe, two of the regions of Asia (Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia), three of the four in the

Americas (excepting only Central America), and Southern Africa. In 2030, nearly 7 out of every 10 rural dwellers will live in the three largest regions of Asia and another 2 will live in the four larger regions of Africa.

C. THE PROPORTION URBAN

Changes in the proportion of the population living in urban areas are the result of differential rates of growth between the urban and the rural populations of a region. In fact, the rate of increase of the proportion urban (also known as the urbanization rate) is equal to the difference between the rate of growth of the urban population and that of the total population. The latter, by encompassing the growth of both the urban and the rural components of the population, reflects the effects of the difference between the two.

In 1950 there were already considerable differences among the regions with respect to the level of urbanization. As table 27 indicates, some of the more developed regions had already attained high levels of urbanization, with more than 70 per cent of their populations living in urban areas by 1950 (e.g., Australia/New Zealand and Northern Europe). Western Europe with 68 per cent urban and Northern America with 64 per cent were also already highly urban. In comparison, the other regions of Europe (Southern Europe with 44 per cent urban or Eastern Europe with 39 per cent urban) and Latin America (Central America with 40 per cent urban and South America with 44 per cent urban) were considerably less urbanized, not to mention most of the regions of Africa, Asia and developing Oceania, where levels of urbanization were generally well below 25 per cent. The one exception is Southern Africa which had 38 per cent of its population urban in 1950.

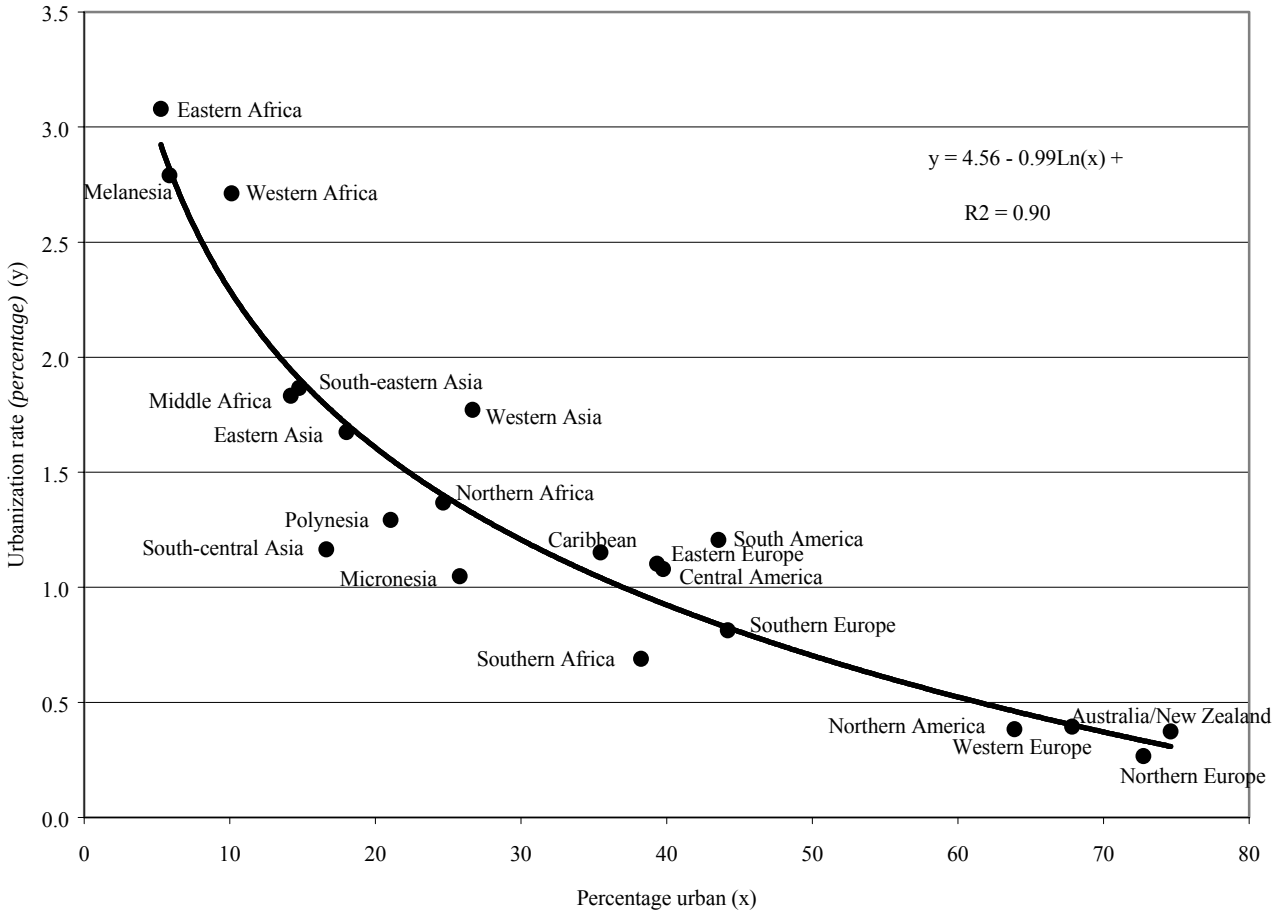
TABLE 27. REGIONS OF THE WORLD ORDERED BY THE PROPORTION URBAN IN 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Rank	*Region*	*Percentage urban 1950*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Percentage urban 2000*	*Rank*	*Region*	*Percentage urban 2030*
1	Australia/New Zealand	74.6	1	Australia/New Zealand	89.9	1	Australia/New Zealand	94.9
2	Northern Europe	72.7	2	Northern Europe	83.1	2	South America	87.9
3	Western Europe	67.9	3	Western Europe	82.6	3	Western Europe	87.6
4	Northern America	63.9	4	South America	79.6	4	Northern Europe	87.2
5	Southern Europe	44.2	5	Northern America	77.4	5	Northern America	84.5
6	South America	43.6	6	Eastern Europe	68.2	6	Central America	77.1
7	Central America	39.8	7	Central America	68.2	7	Southern Europe	76.1
8	Eastern Europe	39.3	8	Southern Europe	66.3	8	Eastern Europe	75.3
9	Southern Africa	38.2	9	Western Asia	64.7	9	Caribbean	73.5
10	Caribbean	35.5	10	Caribbean	63.1	10	Western Asia	72.4
11	Western Asia	26.7	11	Southern Africa	53.9	11	Southern Africa	70.0
12	Micronesia	25.8	12	Northern Africa	48.9	12	Northern Africa	63.3
13	Northern Africa	24.7	13	Micronesia	43.6	13	Eastern Asia	62.7
14	Polynesia	21.0	14	Eastern Asia	41.6	14	Micronesia	57.8
15	Eastern Asia	18.0	15	Polynesia	40.2	15	Western Africa	57.1
16	South-central Asia	16.6	16	Western Africa	39.3	16	South-eastern Asia	56.5
17	South-eastern Asia	14.8	17	South-eastern Asia	37.5	17	Polynesia	53.8
18	Middle Africa	14.2	18	Middle Africa	35.5	18	Middle Africa	52.7
19	Western Africa	10.1	19	South-central Asia	29.8	19	South-central Asia	44.0
20	Melanesia	5.9	20	Eastern Africa	24.5	20	Eastern Africa	41.8
21	Eastern Africa	5.3	21	Melanesia	23.7	21	Melanesia	36.3

Between 1950 and 2000, all regions experienced an increase in the proportion urban, but the increase varied considerably among regions. Generally, the rate of urbanization declines as the level of urbanization rises. The relation between the two is illustrated in figure 12 where the proportion urban in 1950 is plotted against the average annual rate of urbanization estimated for the period 1950-2000. The curve superimposed on the observed points represents a logarithmic function fitted to the data. As the value of the R^2 indicates, the fitted curve explains 90 per cent of the variance in the observed values, indicating an excellent statistical fit. However, the experience of several regions deviates noticeably from the fitted curve. The best fit is obtained at high levels of urbanization, to the right, where regions with more than 60 per cent of the population living in urban areas experienced very low rates of urbanization during the half century (below 0.4 per cent per year).

In the next group of regions to the left, where the percentage urban varied from 35 per cent to 45 per cent, Southern Africa, with a proportion urban of 38 per cent in 1950, had a low rate of urbanization in relation to the fitted or expected value. Constraints on the free movement of people that prevailed in the Republic of South Africa during the period of apartheid are likely to explain much of this diverging experience. Most other regions in this group experienced urbanization rates averaging more than 1 per cent per year, slightly above those expected according to the fitted curve. In the next group to the left, with a proportion urban of 14 per cent to 27 per cent, four regions deviate markedly from the fitted curve: South-central Asia, Melanesia and Polyne-

Figure 12. Relation between the percentage urban in 1950 and the rate of urbanization during 1950-2000

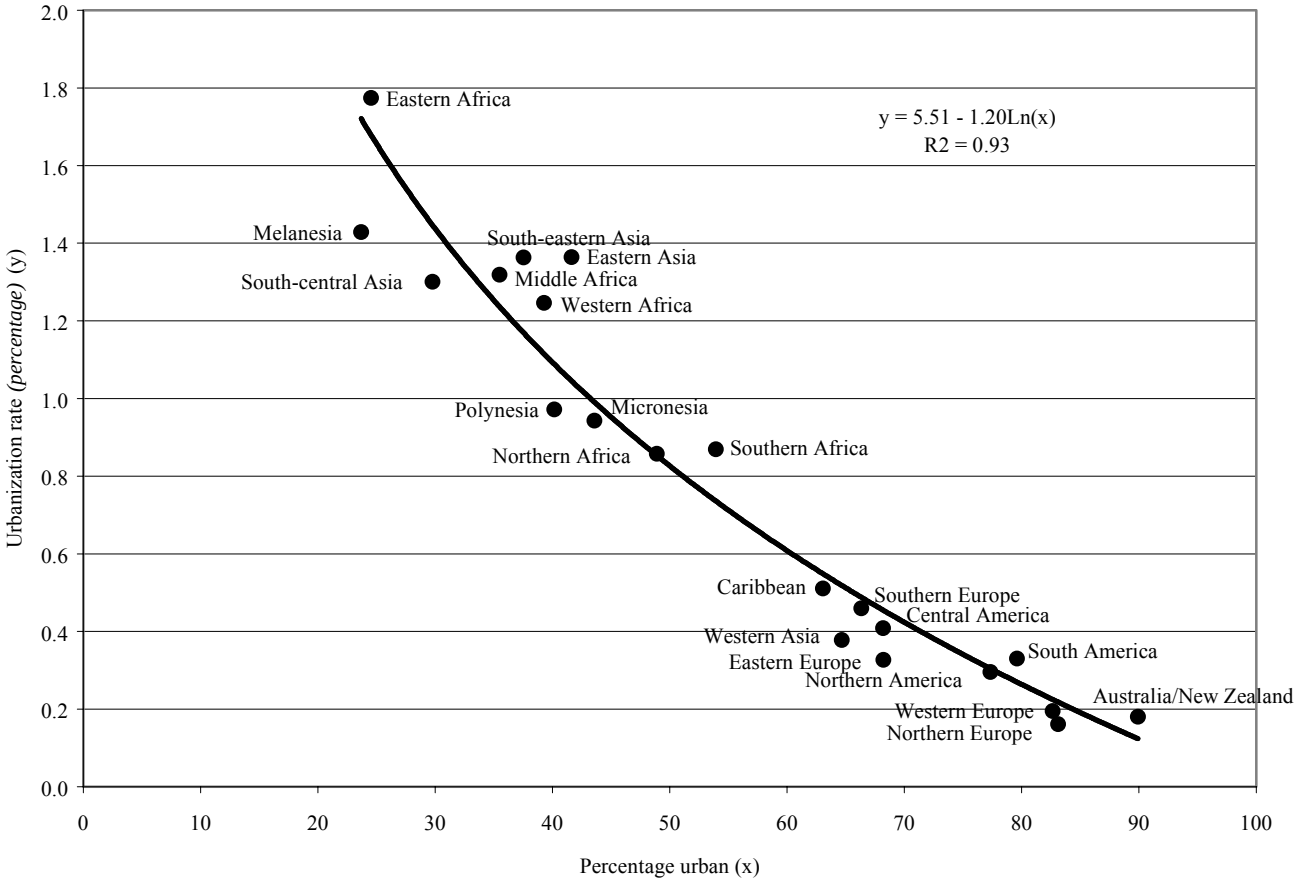


sia whose rates of urbanization seem low in relation to the low percentages of the population that lived in urban areas in 1950, and Western Asia, whose rate of urbanization of 1.9 per cent per year appears too high in relation to the moderate proportion urban already attained by 1950 (27 per cent). Lastly, the three regions with the lowest percentage urban in 1950 experienced the highest rates of urbanization during 1950-2000, as expected. But the rate of urbanization experienced by Eastern Africa (3.2 per cent per year) is not quite reached by the fitted curve (the fitted value is less than 3 per cent), and Western Africa experienced an even higher rate of urbanization than would have been expected according to the fitted curve given its low initial level of urbanization at 10 per cent.

The same analysis can be carried out for the period 2000-2030 using as initial proportions urban the levels estimated for 2000. Figure 13 shows the observed points and the fitted curve. Because projections result from the use of logistic models at the country level (see chapter VII.B), they vary less at the regional level than do the values for 1950-2000, which are largely based on observed data. Consequently, the goodness of fit of the logarithmic curve is slightly better (it explains 93 per cent of the variance). The curve is also considerably steeper, mainly because the least urbanized regions in 1950 had shifted to higher levels of urbanization during 1950-2000 (that is, they had moved from left to right in the graph), while the regions with high levels of urbanization in 1950 (bottom right in the graph) had little room for further movement to the higher levels of urbanization (that is, further to the right).

For the five regions with proportions urban above 75 per cent in 2000, the urbanization rate is projected to be very low (at or below 0.33 per cent

Figure 13. Relation between the percentage urban in 2000 and the rate of urbanization in 2000-2030



per year). This group comprises four of the more developed regions which were already highly urbanized by 1950 (with proportions urban above 63 per cent), as well as South America, which was not (it was 44 per cent urban in 1950). However, it is noteworthy that by 2000 the proportion urban for South America had already surpassed that for Northern America and that by 2030 South America is expected to be the second most highly urbanized region of the world (table 27).

Five regions from three continents are estimated to have proportions urban ranging from 63 per cent to 68 per cent in 2000, with expected annual rates of urbanization for 2000-2030 varying from 0.33 per cent to 0.51 per cent, all slightly lower than suggested by the fitted curve in figure 13. The eight less developed regions with levels of urbanization ranging from 30 per cent to 54 per cent in 2000 cluster into two groups in figure 13. The group to the right includes Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Micronesia and Polynesia, expected to urbanize at very similar rates of about 0.9 per cent per year. Interestingly, South Africa is expected to urbanize at a somewhat higher rate than the fitted value, probably as a result of the disappearance of controls on internal migration brought about by the dismantling of apartheid. Polynesia, in contrast, is expected to urbanize somewhat more slowly than the fitted curve would imply, perhaps because its current level of urbanization is higher than expected given its level of development in 2000. The other four regions, Eastern and South-eastern Asia, Middle Africa and Western Africa all cluster to the right of the fitter curve, indicating that their projected rates of urbanization are higher than expected according to the fitted curve. Particularly large deviations are noticeable in the cases of Eastern and South-eastern Asia, both of which are projected to see their proportions urban rise by 1.36 per cent per year. The remaining regions—Eastern Africa, Melanesia and South-central Asia—still display levels of urbanization below 30 per cent and, with the exception of Eastern Africa, are projected to experience urbanization rates below those expected according to the fitted curve. As in figure 12, Eastern Africa is just off the fitted curve, displaying the highest projected rate of urbanization of any region during 2000-2030 (1.8 per cent per year).

According to current expectations, the two regions with the second and third largest rural populations in the world, Eastern and South-eastern Asia, are expected to attain levels of urbanization of 63 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively, by 2030. That is, by that date, some of the most populous regions of the world will still have ample room for further increases of the urban population, even if their overall rates of population growth remain low. In addition, the fast growing populations of the regions of Africa will still have levels of urbanization ranging from moderate to low (63 per cent to 42 per cent), implying that the continued and possibly rapid growth of their urban populations is very likely during most of the twenty-first century.

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.

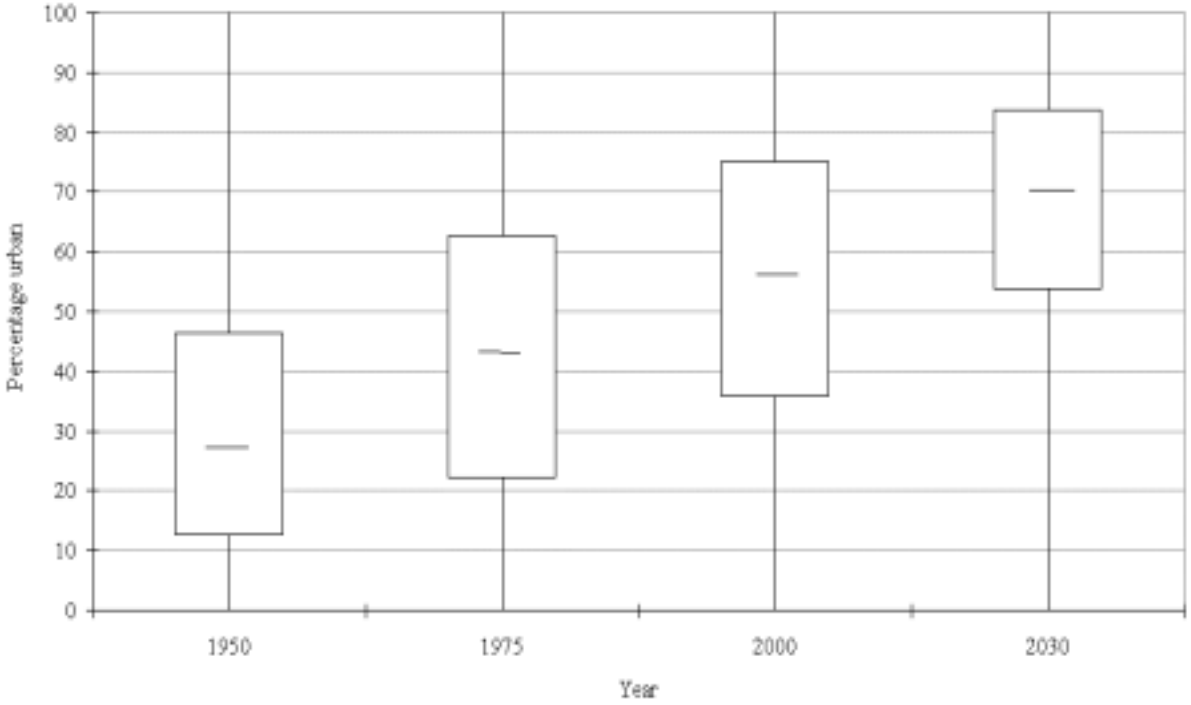
A. THE LEVEL OF URBANIZATION

The countries of the world are at very different stages of the transition to a largely urban population. 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

	Percentage urban			
Indicator	*1950*	*1975*	*2000*	*2030*
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 that 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

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	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

	Percentage urban			
Indicator	*1950*	*1975*	*2000*	*2030*
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

	Urban population (thousands)			
Indicator	*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

Rank	*Country*	*Population in 1950 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2000 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2030 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*
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

Rank	*Country*	*Population in 1950 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2000 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2030 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*
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

		Percentage urban			*Urbanization rate (percentage)*		*Urban growth rate (percentage)*	
Rank	*Country*	*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 proportion 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*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Percentage urban in 2000*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Percentage urban in 2030*
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 urbanization 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

Rank	*Country*	*Urban growth rate in 1950-2000 (percentage)*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Urban growth rate in 2000-2030 (percentage)*
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 experiencing low rates of urban growth during 1950-2000.

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

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 population 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 between 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 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

	Rural population (thousands)			
Indicator	*1950*	*1975*	*2000*	*2030*
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 include 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) 1950-2000	Rank	Country or area	Rural growth rate (percentage) 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 countries 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 46. COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING FOR 75 PER CENT OF THE WORLD RURAL POPULATION ORDERED BY POPULATION SIZE, 1950, 2000 AND 2030

Rank	*Country*	*Population in 1950 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2000 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Rank*	*Country*	*Population in 2030 (thousands)*	*Cumulative percentage*
1	China	485 232	27.4	1	China	818 793	25.6	1	India	833 238	25.3
2	India	295 866	44.2	2	India	729 893	48.5	2	China	601 199	43.6
3	Indonesia	69 675	48.1	3	Indonesia	125 149	52.4	3	Pakistan	139 438	47.8
4	Russian Federation	56 793	51.3	4	Bangladesh	103 085	55.6	4	Bangladesh	124 059	51.6
5	United States of America	56 569	54.5	5	Pakistan	94 499	58.6	5	Indonesia	102 782	54.7
6	Japan	41 560	56.9	6	United States of America	64 553	60.6	6	Ethiopia	87 624	57.4
7	Bangladesh	40 009	59.1	7	Nigeria	63 687	62.6	7	Nigeria	80 314	59.8
8	Brazil	34 268	61.1	8	Viet Nam	59 321	64.4	8	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	67 566	61.9
9	Pakistan	32 710	62.9	9	Ethiopia	53 146	66.1	9	Viet Nam	64 595	63.9
10	Nigeria	26 769	64.4	10	Thailand	50 352	67.7	10	United States of America	55 710	65.6
11	Viet Nam	24 181	65.8	11	Russian Federation	39 428	68.9	11	Thailand	53 232	67.2
12	Ukraine	22 688	67.1	12	Egypt	38 914	70.1	12	Egypt	45 390	68.6
13	Italy	21 520	68.3	13	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	35 521	71.2	13	Uganda	44 190	69.9
14	Germany	19 206	69.4	14	Myanmar	34 529	72.3	14	Yemen	33 925	70.9
15	France	18 335	70.4	15	Brazil	32 119	73.3	15	Myanmar	33 399	71.9
16	Ethiopia	17 586	71.4	16	Philippines	31 358	74.3	16	Nepal	30 824	72.9
17	Thailand	17 570	72.4	17	Japan	27 007	75.2	17	Afghanistan	30 369	73.8
18	Turkey	16 367	73.3					18	United Republic of Tanzania	29 228	74.7
19	Republic of Korea	16 010	74.2								
20	Mexico	15 906	75.1								

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

V. THE URBAN HIERARCHY

Over the past two centuries a major change has been taking place in the distribution of the world population in the form of increasing concentrations of people in highly urbanized areas known as urban agglomerations. During the twentieth century, the population of urban agglomerations grew to levels unprecedented in human history. Thus, it is estimated that by 2000 a total of 16 urban agglomerations had at least 10 million inhabitants, the population of each surpassing that of many countries, such as Hungary, Portugal or Sweden. For that reason, such populous urban agglomerations have become known as mega-cities. Yet, despite their size and importance, mega-cities still account for only a small share of both the world population and the world's urban population. In 2000 the total population in the 16 mega-cities constituted 3.7 per cent of the world population and 7.9 per cent of the world's urban population (tables 48 and 49). Although the number of mega-cities is expected to rise to 21 by 2015, they will still jointly account for only 4.7 per cent of the world population and 8.8 per cent of the urban population.

A. THE URBAN HIERARCHY OF LESS DEVELOPED AND MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS

Between 1975 and 2000, the number of people living in mega-cities rose at an annual rate of 4.8 per cent, rising from 68 million to 225 million (table 48). Most of that increase resulted from the addition of urban agglomerations that had less than 10 million inhabitants in 1975 but crossed that threshold in 1975-2000. Thus, the number of mega-cities increased from 5 to 16, mostly in less developed regions where the number rose from 3 to 12, and the population living in those mega-cities rose from 32 million to 158 million. In the more developed regions, the number of mega-cities doubled from 2 to 4, and the population living in them rose from 36 million to 67 million. It is noteworthy that as late as 1995 there were no mega-cities in the least developed countries, but by 2000 one urban agglomeration in those countries—Dhaka in Bangladesh—has passed the 10 million mark.

Over the next 15 years, the number of mega-cities in the more developed regions will remain unchanged as will that in the least developed countries, but five additional mega-cities are expected to emerge in the less developed regions (table 50). As a result, the population living in the mega-cities of less developed regions is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.6 per cent per year during 2000-2015, reaching 270 million persons by the end of the period. In contrast, the number of persons living in the four mega-cities of the more developed regions will hardly change, rising only from 67 million in 2000 to 71 million in 2015.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of people living in very large cities (those with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants) in the less developed regions. Between 1975 and 2000 that number more than doubled, passing from 60 million to 130 million. As a consequence, their share of the total population of the less developed regions rose from 2 per cent to 2.7 per cent between 1975 and 2000, and will likely reach 3.6 per cent by 2015, not much below the corresponding share in the more developed regions (3.7 per cent). This convergence represents a major change since 1975 when the large cities of the developed world accounted for 5.9 per cent of the population in the more developed regions, nearly three times the proportion accounted for by large cities in the less developed regions (2 per cent).

Despite the rapid growth in both the number and population of large cities and mega-cities, an analysis of the distribution of the world population by type of settlement indicates that rural areas are still the home for the majority of the world population (table 48). In 2000, 52.8 of the world population lived in rural areas and, although it is expected that less than half of the world population will be rural after 2007, rural settlements will continue to be those in which the largest share of

TABLE 48. DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND THAT OF MORE AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS BY TYPE OF SETTLEMENT AND SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Development group	Type of settlement and number of inhabitants of urban settlement	Total population (in millions)			Percentage distribution			Growth rate (percentage)	
		1975	2000	2015	1975	2000	2015	1975-2000	2000-2015
World	Total population	4 066	6 057	7 207	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.6	1.2
	Urban population	1 543	2 862	3 869	37.9	47.2	53.7	2.5	2.0
	10 million or more	68	225	340	1.7	3.7	4.7	4.8	2.8
	5 million to 10 million	122	169	264	3.0	2.8	3.7	1.3	3.0
	1 million to 5 million	332	675	960	8.2	11.1	13.3	2.8	2.4
	500,000 to 1 million	176	290	354	4.3	4.8	4.9	2.0	1.3
	Fewer than 500,000	844	1 503	1 950	20.8	24.8	27.1	2.3	1.7
	Rural areas	2 523	3 195	3 338	62.1	52.8	46.3	0.9	0.3
More developed regions	Total population	1 048	1 191	1 214	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.5	0.1
	Urban population	734	898	954	70.0	75.4	78.6	0.8	0.4
	10 million or more	36	67	71	3.4	5.7	5.8	2.5	0.3
	5 million to 10 million	62	39	45	5.9	3.3	3.7	-1.8	1.0
	1 million to 5 million	145	216	243	13.9	18.1	20.0	1.6	0.8
	500,000 to 1 million	69	77	74	6.5	6.5	6.1	0.5	-0.3
	Fewer than 500,000	422	498	522	40.3	41.8	43.0	0.7	0.3
	Rural areas	314	294	259	30.0	24.6	21.4	-0.3	-0.8
Less developed regions	Total population	3 017	4 865	5 994	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.9	1.4
	Urban population	809	1 964	2 915	26.8	40.4	48.6	3.6	2.6
	10 million or more	32	158	270	1.1	3.2	4.5	6.3	3.6
	5 million to 10 million	60	130	218	2.0	2.7	3.6	3.1	3.5
	1 million to 5 million	186	458	718	6.2	9.4	12.0	3.6	3.0
	500,000 to 1 million	108	213	280	3.6	4.4	4.7	2.7	1.8
	Fewer than 500,000	422	1 005	1 429	14.0	20.7	23.8	3.5	2.3
	Rural areas	2 209	2 901	3 078	73.2	59.6	51.4	1.1	0.4
Least developed countries	Total population	353	668	963	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.6	2.4
	Urban population	52	171	332	14.7	25.6	34.5	8.0	4.4
	10 million or more	0	13	23	0.0	1.9	2.4	..	4.0
	5 million to 10 million	0	5	33	0.0	0.8	3.4	..	12.5
	1 million to 5 million	6	39	71	1.6	5.8	7.4	7.7	4.0
	500,000 to 1 million	7	14	23	1.9	2.1	2.4	3.1	3.2
	Fewer than 500,000	39	101	183	11.2	15.1	19.0	3.7	4.0
	Rural areas	301	496	631	85.3	74.4	65.5	2.0	1.6

TABLE 49. DISTRIBUTION OF THE URBAN POPULATION OF THE WORLD, THE MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS, AND THE LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS BY SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Development grouping	*Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)*	*1975*	*2000*	*2015*
World	10 million or more	4.4	7.9	8.8
	5 million to 10 million	7.9	5.9	6.8
	1 million to 5 million	21.5	23.6	24.8
	500,000 to 1 million	11.4	10.1	9.2
	Fewer than 500,000	54.7	52.5	50.4
More developed regions	10 million or more	4.9	7.5	7.4
	5 million to 10 million	8.5	4.4	4.8
	1 million to 5 million	19.8	24.1	25.4
	500,000 to 1 million	9.3	8.6	7.8
	Fewer than 500,000	57.5	55.4	54.6
Less developed regions	10 million or more	4.0	8.0	9.3
	5 million to 10 million	7.4	6.6	7.5
	1 million to 5 million	23.0	23.3	24.6
	500,000 to 1 million	13.3	10.8	9.6
	Fewer than 500,000	52.2	51.2	49.0
Least developed countries	10 million or more	0.0	7.3	6.9
	5 million to 10 million	0.0	3.0	9.9
	1 million to 5 million	10.9	22.6	21.3
	500,000 to 1 million	12.9	8.4	6.9
	Fewer than 500,000	76.2	58.8	55.0

TABLE 50. NUMBER OF LARGE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS IN THE WORLD, THE MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS, THE LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, 1975 TO 2015

Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)	*Development group*	*1975*	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*	*2015*
10 million or more	World	5	14	16	19	20	21
	More developed regions	2	4	4	4	4	4
	Less developed regions	3	10	12	15	16	17
	Least developed countries	0	0	1	1	1	1
5 million to 10 million	World	16	20	23	26	31	37
	More developed regions	8	5	5	6	6	6
	Less developed regions	8	15	18	20	25	31
	Least developed countries	0	1	1	1	3	5
1 million to 5 million	World	174	311	348	392	442	496
	More developed regions	75	101	104	112	115	118
	Less developed regions	99	210	244	280	327	378
	Least developed countries	3	14	20	24	31	34

the world population lives. In addition, small cities and towns with populations that do not surpass 500,000 inhabitants have been and will continue to be the places of residence of the majority of the world's urban population. In both the more developed and the less developed regions, the percentage of the population living in such cities has been rising, reaching 42 per cent in the more developed regions and half that level (21 per cent) in the less developed regions by 2000. Because these trends are expected to continue, by 2015 the percentage of the world population living in urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants will inch up from 25 per cent to 27 per cent.

In the highly urbanized regions of the more developed world, such small cities have accounted for the largest proportion of the population since 1975, surpassing the proportion living in rural areas by a wide margin (40 per cent versus 30 per cent). By 2000, the divergence in the attractiveness of those two types of settlements had become more accentuated, with small cities accounting for 42 per cent of the population and rural areas for 25 per cent. Since such a trend is expected to continue, by 2015 twice as many people are projected to live in the small cities of the developed world as in its rural areas (522 million versus 259 million). In contrast, in the less developed regions, rural areas will likely remain the main type of settlement for the population until 2015, accounting for 51 per cent of all inhabitants of the less developed regions in 2015. However, the ratio of the rural population to that living in urban places with fewer than half million inhabitants will fall from more than 5 in 1975 to 3 in 2000 and not much above 2 in 2015, so that at that time, 1.4 billion persons will live in the small cities of the developing world and 3.1 billion in its rural areas.

There have been important differences in the rates of population growth of the various types of settlements by major development group during 1975-2015 (table 48). For the world as a whole, the highest annual rate of population growth during 1975-2000 was recorded among the mega-cities, at 4.8 per cent, followed by that of medium-sized cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants (2.8 per cent). In contrast large cities with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants recorded the lowest population growth rate among all types of urban settlements (1.3 per cent). However, the high growth of the population of mega-cities is partly responsible for the slow growth of that of large cities, since over the 1975-2000 period the latter group lost several members as they crossed the 10 million threshold. During 2015, population growth rates are expected to be similar for both groups of cities, with the large cities growing slightly faster than the mega-cities (3 per cent versus 2.8 per cent).

In the more developed regions as in the world as a whole, mega-cities displayed the highest rate of population growth in 1975-2000 whereas large cities with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants had the lowest, even lower than that of rural settlements (2.5 per cent versus –1.8 per cent). The reduction of the population in the large cities was mostly due to the reduction in the number of cities in that category, from 8 in 1975 to 5 in 2000. Between 2000 and 2015 the number of large cities in the more developed regions is expected to rise from 5 to 6, while the number of mega-cities is expected to remain constant. Consequently, the population growth rate of large cities will be considerably higher than that of the mega-cities (1 per cent versus 0.3 per cent).

Between 1975 and 2000, the population of mega-cities in the less developed regions also grew the fastest, at 6.3 per cent per year, mostly because the number of mega-cities rose from 3 to 12 over that period. The increase in the number of mega-cities dampened the rate of population growth of large cities, whose numbers nevertheless increased substantially, passing from 8 in 1975 to 18 in 2000. Consequently, the growth rate of their populations considered jointly remained robust at 3.1 per cent per year during 1975-2000. Faster still was the growth of the population of cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants (3.6 per cent per year) and that of cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants (3.5 per cent per year). That is, being less advanced in the path to universal urbanization than the more developed regions, the different types of urban settlements of the less developed regions all have grown at moderate to high rates since 1975. Those trends are expected to continue though at a more moderate pace. During 2000-2015, the mega-cities and large cities of the less developed regions are projected

to see their populations grow at rates of 3.6 per cent per year and 3.5 per cent per year respectively, the highest rates among all types of urban settlements. The slowest rate of growth is expected for the population of cities with 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants and it will still amount to 1.8 per cent per year, nearly double the highest rate of population growth expected for the various types of urban settlements in the more developed regions.

Because of the higher level of urbanization characterizing more developed regions, the proportions of their population living in urban settlements of any size class are larger than the equivalent proportions in the less developed regions (table 48). Consequently, to compare the population distributions of the two across the urban hierarchy it is useful to consider the urban population by itself (table 49). In the world as a whole and in both the more developed and the less developed regions, the majority of the urban population has lived in and will continue to live in smaller urban places of under 500,000 inhabitants. However, at the world level, the proportion of the urban population living in small cities has been declining, passing from 55 per cent in 1975 to 53 per cent in 2000 and being projected to be just above 50 per cent in 2015. In contrast, the proportion of the urban population living in the two largest size classes of cities (that is, those with 5 million inhabitants or more) has risen from 12.3 per cent in 1975 to 13.8 per cent in 2000 and is projected to reach 15.6 per cent in 2015. Most of that increase is attributable to the rise in the share of the urban population of cities with more than 5 million inhabitants in the less developed regions, which has increased from 11.4 per cent in 1975 to 14.6 per cent in 2000 and will likely rise further to 16.8 per cent by 2015. There is therefore a clear trend toward a greater concentration of the urban population of the less developed regions in very populous cities, a trend that is not so clear in the more developed regions where the proportion of the urban population living in cities of 5 million inhabitants or more declined between 1975 to 2000: from 13.3 per cent to 11.9 per cent. In 2015, 12.2 per cent of the urban population of the more developed regions is expected to live in urban agglomerations with five million inhabitants or more, only a slight increase with respect to the equivalent proportion in 2000 and a considerably lower proportion than the equivalent expected in the less developed regions (16.8 per cent).

In addition, the more developed regions have had and are expected to have a higher proportion of their urban population living in small cities of less than 500,000 inhabitants than less developed regions do (table 49). In 1975 the respective shares of small cities were 57.5 per cent in the more developed regions and 52.2 per cent in the less developed regions. By 2000 the difference between the two had declined somewhat, but more developed regions still had a higher proportion of the urban population in small cities than less developed regions (55.4 per cent versus 51.2 per cent). Projections to 2015 show an increasing differential with 54.6 per cent of the urban population of the more developed regions living in small cities and just 49 per cent doing so in the less developed regions.

The more developed regions have tended to have a lower proportion of their urban population living in cities with populations of 500,000 to 5 million inhabitants than the less developed regions. In 1975 that proportion was 29.2 per cent in more developed regions and 36.4 per cent in less developed regions. But by 2000 the difference between the two had declined significantly (32.7 per cent versus 34.2 per cent) as more cities crossed the 500,000 threshold and the difference is expected to become smaller by 2015 (33.2 per cent versus 34.2 per cent).

Overall, in both development groups and at the world level, there is a continuing process of concentration of the urban population in cities with more than 1 million inhabitants. This process has been more rapid in the less developed regions. Thus, in 1950, 33.8 per cent of the urban population of the world lived in cities with over 1 million inhabitants and the equivalent proportions were similar in the more developed and the less developed regions (33.1 per cent versus 34.5 per cent). In 2000, there was evidence of further concentration in both development groups but it was stronger for the less developed regions since the proportion of the urban population living in cities with 1 million inhabitants or more in the developing world had risen to 38 per cent whereas it was

just 35.9 per cent in the more developed regions. By 2015, the less developed regions are expected to have 41.4 per cent of their urban population in cities of 1 million inhabitants or more, whereas the equivalent proportion in the more developed regions is projected to be 37.6 per cent.

The case of the least developed countries, which are a subset of the less developed regions, illustrates in a more striking way the shifting distribution of the urban population across the urban hierarchy that the process of urbanization and development involves. In 1975, all the urban population of the least developed countries lived in cities with less than 5 million inhabitants. In fact, only 11 per cent lived in cities and towns with more than 1 million inhabitants. By 2000 the shift to higher size classes was clear: 10.3 per cent of the urban population of the least developed countries lived in urban agglomerations of 5 million inhabitants or more, and the proportion in small cities with less than half a million inhabitants had dropped from 76 per cent in 1975 to 59 per cent in 2000. This trend towards a higher concentration of the urban population in larger cities is expected to continue, so that by 2015 nearly 2 out of every 5 urban dwellers in the least developed countries are expected to live in cities with a million inhabitants or more.

In considering the redistribution of the population across the urban hierarchy it is necessary to bear in mind that the number of urban agglomerations with large populations is small, so their passage from one size class to another causes important discontinuities in the data on population by city size class. Such discontinuities affect all country groupings. Table 50 shows the number of mega-cities and urban agglomerations with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants and with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants at different points in time. It indicates that those numbers have risen substantially at the world level and also for the more and the less developed regions. Given the less advanced stage of urbanization in the less developed regions, changes have been greater in them and are expected to be more marked in them in the future. Thus, the number of urban agglomerations with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants in the less developed regions will likely increase from 18 in 2000 to 31 in 2015. Similarly, the number of cities with populations ranging from 1 million to 5 million in the less developed regions, which increased from 99 in 1950 to 244 in 2000, is expected to reach 378 by 2015, an increase of 55 per cent with respect to the 2000 figure.

B. THE URBAN HIERARCHY BY MAJOR AREA

Differences in the distribution of the population across the urban hierarchy in the more developed and the less developed regions are accentuated when those regions are subdivided into major areas. As table 51 shows, a major area such as Oceania, where the population of most countries or areas is small, is less likely to have large urban agglomerations than a major area such as Asia, which comprises the majority of the most populous countries in the world. In addition, the situation in Africa or Asia, major areas where the rural population still accounts for a large proportion of the total population, contrasts markedly with that of Europe or Northern America where the rural population constitutes at most a quarter of the total population.

However, mega-cities are no more likely to exist in the most highly urbanized major areas than in the less urbanized ones. Thus, only one of the five mega-cities that existed in 1975 was located in Northern America and there were none in Europe. At that time Asia and Latin America had two mega-cities each, and Asia had the largest number of inhabitants living in mega-cities (31 million in two mega-cities) of any major area. In 2000, Asia had more mega-cities than any other major area and the largest population living in mega-cities (136 million in 10 mega-cities). Latin America had four mega-cities and Northern America two. Whereas no additional mega-cities are expected in these two major areas, the number of mega-cities in Asia is expected to increase to 13 by 2015 and Africa is anticipated to have its first two mega-cities by 2005. Still, because of its enormous population, the relative concentration of population in mega-cities is and will continue to be lower in Asia than in other major areas. Thus, just 3.7 per cent of the population of Asia is estimated to live in mega-cities in 2000 compared to 11.3 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean and 9.5 per cent in Northern America.

TABLE 51. DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF MAJOR AREAS BY TYPE OF SETTLEMENT AND SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Major area	Type of settlement and number of inhabitants of urban settlement	Total population (millions)			Percentage distribution			Growth rate (percentage)	
		1975	2000	2015	1975	2000	2015	1975-2000	2000-2015
Africa	Total population	406	794	1 110	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.68	2.24
	Urban Population	102	295	503	25.2	37.2	45.3	4.23	3.56
	10 million or more	0	0	27	0.0	0.0	2.5	..	..
	5 million to 10 million	6	23	21	1.5	2.9	1.9	5.35	-0.63
	1 million to 5 million	12	64	123	3.0	8.1	11.1	6.67	4.35
	500,000 to 1 million	14	26	43	3.5	3.3	3.9	2.50	3.31
	Fewer than 500,000	70	181	288	17.3	22.9	25.9	3.80	3.08
	Rural areas	304	498	607	74.8	62.8	54.7	1.98	1.31
Asia	Total population	2 397	3 672	4 371	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.71	1.16
	Urban Population	592	1 376	2 005	24.7	37.5	45.9	3.37	2.51
	10 million or more	31	136	214	1.3	3.7	4.9	5.90	3.01
	5 million to 10 million	47	87	162	1.9	2.4	3.7	2.50	4.12
	1 million to 5 million	147	318	466	6.2	8.7	10.7	3.08	2.55
	500,000 to 1 million	78	150	193	3.3	4.1	4.4	2.61	1.72
	Fewer than 500,000	289	684	969	12.0	18.6	22.2	3.45	2.32
	Rural areas	1 805	2 297	2 366	75.3	62.5	54.1	0.96	0.20
Europe	Total population	676	727	705	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.29	-0.21
	Urban Population	455	534	538	67.3	73.4	76.3	0.64	0.04
	10 million or more	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..
	5 million to 10 million	37	32	32	5.4	4.4	4.6	-0.52	0.01
	1 million to 5 million	82	110	117	12.2	15.1	16.5	1.15	0.41
	500,000 to 1 million	46	49	48	6.8	6.7	6.8	0.22	-0.14
	Fewer than 500,000	290	344	341	42.9	47.2	48.4	0.67	-0.05
	Rural areas	221	193	167	32.7	26.6	23.7	-0.54	-0.98
Latin America and the Caribbean	Total population	322	519	630	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.91	1.30
	Urban Population	198	391	507	61.4	75.4	80.5	2.73	1.73
	10 million or more	21	59	66	6.5	11.3	10.5	4.11	0.82
	5 million to 10 million	17	20	36	5.3	3.8	5.6	0.56	3.94
	1 million to 5 million	32	86	139	10.1	16.5	22.1	3.90	3.23
	500,000 to 1 million	18	39	45	5.5	7.5	7.2	3.14	1.00
	Fewer than 500,000	109	188	221	34.0	36.3	35.0	2.17	1.07
	Rural areas	124	127	123	38.6	24.6	19.5	0.10	-0.25
Northern America	Total population	243	314	356	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.02	0.83
	Urban Population	180	243	288	73.8	77.4	81.1	1.21	1.14
	10 million or more	16	30	32	6.5	9.5	9.1	2.54	0.53
	5 million to 10 million	16	7	13	6.4	2.2	3.7	-3.23	4.28
	1 million to 5 million	52	85	100	21.3	27.0	28.2	1.96	1.14
	500,000 to 1 million	17	26	23	7.0	8.4	6.5	1.73	-0.81
	Fewer than 500,000	79	95	119	32.6	30.3	33.4	0.73	1.50
	Rural areas	64	71	67	26.2	22.6	18.9	0.44	-0.37

TABLE 51 (*continued*)

Major area	Type of settlement and number of inhabitants of urban settlement	Total population (millions)			Percentage distribution			Growth rate (percentage)	
		1975	2000	2015	1975	2000	2015	1975-2000	2000-2015
Oceania	Total population	21	31	36	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.44	1.16
	Urban Population	15	23	28	72.2	74.1	76.1	1.54	1.34
	10 million or more	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..
	5 million to 10 million	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..
	1 million to 5 million	6	12	14	25.9	40.2	39.3	3.19	1.02
	500,000 to 1 million	3	0	1	15.5	0.0	3.2	..	..
	Fewer than 500,000	7	10	12	30.7	33.9	33.6	1.83	1.10
	Rural areas	6	8	9	27.8	25.9	23.9	1.15	0.62

In all major areas, small cities and towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants have been the residence of the highest proportion of urban dwellers (table 52), with about two-thirds of all urban dwellers living in such places in 1975 in Africa and Europe and about half in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The proportions living in such places are expected to fall over time in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, but remain about the same in Asia and Europe, and in Oceania after 2000. In Northern America the proportion of the urban population living in small cities or towns is projected to increase slightly between 2000 and 2015. For Europe, Northern America, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean, the proportion of the total population living in small cities and towns is higher than that living in rural areas. In 2000, 47 per cent of the overall population of Europe lived in small cities, compared to 36 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 34 per cent in Oceania, and 30 per cent in Northern America (table 51). In Africa and Asia the proportion of the total population living in small cities has been considerably lower, being 23 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in 2000. By 2015 the proportion of the total population living in small cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants is expected to increase in Africa and Asia and slightly in Europe and Northern America but it will remain virtually unchanged in Oceania and decline somewhat in Latin America and the Caribbean. The highest concentration of the total population in small cities will be in Europe, where nearly half the population will live in cities with less than half a million inhabitants by 2015. The lowest concentrations will continue to be in Asia and Africa where 22 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively, of the population will live in small cities in 2015. Such low concentrations will continue despite the rapid growth of the population in small cities, projected at 2.3 per cent annually in Asia and 3.1 per cent per year in Africa. In both Africa and Asia, the proportion of the population living in rural areas and the number of inhabitants of rural areas will be more than double those of persons living in small cities by 2015. Such a situation contrasts markedly with that of other major areas where the population of small cities and towns is expected to surpass by wide margins the number of persons living in rural areas.

The distribution of the urban population by size class of urban settlement shows the varied profiles and trends experienced by the different major areas (table 52). Among the most urbanized major areas, Europe is characterized by an urban structure in which nearly two-thirds of the urban population lives in small cities and towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, and where cities of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants account for a growing share of the urban population to the detriment of larger cities. Furthermore, the number of large urban agglomerations (with more than 5 million inhabitants) in Europe has been small and actually dropped from 5 to 4 between 1975 and 2000, when Milan's population declined below the 5 million mark (table 53).

In contrast with Europe, both Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced a reduction of the proportion of the ur-

TABLE 52. DISTRIBUTION OF THE URBAN POPULATION OF MAJOR AREAS BY SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Major area	*Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)*	*1975*	*2000*	*2015*
Africa	10 million or more	0.0	0.0	5.5
	5 million to 10 million	5.9	7.9	4.2
	1 million to 5 million	11.8	21.8	24.5
	500,000 to 1 million	13.8	9.0	8.6
	Fewer than 500,000	68.4	61.4	57.2
Asia	10 million or more	5.3	9.9	10.7
	5 million to 10 million	7.9	6.3	8.1
	1 million to 5 million	24.9	23.1	23.3
	500,000 to 1 million	13.2	10.9	9.6
	Fewer than 500,000	48.8	49.8	48.4
Europe	10 million or more	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5 million to 10 million	8.1	6.0	6.0
	1 million to 5 million	18.1	20.5	21.7
	500,000 to 1 million	10.1	9.1	8.9
	Fewer than 500,000	63.8	64.3	63.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	10 million or more	10.6	15.0	13.1
	5 million to 10 million	8.7	5.0	7.0
	1 million to 5 million	16.4	21.9	27.5
	500,000 to 1 million	9.0	10.0	8.9
	Fewer than 500,000	55.3	48.1	43.5
Northern America	10 million or more	8.8	12.3	11.2
	5 million to 10 million	8.7	2.9	4.6
	1 million to 5 million	28.9	34.9	34.8
	500,000 to 1 million	9.5	10.8	8.1
	Fewer than 500,000	44.1	39.1	41.2
Oceania	10 million or more	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5 million to 10 million	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1 million to 5 million	35.9	54.2	51.7
	500,000 to 1 million	21.5	0.0	4.2
	Fewer than 500,000	42.6	45.8	44.2

ban population living in small cities accompanied by a higher concentration in medium-sized cities of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants. At the same time, between 1975 and 2000 the proportion of the urban population in urban agglomerations with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants declined markedly in both major areas, partly as a result of the transfer of one or two agglomerations in this category to that of mega-cities. During 2000-2015, Northern America is expected to experience a slight increase in the proportion of the urban population living in small cities and a decline in the proportion living in cities of 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants. There will also be a rise in the proportion living in cities with populations of 5 million to 10 million inhabitants, restoring some

TABLE 53. NUMBER OF LARGE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS BY MAJOR AREA, 1975 TO 2015

Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)	*Major area*	*1975*	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*	*2015*
10 million or more	Asia	2	8	10	11	12	13
	Latin America ant the Caribbean	2	4	4	4	4	4
	North America	1	2	2	2	2	2
	Africa	0	0	0	2	2	2
5 million to 10 million	Asia	6	10	12	16	19	23
	Europe	5	4	4	4	4	4
	Africa	1	2	3	1	2	3
	Latin America ant the Caribbean	2	3	3	3	4	5
	North America	2	1	1	2	2	2
1 million to 5 million	Asia	78	150	173	193	220	258
	Europe	42	57	56	60	61	61
	Latin America ant the Caribbean	17	36	43	54	61	69
	North America	28	35	38	41	43	46
	Africa	7	28	32	38	51	56
	Oceania	2	5	6	6	6	6

NOTE: Major areas are ordered according to the number of urban agglomerations in 2000.

of the decline in the previous period. Such a rise will also occur in Latin America and the Caribbean, where there will be a significant increase in the proportion of the urban population living in cities of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants and in cities of 5 million to 10 million inhabitants. These increases will be counterbalanced by future reductions in the proportions of urban dwellers living in cities with fewer than 1 million inhabitants and in mega-cities.

Asia has been experiencing a redistribution of the urban population towards greater concentration in larger urban agglomerations and particularly mega-cities. Thus, the proportion of the urban population living in mega-cities rose from 5.3 per cent in 1975 to 9.9 per cent in 2000 and is expected to reach 10.7 per cent in 2015. At the same time, the proportion of urban dwellers living in cities with fewer than one million inhabitants has been declining, a trend expected to continue in the future.

In Africa a similar trend toward more concentration in the largest cities is noticeable, with the proportion of the urban population in cities with more than 5 million inhabitants rising from 5.9 per cent in 1975 to 7.9 per cent in 2000 and expected to reach 9.7 per cent in 2015. However, the proportion of urban dwellers living in urban agglomerations with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants has also increased markedly, from 11.8 per cent in 1975 to 21.8 per cent in 2000 and is projected to reach 24.5 per cent in 2015. These increases have been counterbalanced by a reduction of the proportion of the urban population living in cities with less than 1 million inhabitants, which has dropped from 82 per cent in 1975 to 70 per cent in 2000 and will likely fall further to 66 per cent by 2015.

For Oceania, the main change was an increase in the number of cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants, from 2 to 6 during 1975-2000 (table 53). Such an increase made the proportion of the urban population living in cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants rise markedly between 1975 and 2000, from 36 per cent to 54 per cent, but it also resulted in a sharp decline in the proportion of the urban population living in cities with 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants, which dropped from 22 per cent in 1975 to zero in 2000.

Over the next 15 years the proportion of the urban population in cities with 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants will reach 4.2 per cent, indicating that a few cities will again be in that size class. Nevertheless, by 2015 more than half of the urban population of Oceania is expected to live in cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants, indicating a high concentration of the urban population in larger urban settlements.

Table 53 shows that the number of cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million has increased markedly in all major areas since 1975, and that in 2000 all major areas except Oceania had moderate numbers of cities in that category. Asia had the largest number, 173, followed by 56 in Europe, 43 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 38 in Northern America and 32 in Africa. By 2015, Asia is expected to have 258 cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants, followed by 69 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 61 in Europe, 56 in Africa and 46 in Northern America. The generality of the increase in the number of medium-sized cities across major areas contrasts with the increasing concentration of large cities in Asia. Thus among the 21 urban agglomerations with 5 million inhabitants or more that the world had in 1975, 8 were in Asia, but by 2000 Asia had 22 of the 39 cities of that size in the world. By 2015, the total number of cities with 5 million inhabitants or more is expected to rise to 58, 36 of which will be in Asia. At that time, 13 of the world's 21 mega-cities will be in Asia, a figure that contrasts markedly with just 2 mega-cities in Asia out of the 5 mega-cities that the world had in 1975. No other major area will experience a similar growth in the number of large cities and mega-cities. Latin American and the Caribbean, the major area expected to have the second largest number of large cities in 2015, will have only 9, of which 4 will be mega-cities. Africa will follow, with five large cities, two of which will be mega-cities. That is, despite the tendency for the urban population to become more concentrated in urban agglomerations with more than 5 million inhabitants, the number of such agglomerations remains limited in most major areas and there is a more even distribution among major areas of cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants. Consequently, as table 52 indicates, these medium-sized cities account for considerably higher proportions of the urban population than agglomerations of a larger size. Consequently, both today and in the near future, the dominant groups in the urban hierarchy are small cities and towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants and medium-sized cities with populations ranging from 1 million to 5 million inhabitants.

C. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE URBAN INCREMENT BY CITY SIZE

Further proof of the importance of these two groups of urban settlements, namely, cities with fewer than 500,000 and those with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants, is evident in the distribution of the average annual increment of the urban population among cities or urban agglomerations grouped by size class. Table 54 presents the average annual increment of the total population and that of the urban population for the world, the more developed regions, and the less developed regions. Also shown is the distribution or allocation of the annual increments in the urban population by size of urban settlement. Two types of distributions are presented. The first is the distribution of the urban increment for each development group (i.e., the percentages add to 100 for each development group). The second is the distribution of the total world urban increment among the urban agglomerations of the more developed regions and those of the less developed regions by size of urban settlement. Both distributions show the same overall traits: at the world level, small cities and towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants have absorbed in the past and are expected to continue to absorb in the future the largest share of the annual increment of the world's urban population: 50 per cent during 1975-2000 and 44 per cent during 2000-2015. They are followed by cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million, which accounted for 26 per cent of the annual urban increment during 1975-2000 and are expected to account for 28 per cent during 2000-2015. Mega-cities had the third largest share, absorbing between 11 per cent and 12 per cent in each period.

Since the vast majority of the urban increment is accounted for by the growth of urban centres in the less developed regions, it is not surprising that

TABLE 54. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL INCREMENT OF THE URBAN POPULATION BY SIZE CLASS OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975-2000 AND 2000-2015

Development grouping	*Size class of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)*	*Annual population increment (millions)*		*Percentage of urban increment by development grouping*		*Percentage of overall urban increment*	
		1975-2000	*2000-2015*	*1975-2000*	*2000-2015*	*1975-2000*	*2000-2015*
World	Total population	79.6	76.7	..	..	..	..
	Urban population	52.8	67.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Cities of 10 million or more	6.3	7.7	11.9	11.5	11.9	11.5
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	1.9	6.3	3.6	9.4	3.6	9.4
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	13.7	19.1	26.0	28.4	26.0	28.4
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	4.5	4.3	8.6	6.4	8.6	6.4
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	26.3	29.8	49.9	44.4	49.9	44.4
More developed regions	Total population	5.7	1.5	..	..	..	..
	Urban population	6.6	3.8	100.0	100.0	12.4	5.6
	Cities of 10 million or more	1.3	0.2	19.4	5.7	2.4	0.3
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	-0.9	0.4	-14.1	11.2	-1.7	0.6
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	2.8	1.8	43.1	46.7	5.4	2.6
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	0.4	-0.2	5.4	-5.8	0.7	-0.3
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	3.0	1.6	46.1	42.2	5.7	2.4
Less developed regions.....	Total population	73.9	75.2	..	..	..	..
	Urban population	46.2	63.4	100.0	100.0	87.6	94.4
	Cities of 10 million or more	5.0	7.5	10.8	11.8	9.5	11.1
	Cities of 5 million to 10 million	2.8	5.9	6.1	9.3	5.3	8.8
	Cities of 1 million to 5 million	10.9	17.3	23.6	27.3	20.6	25.7
	Cities of 500,000 to 1 million	4.2	4.5	9.1	7.1	7.9	6.7
	Cities with fewer than 500,000	23.3	28.2	50.5	44.5	44.2	42.0

the same pattern is found in the less developed regions. There, small cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants have absorbed a considerably larger share of the urban increment than cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants, and the latter have had a larger share than mega-cities and other size categories. Thus in the less developed regions, the share in urban growth of small cities and towns was 50 per cent and is expected to be 45 per cent during 2000-2015, while the shares of the cities with 1 million to 5 million inhabitants are 24 per cent and 27 per cent respectively over each of the two periods. In the more developed regions, in contrast, the shares of cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants are about the same as those of the smaller cities with fewer than 500,000. Furthermore, whereas the mega-cities of the more developed regions had the third largest share of the annual urban increment during 1975-2000 (19.4 per cent), during 2000-2015 their share of the annual urban increment is expected to decline to less than a third of that, so that the third largest share will go to cities with populations of 5 million to 10 million persons.

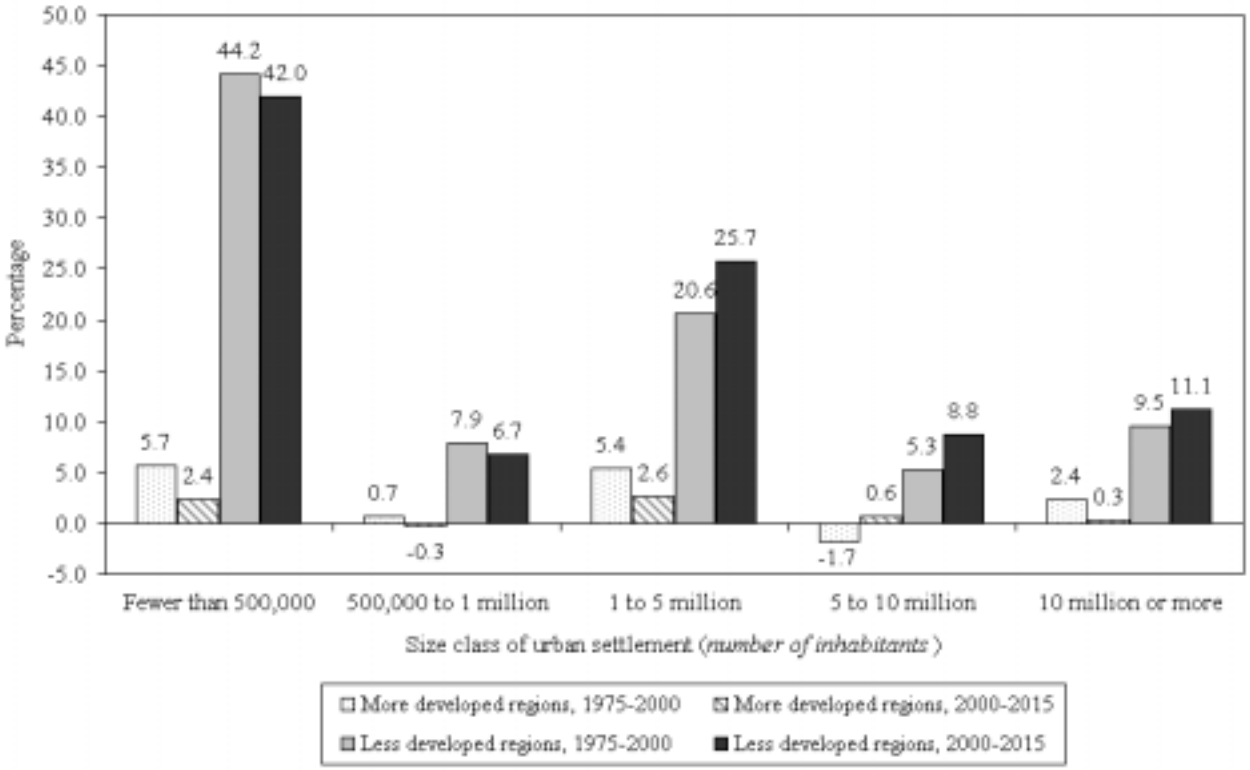
The distribution of the overall urban increment among the more developed and the less developed regions shows that the latter have absorbed and are expected to absorb most of the increment of the urban population of the world: 88 per cent in 1975-2000 and 94 per cent in 2000-2015. Small

cities in the less developed regions have recorded the greatest gains in population among all groups of urban settlements, having absorbed 44 per cent of the world's urban increment during 1975-2000 and expected to absorb 42 per cent during 2000-2015 (figure 15). They are followed by cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million persons in the less developed regions, whose share of the overall annual urban increment was 21 per cent in 1975-2000 and is expected to rise to 26 per cent in 2000-2015. Lastly, the mega-cities of the less developed regions account for the third largest share, amounting to 9.5 per cent in 1975-2000 and 11 per cent during 2000-2015.

In comparison with the cities of the less developed regions, those of the more developed regions will record very low population increases because their overall share of the annual urban increment is expected to decline by half, from 12 per cent during 1975-2000 to 6 per cent in 2000-2015. Most of their modest contribution to future world urban population growth will be in the two size classes of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants and fewer than 500,000 inhabitants.

These projections indicate that among all city-size classes, small cities and towns (with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants) in the less developed regions and the cities with populations of 1 million to 5 million inhabitants in the less developed regions are the two groups most likely to account for the major share of future world urban population growth (figure 15), amounting to about two-thirds of the total during 2000-2015. This finding underscores the importance of fostering the development of sustainable economic activities in small and medium-sized urban settlements in the less developed regions of the world.

Figure 15. Distribution of overall annual urban increment by size class of urban settlement and development group, 1975-2000 and 2000-2015



VI. POPULATION GROWTH IN CITIES

Although in almost all countries the urban population has grown faster than the rural population during the second half of the twentieth century, not all cities have grown as rapidly. Consideration of the growth rates experienced by the population of the 524 cities that had at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000 shows that even as early as 1950-1975, a period characterized by fast population growth in most countries, 41 cities had growth rates lower than 1 per cent per year, six of which had negative growth rates (that is, 8 per cent of all the large cities of today had low growth rates in 1950-1975). By 1975-2000, as overall rates of population growth declined in an increasing number of countries, the number of cities experiencing low rates of population growth rose. Thus, about a quarter of all the cities (122) are estimated to have grown at rates of less than 1 per cent per year and, among them, 21 experienced population declines. Most of those 122 cities are located in the more developed regions or in China. In the future, during 2000-2015, more cities are expected to experience low rates of population growth, with 189 projected to have growth rates lower than 1 per cent per year. While most of those cities are in the more developed regions and in China, several are in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Korea.

Nevertheless, over the past fifty years, the number of cities with slowly growing populations has been counterbalanced by that of cities exhibiting high rates of growth. During 1950-1975, for instance, 130 cities had annual rates of population growth of 5 per cent or more, and 23 had rates above 8 per cent. During the next time period, 1975-2000, the number of cities experiencing rates of growth of at least 5 per cent per year declined to 51, and included just three with annual growth rates above 8 per cent. Between 2000 and 2015, only 6 cities are projected to have growth rates of 5 per cent or more.

The reduction in the number of cities with high rates of population growth is partly the result of considering only cities with a population of at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000, since as a city's population increases, its rate of population growth tends to decline. Consequently, most cities experiencing high rates of population growth tend to have small populations. For instance, among the 130 cities with annual growth rates of at least 5 per cent during 1950-1975, just 9 had a population of at least 500,000 inhabitants in 1950, and among the 23 cities with growth rates above 8 per cent per year, the largest had only 173,000 inhabitants and 21 had less than 100,000 inhabitants. Similarly, during 1975-2000, just 13 out of the 51 cities with growth rates of 5 per cent or more had a population of at least half a million in 1975.

The decline of population growth rates as population size increases can be gauged from the scatter plot in figure 16, which shows the 1950-1975 growth rates of cities with less than a million inhabitants in 1950 plotted against the population size of the city in 1950. The cluster of points shows that growth rates tend to decline with initial city population size. Thus, growth rates above 8 per cent are observed only among cities with less than 200,000 inhabitants and growth rates higher than 6 per cent are extremely rare in cities with more than half a million inhabitants. To complete the assessment of the relationship between initial population size and rate of population growth, figure 17 presents a similar plot as figure 16 but for cities with at least a million inhabitants in 1950. Among this group, the relationship between the growth rate and the initial population size is much less clear, mainly because the variation in growth rates for cities with one million to two million inhabitants is wide. However, the general impression is that the growth rate varies over a narrower and lower range as city population increases, especially when figure 17 is viewed as the horizontal extension to the right of figure 16.

Figures 18 and 19 are equivalent to figures 16 and 17 but with growth rates referring to 1975-2000 and the initial population being that for 1975. The scatter plot in figure 18 again shows that the growth rate tends to decline as population increases. Growth rates above 6 per cent per year were rare for cities with more than 300,000 in-

Figure 16. 1950-1975 annual growth rate of cities with fewer than a million inhabitants versus population in 1950

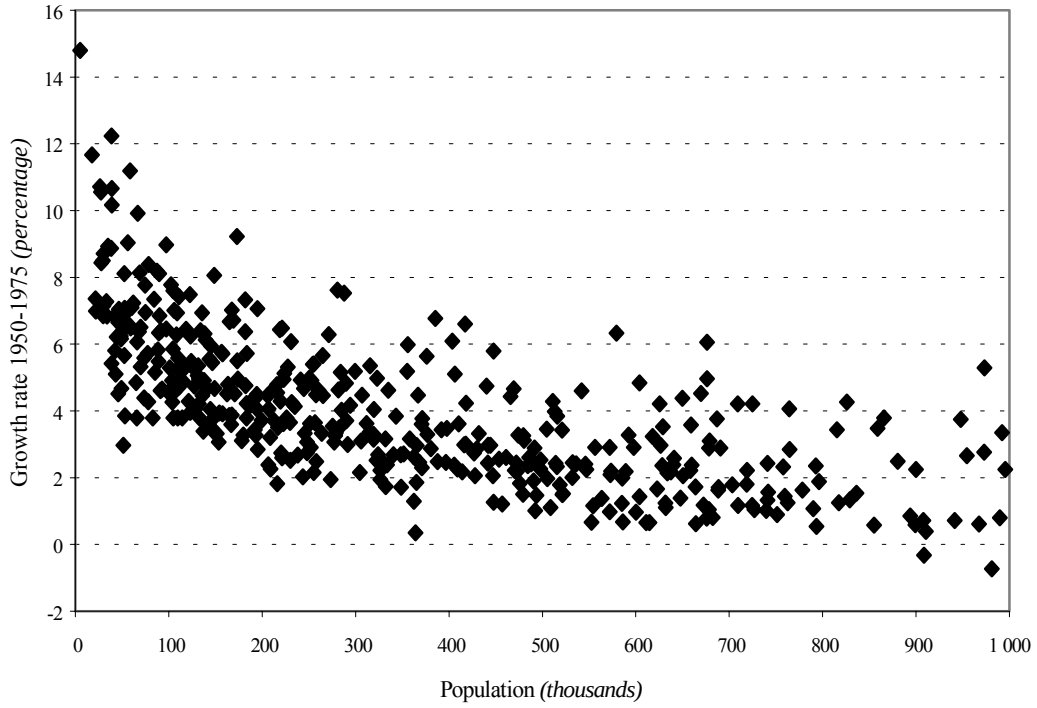


Figure 17. 1950-1975 annual growth rate of cities with more than a million inhabitants versus population in 1950

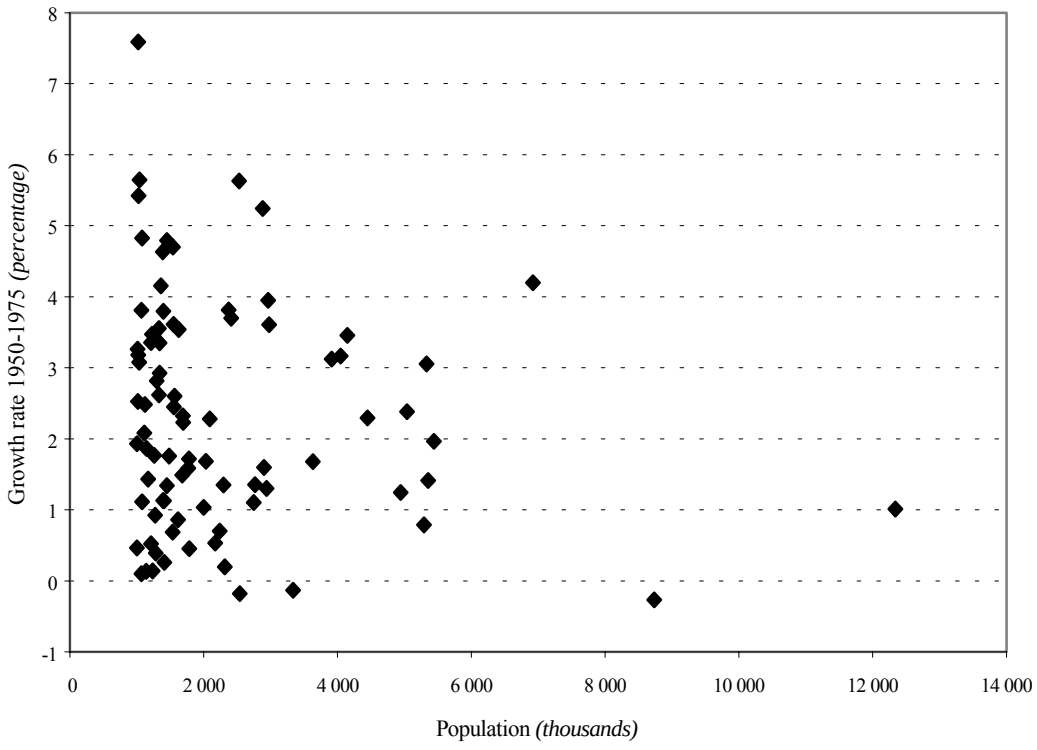


Figure 18. 1975-2000 annual growth rate of cities with fewer than a million inhabitants versus population in 1975

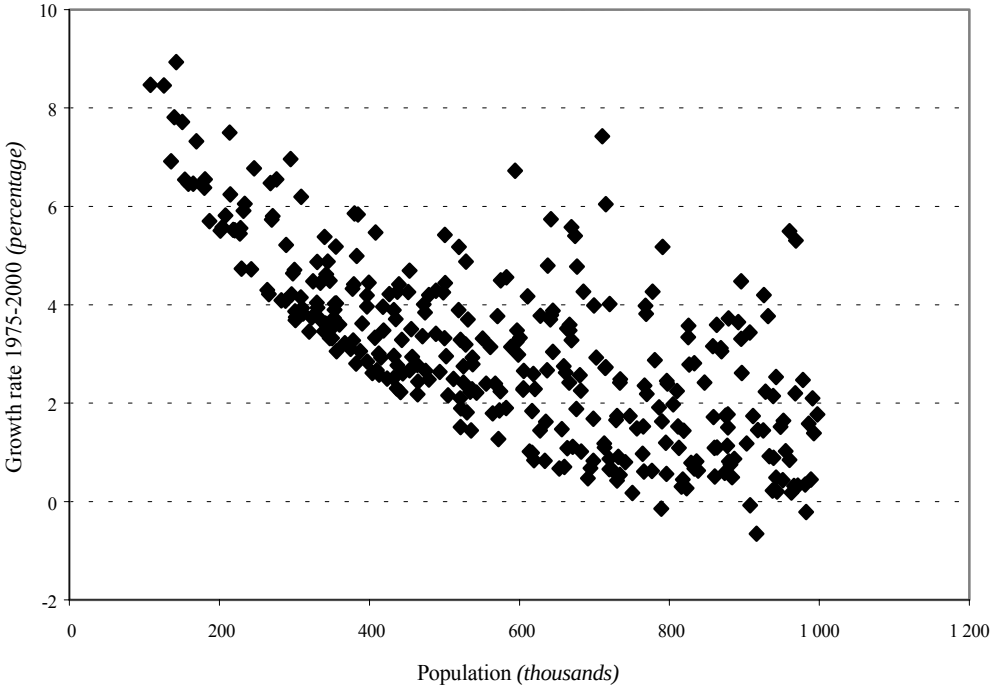
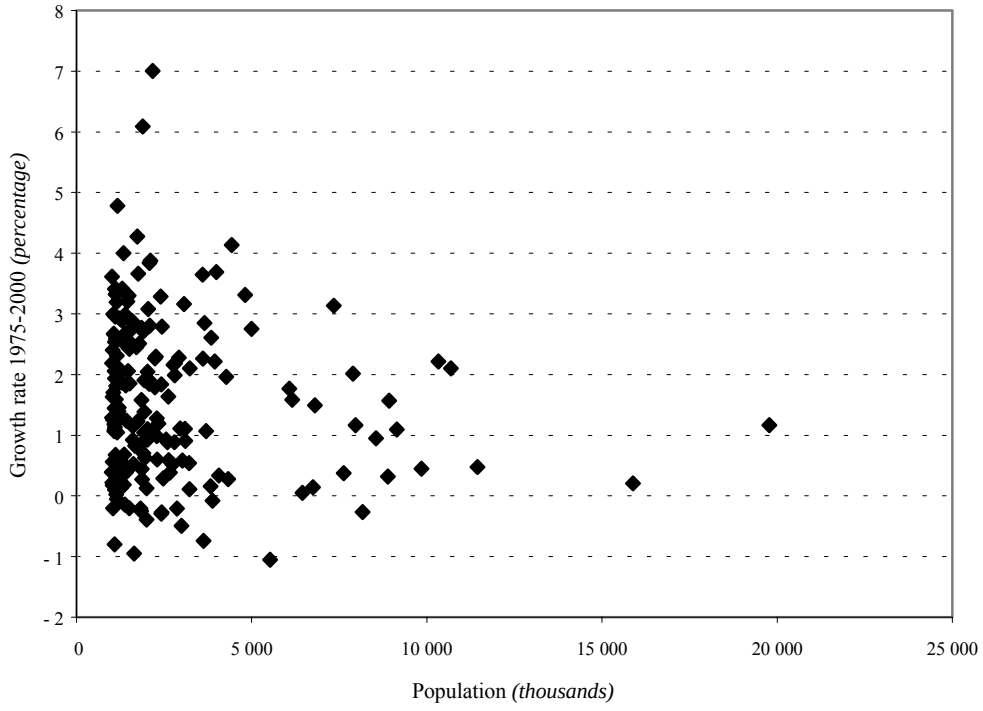


Figure 19. 1975-2000 annual growth rate of cities with more than a million inhabitants versus population in 1975



habitants and those above 4 per cent per year were rare among cities with more than 800,000 inhabitants. However, this plot is affected by the selectivity of cities included: since they all need to reach sizes of at least 750,000 inhabitants by 2000, they cannot have very small populations in 1975. Consequently, figure 18 fails to reflect appropriately the experience of small cities whose population did not reach the 750,000 threshold by 2000. Although such selectivity is also operating in the plot referring to 1950-1975 (figure 16), the extent of selectivity, that is, the number of missing cities, is smaller in figure 16 because of the longer period that cities had to reach 750,000 (50 years instead of 25). In both cases, most cities excluded would have had lower growth rates than those of the cities included.

Figures 16 to 19 also show that, although growth rates for larger cities tend to be lower than those for smaller ones, there are exceptions. Table 55 lists the cities with at least half a million inhabitants at the beginning of each period whose average annual growth rates were 5 per cent or higher during the subsequent period. During 1950-1975, nine cities with more than half a million inhabitants grew at a fast rate, the two largest being Mexico City (with 2.9 million inhabitants in 1950) and São Paulo, Brazil (with 2.5 million). Their populations grew at rates of 5.2 and 5.6 per cent per year, respectively, implying doubling times of 12 to 13 years. Hence, the population of each nearly quadrupled by 1975, surpassing the 10 million mark and converting them into the first two mega-cities of Latin America. In table 55, it is also of interest that Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea, had the highest growth rate during 1950-1975, averaging 7.6 per cent per year. At that rate, its population doubled every 9 years, growing from slightly over a million in 1950 to 6.8 million by 1975.

During 1975-2000 there were 13 cities with over 500,000 persons in 1975 that had average annual growth rates above 5 per cent. Among them Dhaka in Bangladesh and Lagos in Nigeria were the only two with more than a million inhabitants initially. They grew at 7 per cent and 6.1 per cent per year, respectively, that is at rates a bit higher than those experienced during the previous quarter century by Mexico City or São Paulo. As a result the population of Dhaka grew by a factor of six while that of Lagos quadrupled in size. By 2000 Dhaka had passed the 10 million mark and joined the list of mega-cities. The highest rate of growth during 1975-2000 was that of Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, at 7.4 per cent per year. Other cities with high rates of growth were Jidda, also in Saudi Arabia, and Guatemala City, capital of Guatemala, both growing at rates in the range of 6 per cent to 7 per cent per year. As a result of such rapid growth, all three cities saw their populations increase from considerably less than a million in 1975 to more than 3 million by 2000.

Over the shorter period of 2000 to 2015 covered by the projections, another 19 cities with a population of at least 500,000 inhabitants are expected to grow at rates higher than 5 per cent per year (table 55). Four of these cities have current population sizes above 1 million—Kampala in Uganda, Mogadishu in Somalia, Sana'a in Yemen and Surat in India. While the highest growth rate expected among these cities is 5.5 per cent per year, their populations are expected to more than double between 2000 and 2015. In addition, five cities have projected growth rates higher than 7 per cent per year: two in China, two in the Republic of Korea and one in Brazil. They are expected to see their populations triple or quadruple by 2015.

Whereas none of the cities with high rates of population growth appears on both the lists for 1950-1975 and 1975-2000, the city of Surat, India is the only one to appear on both the list for 1975-2000 and that for 2000-2015. Because of the high growth rates it has experienced in the past and the continuation of those rates in the future, Surat's population is expected to grow from 642,000 in 1975 to 5.7 million by 2015, converting it into the ninth largest city in India at that time.

A. THE SIZE AND GROWTH OF LARGE CITIES

The discussion above identified three mega-cities that experienced particularly high rates of population growth over specific periods before 2000, but no large city is expected to grow at a similarly high rate in the next 15 years so as to become a new mega-city. Indeed, most large cities have experienced moderate to low rates of popula-

TABLE 55. URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH MORE THAN HALF A MILLION INHABITANTS EXHIBITING THE HIGHEST RATES OF GROWTH DURING 1950-1975, 1975-2000 AND 2000-2015

Rank	*Country*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Population (thousands)*	*Growth rate (percentage)*
			1950	*1975*	*1950-1975*
1	Republic of Korea	Seoul	1 021	6 808	7.6
2	Iraq	Baghdad	579	2 815	6.3
3	Colombia	Bogotá	676	3 071	6.1
4	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Teheran	1 042	4 274	5.6
5	Brazil	São Paulo	2 528	10 333	5.6
6	Pakistan	Karachi	1 028	3 990	5.4
7	Peru	Lima	973	3 651	5.3
8	Mexico	Mexico City	2 883	10 691	5.2
9	Venezuela	Caracas	676	2 342	5.0
			1975	*2000*	*1975-2000*
1	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	710	4 549	7.4
2	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2 173	12 519	7.0
3	Saudi Arabia	Jidda	594	3 192	6.7
4	Nigeria	Lagos	1 890	8 665	6.1
5	Guatemala	Guatemala City	715	3 242	6.0
6	India	Surat	642	2 699	5.7
7	Angola	Luanda	669	2 697	5.6
8	Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	960	3 790	5.5
9	Portugal	Porto	500	1 940	5.4
10	Afghanistan	Kabul	674	2 602	5.4
11	Bangladesh	Chittagong	969	3 651	5.3
12	Republic of Korea	Inch'on	791	2 884	5.2
13	Venezuela	Valencia	519	1 893	5.2
			2000	*2015*	*2000-2015*
1	China	Beihai	729	2 949	9.3
2	Brazil	Aparecida de Goiania	528	2 111	9.2
3	Republic of Korea	Kimhae	583	1 723	7.2
4	China	Weihai	626	1 830	7.2
5	Republic of Korea	Kunp'o	522	1 486	7.0
6	Mexico	Reynosa	548	1 290	5.7
7	Niger	Niamey	775	1 789	5.6
8	China	Dezhou	621	1 431	5.6
9	Yemen	Sana'a	1 327	3 028	5.5
10	Republic of Korea	Ansan	984	2 230	5.5
11	Uganda	Kampala	1 213	2 706	5.3
12	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Rezaiyeh	743	1 651	5.3
13	China	Shaoguan	590	1 310	5.3
14	Nepal	Kathmandu	713	1 565	5.2
15	India	Ghaziabad	928	2 027	5.2
16	Republic of Korea	Kyongju	503	1 067	5.0
17	India	Surat	2 699	5 715	5.0
18	Somalia	Mogadishu	1 157	2 444	5.0
19	China	Puyang	540	1 139	5.0

tion growth, particularly after their populations passed the 5 million mark. Table 56 lists urban agglomerations with over 5 million inhabitants in 1950, 1975, 2000 and 2015. Those with more than 10 million persons are referred to as mega-cities. The numbers of both large cities and mega-cities have been increasing, rising from 8 in 1950 to 22 in 1975, and to 39 in 2000. Over the next fifteen years a further 19 large urban agglomerations are expected to cross the 5 million population threshold to yield a total of 58 in 2015. Thus the number of large agglomerations almost tripled between 1950 and 1975, nearly doubled from 1975 to 2000, and is expected to grow by about half again in the short period between 2000 and 2015. Not only has the number of large urban agglomerations grown markedly, so has the number of people living in them. In 1950, just 54 million persons lived in such large urban agglomerations. By 2000, that number had risen to 394 million and in 2015 it is expected that 604 million persons will live in urban agglomerations of 5 million inhabitants or more.

Among large urban agglomerations, few are so large as to qualify as mega-cities. In 1950 there was only one, New York, with more than 12 million inhabitants. By 1975 there were five such mega-cities—Tokyo, New York, Shanghai, Mexico City and São Paulo in order of size, and by 2000, 11 more had emerged, making the total 16, of which 12 are in the less developed regions. In 2015 current projections put the number of mega-cities at 21, with all five of the additions located in the less developed regions.

Table 57 shows the evolution of population size for the 21 urban-agglomerations that are mega-cities in 2000 or that are expected to become mega-cities by 2015. It also presents estimates of average annual rates of growth during 1950-1975, 1975-2000 and 2000-2015. Only Dhaka in Bangladesh had a higher rate of growth in 1975-2000 than in 1950-1975. All other mega-cities experienced a decline of their growth rates between the two periods. The growth rates of most mega-cities are expected to continue declining further in 2000-2015 except for a slight increase in the growth rate of New York City. That is, higher rates of growth prevailed in 1950-1975 than the ones expected to prevail in the future, partly because today's mega-cities had much smaller populations in 1950 than they have in 2000, and hence found it easier to sustain high rates of population growth over lengthy periods.

During 1950-1975, Dhaka, Karachi, Lagos, Mexico City and São Paulo experienced the highest population growth rates among the mega-cities of 2015 (above 5 per cent per year), but only São Paulo and Mexico City had more than 2 million inhabitants in 1950. Lagos, whose rate of growth averaged 7.5 per cent per year had an initial population of just 288,000, and Dhaka, which grew at 6.6 per cent per year, had only 417,000 inhabitants in 1950. During 1975-2000, three of today's mega-cities had growth rates above 4 per cent per year: Dhaka with 7 per cent, Lagos at 6.1 per cent, and Delhi at 4.1 per cent. In addition, Istanbul, Jakarta, Karachi and Mumbai (Bombay) had growth rates above 3 per cent per year. Among those seven urban agglomerations, only Mumbai had a population that surpassed 5 million in 1975. The rest had populations in the range of 1.9 million to 5 million inhabitants. That is, the highest rates of growth in 1975-2000 among future mega-cities were experienced by cities that were still of medium-size at the beginning of the period. The cities which had the highest growth rates in 1975-2000 among the mega-cities of 2015 are all expected to have lower rates of growth during 2000-2015. Thus, these seven cities are anticipated to grow at rates of only 1.6 per cent to 4.1 per cent per year (Lagos being the highest, with Dhaka, Delhi, Karachi and Jakarta also growing at 3 per cent per year or more). Nevertheless those rates are high considering that all except Istanbul and Lagos have already attained mega-city status by 2000, with populations surpassing 10 million inhabitants.

The general reduction of the rates of population growth of mega-cities can also be gauged by considering those exhibiting the lowest rates of growth. In 1950, the only mega-city at the time, New York, also had the lowest rate of growth among all future mega-cities (1 per cent per year during 1950-1975). During 1975-2000, four of the mega-cities or future mega-cities had rates of growth lower or equal to 1 per cent: Beijing, New York, Osaka and Shanghai, all with populations of at least 8.5 million inhabitants. Furthermore, To-

TABLE 56. URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH 5 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE, 1950-2015

1950			*1975*			*2000*			*2015*		
Rank	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*
1	New York	12 339	1	Tokyo	19 771	1	Tokyo	26 444	1	Tokyo	27 190
2	London	8 733	2	New York	15 880	2	Mexico City	18 066	2	Dhaka	22 766
3	Tokyo	6 920	3	Shanghai	11 443	3	São Paulo	17 962	3	Mumbai (Bombay)	22 577
4	Paris	5 441	4	Mexico City	10 691	4	New York	16 732	4	São Paulo	21 229
5	Moscow	5 356	5	São Paulo	10 333	5	Mumbai (Bombay)	16 086	5	Delhi	20 884
6	Shanghai	5 333	6	Osaka	9 844	6	Los Angeles	13 213	6	Mexico City	20 434
7	Rhein-Ruhr North[a]	5 296	7	Buenos Aires	9 144	7	Calcutta	13 058	7	New York	17 944
8	Buenos Aires	5 042	8	Los Angeles	8 926	8	Shanghai	12 887	8	Jakarta	17 268
	TOTAL	54 459	9	Paris	8 885	9	Dhaka	12 519	9	Calcutta	16 747
			10	Beijing	8 545	10	Delhi	12 441	10	Karachi	16 197
			11	London	8 169	11	Buenos Aires	12 024	11	Lagos	15 966
			12	Rio de Janeiro	7 963	12	Jakarta	11 018	12	Los Angeles	14 494
			13	Calcutta	7 888	13	Osaka	11 013	13	Shanghai	13 598
			14	Moscow	7 623	14	Beijing	10 839	14	Buenos Aires	13 185
			15	Bombay (Mumbai)	7 347	15	Rio de Janeiro	10 652	15	Metro Manila	12 579
			16	Seoul	6 808	16	Karachi	10 032	16	Beijing	11 671
			17	Chicago	6 749	17	Metro Manila	9 950	17	Rio de Janeiro	11 543
			18	Rhein-Ruhr North[a]	6 448	18	Seoul	9 888	18	Cairo	11 531
			19	Tianjin	6 160	19	Paris	9 630	19	Istanbul	11 362
			20	Cairo	6 079	20	Cairo	9 462	20	Osaka	11 013
			21	Milan	5 529	21	Tianjin	9 156	21	Tianjin	10 319
			22	Metro Manila	5 000	22	Istanbul	8 953	22	Seoul	9 918
				TOTAL	195 224	23	Lagos	8 665	23	Kinshasa	9 883
						24	Moscow	8 367	24	Paris	9 858
						25	London	7 640	25	Bangkok	9 816
						26	Lima	7 443	26	Lima	9 388
						27	Bangkok	7 372	27	Bogotá	8 970
						28	Chicago	6 989	28	Lahore	8 721
						29	Teheran	6 979	29	Bangalore	8 391
						30	Hong Kong	6 860	30	Teheran	8 178

TABLE 56 (*continued*)

1950			*1975*			*2000*			*2015*		
Rank	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*	*Rank*	*Urban agglomeration*	*Population (thousands)*
						31	Bogotá	6 771	31	Moscow	8 141
						32	Rhein-Ruhr North[a]	6 531	32	Madras	8 068
						33	Madras	6 353	33	Hong Kong	8 025
						34	Bangalore	5 567	34	Wuhan	7 833
						35	Santiago	5 467	35	London	7 640
						36	Lahore	5 452	36	Chicago	7 603
						37	Hyderabad	5 445	37	Riyadh	7 536
						38	Wuhan	5 169	38	Hyderabad	7 513
						39	Kinshasa	5 054	39	Chongqing	7 440
							TOTAL	394 152	40	Ahmedabad	6 612
									41	Rhein-Ruhr North[a]	6 554
									42	Baghdad	6 549
									43	Santiago	6 495
									44	Chittagong	6 360
									45	Yangon	6 258
									46	Ho Chi Minh City	6 251
									47	Pune (Poona)	6 112
									48	Abidjan	6 076
									49	Surat	5 715
									50	Toronto	5 679
									51	Shenyang	5 429
									52	Kabul	5 397
									53	Belo Horizonte	5 395
									54	Guatemala City	5 268
									55	Bandung	5 245
									56	Hanoi	5 227
									57	Jidda	5 183
									58	Luanda	5 144
										TOTAL	604 367

[a] Rhein-Ruhr North is the urban agglomeration around Essen.

TABLE 57. EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE 21 URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE MEGA-CITIES IN 2015 AND AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES

Country	Urban agglomeration	Population (thousands)				Growth rate (percentage)		
		1950	1975	2000	2015	1950-1975	1975-2000	2000-2015
Japan	Tokyo	6 920	19 771	26 444	27 190	4.2	1.2	0.2
Bangladesh	Dhaka	417	2 173	12 519	22 766	6.6	7.0	4.0
India	Mumbai (Bombay)	2 981	7 347	16 086	22 577	3.6	3.1	2.3
Brazil	São Paulo	2 528	10 333	17 962	21 229	5.6	2.2	1.1
India	Delhi	1 391	4 426	12 441	20 884	4.6	4.1	3.5
Mexico	Mexico City	2 883	10 691	18 066	20 434	5.2	2.1	0.8
United States	New York	12 339	15 880	16 732	17 944	1.0	0.2	0.5
Indonesia	Jakarta	1 452	4 814	11 018	17 268	4.8	3.3	3.0
India	Calcutta	4 446	7 888	13 058	16 747	2.3	2.0	1.7
Pakistan	Karachi	1 028	3 990	10 032	16 197	5.4	3.7	3.2
Nigeria	Lagos	288	1 890	8 665	15 966	7.5	6.1	4.1
United States	Los Angeles	4 046	8 926	13 213	14 494	3.2	1.6	0.6
China	Shanghai	5 333	11 443	12 887	13 598	3.1	0.5	0.4
Argentina	Buenos Aires	5 042	9 144	12 024	13 185	2.4	1.1	0.6
Philippines	Metro Manila	1 544	5 000	9 950	12 579	4.7	2.8	1.6
China	Beijing	3 913	8 545	10 839	11 671	3.1	1.0	0.5
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	2 965	7 963	10 652	11 543	4.0	1.2	0.5
Egypt	Cairo	2 410	6 079	9 462	11 531	3.7	1.8	1.3
Turkey	Istanbul	1 077	3 601	8 953	11 362	4.8	3.6	1.6
Japan	Osaka	4 147	9 844	11 013	11 013	3.5	0.4	0.0
China	Tianjin	2 374	6 160	9 156	10 319	3.8	1.6	0.8

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to population in 2015.

kyo, the largest urban agglomeration at the time, grew at just 1.2 per cent per year during 1975-2000. Over the period 2000 to 2015, 10 of the 21 mega-cities of 2015 will have growth rates of at most 1 per cent per year.

A similar analysis can be carried out with respect to the pace of growth of urban agglomerations expected to have populations ranging between 5 million and 10 million in 2015. There are 37 urban agglomerations in this category and table 58 shows the evolution of their populations over time together with their growth rates for 1950-1975, 1975-2000 and 2000-2015. As in the case of the mega-cities, most of the large urban agglomerations of 2015 experienced a reduction in growth rates from one period to the next. In comparing 1950-1975 and 1975-2000, the exceptions are Chittagong in Bangladesh; Chongqing in China; Guatemala City in Guatemala; Hyderabad, Pune (Poona) and Surat in India; Kabul in Afghanistan, and Riyadh and Jidda in Saudi Arabia where the growth rate increased. Increases in the growth rate between 1975-2000 and 2000-2015 are expected for Chicago in the United States; Ho Chi Minh City in Viet Nam; Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; London in the United Kingdom (from negative to zero); and Wuhan in China. Note that there is no city which has growth rates that increase steadily over the three periods. In total, therefore, 9 of the 37 large urban agglomerations had increases in growth rates between the first two periods and only 5 of the 37 are expected to experience an increase from 1975-2000 to 2000-2015. For the vast majority of large cities, declining growth rates over time are the norm.

In terms of level, the average annual growth rate during 1950-1975 was 5 per cent or more in 12 of the 37 large urban agglomerations of 2015. Abidjan, capital of Côte d'Ivoire, had the highest

TABLE 58. EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE 37 URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE BETWEEN 5 MILLION AND 10 MILLION INHABITANTS IN 2015 AND AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES

Country	Urban agglomeration	Population (thousands)				Growth rate (percentage)		
		1950	1975	2000	2015	1950-1975	1975-2000	2000-2015
Republic of Korea	Seoul	1 021	6 808	9 888	9 918	7.59	1.49	0.02
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Kinshasa	173	1 735	5 054	9 883	9.23	4.28	4.47
France	Paris	5 441	8 885	9 630	9 858	1.96	0.32	0.16
Thailand	Bangkok	1 360	3 842	7 372	9 816	4.15	2.61	1.91
Peru	Lima	973	3 651	7 443	9 388	5.29	2.85	1.55
Colombia	Bogotá	676	3 071	6 771	8 970	6.05	3.16	1.87
Pakistan	Lahore	826	2 399	5 452	8 721	4.27	3.28	3.13
India	Bangalore	764	2 111	5 567	8 391	4.06	3.88	2.74
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Teheran	1 042	4 274	6 979	8 178	5.65	1.96	1.06
Russian Federation	Moscow	5 356	7 623	8 367	8 141	1.41	0.37	-0.18
India	Madras	1 397	3 609	6 353	8 068	3.80	2.26	1.59
China, Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong	1 629	3 943	6 860	8 025	3.54	2.22	1.05
China	Wuhan	1 228	2 926	5 169	7 833	3.47	2.28	2.77
United Kingdom	London	8 733	8 169	7 640	7 640	-0.27	-0.27	0.00
United States of America	Chicago	4 945	6 749	6 989	7 603	1.24	0.14	0.56
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	111	710	4 549	7 536	7.42	7.43	3.36
India	Hyderabad	1 122	2 086	5 445	7 513	2.48	3.84	2.15
China	Chongqing	1 680	2 439	4 900	7 440	1.49	2.79	2.78
India	Ahmedabad	859	2 050	4 427	6 612	3.48	3.08	2.67
Germany	Rhein-Ruhr North[a]	5 296	6 448	6 531	6 554	0.79	0.05	0.02
Iraq	Baghdad	579	2 815	4 865	6 549	6.32	2.19	1.98
Chile	Santiago	1 330	3 234	5 467	6 495	3.55	2.10	1.15
Bangladesh	Chittagong	290	969	3 651	6 360	4.83	5.31	3.70
Myanmar	Yangon	687	1 760	4 393	6 258	3.76	3.66	2.36
Viet Nam	Ho Chi Minh City	1 213	2 808	4 619	6 251	3.36	1.99	2.02
India	Pune (Poona)	592	1 345	3 655	6 112	3.28	4.00	3.43
Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	59	960	3 790	6 076	11.19	5.49	3.15
India	Surat	219	642	2 699	5 715	4.30	5.74	5.00
Canada	Toronto	1 068	2 770	4 752	5 679	3.81	2.16	1.19
China	Shenyang	2 091	3 697	4 828	5 429	2.28	1.07	0.78
Afghanistan	Kabul	216	674	2 602	5 397	4.55	5.40	4.86
Brazil	Belo Horizonte	385	2 095	4 224	5 395	6.77	2.81	1.63
Guatemala	Guatemala City	428	715	3 242	5 268	2.06	6.05	3.24
Indonesia	Bandung	511	1 493	3 409	5 245	4.29	3.30	2.87
Viet Nam	Hanoi	280	1 884	3 751	5 227	7.62	2.75	2.21
Saudi Arabia	Jidda	119	594	3 192	5 183	6.45	6.72	3.23
Angola	Luanda	138	669	2 697	5 144	6.30	5.57	4.31

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to population in 2015.

[a] Rhein-Ruhr North is the urban agglomeration around Essen.

growth rate (11.2 per cent per year), followed by Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose population grew at a rate of 9.2 per cent per year. In addition, three of the large agglomerations of 2015 had annual growth rates in the range of 7 per cent to 8 per cent per year: Hanoi in Viet Nam, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and Seoul in the Republic of Korea. Among the 12 large agglomerations with growth rates above 5 per cent per year, only two had 1950 populations higher than a million (Seoul in the Republic of Korea and Teheran in Iran), and three others (Baghdad in Iraq, Bogotá in Colombia and Lima in Peru) had populations of more than 500,000 inhabitants but fewer than a million. That is, seven of the 12 large agglomerations of 2015 that experienced very high rates of growth during 1950-1975 had fewer than 500,000 inhabitants in 1950.

The generalized decline in growth rates over time among the large urban agglomerations of 2015 also implies that fewer agglomerations exhibited high rates of population growth during 1975-2000 than in 1950-1975. Thus, during 1975-2000 only eight of the 37 large urban agglomerations had annual growth rates of 5 per cent or more: Chittagong (Bangladesh), Abidjan (Ghana), Surat (India), Luanda (Angola), Guatemala City (Guatemala), Kabul (Afghanistan), and Jidda and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). Among them, the highest growth rates were in the two cities of Saudi Arabia at 7.4 per cent per year for Riyadh and 6.7 per cent per year for Jidda. All of these eight agglomerations had fewer than a million inhabitants in 1975.

During 2000-2015 none of the 37 large agglomerations of 2015 is expected to grow at a rate higher than 5 per cent. The highest growth rates projected are in the range of 4 per cent to 5 per cent, the highest being that of Surat (India), followed by in descending order by Kabul (Afghanistan), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Luanda (Angola). With the exception of Kinshasa, whose population was estimated at more than 5 million for 2000, the other three had fewer than 3 million inhabitants each.

At the other end of the spectrum, during 1950-1975 there was one large city, London in the United Kingdom, whose growth rate was negative at –0.3 per cent per year. Another large urban agglomeration, Rhein-Ruhr North, the agglomeration around Essen in Germany, had a growth rate of 0.8 per cent per year, and four other cities had growth rates under 2 per cent per year: Chicago, Chongqing, Moscow and Paris. All except Chicago and Chongqing had more than 5 million inhabitants in 1950, meaning that they were among the largest urban agglomerations in the world at the time. In fact, aside from New York whose population had already surpassed 10 million in 1950, there were then just seven cities with more than 5 million inhabitants—Buenos Aires, Rhein-Ruhr North (Essen), London, Moscow, Paris, Shanghai and Tokyo—followed by Chicago whose population was 4.9 million. All the other large cities of 2015 had less than 2.1 million inhabitants in 1950. Among the eight with populations ranging from 4.9 million to 8.7 million, the highest growth rate was that of Paris (at nearly 2 per cent per year). That is, large urban agglomerations of the 1950s tended to experience fairly low rates of population growth.

During 1975-2000 the number of large urban agglomerations experiencing rates of growth below 1 per cent per year increased to five and an additional four had growth rates below 2 per cent per year. Among these nine, only three (Teheran in Iran, Ho Chi Minh City in Viet Nam and Shenyang in China) had under 5 million inhabitants in 1975. In 2000-2015, the five agglomerations with the lowest growth rates since 1975 plus Seoul are expected to experience even lower population growth with growth rates that are virtually zero. The exception is Chicago, whose growth rate is projected to be 0.6 per cent per year.

In sum, among most urban agglomerations expected to have more than 5 million inhabitants by 2015, population growth rates have tended to be moderate or low, especially once a population of more than 2 million has been reached. The most populous urban agglomerations of the developed world have exhibited low population growth rates since 1950 and are projected to grow very slowly if at all during 2000-2015. Among the future large urban agglomerations, the highest rates of population growth have occurred in those located in developing countries, during periods when their

population was still relatively small. Yet, even among the large urban agglomerations of the developing world, rates of population growth above 5 per cent per year sustained over lengthy periods have been exceptional.

B. CITY PRIMACY

In some countries, the urban population is highly concentrated in a single city or urban agglomeration. The most populous city of each country accounts for the highest proportion of the urban population in that country. In this report, that city will be considered to be the primate city and its degree of primacy will be measured by the proportion of the urban population living in that city. Capital cities are very often the primate cities of countries but primate cities are not always capital cities. In small countries or areas, it is easy for virtually all the urban population to be concentrated in a single city. In those cases, the primate city may account for close to 100 per cent of the urban population. Even in larger countries, primate cities sometimes account for more than half of the total urban population.

Table 59 displays a list of all countries in which primate cities accounted for at least 40 per cent of the urban population in 1975. Among the 38 cities listed, only 13 had more than a million inhabitants and, with the exceptions of Buenos Aires and Seoul, all had less than 4 million inhabitants. Buenos Aires, with 9.1 million inhabitants, accounted for 44 per cent of the urban population of Argentina, while Seoul with 6.8 million had 40 per cent of the urban population of the Republic of Korea. Two urban agglomerations, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Area of China, and Singapore, were the only ones that accounted for 100 per cent of the urban populations of their countries or areas. Other primate cities accounting for large proportions of the urban population in their country tended to belong to small but highly urbanized countries such as Armenia, Israel, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon or Uruguay, or to small or medium-sized countries with low levels of urbanization such Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Congo or Mozambique. The most populous country with a high level of primacy was Thailand, whose population in 1975 was over 41 million.

In 2000, there were 34 countries whose primate cities accounted for at least 40 per cent of the urban population. In contrast with those identified for 1975, 27 of those 34 cities had at least a million inhabitants in 2000 (table 60). However, just 13 had more than 2 million inhabitants, indicating that cities with a high degree of primacy have tended to be located in countries with small urban populations. As in 1975, the cities of Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China, and Singapore constituted the whole of the urbanized area in their respective countries or areas and they were both among the largest cities in the group. The other populous cities with a high degree of primacy were Bangkok in Thailand with over 7 million inhabitants, Santiago in Chile with close to 5.5 million, and Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, Athens in Greece, Guatemala City in Guatemala and Lisbon in Portugal, each with a population in the range of 3 million to 4 million inhabitants. Among these relatively large cities, the degree of primacy was very high for Guatemala City, which accounted for 72 per cent of the urban population of Guatemala. Lisbon in Portugal and Bangkok in Thailand also had a high degree of primacy, accounting each for close to 60 per cent of the urban population in its respective country. According to table 60, in 2000 there were another five countries with degrees of primacy of 60 per cent or higher, namely, Beirut in Lebanon, Brazzaville in the Congo, Luanda in Angola, Panama City in Panama and Port-au-Prince in Haiti, but all those cities had populations well below 3 million in 2000.

Trends in the degree of primacy varied considerably among the cities accounting for large proportions of the urban population in 2000. For 16 of the 34 cities considered, the degree of primacy had increased between 1975 and 2000 and in eight of those cases the increases recorded amounted to 8 percentage points or more. A particularly large increase in the degree of primacy had been experienced by Guatemala City in Guatemala (from 32 per cent in 1975 to 72 per cent in 2000), followed by Kabul in Afghanistan (from 36 per cent to 55 per cent), Lusaka in Zambia (22 per cent to 40 per cent) and Mogadishu in Somalia (31 per cent to 48 per cent). In some of those countries the higher concentration of the urban population in the capital city resulted from civil strife and

TABLE 59. POPULATION OF CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PRIMACY IN 1975

Rank	*Country*	*City*	*Population in 1975 (thousands)*	*Proportion of the urban population in the city in 1975*
1	China, Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong	3 943	100.0
2	Singapore	Singapore	2 263	100.0
3	Guinea	Conakry	561	84.4
4	Kuwait	Kuwait City	682	80.8
5	Congo	Brazzaville	340	67.1
6	Costa Rica	San José	526	62.9
7	Panama	Panama City	528	62.5
8	Thailand	Bangkok	3 842	62.0
9	Angola	Luanda	669	60.8
10	Lebanon	Beirut	1 062	57.3
11	Greece	Athens	2 738	54.7
12	United Arab Emirates	Dubai	180	54.5
13	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	397	54.3
14	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	575	53.9
15	Paraguay	Asunción	551	53.2
16	Puerto Rico	San Juan	948	51.4
17	Armenia	Yerevan	911	51.2
18	Mozambique	Maputo	456	50.6
19	Mongolia	Ulan Bator	356	50.6
20	Uruguay	Montevideo	1 178	50.1
21	Latvia	Riga	789	49.1
22	Ireland	Dublin	833	48.9
23	Azerbaijan	Baku	1 429	48.8
24	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	1 094	47.8
25	Senegal	Dakar	768	46.8
26	Portugal	Lisbon	1 168	46.4
27	Sierra Leone	Freetown	288	45.9
28	Jordan	Amman	500	44.6
29	Uganda	Kampala	399	44.4
30	Zimbabwe	Harare	529	44.3
31	Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	960	44.3
32	Argentina	Buenos Aires	9 144	43.5
33	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	165	42.1
34	Iraq	Baghdad	2 815	41.6
35	Israel	Tel Aviv-Jaffa	1 206	41.4
36	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Tripoli	611	41.0
37	Georgia	Tbilisi	993	40.8
38	Republic of Korea	Seoul	6 808	40.2

TABLE 60. POPULATION OF THE CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PRIMACY IN 2000 AND CHANGES IN THEIR DEGREE OF PRIMACY BETWEEN 1975 AND 2000

Rank	*Country*	*City*	*Population in 2000*	*Proportion of the urban population in the city*		*Difference between 2000 and 1975*
				1975	*2000*	
1	China, Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong	6 860	100.0	100.0	0.0
2	Singapore	Singapore	4 018	100.0	100.0	0.0
3	Panama	Panama City	1 173	62.5	73.0	10.5
4	Guatemala	Guatemala City	3 242	32.4	71.8	39.4
5	Congo	Brazzaville	1 306	67.1	66.2	-0.9
6	Lebanon	Beirut	2 070	57.3	66.0	8.7
7	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	1 769	53.9	60.9	6.9
8	Angola	Luanda	2 697	60.8	60.0	-0.8
9	Portugal	Lisbon	3 861	46.4	59.8	13.4
10	Thailand	Bangkok	7 372	62.0	59.2	-2.8
11	Armenia	Yerevan	1 407	51.2	55.3	4.1
12	Guinea	Conakry	1 232	84.4	55.0	-29.5
13	Afghanistan	Kabul	2 602	35.5	54.6	19.1
14	Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	3 790	44.3	54.3	10.0
15	Mongolia	Ulan Bator	764	50.6	53.3	2.7
16	Latvia	Riga	761	49.1	52.0	2.9
17	Sierra Leone	Freetown	800	45.9	49.6	3.6
18	Greece	Athens	3 116	54.7	48.9	-5.9
19	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	1 070	54.3	48.3	-6.0
20	Somalia	Mogadishu	1 157	30.8	47.9	17.1
21	Kuwait	Kuwait City	879	80.8	47.8	-33.0
22	Georgia	Tbilisi	1 406	40.8	47.5	6.6
23	Puerto Rico	San Juan	1 388	51.4	47.1	-4.3
24	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	2 563	47.8	46.8	-1.0
25	Azerbaijan	Baku	1 948	48.8	46.7	-2.1
26	Senegal	Dakar	2 078	46.8	46.5	-0.3
27	Ireland	Dublin	985	48.9	43.9	-5.0
28	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	831	42.1	43.6	1.5
29	Uruguay	Montevideo	1 324	50.1	43.2	-7.0
30	Chile	Santiago	5 467	39.9	41.9	2.0
31	Paraguay	Asunción	1 262	53.2	41.0	-12.2
32	Costa Rica	San José	961	62.9	40.5	-22.4
33	Zimbabwe	Harare	1 791	44.3	40.2	-4.2
34	Zambia	Lusaka	1 653	22.1	40.0	18.0

NOTE : Urban agglomerations are ordered according to the degree of primacy in 2000.

rising migration from the countryside to the capital city because there was no other equally important attraction pole.

Among the 18 cities where the degree of primacy had either remained constant or declined between 1975 and 2000, especially large reductions were recorded by Kuwait City in Kuwait (from 81 per cent to 48 per cent), Conakry in Guinea (from 84 per cent to 55 per cent), San José in Costa Rica (from 63 per cent to 41 per cent), and Asunción in Paraguay (from 53 per cent to

41 per cent). Significant, though smaller, reductions occurred in Cambodia, Greece, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. However, by 2000 the degree of primacy in all those countries still remained high.

A different trend is expected during 2000-2015, when most cities accounting for a high proportion of the urban population in their country are expected to experience a reduction in the degree of primacy. According to table 61, a smaller number of countries or areas—31 compared to 34 in 2000 and 38 in 1975—expect their largest urban agglomeration to account for at least 40 per cent of their urban population. Among the 28 where the degree of primacy changes between 2000 and 2015, 20 will experience a decline in urban primacy and eight an increase. All of the changes will be small in magnitude, with the largest reductions ranging from 4 to 5.5 percentage points. The

TABLE 61. POPULATION OF THE CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PRIMACY IN 2015 AND CHANGES IN THEIR DEGREE OF PRIMACY BETWEEN 2000 AND 2015

Rank	*Country*	*City*	*Population in 2015*	*Proportion of the urban population in the city*		*Difference between 2015 and 2000*
				2000	*2015*	
1	China, Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong	8 025	100.0	100.0	0.0
2	Singapore	Singapore	4 756	100.0	100.0	0.0
3	Panama	Panama City	1 543	73.0	72.4	-0.6
4	Guatemala	Guatemala City	5 268	71.8	69.9	-1.9
5	Congo	Brazzaville	2 259	66.2	65.8	-0.3
6	Lebanon	Beirut	2 500	66.0	64.0	-2.0
7	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	2 864	60.9	61.5	0.7
8	Portugal	Lisbon	4 544	59.8	58.5	-1.4
9	Latvia	Riga	761	52.0	56.6	4.6
10	Angola	Luanda	5 144	60.0	56.1	-4.0
11	Armenia	Yerevan	1 490	55.3	56.1	0.8
12	Thailand	Bangkok	9 816	59.2	55.9	-3.3
13	Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	6 076	54.3	55.5	1.2
14	Mongolia	Ulan Bator	993	53.3	54.1	0.8
15	Guinea	Conakry	2 073	55.0	51.7	-3.2
16	Afghanistan	Kabul	5 397	54.6	50.4	-4.2
17	Georgia	Tbilisi	1 406	47.5	48.0	0.5
18	Greece	Athens	3 138	48.9	46.0	-2.8
19	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	3 397	46.8	45.9	-0.9
20	Azerbaijan	Baku	2 137	46.7	45.4	-1.2
21	Sierra Leone	Freetown	1 506	49.6	45.3	-4.2
22	Puerto Rico	San Juan	1 584	47.1	45.1	-2.0
23	Senegal	Dakar	3 481	46.5	44.9	-1.6
24	Somalia	Mogadishu	2 444	47.9	44.2	-3.7
25	Kuwait	Kuwait City	1 136	47.8	42.4	-5.5
26	United Arab Emirates	Dubai	1 229	39.2	41.6	2.3
27	Zambia	Lusaka	2 733	40.0	40.9	0.8
28	Uruguay	Montevideo	1 411	43.2	40.7	-2.4
29	Chile	Santiago	6 495	41.9	40.7	-1.2
30	Ireland	Dublin	1 149	43.9	40.7	-3.2
31	Zimbabwe	Harare	3 013	40.2	40.1	0.0

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to the degree of primacy in 2015.

largest reductions are expected in the cases of Freetown in Sierra Leone, Kabul in Afghanistan, Kuwait City in Kuwait and Luanda in Angola. By 2015, no mega-city will have a high degree of primacy, though Bangkok and Santiago will each have over 6 million inhabitants and primacy levels of 56 per cent and 41 per cent respectively. Other urban agglomerations with populations surpassing 5 million and expected to maintain a high degree of primacy are Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Guatemala City in Guatemala, Kabul in Afghanistan, and Luanda in Angola.

The data in tables 59 to 61 suggest that high levels of primacy tend to occur in countries with small urban populations, and therefore primate cities accounting for over 40 per cent of a country's population tend not to have very large populations. This conclusion is supported by consideration of the degree of primacy of all primate cities with at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000. Figure 20 shows a plot of the degree of primacy of each city in relation to its population size in 2000. Clearly, cities accounting for at least 40 per cent of the urban population of their of the urban population of their respective countries tend to cluster at the lower end of the scale representing population size, whereas cities with larger populations tend to account for smaller percentages of the total urban population in each country and must therefore be in more populous countries.

It is also of interest to explore changes in the degree of primacy over time with respect to all primate cities that had at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000. It has been shown that between 1975 and 2000 about half the cities with high degrees of primacy in 2000 experienced an increase of their degree of primacy and about half experienced a decline. Yet, most of the changes in primacy levels expected during 2000-2015 are small in magnitude and imply a reduction of the degree of primacy. However, when all primate cities are considered and not just those with levels of primacy above 40 per cent, the trends observed are somewhat different. Between 1975 and 2000, more primate cities experience a decline in the level of primacy than the reverse (figure 21). Specifically, out the 114 primate cities with a popula-

Figure 20. Percentage of urban population in primate city (degree of city primacy) in relation to city population in 2000

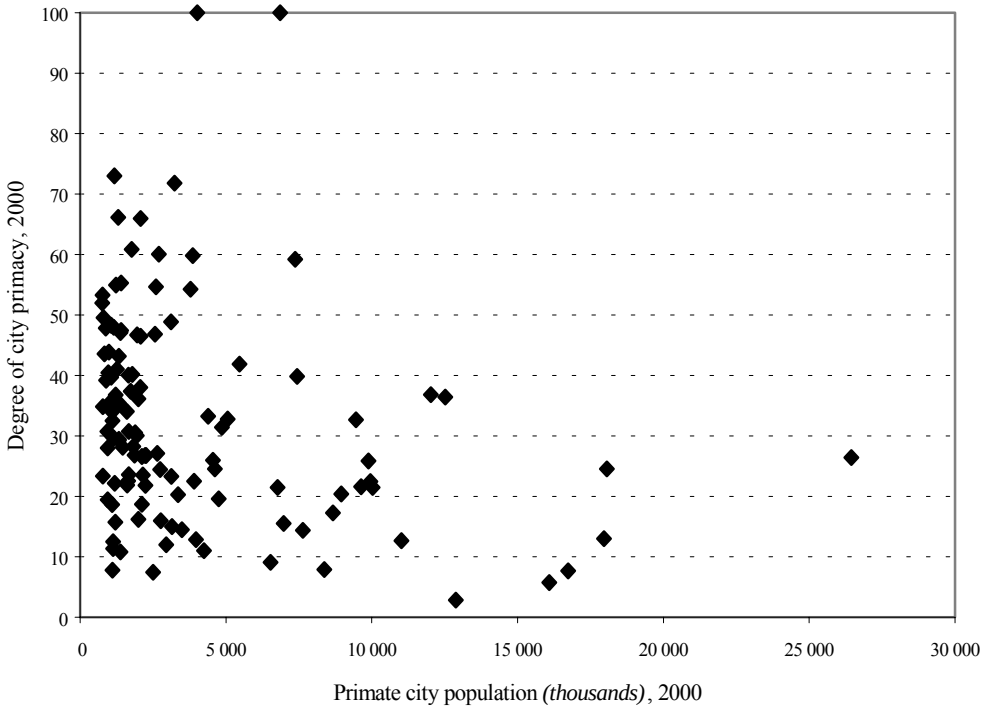
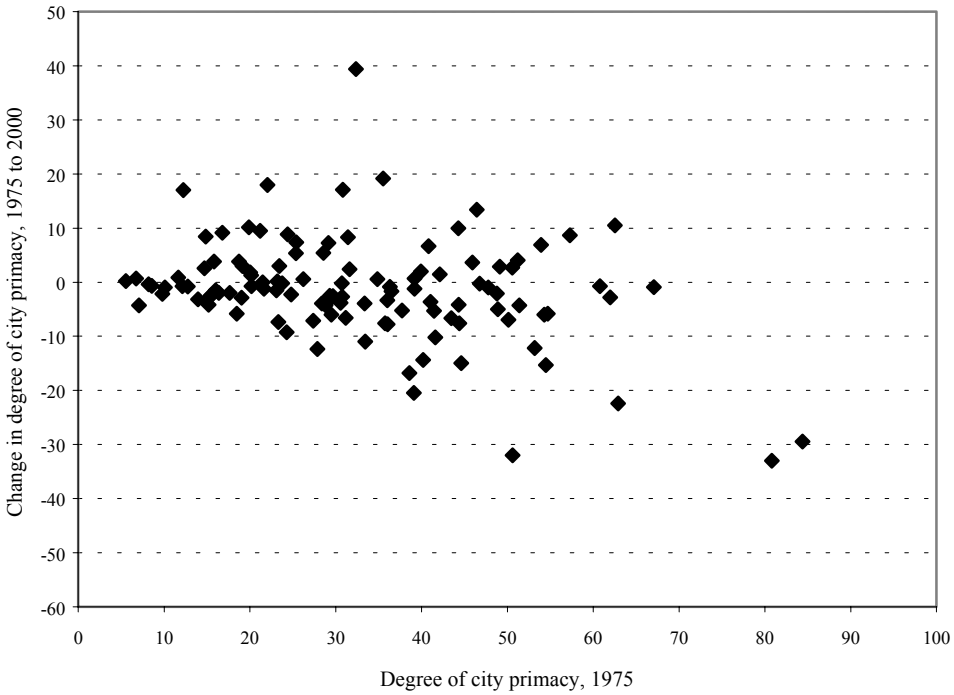


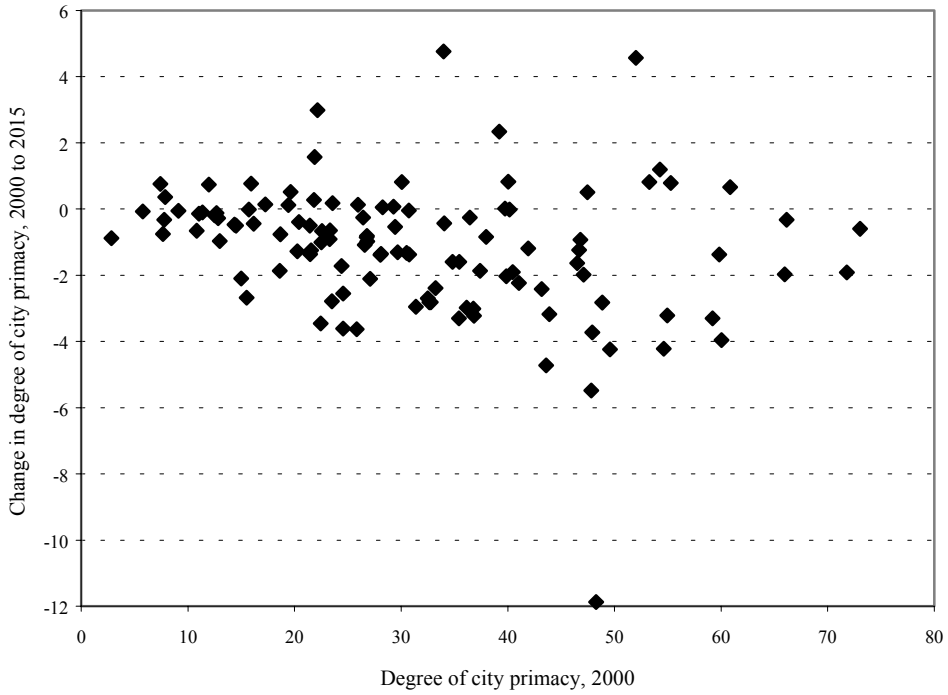
Figure 21. Change in degree of city primacy between 1975 and 2000 in relation to degree of city primacy in 1975



tion of at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2000, slightly over half or 61 experienced a reduction of the degree of primacy between 1975 and 2000. Declines were especially prevalent among primate cities with high levels of primacy in 1975.

During 2000-2015, declines in primacy are expected to become more general, with most primate cities expected to see their degree of primacy reduced (101 out of 114), although the reductions will be small, rarely surpassing 4 percentage points (figure 22). That is, in comparison with the more substantial changes in primacy experienced by numerous primate cities over the course of the second half of the twentieth century, the changes expected during the next fifteen years are minor. However, the declining level of primacy of most primate cities with populations of at least 750,000 inhabitants indicates that, as the overall levels of urbanization of countries increase, there is a greater diversification of the urban system and the largest cities tend to see their preponderance eroded by the growth of medium-sized and smaller urban centres.

Figure 22. Change in degree of city primacy between 2000 and 2015 in relation to degree of city primacy in 2000



VII. PROCEDURES TO ESTIMATE AND PROJECT THE POPULATION OF URBAN AREAS AND URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

The estimation and projection of the urban population is based on observed changes in the proportion of the population living in urban areas. Therefore, the quality of the estimates and projections made is highly dependent on the quality of the basic information permitting the calculation of the proportion urban. Such information consists normally of complete counts of both the total population in a country and the total population living in urban areas. Censuses or population registers are the most common sources of those counts. To be accurate, the proportion urban should be based on counts of the total and the urban population that achieve similar levels of coverage and that reflect properly the division of the territory into urban and rural areas. However, because of the complexity and variety of situations in which the urbanization process has taken place, it is not always straightforward to divide the inhabited territory into urban and rural areas. Indeed, the criteria used to identify urban areas vary from country to country and may not be consistent even between different data sources within the same country. Furthermore, as the process of urbanization proceeds, the number and extension of the areal units qualifying as urban generally expand, so that keeping an urban versus rural division of the territory constant over time would be misleading and would likely result in a major underestimation of the actual proportion of the population living in areas with urban characteristics.

In preparing estimates and projections of the urban population, the United Nations relies on the data produced by national sources that reflect the definitions and criteria established by national authorities. It has long been recognized that, given the variety of situations in the countries of the world, it is not possible or desirable to adopt uniform criteria to distinguish urban areas from rural areas (see, for instance, United Nations, 1967 and 1969). Thus, stipulating that any areal unit with at least 5,000 inhabitants, for instance, is to be considered urban is not appropriate in populous countries such as China or India where rural settlements with none of the characteristics typical of urban areas often have large numbers of inhabitants. Clearly, national statistical offices are in the best position to establish the most appropriate criteria to characterize urban areas in their respective countries.

The urban and city projections presented in this report are based on the definitions used for statistical purposes by the countries and areas constituting the world. Those definitions have been compiled and appear in chapter VIII. An analysis of that set of definitions indicates that 109 of the 228 countries or areas considered use administrative criteria to make a distinction between urban and rural, 89 of which use it as the sole criterion to make that distinction (table 62). In 96 cases, the criteria used to characterize urban areas include population size or population density, solely in the case of 46 countries or in combination with other criteria (in 52 countries). However, the lower limit above which a settlement is considered urban varies considerably, ranging between 200 and 50,000 inhabitants. Economic characteristics were part of the criteria used to identify urban areas in 27 countries or areas, including all the successor States of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and criteria related to the functional nature of urban areas, such as the existence of paved streets, water-supply systems, sewerage systems or electric lighting, were part of the definition of urban in 24 cases. Lastly, in another 24 cases no definition of "urban" was available and in a further six the entire population of a country or area was considered to be urban.

In considering the differences among countries regarding the definitions of urban areas, it is useful to focus on differences in the nomenclature used. As table 63 shows, 56 countries use a vari-

TABLE 62. DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA USED IN DEFINING URBAN AREAS, *2001 REVISION*

Criterion	*Sole use*	*Used in conjunction with other criteria*	*Percentage according to sole use*	*Percentage according to use in conjunction with other criteria*
Administrative	89	109	39.0	47.8
Size	46	98	20.2	43.0
Functional	5	24	2.2	10.5
Economic	0	27	0.0	11.8
Entire population	6	6	2.6	2.6
Economic and size	23	—	10.1	—
Functional and size	15	—	6.6	—
Administrative and size	12	—	5.3	—
Administrative and functional	4	—	1.8	—
Administrative and economic	2	—	0.9	—
Administrative, economic and size	2	—	0.9	—
No definition	24	24	10.5	10.5
Total number of countries or areas	228	228	100.0	—

TABLE 63. NOMENCLATURE USED TO IDENTIFY THE PRIMARY UNITS CONSTITUTING URBAN AREAS

	Number			*Percentage*		
Nomenclature	*Sole use*	*Use in conjunction with other nomenclature*	*Sum*	*Sole use*	*Use in conjunction with other nomenclature*	*Sum*
(*a*) Localities	26	16	42	11.4	7.0	18.4
(*b*) Minor civil divisions	19	0	19	8.3	0.0	8.3
(*c*) Administrative centers	23	3	26	10.1	1.3	11.4
(*d*) Cities, towns, villages, urban centres, urban areas, agglomerations, places	56	2	58	24.6	0.9	25.4
(*e*) Specified by name	47	5	52	20.6	2.2	22.8
(*f*) Entire population	6	0	6	2.6	0.0	2.6
(*g*) Nomenclature could not be ascertained	25	0	25	11.0	0.0	11.0
TOTAL	202	26	228	88.6	11.4	100.0

ety of terms, some of which are unequivocally linked to the concept of urban (such as "city", "town", "urban center", "urban area" or "agglomeration"), but also other terms that are more ambiguous or vague, such as "village" or "place". In a further 47 countries, urban areas are identified in terms of specific locations, that is, a list of specific cities is provided as the definition of urban areas. Only 26 countries use solely the term "locality" to identify the basic territorial units employed to identify urban areas, as suggested by international recommendations. Administrative centres is the term used by a further 23 countries and 19 countries used minor civil divisions. When countries that use a combination of terms are also considered, the number employing the term "locality" rises to 42 and that using a list of specified names to 52. In sum, available definitions of urban areas suggest

that countries use quite different approaches in determining the basic territorial units amenable to classification as urban or rural.

Despite the variety of criteria used to distinguish urban from rural areas and the resulting heterogeneity, no independent adjustment of national statistics is made unless it is clear that the definitions used by a given country have changed over time in ways that lead to inconsistencies in the data. Such adjustments eliminate the erratic peaks and troughs in urban growth resulting from changes in definition. However, despite efforts to avoid inconsistencies within countries, it is not always possible to adjust the data available in ways that ensure consistency. In some cases, inconsistencies remain precisely because the data needed to make the necessary adjustment are lacking. In cases where adjustment is possible, every effort is made to adjust earlier data so as to conform to the most recent definitions. Yet, in a few cases, it is necessary to use a definition different from all those used by a country in order to maximize comparability over time.

In the case of cities, population statistics are often reported in terms of the territory delimited by administrative boundaries that do not necessarily coincide with the extent of the urbanized territory as delimited by other standards. Thus, the city proper as defined by administrative boundaries may not include suburban areas where an important proportion of the population working or studying in the city lives. Furthermore, in some cases two or more adjacent cities may be separately administered, although they might form jointly a single urbanized region. Alternatively, in some cities administrative boundaries may cover large tracts of land devoted to agriculture, especially if the produce is intended for city consumption. Because of these problems it is advisable to base the measurement of a city's population on territorial boundaries different from those established by the accidents of administrative history. Two auxiliary concepts have been used to improve the comparability of measurements of city populations across countries and over time, since they are not affected by changes in administrative boundaries. The first is that of urban agglomeration and it refers to the population contained within the contours of contiguous territory inhabited at urban levels of residential density. The second is that of metropolitan region, which entails a more extensive definition of the territory of interest. Thus, a metropolitan region includes both the contiguous territory inhabited at urban levels of residential density and additional surrounding areas of lower settlement density that are also under the direct influence of the city (e.g., through frequent transport, road linkages, commuting facilities etc.).

In compiling information on city population size, the Population Division has endeavoured to use data or estimates based on the concept of urban agglomeration. When those data are not available, population data relative to the city as defined by its administrative boundaries are used. It is recognized, however, that when the administrative boundaries of cities remain fixed for long periods of time, they are likely to misrepresent the actual growth of a city in both territorial and population terms. Only when administrative boundaries change with relative frequency can one assume that they are reflecting the actual territorial expansion of the urbanized area linked to the functioning of the city and inhabited at urban levels of population density. For a number of cities, the data available refer to both the city proper as defined by administrative boundaries and to its metropolitan area. In those instances, the data referring to the metropolitan area are usually preferred because they are thought to approximate better the territory associated with the urban agglomeration than the data based on administrative boundaries. However, the population of the metropolitan area is also likely to be larger than that of the urban agglomeration associated with it, so an upward bias is thus introduced.

For any given city, an effort is made to ensure that the time series of population estimates derived from national sources conforms to the same definition over time. Adjustments are made when necessary to achieve internal consistency. Often, the changes involved demand that the criterion on which the population of a city is based be changed. That is the case when data on a city in terms of the urban agglomeration are available for only one or

two points in time and there is a longer and more consistent series of data on the population of the city proper. In those circumstances, the data on the city proper, based on administrative boundaries, are used instead of those on the urban agglomeration since a sufficiently long time series based on the latter concept is normally not possible to reconstruct from the data available. When such reconstruction is possible, it is undertaken.

In the *2001 Revision*, the city data for 90 of the 228 countries or areas considered was based on the concept of urban agglomeration (table 64). In a further 9 countries, the data for the capital city was reported in terms of urban agglomeration, whereas data for other cities in the same country did not always conform to the definition of urban agglomeration. For an additional 109 countries or areas the city data available reflected the definition of city proper, and in four countries or areas different definitions were used for different cities. No information on definitions was available for three countries or areas. Adjustment of city data was carried out when information for a particular city has changed over time and, if at all possible, the urban agglomeration concept was used. However, when recent data were based on the concept of city proper and there was insufficient information to adjust the data to reflect the population in the urban agglomeration, a time series based on the city proper definition was used.

TABLE 64. DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA USED IN DEFINING CITY POPULATIONS

Criterion	*Sole use*	*Used in conjunction with other criteria*
City proper	109	121
Urban agglomeration	90	102
Metropolitan area	13	18
Capital is urban agglomeration; other cities are city proper, urban agglomerations or metropolitan areas	1	—
Capital is urban agglomeration; other cities are city proper or urban agglomerations	7	—
Capital is urban agglomeration; other cities are city proper or metropolitan areas	1	—
City proper, urban agglomeration or metropolitan area	3	—
City proper or urban agglomeration	1	—
No definition	3	3
Total number of countries or areas	228	228

A. THE ESTIMATION OF URBAN INDICATORS OVER THE ESTIMATION PERIOD

Aside from varying in terms of underlying definitions, the data available for different countries vary in terms of their time references. Because census dates are not the same for all countries, estimates of the proportion urban or of city populations derived from census data refer to different points in time and are not directly comparable among countries. Nor is there consistency among countries in the reference dates of official estimates of urban or city populations. Consequently, to facilitate comparisons, estimates for specific points in time have to be made. Interpolation or extrapolation based on the data actually available is used to produce estimates of the proportion urban or of city populations referring to 1 July of the years 1950, 1955, 1960 etc. The most recent estimate derived in that way should refer to the year that is a multiple of five and immediately precedes the reference date of the most recent data available. From that point on, the projection procedure is used to complete the time series until 2030 for the proportion urban and until 2015 for city populations.

Given that the large majority of countries have data on the proportion urban referring to the 1990s, the numbers referring to 1990 or 1995 are usually estimates derived by interpolation between observed values. Consequently, 1950-1995 is considered to be the estimation period whereas 1996-2030 is the projection period since, for all countries or areas, the values for 2000-2030 are obtained by projecting the figures relative to 1950-1995. Clearly the more recent the latest information on the proportion urban available for a given country or area, the more likely that projections over the short-term future may approximate true

trends. Among the 228 countries or areas considered in this *Revision*, for 205 (90 per cent) the most recent data available referred to 1990-2001 and, among them, 131 (58 per cent) had data for 1995 or later. Only for three countries did the most recent data refer to periods before 1980 (table 65).

The proportion of the population living in urban areas is estimated or projected, as the case may be, by country or area for the period 1950-2030 in five-year intervals. Once values of the proportion urban at the national level are established for the 1950-2030 period, they are applied to the estimates and projections of the total national population of each country or area derived from *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision* (United Nations, 2001) so as to obtain the corresponding urban population for 1950 to 2030. At a later stage, country level estimates and projections are aggregated to obtain the figures corresponding to regions, major areas and the world.

Calculation of the proportion urban during the estimation period involves interpolation between recorded figures and extrapolation back to 1 July 1950 when the earliest of recorded figures refer to a later date. Such interpolation or extrapolation to 1950 is based on the *urban-rural ratio (URR)*, defined as the ratio of the urban to the rural population, that is:

$$URR(t) = U(t)/R(t) \qquad (1)$$

where U(t) and R(t) denote the urban and the rural populations at time t, respectively. The urban-rural ratio at time t is directly related to the percentage urban ($PU(t)$) since

$$PU(t) = URR(t)/[1+URR(t)] \qquad (2).$$

Letting $rur(t,n)$ denote the growth rate of the urban-rural ratio between time t and $t+n$, we have that

TABLE 65. DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS ACCORDING TO MOST RECENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Date of most recent information	*Number of countries or areas*	*Percentage*
Before 1980	3	1.3
1980-1984	7	3.1
1985-1989	13	5.7
1990-1994	74	32.5
1995-1999	92	40.4
2000+	39	17.1
TOTAL	228	100.0

$$rur(t,n) = \ln(URR(t+n)/URR(t))/n \qquad (3)$$

where, substituting *URR* for its equivalent according to (1), we obtain

$$rur(t,n) = [\ln(U(t+n)/R(t+n)) - \ln(U(t)/R(t))]/n = [\ln(U(t+n)) - \ln(R(t+n)) - \ln(U(t)) + \ln(R(t))]/n =$$

$$[\ln(U(t+n)/U(t)) - \ln(R(t+n)/R(t))]/n = u(t,n) - r(t,n) \qquad (4)$$

where $u(t,n)$ denotes the growth rate of the urban population between t and $t+n$, and $r(t,n)$ is the growth rate of the rural population between the same time points. That is, the growth rate of the urban-rural ratio is equivalent to the difference between the growth rates of the urban and the rural populations. Therefore, $rur(t,n)$ is known as the urban-rural growth difference and it is the basis for the interpolation and extrapolation of the proportion urban. Thus, if T is any time point within the intercensal period (t, $t+n$),

$$URR(T) = URR(t)\exp[rur(t,n)(T-t)] \qquad (5).$$

The same equation can be applied to obtain extrapolated values of *URR* when T is outside the intercensal period and (t,$t+n$) is the intercensal period closest to it.

The use of (5) for interpolation and extrapolation purposes implies that *rur* is assumed to remain constant during each intercensal period and during the period 1950 to the reference date of the

second observation available. Once an estimate of $URR(T)$ is available, it can be converted to $PU(T)$ by using equation (2).

B. PROJECTION OF THE PROPORTION URBAN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The United Nations has developed a parsimonious and fairly straightforward method for the projection of the proportion urban. The United Nations projection method was first used in the 1970s (United Nations, 1974 and 1980) and, although it has undergone some revisions since then, the general estimation approach has not changed. Basically, the method projects the most recent urban-rural growth difference observed by assuming that the proportion urban follows a logistic path that attains a maximum growth rate when the proportion urban reaches 50 per cent and whose asymptotic value is 100 per cent.

Normally, an extrapolation based on a simple logistic curve would imply that the urban-rural growth difference remains constant over the projection period. Yet empirical evidence shows that the urban-rural growth difference declines as the proportion urban increases because the pool of potential rural-urban migrants decreases as a fraction of the urban population, while it increases as a fraction of the rural population. Consequently, a model for the evolution of the urban-rural growth difference was developed so that it would evolve over the projection period, passing from the last observed value to a universal norm consistent with general world-wide experience so far. The norm is expressed in terms of a hypothetical urban-rural growth difference, denoted by *hrur*, which has been obtained by regressing the initial observed percentage urban on the urban-rural growth difference for the 113 countries with more than 2 million inhabitants in 1995. The resulting regression equation is:

$$hrur = 0.037623 - 0.02604 PU(t_0) \qquad (6)$$

where $PU(t_0)$ is the proportion urban at the time of the initial census.

Equation (6) implies that, as the initial level of urbanization increases, *hrur* decreases. When the initial proportion urban is zero, an urban-rural growth difference of 0.0376 can be expected; when the proportion urban is 0.5, an *hrur* of 0.0246 can be expected; and when the proportion urban is 1, an *hrur* of 0.0116 can be expected.

The projection of the proportion urban is carried out, based on a weighted average of the observed urban-rural growth difference for the most recent period available in a given country and the hypothetical urban-rural growth difference. The weights are such that the earlier the projection period, the greater the weight given to the observed *rur*. In this way, the empirical urban-rural growth difference for a country approaches the hypothetical value in a smooth way, with the country's current characteristics having a lower weight and the world norm having a higher weight the further into the future one projects.

Specifically, a weight (W_1) of 0.8 is assigned to the most recently observed *rur* and a weight (W_2) of 0.2 to *hrur* for the first projection period. With each subsequent projection period, the weight for *hrur* is incremented by 0.2 until W_1 becomes 0.0 and W_2 reaches 1.0; these weights are then maintained unchanged until 2030. The projected urban-rural growth difference, *rur**, is therefore calculated as follows:

$$rur^* = W_1 rur + W_2 hrur \qquad (7).$$

Then, the urban-rural ratio can be calculated as:

$$URR(t_2) = URR(t_1) \exp(rur^*(t_2 - t_1)) \qquad (8)$$

where t_1 is the last date with an estimate or a projected value of the proportion urban and t_2 is the next projection date. Each projected value of *URR* is converted into a proportion urban *PU* by using equation (*2*).

In order to derive the urban population at the national level, the proportion urban is multiplied by the total population of each country, obtained from the independent projections published in

World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision (United Nations, 2001). With respect to the estimates and projections of the urban population at the regional level, the urban populations of all the countries in the region are added up. Lastly, regional totals are aggregated to derive the estimates and projections at the world level.

C. PAST ESTIMATES OF CITY POPULATIONS

Estimates and projections of the population of cities with an estimated population of 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2000 are calculated for the period 1950-2015 and presented for every year that is a multiple of five within that period. However, in order to carry out a more comprehensive monitoring of population growth in cities, all those reaching a population of 100,000 or more within the 1950-2000 period are considered, provided data on their population size is available from a census or population register. Furthermore, once a city has reached 100,000 inhabitants, its population size continues to be monitored even if it subsequently falls below that level, provided national statistical sources continue to report data on its population. For the *2001 Revision*, a total of 3,279 cities or urban agglomerations was considered, up from 2,645 considered in the *1999 Revision*. Because countries take population censuses at different times, the actual dates of observation vary from city to city, although they are usually identical for cities within a particular country. Consequently, just as with the estimates of the proportion urban, the first step in preparing estimates and projections of city populations consists in estimating the population size of all cities for the same dates in the past.

To estimate the population of cities on 1 July of the years 1950, 1955, 1960 and so on, the procedure used is similar to that described above for the proportion urban. However, in this case instead of using the urban-rural growth difference, the interpolation or extrapolation is based on the difference between the growth rate of a city minus the growth rate of the population of the rest of the country. Specifically, if we consider the ratio of the city population at time t, $C(t)$, to the population of the rest of the country, $RES(t)$, that is

$$CRR(t) = C(t)/RES(t) \tag{9}$$

$$\text{where } RES(t) = P(t) - C(t) \tag{10}$$

and $P(t)$ is the total population of the country at time t, then the growth rate of CRR between t and $t+n$, denoted by $rcr(t,n)$, is

$$rcr(t,n) = [\ln(CRR(t+n)) - \ln(CRR(t))]/n \tag{11}$$

which is equivalent to

$$rcr(t,n) = c(t,n) - res(t,n) \tag{12}$$

where $c(t,n)$ is the growth rate of the city's population between t and t+n, and $res(t,n)$ is the growth rate of the rest of the country's population between t and $t+n$. Then, the value of CRR for any time T within the period (t, $t+n$) is given by:

$$CRR(T) = CRR(t)\exp[rcr(t,n)(T-t)] \tag{13}$$

The same equation can be applied to obtain extrapolated values of CRR when T is outside the intercensal period (t, $t+n$) and that period is the closest to T. Then, because the proportion of the total population living in the city at time T, $PC(T)$, is equivalent to:

$$PC(T) = CRR(T)/[1+ CRR(T)] \tag{14}$$

that proportion can be calculated for time T and multiplied by an independent estimate of the country's population to obtain the population of the city at time T. Such independent estimate is obtained from the country-level estimates published in *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision* (United Nations, 2001).

D. THE PROJECTION OF CITY POPULATIONS

The method used for projecting city populations is similar to that used for urban populations. The city growth rate over the most recent intercensal period is modified over the projection period so

that it approaches linearly an expected value that is based on the city population and on the growth rate of the urban population as a whole. First, if (ô, ô+í) is the most recent intercensal period for a given country or, more specifically, the period between the two most recent sets of observed city populations, the city-urban growth difference, denoted by *rcu,* is calculated as:

$$rcu(ô,í) = c(ô,í) - u(ô,í) \quad (15)$$

that is, it is the difference between the rate of population growth for the city and that for the total urban population. To project a city's population it is necessary to establish future values of *rcu* using a model.

The model used to project *rcu* was developed by regressing the observed values of *rcu* for the most recent period for which data were available for each city on the logarithm of the city's population at the beginning of that period. The regression equation was fitted to the data relative to 1,982 cities located in the 113 countries that had at least 2 million inhabitants in 1995. Although the correlation between the city-urban growth difference and the logarithm of the initial population size of each city was a low 0.0077, taking account of the influence of population size on city growth dampens the growth of the largest cities in a manner that is realistic. The fitted model is the following:

$$rcu(ô,í) = 0.017089 - 0.00144\ln(C(ô)) \quad (16)$$

where *C(ô)* is the population of the city at time ô. That is, as the population of the city increases, *rcu* decreases. Equation (16) can be used recursively to calculate $rcu(t,n)$ over the projection period. Thus, if the projection period starts at time T and we denote by $hc(T\text{-}n,n)$ the hypothetical growth rate of a city's population over the period $(T\text{-}n,T)$, it can be calculated as follows:

$$hc(T\text{-}n,n) = u(T\text{-}n,n) + rcu(T\text{-}n,n) = u(T\text{-}n,n) + 0.017089 - 0.00144\ln(C(T\text{-}n)) \quad (17).$$

Then, for the first projection period the city growth rate can be set to:

$$c(T,n) = W_1 c(T\text{-}n, n) + W_2 hc(T\text{-}n,n) \quad (18)$$

where W_1 and W_2 are weights adding to 1. To start the process, W_1 is set to 0.8 and W_2 is set to 0.2. Then each is increased by 0.2 points per quinquennium until $W_1 = 0$ and $W_2 = 1$. For each city, the projection procedure begins to be applied starting at the end of the quinquennial period that contains the most recent observed data on city population size.

Projection calculations are carried out independently for each city within a country, but a further adjustment sometimes has to be made once the projected populations of all cities are available. If the aggregated projected values of the city populations of a country grow more rapidly than the total urban population of the country, a further dampening factor is imposed on the city growth rates. When this situation arises, the growth rate of each city is reduced by the following quantity:

$$ä(t,n) = [rtc(t,n) - u(t,n)]\, TC(t)/U(t) \quad (19)$$

where $TC(t)$ is the aggregated population of cities whose populations are being projected at time t, $U(t)$ is the total urban population, $rtc(t,n)$ is the growth rate of the aggregated population of cities and $u(t,n)$ is the growth rate of the urban population. That is, the growth rate of the city would be changed to:

$$c^*(T,n) = c(T,n) - ä(T,n) \quad (20)$$

This reduction assures that the total population of cities will not exceed the total urban population, while maintaining the differences in the growth rates among cities.

Adjustments are also made to the projected growth rates of cities when the most recent growth rate observed for a city or the hypothetical growth rate for a city is less than or equal to zero. If the hypothetical growth rate for a city is less than or equal to 0, it is set to 0. If the most recently observed growth rate for a city is less than or equal to 0, the city growth rate is set equal to the urban growth rate to start a city's projection. In all cases,

however, equation (18) is used to project the city growth rate.

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VIII. SOURCES OF DATA

This chapter contains information on the sources of data used in estimating and projecting the population of urban areas and of urban agglomerations. Section A presents the sources of data and the definitions underlying the data on urban populations. The definitions presented are generally those used by national statistical offices in carrying out the latest available census. When the definition used in the latest census was not the same as in previous censuses, the data were adjusted whenever possible so as to maintain consistency. In cases where adjustments were made in such a way as to ensure consistency with the definition used in previous censuses, that information is included in the sources listed below. United Nations estimates and projections are based, to the extent possible, on actual enumerations. In some cases, however, it was desirable to incorporate official or other estimates of urban population size. When that is done, the sources of data indicate it.

Section B presents sources of data and the statistical concepts underlying the data used in estimating and projecting the populations of urban agglomerations and capital cities. The term "urban agglomeration" refers to the population contained within the contours of a contiguous territory inhabited at urban density levels without regard to administrative boundaries. It usually incorporates the population in a city or town plus that in the suburban areas lying outside of but being adjacent to the city boundaries. Whenever possible, data classified according to the concept of urban agglomeration are used. However, some countries do not produce data according to the concept of urban agglomeration but use instead that of metropolitan area or city proper. If possible, such data are adjusted to conform to the concept of urban agglomeration. When sufficient information is not available to permit such an adjustment, data based on the concept of city proper or metropolitan area are used. The sources listed in section B indicate whether data were adjusted to conform to the urban agglomeration concept or whether a different concept was used.

A. SOURCES OF DATA ON THE URBAN POPULATION

Afghanistan

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1966, 1971 and 1988; census of 1979.

Definition: Sixty-three localities.

Albania

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1969, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1990 and 1991.

Definition: Towns and other industrial centres with more than 400 inhabitants.

Algeria

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1960, 1966, 1977 and 1987; estimate for 1998.

Definition: All communes having as *chef-lieu* either a city, a rural town or an urban agglomeration.

American Samoa

Sources of data: Censuses of 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Places with 2,500 inhabitants or more and urbanized areas.

Andorra

Sources of data: Estimates for 1980, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2000.

Definition: Parishes of Andorra la Vella, Escolades-Engordany, Sant Julia, Encamp and La Massana.

Angola

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Definition: Localities with a population of 2,000 or more.

Anguilla

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1984, 1992 and 2001.

Definition: In the absence of more detailed information the entire population is considered urban.

Antigua and Barbuda

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1991.

Definition: Saint John's (capital city).

Argentina

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Population centres with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Armenia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural or non-agricultural workers and their families.

Aruba

Sources of data: Estimate for 1965; census of 1991.

Definition: Oranjestad and Sant Nicolaas.

Australia

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: One or more census divisions with urban characteristics and representing a cluster of 1,000 people or more as well as known holiday resorts of less population if they contain 250 dwellings or more of which at least 100 were occupied on census night.

Austria

Sources of data: Estimate for 1951; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Communes *(Gemeinden)* with 2,000 inhabitants or more in which less than 15 per cent of the active population is engaged in agricultural or forestry work.

Azerbaijan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agric ultural or non-agricultural workers and their families.

Bahamas

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Not available.

Bahrain

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1959, 1965, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Communes or villages with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Bangladesh

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1974, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Places having a municipality *(Pourashava)*, a town committee *(Shahar committee)* or a cantonment board. In general, urban areas are a concentration of at least 5,000 persons in continuous collection of houses where the community sense is well developed and the community maintains public utilities, such as, roads, street lighting, water supply, sanitary arrangements etc. These places are generally centres of trade and commerce where the labour force is mostly non-agricultural and literacy levels are high. An area that has urban characteristics but has fewer than 5,000 inhabitants may, in special cases, be considered urban.

Barbados

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Bridgetown (capital city).

Belarus

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 1999; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Belgium

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1961, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1991 and 2000.

Definition: Cities, urban agglomerations and urban communes.

Belize

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000.

Definition: Not available.

Benin

Sources of data: Survey of 1961; estimate for 1979; census of 1992.

Definition: Localities with 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Bermuda

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Entire population.

Bhutan

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Definition: Not available.

Bolivia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1976 and 1992; estimate for 1995.

Definition: Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Not available.

Botswana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1971, 1981, and 1991; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Agglomerations of 5,000 inhabitants or more where 75 per cent of the economic activity is non-agricultural.

Brazil

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1991, 1996 and 2000.

Definition: Urban and suburban zones of administrative centres of *municipios* and districts.

British Virgin Islands

Sources of data: Estimates for 1960 and 1970; censuses of 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Road Town and East End Long Look.

Brunei Darussalam

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Municipalities and areas having urban socio-economic characteristics.

Bulgaria

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1965, 1975 and 1985; estimates for 1992, 1994 and 1997.

Definition: Towns, that is, localities legally established as urban.

Burkina Faso

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1975 and 1985; estimates for 1991 and 1995.

Definition: Fourteen towns.

Burundi

Sources of data: Censuses of 1965, 1970, 1979 and 1990.

Definition: Commune of Bujumbura.

Cambodia

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1990, 1993 and 1996; censuses of 1962, 1980 and 1998.

Definition: Municipalities of Phnom Penh, Bokor and Kep and 13 additional urban centres.

Cameroon

Sources of data: Estimates for 1959, 1965 and 1970; censuses of 1976 and 1987.

Definition: Urban centres.

Canada

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Areas with at least 1,000 inhabitants and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometer at the previous census.

Cape Verde

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Not available.

Cayman Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Definition: Entire population.

Central African Republic

Sources of data: Survey of 1960; censuses of 1966, 1975 and 1988.

Definition: Twenty principal centres with a population of over 3,000 each.

Chad

Sources of data: Survey of 1964; estimates for 1972 and 1978; census of 1993.

Definition: Administrative centres of *prefectures*, *sous-prefectures* and administrative posts.

Channel Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Civil Parish of St. Peter Port, Guernsey; Civil Parish of St. Helier, Jersey.

Chile

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1960, 1970, 1982 and 1992; estimates for 1997 and 1998.

Definition: Populated centres with definite urban characteristics, such as certain public and municipal services.

China

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1982 and 1990 and 2000; estimates for 1964, 1970, 1975 and 1996.

Definition: Up to 1982: total population of cities and towns. Cities had to have a population of at least 100,000 or command special administrative, strategic, or economic importance to qualify as cities. Towns were either settlements with more than 3,000 inhabitants of whom more than 70 per cent were registered as non-agricultural or settlements with a population ranging from 2,500 to 3,000 of whom more than 85 per cent were registered as non-agricultural. For the 1990 census: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities; (3) population of all residents' committees in towns. For 1996 and 2000: Not available.

China, Hong Kong SAR

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950, 1996 and 2001; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986.

Definition: Hong Kong Island, New Kowloon and new towns in New Territories.

China, Macao SAR

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Definition: Macao City, including *area maritima*.

NOTE: On 30 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region of China.

Colombia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1964, 1973, 1985 and 1993; estimate for 1999.

Definition: Population living in a nucleus of 1,500 inhabitants or more.

Comoros

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1966, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Administrative centres of prefectures and localities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Congo

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1974 and 1984.

Definition: Communes of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.

Cook Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: Island of Rarotonga.

Costa Rica

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1963, 1973, 1984 and 2000.

Definition: Administrative centres of cantons, including adjacent areas with clear urban characteristics such as streets, urban services and electricity.

Côte D'Ivoire

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1975, 1988 and 1998.

Definition: Urban agglomerations containing more than 10,000 inhabitants; agglomerations with populations ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 persons with more than 50 per cent of the households engaged in non-agricultural activities; and the administrative centres of Grand Lahoun and Dabakala. Excludes the milieu urbain of Bouna, which has a population of 11,000.

Croatia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Not available.

Cuba

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1990 and 1996.

Definition: Places with 2,000 inhabitants or more, and places with fewer inhabitants but having paved streets, street lighting, piped water, sewage, a medical centre and educational facilities.

Cyprus

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956 and 1999; censuses of 1960, 1973 and 1992.

Definition: Six district towns and Nicosia's suburbs.

Czech Republic

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1970, 1980; estimates for 1994 and 2000.

Definition: Localities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1967, 1970, 1975 and 1980; census of 1993.

Definition: Not available.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1970; census of 1984.

Definition: Places with 2,000 inhabitants or more where the predominant economic activity is non-agricultural; and places with fewer inhabitants which are considered urban because of their type of economic activity (predominantly non-agricultural).

Denmark

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1990, 1996 and 2001.

Definition: Population excluding population in rural districts.

Djibouti

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956, 1963 and 1970.

Definition: Djibouti (capital city).

Dominica

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Cities and villages with 500 inhabitants or more.

Dominican Republic

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1981; estimate for 1993.

Definition: Administrative centres of Comunas and municipal districts.

East Timor

Sources of data: Censuses for 1950, 1960 and 1990.

Definition: Dili (capital city).

Ecuador

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1962, 1974, 1982 and 1990; estimates for 1996 and 2000.

Definition: Capitals of provinces and cantons.

Egypt

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.

Definition: Governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia and Suez; frontier governorates; and capitals of other governorates as well as district capitals (*markaz*).

El Salvador

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1971 and 1992; estimate for 1998.

Definition: Administrative centres of *municipios*.

Equatorial Guinea

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1983; estimate for 1991.

Definition: District centres and localities with 300 dwellings or more or with 1,500 inhabitants or more.

Eritrea

Sources of data: Census of 1984; estimates for 1950, 1967, 1989 and 1990.

Definition: Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Estonia

Sources of data: Census of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 2000; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities designated as such according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Ethiopia

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1967; censuses of 1984 and 1994.

Definition: Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Faeroe Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1966 and 1970; estimates for 1977, 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Torshavn.

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1972, 1980, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: Stanley (capital city).

Fiji

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.

Definition: Places with 1,000 inhabitants or more.

Finland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990; estimates for 1995 and 1999.

Definition: Urban communes.

France

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1962, 1968, 1975, 1982 and 1990; estimate for 1999.

Definition: Communes with 2,000 inhabitants or more living in houses separated by at most 200 metres; or communes in which the majority of the population is part of a multi-communal agglomeration of this nature.

French Guiana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1961, 1967, 1982, 1990 and 1999.

Definition: Not available.

French Polynesia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1962, 1971, 1983, 1988 and 1996; estimate for 1977.

Definition: Places with 1,000 inhabitants or more.

Gabon

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1961 and 1993.

Definition: Towns with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Gambia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1963, 1973, 1983 and 1993.

Definition: Local government areas of Banjul and Kanifing.

Georgia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1995.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria regarding the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Germany

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961 and 1970 in the former Federal Republic of Germany, and of 1950, 1964, 1971 and 1981 in the former German Democratic Republic; estimates for 1987 for the former Federal Republic of Germany and for the former German Democratic Republic; estimate for 1990 for Germany as a whole.

Definition: Communes with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Ghana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1960, 1970 and 1984; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Localities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Gibraltar

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1970, 1981; estimate for 1991.

Definition: Entire population.

Greece

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Municipalities and communes in which the largest population centre has 10,000 inhabitants or more, plus 18 urban agglomerations as defined in the 1991 census: Greater Athens, Thessaloniki, Patra, Iráklion, Vólos, Chania, Irannina, Chalkida, Agrino, Kalamata, Katerini, Kerkyra, Salamina, Chios, Egio, Rethymno, Ermoúpolis and Spárti.

Greenland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1976; estimates for 1993 and 1996.

Definition: Localities with 200 inhabitants or more.

Grenada

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1981.

Definition: Parishes of St. George's Town and St. George.

Guadeloupe

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1982, 1990 and 1999; estimates for 1961 and 1967.

Definition: Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Guam

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Places with 2,500 inhabitants or more and urbanized areas.

Guatemala

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1973 and 1981; estimates for 1990 and 1994.

Definition: The *municipio* of Guatemala Department and officially recognized centres of other departments and municipalities. The urban population for 1981 is officially adjusted to include the urbanized suburbs bordering the *municipio* of Guatemala in a way consistent with the previous census.

Guinea

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1972; censuses of 1955, 1983 and 1996.

Definition: Urban centres.

Guinea-Bissau

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1979; estimate for 1991.

Definition: Not available.

Guyana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980; estimate for 1991.

Definition: Cities of Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Upper Demerara River.

Haiti

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1971 and 1982; estimates for 1992 and 1996.

Definition: Administrative centres of communes.

Holy See

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Definition: The entire population is considered urban.

Honduras

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1974 and 1988; estimate for 1995.

Definition: Populated centres with 2,000 inhabitants or more and with the following characteristics: piped water service; communication by land (road or train) or regular air or maritime service; complete primary school (6 grades); postal service or telegraph; and at least one of the following: electrical light, sewer system, or a health centre.

Hungary

Sources of data: Censuses of 1949, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Budapest and all legally designated towns.

Iceland

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1996 and 1999.

Definition: Localities with 200 inhabitants or more.

India

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Definition: Towns (places with municipal corporation, municipal area committee, town committee, notified area committee or cantonment board); and all places having 5,000 inhabitants or more, a density of not fewer than 1,000 persons per square mile or 390 per square kilometre, pronounced urban characteristics and at least three fourths of the adult male population employed in pursuits other than agriculture.

Indonesia

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1995, 1997 and 2000; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Municipalities *(kotamadya)*, regency capitals *(kabupaten)* and other places with urban characteristics.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: All *shahrestan* (county) centres, regardless of size; and all places having municipal centres.

Iraq

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1957, 1965, 1977, 1987 and 1997.

Definition: Area within the boundaries of municipality councils *(al majlis al baldei)*.

Ireland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: Cities and towns, including suburbs, with 1,500 inhabitants or more.

Isle of Man

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986.

Definition: Borough of Douglas, town and village districts. From 1951 to 1976: Towns of Castletown, Douglas Peel and Ramsey.

Israel

Sources of data: Estimates for 1955, 1991 and 1998; censuses of 1961, 1972, 1983 and 1995.

Definition: All settlements with more than 2,000 inhabitants except those where at least one third of the households participating in the civilian labour force earn their living from agriculture.

Italy

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 1995.

Definition: Communes with 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Jamaica

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1982 and 1991.

Definition: Kingston metropolitan area and selected main towns.

Japan

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1955 and 1960; censuses of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Definition: City *(shi)* having 50,000 inhabitants or more with 60 per cent or more of the houses located in the main built-up areas and 60 per cent or more of the population (including dependants) engaged in manufacturing, trade or other urban type of business. Alternatively, a *shi* having urban facilities and urban conditions as defined by the prefectural order is considered urban.

Jordan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1961, 1979 and 1994; estimates for 1967, 1989 and 2000.

Definition: Localities with 10,000 inhabitants or more and each subdistrict centre irrespective of population size.

Kazakhstan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Kenya

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1962, 1969 and 1979; estimates for 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Towns with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Kiribati

Sources of data: Censuses of 1968, 1973, 1978, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Definition: South Tarawa (capital city).

Kuwait

Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980 and 1985; estimate for 1995.

Definition: Agglomerations of 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Kyrgyzstan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Sources of data: Estimates for 1958, 1966 and 1985; censuses of 1973 and 1995.

Definition: The five largest towns: Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Kammouan and Pakse.

Latvia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 2000; estimates for 1994 and 1995.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Lebanon

Sources of data: Estimates for 1958 and 1988; census of 1970.

Definition: Localities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Lesotho

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1986; estimate for 1972.

Definition: District headquarters and other settlements with rapid population growth and with facilities that tend to encourage people to engage in economic activities that are non-agricultural in nature.

Liberia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1962, 1974 and 1984; estimates for 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Definition: Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1964, 1973 and 1984.

Definition: Municipalities *(baladiyas)*.

Liechtenstein

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1980; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Not available.

Lithuania

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Luxembourg

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1966 and 1970; estimates for 1981, 1991, 1996 and 1999.

Definition: Communes having more than 2,000 inhabitants in the administrative center.

Madagascar

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1970; survey of 1966; censuses of 1975 and 1993.

Definition: Centres with more than 5,000 inhabitants.

Malawi

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956; censuses of 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998.

Definition: All townships, town planning areas and district centres.

Malaysia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1957 and 1991; estimates for 1970 and 1980.

Definition: Gazetted areas with their adjoining built-up areas and with a combined population of 10,000 persons or more.

Maldives

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1965, 1967, 1977, 1985, 1990 and 2000; estimate for 1995.

Definition: The capital city of Male.

Mali

Sources of data: Estimates for 1960 and 1998; censuses of 1976 and 1987.

Definition: Localities with 5,000 inhabitants or more and district centres.

Malta

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1957 and 1967; estimates for 1985 and 1995.

Definition: Towns with 1,500 inhabitants or more and district centres.

Marshall Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1973, 1980, 1988 and 1999.

Definition: The entire population of Majuro Atoll and the town of Ebeye Island on Kwajalein Atoll.

Martinique

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1982 and 1990; estimates for 1961, 1967 and 1999.

Definition: Total population of the Commune of Fort-de-France plus the agglomerations of the other communes with 2,000 inhabitants or more.

Mauritania

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1977 and 1988; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Urban centres.

Mauritius

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1962, 1972, 1983 and 1990.

Definition: Towns with proclaimed legal limits.

Mexico

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Definition: Localities with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1973, 1980 and 1994.

Definition: Localities with 1,000 inhabitants or more.

Monaco

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1962, 1968 and 1982.

Definition: Monaco (capital city).

Mongolia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1963, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 2000.

Definition: Capital and district centres.

Montserrat

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Plymoth. Due to volcanic activity, the capital Plymouth was abandoned in 1997. The interim government buildings have been built at Brades, in the Carr's Bay/Little Bay vicinity at the northwest end of Montserrat.

Morocco

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1960, 1971, 1982 and 1994.

Definition: Urban centres.

Mozambique

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1997.

Definition: From 1950 to 1970: Conselho of Maputo and Beira; in the 1980 census: 12 cities (nince provincial capitals and the cities of Nacala and Chokwe); in the 1997 census: 23 cities and 68 towns (vilas).

Myanmar

Sources of data: Survey of 1957; censuses of 1953, 1973 and 1983.

Definition: Not available.

Namibia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1981 and 1991. The censuses of 1951, 1960 and 1981 were thought to under-enumerate the rural population more than the urban population. Assuming that the urban population was completely enumerated, the proportion urban was derived by dividing the enumerated urban population by an estimate of the total population (consistent with those presented in *World Population Prospects: The 1992 Revision*). In 1981, the urban population was estimated by assuming that the population of Windhoek represented 30 per cent of the urban population as it had in 1951 and 1960.

Definition: The district headquarters and other settlements of rapid population growth with facilities that tend to encourage people to engage in non-agricultural activities.

Nauru

Sources of data: Censuses of 1977, 1983 and 1992.

Definition: Entire population.

Nepal

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Localities with 9,000 inhabitants or more (panchayats).

Netherlands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947 and 1960; estimates for 1970, 1975, 1981, 1990, 1995 and 1996.

Definition: Municipalities with 2,000 inhabitants or more; municipalities with a population of fewer than 2,000 persons but with not more than 20 per cent of their economically active male population engaged in agriculture; and specific residential municipalities of commuters.

Netherlands Antilles

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1981 and 1992.

Definition: Population of the urban agglomerations of Willemstad, Philipsburg and Kralendjik.

New Caledonia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1976, 1983, 1989 and 1996.

Definition: Urban agglomeration of Nouméa (including Dumbéa, Mont-Dore and Païta) and other urban localities (Bourail, Koné, Koumac, La Foa, Poindimé and Thio).

New Zealand

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996; estimate for 2001.

Definition: Twenty-four urban areas plus all boroughs, town districts, townships and country towns with a population of 1,000 or more.

Nicaragua

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1963, 1971 and 1995.

Definition: Administrative centres of departments and *municipios*.

Niger

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956, 1962 and 1966; censuses of 1977 and 1988.

Definition: Urban centres (27 towns).

Nigeria

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1963 and 1991; estimates for 1971, 1975 and 1983.

Definition: Towns with 20,000 inhabitants or more whose occupations are not mainly agrarian.

Niue Island

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1986, 1991 and 1997.

Definition: Alofi (capital city).

Northern Mariana Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1980, 1990 and 1995.

Definition: Places with 1,000 inhabitants or more.

Norway

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1999.

Definition: Localities with 200 inhabitants or more.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1961, 1975 and 1997.

Definition: Any locality whose population amounts to 10,000 persons or more. This applies to all *governorates*/districts centers regardless of their size. Besides, it refers to all localities whose populations vary from 4,000 to 9,999 persons provided they have, at least, four of the following elements: public electricity network, public water network, post office, health center with a full- time physician and a school offering a general secondary education certificate.

Oman

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1996; census of 1993.

Definition: Not available.

Pakistan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998.

Definition: Places with municipal corporation, town committee or cantonment.

Palau

Sources of data: Censuses of 1973, 1986, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Definition: Koror (capital city).

Panama

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Localities with 1,500 inhabitants or more having the following urban characteristics: electricity, water-supply and sewerage systems, paved roads and access to commercial establishments, secondary schools and social and recreational centres.

Papua New Guinea

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Centres with 500 inhabitants or more, excluding separately located schools, hospitals, missions, plantations, rural settlements and rural villages regardless of population size.

Paraguay

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1962, 1972, 1982 and 1992.

Definition: Administrative centres of the official districts of the Republic.

Peru

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1993.

Definition: Populated centres with 100 dwellings or more grouped contiguously and administrative centres of districts.

Philippines

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1995 and 2000.

Definition: All cities and municipalities with a density of at least 1,000 persons per square kilometre; administrative centres, barrios of at least 2,000 inhabitants, and those barrios of at least 1,000 inhabitants which are contiguous to the administrative centre, in all cities and municipalities with a density of at least 500 persons per square kilometre; and all other administrative centres with at least 2,500 inhabitants.

Pitcairn

Sources of data: Censuses of 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: No urban population. Adamstown (capital) defined according to administrative boundaries.

Poland

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1969, 1991 and 1997; censuses of 1960 and 1978.

Definition: Towns and settlements of an urban type (for example, workers' settlements, fishermen's settlements and health resorts).

Portugal

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.

Definition: Agglomerations of 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Puerto Rico

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Places with 2,500 inhabitants or more and urbanized areas.

Qatar

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956, 1963 and 1997; census of 1986.

Definition: Not available.

Republic of Korea

Sources of data: Censuses of 1955, 1960, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Definition: Cities as administratively defined.

Republic of Moldova

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2000.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Réunion

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1967 and 1982; estimates for 1990 and 1999.

Definition: Not available.

Romania

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1998; censuses of 1956, 1966, 1977 and 1992.

Definition: Cities, towns and 183 other localities having certain urban socio-economic characteristics.

Russian Federation

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1995 and 2001.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Rwanda

Sources of data: Estimate for 1960; censuses of 1970, 1978 and 1991.

Definition: Kigali; administrative centres of *préfectures* and important agglomerations and their surroundings.

Saint Helena

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1966, 1976 and 1987.

Definition: Jamestown.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Basseterre and Charlestown.

Saint Lucia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Castries (capital city).

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1962, 1982 and 1990.

Definition: Saint-Pierre (capital city).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1980; estimate for 1991.

Definition: Not available.

Samoa

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991.

Definition: Urban area of Apia, comprising the Faipule districts of Vaimuga West and Foleata East, and other urban areas.

San Marino

Sources of data: Census of 1976; estimates for 1989, 1995 and 1998.

Definition: Not available.

Sao Tome and Principe

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1981.

Definition: São Tomé and Pantufo.

Saudi Arabia

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1962, 1986 and 1992; census of 1974.

Definition: Cities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Senegal

Sources of data: Survey for 1961; censuses of 1976 and 1988; estimate for 1994.

Definition: Agglomerations of 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Seychelles

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1971, 1977 and 1987.

Definition: Victoria; for 1987 census, Victoria and other towns and townships (including Anse Boileau, Anse Royale, Cascade and Takamaka).

Sierra Leone

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1974 and 1985.

Definition: Towns with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Singapore

Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1996 and 2000.

Definition: City of Singapore.

Slovakia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1970, 1980 and 1991; estimates for 1992 and 1995.

Definition: 138 cities with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Slovenia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimates for 1994, 1995 and 1998.

Definition: Not available.

Solomon Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1970, 1976 and 1986.

Definition: Places with 1,000 inhabitants or more.

Somalia

Sources of data: Estimates for 1953 and 1963; census of 1986.

Definition: Towns with 5,000 inhabitants or more.

South Africa

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1970, 1985, 1991 and 1996.

Definition: All population agglomerations of an urban nature, without regard to local boundaries and status.

Spain

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Municipalities *(municipios)* with 10,000 inhabitants or more.

Sri Lanka

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1963, 1971 and 1981; estimate for 1990.

Definition: Municipalities, urban councils and towns.

Sudan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1973, 1983 and 1993.

Definition: Localities of administrative or commercial importance or with a population of 5,000 inhabitants or more.

Suriname

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1964 and 1971; estimates for 1980 and 1995.

Definition: Greater Paramaribo.

Swaziland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1986; estimate for 1996.

Definition: Localities proclaimed as urban.

Sweden

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990; estimates for 1992 and 2001.

Definition: Built-up areas with at least 200 inhabitants and where houses are at most 200 metres from each other.

Switzerland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1994, 1995 and 1998.

Definition: Communes with 10,000 inhabitants or more, including suburbs.

Syrian Arab Republic

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1994.

Definition: Cities, *mohafaza* centres and *mantika* centres.

Tajikistan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1990 and 1994.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Thailand

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Definition: Municipalities.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 1994; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Not available.

Togo

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959 and 1970; estimates for 1974, 1981 and 1990.

Definition: Seven urban communes.

Tokelau

No urban population. Non-self-governing territory of New Zealand.

Tonga

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.

Definition: Greater Nuku'alofa (including Kolomotu'a and Kolof'ou districts).

Trinidad and Tobago

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Port-of-Spain, Arima borough and San Fernando town.

Tunisia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1956, 1966, 1975, 1984 and 1994.

Definition: Population living in communes.

Turkey

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Population of the localities within the municipal limits of administrative centres of provinces and districts.

Turkmenistan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1992.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1975 and 1980; estimate for 1990.

Definition: Grand Turk (in 1990, including surrounding areas).

Tuvalu

Sources of data: Censuses of 1979 and 1991.

Definition: Funafuti (capital city).

Uganda

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1969, 1980 and 1991.

Definition: Cities, municipalities, towns, townboards and all trading centers with a population over 1,000 persons.

Ukraine

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1996, 1998 and 1999.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on the number of inhabitants and predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

United Arab Emirates

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1975 and 1995; census of 1980.

Definition: Not available.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981; estimate for 1991.

Definition: England and Wales: urban areas formed of continuously built-up urban land, the largest urban areas forming agglomerations in which urban sub-divisions are recognised. Scotland: urban localities, similar in concept to urban areas in England and Wales, except that the urban localities as defined do not extend across local government district boundaries. Northern Ireland: urban area formed of continuously built up land, forming an agglomeration in which urban subdivisions are recognised.

United Republic of Tanzania

Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1967, 1978 and 1988; estimates for 1973, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Definition: 16 gazetted townships.

United States of America

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Places with 2,500 inhabitants or more and urbanized areas, that is, contiguous built-up territory around a larger city.

United States Virgin Islands

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 2000.

Definition: Places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and urbanized areas.

Uruguay

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1975, 1985 and 1996.

Definition: Cities as officially defined.

Uzbekistan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to criteria based on number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.

Vanuatu

Sources of data: Censuses of 1967, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Luganville centre and Vila urban.

Venezuela

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1990; estimate for 1997.

Definition: Places with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Viet Nam

Sources of data: Estimates for 1948, 1970 and 1994; censuses of 1960, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Definition: Places with 4,000 inhabitants or more.

Wallis and Futuna

Sources of data: Censuses of 1983, 1990 and 1996.

Definition: No urban population. Mata-Utu (capital) defined according to administrative boundaries.

Western Sahara

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1994.

Definition: Not available.

Yemen

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1985 and 1993; census of 1994. The estimates for 1975 and 1985 were derived from data relative to the 1973 and 1988 censuses of the former Democratic Republic of Yemen (Aden) and from the 1975 and 1986 censuses of Yemen (Sana'a).

Definition: The urban areas in the Governorates of Aden and Sana'a, meaning, Aden, excluding the oil refinery and villages of Al Burayqah and Bi'r Fuqum (former Democratic Yemen) and six other main towns (former Yemen).

Yugoslavia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimates for 1993 and 1998.

Definition: Not available.

Zambia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1969, 1980 and 1990.

Definition: Localities of 5,000 inhabitants or more, with a majority of the labour force not in agricultural activities.

Zimbabwe

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1962 and 1982 and 1992; estimate for 1972.

Definition: Nineteen main towns.

B. SOURCES OF DATA FOR ESTIMATES OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS AND CAPITAL CITIES

Afghanistan

Kabul (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1966, 1971 and 1988; census of 1979.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Albania

Tirana (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1969, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Algeria

Algiers (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1960, 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Data refer to the *Governorate of Grand Algiers*.

American Samoa

Pago Pago (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Andorra

Andorra la Vella (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1980, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Angola

Luanda (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Anguilla

The Valley (capital)

Sources of data: Census of 1960, 1984 and 1992; estimate for 2001.

Statistical concept: Not available.

Antigua and Barbuda

Saint John's (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Argentina

Buenos Aires (capital), Córdoba, Mendoza, Rosario and San Miguel de Tucumán

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991; estimate for 2000.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Data for Buenos Aires refer to *Gran Buenos Aires*.

Armenia

Yerevan (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Aruba

Oranjestad (capital)

Sources of data: Estimate for 1965; census of 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration (includes Oranjestad West and Oranjestad East).

Australia

Canberra (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Data refer to Capital City Statistical Division.

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Austria

Vienna (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. For 1971 the population of the urban agglomeration was estimated from that of the city proper by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper as recorded by the 1961 census still applied. Similarly, the population of the urban agglomeration for 1991 was estimated from that of the city proper by assuming that the ratio of the two was the same as in 1981.

Azerbaijan

Baku (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Bahamas

Nassau (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Bahrain

Manama (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1965, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Bangladesh

Dhaka (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1974, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: *Megacity* (consists of Dhaka City Corporation, including Narayanganj, Bandar, Keraniganj, Uttara, Savar and Gazipur thana subdivisions).

Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1974, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Statistical metropolitan area.

Barbados

Bridgetown (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Belarus

Minsk (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 1999; estimate for 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979. Data for 1999 refer to city proper.

Belgium

Brussels (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1961, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1991 and 2000.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which includes Anderlecht and Schaerbeek. The 2000 estimate produced data referring to city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1991.

Belize

Belmopan (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1980, 1991 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Benin

Porto-Novo (capital)

Sources of data: Survey of 1961; estimate for 1979; census of 1992.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Bermuda

Hamilton (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Bhutan

Thimphu (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Bolivia

La Paz (administrative capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1976 and 1992; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which includes El Alto.

Sucre (legislative capital) and Santa Cruz

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1976 and 1992; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The 1981 census produced data for city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration at that date was estimated from the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper from the 1971 census.

Botswana

Gaborone (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Brazil

Brasília (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Campo Grande, Goiânia, Maceió, Manaus, Natal, São Luis and Teresina

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Campinas, Santos and São José dos Campos

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991 for Campinas and Santos; census of 1970, 1980 and 1991 for São José dos Campos.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Figures for 1991 were estimated from the ratio between the population of the urban agglomeration and that of the city proper as recorded in the 1970 census.

Belém, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Pôrto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: *Regiõe Metropolitana* (Metropolitan area).

British Virgin Islands

Road Town (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1960 and 1970; censuses of 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Brunei Darussalam

Bandar Seri Begawan (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Bulgaria

Sofia (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1965, 1975 and 1985; estimates for 1992, 1994 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1975 and 1985; estimates for 1991 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Burundi

Bujumbura (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1965, 1970, 1979 and 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1966 and 1993; censuses of 1962, 1980 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration (data refer to the Phnom Penh municipality).

Cameroon

Yaoundé (capital) and Douala

Sources of data: Estimate for 1959; censuses of 1976 and 1987.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Canada

Ottawa (capital), Calgary, Edmonton, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996; estimate for 2000.

Statistical concept: *Census Metropolitan Areas* defined as cities with a very large urbanized core, together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Ottawa includes the city of Hull.

Cape Verde

Praia (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Cayman Islands

George Town (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Central African Republic

Bangui (capital)

Sources of data: Survey of 1960; censuses of 1966, 1975 and 1988.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Chad

N'Djamena (capital)

Sources of data: Survey of 1964; estimates for 1972 and 1978; census of 1993.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Channel Islands

St. Helier (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1971, 1981, 1986 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Chile

Santiago (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1960, 1970, 1982 and 1992; estimates for 1997 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area; data refer to Gran Santiago which includes the Province of Santiago plus Puente Alto and San Bernardo.

China

Beijing (capital), Shanghai and Tianjin

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1964, 1982 and 1990; estimate for 1996.

Statistical concept: Provincial-level units under central administration.

Anshan, Baotou, Benxi, Changchun, Changsha, Chengdu, Chongqing, Dalian, Datong, Fushun, Fuxin, Fuzhou (Fujian), Guangzhou, Guiyang, Handan, Hangzhou, Harbin, Huhehaote, Jilin, Jinan, Jinzhou, Jixi, Kunming, Lanzhou, Liuzhou, Luoyang, Nanchang, Nanjing, Nanning, Qiqihar, Shenyang, Shijiazhuang, Suzhou (Jiangsu), Taiyuan, Tangshan, Wuhan, Wulumuqi (also known as Urumqi), Wuxi, Xian, Xuzhou, Yichun (Jiangxi) and Zhengzhou

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1982 and 1990; estimates for 1964 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Anshun, Changzhou, Daqing, Dongguan, Hefei, Hengyang, Huaibei, Huainan, Huzhou, Jiamusi, Jiaxing, Jingmen, Jining (Shandong), Kaifeng, Leshan, Mianyang, Mudanjiang, Ningbo, Pingxiang (Jiangxi), Shantou, Suqian, Taian, Tianshui, Wenzhou, Xianyang, Yichun (Heilongjiang), Yiyang, Zaozhuang, Zhangjiakou, Zhanjiang, Zibo and Zigong

Sources of data: Censuses of 1982 and 1990; *Liuan and Wanxian*

Sources of data: Census of 1982; estimate for 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Changde and Qingdao

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1982 and 1990; estimate for 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Chifeng, Jinxi, Nanchong, Neijiang, Shenzhen, Tongliao, Weifang and Yantai

Sources of data: Estimates for 1953 and 1996; censuses of 1982 and 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Fuyu, Heze, Hunjiang, Linqing, Linyi, Suining, Xuanzhou, Yancheng and Yueyang

Sources of data: Censuses of 1982 and 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Huaian, Liupanshui, Tianmen, Xiangxiang, Xiantao, Xiaoshan, Xinghua, Xintai, Xinyi, Xinyu, Yixing, Yongzhou, Yulin (Guangxi), Yuyao, Yuzhou, Zaoyang, Zhangjiangang and Zhaodong

Sources of data: Census of 1990; estimate for 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990 census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.
1996.

Statistical concept: City proper. For the 1990

census the data reflect: (1) all residents of urban districts in provincial and prefectural-level cities; (2) resident population of "streets" *(jiadao)* in county-level cities.

Kaohsiung and Taipei (Taiwan Province of China)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1964 and 1982; estimates for 1970, 1975 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Taichung (Taiwan Province of China)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1970, 1975 and 1996; censuses of 1982 and 1990.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

China, Hong Kong SAR
Hong Kong (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1996 and 2001; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration; consists of the population of Hong Kong Island, New Kowloon and the new towns in New Territories.

China, Macao SAR
Macao (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1970.
Statistical concept: City proper, which includes *area maritima* and *concelho* of Macao.
NOTE: On 30 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region of China.

Colombia
Santa Fé de Bogotá (capital) and Medellín
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1964, 1973, 1985 and 1993; estimate for 1999.
Statistical concept: *Metropolitan area.*

Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali and Cucuta
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1964, 1973, 1985 and 1993; estimate for 1999.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Cartagena
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1964, 1973, 1985 and 1993; estimate for 1999.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Comoros
Moroni (capital)
Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1966, 1980 and 1991.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Congo
Brazzaville (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1974 and 1984.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Cook Islands
Avarua (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Costa Rica
San José (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1973 and 1984; estimates for 1963 and 2000.
Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

Côte D'Ivoire
Abidjan (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1975 and 1988.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Croatia
Zagreb (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Cuba
Havana (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1990 and 1996.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Cyprus
Nicosia (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1956 and 1999; censuses of 1960, 1973 and 1992.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Czech Republic
Prague (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961,

1970, 1980 and 1994; estimate for 2000.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Pyongyang (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1967 and 1980; census of 1993.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Nampho
Sources of data: Estimates for 1960 and 1967; census of 1993.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Kinshasa (capital) and Lubumbashi
Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1970; census of 1984.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Denmark
Copenhagen (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1981; estimates for 1990, 1996 and 2001.
Statistical concept: Metropolitan area, refers to the Greater Copenhagen Region, including the municipalities of Frederiksberg and Gentofte and 12 municipalities covering 40 towns.

Djibouti
Djibouti (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1956, 1963 and 1970.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Dominica
Roseau (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Dominican Republic
Santo Domingo (capital) and Santiago de los Caballeros
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1993.
Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

East Timor
Dili (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1990.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Ecuador
Quito (capital) and Guayaquil
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1962, 1974, 1982 and 1990; estimates for 1996 and 2000.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Egypt
Cairo (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration which includes Giza and the *Governorate of Cairo*.

Alexandria
Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Data refer to governorate.

Shubra el Kheima
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.
Statistical concept: City proper.

El Salvador
San Salvador (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1971 and 1992.
Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

Equatorial Guinea
Malabo (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1983.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Eritrea
Asmara (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1967, 1989 and 1990; census of 1984.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Estonia
Tallinn (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 2000; estimates for 1996.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Ethiopia

Addis Ababa (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1967; censuses of 1984 and 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Faeroe Islands

Torshavn (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1966, 1970 and 1977; estimates for 1989 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Municipality.

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Stanley (capital)

Source of data: Censuses of 1972, 1980, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Fiji

Greater Suva (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Finland

Helsinki (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985 and 1990; estimates for 1995 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which includes Espoo and Vantaa.

France

Paris (capital), Lille, Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1962, 1968, 1975, 1982, 1990 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Data for Paris refer to its extended agglomeration including the city of Paris and 379 communes; data for Lille refer to the French part of its agglomeration; Lyon includes Villeurbane, and Marseilles includes Aix- en-Provence. The 1999 census produced data referring to *aire urbaine*; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the *aire urbaine* was the same as in 1990.

French Guiana

Cayenne (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1961, 1967, 1982, 1990 and 1999.

Statistical concept: City proper.

French Polynesia

Papeete (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1962, 1971, 1977, 1983, 1988 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Gabon

Libreville (capital)

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1961 and 1993.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Gambia

Banjul (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1963, 1973, 1983 and 1993.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, consists of the local government area of Banjul and Kanifing.

Georgia

Tbilisi (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Germany

Berlin (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961 and 1970 and estimate for 1987; estimates for the corresponding dates were computed for former East Berlin using censuses of 1950, 1964, 1971, 1976 and 1981 for the former German Democratic Republic as well as an estimate for 1985.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Aachen, Bielefeld, Bremen, Hamburg, Hannover, Karlsruhe, Munich, Nuremberg, Rhein-Main, Rhein-Neckar, Rhein-Ruhr Middle, Rhein-Ruhr North, Rhein-Ruhr South, Saarland and Stuttgart

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961 and 1970; estimates for 1987 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Rhein-Main includes Darmstadt, Frankfurt am Main, Offenbach am Main and Wiesbaden; Rhein-Neckar includes Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Frankenthal (Pfalz), Neustadt an der Weinstrasse and Speyer; Rhein-Ruhr Middle includes Düsseldorf, Mönchengladbach, Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal; Rhein-Ruhr North includes Duisburg, Essen, Krefeld, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Oberhausen, Bottrop, Gelsenkirchen, Bochum, Dortmund, Hagen, Hamm and Herne; Rhein-Ruhr South includes Bonn, Cologne and Leverkusen; Saarland includes Saarbrücken, Neunkirchen and Saarlouis; Nuremberg includes Erlangen and Fürth.

Ghana

Accra (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1960, 1970 and 1984.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area Accra-Tema.

Gibraltar

Gibraltar (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1970 and 1981; estimate for 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Greece

Athens (capital) and Thessaloniki

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The agglomeration of Athens includes Calithéa, Peristéri and Piraeus.

Greenland

Godthaab (Nuuk) (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1976; estimates for 1993 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Grenada

St.George's (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1981.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, it includes the parishes of St. George's Town and St. George.

Guadeloupe

Pointe-à-Pitre (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1982, 1990 and 1999; estimates for 1961 and 1967.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Guam

Agana (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1980.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Guatemala

Guatemala City (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1973 and 1981; estimate for 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Guinea

Conakry (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1955, 1960 and 1996; estimates for 1950 and 1983.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Guinea-Bissau

Bissau (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1979; estimate for 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Guyana

Georgetown (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Haiti

Port-au-Prince (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1971 and 1982; estimates for 1992 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The 1950 census produced data for the city proper only, so the population of the urban agglomeration at that date was estimated from the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper as recorded in 1971.

Holy See

Vatican City (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Statistical concept: *City state*. The figures refer to the population of the Vatican City State alone.

Honduras

Tegucigalpa (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1974 and 1988; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Hungary

Budapest (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1949, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Iceland

Reykjavik

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1996 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

India

Delhi (capital), Agra, Ahmadabad, Allahabad, Asansol, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Dhanbad, Durg-Bhilainagar, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Kochi (also known as Cochin), Kozhikode (also known as Calicut), Lucknow, Chennai (also known as Madras), Madurai, Meerut, Mumbai (also known as Bombay), Mysore, Nagpur, Nashik, Patna, Pune (also known as Poona), Rajkot, Ranchi, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchchirapalli, Vadodara, Varanasi (also known as Benares), Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Amritsar, Bhopal, Ghaziabad, Hubli-Dharwad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ludhiana and Solapur

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Statistical concept: City proper *(municipal corporation)*.

Chandigarh

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Statistical concept: City proper *(municipal corporation)*.

Faridabad

Sources of data: Censuses of 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Statistical concept: City proper *(municipal corporation)*.

Guwahati

Sources of data: Censuses of 1991 and 2001.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Srinagar

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 2001; estimate for 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Indonesia

Jakarta (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1995; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Data refer to the *functional urban area*, that is, contiguous areas which are consistently urban in character as indicated by levels of population density, economic functions and facilities. Jakarta covers five municipalities (Kotamadya): Jakarta Selatan, Jakarta Timur, Jakarta Pusat, Jakarta Barat, and Jakarta Utara. Data for 1990 did not refer to the functional urban area. Appropriate estimates were derived by using the ratio of the population in the functional urban area to that of the population in the relevant municipalities as derived from the 1980 census.

Bandung, Malang, Medan, Palembang, Semarang and Surabaja

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1961, 1971, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Data refer to the *functional urban area* as defined above. The data for 1990 had to be adjusted to represent the population in the functional urban area as detailed above.

Tegal

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1971, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: Data refer to the *functional*

urban area as defined above. The data for 1990 had to be adjusted to represent the population in the functional urban area as detailed above.

Bandar Lampung and Ujung Pandang

Sources of data: Censuses of 1971, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Data refer to the "functional urban area" as defined above. The data for 1990 had to be adjusted to represent the population in the functional urban area as detailed above.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Teheran (capital), Ahvaz, Esfahan, Mashhad, Qom, Shiraz and Tabriz

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Karaj

Sources of data: Censuses of 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Iraq

Baghdad (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1957, 1965, 1977 and 1987.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Mosul

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1957, 1965 and 1987.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Ireland

Dublin (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration; figures for 1991 were estimated using the ratio of the population in the urban agglomeration and that in the city proper as recorded in the 1986 census.

Isle of Man

Douglas (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Israel

Jerusalem (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1955, 1991, 1995 and 1998; censuses of 1961, 1972 and 1983.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Sources of data: Estimate for 1955, 1991, 1995 and 1998; censuses of 1961, 1972 and 1983.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Italy

Rome (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The 1981 and 1991 censuses provided data for city proper only; the population in the urban agglomeration at those dates was estimated using the ratio of the population in the urban agglomeration to that in the city proper as recorded by the 1971 census for each city concerned.

Florence, Genoa, Milan, Naples and Turin

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The 1981 and 1991 censuses provided data for city proper only; the population in the urban agglomeration at those dates was estimated using the ratio of the population in the urban agglomeration to that in the city proper as recorded by the 1971 census for each city concerned.

Jamaica

Kingston (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1982 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which includes St. Andrew.

Japan

Tokyo (capital), Hiroshima, Kitakyushu, Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka, Sapporo and Sendai

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1955 and 1960; censuses of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The Statistical Office of Japan has provided the list of cities, towns and villages included in the urban agglomerations associated with the following cities:

Kitakyushu, Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka and Tokyo, for each census year from 1960 to 1990. The number of cities, towns and villages included in these agglomerations has been rising as the agglomerations have expanded territorially. In 1990, the urban agglomeration of Kitakyushu consisted of the contiguous densely inhabited districts *(DID)* of Kitakyushu, two cities surrounding Kitakyushu, Fukuoka and nine cities surrounding Fukuoka. The urban agglomeration of Kyoto consisted of the *DIDs* of Kyoto and six cities surrounding Kyoto. The agglomeration of Nagoya consisted of the *DIDs* of Nagoya and of 19 cities surrounding Nagoya. The agglomeration of Osaka consisted of the *DIDs* of Osaka, 36 cities surrounding Osaka, Kobe and seven cities surrounding Kobe. Lastly, the urban agglomeration of Tokyo consisted of the contiguous *DIDs* of Tokyo-to *(ku-bu)* and those of 87 surrounding cities and towns, including such cities as Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba, comprising areas in the prefectures of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba.

Jordan

Amman (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1961, 1979 and 1994; estimates for 1967, 1989 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Kazakhstan

Astana (formerly, Akmola: capital) and Almaty (formerly Alma-Ata)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Kenya

Nairobi (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1962, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Kiribati

South Tarawa (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1968, 1973, 1978, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Kuwait

Kuwait City (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Vientiane (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1958 and 1966; censuses of 1973, 1985 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Latvia

Riga (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 2000; estimates for 1994 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Lebanon

Beirut (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1958 and 1988; census of 1970.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Lesotho

Maseru (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1986; estimate for 1972.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Liberia

Monrovia (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1962, 1974 and 1984; estimate for 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Tripoli (capital) and Benghazi

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1964, 1973 and 1984.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Liechtenstein

Vaduz (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1980; estimate for 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Lithuania

Vilnius (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg-Ville (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960 and 1970; estimates for 1981, 1991, 1996 and 1999.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Madagascar

Antananarivo (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1970; survey of 1966; censuses of 1975 and 1993.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Malawi

Lilongwe (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1957, 1970, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Maldives

Male (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1965, 1967, 1977, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mali

Bamako (capital)

Sources of data: Estimate for 1960; censuses of 1976, 1987 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Malta

Valletta (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1957, 1967, 1985 and 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration which includes all the localities of the Inner Harbour Region.

Marshall Islands

Majuro (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1973, 1980, 1988 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Martinique

Fort-de-France (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1982 and 1990; estimates for 1961, 1967 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Mauritania

Nouakchott (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1964, 1977, 1988 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mauritius

Port Louis (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 1983.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mexico

Mexico City (capital), Guadalajara, Monterrey and Puebla

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: *Zona metropolitana* (metropolitan area), which includes several *municipios*.

León, Mérida, Puebla, San Luis Potosí and Torreón

Sources of data: Census of 1950.

Statistical concept: *Conurbación* (urban agglomeration), which includes several *localidades*.

León, Mérida, Puebla, San Luis Potosí and Torreón

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: *Zona metropolitana* (metropolitan area), which includes several *municipios*.

Toluca

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960 and 1970.

Statistical concept: *Conurbación* (urban agglomeration), which includes several *localidades*.

Toluca

Sources of data: Censuses of 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: *Zona metropolitana* (metropolitan area), which includes several *municipios.*

Ciudad Juárez, Culicán, Mexicali, Querétaro and Tijuana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980.

Statistical concept: *Localidad* (city proper).

Ciudad Juárez, Culicán, Mexicali, Querétaro and Tijuana

Sources of data: Censuses of 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: *Zona metropolitana* (metropolitan area), which includes several *municipios.*

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Palikir (capital)

Sources of data: No data available.

Monaco

Monaco (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1962, 1968 and 1982.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1963, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Montserrat

Plymouth (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991. Due to volcanic activity, the capital Plymouth was abandoned in 1997. The interim government buildings have been built at Brades, in the Carr's Bay/Little Bay vicinity at the northwest end of Montserrat.

Statistical Concept: City proper.

Morocco

Rabat (capital) and Casablanca

Sources of data: Censuses of 1952, 1960, 1971, 1982 and 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Rabat includes Salé and Temara.

Fes

Sources of data: Estimates for 1952 and 1960; censuses of 1971, 1982 and 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Marrakech

Sources of data: Estimate for 1952; censuses of 1960, 1971, 1982 and 1994.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mozambique

Maputo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Myanmar

Yangon (capital)

Sources of data: Survey of 1957; censuses of 1953, 1973 and 1983.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Mandaly

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1973 and 1983.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Namibia

Windhoek (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Nauru

Nauru (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1977, 1983 and 1992.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Nepal

Kathmandu (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper (municipality).

Netherlands

Amsterdam (capital) and Rotterdam

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947 and 1960; estimates for 1970, 1975, 1981, 1990, 1995 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Netherlands Antilles

Willemstad (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960 and 1981.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The 1981 census provided data for city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration at that date was estimated using the ratio of the population in the urban agglomeration to that in the city proper derived from the 1960 census.

New Caledonia

Noumea (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1976, 1983, 1989 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Greater Noumea includes the comunes of Païta, Dumbéa and Mont-Doré.

New Zealand

Wellington (capital) and Auckland

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Nicaragua

Managua (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1963, 1971 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Niger

Niamey (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956, 1962 and 1966; censuses of 1977 and 1988.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Nigeria

Abuja (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1983; census of 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Ibadan

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953 and 1963; estimates for 1971, 1975, 1983 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Lagos

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953 and 1963; estimates for 1971 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Ogbomosho

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953 and 1963; estimates for 1971, 1975, 1983 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Niue Island

Alofi (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1986, 1991 and 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Northern Mariana Islands

Saipan (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1980, 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Norway

Oslo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimate for 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Ramallah (capital)

Sources of data: Census for 1961 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration (includes Ramallah and Al-Bireh).

Oman

Muscat (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960 and 1996; census of 1993.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Pakistan

Islamabad (capital), Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Rawalpindi

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Palau

Koror (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1973, 1986, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Panama

Panama City (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which includes all *localidades* of the Provincia de Panamá except Capira and Chepo.

Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1971, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Paraguay

Asunción (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1962, 1972, 1982 and 1992.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

Peru

Lima (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1993.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area. Gran Lima includes the capitals of the departments of Lima and Callao as well as surrounding populated centres.

Philippines

Metro Manila (capital) and Davao

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Pitcairn

Adamstown (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1986 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Area defined according to administrative boundaries.

Poland

Warsaw (capital), Crakow, Gdansk, Katowice and Lodz

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1969 and 1991; censuses of 1960 and 1978.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data for 1978 and 1991 referred to the population in the city proper only; the population in the urban agglomeration at those dates was estimated using the ratio of the population in the urban agglomeration to that in the city proper as derived from the 1969 data.

Portugal

Lisbon (capital) and Porto

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Puerto Rico

San Juan (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: *Urbanized area*, that is, the contiguous built-up territory in and around the city.

Qatar

Doha (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1956 and 1963; census of 1986 and 1997.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Republic of Korea

Seoul (capital), Inch'on, Kwangju, Pusan, Taegu and Taejon

Sources of data: Censuses of 1955, 1960, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan city.

Ansan

Sources of data: Estimate for 1955; censuses of 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

P'ohang

Sources of data: Censuses of 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Puch'on and Songnam
Sources of data: Censuses of 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.
Statistical concept: City proper.
Suwon
Sources of data: Censuses of 1955, 1960, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Ulsan
Sources of data: Censuses of 1966, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Republic of Moldova
Kishinev (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1994 and 1997.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Réunion
Saint-Denis (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1954, 1967, 1982, 1990 and 1999.
Statistical concept: City proper, which may include rural areas.

Romania
Bucharest (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1950 and 1998; censuses of 1956, 1966, 1977 and 1992.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Russian Federation
Moscow (capital) and Saint Petersburg
Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1995.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Chelyabinsk, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhni Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Perm, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Saratov, Tolyatti, Ufa, Volgograd and Voronezh
Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1995.
Statistical concept: City proper.
Ulyanovsk
Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Rwanda
Kigali (capital)
Sources of data: Estimate for 1960; censuses of 1970, 1978 and 1991.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Saint Helena
Jamestown (capital)
Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1966, 1976 and 1987.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Saint Kitts and Nevis
Basseterre (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Saint Lucia
Castries (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration, which refers to All Castries and includes Castries Town, Castries Sub-Urban and Castries Rural.

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon
Saint-Pierre (capital)
Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1962, 1982 and 1990.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Kingstown (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1960 and 1991; censuses of 1970 and 1980.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Samoa
Apia (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

San Marino

San Marino (capital)
Sources of data: Census of 1976; estimates for 1989, 1995 and 1998.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Sao Tome and Principe

São Tomé (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1981.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh (capital) and Jidda
Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1962, 1974 and 1992.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Mecca
Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1974 and 1992.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Dammam and Medina
Sources of data: Censuses of 1974 and 1992.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Senegal

Dakar (capital)
Sources of data: Survey for 1961; censuses of 1976 and 1994.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Seychelles

Victoria (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1971, 1977 and 1987.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Sierra Leone

Freetown (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1974 and 1985.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Singapore

Singapore (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1996 and 2000.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Slovakia

Bratislava (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1970, 1980 and 1991; estimate for 1992.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Slovenia

Ljubljana (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971 and 1981; estimates for 1994 and 1998.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Solomon Islands

Honiara (capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1970, 1976 and 1986.
Statistical concept: City proper.

Somalia

Mogadishu (capital)
Sources of data: Estimates for 1953 and 1963.
Statistical concept: City proper.

South Africa

Pretoria (administrative capital) and East Rand
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1970, 1985 and 1991; estimate for 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Bloemfontein (judicial capital)
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1970, 1985, 1991 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Cape Town (legislative capital) and Durban
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1970, 1985, 1991 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Johannesburg
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960 and 1970; estimates for 1985, 1991 and 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Port Elizabeth
Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1960, 1970, 1985 and 1991; estimate for 1996.
Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Spain

Madrid (capital) and Barcelona

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

Sri Lanka

Colombo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1963, 1971 and 1981; estimate for 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Sudan

Khartoum (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1973, 1983 and 1993.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Suriname

Paramaribo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1964 and 1971; estimates for 1980 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Swaziland

Mbabane (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1986.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Sweden

Stockholm (capital) and Göteborg

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990; estimate for 1992.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Switzerland

Bern (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1995 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Zürich

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; estimates for 1995 and 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Syrian Arab Republic

Damascus (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1981; estimate for 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Aleppo and Homs

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979. The estimate for 1994 refer to the city proper.

Thailand

Bangkok (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1947, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Metropolitan area.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Skopje (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 1994.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Togo

Lomé (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970 and 1974; estimate for 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Tokelau

No capital. Non-self-governing territory of New Zealand.

Tonga

Nuku'alofa (capital)

Sources of data: Estimate for 1950; censuses of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Greater Nuku'alofa includes the districts of Kolomotu'a and Kolof'ou.

Trinidad and Tobago

Port-of-Spain (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Tunisia

Tunis (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1946, 1956, 1966, 1975, 1984 and 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Turkey

Ankara (capital) and Istanbul

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. Ankara includes Altindag, Cankaya, and Yenimahalle; Istanbul includes Adahalar, Bakiroy, Besistas, Beykoz, Beyogiu, Eminonu, Eyup, Faith, Gazi Osmanpasa, Kadikoy, Sariyen, Sisli, Uskudar and Zeytinburnu.

Adana and Bursa

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Municipality.

Izmir

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Municipality. Izmir includes Karsiyaka.

Gaziantep

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1997.

Statistical concept: Municipality.

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1992.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Grand Turk (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1975 and 1980; estimate for 1990.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Tuvalu

Funafuti (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1979 and 1991.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Uganda

Kampala (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1969, 1980 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Ukraine

Kiev (capital), Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkov, Lvov, Odessa and Zaporozhye

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimates for 1996, 1998 and 1999.

Statistical concept: City proper.

United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi (capital)

Sources of data: Estimate for 1975; censuses of 1980 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Dubai

Sources of data: Estimate for 1975; censuses of 1980 and 1995.

Statistical concept: City proper.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

London (capital), Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Tyneside (Newcastle)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The urban agglomeration of Birmingham is also known as West Midlands urban area and it includes Birmingham, Dudley, Oldbury/Smeth-wick, Solihull,

Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and 8 other urban divisions. The urban agglomeration of Leeds is also known as the West Yorkshire urban area and it includes Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Wakefield and 21 other urban divisions. The urban agglomeration of London is also known as the Greater London urban area, which includes 62 urban divisions. The urban agglomeration of Manchester is also known as the Greater Manchester urban area, which includes Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport and 49 other urban divisions.

United Republic of Tanzania

Dodoma (capital)

Source of data: Censuses of 1978 and 1988.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Dar es Salaam

Sources of data: Censuses of 1957, 1967, 1978 and 1988; estimate for 1973.

Statistical concept: City proper.

United States of America

Washington D.C. (capital), Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo-Niagra Falls, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus (Ohio), Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville (Florida), Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami-Hialeah, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, Oklahoma City, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland-Vancouver, Providence-Pawtucket, Riverside-San Bernardino, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose, Seattle, St. Louis, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Data refer to the *urbanized area* in and around every city, which consists of the contiguous built-up territory in and around each large city. The urbanized area of Atlanta includes Marietta; that of Boston includes Cambridge, Framingham, Gloucester, Lynn, Salem, and Waltham; that of Chicago includes Chicago Heights, Evanston, North Chicago and Waukegan in the State of Illinois and East Chicago, Gary and Hammond in the State of Indiana; that of Cincinnati includes parts in the States of Kentucky and Ohio; that of Dallas includes Arlington, Fort Worth and Irving; Detroit includes Dearborn and Pontiac; that of Houston includes Baytown; that of Kansas City includes parts in the States of Kansas and Missouri and Olathe in the State of Kansas; that of Los Angeles includes Anaheim, Burbank, Long Beach, Pasadena, Pomona and Santa Ana; that of Louisville includes New Albany in the State of Kentucky; that of Memphis includes parts in the States of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee and West Memphis in the State of Arkansas; that of Miami includes Hialeah and Miami Beach; that of Milwaukee includes Waukesha; that of Minneapolis includes Bloomington and St. Paul; that of New York includes Elizabeth, Hoboken, Jersey City, Newark, New Brunswick, Paterson and Perth Amboy in the State of New Jersey and White Plains in the State of New York; that of Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News includes Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach; that of Oklahoma City includes Norman; that of Philadelphia includes Camden in the State of New Jersey and Norristown borough in the State of Pennsylvania; that of Phoenix includes Mesa, Scottsdale and Tempe; that of Pittsburgh includes McKeesport; that of Portland-Vancouver includes Portland and Vancouver in the State of Washington; that of Providence-Pawtucket includes Attleboro in the State of Massachusetts and Pawtucket and Woonsocket in the State of Rhode Island; that of Sacramento includes Roseville; that of St. Louis includes Belleville, East St. Louis and Granite in the State of Illinois and St. Charles in the State of Missouri; that of San Diego includes Escondido; that of San Francisco-Oakland includes Berkeley, Livermore, Oakland and Vallejo; San Jose includes Palo Alto; Seattle includes Auburn and Everett; and that of Washington D.C. includes the Districts of Columbia and parts in the States of Maryland and Virginia and Arlington CDP in Virginia.

United States Virgin Islands

Charlotte Amalie (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Uruguay

Montevideo (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1975, 1985 and 1996.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Uzbekistan

Tashkent (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989; estimate for 1997.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data include communities under the authority of the Town Council. The 1989 census produced data referring to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration for that date was estimated by assuming that the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper was the same as in 1979.

Vanuatu

Vila (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1979, 1989 and 1999.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Venezuela

Caracas (capital), Barquisimeto, Ciudad Guayana, Maracaibo, Maracay and Valencia

Sources of data: Censuses of 1950, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1990.

Statistical concept: *Area metropolitana* (metropolitan area).

Viet Nam

Hanoi (capital), Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City

Sources of data: Estimates for 1948 and 1970; censuses of 1960, 1979 and 1989.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Wallis and Futuna

Mata-Utu (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1983, 1990 and 1996.

Statistical concept: Area defined according to administrative boundaries.

Western Sahara

Laayoune (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1994.

Statistical concept: City proper.

Yemen

Sana'a (capital)

Sources of data: Estimates for 1950, 1960, 1975, 1985 and 1993; census of 1994.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Yugoslavia

Belgrade (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991; estimate for 1998.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration. The data from the 1981 census referred to the city proper only; the population of the urban agglomeration at that date was estimated by using the ratio of the population of the urban agglomeration to that of the city proper as derived from the 1971 census.

Zambia

Lusaka (capital)

Sources of data: Censuses of 1963, 1969, 1980 and 1990.

Statistical concept: Urban agglomeration.

Zimbabwe

Harare (capital) and Bulawayo

Sources of data: Censuses of 1951, 1962, 1982 and 1992; estimate for 1972.

Statistical concept: City proper.

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