

# Urban Agglomerations 2007

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

Urban agglomeration	Country	Population (millions)			Average annual rate of change (per cent)			Population residing in agglomeration, 2007, as percentage of		
		1975	2007	2025	1975	2007	2025	Total population	Urban population	
<b>A</b>										
Abidjan	Côte d'Ivoire	1.0	3.8	6.0	3.2	2.1	19.7	41.0		
Abuja	Nigeria	0.1	1.6	3.4	4.3	25.2	13.9	8.3	2.5	
Accra	Ghana	0.7	2.1	3.4	25.2	17.8	13.5	3.2	2.1	
Adana	Turkey	0.5	1.3	1.6	33.9	33.0	34.0	1.8	1.0	
Addis Ababa	Ethiopia	0.9	3.1	6.2	19.9	10.6	5.5	3.8	3.7	
Adeleide	Australia	0.9	1.1	1.1	18.7	41.0	42.5	0.4	0.2	
Aggr	India	0.7	1.6	2.4	271	249	222	2.4	2.2	
Ahmadabad	India	2.1	5.4	7.7	7.2	4.6	4.5	2.2	2.0	
Al-Kuwayf (Kuwait City)	Kuwait	0.7	2.1	3.0	266	184	167	4.0	1.2	
Al-Iskandariyah (Alexandria)	Egypt	2.2	4.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	2.0	1.6	
Al-Khartoum (Khartoum)	Sudan	0.9	4.8	7.9	21.4	53	44	2.8	2.5	
Alahabad	India	0.6	1.2	1.8	31.0	33.3	31.5	2.1	2.2	
Al-Madinah (Medina)	Saudi Arabia	0.2	1.0	1.5	41.7	42.3	37.0	3.1	1.6	
Almaty	Kazakhstan	0.9	1.2	1.4	22.6	35.1	37.9	0.8	0.7	
Al-Mawasil (Mosul)	Iraq	0.4	1.3	2.1	36.8	32.4	26.5	3.2	2.1	
Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	Egypt	6.4	11.9	15.6	17	13	13	1.7	1.5	
Amman	Jordan	0.5	1.1	1.4	32.8	39.7	38.6	1.2	1.4	
Amritsar	India	0.5	1.2	1.8	32.5	35.0	31.0	2.4	2.2	
Amsterdam	Netherlands	1.0	1.0	1.1	18.7	41.0	42.5	0.4	0.2	
Ankara	Turkey	1.7	3.7	4.8	9.9	7.7	8.4	1.8	0.8	
Anshan	China	1.1	1.6	2.2	16.3	24.1	25.4	1.1	1.3	
Antananarivo	Madagascar	0.5	1.7	3.1	34.3	23.0	15.4	3.3	3.3	
Ar-Riyadh (Riyadh)	Saudi Arabia	0.7	4.5	6.3	26.3	60	52	2.9	1.3	
Asasol	India	0.3	1.3	2.0	40.4	32.1	28.2	2.5	2.2	
Asunción	Paraguay	0.7	1.9	2.7	28.3	20.3	18.9	2.8	1.6	
Athina (Athens)	Greece	2.7	3.2	3.2	4.6	9.7	14.3	0.2	0.2	
Atlanta	United States of America	1.4	4.5	5.2	12.3	5.8	7.0	1.7	0.5	
Auckland	New Zealand	0.7	1.2	1.5	25.6	34.4	36.9	2.1	0.5	
Aurangabad	India	0.2	1.1	1.7	41.5	37.7	33.2	2.7	2.3	
Austin	United States of America	0.3	1.2	1.4	39.6	36.0	38.2	1.9	0.6	
<b>B</b>										
Baghdad	Iraq	2.6	5.1	8.1	5.0	4.9	4.3	2.0	1.9	
Baku	Azerbaijan	0.8	1.7	2.1	24.8	22.4	26.6	2.0	0.6	
Bahia Santos²	Brazil	1.4	1.9	2.2	11.9	19.8	24.6	0.7	0.8	
Baltimore	United States of America	1.7	2.3	2.6	10.2	16.0	20.0	1.0	0.6	
Bamako	Mali	0.4	1.5	3.2	37.4	27.1	15.0	4.4	4.0	
Bandung	Indonesia	1.3	2.4	3.4	13.0	15.3	13.8	2.2	1.3	
Bangalore	India	2.1	6.8	9.7	6.7	3.6	3.1	2.2	2.0	
Banghazi	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.3	1.2	1.6	39.9	33.8	34.7	2.6	1.1	
Beijing	China	0.4	1.1	1.6	36.5	38.0	34.9	2.9	1.4	
Berlin	Germany	0.9	1.0	1.0	34.2	23.6	21.4	2.8	1.3	
Barcelona	Spain	3.7	4.9	5.2	3.3	5.0	6.9	1.0	0.0	
Beijing-Tianjin	China	0.5	1.1	1.4	33.5	37.4	37.7	2.1	0.9	
Bogotá	Colombia	1.0	3.0	4.5	21.1	23.7	24.1	0.5	0.5	
Bojonegara	Indonesia	0.1	0.1	0.1	21.1	23.7	24.1	0.5	0.5	
Bonn	Germany	1.5	1.8	2.2	11.4	20.6	25.1	1.8	0.5	
Bonjol	China	6.0	11.1	14.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.0	
Borjoma	Brazil	0.7	2.2	2.7	26.4	17.2	18.8	2.7	0.6	
Boto Horizonte	Brazil	1.9	5.6	6.7	8.0	4.3	5.0	2.3	0.5	
Benin City	Nigeria	0.2	1.2	2.0	41.0	35.4	28.0	2.9	2.5	
Beirut	Lebanon	0.7	1.0	1.1	26.2	42.1	39.0	0.9	1.4	
Beograd (Belgrade)	Serbia	0.9	1.1	1.2	22.3	38.5	41.5	-0.2	0.5	
Berlin	Germany	3.1	3.4	3.4	4.0	9.0	13.2	0.2	0.1	
Bhopal	India	0.5	1.7	2.6	33.1	22.1	20.4	2.3	2.2	
Birmingham	United Kingdom	2.4	2.3	2.3	5.8	15.9	22.6	0.1	0.1	
Bogotá	Colombia	3.0	7.8	9.6	4.1	3.0	3.2	2.5	0.6	
Boston	United States of America	3.5	4.5	5.0	3.7	5.9	7.5	1.0	0.5	
Braşov	Romania	0.6	0.8	0.9	22.4	8.4	8.6	3.3	0.3	
Brazzaville	Congo	0.3	1.4	2.1	39.2	31.1	25.8	4.3	2.1	
Bridgetown	Barbados	0.7	1.0	1.2	26.5	41.8	41.1	1.3	0.7	
Brisbane	Australia	0.9	1.9	2.2	19.7	20.4	23.9	2.0	0.6	
Brussels-Bruxelles	Belgium	1.6	1.7	1.7	10.6	22.0	32.0	0.0	0.0	
Bucaramanga	Colombia	0.4	1.0	1.3	36.4	42.4	40.0	2.1	0.9	
Bucureşti (Bucharest)	Romania	1.7	1.9	1.9	10.0	19.5	28.5	0.1	0.0	
Budapest	Hungary	2.0	1.7	1.7	7.6	23.4	33.4	-0.4	-0.0	
Buenos Aires	Argentina	8.7	12.8	13.8	7	10	16	0.8	0.2	
Buffalo	United States of America	1.0	1.0	1.2	17.2	41.9	41.2	0.9	0.7	
Bursa	Turkey	0.3	1.5	1.9	38.3	27.2	29.5	2.3	1.0	
Busan	Republic of Korea	2.4	3.5	3.4	5.5	8.7	13.4	-0.6	-0.0	
<b>C</b>										
Calgary	Canada	0.5	1.1	1.3	34.1	37.8	38.7	2.3	0.6	
Cali	Colombia	1.0	2.3	2.8	16.8	16.1	18.2	1.9	0.8	
Campanas	Brazil	0.8	2.8	3.5	24.7	12.6	12.9	2.6	0.5	
Cape Town	South Africa	1.3	3.2	3.7	12.8	9.9	11.6	1.7	0.6	
Caracas	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2.3	3.0	3.6	5.9	11.4	12.2	1.1	0.8	
Changchun	China	1.6	3.2	4.3	11.0	10.0	9.1	2.2	1.2	
Changde	China	0.7	1.5	2.0	26.7	27.8	28.3	1.5	1.3	
Changsha, Hunan	China	0.9	2.6	3.7	19.4	13.8	12.0	2.9	1.2	
Changzhou, Jiangsu	China	0.4	1.3	1.9	37.5	32.3	30.0	2.9	1.3	
Cheboksary	Russian Federation	1.0	1.1	1.1	19.0	38.7	42.6	-0.1	-0.0	
Chengdu	China	1.9	4.1	5.3	7.9	6.8	6.7	1.0	0.3	
Chennai (Madras)	India	3.6	7.2	10.1	9.4	3.5	2.6	1.8	2.0	
Chicago	United States of America	7.2	9.1	2.9	31.9	27.0	17.5	0.9	0.4	
Chifeng	China	0.3	1.3	1.7	38.4	33.5	32.1	1.7	0.3	
Chittagong	Bangladesh	1.0	4.5	7.6	17.4	5.6	4.6	3.6	2.7	
Chongqing	China	2.4	6.5	8.3	5.4	3.9	4.0	1.0	1.1	
Cincinnati	United States of America	1.2	1.6	1.9	14.0	24.2	30.2	1.1	0.6	
Ciudad de Guatemala (Guatemala)	Guatemala	0.7	1.0	1.7	25.9	41.1	32.8	2.3	2.6	
Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	Mexico	10.7	19.0	21.0	3	3	6	0.8	0.3	
Ciudad de Panamá (Panama City)	Panama	0.5	1.3	1.8	32.0	33.3	31.8	2.5	1.2	
Ciudad Juárez	Mexico	0.5	1.3	1.6	33.6	31.6	34.6	1.3	0.7	
Cleveland	United States of America	1.8	1.9	2.2	8.7	19.9	25.5	0.9	0.6	
Coimbatore	India	0.8	1.7	2.5	23.7	23.1	21.2	2.2	2.2	
Columbus, Ohio	United States of America	0.8	1.3	1.5	23.6	33.8	38.8	1.2	0.6	
Contry	Qatar	0.5	1.5	2.9	31.9	27.0	17.5	0.9	0.4	
Córdoba	Argentina	0.9	1.5	1.6	20.6	28.6	33.7	1.0	0.5	
Coritiba	Brazil	0.9	3.1	3.8	20.1	10.7	11.4	2.7	0.5	
<b>D</b>										
Daegu	Republic of Korea	1.3	2.5	2.5	13.1	14.8	21.6	-0.1	0.0	
Daepo	Republic of Korea	0.5	1.5	1.5	32.7	28.0	35.5	0.9	0.0	
Dakar	Senegal	0.8	2.6	4.2	24.4	13.7	9.6	3.2	2.5	
Dalian	China	1.4	3.2	4.2	12.2	10.2	9.8	1.6	1.2	
Dallas-Fort Worth	United States of America	2.2	4.8	5.4	6.4	5.1	6.6	1.2	0.4	
Daqing	China	0.6	1.7	2.4	29.8	23.2	22.1	2.9	1.3	
Dar es Salaam	United Republic of Tanzania	0.6	2.9	5.7	30.8	11.7	6.4	4.3	3.4	
Dar-el-Beyda (Casablanca)	Morocco	1.8	3.2	3.9	9.1	10.1	11.0	1.2	1.0	
Datong, Shanxi	China	0.9	1.8	2.7	21.9	20.2	19.3	2.9	1.3	
Davao	Philippines	0.5	1.4	2.1	33.2	30.1	27.1	2.8	1.6	
Delhi	India	4.4	15.9	22.5	2.3	6	3	2.5	1.9	
Denton	United States of America	1.2	2.3	2.7	14.3	15.8	19.1	1.3	0.5	
Detroit	United States of America	3.9	4.1	4.6	2.9	6.9	8.2	0.8	0.5	
Dhaka	Bangladesh	2.2	13.5	22.0	6.5	9	4	3.3	2.5	
Dhanbad	India	0.5	1.2	1.9	32.2	34.3	30.5	2.2	2.2	
Dimashq (Damascus)	Syrian Arab Republic	1.1	2.5	3.6	15.5	14.7	12.3	2.8	1.8	
Dnipropetrovsk	Ukraine	1.0	1.1	1.0	18.5	40.2	43.0	-0.2	-0.0	
Dongguan, Guangdong	China	0.9	4.5	6.2	20.7	5.7	5.4	2.3	1.2	
Douala	Cameroon	0.4	1.9	3.0	35.2	19.7	16.2	3.5	1.9	
Dubay (Dubai)	United Arab Emirates	0.2	1.4	2.1	42.2	31.0	27.0	3.5	1.8	
Dublin	Ireland	0.8	1.1	1.3	23.0	39.8	39.1	1.1	1.2	
Durban	South Africa	1.0	2.7	3.2	17.3	12.8	15.3	0.5	0.7	
Durg-Bhilainagar	India	0.3	1.1	1.6	39.0	38.6	33.9	2.4	2.3	
<b>E</b>										
Edmonton	Canada	0.5	1.1	1.3	31.3	39.9	40.5	1.8	0.6	
Ekurhuleni (East Rand)	South Africa	1.0	3.0	3.5	18.					





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

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

# WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 2007 REVISION

## KEY FINDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Urban Agglomerations 2007

The figures presented are from *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*.

Data on CD-ROM may be purchased from:

Director, Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
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New York, NY 10017  
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